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2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2014

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State House OKs DJJ control

John de la Howe School would be placed under agency's purview

By KATE HRUBY

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The state House of Representa-

tives voted Tuesday to approve placing the John de la Howe School under the purview of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Gov. Nikki Haley recommended the placement in her proposed executive budget for fiscal year 2014-15. Pending approval by the state Senate, the administrative change will take place July 1, when the fiscal year begins.

"This is a step in the right direction to help the kids at John de la

Howe," Haley said Tuesday while in Greenwood for a speaking engagement.

Haley emphasized the necessity for oversight at John de la Howe, which was operating as a stand-alone state agency.

On Jan. 24, the Office of the Inspector General released a report

stating excessive per-student costs, gross mismanagement and underutilization of school facilities.

"What we saw was a lot of irresponsibility, no accountability, and the leadership there living by their own standards," Haley said.

See DJJ, page 3A



SUBMITTED

District 14 state Rep. Mike Pitts, left, hands Alexander King his badge during a Criminal Justice Academy graduation ceremony Friday in Columbia.

■ DPPPS

King's dream realized

By MATT BRUCE

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Alexander King fulfilled a lifelong dream when he reported to work Tuesday.

That's because King began his career as a South Carolina probation and parole agent this week in Greenwood. The

"It felt really good finally getting to the point that I've been working toward."

ALEXANDER KING
graduate of the Criminal Justice Academy

graduation ceremony at the Criminal Justice Academy in Columbia.

"It felt really good finally getting to the point that I've been working toward," he said. "It was also kind of bittersweet because, it sounds weird, but I finally started to enjoy being there. I kind of got used to it

24-year-old Myrtle Beach native was one of 30 agents from the S.C. Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services to walk across the stage Friday during a statewide

TOUTING PROGRESS



MADDY JONES / INDEX JOURNAL

Gov. Nikki Haley greets Greenwood Rotary Club members after speaking at their meeting Tuesday afternoon.

Gov. Nikki Haley addresses members of Greenwood Rotary

By CHRIS TRAINOR

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Economic development and job creation have been key initiatives for Gov. Nikki Haley during her time in office.

The governor touched on those subjects and much more Tuesday afternoon in Greenwood, as she was the guest speaker for the Rotary

From the Statehouse

■ Democrats say state not meeting education obligation, 3A

Club of Greenwood's meeting at American Legion Post 20 on Calhoun Avenue.

Haley told the Rotarians the American dream "is alive and well in South Carolina." She noted the unemployment rate has steadily fallen in the last several years.

"In 2011, when we started, unemployment was at 10.8 percent and got up to 11.1 percent," Haley said. "You made it very clear to me that jobs were a priority. So, that's what we did in South Carolina is jobs, jobs, jobs. We knew that in order for us to bring jobs to South Carolina

we had to take care of the businesses we already had first, make sure that we had a strong business climate, make sure that we were really focused on how they were spending their dollar, making their dollar and how South Carolina was a part of that."

Currently, South Carolina has an unemployment rate of 6.6 percent.

See PROGRESS, page 4A

See DREAM, page 3A

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

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Students cheer for young Juilliard performers

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Rotary Club of Aiken celebrates 75 years

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Clemson's Langdale wins second Palmetto tourney

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Louise Lanza Galloway, Aiken
Roy L. Montgomery Jr., North Augusta
Walter J. Nayda, Aiken
William David Culler, Aiken
William Steven "Steve" Van Deren, Aiken
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER



Plea for MOX

Congressmen ask for legal action to continue construction at SRS

BY DERREK ASBERRY
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Members of the South Carolina congressional delegation said the Department of Energy is already planning to stop work at the MOX facility at the Savannah River Site.

In a March 7 letter to S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley, U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.; U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C.; and U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., reported information about the mixed oxide fuel fabrication facility in Aiken County, known as MOX.



Haley



Graham



Scott



Wilson

"It is our understanding that the Department of Energy is already prepar-

ing to stop work currently happening at SRS," the congressmen wrote in the

letter. The Aiken Standard attempted to contact DOE and congressional members to gather more information, but phone calls and emails were not returned by press time.

The congressmen also used the letter to ask Haley to take legal action regarding the MOX facility.

"We ask that you work with the South Carolina attorney general to explore any legal avenues the state may have to address this injustice," the congressmen wrote in the letter.

Please see MOX, Page 11A

Traffic stops going digital

Law OKs electronic proof of insurance

BY TEDDY KULMALA
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A new law in South Carolina makes it possible for motorists to use their smartphones to show proof of insurance during law enforcement traffic stops.

The law took effect last week when Gov. Nikki Haley signed House Bill 3623 into law.

The House unanimously approved the bill last April, and the Senate unanimously approved it last month.

South Carolina is now one of 31 states that allow drivers to show electronic proof of insurance, according to The Associated Press.

State law requires drivers to keep proof of insurance in their vehicles at all times, and to be able to show it to an officer when requested.

The new law also has a privacy clause that says an officer handed a smartphone for insurance purposes does not have permission to search it for any

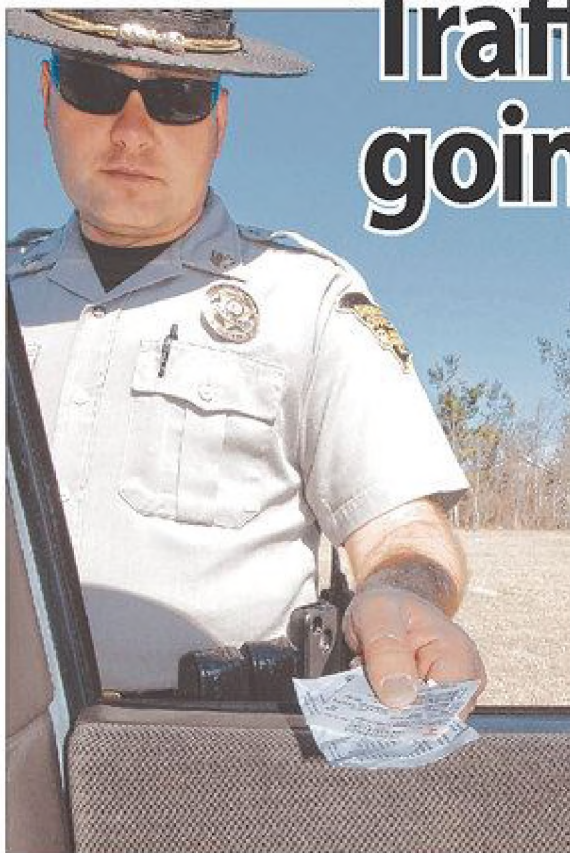
It's smart to make this technology available to those who are comfortable using it.

S.C. Rep. Bill Taylor, R-Aiken

other information. S.C. Rep. Bill Taylor, R-Aiken, said keeping track of insurance cards can be a hassle.

"Those who choose to use the electronic version of their insurance card no longer have to keep track of their paper insurance cards, which tend to be misplaced, particularly when they are needed during a traffic stop," he said. "It's smart to make this technology available to those who are comfortable using it."

Please see DIGITAL, Page 11A



STAFF PHOTO BY TEDDY KULMALA

A new state law means that Sgt. Jason Feemster with the Aiken County Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement officers will be able to accept electronic proof of insurance on a driver's smartphone during a traffic stop.

Local businesses to feel March Madness effects

BY MAAVAN SCHECHTER
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With all the events going on locally this weekend, it might be a little more than just March Madness for businesses and hotels around the Aiken community.

The Aiken Trials, the Regatta at Langley Pond and Juilliard in Aiken will help draw a significant amount

of traffic to the area this Saturday through Tuesday in a class of its own.

The 2013-14 Peach Belt Conference regular-season and tournament champion USC Aiken men's basketball team will again host, for the second consecutive year, the famed tournament at the Convocation Center March 15-18.

This is the third time the Pacers have held the No. 1 seed in the region

because of a scheduling conflict with the then-new Convocation Center.

Last year, USCA held Barton College off 82-75 during the tournament's championship game but fell during the first round of the Elite Eight at Freedom Hall in Louisville, Ky., to Drury University 84-75.

"For those of us in athletics, it's certainly going to be crazy," USCA Athletic Director Randy Worrick

NCAA regional acceptable."

USCA scored a home court slot for the tournament after winning the PBC Tournament Conference title again, this time against Alabama's University of Montevallo 61-59 on Sunday.

Staff will be hanging NCAA signs, covering signs, getting dressing rooms and parking spots ready for the incoming influx of scholars and their



METRO, 3A

FORGIVEN

Students to get a pass on 3 days

LIFESTYLE, 1D
Culinary
students get
taste of Italy

The Greenville News

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WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 12, 2014
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

FINAL EDITION

Data: Few extraditions sought

Authorities say many reasons not to cross state lines to get suspects

● USA TODAY

INSIDE

186,000 fugitives escape by crossing state lines, including thousands accused of serious crimes. 1B

By Tim Smith
Staff writer
tsmith@greenvillenews.com

COLUMBIA — Greenville and Pickens county authorities say there may be myriad reasons behind decisions not to extra-

dite three dozen people from other states charged over the last decade with violent or sex crimes.

According to data collected from the FBI by USA TODAY, 26 cases of violent or sex crimes from Greenville County and 10

from Pickens County were flagged in a national warrant database for no extradition.

The outstanding warrants were among hundreds from South Carolina coded for in-

See EXTRADITE, Page 4A



CROSSING STATE LINES TO FREEDOM



ARRIVAL OF TWO NEW BOUTIQUES COULD SIGNAL
A RETAIL NICHE FOR WOMEN'S APPAREL

FASHIONING DOWNTOWN FOR SHOPPERS

By Rudolph Bell
Staff writer
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Two more women's fashion boutiques are headed downtown as Main Street continues to grow as a shopping destination.

And a key downtown developer thinks even more stores geared for women would be helpful in making downtown a place where people go to shop, and not just to eat out.

The new boutiques will be located a stone's throw from the Anthropologie store that brought new options in feminine attire to Main Street's One development last year.

Cone & Coleman Collection is scheduled to open at One at the end of the month, while Taz Boutique has set an April 11 opening date for the same space in the Bank of America office tower where Camille's Sidewalk Café used to be, owners of the stores said.

Two other women's fashion boutiques, Wish and Traveling Chic Boutique, are close by on Main Street, and at least 15 other downtown stores sell women's apparel, according to Mary Douglas Hirsch, downtown manager for the city.

It's enough to deduce that downtown is beginning to develop a niche in ladies'

\$88M

Downtown continues to grow as a retail center. According to city data, downtown retail sales grew from about \$63 million in 2006 to more than \$88 million in 2012.

\$475M

That's a far cry from **Woodruff Road**, where sales rose from \$166 million to nearly \$475 million over the same six years.

18

Number of downtown stores currently carrying women's apparel.



"The women crave it. They want it here."

CHRISTINE ADAMS,
Taz Boutique manager

Anna Grace, co-owner of Traveling Chic Boutique, said she welcomes new shops in downtown Greenville. PATRICK COLLARD/STAFF

See BOUTIQUES, Page 4A

Congressional power to sue president sought



Should iconic restaurants be saved?

FOOD, D1



Europe wants to rename your cheese
BUSINESS, B6

The Post and Courier

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WEDNESDAY, March 12, 2014

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

Mt. Pleasant taxpayers face increases

Hikes for property, stormwater, business licenses, building permits win initial OK

BY ROBERT BEHRD
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MOUNT PLEASANT — Town Council decided Tuesday that its residents and businesses should pay a little more in property taxes, stormwater utility fees, planning fees, building permit fees and business licenses to tackle a backlog of needed road and

drainage work.

Councilman Mark Smith said he didn't like voting to raise taxes well before the budget is presented, adding, "I just feel like we're getting ahead of ourselves."

Mayor Linda Page said she has studied town spending closely since getting elected as a councilwoman four years ago and is satisfied the town needs the

Inside

Residents object to proposed May 1st gun shop. A8

money. "Not only will I support this (property tax) increase, I think it's a little too late, and I wish it were a little more," she said.

The tax increase would add \$36 to

the annual bill on a \$300,000 home, while council also voted to double its stormwater utility fee from \$10 to \$20.

And that's not all. Council also gave initial approval to raising the cost of a town business license by \$15 and then by 33 cents more for every \$1,000 of a business' income. Also, developers and builders may pay more in planning fees and for building permits.

The town would spend the money on new road projects, such as the Sweetgrass Road Parkway and Long Point Road's extension and realignment. It also would spend it on pavement management in neighborhoods like Mallard Lakes and Park West and drainage projects in Wakenow Lakes and

Please see TAXES, Page A8

Breaking the spell



Skating rules to keep on rolling

Council set to make skateboard map law

BY SCHUYLER KROFF
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The city of Charleston's skateboard regulations and map have worked so well that leaders are poised to make them permanent.

City Council this month is expected to include the rules — that started out as a temporary test — as part of the city code, applicable to anyone who rides a skateboard downtown.

"It's been a noticeable improvement on King Street," said Sgt. Heath King, who is part of the police department's tourism and entertainment district enforcement.

King Street was one of the multiple routes where boarding was prohibited under the pilot that started last March. Also banned was riding on Meeting Road, East Bay and Calhoun streets.

Please see SKATE, Page A6

After outlasting 49 competitors over 3½ hours, Razeen Baunia of Rollings Middle School of the Arts reacts to winning the Spellbound! spelling bee Tuesday night at Charleston Southern University's Lightsey Chapel. Razeen wins an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington to compete in the national bee. See Page A3 for the story.

Malaysian plane veered from path

Mystery deepens amid criticism of officials' conflicting accounts

BY THOMAS FULLER
New York Times News Service

SEPANG, MALAYSIA — The Malaysian authorities now believe that a jetliner missing since Saturday radically changed course around the time that it stopped communicating with ground controllers. But there were conflicting accounts of the course change or what may have happened afterward, adding to the air of confusion and disarray surrounding the investigation and search operation.

Online
For an interactive graphic includes maps of the plane's route and search efforts area and more, go to postandcourier.com/Malaysia-plane.

As criticism of their inability to find any trace of the jet has mounted, the Malaysian authorities have repeatedly insisted that they were doing their best to solve the mystery of Malaysia Airlines Flight



A relative of passengers is aboard the missing Malaysia Airlines flight answers questions Tuesday outside a Beijing hotel room set aside for family and friends of passengers aboard the missing plane.

MH370, with scarce data and almost no precedent.

But the government and the airline have also offered imprecise, incomplete and sometimes inaccurate information,

with civilian officials contradicting military leaders.

On Tuesday, the fourth day after the plane disappeared

Please see PLANE, Page A8

C of C finalists have strengths, drawbacks

BY DIANE KNICH
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The College of Charleston's Board of Trustees soon will choose the school's next president from among three finalists with diverse backgrounds.

Public reaction to the selection process has grown contentious in recent weeks, largely because the board selected Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell as one of the finalists.

McConnell's supporters include many state legislators, who have said his Statehouse experience could help the college get the resources it needs in the future. His opponents say he lacks higher education experience, and that his support of the Confederate battle flag flying on the Statehouse grounds could be detrimental

to the college's efforts to increase diversity.

So far, the two other finalists, Dennis "Jody" Encarnacion and Martha Saunders, have not evoked outspoken groups of critics or supporters.

The school's Faculty Senate, and some others on campus and in the community, are encouraging the board to hire a president who has strong academic experience.

Finalists will be on campus this week for interviews. Background information on the finalists can be found on the presidential search page on the school's website at trustees.cofc.edu/presidential-search.

On Page A6 is a summary of some of the finalists' strengths and drawbacks



Showers High 80, Low 36, Complete 5-day forecast, B12

Bridge — B11
Reviews — B6
Classified — C1
Games — B10, B11

Cryptograms — B6, B14
Editorials — A14
Food — D1
Movies — D9

Obituaries — D4
The South — B1
Sports — C1
Television — D8

Charleston Deals today

My Gym Charleston
Half off camp at My Gym. See A2



IRMO, GET READY TO BOUNCE

Trampoline park plans fall opening. B4

USC MEN HAVE A BIG PROBLEM

Size remains an issue as Gamecocks play Auburn Wednesday in SEC tourney. C1

The State

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2014 | THESTATE.COM

DRIVER FACING 6TH DUI CHARGE

3-year-old dies from crash injuries

Charges against driver upgraded to felony DUI

By CHRIS WINSTON
cwinston@thestate.com

A 3-year-old injured in a crash Friday with a suspected DUI repeat offender has died. Josiah Caden Jenkins of Columbia died shortly after 8 a.m. Tuesday at Palmetto Health Richland, according to Richland County Coroner Gary Watts.



Josiah

Josiah was riding in a car driven by his mother, Lateya Jenkins. The two were out Friday evening to pick up a pizza to celebrate Josiah being listed in a school newsletter at Lewis Greenview Elementary

School, said Columbia Fire Chief Aubrey Jenkins, who is the boy's great uncle. Josiah and his mother were on North Springs Road around 10 p.m., when the suspect's vehicle allegedly veered left into Jenkins' path, said Sgt. Bob Beres of the S.C. Highway Patrol.

SEE JOSIAH PAGE A8

ST. PAT'S

Festival policy: Leave, return — pay again

Patrons no longer can come and go as they please

By NOELLE PHILLIPS
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If you're going to the St. Pat's in Five Points festival, you better have everything you need when you walk through the gate.

For the first time, the festival will not allow re-entry.

Once you leave, that is it. Unless, of course, you're willing to pay \$15 for a new ticket.

Amy Beth Franks, executive director of the Five Points Association, said the change is designed to keep party-goers safer. Besides, it's the industry standard: sports, major music festivals and other big-time events don't allow people to come and go, either, she said.

"The driving force behind no re-entry is safety," Franks said. "I hope people

'From the beginning of this, we opted not to hide.'

Martha Childress' mother, Pam Childress Johnson



Martha Childress, the USC student who was paralyzed by a stray bullet in Five Points, throws out the first pitch Tuesday night at the USC-Furman baseball game.

BM DOMINICK/TODDMONROE@THESTATE.COM

BACK IN THE GAME

What's for dinner?

For a change of pace, how about breakfast?

Food & Health / E1



Herald-Journal

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 12, 2014

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HJ
IN A HURRY

5 Things
to read
today



Historic victory

The USC Upstate women's basketball team took its first postseason victory in the NCAA Division I era Tuesday night with a 76-66 win against East Tennessee State to advance to the final four of Atlantic Sun Conference tournament. **PAGE C1**

Healthcare sign-ups

The Obama administration said Tuesday it's making progress on health care sign-ups, but the White House needs something close to a miracle to meet its goal of enrolling 6 million people by the end of this month. **PAGE A3**

Professor mourned

The Converse College community is mourning the passing of professor Mayo Mac Boggs, who taught art at Converse for 43 years. He died Monday after a long battle with heart disease. **PAGE C1**

Phone scam

A Spartanburg Tex-Mex restaurant is out almost \$1,000 after falling victim to a phone scam where a man claimed to be with Duke Energy — and officials say the swindling tactic is not uncommon. **PAGE C1**

Recall probe

A congressional committee is investigating the way General Motors and a federal safety agency handled a deadly ignition switch problem in compact cars. **PAGE C4**

Weather

Murder trial opens with ex-wife

Ricky Blackwell Sr. accused of killing 8-year-old in 2009

By KIM KIMZEY
kim.kimzey@shj.com

Solicitor Barry Barnette got to his knees in front of the jury. Angela Davis, a fragile-looking woman whose face was red from sobbing, testified in a soft voice, "Just like this," then put her left arm around Barnette's neck and pointed her right hand at his head.

Davis testified her ex-husband, Ricky Blackwell Sr., placed 8-year-old Heather Brooke Center in a chokehold and put a gun to her head as Davis pleaded for him to let the child go and take her instead. But she said Blackwell refused.

Blackwell's trial began Tuesday. The 55-year-old Chesnee man has been charged with kidnapping and

murder in the killing of the little girl who went by Brooke.

The trial ended abruptly for the day when prosecutors objected to questions regarding Davis' mental health records they claimed the defense had obtained illegally. The trial is scheduled to resume at 9 a.m. today.

Deputy Solicitor Derrick Balsa told the jury in opening statements the crimes occurred at 244 Ridings Road on July 8, 2009. Balsa said jurors would hear the "story of horror" that marked Brooke's final day.

Davis and Blackwell were separated when prosecutors say he killed Brooke as an act of revenge. At the time, Davis was in a relationship with Brooke's father, Bobby Center.

Balsa said Blackwell shot Brooke four times.

◆ SEE BLACKWELL PAGE A9



MICHAEL JUSTUS/MICHAEL.JUSTUS@SHJ.COM

Angela Davis, Ricky Lee Blackwell Sr.'s ex-wife, testifies Tuesday during Blackwell's trial at the Spartanburg County Courthouse. Blackwell is charged with the 2009 kidnapping and murder of 8-year-old Heather Brooke Center.

DUNCAN PARK DIAMOND SPARKLES



GWINN DAVIS FOR THE HERALD JOURNAL

Spartanburg High baseball players are introduced Tuesday night as the Vikings hosted Riverside in the first game played at the newly renovated Duncan Park stadium. See details on the game on Page B3.

Play ball: Spartanburg takes field in freshly renovated stadium

By DANIEL J. GROSS
and LYNN P. SHACKLEFORD
Staff writers

Barbara and Richard Cain sat front and center at Duncan Park stadium to see their great-grandson take the field Tuesday evening.

Baseball is nothing new for them — they said

Spartanburg School District 7 was able to pay for a new scoreboard through sponsorships. American flags and new banners that display "Home of the Vikings" also lined the field.

Spectators were chatting about the upgrades and were seen pointing out new additions during the game.

Senator says CIA disrupted probe

Torture allegations under investigation

By DONNA CASSATA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In an extraordinary public accusation, the head of the Senate Intelligence Committee declared on Tuesday that the CIA interfered with and then tried to intimidate a congressional investigation into the agency's possible use of torture in terror probes during the Bush administration.

The CIA clandestinely removed documents and searched a computer network set up for lawmakers, said Sen. Dianne Feinstein in a long and biting speech on the Senate floor. In an escalating dispute with an agency she has long supported, she said the CIA may well have violated criminal laws and the U.S. Constitution.

At odds on major contentions



Feinstein



Sumter
baseball
takes on
Spring
Valley B1

Pastor facing more sex assault charges



MATT WALSH / THE SUMTER ITEM

Detective Natalie Kelly of Sumter Police Department explains the sexual conduct charges brought against Larry DuRant, right, during his bond hearing Tuesday at Sumter-Lee Regional Detention Center. The pastor faces more sexual assault charges after a 16-year-old girl who attends World International Ministries told law enforcement he sexually assaulted her.

Teen: Incidents occurred during 'private' prayer sessions

BY ROB COTTINGHAM
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A Sumter pastor is facing more sexual assault charges after another alleged victim stepped forward.

According to reports, Larry DuRant, 59, of 2080 Four Bridges Road, was charged Tuesday with two counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor after he turned himself in to Sum-

ter Police Department.

The new charges come from an investigation of a then-16-year-old girl who attends World International Ministries, where DuRant is a pastor. The teen told law enforcement that she was sexually assaulted by DuRant during "private" prayer sessions held at the church's Manning Avenue and Guignard Drive locations in Sumter. The alleged incidences occurred between November 2012 and April 2013.

DuRant appeared before Judge Roosevelt Goodwin at Sumter-Lee Regional Detention Center on Tuesday afternoon for his bond hearing, his family in tow.

Detective Natalie Kelly of Sumter Police Department presented her case to Goodwin, divulging the details of the new charges. According to the victim's testimony, DuRant first assaulted her in November 2012

SEE **DURANT**, PAGE A8

Testimony begins in shooting deaths trial

BY JIM HILLEY
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MANNING — Kaisha Caraway spent the day Tuesday in the Clarendon County Administrative Building testifying against Justin Johnson, the father of her two children.

Johnson is charged with shooting and killing Caraway's grandmother, Maxine Briggs Caraway — who would have been 62 years old Tuesday — and her 9-month-old son, Jayden, before also shooting the prosecution's witness in April 2011 at her grandparent's home on Carissa Lane in Manning.

Johnson faces two counts of murder, a count of attempted murder, kidnapping and other charges in the case expected to last at least the week.

During her stoic testimony of the tragic day's events, Caraway said Johnson showed up to the house unexpectedly, and she took the opportunity to ask him to take the kids to see the doctor. As he waited outside in his car, she said she dressed the children while talking to Johnson on the phone.

Caraway said Johnson was angry and upset and threatened to break into the house. She said Johnson wanted her to come along but that she didn't feel comfortable about it.

He left but brought the kids back to the house in about 30 minutes, she said. Caraway asked him why he did not go to the doctor, she said, and he replied the clinic was not taking walk-ins. She testified he started to drive away but then stopped to ask her again to go with him.

"He came running up to the house, and it caused me to shut the door," she said, adding he pushed his way inside and began "punching her all over."

At that time, Caraway said her grandmother entered the room.

And as Jayden sat in a high chair, and her other child, M'keya, peeked around the corner, Caraway said on the stand that Johnson began beating both her and her grandmother.

Caraway testified she started up the stairs to find a phone, but Johnson pulled her back and was dragging her off the porch as her grandmother rushed past to get to her car.

Caraway ran back into the house, found her grandmother's phone and ran down the hall to the bathroom, she said.

SEE **TRIAL**, PAGE A6

School board approves uniform policy for Chestnut Oaks

BY RAYTEVIA EVANS
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Students at Chestnut Oaks Middle School will have to

forms starting in the fall. Principal Lashawnte Sarvis went before the Sumter School District Board of Trustees during Monday's meeting at Crosswell Drive

uniforms for the school which the board approved with a 3-1 vote and two abstentions.

Sarvis, who's in her first year as a principal, proposed

2014-15 school year to help with common dress code violations such as female students dressing "like women," or more mature than their appropriate age, and their male

pull up their pants or don't wear belts to school.

When Chestnut Oaks administrators decided that they would like to adopt a uniform



HOT START

Smith, Seneca open season with win behind Pate homer. C1

COLORFUL CRAFTS: Bring spring into your home with custom monograms. B1
MISSING JET: Malaysian Boeing 777 changed course before disappearance. D1

Ward, Pohl top council vote



Seneca resident Raymond Bryson casts his ballot in the city council election Tuesday morning at the Shaver Recreation Center.

JESSICA NEUMS | THE JOURNAL

Turnout less than 15 percent for election

BY CARLOS GALARZA-YEVE AND NORMAN CANNADA
 THE JOURNAL

SENECA — It was a low turnout, but the voters who showed up scrambled Seneca City Council by ousting two long-serving incumbents and giving two challengers a shot at serving the public.

Left on the outside looking in after Tuesday night's unofficial final count were Ernest "E" Riley and Andrea Alewine, who have served 16 and eight years on council, respectively.

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE A3

SENECA ELECTION*

Candidate	Votes
Joel Ward	434
Stuart Pohl	365
Scott Durham	363
Denise Rozman	312
Ernest 'E' Riley	310
Robert Holbrooks	305
Joel Arnold	302
Andrea Alewine	288



Ward

Durham



Pohl

Rozman

* Results unofficial until provisional ballots are counted Thursday. Top four vote-getters earn council seats

SALES TAX REFERENDUM

November 2014

Public's input sought on projects

BY CARLOS GALARZA-YEVE
 THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — The public will get a chance Thursday to speak in support of or opposition to projects being considered for funding by the Oconee County Capital Projects Sales Tax Commission when the group meets for the second time this week.

Comments by the public will be limited to a maximum of three minutes each during the two-hour meeting, scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. at county council chambers in the county offices on Pine Street in Walhalla.

The commission is considering 10 projects

SEE INPUT, PAGE A5

SEEING PROGRESS



JESSICA NEUMS | THE JOURNAL

Safe Harbor executive director Becky Callaham surveys renovation work inside the home that will soon house victims of domestic violence in Oconee County.

Safe Harbor continues push toward Oconee shelter opening

BY NORMAN CANNADA
 THE JOURNAL

OCONEE COUNTY — Standing inside the house that will soon become the home of Oconee County's first domestic violence shelter, Safe Harbor executive director Becky Callaham can see the progress.

A new porch has been completed, and work has begun to make way for new privacy fencing. Inside, there is new flooring in a couple of rooms, a bathroom is being renovated and areas have been marked where walls will soon go up to provide office and counseling space. Callaham said she is confi-

dent the shelter will open by the July goal she set in January at a celebration in which Safe Harbor announced it had raised more than \$1.1 million for a domestic violence shelter and services in Oconee County. During that meeting Bob

SEE PROGRESS, PAGE A5

Sewer South workers dealing with drivers

BY JOSIE RABBITT
 THE JOURNAL

SENECA — For flaggers and construction employees working on the Sewer South project in southern Oconee County, the real danger is passing cars.

Crystal Hare, vice president for project subcontractor Tugalo Pipeline Inc. in Westminster, said

workers have brushed with oncoming cars and traffic while they work on installing the 13.5-mile sewer line.

"We've had to put up signs clearly marked, like 'let them work, let them live,' as well as other cautionary signs," said Hare, who is also the Westmin-

SEE SEWER, PAGE A5

One hospitalized after brush fire

Firefighters from Seneca, Friendship and Crossroads responded to a brush fire that got out of control Tuesday at 1707 South Oak Street south of Seneca, Oconee County





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Morning News

WEDNESDAY MARCH 12, 2014

**TODAY'S
WEATHER**

Windy with a couple
of thunderstorms,
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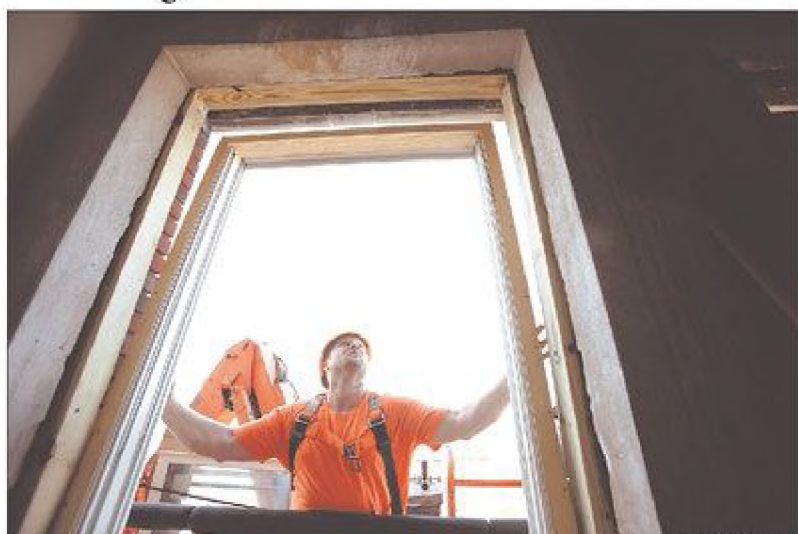
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A job with a view



PHOTOS BY VASELY CONNER/MORNING NEWS

Joseph Cope replaces a window frame on the third floor of the old Waters building at 135 S. Dargan St. Also known as the Kimbrell's building, the 99-year-old structure is being completely renovated. "Every window is different," said Cope's colleague, Travis Beaver, who helped install the window from inside. The crew specializes in window replacements — each one can take anywhere from 15 to 30 minutes. "We've been all over the state," Beaver said.



Trust appeal dropped

Decision paves way for city
to demolish historic building

BY GAVIN JACKSON
Morning News
gjackson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — A Historic Florence Foundation official dropped an appeal against the city of Florence's decision to demolish the Trust building Tuesday, a day before its scheduled hearing.

Agnes Willcox of the Historic Florence Foundation filed a consent order to dismiss Tuesday, after a recent state Supreme Court ruling made her reconsider her appeal against the city's Design

Review Board ruling. That December ruling granted the city, owner of the Trust building, a certificate of appropriateness to demolish it.

"We know that there was a recent court ruling that decided even if there were good merits for why something should be denied an appeal, you still have to have appropriate legal standing," Willcox said. "With the recent ruling, it makes it questionable if the Historic Florence Foundation would

See **TRUST**, Page 4A

City lines up several infrastructure projects

More than \$27M about to be spent on
parking decks and other enhancements

BY GAVIN JACKSON
Morning News
gjackson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The bidding is open for initial work on more than \$27 million in infrastructure projects in Florence, including two parking decks, an amenities feature, a gymnasium and road improvements.

Part new penny sales

INSIDE

» City planning panel OKs annexing 19 parcels: **3A**

tax projects and part Tax Increment Funding projects, as a whole they represent the city's aggressive commitment to solidify downtown revitalization with infrastructure.

See **PROJECTS**, Page 3A

Darlington County school nurse gets top state award

After 25 years, Blackman still loves caring for children

BY ELLEN MEDER
Morning News
emed@florencenews.com

many administrative duties — and has skills in her arsenal to fix a pair of soiled underpants, a life-threatening allergic re-



Darlington County Schools Lead Nurse Jean Blackman tenderly applies some Vaseline to a student's irritated skin Wednesday at Cain

Brian Symmes

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