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Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

SATURDAY, March 23, 2013

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

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Compass Academy owners considering consent orders

BY MIKE GELLATLY
mgellatly@aikenstandard.com

The Compass Academy founders currently denying investment fraud charges may sign "the death sentence of securities" this weekend and have their assets placed in the hands of a court-appointed administrator to pay

back investors.

Tracy and Jonathan Brooks, the public engines behind the independent school currently being built east of Aiken, are considering consent orders from the Attorney General's office that would place another individual in charge of their personal assets, those of Compass Academy and the couple's other companies.

Four consent orders were sent home from the Securities Commission with the Brooks' attorney Sam Jackson on Thursday.

If signed, two orders would bar the Brooks from ever selling securities in South Carolina again — what is called "the death sentence of securities." The other two would agree

to hand control of assets over to a court-appointed receiver. A receiver, in financial terms, would be someone chosen to control and distribute funds to investors.

"Everything under the temporary restraining order stays frozen and goes to the benefit of the investors," Tracy Myers of the Securities Division of the

Everything under the temporary restraining order stays frozen and goes to the benefit of the investors.

Tracy Myers,
Attorney General's
security division

Attorney General's office, said. The Brooks' attorney, Jackson, said late Friday via e-mail, "We are still considering our options."

Please see COMPASS, Page 16A

Steeplechase is today Races will run, rain or shine

BY DEDE BILES
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

The 47th Aiken Spring Steeplechase has six races on its program today at Ford Conger Field. Five are over jumps, including the \$50,000 Budweiser Imperial Cup, and one is on the flat.

If you're interested in keeping up with all the action on the course, Sam Slater, president of the National Steeplechase Foundation, has some advice.

"Most of the races are 2 miles in length, so don't get too excited if a horse goes way out in front early; it doesn't mean

TODAY'S WEATHER



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he's going to win," said the Aiken winter resident. Instead of keeping your eyes glued on the leader during a race's opening stages, you should check out the other horses that are competing, according to Slater.

"If a horse looks like he's jumping well and going smoothly — even though he's not right near the front — it might tell you something about how he's going to be doing at the end," Slater said. "You also should try to watch all the horses go over a fence unless the field is really spread out. If there is a fall, it's probably better to keep watching the race and not worry about the fall, even though many people are fascinated by it. Almost always everyone is OK afterward."

"It is the art of American steeplechasing that is involved in fund-raising, safety and the promotion of amateur riding," he said.

In addition, Slater is a former member of the National Steeplechase Association's board of directors, and he has served as the organization's treasurer.

Please see RACES, Page 16A.

For a chance to be on TV, come out to the Aiken steeplechase.

ON TV: ASTV will cover this year's Steeplechase with a live one-hour show from 2 to 3 p.m. The show will cover highlights from the races so far and speak with a variety of guests. It will air on ASTV 95 (Atlantic BR) and online at Aikenstandardtv.



Xavier Aizpuru on Back to Even clears the last fence in the 2012 Budweiser Cup. Liam McVicar on Cuse, right, came in second.

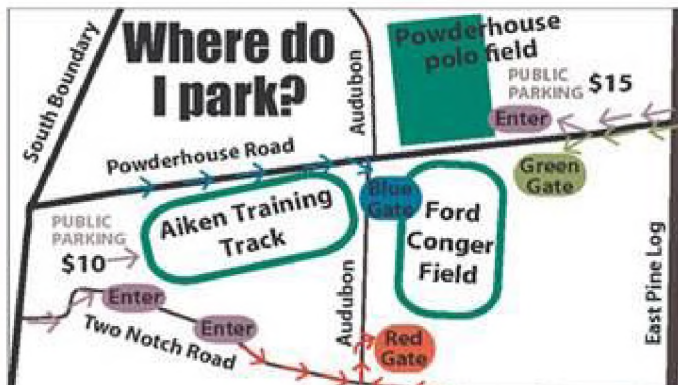
Want to go?

WHAT: The 47th renewal of the Aiken Spring Steeplechase
WHEN: Saturday; gates open at 9:30 a.m.

WHERE: Ford Conger Field
TICKETING: General admission is \$20 at the gate.

PARKING: Due to the popularity of the spring races and low turnover of tailgate spaces, there is no drive-in race day parking. Parking will still be available at the Powderhouse polo field on Powderhouse Road for \$15 beginning at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, and at the Aiken Training Track on Two Notch Road for \$10 after 10 a.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Visit www.aikensteeplechase.com



AREA DEATHS — 6A

Clarence Culler, Wagoner
Elizabeth Wise, Northmoreland
Marilyn Collins, Belvidere
Nero Johnson, Washington, D.C.
William Basey, Aiken

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The Beaufort Gazette

SATURDAY, March 23, 2013

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Congress delays furloughs

By CASEY CONLEY

cconley@islandpacket.com
843-706-8147

Furlough notices expected Friday for civilian employees at Beaufort County's three military installations have been delayed until at least April 5.

Federal law requires a 30-day notice of furloughs before they can occur. Based on the April 5 timeline, the one-day-a-week furloughs would begin in early May and last for 22 weeks.

Sue Partridge, president of the American Federation of Government

Please see CONGRESS on 9A

1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sanford dominating money race

By GINA SMITH

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843-706-8145

Former Gov. Mark Sanford is dominating the 1st Congressional District money race as he heads into a Republican primary runoff with Charleston attorney Curtis Bostic.

Sanford, who lives in Charleston and whose family has long owned land in Beaufort County, has nearly \$272,000 to spend on the April 2 runoff and, if he wins, the May 7 general election, according to new filings with the Federal Election Commission.

Bostic, a former Charleston County Council member, trails with nearly \$57,000 to spend.

In the weeks leading to the primary — Feb. 28 through March 13 — Sanford raised 15 times more than Bostic from

Please see RACE on 9A

WHO'S RAISED WHAT?

CURTIS BOSTIC:

- Raised a little more than \$5,200 this period (Feb. 28-March 13) and more than \$92,000 for the election cycle
 - Spent nearly \$56,000 of that this period and nearly \$186,000 overall
 - Now has nearly \$57,000 cash on hand
- To see Bostic's filings, click on this story at beaufortgazette.com.

MARK SANFORD:

- Raised more than \$78,000 this period and nearly \$413,000 for the election. (That includes some money from his old congressional account)
 - Spent nearly \$3,800 this period and nearly \$15,000 for the election
 - Now has nearly \$272,000 cash on hand
- To see Sanford's filings, click on this story at beaufortgazette.com.

Boland enters not guilty plea

Lady's Island woman faces psychiatric evaluation in school gun threat case

By GINA SMITH

gsmith@islandpacket.com
843-706-8143

A woman with a history of mental illness who showed up at a Charleston girls' school with a loaded gun, will undergo a psychiatric evaluation to determine if she was sane at the time of the incident and competent to stand trial.

Alice Boland, 28, of Lady's Island did not appear in a Charleston courtroom Friday but was arraigned on charges stemming from a Feb. 4 incident in which she is accused of pointing a



Boland

loaded .22 caliber Taurus pistol at two school officials and repeatedly pulling the trigger. The gun did not fire because there was no bullet in the chamber, police say.

Boland's mother, Dellann Boland, entered a plea of not guilty on her daughter's behalf, according to court records.

Alice Boland will now undergo a psychiatric evaluation because she "may presently suffer from a mental disease or defect which would render

her mentally incompetent" and "to determine the existence of insanity at the time of the offense," according to the psychiatric order signed by U.S. Magistrate Bristow Marchant.

A federal grand jury in Charleston charged Boland earlier this month with giving a false statement when she purchased a firearm, possession of a firearm in a school zone and attempted discharge of a firearm in a school zone. It also charged her with illegally possessing a firearm because she once was committed to a mental institution or "had been adjudicated

as mentally incompetent."

Boland also faces state charges. Her purchase of a handgun days before the school incident has sparked efforts on both state and federal levels to shore up gun laws to prevent some with mental illnesses from buying guns.

Boland pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity to 2005 charges that she threatened President George W. Bush and others.

Follow reporter Gina Smith at twitter.com/GinaNSmith.

Dangerous waters



SARAH WELLIVER • Staff photo

The hull of the shrimp boat that sank at the Port Royal shrimp docks in February is shown Tuesday morning, at left, at low tide.

A capsized boat has others sailing cautiously near Port Royal shrimp docks

By ERIN MOODY • emoody@beaufortgazette.com • 843-706-8184

Boaters near the Port Royal shrimp docks should watch out for an unexpected obstacle after a shrimp boat that sank there in early February shifted several yards into slightly deeper water.

At high tide, the hull is barely visible, so owner Mark

Smith tied an orange buoy to it to alert boaters.

Smith said he has been trying to remove the vessel by floating, flipping, pulling and pushing it. Those attempts have failed to do much more than slide it a few yards toward the channel.

Please see WATERS on 9A



SPORTS ANOTHER TOP SEED FALLS



METRO Threatened turtles may get help

The Greenville News

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SATURDAY,
MARCH 23, 2013
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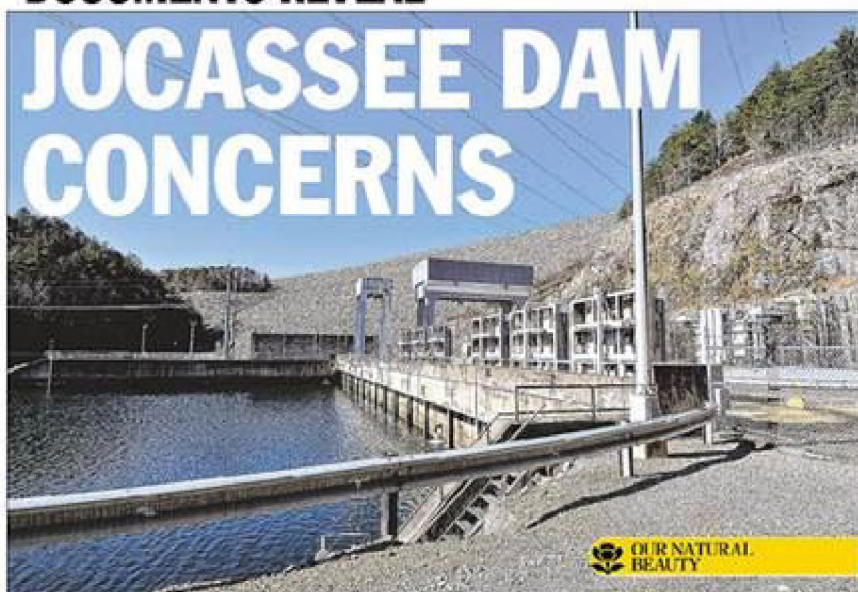
METRO

Air traffic control tower at Donaldson Field to close due to federal cuts, 1B

FINAL EDITION

DOCUMENTS REVEAL

JOCASSEE DAM CONCERNS



OUR NATURAL
BEAUTY

Newly released documents show concerns over the potential catastrophic failure of Jocassee Dam stretch back decades. STAFF FILE

Duke says danger is remote but safeguards will be implemented

By Eric Connor

Staff Writer
econnor@greenvilleonline.com

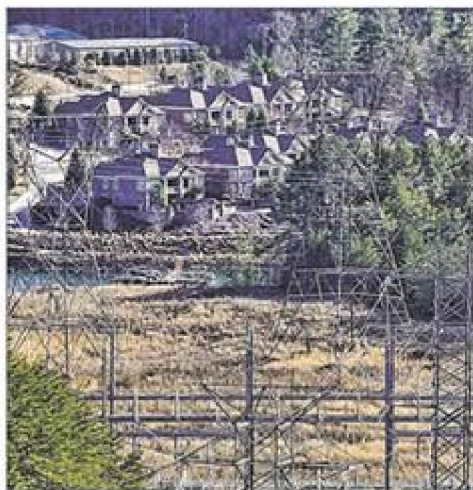
New public documents reveal that government concerns over the potential of a catastrophic failure of the Jocassee Dam flooding the Oconee Nuclear Station downstream stretch back more than three decades.

The documents — once held back for security concerns but released recently by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission under the Freedom of Information Act — also illustrate a protracted and jagged path to nuclear regulators' demands today that the station's owner, Duke Energy, do more to protect against the threat.

The release of nearly 100 documents, most of them internal memos and emails among NRC staff, comes as Duke on Monday will meet with NRC regulators in Maryland to discuss the results of its government-mandated re-evaluation of dam failure risks following the tsunami-spawned Fukushima meltdown two years ago.

Meanwhile, Duke Energy said that while a dam failure is nearly impossible, it has followed regulators' directions to implement interim measures to protect against the possibility.

"(The Oconee Nuclear Station) and other nuclear sites have put additional measures in place to increase safety margins even if the



Duke Energy says that while a dam failure is nearly impossible, it has implemented interim measures to protect against the possibility. STAFF FILE

See DAM, Page 3A

States to confront water issues together

Management of lake flow a key concern

By Ron Barnett

Staff writer
rbarnett@greenvilleonline.com

Legislators on both sides of the Savannah River are joining forces to better control the flow of water from the chain of lakes that form their upper boundary.

State Rep. Don Bowen, R-Anderson, is heading the South Carolina delegation, with Georgia state Rep. Alan Powell

"Everybody says there's enough water if it's properly managed. Our problem right now is we feel like it's not being properly managed."

STATE REP. DON BOWEN, R-Anderson

both states also are joining the group, Bowen said.

At issue are the competing interests of lake dwellers and municipalities that rely on water from Lake Hartwell and other lakes with environmen-

managed," Bowen said. "Our problem right now is we feel like it's not being properly managed."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is in charge of managing the water — but the water

changes to the flow through the dams, he said.

It's not the two states that are at odds but a conglomeration of state and federal agencies that can't agree and are slow to respond to the needs, he said.

"From what I'm seeing, the people just across the creek have the same interest as we do in that basin," Bowen said.

Upstate residents have been wary of the growing thirst of the Atlanta metro area, fearing it could reach to the northeast to pull water from the Upstate lakes.

Senate works late on budget

Dozens of votes set
in marathon session

By Andrew Taylor

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats neared approval of their first budget proposal in four years on Friday, calling for almost \$1 trillion in tax increases over the coming decade while sheltering safety net programs targeted by House Republicans. The Democrats also would reverse spending cuts that are beginning to strike the Pentagon and domestic programs.

The nonbinding but politically symbolic measure caters to party stalwarts on the liberal edge of the spectrum just as the House GOP measure is crafted to appeal to more recent tea party arrivals.

Approval of the Senate version was expected to come long after dark — after dozens of votes on amendments, many of which were offered in hopes of inflicting political damage on Democratic senators up for reelection in GOP-leaning states like Alaska and Louisiana.

Some \$1 trillion in new revenue would flow to the government over the coming decade — on top of more than \$600 billion in taxes on upper-income earners approved in January — and would be coupled with a net \$87.5 billion in spending cuts. Those reductions would be generated by modest cuts to federal health care programs, domestic agencies and the Pentagon. The budget proposes \$100 billion in new spending for infrastructure projects and job training programs.

The president will reveal his own plan in two weeks, a plan that will be judged in part by whether it offers new, more politically risky proposals that could form the foundation for a bipartisan agreement between the two houses.

Senators braced for dozens of votes during a marathon session running late on Friday, with some predicting a final vote on the Democratic plan in the pre-dawn hours Saturday. In early voting Friday morning, Democrats rejected the latest attempt to repeal Obama's landmark health care law by a strictly party-line vote.

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SATURDAY

MARCH 23, 2013
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Prayers, cheers give Pioneers a lift in Kansas

Loyal fans follow SMC in championship tournament

By TODD SHANESY
todd.shanesy@sjc.com

HUTCHINSON, Kan. — Just before the start of Spartanburg Methodist's opening game in the NJCAA tournament, a woman came up and tapped head coach Jeff Brookman on the shoulder. "We've been praying for you," she said. "We've been praying really hard."

SMC, boosted by loyal supporters from the Methodist community not only in Hutchinson but as far away as Wichita and beyond, made it to the Final Four of the 24-team junior college tournament. The local fans, many of them senior citizens, wearing their blue "Fear the Pioneers" T-shirts, held up signs and cheer for their adopted team.

"This has been a lot of fun," said the Rev. Mark Conrad, pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Hutchinson. "It's something that the Methodists can get together and do. We have people from congregations all over. This is our thing and we're having a good time."



The relationship began last year when SMC made the national tournament for the first time since 1999. School president Col-

INSIDE

◆ SMC's perfect run ends. B1

leen Keith said they reached out to find support.

"All I asked was that they made it known to the congregations that there was going to be a Methodist college out there," Keith said. "They went above and beyond. They really got into it. ... Mark is the one who spearheaded it. Church people have shown up at the hotel with drinks and snacks. Kids have made cards. It's been amazing."

"Throughout this season,

◆ SEE SMC PAGE A7



OS MEMORY MAKER PHOTOGRAPHY

SMC supporters cheer on the Pioneers at the NJCAA Tournament in Hutchinson, Kan.

'Like a big tailgate party'



Tom Thomason, of Blue Suede Que, based in Hodges, performs near the team's booth Friday during the Hub City Hog Fest. The event benefits Mobile Meals of Spartanburg and continues today.

Hub City Hog Fest gets under way

By KIM KIMZEY
kim.kimzey@sjc.com

Smoke drifted through the Grain District as competitors in the Hub City Hog Fest prepared for today's competition.

Stacks of split wood were piled beside cookers and buckets of wood chips soaked as people played corn-hole, laughed and socialized. Despite the chill, smiles were warm and people seemed in good spirits.

Thirty-five teams from the Carolinas are participating in the first major barbecue competition and festival in downtown Spartanburg.

The competition will benefit Mobile Meals of Spartanburg.

Grey Wicker and his brother, Cal Wicker, along with friends conceptualized and organized the event.

"It's going great," Grey said Friday. "It's like a big tailgate party."

A military tribute will start at noon today, followed by live music into the night. The barbecue awards ceremony is set to begin at 3:45 p.m.

This marks the first barbecue competition for friends Ross Sturm and Preston McCall. The Spartanburg natives are competing as Notorious P.I.G. They were able to get the

weekend off from II Samuels, where they prepare food.

They have been friends since they played tee ball and in the kitchen together since ages 13 and 15.

Both young men credit their families with instilling a passion for cooking in them — a passion nurtured working for Tony Proctor, owner of Captain Tony's restaurant that once operated in the building now home to Dudley's restaurant.

Sturm said they've cooked backyard barbecue about four years. For

◆ SEE FEST PAGE A7

Fatal shootings rock Quantico

Marine kills 2 colleagues, then takes own life; base officials say it is an 'isolated' incident

By MATTHEW BARAKAT
The Associated Press

QUANTICO, Va. — A Marine who worked at a rigorous school that tests Marines who want to become officers fatally shot two of his colleagues before killing himself in a barracks dorm room.

The three Marines — two men and a woman — were part of the staff at the officer candidates school on the sprawling Marine Corps Base Quantico in northern Virginia. Their relationship and whether they knew one another was not clear, though military officials described the shootings as "isolated." They did not release a motive or the identities of those slain.

Around 10:30 p.m. Thursday, authorities found one Marine dead in the Taylor Hall barracks, base commander Col. David W. Maxwell said. A second victim and the gunman also were located in Taylor Hall, a red brick building that can house about 110 Marines.

Only Marines who work at the school live in Taylor Hall. The candidates for officer live elsewhere on the base.

It wasn't immediately clear how much time passed between the killings or how far apart the bodies were.

After the first shooting, Marines and their families were told to stay inside over a loudspeaker known as the "giant voice." The lockdown was lifted about 2:30 a.m. Friday.

Base spokesman Lt. Agustin Solivan said everyone else was safe, including the officer candidates.

Officials did not say what the three Marines did at the school, which is known for its grueling 10-week program that evaluates candidates on physical stamina, intelligence and leadership. The candidates must complete obstacle courses, hikes of up to 12 miles in full combat gear and take classes on navigation and tactics that help them lead in the field, according to the school's website.

Some are sent home. Those who do graduate become second lieutenants. Along with the U.S. Naval Academy, the school is the way most Marines become officers.

"Officer candidates school training will be more demanding than any you've experienced before, regardless of commissioning program," according to the website.

The Corps advises candidates to train by running four to six miles twice a week and to have

◆ SEE MARINE PAGE A7

On the Web

Visit GoUpstate.com to see photo galleries and coverage of the Hub City Hog Fest barbecue competition, which

PUSHING FOR PEACE

Obama takes gamble in appeal to Israeli public

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2013

INDEX JOURNAL

2 SECTIONS, 20 PAGES

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INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 34, NO. 228

Duncan supports Ryan budget



JEFF DUNCAN

U.S. House of Representatives plan narrowly passed Thursday by a 221-207 tally

By CHRIS TRAINOR
ctrainor@indexjournal.com

The U.S. House of Representatives narrowly passed a 2014 fiscal year budget plan Thursday.

The nonbinding measure, introduced by Rep. Paul Ryan, calls for

a balanced budget in the next 10 years. According to Associated Press reports, the House budget plan passed by a 221-207 vote.

According to information released Thursday afternoon, Republican Third District U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan supported the Ryan budget plan,

which aims to reduce the deficit by \$4.6 trillion during the next decade.

During a phone interview earlier this week, Duncan indicated he would be in favor of a budget plan that included deficit reductions and spending cuts.

"We believe in a pathway to bal-

ance," Duncan said. "We believe we've got to rein in spending and really address the real drivers of what's causing our deficits and start talking about debt and trying to get our fiscal house in order and making common sense

See DUNCAN, page 4A

Voterama

Find out how your U.S. Representatives and Senators voted on other measures this week in Washington. 2A

JULIAN GALE



MATT WALSH/INDEX JOURNAL

Eleanor S. Rice Elementary School principal Julian Gale checks out a student's freshly painted nails Friday during the school carnival.

THE RIGHT FIT

First-year principal settles in at Rice Elementary

By MICHELLE LAXER
mlaxer@indexjournal.com

When he's in the thick of things, it can be hard to keep up with Julian Gale.

For instance, take the Eleanor S. Rice Elementary School carnival Friday night. The first-year principal was in constant motion. There was always something to set up or something to check on or a

question that needed an answer.

But Gale always stopped what he was doing for the kids.

"I'll ready!" he asked a grinning student and his family as they walked by him. "Games are in the gym." He went back to manning the silent auction.

Spread out through the school was face painting, finger nail painting and a Boy Scout bake sale. There were games of all

See FIT, page 3A



Editor's note: Today marks the second of an occasional series on first-year Rice Elementary School principal Julian Gale. Throughout the school year, *Index-Journal* staff writer Michelle Laxer will tell of Gale's journey as a first-year administrator in Greenwood District 58.

NINETY SIX

Coverage for fires murky

Issues with contracts could cause a boost in insurance costs

By FRANK BUMB
fbumb@indexjournal.com

For 18 years, John and Florence Bullet paid the Ninety Six Fire Department to provide fire coverage for their home in the Harbor Heights area outside Ninety Six. But this past January, their payment was rejected.

"This year, they were not accepting our money, and we didn't understand why," Florence Bullet said. "What we're worried about is whatever happens, if we're given a fire department that's lower-rated than Ninety Six, our insurance rates will go up."

The issuing of these contracts by the Ninety Six Fire Department has kept insurance rates relatively low for outlying communities, Mayor Arvest Turner said. The town of Ninety Six has an ISO rating of Class 5. ISO ratings are given to homes and businesses to assess their risk and are used by insurance companies to determine premiums.

"We found out recently that the two fire insurance companies that I know of, State Farm and Farm Bureau, I believe it is, through the ISO ratings, they had gone up on the folks' insurance because we didn't issue contracts," Turner said.

Turner said the town had not issued fire coverage contracts to Harbor Heights and other outlying communities because of ambiguity concerning which fire station would be the primary responder to a call.

See COVERAGE, page 3A

The Museum gets wild with exhibit

By MATT BRUCE
mbruce@indexjournal.com

Greenwood County got its first taste of a new display at The Museum in Uptown Greenwood on Friday evening as the facility unveiled

opening reception to the public, with a free viewing of the dioramas, which were designed to depict North American and African wildlife habitats. The Museum officially unveiled the exhibit to a members-only crowd Thursday night,

its currently at the center, officials said.

The taxidermy specimens of the animals were in storage at the facility since a slate of renovations began about five years ago, and many were on display simply as



Families gather inside the James West Durr gallery to view the "Epic Journeys: Animal Migration in North America and Africa" exhibit Friday night at The Museum on Main Street in

THE ISLAND PACKET

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2013

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A Marine kills two colleagues and then himself at Quantico. 5A



\$10 gets you \$20 toward dinner at Vari Asian Seafood & Sushi at dealsaver.com/HiltonHead

Psychiatric evaluation ordered for Boland

Not guilty plea entered for Lady's Island woman accused of pointing gun at Charleston school officials

By GINA SMITH
gsmith@islandpacket.com
843-706-8142

A woman with a history of mental illness who showed up at a Charleston girls' school with a loaded gun will undergo a psychiatric evaluation to determine if she was sane at the time of the incident and competent to stand trial.

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Boland

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Boland pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity to 2005 charges that she threatened President George W. Bush and others.

Follow reporter Gina Smith at twitter.com/GinaSmith.

GLOBAL EXPOSURE

A statue in Switzerland shows a figure reading The Island Packet

By BRIAN HEFFERNAN
bheffernan@islandpacket.com
843-706-8142

When Christine Helweg saw the front page of the newspaper, she had to call over her husband, Fred, to have a look.

"You won't believe what I'm seeing," she said.

The part-time Hilton Head Island residents were on vacation in September in Vira, Switzerland, a lakeside village in the Italian-speaking part of the country.

While on the banks of Lake Maggiore, the couple gazed up at a nearly 15-foot-tall aluminum sculpture of a man sitting on a stool reading a massive, metallic issue of The Island Packet — the March 16, 2001, edition, to be exact. The lead stories that day were Beaufort County's census boom and the resignation of the local NAACP chapter president.

Please see STATUE on 5A.



Submitted photos

A statue of a man reading an issue of The Island Packet is on display in Vira, Switzerland. Artist Kurt Laurenz Metzler, shown at left in 2010, created the statue.

ON THE WEB

For an audio feature and video gallery, click on this story at islandpacket.com.



Airport control tower to close

Hilton Head Island Airport's tower will shut down April 7 due to federal budget cuts. It is among 149 towers affected across the U.S.

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

The Federal Aviation Administration will stop paying for Hilton Head Island Airport's control tower on April 7, likely closing it indefinitely.

The Hilton Head tower, operated by contractor Robinson Aviation, is among 149 the federal government will stop funding because of \$85 billion in forced budget cuts, or sequestration, the agency said Friday.

The agency's announcement comes a day after Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort canceled next month's Beaufort Air Show for the same reason.

Funding for contractor-operated control towers at Donaldson Center Airport in Greenville and Grand Strand Airport in North Myrtle Beach also has been eliminated.

Beaufort County officials said the announcement was not a surprise, and that the closure will not affect safety or flights at the county-owned airport.

County staff has asked Robinson Aviation how much it would cost to keep the control tower open through April 21 for the RJC Heritage Presented by Boeing.

Please see TOWER on 5A

15th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT RACE

Sanford has major money lead

The former governor has raised 15 times more in campaign donations than his runoff opponent Curtis Bostic.

By GINA SMITH
gsmith@islandpacket.com
843-706-8142

Former Gov. Mark Sanford is dominating the 1st Congressional District money race as he heads into a Repub-

MORE RUNOFF COVERAGE
• Read the details of the hopefuls' finances and find out who has endorsed them. 5A

• For financial disclosure statements, click on this story at islandpacket.com.

lican primary runoff with Charleston attorney Curtis Bostic.

Sanford, who lives in Charleston and whose family has long owned land in Beaufort County, has nearly \$272,000 to spend on the April 2 runoff and, if he wins, the May 7 general election, according to new filings with the Federal Election Commission.

Bostic, a former Charleston County Council member, trails with nearly



Former Gov. Mark Sanford speaks during a campaign stop Friday at Bluffton BBQ.

SARAH WELLYER • Staff photo

Please see MONEY on 5A



Morning News

SATURDAY MARCH 23, 2013

The Voice of the Pee Dee

TODAY'S WEATHER
Cloudy with rain,
high 57, low 42
DETAILS 2A

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75 cents

Weekend Events

Call for Artists: Through March 30, The Greater Lake City Artists' Guild is calling for artwork for its inaugural juried show. Submissions can be submitted by email or mailing to P.O. Box 96, Lake City, SC 29560. Artists should send an image of the work, a short description, title, and medium of the work. Artists may submit up to three pieces. Artwork may be 2-D or 3-D. The show will hang from April 19-May 30 in the Artfields Gallery in Lake City. For more information, contact Sandy Cook at 803-435-3860 or greaterlakecityartistsguild@gmail.com.

Read to Ride: Through March 31 at Florence County Libraries and Bookmobile. Children from ages 3-17 who visit any of the six libraries or the Bookmobile and use their library card to check out materials, can register for a chance to win a bicycle. Winners will be announced at a special National Library Week Program on April 17 at 3:30 p.m. at the Florence County Library. For more information, call 843-292-7382.

Call to Musicians: Through April 22, Artfields is looking for musicians to perform during its art walk on April 19. Musicians will be performing on the street as events take place. There must be no electrical needs. This is a volunteer opportunity. For more information and submit work, contact artteam@artfields.org.

Keep Florence Beautiful's Great American Cleanup: Today from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Tinseltown Park. Volunteers will meet at the park and mobilize to rid streets and neighborhoods of litter and debris. For more information, contact Michelle Bailey at 843-206-3205 or michelle@keepflorencebeautiful.org.

Bulbapalooza: Today at Moore Farms Botanical Garden located at 100 New Zion Road in Lake City. Guests will tour the gardens and the state-of-the-art growing facility. New in the garden this year are a living wall, major renovations to swimming pond and many new exciting trees, shrubs, bulbs and perennials. Staff horticulturists will be stationed throughout the garden to answer any questions or provide further assistance. Tickets are \$10 per person. The gardens will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. For more information, email Tamara Richardson at trichardson@moorefarms.org.

66th annual Plantation Tours: Today in Georgetown. Houses will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. There will also be Midday Musical Moments at the Prince George Winyah Episcopal Church at noon. Tickets for the tours are \$40. For more information, contact Lisa Collins at 843-545-8291 or per4ly@aol.com.

Equinox Art & Music: Today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Historic Horry County Court House located at 1201 Third Ave. in Conway. The day will feature crafts, painting demonstrations, and art for sale for more than 30 area artists. Local favorites will play on the courthouse lawn throughout the day. The festival is free. For more information, call 843-248-4527.

16th annual Renofest: Through Sunday starting at 10:30 a.m. in downtown Hartsville. The festival will feature the S.C. Bluegrass Band Championships, barbecue and various bluegrass concerts. For more information, contact 843-332-5151 or email ed_guest@hotmail.com.

Wild Weekends: Today at 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. at Lynches River County Park Environmental Discovery Center located at 5094 County Park Road in Coward. Guests will be introduced to one of the animals and have an opportunity to meet the animal up close. The event is free. For more information, call 843-389-0550.

Remember When Oldies Fest: Today from noon to 5 p.m. at La Belle Amie Vineyard in Little River. The event will feature live music, food and wine. Admission is \$8 per person. Guests who donate at least two canned or dry food items will receive a \$3 ticket discount. For more information, call 843-399-9463.

See **EVENTS**, Page 8A

Sprucing up the Rotary Beauty Trail

Signs for historic path obscured by, well, beauty

from staff reports

FLORENCE — Local Rotarians have been hard at work recently cutting back the Carolina jasmine that has overtaken some of the signs on the Rotary Beauty Trail around Florence.

The trail, organized in 1945 by Carlie Womack and Dolph Mobley, is a roughly 10-mile trek through historic Florence that showcases some of the area's finest flowers and greenery, including homes filled with azaleas, camellias, wisteria, dogwoods and other floral delights.

Local Rotarian Tommy Taylor recently organized a group to prune some of the vegetation around the signs to ensure they are properly displayed when the trail officially opens Sunday.

The Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation Library, which has been added to the trail, has maps and CDs narrated by local residents Tom Kinard.

The maps and CDs are also available at the Pee Dee Tourism office, the Florence Chamber of Commerce office and Taylor Garden and Gift Shop.



Pictured (from left) are: Walker Floyd, John Floyd, Debbie Hylar, Ann King, Dr. Joe Stukes, Tommy Taylor, Rodney Godwin and Abby Godwin.

TIGERS PUT ON A SHOW



PHOTO BY GARY D. HUSSEY FOR SCNOW.COM

The choir performs Friday for the Tiger Production show "Life Behind the Music," a dinner and production at Wilson High School. The 37-member honors chorus/show choir is a select group made up of honor roll students, athletes, inter-baccalaureate, band members and class officers. The choir performs a widely varied repertoire of music that covers many styles and genres. The group participates in local and state vocal competitions.



LEFT: Tiger Production parent Shondelle Ferguson prepares plates for dinner for Tiger Production's "Life Behind the Music."

BELOW: The choir takes a moment of prayer before the show.



For video and more photos from the production, visit scnw.com.

Making progress, Rice says

7th SC District freshman optimistic Congress will reach budget agreement

BY JOHN SWEENEY

Morning News
jsweeney@floridastar.com

FLORENCE — Despite the seemingly never-ending turmoil in Washington, South Carolina's newest congressman said he believes American political leaders are making progress.

INSIDE

■ Senate Democrats work late to pass budget.

4A

■ Florence area's Small Business Person of the Year honored.

6B

Rep. Tom Rice, R-S.C., didn't say Republicans and Democrats were linking arms and singing "Kumbaya," but he's optimistic.

"I hear both sides talking about it, even the president," Rice said. "They're at least having the dialogue, what we've got a problem with is how to fix it. Now, there is a difference on how we get there, but I think we will. We'll have to come together."

But that's something Washington's said before.

When the Budget Control Act of 2011 was signed by President Barack Obama, it was designed to reduce the deficit through sweeping, across-the-board reductions in discretionary spending — sequestration — that were so drastic they

See **RICE**, Page 8A



Rep. Tom Rice, R-S.C., delivers remarks to the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce on Friday at the Florence Civic Center. Rice said he is optimistic that Congress will come together and pass a budget later this year.



Join us



KNIGHTS

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Vol 92 No 082

THE BEST

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THE SOUTH'S OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER • FOUNDED 1803

SATURDAY, March 23, 2013

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

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

County: Grand plan for workers

Proposal would give employees 1-time payout of \$1,000

BY SCHUYLER KROWE
skrowe@postandcourier.com

Charleston County Council is poised to give most of its employees checks for \$1,000 each next week in a one-time cost-of-living adjustment meant to offset the current tough economy.

The announcement of the proposal comes during this week's Finance Committee meeting

and carries a price tag of about \$2.5 million.

Our council member who voted against the idea questioned the timing of the boost and why the county instead wasn't seeking to return the money to some form to local taxpayers.

"There are vast numbers of people in Charleston County struggling to avoid bankruptcy and to save their homes,"

Councilman Joe Qualey said Friday.

"And I don't think it sends a good message that we're giving employees money when we can be looking ways to help the taxpayers."

Qualey also questioned the speed of the debate that led to the permit going forward Thursday.

"It happened in a hurry," he said.

It appeared at Thursday's regularly scheduled commission, checks to county workers could go out as soon as Friday. The money would be subject to state and federal taxes.

County Administrator Kurt Taylor said the one-time cost-of-living adjustment came as part of the county's mid-year budget review and after an

Please see **COUNTY** Page A10

What \$2.5 million would buy

Charleston County Council is considering giving \$1,000 to each county employee as a one-time salary adjustment.

Estimates of what the total, about \$2.5 million, could pay for from local government including:

- 10 miles of commercial street lighting
- 31 school buses
- 71 patrol cars

— South State and local governments



POLL: Should officials give Charleston County employees a \$1,000 bonus? Go to postandcourier.com to vote.

From rain boots to rings, from cameras to crutches, CARTA has collected a treasure trove of items separated from their owners.

I lost it on the bus



Webb City/Photo



Photo/Photo

This championship ring from a Massachusetts high school football player is among hundreds of items, from the oddball to the mundane, that make their way to a corner of the Leeds Avenue CARTA bus shed after becoming separated from their owners.

BY GLENN SMITH
gsmith@postandcourier.com

Nate Krone didn't lose a single game during his high school football career, but he wasn't so lucky with an ornate ring he received to commemorate the 50-0 run. The hefty bulk of sports being shipped from his finger during a recent stop-in on public transportation, leaving the former linebacker

without a key keepsake from his glory days in Longwood, Mass.

While Krone continued on his journey, his ring ended up in a little-known repository tucked away in the bowels of the Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority's maintenance facility in North Charleston.

There, in a dark, gray cabinet in an equally cluttered, cluttered room, the ring found a temporary home amid assorted detritus cast

off or left behind by passengers on CARTA's fleet of buses.

A pile of plastic ID badges, a child's pink rubber band, a collection of blackberry syrup. An unopened bottle of blackberry syrup. An electronic's vintage motor. A artist's portfolio filled with rough charcoal sketches of still life compositions. A dog-eared romance novel.

Please see **BUS** Page A5

Turtles may get more help locally

Beaches proposed as critical habitat

BY BOHETERSEN
bohetersen@postandcourier.com

All of Folly Beach and Kiawah Island — among 41 miles of beaches in Charleston County — would be made critical habitat for the threatened loggerhead sea turtle under a proposal made Friday by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

What difference that would make is anybody's guess.

New homes, businesses or other structures to be built at the beaches would be scrutinized closer by federal regulators before permits could be issued, said a news release by Dennis, an environmental advocate.

Fish and Wildlife staff members said the designation was required by law and shouldn't greatly affect how permits are handled now.

It might be that both are true. The designation is being proposed for beaches that hold the most turtle nests year to year. Those beaches already are protected somewhat under the Endangered Species Act and other federal rules.

But if nothing else, the designation would put more pressure on regulators to get right when it comes to modifying projects or requiring mitigation.

Please see **TURTLES** Page A10

Read more

To read the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service critical habitat proposal or for more information, go to fw.fed.us.



In Real Estate

EDGEWATER PARK & NEIGHBORS: Upper-end, down-home communities that exude charm. See **Real Estate** Page A1.



Coming Sunday

If Sherona Bellacera wrote a letter to Congress five years ago complaining about the dilapidated condition of her Delta school, she got results. Today the building is gone, built with \$20 million in federal aid. But the new 18-year-old believes the state needs to



Cos Bar: 50% off of a 10 Alternate Signature Cos Bar Facial. See **A2**



Bridge...A7
Business...B6
Charleston...A4
Columbia...D1

Comics...B7
Columbia...B6
Databases...B1
Entertainment...B7

Local News...B1
Sports...B1
Politics...B1
People...B1

Real Estate...A1
Sports...B1
Politics...B1
People...B1

Classified...A2
Home Services...B1
Community...B1
Special...B1

Classified...A2
Home Services...B1
Community...B1
Special...B1



Rate: High 50, Low 40
Complete 5-day forecast: B10

USC BASEBALL: Arkansas roughs up the Gamecocks in series opener. **C1**

The State

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2013 | THESTATE.COM

RICHLAND COUNTY'S ELECTION MESS

S.C. high court won't overturn penny tax

Unanimous ruling means improvements to bus system can start rolling out in June

By DAWN HENSHAW
dhenshaw@thestate.com

A unanimous state Supreme Court has denied an anti-tax group's protest of Richland County's results of the Nov. 6 penny sales-tax referendum, paving the way for improvements to the bus system starting June 1.

In a short, to-the-point order that came out Friday, the court declined to hear a case that threatened to overturn a local

penny-on-the-dollar sales tax to pay for \$1.07 billion in transportation-related improvements. It let stand an earlier decision by the S.C. Election Commission.

"We can start rolling now," Kevin Washington, chairman of Richland County Council, said Friday.

In the four months since the vote, the protests halted any effort to

SEE PENNY PAGE A8

"Over 154,000 people stood in line on election day for as long as it took ... and the Supreme Court chose rightfully not to disenfranchise those people."

John Moyle, attorney for the Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority



The wait was more than four hours to vote at Rice Creek Elementary on Hard Scrabble Road in Northeast Richland on election day. A voting machine shortage was one reason.

Will state force county to buy voting machines?

EXCLUSIVE

Critics blast 2 legislators' proposal to require Richland to use state funds to purchase machines

By DAWN HENSHAW
dhenshaw@thestate.com

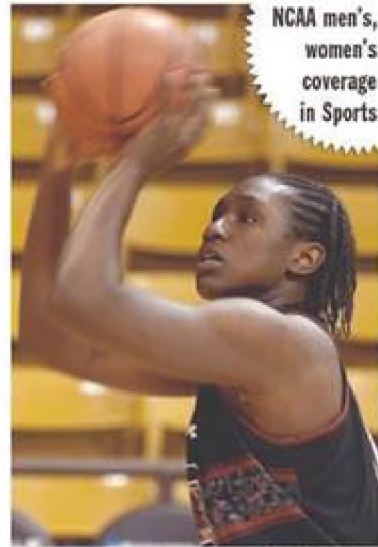
Two Richland County legislators want to require the county to spend up to \$140,000 on new voting machines, using money the state provides to cover a host of state-mandated services.

The House budget proviso, inserted by Reps. Nathan Ballentine

and Kirkman Finlay, would be a drop in the bucket from the county's expected \$14.6 million in state revenues next year.

But it's raising objections from the S.C. Association of Counties and others who say the effort, unheard of until now, sets a dangerous precedent and harkens back to

SEE MACHINES PAGE A8



NCAA men's, women's coverage in Sports

South Carolina forward Aleighsa Welch gets off a jump shot during practice Friday for the NCAA tournament.

USC tries to pull win out of thin air

Gamecock women play South Dakota State today in Colorado

By ISABELLE KHURSHUDYAN
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NCAA WOMEN'S TOURNEY

When Ashley Bruner heard South Carolina's name called on the women's basketball NCAA Tournament Selection Show, she cheered. Then the senior forward started to panic.

The fourth-seeded Gamecocks (24-7) travel more than 1,000 miles to Boulder, Colo., to open the tournament today against No. 12 seed South Dakota State (25-7). Along with the challenge of competing far from its fans, USC also will have to battle playing in thin air because of the high altitude.

"When I first heard about it, I was like, 'Hm,'" Bruner said.

"They just told me to drink

SEE USC PAGE A9

Wilson campaign failed to report \$134,000

By ANDREW SHAIN
ashain@thestate.com

S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson filed amended campaign disclosures Friday after an independent accountant found his campaign had failed to report 68 donations worth nearly \$66,850.

The campaign also said it discovered unreported



Wilson

payments totaling \$66,797 to 16 vendors — much of which went to a pair of firms that handled television production and consulting.

SEE WILSON PAGE A9

dealsaver™

TODAY'S DEAL: Ron and Jon Photography: \$66 voucher for just \$22 columbia.dealsaver.com



Index: Business, B4 | Classified, C1 | Comics, C6

Weather: 8 a.m. Showers, 40 | 1 p.m. Showers ending, 50 | 7 p.m. Few sprinkles, 52 A2



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The Times and Democrat

75 CENTS • COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA



TheTandD.com

2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES • VOL. 152 • NO. 82



YOUR WEEKEND

Wet day for Elloree Trials

Rain, rain -- and cold -- go away. The high will only reach the mid-50s both Saturday and Sunday, with rain both days. Expect a low hovering around 40 tonight and in the upper 40s Sunday night.

Despite a dreary forecast, the 51st annual Elloree Trials will be running Saturday at the Elloree Training Center. Trials open at 9 a.m. with judge judging at 11:30 a.m., followed by the crowning of the 2013 Miss Elloree Trials at 12:30 p.m. Last time for the first race is 1 p.m.

The next contest is set for 1:15 p.m., immediately following the completion of the first race, in front of the Sportsman's Building. There are three categories of competition: 2- to 6-year-olds, 7- to 12-year-olds and 14 and older.

For more information about the Elloree Trials, visit elloreetrials.com or call 715.

Also this weekend in sports: ■ **March Madness** has kicked off. For this weekend, the NCAA men's tournament is shifted down to the Sweet 16 by Sunday night.

■ **South Carolina's women's basketball** Gameweek are in the NCAA women's tournament with a game at 2 p.m. Saturday in Boulder, Colo., against South Dakota State.

■ **Baseball** games for Gamecocks and Clemson, both teams at home, could be impacted by a heavy forecast. Clemson has moved both of its games with Duke to Saturday the first at 12:30 p.m. and the second to follow at 2:30 p.m. Gamecocks' 15 Saturday game with Arkansas is to be shown on Fox Sports South. The Sunday game is scheduled for 1:30 p.m.

■ **South Carolina spring football** practice includes a scrimmage at 10 a.m. Saturday that is open to the public. S.C. State is practicing Saturday (8 a.m.) and Sunday (2:15 p.m.).

Purple Martin Festival 2013 canceled

By LARRY R. JORDAN
T&D Correspondent

ST. MATTHEWS — Purple Martins can already be seen returning to Calhoun County this spring. Unfortunately, the same can't be said of the festival named for the migrating birds.

The Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce has announced that the 2013 Purple Martin Festival has been canceled.

Chamber Board of Trustees President Carline Smith said the cancellation was "a decision of the board."

"The board was not in a position to put on the festival this year," Smith said, citing a decline in membership as the reason.

In 1969, a local resident of St. Matthews became interested in a number of migrating birds, particularly purple martins. They purchased houses specifically for purple martins, which had no predators.

After the St. Matthews Rotary Club began purchasing, installing and asking purple martin houses, residents experienced a reduction in the bird population.

In a show of respect and gratitude, the community started the Purple Martin Festival.



South Carolina State University Board of Trustees Chair Dr. Walter Tobin, left, speaks during a special meeting of the S.C. State trustees with Gov. Nikki Haley in Columbia on Friday.

Gov. says she'll help trustees work together for S.C. State

By DALE LINDER-ALTMAN
T&D Staff Writer

South Carolina State University trustees met with Gov. Nikki Haley on Friday for a conversation about the university's problems and how they can work together to solve them.

There's been a lot of drama at S.C. State, but that's happened at other schools, Haley said.

"The reason I'm meeting with you is because this is kind of a confusing thing," at S.C. State, she said. "That makes me concerned."

S.C. State has been through more than a year of turmoil that saw an internal investigation into alleged ethical and criminal activities, the firing of eight high-level employees, the resignation of four trustees, the resignation of the president and several attempts by the state legislature to restructure the board.

Additionally, a former board chair has been charged with attempting to

defraud the university. A friend has also been charged, while the university's former police chief and a developer have pleaded guilty to federal corruption charges.

Haley said her biggest concern is that these issues have caused a growing lack of trust. It is everyone's best interest that confidence in the university be restored, she said.

She urged trustees to sacrifice personal agendas and work together for the good of the university.

"I think that there's a lot of politics on the board right now. At this point, it has to stop being about each of you. It has to start being about the school," she said.

The governor also urged trustees to be more transparent.

"If there was ever a time for you to step up, it's now, and I've got your back," she said.

Haley asked trustees to speak of their concerns about the university, and as they spoke, the board's confidence in go-

vernment was apparent.

Trustee Patricia Loft said some trustees are there for the wrong reasons.

"I am very much disappointed in our actions and the way we do business," she said. "I really think that we have too much of self building on our board. It's obvious that we do not work as a unit."

On the other hand, some trustees said they believe all board members care deeply for S.C. State and want to stabilize it. They just can't agree about the best way to do that.

Several trustees noted that board's votes always split along the same lines as last fall, when they failed three different times to elect a board chair. Dr. Walter L. Tobin was ultimately elected chairman over Loft only after the governor appointed Jackie Kipp to fill vacant seat on the board.

The board's most recent split is over whether to continue the search for a new, permanent president or delay the

search and retain interim President Dr. Cynthia Warrick. On Feb. 21, an effort to keep Warrick on as president failed by a vote of 6-5.

At Friday's meeting, trustees continued to promote the different sides of the argument while awaiting the governor that they respected each other and remained friends in spite of differences of opinions.

Trustee Dr. John Corbett, who wants to delay the search, said the university's main problem is lack of stability. He noted that during his time on the board, seven different people have served as president of S.C. State.

The board fires too many presidents, he said.

"Nobody satisfies anybody," Corbett said. "Nobody satisfies us. That's our reputation."

If the president does one thing wrong, the whole board turns against

See STATE, A3

Election April 2

Crosby, Deibel, Foster
vying for Bamberg mayor's job

By PHYLLIS A. OVERSTREET
T&D Correspondent

BAMBERG — Change is coming to the Bamberg political scene as Mayor Alton McCollum steps down from the position he's held for 16 years.

Three candidates are vying for the open mayor's seat in the April 2 election. Vying for the job are political newcomers Jeff Deibel and Brian Crosby and incumbent Bamberg City Councilwoman and Mayor Pro Tem Nancy Foster.

Deibel said he hopes to "foster renewed respect and trust" in Bamberg government, characterizing the role of mayor as one of a "non-political community service position."

Among the challenges Deibel sees

emergency team.

"This election is shaping up to be a referendum on changing the political environment in Bamberg," Deibel said. "Will the voters elect a candidate with ties to the policies of the past, or choose a new mayor with a new style of leadership and approach to growth and opportunity?"

Brian Crosby's vision is for Bamberg "to be the best town in the state in which to live, work and raise a family."

Crosby's goals include developing strong, distinct and vital neighborhoods; enhancing safety services; promoting economic development and technology; encouraging and promoting education and participation in learning opportunities; developing a thriving downtown



Crosby



Deibel



City Council splits along racial lines on redistricting

By LEE HENDREN
T&D Government Writer

Orangeburg City Council is facing two rival plans for redrawing the districts from which council members are elected.

The three white council members — Charles B. Russell Jr., Richard F. Shannon and Charles W. Jernigan — voted Tuesday in favor of Plan 1, which was prepared by the South Carolina Budget and Control Board's Division of Research and Statistics.

The three black council members — Bernard Haine, L. Zimmerman Kelt and Sandra P. Knotts — voted in favor of Plan 2, which City Administrator John Yew described as "the alternative plan that was submitted by

minute executive session, closed to the public, for council to receive legal advice on "council redistricting."

Districts must be redrawn after every federal census to adjust for uneven population growth in the council districts. Each council member is supposed to represent approximately the same number of voters.

During the discussion time, Russell asked, "What is the purpose of the alternative plan?"

Haine replied, "It gives a better chance of, if the Council reflects the population breakdown in the city."

"You don't consider it gerrymandering?" Russell asked.

"No, I don't consider it

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