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SC Front Pages – Monday, March 14, 2016

# The Post and Courier

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Monday, March 14, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

## District aims to put brakes on bus woes

Charleston County schools cut Durham's pay 10% because buses run late

BY PAUL BOWERS  
pbowers@postandcourier.com

Garrett Ziegler is off to the races at the end of every school day, darting through shortcuts in the hallways at Lating Middle School to claim one of the coveted spots on the school bus home.

Three, sometimes four students squeeze onto each of the bench seats, clutching bookbags and band instruments, until the bus reaches capacity and anyone who arrives too late has to wait for

another bus to arrive. Teachers enforce a strict no-running policy in the halls, but speed is of the essence.

Garrett's mother, Becky Ziegler, has been complaining to the district and its transportation contractor, Durham School Services, about late and overfilled buses since the start of the school year.

"It's still overcrowded, and if you don't get a spot, good luck," Ziegler said.

After fielding phone calls from irate parents for months, the Charleston County School District

is now playing hardball with Durham to get its buses running on time.

Since January, the district has been withholding 10 percent from monthly payments to Durham, which operates the local bus fleet, employs nearly all of the drivers and provides a portion of the buses. In January, that meant Durham missed out on \$137,565 from its invoice amount of \$1,375,650, according to documents provided by the district.

Please see **BUS**, Page A4



Bus breakdowns and a chronic driver shortage have plagued the Charleston County School District all school year.

## Is Mt. Pleasant comfy with 'granny cottages'?

Town Council to review rules as more accessory dwellings spring up



PHIL ZOLLER/STAFF

Homeowner Chad Besenfelder stands in the small dwelling he built as a rental unit on the back of his property in Mount Pleasant. Besenfelder points to a property across the street hoping to do the same.

BY DAVID SLADE  
dslade@postandcourier.com

**MOUNT PLEASANT** — As the backlash against rapid population growth and development continues in one of the nation's fastest-growing cities, Town Council plans to take a fresh look at rules allowing "granny cottages," the small houses officially called "accessory dwelling units."

### Inside

Despite awards, town accomplished little with workforce housing plan. **A6**

Six years ago, Mount Pleasant allowed residents in many parts of town to build a second, smaller home on their property. The idea was to provide convenient homes for relatives, and

add affordable housing options to what is one of the Charleston area's most expensive real estate markets. The median home price currently tops \$400,000.

"It was so people could have their elderly parents, or children coming home from college, stay there on their property, and have their privacy, as well," said Councilman Gary

Please see **COTTAGES**, Page A6

## Safety drives moped measure

Drunken riders a big worry as S.C. deaths hit record

BY ROBERT REHRE  
rehre@postandcourier.com

South Carolina still provides one legal option for driving drunk, and it's unclear if state lawmakers will put a cork in it this year.

The state's current moped laws are a lax and confusing hodgepodge that essentially allow those riding motorized scooters with smaller engines to operate as freely as bicyclists. As a result, thousands of moped drivers travel the state's roads without a license or insurance. The state has no way of tracking how many are on the roads, though most in law enforcement say their experience shows they're getting more popular. The state does track moped fatalities, which hit a record high last year.

State Sen. Larry Grooms, R-Charleston, said the General Assembly has

Please see **MOPED**, Page A5

### S.C. fatalities

Moped fatalities by year in South Carolina through Feb. 29.

Year	Fatalities
2012	37
2013	24
2014	32
2015	50
2016	4*
Total	147

—S.C. Department of Public Safety

## Trump defends his tone, says, 'We're not provoking'

BY BILL BARROW and THOMAS BEAUMONT  
Associated Press

**COLUMBUS, OHIO** — Showing few signs of trying to ease the nation's tense political atmosphere, Republican front-runner Donald Trump is standing by his antagonistic campaign rhetoric, rejecting any responsibility for violence at his rallies and defending his supporters who have been charged with assaulting protesters.

"We're not provoking. We want peace. ... We don't want trouble," he told a large crowd in Bloomington, Ill., the first of three comparatively docile events from Illinois to Florida as he campaigned ahead of another critical slate of large-state primaries. Trump's remarks came after a near riot Friday night in Chicago as Trump canceled a scheduled rally amid widespread altercations among his supporters, detractors and authorities.

Please see **TRUMP**, Page A10

### Inside



#### BUSINESS

New online booking platform for fishermen, charters. **E1**

#### LOCAL

Charleston County considers stormwater fee hike. **A3**

## Holding state lawmakers accountable a tough task

BY DAVID A. LIEB  
Associated Press

**JEFFERSON CITY, MO.** — State capitols are often referred to as "the people's house," but legislatures frequently put up no-trespassing signs by exempting themselves from public records laws.

That tendency was apparent when the Associated Press sought emails and daily schedules of legislative leaders in all 50 states. The request was met with more denials than approvals.

### Inside

Top S.C. legislators cite exemption from law. **A7**

Some lawmakers claimed "legislative immunity" from the public records laws that apply to most state and local officials. Others said secrecy was essential to the deliberative process of making laws. And some feared that

Please see **LAWMAKERS**, Page A7



Partly cloudy.  
High 80, Low 58.  
Complete 5-day  
forecast. **B8**

Bridge ..... B7  
Business ..... E1  
Classifieds ..... D1  
Comics ..... B6,7  
Crossword ..... B6, D4  
Editorials ..... A12  
Movies ..... B5  
Obituaries ..... B2  
Sudoku ..... B7  
Sports ..... C1  
Television ..... B4



**Pink Dot Beauty Bar**  
Half-off professional  
make-up application.  
See **A2**





**BASEBALL**  
 USC sweeps series  
 against Charleston  
 Southern with  
 2-0 victory, **5B**



**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**  
 Five things USC  
 women will watch  
 for on Selection  
 Monday, **1B**

MONDAY MARCH 14 2016

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TODAY: PARTLY CLOUDY HI 92 LO 58  
 YESTERDAY: HI 85 LO 63 PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 0.65"  
 FORECAST, 8C

# The State

## Ex-trooper who shot driver to appear in court

BY JOHN MONK  
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After more than 18 months, the case of a former S.C. Highway Patrol trooper accused of shooting an unarmed black man outside Columbia during a traffic stop over a seat belt violation could be headed to court this week.

Although 5th Circuit Solicitor Dan Johnson has clamped a lid of secrecy over the case of form-



Groubert



Jones

Traffic stop triggered events that drew US attention

Dash-cam video of shooting led to trooper's firing

Trooper had been in gun battle before that may have caused his reaction, people who know him say

er trooper Sean Groubert, multiple sources in South Carolina's legal and law enforcement community have told The State newspaper Johnson's prosecutors will call the case Monday

or soon thereafter. Groubert's lawyer, Barney Giese, a former 5th Circuit solicitor, also had no comment. "I can only say it is pending," Giese said recently.

Groubert is charged with assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature in the shooting of motorist Levar Edward Jones on Sept. 4, 2014. Groubert is Caucasian; Jones is African-

American. Among the possibilities of Monday's court action: Groubert could plead guilty hoping for a light sentence, or he could demand a trial by jury, which would involve multiple witnesses and take days or weeks. Jones' shooting attracted national attention and was one of a series of controversial police shootings of unarmed African-American men and youths that hit a fever pitch the month before, when a white officer fatally shot an unarmed 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. In that case, local and federal authorities decided there was not enough evidence to press charges against the officer. Jones' incident also heightened awareness of the importance of police video cameras in

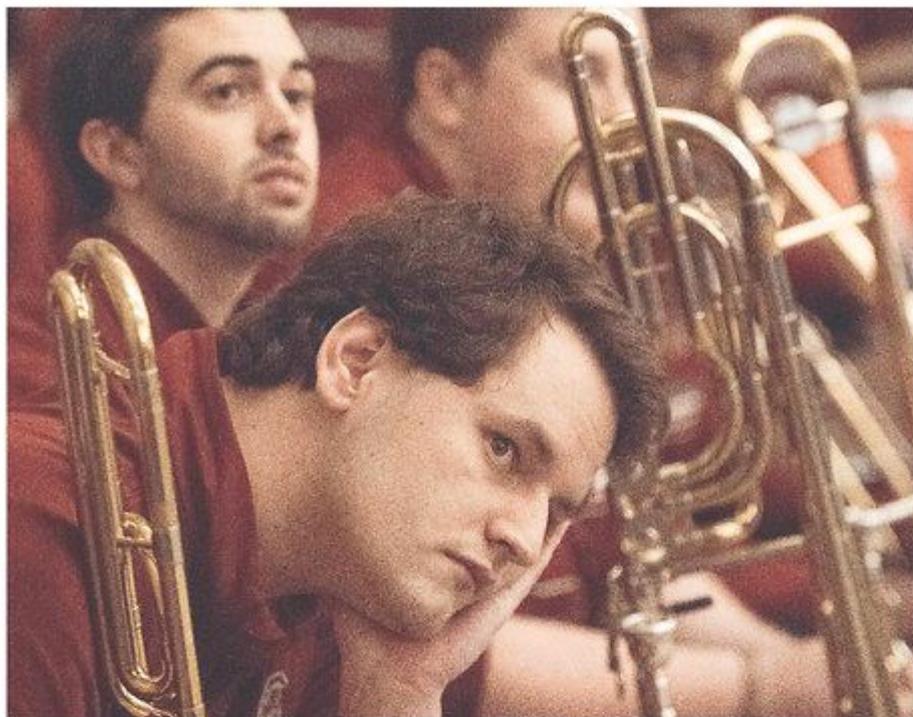
**ONLINE**  
**AT THESTATE.COM:**  
 Watch video of the shooting captured by the dash-board camera in the trooper's car

SEE SHOT, 7A

### USC MEN'S BASKETBALL

# BUBBLE BURST

South Carolina was not selected Sunday night despite a 24-8 record and third-place finish in the SEC. What happened?



University of South Carolina junior Bobby Morin watches the NCAA selection show Sunday evening at the USC Alumni Center in Columbia. South Carolina did not make the tournament field.



### ELECTIONS

## FILING OPENS THIS WEEK

Political races for elected posts in Richland and Lexington counties are about to shift into high gear, with the opening of filing this week, **3A**



### PALMETTO VOICES

## 50 YEARS AFTER KINGSTREE SPEECH

Michael Allen recalls listening to Martin Luther King's "March on Ballot Boxes" speech 50 years ago, and looks ahead to commemoration of that day. **1C**





NCAA TOURNAMENT, 1C  
**GAMECOCKS  
WON'T PLAY**



**METRO, 3A**  
Area school  
a finalist  
for \$50K

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**The Greenville News**

MONDAY,  
MARCH 14, 2016  
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

**USA TODAY** TRUMP, RIVALS BATTLE UNDER CLOUD OF VIOLENCE **PAGE 1B**



RON BARNETT/STAFF

A map of part of a proposed route for the Green Crescent Trail, showing comments written by workshop participants.

**Possible routes for new trail unveiled**

Public comments to help locate Clemson segment

RON BARNETT  
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Proposed routes for the Green Crescent Trail network in the Clemson area were unveiled this week, and planners are taking input from two public meetings and a survey to decide which trail segment to move ahead with first.

Comments from biking and walking enthusiasts and property owners along the suggested routes were listed on flip charts and handwritten onto maps that lined the walls of the Central Town Council chambers Thursday.

The team from Alta Planning + Design will use the public input to firm up the routes for a trail system that organizers envision connecting Clemson, Central and Pendleton, with tentacles extending to various parks, university facilities and other popular destinations.

"Just put an 'X' on the map if you don't want it going by your property," project manager Blake Sanders told the nearly 100 participants in one of two public sessions. "If you like it, you can put a smiley face."

The firm, which designed the Doodle Trail between Easley and Pickens, is about halfway through with a feasibility study for the Green Crescent that was funded by the cities of Clemson and Central as well as Clemson University and Southern Wesleyan University. The town of Pendleton is doing its own study but plans to link into the Green Crescent.

The feasibility study was necessary to get the ball rolling on the project, which is being driven by a group called Friends of the Green Crescent that hopes to secure a variety of state and federal grants and funding from the municipalities and universities involved.

Cost of the project hasn't been determined.

The next step is to choose one of the seven routes that would make up the trail network and start detailed design work. The choice will be gleaned from surveys that workshop participants filled out at Thursday's meeting, and comments made online at [www.greenvilleonline.com/online](http://www.greenvilleonline.com/online).

**'Unbecoming'**

Short film anthology by Greenville's Chris White brings together some local, Hollywood names

DONNA ISBELL WALKER [DIWALKER@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM](mailto:DIWALKER@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM)

Last summer, Greenville filmmaker Chris White was feeling restless. "Cinema Purgatorio," the semi-autobiographical feature film he produced with his wife Emily Reach White, was finished and entered into several film festivals, and they had hit a wall trying to raise money for their next feature.

So instead of waiting around to make one big film, the couple decided to make five smaller ones.

"We're were just feeling antsy, like we wanted to work," White said. "But it was just taking too long to get on-set with that other movie. So we thought, 'Hey, we're around town for the summer, why don't we just do this challenge where we try to make five short films within a 50-mile radius in Greenville.'"

See 'UNBECOMING', Page 2A

LAUREN PETRACCA

STAFF

Chris White, writer and director of the film

"Unbecoming," makes edits to music over his film with engineer Ben Scott, producer Emily Reach White, and composer Matt Morgan at Sit and Spin Studios.

PARIS MTN SCOUT

LEFT: Actor Michael Forest plays a senator with a secret in the film anthology "Unbecoming," created by local filmmaker Chris White. RIGHT: Actress Patti D'Arbanville stars in the film anthology "Unbecoming."



**Senators: Tax group's message deceptive**





# Morning News

MONDAY MARCH 14, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER

A p.m. shower or thunderstorm.  
High 84, low 55.  
DETAILS 2A

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75 cents

## Dawn of a new SC Senate majority?

BY JAMIE SELF  
The State  
jself@thestate.com

COLUMBIA — Driven by anti-gas-tax activists and the threat of primary opposition, a stunningly rare Republican majority delivered the S.C. Senate from its yearlong stalemate over a road-repair plan.

But one thing was missing from the GOP plan — the blessing of the Senate's most powerful Republican, President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman.

The night the GOP coalition made its move last week, the Florence Republican stood silently, listening as senators of both parties huddled and argued angrily, away from microphones and recording devices.

Republicans were giddy about the power of their newly found working majority. Meanwhile, Senate Democrats were complaining they had been strong-armed into a plan that only patched the state's crumbling roads for a year, not a long-term fix.

Republicans have held a majority of the Senate's seats for more than a decade. But that majority has been fractured among tea-party libertarians, establishment Republicans

See **SENATE**, Page 3A

## City of Florence Neighborhood revitalization on agenda

BY JOSHUA LLOYD  
Morning News  
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The Florence City Council will vote today on a second reading of an ordinance that would create a neighborhood revitalization overlay district to launch the city's initiative in revamping struggling, urban communities.

The city has done preliminary market research in Florence's north, northwest and east Florence neighborhoods in preparation for the initiative. The data collected provides an understanding of the neighborhoods' best potential for financial lenders and development.

Officials said many of the neighborhoods are historically significant to Florence and have experienced economic hardships because of trending disinvestment over the course of more than 20 years.

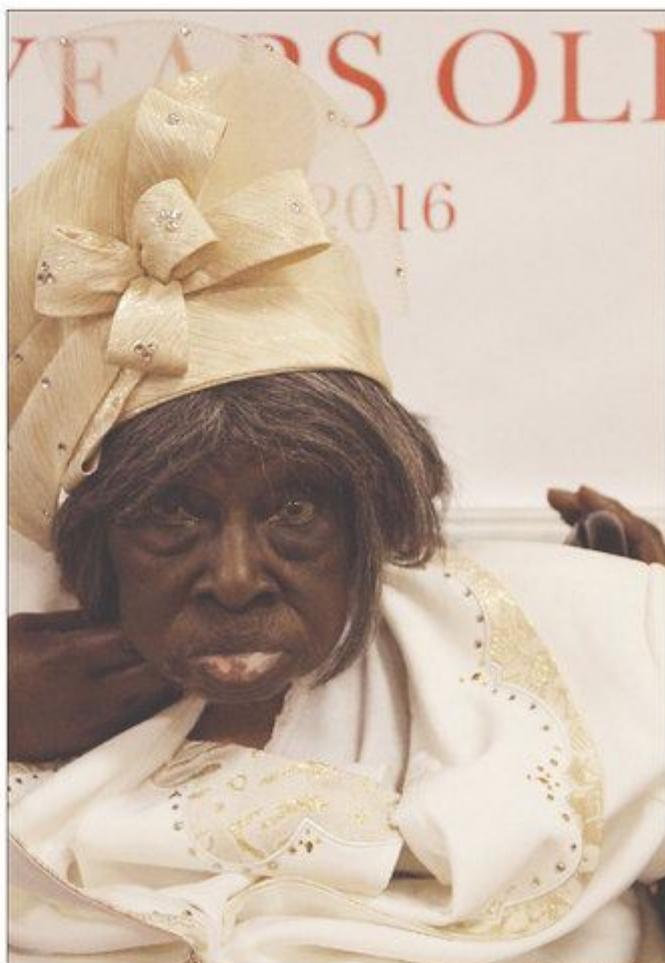
The city has already devoted \$3 million in tax dollars that will be devoted to a variety of neighborhood projects, including road and infrastructure improvements.

Officials have previously said this



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

## The matriarch



Louise Johnson wears a fancy hat for her 100th-birthday party.

Known as a family woman, Louise Johnson celebrates 100 years of giving

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN  
Morning News  
dswearingen@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — In her 100th year, Louise Johnson is celebrated as a giver and a hard worker.

But, perhaps of most importance, Johnson is a family woman.

When her husband died nearly 60 years ago, she became the sole provider for her eight children.

"She always said she had too many babies to get married. And she didn't put no man over us, because she didn't know how they would treat us," said Mary Timmons, her daughter and current caregiver. "My mom was a jewel. She was a virtuous woman."

To this day, Timmons said, her mother always thinks of her family first. At Christmastime, she gets a gift for everyone — a task that becomes exceedingly hard as the family grows. Johnson now has 22 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren and 12 great-great-grandchildren.

"What she would do, if she had to buy a pack of socks and take two out and wrap it so everybody could get something," Timmons said. "My momma didn't leave anybody out."

Johnson is the eldest member of Savannah Grove Baptist Church, where she served as a

See **MATRIARCH**, Page 3A

## Cauthen finds ease in second year of competition



BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN  
Morning News  
dswearingen@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — It has been easier for Jessica Cauthen in her second Biggest Loser competition.

She said she has done significantly better than last year, primarily by remembering that it is not all done at the gym. Cauthen sticks to her regimented meal plan and incorporates healthy eating into her daily routine.

"I mean, right now I'm the lightest that I've been in probably about five years, which is a big accomplish-



"The best is yet to come." Whenever she is working out, she looks down at her wrist and reminds herself of that fact.

"Especially in planks. ... I want to die, but the best is yet to come," she said, laughing.

Cauthen works as a caregiver for Comfort Keepers. She also has two children of her own.

When she is not caring for a patient, she is

McRae. He was also her trainer for last year's competition and summer shape-up, another program run by McLeod Health and Fitness.

While Cauthen could not choose a favorite exercise or workout regimen, she could quickly name her least favorite: Jacob's Ladder.

"I hate Jacob, and I hate his ladder," she said jokingly.

The competition takes hard work, determination and a desire to make a change, she said.

And in her second go-around, Cauthen feels she





MARCH MADNESS

Who's in? 1B  
Bracket 4B

MONDAY MARCH 14 2016

75¢

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HILTON HEAD ISLAND  
BLUFFTON



Partly cloudy  
74°/61° See 2A

# THE ISLAND PACKET

## GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

### SC legislators decline to provide emails

Lawmakers cite exemption from state public records law

Gov. Nikki Haley has no exemption, released requested information

Requests were made as part of Sunshine Week, which promotes government transparency

BY SEANNA ADCOX  
Associated Press

COLUMBIA

South Carolina's top legislators declined to provide emails and schedules requested by The Associated Press, citing the public records exemption the General Assembly carved for itself in state law.

Gov. Nikki Haley, who has no such exemption, released a



MORE INSIDE

Essay: Will First Amendment survive information age? 9A

detailed public schedule and provided access to more than

450 emails, though they show she conducts no business through government email subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Several hundred constituent emails to Haley contained a wide array of requests, complaints and commendations. But there was no correspondence with elected officials, Cabinet directors or other political players. There was also no substantive exchange with staff, as the vast majority of inter-office emails contained news clippings and weather reports.

Asked how Haley communicates, spokeswoman Chaney Adams said the office's legislative affairs team is in "constant contact" with legislators.

And "the governor frequently meets with elected officials,

SEE DECLINE, 9A



## POLITICS

### 2016 CAMPAIGN REMAINS 'TENSE'

Donald Trump stands by his rhetoric and defends his supporters who have been charged with assaulting protesters. 5A



Betsy Doughtie, the 2016 grand marshal in the Hilton Head Island St. Patrick's Day Parade, waves during the parade on Sunday.

## CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK'S DAY

### Hilton Head goes Irish with annual parade

Sunshine holds for afternoon event, which had plenty of floats, classic cars, dancers and bands

filled John Deere tractor to Sir Willie winking from the top of an BBC Heritage float

cluded plenty of traditional Irish notes, from dance companies to pipe and drum bands.

In the crowds, people wore the words "Kiss me, I'm Irish" on everything from pageant sashes to furry green hats and argued playfully about their heritage.

"(My mother-in-law) is a Flanagan, which is a wee bit Irish," said Jason Holliday of Hilton Head, as he and his wife relaxed alongside Roma Avenue



## STATE

### GOOD NEWS FOR PEACH LOVERS

Growers and agriculture officials say there was just enough cold weather this winter for a plentiful crop. 3A



## WORLD

### EXTREMISTS ATTACK 3 HOTELS

At least six armed men attacked beachgoers out-

--

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