

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 6/5/2014 9:12:53 AM
Subject: S.C. Front Pages – Thursday, June 5, 2014

S.C. Front Pages – Thursday, June 5, 2014



METRO, 3A SC TEXTING BAN OK'D



BUSINESS, 13A Brown to serve up live show

The Greenville News

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THURSDAY,
JUNE 5, 2014
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY GOP MAY BE POISED TO REGAIN CONTROL OF SENATE PAGE 1B

FINAL EDITION

POLL: GRAHAM NEARS MAJORITY

Senator may be able to
avoid runoff, experts say

By Rudolph Bell
Staff writer
rdbell@greenvillenews.com

CLEMSON — A new poll from Clemson University is bad news for the six Republicans challenging U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham in the June 10 primary. It found Graham supported by 49 per-

cent of frequent Republican voters and just shy of the 50 percent plus one vote he needs to avoid a runoff — the scenario that Graham's challengers have held out as their best hope of knocking off the two-term incumbent.

The poll found state Sen. Lee Bright of Roebuck as Graham's closest rival, with 9 percent support. It gave all of Graham's challengers combined 26 percent.

The results showed 35 percent of Republican voters undecided but "a lot of that's going to break for Lindsey," said

Clemson political scientist Bruce Ransom, who oversaw the polling along with Clemson colleague Dave Woodard.

Graham's campaign has advertised heavily for the primary contest "and it paid off," Woodard said.

The poll also found a surge in the number of Republican primary voters who said they'd vote for Graham regardless of who runs against him.

A Clemson poll released in September put that number at 31 percent — which Woodard said at the time was a weak

showing — but the number was up 15 points to 46 percent in the poll released Wednesday.

With that level of support for Graham, a runoff is still possible but not likely, Woodard and Ransom told *The Greenville News*.

Ransom said Graham's challengers have run mostly on the message of removing Graham, "but you've got to be for something."

See POLL, Page 4A

CORONER: 'NO EVIDENCE' SHOOTING VICTIM WAS IN CAR



FAMILY LOOKS FOR ANSWERS

Investigation into
incident continues

By Lyn Riddle
Staff writer
lriddle@greenvillenews.com

It was over in a matter of minutes, seconds really. One man dead, another who will live with it for the rest of his life.

The man who died was a 22-year-old father of two sons with another due next month. He worked at Hardee's.

The other was a Greenville County sheriff's deputy whose name won't be released until an internal investigation is completed, probably next week. Sheriff Steve Loftis said the deputy had never been involved in a shooting before.

The shooting has raised questions about the use of deadly force by law enforcement, the training officers receive

“
My prayers
and
thoughts
are with
the family.
It's a very
unfortunate
situation.”

SHERIFF STEVE LOFTIS

The site of Monday's officer-involved
shooting. MYKAL MCLEOD/STAFF

TIMELINE

- » 6:24 a.m.: Supervisor at the Citgo calls 911
- » 6:39 a.m.: 1st unit responds. Sees two suspects sleeping and a gun in the driver's lap. Calls for backup.
- » 6:44 a.m.: 2nd unit arrives
- » 6:46 a.m.: 3rd unit on scene
- » Two more units respond
- » Officers surround the car and call out, "Sheriff's Office. Open the door. Come out with your hands up."
- » 6:50 a.m.: 10-31 Bravo called to dispatch signifying officer-involved shooting
- » Moments later Dylan Tiller gets out of the car and is arrested
- » 7:01 a.m.: EMS arrives, pronounces Jordan Browder dead

Courson gives up top Senate position

President pro tem says he
refuses to be lt. governor

By Tim Smith
Staff writer
tsmith@greenvillenews.com

COLUMBIA — A Senate leader wants to get to the bottom of what he said is the politics behind the resignation of the Senate's top officer.

Sen. John Courson, a Columbia Republican, who has served as president pro tempore since Glenn McConnell ascended to become lieutenant governor two years ago, told the Senate on Wednesday he was leaving that position immediately.

Courson, who as president pro tempore was next in line to become lieutenant governor, said he had no interest in the post and didn't want to be forced to take it.



Courson

McConnell has said recently he intends to resign today to prepare for his new job as president of College of Charleston next month. He has said that the president pro tempore has only two choices if the lieutenant governor's post opens up — assume the job or resign.

Courson, who has served in the Senate since 1985, has disagreed. On Wednesday, he cited his commitment to voters as one reason he was resigning as president pro tempore.

Senate Majority Leader Harvey Peeler of Gaffney said he was baffled by the forces at play that forced Courson to resign.

"I'm saddened by what's going on," Peeler told the Senate. "I want to get to the bottom of the politics on why this has happened. Why have you been forced to do what you've been forced to do. I don't like it. I don't agree with it. I wish you had not resigned."

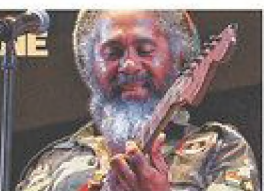
Courson urged McConnell, who

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SECTION E



Graham could win without runoff, poll suggests

SOUTH, B1



The Post and Courier

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THURSDAY, June 5, 2014

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Woman slain, 2 teens wounded

Neighbors say husband shot 3 at Berkeley home; suspect on run in stolen SUV

BY DAVE MUNDAY
dmunday@postandcourier.com

A Berkeley County man shot his wife and her two teenage nieces Wednesday afternoon because he couldn't handle being separated

from her, according to neighbors who knew the couple.

Darryl Edward Flowers, 35, is accused of showing up at the house at 52 Elmwood Place around 4 p.m. Wednesday and fatally shooting his estranged wife and

wounding the two girls, who were taken to a hospital.

He was last seen Wednesday night driving a stolen teal 1997 Ford Explorer toward Interstate 26, according to Sheriff's Maj. Rick Ollie.

The neighborhood is a street of single-story brick houses off U.S. Highway 52 just north of Goose Creek.

The woman's body was found outside the front door of her house, Coroner Bill Salisbury said.

He did not identify her Wednesday, but several neighbors called her Tammy.

As investigators worked the scene behind the yellow crime



Flowers

U of C bill hits Senate hurdle

'Best chance' may be gone after bitter fight

BY JEREMY BORDEN
and CYNTHIA ROLDAN
jborden@postandcourier.com
crolsan@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — A bill that would have established the Lowcountry's first comprehensive research university may have lost its best chance of passing Wednesday when some of the S.C. Senate's most powerful voices put up a significant roadblock to the measure.

The lengthy Senate debate also featured an emotional plea from Sen. Harvey Peeler, R-Gaffney, the Senate majority leader, who lamented the aggressive, often personal politics that he said Charleston legislators employed to see the bill passed.

While the bill is not entirely dead, Sen. Larry Grooms, R-Charleston, who has fought for the measure, worries that a failure to get a vote on the bill with just one full day left in this year's legislative session means the Senate may have lost its best chance to pass it.

"I was pulling out every stop I could to get it passed because I believe this is our best chance," Grooms said. "We were within minutes of having ... votes needed to pass legislation," Sen.

Please see **UNIVERSITY**, Page A6



Online

For more political coverage, go to palmetto-politics.com.



Family and friends mourn the loss of a 51-year-old woman and her 9-year-old son at the scene of an early morning fire Wednesday at Royal Manor Mobile Home Park in Summerville.

MOTHER, SON DIE IN FIRE

Teen escapes Summerville mobile home blaze

BY ANDRIW KNAPP
and AMANDA COYNE
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acoyne@postandcourier.com

SUMMERVILLE — After a young man heard his mother scream early Wednesday, he grabbed some of his things and ran from their mobile home.

"Fire!" his mother, 51-year-old Sharon Zey, had yelled before her son went to a neighbor's home to get help.

Dustin Zey, 19, thought his mother and her 9-year-old son, Christian Aaron Zey, had already reached safety. Before long, flames consumed the home at 403 Cavalier Drive in the Royal Manor Mobile Home Park. But Hodge and Christian Zey were still inside, and they couldn't make it out.

Please see **FIRE**, Page A5



Summerville Fire and Rescue Battalion Chief Anthony Nire investigates in the aftermath of the fire.

Texting, driving ban goes to Haley

Statewide law would trump local measures

BY CYNTHIA ROLDAN
crolsan@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — South Carolina joined the majority of the nation on Wednesday when the General Assembly passed a ban on texting while driving.

The ban will prevent all drivers from texting while their vehicle is in motion. The bill now heads for Gov. Nikki Haley's desk and will become effective if and when she signs it.

"Without a doubt, this is a great day for the lives of all drivers and passengers in South Carolina," said Sen. Luke Rankin, R-Conway. "Finally we catch up with the rest of the country in acknowledging a white-and-black reality — texting while driving kills."

Past efforts to pass a statewide ban had failed. To fill the void, local governments around the state banned the practice, including Charleston, Mount Pleasant, Columbia and Greenville. State law will trump local measures.

Haley's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment on whether she intends to sign the bill or not.

If it becomes law, drivers will be given a six-month grace period to adapt to the law and will be only given warnings during that time.

Rankin also clarified on Wednesday the law will allow for drivers to use their phone to text if they have stopped at a traffic light.

Please see **TEXTING**, Page A10



Poll

Will the penalty associated with texting while driving deter you from the practice? Find this story at palmetto-politics.com to vote.

InfiLaw pulls application for license to run Charleston school

BY DIANE KNICH
dknich@postandcourier.com

InfiLaw System pulled its application for a license to operate the Charleston School of Law less than 24 hours before it was to be voted on.

The state's Commission on Higher

Education was scheduled to vote on the license Thursday morning, which would have brought to a close a months-long contentious debate over what is best for the private, decade-old law school on the Charleston peninsula.

InfiLaw leaders, in a prepared state-

ment, said they had temporarily pulled the application at the request of state Sen. John Courson, chairman of the Senate Education Committee. Courson wanted to give the commission more time to review new information and conflicting recommendations about the license, they stated.

According to InfiLaw's statement, the company still is committed to buying and running the school, and it intends to renew its application in the future. "We want to give the commission additional time to consider and reconcile these issues, including responses to questions we submitted

just a few days ago," it stated.

InfiLaw didn't respond to a call seeking more information about their decision, and school and state officials remained tight-lipped Wednesday about the surprise move.

Please see **LAW**, Page A5



Chance of storms
High 92, Low 72.
Complete 5-day
forecast, B8

Bridge — 124
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Classifieds — D1
Comics — 126-29

Entertainment — 127
Homes — 129
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Obituaries — 94
The South — 81
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Charleston Deals today

Mosquito Squad
New customer mosquito barrier spray, \$29 (Up to 1/2 acre).
See A2

REMATCH: The Spurs and the Heat go at it again. **C1****MLB PROSPECTS**Pankake, right, among USC juniors likely to be drafted. **C1****The State**

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2014 | THESTATE.COM

THE LEGISLATURE WINDS DOWN**2% pay raise in S.C. budget deal****'Most important part' missing in ethics reform plan, critics say**By JAMIE SELF
jsel@thestate.com

After nearly two years of wrangling, S.C. lawmakers are poised to reform the state's ethics laws. But missing from the proposal — lauded by supporters as the state's most significant ethics reform in two decades — is a change that ethics watchdogs

said was the most needed of all. Despite efforts to create an independent committee to review ethics complaints against lawmakers, members of the House and Senate will continue to investigate their own members — a system that critics describe as the "fox guarding the henhouse."

SEE ETHICS PAGE A5

INSIDE

Richland Sen. John Courson steps down as Senate's president pro tem to avoid being forced to serve as a lame-duck lieutenant governor for months, **B1**;

Debate set for GOP candidates in lieutenant governor's race, **B1**

The plan would also expand 4-year-old kindergarten programBy CASSIE COPE
ccope@thestate.com

State employees will get a 2 percent pay raise, 4-year-old kindergarten will expand and local governments will get more state money as part of a \$7 billion budget deal that the S.C. House and state Senate passed Wednesday. The deal came a day before

legislators go home for the year. However, the compromise killed the Senate's one-time \$300 bonus for state employees.

"We say we want to run government like a business," said House Ways and Means Chairman Brian White, R-Anderson, defending the pay raises. "A vital

SEE BUDGET PAGE A4

Saluda Shoals to start expansion**Park will be breaking ground on athletics fields**By JOEY HOLLEMAN
jholleman@thestate.com

Saluda Shoals Park, which lures hundreds of thousands of people each year to its wooded trails, environmental programs and meeting space, soon will expand its reach to soccer and tennis players and their families.

The ever-evolving park's latest stage — officially called the Fields at Saluda Shoals — will begin to take shape Thursday with the 11 a.m. groundbreaking ceremony for a \$6.5 million expansion. The soccer fields and tennis courts will replace what once was an industrial complex, purchased in 2004 for \$2.4 million by the Imo Chapin

SEE PARK PAGE A7

S.C. vets return to Normandy**EUROPEANS EMBRACE HEROES**

Aiken Standard

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THURSDAY, June 5, 2014

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

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Ballots set for statewide elections

Aiken Standard looks at state primary candidates

BY AVERY WILKS
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With South Carolina's primary elections just five days away, many seats on the state level, as well as South Carolina's

two U.S. Senators, are facing opposition in Tuesday's primary.

In one of the most hotly contested races, incumbent U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, seeking his third term in office, is facing six candidates.

Here's a closer look at the candidates running statewide:

• U.S. Senate (seat currently held by Sen. Lindsey Graham)

Democrats:

Brad Hutto: A 56-year-old trial lawyer from Orangeburg, Hutto has represented District 40 in the S.C. Senate since 1996. Hutto was also the chairman of the Orangeburg County Democratic Party for six years. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science and philosophy from the University of South Carolina in 1978, then earned a law degree from Georgetown University in 1981.

Jay Stampler: A native of Spokane, Washington, Stampler is a 41-year-old Columbia businessman. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in government from Connecticut College in New London, Connecticut, in 1995. He moved to South Carolina last fall.

Republicans:

Det Bowers: Bowers is a Columbia pastor and a native of Estill. He graduated with a degree in government from

INSIDE

Do you know where to vote?

Check the precinct list. 12A

Five things to know about some states' voter ID laws. 13A

Wofford College, received his law degree from the USC School of Law and earned his Master of Divinity from Columbia International University.

Lee Bright: A native and resident of Spartanburg, Bright has represented Spartanburg and Greenville in the S.C. Senate since 2009. Bright graduated from Dorman High School and works in logistics brokerage and business development.

Richard Cash: Cash is an Anderson County businessman and entrepreneur. He spent several years as a full-time, pro-life missionary, and was reportedly arrested several times for peaceful protests at abortion clinics. Cash graduated from Furman University with a degree in economics and business administration.

Bill Connor: An Orangeburg native, Connor currently serves as a Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Army reserves and operates a general practice law firm, with an ad-

Absentee voting ends Monday

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER
mschechter@aikenstandard.com

Those unable to vote in the South Carolina primaries on Tuesday have until Monday to cast an absentee ballot.

To vote absentee, individuals

should visit the Aiken County Registration and Elections Office in the new Aiken County Government Center to complete an absentee application and cast their ballot no later than 5 p.m. on Monday.

Please see VOTING, Page 16A

ditional emphasis in military law. Connor graduated from The Citadel and earned his law degree at the USC School of Law. He ran for Lt. Governor in 2010, but lost in the primary.

Benjamin Dunn: Dunn is a Columbia lawyer who grew up in Pickens County. He has served as an infantry officer in the South Carolina Army National Guard for more than 19 years. Dunn earned a bachelor's degree from Clemson University and got his law degree at the USC School of Law in 1996.

Lindsey Graham (Incumbent): A native of Central, Graham has served as a U.S. Senator since 2002. Before

that, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994. Graham earned his bachelor's and law degrees from the University of South Carolina. He lives in Seneca.

Nancy Mace: This is Mace's first run for political office. The small business owner from Goose Creek was the first woman to graduate from The Citadel, earning a degree in business before pursuing a master's degree in journalism and mass communication from the University of Georgia. Mace was born at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Please see PRIMARY, Page 16A

LOCAL GRADUATIONS LIVE COVERAGE

Can't make it to your graduate's ceremony? Watch live coverage of high school graduations today and Friday at www.aikenstandard.com or on Atlantic Broadband Channel 12. Photo galleries of each graduation will also be posted on the website. DVDs of each graduation may be pre-ordered at the ceremony or online at aikenstandard.com/astv.

INSIDE TODAY



Officers honored at annual awards ceremony
Local News, 2A

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AREA DEATHS

Charles A. Williams, D.D.S.,

Jackson

Rosaleen Cook Burnette, Aiken

Virginia Busbee Boyd, Aiken

William O. Dicks, Williston

Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER

Wheelchairs and weapons

Area woman among the top female wheelchair fencers

BY DEDE BILES

dbiles@aikenstandard.com

Ellen Geddes has only been involved in wheelchair fencing since 2011, but is already aiming high. She hopes to qualify for the Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in 2016.



Geddes

"That's where my brain is right now," said the 25-year-old Johnston resident. It's not an impossible dream because Geddes has progressed rapidly in a sport where speed and precision are important. In the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation's rankings, she is 17th in the world among women.



Ellen Geddes, left, of Johnston competes in the 2013 Wheelchair Fencing World Championships in Hungary.

Category B fencers in foil and 18th in epee.

"I like competing, I like learning and I like improving," Geddes said. "I also like seeing what I've improved on produce results in competition, and that has happened with my fencing."

Wheelchair fencing has been part of the Paralympic program since 1960. The sport's participants take on each other while sitting in wheelchairs that are fixed to the floor. They are divided into A, B and C classifications based on their strength and mobility. Category B fencers, like Geddes,

have no leg movement and impaired trunk and balance functions.

"It was a little bit of a struggle at first, but once I started to improve my skill set, I started enjoying fencing more," Geddes said.

Please see FENCING, Page 5A

DOE seeking input on spent fuel

German enriched uranium possibly coming to SRS

BY DERREK ASBERRY
dasberry@aikenstandard.com

Wednesday marked the beginning of a seven-week long public comment period during which local residents can offer their opinions on German nuclear spent fuel potentially landing at the Savannah River Site.

In a federal register notice, the Department of Energy invited anyone to submit comments on the issue, based on a proposal from DOE to accept

enriched uranium, or HEU.

The comment period began on Wednesday and will end on July 23.

In addition, officials will host a public meeting on Tuesday, June 24, at the North Augusta Community Center located at 495 Brookside Drive. The meeting will be held from 6:30 to 9 p.m. and will offer the opportunity for individuals to comment further.

To submit written comments, the public can send letters to Andrew

Residents can also email comments to Grainger at drew.grainger@ers.gov.

"DOE will give equal weight to written comments and oral comments received at the public scoping meeting," officials wrote in the register notice.

The Energy Department signed a Notice of Intent last week to prepare an environmental assessment to analyze the potential environmental impacts of accepting the spent nuclear

Want to go?

WHAT: Public input meeting about possible German nuclear spent fuel coming to SRS
WHEN: June 24 from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

WHERE: North Augusta Community Center, 495 Brookside Drive

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



GARFUNKEL gets intimate

Folk legend talks about Paul Simon and his love of the Sparkletones escape/E1

US companies add 179,000 jobs in May, survey says C4

Herald-Journal

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IN A HURRY
5 Things to read today



Draft prospects

Clemson's Daniel Gossett, a former Byrnes High star, is expected to be taken somewhere around the third round and no later than the fifth in the Major League Baseball draft, which starts today. **PAGE D1**

Riding with corpse

A Detroit-area man was so determined to get to Michigan from Arizona that he refused to stop and contact authorities after one of his passengers died, police said Wednesday. **PAGE A5**

Dogs being shot

The majority of shootings in most U.S. police departments involve animals, usually dogs, and experts say a new series of videos can help change often quick-trigger decisions fueled by fear. **PAGE A5**

Teens found safe

Union County Sheriff David Taylor said two teens who went missing along the Enoree River on Wednesday evening were found safe several hours later. **PAGE C2**

Jury weighs case

The jury began deliberations in the murder trial of Caroline Maris after hearing closing arguments from both the defense attorney and prosecutors on Wednesday afternoon. **PAGE C3**

State legislature OKs budget compromise

Plan includes kindergarten expansion, raise for workers

By SEANNA ADCOX
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The legislature's compromise on its budget plan for 2014-15 would expand full-day kindergarten for 4-year-olds, maintain aid to local governments and provide state workers a 2 percent pay raise.

The House voted 85-28 Wednesday on a compromise worked out between the chairmen of the House and Senate's budget-writing committees. The Senate followed by a vote of 34-10, allowing the \$7 billion spending plan for state taxes to go to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk before the legislative session ends today.

The Senate wanted to expand the state program for at-risk 4-year-olds to 14 additional districts. The compromise expands access to 10 instead, for a total

of 61 districts. That was a key difference in the chambers' spending plans, as the House proposal passed in March made no changes to the kindergarten program.

"That's some of the best money the state will ever spend," said Senate Finance Chairman Hugh Leath-erman, R-Florence.

The compromise maintains the "local government fund" at \$213 million, an amount unchanged since 2012-13. That money is distributed based on population, with 83 percent going to counties and 17 percent to cities. Under state law, it should be at nearly \$290 million. But legislators have not followed that law since 2008.

The House had proposed giving state employees a 1.5 percent cost-of-living salary boost. The Senate plan added a \$300 bonus to that.

The compromise "did away with the bonus and made it 2 percent across-the-board," said House Ways and Means Chairman Brian White, R-Anderson.

◆ SEE BUDGET PAGE A7

SC becomes 49th state to ban texting while driving

By ANDREW COFFMAN SMITH
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina lawmakers have overwhelmingly passed a statewide ban on texting while driving.

Under the ban approved by the state House in a 94-2 vote and by the Senate 42-2 on Wednesday, drivers who violate the law would not receive penalty points, but would face fines starting at \$25. However, the use of GPS navigators and texting to summon emergency services would be permitted.

Drivers would also be allowed to text on a hand-held device if stopped at a red light or stop

◆ SEE TEXTING PAGE A7

Food on the move



Brendan Buttimer, executive director of the Hub City Farmers' Market, takes products to a stand at Morgan Square. Hub City Farmers' Market took its mobile market to three stops around Spartanburg on Wednesday — Morgan Square, Milliken and Co. and the YMCA near Pine Street.

PHOTOS BY ALEX C. HICKS JR./ALEX.HICKS@SHJ.COM

■ LAURENS COUNTY

Man pleads guilty

Merritt gets 45 years in death of his wife

By MATT BRUCE
mbruce@indexjournal.com

A Greenwood man was convicted this week of killing his wife in 2012 and setting their home ablaze in an attempt to cover it up, according to a press statement from the 8th Circuit Solicitor's Office.

Darrell Anthony Merritt, 55, appeared in court late Tuesday and pleaded guilty to murder and third-degree arson during a hearing in Laurens. The charges stem from an incident during which he shot his wife with a 12-gauge shotgun as she lay in bed.

Circuit Court Judge Frank Addy issued Merritt a 45-year sentence following the plea. Prosecutors noted he could have been remanded to life behind bars. According to Wednesday's news release, the defendant must serve each day of the sentence and he will not be eligible for parole.

The grisly domestic homicide unfolded in the subdued backwoods of Bradley on Nov. 29, 2012. According to reports, authorities were dispatched to the couple's double-wide



DARRELL A. MERRITT

See **GUILTY**, page 4A

■ ERSKINE COLLEGE

Interim president search begins

By KATE HRUBY
khruby@indexjournal.com

Erskind College's search for an interim president is officially underway.

Amid a torrent of leadership changes that included the resignation of board of trustees chairman David Conner on Saturday, the college issued a press release Wednesday stating new chairman of the board Bill Cain appointed a search

Clyburn visits Greenwood



MADON JONES/INDEX-JOURNAL

Sixth District U.S. Rep. James Clyburn laughs with former longtime state Sen. John Drummond Wednesday afternoon at the Benjamin E. Mays Site during Rep. Clyburn's book signing.

Longtime U.S. representative signs books at Benjamin E. Mays Site

By CHRISTRAINOR
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The air at the Benjamin E. Mays Site on North Hospital Street is thick with history.

As such, there was perhaps not a more appropriate location Wednesday for longtime 6th District U.S. Rep. James Clyburn to greet local residents and sign copies of his new memoir, "Blessed Experiences: Genuinely Southern, Proudly Black."

A large crowd gathered at the Mays Site to greet Clyburn, who is a Sumter native. Many posed for pictures with the former House Majority Whip, who signed copy after copy of his book and engaged in lively conversations with local residents.

As he mingled with guests, Clyburn said it was very important to have Tuesday's signing at the Mays Site.

"This means a lot to me," Clyburn said. "In fact, one will see in



the book that there is a significant discussion of my relationship with Bennie Mays, one of which I have to look back on and call a blessing. When my wife and I were at South Carolina State (University), freshmen and sophomores were not allowed to go home for Easter. We

had to stay on campus and listen to the annual sermon from Bennie Mays. That started the relationship of many years. Especially when he was president of the school board down in Atlanta, I got to know him very, very well.

"With my interactions with

(state) Senator (John) Drummond and Congressman (William Jennings) Bryan Dorn, we worked together to do the various things involving Bennie Mays and Mary McLeod Bethune."

Clyburn was heavily involved in getting Mays' childhood home moved from its original site in Epworth to its current location on North Hospital.

Clyburn praised the progress of the Mays Site and the efforts of GLEAMNS director Joe Patton and curator Loy Sartin in enhancing the site. He noted the historic location was long in the making.

"My whole thing in this book is for people to understand a little bit about what it is to be patient, what it is to never give up on your dreams," the congressman said. "The folks who had the dream of bringing this house here, developing the museum, making this property what it is, they didn't give up on it. Because they didn't, we see the fruits of it today."

the Sumter ITEM

Man shot in neck
recovering; suspect
still in hiding **A2**

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2014 | Serving South Carolina since October 15, 1894

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City balances, grows its budget

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT

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(803) 774-1272

After months of juggling funding requests and adjusting figures, Sumter has evenly balanced its books.

Sumter City Council approved first reading of a balanced budget Tuesday, potentially paving the way for \$58.8 million worth of city operations next

fiscal year. Some of those operations have been added since the city's last hearing on the budget.

"We worked two months to get it in balance," City Manager Deron McCormick told council. "We worked on the revenue we expected to come in, and we were able to do so without consideration of any tax increase."

SEE **BALANCED**, PAGE A4

Vote allows downtown massage parlor

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT

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Relaxing the rules may make downtown Sumter a more relaxing place.

Sumter City Council paved the way for a new massage parlor and spa to

open downtown when members voted to loosen zoning rules for operating in Sumter's central business district.

Massage parlors are conditionally allowed in other areas of the city, but when a business owner recently

SEE **PARLOR**, PAGE A4

Judge will consider for 2nd time money Tuomey sets aside

Amount needed to keep fight going in question

BY BRADEN BUNCH

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(803) 774-1201

In the seemingly never-ending legal battle between Tuomey Healthcare System and the federal government, the United States Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals has ordered a lower court to once again reconsider the amount of money the local hospital must set aside in order to continue its legal fight.

Facing a \$239 million judgment, Tuomey argued to the appellate court that it could not afford to set aside more than \$30 million while it appeals the nine-digit ruling against it. Federal prosecutors, meanwhile, have called for Tuomey to set aside \$70 million, and back in April, Senior U.S. District Judge Margaret B. Seymour ruled in favor of the higher amount.

With its ruling, released

late Tuesday, the appellate court has now sent the issue back to Seymour's bench for reconsideration. As part of the order, the appellate court calls for the parties involved to inform them of the motion's status in the next 30 days.

This does not affect the decision by a federal jury declaring Tuomey had violated federal laws by signing local doctors to illegal contracts but only calls

for a reconsideration of how much it needs to set aside to continue its fight.

Without any ruling, federal rules dictate Tuomey would have to set aside nearly \$300 million to continue its appeal, an amount both sides have said would be impossible for the local hospital.

In fact, last month, Tuomey officials announced they were considering filing for bankruptcy should the appellate court decide the local



SEE **TUOMEY**, PAGE A8

Hospital's board has new faces

BY BRADEN BUNCH

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The embattled Tuomey Healthcare System board of trustees has named two new members, filling vacant roles for the local hospital.

Both local attorney Ken Young and Roy Flynn, owner of Sumter Cut Rate Drug Store, will begin serving on the board immediately.

In addition, Dr. Cindy Reese, who currently serves on the board in her role as the hospital's chief of staff,

take the place of Dr. Sam Riddle, who rotates off the board after serving the maximum nine years allowed.

Back in February, three members of the board — Kim Harvin, Dr. Andy McPadden and Dr. Kay Raffield — resigned, dropping the number of trustees below the minimum requirement. Hospital by-laws require at least 11 but no more than 15 people serve as trustees on the hospital's board.

With the new additions, there are currently 12 members on the board, opening up

Top graduates prepare to move on



RAYTEVIA EVANS / THE SUMTER ITEM

Crestwood High School's class of 2013-14 salutatorian Alyson Clyburn stands at the podium during a recent practice for class night and the school's Friday evening commencement ceremony.

Sumter's valedictorians, salutatorians reflect on high school years

BY RAYTEVIA EVANS

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(803) 774-1214

High school graduations are in full swing, and in Sumter School District, moving forward and looking ahead are common themes among the county's 2014

and the bonds they have created with their teachers.

"It's been a wild ride here at Crestwood. I'll be sad to see us go," said Krystanna Acevedo, Crestwood High School's 2013-14 valedictorian. "Crestwood is more than just a school for us. We've all become a family."

Before they queued up for

experience as "one of the most important events of your life," which is why the district does everything it can to prepare for commencement and make it special for the graduates.

The six top students in the county admit their final year was not free of a little pressure and just as much



ANOTHER SOLID YEAR
Daniel athletic director looks back at impressive year in sports. **C1**

DIVE ON IN: Clemson Little Theatre presents "The Dixie Swim Club." **B1**

WARM WELCOME?: Bergdahl's hometown cancels celebration amid concerns. **D1**

Texting and driving bill headed to governor

Statewide law will supersede local ordinances

'It's going to make our highways safer, save lives and prevent serious injuries to our citizens.'

State Sen. Thomas Alexander
R-Walkersville

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

COLUMBIA — A bill prohibiting drivers from texting while driving throughout South Carolina was approved by the General Assembly Wednesday afternoon and is expected to be on Gov. Nikki Haley's desk for her signature sometime today.

State Sen. Thomas Alexander, who represents Oconee County and a portion of Pickens County, said the bill only requires ratification by the

Lt. Governor or his designee and the Speaker of the House prior to going to the governor. However, Alexander said that is merely a formality.

"I'm very pleased," Alexander said. "It's going to make our highways safer, save lives and prevent serious injuries to our citizens."

Alexander said the bill allows motorists to text when they are parked in their vehicles. It also supersedes local ordinances.

SEE TEXTING, PAGE A5



Drivers throughout South Carolina will face fines if caught texting while driving after Gov. Nikki Haley signs a new bill expected to be on her desk sometime today.

RLE

City set to begin talks with Lord

BY NORMAN CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

WESTMINSTER — Westminster officials have decided to enter into negotiations with former Walterboro city manager Jeff Lord to become the town's new administrator.



Lord

Outgoing administrator David Smith confirmed Wednesday afternoon that Lord is the council's first choice for the job. Smith announced in April that he was stepping down June 30, citing health reasons.

Lord worked with the City of Walterboro for nine years — four as finance director and five as city manager — before resigning in August 2013, according to The Press and Standard newspaper in Walterboro. He left his job Sept. 30.

The newspaper reported that the city had "seen a reduction in violent crime, a two-step improvement in its insurance ISO rating."

SEE LORD, PAGE A6

NOW WE'RE COOKIN'



A Taste of Home Cooking Show attendee leaps gleefully from her seat after hearing her name announced as the winner of a prize at the event Tuesday at the Gignilliat Center in Seneca.

Taste of Home show provides food, fun

BY JOSIE RABBITT
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Culinary specialist Michelle Reynolds has traveled thousands of miles with the Taste of Home Cooking School, dishing out tricks of the trade in hundreds of live shows across the country.

Her favorite place to be, though? Her own kitchen in Birmingham, Ala.

Reynolds began the Tuesday night live show at the Gignilliat Center in Seneca for hundreds of local home chefs with a bacon potato waffle recipe that was clearly "made for the South," she said.

"Y'all know I'm from Alabama," said Reynolds, who hosted the last show in Seneca in 2008. "But I know this here is the South, too."

SEE TASTE, PAGE A5

STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 3 RACE

House candidates discuss Obamacare

THE JOURNAL STAFF

Everyone, it seems, has an opinion about President Barack Obama's signature healthcare initiative officially known as the Affordable Care Act, but known more widely across the United States as Obamacare.

Supporters of the plan say it gives greater access to healthcare for people who could not get it in the past, including those who could not afford it and those who had pre-existing medical conditions.

Critics say the government should not force its citizens to purchase healthcare and often refer to it as a form of socialism.

In South Carolina, Gov.

Nikki Haley and the S.C. General Assembly have worked to opt out of the program by turning down federal money that would have expanded Medicaid to include more people.

Local delegation members have said taking the money would have hurt the state in the long run when the federal dollars ended and the state had to come up with large amounts of money on its own.

In the third part of a week-long series leading up to Tuesday's Republican primary, The Journal asked State House District 3 candidates Gary Clary and Ed Harris to address the subject.



Harris



Clary

SEE HOUSE, PAGE A6

OCONEE CO. COUNCIL DISTRICT 1 RACE

Cammick, Corbeil address broadband

THE JOURNAL STAFF

When Oconee County received a \$0.6 million federal grant for a \$15 million broadband project in 2009, there was great excitement that

Service Providers (ISPs) have signed contracts with the county to provide the service to residents and businesses in Oconee County.

County offices, schools, libraries and most fire



Pendleton council approves tax decrease

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
THE JOURNAL

PENDLETON — The

15 fiscal year budget passed in a 5-1 vote, with opposition from council member Bruce Kalley.

on the budget that will create a drop in property taxes.

"I think a tax decrease

good. ... I just tend to err on the side of caution with things like this — I guess from my thinking



NO WIN FOR THE HOME TEAM Wilson Tobbs too much sloppy RedWolves, **Page 1B**

Morning News

THURSDAY JUNE 5, 2014

TODAY'S WEATHER

A few p.m. t-storms, some severe, high 92, low 70

DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Mullins plant expands, adds 120 jobs

SoPakCo officials plan to have posts filled by September



SoPakCo announced Wednesday plans to add 120 jobs at its second Mullins processing facility. Officials said they expect to hire full-time employees by September to produce a new product line with a major international Mexican food company for distribution.

BY JOHN D. RUSSELL
AND NAEEM MCFADDEN
Morning News

MULLINS — The state's unemployment leader received some welcomed news Wednesday.

SoPakCo, a leader in the design, production and packaging of shelf-stable, ready-to-serve foods, announced it will add 120 new jobs and invest \$3.4 million to produce a new product line at its Mullins plant.

The new jobs, expected to be filled by September, will be permanent,

WANT TO APPLY?

» To apply for a job at SoPakCo, at www.jobaps.com/sccat/ or visit your local SC Works center.

nongovernment contract jobs.

There are about 50 people employed in Mullins and about 400 employed in Bennettsville.

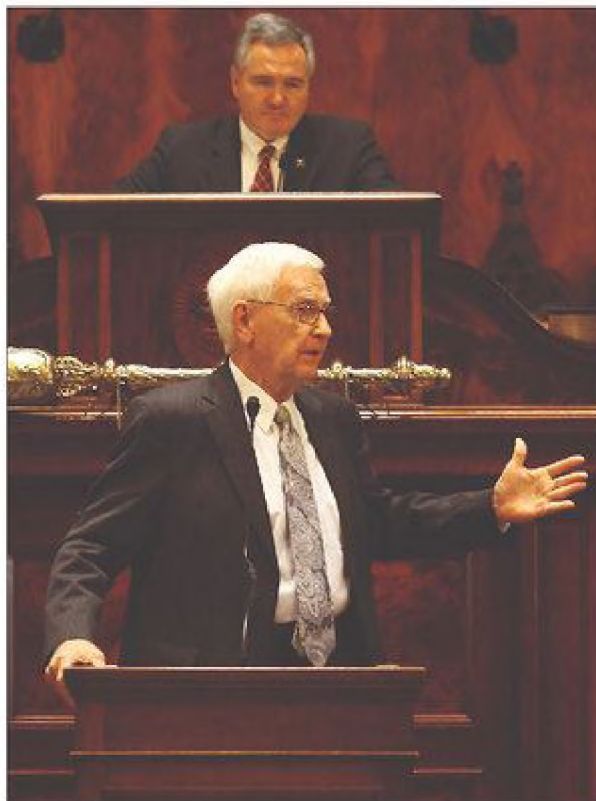
"We would like to offer special thanks to everyone who has assisted in making this expansion possible and would certainly be remiss not to offer a special thanks to the

Marion County Economic Development Commission and the South Carolina Department of Commerce," said Lonnie Thompson, president of SoPakCo. "We are especially grateful that in these difficult economic times to be able to add approximately 120-125 new associates to our team."

The new product line will deal exclusively with a major international Mexican food company for distribution to retailers throughout North America at its Marion County facility, at 118 S. Cypress St. in Mullins.

See **JOBS**, Page 6A

The SC House's 'country gentleman'



State Rep. Lester Branham Jr., D-Florence, speaks on a budget amendment Wednesday from the floor of the South Carolina House of Representatives. Branham, chairman of the Higher Education Subcommittee, is not running this fall for his District 61 seat that he has held for 12 years.

Rep. Branham bids farewell to public service

COLUMBIA

The legislative session concludes this week as does the 12-year tenure of Florence County Democrat Rep. Lester Branham Jr.

Walking around the Chamber Wednesday morning, Branham received hugs and handshakes from staffers and legislators before bidding farewell to the body he served on behalf of Florence and Marion County residents.

"It affects the lives of people what we do and that's what it ought to be about — the people," Branham said. "What we do here, it's not to build a power base. It's not to exalt yourself. We say we're servants of the state, and that's what we oughta be — be what you is 'cause if you be what you ain't, then you ain't what you is."

Branham reminisced of his father and how he would sometimes park his car up on the Statehouse lawn, keys in the ignition, during the 10 years he served in the House in the 1950s and 1960s. That wasn't something Branham has done in office. However, plenty of paternal advice has guided him through life and politics.

"My daddy told me when you stand up to speak — stand up, speak up, shut up and sit

See **BRANHAM**, Page 4A



The McClenaghan building off South Dargan Street.

Education convergence on Dargan St.

McClenaghan roofing project a step in making space for magnet arts, health science programs

BY ELLEN MEDER

Morning News
emed@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — As Florence School District 1's widespread building campaign progresses, the board is taking steps to protect its property investments with the hope of eventually creating a multi-use education corridor on South Dargan Street.

This month contractors are re-roofing the old McClenaghan High School building on the street and removing 74 outdated air conditioner units from the roof at a cost of \$391,550. The property, which the district acquired from the Carolinas Hospital System for about \$840,000 seven years ago, is one of a set of four lots owned by the district, including the contiguous former Pee Dee Arts Alliance property, the district offices at Dargan and Pine streets and the adjacent Poyner building, which established the district's presence on the street in 1907.

Board Chairman Porter Stewart said having space at the ready will help the district once it's able to make solid plans for the previously expressed desire to create a magnet arts high

See **PROJECT**, Page 6A

Rush Academy celebrates student success

BY ELLEN MEDER

Morning News
emed@florencenews.com

It's been a year of change for the Florence School District 1 alternative learning school, taking on the new moniker of

the superintendent, the board, the district maintenance staff and everyone involved in the effort.



Graduating seniors Malcolm Freeman, Destini Harrell and Demetrius Green take a look at the



Odd

SENIORS

AT THE TOP OF THEIR GAME

OPS player sets records as go-to receiver. **B1**



'LOMBARDI'

OPTP tackles
legendary coach. **A8**

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2014

The Times and Democrat

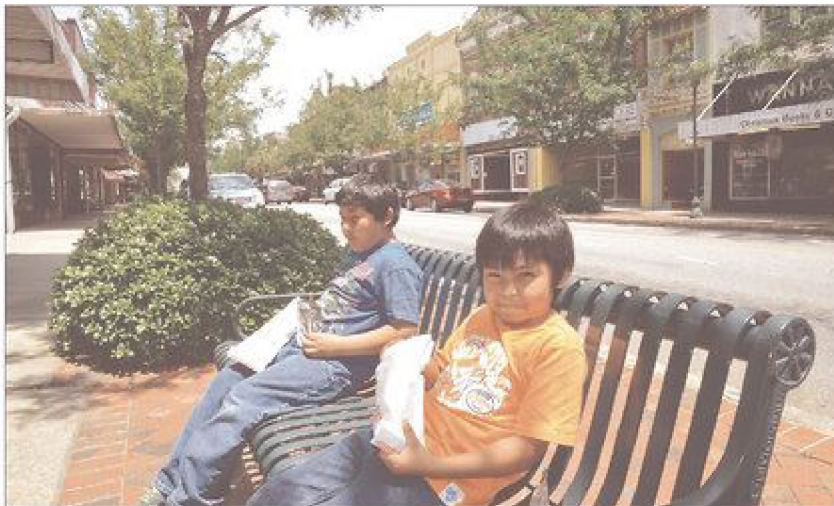
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'Opportunities abound'



LARRY WIKOVITZ

John Perez, left, and his brother, Ivan Perez, enjoy popcorn and a drink from Fosse's 5 & 10 while their mom shops for a dress at Divine Fashions on Russell Street Wednesday afternoon. DORA, the City of Orangeburg, the Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce and Orangeburg County will hold a public planning session June 16-19 to create a vision plan for the downtown area.

Dancing in the park

Put your dancing shoes on!

The final in a series of three free First Friday outdoor concerts will take place this Friday night with the Columbia-based band, The Berrys. The trio will play soul, classic rock, beach and dance music from 7 to 10 p.m. at the DPU Centennial Park in Folio Memorial Gardens. See details on today's Leisure page, 8A.

DORA: Creating downtown vision plan is goal of June 16-19 event

By GENE ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

Visitors to Russell Street are greeted with boarded up and vacant buildings. The roofs of at least two buildings on what is considered Orangeburg's Main Street have collapsed, and the city has condemned them.

The downtown district's needs are obvious, and community leaders will address those needs in a four-day public planning meeting to create a community vision set for June 16-19.

A town hall meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on June 16 at the Bluebird Theatre. A final community vision plan presentation will be held at 12 p.m. on Thursday, June 19, at the Orangeburg County Fine Arts Center.

"We are delighted to be collaborating with partners to bring this planning process to

Seeking community input

The Downtown Orangeburg Revitalization Association is conducting a customer survey online to solicit input about retail opportunities in Orangeburg.

All community members are invited to take the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/orangeburg>.

Jennifer Hoelsing, executive director of the Downtown Orangeburg Revitalization Association, "We are pursuing this work to identify next steps in our continued revitalization efforts, building on previous successes."

DORA is the lead partner in creating the plan with the City of Orangeburg, the Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce and Orangeburg County.

Hoelsing said the town hall meeting will be an attempt to identify priorities.

"We at DORA will continue our work as a Main Street community with the four-

design, promotion, economic development and organizing the resources to achieve our goals," she said.

After the town hall meeting, the design team will study the local economy, Orangeburg's assets, marketing and the city's physical environment to make recommendations for designs to improve the downtown district. The vision plan will address the local economy and how to create an environment conducive to recruiting more jobs and businesses into the area.

Making residents and visitors aware of the city's assets will also be a priority,

to make the downtown more attractive. The plan will also provide information to the City of Orangeburg on how to improve community functions and provide action steps on how to fund the recommended projects.

Hoelsing said the vision plan and the town hall meeting are offshoots of a strategic planning session held by DORA's Board of Directors this past year. Discussions in the strategic planning session revealed the importance of the formation of a vision plan.

"DORA's goal is to identify the stakeholders in the downtown area as we work to achieve our mission of economic development and an increasingly stronger downtown," Hoelsing said.

She said the charrette, an intensive planning session where citizens, designers and others collaborate on a vision

See DORA, A9

Legislators OK statewide texting ban while driving

By ANDREW COFFMAN
SMITH
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina lawmakers have overwhelmingly passed a statewide ban on texting while driving.

Under the ban approved by the state House in a 94-2 vote and by the Senate 42-2 on Wednesday, drivers who violate the law would not receive penalty points, but would face fines starting at \$25. However, the use of GPS navigators and texting to summon emergency services would be permitted.

Drivers would also be allowed to text on a hand-held device if stopped at a red light or stop sign.

Police would be prohibited from confiscating or viewing a cellphone to determine whether a driver

See TEXTING, A5

Courson resigns as Senate president pro tem. **A4**

Compromise on budget for 2014-15 gets approval

By SEANNA ADCOX
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The Legislature's compromise on its budget plan for 2014-15 would expand full-day kindergarten for 4-year-olds, maintain aid to local governments and provide state workers a 2 percent pay raise.

The House voted 85-28 Wednesday on a compromise worked out between the chairmen of the House and Senate's budget-writing committees. The Senate followed by a vote of 34-10, allowing the \$7 billion spending plan for state taxes to go to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk.

See BUDGET, A3

Cobb-Hunter: Liquor bill passage important tool in downtown revitalization

By GENE ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

A bill that would allow churches to waive distance requirements for businesses serving liquor has been approved by the state General Assembly and is awaiting Gov. Nikki Haley's signature to become law.

"It is an important tool in the revitalization of downtown Orangeburg, and the potential economic impact for other such businesses is greatly enhanced by this legislation," bill sponsor Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, D-Orangeburg, said, adding she is confident Haley will sign the bill.

"The governor has talked about economic development

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