

From: Taillon, Jeff  
To: Taillon, Jeff <JeffTaillon@gov.sc.gov>  
Date: 3/25/2013 10:25:52 AM  
Subject: S.C. Front Pages - Monday, March 25, 2013

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## NCAA HAS ITS CINDERELLA

SPORTS, C1



## Fashion Week recap

SEE AND BE SCENE, B10

# The Post and Courier

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MONDAY, March 25, 2013

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## 150 years of heroes

Medal of Honor first awarded in midst of Civil War



WIDE WORLD

Dustin Hutchinson, an Army veteran, his sister Samantha and nephew Don, 4, from Cleveland, look over the nearly 3,500 names on a wall outside the nation's Congressional Medal of Honor Museum on the aircraft carrier Yorktown at Patriots Point on Friday.

BY BRENDA RINDGE [brindge@postandcourier.com](mailto:brindge@postandcourier.com)

In some ways, Charleston deserves a little credit for the Medal of Honor.

After all, we started the war that produced its first recipients.

"We always tie the award to Charleston since the Civil War started in Charleston and the award was first presented in the Civil War," said Maj. Gen. James Everett Livingston, the area's only



Livingston

recipient of the nation's highest military honor.

Today the Medal of Honor is

150 years old.

On March 25, 1863, the first medals were presented to Jacob Parrott and five other men for their actions in "The Great Locomotive Chase" — a military raid in North Georgia in April 1862.

Since then, nearly 3,500 people have received the medal, 80 of whom are still alive.

Please see **HEROES**, Page A5

### Medal of Honor: By the numbers

**3,460**

Recipients of the Medal of Honor

**80**

Current living recipients

**11**

Living recipients who performed actions in World War II

**11**

Living recipients who performed actions in the Korean War

**54**

Living recipients who performed actions in the Vietnam War

**4**

Living recipients who performed actions in the war on terrorism

—Source: Congressional Medal of Honor Society

## 'I could have killed somebody'

Texting-while-driving risk drives S.C. leaders to action

BY PRENTISS FINDLAY  
[pfindlay@postandcourier.com](mailto:pfindlay@postandcourier.com)

South Carolina, home to some of the nation's deadliest highways, is among a minority of states where texting while driving is allowed despite mounting evidence of its dangers.

The state ranks third in the country for dangerous highways, according to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Federal Highway Administration, yet only seven municipalities including Columbia have banned texting while driving. The state remains mostly neutral toward those who send and receive electronic messages behind the wheel.

That could change as proposed legislation to criminalize texting while driving is considered in the General Assembly.

State Rep. Wendell Gilliard, D-Charleston, said he ran a red light on the Septima Clark Parkway, commonly known as the Crosstown, while reading a text message.



### POLL

Have you ever sent or retrieved a text message while driving? Go to [postandcourier.com](http://postandcourier.com) to vote.

Please see **TEXTING**, Page A5

## Progress at last for Success St.

BY DAVID SLADE  
[dslade@postandcourier.com](mailto:dslade@postandcourier.com)

A North Charleston trailer park sits empty and boarded up, in silent mockery of its location — Success Street.

But there's a transformative plan for the site and it just took a big step forward.

The city has cleared the final hurdles for signing a long-planned land deal with the Charleston County School District that will put a new \$28 million elementary school with services for the community where the trailer homes and other shuttered buildings now stand, on Rivers Avenue at Success Street.

The city bought the land during the past several years, spending \$1.7 million to buy out the owners, and is giving the property to the school district. In exchange, the city will get the historic Chicora Elementary School building, located several blocks

Please see **PROGRESS**, Page A4

## It's the least they can do for terns

BY BO PETERSEN  
[bpetersen@postandcourier.com](mailto:bpetersen@postandcourier.com)

ISLE OF PALMS — Every spring for at least three decades, tiny dark-winged birds have arrived at the old Red & White grocery like hordes of shoppers to stake out their spots.

The least terns made a mess of the grocery's glass awning, but the owner let them be. All they wanted was the flat, pebbly roof — to nest.

When the now-closed grocery is

### Lives on the Sea

This is part of an occasional series looking at how the coast and the ocean are changing and what it means for a region where people have made a life and a living for generations in tune with the sea.

razed, the roof will go with it, another vital bit of breeding ground improvised by a spectacular shorebird the state considers a threatened

species. The roofs, too, are on their way out. Building codes no longer allow them.

It could be the second shoe to drop for the terns, which were nearly wiped out in the early 20th century for lost feathers.

In recent years, least terns have been losing their once-isolated pebbly beach rookeries to human intrusion.

Please see **TERNIS**, Page A4



FILE PHOTO

The least tern has turned to rooftops for nesting, adding new threats to the threatened species.

### CONTACT US

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### WEATHER



Mostly sunny.  
High 58, Low 34.  
Complete 5-day  
forecast, A10

### Any Lab Test Now?

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50% off  
four B-12 injections.  
See A2





**HOG-TIED**

Gamecocks suffer first sweep at home since 1999. **B1**

**SWEET SPOTS**

USC women get ready for Kansas. **B1**  
Florida Gulf Coast makes Sweet 16. **B4**



# The State

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2013 | THESTATE.COM

## USC hopes computer overhaul attracts cyber-savvy students

\$75 million system upgrade aims to appeal with innovations that are intuitive, user-friendly

By ANDREW SHAIN  
ashain@thestate.com

The University of South Carolina hopes to attract students by renovating dorms, hiring more professors, and starting an extended summer semester and an

online program to complete bachelor's degrees.

But what many students encounter first is the school's computer system, which also is undergoing a makeover.

The enhancements, called Self Service Carolina, will give stu-

dents a hub they can personalize for admissions, class registration, financial aid and housing. The upgrade also allows for an easier early warning system to spot students having academic problems and alert an adviser.

"We view this as part of a com-

petitive advantage for USC," said Bill Hogue, the school's vice president for information technology. "If things are clunky, unattractive, not intuitive, difficult to use on the front end of an experience with

SEE USC PAGE A5

**YOUR WEEK****Carolina Cup**

Break out the bow ties and dust off those spring hats. It's time for the 81st annual Carolina Cup on Saturday at the Springdale Race Course in Camden. Gates open at 9 a.m. Post time for the first of six races is 1:30 p.m. Details: [www.carolina-cup.org](http://www.carolina-cup.org)

**SHARE THIS****April bucket list**

Indie Grits. Mud Run. Artista Vista. There's so much to do in the spring in Columbia! Tell us what's on your April bucket list, and we'll use it in a "must-do" listing in Life&Style on Sunday. Tell us what you're looking forward to by emailing [statefeatures@thestate.com](mailto:statefeatures@thestate.com). Deadline is Monday.



**AT THESTATE.COM SNAPSHOTS**

Photo galleries of fans from the Taylor Swift concert, and folks who attended the Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic. All at [thestate.com](http://thestate.com)

**CARVED INTO HISTORY**

Anne and John Rainey of Camden had the 'shared history and common destiny' of South Carolinians in mind when they conceived of sculptures honoring Bernard Baruch and Larry Doby.

## Camden sculptures honor native sons Doby, Baruch

By MINDY LUCAS  
mlucas@thestate.com

**CAMDEN** — The lives and legacies of two of Camden's native sons will be celebrated in Camden on Friday.

Baseball Hall of Famer Larry Doby and financier Bernard Baruch will be honored in a ceremony that will include an unveiling of their bronze statues in front of the



Larry Doby is portrayed signing a baseball for fellow Camden native Bernard Baruch.

**ONLINE:**

See a photo gallery of works by sculptor Maria Kirby-Smith, who also has created sculptures of the late Gen. Thomas Sumter

## 323 firms cited under law looking for illegal immigrants

S.C. businesses must check federal database

By NOELLE PHILLIPS  
nophillips@thestate.com

In the first full year of mandatory immigration checks for S.C. workers, the state cited 323 businesses for failing to comply with the law.

None of those businesses lost its license to operate in South Carolina, and none has been a repeat offender, said Lesia Kudelka, a spokeswoman for the S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, which manages the state's immigrant worker compliance program.

In 2011, South Carolina's General Assembly created a new immigration law that required all businesses to use the federal E-Verify system to check the names and Social Security numbers of newly hired workers. The law went into effect on Jan. 1, 2012, but the state did not begin strict enforcement until July 1.

E-Verify is a federal program that checks workers' names against their Social Security numbers. If a name and number match, the worker is considered legal to work in the United States. If

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## SPORTS TIGER WAITS



## LIFESTYLE Online programs take off

# The Greenville News

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MONDAY,  
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## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Kansas gets the best of North Carolina, 1B

FINAL EDITION

# FARMERS KEEP EYES ON TEMPS

Freeze watch issued  
for tonight in Upstate

By Julie Howle

Staff Writer  
jhowle@greenvillenews.com

Ruth Ann Lynn and her family will be closely watching the weather, and their strawberry plants, over the coming days.

Lynn, one of the owners of Sandy Flat Berry Patch, northwest of Greer, said they began fighting the cold over the weekend.

"For two nights we have al-

ready had to use frost protection for the blooms and the berries," she said. "We're anticipating for the next four to five nights to be watching it as well."

Other farmers throughout the Upstate will likely keep an eye out, too, as a freeze watch has been issued for tonight in the Upstate. The calendar says spring, but freezing temperatures aren't going away.

"We'll likely be issuing future (freeze) warnings and watches throughout the week," said Neil Dixon, meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

"The rest of the week we're going to be seeing morning lows anywhere from the upper 20s to the lower 30s," Dixon said. "That doesn't change until we get into Saturday morning."

Dixon said people should hold off a little longer on planting or purchasing plants. He also recommended bringing potted plants inside.

"With the potential for freezing temperatures all the way until Friday morning we're getting later and later into the growing season," Dixon said.



People brave the cold rainy weather in Falls Park on Sunday. HEIDI HELBRUN/STAFF

See COLD, Page 9A



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, left, meets with Iraqi Parliament Speaker Osama al-Nujaifi, right, Sunday in Baghdad. JASON REED/AP

# Kerry warns Iraq: Don't allow Iran to use airspace

US fears shipments aiding  
Assad's regime in Syria

By Matthew Lee

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The U.S. has made clear that Iraq shouldn't allow Iran to use its airspace to ship weapons and fighters to Syria, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Sunday during an unannounced trip

## AMERICAN PRESENCE

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry arrived in Baghdad from Amman, where he had been accompanying President Barack Obama on his tour of Israel, the Palestinian Authority and Jordan. His visit to Iraq is the first by a U.S. secretary of state since Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton went in April 2009.

Since Clinton's trip, the American diplomatic presence in Iraq has shrunk dramatically, most significantly since the U.S. ended military

checked by Iraqi authorities, according to U.S. officials.

The overflights have long been a source of contention between the U.S. and Iraq, and Kerry will tell the Iraqis that allowing them to continue will make the situation in Syria worse and ultimately threaten Iraq's stability.

One senior U.S. official said the sheer number of overflights, which occur "close to daily," along with shipments "evoked a sense of unease" from Iraq through Iraq.

# Heart repair goes hi-tech

Breakthroughs stand  
in for surgeon's knife

By Marilyn Marchione  
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Have a heart problem? If it's fixable, there's a good chance it can be done without surgery, using tiny tools and devices that are pushed through tubes into blood vessels.

Heart care is in the midst of a transformation. Many problems that once required opening up the chest for open heart surgery now can be treated with a nip, twist or patch through a tube.

These minimal procedures were once done just to unclog arteries and correct less common heart rhythm problems.

See HEART, Page 9A



Atlanta cardiologist Dr. Spencer King demonstrates how a catheter is used to repair a diseased heart valve. JEFF CHIU/AP

INSIDE



# Sweet Sixteen

No. 15 seed Florida Gulf Coast is in, 5B  
More March Madness, see **SPORTS 1B**



## Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

MONDAY, March 25, 2013

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 147, No. 84 Aiken, S.C. ★★ 75¢

### INSIDE TODAY



Volunteers record, observe weather data  
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Aiken High FFA spring plant sale begins today  
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Deputy treasurer retires after 30-year tenure  
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### AREA DEATHS

No new deaths  
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### WEATHER

## Biddles synonymous with the sport of polo



Tom Biddle Sr., Tommy Biddle Jr. and Bradley Biddle have left an indelible imprint on the sport of polo.

### Family of horsemen shapes polo community

BY BEN BAUGH  
baugh@aikenstandard.com

The name Biddle has been synonymous with the sport of polo in Aiken for more than four decades.

The patriarch of the family is Tom Biddle Sr. The elder Biddle's company, Biddle Realty, has been a fixture on the local landscape for years, but it's his passion for polo, a love that he was able to pass on to his sons, and the respect he's earned from other horsemen that has made him one of the most influential names in the sport. Tom Biddle Sr. relocated to Aiken from Charlotte, N.C., in 1969 after deciding the historic polo Mecca was the place to raise his family.

Biddle's sons Tommy Jr. and Bradley, would be introduced to the game at a young age, not knowing at the time the sport with which they became involved

would eventually become a passion and, for both, their chosen vocation. Tom Biddle Sr. has been an outstanding motivator, compelling his sons to strive for success and to reach for their goals. It was through his influence that his sons would develop a strong foundation, shaping them not only as polo players but as men.

Tommy Biddle Jr. is the older of the two brothers and has reached the elite level of the sport, achieving a handicap as high as 8-goals outdoors, but he would become only the fourth player in history to earn the distinction of a 10-goal handicap indoors, for his dominating play in the arena.

Aiken was the perfect place to be introduced to the sport, said Tommy Jr. "It was a new time during the early '80s, when Dad and Mr. (David)

It was a new time during the early '80s, when Dad and Mr. (David) Widener started a lot of local people. ... I'm proud to see how Aiken has evolved and grown into the polo center it has become."

Tom Biddle Jr.

Please see **BIDDLES**, Page 5A

## Aiken observes Holy Week, Passover

Passover begins at sundown today

When Holy Week and Passover overlap, it reminds us how Christians and Jews are cousins in faith.

BY MIKE GELLATLY AND DEDE BILES  
mgellatly@aikenstandard.com  
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

It is an important time of year for religious communities in Aiken County and elsewhere. Christians are celebrating Holy Week while Jews are observing Passover.

"When Holy Week and Passover overlap, it reminds us how Christians and Jews are cousins in faith," said Dr.

and the week before Easter. It began yesterday with Palm Sunday and will continue through Holy Saturday (March 30). It also includes the re-

about the events preceding Jesus Christ's death, starting with his triumphant entry into Jerusalem while riding a donkey. That was followed,

## County Council election Tuesday

BY MICHAEL ULMER  
mulmer@aikenstandard.com

The general election to fill the empty District 6 seat on Aiken County Council will take place tomorrow with polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

According to the Aiken County Registration and Elections office, voter turnout is expected to be relatively low with only one name listed on the ballot.

Republican Phil Napier will be the only name listed on tomorrow's ballot after winning the Republican primary for the seat on Feb. 5. He

previously served on County Council from 1999 to 2002 and currently owns a small business in

Graniteville and volunteers as fire chief of the GVV Fire Department.

No Democratic candidate filed for the seat. While voters will be able to cast a write-in vote for a candidate if they choose, no one has put together a concerted write-in vote effort according to Cynthia Holland, executive director of the county's Registration and Elections office.

Only one precinct location has changed from February's primary. The polling station for Precinct 56, the Aiken Electric Cooperative office located at 2790 Wagner Road, has been moved to the polling place for Precinct 57, East Aiken Elementary School, located at 235 Old Wagener Road.

Only Aiken County residents living in District 6 are eligible to vote in the election.

"It is a time when we who commit to follow Jesus all year long, re-experience the final week of his life, reflecting on his passion and renewing our joyful obedience to live in a loving relationship with God and others," Andrea said. "It's a rollercoaster of a ride week, and it enriches the way in which we can celebrate the great joy of Easter and the resurrection."

Easter Sunday is March 31.

Passover starts today at sundown and ends the evening of April 2.

The Passover Seder is a ritual central to Judaism — a rich religious experience marking the exodus from slavery in Egypt with an elaborate meal of symbolic foods, nursery stories and

See a collection of upcoming Passover and Holy Week events, 5A



# The Beaufort Gazette

MONDAY, March 25, 2013

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## UNREST IN SYRIA

# Rebel leader resigns

The resignation of Leader Mouaz al-Khatib leaves the opposition forces in disarray

By BEN HUBBARD  
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syria's opposition plunged into disarray Sunday as its president quit and its military chief refused to recognize the newly elected prime minister of an interim government for rebel-held areas.



al-Khatib

The moves reflected deep splits in the body the U.S. and its allies hope will emerge as the united face of the opposition and advance the fight to topple President Bashar Assad's regime.

The missteps of the opposition's mostly exile political leadership drew little notice inside Syria, where rebel fighters dismissed it as ineffective and pushed ahead with their offensive to gain ground near the country's southern border with Jordan. Nearby, the Israeli military in the Golan Heights responded to fire by shooting back at

Please see SYRIA on 9A

## E-VERIFY SYSTEM

# 323 state businesses failed to follow law

By NOELLE PHILLIPS  
The (Columbia) State

COLUMBIA — In the first full year of mandatory immigration checks for S.C. workers, the state cited 323 businesses for failing to comply with the law.

None of those businesses lost their license to operate in South Carolina, and none have been a repeat offender, said Lesia Kudelka, a spokeswoman for the S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, which manages the state's immigrant worker compliance program.

In 2011, South Carolina's General Assembly created a new immigration law



SARAH WELLIVER • Staff photos

Battery Creek High School student Erik Barbosa, 17, measures a part for a wing on a wooden model of a World War I biplane Wednesday afternoon during an aviation course at the school.

# Growing their WINGS

Battery Creek college aviation program takes flight

By TOM BARTON

[tbarton@beaufortgazette.com](mailto:tbarton@beaufortgazette.com) • 843-706-8169



Michael Skinner, left, an airframe and power plant mechanic instructor at the Technical College of the Lowcountry, works with Battery Creek High School student Devin Walz, 18, on a stripped-down Cessna 172.

## OFF THE CHOPPING BLOCK

The U.S. Senate voted against a proposal to cut the Pentagon's Starbase program, which includes a program at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort. **9A**

**At** Battery Creek High School, junior Wendell Roberson, 17, has everything he needs to prepare for his dream job as an aerospace engineer: flight simulator, miniature wind tunnel and access to college curriculum from one of the world's leading aeronautical universities.

He even has his own Cessna aircraft to tinker with.

"This is where we took the (instrument) panel apart and will install a new one," Roberson says, poking his head into the cockpit of a stripped-down, single-engine Cessna 172 parked outside the school's robotics and engineering lab.

Please see WINGS on 9A



# CINDERELLA FROM THE COAST



NCAAS: FGCU makes history; UNC falls to Kansas. SPORTS, B1



Breezy and cool  
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Low 32

# Herald-Journal

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## NEW AMAZON PLANT

# Center of attention



PHOTOS BY ALEX C. HICKS JR./ALEX.HICKS@SHJ.COM  
Eric Sligh of Greenville, a staffer at Amazon's fulfillment center in Spartanburg, prepares products for shipment. The facility, open since September, will celebrate its grand opening today with an event featuring county leaders.

## Leaders to deliver a grand opening at \$50 million facility

By JENNY ARNOLD  
jennifer.arnold@shj.com

Fulfillment — it comes in many forms at a 1-million-square-foot building on John Dodd Road.

From kayaks, Barbies, wine corks, stuffed plush ponies, bird feeders, diapers, comforters, bicycle tires, lawn mowers and 60-inch TVs to rawhide dog treats, Spartanburg's Amazon Fulfillment Center is all about fulfilling a customer's online wish, packing it up and shipping it out.

The center, a \$50 million investment by Amazon, began filling orders for the online retail giant on Sept. 19 with a modest wireless printer, as celebrated by signs at the front entrance. County leaders will celebrate the grand opening of the center today, beginning at 10 a.m. Speakers include Spartanburg County Council Chairman Jeff Horton, Mayor Jimmie White



About 400 people are employed at the facility on John Dodd Road. Spartanburg's fulfillment center specializes in larger items, while Columbia's ships smaller items such as DVDs, CDs and books.

"The software will guide employees where they need to go to pick the product."



## BY THE NUMBERS

**1 million**

The square footage of Spartanburg's Amazon Fulfillment Center on John Dodd Road

**1 mile**

The length of the conveyor system at the Spartanburg facility

**200**

The number of trees planted during construction of the center

**400**

Employees at the Spartanburg fulfillment center

**\$50 million**

Amazon's investment in Spartanburg County

**More than 40**

The number of Amazon fulfillment centers in the United States

**80**

The number of fulfillment centers worldwide

**306**

The peak number of orders companywide per second on Cyber Monday, Nov. 26, 2012.



# US upset by Iran's flyovers to Syria

Kerry tells Iraqi leader to halt and check shipments to Assad

By MATTHEW LEE  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Just days after the 10th anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry confronted Baghdad for continuing to grant Iran access to its airspace and said Iraq's behavior was raising questions about its reliability as a partner.

Speaking to reporters during a previously unannounced trip to Baghdad, Kerry said that he and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki had engaged in "a very spirited discussion" on the Iranian flights, which U.S. officials believe are ferrying weapons and fighters intended for the embattled Syrian government.

Kerry said the plane shipments — along with material being trucked across Iraqi territory from Iran to Syria — were helping President Bashar Assad's regime cling to power by increasing their ability to strike at Syrian rebels and opposition figures demanding Assad's ouster.

"I made it very clear that for those of us who are engaged in an effort to see President Assad step down and to see a democratic process take hold... anything that supports President Assad is problematic," Kerry said at a news conference at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad after meeting separately with Maliki at his office. "And I made it very clear to the prime minister



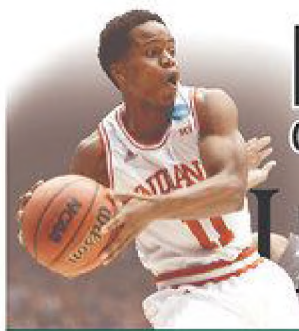
Kerry

◆ SEE KERRY PAGE A9

MEETING IN APRIL

# Sheriffs see peers





# MADNESS IS HERE

College basketball coverage in today's sports section

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2013

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# INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 94, NO. 329

## Skip Shelton to the rescue

### Artist overseeing project to paint boards that will go over mill office windows

By CHRIS TRAINOR  
ctrainor@indexjournal.com

Perhaps one day the former Greenwood Mills office building on the old Kitson Street mill site property will once again be a useful, vibrant building, used by some business or entity in the community.

Until then, longtime Greenwood artist Skip Shelton is overseeing a project which will serve — literally — as a window to Greenwood's past, while also serving as a placeholder while the office building awaits its eventual fate.

In late February, Greenwood City Council agreed to let the Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation secure the office

building on the Kitson Street site while the city continues cleanup and does environmental testing on the site.

As has been widely reported, the city has been in the midst of a massive cleanup project at the site, with the many unsightly, jagged piles of debris and rubble having been removed from the property and hauled off to the county landfill.

Now, the city is moving ahead with the arduous task of environmental testing and the possible work that could come as a result of that testing. In the meantime, the Palmetto Trust agreed to secure and weatherize the old office building, a Greenwood Mills original.

See ARTIST, page 4A



Local artist Skip Shelton, left, shows the Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation's Michael Bedenbaugh a board that will be placed over a window in the old office building at the former Kitson Street mill site.

CHRIS TRAINOR  
INDEX-JOURNAL

## 'I'M ALWAYS ON THE GO'



**A** CLOSER LOOK

Mary Ann Smith  
Community volunteer

MATT WALSH | INDEX-JOURNAL

Community volunteer Mary Ann Smith retired from her Greenwood insurance agency on Dec. 31. Since then she has kept busy doing volunteer work in Greenwood and Ninety Six.

## COMMUNITY ORIENTED

### From successful businesses to volunteering, Smith manages to stay busy

By MATT BRUCE  
mbruce@indexjournal.com

When people tell Mary Ann Smith she just can't retire, she can't disagree. Smith, a longtime Greenwood insurance agent, stepped down from her passion of 32 years late last year, and noted many friends

tell her she still works exhaustively. When asked how much she has slowed down since she left her profession, Smith says she's drawn back a little.

"I'm not going to say a lot. Some, but not a lot," she said. "I want to relax a little bit if I can. But I'm the type of person, I'm always on the go."

That up-and-at-'em mentality is what empowered Smith to build a successful business from

the ground up, while remaining active in several community organizations through the years. The Ninety Six native was a Nationwide Insurance provider and ran an office in Greenwood along Durst Avenue for nearly 25 years. Smith retired on Dec. 31 from that life she'd known more than three

See SMITH, page 4A

## STATE

## Sheriff arrests receive notice

By JEFFREY COLLINS  
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Five of South Carolina's 46 sheriffs have faced criminal charges in the past three years, and their colleagues have noticed.

Sheriffs across the state plan to meet in April in Columbia for additional training and talks about what they can do as powerful figures in their counties to stay on the right side of the law.

"I don't think it is an epidemic, but they want to get together because we don't want to see any more get in trouble," said Jeff Moore, executive director of the South Carolina Sheriffs Association.

It had been more than a decade since a sitting South Carolina sheriff had been indicted before Lee County Sheriff E.J. Melvin was charged with dozens of federal drug and racketeering charges in May 2010. Since then, four more sheriffs have faced state misdemeanor charges, three of them accused of misusing state inmate labor. The fourth, Charleston County Sheriff Al Cannon, was charged with third-degree assault and battery after admitting he slapped in the face a handcuffed man who led his deputies on a 120 mph chase in January 2012. The misdemeanor charge was eligible for pre-trial intervention and he remains in office.





# THE ISLAND PACKET

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2013

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**Town, county offer different plans for a new Bluffton Parkway intersection 3A**

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## AVIATION PROGRAM IS TAKING FLIGHT

Class offers Beaufort County high school students college credit and experience with aircraft maintenance and operation



SARAH WELLS • Staff photo

Michael Skinner, left, an airframe and power plant mechanic instructor at the Technical College of the Lowcountry, works with Battery Creek High School student Devin Walz, 18, on a stripped-down Cessna 172.

By TOM BARTON • [tbarton@beaufortgazette.com](mailto:tbarton@beaufortgazette.com) • 843-706-8169

**AT** Battery Creek High School, junior Wendell Roberson, 17, has everything he needs to prepare for his dream job as an aerospace engineer: flight simulator, miniature wind tunnel and access to college curriculum from one of the world's leading aeronautical universities.

He even has his own Cessna aircraft to tinker with.

"This is where we took the (instrument) panel apart and will install a new one," Roberson said, poking his head into the cockpit of a stripped-down, single-engine Cessna 172 parked outside the school's robotics and engineering lab.

Students have been refurbishing the aircraft, thanks to a partnership with the Technical College of the Lowcountry. In exchange for allowing the technical college to use the high school for its aircraft maintenance program, which is geared toward those in the military, students have access to the plane, as well.

Please see FLIGHT on 9A

### MORE COVERAGE

#### SAVING SCIENCES

■ A science, technology and engineering program for students at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort is safe — for now. **9A**

#### MORE ONLINE

■ For a photo gallery and a video on Battery Creek High's aviation program, click on this story at [islandpacket.com](http://islandpacket.com).



### UNREST IN SYRIA

## Rebel leader quits

Surprise exit sends opposition backed by US into disarray

By BEN HUBBARD  
The Associated Press

**BEIRUT** — Syria's opposition plunged into disarray Sunday as its president quit and its military chief refused to recognize the newly elected prime minister of an interim government for rebel-held areas.

The moves reflected deep splits in the body the U.S. and its allies hope will emerge as the united face of the opposition and advance the fight to topple President Bashar Assad's regime.

The missteps of the opposition's mostly exile political leadership drew little notice inside Syria, where rebel fighters dismissed it as ineffective and pushed ahead with their offensive to gain ground near the country's southern border with Jordan. Nearby, the Israeli military in the Golan Heights responded to fire by shooting back at targets inside Syria.

The first blow to the opposition Syrian National Coalition was the surprise resignation of its president, who said he was quitting in frustration over what he called lack of international support and constraints imposed by the body itself.

Mouaz al-Khatib, who rose to prominence as a preacher in Damascus' most famous mosque, said in a statement posted on his Facebook page that he was making good on an earlier vow to quit if undefined "red lines" were crossed.

"I am keeping my promise today and announcing my resignation from the National Coalition so that I can work with freedom that is not available inside the official institutions," he said.

He also blamed world powers for not offering Syria's rebels the support they demand and complained that



Al-Khatib

Please see SYRIA on 9A

### FIRST FULL YEAR OF E-VERIFY USE

## 323 businesses cited over law

State officials say they're happy to see that companies are embracing the system to check employees' immigration status.

HOW DID S.C. DO?

### PALMETTO AWARDS

## County schools win 22 gold, silver honors





# Morning News

MONDAY MARCH 25, 2013

**TODAY'S WEATHER**

Partial sunshine, windy and cool with high 57, low 33. DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

## Coming Events

### TODAY

**Registration for Computer Classes:** Today through Wednesday, 5-6 p.m. CD Joyner Fine Arts Auditorium at 200 Elizabeth St., Marion. Dionne Vance will be offering computer classes in the Swamp Fox Computer Lab in the Higher Education Center in the C.D. Joyner Building from April 1 to May 22. Registration will be held in the auditorium. For more information, call 843-506-9560.

**Auditions for High School Musical Jr.:** Today and Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. in the Blanding Street Auditorium at 125 S. Blanding St., Lake City. Auditions are for ages 8-18 (must be 8 years old by the time of auditions). All materials will be furnished. Performance dates are June 7-9. For more information, contact The Greater Lake City Chamber of Commerce at 843-374-8611.

### TUESDAY

**Astronomy Club of the Pee Dee meeting:** Tuesday, 4 p.m. at Francis Marion University. The meeting will take place in Room L101 of the Leatherman Science Facility. The public is invited. For more information, contact Dr. Jacob Moldenhauer at jmoldehaue@fmarion.edu.

**Books and Bourbon Tasting:** Tuesday, 6-8 p.m. at the Back Swamp School House located at 502 E. Pocket Road, Florence. Author Charlie Thompson will be discussing his latest book, "Spirits of Just Men." A bourbon tasting will accompany the event. Attendees must be older than 21 years old. Admission is \$20 for PDLT members and \$25 for nonmembers. For more information, visit www.peedeelandtrust.org.

**Simply the Best:** Tuesday, 6-8:30 p.m. at South Florence High School. This school event will showcase the school's students and their accomplishments. There will also be events and activities for parents. Dinner will be served and child care will be provided. For more information, call 843-664-8190.

### WEDNESDAY

**Job and Resource Fair:** Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at SMT at 1951 Pisgah Road, Florence. Organizations slated to participate include Johnson Controls, Inc., Honda of South Carolina, ACS Technologies, Blue Cross Blue Shield and McLeod Health, among others. Project HOPE representatives will also be available to discuss the resources available to job seekers throughout the year. Attendees are encouraged to bring several copies of their resume and to speak with hiring officials at the event. Free career readiness workshops will be conducted during the fair. For information, contact 843-662-2407 or techs@uniflorence.org.

**Barbecue Fundraiser:** Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4-7 p.m. at South Florence High School. Plates, catered by Schoolhouse BBQ, are \$7 each and consist of barbecue, rice and gravy, coleslaw, sweet

## Timrod House compromise in works

New plan for embattled historic site to be revealed next month

BY JOHN SWEENEY  
Morning News  
jsweeney@foxnews.com

FLORENCE — A compromise over the future of the historic Henry Timrod schoolhouse will likely be presented at a public

meeting in April, but those with knowledge of the proposal are waiting to reveal its details in an attempt to avoid further controversy. Malloy McEachin, attorney for Florence County, said Thursday a com-

promise plan would be presented to the city of Florence Design and Review Board (DRB) at its next monthly meeting, which is on April 10, at 2 p.m. in Room 604 of the City-County Complex. But McEachin declined to comment publicly on the details of the plan, saying he would rather let the process play out at the DRB's meeting. The controversy over the 155-year-old schoolhouse, where Henry Timrod — the unofficial "poet laureate" of the Confederacy — once taught and for which

the Florence park where the house currently resides is named, began last July when United Daughters of the Confederacy Ellison Capers Chapter 70 in Florence donated the building to the Florence Museum. The museum planned to move the structure to the

See **TIMROD**, Page 10A

## BLAIR HOUSE REVEALED



PHOTO BY LINDSAY BUCHANAN/MORNING NEWS

Benedicte Valentiner, former general manager of presidential guest residence Blair House, signs a copy of her newly released "Bedtime and Other Stories from the President's Guest House," which details her unique experiences, at a book signing at Florence Public Library on Sunday.

## More than a hotel

'Bedtime and Other Stories from the President's Guest House' tells all

BY LINDSAY S. BUCHANAN  
Morning News  
lbuchanan@foxnews.com

### FLORENCE

From Boris Yeltsin to "Papa Bush," the stories in the new behind-the-scenes book written by Benedicte Valentiner about her 13 years as the general manager of the presidential guest residence, Blair House, in Washington, DC, are sure to keep readers both laughing and shaking their heads.

Attendees were doing both Sunday afternoon as they listened to Valentiner talk about her experiences at a book signing at the Drs. Bruce and Lee Public Library in Florence. More than 30 people were in attendance to hear the Danish-born author talk about her time taking care of foreign dignitaries and ambassadors across the street from the White House. Valentiner told the audience that the policy of never saying "no" to a guest's requests led to some very unusual experiences with everyone from Queen Elizabeth to the Emperor of Japan.



Valentiner speaks with an attendee before signing a copy of her new book Sunday.



Valentiner signs a copy of her book on Sunday.

## Pee Dee schools pile up Palmettos

Forty-five local schools earn honor for growth and achievement

BY ELLEN MEDER  
Morning News  
emed@foxnews.com

Pee Dee schools raked in 45 Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards from the South Carolina Department of Education this year, even though standards for the honor were toughened a bit this year.

The awards, designed to honor schools across the state showing high achievement and strong improvement, were announced on Monday. Schools in Dillon 4, Florence 1, Florence 2, Florence 3, and the Chesterfield, Darlington, Marion, Marlboro and Williamsburg county districts earned awards in either general performance, closing the achievement gaps or both.

For the 2012-13 school year the SCDOE recognized 662 schools and career centers. The awards are based on the schools' state report card ratings, which are based on test scores and issued each fall. The report cards give each school and district a rating for overall performance and growth on a five category scale: "excellent," "good," "average," "below average" and "at risk."

To qualify for the Palmetto Gold award, a school must be rated as "excellent" in either absolute performance or growth and not dip

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 7A

## Arrests of colleagues has SC sheriffs worried

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Five of South Carolina's 46 sher-

iff figures in their counties to stay on the right side of the law. "I don't think it is an

South Carolina sheriff had been indicted before Lee County Sheriff E.J. Melvin was charged with

Al Cannon, was charged with third-degree assault and battery after admitting he slapped in the face

in Orangeburg County, likely kept him from facing charges as his county sued his estate, saying he





CMYK



Odd

# The Times and Democrat MONDAY

MARCH 25, 2013



## 'SWEET' TIME

SPORTS, B1

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Shannon Eason

## Fiance questions woman's jail suicide

By LEE HENDREN  
T&D Government Writer

When Shannon Eason died in the Orangeburg County jail, her fiance expressed his grief by getting a tattoo of a winged heart on his arm.

"That's my heart," Edward Williamson said. "Shannon has taken it with her to heaven."

Eason died on March 13. The coroner ruled that she had hanged herself with a sheet.

"She was a great woman. She just had some demons," Williamson said in an interview.

He met her at a bar where she was working. As a felon on probation for check fraud, her career options were limited.

He said her partying ways bothered him and they

parted ways, then a few years later they happened to bump into each other. Mutual friends assured Williamson that Eason had cleaned up her lifestyle, and they became close.

"She had been doing good for about five years, until she lost her daddy," Williamson said.

Her father left a Santee area bar and got into a boat to return to his home on the other side of Lake Marion on June 17, 2012. He never made it. They found his body on Father's Day. A fisherman found his wallet four days later and returned it to his wife.

About a month later, Eason's sister suffered a seizure and got some medicine at the hospital.



Edward Williamson

See SUICIDE, A2

## YOU'VE GOT TO READ THESE

Wire Reports

### ■ Old drunk

The 62-year-old former live-in caretaker of a Pittsburgh-area mansion has been charged with receiving stolen property and theft for allegedly drinking more than \$100,000 worth of the owner's whiskey. The owner found nine cases of whiskey hidden in the walls and stairwell of the century-old Georgian mansion built by coal and coke industrialist J.P. Brennan after she bought it in 2012. The Old Farm Pure Rye Whiskey was produced in the early 1900s by the nearby West Overton Distilling Co. The owner told police she stored the whiskey in the original cases, which contained 12 bottles each. After the caretaker moved out, she discovered that the bottles in four cases were empty. The man denied drinking the whiskey, but DNA linked him to three of the empty bottles.

### ■ Wild news

● If Montana residents can scrape it up, they can eat it, according to a measure that was a final vote away from heading to Gov. Steve Bullock last week. Supporters say it makes no sense to let the carcasses of big game go to waste on Montana's roadways. The measure calls for law enforcement officers to issue permits to individuals who would be allowed to remove the carcasses of elk, deer, antelope and moose off the state's roadways. Opponents question whether the meat would be safe and whether it would create liability issues for food banks that accept it.

● A public safety officer checking a suspicious car parked behind a southwestern Michigan motel early Tuesday was more than a little surprised when a deer dived out of the trunk, stumbled onto the road and bolted into nearby woods. The driver told the officer he hit the deer on the road, thought he had killed it, and was taking it home for his family to eat. Officers concluded that the collision probably just stunned the deer.

### ■ Tagged in burglary

Authorities in Louisiana tracked a man accused of stealing drugs from a pharmacy because he left behind a pickup he used to break in — and forgot to remove the price tag. The sticker included a bar code indicating when and where the pickup was bought. The store had video of the purchase. The drugs from the pharmacy were found



LARRY HARDY/T&amp;D

Thomas "Buck" Gray has returned the six-foot coffee pot that sat on the old diner on U.S. Highway 301 to its former home. A storm knocked it off its longtime perch in January.

# PERKED UP

T&amp;D Staff Report

A familiar landmark has returned to its former glory on U.S. Highway 301.

The six-foot, 250-pound sheet metal coffee pot is back on its long-time perch atop the now-defunct Coffee Pot diner in Cordova.

"It means a lot," building owner Thomas "Buck" Gray said. "It had been up for 58 years."

"A lot of people have stopped by there and wanted to know where the coffee pot was. It is really a landmark for a lot of people."

The pot was knocked off the top of the former diner by a storm in late January. It sustained a dent during the fall, but was still whole.

Gray immediately expressed a desire to restore what has served as a beacon for motorists on U.S. 301 since the 1950s.

Gray repainted the coffee pot and replaced it

## Coffee pot returns to familiar perch

with the help of heavy equipment. It took about 2-1/2 hours to set the coffee pot in its place.

In addition to the pot, he put a new roof, new windows and a new door on the building, plus a new coat of paint.

"I painted it like it was," Gray said. "White and red."

Gray said some interior work will be done as well.

"We are not going to open it up or nothing," he said.

The entire project cost about \$6,000.

Gray said he would take a few hours a day, when time allowed, to work on the pot. And he said the time and sweat was all worth it.

"I really did it not only for myself, but for the other people too," he said. "A lot of people were concerned about the coffee pot. I did it for them."

"They were so happy it was going back up."

The diner's original owners, the late Emily and Frederick Griffin, purchased the land it sits on from Gray's father, Thomas Woodrow Gray, around 1950.

The coffee pot was made by Fred and was most likely placed on the diner shortly after its opening.

U.S. Highway 301 was once a major thoroughfare running north and south. The Griffins enjoyed the business that came along the route, but the diner succumbed in 1979 to the decline in traffic that followed the opening of Interstate 95.

## Arrests of 5 S.C. sheriffs have colleagues worried



**Jeff Taillon**

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