

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 3/31/2014 11:28:38 AM
Subject: SC Front Pages – Monday, March 31, 2014

SC Front Pages – Monday, March 31, 2014



FAMILY CIRCLE CUP, C1

Depth of young U.S. players at center court



Primal appetite spurs venture
BUSINESS, D3

The Post and Courier

THE SOUTH'S OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER • FOUNDED 1803

MONDAY, March 31, 2014

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Raises returning for municipal workers

Budgets are rebounding following recession in South Carolina's towns and cities

BY DAVID SLADE
dslade@postandcourier.com

Employees of South Carolina's towns and cities saw pay freezes and cutbacks during the Great Recession, but municipal budgets have been rebounding and raises have returned.

In North Charleston, the city's high-paid employees are taking home an average of 9 percent more pay than they were two years ago.

In Summerville, town workers are

getting their first raise since 2011 this year, increasing salaries by up to 5 percent.

While some of the recent municipal raises could make private-sector workers envious, most towns and cities in the Palmetto State have been awarding pay increases of 3 percent or less, as private businesses have been doing. The Bureau of Labor Statistics says private businesses in the South raised pay by an average of 2 percent last year, while some private studies put the number at closer to 3 percent.

Many towns and cities in South Carolina — nearly 40 percent according to one survey — gave no raises this year.

In Myrtle Beach, for example, employees received an \$800 bonus during the current July-June budget year but will get no salary increase.

"We did not have the revenue growth to allow a larger bonus or, alternatively, either a merit increase or an across-the-board adjustment," said Myrtle Beach spokesman Mark Kruse.

Please see RAISES, Page A1

Pay adjustments

How the Lowcountry's largest municipalities adjusted pay during and after the recession:

CITY	2010	2011	2012
Charleston	Temporary cuts	No raises	3% raises
North Charleston	\$1,000 raises	No raises	Merit raises, 1 to 7%
Mount Pleasant	No raises	No raises	Merit raises, 0 to 3%



Poll

Have you received a raise since the start of 2012? Find this story at postandcourier.com to vote.

Library love put to test

Charleston County library plans a series of meetings to make the case for a \$103M improvement referendum



Anne Lundgren of West Ashley reads a reference book with her children (from left) Jonathan, 8, Charles, 9, Benjamin, 5 and Ella, 8, in the children's section Tuesday at St. Andrews Regional Library. "I would love the West Ashley library to be big like Johns Island Library," Lundgren said, who takes her children to the library once a week.

BY DIANE KNICH
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Charleston County residents have made clear through surveys that they love their libraries. But that love will be put to the test in November, when they vote on a \$103 million referendum to improve them.

Janet Segal, chairwoman of the Charleston County Public Library's Board of Trustees, said the library has scheduled 10 public information sessions on how it would use the money if the referendum is approved. The sessions begin Monday and run through April 21.

At those meetings, the library will make a presentation on plans to renovate existing libraries and build new ones. It also will answer residents' questions.

The library will use feedback it receives at

those meetings and online to tweak the building and renovation plans. It also will present what it hears to Charleston County Council, which must approve the referendum ballot question.

Under the plan, all buildings would get technology upgrades, a new library would be built in the northern part of Mount Pleasant, and four libraries would be torn down and rebuilt. Buildings that would be torn down are the Cooper River Memorial branch in North Charleston, and the James Island, St. Paul's/Hollywood and West Ashley branches. The work would be completed over the next five years.

"Everybody would get something," Segal said. She also said county voters last approved a referendum for new library facilities in 1986.

Library officials say the plan would cost an owner of a \$100,000 home about \$12 per year for the next 20 years.

Please see LIBRARY, Page A1

Ideology, needs split parties on health law

Debate passionate for Dems, Republicans

BY STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — While much of America was upset about the botched rollout of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul, most Democrats in Congress were still willing to give the law a chance to work.

Without the law, many of their constituents wouldn't have health insurance.

No new law has been more polarizing during Obama's presidency. It passed in 2010 without a single Republican vote, and GOP lawmakers have been railing against it ever since.

House Republicans have voted more than 50 times to repeal all or parts of the law. Almost all of their changes died in the Democratic-controlled Senate.

Why do Democrats and Republicans view this law so differently? Ideology plays a big role — Democrats are generally more willing than Republicans to look to government to help address people's problems.

Demographics shape the debate, too. If a community has a large concentration of people without health insurance, there is a good chance it is

Please see LAW, Page A5

Deadline day

Monday is the deadline to sign up for private health insurance created by President Barack Obama's health care law. Here's what you need to know:

- The deadline is Mar. 31 at midnight EDT for the states where the federal government is running the sign-up website; states running their own exchanges set their own deadlines.
- You can sign up online by going to HealthCare.gov or your state insurance exchange.
- You can call 1-800-318-2596 to sign up by phone or get help.
- If you started an application by Monday but didn't finish, you can take advantage of a grace period. The government will accept paper applications until April 7.

— Associated Press



Sunny and clear.
High 73, Low 47.
Complete 5-day
forecast, B8

Business.....D1 Editorials.....A12 Obituaries.....B2
Classified.....C6 Recipe.....B7 South.....B1
Games.....B6, 7 Local News.....A2 Sports.....C1
Crosswords.....B6, C9 Movies.....B5 Television.....B4

Charleston
Deals today

Andolini's Pizza
Spend \$10 for two
\$10 vouchers!
See A2

10 things you need to know about Monday's federal health insurance sign-up deadline

By JOEY HOLLEMAN
jholleman@thestate.com

Here are 10 things you need to know about Monday's Health Insurance Marketplace deadline:

1. It's only sort of a deadline.

Anyone who has started the registration process online or by phone but isn't able to finish by March 31 will be given time to complete the process after March 31. The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services compare it to voting. If you're in line at 7 p.m. on election day, you get to vote. The time limit for returning to complete registration is squishy, though CMS says it must be done "quickly."

2. If you're 65 or older, you qualify for Medicare and don't need to worry about the Health Insurance Marketplace. If you have health insurance through your job, you don't need to worry about it. If you have private health insurance that you're happy with, you don't need to worry about it.

3. If you earn less than \$11,500 annually, you don't qualify for tax subsidies that make the Health Insurance Marketplace policies more affordable. And without those subsidies, you won't be able to afford a policy. You're in a gap created when South Carolina leaders turned down the federal expansion of Medicaid.

4. Most people are required by the Affordable Care Act to have health insurance this year.

The penalty for not having insurance is \$95 per person or 1 percent of annual income, whichever is greater. It'll come due when you file your 2015 taxes.

5. A lot of people in South Carolina, however, will be exempt from the penalty. Anyone making less than \$15,300 is exempt. So are Native Americans, illegal immigrants and some religious groups that refuse health care. Of course, people 65 and older don't need to worry either (See No. 2.)

6. If you sign up for a policy on the Health Insurance Marketplace, you'll have multiple choices. There are four companies on the federal marketplace in South Carolina – BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina, BlueChoice HealthPlan, Consumers' Choice, Coventry One. They offer policies at three levels – bronze, silver and gold. Generally, premiums are lowest at bronze and highest at gold, while benefits are best at gold and worst at bronze. Because of the way the tax subsidies are structured, silver plans often are the best value.

7. The federal government gave grants to local groups to provide navigators to help people through the process. You'll find navigators at most of the registration events in these final days. You also can register on your own online at healthcare.gov, through the insurance companies selling policies or through a private insurance broker.

8. You need to understand the nuances of physician networks, deductibles and out-of-pocket expenses. The Q&A at healthcare.gov does a good job of explaining those. If you read those explanations and are still confused, you probably need to get the help of the folks mentioned in No. 7.

9. People who have used the

USC BASEBALL: Gamecocks sweep Tennessee with 8-0 win. B1



JEFF CHAY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

SO CLOSE!

USC women faded in last minutes against UNC. B1

The State

MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2014 | THESTATE.COM

ELECTIONS 2014

A primary for Haley ... and other surprises

The June 10 primaries take shape as state's filing period closes

By ANDREW SHAIN
ashain@thestate.com

The dance cards have been filled out for South Carolina's 2014 elections, and some incumbents have earlier-than-expected turns on the floor with primary opposition.

With the end of candidate filing Sunday, here are story lines to watch in this year's elections:

WHO'S RUNNING

Find a full list of candidates on thestate.com

The governor has a primary: In a bit of a surprise, Gov. Nikki Haley, a first-term Republican, will have to dispatch former lawmaker and judge Tom Ervin in the June 10 primary for a rematch with Democratic state Sen. Vincent Sheheen. Haley, who

beat Sheheen by 4.5 percentage points in 2010, has 78 percent favorability among Republicans, according to a Winthrop University poll last month. Ervin, an attorney upset about recent mismanagement allegations at the state's child-welfare agency, said he

will self-finance his campaign.

Name-dropping race for the No. 2 job: Mike Campbell, son of the late Gov. Carroll Campbell, and former state Attorney General Henry McMaster headline the lieutenant governor's GOP primary with Charleston developer

SEE RUNNING PAGE A8

Drumbeat for costs study on stadium grows louder

By CLIF LeBLANC
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A public push is under way to have Columbia government analyze the long-term costs of a minor-league baseball stadium before a final vote by City Council.

Columbia and statewide restaurant

and hotel organizations called for a cost/benefit study two weeks ago.

Now, an organization of corporate bosses – the Midlands Business Leadership Group – has joined the call.

Activist residents and arts groups are meeting with each of council's seven members to sell the idea before an expected April 8 special called meeting to



Wilson



Novinger



Chetwood

cast a binding vote to commit \$29 million in public money as the city's share of a Columbia-owned \$35 million year-round stadium.

SEE STADIUM PAGE A6



SPORTS IT'S FINAL



LIFESTYLE Child abuse a maze of complexities

The Greenville News

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USA TODAY LAST DAY OF HEALTH CARE SIGN-UPS PAGE 1B

FINAL EDITION

A conference outside the box

TEDx Greenville's fifth year offers inspiration, stimulation

By Amy Clarke Burns
Staff writer
aburns@greenvilleonline.com

There are few places in town where you're likely to hear from a Buddhist nun, a female impersonator and one of the inventors of the modern touch screen all in the same day and at

the same venue.

Welcome to TEDx Greenville.

"It's completely multidisciplinary. It's purposeful that you bring all kinds of people from around the spectrum together to listen to each other's ideas," said Lisa Marie Corley, curator for the fifth annual event.

"It's all about creating a shift in thinking, having somebody up there that will somehow knock your world around a little bit."

TEDx Greenville, one of hundreds of independently organized conferences built under the banner of the famed TED events, will be held April 11 at the Kroger Center.

"The goal is change," Corley said, to bring together people

See TEDx, Page 5A



Susan Molnar with Greenville Makers Group uses a 3-D printer to create brooches she designed at the 2013 TEDx Greenville. SUBMITTED PHOTO: AAN CURCIO

DOWNTOWN ART



The artist Gaia works on one of his pieces at the Senior Activity Center in Sheboygan, Wis. DAN BENSON

Year of Altruism connects with renowned street artist

By Anna Lee
Staff writer
alee@greenvilleonline.com

That a Jewish financial adviser would bring a Baltimore street artist to paint a mural here might sound

world, to the city of Greenville.

It started with Don Kilberg and the organizers of the Year of Altruism.

As director of development, Kilberg had been looking for a piece of art that could be left behind as a mes-

Then he got a call from Steven Cohen.

The managing director of Nautilus Capital in Mauldin was friends with an artist who paints under the pseudonym Gaia.

Would Year of Altruism be inter-

"I'm an artist. I create artistic actions, and it is this amazing opportunity to be able to be in different communities and"



T-shirts and decals being sold to raise money to sponsor a police canine in memory of Sandy Rogers will feature this logo.

Police canine sponsor honors Rogers

BY TEDDY KULMALA
tkulmal@aikenstandard.com

The sister of Master Sgt. Sandy Rogers would like to sponsor a police canine in honor of the fallen Aiken Public



Rogers

Safety officer, and is looking to the community to help her accomplish that.

"Sandy lived the canines. She loved dogs," said Virginia Johnson, Rogers' sister. "They'd always pick at her about sticking her nose in the car and playing with the dogs. They'd say, 'Get away!'" Rogers was killed in the line of duty while investigating a suspicious vehicle in Busby Park the morning of Jan. 28, 2012. Johnson said she got the idea of purchasing a police canine in memory of her sister about two months ago, and went to speak with Chief Charles Barman about it.

"I didn't know when they needed one or if they even needed one," she said. She learned from Barman that one of Aiken Public Safety's canines, a Belgian Malinois named Suga, had recently been diagnosed with cancer. Suga died last week, and Johnson said Aiken Public Safety had been considering putting another dog in the budget for next year. "I asked him for a way to remember Sandy, to honor Sandy. I wanted to sponsor a dog," she said. "I asked him how he would pick out one. I told him I didn't want to be in and out, but the only thing I did ask is, I wanted the dog to be named Sandman. That was Sandy's nickname at the house."

Please see **ROGERS**, Page 9A

AREA DEATHS

- Arthur Shepard Lamprey, Aiken
 - Carol Anne Taylor Pizio, Aiken
 - Everett L. Franklin, Clearwater
 - Marion Stephen "Steve" Kooy, Windsor
 - Mildred Jarolim, Aiken
 - Patsy Ann Marchant, North Augusta
 - Vicki Veronica Vola, Lincoln Park, N.J.
- Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER



STAFF PHOTO BY BEN BAUGH

Burger King's Antonio Galvan, far right, maintains the line of the ball, with Joe Meyer (white jersey) in pursuit during the USC Aiken Pacers & Polo game.

Spectators, enthusiasts gather for equine sport

BY BEN BAUGH
bbaugh@aikenstandard.com

Aminie Tolson's life is into its tenth decade, but Sunday was the first time she's attended a polo game.

The inauguration was among those in attendance at the 11th Annual USC Aiken Pacers & Polo game at the Aiken Polo Club's Powderhouse Fields.

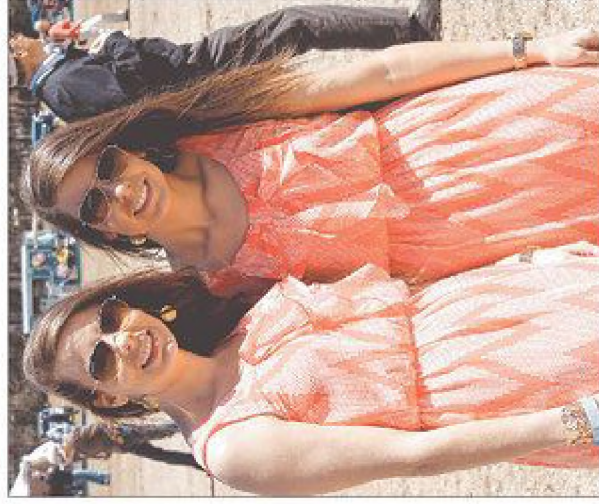
The game had originally been scheduled for Saturday, but was postponed because of the rain fall.

However, there are those who have made the polo game an annual tradition. Jed and Penny Alexander have attended the previous 10 editions, and Sunday was no different. Jed Alexander enjoys the camaraderie of those in proximity to his space and the food, but Penny loves the horses.

"We attend Pacers & Polo and the Aiken Trials," said Penny Alexander. "Aiken has spoiled me for any other place."

It was an opportunity to see the game up close for the first time for New Ellenton's Ron Reynolds, who was encouraged by a number of friends who work for USC Aiken. "This is my first time at Pacers & Polo," said Reynolds. "It's actually my first polo match."

Sunday's game was organized by



STAFF PHOTO BY BEN BAUGH

Nicole Miller and Kayla Williams brought twice the fun to the USC Aiken Pacers & Polo game on Sunday at the Powderhouse Fields.

several years, and 2013-14 has been no exception, said Randy Warren, USC Aiken athletic director. The volleyball team played in has enjoyed overall success the last



STAFF PHOTO BY BEN BAUGH

Chase Howell stomps polo balls at the USC Aiken Pacers & Polo game on Sunday afternoon at the Powderhouse Fields.

the conference championship. The Men's basketball won the conference championship. Our golf team, baseball team, men's tennis team are all ranked nationally, and we all expect them to do good things at the end of their season. Athletically, it's another good year for us. Pacers & Polo helps to support scholars' tips for student athletes. It's always an important event for us. I thought the crowd ended up being a good crowd. I'm tickled to death."

Please see **POLO**, Page 9A

Master's week reservations force storm



The Beaufort Gazette

MONDAY, March 31, 2014

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CRISIS IN UKRAINE

US, Russia talks fail to end deadlock

By **MATTHEW LEE**
The Associated Press

PARIS — The United States and Russia agreed Sunday that the crisis in Ukraine requires a diplomatic resolution, but four hours of talks between U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov failed to break a tense East-West deadlock over how to proceed.

Kerry and Lavrov advanced differ-

MORE INSIDE

Foreigners might have falsified votes in the Crimea referendum. **2A**
ent proposals on how to calm tensions and de-escalate the situation, particularly as Russia continues to mass troops along its border. As he called for Moscow to begin an immediate pullback of the troops, Kerry also dismissed discussion of Russia's demand

for Ukraine to become a loose federation without Ukrainians at the table. "The Russian troop buildup is creating a climate of fear and intimidation in Ukraine," Kerry said. "It certainly does not create the climate that we need for dialogue."

U.S. officials said Kerry proposed a number of ideas on troop withdrawals from the border and that Lavrov told him he would present the propo-

sals to the Kremlin.

At a separate news conference, Lavrov made the case for Moscow's idea of Ukraine as a federalized nation with its various regions enjoying major autonomy from the government in Kiev. Russia says it is particularly concerned about the treatment of ethnic Russians and Russian speakers who live in southern and eastern Ukraine.

NOISE IN BEAUFORT

Changes could be coming to ordinance

By **ERIN MOODY**

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John North says city officials' visions of a Beaufort downtown full of residents who live, work and play in an urban environment are all well and good.

But those visions aren't possible unless people are able to sleep at night, he said, and the noise from some downtown bars and restaurants makes a good night's rest difficult.

"We're not sure what we are going to do. We might not move downtown," said North, who was considering making his suite above Regions Bank on Bay Street his main residence. "We've discovered you need to sleep to live."

The city's noise ordinance is under scrutiny by City Council and was the focus of a work session Tuesday that drew downtown residents and business owners.

"The Norths should not be blamed for doing exactly what City Council wants to happen," Historic Beaufort Foundation executive director Maxine Lutz said of their desire to live downtown. "They own that building. They have a right to live in that building."

Beaufort Police Department spokeswoman Hope Able said nine complaints have been made for the Bay Street area — seven by North, one anonymous and one by an officer — since the beginning

Please see **CHANGES** on 7A

ASSESSMENT OVERLOAD: The hidden costs of standardized testing

Number of standardized tests in schools SEES EXPLOSIVE RISE



THEOPHIL SYSLO • Staff photo

Hilton Head Island Middle School students Tanashia Robinson, left, and Brandon Neduasa, right, work with English teacher Kathleen Clark, center, during a practice Palmetto Assessment of State Standards test on March 7. PASS is a state-mandated test designed to determine whether students are meeting the state's academic standards.

By **SARAH BOWMAN** • sbowman@beaufortgazette.com • 843-706-8188

Multiple choice: How many standardized tests will a student take from the time he or she enters kindergarten through high school graduation?

- A. 30 to 39
- B. 40 to 49
- C. 50 to 59
- D. More than 60

The answer: D

And that number does not include optional assessments for students, like Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate tests, or college boards such as the ACT and SAT. Factor in those, and the number could jump to nearly 100 tests — or more than 240 hours — in a student's pre-college academic career. It wasn't always that way.

For example, in the 2000-01 school year, Beaufort County public-school students could expect to take 10 to 20 standardized tests before graduation.

"When I went through school, the only tests that I remember taking, other than class tests, were the IQ test, maybe one or two achievement tests and the SAT, but testing was very rare," said state Education Oversight Committee chairman David White-

THREE-DAY SERIES

Sunday: The consensus is clear — Beaufort County public-school students can expect to spend a minimum of 150 hours taking standardized tests during their academic careers. Educators say so much testing comes with hidden costs. Miss a day? Catch up at <http://bit.ly/bcsd-tests-1>

Today: The number of standardized tests administered to public-school students exploded in the past decade. Why did it happen?

Coming Tuesday: If so many people agree public-school students take too many standardized tests, why isn't more being done to beat back all the assessments? Politics are one reason.

MORE ONLINE:
<http://bit.ly/bcsd-tests-2>

Local gator wrangler might get TV show

By **SARAH BOWMAN**

sbowman@beaufortgazette.com
843-706-8188

Most people know Joe Maffo as Beaufort County's resident alligator wrangler, wildlife expert and Critter Management owner.

But now, people around the country might get a chance to meet him, too — on television.

Maffo is negotiating to have his own reality-like TV show that would focus on his family, educating people about wildlife and, of course, his critter-removal business — in which he frequently wrangles alligators, snakes, bats, lizards and more.



Maffo

WILDCATS IN FINAL FOUR

KENTUCKY DEFEATS MICHIGAN IN NCAA ROUND B1

Herald-Journal

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IN A HURRY

5 Things to read today



Without warning

People living in the path of a deadly landslide in Washington state had virtually no warning before the wall of mud, trees and debris thundered down the mountain. The U.S. Geological Survey doesn't track slide areas on a national scale. **PAGE A7**

Victory at last

Kurt Busch's Sunday at Martinsville Speedway started with a pit road confrontation with Brad Keselowski and closed with Busch ending an 83-race victory drought. **PAGE B1**

Return to Broadway

Oscar winner Denzel Washington returns to the stage in a Broadway production of "A Raisin in the Sun." Washington plays Walter Lee, a chauffeur with dreams of opening a liquor store, a role made famous by Sidney Poitier. **PAGE A2**

City vs. country

The Affordable Care Act has widened the health care cost divide between urban and rural areas. In more remote areas, monthly premiums are soaring. **PAGE A7**

Heart attack test

A simple test appears very good at ruling out heart attacks in people who go to emergency rooms with chest pain, according to a recent study. The blood test combined with an electrocardiogram is 99 percent accurate in determining who can be sent home. **PAGE A7**

Weather

GOP solidifies advantage in House

Election wins at state levels allow Republicans to remap districts following census

By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Even if Democrats recruit great candidates, raise gobs of money and run smart campaigns, they face an uphill fight to retake control of the House in this year's congressional elections, regardless of the political climate in November.

The reason? Republican strategists spent years developing a plan to take advantage of the 2010 census, first by winning key state legislatures and then redrawing House districts to tilt the playing field in their favor.

In Ohio, Michigan and North Carolina, Republicans were able to shape congressional maps to pack as many Democratic voters as possible into the fewest House districts. The process, called gerrymandering, left fertile ground elsewhere in each

SC CAMPAIGN NEWS ON A4

- ◆ Contested races
- ◆ Redistricting
- ◆ Campaign filings
- ◆ Challenger to Rep. Derham Cole

state to spread Republican voters among more districts, increasing the GOP's chances of winning more seats.

Geography helped, too, in some states. Democratic voters are more likely to live in densely populated urban areas, making it easier to

pack them into fewer districts.

The first payoff came in 2012, when Republicans kept control of the House despite Demo-

◆ SEE GOP PAGE A9

TAKING FLIGHT OVER SPARTANBURG



Colorful kites fly during the Spartanburg Soaring! International Kite Festival Sunday in a field at Barnet Park. For a gallery of photos, visit GoUpstate.com.

MICHAEL JUSTUS/MICHAELJUSTUS@SPJ.COM

Kite fest soars over Barnet Park, energizing free spirits of young, old

By JENNY ARNOLD
jennifer.arnold@shj.com

The wind gusted, kites fluttered in a blue sky and children laughed as they ran across the field at Barnet Park during a first-of-its-kind kite festival in Spartanburg Sunday.

The Spartanburg Soaring! International Kite Festival, postponed until Sunday because of Sat-

"This is so cool," Hart said, as she and Kinsley made another attempt to fly the kite. "I thought it was something different, something for the kids to do. Any chance we can get out."

Kites of all shapes, sizes and colors soared over the park, including a frog, butterflies, a macaw, an octopus, dragons, and boxes and other geometric shapes, their streamers snapping in the whinnying

Russians demand Ukraine federation

Kerry, Lavrov meet in Paris, discuss troops building up on border

By MATTHEW LEE
The Associated Press

PARIS — Russia on Sunday set out demands for a diplomatic resolution to the crisis in Ukraine, saying the former Soviet republic should be unified in a federation allowing wide autonomy to its various regions as U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov met in Paris in another bid to calm tensions.

After a brief call on French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, Kerry sat down with Lavrov at the residence of the Russian ambassador to France to go over Moscow's response to a U.S. plan to de-escalate the situation as Russian troops continue to mass along the Ukrainian border.

The men said nothing of substance as they shook hands, although after Kerry ended the photo op before their meeting by thanking assembled journalists, Lavrov cryptically added, in English, "Good luck, and good night."

Their meeting ended Sunday evening after four hours, including dinner. Kerry was conferring with aides and did not immediately provide a briefing on their lengthy talks.

Appearing on Russian television ahead of his talks with Kerry, Lavrov rejected suspicions that the

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2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2014

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GOP dominates SC districts

Republican party has six of seven House seats and both Senate seats

By **BRUCE SMITH**
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The decade-long Republican control of South Carolina government has resulted in congressional districts increasingly safe

for the GOP and has marginalized conservative white Democrats who for decades ran the state where the Civil War began.

After decades of growth, the GOP took control of the state in the early 2000s for the first time since Recon-

struction. The party now has six of the state's seven House seats as well as both seats in the U.S. Senate. The governor and all constitutional officers are Republican as are majorities in both the state House and Senate.

And, with the party in power

wielding the pens when it comes to drawing congressional lines, it appears GOP dominance will increase.

"When redistricting took place it was a partnership between Republicans and African-Americans," said

Gibbs Knotts, the chairman of the Department of Political Science at the College of Charleston. "Republicans got more safely Republican districts and African-Americans got majority minority districts. What that left out were districts where more conservative Democrats, usually white, were

See **DISTRICTS**, page 4A



BEN DAVIS

President, Connie Maxwell Children's Home



SUBMITTED

Dr. Ben Davis is shown with one of Connie Maxwell's children in care at the President's Annual Ice Cream Social.

'A GREAT SERVANT'

Davis to retire as Connie Maxwell president after 21 years of service

By **KATE HRUBY**
khruby@indexjournal.com

Ben Davis has lived a varied life, as newspaper owner and publisher, radio station owner, city councilman, and mayor. But perhaps his most satisfying occupation to date has been his work with Connie Maxwell Children's Home.

Davis has served the home for nearly 21 years, as both vice president of development and as school president for the past 12 years.

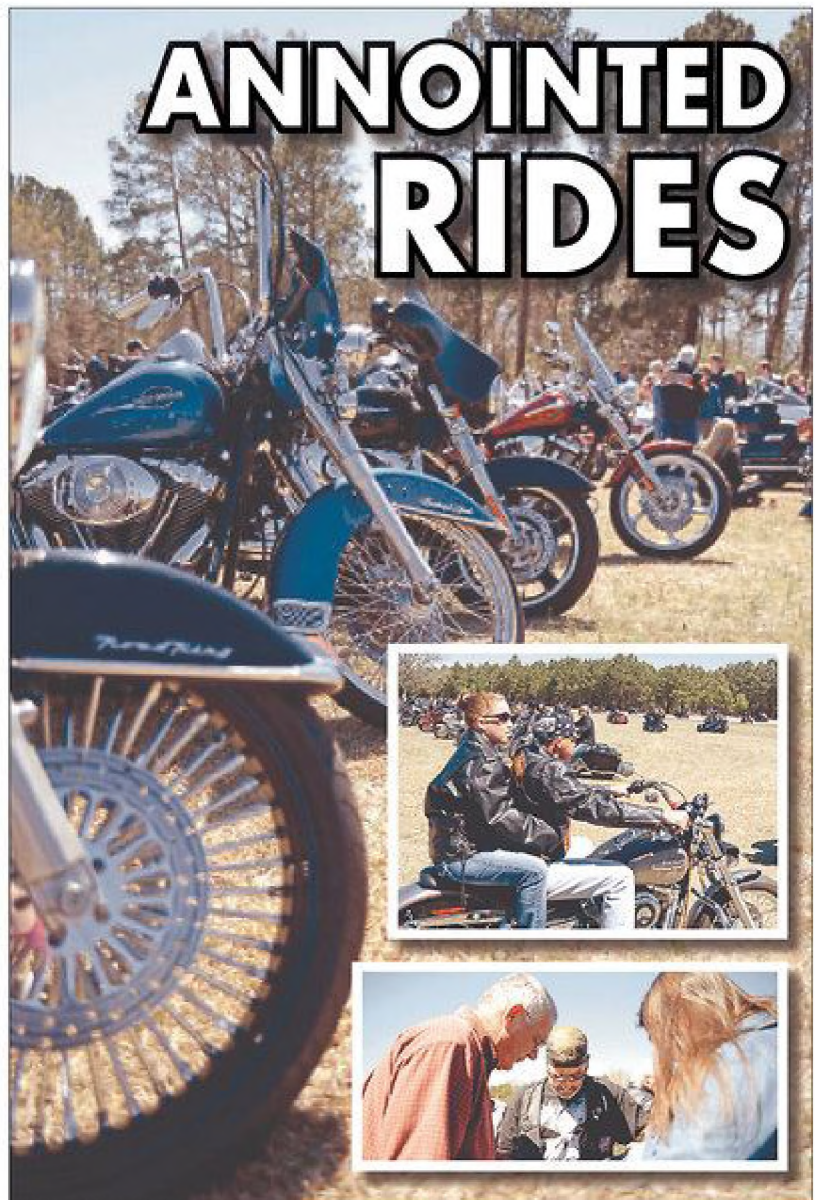
This September, Davis will be passing the torch to a new

ing to Greenwood in 1996. Davis attended Greenville High School and went on to Furman University. It was there Davis got involved in the communications industry.

"I pretty much worked my way through college by doing radio announcing," he said.

Davis went on to own a communications corporation that operated WFIS radio, The Tribune-Times, WCKM radio, TriMark direct mail franchise and The Tribune Print Shop while living in Fountain Inn.

He simultaneously served three years on the Fountain



MAIN: A total of 403 bikers rode from Hobby Lobby to First Mt. Moriah Baptist Church for the Blessing of the Bikes Sunday afternoon. **TOP INSET:** Bikers from all over South Carolina ride in for the Blessing of the Bikes event. **BOTTOM INSET:** Volunteers C. Brown, left, and Briana Sims, right, join hands with Ryan Bruce for prayer at the Blessing of the Bikes event.

Bikers for Christ sponsor Blessing of the Bikes event

By **MATT BRUCE**
mbruce@indexjournal.com

"God just gives us a chance to love on the

Cockrell was among the hundreds who gathered on the encampment in front of First Mount Moriah Baptist



SPORTS South Carolina, North Carolina women tangle in Sweet 16. **Page 1B**

Morning News

MONDAY MARCH 31, 2014

The Voice of the Pee Dee

TODAY'S WEATHER

Warmer with abundant sunshine.
High 74, low 42.
DETAILS 2A

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Pee Dee awaits impact of ACA

Residents are falling into the 'Medicaid gap'

BY GAVIN JACKSON
Morning News
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FLORENCE — The impact of today's deadline for the Affordable Care Act's re-

quirement for uninsured Americans to get health care or pay a penalty will soon be seen as will the impact of that insurance's cost and the state's choice not to expand Medicaid.

Of the 771,000 uninsured South Caro-

linians, only 55,830 had selected a health insurance plan as of March 1. Data shows that 136,414 individuals have filled out applications and are eligible for a health insurance plan through the federal marketplace. Nearly 20,000 others qualified for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Some 340,000 people also would have

been eligible for Medicaid in the state, but are in what is known as the "Medicaid gap." The legislature voted last year not to take federal dollars to expand coverage and eventually pay part of those expanded costs in the coming years.

That decision not to take that money still

See **ACA**, Page 4A

RPP helps medical workers get clean

BY TRACI BRIDGES
Morning News
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FLORENCE — Rachel was a registered nurse with a great job at a critical care nurse at one of the best medical facilities in the state five years ago.

She also was a regular user of marijuana and cocaine off the clock, but when an accidental needle prick forced her to submit to a random, on-the-spot drug test, her worlds collided.

She tested positive for marijuana, putting her nursing license and job in immediate jeopardy.

"I'd never really thought about something random like that happening to me, and at first, I was mad," Rachel said. "I was angry. I wasn't

EDITOR'S NOTE

The medical professional interviewed for this story spoke on the condition of anonymity. Her name has been changed to protect her identity.

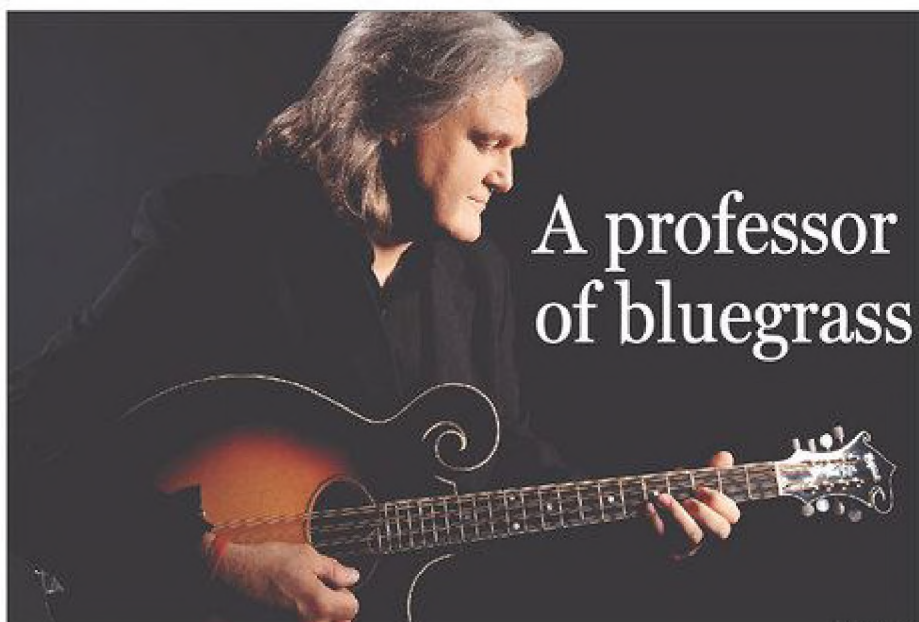
some bad person. All I could think is, 'Why was this happening to me?' But now I see how selfish that was to think that way. I had

people's lives in my hands. Would I want somebody working on my mother who had been up all night partying? No, I want the person taking care of my mother sober and 100 percent functioning."

Rachel's medical career could have been over with that random needle prick, but she was referred to the Recovering Professional Program and given a second chance of sorts.

Rachel's not alone. In just the past few weeks, a registered nurse and a nurse practitioner have been charged with altering prescriptions and stealing drugs in separate cases in the Pee Dee. The problem is growing every day both in South Carolina and nationwide, which is precisely why RPP was created, according to RPP Director Frank Shebeen.

"It used to be that each regulatory board did its own investigations and handled its own monitoring, but they're not trained in addiction, so it didn't really work very well," Shebeen said. "So, medical professionals from across the state started looking at the situation and looked at other models all over the country. They learned



Ricky Skaggs has been playing mandolin for 54 of his 59 years.

Ricky Skaggs promises an education in mountain music at Saturday's show at PAC

BY MATT TATE
Morning News
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FLORENCE — Imagine being 6 years old and sharing the court with NBA star LeBron James. Standing in front of a cheering crowd. Your diminutive hands barely hanging on to the enormous mound of cowhide. And not only are you sharing the court with one of the greatest to ever play, you're expected to go toe-to-toe with him.

Impossible, right? That was pretty much the task a 6-year-old Ricky Skaggs was handed 50-some years ago on a gymnasium stage in Martha, Ky., when the father of bluegrass, Bill Monroe, invited "little Ricky," as the audience was calling him, onstage. Skaggs, who had been given a mandolin at age 5 from his dad, Hobart, had taken to playing at church and in front of the grocery store with his old man, which had helped build his vocal fan base.

Without his own pint-sized instrument, Skaggs had to strap on Monroe's. "He had a 4-gallon-sized mandolin, but he made the strap fit," Skaggs said. Skaggs helped lead the band in a rendition of "Ruby, Are You Mad at Your Man?" — not exactly a childhood lullaby — to a roaring crowd.

"People loved it. We started and finished, and we didn't have a train wreck, so it was a good night," Skaggs said. "It was a pretty big deal. I didn't realize at



Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder have released 12 consecutive Grammy-nominated bluegrass albums.

WANT TO GO?

WHAT: Ricky Skaggs with Kentucky Thunder

WHEN: 7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 5

WHERE: Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center, 201 S. Dargan St. in Florence

INFO: Tickets are \$39-59. Visit the box office, go online at fmupac.org or call 843-661-4444 to purchase.

he could have sworn Skaggs was at least 12 at the time.

"I wouldn't have let you on the stage if I'd known you were just 6," Skaggs recalled Monroe saying. "I just told him,

has followed, with much more to come.

That lifetime in music shines through in his live shows, like the one he is bringing with his band Kentucky Thunder on Saturday to the Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center in Florence, and Skaggs takes the audience on a journey through the history of bluegrass.

"We like the shows to be an education in bluegrass," he said. "We talk about the history when we do some of these songs."

If that sounds a bit like Bluegrass 101, well, consider the professor's qualifications. The 14-time Grammy Award winner also has three honorary doctorates, including one from the famed Berklee



CMYK



Odd



Rep. Jerry Govan Jr. of Orangeburg

Rep. Govan running for House, Supt. of Ed.

By MARTHA ROSE BROWN
T&D Staff Writer

Rep. Jerry Govan Jr., D-Orangeburg, has joined the race for state Superintendent of Education.

Govan said his entry into the race is "not a knee-jerk decision or reaction."

Rather he sees this as a "unique opportunity to really talk about ideas about what the future of education should look like in South Carolina."

"Education in South Carolina is the economic catalyst for the future.... Students need to be able to compete globally," Govan said.

He is one of four Democratic candidates seeking the office, along with eight Republicans and one American Party candidate.

Govan, who represents House District 95, is also seeking re-election to his House seat. No other candidates filed in the District 95 race.

He said it will be a week or two before his Superintendent of Education campaign makes a formal announcement about his education reform plans.

"Our vision for education is one of inclusion," he said. It will include ways for parents, higher education leaders and businesses to partner together.

Govan works as the Orangeburg County Attendance Supervisor and holds bachelor's and master's degrees from South Carolina State University.

He is also coordinator of Orangeburg County Dropout Prevention and works with Orangeburg Consolidated School District 5.

Mick Zais, current State Superintendent of Education, announced he will not seek re-election.

Filing for offices ended Sunday. Party primaries will be held June 10.

In state House races affecting the T&D region, incumbents in several districts are running unopposed: District 66 Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, D-Orangeburg; District 91 Rep. Lonnie Hosey, D-Barnwell; District 93 Rep. Russell Ott, D-St. Matthews and District 95 Rep. Jerry Govan, D-Orangeburg.

District 90 Rep. Bakari Sellers, D-Denmark, is not seeking re-election to his House seat. Instead he's joined the list of those seeking to become the state's next lieutenant governor.

Three candidates are vying

See GOVAN, A2

The Times and Democrat MNDAY MARCH 31, 2014

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Gamecocks
fall to
Tar Heels,

Sports, B1

With the deadline at hand to apply for insurance under the federal Affordable Care Act, doctors, insurers and the people who depend on them are wondering how the health care landscape will change. In a three-day series, The Times and Democrat is looking at the law's impact at home. On Sunday, the topic was the strains that the ACA, Medicaid and the state's approach to them have placed on the system. Today, we look at those who have signed up and those who remain uninsured. On Tuesday, the focus is the state and how the health care landscape may change.

Follow the series and related multimedia at TheTandD.com.

AFFORDABLE



CHRISTOPHER HUFF/T&D

Dr. Bert Gue, medical director of the Orangeburg-Calhoun Free Medical Clinic, says he's not seeing fewer patients as a result of the Affordable Care Act.

O-C Free Clinic will be needed for foreseeable future, Gue says

By DIONNE GLEATON
T&D Staff Writer

For nearly five years, the professionals at the Orangeburg-Calhoun Free Medical Clinic have been serving those who can't afford insurance and don't qualify for government assistance. They don't see that changing under the federal Affordable Care Act.

"I think there are a lot of kinks that still have to be worked out as far as the Affordable Care Act. I think it's a great thing and is going to really influence things, but for the time being—at least in my lifetime—I think there are going to be a lot of patients who qualify and will be seen in a free clinic because they don't have any income," said Dr. Bert Gue, the clinic's medical director.

The clinic at 800 Holly St. opened its doors in August 2009. Gue, a retired internist, said he felt a need to continue to serve.

"I thought that there was a need for serving individuals in the community who couldn't afford private medical care. At that point and time, I talked with some of the officers at the Regional Medical Center and it took us about a year to get all the groundwork done to open the clinic and we're still here," Gue said.

He credits the clinic's success to the support of dedicated volunteers who have not only served in the clinic but have helped raise criti-

"Patients here don't get charged a thing for an initial visit, which is a comprehensive physical examination. ... I would bet that at least half of them don't even know what the Affordable Care Act is, and that's a real problem."

— DR. BERT GUE, ORANGEBURG-CALHOUN FREE CLINIC MEDICAL DIRECTOR

cal funds for it. A \$100,000 Duke Endowment grant helped finance the clinic's first year of operation, but the facility is now self-sustaining as it cares for patients who are not eligible for Medicare or Medicaid, have no medical insurance and fall below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

"We've been working on grants from other sources and do receive private donations, including excellent continuing contributions from several churches. The Regional Medical Center contributes in-kind services, and we've had a lot of support from specialty physicians

See FREE, A2

Locals try getting insurance but many rely on programs — or emergency room

By DIONNE GLEATON
T&D Staff Writer

Gloria Glover is excited that she has found a more affordable insurance plan under the federal Affordable Care Act, but the process was not without pain.

The 52-year-old Orangeburg resident has been among the millions trolling through the government's health insurance marketplace that opened on Oct. 1 under the ACA.

■ 'You have to give it a try'

Under the ACA, individuals who don't have job-based insurance coverage, can't afford their own plan or have a health problem that previously got them turned down will all be able to purchase insurance through online marketplaces on the federal government's site, HealthCare.gov.

Unless a person is in an exempt category, he or she has to purchase insurance by March 31 or be subject to a penalty of \$95 or 1 percent of yearly income — whichever is higher — the first year without insurance. The penalties increase in the future. Individuals who don't have to file a tax return because their income is too low are among those exempt. The deadline has been extended for some individuals.

While she ran into earlier glitches with the system, Glover is glad to have overcome them.

"I was able to get back through the website when everything was fixed up. Before I was paying a premium of close to \$200 and now it's something like \$119 a month, so it's pretty good. They were saying it would be best for younger people to purchase insurance this way to get a cheaper rate. I was able to get a rate, and it was pretty low," Glover said.

She said she is pleased with the reduced co-pay amounts for generic prescriptions and visits to specialists and her primary care doctor. She encourages other potentially eligible individuals to sign up before it's too late.

"You have to give it a try; you never know. I know my parents just kept saying, 'Go in there and see what they're offering.' I went on there and they offered a lot of good things," she said.

"I hope to pass the word along to some of my other peers and relatives, too. Sometimes young people don't talk about these things that much until they get sick."

Wanda Simmons is a vice president/operations director of Resource Care Alliance, a company that sponsors Certi-

Online

Visit TheTandD.com for a video interview with Dr. Bert Gue, medical director of the Orangeburg-Calhoun Free Medical Clinic.

See ACA, A2

Bamberg sheriff: 1 person killed, 3 injured in drug deal gone bad

"This country has gone gun and drug crazy, and

Woman's body pulled from Lake Marion

Brian Symmes

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