

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>  
To:  
Date: 1/30/2014 10:28:43 AM  
Subject: SC Front Pages – Thursday, January 30, 2014

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**SC Front Pages – Thursday, January 30, 2014**



## SPORTS PLAYING WITH CHIPS



## BUSINESS, 7A Hotels test virtual room keys

# The Greenville News

A GANNETT COMPANY

THURSDAY,  
JANUARY 30, 2014  
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

**INSIDE** Study: Children's 'weight fate' set by age 5, 8A

FINAL EDITION

## A QUIET LIFE, AN EXCEPTIONAL GIFT



### TRUST BENEFICIARIES

**\$200,000**

Humane Society

**\$50,000**  
**\$50,000**  
**\$50,000**

Clarity,  
The Meyer Center,  
Project Hope  
Foundation

**\$25,000**  
**\$25,000**

Institute for  
Child Success,  
Child's Haven

## Center may be joint effort

Convention hall  
interests city, county

By Rudolph Bell

Staff writer  
dbell@greenvillenews.com

There's no funding so far, and no site has been picked.

But city and county officials say the idea of building a downtown convention center is being discussed.

Greenville Mayor Knox White said he thinks a plan could emerge in 2016 or 2017.

He also said during a talk at the Rotary Club of Greenville that the county might join in the project — an idea that Bob Taylor, chairman of County Council, wouldn't rule out.

"I would have to say that there would be some interest in exploring that for sure," Taylor said. "We'd have to sit down and iron it out."

White broached the subject during a talk at the Westin Poinsett Hotel this week in which he reviewed downtown development activity.

Asked about the prospects for a downtown convention center, White said that's "in the category of must do. There's no if, buts and maybes. We have to do it."

He said the city inherited what is now the TD Convention Center on Pleasantburg Drive and it has served its purpose well.

"But I think the dynamics now with the hotels in downtown, with the river, with all the reasons people want to come, it's time for (the convention center) to come downtown," White said.

"There are some sites we can look at," he said, without identifying specific properties. As for funding, the city

See CENTER, Page 3A

## Former schoolteacher leaves \$8.4 million to benefit children, animals

By Lyn Riddle | Staff writer | lriddle@greenvillenews.com

**M**argaret Southern taught special-needs children, cared for her ailing brother for almost a decade and doted on her dachshund Molly. She would stay up late into the night watching her beloved Braves in her nice, but modest, townhouse in the Glenbrooke neighborhood on Edwards Road.

It was a life of simplicity and privacy.

And so, it was with some surprise that when she died at 94 in October 2012, she had amassed a multimillion-dollar fortune and left \$8.4 million of it to the Community Foundation of Greenville to benefit children and animals.

See GIFT, Page 3A



Margaret Linder Southern, a former special-education teacher who lived modestly and loved her dachshunds, Molly and Nancy, left \$8.4 million to the Community Foundation to establish an endowment.

MARK MASSINGILL/PROVIDED

## Storm leaves slippery situations behind

By David Dykes  
and Ron Barnett  
Staff Writers

ventured outside. School officials cited the National Weather Service's winter weather advisory for black ice.

normal schedule. Today's predicted sunny skies will be in stark contrast to swirling snow and whipping

Upstate received no more than 1.5 inches of snow, some parts of the region got 2 to 3 inches. Other parts of the state, includ-



High 41  
Low 23

Abby.....2D	Lifestyle.....1D
Area news.....1B	Obituaries.....3B
Business.....7A	Sports.....1C
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Crossword.....2D	U.S.A. World.....7A
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## TOP LINEBACKER SOLID FOR USC

Bryson Allen-Williams insists he's coming here. **C1**

**COMING SUNDAY:** A preview of signing day next Wednesday



## The State

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2014 | WWW.THESTATE.COM

# Weather Puzzle

What can your kids do when they're stuck inside?

A SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE



# ICY ROADS LINGER AS SNOW MELTS



Chad Daniels gets pelted with a snowball by his brother, Octavius, during a snowball fight in a Lexington neighborhood.

## Atlanta paralyzed as snowfall spurs huge traffic jams

By DAVID CRARY  
and RAY HENRY  
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Rescuers rushed to bring blankets, food, gas and a ride home Wednesday to thousands of Atlanta schoolchildren and motorists stranded all night in classrooms and freez-

## THESTATE.COM

>>> Midlands public schools are on a 2-hour delay. USC starts at 10 a.m., and Midlands Tech at 10:30. Go online for latest delays, closings and cancellations.

>>> Our photo galleries and your snow photos, including pets in the snow!

## Midlands braces for winter storm's aftermath

By CLIF LeBLANC  
cicleblanc@thestate.com

Sand truck drivers and police officers were out again Wednesday night dealing with the aftermath of temperatures that kept the effects of a winter storm a day earlier frozen in place.

## GAY MARRIAGE BAN

# Legalization unlikely in S.C. for several years

It will take that long for various cases across the nation to reach the U.S. Supreme Court

By JOHN MONK  
jmonk@thestate.com

If South Carolina's state law against gay marriage is overturned, it won't happen for possibly several more years, legal experts say. That's because dozens of federal lawsuits seeking to overturn same-sex marriage bans — which have been filed in various states — are now slowly making their way through the federal court system to a likely but distant rendezvous with the U.S. Supreme Court. That court will be the ultimate decider.

"We have a bunch of cases spread across the nation right now, and they are all pending at the trial court, except for ones in Utah and Colorado," said University of South Carolina School of Law professor Derek Black.

Because of the time it takes to appeal cases — a process that involves writing briefs and possible oral arguments and more appeals — Black estimated it could be as late as 2017 before the lower federal court cases reach the U.S. Supreme Court for arguments or a decision.

The Utah and Oklahoma cases are now in the early stages of appeal to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals. That court, one step below the U.S. Supreme Court, has put the two cases on the fast track, meaning it might hear arguments and make a decision by the end of this year. The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals handles cases in Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Wyoming, and Utah.

Having decisions come out of conservative states that overturned their states' same-sex marriage bans wasn't expected, some say.

"People were really surprised," said Carl Tobias, constitutional law professor at the Univer-

SEE GAY MARRIAGE PAGE A5

## Library's free wi-fi draws patrons, inside and out

Some can't afford to have what's now a necessity in their homes

By DAWN HINSHAW  
dhinshaw@thestate.com

The recent King Day holiday gave Anita Johnson a chance to complete a 10-page research paper for an online business class.

But Johnson doesn't have internet service at home, and the library was closed.

So to do her research, she parked along Main Street in Eastover with a laptop, taking advantage of the free wi-fi service that extends beyond the walls of the town's branch of Richland Library.

"Everything's online for me, so I need access to the internet," said Johnson, who cancelled the data plan on her phone long ago because she said her bill

## HOW COMMON IS INTERNET SERVICE AT HOME?

Sixty-six percent of South Carolinians have broadband service at home, compared with 70 percent of Americans. Among South Carolinians, the total includes:

**36 percent** of low-income households

**45 percent** of low-income households with





**Boeing's glowing earnings report**  
BUSINESS, B6



Rodney Crowell & Emmylou Harris

**CHARLESTONSCENE**  
**Big weekend for concerts**  
INSIDE

# The Post and Courier

THE SOUTH'S OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER • FOUNDED 1863

THURSDAY, January 30, 2014

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

Charleston, North Charleston, S.C. ★★ \$1.00

The Lowcountry braved icy roads and outages. Kids celebrate another 'snow day' today. But by the weekend, it won't even feel like winter anymore.

## The thaw begins



BRAD NEITZEL/STAFF

There was barely enough snow to measure in Charleston on Wednesday, but that didn't keep 3-year-old Carolyn Whelan and others from having fun in Hampton Park. Some people even improvised and used beach accessories to play in the cold stuff.

BY BO PETERSEN  
bpeter@postandcourier.com

Time to put up the boots. The snow barely showed. The ice drips away Thursday. By Sunday, in one of those shy slips of Lowcountry magic, it's summer again. For a while, anyway.

"A different air mass, for sure," said meteorologist Julie Packett, of the National Weather Service, Charleston. "About time," says nearly anyone else who braved two nights and a day of un-subtropical ice not fit to sleep from a cone. That second blast of the month from the Arctic North was just January overstaying its welcome.

Saturday in February, better known as the Lowcountry month when its most likely to snow—ah, never mind. Daytime temps are climbing above freezing and will soar through the weekend. As it warms up, they all will reopen, one by one—the barricaded bridges, the shuttered-up banks, the darkened restaurants and stores, even the dismissed schools. Then it gets "hard to believe," said Weather Service meteorologist Jonathan Lamb. "Sunday looks amazing, almost into the 70s." Aaaaah. Take it in like a big whiff of instant lotion. Monday, another cold front comes barreling through.

Read more about what happened, what's open, what's closed and what's to come on Pages A5 and A6.

## Atlanta's snow nightmare



Cars were abandoned on Interstate 75 headed northbound near the Chattahoochee River overpass Wednesday in Atlanta.

Vehicles still stuck over 24 hours later in Georgia capital

BY DAVID CRARY  
AND RAY HENRY  
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Thousands of Atlanta schoolchildren stranded all night long in their classrooms were reunited with their parents Wednesday while rescuers rushed to deliver blankets, food, gas and a ride home to countless shivering motorists stopped cold by a storm that paralyzed the South's flagship city with less than 3 inches of snow.

As National Guardsmen and state troopers fanned out, Mayor Kasim Reed and Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal found themselves on the defensive, acknowledging that the storm preparations and the response could have been better.

Please see ATLANTA, Page A6

## More jail time for sex offender

Hanf could be treated as predator

BY GLENN SMITH  
gsmith@postandcourier.com

A registered sex offender who has served prison time for attacking multiple women is back in the Charleston County jail, awaiting a trial to determine if he should be indefinitely locked away for treatment when his sentence runs out.

Daniel Hanf, 31, is scheduled to be released from state prison next month after serving his time on a 10-year sentence for sexually assaulting a 17-year-old girl.



Daniel Hanf is serving time for sexually assaulting a 17-year-old girl.

North Charleston, state records show. State attorneys are seeking a civil commitment for Hanf under South Carolina's Sexually Violent Predator Act, which would allow authorities to keep him locked up for the purpose of alternative care.

Before his present prison term, Hanf served time in connection with attacks on two other women. He also drew notoriety in 2006 after cutting off his electronic leg monitor while awaiting trial and eluding police for more than a week.

The predator act, passed in 1998, is reserved for the state's most dangerous sex offenders. It requires a court

Please see PREDATOR, Page A4

## Lawyers reach out to ticketed tour guide

Fund's first check to go to rickshaw driver

BY GLENN SMITH  
gsmith@postandcourier.com

John Robinson has seen many changes come to Charleston over the decades, but the Broad Street attorney hopes the Holy City will never lose its small-town sense of civility, hospitality and good manners.

That's why Robinson and some other lawyers in his coffee klatch were upset to see Charleston rickshaw driver Dave Criscitiello get a \$1,000 ticket during a September police sting for giving an illegal tour of the city.

Robinson said he and his buddies understand the need for rules, but they felt the police sting was heavy-handed and that the driver was harshly punished for simply answering questions and trying to be a friendly host.

Please see FUND, Page A4

To see more photos of the rare Southern snow, go to [postandcourier.com/galleries](http://postandcourier.com/galleries).



Partly sunny  
High 40, Low 27.  
Complete 5-day  
forecast, B4

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Business.....\$6	Editorials.....\$10	The South.....\$1
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**Charleston Deals**  
today

**Americana Car Wash**  
Half-off Express Wash & Wax  
See A2



# Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

THURSDAY, January 30, 2014

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 148, No. 30 Aiken, S.C. ★ ★ 75¢

## Snow day: County weathers the storm



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

Burt Brockman strolls along South Boundary in the snow on Wednesday morning. Aiken received 2½ inches of snow Tuesday night, according to the National Weather Service.

### Residents take advantage of closings for some winter fun

BY DEDE BILES  
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

Brady West was a happy little boy when the snow started falling in Aiken on Tuesday night. "He was so excited that he ran outside in his pajamas," said his mother, Mary West.

On Wednesday morning, Brady, 4, was enjoying the snow again.

**INSIDE**  
Police urge caution on icy roads, 2A

More photos of fun in the snow, 4A, 5A, 9A, 14A

The family's two dogs, Jeter and Touchdown, in the Gatewood subdivision where they live.

"My wife and I both teach at South Aiken High School, and it's nice being out of school for a day," said Brady's father, Jeremy.

He built a small snowman that he tried to make look like Olaf from the movie "Frozen." He also went on a walk with his parents and



PHOTO BY BILL BENGTSON

Ready for Sochi? Caleb Glenn performs a dismount – intentional or otherwise – at Clearwater Elementary School on Wednesday morning.

wearing shorts while strolling around the neighborhood.

"I don't like long pants," Jeremy said.

play together and have fun on the one day of the year that we have snow and we don't have to go to school," Simon said.

joy each other."

In a nearby yard, Rachel Roberts, who is a student at USC Aiken, was interacting with her

### Crews continue to monitor roads

BY DERREK ASBERRY  
darberry@aikenstandard.com

The inclement weather, which dumped 2.5 inches of snow in the area, had not affected power in Aiken County as of press time on Wednesday. Both Aiken Electric and SCE&G consistently reported zero power outages for their customers throughout the day.

In Charleston, Burke and Jasper counties, SCANA reported 4,600 outages on Wednesday morning. By 3 p.m. that number dropped to

about 1,000.

In Aiken, "we're making sure to keep the trees and branches off of our lines. We had crews working through the night, and they'll work through the day, as well," said Eric Boonhower with SCANA public affairs.

Boonhower said the company is not anticipating outages or plans to initiate the same rolling power blackouts that affected 5,000 Aiken County residents earlier this month.

Please see WEATHER, Page 14A

### SEND US YOUR PHOTOS

There's snow time like the present to share your wintry weather pictures with us. Post your favorite snow pictures for publication in the Aiken Standard to [www.facebook.com/aikenstandard](http://www.facebook.com/aikenstandard) or email [editorial@aikenstandard.com](mailto:editorial@aikenstandard.com).

### GET UPDATES

Check [www.aikenstandard.com](http://www.aikenstandard.com), the Aiken Standard's Twitter feed at [twitter.com/aikenstandard](https://twitter.com/aikenstandard) or [www.facebook.com/aikenstandard](http://www.facebook.com/aikenstandard) for updates today of school and event delays and closings. Anyone wishing to report cancellations can do so by emailing [editorial@aikenstandard.com](mailto:editorial@aikenstandard.com) or by calling 803/464-2401. List of closures on 30A.



# The Beaufort Gazette

THURSDAY, January 30, 2014

[beaufortgazette.com](http://beaufortgazette.com)

Established in 1897 50 cents

## THAWING IN SIGHT

After chilly blast, conditions expected to improve by midday



Beaufort's Celesta Ryan uses a credit card to scrape away the ice that covered her car Wednesday morning before leaving her home at The Oaks at Broad River Landing.

THEOPHIL SYSLO • Staff photo

By MATT McNAB, ERIN MOODY and DAN BURLEY • Staff writers

A winter storm passed over the Lowcountry on Wednesday without dumping the predicted 2 to 3 inches of snow on Beaufort County, but wet weather and freezing temperatures mean the effects of the chilly blast

could last into today. Overnight lows were expected to drop into the mid-20s, National Weather Service Charleston meteorologist Julie Packett said, so roads could be frozen this morning, presenting more of the dangerous

traffic conditions that caused some problems Wednesday.

"It's going to be a mess," Beaufort County deputy administrator Bryan Hill predicted.

Please see THAWING on 7A

### IN ATLANTA City crippled by winter storm



The Associated Press

Atlanta's perimeter highway known as "Spaghetti Junction," shows the ice-covered interstate system, the remnants of a winter storm that slammed the city with more than 2 inches of snow that turned highways into parking lots.

### SNOW, ICE SEND SOUTH'S FLAGSHIP CITY REELING

- Countless vehicles were stranded and many of them abandoned.
- Officials said 239 children spent Tuesday night aboard school buses; thousands of others stayed overnight in their schools.
- One woman's 12-mile commute home took 16 hours.
- Another woman gave birth while stuck in traffic; police arrived just in time to help.
- Drivers who gave up trying to get home took shelter at fire stations, churches and grocery stores.
- One traffic death was reported.
- About 1,000 arrivals and departures were canceled at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

The Associated Press

### RELATED CONTENT

Click on this story at [beaufortgazette.com](http://beaufortgazette.com) for weather-related videos around Beaufort County. For reader-submitted photos from Wednesday, please see 3A. | For a list of rescheduled athletic events, please see 2B.

IN BEAUFORT COUNTY

## Library hours hinge on staff

County and library officials say the system has the funding to support extended hours, but still needs to hire more staff.

By ZACH MURDOCK  
[zmurdock@beaufortgazette.com](mailto:zmurdock@beaufortgazette.com)  
843-706-8347

The Beaufort County library system has the money it needs to extend hours at three of its branches, and it's now just a matter of hiring more employees, according to county and library officials.

Interviews and screening are underway, and library system director Włodk Zaryczny said he hopes to begin extended hours "within a relatively short period of time."

No exact date has been determined. The plan eventually will take the Beaufort, Bluffton and Hilton Head Island branches from 40 to 50 hours per week, Zaryczny said.

The county authorized the library

Please see LIBRARY on 7A

### BY THE NUMBERS

#### \$3.9 MILLION

The library system's budget approved by County Council in June

#### \$300,000

The amount of its budget gone unspent for the past four years



#### 50

The number of hours the Beaufort, Bluffton and Hilton Head Island branches will be open per week

### MARSH TACKY BEACH RACE

## Event to go on without sponsor

By TOM BARTON  
[tbarton@islandpacket.com](mailto:tbarton@islandpacket.com)  
843-706-8309

Despite losing its sponsor, the Carolina Marsh Tacky Association says it will continue to race the horses along the beach on Daufuskie Island as planned this year, but aims to bring the event back to Hilton Head Island with a new







Groovy, man. It's the 17th annual

# RETROFEST

This Saturday / ESCAPE

## Herald-Journal

THURSDAY

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**HJ**  
IN A HURRY

**5** Things  
to read  
today



### Propane shortage

Supply problems in several states where propane is a crucial heating source have prompted governors and other officials to take action against vendors, investigate claims of price gouging and increase aid to low-income customers. **PAGE C4**

### House OKs farm bill

After years of setbacks, a nearly \$100-billion-a-year compromise farm bill cleared the House on Wednesday despite strong opposition from conservatives who sought a bigger cut in food stamps. **PAGE A3**

### Sick on a cruise

Passengers aboard a cruise ship on which hundreds fell ill recalled days of misery holed up in their rooms as it returned to its home port Wednesday from a Caribbean trip cut short by a norovirus outbreak. **PAGE A6**

### Siblings in military

Josh Long, 19, had already completed a semester of college before he chose a different path for his life. He decided to follow his sister, Spartanburg High School junior Tori Long, 17, into the U.S. Army Reserves. **PAGE C1**

### Beretta to Tenn.

Italian gun maker Beretta said Wednesday that Tennessee's support for gun rights was a major factor in its decision to build a manufacturing and research facility in the Nashville suburb of Gallatin. **PAGE C4**

Weather

## Winter keeps its grip on area



Sarah Krautwurst, 12, sleds down a hill on a trail near the Duncan Station development in Duncan on Wednesday. See more photos of the storm's impact at GoUpstate.com.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL JUSTUS/MICHAEL.JUSTUS@SHJ.COM

School closed for second day as ice on roads a concern

By DANIEL J. GROSS  
daniel.gross@shj.com

Spartanburg County's wintry Wednesday carried into today as the snowstorm forced schools to close for a second consecutive day this week.

Initial forecasts called for two inches in the Spartanburg area, but the National Weather Service recorded about an inch of snow accumulation in most parts of the county beginning Tuesday afternoon into early Wednesday.

The weather service issued a winter weather advisory that remained in effect from Tuesday afternoon through 9 a.m. Wednesday and another advisory remained active from 6 p.m. Wednesday to noon today.

Meteorologist Doug Outlaw said low pressure developed along

◆ SEE WINTER PAGE A5

## Georgia leaders under fire after snowy chaos

By RAY HENRY  
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Thousands of Atlanta students stranded all night long in their schools were reunited with their parents Wednesday, while rescuers rushed to deliver blankets, food, gas and a ride home to countless shivering motorists stopped cold by a storm that paralyzed the business capital of the South with less than 3 inches of snow.

As National Guardsmen and state troopers fanned out, Mayor Kasim Reed and Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal found themselves on the defensive, acknowledging the storm preparations could have been better. But Deal also blamed forecasters, saying he was led to believe it wouldn't be so bad.

The icy weather wreaked similar havoc across much of the South, closing schools and highways, grounding flights and contributing to at least a dozen deaths from traffic accidents and a mobile home fire.

Yet it was Atlanta, home to major corporations and the world's busiest airport, that was Exhibit A for how a Southern city could be sent reeling by winter weather that, in the North, might be no more than an inconvenience.

The mayor admitted the city could have directed schools, businesses and government offices to



A crew works to repair a utility pole after a vehicle slid off the road and hit the pole on Wednesday on Chesnee Highway near the intersection of Oaktree Road. The car slid off the road because of icy conditions, but no one was hurt and no other vehicles were involved, said Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright.

## Highway patrol reports huge





Children with peanut allergy helped by test treatment, **3A**

New Saluda coach discusses job, **1B**

Madonna signs on for human rights concert, **5A**



# INDEX-JOURNAL

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2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

THURSDAY, JAN. 30, 2014

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

## ■ WINTER STORM

### Officials mitigate snow, ice issues

By CHRIS TRAINOR  
ctrainor@indexjournal.com

While the snow and ice Tuesday evening and into Wednesday morning caused its share of problems, the overall sentiment of many Greenwood officials was it could have been worse.

#### Inside

■ Closings/openings/delays, **2A**

■ SC winter storm moves on, **2A**

■ Snow, ice paralyzes Atlanta, **8A**

"We had zero outages," Greenwood CPW manager Steve Reeves said. "Any time we have this kind of weather and you can go through the night and have zero outages, I think we would all be pleased. Although this didn't turn out to be quite the winter storm we thought it could be, we are

See **SNOW**, page 4A

## ■ STATE OF THE UNION

### Rep. Duncan: Obama speech lacks ideas

By CHRIS TRAINOR  
ctrainor@indexjournal.com

President Barack Obama gave his fifth State of the Union address Tuesday night in Washington. The lightning rod Democratic president raised some eyebrows with several of his proposals, including an idea of using executive orders to raise the minimum wage for some workers.



JEFF DUNCAN



Republican Third District U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan was in attendance

# MAJOR DAMAGE



FRANK BURB / INDEX-JOURNAL

Firefighters battle a blaze at the front of Sports Break on Wednesday.

## Fire claims local bar; onlookers mourn

By MATT BRUCE  
mbruce@indexjournal.com

On a day in which the Lakelands was grappling with its first cluster of snow flurries in years, fire raged at an iconic Greenwood watering hole.

Sports Break, 909 Montague Ave., suffered extensive damage Wednesday afternoon during a blaze that ravaged main portions of the longtime sports bar.

"It's just a sad, sad day," Sports Break owner Kevin Prater said. "Too many memories. You could write a novel about that place. It's got an atmosphere and a personality of its own and it can't be replaced."

No one was injured.

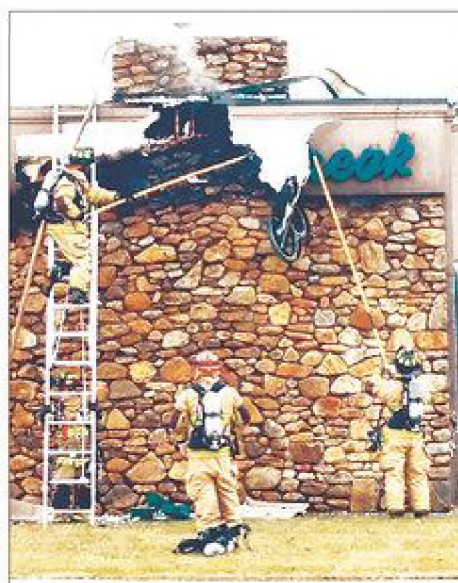
Sports Break was a staple along Greenwood's main drag for the past 24 years. Crowds that reached nearly 100 people gathered at the bar and stood for more than an hour, watching as smoke and flames billowed from the front of the building. The throng of officers, patrons

and onlookers gathered on both sides of the roadway, lining Montague as if bidding their final farewells during a streetside memorial procession. Some on hand sobbed, while others shared friendly banter with familiar faces. Several of the bar's employees could be seen weeping at the onset of the blaze, and huddled together in unison as the event unfolded.

"It's upsetting," said Lander University senior Tyler Lindsey, who noted he began frequenting Sports Break his freshman year in college. "We came here at least once a week. It's one of the longest-running bars around here. This was the hangout, especially for college kids. Word got around fast, too. One person called and we were right up here."

Meanwhile, crews from the Greenwood Fire Department set up command in Sports Break's parking lot and continued to battle the flames, which engulfed the front sign of the longtime establishment.

See **FIRE**, page 4A



GREGG HAMPTON / INDEX-JOURNAL

Greenwood firefighters peel back the front facade of Sports Break on Wednesday afternoon on Montague Avenue.

## McCormick icon looks back at service

County Council unanimous in resolution to honor Frank Clayton









# the Sumter ITEM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2014 | Serving South Carolina since October 15, 1894

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Check out the weather photos you sent us

Closings A10 Pictures A3, A5

## Snow, ice transform tri-county



PHOTOS BY MATT WALSH / THE SUMTER ITEM

Sumter High School student Lauren Cronvich throws snow into the air while playing in Memorial Park near downtown Sumter on Wednesday. The tri-county area got a rare dusting of snow and ice beginning on Tuesday afternoon. Sumter Police officers, below, examine a car that slipped on ice and overturned on Frontage Road on Wednesday. Roadways were expected to ice over from Wednesday night into today. See page A2 for more information on safe travel in icy conditions.

## Driving conditions, safety top concerns for closing schools

BY RAYTEVIA EVANS  
revans@theitem.com

Not just any weather conditions can shut down the local school districts, and the decision to do so is not made on a whim. Local school district superintendents normally keep a close eye on weather reports and how they can affect faculty and staff, students and morning commutes.

Students' safety is top priority when making these decisions, and icy roads and low temperatures can cause a risk for bus drivers and parents who drive their students to school. Sumter School District and surrounding counties released students early on Tuesday or closed their schools completely because of extreme weather conditions this week, often announcing delays, early dismissal and closing later in the afternoon and evening.

Sumter Superintendent Dr. Frank Baker said he pre-

fers to wait to make an announcement of a closing but still keeps the safety of students, parents and faculty in mind when making the decision. Normally, he would make the call before 10 p.m. the night before, he said.

Clarendon 1 Superintendent Dr. Rose Wilder said in making the decision to close schools in her district Tuesday, Wednesday and today, she checked updates with the National Weather Center and considered the conditions of the area.

"Based on what I've seen with the weather reports, we'll have temperatures in the teens. We're mostly a rural area, and we have a lot of dirt roads. This could cause an issue with buses in the mornings and could potentially cause safety issues," Wilder said. "I would prefer to err on the side of caution."

Clarendon 2 Superintendent John Tindal said he



## Officials warn road icing worse today

BY TYLER SIMPSON  
tyler@theitem.com

South Carolina Highway Patrol responded to a dramatic increase in weather calls within a 24-hour period from Tuesday night to Wednesday morning, and road conditions in Sumter County were expected to worsen today.

Highway patrol reported an estimated 3,205 weather calls statewide between 4 p.m. Tuesday and 4 p.m. Wednesday.

Among those calls were 1,639 wrecks, approximately four times the number reported during the same time period last year. Officers with the Highway Patrol also reported 332 abandoned vehicles and had to assist 753 vehicles,

## Shelter extends its hours during freeze

BY IVY MOORE  
ivym@theitem.com

In times of extreme heat or unusual cold, extra help is often needed to ensure the safety of Sumter's homeless population, who might otherwise find themselves in danger.

To meet the need, Samaritan House, the local homeless shelter operated by United Ministries of Sumter County, has extended its hours and is "in overflow mode" to accommodate those persons who have nowhere else to escape the below-freezing temperatures, according to Director Walter Robertson.

There were 34 people sheltering at Samaritan House on Wednesday morning; the occupancy is usually about 28.

"We stayed open all day and night Tuesday and will be open all day today (Wednesday) and into (today) as long as the need is there," Robertson said.

Regular operating hours for Samaritan House, located at 320 W. Oakland Ave., are 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. seven days a week. Guests must be checked in by 6 p.m. unless accompanied by Sumter Police.

The shelter has enough food and other supplies to get it through this weather crisis, Robertson said, thanks to volunteer donors.

"We were able to serve lunch, dinner



ROBERTSON









**YEAR OF ACTION?**

*A thin path narrows president's ambitions. D1*

**CHINESE NEW YEAR:** Friday ushers in year of the horse. B1

**'WE WERE AWFUL':** Coach hails Razorbacks' turnaround, win streak. C1

## Sheriff considering hands-free driving ordinance



Crenshaw

BY NORMAN CANNADA  
THE JOURNAL

Oconee County Sheriff Mike Crenshaw is considering proposing a "hands-free" driving ordinance in Oconee County to deal with the issue of the use of cellphones and

other devices while driving. Crenshaw said he has been watching developments in the City of Greenville, which approved first reading Monday night of an ordinance that would ban the use of hand-held devices that transmit or receive data,

such as cellphones, tablets and other electronic devices, while driving. The Greenville ordinance could get final approval next month and go into effect April 1.

Crenshaw said he had thought about a hands-free law before, but the Greenville

proposal has caused him to look into it more seriously.

"I didn't know of any other jurisdiction that had pursued it," he said. "Ideally, all we really need is a hands-free (ordinance), because dialing the numbers is also a distraction. It's not just the texting

and driving. It's all of it. From my viewpoint, I want something we can enforce and back up the intent of the ordinance."

He said he is beginning the process and knows there

SEE HANDS-FREE, PAGE A4

## 3 more projects go before sales tax panel

BY CARLOS CALARZA-VEVE  
THE JOURNAL

WALLHALLA — Brandon Shirley includes his daughter among a generation of children who either were not born or were too young to remember when terror struck the United States on Sept. 11, 2001.

Shirley, assistant chief at the Keowee Fire Department, said children such as his daughter, who's in the sixth grade, would be among many to benefit from the creation of an Oconee 9/11 memorial being planned next to the new Wallhalla High School under construction on S.C. Highway 11.

Shirley and former Oconee Economic Development Director Jim Alexander are expected to make the case tonight for why the Oconee County Capital Sales Tax Commission should consider a request of \$420,000 that would help make the 9/11 memorial a reality.

"I think our message from the very beginning is that 9/11 is almost like the Pearl Harbor of our generation," Shirley said Wednesday. "My

SEE TAX, PAGE A4

## THAW STARTS



Emily Craig, 4, gets a taste of snow while playing outside with her mom in Seneca Wednesday. Oconee and Pickens county children will be out of school again today as the area continues to thaw out after Tuesday's snowstorm.

JESSICA NELMS | THE JOURNAL

Schools closed, road conditions still potentially hazardous

BY GREG OLIVER  
THE JOURNAL

Sunshine made a return to the tri-county area Wednesday, which saw the melting of one-and-a-half inches of snow that fell on Tuesday and a considerable improvement in driving conditions.

However, emergency officials are cautioning motorists that plan to hit the road today, particularly during the morning hours, not to be lulled into a false sense of security.

"There will be a significant drop in temperature Wednesday night, and that will cause any moisture on the roads to freeze again," Oconee County Emergency Management Services Director Scott Krein said. "Don't get sucked into driving too fast. Just because the road you're driving on may not be icy, it might be ahead of you."

Pickens County Emergency Management Director Chuck Haynes said that while significant melting occurred Wednesday, only a small window existed before temperatures were projected to dip into the teens overnight.

"We still have plenty of icy spots, and water left on the roadway will re-freeze, impacting commuters (today)," Haynes

SEE THAW, PAGE A2

## Group upgrades local vet's home

BY JOSIE RABBITT  
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — As a veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars, George Kelley has known sacrifice. In fact, his sacrifices have earned him a Purple Heart.

Now that the 78-year-old Seneca native has lost a leg to diabetes, a local organization is seeking to help



**PURPLE HEART HOMES**  
PurpleHeartHomesUSA.org

Marine veteran Larry Druffel and a team of Marines and volunteers decided to partner with Purple Heart Homes and start a local chapter that

three combat tours," Druffel said. "What the man has done for us is incredible, and we wanted to renovate the duplex he is staying in now, so that he

bathroom doors.

"We did what we call a triage," Druffel said. "Normally, the process would be to write a request and fill out paperwork to Purple Heart Homes on a recipient. That would take a couple of weeks. Then, we'd spend those weeks getting supplies through donations or what we find, applying for the proper permits and



Dave Rutkiewicz, a member of the Golden Corner Purple Heart Homes chapter, looks on as George Kelley, a three-time deployed veteran and Purple Heart recipient, tests out his new ramp. Kelley lost his leg to diabetes after returning home from service.









**SHOWING OFF MOVES** Darlington County's Dancing with the Stars set for tonight. **Page 1D**

# Morning News

THURSDAY JANUARY 30, 2014

**TODAY'S WEATHER**

Mostly sunny and cold,  
high 40, low 16  
DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents



Lion Diaz sweeps snow Wednesday out of the parking lot of the Townhouse Restaurant on Irby Street. The restaurant was open for business despite the snowfall.

JOHN D. RUSSELL/MORNING NEWS

## Pee Dee digs out

Worst of snowstorm spares area, but slick roads abound

From staff reports

FLORENCE — Florence-area residents awoke Wednesday morning to find the winter storm may not have lived up to the 4-6 inches of snow it promised, but the storm did leave enough snow and ice in its wake to make travel treacherous.

The Florence area received 1-2 inches of snow overnight while the Bennettsville area reported 4 inches and Dillon 3 inches. Sandy Lacorte, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in

Wilmington, N.C., said.

Florence also recorded its first ice storm since 2004, she said.

What spared northeastern South Carolina the wintry mess that had been forecast was an intervening layer of warm air that kept the sleet from forming snow earlier in the storm and that less moisture moved into the storm system as it passed, Lacorte said.

That also spared the coast the ice storm meteorologists had initially predicted.

See **DIGS**, Page 4A



Ashlan Shriver (right) pushes Jared Suggso on the ice in the Deerfield subdivision in south Florence.

KEASEY CORBAY/MORNING NEWS

## Florence officials satisfied with snow response efforts



BY GAVIN JACKSON  
Morning News  
gjackson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — City and county officials are pleased with how state and local crews were handling snow and ice removal as of Wednesday afternoon after a winter storm brought lower-than-expected levels of precipitation throughout Tuesday night.

Florence City Manager Drew Griffin and a small contingent of personnel continued to monitor and coordinate efforts with

gated," Griffin said. "So the big issue is the roads. They are very icy, and it's going to stay very cold."

Judging by the relatively low level of emergency calls and accidents, Griffin believed residents are doing a good job by following advice and not driving unless necessary.

"Our recommendation comes from police department, which is that you minimize driving as much as possible particularly when move into evening when water on the roads turns into black ice," Griffin said.

Florence County Administrator K.G.







CMYK



Odd



## FOLLOW THE STORM AT THETANDD.COM

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2014

# The Times and Democrat

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2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES • VOL. 133 • NO. 30

## POWDER FOR PLAY

*Kids wake up to find yards full of snow*

By MARTHA ROSE BROWN  
T&D Staff Writer

As freezing rain turned to sleet late Tuesday night, folks in The T&D Region wondered if they'd wake up to find snow Wednesday morning.

Trista Hutto, 9, of Vance, said her dad woke her up Wednesday morning to give her the news she was hoping for: snow! Hutto said she was thinking about building a snowman, but noted the snow

was "real powdery."

She resorted to making a snow angel earlier.

Ice glazed the region Tuesday night, with a soft layer of snow following. The National Weather Service reported between an inch and four inches of snow fell throughout the region. Orangeburg County Council Chairman Johnnie Wright said the county is blessed to have

See SNOW, A3



GENE ZALESKI/T&D

Elizabeth Dibble, 11, pulls Hannah Mixon, 8, down Dove Point Drive in Orangeburg Wednesday morning on an inner tube.



LARRY WARD/T&D

Teri Padgett gets in a snowball attack on her 7-year-old daughter Rylee Vargo Wednesday morning while playing at the home of her mother, Gail Laney, in Cordova.

## Tree falls on home, but ice brings few other problems

By GENE ZALESKI  
T&D Staff Writer

A Bamberg family needed to be relocated early Wednesday morning after an ice-laden tree fell on its home.

"We got them out safely," Bamberg County Emergency Services Director Sharon Hammond said. There were no injuries as a result of the incident.

The Ott Street house was occupied by a family with children, she said. "They are staying with friends and family."

The tree fell around 2:30 a.m. Wednesday due to ice accumulations as a rare winter storm brought a wintry mix to The T&D Region. It was one of the few major incidents to result from the storm.

"Mother Nature spared us a direct hit," Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities spokesman Randy Eiters said. "We do feel we received a blessing and were fortunate the accumulations were significantly less than what they had previously stated. All in all, it was a very good night for us."

The National Weather Service reported snowfall totals in Orangeburg County ranging from two to three inches, with Orangeburg officially receiving about three inches. Less than two inches fell in the southeastern portion of the county near Holly Hill and Eatonsville.

The NWS reported light freezing rain began in the Orangeburg area around 4 p.m. Tuesday, lasting through around 11 p.m. before changing over to sleet and snow.

The Sandy Run area in Calhoun County was

leader in the region, receiving four inches of snow. St. Matthews received about two inches of snow and Bamberg about a half inch of ice and one inch of snow.

NWS meteorologist Kim Campbell said there were few surprises in the storm.

"The original forecast was two to four inches, but mostly we received in the two- to three-inch range," she said.

There were about 100 power outages in the DPU service area overnight related to a tree limb touching a line in the Evergreen and Dantzler Street areas and a vehicle striking a utility pole. The power was restored within a couple of hours.

"We spent a good bit of time learning what happened in 2004," Eiters said, referring to the ice storm which knocked out power for weeks

to thousands.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative reported a tree fell on a primary line in the Ellmore area shortly after 2:30 a.m. Wednesday. About 272 homes were impacted, although power was restored within 45 minutes.

The Bamberg Board of Public Works had power outages beginning around 11:30 p.m. for a couple of hours on McGee Street and Raider Drive, impacting about 15 homes.

"We were very fortunate. It was not as bad as predicted. It was a relief," Board of Public Works Operations Maintenance Supervisor Gene Pearson said.

David E. Felkel, president and chief executive officer Edisto Electric Cooperative, said at the

See PROBLEMS, A3

Caution still urged after 'sporty' day on roads

Brian Symmes

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