

From: Symmes, Brian

To:

Date: 1/9/2014 11:37:27 AM

Subject: SC Front Pages - Thursday, January 9, 2014

SC Front Pages – Thursday, January 9, 2014

GAMECOCKS' SCHEDULE TOUGH IN '14

Texas A&M, Auburn replace Arkansas, Mississippi State. **C1**



More private USC dorms pitched, **B4**

Governor proposes big boost for S.C.'s schools

Haley wants state to spend nearly \$160 million more on education

By JAMIE SELF
jself@thestate.com

Gov. Nikki Haley wants the state to spend about \$160 million in mostly new money to educate students living in poverty, hire reading coaches and expand classroom technology.

The first-term Lexington Republican unveiled the details of her long-anticipated education reform plan Wednesday at Brookland-Cayce Grammar School No. 1 in West Columbia to a group of teachers, students, representatives of education advocacy groups, lawmakers, state Board of Education members and state schools Superintendent Mick Zais.

Most of the money to pay for Haley's proposals — about \$130 million — would come from the \$200 million in new revenue that the state expects to have this year. But about \$29 million would come from the state's capital reserve fund, her office confirmed. Haley has said the proposal would require no tax increases.

The plan would focus resources on low-income school districts and those where students struggle in reading, Haley said.

SEE EDUCATION PAGE A4

The State

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2014 | THESTATE.COM

Funds drying up to check for toxic leaks near Lake Marion

Taxpayers likely will be forced to pay millions to monitor Sumter County dump in future

By SAMMY FRETWELL
sfretwell@thestate.com

The state is running out of money to prevent leaks from a closed toxic waste landfill near Lake

Marion and taxpayers are almost certain to make up a chunk of the shortfall — instead of a company that once ran the dump in rural Sumter County.

That company, Safety Kleen, filed for bankruptcy in 2000 and eventually left South Carolina after negotiating a more than \$150 million settlement to pay for long-term mon-

itoring and cleanup of the 279-acre dump southeast of Columbia.

But as predicted by many at the time, the settlement is proving inadequate, state environmental officials said Wednesday. South Carolina may need \$100 million more to manage the site and

monitor for signs of pollution during the next century, according to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control.

That won't be known for sure until the state hires consultants to as-

SEE LANDFILL PAGE A6

EXCLUSIVE | BULL STREET PROJECT

Owner guarantees team if city builds stadium



Redevelopment site would return minor league ball to Columbia

By JEFF WILKINSON
jwilkinson@thestate.com

Jason Freier, owner of minor league baseball teams in Fort Wayne, Ind., and Savannah, on Wednesday guaranteed he would bring a team to Columbia if the city builds a new ballpark as part of the redevelopment of the old State Hospital campus on Bull Street.

It's not clear yet how the stadium would be funded, but Freier said he could build it about \$7 million cheaper than the projected \$42 million cost.

From left, Robert McAlister, project director Robert Hughes III, Savannah Sand Gnats team owner Jason Freier (standing) and Bull Street developer Bob Hughes discuss the stadium they want to be the centerpiece of the Bull Street development.

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Morning News

THURSDAY JANUARY 9, 2014

TODAY'S WEATHER

Mostly cloudy, some drizzle overnight, high 47, low 38

DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

A hero who didn't even know it

Cancer survivor thanks McLeod valet for support through her treatment

BY LINDSAY S. BUCHANAN
Morning News
l.buchanan@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — It's safe to say that Jamar Belin comes into contact with a lot of people on a daily basis at his job as a valet at McLeod Medical Center's emergency department entrance, but little did he know what that daily contact meant to Alberta Major.

A former school teacher at Moore Intermediate School in Florence,

Major spent the better part of July 2012 coming in and out of McLeod while undergoing chemo and radiation to treat cancer, caught just in the nick of time to save her life.

Single, with no children or family in town, Major faced the reality of her cancer and her treatment all alone — a scary prospect that often had her wondering if she could go on for even one more day. The children she taught at school had been her family, and since the cancer forced her to step away from her

job, she didn't even have that support on a daily basis.

Each day as she arrived at the hospital, Belin was there to park her car and help her inside — but unknowingly he did much more than that.

"He was like a shoulder to lean on without even knowing it. Every morning I came into my appointments on my own, and he would always have these words of encouragement for me," Major said. "Some

See **HERO**, Page 3A



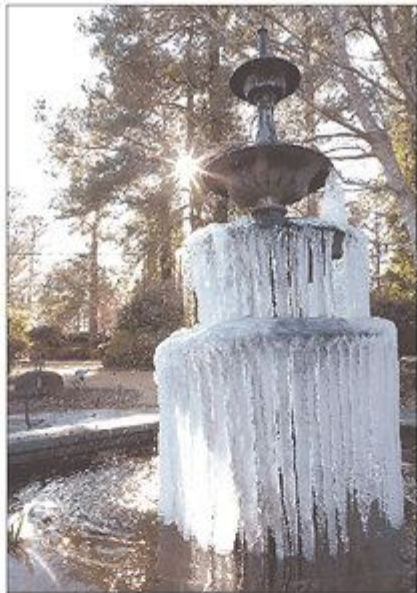
Cancer survivor Alberta Major gets a hug Wednesday from McLeod Medical Center emergency room valet Jamar Belin who she presented with a plaque thanking him for the impact he made on her while undergoing chemo and radiation in the summer of 2012.

FROZEN FOUNTAIN



Adele Kassab walks around her back yard on Jackson Avenue amid a frozen water fountain Wednesday in Florence. In the nearly 20 years that she has had her 8-foot-tall fountain, she said she never recalled it freezing before now. Cold weather this week prompted several school districts to have a two-hour delay for students as record lows were set both Tuesday and Wednesday. Today, weather forecasters are calling for mostly cloudy skies and a high of 47 degrees. **RIGHT:** Water rains down from Kassab's water fountain as the sun slowly begins to melt ice.

PHOTOS BY
JOHN D. RUSSELL/
MORNING NEWS



Ed reform plan calls for \$160M

Haley proposal to improve schools focuses on poor students' needs

The Associated Press

WEST COLUMBIA — Gov. Nikki Haley on Wednesday announced an education plan that spends more money on poor children, focuses on reading in the early grades and improves technology in schools.

Haley's proposal would spend more than \$160 million extra in the next fiscal year on public schools. The Republican governor said this must be the first of a multiyear effort to transform South Carolina's schools within the next decade.

Her proposal includes spending an additional \$97 million on children who live in poverty, \$30 million to hire additional reading coaches in elementary schools and \$29 million to improve Internet and wireless capabilities in schools. The state would fully cover the cost of a reading coach for several hundred elementary schools where a substantial number of students score poorly on standardized reading tests. The coaches would be partially

funded at others. Technology money would be distributed to districts based on their poverty rating.

The plan also puts more money toward summer reading camps, teacher training in reading and technology, charter schools and adult education classes. A detailed breakdown is expected as part of her executive budget proposal for 2014-15.

The bulk of the money would come from projected increases in state tax collections. Haley said no tax increase is needed and no district would get less money under the proposal.

Members of school and teacher advocacy groups said they're optimistic, but they await more details.

"I am really excited after hearing what she had to say," said Kathy Maness, executive director of the Palmetto State Teachers Association.

Ahead of the announcement, state Democratic Party spokeswoman Kristin Sosanie criticized

See **REFORM**, Page 3A

Florence 4 eyes repairing, reopening career center

Vacant facility could cost \$1M to renovate

BY ELLEN MEDER

even leaving Timmonsville. But right now it's up in the air as to whether the district will be able to reopen its defunct career center as they explore the needs of

WANT TO HEAR MORE?

Florence 4 will host a meeting to discuss the career center at 5:30 tonight in the Timmonsville High School cafeteria, 204 Kromer St.

district should sell it."

The school district closed its career center in 2010 after a lot of agony over finances.

Current school board chair

were brought back to the high school and the others canceled.

In 2011, Timmonsville High School struck a deal with Florence School District 1 and be-



SPORTS

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THURSDAY,
JANUARY 9, 2014

METRO

Humanist group to appeal ruling on school events in places of worship, 1B

FINAL EDITION

Judge: Prisons mistreat mentally ill

Agency to appeal ruling deploring conditions

By Tim Smith

Staff writer
tsmith@greenvillenews.com

COLUMBIA — The state's prison system has failed its inmates who have serious mental health illness, according to a scathing, 45-page ruling by a state judge who detailed cases in which in-

mates were placed in solitary for years, put naked into restraining chairs in painful positions and left naked and in filth in cold, empty cells.

Circuit Judge Michael Baxley ruled Wednesday that the South Carolina Department of Corrections had violated the constitutional rights of prison-

ers with serious mental illness.

The agency late Wednesday issued a three-sentence statement saying it would appeal Baxley's decision.

"Mental health is not just a corrections' problem, it's a national problem that all sectors of society are working to address," the agency said in its statement.

The agency didn't address any of the specific allegations.

Baxley meticulously detailed a host of allegations about the treatment of the prison system's mentally ill in his ruling, including the transfer of Jerome Laudman into a solitary cell in a maximum security prison in February 2008.

Laudman, a schizophrenic with a speech impediment, was neither aggressive nor threatening, according to his mental

health counselor, Baxley said in the ruling.

He was sprayed with chemical munitions and abused by an officer, then stripped naked during his transfer to the empty cell, according to the ruling.

Four days later, according to the ruling, an officer observed him as sick and weak but didn't

See PRISONS, Page 3A

Housing tower to be razed in blast

Implosion to clear way for new units

By Anna Lee

Staff writer
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For 40 years, it was home to some of the city's most vulnerable.

Now Scott Tower will be razed, its 14 stories gone in a few seconds and a cloud of dust.

The high-rise on Augusta Street will be imploded Jan. 19 to make way for a new housing development, Greenville Housing Authority officials said Wednesday.

Crews have been on site since August to prepare for the day, drilling holes into walls to hold more than 400 pounds of dynamite, said implosion contractor Steve Pettigrew.

Pettigrew, who's imploded everything from steel mills to football stadiums, said the explosives will detonate in seven seconds. Depending on the wind, dust could radiate out 200 to 300 feet.

Detonation is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Roads within 600 feet of the site — Thurston, McLean, Claussen and part of Augusta — will be closed from 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Another 100 peo-

See IMplode, Page 3A



LOCAL BUSINESS

Lori Morton, owner of Aerie Engineering, works with tech specialist Shirley Brown. Morton says landing a corporate client as a new business helped her company thrive, a trend noted in a recent study by a New York think tank. MYKAL MCLEOD/NEWSSTAFF

Growth SPURT

Connecting with major corporations helps small businesses thrive

By Angela Davis

Staff writer
adavis@greenvilleonline.com

Estlean Cook's machine

nesses in its early years, Cook said, but the company also "looked up with Michelin right away."

"If we hadn't, we proba-



Tone Nichols' company, Tablerock Technologies, is installing solar panels as part of Greenville Spartanburg International's \$115 million terminal improvement renovation, a project Nichols hopes will boost her company's profile. PATRICK COLLARD/STAFF

What happened at Treblig is similar to what happens with other small businesses around the country, according to a survey by a New

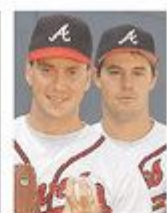
the Center for an Urban Future in New York said it surveyed nearly 200 small businesses in New York and 14 other states. Among the sur-

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Low 36



The Post and Courier

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THURSDAY, January 9, 2014

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C of C-MUSC merger effort builds

Lawmakers plan to file legislation, medical school's top trustee resistant

BY DIANE KNICH
and LAUREN SAUSSER
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lssauser@postandcourier.com

A small group of state legislators plans to push forward a bill to create a research university in the

Lowcountry, despite resistance from the head of the Medical University of South Carolina's Board of Trustees.

State Rep. Jim Merrill, R-Charleston, said he and other Lowcountry lawmakers plan to file legislation in the upcoming

session to begin the process of merging the College of Charleston with MUSC.

There's a great deal of support for the plan in the community, Merrill said. Business leaders are on board, he said, and the city of Charleston as well as Charleston,

Berkeley and Dorchester county leaders are receptive. And the College of Charleston has been working to make the plan a reality, he said.

But MUSC is proving to be a roadblock. "The most difficult group to

deal with right now is MUSC's board," Merrill said. "We have been less than impressed with the majority of the board's willingness to discuss this issue."

Please see **MERGER**, Page A5

Poll

Should the College of Charleston and the Medical University of South Carolina merge? Find this story at postandcourier.com to vote.

INTIMIDATING THE WITNESS

Records show how aiding police can bring violent consequences



Bullet holes are seen in the window of a Drake Street apartment targeted by gunfire Sunday night. Police have charged a 25-year-old man in connection with the incident, accusing him of targeting the home of a woman whose son planned to testify against the suspect's brother in a murder trial this week.

"If I come talk to you, this is my life on the street at stake and they're going to come back and do something to me."

Witness' comments to Charleston police Sgt. David Osborne

BY GLENN SMITH
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After Thomas Shine spoke with Charleston police about the murder of a young woman, two drug dealers approached him with words of advice. One urged him not to testify in the case. The other offered cash in return for Shine claming up.

Shine, 21, refused the money. Shortly thereafter, he was gunned down at a housing complex in 2011.

His story is one of a half-dozen tales of violence, threats and intimidation directed at witnesses who tried to help Charleston police solve deadly crimes in recent years.

Authorities provided the list to The Post and Courier on Wednesday to illustrate the serious challenges they face with witness tampering and intimidation in just one area community.

From disparaging campaigns on Facebook to bloody ambushes on the street, the cases profiled on the list show the potential risks witnesses face for violating the tenets of street justice and its taboos against snitching.

"It's a huge problem, and it's a very real issue we deal with," 3rd Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson, the chief prosecutor for Charleston and Berkeley counties, said.

Please see **WITNESS**, Page A6



Terrell Taylor, 20, killed in March 2004 after agreeing to cooperate in an unsolved slaying.



Michael Marshall, 30, killed in June 2004 after he ID'd murder suspects and agreed to testify.



John "Paps" Jenkins, 67, killed in September 2010 after a statement he gave police circulated around the East Side.



Deandre Bradley, 27, killed in July 2012, reportedly for telling police who had robbed him.

Cainho planners moving too fast?

Neighbors express growth concerns

BY ROBERT BEHRE
rbehre@postandcourier.com

Today, the 9,087 acres known as Cainho Plantation are mostly forests of loblolly and longleaf pines, but in a few decades this land may be a Lowcountry suburb larger than Daniel Island or Charleston's peninsula.

The property, owned by descendants of the late businessman Harry Frank Guggenheim, eventually has no zoning at the moment, only a cap of 2.1 homes per acre, but its owners, their consultants and the city of Charleston are starting to consider what it should look like.

And some residents fear that this process of plotting what would be the largest planned development in the city's history is moving too fast.

Several dozen residents, conservationists and other interested parties dropped by the Keith School Museum on Wednesday to review and comment on the latest plans. Another public presentation is set for 6 p.m. Thursday at Cainho Elementary School.

Please see **CAINHO**, Page A5

Proposed development



Charleston Chamber of Commerce unveils legislative wish list

Roads, bridges, aeronautical Trident campus among items

BY ROBERT BEHRE
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Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce has a long wish list for state lawmakers when they return to Columbia next week.

Among the top items:

- Funding for an aeronautical enterprise campus at Trident Technical College.
- A stronger bond between the College of Charleston and the Medical University of South Carolina.

• A property tax exemption for residential developments on military bases.

- More money for roads and bridges.
- For the third straight year, the chamber will have its own full-time lobbyist, Courtney Herring, during

the entire legislative session. She will push for a targeted list of issues that the chamber realistically thinks can be done to help its 1,700 businesses.

Thursday night, several hundred chamber members are expected to mingle with about 100 lawmakers and other elected officials during a

Please see **CHAMBER**, Page A4

Online

POLL: Which Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce legislative wish for 2014 is most important? Find this story at postandcourier.com to vote.

READ MORE: Get more political coverage on our blog at palmetto-politics.com.



Chance of rain
High 52, Low 43
Complete 5-day
forecast, B6

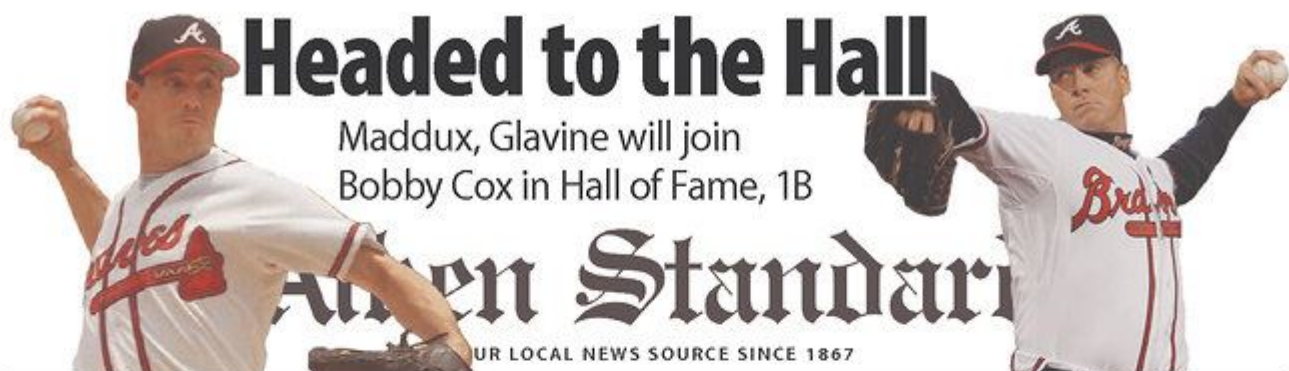
Bridge...121
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Charleston Deals today

Charleston Harbor Fish House: Pay \$10 to spend \$20 at Charleston Harbor Fish House. See A2



Headed to the Hall

Maddux, Glavine will join
Bobby Cox in Hall of Fame, 1B

Aiken Standard

OUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

THURSDAY, January 9, 2014

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 148, No. 9 Aiken, S.C. ★ ★ 75¢

Snow polo players have area ties

Three competing on U.S. team in China for World Cup today

BY BEN BAUGH
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Three players with local ties will compete on the U.S. team in the Snow Polo World Cup in China today. Tommy Biddle Jr., Pelon Escapite

and Del Walton are competing in the Third Annual 2014 Fortune Heights Federation of International Polo Snow Polo World Cup in China.

Biddle grew up in Aiken and was the quarterback at South Aiken High School. Escapite's farm is in Wil-

liston, and Walton's farm is in Blackville. Biddle Jr. and Escapite are both rated six goals in the outdoor and Walton carries a three goal handicap.

The Snow Polo World Cup championship will be played at Tianjin Golden Metropolitan Polo Club, and

the tournament is composed of teams from England, Australia, Mexico, Chile, Spain, New Zealand, France, Brazil, South Africa, Canada, the United States and defending champion Hong Kong, China.

The U.S. is part of Zone 2 and will

have its first game today against New Zealand. The U.S. will play Brazil on Saturday and France on Monday. The quarterfinals begin on Jan. 14 and the finals will be Jan. 19.

Please see P010, Page 5A

Ridin' that White Lightning

Moonshine returns at Edgefield distillery

BY DEDE BILES
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

EDGEFIELD — Southern lore is full of stories about moonshine, and those tales fascinated Cal Bowie and David Long when they were growing up. What they heard about the illegal production of liquor in backwoods stills sounded exciting.

The battles between bootleggers and revenuers were colorful, and the fast car chases were thrilling. "Both of our families made moonshine for a while, but that was years ago, way back during Prohibition," Long said.

Late last year, Bowie and Long started creating their own version of corn whiskey, but they're not breaking the law. Their new business, Carolina Moon Distillery, is located on Courthouse Square in Edgefield.

Several years ago, South Carolina's General Assembly passed legislation that allowed micro-distilleries to be established at licensed premises. Carolina Moon's founding followed the launches of similar ventures in Anderson, Greenville and other cities and towns in the Palmetto State.

"After two and a half years of jumping through government hoops, we've finally been able to do it," Bowie said.

Cal Bowie, co-owner of Carolina Moon Distillery

Bowie runs a poultry hatchery in Monetta, and Long sells paper and packaging products. They teamed with Maryland resident Bill Hatch, who is Bowie's cousin, to start Carolina Moon. The two stills in the back of their store can produce about 20 gallons of moonshine a week.

"Because it's corn whiskey, it (the taste) is very strong," Bowie said. "Anybody who has ever tasted it knows that it's got a distinct flavor."

Hanging on a wall in Carolina Moon is a framed picture of a still, which once described Edgefield



Cal Bowie, left, and David Long make moonshine at their recently opened Carolina Moon Distillery in Edgefield. They are partners with Bill Hatch of Maryland in the business.



AP PHOTO/THE HERALD-PALLADIUM, GON CARPPEL

Twelve-year-old Joe Cantania, from St. Joseph, Mich., joins sledgers as they take advantage of a school snow day on Wednesday, at Kiwanis Park in St. Joseph, Mich.

Warmer weather on the horizon

BY DERREK ASBERRY
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Aiken is expected to pull out of the cold snap today as temperatures are forecast to climb steadily for the next few days.

Leonard Vaughan, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Columbia, said temperatures will stay in the mid- to upper 20s on Wednesday night. By this morning, however, temperatures should be rising again.

"Wednesday, temperatures will stay in the 30s and low 40s before dropping back down to the 20s Wednesday night," Vaughan said. "By Thursday, Aiken should be pulling out of the cold front."

The high for today is expected to be 45 degrees with a low of 35 degrees and a 20 percent chance of rain with winds blowing at 11 mph. Friday will be much of the same with a high of 54 degrees and a low of 47 degrees. The chance of rain will drop to 10 percent with winds



The Beaufort Gazette

THURSDAY, January 9, 2014

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Established in 1897 50 cents

White House rejects Gates' criticism of Biden

By LESLEY CLARK

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The White House pushed back Wednesday against a harsh critique from former Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who in an upcoming memoir accuses Vice President Joe Biden of being wrong on foreign policy and national security issues over the last 40 years.

President Barack Obama did not

have much foreign policy experience when he chose Biden, the former longtime chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, as his running mate in 2008.

But Gates' criticism follows a long line of complaints from Republicans that Biden has been wrong more often than right.

Republican Mitt Romney in 2008 accused Biden of being "wrong for

30 years"; former George W. Bush strategist Karl Rove in 2010 accused Biden of being "on the wrong end of virtually every foreign policy dispute" since he was elected in the 1970s; and former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, in a presidential debate in 2012, said that taking an opinion counter to Biden would ensure accuracy "100 percent of the time."

Republicans say Biden got it wrong

in the 1980s when he said that President Ronald Reagan's defense buildup would strengthen the Soviet Union rather than defeat it; that he wrongly opposed the 1991 Persian Gulf War under President George H.W. Bush; was wrong after the 2003 U.S. invasion to champion a controversial proposal to divide Iraq into three regions, for Kurds, Sunnis and Shiites; and was wrong when he opposed the surge of

extra troops for Iraq in 2007.

On another, Biden now says he regrets one decision: voting for war in Iraq in 2002.

And Biden acknowledged in 2012 that he had advised Obama against launching the mission that ultimately killed Osama bin Laden.

Gates, in his book, called Obama's

Please see BIDEN on 7A

BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

McNair's lobbying efforts praised

School board considers whether to continue using the law firm to fight for more state money.

By SARAH BOWMAN

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 843-706-8138

The numbers speak for themselves, several local officials say.

After three consecutive years of receiving no money from one of the state's primary education funding formulas, the Beaufort County School District has made gains, according to Phyllis White, district chief operational services officer.

Some officials — including County Council chairman Paul Sommerville and state Sen. Tom Davis — believe the gains would not have happened without the lobbying work of The McNair Law Firm.

The school board is considering whether to continue its \$25,000 per year contract with the firm for another year. The firm was hired in the winter of 2009-10 to analyze legislation and proposals to change how the state allocates money to public schools, as well as identify partners who could help the county get more money from the state. Fees paid to the firm are split between the school district and county council.

School board chairman Bill Evans said The McNair Firm should be kept on.

ONLINE POLL

Should the Beaufort County School District stick with the McNair Law Firm? Click on this story at islandpacket.com to answer.

MORE PEDAL TO THE METAL

SC 170 speed limit rises to 60 mph from Snake Road to Broad River bridge



THEOPHIL SYLLO • Staff photo
 S.C. Department of Transportation worker Scott Gregory installs a new speed limit sign Wednesday along S.C. 170 near Snake Road in Okatie. The limit was raised from 55 mph to 60 mph from Snake Road to the Broad River bridge.

By ZACH MURDOCK

zmurdock@beaufortgazette.com
 843-706-8147

The drive between Okatie and Beaufort should go a little faster today.

The speed limit on a 5-mile stretch of S.C. 170 between Snake Road in Okatie and the Broad River bridge increased from 55 mph to 60 mph Wednesday, according to S.C. Department of Transportation officials.

Highway maintenance crews swapped speed limit signs for the 60 mph variety Wednesday afternoon, said Maurice Allen, DOT assistant maintenance engineer in

Beaufort County.

"The road was always designed for 65 or 70 mph, anyway, so taking it to 60 shouldn't mean any problems," Allen said.

The DOT district office in Charleston — which manages six Lowcountry counties, including Beaufort — sets speed limits on state roads in the area. In this case, the stretch of S.C. 170 has no traffic lights and few exits, so the department decided it was safe to increase the limit, Allen said.

Follow reporter Zach Murdock at twitter.com/TPBG_Zach.

SPEED LIMIT INCREASED

The speed limit has been raised to 60 mph on S.C. 170 from Snake Road to the Broad River Bridge.



Winning \$250K lottery ticket was nearly thrown in trash



Ninety Six attempts to pin Emerald, **1B**



INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 91, NO. 232

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ENTERTAINMENT: DID YOUR FAVORITE CELEBRITY WIN A PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD? **5A**

2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2014

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

County, Fujifilm eye deal

Company would make \$50M in capital investments during 10-year period

By CHRIS TRAINOR
ctrainor@indexjournal.com

Greenwood County Council is considering an incentive agreement for Fujifilm, one that would enable the company to make \$50 million in capital investments in the coming years.

As noted in a public notice from Greenwood County, published in Monday's Index-Journal, County Council will host a

public hearing at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 21 to receive comments regarding a proposed ordinance authorizing economic incentives, including a fee-in-lieu of tax agreement, between Greenwood County and Fujifilm.

Up until this point, the Fujifilm project was code named Project Rooster.

With the project, Fujifilm would make \$50 million in capital investments at its Greenwood facility during a period of 10 years.

County documents indicate the proposed ordinance seeks to enter the county into a fee-in-lieu of tax agreement with Fujifilm, dropping the assessment rate from 10.5 percent to 6 percent.

When reached by phone Wednesday morning, Fujifilm general counsel Allen Creighton said, assuming County Council passes the incentive agreement, Fujifilm

See **FUJIFILM**, page 4A

Want to go?

Greenwood County Council will host a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 21 to receive comments about a fee-in-lieu of tax agreement with Fujifilm.

NEAR DUE WEST

Woman, baby die in wreck

From staff reports

An Abbeville County woman and her grandson died in a wreck Wednesday afternoon near Due West.

Abbeville County Coroner Ronnie Ashley identified the woman as Gay Janakne James, 54, of 14 MX Drive, Iva, and noted she died at the scene of the single-vehicle wreck. The Lake Seclusion woman was driving a 1999 Chevrolet along with her 11-month-old grandson Charlie Beasley, who was airlifted from the scene and taken to Greenville Memorial Hospital in critical condition. The child died there later in the evening Wednesday.

The incident is being investigated by the Abbeville Coroner's Office and South Carolina Highway Patrol. According to SCLP Lance Cpl. Tony Keller, the wreck occurred just before 2:30 p.m. Wednesday along S.C. Highway 184, about a mile west of Due West. He noted the driver was seatbelted and the infant was in a car seat at the time of the crash.

Officials said the victim appeared to veer off the shoulder of the road, overcorrected and went down and embankment where the car struck a tree.

ABBEVILLE COUNTY

Focusing on staff, students

Money woes make relationships key for school success

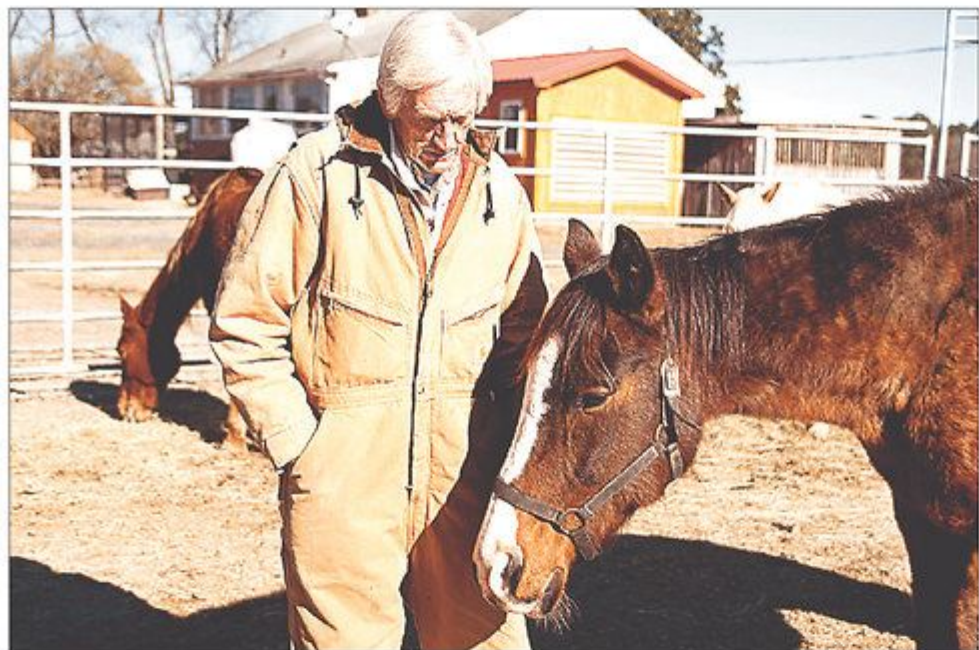
By KATE HRUBY
khruby@indexjournal.com

With a razor-thin budget, Abbeville County School District will continue to concentrate on people, not programs in the new year.

Sharon Wall, the district's interim superintendent, emphasized the direct teacher-student relationship as the main factor in achieving academic success in the new year.

Wall said the district is not opposed to changing. However, running on a tight bud-

GETTING TOUGH



Joe Mann, founder of Big Oaks Farm, reflects on the loss of Barley, an abused horse Mann tried to heal before the horse died. Mann stands Tuesday next to Diamond, one of the two horses he could save that was brought to him from North Carolina.

Following horse's death, Mann wants stricter laws to punish animal cruelty

By MATT BRUCE
mbruce@indexjournal.com

A horse's death earlier this month has a Greenwood advocate calling for stiffer animal protection laws.

Joe Mann, who founded the Big Oaks Rescue Farm in 2007, said his non-profit animal shelter suffered a loss recently

when one of its horses died from starvation. Big Oaks is a non-profit sanctuary that rescues neglected and abused horses and farm animals across the state and southeast region.

Workers from the shelter rescued a severely starved 2-year-old mare named Barley last month from Spartanburg County. The Big Oaks team brought the horse to the Greenwood animal farm and tried to nurture it back to good health for about a week before it died Jan. 3.

"That was probably the saddest one we've ever lost, because she was so young. She had her whole life in front of her," Mann said. "It's heartbreaking. You should have heard the sobs in the barn the day she passed. Everybody was (crying)."

Mann said the rescue farm lost about six horses since it was founded, and Barley, a

See **LAW**, page 4A



THE ISLAND PACKET

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2014

islandpacket.com

SERVING THE LOWCOUNTRY • 50¢

54° 47°

At least it's a little warmer now. 6B

Bluffton High falls to Whale Branch, 54-53, in boys basketball 1B



Home steam-cleaning by Big Dawgs starting at \$60
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BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

McNair's lobbying efforts praised

By SARAH BOWMAN

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843-706-8138

The numbers speak for themselves, several local officials say.

After three consecutive years of receiving no money from one of the state's primary education funding formulas, the Beaufort County School District has made gains, according to Phyllis White, district chief operational services officer.

Some officials — including County Council chairman Paul Sommerville and state Sen. Tom Davis — believe the gains would not have happened without the lobbying work of The McNair Law Firm.

Please see LOBBYING on 7A

EDUCATION FINANCE ACT FUNDING

The list below shows amounts the Beaufort County School District has received in state funding from the Education Finance Act in past years. The EFA allocates money based on a county's aggregate assessed property value.

- 2008: \$2,539,184
- 2009: \$0
- 2010: \$0
- 2011: \$0
- 2012: \$596,110
- 2013: \$2,061,376
- 2014: \$3,929,748

Beaufort County School District

\$250K ticket nearly tossed in the trash

By DAN BURLEY

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843-706-8142

A Bluffton woman nearly threw away \$250,000.

She was cleaning her car more than a month ago when she noticed a lottery ticket she had purchased at Publix on Buckwalter Place Boulevard.

Before tossing it out, she marked off a few unscratched numbers and realized she'd hit the jackpot: \$250,000 on a "\$250 Grand" ticket.

"I was shaking," the woman, who declined to be named or interviewed, told S.C. Education Lottery officials Monday.

White House rejects Gates' claim

The administration portrays Vice President Joe Biden as a trusted adviser

By LESLEY CLARK

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The White House pushed back Wednesday against a harsh critique from former Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who in an upcoming memoir accuses Vice President Joe Biden of being wrong on foreign policy and national security issues over the past

Biden

40 years.

President Barack Obama did not have much foreign policy experi-

ence when he chose Biden, the former longtime chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, as his running mate in 2008.

But Gates' criticism follows a long line of complaints from Republicans that Biden has been wrong more often than right.

Republican Mitt Romney in 2008 accused Biden of being "wrong for 30 years"; former George W. Bush strategist Karl Rove in 2010 accused Biden of being "on the wrong end of virtually every foreign policy dispute" since he was elected in the 1970s; and former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, in a presiden-

tial debate in 2012, said that taking an opinion counter to Biden would ensure accuracy "100 percent of the time."

Republicans say Biden got it wrong in the 1980s when he said that President Ronald Reagan's defense buildup would strengthen the Soviet Union rather than defeat it; that he wrongly opposed the 1991 Persian Gulf War under President George H.W. Bush; was wrong after the 2003 U.S. invasion to champion a controversial proposal to divide Iraq into three regions, for Kurds, Sunnis and Shiites; and was wrong when he opposed the surge of extra

troops for Iraq in 2007.

On another, Biden now says he regrets one decision: voting for war in Iraq in 2002.

And Biden acknowledged in 2012 that he had advised Obama against launching the mission that ultimately killed Osama bin Laden.

Gates, in his book, called Obama's decision to order the raid "one of the most courageous decisions I had ever witnessed in the White House."

But his critique of Biden was tough.

Please see CLAIM on 7A

SPEED LIMIT INCREASED

The speed limit has been raised to 60 mph on S.C. 170 from Snake Road to the Broad River Bridge.



BETWEEN SNAKE ROAD AND BROAD RIVER BRIDGE

Speed limit on part of SC 170
**INCREASED
TO 60 MPH**



THEOPHIL SYSLO • Staff photo

S.C. Department of Transportation worker Scott Gregory installs a new speed limit sign Wednesday along S.C. 170 near Snake Road in Okatie. The limit was raised from 55 mph to 60 mph from Snake Road to the Broad River bridge.

By ZACH MURDOCK • zmurdock@beaufortgazette.com • 843-706-8147

The drive between Okatie and

swapped speed limit signs for the

ton — which manages six Lowcountry



INTO THE HALL

Pair of Braves pitchers, slugger enter Cooperstown

B1

VOL. 119, NO. 72 WWW.THEITEM.COM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2014 | SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

FOUNDED OCTOBER 15, 1894 60 CENTS

Prosecutors tell Tuomey it can afford to pay more

BY BRADEN BUNCH
bbunch@theitem.com

Arguing Tuomey Healthcare System can pay far more than it's admitting, U.S. district attorneys on Wednesday requested the judge overseeing the federal lawsuit between the government and the local hospital order Tuomey

place at least \$70 million in escrow if the hospital wants to continue appealing its case.

Responding to Tuomey's request last month to Senior U.S. District Judge Margaret B. Seymour, in which the hospital's lawyers said the Sumter hospital faced the distinct possibility of having to close if it had to place about \$300 million in

escrow while it pursued an appeal, federal prosecutors painted a different financial picture for the local hospital.

"... objective evidence of Tuomey's financial condition demonstrates that Tuomey can set aside at least \$70 million of security for the taxpayers' judgment

SEE TUOMEY, PAGE A8



Safety Kleen funding drying up



MATT WALSH / THE ITEM

ABOVE: DHEC is accepting bids for long-term cleanup and maintenance of the Pinewood Site Custodial Trust, the former Safety Kleen site on Camp Mac Boykin Road near Rimini.

DHEC director wants to restore landfill's Pinewood Trust Fund

State Supreme Court to hear suit against coroner

Impact on FOIA will be determined in February

BY RAYTEVIA EVANS
revans@theitem.com

The South Carolina Supreme Court will hear the appeal of *The Item's* parent company regarding the release of the autopsy of a man gunned down by officers with the Sumter Police Department back in September 2010.

Lawyers for Osteen Publishing Co. and

Sumter County Coroner Harvin Bullock will present their sides to the state's highest court at 10 a.m. on Feb. 5. At question is whether autopsy records should be made available as part of the state's Freedom of Information Act.

Back in July 2012, Third Judicial Circuit Court Judge Clifton Newman ruled against Osteen Publishing Co. and plaintiff Joe Perry, a former *Item* reporter, stating Bullock was not



BULLOCK

SEE APPEAL, PAGE A10





HOLDING SERVE
Tigers' March dream hinges on ACC home effort. C1

FAMILY: Getting married? Read these tips for filling out your registry. B1
WORLD | NATION: Reversals in hard-won Iraqi city vex veterans. D1

Oconee, Pickens schools deal with burst pipes

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

Although Wednesday saw temperatures rise above the single digit mark experienced by the Upstate Tuesday, school officials in Oconee and Pickens counties say several schools

experienced issues with burst water pipes.

Michael Thorsland, assistant superintendent for operational services for the School District of Oconee County, said the water pipes burst in the fieldhouses at Seneca High and West-Oak High, in the kitchen area at Fair-

Oak Elementary and in a wall at Orchard Park Elementary.

"Those areas are already being addressed, and repair work is being done," said Thorsland.

Thorsland said the fieldhouses experienced damage to the ceiling and "quite a bit" of water on the floor.

Thorsland said a loss-risk specialist had been at the various sites taking photos for insurance purposes. While Thorsland doesn't expect Orchard Park and Fair-Oak to meet the district's \$8,000 deductible, he expects Seneca High and Wallhalla High to exceed that amount.

John Eby, spokesman for the School District of Pickens County, said "a couple of schools" were impacted by burst pipes.

"The biggest issues are that we had to close one bathroom at A.R. Lewis Elementary

SEE PIPES, PAGE A4

Legislators say roads top priority for General Assembly

BY NORMAN CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Addressing improvements in state roads and infrastructure is one of the most pressing needs for the South Carolina General Assembly as it begins its 2014 session next week.

"It's still roads and bridges and providing funding," State Sen. Thomas Alexander, R-Walhalla, said after Monday's annual

meeting of the Oconee County Legislative Delegation at Seneca City Hall. "As any citizen travels our roads on a day-in and day-out basis, they see the amount of work

in infrastructure that needs to be done. We got a great first start last year but we've got so far to go in that area."

State Rep. Bill Whitmire said the roads issue is important and it may take more than one legislative session to find the solution.

"We're going to have to wrap our arms around some way to fund our roads; we've got to do something," Whitmire said. "Whether it gets done this year or not I don't know, but coming down the road, we've got to improve our infrastructure."

SEE ROADS, PAGE A2

SALES TAX REFERENDUM

November 2014

Outlining needs



Seneca Library Assistant Manager Emily Whitmire helps Harry and Mary Clark download e-books to their Kindles at the library Wednesday. Many patrons of the library have received electronic reading devices, according to Seneca Library Branch Manager Blair Hinson, which inspired the library to hold electronic tutorials.

Seneca library asks for more space

BY JOSIE RABBITT
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — An unemployed man sits at the Seneca library's cramped computer desk searching for job openings in the county while a community group huddles

in the corner of the Seneca library, making the most of the one-room layout.

"People don't realize it, but libraries are still relevant to their communities," branch manager Blair Hinson said. "We are a big part of people's days."

Wednesday afternoon, the Oconee County Public Library board approved a final proposal for library system projects to be considered for a county Capital Sales Tax referendum to go

SEE SPACE, PAGE A4

Library board pitches capital upgrade plan

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — A \$15.5 million proposal to comprehensively upgrade the Oconee County Public Library system, including building new branches in Fair Play, Salem and Seneca, received unanimous approval from the Library Board of Trustees on Wednesday.

Board of Trustees Chair R. Daniel Day pitched the spending plan to the board's other eight members during a meeting at the Seneca Library branch.

The proposal now heads to the Oconee County Capital Sales Tax Commission for its consideration. Next Wednesday is the deadline for submitting proposals.

The library plan joins four other projects looking to get funding through a proposed referendum in November asking voters to increase the county's 6 percent sales tax to 7 percent. According to

FOR MORE
An application for the Foothills YMCA has also been submitted to the Sales Tax Commission. For more, turn to page A2.

SEE PLAN, PAGE A4

Walhalla plans Memorial Day pool opening

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — City officials have targeted the Memorial Day weekend for opening the refurbished Walhalla pool to the public. At a work session this week, officials talked about a good time for opening

things ready and getting chemicals in," Galbreath said.

Mayor Danny Edwards suggested Memorial Day. "It's not going to be warm enough before then, is it?" he asked.

Council member Jennifer Woodward Crawford liked the idea.

Councilman Tjay Bagwell said he's had preliminary talks with a YMCA official about the Y using the Walhalla pool for recreational programs. In exchange, Bagwell said the YMCA could help with the hiring and training of lifeguards and doing other little things that could take

from volunteers and donations that has raised more than \$20,000 to date.

Oconee County Councilman Wayne McCall, who helped with the effort to reopen the pool, was glad to hear the city is already planning on opening it this year.

"I want kids in the water;





Odd

ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2014

The Times and Democrat

75 CENTS • 3 SECTIONS, 28 PAGES • VOL. 133 • NO. 9



WHITMAN STREET FIRE, B8.
Photos, videos at TheTandD.com

Child killed at bus stop

Probe continues after 6-year-old struck by truck



A South Carolina Highway Patrol investigator examines the Dodge pickup truck that struck a 6-year-old outside the town of North Wednesday morning. The agency continues to investigate the collision that took the life of the child. **More photos and video at TheTandD.com**



COURTESY WLTX-TV

Zion Toland died Wednesday after being struck by a truck outside North.

T&D Staff Report

NORTH — A 6-year-old kindergarten student died after being struck by a vehicle on U.S. Highway 178 Wednesday morning, according to the S.C. Highway Patrol.

The collision happened just after 7 a.m. as the boy crossed the road to be picked up by a school bus, Orangeburg Consolidated School District 5 spokesman Bill Clark said.

Family members and friends identified the child as Zion Toland. A family member told WLTX that Toland celebrated his birthday last Saturday.

Highway Patrol investigators said the Dover Elementary School student was pronounced dead at the scene of the collision, which is near the junction of Hayden Lane and Highway 178 about three miles west of the town limits of North.

A 51-year-old Lexington County woman driving a Dodge pickup was traveling east on 178 when her vehicle struck the boy, the Highway Patrol said. She was not injured.

A middle-school student who was crossing the road at the same time made it across safely.

Highway Patrol Lance Cpl. Judd Jones said no charges have been filed against the driver as the investigation continues.

The school bus was not involved in the collision, Jones said. At the time the child was struck, the bus had just turned off of Highway 178 and onto a side road.

The children were crossing the road in a north to south direction when the 6-year-old was struck.

It's not clear if the children's scheduled bus stop was located across the road.

"The S.C. Highway Patrol is conducting an investigation to determine the cause of the accident," Clark said in a statement. "The status of the investigation remains open and no findings have been released to the District at this time."

Clark said that the district has counselors in place to meet with students and staff.

Highway Patrol officials said the MAIT team is continuing its investigation to reconstruct the fatal collision.

I'm going to miss him so much'

By DALE LINDER-ALTMAN
T&D Staff Writer

"It was this past Sunday — this Sunday gone," Ashley Gleaton said. "He told me, 'Miss Ashley, we supposed to love each other,' and that was one of the last things he said to me."

Three days later, 6-year-old Zion Toland was gone. He died early Wednesday morning after being struck by a pickup truck as he raced to meet the school bus. The accident occurred at about 7:15 a.m. on Highway 178 west of the town of North.

Ashley, Zion's Sunday School teacher, said the death was a hor-

rible shock.

"I just couldn't believe it," she said.

Zion was a kindergarten student at Dover Elementary School in Orangeburg Consolidated School District Five. Spokesman Bill Clark said the district is grieving with the family and working to help the school family deal with its shock and grief.

"A crisis response team consisting of school psychologists, counselors and pastors responded to the school today to provide support and assistance to students, teachers and parents as they experience the emotions of grief and loss. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the

parents and family," he said.

Zion was a child "who would really make your day," Ashley said. "Every Sunday, he would greet me with a hug or a kiss, or sometimes both."

He was a child who loved and seemed to understand the importance of it, according to Ashley.

"He had a favorite book about how to love," she said. "He always wanted me to read that book."

Zion also liked being helpful, and he always wanted to take up the Sunday school offering, she said.

"I'm going to miss him so much."

Ashley's sister, Dionne Gleaton, knew Zion and sometimes helped

her sister out in Sunday school.

"He was special in his own little way," she said. "He would look up at you with those pretty eyes. He was always hugging you."

When things like this happen in your community — to your friends — it's so shocking, she said.

"But I believe he's safe now. No more pain, no more sorrow, and I'm glad to know that."

He was running to catch the bus, but he was caught up in Jesus' arms, Dionne said.

Contact the writer: dlinder-altman@timesanddemocrat.com or 803-533-5529.

Pinewood dump could pose new threat, DHEC says

T&D Staff Report



ARCTIC AIR TO RECEDE

Propane heater fire, more pipe problems mark Day 2 of cold snap

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