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To:

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Subject: SC Front Pages – Wednesday, September 28, 2016

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The Post and Courier

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Wednesday, September 28, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

School trustee's eligibility questioned

Two board members call on supporter of 'coherent governance' plan to step down

BY PAUL BOWERS
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Some Charleston County School Board members are questioning North Area member Tom Ducker's eligibility for office just as the board

considers a significant change that could dilute its power.

Ducker supports the proposed "coherent governance plan" that would shift responsibilities from the school board to the superintendent. A vote could come next month, and

pc Poll
Should Tom Ducker step down? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

board members are split on the idea in early discussions.

Ducker, who is not seeking re-election, owns a house on Sorentrue Avenue in North Charleston but bought a second house on Dunbury Drive

in Summerville in September 2013. The second house is in Dorchester County.

Ducker told district officials in January that he would split his time between the two houses until his term ends in November, maintaining his residency in Charleston County.

At midday on a recent weekday, a neighbor said she regularly sees Ducker unloading groceries at the North Charleston house.

But public records indicate Ducker has moved his voter registration, his vehicle tax registration and his homeowner-occupied property tax status to Dorchester County.

The state constitution holds that anyone who wants to be "popularly elected to and serve in any office" must be a qualified elector — that is, registered to vote in the area they want to represent.

Please see **DUCKER**, Page A7

Former star athlete 'a walking miracle'

Cornell Stanley, who nearly died in crash, makes amazing comeback



MICHAEL PRONZATO/STAFF

Cornell Stanley was constantly changing floors to complete difference exercises with Cheryl Davis at Roper Hospital on Thursday. Stanley was involved in a car accident in March and said, now, during his recovery, "emotionally, it's tough."

BY JEFF HARTSELL
jhartsell@postandcourier.com

When Cornell Stanley was a freshman at James Island Charter High School, football coach John Patterson called him "Mighty Mike."

At just 5 feet, 4 inches tall, the kid could be playful and a bit silly. But he was strong. Very strong.

"I noticed right off the bat that he had quick-

pc Gallery
For more photos, go to postandcourier.com/galleries

ness and strength," said Patterson, a weightlifter himself who made his career in football and strength coaching. "I don't mean just strength, but rare strength. I've coached some

of the strongest people in America, and Cornell could have been that kind of kid.

"He might have weighed 150 pounds as a sophomore, and he was already squatting 500 pounds in competition. He was a natural, and if he had stayed after it until his mid-20s, he could have been a national champion powerlifter, he was that much of a freak."

Please see **STANLEY**, Page A4

State pension worries mount

Lawmakers urged to find solutions

BY GAVIN JACKSON
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COLUMBIA — Advocates for police officers, teachers and local public employees are demanding that state lawmakers find solutions to the state's underfunded pension fund without raising rates on underpaid employees or cutting benefits.

"You promised us when we were hired that if we would accept a lower salary you would take care of us," retiree Lynne Schmidt told lawmakers members of the Joint Committee on Pension Systems Review on Tuesday.

"You take away our pensions, we'll probably have to drop to one meal a day," said Schmidt, who along with her husband worked for the state as accountants for a combined 60 years. Now they eat only two meals a day to cut costs.

Legislators are trying to tackle a ballooning \$20 billion state pension fund liability.

Please see **PENSION**, Page A7

Roof trial jury pool reaches nearly 600

About 700 expected to return for further inquiries Nov. 7

BY ANDREW KNAPP
aknapp@postandcourier.com

Dylann Roof's gaze was locked on the desk in front of him as people who one day might decide his fate filled the courtroom.

If he had looked up Tuesday, Roof would have seen white people and black people. People of Hispanic and Asian descent. People wearing flip-flops, penny loafers and red Converse Chuck Taylors. People with pink hair, people with no hair.

He might have seen the tattoo on one woman's hand that said, "Love." He might have seen the leather-bound Bible one man clutched tightly with both hands. The accused killer of nine worshippers at Emanuel AME Church never lifted his eyes while the prospective jurors sat in front of him on his second day of jury selection process for his death penalty trial.

Please see **ROOF**, Page A7

Inside



SPORTS
Allen returns as Citadel's starting quarterback. **C1**

REGION

Court document: Man killed by cop in Charlotte threatened wife. **A9**

LOCAL

Relocating woodpeckers goal of unusual program. **A3**

Trump continues excuses, insults

Steps up attack on Miss Universe winner, weight

BY LISA LERER
and STEVE PEOPLES
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — A defensive Donald Trump gave Hillary Clinton plenty of fresh material for the next phase of her presidential campaign on Tuesday, choosing to publicly reopen and re-litigate some her most damaging attacks.

The day after his first general election debate, Trump blamed the moderator, a host, microphone and anyone but himself for his performance. Next time, he threatened, he might get more personal and make a bigger political issue of former President Bill Clinton's marital infidelities.



Clinton Trump

Inside

Debate appears likely to topple 36-year ratings record. **Page A8**

Poll: Voters more confident in Trump's health. **Page A8**

Things are already getting plenty personal. On Monday night, Trump brushed off Clinton's debate claim that he'd once shamed a former Miss Universe winner for her weight. But

then he dug deeper the next day — extending the controversy over what was one of his most negative debate night moments.

"She gained a massive amount of weight. It was a real problem. We had a real problem," Trump told "Fox and Friends" about Alicia Machado, the 1996 winner of the pageant he once owned.

The comments were reminiscent of previous times when Trump has attacked private citizens in deeply personal terms. Earlier this month, he was interrupted by the pastor of a traditionally African-American church in Flint, Michigan, after breaking his agreement not to be political in his remarks. Though Trump abided by her wishes, he went after her the next morning on TV saying she was "a nervous mess" and that he thought "something was up."

Please see **CAMPAIGN**, Page A8



Chance of storms. High 86. Low 70. Complete 5-day forecast. **B10**

Bridge..... B7
Business..... B1
Classifieds..... F1
Comics..... B8-9
Crossword..... B8, B4
Editorials..... A10
Food..... D1
Golf..... B9-9
Movies..... B7
Obituaries..... B4
Sports..... C1
Sudoku..... B7
Television..... B6

Charleston Deals today

Zest Grill
Pay \$10 to spend \$20.
See A2

PALMETTO FOOD

Taste the crunch of an SC autumn in these hearty recipes. 1c



FORK & GOAL

Brisket sliders are on the menu as Aggies come to town. 1c



WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 28 2016

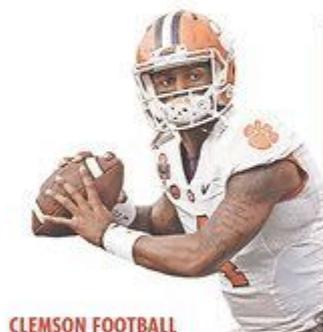
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The State



CLEMSON FOOTBALL

HEISMAN HOPEFULS

The once and present Heisman favorites: Clemson's Deshaun Watson vs. Louisville's Lamar Jackson, 1B



SC RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Retirees to lawmakers: Preserve our benefits

■ S.C. lawmakers are grappling with how to pay for the retirement system's unfunded liabilities of more than \$18 billion. They could use money from S.C. taxpayers or ask state workers and public-sector employees to pay more.

BY CASSIE COPE cope@thestate.com

A retired Forest Acres couple told legislators Tuesday they eat only two meals a day, and make house and car repairs themselves to hold down their living expenses.

Combined, retired state employees Lynn and Richard Schmidt earn about \$50,000 a year in pension benefits — an incentive, they say, that caused them to work for the state instead of taking better paying jobs in the private sector.

"You promised us when we were hired, that if we would accept a lower salary, you would take care of us," Lynn Schmidt, 62, told a panel of lawmakers grappling with how to fix the state's ailing retirement system. "Don't take that away."

The S.C. Retirement System has \$18.2 billion in unfunded liabilities — the difference between the amount the pension fund has to pay for workers' retirement benefits and the amount it has promised to pay current employ-

SEE PENSION FUND, 7A



TRACY GLANTZ tgantz@thestate.com

Senior citizens were in attendance to hear the Joint Committee on Pension Systems Review.

ONLINE

See our salary database of S.C. government workers earning \$50,000 or more, thestate.com/news/databases



The Westinghouse commercial nuclear fuel plant on Bluff road near Columbia makes fuel assemblies for commercial power plants. This photo from August 2004 shows the plant's interior.

PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Clinton beats Trump in SC online searches Monday

BY VERA BERGENGRUEN vberengruen@mcclatchydc.com

WASHINGTON
Hillary Clinton dominated Google searches in South Carolina during Monday night's first presidential debate, surpassing Donald Trump as the top-searched candidate in the state.

The only exception was the metro Augusta area, which includes Aiken and Edgefield counties, according to Google Trends.

Hillary Clinton was the top-searched candidate in all 50 states after the



Clinton



Trump

More concerns about nuclear fuel plant surface as feds visit



SPORTS
**CLEMSON 'D'
DIALED IN**



BUSINESS
**Shopping
center lines
up tenants**

The Greenville News PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 28, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY DEBATE OVER, BRAWL BACK IN STREETS **PAGE 1B**

GHS approves \$2.3 billion budget

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Greenville Health System approved a \$2.3 billion 2017 budget Tuesday, the largest in the hospital's history.

The budget, which takes effect Oct. 1, reflects 124 new employees and a 1-percent profit margin, officials said, but no hike in rates.

About 65 of the new employees will be doctors, nurses and clinical support staff, said chief financial officer Terri Newsom. GHS has about 15,000 employees.

The budget also includes funding for expansion projects, including the new GHS Medical Center in Boiling Springs, which will offer primary care, urgent care, psychiatry, physical therapy, labs, X-ray, mobile MRI and pharmacy services.

That \$10 million, 21,000-square-foot facility is set to open in February and is part of a \$40 million expansion planned for Spartanburg County, Newsom said. Information about other projects wasn't available.

The budget also accounts for the completion of the transition of low-risk ob-

stetrics to Patewood Memorial Hospital, she said, and four new operating rooms there.

The 2017 budget also reflects the implementation of the last phase of the Epic IT system, which will expand to remaining facilities, she said.

"The primary focuses are on transforming our organization through strategic investments, which includes expansions in the key areas of primary care, OB and surgery," she said.

In the meantime, she said, the hospital is concentrating on optimizing performance to improve care while saving

money, for instance, by expanding GHS's relationship with Initiant, a collaborative between five hospitals designed to save money through group purchasing and other shared activities.

Meanwhile, a separate budget was approved for GHS's Upstate Affiliate Or-

See GHS, Page 11A

INSIDE

The Greenville Health System fights an objection to bond transfer, **Page 3A**



Duke Food Productions CEO Andrew Smart stands in the future location of their corporate headquarters in Falls Park Place on Tuesday.

PHOTOS BY LAUREN PETRACCA/STAFF

Duke Food Productions moving to Main Street

Company's headquarters will be at Falls Park Place

AMANDA COYNE
THE GREENVILLE NEWS

Duke Food Productions will move its corporate headquarters to downtown Greenville, occupying 12,000 square feet of office space at Fall Park Place when it opens in January 2017. Thirty corporate staff, including some new hires, are expected to be moved in by mid-February.

For CEO Andrew Smart, the Main Street headquarters is extremely symbolic. It will be less than a mile away from the company's original home, a riverfront site that is now home to the Wyche Pavilion. Founded in 1917, the



Court case opposes college voter signup policy

NATHANIEL CARY
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The Greenville County Election Commission faces a challenge to defend its policy that effectively bars college students from registering to vote using their on-campus address as the weight of case law opposes its policy, including a ruling by the highest court in the land.

Greenville County is clinging to a 1973 federal court decision rendered by a judge in Greenville that allowed the county to issue questionnaires to college students who live on campus as a way to verify their eligibility to register to vote in Greenville.

But the Supreme Court, in a 1979 ruling in *Synn vs. the United States*, upheld college students' right to register to vote at either their college address or their previous home address. That case dealt with a similar policy held by a voter registrar in Texas to issue questionnaires to college students who registered using their campus address.

"It's a Supreme Court decision summarily affirming a decision that struck down these challenged questionnaires," said Jon Sherman, counsel for Fair Elections Legal Network, a national nonpartisan voting rights organization. "It's certainly very persuasive authority that these questionnaires are unconstitutional."

Another case, this one *Frazier vs. Callicutt* in Mississippi's federal district court in 1974, ordered that a county couldn't hold students at a historically black college to a "more stringent standard" of voter registration than other applicants.

Others made similar rulings, such as a 1971 case in Middlebury, Vermont, a 1972 case on behalf of Penn State University students and a 1991 case with Skidmore College students in New Jersey. Rulings weren't limited to federal courts either. State Supreme Court cases in California and New Jersey also ruled that states couldn't treat college students as a separate class of voters who had to meet more stringent terms to be able to register to vote at the location they called their legal residence.

Mark Tollison, attorney for Green-

GAME PLAN

Clemson def. coordinator is doing his best to replicate Lamar Jackson this week. 1B



ALSO: CHANGE IS COMING

So. Carolina wrestles with youth, injuries

Independent Mail

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

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INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

'Dolly' Cooper Park closes

Future of one of few public kayak launches in Anderson County uncertain

NIKIE MAYO

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M.J. "Dolly" Cooper Park in Powdersville has been closed indefinitely, apparently at the direction of Anderson County Councilman Ken Waters.

The closure of the park on the Saluda River eliminates one of the only public kayak launches in Anderson County. It is not clear when, or if, the park will reopen.

Waters, whose district includes Piedmont and Powdersville, recently lost a

battle to have the County Council enact a 2 percent hospitality tax. The now-defunct tax came with a 10-year plan for \$20 million in Anderson County projects, including \$3 million of improvements at the park.

Waters said Tuesday that when the tax proposal died last week, he felt he had "run out of options" for keeping the park maintained and safe.

Late last week, when County Administrator Rusty Burns was out of town and parks manager Matt Schell was in a meeting, Waters reached out to other

county staff about the park.

"He was questioning me about vandalism there and about keeping up the grass," Deputy Administrator Holt Hopkins said. "I told him that there had been problems and people doing doughnuts out there. We were maintaining the grass out there, but not very well, mostly because there weren't any activities on fields out there. He asked if it would help to close the park, and I said that it would at least keep some bad things from hap-



KATIE MCLEAN/INDEPENDENT MAIL

M.J. "Dolly" Cooper Park in Powdersville, with its fence locked Tuesday, has been closed indefinitely.

See CLOSING, Page 5A



PHOTOS BY KATIE MCLEAN/INDEPENDENT MAIL

People admire artwork at an art exhibit in the Anderson Arts Center on Tuesday. Original watercolors created by local senior citizens were displayed through a program called Senior Studio.

Couple assists wreck victims

Burks came across bus while driving to home in Alabama

MIKE ELLIS

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LaQuita Burks and her husband recently moved to Charlotte and were headed back to Alabama on Monday morning when they witnessed a Homeland Park Baptist Church bus get rear-ended and tip over on Interstate 85.

Burks said she and her husband were later than they expected in leaving Charlotte but somehow ended up in just the right place at the right time, near mile marker 9 around 9:50 a.m.

"We pulled over and jumped into action," she said.

There were about a half dozen other good Samaritans alongside the Burks, who each get regular CPR and first aid training and certification as part of Burks' work as a child care provider and her husband's work as a pastor and occasional child care provider.

The Burks helped people outside the bus before LaQuita went into the bus, helping along with others to stabilize several critically injured women stuck inside.

"From inside we could tell it was God who kept two of those ladies safe, it was bad," she said.

See COUPLE, Page 5A

ARTS PROGRAM LIFTS STUDENTS, TEACHERS

Seniors from Campbell Veterans Home, NHC Healthcare display work at reception

ABE HARDESTY

ABE.HARDESTY@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

Even before she saw the "CRD" at the bottom of a watercolor painting of a Bengal tiger, Shenia Davis knew it was likely the creative work of her husband, Charles Ray Davis.

She also sensed immediately that it would be a prized family





WOFFORD'S DEFENSE BRINGING THE HEAT

SPORTS, B1



PHILLY-STYLE APPLE CAKE A TREAT

FOOD, D1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Wednesday, September 28, 2016



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TODAY THU FRI

84°/54° 80°/49° 75°/50°

Complete forecast, B6

NEWS DIGEST



Former Israeli President Shimon Peres dies at age 93

JERUSALEM — Shimon Peres, a former Israeli president and prime minister, whose life story mirrored that of the Jewish state and who was celebrated around the world as a Nobel prize-winning visionary who pushed his country toward peace, has died, the Israeli news website YNet reported early Wednesday. He was 93.

Peres' condition worsened following a major stroke two weeks ago.

In an unprecedented seven-decade political career, Peres filled nearly every position in Israeli public life and was credited with leading the country through some of its most defining moments, from creating its nuclear arsenal in the 1950s, to disentangling its troops from Lebanon and rescuing its economy from triple-digit inflation in the 1980s, to guiding a skeptical nation into peace talks with the Palestinians in the 1990s.

A protégé of Israel's founding father David Ben-Gurion, he led the Defense Ministry in his 20s and spearheaded the development of Israel's nuclear program. He was first elected to parliament in 1959 and later held every major Cabinet post — including defense, finance and foreign affairs — and served three brief stints as prime minister. His key role in the first Israeli-Palestinian peace accord earned him a Nobel Peace Prize and revered status as Israel's then most recognizable figure abroad.

And yet, for much of his political career, he could

HURTING STATE EMPLOYEES

Pension costs on the rise

Public safety leader: 'I don't know that we have any more to give'

By Bob Montgomery
bob.montgomery@shj.com

COLUMBIA — South Carolina's 32,442 state employees are contributing more of their paychecks than ever to the state's pension system, yet a deficit of \$16.8 billion is projected to

grow even more, representatives of state employee groups told lawmakers Tuesday.

The impact on paychecks, which aren't high to begin with, has gotten so big that teachers, police, parole and corrections officers are leaving their jobs in droves, according to many of those who testified.

"It's not right to make state employees shoulder this burden," said Carlton Washington, executive director of

the S.C. State Employees Association. "Many are working for less now than when they first started working for the state."

Testimony came at a hearing of a joint committee created by S.C. House Speaker Jay Lucas and Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman to hear about the magnitude of the problem and then propose solutions for the legislature to consider in the upcoming session.

Washington said lawmakers

have approved increases in employee pension contribution rates each year since 2010-11, when it was 6 percent, to 8.66 percent this year. Further, he said cost-of-living increases for retirees have been cut from 2 percent in 2012 to 1 percent currently, and he's been told that is in danger of being eliminated altogether.

It's not just employees who are struggling. Employers are

SEE PENSION, A7

SPARTANBURG COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

County health report shows mixed success

Infant mortality, teen pregnancy down; obesity, smoking still problems

By Alyssa Mulliger
alyssa.mulliger@shj.com

A Spartanburg County public health study shows progress is being made in lowering teen pregnancy and infant mortality rates, but that work remains in reducing overweight and obesity rates and tobacco usage.

The Spartanburg Community Indicators Project shared its report for 2016 Tuesday evening during a meeting at C.C. Woodson Recreation Center. The organization presents data and engages the community in dialogue and strategy that can lead to positive changes in the county.

The report includes the most recent data available from various national, state and local agencies.

Dr. Kathleen Brady, director of the University of South Carolina Upstate's Metropolitan Studies Institute, highlighted county strengths and weaknesses across five public health areas — access to



A group of runners heads down the Mary Black Rail Trail Tuesday. In the coming years, Spartanburg County's Road to Better Health Coalition will continue working to lower overweight and obesity rates in the county, focusing on trails and parks as part of the effort. ALEX HICKS JR./SPARTANBURG HERALD-JOURNAL

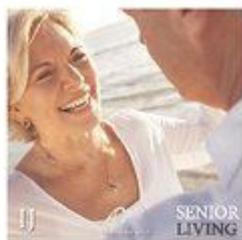
was 5.1 deaths per 1,000 live births, a rate lower than the state average and also sizable counties like Greenville, Richland and Charleston.

in Spartanburg for the first time ever," she said.

Another positive is the trend toward fewer uninsured residents.

Indicators Project.

The Rev. Rob Brown, who is on the access to care task force, said the group will emphasize its work to



Take a look at our
new section in today's paper

INDEX-JOURNAL

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2 SECTIONS, 22 PAGES

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DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

Defendants answer inmate's death lawsuit

By DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ
ddominguez@indexjournal.com

Detention officers weren't told that Demetric Cowan had ingested drugs before he died, and the police officers who arrested him had no reason to believe he had taken any — that's what the attorneys for the officers named as defendants in a lawsuit filed by Cowan's widow say.

Cowan died March 13 while booked in the Greenwood County Detention Center. LaKristal Coats, Cowan's widow, filed a lawsuit Aug. 4 naming nine law enforcement officers — including Greenwood Police Chief Gerald Brooks and Greenwood County Sheriff Tony Davis — alleging that negligence and violations of Cowan's constitutional rights led to his death.

Also named in the suit were the Greenwood Police Department officers present for Cowan's arrest — Ray Pope, Steven Nichols, Daniel Gardarelli and Brandon White — along with the Greenwood County Sheriff's Office employees who were present during his incarceration — Sidney Montgomery, Roy Murray and Pamela Osborne.

Coats, represented by Greenwood attorney Charles Grose, outlines in her complaint the timeline of Cowan's incarceration. He was arrested March 12, and booked into

the detention center on charges of possession of ecstasy, resisting arrest and simple possession of marijuana, according to the detention center's booking logs.

The complaint says police officers did not seek medical attention for him, nor did they inform detention center officers that he may have taken drugs. Anderson attorney James Jolly Jr., who represents the police officers named in the suit, responded to Coats' complaint Aug. 26. He wrote that an officer checked Cowan's mouth — and in an earlier statement Brooks said officers found no evi-

dence of drug use. "In further responding to said allegation, the Defendants would show that they had no reason to believe Cowan ingested illegal substances or needed medical attention," Jolly's written response said.

S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust agreed to provide the defense for Davis and his detention officers, according to an Aug. 12 email from Greenwood County attorney Stephen Baggett. The insurance trust assigned Russell Harter Jr., of the Greenville law firm Chapman, Harter & Harter, to represent Davis and the detention officers.

The complaint said Cowan told a detention officer he had used drugs. Harter's response, filed Sept. 15, said "Cowan did not inform any deten-

tion officers with respect to any use of a large quantity of cocaine or that he had ingested any drugs or cocaine."

The response outlines that detention officers saw Cowan begin to act unusual at about 3:30 a.m. and that he was moved from Holding Cell 1 to Holding Cell 2 — which he crawled into, unable to stand, according to a report by detention officers.

"He was later observed to be in distress and at that time EMS was called," the response said. "...it is emphatically denied that the detention officers had any knowledge or information as to Cowan having ingested a bag of cocaine prior to the time at which he became unresponsive and died."

See DEFENDANTS, page 3A



TONY DAVIS



GERALD BROOKS

W-I-N-N-I-N-G

Adult spelling bee raises money for charity

By CONOR HUGHES
chughes@indexjournal.com

"Psoriasis." The word sent a shock wave of groans and laughter through the gym of Emerald High School, where 49 teams from organizations across Greenwood County gathered for the second Friends of the Healthy Learners Spelling Bee on Tuesday night.

The event raised about \$25,000 for the Healthy Learners, which provides access to medical care for children in need.

Becky McIntosh, the fund development coordinator for Friends of the Healthy Learners, said the event's success speaks to the generosity of Greenwood County residents.

"I'm just so proud of the Greenwood County community. I'm so proud to

See BEE, page 3A



CONOR HUGHES | INDEX JOURNAL

Greenwood County School District 51 accepts first prize at the Friends of the Healthy Learners Spelling Bee Tuesday.

'Twitch' documentary kicks off Gene Week

By ADAM BENSON

45-minute film that screened Tuesday

■ NINETY SIX ECONOMY

Town weighs tourism, development options

By DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ
ddominguez@indexjournal.com

NINETY SIX — After the town's tourism director resigned, Ninety Six town officials said they want to explore their options.

Several people have expressed interest in the position, Mayor Mike Rowe told Town Council during a meeting Tuesday, and two people have submitted resumes for the position, which has not yet been posted.

Jennifer Donlon, who headed the tourism and events department for four years, resigned Sept. 19 because the part-time job wasn't going to become full time.

"I need council's direction on this," he said. "Should we proceed as it has been — with a part-time person — or should we just hire as needed for events?"

Councilwoman Joan Walker asked if there would be enough volunteers to staff the Ninety Six Visitor's Center if they didn't hire a director, and after some discussion council agreed that hiring for the position was the best option.

In other business, Rowe suggested the town could hire someone to develop an economic development plan. He said after news

Player of the Week

MVHS lucky to have DJ Boyd | 1B



Former Charleston mayor kicks off Main Street Aiken

Tickets available for speaker series | 2A

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

WEDNESDAY, September 28, 2016

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

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'It is about the faith community'



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

Lois Green, foreground, poses with the organizers of the From Forgiveness to New Life Walk, which will be held Oct. 16-23. They are standing at Glover Grove Baptist Church where the walk will end. It will begin at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. Pictured on the first row behind Green are Terri Lindsay, left, Margaret Logan, Lois Jones and the Rev. Bobby Jones, pastor of Glover Grove. On the second row are John Lindsay, the Rev. Grant Wiseman, the Rev. Paul Bush, the Rev. Sotello Long and Dee Long.

New Barnwell nuclear facility possible

Letter announces group's intentions to build processing, disposition facility not far from SRS

BY THOMAS GARDINER
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Barnwell County could become the home of yet another nuclear waste repository, if an Aiken group sees its plans come to fruition.

Mike Stake, president of the Spent Fuel Reprocessing Group in Aiken, penned a letter to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in July.

In the letter, Stake officially announced intentions to apply for licensure that would allow the group to construct and operate a processing and disposition facility near Savannah River Site, just outside of Barnwell.

Barnwell County is already home to the Chem-Nuclear low-level nuclear waste disposal facility, which has been leaking tritium for years.

While the tritium leak may have caused alarm for some people, including multiple environmental groups, according to the Department of Health and Environmental Control website, radiation levels from that leak are low level and well below recommended exposure levels.

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission website, "High-level radioactive waste primarily is uranium fuel that has been used in a nuclear power reactor and is 'spent,' or no longer efficient in producing electricity. Spent fuel is thermally hot as well as highly radioactive."

In his letter to the NRC, Stake wrote, "By this letter Spent Fuel Reprocessing Group (SFR) is serving notice to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, of its intent to store spent nuclear fuel received from nuclear

Please see BARNWELL, Page 12A

Walk from Charleston to Glover Grove will help in rebuilding effort after fire

BY DEDE BILES
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Two houses of worship where tragedies occurred in the summer of 2015 will be the starting and ending points for a journey next month.

The Rev. Bob Byrne will walk from Emanuel AME Church in Charleston to Glover Grove Baptist Church in Warrenville.

One of the purposes of his trek will be to raise money for Glover Grove, which is being rebuilt after fire destroyed it.

The other is "to show that no matter what happens, good will triumph over evil and that what was meant to be bad often makes us stronger," said Paul Bush.

In addition to serving as the president of the Concerned Ministers Fellowship, Bush is involved in the Glover Grove Phoenix Project, which is organizing the walk.

Byrne was the senior pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Aiken before retiring in May.

"The genesis of all this was Bob stopping up and saying, 'If I walked from Charleston to Warrenville, do you think it could be a fundraiser for Glover Grove?'; That's how it started," said John Lindsay, chairman of the Glover Grove Phoenix Project Steering Committee. "An interesting thing about it is that Bob is in

The demonstration of forgiveness by the congregation of 'Mother Emanuel' Church and the entirety of Charleston after the terrible experience there was truly remarkable at a time when there could have been a real backlash in that community. It was like there was a connection between there and (Glover Grove) because we were seeking new life for a church that had been destroyed.

John Lindsay, chairman of the Glover Grove Phoenix Project Steering Committee

Spain right now completing the nearly 500-mile El Camino de Santiago (a pilgrimage route) as a warm-up for this walk."

Byrne's trip by foot from Charleston to Warrenville will take place Oct. 16-23. His

Want to participate?

WHAT: From Forgiveness to New Life Walk
WHEN: Oct. 16-23

WHERE: From Emanuel AME Church in Charleston to Glover Grove Baptist Church in Warrenville

FOR MORE INFORMATION: To walk or volunteer call the Rev. Paul Bush at 803-640-4568 or Lois Jones at 803-671-4844. Send emails to Bush at paulhammond-bush@yahoo.com or to Jones at lstladyjones@att.net

planned route of more than 140 miles will go through North Charleston, Summerville, Branchville, Bamberg, Denmark, Elko, Willis, Montmorenci and Aiken.

"At the end of each day, we will have a little faith gathering in each community, and we will take up a love offering," Bush said.

The Phoenix Project's steering committee is seeking sponsors for Byrne's journey, walkers to join Byrne for all or part of his trek, and volunteers to help everything go smoothly.

Please see WALK, Page 12A

AREA DEATHS

James Kirkland, Aiken
Deacon Herman Cuthbertson, Williston

Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER



Nuclear watchdog lawsuit against DOE stalls in court after attorney withdraws

BY THOMAS GARDINER
gardiner@aikenstandard.com

A lawsuit filed against the Department of Energy over proposed shipments of liquid nuclear waste to the Savannah River Site has stalled in court.

Liquid nuclear waste shipments from a reprocessing

waste from Chalk River in Ontario, Canada, across American roadways to SRS.

Washington, D.C.-based attorney Diana Curran, legal counsel for the coalition, submitted a notice of withdrawal last week, notifying the judge in the case, Tayna S. Chutkan.

The coalition was formed until Nov. 1, 2016 to obtain

clear, one of the plaintiffs from the watchdog coalition, the group plans to find new counsel soon.

In the notice to withdraw, Curran said the other attorney involved with their case, Ohio-based Terry J. Lodge, was competent and that the parties involved had agreed to him being legal counsel after she left. Curran requested to be removed from



Morning News

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER

A couple of showers and a t-storm.
High 89, low 68.
DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Local analysts say debate did little to change the 'big picture'

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Some political commentators in Florence say the debate Monday night between New York billionaire Donald Trump and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton likely had little effect on whatever the outcome may be this November.



Ard



Pickle



White

A common theme among local analysts was the view that neither candidate did much out of the ordinary to gain or lose any votes. Bill Pickle, host of the internet radio show "Inside the Pickle Barrel" and a former Florence County Republican Party chairman, said neither candidate wowed him Monday night enough to choose a clear winner.

"Neither one did any-

thing to earn any more votes than they had going in; neither really did anything to cost them any votes either," Pickle said. "I was hoping to see both candidates do something to get more specific with their plans but we didn't see that. It was more of the same."

Pickle, who attended the Republican National Convention in July and cast the delegate vote for Trump, said the door was open for Trump but he never fully took advantage.

"I don't know if his campaign advised him to stay too calm and collected or what but I think he missed a few opportunities," Pickle said. "One being the email scandal. If he doesn't bring it up, the media likely won't either."

Ken Ard, former South Carolina lieutenant governor and host of "Good Morning Pee Dee" on WFRK-95.3 FM, summed up who won the debate in a two-word question. "Who knows?" he said. "I think Hillary probably won the night but in the grand scheme who knows if that matters. There's this sea change going on."

David Alford, director of the Florence County Voters Registration and Election Commission, said people who want to register can do so online, in person, by email or fax. A PDF of the application form can be found at www.scvotes.org/files/VR_Blank_Form.pdf.

"Anything we receive on or before Oct. 8 will count," Alford said. "Anything that is postmarked on or before the 8th is good."

Voters already registered do not have to worry about reregistering, but should ensure the

See **DEBATE**, Page 4A

Voter registration deadline approaching

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Almost everyone has an opinion this election cycle, but come Nov. 8, only registered voters will have a say in who becomes the next round of public leaders.

The deadline to register for this general election is Oct. 8.

David Alford, director of the Florence County Voters Registration and Election Commission,

See **VOTERS**, Page 4A

SC voter registration requirements:

- Be a United States citizen at least 18 years old on or before the next election
- Be a resident of South Carolina, this county and precinct
- Not be under a court order declaring you mentally incompetent
- Ask to be confirmed in your public opinion poll from a

National First Responders' Day



PHOTOS BY JESSICA IMBIBO/MORNING NEWS

The Rev. Athanasios Haros blesses each of the first responders' vehicles Tuesday as part of the First Responders Day blessing and breakfast.

Orthodox Church hosts blessing, breakfast for first responders

BY JESSICA IMBIBO
Morning News
jimbibo@florencenews.com



More than 50 first responders, including Florence police officers, sheriff's deputies, firefighters and EMS members, attended the Transfiguration of Our Savior Greek Orthodox Church's blessing and breakfast on Tuesday morning.

FLORENCE — In celebration of National First Responders' Day, the Transfiguration of Our Savior Greek Orthodox Church at 2990 S. Cashua Drive held a blessing and pancake breakfast for first responders on Tuesday morning.

More than 50 first responders, including Florence police, sheriff's deputies, rescue squad members, firefighters and EMS members, attended the event.

The Rev. Athanasios Haros, pastor of the Transfiguration of Our Savior Greek Orthodox Church, said that when he heard about the National First Responders Day movement, he knew it was something the church had to be a part of.

"We've been working on this for months, so we're really excited for today," Haros said before the beginning of the service. "We decided to reach out to our local first responders and invite them to receive God's blessings and our appreciation for the work that they do for our community."

Haros led the proceedings with

See **BLESSING**, Page 3A

RIGHT: The Florence County Sheriff's Office Raptor I helicopter landed at the church to receive a blessing from the Rev. Athanasios Haros.



Job fair draws hundreds looking for opportunity

BY JOE PERRY
Morning News
perry@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Traquan Dillon wants a job and needs a chance to prove himself.

The 19-year-old Florence resident spends his weekdays filling out ap-

around Florence in search of steady, honest work. "It's tough," he said. "Real tough. All I'm waiting on is that phone call."

One day he'd like to own a business. He knows he needs to get his GED. For now, though, he needs a steady paycheck.

"I'm trying hard to have a



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50 CENTS

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Winners named at Fiddler's Convention

Members from three different bluegrass bands put on a jam session Saturday afternoon at the first-ever Hartsville Fiddler's Convention held at the Center Theater. Winners were announced Saturday night followed by a concert of all the winners.



KENT MAHONEY/HARTSVILLE MESSENGER

BY KENT MAHONEY
kmaahoney@hartsvillemessenger.com

The first-ever Hartsville Fiddler's Convention drew to a close late Saturday afternoon at the Center Theater as musicians vied for top picker in several individual categories and one group.

The event was sponsored by the Omar Shriners', Darlington County Red Fez Club and jolly leepsters. Proceeds will benefit the Shriners' Hospital.

While the participant

numbers were sparse, that didn't mean the talent was lacking. It was top notch throughout the competitions.

Three bands headlined Friday's competition with Soda City String Band out of Columbia taking top honors, whose members were Randy Lucas, banjo; Dave Holder, bass; Worth Lewallen, fiddle; and Allen Shadd, guitar.

In second place was Backline Bluegrass Band out of the Spartanburg area. Band members were

Katelyn Ingardia, guitar; Travis Tucker, dobro; James Shepherd, banjo; Jason Belue, bass; Louis Hughes, mandolin; and Christopher Liakos, fiddle.

Finally, Chicken Perlo, a local band took third place. This was primarily a Hartsville band. Rob Jordan, guitar; Marty Driggers, bass; Francis Parnell, mandolin; Daniel Hyman, banjo; and Wes Driggers, fiddle. Their selections included "Precious

See FIDDLER, Page 3A

Learn about Hartsville's BoBo Newsom

A Book Review
BY FRED EDINGER
Coker College Professor
Emeritus of Geology

Those of us who have lived for any amount of time in Hartsville, South Carolina over the past 40 years have asked — or been asked — Who is BoBo Newsom? Our major highway artery in the western half of Darlington County, South Carolina Highway 151, is the BoBo Newsom Highway. We've all been on that road many times. So who is he? Or more accurately, who was he?

When I first moved to Hartsville in the early 1970s the answer was easily found. As an example, one could walk into Shirley's Barber Shop on North 5th Street (as I did every few weeks) and notice BoBo's photo framed on the north wall ... a picture of BoBo with a big smile on his face, sharing a story with the mayor. The proprietors, Yan Shirley and Bob Shirley, could (and would) share their stories of the late Louis Norman Newsom while they attended to your hair. Other customers would likely join in with other tales they had heard or had heard of. BoBo was famous. In fact, BoBo was infamous.

Author Jim McConnell has spent the better part of 20 years gathering information, interviewing Hartsville citizens (including some of BoBo's relatives), and tracking down stories. His efforts are now in print as "BoBo Newsom, Baseball's Traveling Man." We Hartsvillians should be grateful. McConnell's biography of BoBo "Buck" Newsom is definitive.

Louis Norman Newsom (1907-1962) was a Hartsville native, an impressive athlete, a man with an incredible gift for gab, a tireless self-promoter, and most importantly a wonderfully talented major league pitcher. His career in the major leagues of professional baseball spanned four decades, from 1929 through 1953. He won over 200 games in the "big" ... but lost

See NEWSOM, Page 3A

CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK



ARDIE ARVIDSON/HARTSVILLE MESSENGER

Betty O'Neal is a people greeter at Walmart in Hartsville. She is helping raise money for the Children's Miracle Network campaign to benefit McLeod Children's Hospital.

Walmart employee raises money for charity

BY ARDIE ARVIDSON
aarvidson@hartsvillemessenger.com

If you've been to Walmart in Hartsville recently and wondered why greeter Betty O'Neal is standing watch over a baby doll in an incubator, it's because

she is raising money for the Children's Miracle Network campaign to benefit McLeod Children's Hospital.

Affectionately called "Mrs. Betty," O'Neal has been a Walmart greeter for nearly 16 years. This is her fifth year raising money for the CMN.

"I'd love to do \$10,000. It has always been my goal, but the highest I've ever gotten has been \$7,000," she said. "That was my second year."

Last year she raised \$6,546.

See CHILDREN, Page 3A



PANORAMA

Make a joyful noise

Mayesville Presbyterian Sundays at 4 concert series opens this weekend c1

Cox to pay \$1M in settlement with Feds

Former Tuomey CEO also barred from some healthcare administration roles

ITEM STAFF REPORT

The U.S. Department of Justice announced Tuesday it reached a \$1 million settlement with former Tuomey Healthcare System CEO Ralph J. "Jay" Cox III for his involvement in a legal case against the former healthcare system. The judgment stems from Cox's in-

volvement in the hospital's Medicare and Medicaid billings, which were found to be illegal in U.S. Fourth Circuit District Court, leading to a \$237.4 million judgement against the hospital system, according to a Department of Justice statement released Tuesday.



COX

Cox, who was terminated as Tuomey's CEO in the fall of 2013, will be excluded from participating in federal health-

care programs, including providing management or administrative services paid for by federal health care programs, for four years, according to the DOJ.

The judgment against Tuomey Healthcare System was later resolved for payments totaling \$72.4 million, and the hospital was sold to Palmetto Health, a multi-hospital healthcare system based in Columbia.

"Sweetheart deals between hospitals and referring physicians distort medical decision making and drive up the

cost of healthcare for patients and insurers alike," said Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Benjamin C. Mizer, head of the Justice Department's Civil Division.

"Patients have a right to be confident that a physician who orders a procedure or test does so because that service is in the patient's best interest, and not because the physician stands to gain financially from the referral."

SEE COX, PAGE A3

Local charity kitchens a bargain at fair



Jude Morris, 8, and Kayden Painter, 7, are all smiles as they ride the Snowball Express on Tuesday evening at the Sumter County Fair.

Good eats, rides and exhibitions abound as 100th Sumter County Fair opens

BY JIM HILLEY
jim@theitem.com

Make your way around all of the bright flashing lights and outrageously colored carnival rides full of screaming passengers.

Pass by all the game booths, sausage vendors, cotton candy sellers and semi truck trailers converted into vampire houses, mazes and terrifying creatures from the lagoon scary houses.

Tucked away near Liberty Street, you will find three local charities, which use the annual Sumter County

Fair to raise funds by selling good fast food, much cheaper than many of the traveling food stands.

The Jamil Streakers of Sumter Shrine Club has owned a booth at the stand at the fair for three years, which they took over from the local Lions Club.

Arthur Bradley and Ervin Boykin will direct the volunteers as they prepare hamburgers, hot dogs and pizzas, as well as ice cold drinks during the fair.

Volunteer Susie McLeod said their

TODAY AT SUMTER COUNTY FAIR

Item Day - Hand stamp to ride all day \$20 with coupon from The Sumter Item

4 p.m. - GATES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
4 to 10 p.m. - All exhibits on display

All day - Petting Zoo & Racing Pigs

5 p.m. - Judging Mule & Donkey Show

5:30 & 8 p.m. - Magic of Lance Gifford

6 & 8:45 p.m. - High Flying Pages (trapeze, equestrian)

6:45 & 9:30 p.m. - On the Edge

Midnight - Midway closes

SEE FAIR, PAGE A4

School board bond workshop gets heated

Chairman called a 'dictator' after refusing finance committee query

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

A routine workshop on an already-approved bond resolution turned into a heated discussion among Sumter School District Board members on Monday night, with one board member calling the board chairman a "dictator" at the district's regularly scheduled board meeting.

Board member the Rev. Ralph Canty used that epithet to describe Board Chairman the Rev. Daryl McGhaney on Monday night for not allowing the board's finance committee, chaired by fellow member Johnny



CANTY

Hilton, to research how other school boards go about the process of defining and approving capital projects with bond resolutions.

The bond workshop began with attorney Frannie Heizer, of McNair Law Firm in Columbia, informing the school board that it has the legal authority to issue as much as an 8 percent general obligation debt limit, and to define the capital projects and purchases for which the debt will be issued. Then the county has the legal responsibility to ensure that money is collected through taxes. A millage increase is not expected.

A question and answer period followed in which Hilton expressed his concern that the Sumter board only approves the resolution to borrow the money, not the individual projects.

County Council approves water line expansion

Camlin Moore

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