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To:
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Subject: SC Front Pages – Monday, March 28, 2016

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The Post and Courier

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Monday, March 28, 2016

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Dead end for I-526?

Charleston County Council faces big decision as deadline to cover shortfall or lose \$420M for project approaches



The Interstate 526 project's greatest obstacle is its price tag, which has grown to an estimated \$725 million.

BY DEANE KNICH
dknich@postandcourier.com

After years of verbal combat over the completion of Interstate 526 across Johns and James islands, a decision could be on the horizon.

And that decision will determine not only the project's future but also the future use of about \$30 million in property — from marshland and prime real estate to upscale homes — that the state already has bought.

Charleston County Council will discuss its options for the future of the project on April 7, Chairman Elliott Summey said.

The group hasn't publicly discussed the highway extension since December, when the board of the S.C. Transportation Infrastructure Bank Board passed a resolution asking the county for a plan to cover an estimated \$305 million to \$353 million funding shortfall.

The board, which is funding the project, set a Wednesday deadline for the plan.

If the county can't come up with an answer,

Recent purchases for I-526

Address	Closing date	Price
1879 Ellis Creek Landing, James Island	October 2013	\$1,626,915
Ellis Creek Landing, vacant parcel	April 2014	\$315,000
Ellis Creek Landing, vacant parcel	April 2014	\$94,534
1854 Ellis Creek Landing	September 2014	\$641,587
Ellis Creek Landing, vacant parcel	June 2014	\$312,000
2675 Rushland Landing Road, Johns Island	October 2014	\$158,399
Ellis Creek Landing, vacant parcel	March 2015	\$485,000
Headquarters Plantation Drive, vacant parcel	May 2015	\$6,275,000
1873 Ellis Creek Landing	January 2016	\$1,725,000
Total		\$11,633,435

it will lose the \$420 million set aside for the project, the resolution said.

Summey said County Council met with lawyers in a closed-door session Tuesday for advice on how to proceed. The county is part of a three-way Intergovernmental Agreement — along with the Infrastructure Bank and the

state Department of Transportation — to fund and build the road.

The project's greatest obstacle is its price tag, which has ballooned to an estimated \$725 million.

Please see I-526, Page A4

If you hear a gobble, thank these 2 guys

Determined pair saved S.C.'s wild turkeys

BY BO PETERSEN
bpetersen@postandcourier.com

MCCLELLANVILLE — A generation ago, you were lucky to see a wild turkey. The birds were all but wiped out, and the few wary survivors kept deep in the woods. Today it's not unusual to find small flocks along a busy roadside, plucking away at insects.

That's the wily work of Duff and Boggy Bill, the two men who saved the wild turkey.

Wild turkey hunting season has opened on private land in South Carolina and will soon open on public land. More than 100,000 of the birds are out there, inhabiting every one of the 46 counties in the state. The population is now leveling off, and it might be that it's fully recovered.

The elegant gobblers have retaken the land and people's imagination. Birds from South Carolina have been transported to adjoining states and as far



Holbrook



Baldwin

as Texas to help repopulate there. The recovery is considered a conservation milestone comparable to the bald eagle. The turkey was all but wiped out from overhunting in the 1940s when Herman "Duff" Holbrook trapped a few hundred in the primeval swamps near McClellanville and put them behind a hog wire fence to breed and reintroduce. He and William "Bull" Baldwin threaded their way through a thorn thicket of obstacles to make it happen.

Please see TURKEYS, Page A4



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders speaks at a campaign stop Saturday in Madison, Wis.

3 Western victories help Sanders backers hang on

BY LISA LERER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bernie Sanders scored three wins in Western caucus states, giving a powerful psychological boost to his supporters but doing little to move him closer to securing the Democratic nomination.

While results in Washington, Alaska and Hawaii barely dented Hillary

Clinton's significant delegate lead, Sanders' wins on Saturday underscored her persistent vulnerabilities within her own party, particularly with young voters and activists who have been inspired by her rival's unapologetically liberal message.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Sanders cast his performance as

Please see SANDERS, Page A6

Taliban faction claims bombing

65 dead in attack on Christians in Pakistan

BY ZARAR KHAN
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — A breakaway Pakistani faction of the militant Taliban group has claimed responsibility for an Easter Sunday bombing that killed 65 people in a park in the eastern city of Lahore that was crowded with Christians, including many children.

Ahsanullah Ahsan, spokesman for Jamaat ul-Ahrar, told the Associated Press that a suicide bomber with the faction deliberately targeted the Christian community.

The explosion took place near the children's rides in Gulshan-e-Iqbal park, local police chief Haidar Ashraf said. He said the explosion appeared to have been a suicide bombing, but investigations were ongoing.

The attack killed 65 people and wounded over 300, said Deeba Shahzad, a spokesman for Lahore rescue administration.

Punjab's chief minister Shahbaz Sharif announced three days of mourning and pledged to bring the perpetrators to justice, said Zaeem Qadir, a spokesman for the provincial government.

The park was manned by police and private security guards, police chief Haidar Ashraf said. "We are in a war-like situation and there is always a general threat but no specific threat alert was received for this place," he added.

Schools and businesses in the city will remain closed on Monday, the city's schools association and the Union of Lahore Traders said.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif held a meeting to assess the security situation in Lahore, according to a government statement. Pakistan's army chief, Gen. Raheel Sharif, also convened an emergency meeting of the country's intelligence agencies to begin to track down those responsible for the attacks, said army spokesman Gen. Asim Saleem Bajwa.

Salman Rafiq, a health adviser to the Punjab government, called on people to donate blood, saying that many of those wounded were in a critical condition.

One witness, who wished to be identified only by his first name, Afzal, told AP that he had taken 20 children to the hospital and carried three dead bodies to a police car. "I can't explain to you the tragic situation," he said.

Another witness, Tariq Mustapha, said that he had just left the park when he heard an explosion. He said his

Please see BOMBING, Page A4

Inside



SPORTS
North Carolina, Syracuse round out Final Four. C1

LOCAL

Cayman fossil bones "gold" for CoC professors. A2



Thunderstorms.
High 81, Low 53.
Complete 5-day
Forecast, B8

Bridge — B7 Crossword — B6, C9 Scene — B1
Business — D1 Editorials — A10 Sports — C1
Classifieds — C6 Movies — B5 Sudoku — B5
Comics — B6, 7 Obituaries — B2 Television — B4



Charleston RiverDogs
\$8 for two tickets for upper reserved seating (\$16 value)
See A2

NCAA TOURNAMENTS

Syracuse, Washington punch tickets to women's Final Four 1B
Second-half surge helps Orange men upset Virginia 1B



USC FOOTBALL

McWilliams, defense excited for change 1B



MONDAY MARCH 28 2016

\$1.00

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STAY CONNECTED THESTATE.COM

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TODAY: DECREASING CLOUDS HI 81 LO 50
YESTERDAY: HI 72 LO 66 PRECIP. (as of 5 pm.) 0.45"
FORECAST, BC

The State



PALMETTO VOICES

PROTECT OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

Kit Smith says it's time for the Columbia City Council to protect our neighborhoods from unruly tenants and irresponsible landlords. 1C

EXCLUSIVE

Lexington County cold on a 2nd penny tax vote

BY TIM FLACH
tflach@thestate.com

Momentum for a second try for a penny sales tax increase for roads this fall is fading in Lexington County.

Pressure is building on County Council to delay the referendum until 2018 at the earliest, as supporters suggest waiting is a better strategy to win over voters. County leaders are listening to the suggestion.

Ballot initially planned Nov. 8 may be shelved

Proposal would pay for road improvements

Problems in neighboring Richland County hurt, some say

"More time seems to be more suitable for a second approach," Councilman Jim Kinard of Swansea said. "If we don't get it (this year), it will push the idea off for a long time."

Much of the call for delay stems from concern about the ripple effect of alleged management problems surrounding the handling of a similar tax in neighboring Richland County,

which passed in 2012.

A tax mainly for roads but also including drainage, parks, trails, sports fields, civic centers, libraries and other projects was rejected 2-1 by Lexington County voters in 2014.

"We made about every mistake that you can make," Councilman Johnny Jeffcoat of Irmo said of that vote. "If the penny had been for road projects only then, it would have had lots

SEE PENNY TAX, 6A



AFTER THE FLOOD

MOSQUITOS TO ARRIVE EARLY?

Grounds saturated by rainfall and flooding could lead to mosquitoes arriving six weeks earlier than usual. 3A

'IT MAKES US MORE APPROACHABLE'



TIM DOMINICK, tdominick@thestate.com

The Columbia Police Department's bike patrol is set to expand to 30 officers in the next year or so. Here, Sgt. Michael Blair, left, and officers David Rodgers, center, and Keith Williamson ride through Five Points.

Columbia police shifting bike patrol into high gear

BY GLEN LUKE FLANAGAN
gflanagan@thestate.com

Unlike most cops, Sgt. Michael Blair doesn't have to put on pants when he heads to work each morning. He's ready for action after he straps on a helmet and police uniform.

ONLINE

AT THESTATE.COM: See more photos and watch Go-Pro video of the Columbia bike patrol unit in Five Points

Blair oversees the Columbia Police Department's year-old bike patrol - currently eight officers. Starting in about a month, 30 officers will be

The target number is about 30 officers, Blair said. Police Chief Skip Holbrook said that expansion will happen over the next

proved to have several advantages. "We can get into the alleyways, the parks, places where patrol vehicles would not necessarily be able to get to," he said. The patrol is concentrated on Columbia's entertainment districts.

The officers aren't full-time bicyclists - each cop has another job, and works bike duty whenever and wherever it's assigned. David Travis Rodgers, for example, works gang investigations. He sees his bicycle as a tactical advantage.

"If we have a large event with multiple cars out in a parking



GO COLUMBIA

SAYING GOODBYE TO AN SC NOVELIST

"Pat Conroy: A Retrospective" closes this week. See the SC author's memorabilia and manuscripts at USC's Thomas Cooper Library before they're no



SPORTS SMART'S BAD CALL



METRO Mosquitoes off to an early start

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

MONDAY,
MARCH 28, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY DATA SHOW IDLED WORKERS RETURNING TO U.S. WORKFORCE PAGE 1B

Meet 6 women making history in Greenville

ANGELIA DAVIS
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Jane Robelot, a nationally acclaimed television news correspondent and anchor, has long considered herself a natural storyteller with a love for helping others through her work.

She was somewhat shocked to learn that others in Greenville consider her something more — a history maker.

Robelot is one of six women who'll be honored March 28 with a 2016 Women Making History Award, an honor being bestowed by the Greenville Cultural Exchange Center (GCEC).

The award honors women in Greenville who have dedicated their lives to making a difference in the communities in which they live and work, said Dr. Frankie Felder, a member of the award's executive committee.

Robelot said her first reaction upon hearing that she's one of the recipients was "I do not deserve to be in the same list as the women who have won this award before and who have won it this year."

Now, she feels challenged because "women who are genuinely admired and appreciated, have recognized something in me that I never would have thought of myself."

"These are people who have made a point to go out of their way to make this community nicer, safer, better educated, healthier, etc. for everybody," Robelot said.

"I'm very proud to be part of this community and now I'm challenged to do my part, to be intentional about doing my part to make our community even better."

See HISTORY, Page 4A



HEIDI HEILBRUNN-STAFF
The former segregation-era Allen School on East Stone Avenue has been torn down to make way for townhomes.

Black school gone; swap may bring new housing

ERIC CONNOR
CONNOR@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

The building where countless black schoolchildren were educated during Greenville's long history of segregation sat empty for the better part of four decades, tucked off East Stone Avenue in the shadow of the Church Street bridge.

After years of speculation and curiosity, the Allen School's future is no longer in doubt — it is now a pile of brick rubble.

A development of 31 townhomes will take its place.

However, city leaders hope the school's fate can be tied, if only loosely, with another legacy: affordable housing.

In a deal with a developer, the city has agreed to swap a little over half an acre of land next to the school site in exchange for three properties — altogether totaling about the same size — each in three different traditionally poor neighborhoods near downtown Greenville.

The individual properties will be set aside for affordable housing, said Ginny Stroud, the city's community development administrator.

The properties are on Mount Eustis Street in the nearby Greenline-Spartanburg neighborhood, on Woodfin Avenue in the Greater Sullivan neighborhood and Elder Street in Nichols town.

This falls in line with the city's efforts to address housing for the disabled and working poor. This month, the city hired Virginia-based consultant czb LLC for \$68,082 to conduct an affordable housing study. The City Council recently formed an affordable housing special committee to follow up on the study.

Taylor's Mill brewery is an American dream



PHOTOS BY HEIDI HEILBRUNN-STAFF
Brandon Andrews, left, Kenworth Reeves Jr. and Robble Andrews look over brewing equipment delivered to 13 Stripes Brewery at Taylor's Mill this month.

MICHAEL BURNS
MBURNS@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

Beer could be flowing at Taylor's Mill by the Fourth of July. That would suit 13 Stripes, the brewery named for the flag.

Stainless steel fermenters and a brewhouse for a 10-barrel system arrived last week to assemble before exposed brick in the old Southern Bleachery, a growing scene of small businesses and artisans renting space to give new life to the historic industrial behemoth.

An American dream is on tap for a group of friends as pipes are connected in cuts in concrete floors.

A taproom with a capacity for 299 will blend with a large outdoor seating area, signature bar and mural painted by local artists once the seal is opened on the space of 8,000 square feet.

Soon visitors can sit and drink or take cans and growlers to go.

"It's kind of unreal," said cofounder Michael Robinson, a Navy officer from Augusta soon to follow his brother to Greenville. "It's been a long process."



13 Stripes Brewery workers move brewing equipment into their space at Taylor's Mill.

Jason O'Neal, the 13 Stripes partner, says the space is already...

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

MONDAY, March 28, 2016

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 150, No. 88 Aiken, S.C. ★★ 75¢

Horse Show mostly unchanged

Event began 100 years ago, became Aiken tradition

BY DEDE BILES
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

Deep in Hitchcock Woods, in an area surrounded by longleaf pines, the Aiken Horse Show began 100 years ago. If the people who enjoyed it then were able to return for its latest renewal Friday through Sunday, they probably would feel right at home. Much has re-

mained the same in the decades since, and many of the differences are subtle. "It's one of those events that hasn't changed a lot in the grand scheme of things," said Jane Page Thompson, an Aiken Horse Show co-director. "The general location is the same, and the look is very much the same. The jumps are similar."

Thompson, a real estate agent, is the

author of the book "Aiken's Sporting Life," which is part of Charleston-based Arcadia Publishing's Images of America series. Linda Knox McLean, another Aiken Horse Show co-director, wrote the foreword, contributed photos and helped with editing.

In "Aiken's Sporting Life," there are a number of black-and-white pictures that were taken at the Horse Show in its ear-

lier days. Thompson also did research on the Horse Show's origins and other local athletic and leisure activities for the book.

Heiress, socialite and sportswoman Hope Goddard Iselin, who had a winter home here, played an important role in the Aiken Horse Show's founding.

Please see HORSE, Page 10A

Want to go?

WHAT: Aiken Horse Show
WHEN: 9 a.m. Friday through Sunday
WHERE: Hitchcock Woods
COST: \$10 to park
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Visit www.aikenhorshow.org



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Chris Austin has announced his candidacy for the S.C. House District 81 seat.

Austin running for S.C. House

BY DEDE BILES
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

Stressing the importance of cooperation between local lawmakers to make Aiken County better, Chris Austin announced his candidacy for South Carolina's House District 81 seat over the weekend in a news release.

"I want to work with our entire Aiken County Legislative Delegation," Austin said in a telephone interview with the Aiken Standard on Sunday. "I've reached out to a lot of them, and they are very friendly. I spoke to them to see if I would be a good fit, and I believe I will be. I also wanted to gain insight on the issues that are affecting the people of our district and the entire area. I think to make big changes, you have to work together."

Austin is seeking the seat held by Rep. Don Wells, R-Aiken, who announced earlier this year that he wouldn't seek re-election for a third term.

A Republican, Austin grew up in New Ellenton and now lives in Aiken. He owns Austin Attorney at Law, P.C. In his practice, he concentrates on estate planning and probate, real estate and business.

Becoming a state legislator is "something that I've always wanted to do," Austin said. "From high school through law school, I have been involved in various activities to give

Please see AUSTIN, Page 10A

AREA DEATHS

Christopher N. Gracey, Lexington
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER



A plastic bottle lies on the side of the Trolley Line Road in Graniteville on Monday. Aiken County officials are asking everyone to pitch in by joining countywide cleanup days Saturday and April 23 to rid the county of excessive litter.

Residents invited to join countywide cleanup

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
ccleveland@aikenstandard.com

It's the partially empty soda bottle, the crumpled up fast food bag and even tires, car parts and cigarette butts.

The litter that lines the roadways in Aiken County has long been a sore spot for local residents.

"We need to get serious about this if we want to clean our highways up," said James Cosnahan, an Aiken resident and member of the County's Litter Task Force. "The only way to get people serious about it is to show we care."

Last year, County Council created the task force after a recommendation from Council's Judicial and Public Safety Committee. It is responsible for helping develop a marketing plan and implementing the County's anti-litter campaign.

Along with the task force members, Cosnahan joins countless residents that want to see an end to the trash in Aiken. Officials with Aiken County Public Works Department said more can be done, but it will involve everyone doing their part.

"If everybody would just pick up in front of their property, it would make a big difference," said Michael Treadaway, Public Works solid waste supervisor.

As a part of the annual statewide initiative "Great American Cleanup," which runs March through May, Palmetto Pride and the Aiken County Adopt-A-Highway program are inviting residents to join the first countywide cleanup days Saturday and April 23. They will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and are open to individuals and groups.

sense of frustration like, "Why do I go out there? We picked up this trash Saturday morning. Sunday morning on my drive to church, it's back out there," Sanders said.

Not the right impression

Some of the frequent volunteers are from the 95 groups in the Adopt-A-Highway program run by the County.

Last quarter, the groups picked up on average 128 pounds a mile of trash — around 11,000 pounds of trash over 88 miles, according to Treadaway. The effort equals roughly 96 hours.

"They're supposed to pick up four times a year an average of two miles, so if we picked up that much per mile, you can imagine how much it is," Sanders said, "and that's not every group that we have."

Treadaway said he likes to meet with some of the organizations that include Rotarians and local churches to thank them for the pick up and wants others to take pride in where they live.

"When (people) come off of I-20 and Highway 1 and they see a bunch of litter, they think: 'What's going on with Aiken?' It's a bad impression," he said.

The price you pay

There are laws to discourage litter bugs and Cosnahan, who worries about signage, as well, believes things will change when the law is enforced more.

"The signs breed trash," he said. "Trash breeds trash." No person can dump, throw, drop, deposit, discard or otherwise dispose of litter or other solid

Decomposition time

Item	Time
Glass bottle	1 million years
Monofilament fishing line	600 years
Plastic beverage bottles	450 years
Disposable diapers	450 years
Aluminum can	80 to 200 years
Foamed plastic buoy	80 years
Foamed plastic cups	50 years
Rubber boot sole	50 to 80 years
Tin cans	50 years
Leather	50 years
Nylon fabric	30 to 40 years
Plastic film container	20 to 30 years
Plastic bag	10 to 20 years
Cigarette butt	1 to 5 years
Wool sock	1 to 5 years
Flywood	1 to 3 years
Waxed milk carton	3 months
Apple core	2 months
Newspaper	6 weeks
Orange or banana peel	2 to 5 weeks
Paper towel	2 to 4 weeks



Information
Source: U.S.
National Park
Service, Mote
Marine Lab,
Saracota
Florida



'BATMAN V SUPERMAN' A HIT DESPITE REVIEWS

BUSINESS, A7



NORTH CAROLINA, SYRACUSE BOUND FOR FINAL FOUR

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Monday, March 28, 2016



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TODAY TUE WED

 73°/41° 68°/41° 69°/56°
 Complete forecast, A10

LOCAL

Beer, wine sales on the agenda

The Spartanburg City Council will discuss Sunday sales of beer and wine at stores during its meeting today. **A6**

STATE

Dog killed by alligator

A family on Hilton Head Island says that an alligator in a neighborhood lagoon killed their 85-pound husky. **A6**

NATION & WORLD



Bison homecoming

Descendants of a bison herd captured and sent to Canada more than a century ago will be relocated to a Montana American Indian reservation next month, in what tribal leaders bill as a homecoming for a species emblematic of their traditions. **A3**

TIP SHEET

Today

Spartanburg School District 5 meets at 6:30 p.m. at the district office, 100 N. Danzler Road, Duncan. Spartanburg County Water and Sewer Advisory Committee meets at 4 p.m. in conference room 2 at the County Administration Building, 366 N. Church St., Spartanburg.

Spartanburg City Council meets at 5:30 p.m. in council chambers at City Hall, 145 W. Broad St., Spartanburg.

Tuesday

PAKISTAN BLAST

Easter park bombing kills 65

Pakistani Taliban faction claims responsibility

By Zahir Khan
 The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — A breakaway Pakistani faction of the militant Taliban group has claimed responsibility for an Easter Sunday bombing in a park in the eastern city of Lahore that killed 65 people.

Ahsanullah Ahsan, spokesman for Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, told the Associated Press that a suicide bomber with the faction deliberately targeted the Christian community.

The explosion took place near the children's rides in

SEE BOMBING, A10



Pakistani rescue workers remove a dead body from the site of bomb explosion Sunday in a park in Lahore, Pakistan.

K.M. CHAUDARY/
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HITTING CLOSE TO HOME

Helping refugees a passion for Spartanburg pastor



RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM

Groups aiding refugees say bill won't stop their work

By Alyssa Mulliger
 alyssa.mulliger@shj.com

Spartanburg groups that assist refugees say they're troubled by a South Carolina Senate bill passed last week that would require refugees to register with the state.

Under the bill, churches and volunteer groups who sponsor refugees would have to register them with the S.C. Department of Social Services within 30 days of their arrival in the state. DSS would forward the information to the State Law Enforcement Division, which, along with local law enforcement agencies, would check whether refugees pose a safety risk.

Jason Lee, director of World Relief in Spartanburg, which has already helped more than 100 refugees settle in the Upstate through the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program, said he and his group have several concerns about the bill.

"The registry is problematic and we're concerned how Sen. Kevin Bryant (R-Anderson) has led a charge to grossly misinform the state in comments he said from the Senate floor," Lee said.

Several church groups and volunteers in Spartanburg work with World Relief to co-sponsor refugees and help them

INDEX-JOURNAL

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DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

RUNNING FOR MORE

Race the Helix hopes to give in broader strokes

By MARY KATE MCGOWAN
mmcgowan@indexjournal.com

Greenwood-born Race the Helix is looking at possibilities to expand its cause of raising money for the Greenwood Genetic Center Foundation.

Race founders Stephen and Jodi Shenal's daughter Ryleigh, 5, was diagnosed with a rare chromosomal deletion shortly after birth, and they found solace and help at GGC.

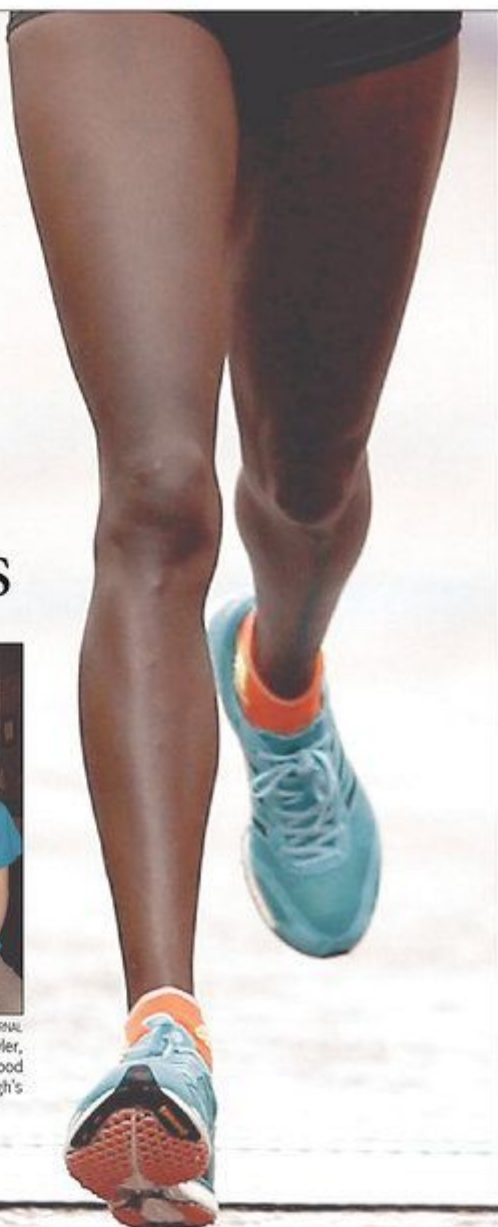
The family, which also includes 11-year-old Tyler, has made a mission of helping support the GGC Foundation through hosting annual races in Greenwood in addition to expanding to Greenville.

The second Race the Helix Upstate is scheduled for April 16 at Lake Conestee Nature Park in Greenville.

See **HELIX**, page 4A



MARY KATE MCGOWAN | INDEX-JOURNAL
Stephen, left, and Jodi Shenal hold their children Ryleigh, 5, and Tyler, 11. The Shenals started Race the Helix to help support the Greenwood Genetic Center Foundation after the GGC helped them with Ryleigh's diagnosis and treatment.



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Diverse experiences lead to a well-rounded musician

By ST. CLAIRE DONAGHY
sdonaghy@indexjournal.com

In high school, musical theater opened up a world of performance and job opportunities for Amy Blackwood, now a lecturer of music and staff accompanist in the Lander University College of Arts and Humanities.

There is a 6-foot baby grand piano by the window in her office in the Cultural Center on campus.

"I credit my work with musicals getting me into work as an accompanist," Blackwood said. "Musical theater was my first foray into music directing and working with singers... It's a synthesis of all the fine arts: visual, music, dance, acting, it's all there. That's true of opera, too."



AMY BLACKWOOD
Lecturer of music at Lander University

the accompanist for her school's musical, "Fame."

"The chorus teacher, who was also music director for the show, was very pregnant," Blackwood said. "I played music for the shows and my piano teacher got me started playing for church worship services. By my sophomore year, I had a regular job

Even closer

NAME: Amy Marie Blackwood, lecturer of music and staff accompanist at Lander University.

AGE: 33.

RESIDES: In Greenwood, grew up in Greensboro, North Carolina.

EDUCATION: Undergraduate degree, a bachelor's of music in music education, and a master's degree, a master of music in accompanying and chamber music, both from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. While there, she also played with the UNC-Greensboro symphony orchestra.

OF NOTE: This is Blackwood's fifth year as a faculty member at Lander University. Among her all-time favorite musicals are "Godspell" and "Into the Woods." Beethoven ranks among her two all-time composers. She also





MADEA ON THE RUN

STARRING
TYLER PERRY
as MADEA!!!
FRIDAY, APRIL 22
FLORENCE CIVIC CENTER
L I V E

Morning News

MONDAY MARCH 28, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER

Partly sunny
and warmer.
High 82, low 45.
DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Cooking for a Cause

Victors, Red Cross team up for event

Farm-to-table meal will be held Sunday at Farmers Market

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN
Morning News
dswearingen@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — For the second year, Victors will host a farm-to-table dinner at the Pee Dee State Farmers Market.

But this time, in addition to

highlighting local cuisine, Victors is calling the event "Cooking for a Cause" and partnering with the American Red Cross to help spread awareness about the organization's many purposes.

And the dinner will provide Nicole Echols, a major gifts officer at the Red Cross, a chance

to share the organization's message.

"It's just an opportunity for people in the community to join forces and participate and donate with the American Red Cross," she said.

In light of the recent South Carolina flooding, Echols said,

Victors wanted to help out the Red Cross.

Rachel Dill, marketing manager at Victors Bistro, said the restaurant tries to host a minimum of two off-site, farm-to-table events a year.

See **COOKING**, Page 3A

IF YOU GO

» **WHAT:** Cooking for a Cause
» **WHEN:** 6-8 p.m. Sunday
» **WHERE:** Pee Dee State Farmers Market, 2513 W. Lucas St.
» **ADMISSION:** Tickets are \$48 and can be purchased online at victorsbistro.ticketleap.com/cookingforacause/ or by calling 843-665-0846.

SC budget proposal

Unused time off could be donated

BY CASSIE COPE
The State
ccope@thestate.com

COLUMBIA — After her mother was diagnosed with cancer in 2009, Jan Caputo spent two years traveling back and forth to Denver to assist her.

"There's no way that I just would have let my mom be there by herself," said Caputo, 67, who worked for the state Department of Health and Environmental Control at the time.

But the travel meant Caputo worried about using up all of her state leave and vacation days.

Last week, the S.C. House offered a possible solution.

To help in situations similar to Caputo's, the House passed a budget proposal that would allow state employees to give unused sick and vacation days to co-workers.

Under the proposal, state employees could request that hours of their vacation or sick leave be transferred to a specific co-worker within their agency, subject to some rules.

Employees should be able to donate extra time off as long as it is approved by their agency's leaders, said state Rep. Todd Rutherford, D-Richland, who sponsored the proposal.

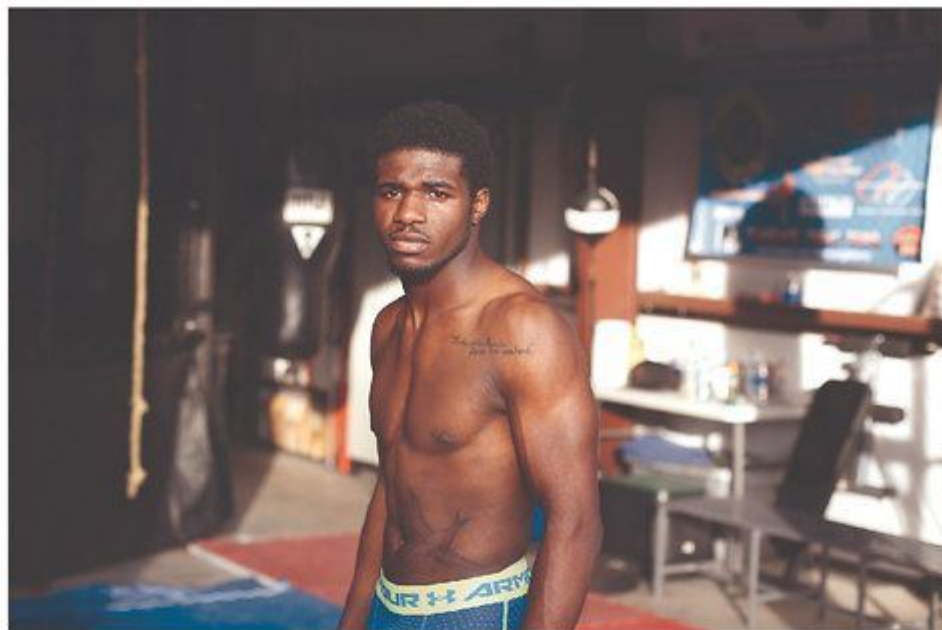
The proposal, passed with bipartisan support, now goes to the state Senate for consideration.

State Sen. Thomas Alexander, the Oconee Republican who chairs the Senate budget panel that will consider the proposal, said the idea could help employees handling



Each Monday, the Morning News features a good news story on a person, place or organization in the Pee Dee. If you have a suggestion for someone or something to profile, send it to news@scnw.com.

Wrestling, with punches



Quitin Thomas, who trains at Florence Fight Farm in Timmonsville, has been working for the past five years toward his goal of becoming a professional MMA fighter.



Quitin Thomas gets a kick out of mixed martial arts

BY MEGAN MAY
Morning News
mmay@florencenews.com

TIMMONSVILLE — Quitin Thomas has never been sky diving, but he can imagine how it feels.

MORE ONLINE

» For a photo gallery and video about Quitin Thomas, visit scnw.com

time; your adrenaline is

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