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SC Front Pages – Thursday, March 24, 2016

The Post and Courier

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Wednesday, March 23, 2016

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Scale of dual Belgium attacks shocks Europe

Authorities ask for calm, 'solidarity' — and leads on bombing suspects



GEERT VANDENWUNGER/LEAP

A man looks at flowers and messages Tuesday outside the stock exchange in Brussels. Explosions rocked the Brussels airport and subway system Tuesday, killing at least 34 people and injuring scores. The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attacks.

BY RAF CASERT
and RAPHAEL SATTER
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Islamic extremists struck Tuesday in the heart of Europe, killing at least 34 people and wounding scores of others in back-to-back bombings of the Brussels airport and subway that again laid bare the continent's vulnerability to suicide squads.

Bloodied and dazed travelers staggered from the airport after two explosions — at least one blamed on a suicide attacker and another apparently on a suitcase bomb — tore through crowds checking in for morning flights. About 40 minutes later, another rush-hour blast ripped through a subway car in central Brussels as it left the Maelbeek station, in the heart of the European Union's capital city.

Authorities released a photo taken from closed-circuit TV footage of three men pushing luggage carts in the airport, saying two of them apparently were suicide bombers and that the third — dressed in a light-colored coat, black hat and glasses — was at large. They urged the public to reach out to police if they recognized him. The two men believed to be the suicide attackers apparently



BELGIAN FEDERAL POLICE/AP

The three men who are suspected of taking part in the attacks at Belgium's Zaventem Airport are seen in an image from Belgian authorities. The man at right is still being sought by police. The two others were, according to Belgian prosecutors, "probably" suicide bombers.

were wearing dark gloves on their left hands, possibly to hide detonators.

In police raids Tuesday across Belgium, authorities later found a nail-filled bomb, chemical products and an Islamic

State flag in a house in the Schaarbeek neighborhood, the state prosecutors' office said in a statement.

Please see BELGIUM, Page A7

Cross High grad Vernon Taylor, who plays basketball in Belgium, 'shaken' by bombings

BY JEFF HARTSELL
jhartsell@postandcourier.com

Vernon Taylor woke Tuesday morning in Belgium to a text from a teammate.

"Did you hear about the bombing?" his teammate wanted to know. Taylor, a Cross High School graduate who plays professional basketball in Belgium, spent the

rest of the day immersed in the news that shook Belgium and the world — terrorist bombings in Brussels killed at least 34 people and injured dozens of others.

"It happened about seven to 10 minutes away from us," said Taylor, who plays for Kangoerdes Basket in Willebroek, just outside of the Belgian capital of Brussels. "People are shaken up, they are frightened.

The government in Belgium has cut off all cellphone use, so people don't really know if family members are safe. It's crazy."

Taylor, who graduated from Cross in 2006 and played college basketball at Spartanburg Methodist and Troy University, said he was able to make cellphone calls

Please see TAYLOR, Page A6



Taylor

Domestic violence expansion in court

Case seeks inclusion of same-sex couples

BY MAYA T. PRABHU
mprabhu@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — The South Carolina Supreme Court on Wednesday will hear an argument to expand the state's domestic violence laws to same-sex couples.

Attorneys Bakari Sellers and Alexandra Benevento in August requested the hearing after a woman, who is remaining anonymous, was denied a protection order by a Richland County court after being hit and choked by her ex-fiancee, who is also a woman. The lawyers say the state's law violates the Fourteenth Amendment because it does not protect same-sex, unmarried couples.

"We're asking the court to ensure that same-sex couples receive the same protections that heterosexual couples receive," Sellers said.

The state's domestic violence law, as written, does not apply to a man or woman who is battered by a partner of the same sex if they aren't married. "Victims are defined in the law as a 'household member' who is a spouse, a former spouse, persons who have a child in common or a male and female who are cohabiting or formerly cohabited.

Please see VIOLENCE, Page A8

PC Poll
Do you think South Carolina's domestic violence law is unconstitutional? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

Goff's former parishioners in Columbia deny defaming him

They say they just want financial records

BY JENNIFER BERRY HAWES
jhawes@postandcourier.com

The Rev. Dr. Norvel Goff is suing 18 members of his past church for defamation and negligence, but they contend they are private citizens who simply want to see their own church's financial records.

Goff served as interim pastor of Emanuel AME for seven months after an avowed white supremacist allegedly gunned down nine worshippers, including the church's pastor, last summer. Goff oversaw millions of dollars in donations that poured into the church from mourners across the globe.

He now is running for bishop and continues to serve as presiding elder of the AME district that includes Emanuel.

Before assuming that post, he was pastor of Reid Chapel AME Church in Columbia. For two years, about a

Please see GOFF, Page A8



Goff

Inside
S.C. senator: Attack makes a case for refugee bill. **A6**

Cruz, Trump: Boost Muslim surveillance. **A6**

Weaknesses of airports exposed. **A6**

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PC Online

To see more photos from the attacks in Brussels, go to postandcourier.com/galleries.

To see video of the attacks, go to postandcourier.com/videos.

Inside

LOCAL

Brian Hicks: County should expand scope of West Ashley bike lane test. **A2**

BUSINESS

Charleston board to review new downtown hotel proposal. **B1**

STATE

S.C. House votes on pay increases for state employees. **A8**

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Complete 5-day
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Charleston Deals Today

Lowcountry Wingapalooza
\$35 for two tickets
(valued at \$50). See **A2**



GO COLUMBIA | EXPANDED ISSUE INSIDE

SEASON FOR FUN

Spring is finally here – and soon summer – and we've got ideas for your bucket list, from places to eat outdoors to camping classes, summer camps, must-do festivals, and even healthy drinks.

USC FOOTBALL

Gamecocks roll out a new helmet style for spring practice, 1B



OPINION

Why — and how — we should defeat Trump, 2C



THURSDAY MARCH 24 2016

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FORECAST, BC

The State

EXCLUSIVE: AFTER THE FLOOD



PHOTOS BY MATT WALSH mwalsh@thestate.com

Forest Lake Gardens owner Joseph McDougall officially purchased the property his shop sits on this month from First Citizens Bank, which had said after October's flood that it was terminating his lease.

Forest Lake Gardens now there to stay

BY SARAH ELLIS
sellis@thestate.com

A beloved Forest Acres garden store that was in danger of shutting down or moving after the October flood is now there to stay, its owner says, after the landlord bank agreed this month to sell him the property.

Joseph McDougall's 12-year-old Forest Lake Gardens, a quirky produce and garden business situated near the corner of Trenholm Road and Forest Drive, drew reams of community support after First Citizens Bank told McDougall in October that his lease for the property would



Demetris McLemore hangs wind chimes.

VIDEO

AT THESTATE.COM: Joseph McDougall talks about the spring plans for his Forest Acres garden store

not be renewed. An online petition to "Save Forest Lake Gardens" garnered more than 1,500 digital signatures. "I don't want to down-

play how it made me feel when all those people stood up at one time," McDougall said. "But I feel it every day. ... In the back of my mind, that keeps me going."

The outdoor store lost a great deal of inventory when flood waters from nearby Gills Creek and Eightmile Branch gushed into the low-lying area Oct. 4.

But McDougall moved quickly to reopen about a week and half later, his signature Big Foot garden statues once again adorning the Trenholm Road curb where, beside them, the former Webb Rawls Gallery frame shop sat gutted and muddied from the flood.

Forest Acres resident Abigail Hunter stopped by Forest Lake Gardens on Wednesday because she knew she would find a good quality product there, she said.

EXCLUSIVE

Public shooting range planned

Department of Natural Resources using federal funding to purchase former private gun club on 131 acres in Eastover

Range to include rifle, pistol and shotgun ranges, to open in late summer or early fall

BY SARAH ELLIS
sellis@thestate.com

Richland County will soon have its only publicly accessible outdoor shooting range once the state Department of Natural Resources completes the purchase of a former private shooting club near Eastover.

DNR plans to use federal funding designated for hunter education and shooting projects to buy 131 acres off U.S. 76/378 near Eastover. The property, between U.S. 601 and the Wateree River, is the site of the former Indigo Gun Club, which until Jan. 1 was open only to members and guests.

DNR plans to reopen the facility as the "Wateree" public shooting range by late summer or early fall.

The property at 14068 Garners Ferry Road has been owned since 2008 by Wateree Timber Co. LLC, according to Richland County tax records. The land and building on the property are valued at \$336,100 for tax purposes, according to the county's assessment. The purchase price is being negotiated, said Capt. Billy Downer, hunter education coordinator for the state Department of Natural Resources.

There are no public shooting facilities in Richland County, but there are a number of commercial facilities accessible to the public in neighboring Lexington and Kershaw coun-

ONLINE

AT THESTATE.COM: See a map of where the range will be located

SEE GUN RANGE, 6A



USC BASEBALL, 1C
OFFENSE ON POINT



LIFESTYLE, 1D
Couple living their dream

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK
The Greenville News

THURSDAY,
MARCH 24, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY BRUSSELS VICTIMS: STORIES OF HORROR AND HOPE PAGE 1B

Jacobs arrested Mackey in 2015

ANNA LEE AND ROMANDO DIXSON
STAFF WRITERS

Last Friday wasn't the first time Allen Jacobs and Deontea Mackey crossed paths.

Authorities said Mackey fatally shot the Greenville police officer

last Friday before turning the gun on himself following a foot pursuit in Nicholatown.

The fatal encounter happened not far from where Jacobs arrested Mackey a year earlier on a robbery charge, according to police reports obtained by *The Greenville News*.

Mackey was 16 at the time and pleaded guilty to strong arm robbery, court documents show. He was sentenced last month to 10 years suspended to time served.

Records from the March 5, 2015, case show Mackey was initially charged with armed robbery with a

deadly weapon after a man reported being robbed near the barbershop at Dime and Chaney streets in Nicholatown.

The victim told police he was looking to buy crack when he was ap-



Deontea Mackey

See **MACKEY**, Page 5A



DRONE DEBATE

Senate bill would provide penalties for flying drones over others' land without permission and require a search warrant for use by law enforcement

TIM SMITH
TCSMITH@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

COLUMBIA — Tom Fernandez said he began using drones as a hobby to give his mind a break from law school.

Two years ago the hobby turned into a Lowcountry busi-

ness, and Fernandez is now CEO of Skyview Aerial Solutions, which offers mapping and other real estate services provided by small drones.

He came to the Statehouse Wednesday, drone in hand, along with other drone operators to talk to a Senate panel about a bill

that would regulate drones in South Carolina, provide penalties for those who send drones over other's property without permission and require search warrants for law enforcement's use of drones.

See **DRONES**, Page 1A

PRIVACY
Would you want neighbors' drones flying over your home or property without prior consent?

REGULATION
How would property owners on the ground know if a drone crossed their boundaries?

WHAT IF?
What would drone operators do if they photograph evidence of a crime?

The News honors Emerging Leaders

On Wednesday, *The Greenville News* honored 30 extraordinary leaders in our community. Winners in 10 categories were selected by our readers.

The winners of the inaugural installment of *The Greenville News* Emerging 30 Leaders were announced as follows:

COMING SUNDAY
A Top 30 Emerging Leaders special section will be included in the newspaper, exclusive for our subscribers.

follows: Peter Barth, CEO of the Iron Yard; Matt Gevaert, CEO of KIYA-TEC; Cal Hurst, regional vice president at TD Bank; Eric Jarinko, general manager of the Greenville Drive; Rodney Johnson, principal of Lead Academy Public Charter School; Allyson Powell, morning anchor, traffic reporter and general reporter for WYFF News 4; Alicia Powers, associate professor of health sciences at Furman University; Will Ragland, theater teacher at Palmetto High School; Lamont Sullivan, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Upstate; and Dan Weidenbender, executive director of Mill Community Ministries.

See **LEADERS**, Page 5A



BART BOATWRIGHT/STAFF
Maria Grace Johnson poses for a photo after *The Greenville News'* Inaugural Top 30 Emerging Leaders ceremony.

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LOCAL
Will traffic circles
turn columnist
Liz Farrell
around? 3A



SPORTS
NFL owners: Be
a bad sport twice
in one game, get
tossed. 5B



THURSDAY MARCH 24 2016

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-72°/63° See 2A

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Panel: Expand circle to 2 lanes

Traffic circle last featured two lanes in 2001

Reconfiguration would manage traffic in 2020, come close in 2030, they say

BY REBECCA LURVE
rlurve@islandpacket.com

A town committee decided Wednesday that the best way to alleviate traffic congestion in the Sea Pines Circle in the Sea Pines Resort and the Coligny area, Shoemaker and committee members decided.

That option may sound familiar to long-time islanders and visitors, and it's one that caused more headaches than relief, town engineer Darrin Shoemaker said at a meeting of the town's Circle to Circle committee Wednesday. Still, the old two-lane format that caused years of complaints and collisions is now the town's best chance at managing traffic in the corridor between Sea Pines Resort and the Coligny area, Shoemaker and committee members decided.

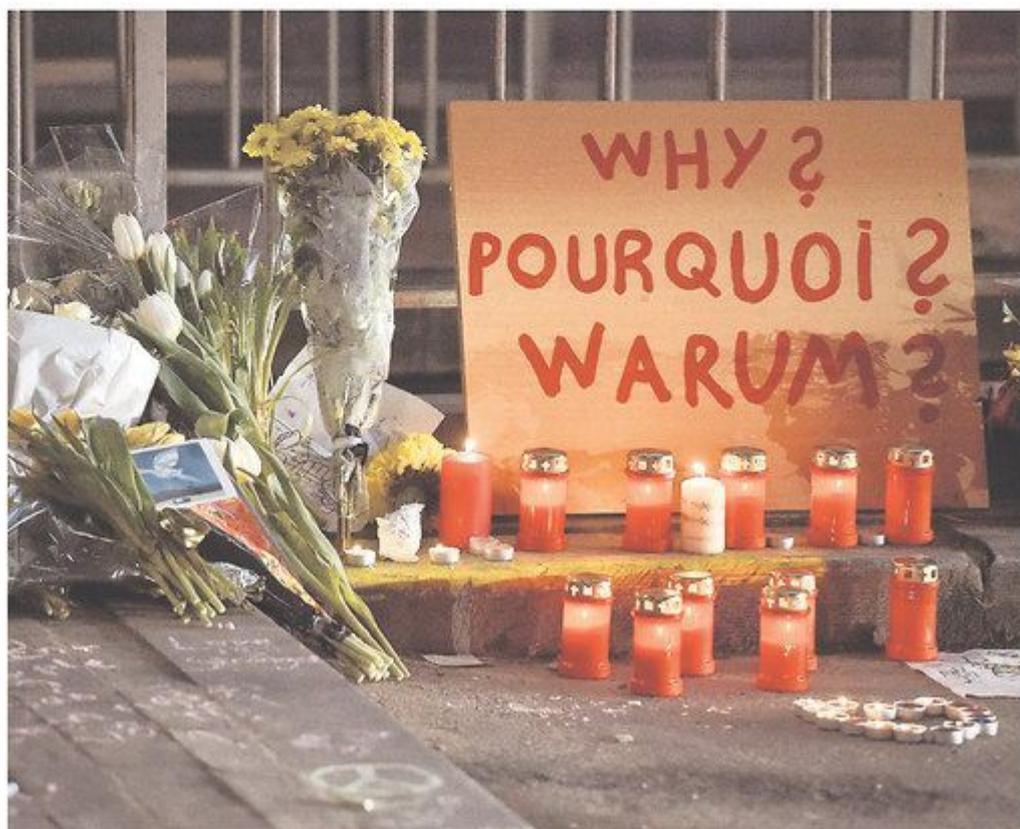
The year-old committee came to that conclusion Wednesday after nixing three other concepts: a fly-over or fly-under, either of which would cost least \$20 million to \$30 million, and a signalized intersection that would cost at least \$3 million to \$6 million.

All three options would dramatically change the look and feel of the south end. It would be maintained by reworking the existing roundabout, said Glenn Walters, a consultant with architectural firm Design Workshop, which is working with the committee.

"The darn thing works, and compared to a fly-over or a fly-under, it's reasonable from a cost standpoint," Walters said, referring to the concept's price tag of at least \$4 million to \$5 million.

The committee will make a formal recommendation to Town Council as soon as this summer, along with any recommendations on new roads, walking paths, bike trails and beach access in the area from northern Palmetto Bay Road to Coligny Beach.

However, the roundabout is the committee's highest pri-



A sign reads "Why?" in English, French and Flemish behind candles and flowers near the Maelbeek metro station in Brussels on Wednesday.

BELGIUM TERROR ATTACKS

Brussels blasts tied to Paris bombmaker

Country remains on high alert as officials search for one suspect

One of the bombers had been deported from Turkey last July

Thousands of people gather in show of solidarity

BY RAF CASERT AND LORNE COOK
Associated Press

BRUSSELS

The suspected bombmaker in the Paris attacks in November was one of two suicide bombers who targeted the Brussels airport, officials said Wednesday, in a new sign that both attacks are linked to the same cell of the Islamic State group.

The revelation that Najim Laachraoui was among the bombers came as Belgians began three days of mourning for the victims of the Brussels airport

surveillance video with Laachraoui and one other suicide bomber.

Turkish authorities, meanwhile, said they had caught one of the suicide bombers near the Turkish-Syrian border in July and sent him back to the Netherlands, warning both that country and Belgium that he was a "foreign terrorist fighter." But a Turkish official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly said the bomber was allowed to go free because Belgian authorities could not establish a prior to extradition.

tacks suspect Salah Abdeslam, who was arrested on Friday.

Two officials told The Associated Press that Laachraoui's DNA was verified as that of one of the suicide bombers Tuesday, after samples were taken from remains found at the blast site at Brussels airport. One European official and one French police official spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to divulge details of the Belgian investigation. Both officials were briefed on the investigation.

Laachraoui is believed to have made the suicide vests used in the Paris attacks, a French police official told The Associated Press, adding that Laachraoui's DNA was found on all of the vests as well as in a Brussels apartment where they were made. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because

the loose, and the country's threat alert remained at its highest level, meaning there was danger of an imminent attack, said Paul Van Tigghe, head of Belgium's terrorism threat body. The attacks killed 31 people, not including three suicide bombers, and injured 270 others, authorities said.

As government offices, schools and residents held a moment of silence to honor the dead, the mood was defiance mixed with anxiety that others involved in the attacks are still at large.

Belgian Federal Prosecutor Frederic Van Leeuw identified two of the Brussels attackers as brothers — Ibrahim El Bakraoui, a suicide bomber at the airport, and Khalid El Bakraoui, who targeted the subway.

Investigators raided the Brussels neighborhood of Schaerbeek after the attacks and found a computer in a trash can on the street including a note from Ibrahim El Bakraoui saying he felt increasingly unsafe and feared landing in prison. He was the brother who Turkish officials said was deported from Turkey to the Netherlands. Belgium's justice minister said authorities

SEE BRUSSELS 7A



LYLES SEEKS BIGGER ROLE FOR TERRIERS

SPORTS, B1



ICONIC CHARACTERS FACE OFF

ESCAPE, D1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Thursday, March 24, 2016



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Complete forecast, B8

UPSTATE



Safety on the rails

Ten people were struck and killed by trains within the past five years in Spartanburg County, which has the highest train fatalities in South Carolina, according to federal statistics. Efforts are underway to change that. C1

Teacher faces sex charge

A Byrnes High School Spanish teacher has been charged after police say she engaged in sexual activities with a 16-year-old male student. C3



Divided court

In a new challenge to President Barack Obama's health care law, the Supreme Court appeared deeply and evenly divided Wednesday over the arrangement devised by the administration to spare faith-based groups from having to pay for birth control for women covered under their health plans. A3

Clinton seeks to undercut Trump

Hillary Clinton is doing what

BELGIUM ATTACKS

Officials: Bombers may have rushed

Militants may have feared that authorities were closing in

By Raf Casert and Angela Charlton
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS — As police hunted for the surviving Brussels bomber, evidence mounted Wednesday that the same Islamic State cell carried out the attacks in both Paris and Brussels, and that the militants

may have launched this week's slaughter in haste because they feared authorities were closing in on them.

On a day of mourning across Belgium following Tuesday's bombings of the Brussels airport and subway that killed 31 people and wounded more than 270, new information emerged about the four attackers:

■ European security officials said one of the suicide bombers was Najim Laachraoui, a



Belgium police leave after investigating in a house Wednesday in the Anderlecht neighborhood of Brussels, Belgium. PETER DEJONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEE BOMBERS, A4

CONNECT SOUTH CAROLINA

High-speed Internet access expanding in rural areas



Mabry Middle School student Dennis Joseph Onufriyuk, 14, uses a Chromebook in class. Mabry recently distributed Chromebooks for students to use at school and at home. A program is underway that will bring high-speed Internet to areas of Spartanburg School District 1 where access is lacking at home. ALEX HICKS JR./ALEX.HICKS@SHJ.COM

Program helps provide service in places where it's lacking

By Chris Lavender
chris.lavender@shj.com

Plans are underway to bring

will be certified as a Connected Community through a program of Connect South Carolina and Connected

nonprofit Connect South Carolina to study the county's access, adoption and use of broadband service.

STATE LEGISLATURE

SC Senate approves refugee registry

By Andrew Shain
The (Columbia) State

The S.C. Senate approved a state registry of refugees Wednesday, one day after terrorists bombed a Brussels airport and subway station, killing more than 30 people and injuring another 250.

The Senate voted 39-6 to start the registry, which could be the first of its kind in the nation. The proposal, first raised after terrorist attacks in France and California last year, still needs approval from the GOP-controlled S.C. House before going to Republican Gov. Nikki Haley for her signature.

Haley has expressed concerns about the vetting of refugees to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and FBI Director James Comey. Registry backers said they are concerned terrorists could enter the state under the guise of being refugees.

Several dozen refugees entered South Carolina last year, and an estimated 200 will arrive in the state this year.

A provision in the bill

ALL-AREA WRESTLING

West-Oak's Gavin James leads

All-Mountain

Lakes team. C1



QUARTER CENTURY: Westminster Easter egg hunt celebrates 25 years. B1

TERROR CONNECTIONS: Paris bombmaker among dead in Brussels attack. D1

Murder trial now in jury's hands

Deliberations to resume today

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

PICKENS COUNTY — After receiving final instructions from judge Alex Macaulay, a six-man, six-woman jury left the Pickens County courtroom at 3:42 p.m. Wednesday to begin deliberations in the jury room to decide the fate of Clemson resident Deby Lee Mark Burnside.

Nearly two hours later, jurors were dismissed after being unable to reach a verdict on whether to find Burnside guilty of murder in the 2014 shooting death of 32-year-old James Cherry. Jurors returned to the courtroom on two separate occasions during deliberations to ask questions of Macaulay — one involving guidelines for a self-defense verdict and the other involving three elements of self-defense.

After responding to questions posed by the jurors within what he was allowed under the law, the judge granted their request to come back today at 10 a.m. The jury will resume deliberations shortly thereafter.

Burnside is charged with shooting Cherry, also known as "Old School," multiple times outside his Summey Street home on Aug. 6, 2014. During closing arguments Wednesday, attorneys for both sides painted vastly different pictures of Burnside for jurors to consider.

Defense attorney Ernest Hamilton said his client was repeatedly bullied by Cherry over the years, even put into a choke hold, and repeated those accusations to Clemson police when interviewed following his arrest. Hamilton said Cherry had been inside Burnside's house on that fateful day with several others and, after an altercation occurred, his client told him to leave his home.

Hamilton said Cherry, who wanted payment for grass cutting he had performed for

Oconee's budget: What's in and what's out?

Moulder makes \$3.1M in additional cuts

BY STEVEN BRADLEY
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Oconee County's administrator trimmed more than \$3.1 million in requests from department heads in order to work toward a balanced budget for fiscal year 2017.

Along with his latest budget update, Scott Moulder presented to county council's budget, finance

and administration committee Tuesday a list of notable additions and deletions from his FY 2017 budget in its current form.

Council voted 4-1 to move forward with a budget that would require a 2.1-mill tax increase, along with cutting other post-employment benefits (OPEB) to county employees and deferring \$1,292,000 in debt service to fund capital projects, to balance the budget.

The deletions total about \$3.1 million, while the notable additions are primarily low-dollar items, relatively, and total \$330,426.

Items that were requested from county department heads, but which Moulder removed in order to move toward a balanced budget included, most notably, more than \$2.5 million combined between a road department

equipment purchase and hangar construction at the county airport.

Moulder said the road department's request was a relatively simple exclusion.

"My instructions last year were: We're doing a big (capital purchase) lease, (so) anything you need replacing in the next year or two or three, put it in this year because we won't be replacing them," he said. "(The department head) asked for



Moulder

SEE BUDGET, PAGE A5

According to SC Realtors, home sales are up ... but so are

CONCERNS



According to a report from South Carolina Realtors released this week, fewer "for sale" signs on the horizon could lead to difficulty in finding a home for prospective buyers across the area and the state as a whole.

CHRISTY SHERIFF | THE JOURNAL

Dwindling inventory expected to be stumbling block for potential buyers

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

"Inventory is the primary need as we work our way into 2016," the Western Upsiate group reports. "The total

Seneca ordered to turn over 'privileged' Hammond records

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Attorneys representing the parents suing over the shooting death of their son at the hands of a Seneca police officer are circling Friday as a big day for preparing their case.

Come Friday, attorneys Eric Bland and Ronnie Richter get to see discovery material that the city of Seneca unsuccessfully attempted to keep confidential by invoking attorney-client privilege.

U.S. magistrate judge Kevin McDonald set the day as a deadline for Seneca officials to turn over their private communications with Complete Public Relations — a Greenville-based PR firm that handled all media inquiries concerning the police shooting of 19-year-old Zachary Hammond on July 26, 2015.

Earlier in the week, McDonald issued a ruling denying the defendants' motion to quash a Bland-Richter subpoena of the public relation firm's materials related to its work on behalf of Seneca city attorney Michael J. Smith.

Bland and Richter said they were "very pleased" with McDonald's decision. "(It's) consistent with the public's right to know and full sunlight on the case," Bland wrote in an email to The Journal.

In his seven-page ruling filed Tuesday, McDonald rejected Seneca's claim that attorney-client privilege should be extended to include its consultations with Complete Public Relations. Before ruling, McDonald personally



Morning News

THURSDAY MARCH 24, 2016



TODAY'S WEATHER

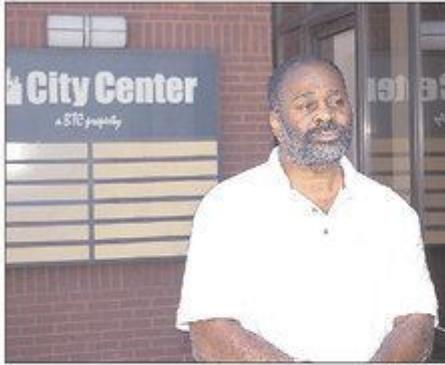
Mostly sunny, breezy and warm. High 79, low 61. DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Ed Robinson



Florence City Councilman Ed Robinson stands outside the City Center in Florence on Sept. 24, 2013, following a press conference to announce a speaker on Obamacare in Florence.

Florence councilman dies after heart procedure

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

INSIDE

Robinson's council seat to go up for special election in July. **3A**

FLORENCE — The city of Florence's longest-sitting council member, Ed Robinson, died unexpectedly Wednesday after undergoing heart surgery in Charleston, according to multiple city and county sources.

Florence County Coroner Keith

equality in Florence.

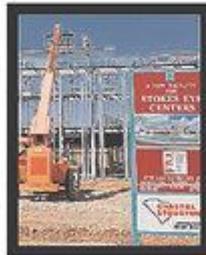
City and county officials declined to comment on Robinson out of respect for the family's wishes, but said his death came as a shock to everyone.

von Luteken confirmed Robinson's death, but details remain unknown.

Robinson, 69, served Florence's 2nd District for more than 25 years and is remembered as a passionate advocate for civil and racial

Robinson's pastor, the Rev. Anthony Hodge of Cumberland United Methodist Church in Florence, knew Robinson as a member of

See **ROBINSON**, Page 3A



MOVING FORWARD

PROGRESS 2016

64-PAGE SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE

Breazeale not filing for House 63 seat

He pledges funding to any 'viable replacement'

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Will Breazeale, a Florence pilot and U.S. Army reservist, announced Wednesday that he will not file for candidacy in the race for South Carolina House District 63. Instead, he said, he will join the fight against the Islamic State.



Breazeale

Breazeale said he's already volunteered with the U.S. Army's Resource Command to

the future of my family. After the events of (Tuesday), with ISIS attacking Belgium, we've got to stop them. I want to be a part of the force that takes care of that."

The terrorist group claimed responsibility for bombings in Brussels that killed at least 30 people and injured hundreds of others.

Breazeale had announced his candidacy on Nov. 10. He said Wednesday that if anyone is willing to replace him as Jay Jordan's challenger, he will give the challenger the remaining \$1,400 in his campaign account as a start.

"You can use \$208 of that and pay your filing fee and use the rest on signs or bumper stickers or however else you want to campaign," he said. "I strongly



Ken Johnson, former Cincinnati Bengals defensive end, spoke to third- and fourth-grade students at Lucy T. Davis on Wednesday morning.

Former NFL player encourages students to make good choices

BY MELISSA ROLLINS
Morning News

greatness inside themselves. "When I was growing up, He spoke to third- and you better know how to fight

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