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The Post and Courier

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Thursday, April 28, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Ethics bills get unanimous Senate approval

Next up: House debates legislation, including creation of independent panel to investigate lawmakers

BY MAYA T. PRABHU
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COLUMBIA — Hoping to increase the public's trust in lawmakers, South Carolina's senators unanimously passed two bills that will reform the state's ethics laws.

Following months of debate, the bills create an independent panel to investi-

gate potential misdeeds by lawmakers and would require those same legislators to disclose who pays them — but not how much they receive.

"This represents a major step forward when the investigations, regardless of how those folks are assembled on a commission, will be conducted outside of this body," Sen. Larry Martin, R-Pickens, said Wednesday. "And

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no longer would we investigate ourselves. The amended bills now return to the

House, where members can either accept the Senate's changes or choose to create a compromise committee where lawmakers from both chambers hash out details of the legislation.

Gov. Nikki Haley's office praised the Senate for passing the bills, as she has championed ethics reform for several years.

"Today, four years in the making, was

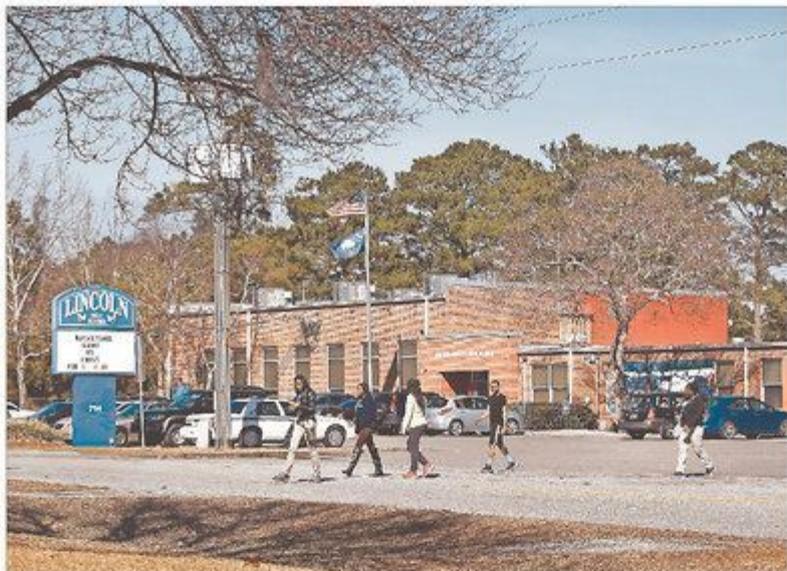
a huge step forward," Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams said. "Now it's time for the Legislature to finish the job, bring this home and show South Carolina that all our elected officials truly work for them."

The initial appointments of the eight-member ethics commission to

Please see **ETHICS**, Page A8

School budget woes may spell end for Lincoln

Residents of rural area expected to fight back, constituent chair says



Students at Lincoln Middle-High School may see their school close as the Charleston County School District deals with an \$18-million budget deficit. Thomas L. Colleton Jr., chairman of the Constituent District 1 Board, said many parents were upset by the news.

BY PAUL BOWERS
pbowers@postandcourier.com

The Charleston County School District is considering closing the doors at rural Lincoln Middle-High School in the fall in an attempt to balance the budget.

About 200 residents of McClellanville, Awendare and the rural northern stretches of the county heard the official word from District Superintendent Gerrita Pos-

Inside

Lawmakers seek to rein in Charleston school budget process. **A3**

tlewait in a meeting Tuesday night at the school, where she reportedly said she would make the recommendation to the county school board at an upcoming meeting. High school students would be sent to already-packed Wando High in

Mount Pleasant, and middle school students would go to the campus of St. James-Santee Elementary in McClellanville.

Parents and teachers in rural parts of the county have known for months that their schools could be closed in the wake of last school year's \$18 million budget deficit. As the district started looking for cuts to make this spring, anonymous committees of district staff and school principals recommended

closing small schools, where low student populations tend to drive up per pupil costs.

Thomas L. Colleton Jr., chairman of the Constituent District 1 Board that represents the area around Lincoln, said many parents were upset by the news Tuesday night.

"The perception is that they're trying to balance the budget on the backs of the children, and that

Please see **LINCOLN**, Page A7

Restroom question resolved in Berkeley

Students can choose bathroom matching their gender identity

BY BRENDA RINDGE
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Berkeley County has become the first public school district in the Lowcountry to wade into the transgender restroom debate, making it clear that such

students can use the restroom with which they identify.

Mother Amy Guerry said she was called to Berkeley High School last week for a meeting with administrators and district officials.

"It was told during that meeting that they were going to follow the 4th Circuit and allow my daughter to use the bathroom she identifies with," Guerry said. Sera, 16, previously was

Please see **RESTROOM**, Page A7

pc Poll

Are you in favor of transgender students using the bathroom of the gender they identify with? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

Lawmaker Southard steps down

Page has accused him of sexual harassment

BY CYNTHIA ROLDAN
and SCHUYLER KRUPP
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skrupp@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — State Rep. Edward Southard of Moncks Corner resigned from the House on Wednesday, just days after learning

that a sexual harassment allegation involving a female Statehouse page had been filed against him.

"After much deliberation, I submitted my resignation to the S.C. House of Representatives today," Southard said in a written statement. "Although it was an extremely difficult decision, I felt this decision was necessary to protect my family, my honor, and the integrity of the esteemed South Carolina House of Representatives."

Please see **SOUTHARD**, Page A7

U.S. Rep. Clyburn targeting Confederate flag at Citadel

Aims to deny ROTC funds if banner displayed

BY EMMA DUMANIN
edumanin@postandcourier.com

WASHINGTON — The fight over the Confederate flag — and its place in South Carolina — has returned to Capitol Hill.

On Wednesday, as the House Armed Services Committee began its hours-long slog through over 100 amendments to the fiscal 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, panel Democrats were quietly preparing to force a vote to deny Reserve Officers'

Training Corps funds to any military university that displays the Confederate flag.

The only university that currently falls into this category is The Citadel. "You've had students, there are Citadel students, who have been asking for that flag to come down," U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., said Wednesday afternoon. "And I think it's a damn shame that state officials in South Carolina continue to fly in the face of

Please see **FLAG**, Page A8



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CHARLESTON SCENE

Amy Schumer on fame, Prince and making movies ahead of Charleston show. **E16-18**

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Tigers, Gamecocks hear advice as NFL draft approaches. **C1**

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Wild Dunes owner to buy ports authority's Charleston headquarters. **B1**

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Opponents of Folly Road apartment project fear more congestion. **A4**

Proposal would make marching band count as physical education. **A3**



Chance of storms. High 86, Low 67. Complete 5-day forecast. **B10**

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Charleston Deals today

Footlight Players
\$35 for two tickets to Lend Me a Tenor. (Valued at \$60). See **A2**

Find your fun at Lake Murray

- Jump right in: 5 ways to play on the lake
- How to paddleboard, wakeboard, fly board
- Have boat, will discover ... islands, mansions, sunsets
- Drinks with a view
- 'Classic' restaurants in and around the lake

Inside today



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The State

NFL DRAFT BEGINS TONIGHT

CLEMSON'S LAWSON, DODD HAVE TAKEN SIMILAR PATH



L.G. INTERRISON AP

Clemson defensive lineman Shaq Lawson grew up in Central, a 10-minute drive from the university.



GREGORY PAPAN AP

Clemson defensive lineman Kevin Dodd grew up in Taylors, less than an hour's drive from the university.

Clemson connection

A look at Clemson's homegrown first-round possibilities:

SHAQ LAWSON

DE, 6-3, 269, Clemson

Notable: All-American last season who had 25.5 tackles for loss.

Outlook: Middle of the first round sounds about right.

KEVIN DODD

DE, 6-3, 277, Clemson

Notable: Outshined teammate Shaq Lawson late last season. Had three sacks against Alabama in the national title game.

Outlook: Which Clemson defensive

Upstate natives overcame obstacles; expected to be high draft picks

BY DAN HOPE
Anderson Independent Mail

CLEMSON
The road to Chicago, where 25 of the nation's top college football players are this week to hear their names called in the 2016 NFL Draft, has followed a similar path for Clemson's Shaq Lawson and Kevin Dodd. The young men grew up in Upstate South Carolina: Lawson in Central, Dodd in Taylors. Both spent a year at the same prep school, Hargrave Military Academy, before enrolling at Clemson. They developed as subs

MORE INSIDE

USC's Pharoah Cooper keeping low profile, **1B**

Clemson could set record in NFL Draft, **1B**

broke out to become the two most productive defensive ends in the entire Football Bowl Subdivision.

On Thursday, Lawson and Dodd could once again take a parallel step forward in their careers. They have a chance to be first-round draft picks.

There have been differences in the

BILL WOULD CREATE FELONY CHARGE

Measure targets teens' dating violence

Conviction could lead to 10-year prison sentence

Teens aren't well protected from relationship violence under current law, advocates say

Bill requires schools to address dating violence

BY OLEN LUKE FLANAGAN
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Teenagers who commit violence with a romantic partner could be sentenced to up to 10 years in prison under a bill discussed Wednesday by a Senate subcommittee.

Making violence in teen dating situations a felony is needed to address a history of domestic violence in South Carolina, advocates say. Half a dozen students from Ridge View High School in Richland County spoke in favor of the bill - called the Teen Dating Violence Prevention Act.

The bill defines teen dating violence as "physical, sexual, psychological or emotional

SEE VIOLENCE, 7A

ONLINE

Video: Teens advocate for anti-dating violence bill, [thestate.com](#)

RICHLAND COUNTY PENNY TAX

DOR withholding allocations to fund



SPORTS
**SC STARS IN
NFL DRAFT**



CITY PEOPLE
Arts still
playing his
siren song

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THURSDAY,
APRIL 28, 2016
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USA TODAY JUDGE SENTENCES HASTERT, CALLS HIM 'SERIAL CHILD MOLESTER' **PAGE 1B**

Senate gives OK to road bill

Votes 34-4 to devote \$3B to infrastructure

TIM SMITH
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COLUMBIA - The Senate has given its final approval of a bill that could pour \$3 billion onto the state's crumbling infrastructure but its ultimate passage will depend on passage of changes to the way the state's highway agency is run.

The 34-4 vote came hours after House and Senate negotiators agreed to tie the issues of road funding and governance reform so that ultimately the two contentious issues will be considered as one package before final legislative approval.

All four of the senators voting against the proposal were from the Upstate: Sen. Lee Bright, a Spartanburg County Republican; Sen. Kevin Bryant, an Anderson County Republican; Sen. Tom Corbin, a Travelers Rest Republican; and Sen. Shane Martin, a Spartanburg County Republican.

Bryant and Martin had objected to the bill in the Senate Finance Committee with concerns about debt and a lack of reform in the bill.

See **ROADS**, Page 5A

Suspended police chief wants pact

SCOTT KEELER
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The attorney for suspended Simpsonville Police Chief Keith Grounell said his client wants to get back to work. When Grounell returns from his 30-day suspension, which ends May 2, Grounell also wants a long-term contract.

In a letter sent to Simpsonville City Administrator David Dyrhaug this week, Grounell's attorney Brooks Derrick said the letter and request was inspired by a story published in *The Greenville News* on April 14 in which Mayor Janice Curtis said Grounell has her support.

"Since the inception of Chief Grounell's employment in Simpsonville, he has encountered many impediments," Derrick stated in the let-

See **CHIEF**, Page 7A

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM



A tire play structure is assembled as part of an outdoor exhibit, called Bib's World.

PHOTOS BY HEIDI HEILBRUNNSTAFF

EXHIBIT OFFERS FUN FOR ALL

Designed to be accessible to kids with special needs

DONNA ISBELL WALKER
DWALKER@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

The Bib's World cityscape is a brightly colored place—all blues and reds and sunny yellows, accessorized with pipes and mesh and anchored by a golden corkscrew of a slide.

The two-story play structure topped with a red windsock is the centerpiece of a new permanent outdoor exhibit at the Children's Museum of the Upstate, given by the Michelin Corporate Foundation, and designed to be accessible to children of all physical abilities.

Bib's World, which opens Friday, also features a massive "tire mountain," composed of 200 tires of all sizes; a merry-go-round that can be used by kids in wheelchairs; a tricycle track; and a piece of art created from hundreds of watercolors painted by students.

The exhibit is designed to explore

See **EXHIBIT**, Page 5A



The newest addition to the Children's Museum of the Upstate will open April 30.

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Morning News

THURSDAY APRIL 28, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER

A couple of showers and a t-storm. High 88, low 63. DETAILS 2A

www.13now.com

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Judy Collins returns to the FMU PAC for July concert

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN
Morning News
dswearingen@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Judy Collins, a Grammy Award-winning singer and folk artist, will return in July to the main stage of the Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center. Collins last performed at the venue for the PAC's opening gala weekend in 2011.

Since then, she has filmed several PBS specials and released a studio album called "Strangers Again"

IF YOU GO

» **WHAT:** "An Evening with Judy Collins"
» **WHEN:** 7:30 p.m. July 21
» **WHERE:** FMU Performing Arts Center
» **ADMISSION:** Tickets range from \$37 to \$47 and can be purchased online at www.fmupac.org and by visiting the FMU PAC box office or calling 843-661-4444.

Featuring duets with performers such as Willie Nelson, Jackson Browne and Jimmy Buffett, said Laura Sims, the FMU PAC's executive director. This was the folk singer's first studio album in four years.

"We are thrilled to welcome back Judy Collins... for another evening of great songs and captivating stories," Sims said.

The announcement of Collins' performance, called "An Evening with Judy Collins," comes after the FMU Performing Arts Center canceled its "An Evening with Don McLean" fundraising event.

Special events such as these are

See **COLLINS**, Page 3A

Rebuilding Florence aims to show love to neighbors

BY SHAMIRA MCCRAY
Morning News
smccray@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Central United Methodist Church members and community volunteers will renovate two sites Saturday morning during the Rebuilding Florence event. Rebuilding Florence grew out of a similar program, Christmas in April, which was started about 30 years ago.

Christmas in April consisted initially of civic organizations, churches and businesses that sponsored a home. About 30 homes were repaired on a designated weekend in April.

This year, Central UMC decided to hold a similar event, Rebuilding Florence. The goal is for the community to come together and show love to its neighbors.

"This year, we're working on two sites, one of which is a home that'll



Creative youngsters

ArtFields Jr. 'allows children to discover'

BY DIANNE POSTON OWENS
Lake City News & Post
dowens@florencenews.com



LAKE CITY — Caitlyn Brown and Olivia Stewart were among the many South Florence High School students who came Wednesday to Lake City to experience ArtFields. Brown was taking a photo of Stewart as she became part of an interactive sidewalk art piece along Main Street that helped Stewart become an "angel." Other friends and visitors stopped to take photos of the two, all creating their own art.

The students, part of a tour arranged through ArtFields Jr., were able to visit exhibits and take part in pop-up art activities.

Carla Angus, education and community outreach coordinator for ArtFields, oversees the activities of ArtFields Jr. During the nine-day art exhibition and competition that is ArtFields, ArtFields Jr. conducts educational "artwalks" for students in grades 5K-12, an art competition for the student artists and an "artmakers" event, all with the goal of allowing students to "express themselves through creative thinking while also displaying their artistic talents."

ArtFields Jr. includes art activities conducted throughout the year, Angus said. In partnership with the state's Governor's School for Arts and Humanities, based in Greenville, ArtFields Jr. offers classes throughout the year in its Main Street Gallery. The Drs. Bruce & Lee Foundation

Students from Lake City's Early Childhood Center look at a sculpture of Huey Cooper during their ArtFields Jr. art walk this week in Lake City. Each student reached to rub Cooper's rabbit foot for good luck.

See **ARTFIELDS**, Page 3A

Artist Spotlight

Jason Luck

BY DIANNE POSTON OWENS
Lake City News & Post
dowens@florencenews.com

he adds faces to those jugs. "My dad, his dad, and his dad, and on ... were all potters," Luck said. "Farmers and potters. My dad has won the North Carolina Heritage Award (from the N.C. Arts Council

LAKE CITY — In the tradition of his upbringing as a potter from the hills of North Carolina, Jason Luck, who now lives in Charleston, creates jugs. And then

See **LUCK**, Page 3A



ABOUT THIS ARTIST

» **From:** Charleston
» **Age:** 38
» **How many years working as a potter?** 28
» **Has he submitted to ArtFields previously?** No
» **Favorite artistic medium to work in:** Clay

LEFT: Jug titled "The Devil is in the Details"

Florence-Darlington Technical College

Technology adds realism to nurses' training

Dr. Annie Ruth Grant (left), a certified nursing assistant instructor at Florence-Darlington



BY JOE PERRY
Morning News
jperry@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — As nursing and technology evolve, so has the health sciences

sociate vice president of health sciences. "Today's nurse has to be a problem solver, a critical thinker and keep the complete patient landscape in mind — their culture, health be-



SPO SEASON FINALE TO FEATURE GUITARIST ROMERO

ESCAPE, D1



COMPETITION CONTINUES AT REGIONAL MEET

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

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 84°/59° 88°/58° 79°/62°
 Complete forecast, B6

NEWS DIGEST

SC Senate passes ethics reform

COLUMBIA — After four years of fighting, the South Carolina Senate approved a bill allowing independent ethics investigations of lawmakers.

The bill was one of two passed Wednesday. The other proposal requires lawmakers to disclose almost all sources of private income — but not how much they are paid.

Gov. Nikki Haley and the House have pushed for ethics reform since 2012, only to see their attempts stop at the Senate door.

Sen. Larry Martin has been at the front of the four-year fight in his chamber. Last year, he ended up voting against his own ethics bill that he sponsored after an amendment watered it down so much he couldn't support it any more.

He said Wednesday's vote was a big step forward.

Currently, ethics violations by House members and senators are investigated by members of their own body. The bill passed by the Senate will revamp the State Ethics Commission to eight members — four picked by the governor, two picked by House and Senate Democrats and two by House and Senate Republicans.

Six of the eight members would have to agree for an investigation to begin. The bill also allows the commission to punish people who file frivolous claims by making them pay investigation costs and revert back to the old system in five years unless the Legislature renews the proposal.

Martin, R-Pickens, called it a first step. Senators defeated a proposal that would require public office holders to list their income in ranges, like \$50,000 to \$100,000, instead of the exact amount.

"Just stating who gave you money without giving the amount is not the whole story," said Sen. Larry Grooms, R-Charleston.

FOUND IN BERKELEY COUNTY

Skull belonged to missing woman

Nicole Goodlett was mother of three, went missing in 2014

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



Goodlett

Investigators have identified a skull found behind an elementary school in Berkeley County as a Spartanburg woman who went missing two years ago.

Nicole Goodlett, 28, of 160

Loblolly Drive, was reported missing in March 2014. The young mother of three was last seen in Spartanburg on Feb. 20, 2014.

Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office investigators went to Berkeley County Wednesday to assist the Sheriff's Office there and the Department of Natural Resources with the

search for any other remains, said Lt. Kevin Bobo, a Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office spokesman.

He said about 30 investigators combed the area with the help of cadaver dogs.

Goodlett's skull and a small bone were found by a hunter on Nov. 27, 2015, in a wooded area about 100 yards behind Cainhoy Elementary School. The remains were positively identified as Goodlett late last month,

according to a statement from Berkeley County Coroner Bill Salisbury.

No indications of trauma were found on the skull and it appeared to have been there for "some time," Salisbury said.

"It's very much an active investigation," Bobo said.

After Goodlett's disappearance, her parents offered a \$2,000 reward for tips that

SEE SKULL, A4

DANIEL MORGAN NEIGHBORHOOD ART INSTALLATIONS

Seeing Spartanburg In a New Light



Seeing Spartanburg in a New Light is starting to take shape as students at the Daniel Morgan Technology Center have begun to fabricate the prototype of one of the project's art installations. Shonquez Caldwell, a student at Daniel Morgan, demonstrates how the pieces of aluminum are welded together. JOHN BYRUM/JOHN BYRUM@SHJ.COM

Lit, floating islands planned for Duncan Park lake

By Zach Fox
 zach.fox@shj.com

A citywide art project is giving some Daniel Morgan Technology Center students

that's what we're after," said Robert Sparks, electricity instructor at the career center.

The project, led by artist Erwin Redl, will include illuminated smokestacks, colorful

"Each piece that Erwin is creating is unique, so to have the students working alongside his

TRANSGENDER BATHROOM

SC bill dead for this year

Measure sponsored by Sen. Bright

By Jamie Self
 The (Columbia) State

COLUMBIA — A bill to prevent transgender men and women from using the bathroom or locker rooms of their choice is dead for the year.

Sponsored by Sen. Lee Bright, R-Spartanburg, the legislation will miss Sunday's crossover deadline for bills to pass from one legislative chamber to the other. Bills that do not have that deadline have almost no chance of passing this year.

Lawmakers head home for the weekend after Thursday's session. And, as of Wednesday, Bright only had four of the nine votes needed to bring his bill directly to the Senate floor for a vote.

With his bill certain to fail, Bright was planning another way to advance his agenda Wednesday.

When the state budget comes up for debate next week, Bright said he will try to add a proposal to ban state aid to local govern-

NATION

Trump vows to put American security 'above all else' 6A



SPORTS

Bluffton's Gus Dean gets a second chance at Talladega 1B



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HILTON HEAD ISLAND BLUFFTON

Chance of storms 81°/67° See 2A

THE ISLAND PACKET

'IT'S OK IF YOU CRY'

10-year-old's death shakes community

Alex Arrieta wanted other kids with cancer to have something cuddly and soft to cling to as they navigated their own recoveries, so that they would never feel alone. Within just a few weeks, well-wishers sent more than 1,000 stuffed lambs for his Lambs for Life drive.



Caroline Arrieta watches over her son Alex, 10, in his hospital room at Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston on Feb. 26. Alex, who suffered from acute myeloma leukemia, had just finished a round of chemotherapy a few days earlier.

Students at Hilton Head Island School for the Arts grieve the loss of their classmate

Local moms, PTO members spring into action, helping at school and preparing Arrieta home

Family's statement says they will continue advocating for children with cancer in Alex's honor

BY LEZ FARRELL
lfarrell@islandpacket.com

Teachers struggled to read the announcement.

Some could not say the words at all — their own grief having already taken hold.

"It's OK if you cry," counselors told students at Hilton

Head Island School for the Creative Arts on Wednesday morning. "Whatever you're feeling is OK."

Their friend, Alex Arrieta, a gregarious fifth-grader who was greeted like a rock star whenever he walked the halls of their school and who ran beside them on the soccer field and who joked and

laughed with them in class, had died hours earlier.

The acute myeloma leukemia that Alex, 10, had warred against for much of the past 14 months had been beaten once more, but the damage it left in its path was too much to survive.

It was the wrong conclusion to his story, and one that few could accept.

"I really thought he'd be the kid that would get through that door," Principal Gretchen Keefner said Wednesday. "If there's a kid who will get through, it's Alex. (If there's a 10 percent chance of survival) Alex is that 10 out of 100."

"If there's a 1 percent

Memorial information

• Funeral arrangements will be announced.

• Donations can be made through lambsforlife.org, TD Bank or Alex's GoFundMe account. Stuffed lambs can be sent to P.O. Box 6143, Hilton Head Island, SC 29938.

chance a kid would survive this, Alex is that one kid who could do it."

He almost did.

SEE DEATH, 7A



NATION FROM U.S. HOUSE TO BIG HOUSE

Former U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert is sentenced to 15 months in prison in sex-abuse hush money case. 5A



BUSINESS FED STANDS PAT ON KEY RATE

Against the backdrop of a global economic slump, the Federal Reserve keeps a key interest rate unchanged. 7B



THE LONG READ FANS EMBRACE HUGGING CLERK

A Missouri worker known for hugging customers becomes a star after Walmart fires him. 1C

ELECTION 2016

Cruz picks Fiorina



Camlin Moore

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