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To:

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Subject: SC Front Pages – Wednesday, April 20, 2016

SC Front Pages – Wednesday, April 20, 2016



WHICH COACH WAS THE BEST PLAYER?

Was it Will Muschamp, Dabo Swinney or Kirby Smart? **1B**

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The State

WEDNESDAY APRIL 20 2016

STATE EMPLOYEES ON THE HOOK?

Gov. Haley: S.C. retirement system fix will 'hurt'

Finance leaders, including Haley, say now is time to address state pension system's unfunded debt

BY JAMIE SELF
jself@thestate.com

Fix likely will include requiring state workers to pay much more toward their retirements

South Carolina finance leaders are weighing whether to require state employees to pay much more for their retirements to cover \$16.75 billion in unfunded debts in the state's pension system.

200,000 S.C. workers — state and local government workers, and teachers — could be affected

Officials with the state Public Employee Benefit Authority, the state's retirement system, laid out

MORE INSIDE

• Business groups ask Legislature to kill transgender bathroom bill. **6B**

• House panel OKs proposal to help poor schools pay for better facilities. **3A**

several scenarios to state leaders Tuesday to help pay down the retirement system's debt.

The scenarios include requiring state employees to pay 11 percent

of their salaries annually into the retirement system. Those workers now pay in slightly more than 8 percent of their salaries, according to a PEBA presentation.

The higher pension costs would affect more than 200,000 S.C. employees who work for state agencies, public schools and local governments, and are paying into the retirement system now. (Judg-

\$16.75 BILLION

- Projected unfunded liability in the state employees' retirement system

SEE RETIREMENT, 7A

ELDER CARE CASE

Edens family, company reach \$950,000 settlement

BY JOHN MONK AND GLEN FLANAGAN
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The family of the late former Richland County Republican Party Chairman Martha Edens will receive \$950,000 in a settlement from a home health care company for a lawsuit arising from Edens's death.

The case involved alleged failings in round-the-clock home health care Edens' family had set up at her Forest Acres home, documented by videos from secret surveillance cameras the family had installed, according to documents in the case and Eric Bland and Ronald Richter, the two attorneys representing the Edens family.

The settlement money was paid by Home Instead Senior Care, a national company providing home health care for the elderly. It advertises itself as providing the "highest quality senior home care" and its motto is, "You can't always be there. But we can."

Efforts to reach Grant Chambers, an

SEE EDENS, 7A



FILE PHOTOGRAPH BY TIM DOMINICK. tdominick@thestate.com

Clavin Coombs worked with a Dreher High School art class in December on artwork inspired by Georgia O'Keefe, whose work was featured in a recent exhibit at the Columbia Museum of Art. Education is an important component of the museum's programs, as is community outreach — which is what the national award recognized.

COLUMBIA MUSEUM OF ART

Local museum receives prestigious award

BY ERIN SHAW
eshaw@thestate.com

ONLINE

THESTATE.COM: CMA executive director Karen Brosius talks about the museum and its national award, with this story online.

There were gasps and a few teary eyes at the Columbia Mu-

seum had been awarded the National Model for Museums given to museums and libraries for service to the

ients — five museums and five libraries — to win the award from the Institute of Museum and Library Service.

It is the only art museum to receive it.

"It's an extraordinary recognition," CMA executive director Karen Brosius said. "We've worked very hard to reach out to the community."

In addition to its first-rate art collections, the museum puts an emphasis on art education and outreach, which is what the award

PALMETTO

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The seasonal farmers' markets around Columbia are opening.



Summer Fun Guide • Inside



Alpacas sheared in Beech Island • 7A

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

WEDNESDAY, April 20, 2016

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 150, No. 111 Aiken, S.C. ★★ 75¢

Lawsuit: Man suffering stroke jailed after stop

Suit says trooper took selfie during Aiken County arrest

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
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A Kershaw County man charged in 2014 with driving under the influence after an Aiken County traffic stop said in a lawsuit he recently filed that he was suffering from a stroke and didn't receive treatment for 15 hours.

John Lee Pittman filed the civil action in the Court of

Common Pleas on March 9. In the lawsuit, Pittman is named as plaintiff and the S.C. Department of Public Safety and Aiken County are named as defendants.

This is the second time Pittman has filed suit in relation to the traffic stop, according to court records. A similar lawsuit filed in 2014 was dismissed without prejudice in July 2015, which allowed Pittman to refile the suit at a later date.

The 2016 lawsuit says the trooper who arrested Pit-

man took a selfie during the stop and that Pittman was held in the Aiken County detention center without reasonable and necessary medical care.

Aiken County bookings published in the *Aiken Standard* in March 2014 show Pittman, then 47, was booked for driving under the influence, but the charge was later dismissed, according to court records.

Please see **STROKE**, Page 12A



PHOTO PROVIDED BY S.C. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

A Kershaw man has filed a lawsuit that says he was suffering a stroke when he was arrested during a 2014 traffic stop. The lawsuit says former S.C. Highway Lance Cpl. Jeff Fortner, pictured here, took a selfie during the stop.

S.C. files response to MOX motion

BY THOMAS GARDINER
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South Carolina filed a response Monday to a nonprofit group's motion to intervene in the lawsuit at the core of the battle between the state and federal governments over the Mixed Oxide Fuel



Haley

Fabrication Facility, or MOX. The state's lawsuit is a claim to fines levied against the U.S. Department of Energy worth \$1 million every day the MOX program went unfinished beyond the Jan. 1, 2016 deadline, limited to \$100 mil-

lion per year.

The MOX facility would convert plutonium into nuclear fuel for commercial use.

The state responded to a motion to intervene, filed at the Aiken Division of the U.S. District Court March 31, on behalf of Southern Carolina Alliance, or SCA.

According to SCA President and CEO Danny Black, the alliance has a vested interest in the federal government's compliance with statutory obligations.

It wants to ensure the economic benefit from the MOX program gets into the community and that the impact and eco-

Please see **MOX**, Page 12A

AREA DEATHS

James Cannon Sr., Augusta
Johnny Lester Chambers, Trenton
Harly "Rick" King Jenkins Jr., Columbus, North Carolina
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

Family fun at First Baptist



Looking to handle a hula-hoop challenge Tuesday in North Augusta is Wilson Hardy, with onlookers including his son, Derek, 4; P.E. teacher Amy Todnem; and neighbor Whynter Lewis, 4. Attendees played a variety of games and activities at First Baptist Church of North Augusta.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BENGTON

Dads, uncles, grandfathers enjoy quality time with kids

BY BILL BENGTON
bbengton@aikenstandard.com

NORTH AUGUSTA — The courtyard at First Baptist Church of North Augusta drew some extra pedestrian traffic Tuesday morning, with FUDGE — Friends, Uncles, Dads and Granddads Event — Day underway.

The congregation's weekday education program had dozens of kindergartners in action with their dads or other adults — mostly men.

GALLERY

See more photos from First Baptist Church of North Augusta online at aikenstandard.com

"The kids get to spend a little more time with their dads or grandfathers or uncles or whom-ever they get to come," Nutting said. "Moms are usually the ones that are room parents and come for the parties and different events and things like that, and we don't really get to see some of the dads, and it's a good opportunity

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\$2.2B Senate road plan omits I-526 project

Bills shift money to fund priorities, but officials worry aging roads won't be maintained

BY GAVIN JACKSON
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COLUMBIA — Two new road funding bills debated Tuesday would send an estimated \$2.2 billion to improve South Carolina's transportation infrastructure, but none of the potential money would go toward completing the \$725 million Interstate 526 loop

around Charleston.

The bills, authored by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, shift millions in fees from the state Department of Motor Vehicles, along with dollars from the state Department of Transportation into road projects.

Funds would also be sent to the state Transportation Infrastructure Bank,

Palmetto Politics
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which would determine projects, followed by approval coming from a committee of Statehouse lawmakers.

The changes would allow the infrastructure bank to leverage about \$200 million in redirected money into a \$2.2 billion borrowing package to expand or improve current state roads, interstates and bridges — but not I-526 or projects approved before July 2013 — as well as future large infrastructure expansions. SCDOT Secretary Christy Hall told senators the financial switch-up, which

reduces the agency's ability to pave roads by \$65 million, creates a slew of new unanswered questions.

"The concern is simply the policy issue of resurfacing dollars being diverted for county widening projects," Hall said. "Are we 'fix it first' or what exactly are we trying to do?" Statewide,

Please see **ROADS**, Page A7

Land sale may change community forever

Residents fear Snowden's rural character will be lost to Mt. Pleasant growth



GRACE BEAHM/STAFF

Surrounded by Mount Pleasant subdivisions, Snowden has retained much of its rural character. Snowden Road runs through the freedmen's community, where Olive Branch AME Church's plan to sell a 20-acre tract of land could lead to development.

BY DAVID SLADE
dslade@postandcourier.com

MOUNT PLEASANT — A historic freedmen's community that has resisted the onslaught of suburban growth faces a new development threat from a seemingly unlikely source, a church that's selling one of Snowden's largest

undeveloped tracts.

Olive Branch AME Church has listed the more than 20 acres of woods and fields for \$6 million. A developer, Lennar Coastal, already has inquired with Mount Pleasant Waterworks about water and sewer line connections.

"It's a developer's dream," says the

Carolina One real estate listing for the property.

Joe Palmer, a member of the Snowden Community Civic Association board, said community leaders are still gathering information but lots of people there are upset.

Please see **SNOWDEN**, Page A7

pc Poll
What kind of impact would a 20-acre development have in the Snowden community? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

Graham fights bill on 9/11 lawsuits

Says revisions could wind up hurting U.S.

BY EMMA DUMAINE
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WASHINGTON — The White House is pushing back against a bill that would allow individuals victimized by the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks to sue Saudi Arabia.

So in U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham. A day after President Barack Obama suggested he would veto the legislation in the lead-up to his high-profile visit to the Saudi capital of Riyadh, the South Carolina Republican confirmed he is using parliamentary maneuvers to block the bill's expedient passage.

While Obama said he was concerned the bill would open the floodgates to lawsuits across international governments, Graham told reporters he's stalling because he fears new revisions could create adverse repercussions for the United States.

Please see **GRAHAM**, Page A4



Graham

Inside

Graham sets meeting with Supreme Court nominee. A4

Wage theft: La Hacienda ordered to pay over \$1M

Violations found at all 10 locations in S.C.

BY HANNA RASKIN
hraskin@postandcourier.com

The La Hacienda restaurant chain systematically stole more than \$500,000 in wages from 119 employees between 2011 and 2014, a U.S. District Court judge ruled Monday.

Under Judge C. Weston Houck's judgment, each of the affected employees will receive his or her wages owed plus damages, which in one instance exceeds \$60,000. The total mandated payout is \$1,179,045.

An investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division revealed multiple violations

Please see **WAGES**, Page A6

Inside

LOCAL

Judge hears Charleston's tour guide licensing case. A3

BUSINESS

Roper St. Francis leases former Nason Medical Center buildings. B1

FOOD

Bowl food: New generation of eaters mixing things up. D1

SPORTS

Student athletic fees continue to rise in South Carolina. C1

N.Y. hands easy wins to Trump, Clinton

Sanders vows to press on in race

BY JULIE PACE
and JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Front-runners Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton swept to victory with ease in Tuesday's New York primary, with Trump bouncing back from a difficult stretch in the Republican campaign and Clinton pushing closer to locking up the Democratic nomination.

Trump's victory was a psychological boost for his campaign, though the impact on his path to the GOP nomination was to be determined by the number of delegates he secured.



NEW YORK TIMES



NEW YORK TIMES

Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton had decisive wins in New York.

He seemed headed to capture more than 50 percent of the vote, putting him in a strong position to win most of New York's 95 delegates, an impressive haul.

A confident Trump declared that it was "impossible" for his rivals to catch him. "We don't have much of a race any-

more," he said during a victory rally in the lobby of the Manhattan tower bearing his name. He peppered his brash remarks with more references to the economy and other policy proposals than normal, reflecting the influence of a new team of advisers.

Please see **PRIMARY**, Page A8



Partly cloudy.
High 80. Low 60.

Bridge 89 Crisworth 88.15 Movies 87
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SPORTS CANADA CALLS TAJH



METRO Honor Flight vets come home

The Greenville News

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APRIL 20, 2016
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USA TODAY INNOCENTS AT RISK AS PENTAGON STEPS UP AIR ATTACKS ON ISIL PAGE 1B

Stephenson immune from prosecution

ROMANDO DIXSON
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The 32-year-old founder of the upscale apparel company Southern Tide is immune from prosecution after he shot and killed an intruder armed with a knife outside his home in a gated 31-acre estate atop Paris Mountain last month.

When Allen Stephenson shot and killed Matthew Whitman on March 19, it was justifiable homicide, Greenville County prosecutor Walt Wilkins said.

After reviewing state law and the investigative file from the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, Wilkins said evidence indicates Stephenson was "legally

standing his ground on his property and lawfully met force with deadly force and is immune from prosecution."

"In this case, Mr. Stephenson was confronted with a deadly weapon—a knife," Wilkins said, standing next to Sheriff Steve Loftis. "He was in fear of death or injury to his person. And as soon as he pulled the knife on Mr. Stephenson, Mr. Stephenson had the legal ability to use deadly force at that time."

The Whitman family was disappointed and upset in the decision not to prosecute, according to a statement released Tuesday through attorney David R. Price.

Stephenson told authorities he saw

Whitman walking down his driveway, which is about a quarter mile long, and they first encountered each other toward the front of the home. Whitman told Stephenson he was just going for a walk, according to a Coroner's Office report.

Stephenson asked Whitman to leave the property, and he did not comply. Then Stephenson went to get his shotgun. Whitman continued walking to the side of the home, and Stephenson fired two warning shots from his back porch asking him to leave.

"As soon as the individual did not comply with the first verbal commands to please leave, his girlfriend called 911,"

Wilkins said. "And you can hear the shots on the 911 tape."

Stephenson said he then went downstairs and confronted Whitman to find out why he was on the property. Whitman walked toward Stephenson, according to a Coroner's Office report, and they began circling each other.

As they circled, Stephenson told a deputy that Whitman got between him and the front porch. Stephenson, who had his shotgun pointed at Whitman, said he told Whitman to back off. That's when Stephenson said Whitman pulled out a knife and charged. Stephenson said that

See STEPHENSON, Page 4A

Clemson students, faculty, staff speak at forum

RON BARNETT
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CLEMSON - In the first of three forums to discuss issues that prompted a student sit-in at Clemson University, students, faculty, alumni and staff were given a chance Tuesday night to speak their minds to the university's entire executive team.

The event in the theater of the Hendrix Student Center was less confrontational in tone that what's been said on the steps of Sikes Hall, where students have been camping for the past week.

But it didn't move the needle much toward resolving the standoff between students and the administration, according to Jaren Stewart, one of the protesters who attended.

"The only difference between the dialogue here is that it was more public, more officials here," he told *The Greenville News* after the hour and a half session. "They didn't tell me what would be going on at what date and what time. They just said let's talk some more."

Chief of staff Max Allen, who moderated the meeting, said he expects the university leadership to come up with specific timelines for meeting the protesters' objectives including greater diversity on campus and development of a multicultural center.

"We're hoping we'll have enough information this week that will convince those students who are sitting outside of Sikes that it's now time to end that, and that it's now time to go back to their normal routine," he told *The News*.

Exams start next week. The university officials heard a wide range of suggestions, many of them from faculty and staff members, including a push for expanding diversity training for all employees.

Lisa Robinson, a member of the university's Career Center staff, suggested a "diversity across the curri-

PSA concerns persist in some cancer cases



PHOTOS BY HEIDI HEILBRUNNSTAFF

Katie Lewis, a medical technologist at the St. Francis Cancer Center, places a blood sample into the Vista 500, which diagnoses and monitors levels of Prostate Specific Antigen.

Studies determine tests may not be as useful as thought

LIV OSBY LOSBY@GANNETT.COM

New research from Fox Chase Cancer Center questions the usefulness of PSA testing to assess radiation treatment success in patients with prostate cancer. ¶ The researchers, who published their findings in the *American Journal of Clinical Oncology*, looked at nearly 7,000 men who'd had radiation treatments for their prostate cancer and PSA tests to determine how well the treatments worked. ¶ They concluded the PSA tests told them little about survival, which led them to believe the tests may not be as useful as once thought.

But at least one local oncologist is



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11th annual Walk With the Docs to be held Saturday

BY JIM FAILE
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The 11th annual Walk with the Docs will take place Saturday at Darlington Raceway.

The event is a fundraiser for the Free Medical Clinic of Darlington County and an opportunity to honor area physicians, pharmacists and nurses.

The walk will consist of two laps

around the famed oval racetrack for a total of 2.7 miles.

T-shirts, music, refreshments and a ride around the track in the official pace car will all be available that morning. Check-in is at 10 a.m.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children and students. You can preregister for the event at either Free Medical Clinic of Darlington County location in

Darlington or Hartsville.

The Free Medical Clinic of Darlington County has offered free, quality health care since August 2000 to the low-income, uninsured people of Darlington County. With two sites available, the clinic has registered 4,843 patients to date since openings in 2000 and 2006.

In 2015, the Hartsville office registered 56 new people provid-

ing 906 doctor visits to both established and new patients. The clinic pharmacy provided 7,075 medications for patients from both sites.

"Our patient numbers have decreased due to more of our patients signing up for Medicaid or Marketplace health insurance, but there are still many people who cannot afford health insurance premiums, co-pays or

deductibles being offered and they need our help," said Kathy Baxley, executive director of the Free Medical Clinic of Darlington County. "Please consider supporting this event so we can continue to offer these services to Darlington County residents. Having this event at the racetrack gives us a chance to come together as supporters of this ministry that covers our entire county."

Hartsville

Police arrest suspect in shooting death

From staff reports

One suspect was charged with murder and six other people were arrested Thursday during a Hartsville Police Department operation conducted in conjunction with the



Brunson

Darlington County Sheriff's Office.

Officers arrested Gregorio Brunson of 335 Sumter Ave., Hartsville, on warrants for murder, armed robbery, and possession of a firearm

during the commission of a violent crime, in connection with the shooting death of Chance Polson on Poole Street on Feb. 25, according to a release issued by the Hartsville Police Department.

Brunson was transported to the Darlington County Detention Center to await a bond hearing.

See **SUSPECT**, Page 3A

Driver dies after truck hits courthouse

JESSICA IMBIMO
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DARLINGTON — The driver of a pickup truck died early Monday morning after his vehicle crashed into the side of the Darlington County courthouse.

The collision occurred at approximately 4 a.m. Monday, according to Chief Deputy James Hudson of the Darlington County Sheriff's Office. Hudson said deputies were notified by the fire department on scene that one person was found dead in the vehicle.

The courthouse was closed Monday because of safety precautions, but it reopened Tuesday and

See **WRECK**, Page 3A



Suzanne Becknell of Le Farm, 1452 E. Bobo Newsom Highway in Hartsville, brought organic strawberries, kale, spinach, gourmet lettuce and plants to sale at the Centennial Farmers Market on Thursday. The new market will be set up at the corner of Fifth Street and Carolina Avenue next to Centennial Park every Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m.

New farmers market to open every Thursday

BY ARDIE ARVIDSON
aarvidson@hartsvillemessenger.com



Ashley Long of Hartsville performed at the first Centennial Farmers Market on Thursday.

The first Centennial Farmers Market was held on Thursday at the corner of Fifth Street and Carolina Avenue next to Centennial Park. The market is a new weekly event provided by Main Street Hartsville. It will open on Thursdays from 4-7 p.m.

Suzanne Becknell of Le Farm in Hartsville, specializing in organic food, was the lone vendor at the market opening on April 14. She sold organic strawberries, kale, spinach, gourmet lettuce and plants. She said business was good, and there was considerable foot traffic.

"I have been pleasantly busy," she said. Mahli StCloud, the

farmers market manager, said others had signed up but canceled due to the heavy winds and cooler temperatures.

She said five vendors had already signed up for this Thursday.

The Centennial Farmers Market features only fresh, locally sourced foods.

Chris Anderson, owner of Anderson Organics, is more than excited about the new weekly market. "Being able to share my products with those in Hartsville every week is something that I have looked forward to for a long time," he said in a Main Street Hartsville release.

"Also joining the market will be entertainment including live music from

See **MARKET**, Page 3A



MCGIRT ON THE RISE ON PGA TOUR

SPORTS, B1



BYRNES' FOWLER NAMED SC COACH OF THE YEAR

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Wednesday, April 20, 2016



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77°/156° 77°/158° 75°/157°

Complete forecast, B6



CAMPAIGN 2016 NY PRIMARIES

Front-runners love New York

After string of defeats, Trump, Clinton score key hometown wins

By Julie Pace and Jonathan Lemire
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Front-runners Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton swept to resounding victories in Tuesday's New York primary, with Trump bouncing back from a difficult stretch in his Republican campaign and Clinton pushing tantalizingly

close to locking up the Democratic nomination.

"The race for the nomination is in the home stretch, and victory is in sight," Clinton declared to cheering supporters.

Trump captured more than 50 percent of the vote in New York and was headed toward a big delegate haul in his home

state, a commanding showing that keeps him on a path to the GOP nomination if he continues to win. He claimed at least half of the 95 delegates at stake Tuesday, and was likely to add to his tally in individual congressional districts.

A confident Trump insisted it was impossible for his rivals to catch him.

"We don't have much of a race anymore," he said during a victory rally in the lobby of the Manhattan tower bearing his name. He peppered his brash

remarks with more references to the economy and other policy proposals than normal, reflecting the influence of a new team of advisers seeking to professionalize his campaign.

Clinton's triumph padded her delegate lead over rival Bernie Sanders and strengthened her claim to the Democratic nomination that eluded her eight years ago. In a shift toward the general election, she made a direct appeal to Sanders' loyal

SEE CAMPAIGN, A8

NOTICE TO READERS

Puzzle answers

The Breaktime page in the past three daily editions of the Herald-Journal featured the wrong answers to the puzzles that had been published. We apologize to our readers for the inconvenience, and we have corrected the problem. The correct answers for the puzzles of the past three days are published on page C6 of today's Herald-Journal.

UPSTATE



Human skull, bones found

A human skull and bones were found in a wooded area in Spartanburg County Monday evening and authorities are investigating. C1

State retirement plan costs

South Carolina finance leaders are weighing whether to require state employees to pay more into their pensions in an effort to reduce unfunded debts that have been plaguing the system for years. C1

WSPA anchor is 'roasted'

WSPA news anchor Tom Crabtree was subjected to some good-natured ribbing Tuesday night as the honoree at the Salvation Army's annual Toast of the Town fundraiser. C1

NATION



CONVERSE COLLEGE

UNC Charlotte chief of staff named 10th president

Krista Newkirk will lead Converse beginning July 1

By Zach Fox
zach.fox@shj.com

Krista Newkirk's first act as president-elect of Converse College was to spend nearly an hour talking with students, faculty and staff.

"The most important thing I can do to learn about Converse is to talk to the people here," she said.

Newkirk, chief of staff at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, was named Converse College's 10th president Tuesday. She will begin her tenure on July 1, replacing outgoing president Betsy Fleming, who announced her departure in October.

"It is an exciting day for Converse," Fleming said. "I'm immensely honored my end will be the start for the new president of Converse."

A presidential search committee made up of trustees,



Krista Newkirk speaks at Converse College on Tuesday following the announcement that she will be the school's new president. TIM KIMZEY/TIM.KIMZEY@SHJ.COM

Newkirk for the job, said former Spartanburg Mayor Bill Barnett, chairman of the committee.

As the first chief of staff at UNC Charlotte, Newkirk oversees the university's

and works with the board of trustees on annual budget allocations.

Before being named chief of staff, she was the university's associate general counsel, and was an attorney for both a pri-

"She brings a strong history of maximizing the potential of every institution and organization she serves," said Ben Wall, chairman of the Converse board of trustees.

Wall said Newkirk brings



Uptown Market pavilion to open soon
Taste, 7A

INDEX-JOURNAL

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2016

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

Senate proposals provide \$2B on roads

By SEANNA ADCOX
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Senators said Tuesday they like the idea of raising more than \$2 billion for one-time spending on road construction projects, but they disagreed over how the money would be spent.

Bills discussed by the Senate Finance Committee would send \$200 million to the State Infrastructure Bank, for borrowing an estimated \$2.2 billion.

Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman said the leveraging move is an opportunity to pump as much money into South Carolina's crumbling roads as possible. He said

his bills offer a one-time boost, not a funding solution.

Under his plan, \$1.2 billion would be spent on improving and widening interstates and \$800 million would go to what he called "rural roads," though that could include non-interstate four-lane highways.

"This is one way to not only help our interstates but how these rural roads throughout South Carolina will get some attention," said Leatherman, R-Florence, adding that he recently drove U.S. 76 from Sumter to Florence. "This state ought to be ashamed to have a major U.S. highway in the shape that part of that road's in."

Senators debated how the projects funded by the money would be chosen and how large they could be.

Some worry the money will be gobbled up by urban projects.

"We cannot continue to disinvest in the rural areas," said Sen. John Matthews, D-Bowman. "We have got to find a way to help small counties develop economically."

Senators did agree, however, that work should be on existing roadways. An approved amendment effectively bars using the money to extend Interstate 526 in Charleston County or build the long-debated Interstate 73 to Myrtle Beach.

See **ROADS**, page 4A



An SC DOT crew cleans up debris on Calhoun Road last week after the previous weekend's historic flood event.

GREENWOOD

County Council approves list of requested roads for funding

By DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ
ddominguez@indexjournal.com

Greenwood County Council is ready to hit the road with proposals for the County Transportation Committee to repave a selected list of roads throughout the county.

The 26-road list covers 7.67 miles of pavement. The total funding requested from the CTC is about \$767,000, but County Engineer Rossie Corwon said she expects the CTC to fund about \$500,000 of improvements, as it did last year.

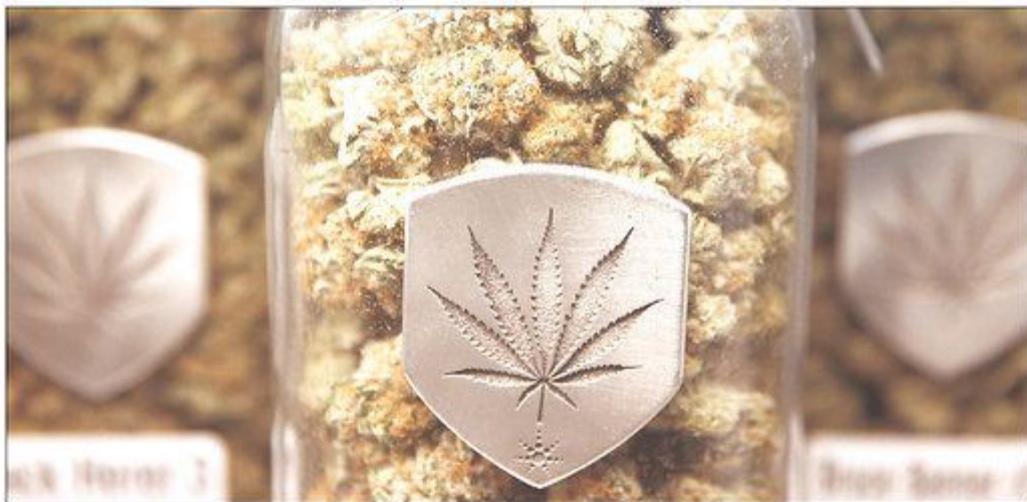
"We ride the roads annually and look at a list of roads improved in the last year," she said.

Roads are selected for the list based on when they were last paved, the condition of the road and the road's expected lifespan, she said. About 25 percent of any CTC funding the county gets must go to improving state roads, which are often the most-trafficked roads in the county, she said. The list was unanimously approved by council.

Toby Chappell brought up another road project in the Administration and Finance Committee meeting — the paving of Backwater Road. About 180 lots are accessed through the dirt road, and Chappell said Corwon is working with the engineering firm Davidson & Floyd to put the paving project out to bid. He said the project will be ready for bid within the next two weeks.

Another longstanding project, the construction of a pub-

THE BLUNT TRUTH



Different strains of pot are displayed for sale at a marijuana dispensary in Denver.

ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Using marijuana remains illegal, even on the unofficial weed holiday

By DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ
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Medical uses of marijuana

■ Marijuana is used to treat opioid addictions.
News, 3A

A slang term for marijuana, 420, has turned today into an unofficial holiday for those who use the drug.

But for law enforcement, pot is illegal no matter the day.

"There are not many days we don't make a narcotics arrest," said Greenwood Police Chief Gerald

Brooks. "We don't really see a spike on April 20, but we'll be patrolling as usual."

For the sheriff's office, deputies don't tend to see marijuana usage get any higher on April 20 either, said John Long, officer in charge of professional standards. Though deputies don't change their

behavior or coordinate an organized response on the day, he said standard patrols do well to catch anyone overtly using drugs.

"If you break the law any day, and we know about it, we're going to deal with it," he said.

Like his city and county counterparts, the Lander University Police Chief Eddie Briggs said increased pot usage seems more smoke than substance. In the past five years, there have been no

See **MARIJUANA**, page 4A

Ware Shoals Primary students to receive free lunch next year

By ARIEL GILREATH
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ties for free lunch because of an increase in the poverty level in student households.

lunch will increase by 10 cents because of a federal mandate that requires the price increase.

mentally increasing over the last few years, and we'll have to continue to do so until we get to that level that's not by



FOOD A look at the Taste of the Symphony with three of this year's chefs. **Page 1C**

Morning News

WEDNESDAY APRIL 20, 2016

The Voice of the Pee Dee

TODAY'S WEATHER

Mostly sunny and not as warm. High 82, low 55. DETAILS 2A

www.foxnews.com

75 cents

Senators debate road funds

Proposals seek to provide \$2B in one-time spending

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Senators said Tuesday they like the idea of raising more than \$2 billion for one-time spending on road construction projects, but they disagreed over how the money would be spent.

Bills discussed by the Senate Finance Committee would send \$200 million to the State Infrastructure Bank, for borrowing an estimated \$2.2 billion.

Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman said the leveraging move is an opportunity to pump

as much money into South Carolina's crumbling roads as possible. He said his bills offer a one-time boost, not a funding solution.

Under his plan, \$1.2 billion would be spent on improving and widening interstates and \$800 million would go to what he called

"rural roads," though that could include non-interstate four-lane highways.

"This is one way to not only help our interstates but how these rural roads throughout South Carolina will get some attention," said Leatherman, R-Florence, adding that he

recently drove U.S. 76 from Sumter to Florence. "This state ought to be ashamed to have a major U.S. highway in the shape that part of that road's in."

Senators debated how the projects funded by the money would be chosen and how large they could be.

Some worry the money will be gobbled up by ur-

ban projects.

"We cannot continue to disinvest in the rural areas," said Sen. John Matthews, D-Bowman. "We have got to find a way to help small counties develop economically."

Senators did agree, however, that work should be on existing roadways. An

See **ROADS**, Page 3A

Community meeting to be held in Timmonsville

BY SHAMIRA MCCRAY
Morning News
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TIMMONSVILLE — S.C. state Rep. Robert Q. Williams of Darlington says a town hall meeting scheduled for Thursday evening in Timmons-ville will bring awareness to issues the town is facing.

"We're just trying to get the voice of the community (and) see what the issues are," Williams said.

The Brockington, Johnson and Timmons-ville Alumni Association started hosting town halls in November. Thursday's meeting will be the second of many, according to Delois Daniels, the chairman of the board of directors for the association.

"We decided to try to see if we could bring the community together and have a dialogue, have a conversation and work on concerns and issues as a community," Daniels said. "There's no specific requirement (to attend), just that you care about the community, and if you have a helping hand, that you lend that helping hand."

Daniels said students and children in the community are the focus of

See **MEETING**, Page 4A

KNIGHTS CHARGE TO VICTORY



MEGAN MUMFORD/MORNING NEWS

South Florence players Brooke Jones (left) and Kellen Lott celebrate after Lott scored a goal during the first half of the soccer game against West Florence.

West Florence defeated South Florence 9-3 in girls soccer on Tuesday night to improve to 11-1 overall and 8-1 in Region 6-4A. The Knights, who are tied with Carolina Forest for the top spot in the region, will play at Socastee at 7 p.m. Friday. For more, see the Prep Roundup on **Page 3D**.

Putting the pieces back together

Florence County museum to share story of the Berretz watercolors in public lecture on Thursday

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN
Morning News
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FLORENCE — In 2012, the Florence County Museum acquired ten watercolors painted by German soldier Gerhard Berretz during World War II.

After nearly four years of research and conservation efforts, the museum understands the magnitude of the watercolors' story and has reached the point where it can share the works of the art with the public.

On Thursday, the museum will host a public lecture focusing



Carolinas Hospital System



PHOTOS BY JESSICA BARRON/MORNING NEWS

Bonnie Schenk and Ron Cann were selected as Volunteers of the Year at Carolinas Hospital System at its annual volunteer appreciation luncheon on Tuesday.

Volunteer Appreciation

LOCAL

Hungry? David Lauderdale has a Lowcountry menu that satisfies 3A



LOCAL

Historic Beaufort Foundation hopes tiny house pays huge dividends 4A



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HILTON HEAD ISLAND BLUFFTON

Partly cloudy 75°/60° See 2A

THE ISLAND PACKET

HILTON HEAD

Arts campus request slashed

Funding request cut by over \$20 million to \$9.5 million

One council member says funding request 'premature'

Council discusses how to move forward with existing arts center

BY WADE LIVINGSTON
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The Town of Hilton Head Island will drastically reduce its \$30 million request to the Beaufort County Sales Tax Commission for a new arts and entertainment campus.

Town Council voted Tuesday to instead ask for \$9.5 million for the campus from the panel, which is vetting potential projects that may be funded by a one-percent sales-tax increase.

In early March, town officials pitched to the commission an ambitious \$30 million plan to partially fund the construction of the estimated \$65 million campus. But the commission said it needed to see a more substantial plan.

"The reason for the reduction is, frankly, because I didn't believe the capital sales tax commission was going to approve this request at the \$30 million figure," said Hilton Head Mayor David Bennett Tuesday.

The decrease to the arts-campus request — which nixes construction costs to focus on pre-development expenses like surveys and mockups — allows three new projects to be added to the council's overall \$30 million funding request, according to town manager Steve Riley.

One of those is a \$10 million project to expand the Island Recreation Center. The other two additions are Safe Routes to Schools projects that will create public pathways along Main Street and William Hilton Parkway.

But one council member said he is dissatisfied with the request, saying it's premature to ask for any dollars for the arts campus at this time.

"I'm still wondering why we're moving forward with asking for \$9.5 million (for the arts campus) when we've just now completed setting up a committee that's going to go

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

TRUMP, CLINTON WIN NEW YORK



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a New York primary night campaign event Tuesday.

JULIE JACOBSON AP

Votes still being counted, but Republican Donald Trump claims it's impossible for rivals to catch him

On Democratic side, Hillary Clinton further pads her delegate lead over Bernie Sanders, who vows to press on

BY JULIE PACE AND JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

NEW YORK

Front-runners Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton swept to victory with ease in Tuesday's New York primary, with Trump bouncing back from a difficult stretch in the Republican contest and Clinton pushing closer to locking up the Democratic nomination.

be determined by the number of delegates he secured. If he captured more than 50 percent of the vote, he would be in strong position to win most of New York's 95 delegates, an impressive haul.

With the votes still being counted, Trump declared that it was "impossible" for his rivals to catch him.

"We don't have much of a race anymore," he said during a race rally in the lobby of the Manhattan Four Seasons hotel,

reflecting the influence of a new team of advisers seeking to professionalize his campaign.

Clinton's triumph padded her delegate lead over rival Bernie Sanders, depriving him of a crucial opportunity to narrow the margin. Sanders vowed to compete through all of the voting contests, though his odds of overtaking Clinton at this stage in the race are low.

"We've got a shot to victory," Sanders said in an interview with The Associated Press. "We have come a very long way in the last 11 months, and we are going to fight this out until the end of the process."

Sanders spent Tuesday in Pennsylvania, as did Trump's main rival Ted Cruz. The Texas senator opposed Trump's rise as

Note to readers

Final totals were still being reported at press time. Visit our website for the latest updates.

"We must unite the Republican Party because doing so is the first step in uniting all Americans," Cruz said.

The fight for New York's delegate haul consumed the presidential contenders for two weeks, an eternity in the fast-moving White House race.

Candidates blanketed every corner of New York, bidding for votes from Manhattan and the surrounding boroughs to the

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