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Date: 11/20/2012 9:32:49 AM
Subject: S.C. Front Pages - Tuesday, November 20, 2012

CLEMSON-USC
Big game, bigger security
 SPORTS, C1



FIGHT HOLIDAY POUNDS:
GET MOVING
 YOUR HEALTH, D1

The Post and Courier

THE SOUTH'S OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER • FOUNDED 1803

TUESDAY, November 20, 2012

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Sens. to look at sex assault law

Sheheen: Campus police can hand over investigations

BY ANDREW KNAPP
 aknapp@postandcourier.com

After a woman snorted Xanax and tumbled to her death from a college dorm, her family questioned whether campus police officers had the expertise to find out what went wrong.

Those questions prompted state lawmakers to pass legislation allowing an outside police agency to get involved with investigations into campus deaths and sex assaults.

But Sen. Vincent Sheheen, D-Camden, said he drafted the Jessica Horton Act in 2007 to provide for a "more experienced and professional review" of such cases.

"It puts these cases into the hands of law enforcement officers who deal with these things on a more frequent basis," Sheheen said. "They shouldn't have to change procedures and no longer have the city involved."

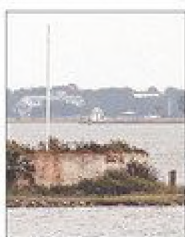
The Post and Courier on Sunday first reported the April 23 case in which a family member challenged the school and its police force as possibly biased in the investigation because it involved athletes.

Please see L&R, Page A11



I-526 opposition group plans the next steps of its fight
 Local & State, B1

Joblessness doesn't just hit your wallet — it hits your health, too
 Nation & World, A3



Confederate-era flags soon will fly over Castle Pinckney
 Local & State, B1

How NAACP, churches combining forces will help community
 Shirley Greene column, B1



This week's church notes and events
 Your Health, D2



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'Nothing you can say'

Wando family mourns loss of 2 teen brothers



PHOTO BY GRACE BERKHAUS/STAFF
 Kelvin (left) and Matthew Richardson



PHOTOGRAPHS BY GRACE BERKHAUS/STAFF
 Matthew Richardson, 19, and Kelvin Richardson, 17, were killed Sunday when their car crashed into this Calhoun Road yard and tree in Berkeley County.

BY CHRISTINA ELMORE
 celmore@postandcourier.com

The Rev. Tony Richardson spends much of his time comforting and guiding the members of his Johns Island parish in times of need.

But he and his wife, Karen, said the roles were very much reversed Monday as the family grieved the loss of their two eldest sons after a wreck the day before. Parishioners, friends and relatives crowded the family home in Wando, offering support.



A public candlelight vigil will be held at Hanahan High School's track at 8 p.m. today in memory of Matthew and Kelvin Richardson, sons of Karen and the Rev. Tony Richardson of Wando.

with shattered glass. The home's owner, George Snider, heard the sound and thought lightning struck the tree in his front yard. He said he stepped outside and was shocked to see the scene that lay before him.

Emergency workers arrived, and Please see BROTHERS, Page A11

Season over for Goose Creek?

Ineligible-player appeal denied

BY PHILIP M. BOWMAN
 pbowman@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — Goose Creek High School officials and supporters began Monday with high hopes in advance of an appeal in front of the High School League's executive committee that would determine the fate of the football team.

Before the hearing was over, the group was pleading for mercy. What the Gators received was the death penalty, principal Jimmy Hunkey said.

The executive committee — for the second time in five days — voted to uphold league commissioner Jerome Stangleton's ruling that the Gators used an ineligible player and had to forfeit 10 games in which the student dressed for or played in.

After the 14-0 vote against Goose Creek, Jay Ragley, a committee member from the state Department of Education, made a motion to grant the Gators mercy. But the executive committee voted 12-2 to deny it.

For now, Goose Creek's season is over. Principal Jimmy Hunkey said the

Inside

Editorial: Bad call against the Gators, A12

Israel's Gaza action years in making

ANALYSIS

BY JOSEF FEDERMAN
 Associated Press

JERUSALEM — As Israel and Hamas in Gaza trade fire and threats of escalation, efforts to halt the fighting continue.

Here's a look at why the violence erupted, the goals of the warring sides, and how it might end.

Lightning strike Israel opened its offensive with a surprise airstrike on Nov. 14 that killed the shadowy leader of Hamas' military wing. Since then, it has carried out hundreds of airstrikes in what it said is a systematic campaign to halt years of rocket attacks launched from Gaza. While Israel claims to have inflicted heavy damage,

Inside

Locality shows support for Israel, B1

Please see GAZA, Page A5

TORCH THAT TIGER!

Cheerleaders fire up the crowd Monday evening during Tigerburn, a University of South Carolina tradition where students burn a tiger in effigy during the week they play Clemson. A12



KIM KIM FOSTER/TOBIN/KIM FOSTER@THESTATE.COM

The State

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2012 | THESTATE.COM

HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN

They say getting there can be half the fun, but that's rarely the case with travel during the holidays. So we've put together some tips to get you off to a smooth start.

You're not alone — The most Thanksgiving travelers in five years will hit the road this year, even as fewer take to the skies.

Ninety percent of the 43.6 million people traveling more than 50 miles from home for the holiday will drive, and they will average trips of 588 miles — down from 705 miles last year, according to AAA Carolinas.

Close to half of those who plan to drive will leave Wednesday, and more than 60 percent will return home either Sunday or Monday.

Travelers looking to avoid traffic might have better luck heading out today or Thursday and returning Friday or Saturday.

Fill up before you go — In South Carolina, drivers will find slightly cheaper gas prices than last year's historic highs. The average price for a gallon of regular unleaded Monday was \$3.12, up from \$3.10 a week ago but a nickel cheaper than this time last year.

Since the state has the second-cheapest gas prices in the nation, behind Missouri at \$3.08, it would be wise to fill the tank before crossing the border. North Carolina's average was \$3.30 Monday and Georgia's was \$3.25. The national average was \$3.42.

At the airport — If you're flying this week, it's best to know what you're in for before you get to the airport. Some tips:

■ Find out ahead of time whether your airline charges fees for checked baggage. Most domestic airlines do.

■ If you plan to carry on your luggage, know that it will be screened at a security checkpoint. There are restrictions on what you take in your carry-on. Check with www.tsa.gov for a list.

The forecast

— It's hard to imagine better weather for traveling to Thanksgiving gatherings.

In South Carolina, there's almost no chance of rain through the weekend and mild temperatures



BEST IN CLASS: Carolina, Clemson superlatives on the field, B1

SCE&G gives ground on rate hike

Utility now wants 4.23 percent more; public hearings set for next week

By RODDIE BURRIS
rburris@thestate.com

SCE&G will slash its rate increase request to the S.C. Public Service Commission for electric customers, the com-

pany said late Monday after reaching a deal with several parties opposing the increase.

The deal would save the average customer about \$50 a year and would reduce the return for investors.

The company plans to ask for a 4.23 percent — or \$97 million increase — down from the initial 6.6 percent, or \$152 million, request, company officials said. Several groups had mobilized against the rate

hike, saying it included unnecessary items and excessive returns for investors.

The new rate increase request still must be approved

SEE SCE&G PAGE A4



KIM KIM FOSTER/TOBIN/KIM FOSTER@THESTATE.COM

Ten-month-old Kathryn Ann Mullis is recovering from a heart transplant and adjusting to home life with her mother, Colleen Mullis, and her father and brother.

TINY HEART PATIENT HAS BIG BLESSING

Family of 10-month-old transplant patient extra grateful on Thanksgiving

By JOEY HOLLEMAN
jholleman@thestate.com

The message on the front of 10-month-old Kathryn Ann Mullis' Thanksgiving onesie says it all: "Everyone's thankful for me."

Kathryn Ann, the daughter of Colleen and Stephen Mullis of Columbia and sister of

fectly healthy at birth last spring. But her eight-week exam revealed life-threatening heart problems — an enlarged left ventricle, thickened walls and a non-compacted heart — a genetic disease that occurs during de-

READ MORE

Read more about the journey of Kathryn Ann Mullis and her family at

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/kathrynnmullis>.

SEE HEART PAGE A2

S.C. halts coverage for elective early births

State, BlueCross look to reduce health risks, costs

By ANDREW SHAIN
ashain@thestate.com

Many South Carolina mothers looking for convenience by delivering babies in the weeks before they reach full-term will not have insurance for the procedure soon.

The state's Medicaid program and BlueCross

SEE DELIVERIES PAGE A4

WILD THINGS

Midlife crisis for apes, too? Study says it's not bananas

By MALCOLM RITTER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Chimpanzees in a midlife crisis? It sounds like a setup for a joke.



CLEMSON FOOTBALL OFFENSE RISES TO NEW HEIGHT



LOCAL Upstate mourns area soldier

The Greenville News

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TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 20, 2012
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

BUSINESS

CertusBank acquires community bank in Georgia, 11A

FINAL EDITION K1

Suddeth: Nightlife balance weighed

Shooting spurs look at issues related to downtown growth

By David Dykes
and E. Richard Walton
Staff writers

As investigators probed the fatal shooting of a 19-year-old man by police officers in downtown Greenville, a top city official said he was concerned that the city might be reaching a "tipping

point" of bars and drinking establishments as a percentage of businesses in the central business district.

A group of top city officials, acting as a nightlife task force with City Council input, has been studying issues related to downtown's growth, said David Suddeth, Greenville's mayor pro tem. City police, fire, codes enforcement and economic

development officials have been involved, he said.

"It's been an effort to try to continue to strike a good, healthy balance downtown because up to this point, we have been very successful," Suddeth said. "We've done a great job with promoting downtown. We've got more businesses downtown."

But he said, "I'm a little concerned about the tipping point on the nightlife." The increasing activity "puts a sig-

nificant burden on the Police Department to try to maintain a nice, safe environment downtown, particularly late at night," Suddeth said.

"That's become particularly important because we're having an increasing number of folks who are living downtown," he said. "So you want to make sure it's not just safe during the day. But you want to make sure it's safe 24 hours a

See DOWNTOWN, Page 6A



Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., has completed appearances on Sunday news programs "Face the Nation" and "Meet the Press" in back-to-back weeks. REUTERS

Graham raises profile on divisive issues

By Clark Brooks
Staff Writer
cbrooks@greenvilleonline.com

In a state where the Tea Party is the straw that stirs a strong conservative pool of voters, a throwback Republican U.S. senator known to occasionally reach across the aisle might want to keep a low profile as election season approaches.

Then again, he might be Lindsey Graham, for whom a low profile isn't an option.

Graham completed appearances on Sunday news programs "Face the Nation," and "Meet the Press," in back-to-back weeks, and then invited Greenville reporters to his office Monday, where he continued to hammer the president on Benghazi, and also weigh in on the fiscal cliff and other topics.

Bashing President Barack Obama appeals to the Tea Party faction of the GOP, said political expert John Simkins, and Graham repeated Monday that he blames the president for allowing the U.S. mission in Benghazi to become a "death trap," in which four Americans were killed in a terrorist attack on Sept. 11.

For some, the Obama criticism is about politics with a re-election bid in

See GRAHAM, Page 12A

HOME SALES, PRICES CLIMB

Last month, Upstate region saw 38.6 percent increase from a year ago



Construction is almost complete at a newly built 7,152-square-foot, single-family home in Greenville. MYKAL MCDOWNEY/STAFF

By Angelia Davis | Staff writer | davis@greenvilleonline.com

As the inventory of existing homes shrinks, sales and prices are going up.

That's one reason cited for increased home sales in October on the local, state and national levels.

Last month, sales of previously owned homes in Greenville, Pickens and Laurens counties were up 14.2 percent year-to-date and 38.6 percent from a year ago.

seeing multiple offers on properties on a much more frequent basis than it did this time last year because the inventory has dropped, said Craig Bailey, the firm's vice president for development.

"We're even getting some properties that have six or seven offers on it at one time," Bailey said. "It's unbelievable."

Inventory levels in Greenville, Pickens and Laurens counties are down to 5,322 units from 6,047 units

INSIDE



The Beaufort Gazette

TUESDAY, November 20, 2012

beaufortgazette.com

Established in 1897 50 cents

Police: Stepfather target of gunfire from car



Ramos
 Faces attempted murder charge

Habersham
 Passenger in car, faces weapon charge

Suspect allegedly also made robbery attempt at knife point

By **ALLISON STICE**
astice@islandpacket.com
 843-706-8138

A Beaufort woman accused of attempted murder tried to rob her stepfather at knife point late Saturday at Walmart, then shot at him while she chased him in her

car, police say.

Cassandra Maura Ramos, 20, of Beaufort met her stepfather in the parking lot of the store on Robert Smalls Parkway in northern Beaufort County, hoping to get money from him, according to the Port Royal Police Department. She pulled a

knife on him, and when he drove away, began chasing him in her car, authorities say.

Ramos then fired three shots from a .357 revolver at her stepfather as they drove near Grober Hill Road, police said Monday.

Officers tried to pull over Ramos on Ribaut Road, but she refused to stop. The police chased her for about a half-mile, then Ramos pulled over in the Old Shell Road area near Beaufort Naval Hospital, according to Deputy Chief Ron Weckmann.

Police used a loudspeaker to tell her

Please see **GUNFIRE** on 9A

AS GAZA VIOLENCE FLARES, U.S. STAYS AT A DISTANCE

Obama administration aims to pass role of referee to new Arab leaders



BYAD BABA • The Associated Press

Smoke rises following an Israeli attack on smuggling tunnels Monday at the border between Egypt and Rafah, southern Gaza Strip.

PEACE ON THE WAY?

Israeli troops were ordered to stand down from their posts near the border of the Gaza Strip, suggesting cease-fire negotiations might be nearing an agreement. **12A**

By **HANNAH ALLAM** • McClatchy Newspapers

The Obama administration's hands-off approach to Israel's ongoing offensive in Gaza is emblematic of what analysts see as an evolving diplomatic approach that is easing the United States out of its longstanding role as chief referee for Middle Eastern conflicts.

For more than a year, analysts say, American diplomats have adopted a more laissez-faire stance, which was accelerated by the Arab Spring and its new crop of leaders, who are eager to prove themselves on the world stage without the old order's dependence on U.S. backing. The Obama administration appears only

"The United States has checked out of the issue ... I don't think they're appearing to be absent — I think they are absent."

Khaled Elgindy, fellow at the Brookings Institution, a former advisor to Palestinian peace negotiators

too happy to bequeath its former role to allies such as Egypt and Turkey; U.S. officials are vocal about the plan to disengage from the Middle East and focus on less troublesome parts of the world.

Please see **GAZA** on 9A

F-35 pilot squadron begins to form

By **JULIE WATSON**
 The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The Marine Corps is forming the first squadron of pilots to fly the next-generation strike fighter jet, months after lawmakers raised concern that there was a rush to end testing of an aircraft that has had technical problems.

So far, two veteran pilots of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing have been trained to fly the F-35B. They are becoming the first members of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121 that will debut today at a ceremony at the Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma, Ariz.

Please see **F-35** on 9A

AREA IMPACT

The F-35B version of the new Joint Strike Fighter is designed for the Marines, and Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort eventually will be home to three new active-duty JSF squadrons and two pilot-training squadrons, Navy officials have said.

The F-35B will replace all of the F-18s now flown at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, and their arrival is expected in 2013 or 2014.

Construction at the air station began in September 2011 on a new training and flight simulator facility, which marked the beginning of a \$351.8 million makeover the air station must undergo before the jets' arrival. A simulated flight deck, made from special concrete that can withstand the heat from the new jets' engines, is also being built.

The surface will be used by pilots to practice the plane's short takeoff and vertical-landing capabilities.



Not satisfied

Wofford heads to the playoffs hungry after near-miss against South Carolina **B1**



Herald-Journal

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NOVEMBER 20, 2012
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HJ
IN A HURRY

5 Things to read today



Road warriors

The Union County High Yellow Jackets won their third straight playoff game away from Union County Stadium with a 41-38 victory at A.C. Flora last week to advance to the 3A upper state championship. They will travel for a fourth consecutive week to face top-seeded Daniel at 7:30 p.m. Friday. **PAGE B1**

Loan approved

Cherokee County Council agreed to loan the recreation district up to \$400,000 for a new building, and the project could go out to bid by the end of this year. The roughly 4,000-square-foot building will be built on a site that the county owns between Twin Lakes and Midway roads. **PAGE C1**

Note on door

A Boiling Springs homeowner is being charged with arson after a house fire on Hanging Rock Road, where a handwritten sign on the front door of the home warned those responding that there was a bomb inside. **PAGE C3**

Affair fallout

Paula Broadwell is telling friends she is devastated by the fallout from her extramarital affair with retired Gen. David Petraeus, which led to his resignation as head of the CIA. **PAGE A10**

Twinkies live on

Hostess Brands Inc. and its second-largest union agreed on Monday to try to resolve their differences after a bankruptcy court judge noted that the parties hadn't gone through private mediation. **PAGE D1**

Israel, Hamas present truce ideas

No deal on horizon; both sides threatening escalation

By **KARIN LAUB**
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers traded fire and tough cease-fire proposals Monday, and threatened to escalate their border conflict if diplomacy fails. No deal appeared near.

An Israeli airstrike targeting a Gaza media center killed a senior militant and engulfed the building in flames. The Israeli military said the

Islamic Jihad were using space there as a command center.

Gaza fighters fired 95 rockets at southern Israeli cities, nearly one-third of them intercepted by an Israeli missile shield.

A total of 38 Palestinians were killed Monday. Two more Palestinians were killed in airstrikes past midnight, bringing the death toll since the start of Israel's offensive to 111, including 56 civilians. Some 840 people have been wounded, including 225 children, Gaza health officials said. Three Israeli civilians have been killed and dozens have been wounded.

Over the weekend, civilian casualties in Gaza rose sharply after Israel began targeting the homes of what it said were suspected militants.

Two such strikes late Monday killed five people — a father and his 4-year-old twin sons in northern Gaza and two people in the south, medics said.

Jamal Daloo, who lost his wife, a son, four grandchildren and five other members of his family in an attack Sunday, sat in quiet mourn-

◆ SEE ISRAEL PAGE A5

BLACK FRIDAY OPENINGS

Thursday

At Gaffney Premium Outlets

9 p.m.: Adidas, Aeropostale, Bare Minerals, Bath & Body Works, Bristol Cafe, Carolina Pet Emporium, Carter's, China Max, Coach, Crocs, Custom Embroidery, Dressbarn, Education Express, Festival Fruit & Nut, Gap Outlet, Guess, Haggard Clothing Co, Nautica, Rack Room Shoes, Reebok, Rockport, Rue21, Stride Rite, Sunglass Warehouse, Tommy Hilfiger, Under Armour, VanHeusen, Villa Pizza, Vitamin World, Yankee Candle

10 p.m.: Banana Republic, BCBG MaxAzria, Brooks Brothers, Chico's, The Children's Place, Great Steak & Potato, J. Crew, Justice, Lane Bryant, New York & Co., OshKosh B'gosh, PacSun, Perfumania, Polo Ralph Lauren, Sunglass Hut, Timberland, Wilsons Leather

11 p.m.: HanesBrands, Juicy Couture, Nike

The national shopping phenomenon of Black Friday could be upstaged this year by the new trend of Black Thursday, as retailers are getting off to an even earlier start to lure deal-seeking customers with discounts and promotions.

Whatever the day, this week officially marks the start of the holiday shopping season.

After finishing their Thanksgiving feasts, thousands of residents are expected to once again crowd local shopping malls, braving packed parking lots, traffic, long lines and cold weather.

But there are a few things area consumers will need to know in order to beat the crowds and survive one of the busiest shopping days of the year and beyond.

Last month, the Washington, D.C.-based National Retail Federation said it expects holiday sales will increase this year by 4.1 percent to \$586.1 billion.

"We're expecting (our results) will be in line with that," said Spencer Dawkins, general manager of WestGate Mall, which is owned by CBL & Associates Properties Inc. "We've had increases this year, and we're definitely seeing it so far. There is a lot of buzz about this being a good holiday season."

WestGate Mall officially will open at 5 a.m. Black Friday, but some stores will open at midnight.

Last week, Dawkins said 47 stores were planning to opening at midnight on Black Friday. Department store Belk also will open at midnight. Sears will open at 8 p.m. Thursday. JCPenney will open at 6 a.m., and Dillard's at 8 a.m.

Dawkins said customers can take advantage of some other happenings going on throughout the holiday shopping season.

The Salvation Army's Angel Tree in

◆ SEE SHOPPING PAGE A5

Stores gearing up for
HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Is it Black Thursday or Black Friday? Either way, here's what you need to know about the official start of the season.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2012

2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

DAILY \$5, SUNDAY \$1.50

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■ LOCAL

Officials offer safety tips about frying turkeys, 2A



■ NATIONAL

What angered this ape? 3A



SPORTS: MCCORMICK HAS SPECIAL PLANS FOR THANKSGIVING — PRACTICE, 1B

INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 94, NO. 202

Election results questioned



SKIPPER O'BANNON

Abbeville County Board of Canvassers denies protest, O'Bannon says he is satisfied

By FRANK BUMB
fbumb@indexjournal.com

ABBEVILLE — A complaint filed in Abbeville County about the Nov. 6 election for sheriff was heard and dispensed Monday evening.

The complaint was filed by City of Abbeville Police Captain James "Skipper" O'Bannon, protesting the election of sheriff. The Abbeville County Board of Canvassers heard the complaint. However, O'Bannon said he did not want to contest the election, but had questions concerning

the process of "checks and balances" in the election.

"I'd received information concerning absentee ballots, and I had a question and so I called Columbia and they said that I should file a complaint (with the County)," O'Bannon said.

O'Bannon's concern was voters were voting absentee and voting a second time, in person, on Election Day. O'Bannon said he had no physical evidence of his complaint.

See RESULTS, page 4A

■ DISTRICT 50

Board pleased with grades

Ross: We're moving in right direction

By MICHELLE LAXER
mlaxer@indexjournal.com

Greenwood County School District 50 leaders reviewed its state report card with board members Monday night, saying a more in-depth look will come during a future work session.

The report cards, part of the Education Accountability Act, were released about a week ago.



PAT ROSS

Greenwood 50, as a district, earned an "average" on its absolute and growth ratings.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Pat Ross defined the absolute rating as how the children performed during the year. The improvement, or growth, rating measures the improvement from one year to the next.

The schools were also rated individually. Lakeview Elementary School and the G. Frank Russell Career Center were the two schools to score an "excellent" — the highest available — on their absolute ratings. All other schools rated an "average" or "good."

"We've got a lot to be proud of, and we've got room to grow," Ross said.

The assistant superintendent said even though it didn't show

ALL-LAKELANDS BANQUET



MATT WALSH | INDEX-JOURNAL

Pair of aces

Joe Anderson Player of the Year Davon Durant, left, and J.W. Babb Coach of the Year Gene Cathcart, both of Greenwood High School, congratulate each other Monday night following the annual All-Lakelands Football Banquet at American Legion Post 20. The All-Lakelands football team was also honored during the ceremony. For a complete rundown of all the honorees and winners, see today's sports section, 1B

See GRADES, page 4A

■ GREENWOOD GENETIC CENTER

New testing could bring



■ ELECTIVE PROCEDURE

SC to stop paying



THE ISLAND PACKET

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2012

islandp

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Partly cloudy but warmer than it's been — hooray. **6B**

Got the blues? You're not alone: Apes have midlife crises, too **7A**



\$10 gets you \$20 toward dinner at Bomboras Grille
dealsaver.com/HiltonHead

Elections board sides with Bensch, REJECTS ELECTION CHALLENGE



Cynthia Bensch defends herself Monday during a hearing before the Beaufort County Board of Voter Registration and Elections. Dan Duryea, whom she defeated in the District 7 County Council election Nov. 6, claimed she lived outside the district. The board voted 5-0 to reject Duryea's claim.

JAY KARR • Staff photo

Former opponent Dan Duryea challenged newly elected County Council member's District 7 residency

By CASEY CONLEY • conley@islandpacket.com • 843-706-8147

A county board has dismissed a challenge of Cynthia Bensch's election to the Beaufort County Council, refusing to overturn the results of her 47-point victory over questions about her residency.

Beaufort County's Board of Elections and Registration ruled Monday that Bensch's challenger for the District 7 seat, Dan Duryea, failed to prove Bensch did not live in her district on Election Day, as state law requires, even though the first-time office-holder acknowledged occasionally spending nights at a rented home outside her district.

Duryea, a petition candidate who ran against Bensch Nov. 6 for the newly drawn seat, said he will appeal to the S.C. Elections Commission.

"I congratulated her," Duryea said after the 5-0 vote.

"But I intend to exhaust any appeal process. This is going to the state."

The county's board of elections is a nine-person panel, although at least one seat is vacant and other officials did not attend Monday's hearing.

Bensch declined to comment after the decision.

She maintained throughout the campaign that her legal residence, after she and her husband left their rented home on Crabtree Lane in July, was her son's home on Martingale West on Rose Hill's north side.

Bensch told the elections board that a home in Eagle's Pointe, which is District 6, was where she conducted her campaign and stored belongings that wouldn't fit at her son's Rose Hill home.

Please see ELECTION on 9A

BLUFFTON BACK IN THE GAME

The Bluffton High School football team's season, over on Friday, was on again Monday.

Despite an emotional appeal from Goose Creek officials, the S.C. High

School League deter-

mined the Gators

must forfeit all

games in which

an ineligible

player was

in uniform,

including a 35-25



victory Friday over the Bobcats in the second round of the Class 4-A Division II playoffs.

That means Bluffton advances to play Northwestern in a third-round game at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

"When it was announced, the kids went running all over the hallways," Bluffton athletics director Dave Adams said. "I just hate I wasn't there when they found out."

Bluffton was not represented at a meeting of the High School League's executive committee, which voted 14-0 to declare ineligible a player who was participating in his fifth year of football. The committee then voted 12-2 to deny Goose Creek leniency in a penalty spelled out in its constitution.

The league made a similar ruling last week, but the Gators took their decision to court. That set off a bizarre scenario Friday, in which Bluffton learned it would travel to Goose Creek instead of playing host to Conway in the second round. The Bobcats lost ... but departed knowing they might get a reprieve from a league ruling Monday.

Now, Bluffton will try to continue its postseason drive in its first year in Class 4-A.

For more on Monday's developments, see **PAGE 1B**.

SUPERSTORM AFTERMATH

Diesel fuel shortage halts field trips

By RACHEL HEATON
rheaton@beaufortgazette.com
843-706-8177

A few Beaufort County School District field trips have been canceled this week be-

US takes hands-off approach in Gaza conflict

The U.S. is showing new reluctance to referee Mideast conflicts.





KIDS AT PLAY Kids practice swimming at Florence Family YMCA. **Page 10B**

Morning News

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2012

TODAY'S WEATHER
Cloudy,
high 62, low 43
DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Pee Dee takes part in energy research project

BY JOHN D. RUSSELL
Morning News
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FLORENCE — Hopefully people will start plugging in to downtown Florence as part of a research project by Progress Energy Carolinas to provide electric vehicle charging stations.

Recently Progress Energy, a subsidiary of Duke Energy, installed six charging stations in the Pee Dee, which are among the first in the state. The new charging stations are ready to use and two each are located at city of Florence's parking lot, on the corner of Irby and Cheves streets; the Hilton Garden Inn on Hospitality Boulevard in Flo-

rence; and the city of Hartsville's Fifth Street parking lot.

Progress Energy Carolinas said the research project is an effort to develop and advance the technology and infrastructure necessary to support the widespread use of all types of personal electric vehicles (PEVs). The goal is to have more than 40 public-access stations across the Carolinas by April 2013, giving insight to help Progress Energy plan for large-scale adoption of PEVs.

"This project will help us ensure our infrastructure is ready for the eventual widespread use of PEVs and will help us as we transform in the transportation fuel providers of the future. We are investing now to ensure there

are a few obstacles to consumers as PEV adoption continues to grow in our service territory," said Ryan Mosler of Duke Energy South Carolina Corporate Communications.

The installation, equipment and maintenance are paid for by Progress Energy with the host sites covering the cost of electricity. At the conclusion of the project, the city will take over ownership and maintenance responsibilities.

The new stations are classified as level-2, which use a 240-volt circuit instead of a standard 120-volt home outlet. Typically, a vehicle that travels 40 miles for a



One of two electric vehicle charging stations has been installed in Florence at the Hilton Garden Inn, on Hospitality Boulevard, pictured, and at the city of Florence's parking lot at the corner of Irby and Cheves streets.

See **CHARGE**, Page 10A

TIMMONSVILLE TURKEYS



Christi Gallishaw, Moesha Smith and Kristi McIver bag food items for people in need of food for Thanksgiving at Glorious Pentecostal Apostolic Church in Timmons ville on Monday. The second annual event was organized by the church's youth group and they handed out more than 30 turkeys and food.

Youth group gives turkeys to less fortunate

BY GAVIN JACKSON
Morning News
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TIMMONSVILLE — With two days left until Thanksgiving, the smell of turkey isn't the only welcoming smell of the season. At places like Glorious Pentecostal Apostolic Church in Timmons ville, the spirit of giving is also in the air.

The church's youth group held its second annual turkey giveaway for members of the community that need



Sides like green beans and stuffing were also given to people in need who stopped by Glorious Pentecostal Apostolic Church for a turkey in Timmons ville on Monday.

See **TURKEY**, Page 8A

Speaker: Crawford can stay in office

Austin Smith threatens legal action

BY JOHN SWEENEY
Morning News
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FLORENCE — Friday's guilty verdict in the tax trial of Florence Rep. Kris Crawford, M.D., was apparently not the final chapter in the two-year controversy as Florence Democrat hope to keep the incumbent representative from his third term through one last legal action.



Crawford

Crawford's Democratic general election opponent for S.C. House 63, Austin Smith, said Monday he believes the Republican entering his third term is ineligible to hold office and plans to take legal action in hopes of removing him and taking the seat himself.

Smith issued a statement shortly after a spokesman for state Speaker of the House Bobby Harrell said after analyzing Friday's verdict that found Crawford guilty on four counts of failing to file his tax returns, state attorneys said the representative's conviction does not qualify him for dismissal or suspension.

"Given the official verdict that they've read, there's nothing in the ethics act that prescribes Speaker Harrell take any action as presiding officer of the house,"

See **CRAWFORD**, Page 8A

Smith officially takes office as Florence County administrator

BY JOHN SWEENEY
Morning News
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position and was in the office working Monday morning, according to county

but said he was looking forward to continue working to "move Florence County forward."

initially hoped he would be.

Smith was hired by a 5-2 vote. Councilmen James Scholfield

in January.

Now that Smith has taken office, dates are set for a special



RIVALRY WEEK

- Clemson looks healthy, Carolina not so much
- The stories of two quarterbacks
- Fans on field after game is security issue



SPORTS, B1

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2012

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Report: DNR agents saw beating, shooting

By GENE ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

A Holly Hill man was taken to the hospital after reportedly being pistol-whipped and shot by two men during a robbery, all within about 30 yards of two S.C. Department of Natural Resources officers.

The man said he went out to the

woods off of Homebranch Road around 9:15 p.m. Saturday to meet a female and to give her some money for a party she was throwing at a Santee club, according to an Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office incident report.

While he was in his 2005 Chevrolet Impala, two men broke out his driver's side window. They grabbed him

out of the vehicle and began beating him and saying they would kill him if he didn't give them something.

He said the men tied up his hands with a black cellphone charger cord while they beat his face and his body.

The victim said the subjects pulled his pants off and advised him that they would, "shove the shotgun up

his a -- if he did not give them what they wanted."

The victim said the men took him to the trunk of the vehicle and began striking him with a handgun and a shotgun. They also shot him in the left hand, the report said.

The victim said he saw the men beating the woman.

He said he was able to escape and

took off running down Homebranch Road. Deputies found him running down the road wearing nothing but a white T-shirt and a black sock with a black cord hanging from his wrist.

He was transported to the Regional Medical Center with severe bleeding

See BEATING, A3

WALKING IN WONDER



CHRISTOPHER JURY/160

Children and adults enter the lighted walkway to the Kids' Walk on Monday night following the lighting of Edisto Memorial Gardens.

Christmas season comes alive as Orangeburg turns on lights

By LEE HENDREN
T&D Government Writer

"We're open for business! Have a look-see," Orangeburg Mayor Paul Miller declared as the lights were turned on to begin the new season of the Children's Garden Christmas and the Kids' Walk on Monday evening.

Hundreds stood ready to take him up on his offer, including Buddy and Wanda Myers, their 10-year-old son, Lee, and Lee's 10-year-old cousin, Maelyn Stack, along with a couple of friends and their children.

Being among the first to see the new season's decorations at Edisto Memorial Gardens is a holiday tra-



Ott seeking minority leader again

By LEE HENDREN
T&D Government Writer

Ending a week of speculation, state Rep. Harry Ott made it official Monday.

"I will be seeking another term as minority leader," he told The T&D.

It was a decision the Calhoun County farmer did not make lightly or without considering other options.

A week ago, The State newspaper quoted Ott as saying, "Right now, I would say it's a 50-50. It's definitely getting time for the caucus to be looking for somebody. This isn't a permanent job."

That led some political observers to conclude that Ott was exploring a run for governor in 2014.

Ott wouldn't say one way or the other on Monday, but acknowledged that his remark "kind of opened the door to a lot of speculation. After talking to some mem-



OTT

See OTT, A3

Richburg elected RMC chairman

By GENE ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

After three unsuccessful attempts, Regional Medical Center trustees elected a new chairman during a special meeting Monday night.

The Rev. Dr. Caesar Richburg was elected by a 7-6 vote over RMC Strategic Planning Committee Chair Rob-



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