

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 10/8/2014 11:24:30 AM
Subject: SC Front Pages – Wednesday, October 8, 2014

SC Front Pages – Wednesday, October 8, 2014



SPORTS, 1C FURMAN BACK ON TOP

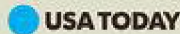


LIFESTYLE, 1D Italian food with a side of history

The Greenville News

A GANNETT COMPANY

WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 8, 2014
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM



SAFETY, SANITATION PROBLEMS PROMPT SCORES OF DRUG RECALLS PAGE 1B

FINAL EDITION

Officers saved man on I-85 span

Deputies explain how they rescued the would-be jumper

By Anna Lee

Staff writer
alee@greenvillenews.com

The man on the bridge lit one last cigarette before throwing the pack down next to his phone.

He was calm, his hands steady. Looking back, Chris Hammett said that was when he knew the man was going to jump.

Hammett, a homicide investigator with the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, was heading to an off-duty security job when the call came on the radio. Dispatch had been get-

ting calls about a person sitting on the Interstate 85 bridge above Laurens Road.

Hammett was the first one on the scene.

It was 5:45 p.m., a Thursday in September. The sun was setting; traffic roared and rattled.

"You couldn't see," Hammett recalled. "You couldn't hear. You couldn't hardly move without the fear of getting run over."

He saw the man there on the lip of a concrete wall, his legs dangling 16 feet from the ground.

Hammett tried to talk to him. What's your name? What can

we do to help?

The man didn't respond, just stared intently at the cars below, as if he were timing the fall.

"You could tell he was very set on what he was going to do," Hammett said.

All Hammett could think about was the man falling, how the man would die not from the impact but from getting hit by car after car.

He radioed for backup, requesting units to block off Laurens Road and secure the exit lane.

Deputy Gene Clark was on

See BRIDGE, Page 7A



MYKAL MCCLOWN/STAFF
Chris Hammett, master deputy with the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, left, and Gene Clark, a deputy with the office talk about saving the man.



MYKAL MCCLOWN/STAFF
Firefighter Casey Wickline stands inside Greenville Fire Department Station 3 on Augusta Road on Wednesday. Wickline is attempting to make the U.S. bobsled team for the 2018 Olympic Games. He returns to Lake Placid in mid-October.

Living a cool dream

Greenville firefighter is trying out for the US bobsled team in the Olympics

By Bob Castello

Staff writer
bcastello@greenvilleonline.com

Casey Wickline isn't boastful about these things. It's as if he needs to prove to himself that they're possible. Just drop them into his suggestion box and watch him go.

He can stand in three feet of water, jump and land standing on the side of the pool — no small feat for a man who's 6-foot-1 and 245 pounds.

"You don't tell him he can't do it,"

he's working out. He's going to jump over that van. As a matter of fact, they told him he couldn't jump onto that truck right there, and he went standing broad jump onto that truck. He's a beast.

"If they asked me, 'Guess who's trying out for the Olympics?'"

"Casey Wickline." Sure enough, Wickline, 28, is a Greenville firefighter with an Olympic dream — as a bobsledder. He's been to a combine and through one round of tryouts, and he's headed to

YOU CAN HELP

To contribute to Casey Wickline's Olympic dream, go to gofundme.com and search for his name.

"The ultimate goal is I want to be on Sled 1, the best sled in the world, and win a gold medal for the USA," Wickline said. "That's what I keep telling myself, so now I've just got to go out there, train hard, work hard and make it happen."

SAT scores improve, still lag

By Nathaniel Cary

Staff writer
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Students in Greenville County and across South Carolina performed better on measures of college readiness last school year, though the state still fell well below the national average on the number of students who are prepared for college.

Scores increased for the fourth straight year for Greenville County seniors who took the Scholastic Assessment Test used for college admissions last school year.

Greenville County — with a composite score of 1467 — still lagged behind the national average by four points but outpaced South Carolina's average of 1429.

Pickens and Anderson I each beat the national average, and Anderson I's score of 1515 was the second highest in the state due to Wren High School's average of 1573, the school's highest average in the past seven years. Pickens scored 1489, a six-point jump from last year.

Six Greenville County schools beat the national average: Eastside (1500), J.L. Mann (1531), Mauldin (1491), Riverside (1587), Southside (1492), and Wade Hampton (1515).

Daniel High School in Pickens County scored the highest of any non-charter, non-magnet public school in the state with an average of 1597, said John Eby, Pickens School District spokesman.

The national average fell from 1474 to 1471. The SAT includes a possible 2400 points broken into sections that test critical reading, math and writing.

The College Board — the SAT's ad-

Making food, furnishings from alligators
FOOD, D1



Free clinics for injured high school athletes
SPORTS, C1

The Post and Courier

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WEDNESDAY, October 8, 2014

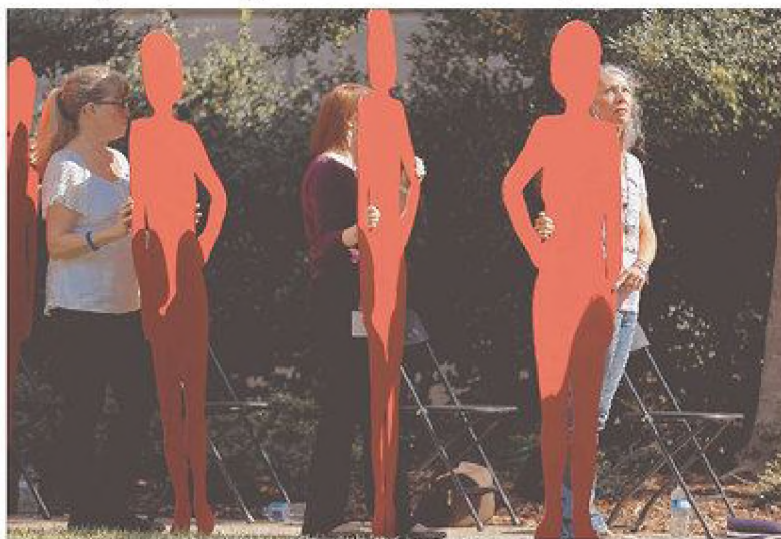
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Till death do us part

Honoring victims and taking a stand

House panel working to stem domestic violence joins remembrance



Kim Lucia (far right) of Charleston carries a silhouette representing her daughter, Tasha Lucia, who was killed in a domestic violence incident. Forty-six people killed in South Carolina in 2013 were represented Tuesday at the Silent Witness ceremony at the Statehouse.

BY DOUG PARDUE
dpardue@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — Billy DuBose blew into his bagpipe as he prepared to play "Amazing Grace" in honor of those killed in domestic violence in South Carolina last year.

Just before he walked in front of 46 people holding up human silhouettes in memory of the 46 who died, he thought about how many times he's played for the ceremony and whispered: "Too many."

DuBose's music came just minutes after Attorney General Alan Wilson said the state must find a way to eliminate the need for such memorials in the future. He then softly read the names of the dead and how they died.

Please see VICTIMS, Page A4



Ellen Hamilton, executive director of the Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, bows her head during a moment of silence Tuesday.

Inside

Johns Island man gets 30 years for abusing family. A4

Women comprised majority of 46 killed in domestic homicides. A4

Online
Read The Post and Courier's special investigative report at postandcourier.com/TillDeath. For more resources and to share your stories, go to facebook.com/SCtillDeath.

Multimedia

For more photos and a video from the ceremony, go to postandcourier.com/multimedia.

The Pig's parent goes to market

Greenbax seeks approval to sell grocery business

BY ABIGAIL DARLINGTON
adarlington@postandcourier.com

The Charleston-based company that operated a chain of Piggly Wiggly stores for 67 years plans to exit the supermarket industry and, ultimately, its other businesses.

Greenbax Enterprises Inc., the privately owned parent of Piggly Wiggly Carolina Co., is seeking approval from shareholders to approve the sale of its retail and wholesale grocery businesses by the end of the year and to dissolve the company entirely within the next three years.

Details of the proposal are spelled out in a summary of the deal obtained by The Post and Courier.

Greenbax has an employee stock ownership plan, so current or former workers who participated in the program own stock in the company. As of March 2014, 82 percent of the

Please see PIGGLY, Page A6

Sullivan's Island mayor dies

Perkis remembered as 'quiet, resolute warrior'

BY DAVE MUNDAY
dmunday@postandcourier.com

Sullivan's Island Mayor Mike Perkins died Tuesday at age 70.

He was elected mayor in May 2013 after serving two terms on Town Council. A Marine Corps veteran and second-degree black belt in martial arts, he died after a year-long fight with pancreatic cancer.

Perkis was a major advocate of the new Sullivan's Island Elementary School that opened in August. Students had been attending the old Whitesides Elementary in Mount Pleasant since the island's former



Perkis

Please see MAYOR, Page A7

Army Corps plan would mean smooth sailing for Charleston port

\$509M harbor project to create the deepest channels on East Coast

BY JOHN P. MCDERMOTT
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Charleston Harbor would have the deepest shipping lanes on the East Coast if a new federal recommendation is approved, potentially giving the port a big

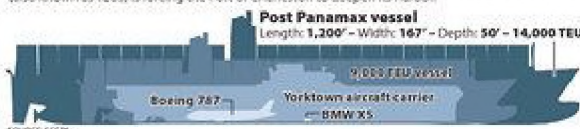
advantage as ocean carriers deploy more super-sized vessels.

The Army Corps of Engineers states in a 345-page study released Tuesday that the main navigation channels should be deepened to 52 feet from 45 feet to accommodate the larger cargo ships. The estimated cost is \$599 million, well above the latest previous estimate of around \$350 million that was based on dredging to 50 feet.

Please see HARBOR, Page A6

Coming to a harbor near you

The expected arrival of huge ships that can carry up to the equivalent of 14,000 20-foot containers (also known as TEUs) is forcing the Port of Charleston to deepen its harbor.



Mostly sunny
High 89, Low 65.
Complete 5-day
forecast, B12

Bridge B11
Business B2
Classified E1
Comics B10, B11
Crosswords B10, B11
Editorials A16
Entertainment B8
Movies B9
Obituaries B4
Sports E1
Television B8
The South B1

Charleston Deals
Today

Stuart Laurence Salon: \$29 for a haircut, shampoo & blow-dry; \$34 for a haircut, partial highlights & blow-dry; \$58 for a haircut, single-process color & blow-dry. See A2

USC's Ward goes back to square one after Kentucky debacle. **C1**

A'JA'S USC DEBUT

Add top national prospect A'ja Wilson to last year's powerful lineup and you have a team most experts see as a national title contender. **C1**

PHOTOGRAPH BY GERRY MELENDEZ
GMELENDEZ@THESTATE.COM

The State

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2014 | THESTATE.COM

HAWES MURDER TRIAL

Details of Wilson's slaying emerge

Testimony focuses on gruesome nature of USC professor's death

By DAWN HINSHAW
dhinshaw@thestate.com

Testimony began and ended Tuesday with the bloody scene in a Shandon duplex where USC professor Jennifer Wilson was killed three years ago.

At 5 p.m., defense attorneys for Hank Hawes, the man accused of murder in Wilson's death, were reviewing 127 8-by-10 color photos of the crime scene,

some showing Wilson's unclothed body on her living room couch. Judge J.C. Nicholson Jr. must decide which photos he will allow the jury to see when they return Wednesday for the third day of the trial.

Already, the jury has



Wilson

heard gruesome descriptions of the duplex from police and from veteran paramedic Robert Howe, who said he'd never seen anything like it. Blood splattered on the walls and ceilings and pooled on the floor, from what prosecutor Dolly Justice Garfield said were 12 stab wounds and 10 slashes to Wilson's body.

Yet her wounds were clean, Howe said; it ap-

peared her hair had been washed. And she was covered in a white comforter.

"You may think to yourselves, 'This could be a drama on television,'" Garfield told the jury in her opening remarks. Yet it is "a heinous crime that happened in your own community."

Hawes' defense team is not denying that he killed Wilson. But they maintain



Hank Hawes reacts to hearing a recording played in court of a 911 call placed in the slaying.

SEE HAWES PAGE A7

S.C., others balk at gay marriage ruling

The Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. — Conservative officials in some of the six states where Supreme Court action this week likely cleared the way for same-sex weddings

INSIDE Federal judge wants briefs in S.C. gay marriage case. **Page A5**

say they won't issue marriage licenses to gay couples until their hands are forced. Now, gay rights advocates are preparing to do just that.

SEE STATES PAGE A5

dealsaver™



Peter Walters of South Africa cleans off the roof of the scooter bumper cars Tuesday in preparation for the fair's opening day.

BE THERE

State Fair opens at noon

BANKRUPTCY

Kahn debt deal OK'd

Developer to pay cents on dollar for \$100 million owed

By RODDIE BURRIS
rburris@thestate.com

Columbia developer Alan Kahn has reached a settlement agreement with up to 50 creditors to whom he owed more than \$100 million when he filed for bankruptcy last year.

Under the Chapter 11 agreement, Kahn, who is widely



Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

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K-9 left in hot car died Deputy responsible resigns after demotion



Taylor

BY TEDDY KULMALA
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

The Aiken County Sheriff's Office confirmed Tuesday that a deputy was disciplined last year after the death of a police K-9 that had been left in a hot car. The dog, an explosives-detecting canine named Cooper, died June 7, 2013, according to Capt. Eric Abdullah, a spokesman for the Sheriff's Office. The weather that morning was cool

and rainy when the dog's handler, Special Operations Deputy James Taylor, brought Cooper to work with him.

"The K-9 was inside the patrol car in his kennel," Abdullah said. "The handler generally kept him in there during the day, giving him several breaks throughout the day when they're not working or training."

Abdullah said Taylor gave Cooper several breaks that day, but the weather became hot and humid that afternoon. When Taylor

returned to the vehicle, he found Cooper "unresponsive." The dog was taken to a veterinarian, where he was pronounced dead.

Taylor was demoted to deputy and placed on probation for six months, according to Abdullah. An officer cannot have disciplinary issues during that period, and can face further disciplinary action or termination if he does.

Abdullah said Taylor did not have disciplinary issues during that period, and

submitted his resignation at the end of the probation in January 2014. The Sheriff's Office did not notify press agencies of the dog's death or the disciplinary action against Taylor.

"We considered it to be a personnel issue at the time," Abdullah said. "The agency took the appropriate measure to implement the disciplinary action."

Please see K9, Page 16A

Aikensinger Beth Spangler's blind audition on "The Voice" aired Monday on NBC. All four judges turned around, and she completed Adam Levine's team.

Aiken singer stuns judges on 'The Voice'

BY STEPHANIE TURNER
sturner@aikenstandard.com

On Monday, Aiken singer Beth Spangler did something most can not say — she got all four judges of NBC's singing-competition show "The Voice" to fight for her.

The show debuted Sept. 22 with multiple rounds of blind auditions, where award-winning artists Gwen Stefani, Pharrell Williams, Blake Shelton and Adam Levine sit with their backs turned and listen to each contestant to decide which ones they want on their teams.

Spangler, 30, grew up around music and sang Beyoncé's "Best Thing I Never Had" for her blind audition.

"I want to do what means the most to me, and, if I fall and someone has to pick me up this time, then so be it," she said before her audition. "To get a chair turn will give me a chance to work with the best in the business."

All four judges turned around. At the beginning of the process, Spangler said she thought she would go with Williams.

She ended up choosing Levine, completing his team.

"I know he will help me find the perfect place in the industry," she said.

Though only around 10 minutes of the audition aired, Spangler said she was on stage for 50 minutes.

During that time, all four judges tried to convince her to join them. "You were so effortlessly melding so many different influences," Williams said. "I never heard anything like it before."

Levine and Shelton were the first two to turn around.

"You have all the important things," Levine said. "We can make you the absolute best version of yourself, and I want to dig in. That's why I love ya and want you on my team so badly."

Spangler, Aiken resident and contestant on "The Voice"

Please see VOICE, Page 5A



SUBMITTED PHOTO BY PAUL DRINKWATER/NBC

I want to do what means the most to me, and, if I fall and someone has to pick me up this time, then so be it. To get a chair turn will give me a chance to work with the best in the business.



Don Wells reaches an agreement with court receiver

BY TEDDY KULMALA
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

State Rep. Don Wells has reached an agreement with the court-appointed receiver of Compass Academy for how he will repay the \$50,000 loan he took from Compass co-founder Jay Brooks.



Wells

Sherri Lydon, the court-appointed receiver of Brooks' assets, said her team has been in touch with Wells, R-Aiken, since learning of his desire to repay the loan. The arrangement requires Wells to make payments to the S.C. Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services' office in Aiken, with the funds going toward the restitution Brooks must pay to his victims.

Brooks pleaded guilty last month to three counts of securities fraud and two counts of forgery. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison, in addition to probation and restitution.

A spokesman for the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services said the agency's victim restitution and disbursement department has started a file for Brooks' restitution that has 53 victims listed. He said the department doesn't have documentation regarding Wells' payment arrangement, but noted the arrangement only came about a short time ago.

Lydon said Wells is unable to make a lump-sum payment but will pay back the loan in installments.

Wells told the Aiken Standard last week that he borrowed \$50,000 from Brooks in October 2012. He said he made two or three payments on the loan before March 2013, when the Securities Division of the Attorney General's office filed a complaint against Brooks and placed a temporary restraining order freezing Brooks' assets.

Please see WELLS, Page 16A

AREA DEATHS

Anita Woodward Brunson, Aiken
Deborah Brown, Aiken
James P. "J.P." Herlin Jr., Newberry
The Rev. Luke Mitchell Sr., Aiken
William Harold Prothman, Aiken
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

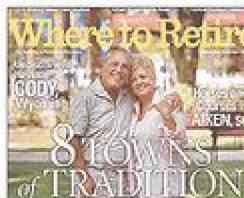
INSIDE TODAY



Big wins boost Jaxets



Betsy's on the Corner



Magazine names Aiken



ATC president outlines

WEATHER



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DISTRACTED DRIVING
2 studies show that voice-activated smartphones, dashboard
infotainment systems may be making problem worse **5A**

The Beaufort Gazette

WEDNESDAY, October 8, 2014

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Established in 1897 75 cents

Solicitor testifies on domestic violence in SC

Duffie Stone calls for tougher penalties, better outreach

By REBECCA LURYE
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843-706-8155

While nearly eight years have passed since the mother of his children was killed by her new husband, Ken Dosch worries not enough has changed to prevent similar deaths.

Ellen McCormick tried to leave her husband, Charles, but she did not call police when he broke into her home

ON THE WEB

For an interactive graphic on changes in domestic violence by county, click on this story at <http://bit.ly/1y356YQ>.

— leaving urine and rocks in her washing machine and stealing her dog and engagement ring — Dosch, of Danbury, Conn., recalled last week. Resources need to come to the vic-

tims when their minds are clouded by love, or desperation, he said.

"I wonder if there's not enough information out there for women to give them the courage to speak up," Dosch said. "A woman can get a restraining order but by the time the police get there, the damage is done. There has to be something more."

Please see VIOLENCE on 13A

REPORTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

In South Carolina, 38 women — and eight men — were killed by current or former partners last year, an S.C. Attorney General's report said.

In Beaufort County, there were about 104 victims per 10,000 residents in 2012, a 38 percent decrease from 2004, according to two reports compiled by the S.C. Department of Public Safety.

Jasper County saw the greatest drop in victimization — 70 percent.



IN PORT ROYAL

Docks lose more than \$280,000 in 4 years

By ERIN MOODY
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843-706-8184

Port Royal taxpayers have spent more than a quarter of a million dollars during the past four years to keep the town's shrimp docks open — and some now wonder whether the expense is worth town officials' oft-stated goal of preserving the community's cultural fishing heritage.

It's an eye-opening number, and one that calls for changes, according to Councilwoman Mary Beth Gray-Heyward, a longtime advocate of the docks.

Please see DOCKS on 13A

WHERE DID IT GO?

According to figures provided by town manager Van Willis, the Port Royal Shrimp Docks' expenses have exceeded revenues every year, ranging from \$26,600 in 2010-11 to \$179,300 in 2013-14.

During that four-year period, the docks lost \$281,500.



MORE ONLINE

For an interactive look at the Port Royal Shrimp Docks' revenue and expenses, click on this story at beaufortgazette.com.

AT BEAUFORT HIGH SCHOOL

TAKING A STAND

Principal calls on parents for help with drug abuse problems



Beaufort High School Principal Corey Murphy answers a question during a town hall-style meeting on Tuesday night at Beaufort High School. Murphy spoke to parents about the recent drug and alcohol problems at the school.

DELAYNA EARLEY • Staff photo

By SARAH BOWMAN • sbowman@beaufortgazette.com • 843-706-8138

Several weeks ago, a Beaufort High School student asked principal Corey Murphy if he wanted some "skittles."

Murphy didn't know at the time that "skittles" was the slang term for Cori-

cidin, an over-the-counter cough and cold medicine that is among the drugs and other substances his students were abusing.

Murphy has called EMS to the school four times this year to treat students

under the influence of drugs. Teachers have found students smoking, or "vaping," various drugs and oils using electronic hookahs.

Please see STAND on 13A

Airport body temperature checks considered in anti-Ebola effort

By TONY PUGH

steps and we will be making those "has no fever," the NIH said in a state-

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Boys Scouts repeat as Chili Cook-Off victors

BY CHRISTOPHER MCKAGEN
cmckagen@hartsvillemessenger.com

DARLINGTON — Crowds of Darlington-area residents took the opportunity Saturday morning to taste test some homemade chili recipes during the Showdown on the Darlington Square Chili Cook-Off.

Alongside the chili concoctions, artists, crafters and vendors displayed tables of various items around the Darlington County Courthouse for onlookers to browse.

The judging of the cook-off came under the scrutiny of S.C. Barbecue Association director Morrey Thomas, retired fire chief Jim Stone and S.C. Barbecue judge and radio personality Bill Pickle. The public also got to choose its favorite chili recipe, and Darlington Boy Scout Pack 647 won both the Judge's Award and People's Choice award.

The pack, which also won the event last year, took home \$400 in cash and both trophies.



Dawn Larsen (left) and Moose Sauls provide musical entertainment Saturday during the Showdown on the Darlington Square Chili Cook-Off.



PHOTOS BY CHRIS MCKAGEN FOR THE HARTSVILLE MESSENGER

Boy Scouts Pack 647 of Darlington won both the Judge's Award and the People's Choice Award on Saturday during the Showdown on the Darlington Square Chili Cook-Off.

Darlington County Council

Business Park to expand

New agreement could bring much-needed improvements to Hartsville's College Avenue

BY JIM FAIRLE
jfairle@hartsvillemessenger.com

DARLINGTON — College Avenue in downtown Hartsville could soon get a much-needed facelift.

Darlington County Council gave final approval Monday to an ordinance amending a multi-county business park agreement between the county and the city of Hartsville to generate additional revenue for infrastructure projects in the city — specifically, paving the portion of College Avenue between Fourth Street and Fifth Street.

Hartsville city officials sought to change the wording of an existing ordinance to allow for the city to pave that section of the road. Council passed the ordinance on a voice vote without opposition.

The original multi-county business park was adopted in June of 2000 to develop a jointly owned and operated industrial/business park in conjunction with Lee County.

Property taxes paid by businesses in the business park area are used, under the original multi-county business park agreement, to fund infrastructure projects such as paving and sidewalk improvements only within the designated park area.

Until Monday, the B-1 zoning district had been outside of the business park. The change to the ordinance will expand the boundaries of the designated area to include the B-1 district. The move is necessary to get

See COUNCIL, Page 3A

FALL IS BACK

Cobras help with pumpkin patch

BY ARDIE ARVIDSON
aarvidson@hartsvillemessenger.com

Monday afternoon, an 18-wheeler rolled down Fourth Street destined for Wesley United Methodist Church on the corner of College Avenue and Fourth. Loaded with nearly 2,000 pumpkins, the truck headed for the church's pumpkin patch.

About 60 Coker College student-athletes waited for the truck's arrival, ready to unload the delivery. The athletes lined up assembly-line style throughout the patch, passing and tossing pumpkins to each final resting place.

It became fun work that went quickly with so many helping hands, said Susan Harvey, who has chaired the event for the past nine years with her husband, Walt.

"We couldn't do this without the students," she said. "We unloaded approximately 980 large pumpkins and 1,000 mini pumpkins."

The pumpkins are grown and harvested in New Mexico by the Navajo Nation, Harvey said. Proceeds from pumpkin sales go to local missions — mostly the Hartsville Soup Kitchen and Hartsville Interfaith Ministries. The project not only helps local missions, but the Navajo as well.

This is the 11th overall year the church has held the pumpkin patch.

Off the truck came large and medium-sized pumpkins, baby pumpkins, gnarly and bumpy pumpkins, pumpkins called "spookies," and even winged gourds.

Wesley has pumpkins fit for Jack-o-Lanterns, Thanksgiving centerpieces, doorstep decorations and pumpkin pies. The pumpkins are suitable for carving.



PHOTOS BY ARDIE ARVIDSON FOR THE HARTSVILLE MESSENGER

Coker College students Toni Hammer, left, and Jay Fisher gather for a photo Monday with pumpkins from the Wesley Pumpkin Patch.



Susan Harvey, co-chair of the Wesley Pumpkin Patch, checks the numbers as Coker College students help unload nearly 2,000 pumpkins that arrived at Wesley on Monday.

MORE INSIDE

To see more photos from the Wesley United Methodist Church pumpkin patch on Page 3A

See PUMPKINS, Page 3A

IT'S THYME TO GET COOKING E1

Herald-Journal

WEDNESDAY

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HJ
IN A HURRY

5
Things
to read
today



Major boost

Chesnee's chances at locking down second place in Region I-2A got a major lift on Tuesday night. The Eagles used a furious rally in Game 2 to gain control and move on to a 3-0 home victory over Landrum. **PAGE B1**

Maximum sentence

A Spartanburg woman who left scars on her young children after beatings and let them live in a maggot-infested apartment, received the maximum sentence for child neglect. **PAGE C1**

Silent witness

Outside South Carolina's Statehouse on Tuesday, hundreds of people honored the 46 men and women killed by loved ones in South Carolina in 2013 during the annual Silent Witness observance. **PAGE C3**

Fatality on I-85

A North Carolina man was killed on Monday night after his motorcycle rear-ended a flatbed trailer pulled by a truck on I-85, the Cherokee County Coroner's Office said. **PAGE C4**

Lower heating bills

Heating bills should be lower this winter because the deep freeze that chilled much of the nation last year is unlikely to return. This year, milder temperatures should cut fuel use, according to the Energy Department's annual prediction of winter heating costs. **PAGE C6**

Americans living longer than ever

Report: Life expectancy up again, death rates down; jump in suicides surprising

By MIKE STOBBE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Americans are living longer than ever before, according to a new government report filled mostly with good news. U.S. life expectancy inched up again, and death rates fell.

Rates also fell or held steady for nearly all the leading causes of death. The one exception: The suicide rate reached its highest

point in 25 years. That figure has been increasing since 2000 and "it's really hard to say why," said Robert Anderson, who oversees the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control branch that issued the report Wednesday.

The yearly report looked at deaths in 2012. It found:

- ◆ U.S. life expectancy for a child born in 2012 was 78 years and 9 months, up about six weeks from

life expectancy in 2010 and 2011. That's a record.

- ◆ For someone 65, the CDC estimates that men have about 18 years of life left and women about 20½ years. The gaps between men and women grew slightly, compared to 2011.

- ◆ There were 2.5 million deaths in 2012, or about 28,000 more than the year before. The increase was expected, reflecting the nation's growing and aging population, Anderson said.

- ◆ The infant mortality rate dropped again slightly, to a new

low of 5.98 per 1,000 births. That's a historic low, but the U.S. infant mortality rate continues to be higher than in most European countries.

- ◆ Death rates for blacks and whites dropped but held steady for Hispanics. However, Hispanic death rates remain lower than the black and white numbers.

- ◆ The 10 leading causes of death remained the same, with heart disease and cancer topping the list. Suicide is the 10th.

◆ SEE LIVING PAGE A9

Celebrating anniversary of freedom



Pieces of the Berlin Wall are displayed in front of Menzel in Spartanburg on Tuesday evening. The business hosted a reception to honor the fall of the Berlin Wall. The 25th anniversary of the fall will be Nov. 9.

Local company's Berlin wall pieces a reminder of history

By JENNY ARNOLD
jennifer.arnold@snj.com

The two large pieces of the Berlin Wall in front of Spartanburg manufacturing company Menzel stand as reminders of both oppression and freedom, the company's owner says.

Hans Menzel said he's seen school buses of children stop out front or residents walk up to view or touch the concrete slabs, more than 12 feet tall and marked with green and blue graffiti. With the assistance of a partner company in Germany, Menzel had the pieces sent to his Spartanburg plant in 1991, in a shipment of machinery. The plant is located off Business 85.

The slabs were set up on the front lawn of Menzel, which has the distinction of being the oldest foreign manufacturing company in South Carolina. Menzel added two flag poles, for the German and United States flags that flutter above, and two plaques containing quotes by John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan.

"People should not forget how bad communism was for the people who had to live under that regime," Menzel said. "East Germans could not get a passport. They could not leave."

The monument at Menzel is also a thank-you to America.

"In the 1960s, John F. Kennedy helped Berlin survive by flying food to West Germany," Menzel said. "Kennedy and Reagan had more to do with bringing the wall down than any other politicians."



Hans Menzel, left, owner of Menzel, speaks during the reception at the business in Spartanburg.



This portion of the Berlin Wall features a plaque with President Ronald Reagan's famous quote.



Area teams race
at Connie Maxwell

Sports, 1B

Celebrating
Oktoberfest
at church

Taste, 7A



INDEX-JOURNAL

Vol. 96, No. 132

www.indexjournal.com

2 SECTIONS, 22 PAGES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2014

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

Some proposed H-taxes climb

By FRANK BUMB
fbumb@indexjournal.com

A proposed 1 percent tax on prepared beverages and food in the unincorporated areas of Greenwood County rose Tuesday evening. After a public hearing and brief discussion, Greenwood County Council moved forward with a 2 percent increase.

At the Greenwood County Council reg-

Unincorporated areas in county face
2% fee on prepared food and drink

ular meeting, council voted 6-0 to approve an amendment increasing the 1 percent hospitality tax to 2 percent in an effort to more fully match the city of Greenwood's

hospitality tax. Council then voted 6-0 on second reading of the amended ordinance. Councilman Robbie Templeton was absent from the meeting.

"I think we should have it the same across the board," Councilman Gonzá Bryant said. "It should be in line with the city's (hospitality tax)."

Originally proposed in early September, the hospitality tax was written for a 1 percent increase on all prepared food and beverages in the unincorporated areas of



TOBY
CHAPPELL

See TAXES, page 4A

FOR THE GOOD OF ALL



Kim Clark, president of the Greenwood Association of Realtors, right, leads a prayer at the start of the trail dedication Tuesday at the Grace Street Dog Park.

Realtors dedicate walking trail at Grace Street Park

By COLIN RIDDLE
criddle@indexjournal.com



In the heels of the Grace Street Dog Park's dedication comes the next addition to Greenwood's newest park—a 1/3-mile walking trail.

In a ceremony Tuesday afternoon, members of the Greenwood Association of Realtors were joined by community leaders and officials from the South Carolina Association

of Realtors to dedicate the new walking trail around the pond.

"We dedicate this walking trail to the good of all those who walk it, and will walk it," Kim Clark, president of the Greenwood Association of Realtors, said at the ceremony.

The donation from the Greenwood Association of Realtors totaled \$50,000—\$25,000 for construction and \$25,000 maintenance. This is the second-largest donation given to the park, behind Fujifilm's \$100,000 for the new pavilion, according to Billy Nicholson,

president of the Greenwood Parks and Trails Foundation.

The National Association of Realtors chipped in \$2,500 in the form of a place-making grant that encourages more viable and social communities.

The maintenance funds will be distributed over 10 years at \$2,500 per year to help with upkeep of the trail and the area around it, along with continued hands-on

See DEDICATE, page 4A

■ JOHN DE LA HOWE

Board OKs second HR director candidate

By KATE HRUBY
khruby@indexjournal.com

MCCORMICK — John de la Howe School could soon have a new director of human resources.

Following a closed-door meeting — also known as an executive session — JDLH's board of trustees voted to extend an offer to a candidate recommended by agency administration during a special called board meeting Tuesday.

School president Danny Webb said the candidate was interviewed Thurs-

day by an executive council consisting of the agency's Director of Advancement Dan Branyon, L.S. Brice School principal Jon Rose, Chief Financial Officer Viola Faust, new Director of Student and Family Services Adrian Cartledge and Webb. The board would not release the name of the candidate.

The candidate, if he accepts the offer, will succeed former HR director Faye Gowans with a salary of \$58,000 per year and on-campus housing.

Since Gowans' departure in mid-July, a lower-level human resource specialist was fulfilling HR duties. However, because of an illness in the family, that individual has been on Family Medical Leave Act medical leave for the past two weeks, leaving the department temporarily empty.

With a lack of HR personnel, Webb said the agency was working closely with a consultant at the state Human Resources Division, a department of the state Budget and Control Board.

However, a JDLH employee who wishes to remain unnamed expressed concerns regarding 13 open positions — all of which are on the S.C. jobs portal — that have yet to be filled because of the HR vacancy, several of which have been open since March.

Scott Hawkins, a Budget and Con-

Did you
know?

■ The new human resources director at John de la Howe School would make \$58,000 a year and live in on-campus housing.

THE ISLAND PACKET

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2014

islandpacket.com

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Keep those overcoats in the closet for now. **4B**

Dispute between Ravenel, blogger said to be settled 3A



Half off home dryer vent hose cleaning
dealsaver.com/HiltonHead

IN PALMETTO DUNES

Autopsy: Hilton Head woman suffocated

Rebecca Sue Melton was dead 10 days before her body was found on Sept. 4

By **REBECCA LURYE**
rlurye@islandpacket.com
843-706-8155

An autopsy has revealed a 55-year-old Hilton Head Island woman was suffocated 10 days before she was found dead in her Palmetto Dunes condominium Sept. 4, according to the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office.

A toxicology screening for Rebecca Sue Melton was also com-

pleted at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, but Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Sgt. Robin McIntosh declined to provide more information Tuesday. Beaufort County Coroner Ed Allen also said he would not elaborate on the nature of Melton's death.

Melton's boyfriend, Nick Russell

Please see **MELTON** on 13A



Stone
Fourteenth Circuit solicitor says state's laws aimed at domestic violence still need to be tougher

Solicitor testifies on domestic violence

By **REBECCA LURYE**
rlurye@islandpacket.com
843-706-8155

While nearly eight years have passed since the mother of his children was killed by her new husband, Ken Dosch worries not enough has changed to prevent similar deaths.

Ellen McCormick tried to leave her husband, Charles, but she did not call police when he broke into her home — leaving urine and rocks in her washing machine and stealing her dog and engagement ring — Dosch, of Danbury, Conn.,

MORE ONLINE
See an interactive graphic on domestic violence trends with this story at <http://bit.ly/ty356YQ>.



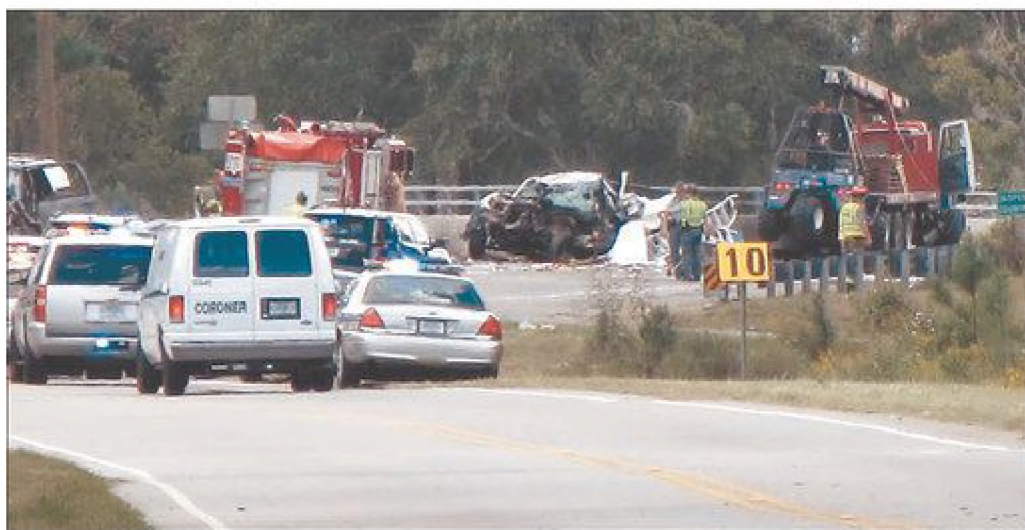
recalled last week. Resources need to come to the victims when their minds are clouded by love, or desperation, he said.

"I wonder if there's not enough information

Please see **SOLICITOR** on 13A

ON S.C. 170 NEAR BEAUFORT, JASPER COUNTY LINE

WRECK KILLS MAN, CLOSES BRIDGE



DREW MARTIN • Staff photo

A three-vehicle crash on the New River Bridge on the Beaufort-Jasper County line on Tuesday claimed the life of a Savannah man.

Savannah man thrown from vehicle; 3 others injured

By **REBECCA LURYE** • rlurye@islandpacket.com • 843-706-8155

A Savannah man was killed and three others injured Tuesday in a three-vehicle wreck at the New River Bridge in Jasper County.

The collision occurred shortly before 11:30 a.m. on S.C. 46 at S.C. 170, near the Beaufort County line, according to Jasper County Coroner Martin Sauls and fire officials.

Henry S. Prescott IV, 25, of Savannah was thrown from one of the vehicles and died instantly, Sauls said.



FIGHTING EBOLA

US looks for new ways to screen

Passengers flying from Africa to the U.S. may have their body temperatures checked, but no blanket travel ban is planned.

By **TONY PUGH**
McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Airline passengers from Africa could soon have to submit to body temperature checks upon arrival in the U.S. as the Obama administration looks to toughen traveler screening requirements in response to the growing Ebola threat.

"That's the thing that's on the table right now," Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health told CNN on Tuesday.

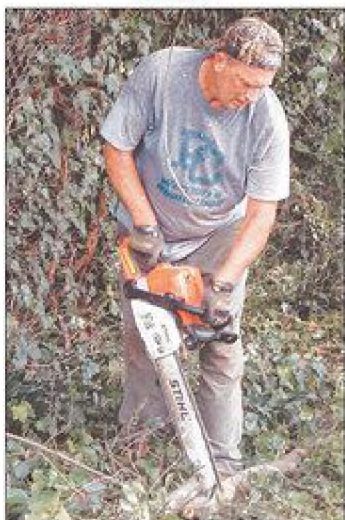
While Tom Frieden, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, wouldn't confirm the proposal Tuesday in a telephone briefing with reporters, he said additional layers of precaution were forthcoming.

"We're not today providing the steps that we plan to take, but I can assure you that we will be taking additional steps and we will be making those public in the coming days once we can work out the details," Frieden said.

Meanwhile, an American doctor hospitalized for possible Ebola infection at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., was sent home Tuesday, the NIH reported. The unidentified doctor, who faced possible infection after being stuck with a needle while volunteering in Sierra Leone, was admitted to the hospital on Sept. 28.

"Currently, the patient feels well and

LOCAL



You can make a difference, too

Find out how you can help spruce up the area during upcoming event **A4**

FOOD

Chicken dishes get bold cultural flavors **c8**

DEATHS, B6

John H. Horton IV
Jessie Howard
Bernice G. Perry

John M. Ingham
Martha O. Gamble
James T. Futrell

WEATHER, A10

WHERE DID FALL GO?

Partly sunny and warm; clear sky tonight
HIGH 87, LOW 62

INSIDE

Classifieds **B7**
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Lotteries **A10**
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Panorama **C1**
Television **C7**

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Slain teen laid to rest



MATT WALSH / THE SUMTER ITEM

Friends and family comfort each other at Shakez Bracey's funeral at Lee Central High School on Tuesday evening.

Hundreds of community members pack auditorium for funeral

BY MATT BRUCE
matthew@theitem.com

BISHOPVILLE — A standing-room-only crowd turned out to Lee Central High School to bid final farewells to a recently slain Bishopville teenager Tuesday.

Shakez Bracey, 17, was laid to rest after a stirring tribute to his life, which was cut short late last

month. More than 500 people filed into the auditorium at Lee Central, where he was a burgeoning senior, to pay last respects.

"I love my cousin, and I want to say to y'all that the violence has to stop," said Ronnie Bracey, a cousin of the teen, speaking to a contingent of fellow family members present during the services.

"One of our chains has been taken. And I say to y'all on that, 'Let's tighten up; let's keep it moving.' We ain't leaving him behind. He's still here. My blood is his blood. Your blood is his blood. We're not leaving him behind. He's going to live through our memory."

SEE **TEEN**, PAGE A6

Hospitals prep for possible Ebola cases

CDC says U.S. outbreak is unlikely, but local staffs train just in case

BY JADE REYNOLDS
jade@theitem.com

Though preventing the spread of disease is always a priority of hospitals, many are paying extra attention in light of the recent headline-grabbing Ebola epidemic.

Sumter's own Tuomey Regional Medical Center and Clarendon Memorial Hospital are two such medical facilities.

"We use isolation precautions every day," said Letitia Pringle-Miller, a Tuomey Healthcare System administrator. "But because of the worldwide issue of Ebola, we

have a heightened awareness."

While the threat has been minimal in America — with only one confirmed case of a visiting Liberian man presenting symptoms of Ebola while visiting Texas — about 40,000 people who may have been exposed to the virus have entered the United States from African countries in the last six months, Dr. Tom Frieden of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently told the Associated Press.

READ MORE

U.S. health providers expand their Ebola precautions **A5**

The Liberian man remains in critical condition in a Texas hospital, and the World Health Organization estimated 3,400 people have died in this Ebola outbreak so far, the AP reported.

"Patient screening tools are currently in use in all of our hospital registration areas screening not only for Ebola, but flu, enterovirus D68 and tuberculosis," said Amanda Taylor, employee

SEE **EBOLA**, PAGE A8

'Betsy' is already a winner



Owner Iris Long of Wedgefield is seen with Betsy at the Sumter County Fair



'RARE BREED'

Beasley takes winding path to Clemson sack record. C1

HAUNTED HISTORY: Pendleton foundation offers ghost tours of 'haunted' homes. **B1**
SAVING CASH?: Officials predict lower heating bills for Americans this winter. **D1**

Indemnity ordinance causes outcry at meeting

First reading passes by 3-1 vote anyway

BY STEVEN BRADLEY
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — An ordinance that would provide county funds to protect elected officials and employees from litigation came under fire during its first reading at Tuesday's Oconee council meeting.

During the public comment session, 13 people turned out to offer their opinions on the matter, both in favor and against the ordinance. The vast majority did the latter, however, with one calling it "self-serving" and others calling for council members to resign. Nonetheless, the ordinance

passed by a 3-1 vote, with Paul Corbett, Reg Dexter and Joel Thrift voting in favor. Wayne McCall voted against, and Paul Cain was married recently and not in attendance.

Among those who spoke out against the ordinance was council member-elect Edda Cammick, who won a special election for the District 2 seat earlier this year and will replace Corbett in January. Cammick noted she is not on

the council yet, but said you wouldn't be able to guess that based on the calls and emails she has received regarding the issue. "I would like to ask you to heed the plea of the public that are opposed to Ordinance 2014-24," she said. "They don't feel tax-



Cammick

SEE INDEMNITY, PAGE A6

'They don't feel taxpayers' money should be used in this fashion, and neither do I.'

Edda Cammick
Oconee County council member-elect

Oconee ISO rating drops

King: Class 4 rating could save average residents 'hundreds of dollars' on insurance coverage

BY NORMAN CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

WESTMINSTER — Oconee County homeowners could see an average drop of "hundreds of dollars" per year in their home insurance rates after a dramatic decrease in the Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating was announced for the unincorporated areas of the county, fire chief Charlie King said.

All homes in the unincorporated areas within five miles of a fire station will see their Public

Protection Classification by ISO fall to a Class 4 — a drop from a 9 or 10 rating for about 13,000 of the homes in Oconee County. King said only about 200 homes are not close enough to a fire station yet to warrant the rating.

"Everybody in the unincorporated areas is in an improvement," King said Tuesday afternoon. "There are some folks — take Fair Play for instance — they've gone from a 5 to a 4. While there's some improve-

SEE ISO, PAGE A5



During a presentation with fellow Seneca firefighter Melodie Lament on Tuesday, Paul Marcengill talks about the importance of fire safety to students in Jessica McGaha's pre-K class at Northside Elementary School as part of a

Fire Prevention Month emphasis. The county's emphasis on fire safety education contributed to a lower county-wide ISO rating revealed earlier this week, which could save residents hundreds on insurance costs.

JESSICA NEUMS | THE JOURNAL

Tri-County Technical College faculty, staff build bikes for kids

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

PENDLETON — Although the holiday is still a little more than two and a half months away, more than a dozen young boys and girls got to experience a Christmas morning high on Tuesday afternoon in Pendleton.

Kids from the local Boys and Girls Clubs and Big Brothers Big Sisters organizations arrived at Tri-County Technical College's Pendleton campus to find bikes awaiting them in the college's Economic Development Center. The bikes were built by faculty and staff of the college during two sessions — one held in the



Sales tax for education on Pendleton ballot

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
THE JOURNAL

PENDLETON — Pendleton residents will see a local options sales tax question on their ballot in the Nov. 4 general election.

The additional revenue generated by the proposed tax would go toward a shared career and technical educational center for Anderson School District 4 to use along with those who live in Districts 3 and 5.

District 4 superintendent Lee D'Andrea went before town council Monday night to explain the two questions on the ballot and how

that helped to pass the 2014 South Carolina Education Capital Improvements Sales and Use Tax Act Referendum.



"It actually allows a community to ask the voters if they would like to put a one-cent sales tax on, and the law says use 10 percent of the one-cent proceeds to reduce property taxes," she said. D'Andrea said all five school boards in the county unanimously approved asking the question but



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CAROLINAS HOSPITAL SYSTEM

Carolinashospital.com

PHOTO BY

Morning News

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 8, 2014

TODAY'S WEATHER

Partly sunny and clear,
high 87, low 61
DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

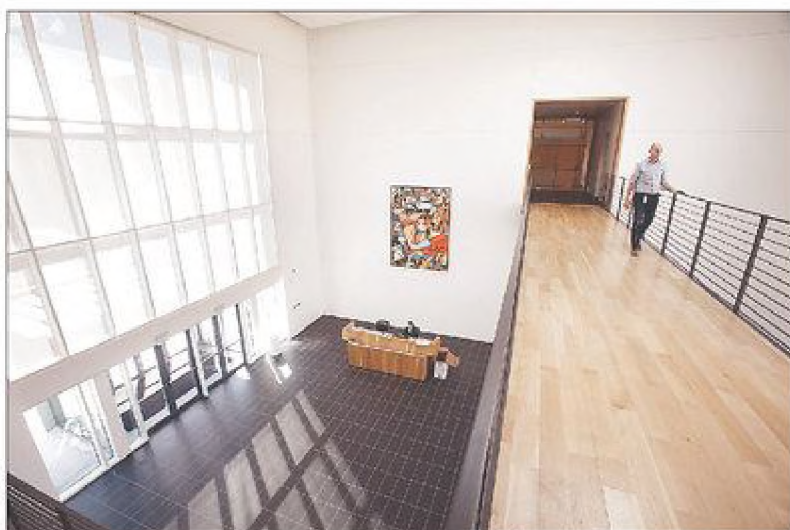


PHOTO BY JOHN D. RUSSELL/MORNING NEWS

Florence County Museum director Andrew Stout walks inside the new museum Tuesday. This week would have been the 61st anniversary of the original Florence Museum opening on Spruce Street. The new museum will open this week on West Cheves Street.

New facility, long history

Florence Museum
celebrates second
opening 61 years
after original started

BY JOHN D. RUSSELL
Morning News
jrusell@florencenews.com



A view of the original Florence Museum on Spruce Street. The new museum will open this week on West Cheves Street.

FLORENCE
A headline on Oct. 7, 1953, in The Morning News about the Florence Museum opening reads, "Modern Museum Result of Struggle."

The story, written by Eugene "Nick" Zeigler for the Morning News, told of the trials and tribulations before opening on Spruce Street. As it was then, and is now, the Florence Museum is a product of teamwork and hard work from many people.

The new Florence County Mu-

seum will welcome the public this week, but the new facility never would have happened if not for a dedicated few who persevered.

The Florence Museum started as the Blue Bird Tea Room, organized by the League for Woman's Service. The Tea Room raised

money for the Red Cross and other organizations during World War I. One of those involved was Jane B. Evans, who later went on to become founder of the museum. The Blue Bird Tea Room went

See **MUSEUM**, Page 4A

A weekend of celebration

Florence County Museum
111 W. Cheves St.

FRIDAY

» Opening gala: Tickets are \$125 per person and are available at museum or by calling 843-676-1200

SATURDAY

» Grand opening ribbon cutting, 9 a.m.
» Book signing by author Jon Ellis Meacham at 11 a.m.
» Lectures by staff about Williams H. Johnson and the Wright Southern

Art Collection

SUNDAY

» Hands-on family activities relating to original objects from the collections of the Trustees of the Florence Museum

Florence 1 makes AP Honor Roll

Number of district's students
taking courses up; scores improve

From staff reports

FLORENCE — Florence School District 1 is one of five school districts in the state to be named to an honor roll list for improvements in test scores.

The South Carolina State Superintendent of Education's office recently released the results for Advanced Placement exams and SAT tests taken by students across the state in 2013-14.

Florence School District 1 and four other districts saw an increase in the number of students taking AP courses. The schools also saw an improvement

in the scores earned at the end of the courses, or at least maintained their average.

Randy Koon, the district's assistant superintendent for instruction, said district officials were happy the district was named to the list.

"We are pleased to learn that Florence School District One is one of five school districts named to the AP Honor Roll list for achievement and enrollment in Advanced Placement courses," Koon said. "Increasing student enrollment in these classes

See **ROLL**, Page 4A

School Foundation gala celebrates education, serves as fundraiser

BY MELISSA ROLLINS
Morning News
mrollins@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — More than 200 hundred people gathered Tuesday night in Florence to celebrate education at the 13th annual School Foundation Gala.

The gala, held at Florence-Darlington Technical College's Southeastern Institute of Management and Technology, is one of two principal fundraisers each year for the foundation. The second, Dancing with the Stars of Florence County, is held in April.

The culmination of the gala was the announcement of the PSD1 Teacher

of the Year. Lindsey Bibler, a math teacher from South Florence High School, was chosen as the district's overall Teacher of Year. Bibler, who teaches calculus and pre-calculus, was chosen from the district's 22 schools by a three-person selection committee and also named an Honor Roll Teacher.

Bibler's name will be submitted to the South Carolina Department of Education, where she will represent PSD1 and vie for the South Carolina Teacher of the Year award next year.

Each year, the

See **GALA**, Page 7A

National TV show to profile Lake City woman's life, murder

WATCH IT

BY TRACI BRIDGES
Morning News

gram set to air tonight.

The ID Channel's "Dead On

city life, producer Josh Mensch

said.

and then it was cut short by such an extraordinarily sad tragedy."



CAROLINA FOOTBALL

Welcome to rebuilding.
SPORTS, B1



WARM THE SOUL

TASTE, A10



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2014

The Times and Democrat

75 CENTS • ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA | TheTandD.com | 3 SECTIONS, 26 PAGES • VOL. 133 • NO. 281

Sheriff: Man wanted in attack found in woods

By RICHARD WALKER
T&D Staff Writer

A Calhoun County man accused of slashing a woman's throat multiple times was located in a wooded area in Orangeburg County, authorities say.

Calhoun County Sheriff Thomas Summers said 35-year-old Charles Lamont Winston Jr. was taken into custody around 8:30 a.m. Tuesday after hiding out in a patch of woods off St. Matthews Road.

"He's in custody and we'll have a bond hearing tomorrow," Summers said.

Winston was sought for a week after Calhoun County authorities obtained a warrant charging the Old Belleville Road man with attempted murder.

Authorities say a 32-year-old woman managed to find help after suffering multiple slashes to her throat and face during a visit at Winston's residence. She said as she attempted to leave, she was grabbed from behind and her head was pulled back while her attacker slashed her throat.

Early Tuesday morning, a tip was received from the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office that indicated a man matching Winston's description had been seen in a St. Matthews Road convenience store. The caller said when the man left the business, he walked into a nearby wooded area.

Investigators from both Calhoun and Orangeburg counties converged on the wooded area near the junction of Magnolia Street and St. Matthews Road where they found Winston.

With no vehicle and no known means of travel, investigators asked Winston how he arrived at the wooded area more than 10 miles from the residence where the woman was attacked. Summers said

See FOUND, A7

BURNED OUT



Kevin Whetstone, maintenance worker for Bamberg East Apartments, surveys the damage to an upper level unit caused by a Tuesday afternoon fire. **For more photos from the event, visit us at TheTandD.com.**

LARRY HARDY/T&D

Residents help each other flee fire safely

By GENE CRIDER
T&D Managing Editor

BAMBERG — When Janetia Hicks heard the smoke alarms go off in her apartment building, she thought her neighbor downstairs burned supper.

But she realized the alarms were for a fire in the upstairs apartment next to hers. And then the residents of Bamberg East Apartments kicked into gear, warning each other of the blaze.

"I'm just happy everybody made it out safe," she said.

In all, eight families including more than 20 people were forced to seek shelter elsewhere Tuesday night after an electrical fire started in one of the upstairs apartments.

No one was injured in the fire. Officials said it is too early to know just how extensive the damage to the Creekside Drive apartment building is.

The apartment where the fire started, probably from a short in an electric receptacle, was heavily damaged while the others sustained smoke and water damage, Bamberg Fire Chief Timmie Taylor

said.

Polly McGill, who has lived at the complex for 20 years, said she learned of fire by someone banging on her door.

"They yelled for me to get out because the apartment was on fire," she said.

Bamberg East Site Manager Annette Crum said the residents are trained how to respond to fires, including letting other residents know about a blaze.

"That's what they did. They worked as a family,"

See FIRE, A7



ORANGEBURG ON STAGE

'The Voice' contestant carries
grandfather's memory on stage

Brian Symmes

Cell: 803-673-9437

Office: 803-734-0304