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To:
Date: 7/13/2016 8:44:44 AM
Subject: SC Front Pages – Wednesday, July 13, 2016

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The Post and Courier

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Wednesday, July 13, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Loophole let thousands of abusers get guns

Report: Three-day limit expired before FBI could finish review

BY GLENN SMITH
gsmith@postandcourier.com

Thousands of convicted domestic abusers were able to buy guns in recent years due to the same loophole in the FBI's background check system that allowed Dylann Roof to arm himself before killing nine people at Charleston's Emanuel AME Church.

That's a key finding in a U.S. Government Accountability Office report which studied the effectiveness of the FBI's background check system in keeping guns out of the hands of abusers.

Under federal law, those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence charges are banned from purchasing guns, as are those who are subject to orders of protection.

The GAO found the screening system

blocked about 89,000 of those people from buying guns between 2006 and 2015. But nearly 6,800 others were able to purchase firearms because the three-day time limit for an FBI background check to clear had expired before agents could complete the review.

The time limit window became known as the "Charleston loophole" in the wake

Please see **LOOPHOLE**, Page A6



A photo on an alleged manifesto website created by Dylann Roof shows the .45-caliber Glock pistol he's accused of using in a deadly June 17 attack at Emanuel AME Church.

LASTHOODS/ANET/PROVIDED

Who's poking around?

Obsessed gamers flock to real landmarks in Pokemon craze



WAGS SPECIAL

"It's probably one of the best things to come out on the phone," said Tim Hatcher (far right) who was playing "Pokemon Go" with fellow sailors Nathan Hoyt and Bob Grady from the Navy Nuclear Power School. Brad Mennell (left) was also playing the game Monday in Marion Square.

BY DEANNA PAN
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On another scorching 90-degree day at Waterfront Park, children splashed their parents in the Pineapple Fountain while a bearded tourist from Connecticut (autism) tapped the screen of his smartphone. Beads of sweat pooled on



Poll
Are you playing Pokemon Go? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

his forehead.
A battle raged between Dennis Berry's Doduo, a two-headed bird, and an op-

ponent's Pinsir, a thorned beetle-like bug.
"You're gonna get your (butt) kicked," his buddy sneered.
Berry arrived in Charleston on Friday for a friend's bachelor party. He started playing "Pokemon Go" at Rita's on Esplanade.

Please see **POKEMON**, Page A6

Inside

Police caution "Pokemon Go" game can potentially lead players into trouble. **A6**

Obama: Empathy can bridge 'fault lines'

Honors Dallas police, seeks to calm nation

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE
and KATHLEEN HENNESSEY
Associated Press

DALLAS — President Barack Obama urged Americans rattled by a week of violence and protests to find "open hearts" and new empathy Tuesday in a speech that seemed between honoring police officers for their bravery and decrying racial prejudice that can affect their work.

Obama stood next to five empty chairs for the white police officers killed last week by a black man seeking vengeance for police killings. Behind him, underscoring his message of unity: Dallas police officers, a racially diverse church choir and local officials who ranged from Black Police Chief David Brown to former President George W. Bush, a Dallas resident.

Obama sought to reassure the nation that he understands the impact of the unsettling events of the past week — including the killing of two black men by white police officers as well as the Dallas attacks.

Disturbing videos of the events have "left us wounded and angry and hurt," he said.

"It is as if the deepest fault lines of our democracy have suddenly been exposed, perhaps even widened."

Undaunted, the president urged Americans to cast aside such doubt and replace it with faith in the nation's

Please see **DALLAS**, Page A7

Mount Pleasant rejects housing moratorium

Plan to halt building permits falls short

BY DAVID SLADE
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MOUNT PLEASANT — A divided Town Council narrowly rejected a 120-day moratorium on new residential construction permits Tuesday night, foreshadowing a larger fight to come about building permit restrictions.

The town has gained about 10,000 residents in the past five years and was the fastest-growing city east of the Mississippi River in 2015, according to the Census Bureau. Traffic problems and crowded schools, including the largest high school in South Carolina, have prompted calls to put the brakes on development.

Councilman Joe Buxton, who proposed the moratorium, told Mayor Linda Page: "If it's voted down, then you have to wear the fact that you are asking the people of this town to be crowded, to have their children in crowded schools, to sit in traffic, and to maybe not be able to get out of town if there's a hurricane."

Page said Buxton, during years as a Mount Pleasant official, voted to approve developments such as the Oyster Point apartments and also must "wear" the result.

Had the moratorium been approved, permits would have been denied for residential construction projects that had not reached certain, but undefined, stages of approval. However, thousands of homes already permitted but not yet built could have gone forward.

Please see **COUNCIL**, Page A6

Inside



FOOD

New features, including local chefs' recipes, and more food news make their debut in our Food section. **D1**

SPORTS

Tennessee QB Dobbs steps into SEC spotlight. **C1**

LOCAL

Hot weather is not going anywhere. **A2**

Secrecy clouds removal of Clark Academy leader

HaLevi says 'utterly opaque' inquiry in school bus incident a pattern for district

BY PAUL BOWERS
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Longtime Charleston County School District employee Andrew HaLevi will not be returning as head of Septima P. Clark Corporate Academy after the district investigated allegations that he had made a student sit on a bus with no pants on.

"The district determined that Dr. HaLevi's talents could be used elsewhere, and not at Clark Academy," district spokeswoman Erica Taylor wrote in an email last week. When asked for the results of an internal investigation of the incident, Taylor wrote, "It is a personnel matter."



HaLevi

But Jay Bender, a Columbia attorney specializing in Freedom of Information law, said public agencies often allude to "personnel matters" as a way of dodging public records requests. The S.C. Freedom of Information Act does not allow such records to be kept from the public.

"It's another example of a school district making up an exemption that the district wished existed in the law but doesn't," Bender said.

Please see **ACADEMY**, Page A7



Partly cloudy.
High 97, Low 79.
Complete 5-day
forecast. **B10**

Bridge B9 Crosswords B8.15 Movies B7
Business B1 Editorials A12 Obituaries B4
Classifieds C1 Food D1 Sports C1
Comics B6-9 Local A3 Television B6

Charleston Deals today

Charleston Battle Ball
\$250 for One Hour of Private Bubble Soccer up to 8 Suits (\$329). See **A2**

SEC FOOTBALL MEDIA DAYS

Kirby Smart
welcomes Georgia's
lofty expectations, 1B



MLB ALL-STAR GAME

Jackie Bradley Jr.
has 2 hits in his
All-Star debut, 1B



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TWITTER.COM/THETSTATETODAY: PARTLY CLOUDY HI 91 LO 76
YESTERDAY: HI 90 LO 74 PRECIP. (as of 5pm): 0"
FORECAST, 8C

The State

TUOMEY HEALTHCARE ACCUSES COLUMBIA'S NEXSEN PRUET OF LEGAL MALPRACTICE

Sumter hospital sues law firm

BY JOHN MONK
jmonk@thestate.com

SUMTER

A lawsuit alleging that legal malpractice by the Nexsen Pruet law firm caused the destruction of one of the state's most prominent locally owned hospitals, Tuomey Healthcare of Sumter, was filed Tuesday in state court in Sumter County.

The lawsuit seeks \$117 million

Lawsuit alleges bad legal advice from Columbia's legal powerhouse

Suit says advice led to destruction of Sumter's once-proud, locally owned Tuomey Hospital

Nexsen Pruet leader says firm is 'disappointed in and disagree(s)' with Tuomey's lawsuit and declines further comment.

in damages for legal havoc allegedly wreaked by "misleading and reckless" advice from Columbia-headquartered Nexsen

Pruet, one of the state's largest law firms, according to legal papers.

Relying on Nexsen Pruet's

advice caused the hospital in 2013 to lose a federal whistleblower lawsuit that resulted in a jury finding that the hospital had defrauded the federal government over false Medicare and other claims and owed \$237.4 million in fines and damages, the lawsuit said.

In response, Nexsen Pruet board chairman Leighton Lord on Tuesday released this statement: "We have not yet seen the lawsuit filed today, but Nex-

sen Pruet is proud to have represented Tuomey for more than 20 years.

"Like other supporters of the hospital, we were very disappointed with results of the almost decade-long dispute with the federal government. We stood by Tuomey through that dispute and we are disappointed in, and disagree with, the recently filed lawsuit. Since that

SEE HOSPITAL, 6A



STATE

TURBEVILLE WANTS TICKET SUIT DROPPED

The town of Turberville — accused of operating a speed trap — has asked a judge to throw out lawsuit challenging its municipal traffic ordinance. 3A



PALMETTO

BLYTHEWOOD GIRL TO PRESENT WINNING DISH



Kiana White

12-year-old's Carolina shrimp taco recipe among winning dishes to be served at the

White House. 1C



DALLAS POLICE SHOOTINGS

FALLEN OFFICERS MOURNED



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN GRONLUND, NEW YORK TIMES

A singer performs as President Barack Obama, first lady Michelle Obama, former President George W. Bush, Laura Bush, Vice President Joe Biden and Jill Biden look on during a memorial service Tuesday at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center for the officers killed in Dallas. Obama said Tuesday that the nation mourned along with Dallas, but he implored Americans not to give in to despair or the fear that "the center might not hold."

Top photo: Seats are left empty in honor of the five police officers killed by a gunman during a protest in Dallas on July 7.

MORE INSIDE

Obama, in Dallas, seeks to console and reassure. 4A



SPORTS HAAS FACES CHALLENGE



LIFESTYLE Try a fun summer dessert

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

WEDNESDAY,
JULY 13, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM



SANDERS VOWS HIS FULL SUPPORT TO BACK CLINTON'S ELECTION **PAGE 1B**



Construction continues on the new Home 2 hotel on North Main Street downtown.

PHOTOS BY HEIDI HEILBRUNN/STAFF

Hotel market starting to favor consumers

Costs rising, but at a slower rate than in previous years

RUDOLPH BELL
DBELL@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

The law of supply and demand has begun to work on behalf of the consumer when it comes to the downtown Greenville hotel market.

The average daily rate for the six hotels along Main Street was \$177.31 during the first five months of this year, according to the latest data from market research firm STR.

That's up 2 percent from the same period last year, but it's a much slower growth rate than 2015, when the average daily rate rose 8.6 percent, and 2014, when it shot up 10.5 percent.

People familiar with Greenville's most lucrative hotel market say the reason for the downward price pressure is the additional competition that arrived this year with the opening of the Aloft Greenville Downtown.

That hotel, the sixth along Main Street, put an extra 144 rooms onto the market, a 17 percent increase in the supply.

The room supply is scheduled to grow another 27 percent this year with the opening of two more downtown hotels — a 156-room Embassy Suites at RiverPlace and a 117-room Home



Charlotte Rygg, guest services coordinator at Aloft, checks the Mendoza family into the hotel at the main lobby.

See **HOTELS**, Page 4A

Shootings in state with 4 or more victims up

TIM SMITH
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COLUMBIA - South Carolina shootings in which at least four people have been injured or killed have increased since the murders of nine people at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston last summer, according to a review of records by *The Greenville News*.

The Charleston murders, which shocked the state and nation, were seen as unique because of the number of victims killed, the randomness of the act and what authorities said was the racist motive involved.

A flurry of gun-control legislation was pushed or filed after the murders and the state was praised for the way it addressed the shootings with prayers, talk of racial reconciliation, forgiveness by the victims' families and the removal of the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds.

But shootings involving multiple victims were not unique to the state before the Charleston murders and have only increased since, according to a review of records in the Gun Violence Archive, a national research database of such crimes.

From June 17, 2014 through June 17, 2015, according to the database, there were seven such shootings, including the Charleston murders, killing a total of 13 and wounding 25.

In the year afterward, there have been 10 such shootings, with a total of 14 killed and 25 injured.

Some lawmakers said they were not surprised at the numbers.

"It's not surprising to me and unfortunately, I think you will see that number increase in the future," said state Sen. Marlon Kimpson, a Charleston Democrat who has taken to the Senate floor this year to decry gun violence. "The political rhetoric on both sides, the level of frustration and the sense of reckless disregard of human life that people have today is problematic and troublesome for our society."

Rep. Mike Pitts, a Laurens Republican and former Greenville police officer, said he would have to examine the database records to comment on them but would not be surprised at any increase.

He said the state has serious problems with drugs and domestic violence. And South Carolina, he said,

See **SHOOTING**, Page 7A

Upstate Senate seat changes may be good for beer industry

AMANDA COYNE
THE GREENVILLE NEWS

A change in legislators in one Greenville Senate district could be good news

would make it easier to sell alcohol because it may lead to an increased incidence of drunken driving.

"The rate of DUIs hasn't dipped, and we have continued to increase the out-

the Pint Law, legislation that is credited with reinvigorating the craft beer industry in South Carolina. The Pint Law allowed breweries to serve up to 64 oz of beer for on-site consumption to each cus-

bill, Bristow said.

"The South Carolina Senate is interesting because there is a standing rule that allows a single senator to object to a bill," Bristow said. "That can really halt

HOT SUMMER DAYS CALL FOR CHILLED SHRIMP

FOOD & HEALTH, D1

MOREHEAD WINS COUNTY WOMEN'S AMATEUR

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Wednesday, July 13, 2016



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TODAY **THU** **FRI**

 95°/71° 95°/73° 92°/71°

Complete forecast, B6

NEWS DIGEST

Haley orders audit of state phones, autos

COLUMBIA — South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley has ordered her Cabinet agencies to audit employees' use of taxpayer-funded phones, computers and vehicles.

The executive order requires the agencies to complete their inventory and report any potential savings by Dec. 31.

It specifies the review must include cellphones, landline phones, desktop printers, laptops and state vehicles.

Asked whether there are allegations or suspicions of misuse, Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams said Tuesday the effort is to ensure agencies know what they have and use those resources efficiently.

The order signed last week applies only to the 16 Cabinet agencies that report to the governor.

The effort follows an inventory of all state property that took several years, Haley said in 2014 she next wanted an inventory of how many vehicles and cellphones agencies own.

Fire dept. captain fired over posts

COLUMBIA — A Columbia fire department captain has been fired for posting on social media he would run over protesters if they were still blocking traffic when his shift ended.

Local media outlets report that Capt. Jimmy Morris was fired Monday over two messages he posted on Facebook about Black Lives Matter protesters.

The protesters closed an intersection near the South Carolina Statehouse and prompted the closing of a small stretch of Interstate 126 late Sunday. There were no arrests or injuries.

One post said the "idiots" blocking traffic "better not be there when I get off work or there is gonna be some run over dumb a---."

Morris did not return several

POLICE SHOOTINGS OFFICERS MEMORIAL

Obama lauds officers

President calls on Dallas, nation for 'understanding'

By Lisa Marie Pane
The Associated Press

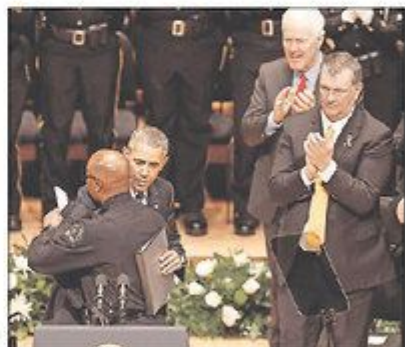
DALLAS — President Barack Obama urged Americans rattled by a week of violence and protests to find "open hearts" and new empathy Tuesday in a speech that seesawed between honoring police officers for their bravery and decrying racial prejudice that can affect their work.

Obama stood next to five empty chairs for the white police officers

killed last week by a black man seeking vengeance for police killings. Behind him, underscoring his message of unity: Dallas police officers, a racially diverse church choir and local officials who ranged from black Police Chief David Brown to former President George W. Bush, a Dallas resident.

Obama sought to reassure the nation that he understands the

SEE OBAMA, A5



President Barack Obama hugs Dallas Police Chief David Brown during a memorial service Tuesday at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas. Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn of Texas and Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings applaud. ERIC GAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOTTA CATCH 'EM ALL



Cole Emory, 24, left, Kale Bonner, 30, center, and Tevin Gilliam, 24, engage in a Pokemon battle at the Daniel Morgan monument in downtown Spartanburg Tuesday. The site is a "gym" in Pokemon Go, a cellphone game that has ignited a worldwide craze. ZACH FOX/ZACH.FOX@SHJ.COM

City catches Pokemon fever

Interactive cellphone game takes people to all kinds of places

to each other, then proceed on their way.

Each time they stop, they swipe at their screens, trying

Nintendo. The game features detailed GPS locations, showing a map of streets, landmarks and buildings that players

has added billions of dollars to Nintendo's stock value.

HOW IT WORKS: The game can be downloaded for free on all



Morning News

WEDNESDAY JULY 13, 2016

The Voice of the Pee Dee

TODAY'S WEATHER

An afternoon thunderstorm in spots.
High 100, low 74.
DETAILS 2A

www.snow.com

75 cents

Darlington

Council votes to buy land for recreation

BY MELISSA ROLLINS
Morning News
mrollins@florencenews.com

DARLINGTON — The city of Darlington is closer to having its own recreational sports complex after Thursday night's affirmative vote on the first reading of a property purchase ordinance. When approved, the ordinance will give city employees the go-ahead to purchase 100 acres off Lawson Road.

Darlington area recreation director Lee Andrews gave the Darlington City Council a report Thursday night on the status of the property.

"We had some questions at the beginning about how much land there could be usable, so we brought ... (the firm of S&ME) in and actually did some research and went out and actually walked the property to see exactly how much wetlands was there," Andrews said. "On the map before, it was marked wetlands all the way across the front of the property as well as the back of the property so we had this group go in and take a look at it. Without crossing wetlands, there is about fifty-plus acres that we can build on."

Andrew said that there will be purposes for the other acreage as well.

"The great thing about recreation

See **COUNCIL**, Page 4A

Hartsville

Woman gets 7½-years for deaths of four children

from staff reports

HARTSVILLE — A Hartsville mother was sentenced Monday to 7½ years in prison for the death of her four children in April 2013.

Hope Hawkins was charged with four counts of unlawful child neglect after her children were killed in a house fire. Originally Hawkins was charged with homicide by child abuse, but prosecutors accepted a plea deal on lesser charges, according to Hayley Thrift, communications director of the S.C. Attorney General's Office.

Thrift said Hawkins entered an Alford plea in October 2015, acknowledging that a jury probably would find her guilty if the case went to trial. An Alford plea is treated as a guilty plea but allows Hawkins to be found guilty without admitting she committed a crime.

The fire claimed the lives of the Hawkins' four children: 4-year-old Delontia Dixon, 2-year-old Camaron Mason and 10-month-old twin sisters Myasia Hawkins and Kynasia Hawkins.



Hawkins

Ready to bloom



PHOTOS BY JOE PERRY/MORNING NEWS

An artist's rendering shows a new Hyatt Place hotel planned for downtown Florence, which was officially unveiled Tuesday morning by Raines Hospitality and SpringBridge Development.

'Project Tulip' revealed as Hyatt Place hotel

BY JOE PERRY
Morning News
jperry@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Tulips normally bloom in the spring, but 'Project Tulip' came into full blossom on a warm July morning as the much-anticipated development was unveiled Tuesday morning as a new 103-room Hyatt Place hotel that will take shape later this year on East Evans and Dargan streets.

The five-story, \$15 million hotel is being developed by SpringBridge Development and will be managed by Raines Hospitality.

Before a standing-room-only crowd in the community room jointly used by Hotel Florence and the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce, Raines Hospitality President Grey Raines told the audience, "It's a really great day to be involved in another

project in downtown Florence."

"When we started down the road we had no idea downtown could be what it is now — the path that it is on," he said, drawing laughter when he noted that it "took a little bit to bring others on board."

Raines made note of the many recent "amazing and exciting projects" downtown: Francis Marion University's Luther E. Carter Health Sciences building, the Med-Enroll/ERS building, the Rainwater building and Hotel Florence's expansion that houses the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce and Key Architecture, which is the consulting architect for the new Hyatt Place hotel.

He also listed ongoing projects like the parking garage and Emerson Apartments at Cheves and Irby streets, the Kress

See **HOTEL**, Page 3A



Raines Hospitality President Grey Raines speaks Tuesday morning at the community room used by Hotel Florence and the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce during an announcement about a new Hyatt Place hotel that will soon take shape in downtown Florence. It will be developed by SpringBridge Development and managed by Raines Hospitality.

McLeod Health visits Camp Pee Dee Pride



Ambulance crews, McLeod Safe Kids program delivers safety message to campers

BY JESSICA IMBIMO
Morning News
jimbimo@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — McLeod Health representatives spent a day at

focus on some aspect of summer safety. In the past summer sessions, campers have learned about water safety and bicycle safety, such as the importance of wearing a helmet when riding

THE HARTSVILLE MESSENGER

Darlington County's News Leader Since 1893

WEDNESDAY JULY 13, 2016

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50 CENTS

scnow.com

Hartsville Local mom sentenced for death of children

BY JESSICA IMBISO
BH Media

HARTSVILLE—A Hartsville mother was sentenced to seven-and-a-half years in prison on Monday in connection with the death of her four children in April 2013.



Hawkins

Hope Hawkins was charged with four counts of unlawful child neglect after her children were killed in a house fire.

Originally, Hawkins was charged with homicide by child abuse but prosecutors accepted a plea deal on lesser charges, according to Hayley Thrift, communications director of the SC Attorney General's Office.

Thrift said Hawkins entered an Alford plea in October 2015, acknowledging that a jury would likely find her guilty if the case went to trial. An Alford plea is treated as a guilty plea, but allows Hawkins to be found guilty without admitting she committed a crime.

The fire claimed the lives of Hawkins four children, 2-year-old Camaron Mason, 4-year-old Delonta Dixon and 10-month-old twin sisters Myasia Hawkins and Kynasia Hawkins. Hawkins said she was outside the home when the fire broke out on April 24, 2013, at approximately 2 p.m. The investigation that followed determined the fire began in the kitchen and was considered accidental.

Hawkins will receive credit toward her sentence for her 303 days served since her bond hearing last June, according to Thrift.

Darlington County Swimmer pulled from ocean dies

From staff reports

MYRTLE BEACH — A swimmer who was pulled from the ocean at 48th Avenue North on Wednesday was pronounced dead on Friday.

Mikease McFarland 17, of Darlington County, was pronounced dead at the Grand Strand Medical Center according to Horry County Chief Deputy Coroner Tamara Willard.

Myrtle Beach police Lt. Joey Crossby confirmed that McFarland was

See SWIMMER, Page 3A

All-America City Celebration to be held Friday

From staff reports

WANT TO GO?

» **WHAT:** All-America City Celebration
» **WHERE:** Downtown Hartsville- Carolina Avenue
» **WHEN:** July 15, 5-9 p.m.

In celebration of the city of Hartsville's recognition as an All-America City, a downtown Block Party, an "All-America City Celebration" sponsored by West Oil, North Industrial Machine, Pepsi, and Sonic, will take place in downtown Hartsville on Carolina Avenue on Friday at 5 p.m.

"This will be a celebration of all that makes our city so special," city spokesperson Rebecca Edwards said in

a release.

The evening will include recognition of the 1996 and 2016 winning delegations and a viewing of the All-America City performance by the 2016 delegation.

The youth delegation of the 2016 All-America City delegation will give a live special performance as well and a series of live performances

by local youth musical talent. DJ T Money and crew will lead attendees in a street dance featuring music for all generations.

There will be activities for the whole family to come out and enjoy including games, face painting, and a photo booth. The Hartsville Fire and Police

See HARTSVILLE, Page 3A

A simple answer



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN/BH MEDIA

Dozens came out to a prayer rally on Saturday at Hartsville's Pride Park. People of all kinds came out to celebrate prayer.

After police shootings, Pee Dee people suggest prayer

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN
BH Media
dswearingen@florencenews.com



FLORENCE — Following shootings involving police in Louisiana, Minnesota and Texas, some in the Pee Dee say the solution to the country's divide is fairly simple: prayer.

At least it's a starting place, they say.

"We need prayer all the time. We've got to continue marching, praying," said Barbara Carraway of Hartsville. "It's about all people."

Carraway and dozens of others met Saturday for a "Put Prayer Back in Schools" rally in Hartsville's Pride Park.

Though the rally focused

LOCAL

6 things to help you make a splash at the Beaufort Water Festival 3A



NATION

Obama in Dallas: 'Our sorrow can make us a better country' 6A



WEDNESDAY JULY 13 2016

75¢

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HILTON HEAD ISLAND
BLUFFTON

Partly Cloudy
92°/79° See 2A

THE ISLAND PACKET

ENVIRONMENT

Experts: Turtle eggs ready to hatch, so turn off lights

Hilton Head has counted 344 sea turtle nests so far this year, up from its 2013 record of 339

Harbor, Fripp islands also beat previous records

But on Hilton Head, condensed relocations to avoid beach construction make light ordinances more important than ever

BY REBECCA LURIE
rlurie@islandpacket.com

One crawl at a time, sea turtles are nesting in record numbers this summer on Beaufort County beaches.

The numbers are encouraging to Amber Keuhn, manager of the Hilton Head Island Sea Turtle Protection Project, and the turtle teams in northern Beaufort County, but their work

is only half done. Their first hatchlings should emerge any day, and this year, there is an added challenge of construction on about eight miles of Hilton Head beaches.

The protection project has relocated the island's 300-plus nests to just two areas — near South Forest Beach and between the Folly and the Westin — to protect them from the renourishment work, which involves pumping millions of

cubic yards of sand and smoothing it with bulldozers.

While clustering the nests in condensed areas doesn't affect how they hatch, it could still have disastrous results. Hundreds of turtles could die at a time if people break town rules and leave lights on at beachfront homes past 10 p.m.

"This year, if a porch light is left on in those two areas, there could be 20 nests at a time that are attracted to it," Keuhn said.

"That's the scary part about, I like to say, having all my eggs in two baskets."

Hilton Head, which has seen the most turtles, has counted 344 nests so far in 2016, beating its record of 339 for all of 2013.

Fripp Island, with 98 nests, also beat its record of 92 in 2013.

And Harbor Island has counted 89, up from its 2011 record of just 68 nests.

Hunting Island has not surpassed its record, 157 nests in 1984, but had counted a respectable 127.

"And we're not even done yet," Keuhn said. "We're going to have a lot of nests."

Last year, Hilton Head lost 21 nests to light violations, more than double what the island experienced in 2014, according

SEE TURTLES, 7A



Sher Mann Palmer, left, and his brother Tyler Palmer on Sher Mann's 23rd birthday.

FAMILY REMEMBERS

Slain man 'all about God and hard work'

Sher Mann Palmer, 24, from St. Helena Island, dies after a car accident on Sunday

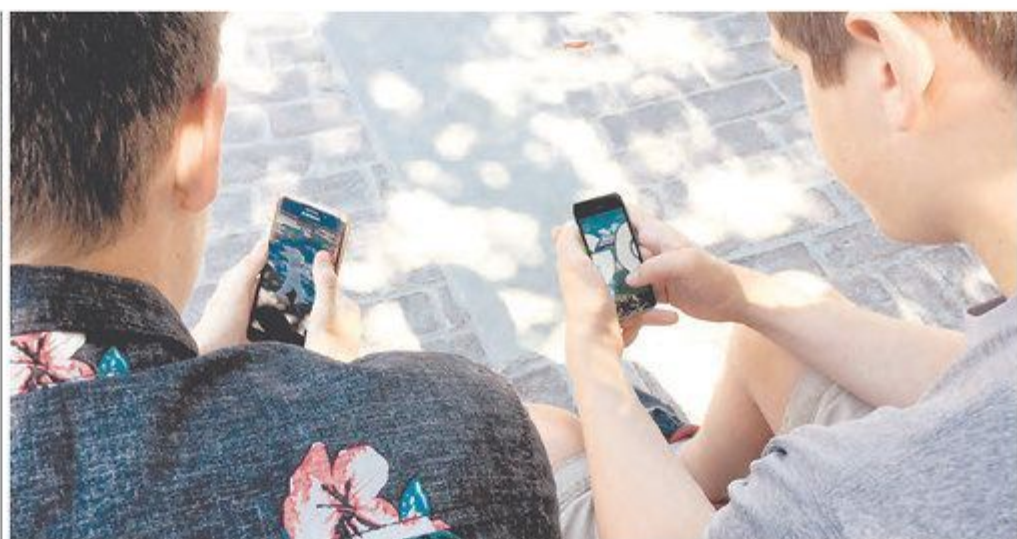
His family remembers his positive spirit, music

BY JOAN McDONOUGH
jmcdonough@islandpacket.com

The very first drum Sher Mann Palmer learned to play was a caramel popcorn tin.

Now, 20 years later, his family gathers together and looks at that same, beat up tin a little differently, as they remember his life and the joy he brought to their family.

Palmer, 24, was killed in a car accident on Sunday on his way home from playing the music he



Colin Nesbitt and Bryant Bauersit play "Pokemon Go" on a bench Tuesday near the splash pad at Coligny Beach Park, which is also the site of a "gym" in "Pokemon Go." The teenagers were there to defend the location from other players.

TRENDS

'Pokemon Go' game has adults and kids alike exploring area

The fast-growing app compels players to get out in their surroundings as they track monsters

The game is a worldwide phenomenon and has Lowcountry players on the hunt

Some businesses are taking

Bauer, 17, and Michael Salapow, 17. The splash pad was dry at the moment — beachgoers carrying chairs, coolers and skimboards sauntered through it on their way to the boardwalk. The three teenagers seemed not to notice.

They had out their phones, the screens of which blazed with the images of "Pokemon Go."

What is 'Pokemon Go'?

It's the hottest app — and it's free — for iPhone and Android smartphones based on Nintendo's Pokemon franchise.

You assume the role of a "trainer" in search of Pokemon, or little monsters.

Your job is to capture and build a stable of monsters and develop their skill sets — so they can eventually battle other monsters.

You capture Pokemon by using your smartphone to locate them. When you walk around an area, say Coligny Beach, the app will notify you when you're close to a monster. Tap on the monster to engage and capture it with a Pokeball — a red-and-white container that functions as a monster mousetrap of sorts.



Taste: Make a cool treat to beat the heat **7A**

INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 98, NO. 112

 indexjournal.com

2 SECTIONS, 20 PAGES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2016

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

State looks into injury to Sanford's niece

Associated Press

BEAUFORT — The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division is investigating after U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford's niece's foot was apparently injured in an incident involving the congressman.

A Beaufort County Sheriff's Department report shows the injury occurred on a dock at Coosaw Plantation, the Sanford family farm, June 18. But the report, in which many



MARK SANFORD

of the details are blacked out, did not specifically describe the injury or who contacted deputies.

The report did say an unidentified complainant requested a meeting with law officers regarding the incident and that it

involved Sanford.

While South Carolina governor, Sanford disappeared for five days in 2009, telling his staff he was hiking the Appalachian Trail. On his return he confessed he had been in Argentina with a woman who later became his fiancée. After two terms as governor, he was elected again in 2013 to the congressional seat he held in the 1990s.

John Sanford, Sanford's brother

and the girl's father, issued a statement to the media on Monday saying any suggestion Sanford would hurt his daughter's foot or any of his children is "absolutely wrong."

The statement added that "I am sorry that because my brother is a public figure he is being swept into allegations that are not true."

Sanford said he stands by his brother's statement.

A sheriff's department spokesman

says the state was asked to investigate to avoid a conflict of interest because both Sanford and the sheriff have ties to the local Republican Party.

"We are conducting a preliminary inquiry," SLED spokesman Thom Berry said in an email. "We are looking at the facts submitted to us by Beaufort County Sheriff's Department to determine if a criminal violation may have happened."

See **INJURY**, page 4A

PUPPY LOVE



PHOTOS BY KATIE PEARSON / INDEX-JOURNAL

From left: Handler Patsy Sirman, Therapist Angie Shirley and Therapist Kayla Livingston conduct a mock therapy session with Tess, the therapy dog, to show what a real session with a victim would look like.

Beyond Abuse uses dogs as a part of therapy sessions

By KATIE PEARSON
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Beyond Abuse officially kicked off its Animal Assisted Therapy program Tuesday afternoon. The program is a partnership between Beyond Abuse and the Humane Society with a sponsorship from SPN North America. The program allows teams of dogs and handlers to assist therapists when dealing with child abuse and sexual assault

North America.

"For us, it's just a great combination of us helping you guys to help the community," Berry said. "We are so excited to see the progress and to see things moving forward."

Jessica Bell, director of the sexual assault treatment program, introduced the four dogs currently used in therapy sessions at Beyond Abuse. The dogs walked out with their handlers, performing a few tricks for some treats.

The organization also put on a mock therapy session.



DUKE ENERGY

Pending rate change won't impact Lakelands

By ADAM BENSON
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If state regulators approve a request by Duke Energy to raise rates for commercial customers, Lakelands residents will not be impacted.

"This does not affect anybody in Greenwood County," Duke spokesman Ryan Mosier said Tuesday.

On July 1, Duke filed an application to the state Public Service Commission seeking to adjust rates in its Progress area, which covers northeastern South Carolina. The move, expected to increase revenues by about \$79 million a year, would add an average of \$16.60 to monthly power bill starting on Jan. 1.

It would be the first rate adjustment in 28 years for the 168,000 customers served by Duke's Progress market, which is run separately from its western state branch.

And officials with municipally run utilities that purchase wholesale power from Duke for their portfolios said the pending rate change will not influence their costs.

See **ENERGY**, page 4A

LAURENS POLICE

Report: Captain suspended on allegations of drunken driving, using racial slur

From staff report

Capt. Scott Satterfield with the Laurens Police Department has been suspended and is the subject of an internal investigation after officers reported Satterfield drove drunk and used a racial slur while on duty.



PANORAMA

Camp Create

First Baptist Church again offering 4-day workshops in fine and performing arts c1

Tuomey board sues former lawyers

Plaintiffs seek \$117M; damages, if any, would benefit foundation

BY JIM HILLEY
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The board of directors of Tuomey Healthcare System Inc., the former owners of Palmetto Health Tuomey hospital, have filed a legal malpractice

lawsuit against the firm which provided the board with legal advice and wrote contracts which led to a massive federal judgment for violating the Stark Act and the False Claims Act against the hospital in 2015.

The complaint, which seeks to recover more than \$117.4 million in damages from Nexsen Pruet LLC, was filed Tuesday in the South Carolina Third Judicial Circuit Court of Common Pleas by attorney Jim Griffin of Griffin Davis LLC, Columbia. Griffin said he is representing the

Tuomey Board on a contingency basis.

Damages recovered in the lawsuit, if any, will benefit the Tuomey Foundation, Tuomey Healthcare System Board President Cindy Reese told *The Sumter Item* in a teleconference Tuesday afternoon.

The lawsuit represents the latest act in a legal drama that began in 2003 when the hospital hired Nexsen Pruet to design and implement contracts which would give incentives to physicians to perform outpatient ser-

vice at Tuomey instead of at other facilities.

In October 2005, Dr. Michael Drakeford filed a whistleblower action in U.S. District Court for District of South Carolina challenging the legality of the contracts. In 2007, the U.S. government intervened, alleging Tuomey violated the Stark and False Claims acts.

After a jury ruled in 2010 Tuomey violated the Stark Act but not the

SEE **TUOMEY**, PAGE A6

Dress Like A Cow Day



Patty Welsbay, Melanie Dees, Kari Cruse and Megan Ray, employees of United Way of Sumter, Clarendon and Lee Counties, got dressed up to receive a free entree at Chick-fil-A on Tuesday as part of the chain's "Dress Like A Cow Day."

County approves 1st reading of \$2.5M bond to buy vehicles, fund renovations

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
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During its meeting on Tuesday, Sumter

ing lot and restructuring the county detention center to include more individual cells.

Also, council approved final reading of an ordinance to amend portions of the county's

Obama pays tribute to Dallas officers shot in racial attack

DALLAS (AP) — At a memorial for slain police officers, President Obama declared Tuesday that a week of deeply troubling violence has seemed

killed Thursday while standing guard as hundreds of people protested the police killings of black men in Louisiana and Minnesota earlier in

THE LINK

Connecting Chesterfield County, One Week At A Time

www.thelinkpaper.com

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

75¢

Storms tear through county Friday night

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

People in Chesterfield County didn't have to hear the National Weather Service warning Friday night to know severe thunderstorms were tearing through the county.

High winds, falling trees and a possible tornado resulted in multiple power outages.

Lynch River Electric Cooperative notified its customers via Facebook the company was aware of the situation and working to restore power as quickly as possible.

"An unconfirmed tornado during last evening's storms has created broken power poles and downed trees on

lines, resulting in power loss for our members in the Brock's Mill area, as well as some in Chesterfield and Pageland. Our dedicated crew has been working on restoration since 10 p.m.," said the post.

Power crews from Horry Electric Cooperative also came in to help LREC restore power.

The loss of power didn't affect water service to customers, however.

In checking with Chesterfield County Rural Water regarding any problems it may have encountered, company officials reported that all backup systems functioned properly, and no water outages occurred.

"The water company utilizes auto-start generators at strategic locations throughout the county to ensure the water system continues to function normally even during extended power outages," said CEO Charlie Gray.

Alligator Rural Water and Sewer utilized backup generators, also, according to General Manager Glenn Odom.

"Our generators came on for a while. Progress Energy got everything up very quickly. We didn't see any damage at all," said Odom.

Duke Energy Progress had reports of 3,600 customers without power all over the county due to downed trees and lines, as well as snapped poles.



Severe thunderstorms tore through Chesterfield County last Friday, toppling trees and knocking out power in many places around the county.

Cheraw police break up gift card fraud group

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

A shoplifting call at Walmart in Cheraw last week resulted in the arrest of three men involved in a gift card fraud ring.

According to a Cheraw Police Department report, when the first officer arrived on the scene he saw a gray Nissan leaving from behind Walmart and was told another suspect was running across the parking lot toward Burger King.

The report states the Nissan

then turned toward Burger King, as well. At that time the responding officer saw a suspect in the rear of the car throw something out the window. The officer notified other officers in the area about the Nissan and retrieved the bag that had been thrown from the car, finding it contained gift cards.

According to the report, the officer met with two deputies from the Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office at Burger King with one suspect in custody. The suspect was identified as Marcus Williams of 209 Brockington Road in Darlington.

The report states officers then made a traffic stop of the



Williamson

Nissan and identified two other suspects as Oliver Mylik Chandler of 100 Springfield Circle in Darlington and Sean Elliott Williamson 902 Catherine St., in Darlington.

Upon searching the suspects and the vehicle, officers found eight gift cards in Williams' pants pocket and eight gift cards in Chandler's pants pocket. More gift cards were found under the driver's seat and in the back left passenger seat.

At the time of processing the subjects, the police department received a call from a resident in Wisconsin stating that someone was making purchases with his credit card at the Walmart in Cheraw. The card number was checked by the store manager and confirmed to be the victim's card number.

Landlord shoots at former tenant

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

A 64-year-old Pageland landlord was charged with attempted murder July 4 after firing a shotgun at one of his former tenants.

Deputies were dispatched to the area of Hwy. 601 North in Pageland shortly after 4 p.m. on Inde-

pendence Day in reference to shots being fired. According to a Chesterfield County Sheriff's Department report, the 29-year-old former tenant said he was being followed by his landlord in a red Honda CR-V, and that the landlord, identified as Jerry Harrell Martin of 129 Coon Creek Road, was firing shots at him.

Pageland Police reportedly intercepted Martin near North Pearl and Elizabeth streets inside town limits and performed a routine traffic stop. The former tenant also

pulled to a stop and remained on the scene.

According to the CCSD report, officers observed a 12-gauge shotgun in Martin's vehicle, and Martin refused to obey law enforcement's order to exit the Honda. Due to his unwillingness to comply, officers forcibly removed Martin from the vehicle.

According to the report, Martin admitted to shooting the 12-gauge at his former tenant's vehicle, saying he



Martin

See Shooting, 3

Pageland arson leads to chase, arrest

REBECCA ROLLINS
Staff Reporter

A Chesterfield County man, Sandy Lee Jordan of 52 Fork Creek Estates Road near Jefferson, has been charged with the arson of two area homes.

Around 3 p.m. July 2, a deputy from the Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office went to the scene of a structure fire on 402 E. Watford St. behind

Wendy's in Pageland after noticing heavy smoke coming from the area. Upon arrival, the deputy attempted to gain entry to the home to do a person check but was unable to enter due to smoke and heat. Local firefighters, EMS and law en-



Jordan

forcement from the Pageland Police Department were also on hand to assist.

According to police reports, officers were approached by Jordan's mother, who told officers he made contact with her.

"I did something and I need money so I can live it up before I go away for a long time," Jordan told his mother.

See Arson, 3

NETC selects finalists for new president

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

As Northeastern Technical College moves toward its 50th anniversary, the college is one step closer to finding its next president.

lected as finalists for interviews for the presidency of Northeastern Technical College," explained Kandy Peacock, vice president for human resources and chief human resources officer with the South Carolina Board for

coordinating the search. "Four finalists selected from 80 applicants will be presented to the Northeastern Technical College Area Commission for consideration."

The final presidential candidates are: Dr. David Brand



McLeod Health Cheraw celebrates a successful first year.

Contributed

McLeod Health Cheraw celebrates first anniversary

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

It's hard to believe McLeod Health Cheraw has been here a year already. Yet the hospital celebrated its one-year anniversary Wednesday, June 22, in the popular Metz Café on campus. Staff, physicians, administration, directors and guests enjoyed cake and ice

cream. Traci Hubbard, vice president of Ancillary Services, spoke about her experiences on the first day McLeod Health Cheraw was in operation a year ago and how far it has come as a hospital.

"On this day last year, I remember the excitement of our new beginning," said Hubbard. "It was a busy opening day; we were trying to get all of the processes

great year, and we should all be extremely proud of our accomplishments as a hospital. I am looking forward to the many years ahead."

McLeod Health assumed operations of the former Chesterfield General Hospital on June 22, 2015, as an acute care hospital and began operating as McLeod Health Cheraw, National for-profit hospital chain Community

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