

From: Taillon, Jeff
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Date: 8/15/2012 9:39:46 AM
Subject: S.C. Front Pages - Wednesday, August 15, 2012



WHAT'S BEST FOR THE BEAR?

Cottageville caretakers say pet didn't need rescuing.

Brian Hicks column, B1

The Post and Courier

THE SOUTH'S OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER • FOUNDED 1803

WEDNESDAY, August 15, 2012

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"I'm ready for it to be over with," Mayor Tim Goodwin said of the alcohol debate.

Folly voters left out

Council OKs booze ban, rejects referendum

BY SCHUYLER KROPE
skrope@postandcourier.com

FOLLY BEACH — Drinking on the beach is not coming back. Possibly ever.

In a surprise twist, City Council opted Tuesday night to endorse an outright ban on alcohol by the surf, rejecting the option to let the issue to island-wide vote Nov. 6.

The move stunned a crowded council chamber, where many of those in attendance didn't expect that the sought-after public referendum would fall out of contention.

The split was 3-3 when Mayor Tim Goodwin cast the deciding vote.

"I'm ready for it to be over with," Goodwin said afterward, adding that he foresaw a return to the problems of public drunkenness and rowdy behavior seen in abundance this year, if the referendum went the other way.

The ordinance needs two more

Please see FOLLY, Page A4



Coming Thursday

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PREVIEW: Check out the dynamic duos that could be key to their teams' success this season. In **Your Lowcountry**.



Chance of storms. High 92, Low 72. Complete 5-day forecast, B6

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Guilty plea in child starvation

9-month-old weighed less than his birth weight at time of death

BY ROBERT BEHRE
AND ANDREW KNAPP
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aknapp@postandcourier.com

Charles Lewis Gordon IV stood before a circuit judge Tuesday and spoke of how much he loved his 9-month-old son, Andrew.

Judge J.C. Nicholson ap-

peared skeptical and now must decide how much jail time Gordon and his wife, Ashley Nicole Gordon, should serve after Andrew was found starved to death two years ago in their Mount Pleasant home.

The pair pleaded guilty Tuesday to homicide by neglect, a charge that carries a



Charles Lewis Gordon IV and Ashley Gordon could face 20 years to life.

sentence of 20 years to life in prison.

Nicholson is expected to sentence them Thursday. Ashley Gordon, 28, and her 30-year-old husband sat somberly in the courtroom for a hearing that was expected to take 90 minutes but stretched to twice that long.

"I love Andrew. I always

have," Gordon told the judge in a halting voice as a photo of his son stood on the witness table. "It's hard to look at him without wanting to hold him again."

Nicholson interrupted Gordon to ask him why he did not see that his son was failing to

GUILITY from Page A4

Invasion of the fire ants



Fire ants are still a major problem for people who enjoy the outdoors in the Lowcountry.

The critters are stinging their way across the area

BY BO PETERSEN || bpeters@postandcourier.com

Fire ants are everywhere right now, building new mounds after they were flushed from their old mounds by recent rains.

That means trouble for anybody who stands still for very long outside without looking down.

Fire ants clamp their jaws on their prey and sting repeatedly, leaving blotchy, burning, itching sores and tiny blisters. Scratching just makes it worse.

"It feels like fire. The worst part is they crawl all over you and they all seem to sting at the same time," said Laurie Reid, S.C. Forestry Commission entomologist, who was stung several times while in the field Tuesday.

Please see ANTS, Page A5

Fire ant treatment

● Acetate insecticide "kills them almost immediately," said George Hyams of Hyams Garden Center, if applied right away to a new mound. Clemson Extension entomologists caution not to use acetate around vegetable gardens.

● Strychnine or hydramethylnon "bait" insecticides designed to kill the queen are not as effective as acetate, Hyams said.

● Less toxic insecticides are less effective, he said.

Killing off fire ant nests doesn't mean getting rid of them, and it doesn't stop more from coming.

"You have to stay with it, that's the big thing," Hyams said. "Just be persistent." As for burning them out with gasoline or shoveling one nest of nearby ants onto another to start a war, "all that's pretty dangerous," Hyams said. "And taking shovels of fire ants that are falling all over the place is not the way to go."



READ MORE
Go to postandcourier.com for reader remedies for fire ants.

Jetliner hits birds, returns to airport

No one injured; engine checked

BY DAVE MUNDAY
dmunday@postandcourier.com

What could have been a disaster turned out to be an inconvenience Tuesday when a plane flying out of Charleston International Airport hit a flock of birds and was forced to return to the runway.

A Delta regional jet from Charleston to New York was about 2 miles out of the airport and had reached 3,000 feet when it hit the flock, airport spokeswoman Flecky Beaman said. The Shuttle America plane returned to the airport to mechanics could check it for engine damage.

The 63 passengers on Delta Flight 5972 were put on other planes to continue their trip, according to Shuttle American spokesman Peter Kowalchuk.

It's not clear how long the passengers were delayed. The last Delta flight for New York left Charleston at 6 p.m.

The Embraer 170 left the airport at 2:34 p.m., and an unknown number of birds hit the right engine just after takeoff, Kowalchuk said. He could not

Please see PLANE, Page A4

McGrews: tryst never happened

BY GLENN SMITH
gsmith@postandcourier.com

A Ridgeville couple who lost their baby in an April dog mauling said their daughter never witnessed them engaging in sex with another woman or viewed homemade pornographic tapes because it didn't happen and such tapes don't exist, their attorney said.

State officials recently placed the girl, 7, and her 2-year-old brother in protective custody after she told a counselor that she had been exposed to sex acts and pornographic videos of her parents, Quintin and Chantel McGrew, according to a DeSchen County Sheriff's Office incident report.

The new allegations have not resulted in arrests.

Sheriff's Lt. Tony Phaner said Tuesday that detectives still are investigating the allegations, and he had no new developments to report.

Marilyn Mathews, a DSS spokeswoman, was away from her office and

Please see MCGREWS, Page A4

SAVINGS ON GROCERIES: START IN THE KITCHEN. **LIFE&STYLE**

Freshman find

USC tight end Jerrell Adams is the real deal. **C1**

The State

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2012 | THESTATE.COM

MAIN STREET

Student housing proposal advances

City board approves \$80 million conversion

By JEFF WILKINSON
jwilkinson@thestate.com

A student housing project planned for Main Street cleared a major hurdle Tuesday when Columbia's zoning appeals board gave the green light for a Chicago company to convert the former SCANA building.

The board approved the \$80 million proposal by Core Campus LLC to house 850 young tenants in the Palmetto Center after the city and the company presented a plan to make the adjacent city garage where the students will park safer by adding security guards, extra lighting and cameras.

At 21 stories, the building is one of the city's landmark high rises, but it has remained vacant since the energy giant and its 900 employees left in 2009 for a new headquarters complex in Cayce.

Some people view the central business district as unsafe, in large part because of panhandlers. But the Palmetto Center, which sits in the heart of a Main Street that is in the midst of a transformation, "has an opportunity to become a beacon of security and change the environment" of the street, zoning board

SEE DORMS PAGE A4

HOSPITALITY ASSOCIATION | EMBEZZLER SENTENCED

Duncan gets 2½ years, ordered to repay cash



Rachel Duncan, the former Hospitality Association accountant, was sentenced to prison Tuesday afternoon in U.S. District Court in Columbia. She also must pay restitution.

Judge says Sponseller's suicide was unfortunate but not a factor in sentencing

By NOELLE PHILLIPS
nphillips@thestate.com

In a handwritten letter to a federal judge, Tom Sponseller's widow pleaded for a harsh sentence for the woman who stole money from her husband's association, saying the woman's actions sent Sponseller "to his grave."

But U.S. District Judge Joseph Anderson

made it clear Tuesday that Rachel Duncan could not be held responsible for Sponseller's death because she could not have anticipated his suicide while she was embezzling money for online gambling.

"As unfortunate as it was, it will not be part of the sentencing today," Anderson

SEE DUNCAN PAGE A4

ONLINE

Read a copy of Meg Sponseller's letter to the judge and watch a video of Duncan arriving at the courthouse. At thestate.com

STATE WORKERS' INSURANCE

Suit: Budget board 'ignoring the law'

By ADAM BEAM
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A USC chemistry professor has sued some of the state's most powerful politicians, asking the courts to put to rest a lingering question in state government:

get and Control Board's 3-2 decision last week to make state workers pay more for their health insurance, starting next year.

The budget board's move, proposed by Gov. Nikki Haley and praised by some taxpayer groups,

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ELECTIONS 2012

Road to Romney win goes through N.C.

By TIM FUNK
and JIM MORRILL
tfunk@charlotteobserver.com
jmorrill@charlotteobserver.com

CHARLOTTE — Three days after he and his new running mate galvanized crowds in two N.C. cities,



worlds of NASCAR and business.

But it's hardly the last time North Carolina voters are going to see the Romney ticket.

Paul Ryan, the



CLEMSON FOOTBALL LINEMEN STEP UP



METRO Market loses slice to road

The Greenville News

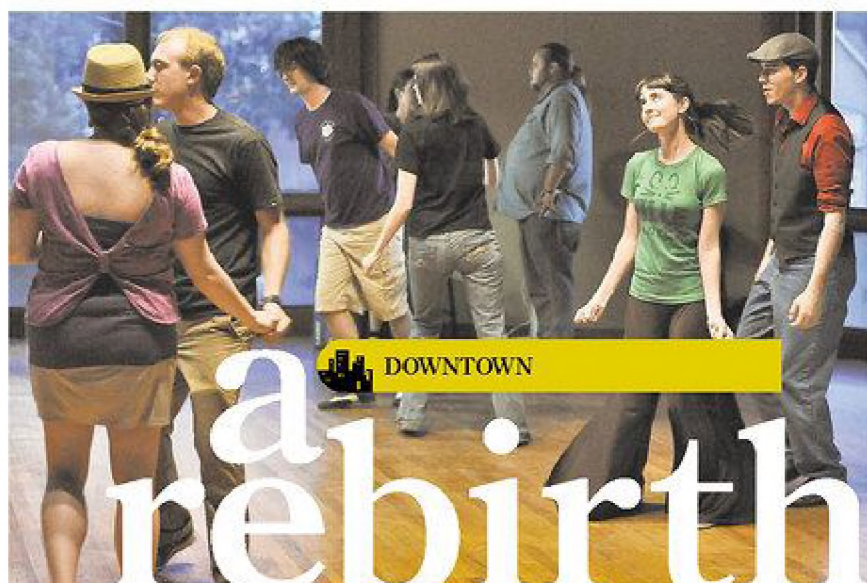
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WEDNESDAY,
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GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

METRO

High school basketball coaches raise concerns over recruiting by charter school, 1B

FINAL EDITION



DOWNTOWN

The Greenville Lindy Hoppers gather for dancing at the Sears Center. The city is working to overhaul its community centers to make them a more relevant service. MYKAL MCLEOD/STAFF

City takes steps to keep community centers alive

By Anna Lee
Staff writer
alee@greenvillenews.com

Twice before this community center has outgrown its confines. It was a log house for a time where Girl Scouts met, then a military barrack rescued from Donaldson Air Force Base.

This is the history that Nicholtown resident Yvonne Reeder tells of the Nicholtown Community Center to show how it's always been an integral part of life here.

Like most of Greenville's community centers, the brick building on Rebecca Street was built in the 1970s, in a style that can be best described as uniform and basic, with a classroom or two, kitchen and covered basketball court.

From the outside, on a gray weekday morning, it's not much to look at, sunk down at the bottom of a hill, across the street from a line of squat row houses. One lone street light hangs above a battered sidewalk. If not for the sign — Nicholtown Community Center — and the city emblem squeezed in next to the words, you would probably drive right by without noticing it.

But inside, there is much more happening. It's the second week of August, and summer camp is still in full swing.

Octavia Jones, the center's director, answers the phone with a cacophony of children's voices in the background. She sounds a little tired, but who can blame her? There was a field trip yesterday, another one today to Lakeside Water Park, and tomorrow the older boys are off to the movies while the younger kids go on a bike ride through the neighborhood.



Partnerships with outside groups, like the Greenville Lindy Hoppers, have enabled places like the Sears Center to extend their hours. Here, Andrew Copeland and Brooke Stephens practice their moves. MYKAL MCLEOD/STAFF

GreenvilleOnline.com

See what goes on at the Bobby Pearce Center's summer camp, and what role the center plays in the North Main community.

See CENTERS, Page 3A

Benefits case to get review

Fired workers were
OK'd for unemployment

By Tim Smith

Staff writer
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COLUMBIA — Top officials of the state's unemployment agency will have a chance today to tell lawmakers why 56 fired workers were approved initially for unemployment benefits this summer despite a law prohibiting those fired for misconduct from receiving any state benefits.

Sen. Kevin Bryant, an Anderson Republican who chairs a Senate subcommittee that has studied the issue of misconduct and unemployment benefits, said data received from the state Department of Employment and Workforce show officials gave initial approval for benefits for 56 workers fired for misconduct during the first week after the law was enacted.

"Some of them are extremely off the chart as far as logic goes," Bryant said. "We just want to know what has been done with these cases. How are they handling that?"

Adrienne Fairwell, agency spokeswoman, said claims are evaluated on a "case-by-case" basis. She said it would be inappropriate to comment on the 56 cases.

Fairwell said the agency gave Bryant's panel information on 518 claims for a one-week period in June.

Bryant said in one case a fired worker was using his cell phone on the job, against company policy.

"He had a conversation that was overheard by workers about a booty call and the guy was fired," Bryant said. "And he got full benefits. He didn't even disqualify for a few weeks."

Under the new law, workers fired for misconduct are disqualified for the full 20 weeks of unemployment benefits available to other jobless workers.

Specifically, the law says that misconduct is limited to "conduct evincing such willful and wanton disregard of an employer's interests as is found in deliberate violations or disregard of standards of behavior which the employer has the

See BENEFITS, Page 3A

Court to hear appeal in Haley case

Rainey says ethics suit
was improperly dismissed



The House Ethics Committee cleared the Republican gov-

2006-10 for personal gain — were not appropriate for state court. Manning said state ethics regula-

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York
Cougars' Lee Wright



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among best
in state . 1C**

**York marks
first 'Night
Out' . 1B**

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WEDNESDAY August 15, 2012

Rock Hill • South Carolina

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Hinton giving up council seat

Rock Hill City Council member to move outside Ward 1

By Anna Douglas
adouglas@heraldonline.com
Rock Hill City Council member Susie Hinton is giving up her seat as representative for much of western Rock Hill, the city announced Tuesday.
Hinton plans to move outside Ward 1, city spokeswoman Katie Quinn said, mak-

ing her no longer eligible to represent the district, which includes the Sunset Park, Friedheim Road, Hasley Road and Boyd Hill neighborhoods.
Efforts to reach Hinton for comment were unsuccessful Tuesday.
"Even though my time on (the) council will be coming to an end, I plan to continue

serving my community in a different capacity," she said in a statement released by the city.
"I feel blessed to have worked with my fellow council members, the residents of Ward 1 and the community as a whole."
A special election to fill the nonpartisan seat must occur on the 13th Tuesday after



Hinton

the date the vacancy occurs, said Wanda Hemphill, York County's elections director.
Elections officials will set an election date after they receive formal notice of Hinton's resignation, she said.
State law allows Hinton to continue serving until a replacement can

be elected, Quinn said.
Hinton will "certainly be missed," Mayor Doug Echols said. "She not only represented her ward, but she also thought about the interest of the community at large."
During her four and a half years on the council, Hinton has been an "independent thinker," Echols said. "She does her home-

See HINTON • 4A

Rock Hill crash damages special sign



ANDY BURRIS • aburris@heraldonline.com
An unknown driver smashed the Boyd Hill neighborhood sign and the Juanita Goggins Highway sign on S.C. 5. Police are investigating. Workers with the S.C. DOT repair the Juanita Goggins sign Monday afternoon.



Andrew
Dys
Columnist

At the S.C. Department of Transportation sign shop, workdays are spent replacing and fixing road signs that are clipped, run over and smashed by drivers.
But the most recently smashed York County sign was not just any sign - it bears the name of a political trailblazer in the neighborhood she called home.
A hit-and-run driver in Rock Hill damaged a sign honoring the first-ever black woman to serve in the

General Assembly, the late Juanita Goggins.
To make matters worse, the driver damaged an expensive sign at the entrance to the Boyd Hill community that elderly neighbors do not have the money to replace.
The signs are on Rock Hill's West Main Street at the corner of Bynum Avenue, just west of Cherry Road. Police are investigating, but it remains unclear who ran over the green "Juanita Goggins Highway"

sign and cracked in half the wooden "Boyd Hill" neighborhood sign.
Goggins, a teacher, was first elected in 1974 and re-elected in 1976 and 1978 before illness ended her political career in 1980. She died in 2010.
The stretch of West Main Street between Cherry Road and Heckle Boulevard was named in her honor a year before she died.
Her ex-husband, retired Rock Hill dentist Dr. Horace Goggins, still

lives at the western limit of the neighborhood. An identical sign for eastbound motorists stands in front of the Goggins home as a proud reminder of Juanita Goggins' service.
"It is a real shame that someone would hit the other sign," Goggins said. "And to make it worse, whom ever did it did not stop and tell anyone. That is what hurts the

See DYS • 4A

Indian Land grad dies in motorcycle accident

By Shawn Cetrone
scetrone@heraldonline.com
Thomas Russell Harris, a 2009 Indian Land High School graduate who stood out for his stellar grades, athletic ability and outgoing personality, died Saturday in a motorcycle accident.
Authorities said Harris, 21, was riding a motorcycle on U.S. 521 when he drove off the road and hit a culvert pipe, which carries water from one side of the road to the other.
The S.C. Highway Patrol reported the accident over the weekend, but Harris' identity wasn't released until Tuesday.
Harris was taken to a Carolinas Medical Center in Waxhaw, N.C., where he died from injuries related to the accident.

Lancaster County Coroner Mike Morris said he is awaiting specifics from medical officials.
Harris was well known and adored by many on campus, Indian Land High Principal David Shamble said.
"You can throw any good adjective in there you want," Shamble said. "It's true. What a great young man. He was going places. The world was his oyster."

At Indian Land High, Harris was ranked second in his class. He was in ROTC, wrestled and played football. He also was an Eagle Scout with Troop 275 and a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church.

"If you put together all of those traits that a new parent would love for their child to have, he has them," Shamble said.

In 2009, Harris told the Fort Mill Times that he dreamed of being a United States Marine.

He graduated from Indian Land High that summer with acceptance letters from all three U.S. military academies - the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., the Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., and the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Harris received recommendations from former U.S. Rep. John Spratt and U.S. Sens. Jim DeMint and Lindsey Gra-

See HARRIS • 4A

Duncan sentenced to 2½ years, ordered to repay stolen money

Judge says Sponseller's suicide not a factor in sentencing decision

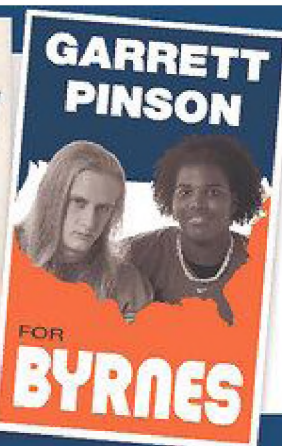
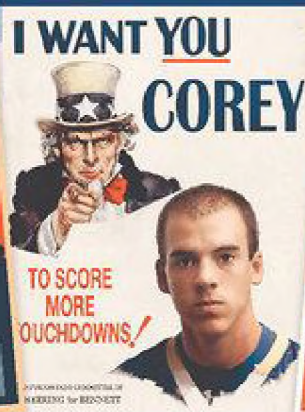
By Noelle Phillips
nophillips@theherald.com
In a handwritten letter to a federal judge, Tom Sponseller's widow pleaded for a harsh sentence for the woman who stole money from her husband's association, saying the woman's actions sent Sponseller "to his grave."
But U.S. District Judge Joseph Anderson made it clear Tuesday that Rachel Duncan could not be held responsible for Sponseller's death because she could not have anticipated his suicide while she was embezzling money for online gambling.

"As unfortunate as it was, it will not be part of the sentencing today," Anderson said.
Anderson sentenced Duncan to 2½ years in federal prison as her punishment for wire fraud and for filing a false tax return related to the theft from the S.C. Hospi-

tality Association. She also was ordered to repay the association \$367,508 in restitution and to pay the IRS \$85,333 in back taxes.

Duncan, 42, of Lexington, will report to a federal prison within the next couple of months, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Win-

See DUNCAN • 4A



Inside today

'Meet the Candidates,' the Herald-Journal's 2012 high school football preview edition. Go to the Spartanburg Herald-Journal Sports Facebook page to vote for your favorite candidate. Polls open at noon.

Herald-Journal

WEDNESDAY

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IN A HURRY

5 Things to read today



Just add tomatoes

For many Southern gardeners, tomato season is in full swing. This week, chef Season Stepp uses tomatoes to make a savory danish that's a lot like an open-faced sandwich on a croissant. **PAGE E1**

Filling empty shelves

Tuesday, Food Lion dropped off \$5,000 worth of nonperishable store-brand food products to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina in Spartanburg. **PAGE C1**

Jolly re-elected

Gaffney Mayor Henry Jolly held off two challengers Tuesday night, avoiding a runoff after garnering about 57 percent of the vote. **PAGE C1**

The historic night

Oakbrook Prep Knights will face Laurens Academy to begin the regular season at 6:30 Friday night at Hart Field. It will be first game in school history for the football program. **PAGE B1**

Voyage a success

Dozens of supporters greeted Jenn Gibbons when she rowed into Chicago, determined to complete her 1,500-mile trip around Lake Michigan despite having been sexually assaulted aboard her boat during her voyage. **PAGE A4**

Retail spending up in July

Report offers hope that economy on the rebound

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Americans increased their retail spending in July by the most in five months, opening their wallets after a frugal spring and offering hope that the slumping economy might rebound in the second half of the year.

Retail spending rose in every major category, from electronics and sporting goods to furniture, building supplies and garden equipment. The report from the government followed one earlier this month that

showed hiring strengthened in July.

Overall retail sales rose 0.8 percent from June to July, the Commerce Department said. It was the sharpest increase since February, and it followed three months of declines.

The stepped-up spending was evident in a flurry of retail earnings reports for the second quarter, which ended in late July.

Home Depot, the nation's largest home improvement retailer, said healthy sales of paint, bathroom accessories and kitchen installations helped lift its net income 12 percent.

Macy's raised its annual earnings guid-

◆ SEE RETAIL PAGE A8



A shopper in New York passes a sign for discounted clothing last month. U.S. retail sales rose in July by the largest amount in five months.

"It's a place where every child can grow and every child's expected to succeed. ... I see that every child has a way here."

TOMIKA WHITMIRE, teacher at Spartanburg Charter School



Contest generates new crop of toilets

Foundation seeks sanitary ways to deal with human waste

By DONNA GORDON BLANKINSHIP
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — These aren't your typical loos. One uses microwave energy to transform human waste into electricity. Another captures urine and uses it for flushing. And still another turns excrement into charcoal.

They are part of a Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation competition to reinvent the toilet for the 2.5 billion people around the world who don't have access to modern sanitation.

Scientists from around the world have taken up the challenge, and the foundation announced some projects Tuesday that will be getting more money to take their ideas from



Gates



Progressing
the potty, **8A**

Inside today's edition

Taste: Area farmers having a good season, **6A**

Sports: Making ends meet at McCormick, **1B**

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2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

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INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 94, NO. 107

Certified Several petition candidates OK'd to run in November's election

By CHRIS TRAINOR
ctrainor@indexjournal.com

The Greenwood County Election Commission officially certified petition candidacies for a number of Greenwood political hopefuls.

The commission met Tuesday morning at Park Plaza to consider

petition candidates, some of whom were caught up in the recent statement of economic interest form filing fracas that came in the wake of a pair of state Supreme Court rulings.

Greenwood petition candidacies certified Tuesday morning included:

■ Angie Woodhurst — Greenwood County Clerk of Court.

■ Felicia Moton — Greenwood County Clerk of Court.

■ Sonny Cox — Greenwood County Coroner.

■ Mike Rakes — Greenwood County Council District 4.

■ Steve Brown — Greenwood County Council District 5.

■ Bob Fisher — Greenwood

County Council District 7.

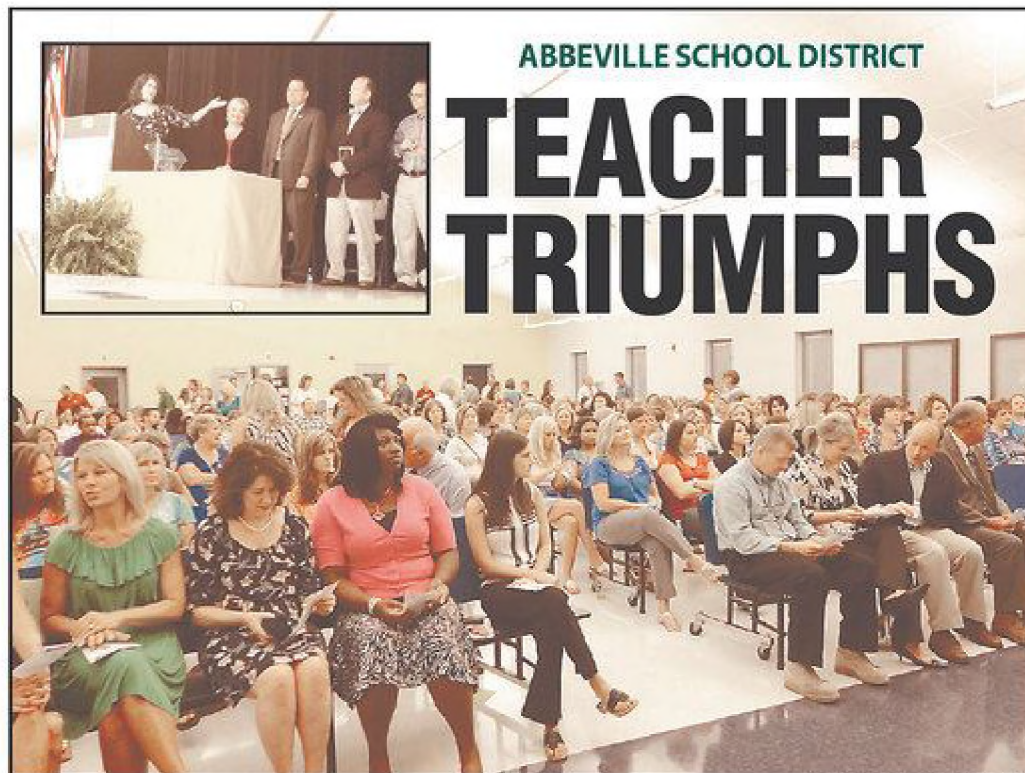
■ Norval Davis — Soil commissioner.

■ Bob Merritt — State House District 13.

Last week, a judge upheld the Republican candidacies of Woodhurst and Fisher, and the Democratic candidacy of Moton. As such,

county director of elections and voter registration Connie Moody said those candidates' names could appear twice on November's ballot, once as a member of their respective party and once as a petition candidate.

See **CERTIFIED**, page 4A



ABBEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

TEACHER TRIUMPHS

PHOTOS BY MICHELLE LAXER / INDEX JOURNAL

Abbeville County educators fill the Wright Middle School cafeteria for Tuesday's teacher opening ceremony. Key figures from the district spoke and the district teacher of the year was announced. **INSET:** Abbeville County's District Teacher of the Year, Joni McCaslan, thanks fellow educators for their inspiration during Tuesday's opening ceremony for teachers. McCaslan was named district teacher of the year during the ceremony.

McCaslan named District Teacher of the Year during welcoming ceremony

By MICHELLE LAXER
mlaxer@indexjournal.com

Barely a day into the new school year, Joni McCaslan is already off to a bright start.

McCaslan, a teacher at Diamond Hill Elementary School, was named 2012-13 district teacher of the year for Abbeville County, a recognition that brought her to tears

"You've been my inspiration and my help. I'm just so humbled."

— Joni McCaslan

Abbeville School District Teacher of the Year

at Tuesday's opening ceremony for teachers.

After receiving her award in front of an audience of her colleagues, McCaslan shared a few words, saying she was undeserving of the honor.

"You've been my inspiration and my help. I'm just so humbled,"

McCaslan said, gesturing to the other teachers gathered at Wright Middle School. "And I say that the teachers of the year are here. They're

all here, right here, facing me."

The eight other teachers of the year, one from every Abbeville County school, were also presented plaques during the opening ceremony. Nick Hyde, former director of the Abbeville County Career Center, was named the 2012-13 principal of the year.

The awards and opening ceremony were a strong kickoff to another

See **TEACHER**, page 4A

■ ABBEVILLE CITY

Council changes siren use

By FRANK BUMB
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ABBEVILLE — After much debate, Abbeville City Council passed a motion to change the operation of the fire department's siren by a vote of 6-3.

The siren was previously blown any time firefighters left the station on a call. Now, the siren will only be blown in case of grave emergencies such as a man-made or natural disaster, and severe weather such as a tornado.

Councilmen Delano Freeman and Doyle Kidd brought

See **SIREN**, page 3A

■ COURTHOUSE

Council discusses re-roofing

Project would be paid for with bond, capital asset funds

By CHRIS TRAINOR
ctrainor@indexjournal.com

Greenwood County is moving ahead with plans to re-roof Greenwood County Courthouse.

County Council discussed the matter Tuesday during its finance and administration committee meeting at Park Plaza.

Assistant county engineer

See **RE-ROOFING**, page 4A



GCSO takes drug battle to Post 20

Officials show American Legion members threat of narcotics

By MATT BRUCE
mbruce@indexjournal.com

Standing before a table filled with ordinary

Legion Post 20 to raise awareness on the changing face of the region's drug culture. That change has amounted to a growing number of homemade designer drugs, such as metham-





Morning News

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 15, 2012

**TODAY'S
WEATHER**

Sunny, possible t-storms,
high 92, low 67
DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

New Darlington fire chief settling in

Cavanaugh pegged after Stone's sudden retirement

BY DWIGHT DANA
Morning News
ddana@florencenews.com

DARLINGTON — The sign above the door on newly minted Darlington Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh's office says it all: "Start, the Rest is Easy."

And that's just what Cavanaugh is

trying to do. He has been taking it a day at a time since being named interim chief and then chief earlier this month.

"I don't think it's hit yet," Cavanaugh said during an interview in his office at the Darlington Fire Department. "But everybody has been supportive and encouraging."

Cavanaugh took over for 50-year veteran Jim Stone, who retired June 30. Stone had served as chief since 1984 but retired amid an investigation

by the S.C. Law Enforcement Division into Stone's improper use of inmate labor. SLED has since been charged Stone with one count of misconduct in office.

"I am getting plenty of support from Chief Stone," Cavanaugh said. "My confidence is building each day I'm on the job. That's the way Chief Stone said it would be."

"In some ways it's been like a

See **CHIEF**, Page 8A



New Darlington Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh (right) and Lt. Charles Baily look over old photographs of the Darlington Fire Department on Tuesday. Cavanaugh takes over after Chief Jim Stone's retirement.

COME ON DOWN



Beverly Wilkes looks over S.C. Treasurer Curtis Loftis' iPad as they search the state database for unclaimed property during the Palmetto Payback Hometown Tour event Tuesday at Bazen's Family Restaurant. The event is one of several stops the Office of State Treasurer makes routinely throughout the state to help people find out if they have unclaimed property in the form of old taxes, insurance policies, bank accounts or inheritances that have been turned over to the state. South Carolina currently has \$300 million in unclaimed property and is searchable online.

Unclaimed money if name is right

Treasurer's 'show' in Florence part of SC tour

BY GAVIN JACKSON
Morning News
gjackson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The S.C. Office of State Treasurer returned \$12.6 million to people during fiscal year 2011 and with one month down already for fiscal year 2013, the office is hard at work finding the owners of unclaimed millions.

The \$300 million in unclaimed prop-

See **MONEY**, Page 8A



Treasury intern Bret Cunningham searches names for Faye Burgess as fellow intern Kate Roddey helps another person during the Palmetto Payback Hometown Tour event Tuesday at Bazen's Family Restaurant.

State worker sues

Insurance increase for public workers challenged in court

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A University of South Carolina professor has filed a class-action lawsuit against a state panel for raising public workers' health insurance premiums in spite of lawmakers' agreement to foot the bill in the state budget.

The lawsuit by Thomas Bryson, a USC chemistry professor and graduate studies director, alleges the State Budget and Control Board lacked the authority to raise employees' premiums. Legislators agreed in the state budget to provide money for agencies, school districts and public colleges to fully cover the premium hikes.

But Gov. Nikki Haley, chairwoman of the board, convinced a majority last week to disregard the budget and split the cost of the hikes between employers and workers. The board voted 3-2 to raise rates on both by 4.6 percent starting Jan. 1.

On average, agencies will pay an extra \$19 monthly, while employees and retirees will pay \$7 more. Specific amounts by plan are not yet determined.

"It's not about the money," Bryson's attorney, Michael Medlock of Edgefield, said Tuesday. "It's about the principle of law and following the rule of law. The issue is government taking the proper steps and doing things right."

The lawsuit filed Monday in Richland County court seeks to represent the more than 234,000 public workers and

See **LAWSUIT**, Page 5A

Florence 1 looking for 2 principals at tricky time

Job shakeup, resignation leaves Moore, Timrod with interim principals at both

INSIDE

» Still time to register for back to

South Florence principal Neal Vincent will take her old post as director of secondary education, meeting the school board turned down the top candidate and approved Sturkey for the other



Odd



Top amateurs
will get look
at Orangeburg
Country Club
Sports, B4

LUNCH LIFT
Chefs dream up makeovers
for midday school meals, TASTE, A10



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2012

The Times and Democrat

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Witness Ricky Gibson, at right, points out an incident location on a map for prosecutor Don Sorenson during testimony Tuesday in the trial of Julian Young, 17, of Holly Hill. Young is charged with the April 2010 murder of Johnathan Bailey in what prosecutors are calling a drug deal turned robbery.

CHRISTOPHER HURT/T&D

Victim: 'I'm going to die'

Trial opens for 1 of 3 suspects in 2010 murder on SCSU campus

By RICHARD WALKER
T&D Staff Writer

Scared and afraid of dying, that's how a police officer described Johnathan Bailey's last moments of life after being shot at close range.



Young

"He was frantic; he was scared. He was very, very scared," Sgt. Kendra Williams of the South Carolina State University police told the court Tuesday.

Julian Young, 17, of Holly Hill, went on trial Tuesday for murder in what prosecutors call a

drug deal turned robbery.

"Greed with a bunch of opportunity sometimes leads to bad results," prosecutor Harrison Bell said in his opening arguments. "In this case, it led to deadly results."

Prosecutors contend that late on April 15, 2010, Bailey was called to make a drug deal on the campus of S.C. State after another dealer didn't have the amount of marijuana requested.

When the transaction went bad, a fatally wounded Bailey managed to speed away from the scene, only to crash into a Russell Street residence used as an office space by SCSU.

SCSU constable and investigator Dustin Johnson testified that in the parking lot of Queen's Hall, a married students' housing complex, he found a \$50 bill and two bags of what looked like marijuana. A tire mark was near the items, he said.

At the Russell Street residence where Bailey's car had crashed, a bullet fragment was found on the ground about a foot and a half

from the driver's door, Johnson said. More packages containing the marijuana-like substance were found inside the vehicle.

The state's strongest witness Tuesday was Ricky Gibson, a former S.C. State freshman who testified he set up the drug deal that night.

Gibson said he got into dealing drugs after meeting Bailey during his first semester.

On the afternoon Bailey was shot and killed, Gibson said he was approached by four subjects about selling them a substantial amount of marijuana. He said he only moved between \$10 and \$20 worth at a time. They wanted more, so Gibson said he called Bailey.

The first meeting didn't pan out, and the subjects called him again, Gibson said. He said he called Bailey to set up another meeting just after 11 p.m. This time the subjects picked him up and took him with them to the meeting at Queen's Hall, Gibson said.

When Bailey drove up, he and

two subjects got out of their car, Gibson said. He said the quality of the marijuana came into dispute, and the subjects didn't want it.

Standing near the rear of Bailey's Oldsmobile, Gibson said he heard Bailey rev the engine and saw him throw the vehicle into reverse.

"As his tires (spun) out, you hear a 'pop,'" Gibson said. "I didn't know if it was a tire or what."

Gibson said he ran off. He said he later tried to call Bailey but got no answer.

When asked, Gibson pointed at Young, identifying him as the man he saw leaning into Bailey's car who he last saw speaking with Bailey.

Under cross examination, defense attorney Virgin Johnson attacked Gibson's credibility.

"Ricky, I want to get something straight up front," he said. "You are a drug dealer, right?"

"Was," Gibson said.

Johnson began a barrage of

See TRIAL, A6

Legislature, not governor, will make call on Medicaid

By SEANNA ADCOX
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Gov. Nikki Haley and her administration have emphatically said "no" to expanding Medicaid in South Carolina, but whether the state agrees to the federal plan to expand coverage to more low-income adults is ultimately not up to her.

That decision rests with the Legislature.

While the Republican leaders of the House and Senate generally oppose the idea, it's not guaranteed that lawmakers will reject the expansion — especially considering the contentious relationship between the Republican governor and the chamber's GOP majorities.

Related stories

■ "Working poor" in South Carolina and four other states will "fall through the cracks" if their governors reject federal plan to extend Medicaid coverage, A6

■ A professor has filed a class-action lawsuit over increased health insurance premiums for state employees, A7

■ Governor ultimately will lose battle over state employee health insurance premiums, but will win political support, Editorial, A8

Both House Speaker Bobby Harrell and Senate President Pro Tem John Cowson said they haven't yet discussed the issue with their members, noting the U.S. Supreme Court's decision came down as the legislative session ended. But it's expected to be hotly debated during the budget process next year. The expansion plans of the federal law derided by Republicans as "Obamacare" are due to start in 2014.

See MEDICAID, A6

Begin planning for fire district outside city, Wimberly says

By PHIL SARATA
T&D Staff Writer

Studying the process required to create a new county fire district outside the city of Orangeburg "has to be started," Orangeburg County Councilman Harry Wimberly said Monday during the regular council meeting.

"It will take some time," he added. "I really don't know why this was not done when we started the county fire system. Then everyone would have had it. The first thing to do is to see what it takes to get that unincorporated area

ONLINE

From laptops to steel drums,
OCSD3 sets tone for new year

By MARTHA ROSE BROWN



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