

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
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Subject: SC Front Pages – Thursday, October 27, 2016

SC Front Pages – Thurs day, October 27, 2016



SPORTS, 1C BACK TO BEGINNING



METRO, 3A Newtown supports Anderson

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 27, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY POLL: CLINTON UP BUT VOTERS ARE ANXIOUS PAGE 1B

DDSN director says changes coming

Senators question
organization on audits

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COLUMBIA — The chairman of a Senate finance panel on Wednesday asked the director of the state's disabilities agency to increase the agency's oversight actions with county disabilities agencies and private providers.

Sen. Thomas Alexander's requests came during a hearing on the state Department of Disabilities and Special Needs and following stories this year in *The Greenville News* about problems with private provider SC Mentor and about findings in internal audits at county disabilities and special needs boards.

DDSN cares for thousands of people with intellectual disabilities, autism, brain or spinal cord injuries through a network of state facilities, county providers and private providers offering multiple programs ranging from day

services to group homes.

Alexander, a Walhalla Republican, peppered the two-hour testimony of DDSN Director Beverly Buscemi with questions and suggestions concerning the agency's oversight role. He said afterward he thinks DDSN appears to be addressing some concerns that lawmakers have had for years as the result of Legislative Audit Council findings.

"Obviously, there is more work that needs to be done and we're going to have to explore more to see what that needs to be," he said.

The News reported in July that documents, interviews and recordings obtained by the newspaper revealed that SC Mentor had a troubling record of resident deaths, staff arrests, lawsuits and allegations of abuse and neglect. The provider holds a contract valued at almost \$20 million and cares for about 200 DDSN consumers at more than 70 residential facilities.

DDSN froze admissions to Mentor in March, the third time since 2010, after

See DDSN, Page 5A

Upstate drought deemed severe

Hurricane Matthew
offered no help to region

ERIC CONNOR
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The odd tale of two South Carolinas when it comes to rainfall was confirmed Wednesday as the state group that assesses drought conditions upgraded the Upstate's dire condition just as the lower half of the state was lifted from drought status in the wake of Hurricane Matthew.

The new drought map, voted on Wednesday by the state's drought response committee made up of multiple local and state agencies, shows a dividing line that virtually splits the state in two between the dry Upstate and the wet Midlands and Lowcountry.

The Upstate's three westernmost counties — Anderson, Pickens and Oconee — were upgraded to severe drought status, a step below the highest designation of extreme drought.

The rest of the Upstate was placed into moderate drought status.

Meanwhile, counties from the Midlands to the coast were lifted from drought completely as the flood toll of the Oct. 8 landfall of Matthew becomes clearer.

"It is rare to see such a range of extremes with Myrtle Beach receiving over 33 inches of rain over the last 60 days, while Easley reports only 75 one-hundredths of an inch," said Hope Mizzell, state climatologist for the Department of Natural Resources.

Hurricane Matthew dropped as much as 15 inches in the Pee Dee region where the storm did its worst after menacing the Atlantic coastline and making landfall north of Charleston. Two storms in previous weeks — Hurricane Hermine and Tropical Storm Julia — drenched the Lowcountry.

The Upstate was essentially untouched.



An elk, the first seen in South Carolina in centuries, gazes across a field in northern Pickens County.

PHOTO: CALEB CASSELL

STATE SEES FIRST ELK IN CENTURIES

'Historic moment'
for Pickens Co.

RON BARNETT
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For the first time since the Upstate was Cherokee territory, a wild elk has been seen roaming the woodlands of South Carolina.

Northern Pickens County is abuzz with sightings of the bull elk, whose

"This is the first wild
elk to roam the woods

and wild places in
South Carolina since
they disappeared in
the early 1700s."

found himself ousted by the dominant males of a herd of Rocky Mountain elk that have been re-established in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, said noted outdoorsman and Pickens County resident Dennis Chastain.

"This is a historic moment that some of us knew would eventually come," Chastain said. "This is the first wild elk to roam the woods and wild places in South Carolina since they disappeared in the early 1700s."

Capt. Robert McCullough of the state Department of Natural Resources said



AVETT BROTHERS LIKE PLAYING IN UPSTATE

ESCAPE, D1



CUBS WIN, TIE SERIES AT 1-1

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

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IN WESTERN CAROLINAS

DROUGHT'S GRIP TIGHTENS



CAMPAIGN 2016 POLL:

Clinton appears on cusp of big win

By Julie Pace
and Emily Swanson
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Hillary Clinton appears on the cusp of a potentially commanding victory over Donald Trump, fueled by solid Democratic turnout in early voting, massive operational advantages and increasing enthusiasm among her supporters.

A new Associated Press-GfK poll released Wednesday finds

NEWS DIGEST

First elk sighting in SC since 1700s reported

PICKENS — A wild elk has been spotted roaming the woodlands of South Carolina for the first time in more than 200 years.

News outlets report that wildlife biologists are warning Upstate residents and tourists to stay away from a young bull elk that was seen in several places in Pickens County over the weekend.

In response to social media posts showing people feeding the animal, North Carolina

AVETT BROTHERS

Folk-pop band coming to Greenville this weekend. **Current**



Independent Mail

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2016

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

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Upstate drought conditions severe

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A few areas in the Upstate reported receiving more than an inch of rain from Matthew, but the National Weather Service's final tally from Oct. 7-9 showed most of the region receiving less than an

inch or just a trace.

"Three tropical systems since Sept. 1 brought an abundance of rainfall and flooding to portions of South Carolina," Mizzell said, "but the Upstate missed out on all three rain events."

The dry conditions led the Greenville Water System to ask customers to voluntarily conserve water. Further drought conditions could lead to mandatory restrictions on watering lawns and washing cars, spokeswoman Olivia Vassey said.

These are the worst drought conditions in the Upstate since winter 2012,

See **DROUGHT**, Page 8A

Mother, daughter among Anderson shooting victims



A house on Montague Street in Anderson was shot Tuesday night, and a 13-year-old boy injured in the shooting remains in critical condition.

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AND KIRK BROWN

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Six people were injured and no one has been arrested after a series of overnight shootings in the city of Anderson in one of the worst nights of gunfire the city has had in years, police said Wednesday.

were all from outside into homes, Aikens said.

Aikens said officers have not yet identified the shooter or shooters and the other two shootings may yet be connected.

Around 50 bullets are believed to have been fired at the first location, around 11:40 p.m. Tuesday at Montague Street on the city's west side, Aikens said.

More than a dozen bullet holes are vis-

AnMed Health Medical Center in Anderson for treatment of gunshot wounds. Aikens said the 13-year-old is in critical condition, with the most serious injuries of the night.

Several people were inside the home playing cards and there was no sign that it involved gambling, Aikens said. The shooting victims were in the house's living room and dining room, he

Newtown supports Anderson dispatchers in grief

MIKE ELLIS

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Little plastic ducks with a green ribbon on their breast have helped to bring some comfort to the students from Sandy Hook Elementary School, and now the ducks have come to support Anderson County 911 dispatchers.

Two large boxes stuffed with the ducks, snacks and encouraging letters came in the mail last week, said Stephen Combs of the Anderson County Sheriff's Office emergency services division. The same kind of ducks were given to children at the Newtown, Connecticut, school after the shooting there in December 2012 that left 20 children and six adults dead.

In a letter to the Anderson County dispatchers, Newtown Emergency Communications Center Director Maureen Will says the ducks were given to the children to show "they are loved (and) as safe as we can make them."

Will said this batch of ducks was being sent to Anderson because they are now part of the Newtown family.

"That one club no one wants to be a member of," Will wrote.

Combs said the letter and ducks touched the hearts of the dispatchers.

"Dispatchers work 12-hour shifts. They take the call and get the resources in place, but they don't always know the outcome," Combs said. "For a lack of a better term, this was like a five-hour energy drink for our 12-hour shifts. We appreciate that they recognized us for

See **DISPATCH**, Page 5A

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Morning News

THURSDAY OCTOBER 27, 2016

TODAY'S
WEATHER

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DETAILS 2A

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Pilots file suit against sheriff's office

Department faces defamation, false arrest claims

BY JESSICA IMBIMO
Morning News
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FLORENCE — The two pilots previously indicted and cleared of felony charges have filed a lawsuit against the Florence County Sheriff's Office.

Dusan Fridl and Hemming Hemmingsen have accused the sheriff's office of defamation,

civil conspiracy, abuse of process, malicious prosecution and false arrest and imprisonment and are seeking compensatory damages.

Maj. Mike Nunn of the Florence County Sheriff's Office said the matter had been forwarded to the department's attorneys, but declined to comment further.

"We do not comment on pending litigation," Nunn said.

Fridl and Hemmingsen were arrested and charged with unlawful entry of an aircraft by the Florence County Sheriff's Office after flying the Bell OH58A helicopter in April 2015.

The pilots took the helicopter for a preventative maintenance flight on April 6, prior to it being transferred into the possession



Dusan Fridl (center) and Hemming Hemmingsen (left) on the first day of trial Jan. 25. Also pictured is Patrick McLaughlin, Fridl and Hemmingsen's attorney.

See PILOTS, Page 3A

PHOTO BY JESSICA IMBIMO/MORNING NEWS

Scores show learning curve needed for new tests

BY MELISSA ROLLINS
Morning News
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FLORENCE — A large number of students who took the S.C. Ready Assessment, administered for the first time during the 2015-16 school year, did not meet the standards.

The South Carolina Department of Education recently released scores for the statewide S.C. Ready Assessment.

For the S.C. Ready test, third-through eighth-graders tested in mathematics and English language arts. Scores are given as "Meets Expectations," "Exceeds Expectations," "Does Not Meet Expectations" and "Approaches Expectations."

State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman said in a media advisory that the newest test scores would be used for evaluations in the future.

"In order to achieve success we must have high expectations for ALL students regardless of demographics or location," Spearman said. "Every student has the ability to learn and be successful if they have the proper supports in place. We will be using the results of these assessments to better prepare educators and in turn, students for the goal of being college and career ready upon graduation."

Randy Koon, assistant superintendent of instruction for Florence School District One, said that S.C. Ready is the third standardized test put into place in a short period.

"This test is replacing ACT Aspire," Koon said. "The year before that we had a revised S.C. PASS test; we've had three different tests over the past three years."

The three tests looked at different standards, Koon said, and made evaluation problematic for admin-

DELMAE 4-H CLUB



Madisyn Cooper uses a can opener to make a hole in a can that will become her vagabond stove during a 4-H meeting at Delmae Elementary School.

PHOTO BY MELISSA ROLLINS/MORNING NEWS

Members win big, learn life skills

BY MELISSA ROLLINS
Morning News
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Jalliyah McKay gets help from Dee Temple, left in purple shirt, to make a lid for her vagabond stove during a 4-H meeting at Delmae Elementary School.

FLORENCE — Students in the Delmae Elementary School 4-H program recently took home blue ribbons at the Eastern Agricultural Fair.

Science teacher Debbie Chapman leads the group and said she loves what she does.

"This is my second year as a 4-H leader," Chapman said. "I think that I have the best job." Chapman said many of her efforts are to help her kids learn to

take care of themselves.

"We have a passion for teaching these students to be self-sufficient and sustainable," Chapman said. "In my classroom, we study Michelle Obama's gardens, because she is one who wants children to know how to grow their own food. The plants we have now didn't make it through the storm, but in the spring the kids grow tomatoes and green bell peppers, and in the fall we grow kale, a plant that will sustain over the wintertime. They

See DELMAE, Page 3A

the Sumter ITEM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2016

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Teacher data raises concerns

School board members seek breakdowns by school to investigate, improve

BY BRUCE MILLS
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Various members of the Sumter School Board of Trustees were concerned Monday night when presented with data on exiting teachers' responses to a district survey from the end of last school year.

On various survey questions used to determine the perception of the school district by teachers and other certified personnel who were leaving the district, the percentages of those who didn't think favorably or were undecided in their opinions raised red flags with board members.

The board members asked if the

I know there are a lot of great things going on in our district from my own personal experience, but this concerns me.

JOHNNY HILTON

Sumter School District board member

anonymous survey data could be provided at least on an individual school level for more insight and for potential

improvements to be put in place, and district staff said that request could be provided to the board at a later time.

The final question on the exit survey raised the most concern of board members. It asked the exiting employees if they would recommend Sumter School District to families seeking an educational setting for their children. Of the 78 survey respondents, 27 — or 34.6 percent — responded with "No" or that they were "Undecided" on the question.

"To me, that is high," board member Johnny Hilton said. "What troubles me is this question asks, 'Would you recommend other kids to come to school

SEE DATA, PAGE A9

New senior living apartments going up on Liberty



KEITH GEDAMKE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Archie Gilchrist, an employee of G&G Masonry, places a block onto the elevator shaft at the Sumter Senior Apartments being built on Liberty Street on Wednesday afternoon. The company building the facility, Rehab Builders Inc., expects the job to be done in March.

In living color: VP Biden hoping to turn red S.C. to blue

COLUMBIA (AP) — It'd be a longshot to turn Republican South Carolina from red to blue in this year's general election, but a repeat visit from Vice President Joe Biden could signal the Democrats see signs of change in the Palmetto State.

The country's second-



border into the Midlands.

Mulvaney, 49, is going for a fourth term in the 5th District, which had been in Democratic hands for more than 100 years until he defeated incumbent John Spratt in 2010.

Person has raised more than \$184,000 in the third

Pitts reviews S.C. Chamber 2017 agenda

BY JIM HILLEY
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South Carolina State Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Ted Pitts provided a presentation Tuesday at the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Breakfast reviewing the state Chamber's agenda for the 2017 session of the General Assembly.

Pitts said he was on a grassroots tour of 16 local chambers to listen to their concerns and

to speak about the S.C. Chamber's agenda.

"Every year we develop our competitiveness agenda, which are those things that the state's business community

want to see addressed by the next General Assembly," Pitts said.

He said last year's competitiveness agenda included three things: infrastructure, workforce development and business licensing standardization.

"If we look at two of those items, infrastructure and workforce development, a lot was done," Pitts said. "Neither one got through the finish line, but a lot of progress was made."

Pitts said the business community has for several years advocated for a diversified revenue stream that is sustainable and dedicated to help fund maintenance and improvements to the state's highway system.

He said a bill passed in the last session addressed bridges on the primary and interstate highway system, but bridges on secondary roads didn't have any money allocated to them.

"We're basically holding the line where we are now," Pitts said.

He said a step in the right direction in the area of workforce development was the creation of a workforce coordinating council.

"Historically, each entity that does workforce development in South Carolina has done their own thing," Pitts said. "There has never been a coordinating council that has to sit down and come up with one state workforce development plan."

He said the state Chamber was given the ability to place an industry representative on the council. Mike Williams, who is the personnel manager at Michelin in the two Lexington plants, will represent the business community, he said.

The Chamber has also advocated for business licensing standardization, he said.



PITTS

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