

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 12/8/2015 12:11:38 PM
Subject: SC Front Pages – Tuesday, December 8, 2015

SC Front Pages – Tuesday, December 8, 2015

CLEMSON FOOTBALL, 1C
**HEISMAN
FINALIST**

The Greenville News

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LIFESTYLE, 1D
New option
for bone
fractures

TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 8, 2015
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY POLL: MOST OPPOSE DEFUNDING PLANNED PARENTHOOD **PAGE 1B**

#UNSEENGREENVILLE

Finally, a home to call their own

After a decade of homelessness, former Tent City residents see potential in moving from transitional to permanent house



Steve Payne relaxes in his chair with a glass of tea in his home as Mary goes through their mail. "Oh look Steve, you got a 'free makeup' letter," Mary said.

ANGELIA DAVIS
DAVIS@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

For Steve and Mary Payne, one of the hardest things about living in a home of their own after a decade of being homeless has been the fear of having to go back on the street.

The couple, who were featured in a five-part series in *The Greenville News* that detailed the lives of people who lived encamped under the bridge on Pete Hollis Highway, have been in a transitional house provided by Upstate Housing Connections since May.

Upon moving in, they signed a contract that set house rules and goals they were to accomplish within a year.

The Paynes admit they were scared

they were going to "mess up" and not reach the goals.

Their social worker from Sunbelt Human Advancement Resources would tell them to stop stressing, that things would be all right, Mary said.

She was right. And now, things are looking good for the Paynes.

"We met all of our goals," Steve said. The Paynes said they've been told by Upstate Housing that they can move into the home permanently.

They've also been approved for a housing voucher and could be on their way to owning the house on Zarline Street, he said.

The remaining issue is will they be

See PAYNES, Page 4A

"Being homeless is hard. If you really want out of it and you're determined, you have to work at it."

MARY PAYNE
RESIDENT



Will Muschamp was introduced as the 34th head football coach at USC.

Muschamp has much to prove at USC



MANDRALLIUS
ROBINSON
SPORTS COLUMNIST

COLUMBIA - Most college football coaches are introduced with intrigue and enthusiasm. On Monday, University of South Carolina athletic director Ray Tanner introduced Will Muschamp with a detailed explanation.

He dismissed anxieties about Muschamp's past failures. He downplayed trepidation about his present sideline antics.

He defended his decision. "We got our man. We got a Gamecock," Tanner said. "Buckle up your seatbelt and get on board."

Tanner encouraged Gamecock fans to welcome Muschamp with open arms. However, several of them have their arms crossed. Their heads are tilted. Their eyebrows are raised. Their toes are tapping.

They are waiting. They are waiting anxiously for Tanner to rationalize his choice. They are waiting skeptically for Muschamp to explain his disappointing tenure as the head coach at the University of Florida.

They are waiting for a reason to climb on board. They are waiting for results.

See ROBINSON, Page 5A

Effort launched to curb gun violence in South Carolina

Nonprofit encourages
tighter background checks

BRUCE SMITH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

curb gun violence in South Carolina.

Organizers said the nonprofit Gun Sense SC will work for, among other things, tighter background checks on gun sales while respecting the right of people to bear arms in a state with the nation's 11th highest rate of gun deaths.

"When the unnamable keeps happening, the people must name it and recognize it for what it is—evil," said Emanuel pastor the Rev. Norvel Goff, whose predecessor, the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, was one of the shooting victims. "For us to encourage the violence of an American who

"We do not want to encroach on law-abiding citizens' rights to own a gun but we must prevent guns from falling into the wrong hands," he said.

Police Chief Greg Mullen called for expanded background checks "simply to

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Trump: Bar Muslims from entering U.S.

GOP front-runner aboard Yorktown rips 'politically correct' policy



Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump speaks Monday in the hangar deck of the aircraft carrier Yorktown at Patriots Point in Mount Pleasant. Trump called for a ban on Muslims entering the U.S. in the wake of recent attacks by extremists.

BY SCHUYLER KROPP
and CYNTHIA ROLDAN
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crolldan@postandcourier.com

MOUNT PLEASANT — Republican front-runner Donald Trump chose the aircraft carrier Yorktown to make perhaps the most extreme statement of his political career, calling for a "total and complete" ban on Muslims entering the U.S. "until our country's representatives can figure out what is going on."

"Are we going to be politically correct? Or are we going to be stupid?" Trump asked in front of a crowd of more than 2,000 people inside the ship's massive hangar deck.

Trump's call comes in the wake of two targeted mass shootings of civilians, in Paris and San Bernardino, Calif., that were perpetuated by Islamic extremists and claimed the lives of nearly 150 people.

It also is sure to shake up the Republican primary race even further.

Such a ban would be unprecedented in modern American history, as it calls for a complete shutdown of the borders, air-

Inside
Trump foreclosure of North Charleston property advances. **Page B1**

Online

POLL: Do you agree with Donald Trump's call to bar all Muslims from entering the United States? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

MULTIMEDIA: For more photos, go to postandcourier.com/galleries. For a video, go to postandcourier.com/videos

ports, seaports and immigration offices to individuals of one specific — but theologically complicated — faith. His lockdown would cover all types of visas but also foreign tourists.

During his one-hour address, Trump provided no details on how such a ban would be enforced or legally monitored, but he did focus on the radicalization of extremists and the unknowns headed to American shores.

Please see **TRUMP**, Page A6



Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, speaks on Monday during a town hall meeting at Furman University.

Cruz in S.C. slams gun control

BY MAYA T. PRABHU
mprabhu@postandcourier.com

GREENVILLE — More good guys with guns, not more gun-control laws, was the message Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz delivered to about 150 people at a town hall Monday at Furman University.

"It's amazing the reaction of the left when you see a terrorist attack like San Bernardino," Cruz said, referring to the attack

last week in which 14 people were killed by a married couple that reportedly supported ISIS. "Their first reaction is, 'We want to take away the guns of law-abiding citizens.' It's disconnected from reality."

The town hall was hosted by U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., who has held a series of the meetings throughout the state with Republican candidates.

Please see **CRUZ**, Page A6

Justice to probe Chicago police

Follows release of video in shooting death of black teen

BY DON BABWIN
and ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Responding to deepening mistrust of one of the nation's largest police forces, the federal government opened an investigation Monday into the Chicago Police Department, and authorities announced they would not charge an officer in the death of a 25-year-old black man who was shot in the back last year.

The Justice Department investigation was to look into patterns of racial disparity in the use of force. It comes nearly two weeks after the release of a video showing a white Chicago police officer shooting a black teenager 16 times.

Please see **CHICAGO**, Page A8

Push for gun reform launched at Emanuel

Community leaders, pastors seek stronger background checks

BY DAVE MUNDAY
dmunday@postandcourier.com

Among the 80 leaders gathered at Emanuel AME Church on Monday was a high school teacher who worries about how to protect students from a shooter, the director of a program for domestic violence victims who wants to keep guns out of the hands of abusers, and five pastors calling on the religious community to push for stronger background checks.

And then they released the doves — nine of them. One for each worshiper fatally shot at the church this summer. "I don't know of any other way to honor them (the Emanuel victims) but to do what I can to prevent gun violence from going forward," said the Rev. Jeremy Rutledge of Circular Congregational Church.

Please see **EMANUEL**, Page A6

Inside



SPORTS
Muschamp's goal with USC: 'Win S.C. back in recruiting.' **C1**

LOCAL

Mount P. to explore buying Shem Creek office site. **A4**

YOUR HEALTH

More are having gut feeling about fermented foods. **D1**

S'ville council delays final vote on limiting mayor's powers

Mayor-elect had labeled move 'recipe for chaos'

BY BRENDAN RINDGE
brindge@postandcourier.com

SUMMERVILLE — Mayor-elect Wiley Johnson's job description won't change after all.

Town Council in November passed first reading of two ordinances that



Johnson

would limit the mayor's powers and restore the town as a weak mayor form of government with a town administrator, meaning the mayor would preside over meetings but the administrator would handle the town's daily operations.

Johnson, whose campaign included restoring the administrator position, called the move a "recipe for chaos

and disaster."

"What council is saying is, 'You promised, so we're just helping you out with your promise,'" he said. "Well, that's my promise to live up to, not yours to demand."

The final readings of the ordinances were scheduled for Wednesday's meeting, but at a Monday finance committee meeting, Mayor Bill Collins said at least two councilmen have met with Johnson and "as a result the second reading of those ordinances) will not be taken up by this council but will be deferred to January when

the new administration takes office."

Collins, a one-term mayor, lost his Nov. 3 re-election bid to newcomer Johnson, who received 53 percent of the vote. Johnson takes office Jan. 6, along with Councilwoman-elect Christine Czarnik, who ousted District 2 incumbent Terry Jenkins.

When Collins took office in 2011, he also assumed the job of town administrator, a position that was vacant, and council later voted to increase his salary from \$15,000 to \$45,000 annually.

Please see **JOHNSON**, Page A6



Mostly cloudy.
High 66. Low 43.
Complete 5-day
forecast, **B10**

Bridge — B9
Business — B1
Classifieds — C7
Comics — B8,9
Crossword — B6, C10
Editorials — A12
Entertainment — B7
Obituaries — B4

Sports — C1
Sudoku — B7
Television — B6
Your Health — D1



Pure Theatre
\$25 for 2 to "Holiday Shorts."
See **A2**



Coach Boom

Start of the Muschamp Era at USC



GERRY MELINDEZ/gmelandez@thestate.com

Will Muschamp, better known as "Coach Boom," was formally introduced as South Carolina's new head football coach Monday.

FIVE PAGES OF COVERAGE ON NEW GAMECOCKS HEAD FOOTBALL COACH WILL MUSCHAMP IN **SPORTS**.

MUSCHAMP'S AGENDA

New USC coach Will Muschamp vowed Monday that "championships are the expectation" for the Gamecocks. But he says give him a little time.

PAGE 1B

HOW SEARCH WENT DOWN

Gamecocks athletics director Ray Tanner interviewed five people during a 54-day coaching search, but said: "We got our man. We got a Gamecock."

PAGE 1B

WHAT HE'LL MAKE

Muschamp receives a five-year contract worth \$3 million in its first year and it includes a \$100,000 annual escalator, meaning he makes \$3.4 million in its final year.

PAGE 2B

REACTION TO HIRE

From Clemson coach Dabo Swinney to South Carolina president Harris Pastides, Muschamp's hiring was seen as a building block to success at USC.

PAGE 3B

RECRUITING PLANS

Muschamp says he'll be his own recruiting coordinator, and he says he'll insist on regaining the upper hand in recruiting top in-state prospects.

PAGE 3B

ONLINE

GoGamecocks.com

Live Q&A: With Josh Kendall at 11 a.m. Tuesday

Video: Will Muschamp introduced

Video: Five best sound bites from Muschamp press conference

Video: Ray Tanner defends hire

Video: Exclusive Q&A with Harris Pastides

Where to take toddlers to play **5B**



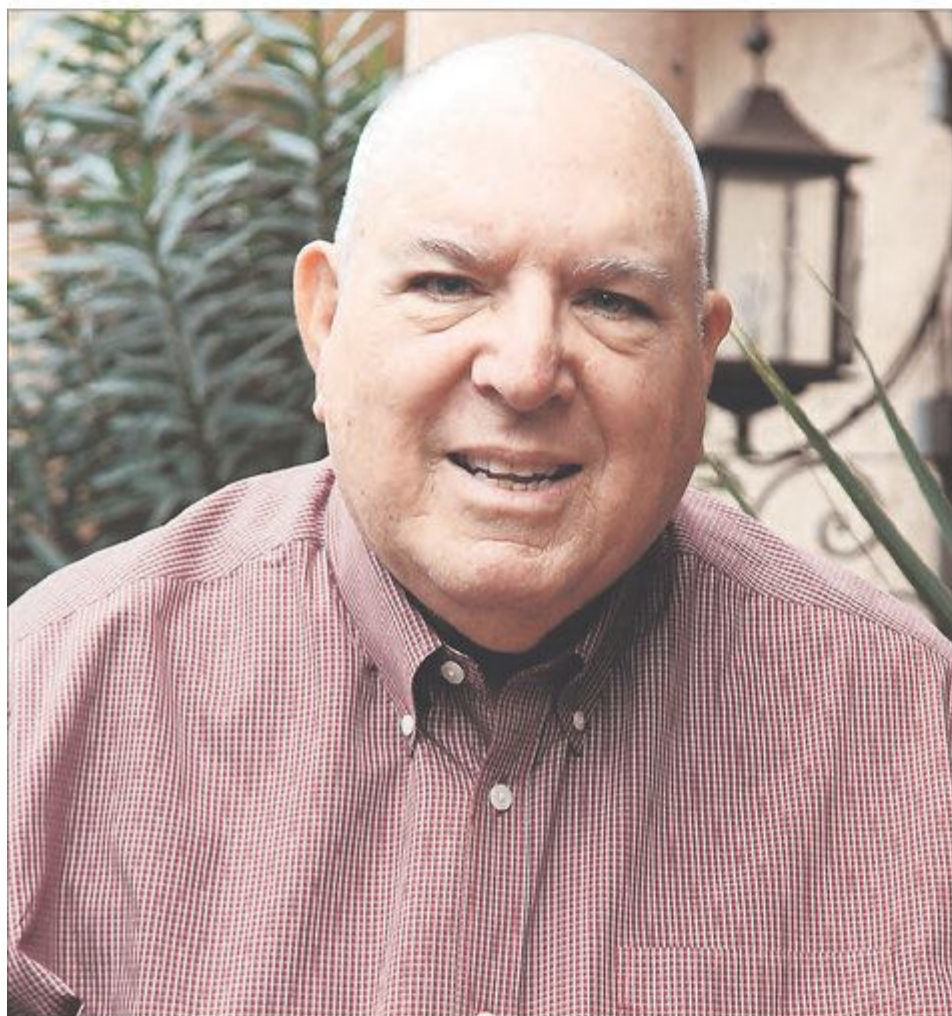
The Beaufort Gazette

TUESDAY, December 8, 2015

beaufortgazette.com

Established in 1897 75 cents

After nepotism outcry, former school board chairman **ADJUSTING TO RETIREMENT**



DELAYNA EARLEY • Staff photo

Former Beaufort County School Board chairman Bill Evans stands for a portrait on Monday at the First Republican luncheon at Aunt Chiladas Easy Street Cafe on Hilton Head Island.

By REBECCA LURYE
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843-706-8155

The news was out, and the community was upset. Beaufort County School District superintendent Jeff Moss had changed the school district's nepotism rule and approved the hiring of his wife.

Only one of Moss' bosses on the school board knew what he had done — chairman Bill Evans.

ABOUT THIS SERIES

Each day this week, The Beaufort Gazette will update readers on the most interesting people — and animals — introduced during the past year. Today, we check in with Bill Evans, the former school board chairman of the Beaufort County School District. Evans resigned from his post amid public outcry over superintendent

Port Royal park reopens after effort to clean up

Skate park was closed after new playground was vandalized

By STEPHEN FASTENAU
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843-706-8182

Fair warning to would-be Naval Heritage Park vandals and litterers: In the future, there could be more eyes on your activity.

At least that's the hope after a group of volunteers picked up trash, swept and scrubbed graffiti on Saturday in order to reopen the Port Royal skate park.

The skate park was closed last week after a new playground was vandalized and trash was found throughout the area. During the clean up, which included members of town council and town manager Van Willis, an agreement was reached that those who use the park pick up trash and report vandalism or other suspicious activity.

"We all had a talk with all of them, telling them it's up to them, they need to keep the park clean," said Ashley Shoemaker, who helped recruit volunteers. "If you're going to skate here, it's part of your duty."

Volunteers might start a monthly clean up, said Jared Lewis, one of the first to offer to clean the park. He said the group was invited to Port Royal Town Council meetings to keep communication open.

By about lunchtime Saturday, the skate park was humming with wheels again and some of its users picked up what was left of the yellow caution tape. With the help of a parent, Shoemaker repaired some of the ramps that were sticking up dangerously.

The graffiti on the ramps wouldn't come off after using paint thinner and scrubbing. But stickers on the ramps were removed and someone used sandpaper to remove white spackle from the wooden ship on the playground. The park was clean when Shoemaker returned Sunday.

The park, also site of a Saturday farmers market, recently received the \$25,000 playground to provide an outlet for smaller children. Not long after the facility opened, someone removed the steering wheel from a replica wooden galleon and the spackle was found

Please see PARK on 8A

Survivors return to Pearl Harbor 74 years after attack

By AUDREY McAVOY
The Associated Press

■ GREENWOOD CITY

Appointments to capital sales tax commission completed

By COLIN RIDDLE
criddle@indexjournal.com

Three more people have been added to the commission charged with finalizing a list of capital projects to be funded by a possible 1-percent sales tax.

Greenwood City Council approved adding to the commission city of Greenwood residents Nicholas Beasley and Anne Gunby during a special-called meeting Monday.

Beasley is the rector at Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Greenwood, and Gunby is a real estate agent at A-Z Realty.

The two represent the city's appointments for the capital projects sales tax commission, which was created by Greenwood County Council last month.

The county appointed three members to the six-person commission at the time with the city required to appoint two based on population of municipalities in the county.

Under state law, the two city selections choose the final member of the commission as the remaining municipalities do not have enough residents to each warrant their own representative. However, the final selection must represent the remaining municipalities — Hodges, Ninety Six, Troy and Ware Shoals.

City Manager Charlie Barrineau said the anticipated appointment by Beasley and Gunby is Angela Evans of Ninety Six, who will join County Council's appointees — Ruth LaForge, Steve Coleman and David Tompkins — on the commission.

Evans is payroll coordinator at Wesley Commons. LaForge is the retired community development director with Upper Savannah Council of Governments. Coleman is Project Genesis director at Piedmont Technical College, and David Tompkins is senior vice president and Greenwood

Greenwood Promise helps students

Class of 2017 first to take part in tuition-assistance support program

By COLIN RIDDLE
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Greenwood Promise has officially announced the launch of the tuition-assistance program starting with the class of 2017.

The Promise program will use a \$5 million endowment to help qualifying Greenwood County high school graduates enroll in associate's degrees, starting with the fall semester of 2017. Public and private high school and accredited home-school graduates will be eligible to apply.

"This is about changing the culture in the school system and the culture in the community on education," Ron



RON MILLENDER

Millender, Greenwood Promise steering committee chairman, said, "We're not just making a promise to the class of 2017, we're making a promise to the kindergarten class that the Promise is going to be there for them."

Under the umbrella of the Greenwood Partnership Alliance's Foundation for a Greater Greenwood County, the initiative is aimed at increasing the economic growth of the county as one facet of securing a skilled and educated

See PROMISE, page 3A



COLIN RIDDLE / INDEX-JOURNAL FILE

Ron Millender, Greenwood Promise steering committee chairman, left, and Heather Simmons Jones, Greenwood Partnership Alliance CEO, field questions about Greenwood Promise during a fundraising campaign launch at the Inn on the Square in October.

HANGING THE WREATH



JOSHUA S. KELLY / INDEX-JOURNAL

Mary Kay Addy and Edie Roberts perfect the red bow in the middle of a magnolia wreath Monday at Cokesbury College. The women are part of the Holly Garden Club who decorated Cokesbury College.

Cokesbury College gets decorated for Christmas

By MARY KATE MCGOWAN
mmcgowan@indexjournal.com

Situated in the middle of Cokesbury College's second floor balcony, Mary Kay Addy and Edie Brooks of the Holly Garden Club fluffed the classic red bow in the middle of the magnolia wreath, and their attention to detail extended indoors.

The hand-crafted magnolia wreath, which was created from the eight magnolia trees on the historical female college in Hodges, heralds other Christmas decorations inside that echo the style of another era.

From waxing the antique furniture to allow the pieces to not only glow in brilliance but also to increase their longevity, the Holly Garden Club made sure the bedspreads were folded neatly and the tablecloths were pressed.

About the event

■ Cokesbury College's Christmas open house is from 3 to 7 p.m. Saturday at 210 College Drive, Cokesbury, and will include light snacks and a cash bar. The new Laurel Garden Club Bridal Room will be dedicated at 4 p.m.

Even Billie Elsie of the Holly Garden Club created a comforter and matching pillow cases that maintained the classic style and colors of the first floor's back bedroom.

She said a lot of people are connected to Cokesbury College in some way through family, education and memories.

"I love this place, even its imperfections," Addy said. Although Cokesbury College typically is adorned with festive decorations during the holiday season, Addy said this is the first year the Holly

Garden Club has adopted the project.

The Holly Garden Club, which consists of 36 members, is preparing for the college's Christmas Open House Saturday from 3 to 7 p.m., which will include the dedication of the new Laurel Garden Club Bridal Room.

By Saturday, the former college will be decked in old-fashioned wreaths, but the Holly Garden Club ladies Monday were working on creating the holiday decorations.

Addy said they cut the greens yesterday and soaked them overnight, but arranging them Tuesday with about five garden club members. She said they were making "a good many" wreaths.

Also on the club's Tuesday agenda was arranging the mantle decorations as they are in charge of decorating the chapel and the first floor. Addy said about 10 garden club members cleaned yesterday, which she said took a lot of time.



Morning News

TUESDAY DECEMBER 8, 2015

TODAY'S WEATHER

Sunshine, clear to partly cloudy later. High 64, low 38. DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Presidential candidate Carly Fiorina to visit Florence



Republican presidential candidate Carly Fiorina addresses the Sunshine Summit on Nov. 14 in Orlando, Fla.

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Republican presidential candidate and former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina will make several appearances on Dec. 22 in Florence.

Fiorina is set to take part in a town hall meeting, hosted by the Florence County Republican Party, at 11 a.m. on Dec. 22 at Wholly Smokin' Downtown, located at 150 S.

Want to go?

» **WHAT:** Carly Fiorina Town Hall
» **WHEN:** 11 a.m. Dec. 22
» **WHERE:** Wholly Smokin' Downtown, 150 S. Dargan St. in Florence

» **WHAT:** Florence County Economic Development Partnership luncheon
» **SPEAKER:** Carly Fiorina
» **WHEN:** 12:30 p.m. Dec. 22
» **WHERE:** Florence Civic Center ballroom

Dargan St. in Florence. The town hall is open to the public.

At 12:30 p.m., Fiorina will head to the Florence Civic Center ballroom, where she's set to be the keynote speaker for the Florence County

Economic Development Partnership's annual member luncheon.

Partnership spokesperson Mary Kelley said the luncheon segment of the event is only open to members of the Economic Development Partnership, but the

goal is to allow the general public access to Fiorina's speech.

"It's more than likely that we will be able to have members of the public in attendance who are not members of the Economic Development Partnership," Kelley said. "That's not guaranteed because of available room, but that is our goal. This event is for our members first and foremost to hear Ms. Fiorina's great success at one of the largest companies in America."

Pee Dee law enforcement react to new body camera guidelines

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Over the weekend, state law enforcement officials approved the guidelines that all agencies in the state will use as a basis for individual body camera policies.

All law enforcement agencies in the state must follow the guidelines when creating their body camera policy. Agencies have until March to submit their tailored policy to the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy for approval.

The guidelines come after lawmakers approved a bill in June requiring all state and local law officers to wear body cameras. That bill, introduced by Sen. Gerald Malloy, D-Darlington, was passed in the wake of the shooting of Walter Scott, a motorist shot and killed as he fled a traffic stop.

The former North Charleston police officer has been charged with murder in the shooting that was captured on cellphone video by a bystander.

Guideline basics

The guidelines require the cameras to be activated when officers arrive on a call or when handling an investigation involving members of the public.

That includes traffic stops, accidents, arrests, calls involving drunk or emotionally disturbed persons, use of force, suspicious persons and "an adversarial contact or a potentially adversarial contact."

The guidelines say that "officers should use discretion where there is a victim of rape or sexual assault" and also suggest officers try to avoid recording people who are nude or when "sensitive human areas are exposed."

Officers are not obligated to obtain consent from victims or witnesses and will have the choice to turn the camera on or off. Officers are required to declare on camera, or in writing, their reasoning for stopping

SOUTH CAROLINA FOOTBALL

Muschamp hailed as a recruiter



New South Carolina head football coach Will Muschamp talks Monday to the media at Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia.

Fans say Gamecocks' new USC coach needs help on offense

BY JESSICA IMBIMO
Morning News
jimbi@florencenews.com

INSIDE

For more information about Will Muschamp, see **Page 1B**.

FLORENCE — University of South Carolina football fans and others in the Pee Dee seem pleased with the school's decision to hire Will Muschamp as the Gamecocks' head football coach, even though he was fired last year at Florida and didn't achieve much this season as Auburn's defensive co-

ordinator. The USC board of trustees approved Muschamp's five-year, \$16 million contract Monday morning, and trustee Dr. Eddie Floyd of Florence knows Muschamp has a lot of successful characteristics that Carolina football was missing.

"USC was lacking really good recruiters," Floyd said. Muschamp "is an excellent recruiter and is up on (recruits) in the South."

Muschamp succeeds another former Florida head coach, Steve Spurrier, who resigned midway through his 11th season with the Gamecocks, who went on to finish with a 3-9 record.

Muschamp's experience in the Southeastern Conference is extensive. Most notably, he

was LSU's defensive coordinator when it won the 2003 national championship. During his four years as the head coach at Florida (2011-14), the Gators appeared in three bowl games and compiled a 28-21 record.

Another benefit, according to Floyd, is that Muschamp doesn't have to wait until after the playoffs to start working

See **MUSCHAMP**, Page 3A

Darlington Dragway changes hands; plans in store for 2016



BY JOE PERRY
Morning News
jperry@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Darlington Dragway has a new opera-

tor. The anxiety and stress of being at the mercy of the weather was a tough burden to bear, so he and his wife, Lori, have opened Sunshine's Deli on

help drivers fine-tune their cars, he said.

"The lease was up, and I opted out," he said. "My wife ran the concession stand at the dragway, and

Where to take toddlers to play ^{5B}



THE ISLAND PACKET

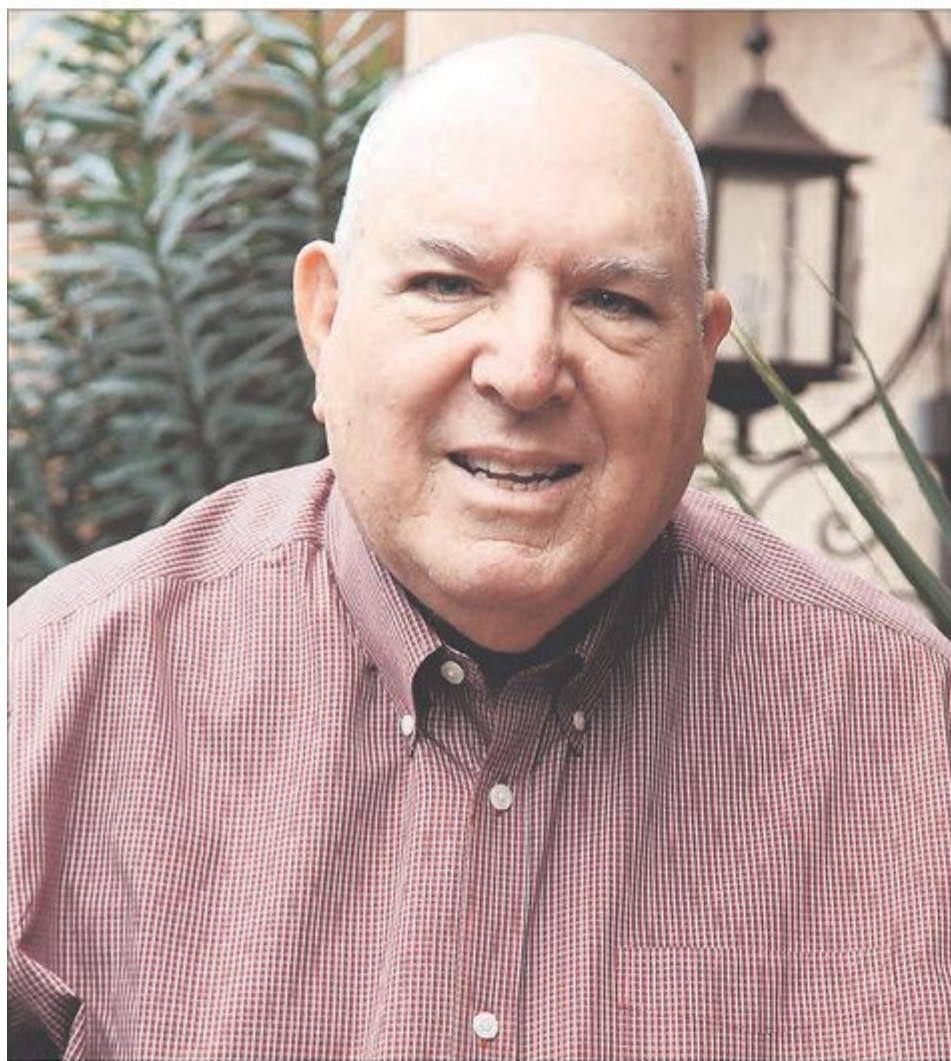
TUESDAY, December 8, 2015



Hilton Head Island • Bluffton

75 cents

After nepotism scandal, former school board chairman ADJUSTING TO RETIREMENT



DELAYNA EARLEY • Staff photo

Former Beaufort County School Board chairman Bill Evans stands for a portrait on Monday at the First Republican luncheon at Aunt Chillas Easy Street Cafe on Hilton Head Island.

By REBECCA LURYE
rlurye@islandpacket.com
843-706-8155

The news was out and the community was upset. Beaufort County School District superintendent Jeff Moss had changed the school district's nepotism rule and approved the hiring of his wife.

Only one of Moss' bosses on the school board

ABOUT THIS SERIES

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Bike wrecks most common on north end

Ten of the 19 bicycle crashes this year happened along William Hilton Parkway between Beach City Road and Shelter Cove Towne Centre.

By ZACH MURDOCK
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843-706-8147

More bicycle-involved traffic accidents happened on the north end of Hilton Head Island than the bustling tourist center at Coligny this year.

Ten of the 19 vehicle vs. bicycle crashes that have happened across the island through October — the most current available data — occurred along William Hilton Parkway between Beach City Road and Shelter Cove Towne Centre.

Of those 10, half involved injuries. Most happened when a car struck a bicyclist while making a right turn off the parkway, said town traffic engineer Darrin Shoemaker.

That's contrary to the conventional wisdom that crashes happen in the heavy bike traffic along Pope Avenue. But it underscores the town's efforts to make that corridor safer for bicyclists, Shoemaker said.

Overall, the number of incidents is on track to be the second-lowest annual total since the town started tracking accidents in 2007. The low point came in 2012, when only 16 crashes occurred.

"We continue to see a lot more demand on our pathways in recent years ... so the fact that the numbers don't seem to be following a trend upward is a success," Shoemaker said.

The town has added additional signs in some cases, cleared brush and redesigned the bike and pedestrian paths at Folly Field Road and William Hilton Parkway.

That intersection remains the most dangerous for bicyclists on the island, with seven collisions since July 2012, including one non-injury incident in October, according to town data. But since the crosswalk was redesigned, those numbers have declined overall.

Please see BIKE on 9A

Canadians visit, buy homes on island despite weak dollar

The Canadian dollar is currently weak, but real-estate experts don't anticipate a significant drop in Canadian tourism.

By ASHLEY FAHEY
afahey@islandpacket.com
843-706-8137

Hilton Head Island's top source of international tourists is expected to remain steady despite an unforeseen

THE LINK

Connecting Chesterfield County, One Week At A Time

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Tuesday, December 8, 2015

75¢

Chesterfield County Christmas Parades

| Town | Date | Time |
|-----------|-------|----------|
| Patrick | 12/12 | 10:30 am |
| Pageland | 12/12 | 11:30 am |
| McBee | 12/12 | 4:00 pm |
| Cheraw | 12/12 | 5:30 pm |
| Jefferson | 12/13 | 6:00 pm |

S.C. Attorney General will not prosecute use of inmate labor

JOAN YATES
Editor

The Attorney General's office said it finds no reason to prosecute the use of inmate labor by the Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office following a raid on a home and storage building in Pageland on Oct. 23 that netted upwards of 10,000 stolen guns and other property.

A letter sent to Chesterfield County Attorney Heath Ruffner states, "After a careful review of the letters provided to the Attorney General from both you and Director Sheila Gillespie of the Chesterfield County Detention Center, it does not appear that, based upon the information presented, there is sufficient evidence to establish criminal intent meriting criminal prosecution on this matter."

According to a press release by the county administrator following the raid, inmates were used to move items at the scene Oct. 24-25. The items were being moved from the home of Brent and Sharon Nicholson on Highway 9 in Pageland. Both Nicholsons have been charged with multiple counts of receiving stolen goods, which included more than 7,000 firearms and boxes of ammunition. Other allegedly stolen items recovered at the scene include tools, ATVs, more than 100 chainsaws, taxidermy supplies and clothing.

Chesterfield County Sheriff Jay Brooks said inmates did not handle any firearms on the scene and added they were under law enforcement supervision the entire time they were moving materials. Along with Chesterfield County sheriff's deputies,

agents from SLED and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, as well as officers from other area police and sheriff's departments were on the scene while the inmates were present.

The letter to Ruffner goes on to say, "The Office of the Attorney General notes that the inmates were used for a limited period of time over two days, were supervised by law enforcement, and the use of the inmates was stopped immediately upon Director Gillespie learning of the inmate's use."

The letter from the Attorney General concludes, "Remedial measures have been implemented to try to ensure that this conduct does not occur in the future by Chesterfield County. The Attorney General therefore declines prosecution or referral of the case for investigation in this matter."



The S.C. Attorney General's office will not prosecute use of inmate labor by the Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office. The office originally came under scrutiny after it was found that county inmates were used to transport items from the gun raid crime scene in Pageland.

Cheraw man dies in industrial accident

JOAN YATES
Editor

A Cheraw man, Hubert Ray Melton, died from an industrial accident at American Mechanical Piping on High-

way 52 last Monday morning. Melton was pronounced dead at McLeod Health Center.

The S.C. Occupational Safety and Health Administration is investigating the accident, assisted by the

Chesterfield County Sheriff's Department.

Both Sheriff Jay Brooks and Chesterfield Coroner Kip Kiser declined to comment on an ongoing investigation and are awaiting OSHA's report.



Above, members of the Chesterfield County Sheriff's Department investigate a break-in at MyFM/WCRE Radio & The Link newspaper offices. It was discovered around 1:30 p.m. last Sunday.

WCRE, The Link burglarized

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

A 31-year-old Cheraw man was arrested Monday morning on charges of breaking and entering into The Link newspaper and MyFM/WCRE Radio offices over the weekend. Several pieces of computer equipment & electronics were reported stolen.

Alexander "Boo Bear" Pittman has been charged with the burglary. Surveillance video caught him leaving the scene with the stolen equipment.

was discovered around 1:30 p.m. Sunday by an employee who noticed the front door of the business had been tampered with. Deputy Grant Polson was already at a neighboring business at the time responding to a call of a similar nature.

Pittman is charged in connection with both burglaries and as of press time was being held at the Chesterfield County Detention Cen-

ter and Publisher/owner of The Link said, "I just feel so violated. We don't keep money or valuables in the building, only equipment we use to serve the community. This will not stop us from serving the community; if anything, it will make us more diligent in working with law enforcement to cover the incidents and recover stolen property."

"I'd like to thank the CCSD deputies who worked tirelessly to find the perpetrator of these crimes. We experienced first-hand their professionalism and tireless effort to enforce the law and



Pittman

County Council focuses on finances

ROBERT MONNIE
Staff Reporter

Chesterfield County received a clean bill of financial health, according to its annual audit presented at last week's 75-minute county council meeting.

"There were no significant difficulties in performing the audit," reported Sheila Morgan of the Spartanburg accounting firm of McAbee, Schwartz, Halliday & Co., "and there were no significant findings or issues."

The official management letter did not list any recommendations to council for improvements in its financial operation.

Of note was the \$340,000

increase of the unassigned fund balance of the general fund to \$1.2 million, or about five percent of the general fund. The fund balance is designed as a contingency source for use in extreme circumstances.

In related business, after a public hearing with no input, council unanimously approved an amendment to the current fiscal year budget ordinance that increases the salary expenditures by about \$42,000.

Due to an executive order issued by President Obama in July that raised the overtime payment threshold from \$23,660 per year to \$50,440, it was necessary for council to amend the budget.

For example, under

Obama's directive that takes effect sometime in 2016, someone making \$40,000 would receive overtime pay if he worked more than 40 hours in one seven-day period and met certain job duty requirements. The other option would be to raise his salary over the new threshold of \$50,440.

In other financial business, after hearing briefings from a bond attorney and financial advisor, council approved by a margin of 7-2 the second reading of a measure that would issue installment purchase revenue, or IPR, bonds not to exceed \$7 million. Voting for the ordinance were Chairman Matt Rivers

See County Council, 3.

Stephens seated on McBee Town Council

ROBERT MONNIE
Staff Reporter

Following a year-long judicial battle in which appeals were filed by both parties, Macey Stephens was sworn in as a council member on McBee Town Council at last week's council meeting, succeeding Shilon Green, who held the seat for 10 years.

"I would like to thank all the citizens of McBee for allowing me to serve on council for this length of time," said Green. "We moved the town forward by establishing accountability in all areas while looking out for the best interests of the community."

On Sept. 2, 2014, the town of McBee held an election for two at-large council seats with the top two finishers to be awarded the positions. The resulting vote totals were Kemp McLeod 189, Macey Stephens 163, Shilon



Macey Stephens, far right, is sworn in as a McBee Town Council member by town administrator Terri King, while his mother, Jesse Sowell, holds the Bible.

tion results based on his view that four of the ballots were invalid. The McBee Election Commission held a hearing Sept. 8 that resulted in the commission's ordering a new election between

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