

From: Taillon, Jeff  
To: Taillon, Jeff <JeffTaillon@gov.sc.gov>  
Date: 3/4/2013 9:17:10 AM  
Subject: S.C. Front Pages - Monday, March 4, 2013

---



# The Post and Courier

THE SOUTH'S OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER • FOUNDED 1803

MONDAY, March 4, 2013

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

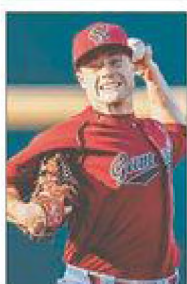
Charleston, North Charleston, S.C. ★★ \$1.00



Hundreds of tasters put cork on 4-day Wine + Food Festival Local & State, B1



Greene: Social Security check changes Column, B1



The weekend series between USC and Clemson goes to ...? Sports, C1



Fate of Beachwalker Park hinges on plans for Capt. Sam's Spit Local & State, B1



**Daily Deals return Tuesday:**  
Get \$5 in Deal Bucks when you register



Mostly sunny. High 55, Low 38. Complete 5-day forecast, A12

## CONTACT US

Classified... 702-4506  
Home delivery... 853-POST (7678)  
General offices... 779-2111  
Newsroom... 923-5582

## INDEX

Class, Scene... B10 Local News... B1  
Crash... 16 Movies... B7  
Comics... B2-9 Obituaries... B6  
Crossword... B10 Sports... C1  
Editorial... A10 Television... B6  
Setting the record straight... A2



## Freedom bittersweet victory

Drug case dismissed, but much was lost

BY GLENN SMITH  
gsmith@postandcourier.com

GOOSE CREEK — Rashad Muhammad pauses mid-sentence, his words trailing off as he watches a blue mini-van lumber up the street and hang a hard left into a narrow driveway across from where he stands.

"I used to do the same thing," Muhammad chuckles, shaking his head. "The driver casts a curious glance at the burly stranger in the knit cap and then swooshes inside the big brick house with red shutters."

Muhammad's house. Or at least it used to be.

Muhammad, 42, lost the four-bedroom spread on St. James Boulevard to foreclosure during the four-and-a-half years he spent behind bars awaiting trial in a drug smuggling case involving hundreds of pounds of marijuana.

The former entertainment promoter won his legal battle in January, when a federal judge granted the prosecution's motion to dismiss the case and set him free.

Please see **FREEDOM**, Page A9



Rashad Muhammad was released from jail after years of legal sparring, missing evidence and a mistrial.

GRACE BEAHM/STAFF

## SEA TURTLE RECOVERY

# More nests or more reports?

Higher numbers spottier on key beaches



A struggling loggerhead turtle hatching is rescued from a nest in 2011.

FLEISCH PETERSON/STAFF

BY BO PETERSEN // bpeter@postandcourier.com

**T**he numbers are staggering — more than 4,600 sea turtle nests in 2012, the nests doubling in two years, three straight years of thousands of nests laid along the coast.

But the numbers are deceptive. Nesting by the beloved, threatened loggerhead and other sea turtle species might well be increasing along the South Carolina coast. But more beaches than ever are monitored for nests, adding to the count in recent years. The experts pay closer attention to the "index beaches," six of the densest nesting spots along the coast, where data has been recorded consistently since 1982 and the increases are spottier.

Now investigators are looking for better answers, CSI-style, with DNA turtleprints.

The S.C. Department of Natural Resources just released its 2012 sea turtle nest numbers indicating another year of what appears to be steadily climbing totals; the index beach nest numbers show an unprecedented high of about 2,000 nests. But that comes after an unprecedented low of fewer than 400 in 2004. From 2004 to 2012 the index beach numbers have increased and declined in the same range as the 20 years before 2004.

"There are definitely more turtles out there," said DuBose Griffin, DNR sea turtle program coordinator. But "there's nothing to say we won't see (2004 numbers) next year." For now, the assessment of the species' recovery remains "cautiously optimistic," she said.

Please see **NESTING**, Page A6

## Infant born with HIV may be cured

No infection after year off medicines

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A baby born with the virus that causes AIDS appears to have been cured, scientists announced Sunday, describing the case of a child from Mississippi who's now 2½ and has been off medication for about a year with no signs of infection.

"There's no guarantee the child will remain healthy, although sophisticated testing uncovered just traces of the virus' genetic material still lingering. If so, it would mark only the world's second reported cure."

Specialists said Sunday's announcement, at a major AIDS meeting in Atlanta, offers promising clues for efforts to eliminate HIV infection in children, especially in AIDS-plagued African countries where so many babies are born with the virus.

"You could call this about as close to a cure, if not a cure, that we've seen," Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health, who is familiar with the findings, told The Associated Press.

A doctor gave this baby faster and stronger treatment than is usual, starting a three-drug infusion within 16 hours of birth. That was before tests confirmed the infant was infected and not just at risk from a mother whose HIV wasn't diagnosed until she was in labor.

"I just felt like this baby was at higher-than-normal risk, and deserved our best shot," Dr. Hannah Gay, a pediatric HIV specialist at the University of Mississippi, said in an interview.

Please see **HIV**, Page A6



**WOMEN'S HOOPS:** Gamecock seniors close out regular season on winning note, **B1**

**The State**  
 MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2013 | THESTATE.COM



## SERVING IT UP

USC pitcher Nolan Belcher reacts after getting the final out against Clemson. Belcher pitched a complete game, three-hit shutout in the Gamecocks' 8-0 win. **B1**

JEFF BLAKE/BLAKE@THESTATE.COM

### YOUR WEEK

#### Carolina Classic Home & Garden Show

The 47th annual show is Friday through Sunday at the State Fairgrounds. The show will feature more than 270 construction, home improvement and outdoor products exhibits. A Wine Walk – in which you can sample various wines while strolling the show – is Friday evening. Admission is \$6; discounts available. Details: [www.columbiabuilders.com](http://www.columbiabuilders.com)



**The circus comes to town**

# When killing isn't 'unusual': Fighting workers' comp laws

Lawmakers want to help police, firefighters get aid after trauma

By ADAM BEAM  
[abeam@thestate.com](mailto:abeam@thestate.com)

Brandon Bentley killed a man on Oct. 21, 2009.

Bentley was a Spartanburg County sheriff's deputy. The man he killed was running at him with a stick, threatening to kill him. Bentley shot the man once in the chest. He died a few hours later.

Bentley has not worked

since the shooting. He has tried to kill himself at least twice – once with a knife and another time with pills. At a fall festival with his family shortly after the shooting, he heard a balloon pop, dropped to the ground and reached for his gun. Luckily for him – and everyone else – he didn't have one.

Bentley has post-traumatic stress disorder, and South

Carolina does not know what to do with him.

He collects police disability retirement pay. But his workers' compensation claim was denied because the state Supreme Court ruled that, for a police officer, shooting someone is not "extraordinary or unusual" – the standard that workers must meet under S.C. law to be awarded workers' compensation payments for

mental injuries.

But in writing its opinion last year, the court urged lawmakers to change the state's workers' compensation law. Lawmakers are trying to do that.

Last week, the House Judiciary Committee approved a bill that would exempt public safety workers – police offi-

SEE LAWS PAGE A5

## Foes focused attention on Murphy's residency

Lexington-Richland 5 trustee made enemies questioning costs

By TIM FLACH  
[tflach@thestate.com](mailto:tflach@thestate.com)

Kim Murphy's opposition to school improvements laid the groundwork for her possible ouster as a member of the Lexington-Richland 5 School Board, supporters and opponents say.

important.

It would make her ineligible to remain in the post to which she was elected in November 2010 as one of three board members from Richland County.

Other board members initially dismissed the discovery of the discrepancy two years ago, since tax map lines whose accuracy is now in question put her in Richland County, those who looked into the situation say.

"I screamed this up and



JOHNS HOPKINS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dr. Deborah Persaud of Johns Hopkins' Children's Center led the investigation that deemed the child 'functionally cured.'





## SPORTS USC TAKES SERIES



## LIFESTYLE Take a break from tech

# The Greenville News

A GANNETT COMPANY

MONDAY,  
MARCH 4, 2013  
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

## MOTORSPORTS

Edwards ends 70-race winless streak at Phoenix, 1B

FINAL EDITION

## Graham would raise taxes

Senator worried about  
cuts to military

By Clark Brooks  
Staff Writer  
cabrooks@greenvillenews.com

While leaders in the House and Senate continued pointing fingers and warning of sequestration gloom and doom, U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham was looking forward Sunday toward a deal that could end the pattern of creating crises that both sides say are holding back the U.S. economy.

If nothing changes, spending cuts that were designed to force a compromise on a better way to reduce the nation's deficit will total \$85 billion by the end of September and \$1.2 trillion after nine years. President Barack Obama and most lawmakers agree that the longer sequestration remains in force, the more damage will be done.

"The question is how do you fix it," Graham said on CBS' "Face the Nation."



Sen. Lindsey  
Graham

Obama said as the spending cuts began to take effect on Friday that the pain will build gradually, and the longer they remain in effect, the greater the toll on jobs and the economy.

With sequestration still an incentive for both sides to negotiate, Obama said his offer of spending cuts remains on the table, including reductions in Medicare that Democratic leaders oppose but Republicans say are essential to long-term deficit reduction, in a deal that also would close tax loopholes and limit deductions for upper income Americans.

House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky were among the Republicans who said Sunday that additional revenue is not an option for ending sequestration. Boehner on NBC's "Meet the Press" and McConnell on CNN's "State of the Union."

However, Graham said he would be willing to raise taxes as part of a big deal that has eluded lawmakers and the president for two years.

Half of the sequestration cuts will hit national defense, and Graham, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said they will gut the U.S. military.

See GRAHAM, Page 5A

WITH A BUDGET DEFICIT, FIXING FINANCES COULD MEAN

# RAISING TAXES

But how?

And for whom?

By Stephen Ohlemacher  
Associated Press

**T**he poor rich. With Washington gridlocked again over whether to raise their taxes, it turns out wealthy families already are paying some of their biggest federal tax bills in decades even as the rest of the population continues to pay at historically low rates.

President Barack Obama and Democratic leaders in Congress say the wealthy must pay their fair share if the federal government is ever going to fix its finances and reduce the budget deficit to a manageable level.

A new analysis, however, shows that average tax bills for high-income families rarely have been higher since the Congressional Budget Office began tracking the data in 1979.

Middle- and low-income families aren't paying as much as they used to. For 2013, families with incomes in the top 20 percent of the nation will pay an average of 27.2 percent of their income in federal taxes, according to projections by the Tax Policy Center, a research organization based in Washington.

The top 1 percent of households, those with incomes averaging \$1.4 million, will pay an average of 35.5 percent.

Those tax rates, which include income, payroll, corporate and estate taxes, are among the highest since

1979.

### Low-income families

The average family in the bottom 20 percent of households won't pay any federal taxes. Instead, many families in this group will get payments from the federal government by claiming more in credits than they owe in taxes, including payroll taxes. That will give them a negative tax rate.

"My sense is that high-income people feel abused by being targeted all ways for more taxes," Robertson Williams, a fellow at the Tax Policy Center, said. "You can understand why they feel that way."

See TAXES, Page 11A

## INSIDE

Abby ..... 8A Local News ..... 3A  
Bridge ..... 8A Lottery ..... 3A

## Baby born with HIV apparently cured

Greenville, S.C. — A 2-year-old boy born with HIV in South Carolina has been declared cured after a year of treatment, according to a study published in the journal *Lancet*.





## Quidditch

Many of the nation's best Quidditch teams, promoting a fictional competitive sport from the wizarding world of Harry Potter, were in North Augusta this weekend | 3A

# Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

MONDAY, March 4, 2013

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 147, No. 63 Aiken, S.C. ★★ 75¢

## Cuts seem here to stay

BY PHILIP ELLIOTT  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The spending cuts are here to stay if you believe the public posturing Sunday. The Senate's Republican leader Mitch McConnell called them modest. House Speaker John Boehner isn't sure the cuts will hurt the economy. The White House's top economic adviser, Gene Sperling, said the pain isn't that bad right now. So after months of dire warnings, Washington, D.C., didn't implode, government didn't shut down and the \$85 billion budget trigger didn't spell doom. And no one has yet crafted a politically viable way to roll back those cuts.



McConnell

Obama to tap Walmart's Burwell for budget chief, 4A

"This modest reduction of 2.4 percent in spending over the next six months is a little more than the average American experienced just two months ago, when their own pay went down when the payroll tax holiday expired," McConnell said.

"I don't know whether it's going to hurt the economy or not," Boehner said. "I don't think anyone quite understands how the sequester is really going to work."

And Sperling, making the rounds on the Sunday news shows, added: "On Day One, it will not be as harmful as it will be over time."

Both parties cast blame on the other for the automatic, across-the-board spending cuts but gave little guidance on what to expect in the coming weeks. Republicans and Democrats pledged to retroactively undo the cuts but signaled no hints as to how that process would start to take shape. Republicans insisted there would be no new taxes and Democrats refused to talk about any bargain without them.

"That's not going to work," said Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H. "If we're going to increase revenue again, it's got to

Please see BUDGET, Page 4A

### AREA DEATHS

Brenda English, North Augusta  
Vernell Locklair New, Aiken

Deaths and Funerals, 6A

### WEATHER

## Concealed carry gun permits rise

In S.C., applications for a concealed carry permit nearly tripled from 2011 to 2012

BY TEDDY KULMALA  
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

"Finger off the trigger, safety on and holster."

It's a phrase you'll hear dozens of times on the gun range if you take a concealed carry class with Chris Medlin of Your Best Defense.

Medlin has taught the class for five years and has graduated some 1,600 concealed carry permit holders. He said safety is paramount in his instruction, not only during the eight hours of the course but in the carriers' operation of their firearms after they leave.

The S.C. State Law Enforcement Division reported in January that the number of first-time applications for a concealed carry permit statewide nearly tripled from 24,661 in 2011 to 61,766 in 2012, according to the Associated Press. In 2012, there were nearly 187,000 active concealed carry permits in the state.

"Oh, my goodness," Medlin said of the increasing number of people wishing to take his class and obtain a permit. "From what the customers are telling me, it's concerns over the state of our society. People are mean and they're afraid of crime, afraid of being broken into and not being able to defend themselves. The economy is feeding some of that."

He added that some people are purchasing guns and obtaining permits for "political reasons."

"They're afraid they're not going to be able to hold on to their guns, and they want to get a permit now while they can, before the process gets shut down for some reason," he said.

### 'We have to train them from the ground up'

Between 30 and 50 people take the course each month, which is taught on

Please see PERMITS, Page 4A



STAFF PHOTO BY TERRY KULMALA

Aiken resident Nikki Grant was one of several people who took a concealed carry course through Your Best Defense this week. Courses include a classroom portion and a qualifying portion on a gun range.

### South Carolina statistics

First-time applications for concealed carry permits

2011	2012
24,661	61,766

Active concealed carry permits in S.C.

2012
187,000

## Merry wants to preserve city's charm, attract business

BY AMY BANTON  
abanton@aikenstandard.com

**Editor's note:** Philip Merry is one of two candidates running for a vacant City Council seat previously held by Don Wells who was elected as the District 81 Representative to the S.C. State House in November. In Tuesday's edition, readers will have a chance to read about City Council candidate Randy Rashad Gaines, who is also running for the seat.



Gaines



Merry

preserve while also attracting more business to the community to not only improve the area's economic base but

### A look at the City Council candidates

Today, the Aiken Standard is taking a look at Philip Merry, one of two candidates running for a vacant City Council seat. In Tuesday's edition, readers will have a chance to read about City Council candidate Randy Rashad Gaines, who is also running for the seat.

didate for this race and a native Aikenite.

He said the No. 1 priority of any local government should be public safety. The next important task before City Council is to create an environment that will foster a high quality of



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

Miriam Moody, left, Great Dane Sully, mixed breed Radar and Debbie Rhodes look on during the ground-breaking ceremony for the new Aiken County animal shelter.

## County animal shelter breaks ground

BY DEDE BILES  
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

March has gotten off to a busy start for Aiken County government officials.

A ceremony was held last Friday to celebrate the placement the final steel beam in the new Aiken County Government Center. Two days later, a ground-breaking ceremony for the new Aiken County animal shelter was held.

"There is a lot of stuff going on in Aiken County," County Administrator Clay Killian told the crowd that gathered Sunday afternoon under an open-sided tent near the future shelter's site at the corner of Wire Road and May Royal Drive.

Looking on were a number of dogs, including a Great Dane named Sully and Radar, who might have been the result of a meeting between an Aika and a collie.

The new animal shelter will cover 11,000 square feet and cost \$2.2 million to construct.

Please see SHELTER, Page 12A



## FINISHING TOUCH



USC blanks Clemson, wins series between rivals  
SPORTS, B1

## CURING AIDS?

Aggressive treatment appears to work for baby with HIV.  
NATION, A4



Mostly sunny  
High 56  
Low 39

# Herald-Journal

MONDAY  
MARCH 4, 2013  
SPARTANBURG, S.C.  
50 cents

www.GoUpstate.com

## Tax on rich nears 30-year high

Middle, lower classes paying historically low rates

By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The poor rich.

With Washington gridlocked again over whether to raise their taxes, it turns out wealthy families already are paying some of their biggest federal tax bills in decades even as the rest of the population continues to pay at historically low rates.

President Barack Obama and Democratic leaders in Congress say the wealthy must pay their fair share if the federal government is

ever going to fix its finances and reduce the budget deficit to a manageable level.

A new analysis, however, shows that average tax bills for high-income families rarely have been higher since the Congressional Budget Office began tracking the data in 1979. Middle- and low-income families aren't paying as much as they used to.

For 2013, families with incomes in the top 20 percent of the nation will pay an average of 27.2 percent of their income in federal

taxes, according to projections by the Tax Policy Center, a research organization based in Washington. The top 1 percent of households, those with incomes averaging \$1.4 million, will pay an average of 35.5 percent.

Those tax rates, which include income, payroll, corporate and estate taxes, are among the highest since 1979.

The average family in the bottom 20 percent of households won't pay any

◆ SEE RICH PAGE A6



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP FILE

President Barack Obama leaves the White House briefing room in February after asking Congress to come up with a solution to put off automatic cuts that kicked in last Friday.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

## Police put trends in crime on website

Map will let residents pinpoint sites in city deemed safe or unsafe

By JENNY ARNOLD  
jennifer.arnold@shj.com

A useful crime-mapping tool by the Spartanburg Public Safety Department will soon be just a mouse click away for residents.

The department has upgraded software through grant funding within the past year, and now officers can map crime trends from computers in the office or out in the field via their laptops.

"If an officer responds to a car break-in, they can go online and see if there have been other car break-ins in the same neighborhood," said Jerry Steele, crime analyst for the public safety department.

Capt. Regina Nowak, a public information officer for the department, said the system will keep residents better informed about what's going on in their neighborhoods.

"The system is searchable and allows the citizen to look for certain types of crime or to look for crime trends or patterns they might not otherwise be aware of," Nowak said. "Hopefully, as people educate themselves about what is going on around them, it will enable them to not become a victim of crime."

A resident will be able to click on a point on a map, and the system will be able to map crimes within a mile, a half mile, a quarter mile or even within 50 feet of the location, Steele said. Information available about points on the map will include arrests, juvenile custodies, fire calls, accidents or calls for service.

"There will be six databases it will pull from," Steele said. "Everyone with Internet access will have access to it."

The system will not give an exact address of a crime, or the name or phone number of the person who called the police, Steele said. It will give the date and time of an incident reported, the street, what

◆ SEE CRIME PAGE A6

## FLOCKING FOR A MEAL



MICHAEL JUSTUS/MICHAEL.JUSTUS@SHJ.COM

Caroleigh Stewart, 6, front, her brother, B.J. Stewart, 8, center, and stepfather, Dennis Gabriel, all of Wellford, brave the chilly air to feed bread to waterfowl Sunday at Cleveland Park Lake in Spartanburg.





New at the  
Box Office, 5A



USCtops  
Clemson, 1B

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2013

2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

www.indexjournal.com

# INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 94, NO. 308

## Officials weigh in on street closure

City Council expected to discuss closing Main Street for Festival of Discovery during work session meeting



By JOSEPH SITARZ  
jsitarz@indexjournal.com

Tony Wideman readily admits he has been a thorn in Greenwood City manager Charlie Barrineau's side for about five or six years now. Wideman's prodding and poking has paid off, almost.

Wideman is among those

who want Greenwood to close Main Street for the annual South Carolina Festival of Discovery. The celebration of barbecue and blues is in Greenwood each July.

The 13th annual Festival of Discovery is July 11-13 in Uptown Greenwood.

Wideman, the owner of T.W. Boons on Main Street, said he sees benefits outweighing the

negatives. Wideman has pestered Barrineau to close Main Street in Uptown Greenwood for the entire festival.

"I've been nudging Charlie and pestering him for five years," Wideman said.

Today, Barrineau said, City Council is expected to discuss the plan during a work session meeting.

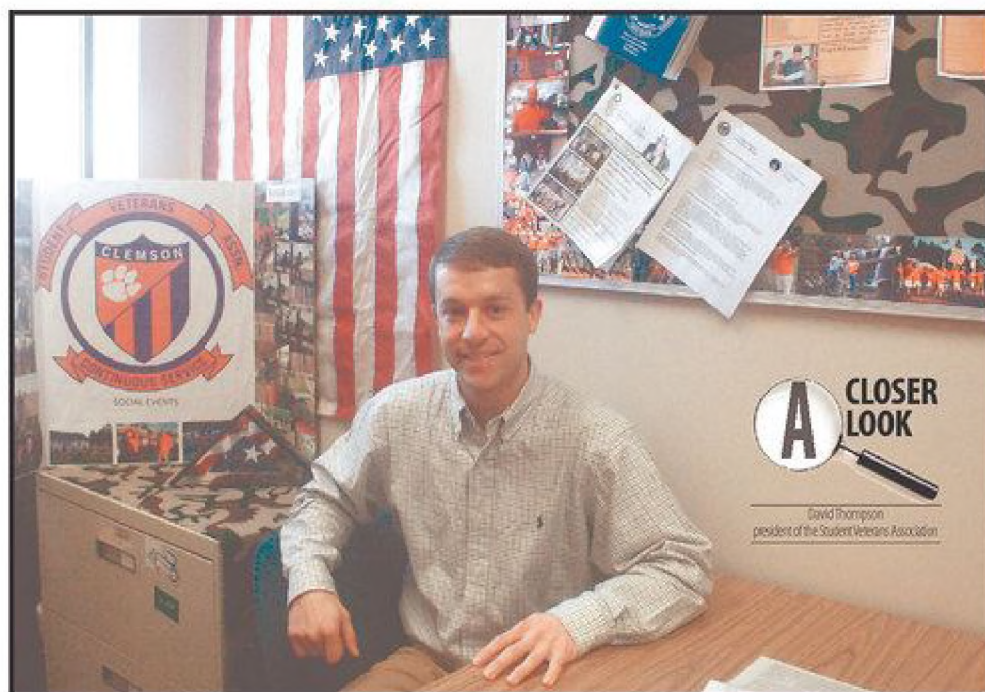
City Council needs to vote on the road closure and send a request to South Carolina Department of Transportation. SCDOT owns the road. Before SCDOT closes a road, it requires a formal request.

If everything goes as planned, Barrineau said Greenwood City Council could vote on the road closure at its March 18 meeting.

The Festival of Discovery is one of the biggest barbecue and blues festivals in the Southeast. Part of the Festival of Discovery is the barbecue team cooking competition and the Greenwood Blues Cruise. Visit [www.festivalofdiscovery.com](http://www.festivalofdiscovery.com) for more information.

See CLOSURE, page 5A

## CLEMSON UNIVERSITY



**A CLOSER LOOK**  
David Thompson  
president of the Student Veterans Association

Greenwood-raised David Thompson volunteers office hours in the new Student Veterans Success Center at Clemson University. Thompson, an Army veteran, is president of Clemson's Student Veterans Association and a leading force in creating new support systems for the university's students coming out of military service.

## MAJOR MILESTONE

Thompson a driving force for the Student Veterans Association

By MICHELLE LAXER  
mlaxer@indexjournal.com

### CLEMSON

Inside the nearly two-month-old Student Veterans Success Center at Clemson University, there is just enough room for a small couch, table, desk, a couple of chairs and a few people. A window brightens up the room, the American flag decorates one corner and photos on the wall show the camaraderie

between the university's student veterans.

Small, yes. But it carries a big significance.

This office serves as a major milestone in an initiative spearheaded by a few members of Clemson's Student Veterans Association who wanted to better support their fellow service men and women on campus.

This year, leading the charge is David Thompson, a 29-year-old Army veteran and Greenwood native. He's current president of the Student Veterans Association and was a driving

force in securing the space for the success center.

This past year at Clemson is completely different from Thompson's first experience when he came to campus more than 10 years ago.

After graduating from Emerald High School in 2001, Thompson went to Clemson to study engineering. He said he struggled with college for a few years before deciding to join the U.S. Army in February 2008.

See MILESTONE, page 4A

## SC HOUSE Budget proposal boosts law enforcement

By SEANNA ADCOX  
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The budget proposal headed for debate by the South Carolina House includes roughly \$50 million to boost state law enforcement and better secure prisons.

The House Ways and Means spending plan for 2013-14 calls for hiring 25 agents to supervise parolees, 10 natural resource officers and 15 people at the State Law Enforcement Division. It would also add 18 highway troopers through a personnel shift.

Rep. Mike Pitts, chairman of the law enforcement subcommittee, said public safety agencies need to be restored following recession-era budget cuts. His subcommittee's plan would represent the second consecutive year of employee increases. Still, it wouldn't return officers' ranks to 2008 levels.

"We're trying to play catch up" on a primary function of state government, said Pitts, R-Laurens.

The plan would spend \$732 million from state taxes on law enforcement and courts, up from \$684 million this fiscal year.

Officer safety issues in prisons stem from years of neglect, because of legislators not wanting to appear to show a soft side for inmates. Two hostage situations last year — within three months — at maximum-security Lee Correctional changed some minds. Gov. Nikki Haley recognized Warden Mike McCall during her State of the State address as an unsung hero of state government.

"As a legislator, it was always my belief that giving money to corrections was giving money to criminal



MIKE  
PITTS



NIKKI  
HALEY





# The Times and Democrat MONDAY

MARCH 4, 2013



**USC TAKES  
SERIES**  
SPORTS, B1

75 CENTS • ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA | THETANDD.COM | 2 SECTIONS, 12 PAGES • VOL. 132 • NO. 63

## YOU'VE GOT TO READ THESE

Wire Reports

### ■ Clothing not optional

A British man who has spent most of the past decade naked — and in jail — was back behind bars Friday after defying an order to cover up. Stephen Gough, known as the “Naked Rambler,” was arrested Thursday as he left a court in Southampton, southern England, wearing only boots, socks and a knapsack. Since 2003, the 54-year-old former Royal Marine has completed two naked walks the length of Britain, with frequent interruptions for arrests, court appearances and jail time. Defense lawyer Jeffrey Hone-Mille told the court that Gough “believes it is his right not to wear clothes and go about his normal activities in that state of undress.” There is no law in Britain against public nudity. However, there are laws against indecent exposure or behavior likely to cause “harassment, alarm or distress.”

### ■ Making a case for stolen beer

Five 12 packs of beer were found in trash being taken out of a convenience store in Beaufort County. The man found with the beer says he was paid \$5 to remove the trash from the store and didn't know the beer was in the trash. The Coors Light found in the trash was worth \$50. The man was charged with trespassing and said he did not put the beer in the trash.

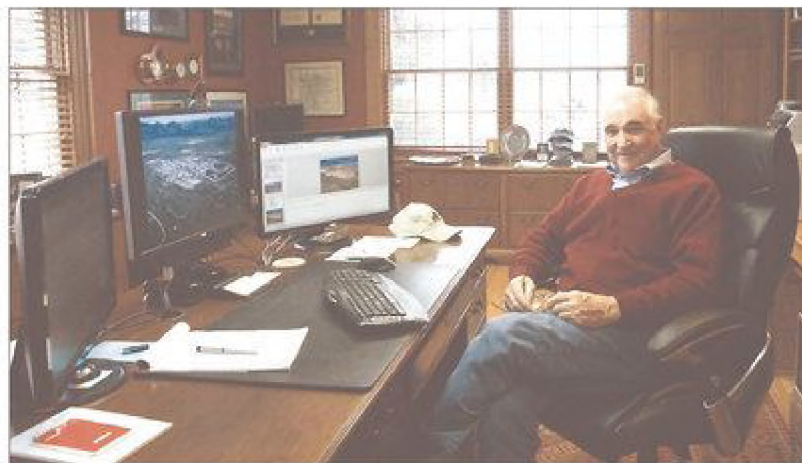
### ■ What's in a king's heart?

King Richard I, the 12th-century warrior whose bravery during the Third Crusade gained him the moniker Lionheart, ended up with a heart full of daisies, myrtle, mint and frankincense, according to the findings of a French study that analyzed the embalmed heart of the English king more than 810 years after he died. The biomedical analysis also uncovered cesate, mercury and perhaps lime in the heart, which has been in the western French city of Rouen since the king's death in 1199. Despite the embalming ingredients, the heart turned to powder long ago, doubtless because the lead box cradling it wasn't airtight. It's so unsightly now that it's kept from public view.

### ■ Drug problems

Police in the border city of Mexicali say they have recovered a powerful improvised cannon used to hurl packets of marijuana across a border fence into California. Police said the device was made up of a plastic pipe and a crude metal tank that used compressed air from the engine of an old car. It was confiscated after U.S. officers told Mexican police that they had been finding a large number of drug packages that appeared to have been fired over the border. Mexican police on the border have recovered similar devices in recent years.

● A northern New York man admitted he used a baseball bat to smash up a head shop after his 24-year-old son overdosed on bath salts sold at the store. The 49-year-old pleaded guilty to criminal mischief for breaking a glass counter-top and merchandise at the shop.



LARRY HARGRETS

Dr. John Till, owner of Neeses-based Risk Assessment Corporation, studies risks from radiation. He says the Savannah River Site can safely manage nuclear waste.

## Hometown expert

### Radioactive waste can be handled safely at SRS, Neeses man says

By GENE ZALESKI  
T&D Staff Writer

NEESES — Dr. John Till has more than 30 years of experience assessing risks from radiation and chemicals, including time studying the Savannah River Site.

So after reading a recent news report about the concerns of some environmental groups that SRS could become a disposal ground for the nation's high-level nuclear waste from commercial reactors, he took notice.

Till says there is probably no finer, controlled site in the nation to handle the waste.

“I am not concerned,” Till said. “It is an extraordinarily fine operation and it has been from the beginning of that site in the early 1950s. Nuclear waste is very manageable.”

“In a relative sense, it is a very small volume and a small amount. It is concentrated, yes. It is highly radioactive, yes, but that does not mean that it cannot be contained and managed absolutely safely.”

Former U.S. Department of Energy senior advisor Bob Alvarez outlined the potential hazards of making SRS an interim storage site for nuclear waste in a study reported on by The State newspaper.

The Nevada was once destined for Nevada, but the Yucca Mountain site was abandoned due to environmental concerns. The Department of Energy now hopes to select a temporary site for the disposal of radioactive waste, and have a permanent disposal site chosen by 2048.

In his report, Alvarez says waste

at the SRS site would go from 280 million curies of radioactivity to 1 billion curies if waste from 17 closed U.S. reactors comes to the area.

Till, who is the owner of Neeses-based Risk Assessment Corporation, said he knows SRS well through his research of the site.

“We were hired by the Centers of Disease Control in Atlanta to go in and to look at the historical records and to understand the operations. We looked at what radioactivity could be released from the facility. It is a great facility,” he said.

The high-level waste is contained and packaged as it is transported, he said. “There is essentially no radiation to anyone while it is being transported in.”

Having the nuclear waste scattered about at individual sites it not a good idea, he said.

“We may need more than one place,” Till said.

Individual sites where waste is stored now often don't have the adequate space for the long-term, he said. “We have to be thinking about the long-term, five, ten, 15 years out.”

While SRS would probably not be able to handle all the atomic waste from the 104 U.S. reactors, Till said the site could easily be a temporary storage facility.

“There is a solution to handling the waste and we have not dealt with it in this country,” he said. “We have put it off hold right now. It is all politics.”

■ Contact the writer: gzaleski@timesanddemocrat.com or 803-533-5551.

### Till to give key lecture at radiation conference

Dr. John Till is scheduled to speak on the topic, “When Does Risk Assessment Get Fuzzy?” at the 2013 annual meeting of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements. He will give the 37th Lauriston S. Taylor Lecture on Monday, March 11, in Bethesda, Md.

Till founded Risk Assessment Corporation, Inc. in 1977 while also managing his family farm in Neeses. His career has focused on the development of methods to estimate dose and risk to humans from radionuclides and chemicals in the environment.

For the last several years, his work has stressed developing methods that make radiological risk assessment more understandable, transparent and responsive.

Till has served on committees for the National Academy of Sciences, the International Commission on Radiological Protection and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

He co-edited the first textbook on radiological risk assessment published by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 1983 and an updated version published by Oxford University Press in 2008.

He is the 1995 E.O. Lawrence Award recipient in the field of environment science and technology.

In 1967, Till earned a bachelor's degree in engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy and served in the U.S. Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program. He left active duty service in 1971 and continued to serve in the U.S. Naval Reserve, retiring as a rear admiral in 1999. He received his master's in health physics from Colorado State University in 1972 and his Ph.D. in nuclear engineering in 1976 from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

For additional information, contact Dr. James R. Cassata at cassata@NCRPonline.org.

## Ga. firm may buy Barnwell Hospital

Chairman: Bamberg went their own way, 'now they got nothing'

By DIONNE GLEATON  
T&D Staff Writer

BARNWELL — Following the collapse of a deal to build a regional hospital with Bamberg County, the Barnwell County Hospital Board is moving forward with a new plan of its own to provide quality health care for its community.

Bamberg and Barnwell counties had entered into an agreement with an affiliate of Memphis, Tenn.-based Dobbs Equity Partners LLC to develop a regional health care system. Both hospitals filed for bankruptcy under Chapter 9 of the U.S. Code of Laws while they worked to restructure their debt. The hospital boards of both counties have since been left to weigh their options in the wake of Dobbs Equity Partners' failure to execute its end of the deal to purchase each hospital's assets on June 30.

The Bamberg County Hospital Board voted to close its hospital's doors in April 2012. In September, Bamberg County Hospital Board members announced they were working to establish a partnership with Hospital Corporation of America for 24/7 emergency health care services. The board agreed to sign a Letter of Interest with Colleton Medical Center HCA South Atlantic Hospitals during a Jan. 15 meeting.

Barnwell County Hospital Board Chairperson Lowell Jowers said Thursday his board has a potential buyer of its own with Atlanta-based Resurgence Management Company LLC. Phillip Eastman is the chief executive officer of the company.

“We have them as a potential buyer. It's a hospital group, and we've signed an asset purchase agreement with them that they're going to buy the hospital. Mr. Eastman has experience in rural health care, and he owns several hospitals already,” Jowers said.

According to an online company profile, Resurgence Management Company LLC acquires and operates facilities, including hospitals and nursing homes, and offers ambulatory surgery, general acute care and emergency care among its services. The company also offers corporate services to administrators such as reimbursement assessment and physician recruitment. The company has facilities in Georgia, Florida,

## House budget proposal boosts law enforcement

By SEANNA ADCOX  
Associated Press

### A look at the budget plan for law enforcement

COLUMBIA — The budget proposal headed

The House Ways and Means budget plan for 2013-14 provides law enforcement agencies an addi-

\$40,000  
Natural Resources:  
■ Commuter benefits and soft-

■ \$1.2 million for OIG indigent defense  
Department of Public Safety



**Jeff Taillon**

(803) 734-5129|Direct Line

(803) 767-7653|Cell