

From: Symmes, Brian

To:

Date: 10/11/2013 9:21:00 AM

Subject: SC Front Pages - Friday, October 11, 2013

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## **SC Front Pages – Friday, October 11, 2013**



# Morning News

FRIDAY OCTOBER 11, 2013

**TODAY'S WEATHER**

Times of clouds and sun,  
high 78, low 56  
DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

## School gala honors hometown hero, teachers

Fashion designer and Florence native Hunter Bell speaks Thursday at The School Foundation Gala, where she was honored as this year's Florence School District 1 Distinguished Graduate.



ELLEN WEDER/MORNING NEWS

Foundation hosts fashion-themed benefit for Florence 1

BY ELLEN WEDER  
Morning News  
eweder@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — More than 300 educators and Florence businesspeople came out to The School Foundation Gala on Thursday night to honor fashion designer and hometown hero Hunter Bell, while raising money for the school district she graduated from.

The 12th annual event, held

at the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology, kept a fashion theme, funneling guests down a student paparazzi-lined red carpet and featuring a fashion show highlighting Bell's fall line under the Hunter Bell label.

Bell, who graduated from West Florence High School and attended the University of Alabama, has lived in New York City working in fashion for 10 years and is a co-founder of the suc-

cessful line Hunter Dixon. After experiencing trying financial times in 2012, she considered closing her clothing business, but was cast in and won NBC's reality show "Fashion Star," affording her the success and prize money to continue pursuing her dreams of designing.

With her parents, Jay and Jan Lingle; her grandparents; one of her two sisters, Heather Mackey;

See **GALA**, Page 4A

## McLeod names top first-year nurse

Oncology nurse Whitney Godwin recipient of honor

BY LINDSAY S. BUCHANAN  
Morning News  
lbuchanan@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — First-year registered nurse Whitney Godwin was recognized among her peers Thursday as the recipient of the Joseph G. Sylvester Award at McLeod Regional Medical Center — the 34th nurse to receive the honor since the award's founding in 1977.



The prestigious award for first-year nurses started with 73 candidates and was narrowed down to just four finalists — Godwin, oncology; Callie Huggins, oncology; Becky Kennedy, surgery II; and Kelley Moore, MICU — who were then reviewed by physicians.

Pamela Elliott, associate vice president of cancer services, said the award calls on physicians to consider qualities such as being warm, cooperative, organized, respectful, willing to listen, versatile, loyal and a leader when choosing a recipient.

"The Sylvester Award at its very core represents a promise — it serves as an indication for future excellence and each of these ladies exude just that, the promise of future nursing excellence," Elliott said.

Godwin said it was an honor to be chosen from such an outstanding group of fellow nurses.

"I didn't choose nursing as a career for all the awards and recognition, but I must admit that it feels pretty good

## ON THE SHUTDOWN, FINANCES

# Haley: SC going strong



PHOTOS BY GAVIN JACKSON/MORNING NEWS

Gov. Nikki Haley speaks with Florence County Council Chairman James Schofield before giving her remarks Thursday at the Florence Country Club. Haley spoke to a crowd of more than 75 Kiwanis and Pee Dee Rotary Club members about issues facing the state and the progress the state's economy has made since she's been in office.

State fiscal woes will kick in if stalemate goes past Oct.

BY GAVIN JACKSON  
Morning News  
gjackson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Gov. Nikki Haley told Kiwanis and Pee Dee Rotary members Thursday at a luncheon at the Florence Country Club that despite federal gridlock, "Team South Carolina" is still going strong.

The governor said the state is strong despite the government shutdown and the struggles of the ongoing debt ceiling debate.

"Basically what we looked at was try to see who was hurt on a day-to-day basis from the shutdown, and we made sure all the WIC recipients, the pregnant mothers were taken care of.

### INSIDE

» Haley raises \$950K to Sheheen's \$565K in 3Q. **6A**  
» No deal yet to end stalemate. **8A**  
» Time to call in a mediator? **6B**



## Governor, Schofield talk briefly about penny tax

BY GAVIN JACKSON  
Morning News  
gjackson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Gov. Nikki Haley gave her two cents Thursday on the penny sales tax situation in Florence County, although she admitted she has only limited knowledge about the state's suit to stop the county from putting a renewal of the capital project sales tax on the Nov. 5 ballot.

"I have been reading that there is a lot of passions behind the penny sales tax and how it's going to be spent, and it sounds like everyone is waiting on a Supreme Court hearing," Haley said, referring to a pending court decision. "I've never weighed in on the local sales tax. I've always thought that's not a smart way to go is to continue to tax your people. Certain counties chose to do it, but it's up to them to decide on how it should be spent."

Florence County Council Chairman James Schofield attended the Kiwanis and Rotary luncheon at the Florence Country Club and spoke with the governor briefly about the matter. Afterward, Schofield said the county will continue to educate the public on the penny sales tax since the referendum is still on the ballot.

"Our position now is in the absence of a ruling, there's nothing stopping us. We have a short time frame. The ordinance calls for the election and it's set, so the county is going





E GREENVILLE

YOUR GUIDE TO  
WEEKEND FUN

# The Greenville News

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FRIDAY,  
OCTOBER 11, 2013  
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

METRO

Taylor's deaths ruled murder-suicide, 1B

FINAL EDITION

## BOEHNER OFFERS COMPROMISE

Reid rejects temporary extension of US borrowing limit

By David Espo  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The nation's economy on the line, President Barack Obama and congressional Republicans groped inconclusively Thursday for a compromise to avert an unprecedented U.S. default and end the 10-day partial government shutdown.

"We expect further conversations tonight," Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., said at nightfall, after he, Speaker John

Boehner and a delegation of House Republicans had met for more than an hour with Obama at the White House.

The White House issued a statement describing the session as a good one, but adding "no specific determination was made."

Yet it seemed the endgame was at hand in the crises that have bedeviled the divided government for weeks, rattled markets in the U.S. and overseas and locked 350,000 furloughed federal workers out of their jobs. Both sides expressed fresh hopes for a

resolution soon.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid advanced legislation in that chamber to simply raise the debt limit and stave off the threat of an unprecedented federal financial default — a measure that Republicans are likely to block unless he agrees to change it.

Across the Capitol, Boehner left open the possibility of launching a rival measure Friday.

As he described it for his rank and file in a closed-door morning



Speaker of the House John Boehner, R-Ohio, joined by fellow Republicans, emerges from a closed door party meeting Thursday at the Capitol in Washington. J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

See LIMIT, Page 3A

## Haley outpaces Sheheen in funds

Governor's coffers swell to \$3.2M

By Tim Smith  
Staff writer  
tsmith@greenvilleonline.com

COLUMBIA — Gov. Nikki Haley has three times as much campaign cash as her Democratic rival and collected more in fundraising for the recently ended quarter, according to figures released late Thursday by the campaigns.

Haley's campaign raised \$950,000 for the quarter, compared with \$565,507 in donations to the campaign of Democratic Sen. Vincent Sheheen, the campaigns said.

But the bigger difference is in their war chests.

Haley now boasts \$3.175 million in cash on hand, while Sheheen has \$1.1 million.

"We are tremendously grateful for and overwhelmed by the outpouring of support Gov. Haley received from friends, old and new, who see the results she is delivering for the people of South Carolina and who want to see our state's progress continue," said Tim

See CASH, Page 3A



## Fall classic

Food festival's growth mirrors downtown's

By Amy Clarke Burns | Staff writer | aburns@greenvilleonline.com

Of the estimated 150,000 who will pour into downtown Greenville this weekend to partake of food, drink and music, most won't be strangers to Main Street.

Whether on a Saturday night or Tuesday afternoon, the streets here are regularly teeming with shoppers, diners, workers and visitors. That wasn't the case when Fall for Greenville first erected tents on Main Street and invited residents to see what

they'd been missing. It was 1982, and the first signs of the revitalization that was to come were just springing to life. The Hyatt had just been completed. The narrowing and landscaping of Main Street were still fresh. But



DOWNTOWN

INSIDE

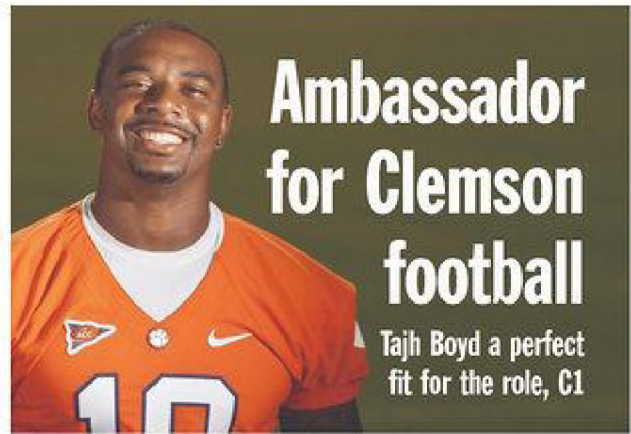




USC WOMEN'S SOCCER

# GAMECOCKS GUNNING FOR SEC TITLE, C1

**The State**  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2013 | THESTATE.COM



## Ambassador for Clemson football

Tajh Boyd a perfect  
fit for the role, C1

2014 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION

# Haley, Sheheen raise \$1.5 million in quarter

GOP governor has \$3 million; Democrat has \$1 million

**THESTATE.COM**

To see where GOP Gov. Nikki Haley and her Democratic challenger, state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, are raising money, go to this story online at [thestate.com](http://thestate.com). There, you will find maps showing where their campaign donors live.



Haley



Sheheen

By ADAM BEAM  
and ANDREW SHAIN  
[abeam@thestate.com](mailto:abeam@thestate.com)  
[ashain@thestate.com](mailto:ashain@thestate.com)

South Carolina's two candidates for governor in 2014 raised more than \$1.5 million from July to September.

Republican Gov. Nikki Haley's campaign said it brought in more than \$950,000 in 2013's third quarter, leaving her campaign with \$3.2 million available to spend, according to a news release.

Democratic state Sen. Vincent

SEE FUNDS PAGE A11

## Debt ceiling, shutdown deals may be close

White House,  
GOP engaged in  
serious fiscal talks

By DAVID LIGHTMAN  
and LESLEY CLARK  
*McClatchy Newspapers*

WASHINGTON — The White House and Republican congressional leaders moved toward common ground Thursday on raising the nation's debt limit and reopening the partially shuttered government, trading ideas and engaging in lengthy private talks for the first time since parts of the government ran out of money Oct. 1.

Both sides emerged from a meeting at the White House with cautiously optimistic statements and a promise to keep talking, the first such opening in weeks. Eager for any sign of progress, particularly on the threat of default on the government's debt, stock markets soared. The Dow Jones industrial average jumped 323 points.

A White House statement had a carefully upbeat slant after the session with Republicans from the House of Representatives: "After a discussion about potential paths forward, no specific determination was made. The president looks forward to making continued progress with members on both sides of the aisle."

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., had the same tone, saying, "We had a very useful meeting."

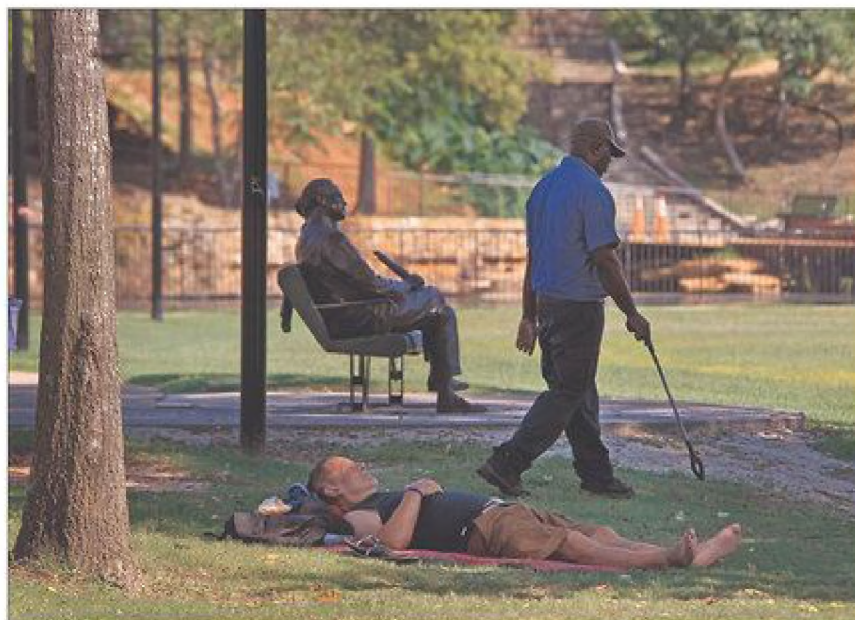
SEE DEFAULT PAGE A11

**+323**

The Dow Jones industrial average gains more than 300 points as signs point to a possible resolution of the prolonged budget and debt ceiling battles in Washington.

## >>> Finlay Park

# WHAT HAPPENED TO MY PARK?



## SIGNS OF DECAY

- Dirt or mud instead of landscaping in many areas
- Large areas of exposed landscaping plastic
- Leaking water features
- Old playground equipment with badly faded paint
- Badly rust-

A maintenance worker picks up trash near the sculpture of the late Mayor Kirkman Finlay while a man

GERARD MCELLEN/CLARK/CLARK@THESTATE.COM





## Report: Area home sales jump 29% from 2012, B6

**Find scary-good deals on costumes for Halloween**

MOXIE, D1

**Dempsey, Sounders to play at Battery**

SPORTS, C1

# The Post and Courier

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FRIDAY, October 11, 2013

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## Defense attacks sleuthing

Says hard evidence missing in Lion case

BY ANDREW KNAPP  
aknapp@postandcourier.com

None of the DNA or fingerprints on 37-year-old Marley Lion's vehicle the night he was slain belonged to any of the four men arrested in his death.

But some of the DNA samples were so insignificant that a state forensic scientist said it would have been difficult to positively match them to anyone.

That's why, the expert testified Thursday in the murder trial of 32-year-old Ryan P. DeLeon, the DNA went untested.

Circuit Public Defender Ashley Pennington highlighted the unknowns and the lack of hard evidence that his client shot Lion on June 16, 2012, outside Famous Joe's Bar and Grill in West Ashley.

The alleged shortcomings in the Charleston Police Department investigation and how detectives persuaded witnesses to point at DeLeon have formed the basis for Pennington's emerging defense.

In three days of state testimony, the 37 jurors have listened to more than two dozen witnesses. They included police officers, medical experts and a robbery victim.

But the witnesses who have provided direct knowledge of the shooting all have led to the police at some point during the investigation. Most have criminal backgrounds and have pleaded guilty to various charges in exchange for their testimony against DeLeon.

Pennington instead has asserted that the triggerman was 29-year-old Bryan Latell Rivers. It's still unclear whether DeLeon will tell his side of the story.

### 'Whodunnit'

The third day of testimony delved into the police investigation that supplied a crew of robbers and a missed evidence against them.

Please see **LOCAL**, Page A5

## VERONICA CASE

# Dusten Brown ends legal fight



Robin Brown (from left), Chris Nimmo, assistant attorney general for the Cherokee Nation, and Dusten Brown announce Thursday in Tulsa, Okla., that Brown is pursuing no further litigation in the Veronica case.

## Biological dad wants to be part of girl's life

BY GLENN SMITH  
gsmith@postandcourier.com

The beating, cross-country custody battle for a 4-year-old Veronica came to an emotional close Thursday with her biological father conceding defeat in tears while her adoptive parents on James Island huddled out of view and pleaded for privacy from the national spotlight.

With only long-shot hopes of winning her back, Dusten Brown announced during a press conference in Oklahoma that he was abandoning his legal fight to win back the little girl he called "his princess."

Brown wiped his eyes and choked back tears as he described the void in his home since Veronica's departure and the pain of seeing her empty room full of toys she left behind.

But Brown said he could no longer stomach the prospect of her caught at the center of a contentious legal fight and in the glare of national media.

Please see **VERONICA**, Page A4



Matt and Melanie Capobianco pause for a family photo with their adoptive daughter, 4-year-old Veronica, on Sept. 24, the day after they picked up the girl from Tahlequah, Okla.

### ONLINE

**MULTIMEDIA** Add more photos and video and coverage: go to [postandcourier.com/veronica](http://postandcourier.com/veronica). **POLLS:** Do you think this is really the end of the Veronica case? Find this story at [postandcourier.com](http://postandcourier.com) to vote.

## A project too big for Hollywood?

Poplar Grove session packs council meeting

BY DAVE MUNDAY  
dmunday@postandcourier.com

**HOLLYWOOD** — The recession may be threatening for builders, but are residents ready for it? Rumors of plans for 5,000 new homes in largely rural western Charleston County packed council chambers for a town meeting Thursday night.

About 75 people filled the seats and crowded the walls of a space not much bigger than a residential great room.

After several years of inactivity, the developers of Poplar Grove want to expand. The new houses would be built on 750 acres in Charleston County, across County Line Road from the existing houses in Poplar Grove.

City of Charleston would provide water.

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## This might hurt a little: DHEC denies flu shots to insured patients

BY LAUREN SAUSSER  
lsausser@postandcourier.com

North Charleston resident Charles Eichman, 76, tried to make an appointment for his annual flu shot on Sept. 12.

The health department told him to call back in October. On Oct. 1, he tried again and learned that the vaccine hadn't arrived yet and that he should call in mid-October.

He tried once more this week to schedule that appointment and found out he won't be able to get the flu shot at all this year through the S.C. Department of

Health and Environmental Control because the department is no longer offering them to patients with Medicare, Medicaid or private health insurance.

**POLL** Do you plan on getting a flu shot this year? Find this story at [postandcourier.com](http://postandcourier.com) to vote.

"They didn't say a word about that when I made the other two phone calls — not a word," said Eichman, who is insured by Medicare. "In other words, I just wasted a lot of time and I could have had my flu shot back in September if I had

known that."

The shots are no longer available at county-level health department clinics for more than two decades.

"I said 'Why did they make the change of policy?'"

He said a DHEC supervisor told him "Due to a shortage of money."

Flouiden said in an email that information was incorrect.

A statement on DHEC's website explains, "DHEC will focus its limited resources on people who are uninsured and underinsured and those who cannot receive a flu vaccine elsewhere."

Please see **FLU**, Page A4

who said he's been getting his flu shot at the Charleston County clinic for more than two decades.

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Please see **FLU**, Page A4

## Find a flu shot

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control will continue offering flu shots at county health departments to patients without health insurance.

For everyone else, there are other options:

- National and local pharmacies, such as CVS and Rite Aid
- Doctors' offices
- Urgent care centers
- Federally qualified health centers, such as the Franklin C. Carter Family Health Center in Charleston
- Hospitals
- School or university-based clinics

**ONLINE:** To find a flu shot provider, go to [flushot.healthmap.org](http://flushot.healthmap.org).

**Charleston Deals today**  
Charleston Winery  
Pay \$10 for \$20 of wine, gifts.  
See A2



Partly sunny.  
High 62, Low 56.  
Complete 5-day  
forecast: B8

Bridge...D7  
Business...B6  
Clarendon...J1  
Comics...D6,7

Crossroads...D6,18  
Edinburgh...J12  
Movies...D4  
Music...D1

Obituaries...B4  
The South...D1  
Sports...C1  
Television...D5

Charleston  
Deals today

Charleston Winery  
Pay \$10 for \$20 of wine, gifts.  
See A2





# Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

FRIDAY, October 11, 2013

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 147, No. 284 Aiken, S.C. ★★ 75¢

## The verdict is in: Rosier found guilty

### Rosier charged with voluntary manslaughter

BY TEDDY KULMALA  
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

An Aiken County jury on Thursday found David Rosier Jr. guilty of voluntary manslaughter in the November 2012 shooting death of 20-year-old Donnie Davis.

The verdict came late on Thursday afternoon. Rosier, 45, who was originally charged with murder, was also found guilty of possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime. He was sentenced by Circuit Court Judge Doye "Jack"



Rosier

guilty on the lesser charge of manslaughter.

Early to the maximum 30 years in prison.

Assistant Solicitor Kevin Molony, who prosecuted the case along with Assistant Solicitor David Miller, said the jury was given the option of finding Rosier

"Malice and forethought are the main difference," Molony said. "It's murder without malice, meaning heat of the passion. It was an intentional act, but ... you didn't have the hatred, the evil in your heart."

Davis died in a home at 56 Church St. in Bath on Nov. 10, 2012, from a gunshot wound to the chest. A pathologist testified he also suffered multiple cuts on his face and defensive wounds on his hand from a physical altercation before.

Please see **GUILTY**, Page 5A



AP PHOTO/EVERETT

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor of Virginia, walks to a House vote on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on Thursday.

## Shutdown, debt talks but no resolution yet

BY DAVID ESPO  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The nation's economy on the line, President Barack Obama and congressional Republicans groped

inconclusively on Thursday for a compromise to avert an unprecedented U.S. default as early as next week and end the 10-day-old partial government shutdown.

Please see **DEBT**, Page 5A

## Aiken High JV teams go pink



STAFF PHOTOS BY MAANN SCHECHTER

The Aiken High School JV Cheerleading squad wore bright pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month during Thursday's "Pink Out" game against White Knoll.



STAFF PHOTOS BY MAANN SCHECHTER

Aiken High School JV Football players warm up before their game Thursday showcasing pink socks, armbands, shoelaces and gloves for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



## Mayor: No favoritism for son of council member

### Recent news reports suggest Wagener police officer let son of councilman off easy

BY TEDDY KULMALA  
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

The mayor of Wagener on Thursday responded to recent news reports that suggest a town councilman's son received preferential treatment after being pulled over by Wagener police for speeding.

The incident happened on Saturday night, when Officer Dustin Johnson pulled over the son of Councilman George Smith in front of Wagener-Salley High School. A video of the traffic stop was captured by a small camera on Johnson's belt, and a copy of the video was provided to the *Aiken Standard*.

The driver apparently told the officer he had multiple South Carolina driver's licenses.

"I don't need to hear no more. That's against the law. As a matter of fact, in that case, you ain't getting this one back," Johnson is heard saying. The driver tells him he had two lost at his home that had been reported lost to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Shortly after, Smith arrived on scene. "How you doing, Mr. Smith?" Johnson said.

Please see **MAYOR**, Page 5A

### AREA DEATHS

Etta Johnson Rollins, Waynesboro, Ga.  
Jim "Bill" F. Conaway, Graniteville  
Kathleen Ready George, Aiken  
Raymond Lee Brown, Wagener  
Robert A. Brooks Jr., Aiken  
Deaths and Funerals, 6 A

### WEATHER

### INSIDE TODAY



Helping Hands more



Teachers of the year use



USCA's Larsen gets



Catch the groove at





# SHRINE BOWL

Six local standouts named to SC roster for December all-star game **B1**



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**HJ**  
IN A HURRY

**5** Things to read today



## Scott Carpenter dies

Scott Carpenter, the second American to orbit the Earth, has died in a Denver hospice of complications from a September stroke, his wife, Patty Barrett, said. He was 88. **PAGE A4**

## Bad reviews

The debut of the government's health insurance marketplaces drew a huge audience — and underwhelming reviews. Just 7 percent of Americans say the rollout of the health exchanges has gone extremely well or very well, according to an AP-GfK poll. **PAGE A4**

## Drug sting

The Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office, Pacolet Police Department and U.S. Marshals teamed up Thursday to round up suspects charged in a drug sting called Operation Poison Ivy. **PAGE C1**

## Iron Yard support

The 10 technology startups in The Iron Yard LLC's inaugural digital health accelerator downtown advanced in style Thursday night at the launch party for the companies that participated in the 13-week program. **PAGE C6**

## Digital consignment

Two local entrepreneurs are working to bring high fashion to budget-minded customers as Couture Closets downtown has launched a "lux" digital consignment store. **PAGE C6**

Weather

# Obama, GOP begin talking

Boehner, delegation visit White House; US default nearing

By DAVID ESPO  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The nation's economy on the line, President Barack Obama and congressional Republicans groped inconclusively Thursday for a compromise to avert an unprecedented U.S. default as early as next week and end the 10-day-old partial government shutdown.

"We expect further conversations tonight," House Majority Leader Eric Cantor said crypti-

cally at nightfall, after he, Speaker John Boehner and a delegation of other Republicans met for more than an hour with Obama at the White House.

The White House issued a statement describing the session as a good one, but adding, "no specific determination was made."

Yet it seemed the endgame was at hand in the crises that have bedeviled the divided government for weeks, rattled markets in the U.S. and overseas and locked 350,000 furloughed federal workers out of their jobs. Both sides expressed fresh hopes for a resolution soon.

The up-and-down day also featured a dour warning from Treasury Secretary Jack Lew, who told

◆ SEE TALK PAGE A7



House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio leaves his office on Capitol Hill in Washington on Thursday for the White House and a meeting with President Barack Obama regarding the ongoing budget fight. **EVAN VUCCELA**

## A TIME TO REMEMBER, BE AWARE



The 16th annual Silent Witness Vigil for Domestic Violence Victims was held at Morgan Square on Thursday afternoon. Here, domestic violence survivor Katherine Chall tells her story to the audience. **JOHN BYRUM/JOHN.BYRUM@SHJ.COM**

# Silent vigil held for victims of domestic violence in Upstate

By JENNY ARNOLD  
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Just before national Domestic Violence Awareness month began Oct. 1, a report showed that South Carolina was No. 1 in the nation for the rate of women killed by men.

The Palmetto state rose from No. 2 last year to the top spot on the list for 2013, according to the

director of SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition. "All were killed by someone who professed to love them. These silent witnesses tell the story of violence in the community."

Victim's advocates and law enforcement officers acted as the voices of the witnesses in the square, telling a brief story about the victim who died and who they left behind.

# County to hire new 911 director

Lee will continue to lead department on interim basis

By FELICIA KITZMILLER  
felicia.kitzmiller@shj.com

After more than a month of unrest at Spartanburg County 911 Communications, County Council voted Thursday to hire a new department head.

The acting director, Keith Lee, will continue to serve as interim director until a replacement is found.

Katherine O'Neill, county administrator, said Lee will then return to his former position as deputy director. The demotion was a mutual decision between Lee and administration, O'Neill said.

The deputy director position was frozen when Lee became the acting director in 2007, O'Neill said. She plans to bring a budget amendment to council that will unfreeze the deputy director position and instead freeze the assistant director position. The former assistant director







2 from Lakelands  
picked for bowl

1B



Former hotel employee  
charged with grand larceny, 2A

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## NWVFD keeps eye on shutdown

Fire department can't access grant money during government closure

By CHRIS TRAINOR  
ctrainor@indexjournal.com

At least one local fire department is watching the current federal government shutdown debate with great interest.

In August, Greenwood's Northwest Volunteer Fire Department

"We've got our fingers crossed (the Assistance to Firefighters grant personnel) are back in operation by (the time new equipment needs to be paid for)."

CHAD KELLUM

Northwest Volunteer Fire Department chief

was informed it would be getting \$49,000 in Assistance to Firefighters grant funds to help purchase a new air compressor and fill station for the department. However, at the moment, North-

west is not able to access that funding because of the government shutdown.

Northwest officials said they received an email last week from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) informing

See NWVFD, page 4A

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



Staff members, board members and volunteers cut the ribbon during the opening of the Greenwood Habitat for Humanity's ReStore on Thursday.



Quinstun Roundtree reacts to items at the ReStore in Piedmont Plaza in Greenwood.



A neon sign signifies the opening of Habitat for Humanity ReStore.

Smaller store has large crowd for reopening

## GOVERNOR'S RACE

## Haley raises \$950K

Sheheen pulls in \$565K in 3rd quarter

By JEFFREY COLLINS  
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Republican Gov. Nikki Haley raised \$950,000 during the past three months for her re-election campaign next year, while her expected Democratic opponent, Vincent Sheheen, raised \$565,000, according to the campaigns.



NIKKI  
HALEY

Thursday was the deadline to report third-quarter campaign contributions. Sheheen's report was online by late afternoon, while Haley's report had not been posted. Her campaign released her basic information to reporters.



VINCENT  
SHEHEEN

See RAISES, page 4A

## MENTAL HEALTH

Director of DMH visits







**FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL**  
Crestwood takes on defending state champs,  
Sumter travels to South Florence,  
Lakewood takes on Marlboro County. B1

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## Continental could go live by year's end

Plant engineering manager looks  
ahead of January's opening goal

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT  
bmarchant@theitem.com

A year and a half after breaking ground in a muddy field off U.S. 521, Sumter's Continental Tire the Americas plant is now a fully fledged, 1-million-square-foot manufacturing facility with machinery in place and ready to be switched on by the beginning of next year.

Plant officials led media on a tour of the nearly completed facility Thursday, touting the Germany-based manufacturer's ability to start turning out tires — and provide more than 300 jobs — by the time Continental hits its projected opening date in January.

Tom Tompkins, the plant engineering manager, thinks the plant could even begin production before the end of the year.

"We hope to begin in January 2014, but we're striving to do better than that," he said during the step-by-step tour of Continental's manufacturing process. "Most of the machines are functional. They're just in the testing phase. We've already produced test tires as a finished product."

The tires already produced in Sumter have been shipped to Continental headquarters in Hanover, Germany, to be put through testing for quality control.

"Right now, they've



PHOTOS BY BRISTOW MARCHANT / THE ITEM

Workers lay the foundation for a cafeteria outside the nearly completed Continental Tire the Americas plant on Thursday. About 150 contractors remain on site to complete the finishing touches, down from a construction peak of 600 workers.

all passed," Tompkins said.

In just over a year, Continental has managed to construct a plant covering 23

acres, pressing some of the concrete columns upholding the roof in place using casts. At peak construction, 600 workers

labored to bring the plant together, although today only about 150 are still

SEE PLANT, PAGE A5

## Mulvaney: Furloughs at Shaw not necessary

BY BRADEN BUNCH  
bbunch@theitem.com

U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-S.C., said Thursday he fully expects the civilian employees recently furloughed at Shaw Air Force Base to be paid for the four days they were absent and that a law passed the day before the federal shut-down should have prevented the furloughs from happening in the first place.

"We thought that the bill that we had passed the day before the government shut-down covered all civilian employees. It was intended to cover all civilian employees. It took the Defense Department a week to determine it covered all civilian employees, and it did," Mulvaney said.

In addition, the congressman from Indian Land said not only should those civilians not have gone on furlough, but also that "they're going to get paid for those four days."

The recent furloughs for civilian employees at Shaw Air Force Base, as well as other military installations across the state, triggered outcries from state politicians. This was especially true for state Democrats, accusing the Republican-dominated delegation of acting in a way that was harmful to the state's economy and military personnel.

Last week, state Sen. Thomas McElveen called for "Congress to give partisan bickering a rest and get to work doing the people's business," adding the South Carolina delegation was "causing problems for people back in their home districts."

The attacks from state



MULVANEY

READ  
MORE  
INSIDE

Americans  
voice anger,  
frustration in  
stalemate /  
A5



**ABOVE:** An elevated, orange conveyor belt running from the building's glass "store front" will take finished tires to a separate warehouse.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Crews work to complete the lobby of the Continental plant this week. The plant's front entrance and office area are the last part of the main plant building still under construction.

**RIGHT:** Continental Sumter plant engineering manager Tom Tompkins, left, and human resources manager David Ray walk through the facility on Thursday. They hope to remove the hard hats when the plant begins operations.



## Tuomey whistleblower loses malpractice suit







## S.C. STATE ROARS PAST N.C. CENTRAL. B1

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## 'Penny tax' thrown into question by court case

By MARTHA ROSE BROWN  
T&D Staff Writer

A case before the South Carolina State Supreme Court has Orangeburg County officials wondering about the future of the capital projects sales tax and taking steps to protect projects already in the works.

While the case involves Florence

County's use of the tax, Orangeburg County attorney D'Anne Haydel said the "drive-by legal action" could have a local impact.

"This is an ever-changing legal landscape that just started about two weeks ago and hopefully will be finished up by the end of October," Haydel said during Tuesday's meeting of Orangeburg County Council.

Orangeburg County voters overwhelmingly supported the renewal of the 1 percent tax for capital projects in November 2010. Collections began in April after the second round of the so-called "penny tax" expired.

Over seven years, the tax is expected to raise \$84 million for a variety of building projects throughout the county, such as paving roads and

creating recreation areas.

Typically, the county borrows the money for the projects up front so that it can begin work without waiting a full seven years before all the funds are collected.

However, as Orangeburg County officials began the process of borrowing money for the third round of the county's projects, the S.C. Su-

preme Court found itself addressing a lawsuit that "may or may not affect Orangeburg County," Haydel said.

"At this point, it would be hard to sell bonds in Orangeburg County when Florence County is in court over the constitutionality of the same act," she said.

See TAX, A2

## 'A BLESSING NO ONE HURT'



T&amp;D CORRESPONDENT JERRY DURGAN

A Bamberg District One school bus is towed after it caught fire on U.S. 601 near Andrew Jackson Academy in the Clear Pond community about 3:30 p.m. Thursday. All of the students aboard the bus and the driver escaped unhurt.

## Fire fully engulfs school bus, leaving interior 'black, charred shell'

By CAROL B. BARKER  
T&D Region Editor

A Bamberg District One school bus burst into flames and quickly became fully engulfed in the fire Thursday afternoon.

"It was a blessing no one was hurt," Superintendent Phyllis Schwartz said. "God was with the students and the bus driver, she added.

A substitute driver who was driving another school bus that was right behind the burning bus

jumped out and helped the other driver get all the children off the vehicle safely, Schwartz said. She said she didn't know the extent of the loss of school books and book bags in the blaze.

The fire appeared to have started in the engine compartment of the bus at about 3:30 p.m. on U.S. 601 near Andrew Jackson Academy in the Clear Pond community, said Schwartz, who drove to the scene after learning of the incident.

She said the fire appeared to have spread "very

fast."

It was "chilling" to see the burned bus, she said. The interior of the vehicle was "a black, charred shell," Schwartz said.

She said it was her understanding that the engine of the school bus had been checked out Thursday morning at the school bus shop in Orangeburg. The bus is not one of the district's oldest, with only two of its buses being older, Schwartz said.

"It's in the middle of the pack in terms of age,"

she noted.

A portion of U.S. 601 was blocked to traffic for a short time until firefighters could extinguish the blaze.

Agencies responding to the school bus fire included the Clear Pond Volunteer Fire Department, the Bamberg Fire Department, the Bamberg County Sheriff's Department and the Bamberg Police Department.

Contact the writer: cbarker@timesanddemocrat.com or 803-533-5525.

Phylcia  
Rashad  
coming  
to Claflin

## Give SCSU president power to hire VPs, committee says

By DALE UNDER-ALTMAN  
T&D Staff Writer

After several months of discussion, South Carolina State University's bylaws committee has decided the president has full authority

authority arose in August when President Thomas Elzey named Sonja Bennett as vice president for external affairs and communications without discussing it with the full board ahead of time. Some board members were made



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