

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
To:
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Subject: SC Front Pages – Wednesday, June 1, 2016

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The Post and Courier

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Wednesday, June 1, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Lucas: Haley, Senate failing S.C. on roads

Senators later send amended measure back to House

BY GAVIN JACKSON
gjackson@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — Hours after S.C. House Speaker Jay Lucas blasted Gov. Nikki Haley and the state Senate over delays on a roads bill, senators sent an amended roads measure back to the House after behind-the-scenes hand-wringing over reforms.

Senate Republicans used the debate that ran late Tuesday over S.C. State

Palmetto Politics
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University loan repayments as leverage to spur action on the roads bond bill and to change how S.C. Department of Transportation commission members are appointed. Senators

spent more than five hours on the roads discussion, most of which was done in private.

"We have two legislative days left and if a roads bill is not passed before the end of this session it is not this body's fault," Lucas said earlier in the day in his tirade.

"It is the fault of the Senate and the governor," he added. "They will have

Please see **ROADS**, Page A6



Speaker of the House Jay Lucas said the Senate and Gov. Nikki Haley "will have failed ... millions of South Carolinians" by not passing roads legislation by the end of the session.

FILE: GRACE BEAHM/STAFF

Celebrating milestones



GRACE BEAHM/STAFF

Seniors from James Island Charter High School greet Harbor View Elementary students as the school celebrates the seniors' big milestone and its graduating fifth-graders on Tuesday. The high school seniors, all former students at Harbor View, were showered with confetti by the children during the Harbor View Clap-Off. The school also was helping three teachers celebrate their retirement. To read more about the senior walk, see Page A5. To see more photos, go to postandcourier.com/galleries.

S.C. ethics reform deal close to passage

Independent panel would investigate

BY MAYA T. PRABHU
mprabhu@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — In an effort to bring trust back into the Statehouse, members of the S.C. House and Senate are poised to agree on legislation that would create an independent panel to investigate lawmakers accused of wrongdoing.

"We've always maintained that (ethics investigations) came solely within the province of the Legislature," said Judiciary Chairman Sen. Larry Martin, R-Pickens. "So I think it's a huge departure from the old way of doing business and it reflects a pretty significant change in attitude over here regarding ethics complaints."

Members of a joint House-Senate committee will now take the wording to their respective bodies, where each will need to vote on accepting the changes. That comes with only two days left in the 2016 legislative session. The committee will meet again Wednesday morning to finalize the compromise.

Among the significant changes reached Tuesday is creating a new

Please see **ETHICS**, Page A6

Homicide tally rises in N. Chas.

Weekend shootings bring 2016 toll to 14

BY MELISSA BOUGHTON
and DAVE MUNDAY
mboughton@postandcourier.com
dmondays@postandcourier.com

A father wounded by gunfire while walking to his car at a children's birthday party at Chuck E. Cheese. A man visiting Charleston shot dead in the parking lot of a hotel near the Charleston Area Convention Center. Another man killed during an argument at an apartment complex.

It was a violent holiday weekend in North Charleston, adding to an already growing homicide tally expected to surpass last year's. Activists warn the weekend gun violence is foreshadowing a bloody summer. "There are more guns on the streets now than there have ever been at any other time," said Pastor Thomas Ransom. "Summer is coming. We already got a glance this weekend of what's going to be like, and it's going to get worse."

Please see **SHOOTING**, Page A6

Apartments may be lost to hotel boom

Affordable housing main issue for Meeting Street zoning debate

BY DIANE KNICH
dknich@postandcourier.com

The city of Charleston soon will consider another new mega hotel development on the peninsula, one that likely will draw controversy because it would tear down a 159-unit complex of relatively affordable apartments.

The city's Board of Zoning Appeals next week will begin its five-step evaluation process to determine if the 300-room hotel at 411 Meeting St., proposed by developer Michael Bennett's Bennett Meeting Street LLC, is appropriate for the neighborhood and should be granted a special exception, said Jacob Lindsey, the city's planning director.

Such an exception would allow the project to move forward to the design and construction stages.

The seven-member board requires the developer to demonstrate several things, such as proof that the new hotel wouldn't dramatically increase traffic, that it would increase pedestrian activity and would have access to public transportation.



FILE: DREW BUNNELL/STAFF

The Courtyards at 411 Meeting St. is a 159-unit complex that could be torn down if a new hotel gets the green light to move forward.

And under the city's current zoning rules, Bennett also must demonstrate that the hotel will not negatively affect the housing stock.

"That's going to be the issue on this one," Lindsey said.

The Courtyards at 411 Meeting

Please see **HOTEL**, Page A6

Inside

BUSINESS

Blackbaud announcement planned at site of African-American museum. **B1**



FOOD

Crab crack tradition thrives at some area bars. **D1**

SPORTS

Neck injury will sideline Gamecocks' Skai Moore for 2016 football season. **C1**

WORLD

U.N.: Sexual transmission of Zika virus more common than first thought. **A10**

If you go

WHAT: Charleston Board of Zoning Appeals meeting to consider a special exception to allow a 300-room hotel at 411 Meeting St.
WHEN: 5:15 p.m. June 7
WHERE: 2 George St.



Chance of storms.
High 87, Low 70.
Complete 5-day
forecast. **B10**

Bridge ... B9 Crosswords ... B1E4 Movies ... B7
Business ... B1 Editorials ... A8 Obituaries ... B4
Classifieds ... D1 Food ... D3 Sports ... C1
Comics ... B8-9 Local ... A2 Television ... B6



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USC BASKETBALL
Suspended junior
Marcus Stroman
to transfer, 1B



USC FOOTBALL
Neck injury sidelines
Skai Moore for 2016
season, 1B

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TODAY: PARTLY CLOUDY HI 90 LO 69
YESTERDAY: HI 90 LO 75 PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 0"
FORECAST, 8C

The State

Revenge killing gets man life in prison, no parole

BY TIM FLACH
tflach@thestate.com

A revenge killing over the death of a friend has landed a 27-year-old Cayce man in prison for the rest of his life.

Michael Sulier III was sentenced Tuesday to life without parole after the former construction worker pleaded guilty to what Lexington County prosecutors say was a plot to avenge the death of Sulier's close friend, allegedly at the hands of the dead man's brother.

Circuit Judge Knox McMa-



Adam Berry

Prosecutors said Michael Sulier III, of Cayce, plotted in advance to kill Adam Berry

Berry's body was found in a burned car in Orangeburg County

hon imposed the sentence after Sulier admitted shooting Adam Berry, 22, near Gaston on March 4, 2015, and then setting Berry's car on fire in Orangeburg County with him inside. Berry's younger brother, Nicholas, is awaiting trial in the earlier killing of Sulier's friend, Jamie Galloway, 24, authorities

said. It's clear that Sulier "was lying in wait in plain view," Judge McMahon said during a hearing at the Lexington County judicial center. "You were toying with the victim viciously."

Galloway was fatally stabbed during a party at a Pine Ridge

home in May 2014 while fighting with the Berry brothers, prosecutors said. Nicholas Berry was 17 when he was charged.

Sulier's threats since then against the Berry brothers have led to Nicholas Berry being jailed separately from other Lexington County jail inmates until his trial.

Sulier repeatedly told acquaintances that killing Adam Berry "was his top priority" after Sulier got out of prison on unrelated charges, said assistant 11th Circuit solicitor Su-

SEE REVENGE, 2A



TIM DOMINICK, tdominick@thestate.com

Michael Sulier III pleaded guilty in a revenge killing of Adam Berry because, he says, Berry's brother killed Sulier's friend.

ONLINE

THESTATE.COM: Video from the sentencing of Michael Sulier III

Senate endorses roads deal

Deal gives governor more control of state Transportation Department

Senate acts after House Speaker Jay Lucas blasts fellow Republican Gov. Nikki Haley and GOP-majority Senate for failing to act

BY CASSIE COPE
ccope@thestate.com

S.C. senators approved giving the governor more control of the state's road-repair agency late Tuesday.

The move came after S.C. House Speaker Jay Lucas took to the House floor earlier Tuesday, blaming the Senate and Gov. Nikki Haley for not passing a proposal to repair the state's roads.



Lucas

With only two days left in the legislative session, Lucas said he tried to meet with fellow Republican Haley Tuesday morning on the road-repair deadlock, but she could not meet.

"She believes her time is better spent endorsing opponents of sitting General Assembly members, rather than demand the senators across the hall do their job and pass a roads bill," Lucas said to raucous applause from House members.

Haley is on the road this week endorsing three GOP primary candidates for State House seats, including two challengers to powerful incumbent Republican senators.

Haley's endorsement came Tuesday

"YOU WON'T EVER HAVE A CHOICE OF ... BEGGING FOR A JOB."

John Muldoon, to his students



GERRY MELLENDRE, gmdendrez@thestate.com

John Harmon, left, listens to diesel tech instructor John Muldoon as he goes over the Richland 1 high school diesel technology program at Heyward Career and Technology Center.

Diesel tech grads hopping into high-paying jobs



SPORTS SKAI MOORE OUT FOR '16



BUSINESS Downtown icon closing its doors

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

WEDNESDAY,
JUNE 1, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY HACKERS COMPROMISE 360 MILLION MYSPACE ACCOUNTS PAGE 1B

Senate gives final OK to \$7.5 billion budget

TIM SMITH
TCSMITH@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

COLUMBIA — The Senate has given its final approval of a \$7.5 billion General Fund budget that would enable the state to borrow \$2.3 billion for roads, grant state employees a 3.25 percent pay raise and adds \$10 million to the appropriation of local governments.

House and Senate negotiators reached a compromise Saturday, leaving final approval to both chambers.

The Senate on Tuesday voted 36-9 to approve the compromise. That leaves House approval before the budget is sent to Gov. Nikki Haley.

"What we did in the appropriations bill does not fix the roads," Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman

told the Senate. "It certainly begins to fix the roads in our state. Next year, I'll be at the forefront, we've got to find a continuing stream of money if we're going to fix the roads in this state."

A bill being negotiated by House and Senate negotiators would send \$216 million from vehicle sales tax revenue and from fees collected by the state Department of Motor Vehicles to DOT, which could then use them to send to the state Infrastructure Bank to issue \$2.3 billion in bonds. That money in turn could free up other funding, for a total of \$4 billion that could be used over 10 years.

Sen. Lee Bright, a Spartanburg County Republican, took to the podium to object to the idea of borrowing billions when the state had a surplus this year of about \$1.4 billion.

"We've got the largest budget in the history of the state," he said. "We're issuing bonds to borrow money to take care of core government functions, and I heard from this podium we need a reliable source of income, which means next year we're going to be back on the gas tax debate."

Bright called what lawmakers were doing as "deficit spending."

"For us to criticize Washington I think is a little lame because we're doing the same thing," he said.

But Sen. Tom Davis, a Beaufort Republican, disagreed, saying the state's constitution prohibits deficit spending and he supports the bond bill concept.

"What I rise to rebut is the notion that we're like Washington, D.C. and that we engage in deficit spending," he said. "We

are required by the constitution to spend no more money than we take in, which of course is a constitutional restraint that the federal government isn't under and doesn't abide by."

Davis also said there is a big difference in the debt of the federal government, which he said there is no plan to repay, and that proposed in the road-funding bill, which is amortized by the \$216 million in recurring funding.

Bright said the budget is sending a message "that it's OK to go out and bor-

See **ROADS**, Page 9A

INSIDE

House speaker slams Haley over roads 'silence' at critical time. **Page 7A**



Pamela Smith sits on her front porch last week with Promise Wyatt, 7, who lives in the unit next door at Brookhaven Apartments.

LAUREN PETRACCA/STAFF

19 Carolina homes may move to new state under remap plan

JEFFREY COLLINS
AND GARY D. ROBERTSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA — Dee Martin may wake up Jan. 1 and find herself in a different state.

South Carolina and North Carolina have redrawn the border between the two states with GPS technology that allows them to confirm, down to the centimeter, the boundary lines established under an English king in the 18th century. But that means the lines drawn decades ago through less exact surveying measures are several hundred feet off.

So Martin, who has a South Carolina address and phone number, really lives in North Carolina. She isn't looking forward to the hassle of changing the deed to her home and her address at the post office. There also is likely a property tax increase. But the biggest problem may come through the home-bound health care she gets for her 89-year-old husband. The provider doesn't serve North Carolina, and that state's Medicaid may not pay for the service even if they change doctors and nurses.

"We knew it would be cheaper to live in South Carolina. Financially, it is going to be a strain — our only income is Social Security, and we already have to use our meager savings to meet regular expenses," Martin said. "Right now we don't know what is going to last longer — us or our money."

Nineteen homes are changing states. Three currently in North Carolina will end up in South Carolina, while Martin and 15 others are going to change residency to North Carolina.

Bills finalizing the boundary change are currently in the North Carolina and South Carolina legislatures. North Carolina's Senate has passed its bill, sending it to the House. South Carolina's Senate also took action, although with three days left in South Carolina's annual session it isn't

Brookhaven residents prepare to move Several in community are skeptical of plan

ERIC CONNOR
ECONNOR@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

Pamela Smith uses a small ribbon to mark the next page in the booklet she keeps on the coffee table of her one-bedroom apartment in the Brookhaven community.

"Keeping God In The Small Stuff."

It's a testament to her faith — but the words aren't enough to keep her from each night sliding a couch in front of the door where she props up a makeshift billy club for protection.

For all of the problems in her public housing community, she's more frightened to leave for another unknown place than

of neighborhood it is. It's scary."

Smith isn't alone.

At a recent Housing Authority news conference to explain the process to the media, the residents of the communities instead asked the questions, and they expressed their fear over where they are heading and skepticism that they will be allowed to return.

However, the Housing Authority's leadership says that the concerns are unfounded — and that in fact the residents are best served by keeping faith in the agency to temporarily relocate them and allow the opportunity for them to return to homes far better than they left.

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Morning News

WEDNESDAY JUNE 1, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER

Partly sunny, a thunderstorm; humid. High 88, low 68. DETAILS 2A

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Florence Little Theatre

New executive director looking to connect with community



BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN
Morning News
dswearingen@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — At the heart of any well-functioning community theater is, well ... a community. And it was that desire for community connection that drew Greg Hambleton, the newly hired executive director at the Florence Little Theatre, to the Pee Dee. "So that's what I really like about what Florence Little Theatre is doing and

what its purpose is, which is to create that really great grassroots connection to the community and to the region," he said. As downtown continues to revitalize, Hambleton believes he came to Florence at the perfect time. "I think that just bodes so well for the health and the future of the whole community, because you have a group of committed people who are putting time, effort and, most importantly, money into rejuvenating a

downtown," he said. The Florence Little Theatre sits on South Dargan Street, just blocks from the heart of downtown, and Hambleton hopes to join together with other area arts entities to help the revitalization process. "I'm hoping that we can draw the arts together to be an emphasis for creating a new synergy in that process," he said. "Cause I think there's enough arts already in the area that we can all just kind of get to-

gether and say, 'You know, let's try and do our part for helping Florence in that rejuvenating process.'" Hambleton comes from Murrells Inlet, where he has been living for just over a year, but originally hails from New Jersey. He began acting in community productions when he was 6 years old. Though he majored in theatre at Western Kentucky University and had

See THEATRE, Page 3A



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Florence's current logo could change as part of the branding initiative.

Online survey to tap into 'branding identity'

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Florence officials are researching ways to give the area its own unique identity—a brand that will be synonymous with this area for residents and potential visitors. This idea led to the combined efforts of the Florence Downtown Development Corporation, the city and county of Florence and the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce, among others, to enlist the help of Avant Marketing Group to help find this brand identity.

As a part of that initiative, the group is now asking area residents to participate in an online survey to confirm several elements they have in mind and further possible directions for the branding.

WANT TO PARTICIPATE?

- » WHO: General public
- » WHAT: Florence branding survey
- » WHEN: Starting at 5 p.m. today
- » WHERE: survey.monkey.com/f/FlorenceBrand

r/FlorenceBrand

Last month, Avant conducted interviews with community leaders, held resident focus groups and organized a survey with Florence high

Play ball



From left, David Frost, Michael Frost, James Whitehead, Hugh Whitehead and Weaver Whitehead of the Florence Summer Swim League wait to escort the RedWolves' starting lineup onto the field before the season-opening baseball game Tuesday against Fayetteville at Francis Marion University's Sparrow Stadium. More coverage in Sports, Page 1D. See photo gallery at scnw.com.

MEGAN MAY/MORNING NEWS

RedWolves open their 2016 season

BY JAKE CROUSE
Morning News
jcrouse@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — After a long offseason, Florence RedWolves fans had to wait an

extra 90 minutes Tuesday night before cheering on their team for the first time this year.

Off-and-on thunderstorms brought bouts of heavy rain on Francis Marion University's Sparrow Stadium near the

7 p.m. scheduled starting time, pushing the first pitch all the way back to 8:22 p.m. A handful of fans did not wait around for the rain to let up, but hundreds stayed to root on the RedWolves.

Between the scattered showers, fans huddled under the bleachers, engaging in

See BASEBALL, Page 3A



Leadership Florence presents two nonprofits \$11,000 each

BY JOE PERRY
Morning News
jperry@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The Care House of the Pee Dee and Help

Chamber of Commerce. "And the journey is finally over." HopeHealth's Celeste Johnson told fellow graduates she thought at the outset of the class that she was simply taking her

THE HARTSVILLE MESSENGER

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scn.com

Darlington County Sheriff candidates weigh in on issues

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
GHI Media

DARLINGTON — The race for Darlington County sheriff will be decided June 14 in a primary race between Sheriff J. Wayne Byrd and retired South Carolina Highway Patrol Lt. Tony Chavis. Both are Democrats.

Byrd, a Society Hill native, was first elected sheriff in 2008 and then won re-election in 2012.

Chavis hails from Hartsville and retired from his position as executive officer and lieutenant of South Carolina Highway Patrol Posts A and B in February to run for sheriff.

Both Byrd and Chavis presented their platforms and weighed in on topics facing law enforcement officials across the state.

Byrd

Byrd, the 8-year incumbent, said crime rates in Darlington County have decreased significantly since he took the helm in 2008. He said the county has lower crime rates than most other counties in the state and a competitive rate nationally.

"I feel like we've done a good job with getting to where we are," he said. "Compared to the counties around us, we've got a good record and we'd like to continue to build on that record."

If re-elected, Byrd said, he plans to enhance some existing programs within the sheriff's office -- namely, crime-watch programs, the student resource officer program in public schools and security programs with local churches and companies.

"We've been limited the last few years mostly by budget, but we've been able to find inventive ways to get those jobs done without costing the taxpayers additional money," he said. "Even though we face a tight budget every year, we haven't exceeded that budget and we've been able to increase some of the things we do in the community. We'd like to continue those programs and see them expand."

Chavis

Chavis, a Marine Corps Reserve veteran who spent six years in Iraq during Operation Desert Storm, said he decided to retire from his career with the S.C. Highway Patrol to bring positive change to Darlington County policing.

"Listening to people, seeing how they were treated by the sheriff's department and seeing some of these things happen, I decided that I would forgo my career and seek the office to bring positive change

HARTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

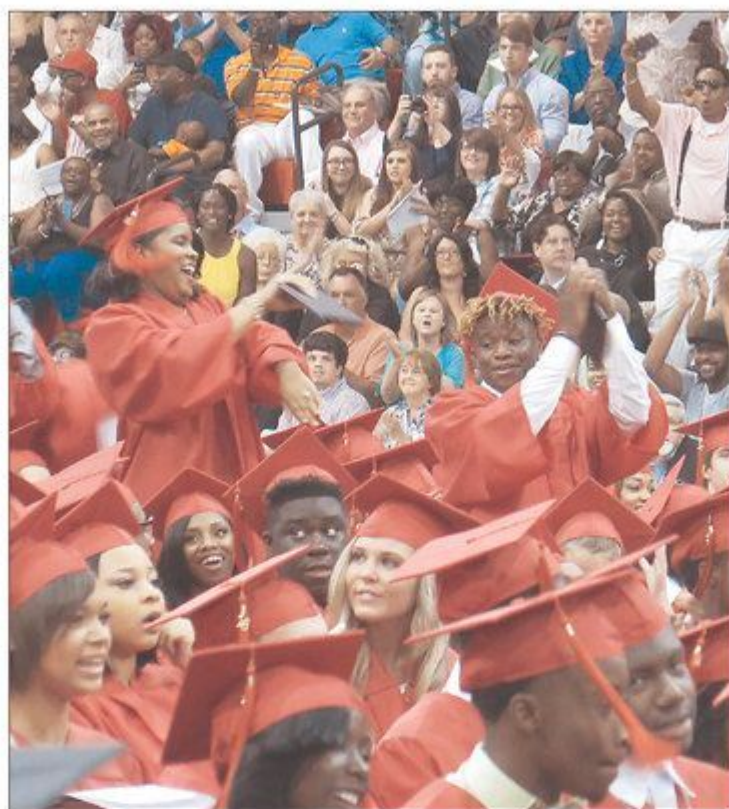


PHOTOS BY ARDIE ARVIDSON/HARTSVILLE MESSENGER

Hartsville High School celebrates its 2016 commencement ceremony on Friday at the Hartsville High School Arena.

Seniors told to have faith

BY ARDIE ARVIDSON
aarvidson@hartsvillemessenger.com



With pomp and circumstance, the class of 2016 of Hartsville High School entered the Hartsville High School Arena on Friday night. Before family, friends, teachers and staff, 267 members of the senior class were awarded diplomas.

Principal Charles E. Burry Jr. welcomed those who had been on the 12-year journey with the students and who came to share in this special night.

He told them each day at the beginning of school the students are given a character education quote.

He said he had one last thought for the graduating class.

As he has done the past couple of years, Burry started his remarks with a story. This one he titled "If I Could Have Just Seen the Shore." He said swimmer, Frances Chadwick, in 1952, attempted to swim the 26 miles between Catalina Island and the California coastline. He said she swam for 15 hours, only to give up a half a mile from her goal.

Afterwards, Burry said

Hartsville High School class of 2016 celebrates as they are officially declared graduates.

See GRADUATE, Page 3A

See SHERIFF, Page 3A



MARINADE ADDS TENDERNES TO FLANK STEAK

FOOD & HEALTH, D1



BENJAMIN IS BACK FOR PANTHERS

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Wednesday, June 1, 2016



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TODAY **THU** **FRI**



86°/67° 87°/69° 89°/67°

Complete forecast, B6

LOCAL



House fire called described as suspicious

A vacant home in Cherokee County was destroyed early Tuesday by a fire that firefighters called suspicious. C1

STATE

Ethics reform

A House-Senate panel in Columbia on Tuesday ironed out their differences on one bill that would give an independent state ethics commission the power, for the first time, to investigate ethics complaints against lawmakers and determine whether it is likely a violation occurred. C1

NATION & WORLD

How Zika spreads

The U.N. health agency says sexual transmission of Zika is more common than first thought. It is updating its advice to women who have been in areas hit by the virus, telling them to wait even longer to conceive. A3



'Human catastrophe'

As Iraqi forces pressed an offensive Tuesday to dislodge Islamic State militants from Fallujah, conditions are worsening for tens of thousands

CAMPAIGN 2016 NOMINATIONS

Poll: System needs change

By Catherine Lucey and Emily Swanson
The Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Superdelegates. Closed-off primaries. Complicated caucuses.

Many Americans are not happy with the way presidential candidates are chosen and have little faith in the fairness

of either the Democratic or Republican system, according to a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

According to the survey, the public prefers open primaries to those that are closed to all but party members. They like primaries instead of caucuses, and they oppose the party insiders known as superdelegates, who

have a substantial say in the Democratic race.

"It's kind of like a rigged election," said Nayef Jaber, a 66-year-old Sanders supporter from San Rafael, California. "It's supposed to be one man, one vote."

Changing the primary process has become a rallying cry for Democrat Bernie Sanders. Presumptive Republican

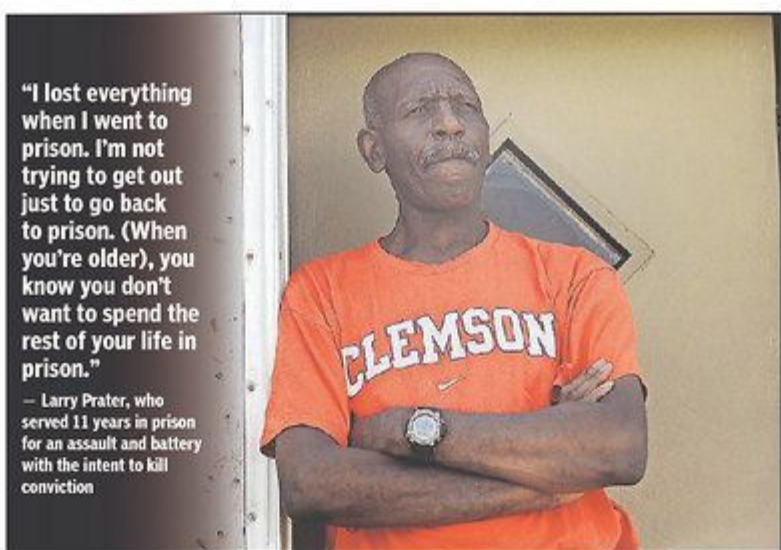
nominee Donald Trump has also criticized the system.

According to the poll, 38 percent of Americans say they have hardly any confidence that the Democratic Party's process for selecting a presidential nominee is fair; 44 percent say the same of the Republican Party's process.

SEE CHANGE, A3

HALFWAY HOUSES

Notification requirement gets mixed reaction



Lawmaker says bill addresses community concerns; groups say it adds hurdle for ex-cons

By Daniel J. Gross
daniel.gross@shj.com

Larry Prater spent 11 years in prison on a charge of assault with intent to kill.

The Spartanburg native now lives in Roebuck, working as a forklift operator in Duncan, and is preparing to



SC TEACHERS

Veto kills bill keeping evaluations private

Lawmakers working on better-written measure

By Seanna Adcox
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Gov. Nikki Haley's veto has killed legislation exempting teacher evaluations from public disclosure, but the Republican governor said she will support a better-written bill next year.

Haley said she recognizes the bill's intent is to promote a more candid evaluation process, but she said it is too broad.

The one-sentence measure exempts educator evaluations with "personally identifiable information" from the state's Freedom of Information Act.

Haley said that allows school districts to withhold any record related to an evaluation, including information on teacher misconduct that should be publicly available, she wrote in her veto message signed Friday.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Kenny Bingham, said he supports the veto, as he didn't intend to create a potential loophole.

"We're working on language now to fix it," he said.

The House voted unanimously Tuesday to sustain Haley's veto, after Bingham took the podium

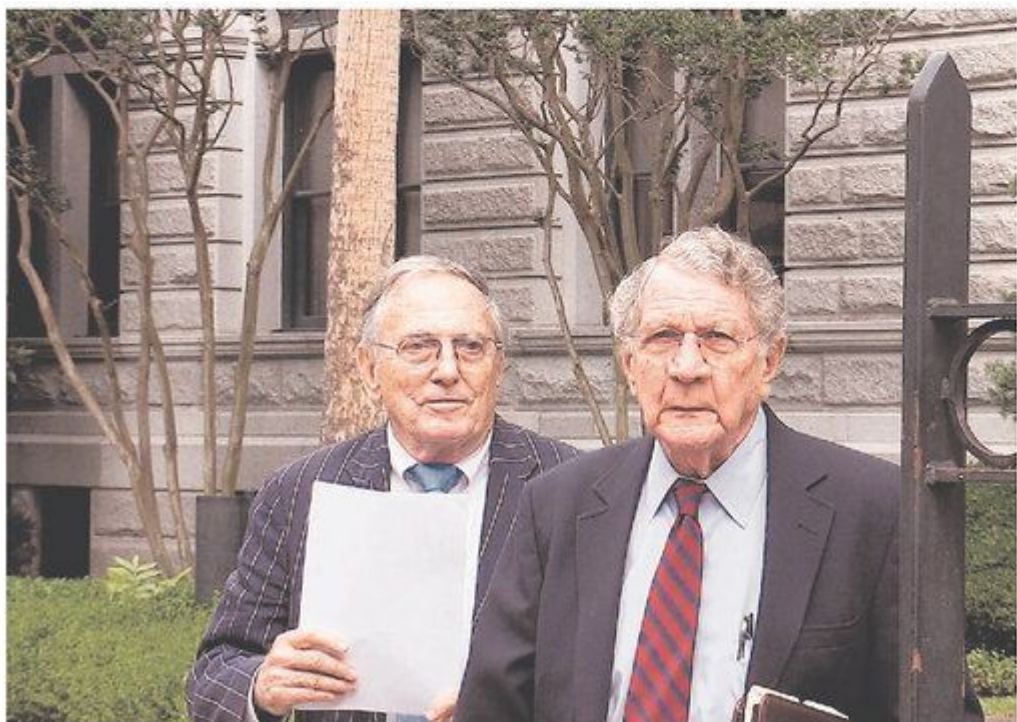


WEDNESDAY JUNE 1 2016

75c

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TWITTER.COM/ISLANDPACKETHILTON HEAD ISLAND
BLUFFTONPartly cloudy
84°/73° See 2A

THE ISLAND PACKET



Don Christy, left, leaves U.S. District Court in Charleston on Monday with his attorney, Mike Macloskie, after pleading guilty to one count of wire fraud related to his now-shuttered company, Property Administrators Inc.

PROPERTY MANAGER FRAUD

PAI head Christy enters guilty plea

The former Hilton Head Island property manager is alleged to have charged bogus fees and created false financial statements

The maximum sentence that he could receive is 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine

Christy could also have to pay back millions in restitution to regimes in Sea Pines and Palmetto Dunes, among others

BY WADE LIVINGSTON
wlivingston@islandpacket.com

CHARLESTON

A former Hilton Head Island property manager pleaded guilty Tuesday to one count of federal wire fraud and is now facing the possibility of prison time and paying restitution, which could total millions of dollars.

Don Christy, who owned Property Administrators Inc., pleaded guilty to the felony

charge — Count No. 5 — in U.S. District Courthouse Tuesday in Charleston. The charge stemmed from a Jan. 28, 2013, transaction during which Christy wired \$5,000 — money the federal government alleged he stole from his clients — to a New Jersey bank.

The plea agreement, summarized by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rhett DeHart and agreed to by Christy on Tuesday, dismissed four other counts of wire fraud Christy faced.

"Count No. 5 summarizes the extent of the activity," Mike Macloskie, Christy's attorney, said Tuesday morning, after the plea hearing. "And he was allowed to do that, quite frankly, by the United States government ... because he's cooperated in some sense. ... However, (during) sentencing, he's going to be responsible for the entire amount of the loss."

That loss totals \$3.5 million, according to the government. Most of the money the government alleges Christy stole was used to cover PAI's payroll after the company began to experience financial hardship in 2007, DeHart told District Judge David C. Norton, who presided over the hearing.

Christy used about \$400,000 of the stolen money for "personal use," specifically to pay his mortgage, according to DeHart.

DeHart also described a years-long scheme during which Christy and his accountant, Lisa Arnold, made unauthorized transfers from clients' accounts, overcharged them with bogus "advance management fees," and prepared false financial statements in an attempt to cover up the embezzlement.

Arnold faces the same federal charges, as well as one count of misprision with a felony for allegedly covering up fraud, the U.S. Attorney's Office said in November.

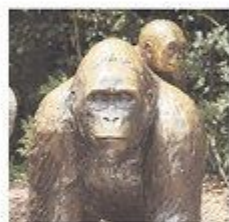
Ray Pfeiffer, president of the Inverness Homeowners Association, a condo community in Palmetto Dunes that is missing an undisclosed amount of money, said his regime received regular monthly statements from PAI showing its finances were in good shape and being managed appropriately.

"They were our property managers for 20-plus years," Pfeiffer said. "You gain a certain level of trust. Then all of a sudden you find out it's all phony."

"When someone betrays a trust ... I don't look too kindly on that," he added. "But you have to let the legal system work."

Christy's business closed its

SEE PLEA, 7A



LOCAL

DID THE GORILLA DESERVE TO DIE?

David Lauderdale: When the choice is between saving a gorilla or a child in danger, you shoot the ape. 3A



NATION

SOGGY TEXAS SOAKED AGAIN

Rain-weary Texans brace for more flooding after the Brazos River hits record levels. Six people have died. 5A



STATE

'I KNEW IT WOULD BE AN UPROAR'

Sana Hamze, who wanted to wear a hijab at The Citadel, will attend college in Vermont. 3A



Nuclear Nova

Lander trounced in CWS

Sports 1B

INDEX-JOURNAL

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2016

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Hostage taken at Hardee's

A man jumped through the drive-thru window of the Hardee's in Ninety Six on Tuesday night, taking one woman hostage before being arrested.

DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ
INDEX-JOURNAL



Man claims he's on fire, chased by mafia

By DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ
ddominguez@indexjournal.com

NINETY SIX — A man walked up to the drive-thru window of the Hardee's in Ninety Six, jumped through, and took a hostage Tuesday night.

Within a minute, Ninety Six police and Greenwood County sheriff's deputies were on the scene, taking the man down

with a stun gun and getting the woman he took hostage free unharmed, said Chris Porter, town police chief. The man was not armed.

Many details about the man remain unclear, and Porter said police were still determining what to charge the man with Tuesday night after getting him to the Greenwood County Detention Center. He said the man appeared to

be on drugs when he leaped through the window, but did not rob the store or its employees.

Officers got into the restaurant by breaking through a window, he said, then used an electric stun gun to subdue him and arrest him. Porter said the man shouted at employees that he was on fire, and that the mob was chasing

See **HOSTAGE**, page 4A

WARE SHOALS

Duncan urges Ryan to support Trump

By ADAM BENSON
abenson@indexjournal.com

WARE SHOALS — Rep. Jeff Duncan on Tuesday urged House Speaker Paul Ryan to throw his support behind Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, saying the GOP needs to rally around him if the party is going to take back the White House in November.

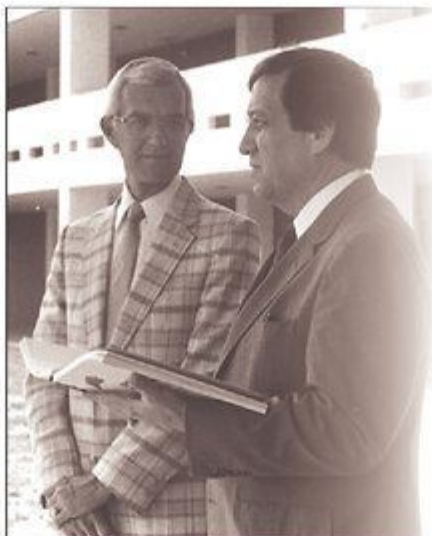
Duncan, a Laurens Republican who has served the state's Third Congressional District since 2011, made the comments after a brief tour of the Ware Shoals fire and police departments.

"He's already got the delegates, so there needs to be some party unity. I think Speaker Ryan and others should come out as Republicans and support the nominee," Duncan said. "We look forward to offering as much help as we can to the Trump campaign."

In February, Duncan endorsed Texas Sen. Ted Cruz. But Cruz dropped out of the race May 3 after a primary loss to Trump in Indiana. It takes 1,237 delegates to secure the presidential nomination and Trump has 1,239.

"I think it caught everybody by surprise when Cruz got out and Trump became the de facto nominee, and now he's got the delegates," Duncan said. "I think we've got an opportunity as conservatives between now and November and now and January to influence the

GOOD AS GOLD



SUBMITTED

Lex Walters, former president of Piedmont Technical College talks with Buddy Roberts, the then-chairman of the Piedmont Technical College Area Commission, circa 1990 on the school's Greenwood campus.



ARIEL GILREATH | INDEX-JOURNAL

Lex Walters observes the Greenwood Piedmont Technical College campus, named the Lex Walters Campus, Tuesday afternoon.



Piedmont Tech celebrates 50 years

By ARIEL GILREATH
agilreath@indexjournal.com

by the next year to receive more money because the budgets were

Camlin Moore

Cell: [803-206-8236](tel:803-206-8236)

Office: [803-734-8044](tel:803-734-8044)