

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 7/22/2014 10:21:50 AM
Subject: SC Front Pages – Tuesday, July 22, 2014

SC Front Pages – Tuesday, July 22, 2014



SPORTS DRIVE SURPRISE



LIFESTYLE Teaching kids bike safety

The Greenville News

A GANNETT COMPANY

TUESDAY,
JULY 22, 2014
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY REBELS GIVE UP 'BLACK BOXES' PAGE 1B

FINAL EDITION

4TH INFECTED GHS PATIENT DIES

Hospital's tap water identified as source

By Liv Osby

Staff writer
losby@greenvillenews.com

Tap water that staff used as they prepared for surgery is believed responsible for the bacteria that infected 15 patients at Greenville Memorial Hospital, officials said Monday, adding that a fourth patient has now died.

Preliminary findings show that the infection, *Mycobacterium abscessus*, couldn't be traced to one piece of equipment or process as originally thought, officials said. But tests show that water in various locations inside the hospital contained the bacterium.

"Although we use sterile water in or near the surgical sterile field," said Dr. Robert Mobley Jr.,

medical director of quality at Greenville Health System, "even something as seemingly safe as pre-surgery hand washing may have contributed."

But just how the patients were infected by the tap water remains a mystery, he said.

"Short of the association with tap water, we do not have a definitive causation," he said. "CDC told us in the beginning that we may never know the exact reason for this."

"The water system has been very much involved with this and they are meeting the standards, but there is no way to sterilize water coming into a home or hospital."

DR. ROBERT MOBLEY JR., Greenville Health System

The infection came to light in March, when the first patient was diagnosed after a health care provider suspected something unusual and ordered a special test, Mobley said. Another case was

identified in April, he said, with the rest discovered over the next month and a half. Three of the cases date to 2013 before the out-

See GHS, Page 7A



Charles Reese of Greenville Tech watches as student Luis Mendez checks the oil during truck driver training. "The jobs are out there," says Adrienne Fairwell, a state Department of Employment and Welfare spokeswoman. PHOTOS BY MYKAL MCLEOD/NEWSSTAFF

JOBS ON RISE, BUT WHO'S ON THE JOB?

Openings abound in Greenville area

By David Dykes

Staff writer
ddykes@greenvillenews.com

State labor and supply data show there are almost as many job openings in Greenville County as there are unemployed people, suggesting there is work to be found but raising questions about job skills and worker training, economists said.

The Upstate, tallied separately to include Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union counties, had an unemployed-to-job-opening ratio of 3:1, with 3,389 job openings compared with 10,485 unemployed.

"The jobs are out there," said Adrienne Fairwell, a DEW spokesperson.

Of the online ads in the state, heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers had the highest number in June, with 3,542, followed by registered nurses, with 3,104. Rounding out the top five occu-



U.S. SENATE RACE

Graham: Sanction Putin and Russia

Candidates spar after 'reality show' comment

By Nathaniel Cary

Staff writer
ncary@greenvillenews.com

In a wide-ranging interview in Greenville on Monday, U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham criticized what he called President Barack Obama's inaction in Ukraine, criticized calls for a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas and said he's the best candidate to represent South Carolina in the Senate and "we're not auditioning for a reality show."

Graham's "reality show" comment was an obvious dig at Thomas Ravenel, the former state treasurer and convicted drug felon who's filed to run as an independent in the November general election and has also signed up to be featured in a second season of the reality television show "Southern Charm."

"We're not auditioning for a reality show," Graham said. "We're trying to be the best senator for the sake of South Carolina in dangerous and serious

times."

Ravenel said the difference between his reality show and Graham's reality show is simple. "His has cost taxpayers trillions of dollars and thousands of lives," Ravenel said. "And unlike my show, you can't change the channel when his show comes on and you can't stop paying for it either. I'll take Southern Charm over adventures in nation building any day of the week."

Graham, R-Seneca, said



U.S. Sen.
Lindsey
Graham

Drop in S.C. river levels spurs concern

THE SOUTH, B1



Are routine pelvic exams necessary?

YOUR HEALTH, D1

The Post and Courier

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TUESDAY, July 22, 2014

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

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

NAACP to seek inquiry on 'stop and frisk'

Denzel Curnell's grieving stepdad backs quest for federal investigation

BY ANDREW KNAIPP
aknaipp@postandcourier.com

When he woke up June 21, Dwayne German learned that his stepson had died of a gunshot wound the night before and that a revolver was missing from his house.

He learned little else about the death of 19-year-old Denzel Curnell during the next few weeks as authorities withheld information that could answer his questions.

"I had to pick out his casket and be

a pallbearer for my own son," he said. "And I still didn't know why he was gone."

German still didn't understand last week, when authorities ruled the death a suicide and defended why Officer Jamal Medina approached Curnell outside the Bridgeview Village apartments.

Curnell's hooded sweatshirt in the summertime heat had first raised the officer's suspicion.

Curnell suffered a gunshot wound during an evening struggle, prompting German to wonder if his stepson

Video

For footage from the Monday press conference, go to postandcourier.com/videos.

Read more

For previous coverage of this case, go to postandcourier.com/DenzelCurnell.

would still be alive if the confrontation never happened. That's why he donned a hooded sweatshirt Monday and stood next to NAACP officials as they announced plans to ask for a federal probe into the "stop-and-frisk" policies involved in the encounter.

Please see **CURNELL**, Page A4



Dwayne German, stepfather of Denzel Curnell, speaks to the media after the Charleston branch of the NAACP held a news conference Monday.



Tiny bloodsucker a big troublemaker

Chikungunya fever in S.C. a reminder to take precautions

BY BO PETERSEN
bpetersen@postandcourier.com

Chikungunya fever just turned up again in South Carolina, in an Upstate resident who recently returned from Haiti. The virus showed up last year in Charleston County, also in a returning traveler.

The African disease now joins a handful of other mosquito-borne diseases in the Lowcountry that have worrisome common:

- The odds are low that you will get one of them or have any symptoms if you do.
- If you do get symptoms, there are no treatments.

That's why you should take enough to take precautions.

"The chance is extremely low," said Michael Schmidt, Medical University of South Carolina microbiology and immunology professor. But it's not worth disregarding Chikungunya, for example, "makes you feel like your bones are breaking," he said.

"Any of these insects that have blood meals, the virus (if the insect carries it) is very small, so you get a large dose in a small volume. The treatment is simply supportive



James Seabrook walks through a canal near Collins Park in North Charleston on Wednesday along with Tyrone Burnell as they search for mosquito larvae.

care, which is why the best treatment is prevention. The mosquito abatement programs are money well spent," Schmidt said.

Prevalence

Face it, there's billions of mosquitoes out there during outbreaks, usually a few days after a rain. The insect lays eggs in water and eggs tend to hatch when submerged.

Because of sporadic rains this summer, it has been a lighter-than-normal season for hatches — so far, said Donna Odum, Charleston County mosquito control manager. But that could change after recent thundershowers. "It's that time of year," she said.

Please see **MOSQUITO**, Page A4

Mayor confronts BlueCross

Riley calls plan to drop 2 urgent care providers 'financially self-serving'

BY LAUREN SAUSSER
lsausser@postandcourier.com

Public opinion is mounting against BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina's decision to drop two large urgent care providers from its network later this year.

In a letter to the company last week, Charleston Mayor Joe Riley said the insurer's decision seems "financially self-serving" and "highly detrimental to your independent customers." Riley wrote he believes it limits options and will "clearly increase our health care cost."

"Freedom of choice is always desirable, particularly in health care," Riley said. "I urge you to reconsider the decision."

Please see **CARE**, Page A4



VA bosses frequently retaliate, report says

BY MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A pharmacy supervisor at the VA was placed on leave after complaining about errors and delays in delivering medications to patients at a hospital in Palo Alto, California. In Pennsylvania, a doctor was removed from clinical work after complaining that on-call doctors were refusing to go to a VA hospital in Wilkes-Barre.

Medical professionals from coast to coast have pointed out problems at the VA, only to suffer retaliation from supervisors and other high-ranking officials, according to a report Monday by a private government watchdog.

Please see **REPORT**, Page A8



Chance of T-storms.
High 89, Low 76.
Complete 5-day
forecast, B8

Bridge — B6 Crowsfoot — C8 D4 Sports — C1
Reviews — B2 Editorials — A8 Television — D6
Classified — C5 Movies — D5 The South — B3
Comics — D4-5 Obituaries — D4 Your Health — D1

Charleston Deals today

Under Pressure SC
Pay \$99 for pressure washing
one- or two-story home
See A2

USC FOOTBALL: Lorenzo Ward is secure with his future prospects. **B1**

SWINNEY SAYS

Clemson coach Dabo Swinney took his turn at the podium Monday during the ACC Kickoff. Some of his remarks:

"We're very similar in a lot of ways. We have a lot of the same values. (I have) a lot of respect for him as a football coach and as a husband and father. I think the job he's done there is amazing. I was kidding with somebody earlier today. They asked me and I said, 'He's from Pluto, I'm from Mars,' in how we handle certain things or maybe speak about things. The thing I like about coach Spurrier is that he is who he is. He's that way to everybody

whether you like or you don't like him. He's been that way for a long time. I don't think he's going to change anytime soon for me or for you."

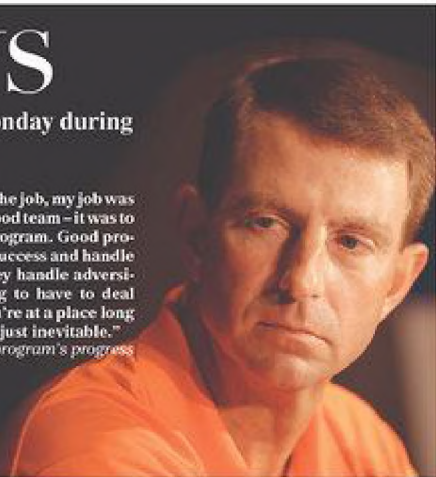
— On the differences between him and Steve Spurrier

"Cole can run. He's probably faster than Tajh (Boyd), to be honest with you. He's a big, ol' strong guy. He looks a little bit like Gumbo ... kind of gangly."

— On quarterback Cole Stoudt's running style

"When I got the job, my job was not to build a good team — it was to build a good program. Good programs sustain success and handle adversity. You're going to have to deal with both if you're at a place long enough. That's just inevitable."

— On the program's progress



IN SPORTS Where did Clemson land in the preseason polls? | Ron Morris column: Trips to college playoff games will be expensive.

The State

TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2014 | THESTATE.COM

Suspended Blythewood attorney linked to huge health insurance scam

By JOHN MONK
jmonk@thestate.com

A Richland County attorney who served on Blythewood Town Council has been linked to an alleged \$28 million health care embezzlement scheme that

bilked more than 17,000 customers before authorities shut it down.

The scheme, in which attorney Kathleen Devereaux Cauthen faces federal felony charges, also involved shell corporations — some set up to allegedly launder

money — in various states, including South Carolina, as well as in the Bahamas and possibly Pakistan, according to documents filed in federal court in Nashville, Tenn.

Efforts to reach Cauthen, who was suspended from the practice

of law by the S.C. Supreme Court late last month, were unsuccessful Monday. She could face eight years in prison if convicted.

The court order suspending her gave no specific reason. It also ordered a receiver, Peyre Lumpkin, to take custody of her

legal files and trust accounts.

According to court documents, the scheme that Cauthen aided involved setting up corporations that purported to offer legitimate health care coverage to

SEE SCAM PAGE A4



A website offers Columbia homes as an option for fans headed to the city for USC football games.

Ditch town on gameday? Homeowners could profit

Group pitches rentals for football weekends. Full weekend — spend it in town. Spend

BULL STREET Work on apartments starting soon

By JEFF WILKINSON
jwilkinson@thestate.com

Construction could begin as early as next month on apartments for the Bull Street project, developer Bob Hughes said during a meeting Monday.

Crews are expected to start site preparation for apartments along Calhoun Street in August, with the complex opening in the fall of 2015 in the landmark development on the site of the former State Mental Hospital, Hughes said.

"We're starting to stick shovels in the ground," he told a meeting of the Bull Street Commission during a briefing at City Hall on Monday.

The commission, chaired by council member Brian DeQuincey Newman, is made of up real estate professionals and community leaders and is tasked with advising City Council on the progress of the sprawling 165-acre project in



Hughes

SEE BULL STREET PAGE A5

Rebels release bodies

Ukrainian rebels bowed to world pressure Monday and released a refrigerated train packed with bodies from the downed

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YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

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'GET ON UP'

Augusta movie premiere

- "Get On Up" will be screened in advance on Thursday at 7 p.m. in Augusta at the Regal Augusta Exchange Stadium 20 & IMAX, with a party planned afterward at the Augusta Museum of History, where a trove of James Brown memorabilia is on display.
- Director Tate Taylor and some of the stars of the film will attend the screening. "Get On Up" opens nationwide on Aug. 1.

NEW FILM FOLLOWS LIFE OF GODFATHER OF SOUL

"Based on James Brown's incredible life story, the film gives a fearless look inside the music, moves and moods of the icon, taking audiences on the journey from his impoverished childhood to his evolution into one of the most influential figures of the 20th century." — getonupmovie.com

Chadwick Boseman as James Brown in "Get On Up."

James Brown's daughters looking forward to movie

BY JENNIFER BRETT
McClatchy-Tribune

Music fans loved him as the hardest-working man in show business. They loved him as Dad.

Two of James Brown's daughters, Deanna Brown Thomas and Dr. Yamma Brown, are chief among the folks who can't wait for "Get On Up," the movie about their late father, coming out Aug. 1.

"His life story to me is survival," Thomas, president of the James Brown Family Children Foundation and founder of the James Brown Academy of Musik Pupils, said during an interview in Augusta.

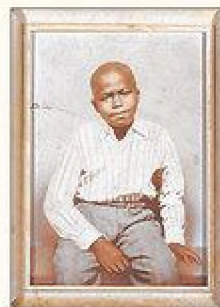
"Coming up in the segregated South, poor

Want to go to the premiere?

WHAT? "Get On Up" screening, after-party
WHEN? Screening is Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Regal Augusta Exchange; after-party will be held at the Augusta Museum of History
TICKETS? Tickets to the screening are \$50 at www.showdix.com/event/GetOnUpAugusta12. For tickets to the after-party, RSVP to deborah@jamesbrownfamilyfdn.org or call 845-402-2200, ext. 105.

and uneducated, his musical abilities were definitely a gift from God."

Please see **FILM**, Page 11A



PHOTOS COURTESY OF
GETONUPMOVIE.COM

An early photo of the future Mr. Dynamite. The biopic about the late James Brown premiered Monday at the Apollo Theater. It opens nationwide Aug. 1.

James Brown born in Barnwell, kept mansion in Aiken County

BY AVERY WILKS
awilks@aikenstandard.com

Also known as the Godfather of Soul, James Brown was an iconic singer, songwriter and dancer who found his calling in funk and R&B music.

Brown was born into poverty in Barnwell County in 1933 and raised in Augusta. He kept a home in Beech Island.

Brown's stardom began in the late 1950s, when he recorded "Please, Please, Please" and "Try Me" as a member of an R&B vocal group called the Famous Flames. "Try Me" reached No. 1 on the R&B charts and made it into the Hot 100 Singles Chart.

The early 1960s saw Brown break into the charts with "Lost Someone," "Night Train" and "Prisoner of Love," which reached No. 2 on the pop charts.

Please see **BIO**, Page 11A

AREA DEATHS

Dean Griffin Padgett, Aiken
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER

Tea Party seeks answers on sales tax option

BY ROB NOVIT
rnovit@aikenstandard.com

Aiken County Board of Education members made their case, Aiken



and we need to do this to address the needs up front."

The economy stinks, said Tea Party member Terry Sullivan.

"It's not a good time for us to go out



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LOW: 74
Weather, 4B

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GAZA DEATH TOLL RISES

Israel-Hamas fighting leaves more than 560 dead; truce seems unlikely as leaders refuse to back down **9A**

The Beaufort Gazette

TUESDAY, July 22, 2014

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IN BEAUFORT COUNTY

Report: Greater flooding likely

Rising sea levels could put at risk billions of dollars in infrastructure

By **DAN BURLEY**
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843-706-8142

Extreme floods coupled with rising sea levels could put billions of dollars of Beaufort County property and infrastructure at risk in coming years, a national climate-research group warned Monday.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$6 BILLION

Real estate value in Beaufort County at risk from rising sea levels

400

Approximate number of homes in the city of Beaufort at risk

\$291 MILLION

Property value in Beaufort at risk

20-40 YEARS

Estimated time frame for increased flooding that could jeopardize county property, infrastructure

ists that surveys and conducts climate-change studies. The group has released an analysis for 13 states, drawing on data from more than 10 federal agencies.

The New York Times has called the project "the most elaborate effort in decades to estimate the proportion of the national population at risk from the rising sea."

In the 29-page South Carolina report, the group cited what it called medium-range projections for a sea-level rise on the coast of 1.2 feet by 2050 and 4 feet by 2100.

Please see **FLOODING** on 7A

WILL RISING SEA LEVELS AFFECT YOU?

Climate Central, a nonprofit climate-research group, has released an analysis that predicts extreme flooding as sea levels rise along the Beaufort County

59TH ANNUAL BEAUFORT WATER FESTIVAL



GOING WITH THE FLOW

Motown Monday events draw crowds despite rain



JAY KARR • Staff photo

Derrick Sykora of Greenwood positions a bank of lights as he prepares the stage for Motown Monday concerts at the Beaufort Water Festival at Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park.

By **ERIN MOODY** • emoody@beaufortgazette.com • 843-706-8384

Some days, the Beaufort Water Festival lives up to its name in more ways than one, and Motown Monday was no exception.

Deas-Guyz took the stage at Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park about 8:20 p.m. Monday and struck up a handful of songs, as a wall of rain advanced down the Beaufort River.

Many attendees went scrambling under the park pavilion, building overhangs or their vehicles, while others hunkered down under umbrellas. Brilliant flashes of lightning eventually sent even some of those determined souls streaming out of the gates.

Please see **FLOW** on 7A

WHAT'S NEXT?

For an interactive schedule you can

SOCIALLY SPEAKING

AIRLINER SHOT DOWN

Plane's evidence may give answers

Investigators worry that debris has been tampered with by pro-Russia rebels, who control pieces of the jetliner's wreckage.

By **DANICA KIRKA**
and **JOHN-THOR DAHLBURG**
The Associated Press

LONDON — "What exactly are they trying to hide?" President Barack Obama asked Monday as he demanded that Ukrainian rebels give investigators access to the wreckage of the downed jetliner.

The answer is: potentially a lot.

Aviation and defense experts say the victims' bodies could contain missile shrapnel. Chemical residue on the plane could confirm the type of weapon that brought down Malaysia Airlines Flight 17. And the location of the wreckage could yield information on how the attack unfolded.

The black boxes could offer vital clues as well. The cockpit voice recorder would record the bang of a missile. The data recorders, which register altitude and position, would be able to tie that information to the timing of a known missile launch in the area.

Please see **EVIDENCE** on 7A

ON LADY'S ISLAND

Ravenel launches campaign

The TV star and U.S. Senate candidate wants to reduce the size of the federal government.

By **ZACH MURDOCK**
zmurdock@beaufortgazette.com
843-706-8147

U.S. Senate candidate Thomas Ravenel laughed off his nerves and leaned on history Monday to argue his case for drastically reducing the size of the federal government.

"I think somebody needs to worry about the country, because where the country goes, so go



Ravenel

BROKERING A CEASE-FIRE

Nations push for end to violence as death toll tops 560 in Gaza A7

Herald-Journal

TUESDAY

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HJ
IN A HURRY

5 Things
to read
today



Revamped offense

Clemson Coach Dabo Swinney continued to walk a fine line Monday between acknowledging the strength of the Tigers' defense while reassuring everyone that the team's offense is ready to score plenty of points.

PAGE B1

LGBT protection

President Barack Obama ordered employment protection for gay and transgender employees who work for the federal government and its contractors, telling advocates he embraced the "irrefutable rightness of your cause."

PAGE A3

Shark frenzy

Great white sharks are having an unusual effect on Cape Cod this summer. The sharks being spotted in growing numbers are stirring curiosity and a buying frenzy for shark-related merchandise.

PAGE A4

Allergan layoffs

Botox maker Allergan will cut about 13 percent of its workforce — some 1,500 jobs — as part of a push to become more efficient while it fights a hostile takeover bid from Valeant Pharmaceuticals.

PAGE D1

Guard deployment

Gov. Rick Perry is deploying 1,000 National Guard troops to the Texas-Mexico border in the next month to combat what he said were criminals exploiting children pouring into the U.S. illegally.

PAGE A5

Vote set for Sunday alcohol sales

County Council approves referendum on Nov. ballot as legal questions remain

By JASON SPENCER
jason.spencer@shj.com

Come November, Spartanburg County voters will decide whether Sunday alcohol sales should be allowed in the county.

On Monday, Spartanburg County Council voted 5-2 to allow the referendum to be placed on the ballot, despite lingering legal questions

and potential challenges.

Last week, a *Herald-Journal* article highlighted different interpretations of state law on whether the referendum, if approved, would apply to all of Spartanburg County — including incorporated cities and towns — or whether those municipalities would need to decide for themselves to opt in or opt out of Sunday alcohol sales. In the latter case, a successful referendum would apply only to unincorporated Spartanburg County.

"I don't think we've got the right to tell the municipalities what they can or can't do," said Councilman O'Neal Mintz, whose district

includes Chesnee. "I haven't had anybody in Chesnee tell me they want Sunday alcohol sales."

Mintz tried to table the matter until county attorneys could answer the legal questions. Councilmen Michael Brown and Dale Culbreth sided with him, but ultimately they fell short of the votes needed to delay the issue.

Brown asked Senior Deputy County Attorney John H. Harris whether this "novel issue" could lead to litigation. "Certainly," Harris said, but the question would be between which parties.

◆ SEE ALCOHOL PAGE A7

TEARFUL REUNION



GWINN DAVIS-GREENVILLE DRIVE

Cami Lee Isbell, a 9-year-old from the Upstate, threw out the first pitch Monday at the Greenville Drive game and was surprised when the catcher turned out to be her father, Staff Sgt. Michael Isbell, who has returned from duty in Afghanistan.

Report: VA record of retaliation is extensive

By MATTHEW DALY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A pharmacy supervisor at the VA was placed on leave after complaining about errors and delays in delivering medications to patients at a hospital in Palo Alto, Calif. In Pennsylvania, a doctor was removed from clinical work after complaining that on-call doctors were refusing to go to a VA hospital in Wilkes-Barre.

Medical professionals from coast to coast have pointed out problems at the VA, only to suffer retaliation from supervisors and other high-ranking officials, according to a report Monday by a private government watchdog.

The report compiled by the Project on Government Oversight, a group that conducts its own investigations and works with whistleblowers, is based on comments and complaints filed by nearly 800 current and former VA employees and veterans. Those comments indicate that concerns about the VA go far beyond the long waiting times or falsified appointment records that have received much recent attention, extending to the quality of health care services veterans receive, the report said.

The group set up a website in mid-May for complaints and said it has received allegations of wrongdoing from 35 states and the District of Columbia.

"A recurring and fundamental theme has become clear: VA

◆ SEE VA PAGE A7

INDEX-JOURNAL

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www.indexjournal.com

2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2014

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

CPW receives grant for water line improvements

By FRANK BUMB

fbumb@indexjournal.com

Grant funds keep rolling into Greenwood.

Greenwood Commissioners of Public Works received a \$487,700 Community Development Block Grant for improvements across several water lines. The lines to be improved are Alma, Ashwood, Cottonwood, Curtis, Glendale, Keisler and Orchard. The streets are concentrated in Wards 4, 5 and 6 with Keisler in Ward 1.

"Residents will see upgraded water lines, new fire hydrants, better water pressure and reliability," City Manager Charlie Barrineau said.

CPW Manager Steve Reeves said the upgrades will bring fire protection to under-served areas.

"It'll also increase the water sup-

ply and boost the water pressure," Reeves said.

Barrineau said the grant represents the continuation of efforts by CPW's grant writers.

"It's just shy of \$3 million in the decade," Barrineau said.

While Greenwood City Council voted 7-0 to accept the grant, no funds from the city are required to execute the grant or project.

"The CPW pays any additional matching funds," he said. "The city doesn't have any additional cost."

Reeves said CPW has yet to receive the funds but is prepared to move forward as soon as the grant is finalized.

"We've got the engineering ready to go and we'll jump on it right away and bid it out," he said.

Barrineau said he doesn't have an exact time frame but said similar

projects often take a year to complete after a grant is awarded.

In other business, Barrineau said the test pits dug at the Uptown Market site revealed no "surprises."

"We're fortunate in that there's no large stumps, no holes or other organic material," Barrineau said.

Five test pits were dug anywhere from 10 to 15 feet to explore the ground beneath the site. While no further obstructions were discovered, Barrineau said the city likely will face an extra \$100,000 to \$150,000 for the project.

"We're still looking at that figure to remove about 6 feet (of soil) and replace it with suitable soil," he said.

Barrineau said the current soil could be built upon but it would be a risk.

See CPW, page 3A



FRANK BUMB | INDEX-JOURNAL

Ninety Six National Historic Site Superintendent John Slaughter, left, presents a plaque during Monday's city council meeting to thank members of the Greenwood Fire Department's Confined Space Rescue Team. The team was instrumental in helping secure and map the historic Kosciuszko Mine, the only remaining military tunnel from the American Revolution.

DRUG UNIT ON A ROLL



PHOTOS BY MATT BRUCE | INDEX-JOURNAL

DEU Commander Brandon Stickland, left, walks with James Teasley, center, moments after the Greenwood suspect showered in a decontamination station to wash off toxic chemicals Monday during a meth lab bust along Old Laurens Road. Teasley was arrested after agents found several bottles of the drug in his residence.

Narcotics officers discover fourth meth lab of the month

By MATT BRUCE

mbruce@indexjournal.com

The crackdown continued Monday as Greenwood County narcotics officers discovered yet another lab where methamphetamine was being produced.

A Greenwood man was arrested as agents from the multi-jurisdictional Drug Enforcement Unit recovered more than nine pounds of the drug from a brick out-shelter in Lakeview Heights.

James Teasley, 48, of 4912 Old Laurens Road, was charged with trafficking meth, possession of altered ephedrine, improper disposal of meth waste and manufacturing marijuana in connection with the incident, officials said.

Officers seized dozens of meth bottles and



EDUCATION

D50 Board votes to move ahead with tech plan

By KATE HRUBY

khruby@indexjournal.com

Greenwood School District 50 board of trustees passed first reading of a capital projects plan Monday that would allow the district to complete "phase one" of its technology plan and begin to implement what it is calling "phase two" of that same plan.

The vote allows the district to use \$1.5 million from its fund balance for the project and will include completing a wireless backbone at Rice, Pinecrest, Merrywood and Lakeview elementary schools as well as placing iPad carts in those schools in the fall of 2014.

New teacher devices such as Google Chromebooks will be distributed to teachers in January of 2015. Teachers will use the Chromebooks to become familiar with the Google Apps suite, and brings the total number of platforms and devices in District 50 classrooms up to four, including an existing Dell laptop, the new Google Chromebook, a re-purposed Dell desktop computer (for use in conjunction with the classroom's interactive whiteboard), and an Apple iPad.

The vote also includes the distribution of student devices for sixth-through-12th graders scheduled for August of 2015 and various athletic field improvements scheduled for the spring of 2016.

David Loadholt, assistant superintendent for business, said the district would still have approximately \$11.5 million left in its fund balance after taking the money out for the plan. He said the district currently has about \$12 million in the fund and plans to add an additional \$1 million in the near future.

In other business, the board discussed possibly changing its committee policy, with members Tom Miller and Lee Vartanian expressing interest in holding separate committee meetings. Later in the evening, the board voted to enter into contract with the South Carolina School Board Association to enlist the organization's aid in looking at and revising school board policy, which district superintendent Darrell Johnson said needed updating to comply with new legislation.

In his superintendent's report, Johnson said 28 employees would be retiring after 530 combined years of service. Seventeen retirees with a total of 397 years in the district were recognized at the meeting.

"Each of you will be sorely missed at your respective locations throughout the district," Johnson said. "We are very thankful, very thankful, that all of you served in our district and contributed your skills, your knowledge,



STATE

Report warns of future flooding

Sea level rise makes extreme floods more likely A6

8 candidates so far throw hats in school board race

BY RAYTEVIA EVANS
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The races for multiple seats on the Sumter School District board of trustees are already

starting to heat up. Since filing began last Tuesday, eight candidates have filed with the voter registration and elections office to run for the school board election.

Four candidates — Caleb

Kershaw Jr., Brian Alston, Linda Alston and Daniel Cook — have all filed in hopes of being elected for the Area 1 seat. Larry Addison, the current board member representing Area 1, previously made a

public statement informing the board and the community that he will not run for re-election this year but will continue to support and advocate for public education in Sumter.

Kershaw said he has filed for election to speak out for equal opportunities across all schools and to contribute to education in Sumter.

SEE CANDIDATES, PAGE A4

CRIME IN SUMTER

Weapons offenses, shooting rates up

Police release mid-year city stats

BY ROB COTTINGHAM
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Within any community, knowing what's going on in the neighborhood is always a high priority, especially when it comes to crime.

Officials with Sumter Police Department have released the year-to-date crime statistics for the city of Sumter and provided a comparison to the same time frame in 2013.

While many categories seem relatively consistent and haven't spiked at an alarming rate, others, such as shootings and weapons crimes, have seen a noticeable increase from January to June. Weapons crimes, such as unlawful possession of a handgun, have accounted for a 24.4 percent increase compared to the same time frame last year, and the frequency of shootings has also seen a significant surge in recent months.

In fact, in the city police report so far this year, there have been 12 shooting incidents in the South Sumter area of town alone. These incidents have prompted community leaders in the South Sumter area to organize rallies and a march later this month to help combat the increase in violent crime.

According to Sumter Police Chief Russell F. Roark III, these crimes and many others are being addressed in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

"We are constantly analyzing our crime data and deploying our resources, both manpower and varying policing techniques, accordingly," Roark said. "These efforts do not just target one community. We are working to address all areas within the city of Sumter that might fall prey to sporadic criminal activity. We are tackling our issues head on."

PROTECT YOURSELF

Aside from violent crimes, other categories

SEE CRIME, PAGE A8

Community calls for change



MATT WALSH / THE SUMTER ITEM

Calvin Hastie goes over plans on Sunday at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church to organize the Sumter community against a recent slew of violence. A protest march is scheduled for Aug. 9 at 8 a.m., and organizers hope 1,200 people will come.

Leaders organizing violence protest march for August

BY CATHERINE FOLEY
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Community leaders in the South Sumter area are organizing a march in reaction to the recent violence in their area, saying it is an effort to point out the difficulties one section of town might be fac-

ing that have an impact on the entire city.

Announced during a community meeting held Sunday at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, about 125 people, including several elected officials and political hopefuls, heard the initial plans for the march.

While details are still being de-

veloped, the march is currently scheduled to take place Aug. 9, starting at 8 a.m. The march, which organizers recognized has yet to get the required permits to use the streets, will take a two-mile circular path beginning and ending at M.H. Newton Family

SEE PROTEST, PAGE A8



GAME ON
Swinney,
Tigers eager for
campaign to
begin. C1

LIVING HISTORY: Auditions tonight for documentary about Jane Edna Hunter. B1
MOOD TURNS DARK: 25 Israeli soldiers killed in Gaza attack. D1

Former Westminster police chief sentenced

Bannister gets prison time, must pay city \$113K



BY NORMAN CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Former Westminster police chief Johnny Scott Bannister will spend the next two years in prison and pay the

City of Westminster more than \$100,000 as part of an agreement in his guilty plea Monday before circuit judge Alexander Macaulay. "I'm very sorry," Bannister, 46, said after he entered guilty pleas to embezzle-

ment of public funds and misconduct in office. The charges came in connection with money Bannister took from the city through what prosecutor David Wagner told Macaulay Monday were

"fake vouchers" that he was supposed to use to purchase equipment, including protective vests, for the Westminster Police Department — items that were not purchased.

Macaulay sentenced Bannister to 10 years in prison, suspended to two years with

'We want him to spend some time for his crime and we want our money back.'

Jennifer Adams
Westminster clerk and treasurer

SEE CHIEF, PAGE A5

Going greener



Local officials
optimistic about
recycling future

JESSICA HELLERS / THE JOURNAL
William Harris sorts
items last week at
the Richland recycling
center.

State's rate increases for fourth year in a row

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

South Carolina is taking its recycling seriously, as evidenced by a report released last month by the State Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). DHEC officials said the state's municipal recycling rate improved to 31.5 percent between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2013, compared

to the previous year's rate of 29.5 percent. Overall, the amount of municipal solid waste recycled increased 142,860 tons to more than 1.3 million tons last year — the fourth consecutive year it has improved.

"The recycling numbers reflect the hard work that local governments and businesses are doing to recover more material," said Kent Coleman, director of DHEC's division of mining and solid

waste management. "Recycling is a way of life for more and more residents and businesses that understand the environmental and economic benefits of this simple action."

On average, each South Carolinian recycled 1.39 pounds per person per day in fiscal year 2013 compared to 1.44 the year before. Electronics recycling jumped from 9,253 tons in

SEE RECYCLING, PAGE A6

Charging station upgrades to begin for electric buses

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Now that the electric buses are back and driver training has begun, work is about to begin on improving and protecting one of Seneca's two electric-bus charging stations.

Greenville-based contractor Sherman Construction took out a county building permit

last week to begin work at the charging station located on the grounds of Oconee Medical Center. The work of building protective fencing and a waiting shelter at the site is valued at \$66,000, according to county permit records.

Seneca planning and community development director Ed Halbig said

SEE BUSES, PAGE A5



Work is expected to begin soon on building a fence and waiting shelter at the electric bus charging station on the grounds of Oconee Medical Center.

Oconee's debt rating boosted

BY STEVEN BRADLEY
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Oconee County now has a "very strong capacity to meet financial commitments," according to one of the nation's preeminent credit rating agencies.

Standard & Poor's Rating Services recently upgraded the county's debt rating to "AA," up from its previous "AA-" rating.

and you maintain a good credit rating with those agencies for your existing and future bond needs." Moulder mentioned the upgrade to the county's bond rating at a council meeting last week, and the county has since confirmed it via



Moulder

Anna Smith benefit raises almost \$14K

Many turn
out to help
despite soggy
Saturday

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE

collected close to \$14,000. Maj. Jeremy Rothell said Monday that money raised from several activities — including an auction, sale of barbecue plates, yard and bake sale and ticket sales for the opportunity to win a two-year-old quarter horse — topped \$13,700. The drawing for the horse will be Aug. 2.

retary and records clerk. She has won the hearts of her colleagues in the department and city of Seneca with the courage she's displayed, along with a cheerful and positive outlook, after being



Smith

more than \$700 for Smith by having their heads shaved. Lt. Brian Sheriff and city employee Donnie White, who recently teamed up to do a barbecue for the city's salute to military veterans, did so again to help out Smith. Westminster auctioneer Billy Burton volunteered his unique voice and style to help



Morning News

TUESDAY JULY 22, 2014

The Voice of the Pee Dee

TODAY'S
WEATHERShowers and a heavier
thunderstorm.
High 88 low 70
DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

75 cents

Darlington County

Council terminates Surrett's contract

BY JIM FAILE
Morning News
jfaile@florencenews.com

DARLINGTON — Darlington County Council voted 5-3 to terminate the employment contract of County Administrator Dale Surrett during a specially called meeting Monday night.

Frank Willis, former mayor of Florence and current executive director of the Darlington

County Economic Development Partnership, will serve as county administrator until an interim administrator is appointed.

The vote to terminate the contract followed about a 20-minute closed executive session of council members and the county attorney.



Surrett

Members voting to terminate the contract were Robert L. "Bobby" Kilgo Jr., Le Flowers, Robbin Brock, Bobby Hudson and Dannie Douglas.

The three no votes came from Chairman Wesley Blackwell, and members Mozella "Pennie" Nicholson and Wilhelmina Johnson.

Afterward, Surrett declined to comment.

The vote came just two weeks

after council voted 5-2 not to renew Surrett's contract for another year.

Flowers, who two weeks ago voted in favor of renewing the contract, said after the meeting Monday that he voted to terminate because council was divided and the relationship among members and between council and the administrator have become compromised.

"I had no problem with the job

he was doing," Flowers said. "But the relationship between the council and the administrator had just become unworkable."

Nicholson, who two weeks ago voted against renewing the contract, voted against terminating this time.

She said council missed its deadline set for notifying Surrett that his contract would not be

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3A

Baby sitter sentenced for hurting young child

BY TRACI BRIDGES
Morning News
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FLORENCE — A 44-year-old Florence woman will spend two years in prison for hurting a 4-month-old infant she was baby-sitting last year.

Thu Thi Tran, of 908 Second Loop Road, entered an Alford Plea on Monday morning in general sessions court in Florence and was sentenced by Circuit Judge D. Craig Brown to 10 years, suspended to two years in prison and four years probation.

An Alford Plea is a guilty plea whereby a defendant in a criminal case does not admit the criminal act and asserts innocence. But in entering an Alford plea, the defendant admits that the evidence the prosecution has would be likely to persuade a judge or jury to find the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Tran was arrested last summer as the result of an investigation that began when an area hospital notified police of a situation involving severe injuries to an infant, Florence Police Maj. Carlos Raines said.

Tran was a daily baby sitter for three children of two families, the 4-month-old boy that was injured, as well as another 4-month-old and a 2-year-old.

The parents of the 4-month-old dropped him off at Tran's house about 9:45 a.m. on Aug. 16. They got a call about 3:30 p.m. from Tran, who said the child was unresponsive and she could not wake him. The child was taken to an area hospital, where doctors ran tests and determined the baby had suffered nonaccidental trauma to the head.

Tran said she'd bounced the baby on her knee and that he'd hit his head on a door as she was carrying him, but tests indicated



Tran

SUMMER HOOPS



PHOTO BY JOHN RUSSELL/MORNING NEWS

Darlington High School head basketball coach Ken Howle gives instructions Monday to Naekwon Dix (left) and Earl McCullough during a camp for kids aged 7-14 years old. This is the first year for the camp, and it is organized by Howle and the team.



Darlington High School basketball player Darius Green rallies his team, from left, Tianna Willoughby, Jermon Baker and Xavier Tedder before a scrimmage.



Darlington High School head coach Ken Howle high-fives Kristian Bruce during a scrimmage.

FMU earns top honors as 'Great College to Work For'

Evaluation of work places in academia puts Florence school on Honor Roll

BY ELLEN MEDER
Morning News
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situations from across the country to receive the distinction of a

been included again on this list. The men and women who com-

ModernThink, a human capital consulting firm which surveyed 43,500 faculty and staff members from colleges across the



CMYK



Odd

**ACC KICKOFF**

Florida teams expected to take ACC division titles; Clemson voted to finish 2nd in Coastal SPORTS, B1



James Garner remembered as an iconic American hero

ENTERTAINMENT, A4

'A RIDE TO REMEMBER'

HEALTH, A6

TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2014

The Times and Democrat

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2 SECTIONS, 12 PAGES • VOL. 133 • NO. 203

Deluge: 8 to 10 inches of rain

T&D CORRESPONDENT RICHARD REDD

Orangeburg County gets 'hardest hit'; vehicles stranded and roads flooded

By CAROL B. BARKER
T&D Region Editor

Slow-moving thunderstorms dumped as much as 10 inches of rain in some portions of Orangeburg County late Monday afternoon, resulting in dozens of stranded vehicles and blocked roadways.

A flash flood warning for the area was extended until 2 a.m. Tuesday, according to National Weather Service meteorologist Whitney Smith.

"You guys were the hardest hit by a long shot," Smith said of Orangeburg County, noting the NWS in Columbia received reports of 10 inches of rain in the Cordova area, with more rain expected.

The Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities reported more than 8 inches fell at the water plant while the rain gauge at Edisto Memorial Gardens recorded more than 8-1/2 inches, she said.

Smith said water damage was reported at the Orangeburg County Library and the Orangeburg County Courthouse.

In addition, she said the NWS received reports of flooding on the following roads: Russell Street, Chestnut Street, Stonewall Jackson Boulevard, Magnolia Street, Hillcrest, Old Riley Street, Briarwood and Lakeshore.

Orangeburg Department of Public Safety Capt. Carl Shultz said several motorists were stranded and had to be rescued, but no injuries were reported. Major flooding occurred at Chestnut Street and U.S. 601, along most of U.S. 301 and on several side streets in Orangeburg, he said. DPW crews were busy putting barriers and cones up to block flooded roadways throughout the city, Shultz said.

Bill Minkiewicz, Calhoun County Emergency Preparedness Agency director, said he recorded about 5 inches of rain at his home in Sandy Run Monday afternoon, but he said there were no reports of major problems in the county. There were no reports of flooding in Bamberg County either, according to Emergency Services director Sharon Hammond.

TOP: Monday's rain left a car stranded in floodwaters on Stonewall Jackson near Dollar General.

RIGHT: The spray park at Edisto Memorial Gardens gets plenty of extra water as the DPW weather station nearby recorded more than 8 inches of rain.

**ONLINE AT
THETAND.COM**

■ More photos from Monday's rain

■ A series of videos by T&D Correspondent Richard Redd



BARBARA BEADY/T&D

Ex-Destiny's Child member arrested after partying with Bowers, Sapp

By MEG KINNARD
Associated Press Writer

COLUMBIA — A former

ball players Daquan Bowers and Ricky Sapp, according to authorities.

Online records show Farrah

Franklin had been drinking with Bowers and Sapp, both former Clemson University football players who are now

**Report: Man killed when club owner 'returned fire'**

T&D Staff Report

An Orangeburg man was

the witnesses about what happened.

