

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>  
To:  
Date: 3/14/2014 10:03:25 AM  
Subject: SC Front Pages – Friday, March 14, 2014

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## **SC Front Pages – Friday, March 14, 2014**

# the Sumter ITEM

Gamecocks upset Arkansas 71-69 in SEC tourney B1

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2014 | Serving South Carolina since October 15, 1894

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## Haley signs tax relief bill

Reassigned military personnel can now keep lower rate on homes

BY BRADEN BUNCH

bbunch@theitem.com  
(803) 774-1201

South Carolina-based military personnel unable to sell their homes after being reassigned elsewhere will no longer need to worry about skyrocketing property taxes.

Gov. Nikki Haley officially signed the Military Homeowner Protection Act on Thursday, allowing military

homeowners to keep their property in the lower, owner-occupied tax category, even if they are renting out their former homes. Sponsored by state Rep. Murrell Smith, the new law allows these military

homeowners to keep this tax rate as long as they remain on active duty and place the home on the market



SMITH

within 30 days of purchasing a second home.

"Our military men and women are one of our state's biggest assets, and it's only right that we provided them with the kind of common-sense tax relief that works to lessen the burden of their service for them and their families," Haley said. "This is about taking care of the people who take care of us, and I thank Rep. Murrell Smith for his leadership on this issue."

Maj. Gen. H.D. Polombo Jr. of the 9th Air Force said the property tax relief will make a big difference to military families.

"I am pleased Gov. Haley signed the Military Homeowner Protection Act of 2014. This legislation directly and positively impacts our service members across the state and enhances South Carolina's military-friendly

SEE TAX BILL, PAGE A8

## Manning coaching legend retires

Girls hoops' Thames has record for most victories in state

BY DENNIS BRUNSON

dennisb@theitem.com  
(803) 774-1241

John Franklin Thames got his wish.

Thames, who has the most victories in the history of South Carolina high school girls basketball, said he has always asked the Lord to let him know a year before his

employer when it was time for his coaching career to end.

### INSIDE

Thames' peers reflect on coach's career / B1

55 years as a teacher, Thames has decided to retire.

After spending two separate weeks in the hospital during the summer dealing with cellulitis in his legs, Thames made it back to coach the Lady Monarchs to a 12-11 record this past season, but he just felt it was the right time for him to step aside.

"It was kind of hard, but I was sort of prepared for it," said Thames, who will turn 80 years old on May 20. "I was



MATT WALSH / THE SUMTER ITEM

John Thames holds a basketball commemorating his 800th win while sitting in his Manning living room, which is adorned with plaques he garnered throughout his career. The Manning High School girls basketball coach has decided to retire after 46 years of being in charge of the school's program and 55 years as a teacher.

able to get back though and be there for the whole basketball season. I don't know how good a job I did though. It was the second-worst season I ever had."

Thames had just one losing season in his almost half-century as head coach, posting a career record of 869-331, finishing his career coaching an even 1,200 games. Thames became the career victory leader during the 2011-12 season, picking up victory No. 828 in

December of 2011 to pass Mullins' Fred Senter, one of Thames' good friends.

Thames won a pair of 3A state titles with Manning, claiming the 1973-74 title as well as the 1999-2000 crown. He led the Lady Monarchs to three runner-up finishes, 15 region titles and seven region tournament crowns.

Thames is a member of the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame and was a member of

the inaugural class of the Clarendon County Athletic Hall of Fame in 2011. The gymnasium at Manning was named after him in 1983 and rededicated in 2012, and he received the Order of the Silver Crescent, the state's highest award for volunteer or community service, in 2004.

Clarendon School District 2 Superintendent John Tindal said Thames was tremendous both as a teacher and coach.

"Coach Thames is definitely

a legend in Clarendon School District 2," Tindal said. "He's one of the people all of us can use as a positive role model. With his dedication and commitment to the profession, his outstanding coaching record for girls basketball, we couldn't honor him enough in the district for all he has done."

"He's one of the most humble people I have ever known, and he is one of the

SEE THAMES, PAGE A8

## Jurors watch alleged confession







## E GREENVILLE A GUIDE TO DINING OUT



## METRO, 3A Cannabis oil bill advances

# The Greenville News

A GANNETT COMPANY

FRIDAY,  
MARCH 14, 2014  
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY SEARCH WIDENS FOR MISSING JET PAGE 1B

FINAL EDITION

## BMW to share major news

Several officials  
to be on hand at  
announcement

By Woody White  
and Rudolph Bell  
Staff writers

BMW said Thursday it would make a "significant economic and product announcement" at its Greer assembly plant on March 28.

The German automaker gave no other details in an advisory to news media other than a list of speakers.

They include BMW Group Chairman Norbert Reithofer, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker and Gov. Nikki Haley.

Other scheduled speakers are Harald Krueger, head of the company's global production network, and Manfred Erbacher, president of BMW Manufacturing Co.

Kenn Sparks, a spokesman for BMW of North America in Woodcliff Lake, N.J., told *The Greenville News* that he

See BMW, Page 5A

## Hitt touts benefits of aiding US firms

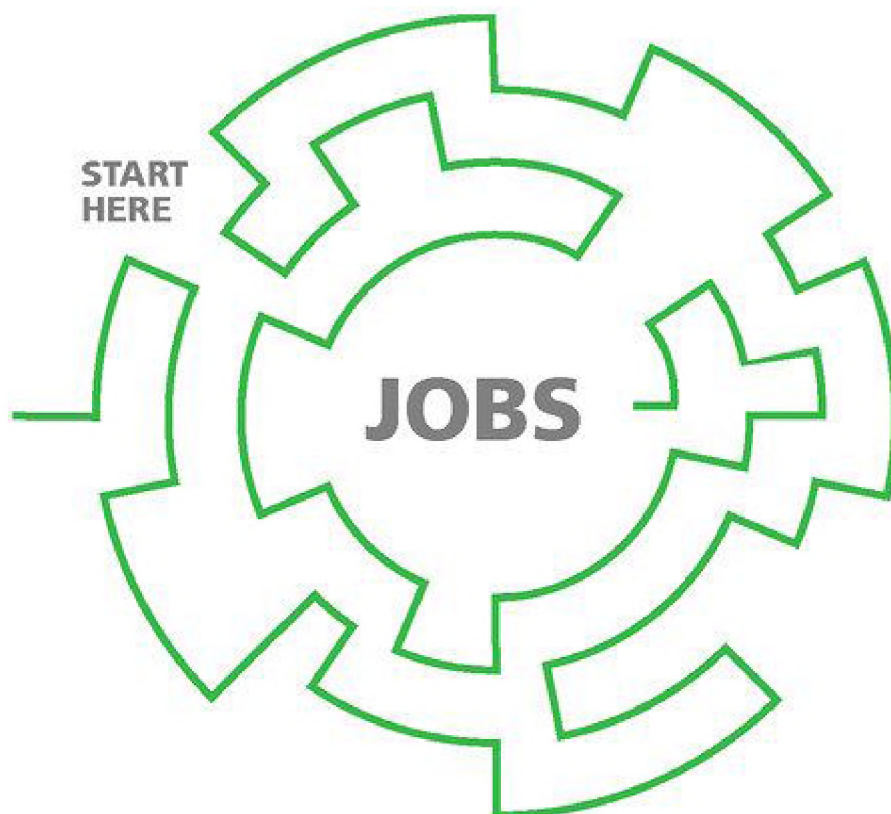
By Mary Orndorff Troyan  
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — South Carolina's recent success in attracting new manufacturers is due in part to government investments to prepare sites, build infrastructure and train the work force, the state's chief recruiter told Congress on Thursday.

"Our state is at the forefront of the manufacturing revival today," South Carolina Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt told members of a House Small



Hitt



## Job search a challenge for young adults

### Employment low in Greenville area

By David Dykes and Angela Davis  
Staff writers

**T**he labor market for young people has declined more dramatically than jobless rates show, and the Greenville metropolitan area ranks among the nation's 10 metro areas with the lowest employment rates of young adults ages 20-24, according to a new report.

The trend is striking and raises fears that many will miss out on higher earnings and economic opportunities, experts and economists said.

The Brookings Institution reports to



Matt Thompson works on a grinding machine in the machine tool technology lab.







**Disability doesn't slow olive oil salesman**  
PEOPLE, D1

**Can No. 1 Gamecocks stay perfect?**  
SPORTS, C1



# The Post and Courier

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FRIDAY, March 14, 2014

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

Charleston, North Charleston, S.C. ★★ \$1.00

## Get a job? It's a tall order if you're young



Brendan McPherson searches through his bag Thursday after working in the Learning Center at Trident Technical College's Palmer Campus, where he is enrolled as a second-year student. McPherson has had difficulty finding an entry-level job.

### Report: Youth employment in Charleston region, U.S. depressed despite rebound for older workers

BY DAVID SLADE  
dslade@postandcourier.com

Five years after the Great Recession officially ended, young people still face a particularly hard struggle to find jobs, with employment levels for the youngest of workers plunging to post-World War II lows.

In addition to the challenges faced by all job-seekers, young people are finding that more experienced workers are holding on to what were once considered entry-level jobs, and people old enough for Social Security have returned to the workplace.

The greater Charleston area has been no exception to this national trend, the Brookings



#### Poll

Do you know any teens who have been looking for and unable to find work? Find this story at [postandcourier.com](http://postandcourier.com) to vote.

Institution found in a new report on youth employment in the nation's largest 100 metro areas.

Trident Technical College student Brendan McPherson, 19, has volunteered with non-profit groups and coached youth sports, and now has an unpaid internship, but has never had a paying job. He said he's applied at the sort of busi-

nesses where a teenager might expect to find work, including fast-food restaurants and retail stores at shopping malls.

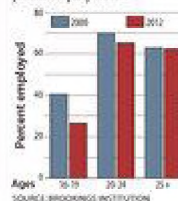
"When I interview, they say, 'Where is your experience,'" said McPherson, of West Ashley. "No one has ever hired me."

In the region that includes Charleston, North Charleston and Summerville, employment levels among young workers remained substantially depressed in 2012, despite rebounding for those 25 and older, the Brookings study found. Greater Charleston placed roughly in the middle of the nation's largest metro areas in terms of youth employment.

Please see **YOUNG**, Page A4

### Work scarce for the young

Years after the last recession ended, employment levels among young people remained depressed, particularly among older teens. Greater Charleston ranks near the middle of the nation's 100 largest metro areas in terms of youth employment.



SOURCE: BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

## McConnell tells critics he's 'fair, inclusive'

C of C finalist touts experience in Senate

BY DIANE KNICH  
dknich@postandcourier.com

While fending off pointed questions about his past, Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell says the years he spent leading the state Senate prepared him well to lead the College of Charleston.

McConnell, one of three finalists for the school's presidency, addressed and took questions from hundreds of students and faculty, staff and community members Thursday at the downtown campus.

He said that while he does not have an academic background, he does have extensive leadership and consensus-building experience from decades of serving in the state Legislature, 11 of those years as Senate president pro tempore. And those skills are what the college needs right now, he said.

People who attended the meetings asked questions about higher-education funding, his support of the Confederate battle flag on



McConnell

Please see **MCCONNELL**, Page A5



A Vietnamese Air Force colonel helps search Thursday for the missing Malaysian Airlines flight over the Gulf of Thailand.

## Missing plane keeps armchair sleuths buzzing

Rumors, theories swirl over Malaysia mystery

BY SCOTT MAYEROWITZ  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — There aren't supposed to be any mysteries in the Digital Age.

The answers to most questions, it seems, can be found using Google or Twitter. So, maybe that's why the world is captivated by the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 and why it has created a legion of armchair sleuths, spouting theories in some cases so strange they belong in science-fiction films.

Casual conversations in supermarket aisles, barber-shop chairs and office building cafeterias have centered on the mystery and how much we don't know. With the search for the missing Boeing 777 entering its seventh day, the passengers' families are left without closure while the intrigue — and bypotheses — continue to grow for the rest of us.

Please see **SLEUTHS**, Page A9

## A dead end: Few leaving stepping-stone jobs



With fewer middle-income jobs available, low-wage work is becoming a reality for a growing number of employees.

### Many older, experienced workers stuck in lower-wage positions

BY JOSH BOAKAP  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For years, many Americans followed a simple career path — land an entry-level job, accept a modest wage, gain skills, leave eventually for a better-paying job.

The workers benefited, and so did lower-wage retailers such as Wal-Mart: When its workers left for better-paying jobs, they could spend more at its stores. And the U.S. economy gained too, because more consumer spending fueled growth.

Not so much anymore. Since



#### Read more

This is the latest installment in The Associated Press' yearlong, multi-format look at the growing gap between the wealthiest 1 percent of people and everyone else. For a full version of this story, go to [postandcourier.com](http://postandcourier.com).

the Great Recession began in late 2007, that path has narrowed because many of the next-tier jobs no longer exist.

Please see **JOBS**, Page A4



Mostly sunny  
High 65, Low 45.  
Complete 5-day  
forecast, B8

Bridge...D7 Crossroads...D6,18 People...D1  
Business...B6 Editorials...B10 The South...B1  
Classifieds...C1 Movies...D4 Sports...C1  
Comics...D6,7 Obituaries...B4 Television...D5

**Charleston Deals today**

**Carvel Ice Cream**  
Pay \$10 for two \$10 trips to Carvel. See A2





**SEC HOOPS TOURNEY:** USC men outlast Arkansas, play Vols on Friday. **C1**



## AREA BANDS HEADLINE ST. PAT'S IN FIVE POINTS

Diverse music to highlight Saturday's festival. Weekend

**The State**  
FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2014 | THESTATE.COM

### COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

# Santiago resigns; will agency turmoil end?

#### TIMING

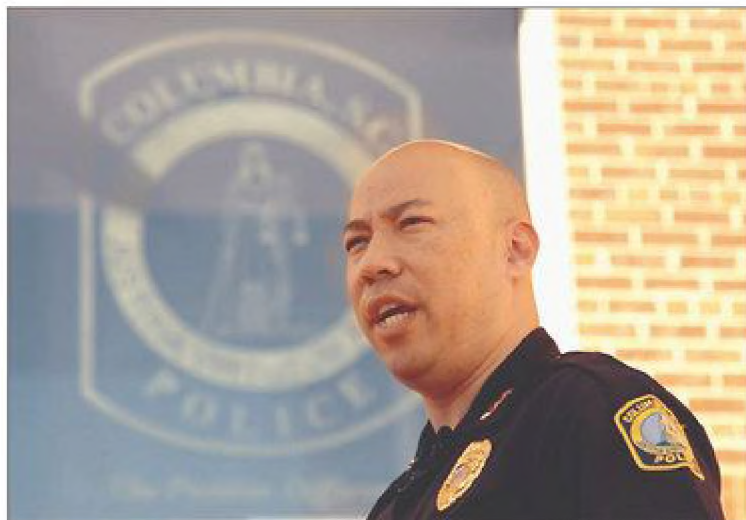
Ruben Santiago's resignation comes days before city manager Teresa Wilson is to name a new chief. He was not a finalist.

#### TRUTHFULNESS

A solicitor said Santiago wasn't completely truthful during a months-long corruption probe that ended two weeks ago.

#### TEMPORARY

Longtime department employee Melron Kelly becomes acting chief, the department's eighth leader since 2007.



Interim Columbia Police Chief Ruben Santiago stepped down Thursday after leading the department for nearly a year.

### HARRELL PROBE

## Groups blast secret hearing request

Speaker's effort to get Wilson ousted as prosecutor draws fire

By JOHN MONK  
jmonk@thestate.com

Officials of five state-wide citizen activist and open-government groups Thursday decried a secret effort by House Speaker Bobby Harrell to get a state judge to disqualify Attorney General Alan Wilson as prosecutor in the State Grand Jury investigation of Harrell's possible misuse of campaign funds.

Without public notice, Harrell's defense team asked Judge Robert Hood to disqualify Wilson and then appoint another prosecutor to handle the case.

Wilson is the state's top elected prosecutor. Harrell is one of the most powerful people in state



Harrell



Wilson

Department veteran named acting chief until permanent hire is made



By NOELLE PHILLIPS  
nephillips@thestate.com

embattled interim chief, is a step toward fixing what ails the agency.

association. "But we've still got major surgery to be done."

ed her list of finalists to two people. She has not named them.





# Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

FRIDAY, March 14, 2014

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 148, No. 73 Aiken, S.C. ★★ 75¢

## United Way raises almost \$3 million



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

The Burns Studio Dancers reveal the United Way of Aiken County's 2013 fundraising campaign total of \$2,938,009 during the organization's annual meeting and awards ceremony on Thursday night at Newberry Hall.

## Franklin awarded 2013 volunteer of the year

BY DEDE BILES  
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

The United Way of Aiken County didn't set a record during its 2013 fundraising campaign. But the organization collected its second-highest amount ever even though it faced challenges such as the federal budget sequestration, numerous layoffs and furloughs at the Savannah River Site and local residents' continuing concern about the health of the economy.

The grand total was \$2,938,009, which exceeded the pre-campaign goal of \$2,524,850. In 2012, the amount reached an all-time high of \$3,005,584.

United Way President Sharon Rodgers called 2013's result "a testament to the generosity of this community" during the organization's annual meeting and awards ceremony on Thursday night at Newberry Hall. The theme for the evening was "Night at the Races," and the event ended with the Burns Studio Dancers performing to the song "New York, New York." Wearing green and white jockeys' caps and carrying stick horses, they unveiled 2013's final fundraising campaign figure.

"In spite of all the difficulties in 2013, the compassion here for those less fortunate was just overwhelming," Rodgers said. "It takes your breath away to know how much people care. We're just so blessed to live in Aiken."

Stephanie Franklin was honored as the 2013 Russell A. Foret Volunteer of the Year. Jeff Wallace, the previous year's winner and a former editor of the *Aiken Standard*, presented the award.

### Award winners

- **Russell A. Foret Volunteer of the Year Award:** Stephanie Franklin
- **2014 Board Chair:** Liz Stewart
- **2013 Board Chair:** Barbara Smoak
- **Campaign Chair:** Wesley Hightower
- **Project VISION Outstanding Volunteer Award:** Kevin Stoner
- **Agency Campaign of the Year Award:** Tri-Development Center of Aiken County
- **Intern Awards:** Shamekia Bell and Jasmine Settles
- **Young Philanthropist of the Year Award:** Jennifer Shoup of the WSI-SRS Team
- **Bank of the Year Award:** First Community Bank (formerly known as the Savannah River Banking Company)
- **School of the Year Award:** North Aiken Elementary School, Leavelle McCampbell Middle School and Center for Innovative Learning at Pinecrest
- **Special Events of the Year Award:** Luc and Liz Godard and Aiken Regional Medical Centers, sponsors of the Western Nights Bachelor & Bachelorette Auction and Publix

of Aiken and North Augusta for sponsoring the Family Fun Day Carnival

• **Campaign Leader of the Year Awards:** Aiken Mayor Fred Cavanaugh and Kathryn Windham

• **Humanitarians of the Year Award:** Dan and Kathy Wood

• **Employee Campaign Manager of the Year Award:** Anna Delianitis of Aiken Technical College

• **Campaign Committee of the Year Award:** Aiken County

• **Corporate Pillar Awards:** WSI-SRS Team and URS Savannah River Remediation

• **Making a Difference Award:** UPS and Aiken Electric Cooperative

• **Community Business of the Year Award:** The Smith Group

• **LIVE UNITED Award:** Andrew Siders of Siders and Yarbrough Allstate

• **Stanley A. Quarles Memorial Community Spirit Award:** Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations and Kimberly Clark Corporation

• **Highest Overall Campaign Award:** Savannah River

Nuclear Solutions

• **Corporate Contribution Awards:** Kimberly Clark Corporation, first; Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, second; WSI-SRS Team, third; Publix Super Markets Charities, fourth; URS and Savannah River Remediation, fifth

• **Employee Achievement Awards:** Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, first; Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, second; URS and Savannah River Remediation, third; Kimberly Clark Corporation, fourth and WSI-SRS Team, fifth

• **Outgoing Board Members:** Jeff Wallace, Bernard Girouard, Dr. Deidre Martin, Ronald Maxwell, Ben Newman, Jack T. Sadler III and Edward J. Kopp

• **Loaned Professionals:** Trenadria Jordan, Security Federal Bank; Jim Moore, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions; McKenzie Sealy, sponsored by CH2M HILL

• **Loaned Professionals Company Award:** Security Federal Bank, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions and CH2M HILL

"If you need a dependable volunteer, if you need sound advice, if you need a role model, if you need a great friend, our 2013 volunteer of the year is your person," said Wallace, who was the United Way's 2012 board chairman and is an outgoing board member.

Franklin was surprised by the honor. "I wasn't even coming tonight, but

Sharon (Rodgers) asked me to do the invocation and I told her, 'Yes,' Franklin said.

Please see UNITED, Page 16A



STAFF PHOTO BY TEDDY KULMALA

Lillie Hallman carries on a conversation using the new video visitation system, which the Aiken County Detention Center rolled out last month. Visitation at the jail have gone exclusively to video, allowing inmates and visitors to talk from separate areas of the jail using a webcam and handheld receiver.

## Prison visits go to video

BY TEDDY KULMALA  
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

Smile — the Aiken County detention center has added a few more cameras to its facility, which are now the only way to visit with inmates.

Aiken County Council approved the video visitation system in late 2012. Technicians have been installing and running tests on the new system, which went online in early February. Visitation at the jail have gone exclusively to video.

The system includes 16 touch-screen kiosks.

Capt. Nick Gallam, jail administrator, said the new system makes the jail more secure by not having to introduce visitors into the facility.

Visitors sit at one of the video terminals in the lobby of the jail and, using a telephone handset, speak with an inmate, who is seated at a video system in their housing unit. Both parties will see each other on a webcam system, similar to Skype.

Capt. Nick Gallam, jail administrator, said the new system makes the jail more secure by not having to introduce visitors into the facility. In the old visitation method, a visitor would have to go through security and up the stairs to a visitation room, where they would talk with the inmate through a piece of glass.

"That's probably our highest-risk area of escapes," Lt. Jason Todd said, adding that visitors could struggle in items used to cut holes in the windows. "We've never had an issue with it, but that was always my fear."

The video visitation system also cuts down on the number of man-hours required to escort visitors to and from the visitation areas.

"Of course, there's some drawbacks from people wanting to see their loved ones face-to-face," Gallam said.

Please see PRISON, Page 16A

### AREA DEATHS

**Dixie Day**, Aiken  
**Lewis Boatwright**, Ridge Spring  
**Lumisher McKevie Toney**, Aiken  
**Mary Edna Baughman Fox**, Aiken  
**Neal Thompson Jr.**, North Augusta  
**Sadie M. Key Walker**, Graniteville  
**Vendle Hayes**, Moncks Corner  
**Deaths and Funerals**, 6A

### INSIDE TODAY



Musical acts making



Aiken girl honors sister



Light jacket may be



Sheheen supports MOY





# Postpartum depression

Program helps women who are struggling emotionally after pregnancy E1



# Herald-Journal

FRIDAY

MARCH 14, 2014  
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HJ  
IN A HURRY

5 Things to read today



## Clemson wins in OT

Damarcus Harrison scored six of his 12 points in the final minute of overtime to help Clemson beat Georgia Tech 69-65 in the second round of the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament Thursday night. **PAGE B1**

## Infrastructure woes

A deadly blast that leveled two buildings served by a 127-year-old gas main has provided a jarring reminder of just how old and vulnerable much of the infrastructure is in New York and many other cities nationwide. **PAGE A3**

## Gay marriage ban

A Spartanburg attorney is hoping a case involving a Mauldin woman's immediate loss of benefits after her same-sex relationship ended will overturn the state's laws against gay marriage. **PAGE C1**

## Restricting abortion

Conservative legislators' strong push to end abortions in South Carolina was boosted Thursday when a Senate panel advanced a bill that would require doctors who perform the procedure to have privileges to admit patients to nearby hospitals, which can sometimes be difficult. **PAGE C4**

## Honored for safety

Two dozen manufacturing plants in Spartanburg, Union and Cherokee counties have been honored for being among the safest in South Carolina in 2013. **PAGE C5**

# Principal: Girl had 'special light'

## Sentencing begins for 9-year-old Brooke's murderer

By KIM KIMZEY  
kim.kimzey@shj.com

The pictures showed Brooke Center as she was before July 8, 2009.

Reidville Elementary School Principal Elizabeth Sima asked people if they saw the "glint" in Brooke's eyes when they looked at a photograph of the little girl. If it were a parent-teacher conference, Sima said she would say "Brooke had a special spark and a special light."

But it wasn't a parent-teacher conference. Sima testified Thursday during the sentencing phase for Brooke's murderer, Ricky Lee Blackwell Sr., 55, of Chesnee. Beneath the beaming child's

picture projected onto a screen, Blackwell sat hunched over with his head down.

A jury convicted him Wednesday of Brooke's kidnap and murder. They must now decide if Blackwell will receive death or a life sentence for his crimes.

People testified about Brooke in life. For a moment there was even laughter.

There was the photograph of her playing baseball. John Sloan coached Brooke when she played for the Mets' team of 5- and 6-year-olds in District 5 Little League.

"Brookie was the only female on our team," Sloan testified Thursday.

Sloan guided Brooke to home plate from the other team's dugout the first time she scored a run.

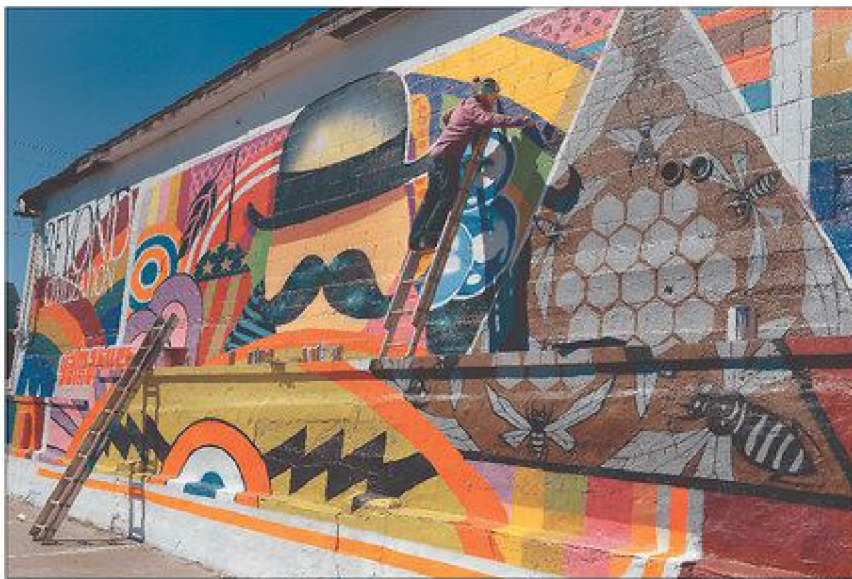
Brooke played with Sloan's son, Hunter. Sloan caught them holding

◆ SEE SENTENCING PAGE A7



A plaque dedicating the picnic area in memory of Heather Brooke Center at the ball fields in the Reidville community.

## Colorful addition to the city



JOHN BYRUM/JOHN.BYRUM@SHJ.COM

Patrick Baird puts some finishing touches on the mural next to the Hub-Bub building in downtown Spartanburg on Thursday.

# BMW might get new model

3 Series or 5 Series  
a possibility for  
Spartanburg  
County facility

By TREVOR ANDERSON  
trevor.anderson@shj.com

A new vehicle model — possibly the 3 Series or 5 Series — could be coming to Germany-based BMW Group's Spartanburg County manufacturing plant.

The automaker said Thursday that it will make a "significant economic and product announcement" at BMW Manufacturing Co. at 1 p.m. March 28.

BMW Chairman Norbert Reithofer is scheduled to speak during the event, along with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker, Gov. Nikki Haley, Harald Krueger, head of BMW's global production; and newly appointed BMW Manufacturing Co. President Manfred Erlacher.

# Months of interviews lead city police to arrest 4 in Nov. slaying





# INDEX-JOURNAL

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2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2014

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

## De la Howe responds

### Board of trustees drafts letter disagreeing with placing school under DJJ purview

By KATE HRUBY  
khruby@indexjournal.com

**MCCORMICK** — The John de la Howe board of trustees approved a response to the school's recent place-

ment under the Department of Juvenile Justice during a special board meeting Thursday afternoon.

Board chairwoman Barbara Devinney introduced newly appointed board member Patricia Silva,

who was confirmed Feb. 19 by the state Senate, is the fifth board member for the school. The bylaws of the school state the board should consist of nine members.

On Tuesday, the state House of Representatives approved placing John de la Howe under administrative control of the DJJ, as a way to stabilize the school after an Office of the Inspector General's report in January revealed major holes in the school's managerial and administrative structure.

The board responded to this place-

ment Thursday in a written statement:

"It is rare that we have a student who has had charges with the juvenile justice system, and when we do we have ascertained that John de la Howe is the best placement option for that particular youth given the totality of the circumstances. To place John de la Howe under the Department of Juvenile Justice would send the wrong message to children and families served by the agency."

The statement seemed to suggest placement under the

DJJ might deter families from sending their children to the school. In past meetings, school administrators emphasized the majority of students were not expelled from their previous schools and sent to John de la Howe, but were rather placed at the school by their own families.

According to the statement: "Families would be extremely reluctant to have their children under supervision of the Department of Juvenile

See DE LA HOWE, page 4A



## HOLLYWOOD on the way to Lander

### Moviemaking veterans to attend Film Festival

By CHRIS TRAINOR  
ctrainor@indexjournal.com

**F**ive years ago, the Lander University Film Festival was little more than an idea.

Now, the festival is set for its biggest year yet, with multiple Hollywood insiders set to visit Greenwood to participate in the event and numerous other well-known screenwriters on tap

to contribute lines to the festival's short film competition.

Lander Film Festival 5.0 will be April 12 in Greenwood. The event will feature lectures and workshops, a screening and discussion of the 1934 classic film "The Thin Man," special "Hollywood Shark Tank" pitch meeting opportunities with noted filmmakers, a reception in the Arts Center courtyard and the culmination of the annual short film

competition, with screenings and awards at the Greenwood Community Theatre.

Lander University broadcast and emerging media specialist Paul Crutcher is again organizing the film festival, with help from his longtime friend, screenwriter Craig Titley.

Titley, who has been a mainstay of the Lander Film Festival,

See HOLLYWOOD, page 4A



LUKE  
RYAN



SARAH  
WATSON



CRAIG  
TITLEY

#### Aspiring filmmaker?

Those wishing to register for the film festival's short film competition must do so by Monday. Entry fees are \$10 for students and \$25 for the open division. There will be a short film competition kickoff meeting at 5 p.m. Monday in room 117 of Lander's Carnell Learning Center.



#### Lander Film Festival schedule

■ 9:30 a.m. — Coffee outside Lander's Carnell Learning Center room 200.  
■ 10-11:30 a.m. — Workshop on "The Future of Media" with Luke Ryan, Carnell Learning Center room 200.  
■ 11:30 noon — Hollywood Shark Tank pitches, \$100, Carnell Learning Center room 118.

■ 12:30-2 p.m. — Lunch and screening of the classic film "The Thin Man," hosted by Dr. Misty Jameson, Dawson Room of Lander Dining Hall.

■ 2:30-3:30 p.m. — Workshop, "From Conception to Parenthood: Writing for Television Without Getting Screwed," with Sarah Watson, Carnell Learning Center room 200.

■ 3:30-4 p.m. — Hollywood Shark Tank pitches, \$100, Carnell Learning Center Room

118.

■ 6:30 p.m. — Reception, Arts Center courtyard, Uptown Greenwood.

■ 7 p.m. — Short film competition screening and awards ceremony followed by Q&A with special guests Luke Ryan, Sarah Watson and Craig Titley, Greenwood Community Theatre. Tickets available through Greenwood Community Theatre, \$10 general admission, \$5 children with ID.







# THE ISLAND PACKET

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2014

islandpacket.com

SERVING THE LOWCOUNTRY • 50¢

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The shade is not your friend today. 6B

**Amazon is raising its Prime membership fee for the first time — from \$79 to \$99 8A**



**\$29 for 2 hours of bowling for up to 6**

**dealsaver.com/HiltonHead**

## Missing plane sent signal for hours

US official: Malaysian jet sent pings to satellite after disappearance; search expands again

By CHRIS BRUMMITT  
and JOAN LOWY  
The Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — A Malaysia Airlines plane sent signals to a satellite for four hours after the aircraft went missing, an indication that it was still flying for hundreds of miles or more, a U.S. official briefed on the

search said Thursday.

Six days after the plane with 239 people aboard disappeared, Malaysian authorities expanded their search westward toward India, saying the aircraft may have flown for several hours after its last contact with the ground shortly after takeoff from Kuala Lumpur for Beijing.

A string of previous clues about Flight MH370 have led nowhere.

"MH370 went completely silent over the open ocean," said Malaysia's acting Transport Minister Hishammuddin Hussein. "This is a crisis situation. It is a very complex operation, and it is not obviously easy. We are devoting all our energies to the task at hand."

The U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss the situation by name, said the Boeing 777-200 wasn't transmitting data to the satellite, but was instead sending out a signal to establish contact.

Boeing offers a satellite service that can receive a stream of data during

flight on how the aircraft is functioning and relay the information to the plane's home base.

The idea is to provide information before the plane lands on whether maintenance work or repairs are needed.

Please see MISSING on 7A

## Hearing to focus on bond

Solicitor: Ex-school psychologist accused of sexual battery of a student likely violated agreement.

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

A former Battery Creek High School psychologist accused of sexual battery of a student probably violated the terms of her bond last month when she reportedly had sex with the same teenager in Savannah, according to the 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office.



**Snipes** The Solicitor's Office will hold a hearing Thursday concerning Megan Snipes' personal recognizance bond agreement, which stipulated she have no further contact with the 16-year-old male student, according to Deputy Solicitor Sean Thornton.

Snipes was charged Dec. 20 with engaging in a sexual act with the juvenile while she was a psychologist at the school. She was released Dec. 21 on bond from the Beaufort County Detention Center. She was suspended by

Please see BOND on 7A

## EXERCISE PROGRAM BUILDS MUSCLES & MINDS

ON THE WEB

For video, go to  
<http://bit.ly/1gflc6W>.



JAY KARR • Staff photo

Fifth-grader Rex Blahut, center, was one of 35 lower-school students taking part in the Build Our Kids' Success early morning exercise program Thursday at Hilton Head Preparatory School. The 12-week program is run twice a week by school staff and community volunteers. Its aim is to improve students' academic performance and health by promoting physical activity and nutritional knowledge.

## Glover to appear in movie

St. Helena Island native and "American Idol" winner Candice Glover will sing two songs in the Hallmark Channel movie "Northpole," which will premiere on

HILTON HEAD ISLAND WINE AND FOOD FESTIVAL

## Many toasting event's timing

The festival starts Saturday — St. Patrick's Day weekend — and is the unofficial start to the tourist season.

By DAN BURLEY  
dburley@islandpacket.com  
843-706-8142

This weekend marks the unof-

### IF YOU GO

- **WHAT:** Hilton Head Island Wine and Food Festival
- **WHEN:** Saturday, noon to 4 p.m.
- **WHERE:** Coastal Discovery Museum, 70 Honey Horn Drive
- **COST:** \$45. Proceeds benefit the John and Valerie Curry Scholarship Program



## Pressure building in Ukraine

By KATHY LALLY  
and CAROL MORELLO  
The Washington Post

MOSCOW — Russia is gathering thousands of troops, as well as artil-







**MOVING ON?**  
McDaniels, Tigers  
open tournament  
play against  
Georgia Tech. **C1**

**FAMILY TREE:** Genealogy class offered at Oconee Heritage Center. **B1**  
**STILL NO ANSWERS:** Missing plane sent signals to satellite for hours. **D1**



**Voters in the City of Seneca have approved Sunday alcohol sales, and now Oconee County and the City of Clemson are also looking at the possibility.**

## Clemson Council to discuss Sunday alcohol sales

BY GREG OLIVER  
THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — Sunday alcohol sales are now a reality in Seneca and could be countywide in Oconee in the not-too-distant future. The same could be true for Clemson.

Clemson City Council members are expected to discuss the possibility at Monday's regularly scheduled meeting, which starts at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers at Clemson City Hall. The discussion will focus on requests council members said they have received from local businesses that would place the issue before city voters on the Nov. 4 general election ballot.

Assistant city administrator Andy Blondeau said the issue deals with allowing on-premises sales of alcoholic beverages. He said staff was asked by council to report on the issues related to the possible ballot question and options for placing it on the ballot.

"We did some research and came up with a fact sheet so they would be

SEE ALCOHOL, PAGE A6

## Projects gain momentum

BY CARLOS GALARZA-YEVE  
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Local attorney Suzanne Earle, it seemed, stepped up to the microphone again, again and again to endorse one project after another before the Oconee County Capital Project Sales Tax Commission on Thursday night.

Earle was among the many

## SALES TAX REFERENDUM

November 2014

men, women and children who filled the County Council Chambers to speak in support of or opposition to the 10 projects looking to get funding from a proposed 1 percent sales tax increase that could go be-

fore voters in a referendum.

The attorney argued in favor of Walhalla's request for \$250,000 that would upgrade its water plant and the \$425,000 sought by

SEE PROJECTS, PAGE A3

## Warmer waters



Kelsey Thornton, left, and Kristin Hanifin, members of the Syracuse University women's rowing team, lift their shell in preparation for rowing on Lake Hartwell. Colleges and university rowing teams from throughout the Northeast are choosing the university beach in Clemson to use for training because of the warmer temperatures and availability of two race courses, among other things.

## Rowing teams return to Clemson beach

BY GREG OLIVER  
THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — College students often head to Florida or other warm-weather destinations for spring break. However, when it comes to rowing teams throughout the Northeast and Midwest, Clemson is often the preferred destination.

But rather than trying to get a suntan or frolic on the beach, these young people are in Tigertown to enjoy water for a different reason. They are members of college and university rowing teams that are preparing for their upcoming seasons in an area considerably more conducive for training than the weather conditions they left behind.

This week, rowing teams consisting of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy men and women, Notre Dame men, Syracuse men and women and Boston University men and women have been seen in the mornings and afternoons at university beach. Meanwhile, Ohio State Uni-

SEE ROWING, PAGE A3

## Rozman officially earns seat on Seneca council

BY CARLOS GALARZA-YEVE  
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — It's official! Political newcomer Denise Rozman clinched a spot on Seneca City Council, and veteran mainstay Ernest "E" Riley is out.

The Oconee County Election Commission on Thursday accepted as valid five provisional ballots that were not previously counted. Rozman led Riley in Tuesday's election before the provisional ballots 312-310.

Election supervisor Joy Brooks brought the sealed ballots before commission chairman Bob Brock and member Bobbie S. Willite at a crowded conference room at the county government building on Pine Street.

After the five ballots were validated and counted, Rozman's total vote count increased by two to 314, while Riley's count went up by one to 311.

As soon as commissioners certified the final tally, Riley got up from his seat, went over to Rozman, shook her hand and congratulated the winner.

"Take care of my city — our city," Riley said.

As he exited, Riley, who had served on council 16 years, and his wife received well wishes from a row of



Rozman

SEE ROZMAN, PAGE A6

## OFFICIAL SENECA ELECTION RESULTS

Candidate	Votes
Joel Ward*	436
Stuart Pohl*	368
Scott Durham*	365
Denise Rozman*	314
Ernest "E" Riley	311
Robert Holbrooks	309
Joel Arnold	306
Andrea Alewine	290

\* Top four vote-getters earned council seats

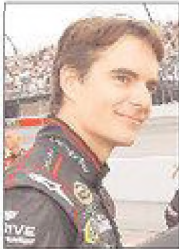
Taking part in Thursday's ribbon cutting of the new Carolina Alliance Bank branch office in Seneca, from left, are Lori Comunal, Seneca branch supervisor; Jillian Lusk, executive director of the Oconee County Chamber of Commerce; C. Kyle Thom-



## Carolina Alliance Bank opens Seneca branch







**DATE CHANGE DOESN'T MATTER** Jeff Gordon talks racing at Darlington Raceway. **Page 1D**

# Morning News

FRIDAY MARCH 14, 2014

**TODAY'S WEATHER**  
Sunshine and warmer,  
high 64, low 43  
DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

## FSD1 makes Phase 2 plan official

Delmae, Southside, Williams and Savannah Grove OK'd to get new school buildings by 2026

BY ELLEN MEDER  
Morning News  
emed@florencenews.com

### INSIDE

Finalists in superintendent search named. **8A**

FLORENCE — Florence School District 1 is now committed to building four new schools by 2026 for a cost of more than \$109 million, per a board vote approving the second phase of the district's capital improvement plan.

The plan will start off with a new Delmae Elementary school beginning construction next year and being completed by

2018, and then finishing Southside Middle by 2020, Williams Middle by 2023 and Savannah Grove Elementary in 2026.

The vote was in response to the administration presenting the detailed plan to the board two weeks ago, after the January meeting sparked community outrage when it was disclosed

that construction on Delmae would have to be delayed due to financial constraints. Many Delmae parents and teachers expressed concern at the meeting that the school has been moved down from the top of the construction to-do list before and urged the board to take action to make the plan official.

The plan specifies that \$1.1 million of the design process on the new Delmae will happen this year, but construction will not be completed until summer 2017.

Though the building plan passed as presented by the administration with supporting financial documents, there were some heated exchanges between board members as to whether they should pass the plan as is or aim for a quicker timeline by putting a referendum to the public.

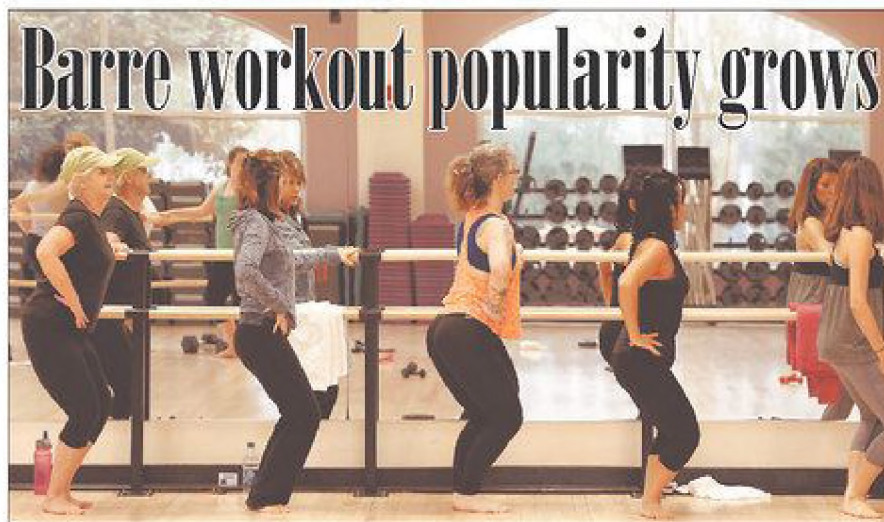
In 2007, the board put a referendum to the public to approve more bonds that would have built seven schools, as well as renovated Williams Middle, but

the measure failed. In its place, the board created the current plan, which built Lucy T. Davis Elementary, the new Moore Middle, the new North Vista Elementary, and will build the new Royall Elementary by the end of the first phase.

When the second phase was on the floor for discussion, board member Alexis Pipkins Sr. recommended an amendment that would have added Greenwood

See **FSD1**, Page 8A

### ZUMBA GIVING YOU ZZZZS?



PHOTOS BY YEASEY CONWAY/MORNING NEWS

Participants work out during a barre class Wednesday morning at the McLeod Health & Fitness center. A fusion of yoga, ballet and pilates, the barre workout utilizes a ballet "barre" rail in some exercises.

## New fitness routine a mix of yoga, ballet and pilates

BY YEASEY CONWAY  
Morning News  
yconway@florencenews.com

### FLORENCE

This is for those who feel Zumba'd out.

McLeod Health & Fitness Center instructor Jennie Edwards said a new workout is sweeping across the country.

She was introduced to the new trend through a very old-school way — She visited a big city. But there is chatter

about it on Facebook, too. Edwards tried one class and was hooked.

"The enthusiasm — I've seen it one other time, and that was 10 years ago when I came in with Zumba," she said. "It's the same thing. I feel the big tidal wave coming."

It's called barre, named after the ballet handrail the workout incorporates.

A fusion of yoga, ballet and pilates, the barre workout will strengthen your upper and lower body.

"The first place you'll feel it is your inner thighs," instructor Dawn Marie

Vershuys said.

It works out your core, your balance and your butt, too.

Set to up-tempo music, barre consists of several related exercises in a 50-minute to one-hour workout period. "This is 126 to 128 beats per minute, where Zumba is 150, 160, 170. It's slower, but that doesn't change the intensity. It's still an excellent workout," Edwards said. "It's a different type of exercise. It's so different and it's

See **BARRE**, Page 4A

## Fire district a political backdraft

Florence County again faces pushback from Columbia

BY GAVIN JACKSON  
Morning News  
gjackson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The Florence County Council is having déjà vu, as one member put it Thursday, as it again faces political headwinds opposing its proposed action, this time stabilizing millage rates by unifying seven of the county's fire districts.

A real legislative roadblock has popped up that, depending on how the county proceeds, could result in another legal battle like last year's court showdown with the Attorney General's Office to reimpose the penny tax.

Florence officials say unifying the fire districts would strengthen the county's first responders, whom residents, businesses and travelers rely on. But legislation in Columbia that would alter language for how millage would be determined for a unified fire district is being held up.

Councilmen and officials would not specify who was holding up legislation, but at least one person is part of the county delegation.

"It hurt real bad because it's our own that's attempting to derail anything Florence County brings before the Legislature," Councilman Waymon Mumford said after a recent visit to Columbia. "It's kind of sad because one senator, regardless who that may be, but one senator can derail any one item, at any time he chooses to do it."

Under Act 388, city and county councils can raise taxes, but the council is stuck because those districts were chartered under two different parts of the law that would need to be rectified in order

### ALL UNDER ONE ROOF

These are the seven districts under consideration for consolidation in Florence County:

- Sardis-Timmonsville
- Howe Springs
- Hannah Salem-Friendfield
- Windy Hill
- Olanta
- West Florence
- Johnsonville



### BARRE HOURS

The McLeod Health & Fitness Center introduced three barre classes — at 10-11:30 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday — and has three instructors: Jennie Edwards, Dawn Marie Vershuys and Erin Johnson. They always try to have two instructors in the classroom, with one leading the



Mumford







**South Carolina knocks off Arkansas in SEC tournament. Clemson coverage, B1**

## SEC BASEBALL WARS

Carolina takes on Ole Miss

Preview, B1

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2014

# The Times and Democrat

75 CENTS • ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA | TheTandD.com | 3 SECTIONS, 36 PAGES • VOL. 133 • NO. 73

## Trial underway in child's death

Father accused of beating, torturing Orangeburg 5-year-old



Williams

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — A death penalty trial is underway for the former soldier accused of killing his daughter, a 5-year-old Orangeburg girl living in Hawaii with her father.

Naeem Williams faces the death penalty even though Hawaii abolished capital punishment in the 1950s. That's because he's being tried in the federal justice system, where execu-

tions are allowed.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Darren Chising told jurors in his opening statement that the blow that killed Talia Williams on July 16, 2005, came after months of neglect, assault and torture by Williams — "her flesh and blood, her father" — and a "wicked stepmother."

Defense attorney John Philipsborn told jurors in his opening statement that Williams was ill-equipped to care

for a child, let alone a child with special needs who had bowel- and bladder-control problems. Philipsborn said that when Talia went to live with him in Hawaii, about seven months before her death, he had never cared for a child.

The child's mother, Tanisha Williams of Orangeburg, testified in the case Wednesday. The Honolulu Star-

See TRIAL, A3



Bystanders and paramedics tend to a person who was struck by a vehicle on Red River Street in downtown Austin, Texas, at SXSW early Thursday. Police say a man and woman have been killed and 23 others injured after a suspected drunken driver fleeing from arrest crashed through barricades set up for the South By Southwest festival and struck the pair and others on a crowded street.

## A HORRIBLE SIGHT



SOURCE: NASA

Holly Hill native Frank Culbertson shot footage of New York City following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks from the International Space Station. He will discuss his time on the station during a program tonight on the National Geographic Channel. See video with this story at TheTandD.com

## Holly Hill astronaut recalls watching 9/11 from space

By MARTHA ROSE BROWN  
T&D Staff Writer

"I could clearly see smoke coming out of Manhattan and a gray blob invading New York City," retired NASA astronaut and Holly Hill native Frank Culbertson said, describing the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Culbertson was the only U.S. citizen not on the planet when the 9/11 attacks took place.

He was one month into a four-month mission aboard the International Space Station along with two Russians: pilot Vladimir Dezhnev and flight engineer Mikhail Tyurin. Culbertson served as commander of Expedition-3.

An interview with Culbertson, along with video he captured while on board the space station on September 11, 2001, will be part of a special program airing on the National Geo-

graphic Channel at 8 p.m. tonight.

During the program, viewers will receive a virtual tour of the International Space Station.

From space, astronauts Rick Mastracchio and Koichi Wakata, will conduct "never-before-broadcast experiments," National Geographic says. Astronaut Mike Massimino will

See SIGHT, A3

## Suspect in Austin deaths has ties to Orangeburg

Courtesy WIS-TV

AUSTIN, Texas — A man with connections to Orangeburg is accused of killing two people and injuring 23 others when he drove into a crowd at Austin's South by Southwest Music Festival Thursday morning, according to police and media reports.

NBC News is reporting Rashad Charjuan Owens, 21, is in custody and will soon be charged with two counts of capital murder and 23 counts of aggravated assault with a vehicle.

According to NBC, a Facebook page belonging to Owens, who currently lives in Killeen, Texas, lists Orangeburg as his hometown. He also lists several friends in the Orangeburg area.

Police say Owens was drunk when he drove a car down a one-way street as people spilled out of a concert venue just after midnight Thursday.

Among the dead is a man from the Netherlands, who was on a bicycle. Also dead is a Texas woman who was riding on the back of a moped; the driver of the moped survived and is hospitalized.

Police said the suspect was trying to avoid a DUI checkpoint early Thursday morning. He sped away from police and drove past barricades set up for the festival, drove the wrong way down a one-way street and plowed into pedestrians, cyclists and other vehicles before fleeing on foot.

The officer manning the barricades leaped out of the way of the speeding car, according to police. He and the officers from the DUI checkpoint chased the suspect on foot before using a stun gun to subdue him and take him into custody.

Officials said that this was the first incident of deaths at SXSW in the 27-year history of the event.



Rashad Charjuan Owens will face two counts of capital murder and 23 counts of aggravated assault with a vehicle.



Brian Symmes

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304

Cell: (803) 673-9437