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To:
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Subject: SC Front Pages – Thursday, November 5, 2015

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The Post and Courier

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Thursday, November 5, 2015

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Mortality rises for S.C. black infants

Local doctors blame distrust of medicine, poverty; state's overall rate hits record low

BY LAUREN SAUSER
and DOUG PARQUE
lsauser@postandcourier.com
dparque@postandcourier.com

Infant mortality among black babies climbed higher last year even as South Carolina saw the lowest overall infant

mortality rate in record-keeping history.

Black infants across the state were more than twice as likely to die before their first birthday in 2014 than white babies.

New data released by the state health department on Wednesday shows an

CRADLE OF SHAME

average 6.5 infants per 1,000 born in South Carolina in 2014 died within 12 months of birth, an all-time low. In 2013, the infant mortality rate was 6.9 deaths per 1,000 births. The 2013 infant mortality rate was

previously the lowest ever recorded. In actual deaths, 372 babies died in 2014, compared with 389 the year before.

All of the improvement year-over-year is attributed to a drop in infant mortality among white and Hispanic mothers, primarily "driven by a decrease in infant deaths during the first 27 days of the infant's life," a health department statement explained.

Disorders related to short gestation

and low birthweight accounted for most infant deaths in 2014, followed by congenital malformation, deformations and accidents.

But South Carolina's overall infant mortality rate is still higher than the national average.

In the United States, an average 6 infants per 1,000 died before their first birthday in 2013. National data for 2014 has not yet been released.

Please see **INFANT**, Page A5

Forgotten survivors

Lowcountry's rural flood victims are desperate, but getting help not easy



Rena Mack, who lives near Huger, said the creeks on either side of her home caused floodwaters to soak the flooring of her mobile home, causing major damage that's hard to fix with the money she received from FEMA.

BY BO PETERSEN
bpeters@postandcourier.com

Rena Mack won't walk in her bedroom at night — not with the gaps where the floor fell in after it flooded. She has a FEMA check to make repairs but isn't sure the money can cover all the damage.

"I can try my best," she says as she steps around a spot where the rug droops loose. "I just want my place to get back so I can live here and not smell the mold."

Hundreds of people down the rural dirt roads

in Berkeley and Charleston counties are caught in the cracks when it comes to getting aid home repairs after the devastating historic rains and flood of early October. They have no insurance, don't have clear ownership, or the damage in the old country homes wasn't caused by the historic flood, just exacerbated by it. Either that or damage was made worse by the rain, not the flood.

That means they don't qualify for much of the public help. Contingents of community and church are pitching in, many of them working with larger organizations, such as Trident United

Way and the American Red Cross.

But "the reality is, if the need is too great, there might not be enough money," said Cathy Easley, the Trident integrated community services director.

Mack, who lives in the country in the Cain-hoy-Huger area of Berkeley County with her husband and three grandchildren, is luckier than most. She at least got a check. And she has Jerri and Ben Pogue.

Please see **FLOOD**, Page A4

Johnson promises to battle 'elitism'

Upset Weatherstone neighbors backed Summerville change

BY BRENDA RINDGE
brindge@postandcourier.com

SUMMERVILLE — Empty serving bowls and snack crumbs littered the kitchen table in Wiley Johnson's Gadsden Manor home Wednesday as the city's mayor-elect shifted between media interviews and phone calls from well-wishers.

A handwritten poster tallying Tuesday's vote results still stood on his back porch, with 12 of 14 precincts recorded.

Johnson defeated incumbent Summerville Mayor Bill Collins by a vote of 53 percent to 47 percent in unofficial results.

"I am surprised it wasn't a larger margin," said Johnson, 66.

Please see **JOHNSON**, Page A4

Voter turnout light despite mayoral race spending

Tecklenburg, Stavrinakis shift focus to runoff

BY ROBERT BEHRE
rbehre@postandcourier.com

Charleston's mayoral race brought forth a record number of candidates and campaign spending, but it didn't yield a record turnout.

Only one of every four registered voters in the city cast ballots Tuesday, a higher percent than voted in the city's previous mayoral race but nowhere near as high as other city elections.

Despite a steady rain, Tuesday's 25 percent turnout still was low enough to surprise Gibb Knotts, chairman of the College of Charleston's political science department.

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Inside



CHARLESTON SCENE
Ben Folds' new work bridges genres in innovative ways, E18

Hot dogs tasty but expensive at new downtown eatery, E22

SPORTS

Sapakoff: Terry Allen is star student-coach for Clemson, C1

Bomb may have caused Russian jet crash

Britain, U.S. say intel indicates IS planted device

BY JILL LAWLESS
and KEN DILANIAN
Associated Press

LONDON — British and U.S. officials said Wednesday they have information suggesting the Russian jetliner that crashed in the Egyptian desert may have been brought down by a bomb, and Britain said it was suspending flights to and from the Sinai Peninsula indefinitely.

Intercepted communications played a role in the tentative conclusion that the Islamic State group's Sinai affiliate planted an explosive device on the plane, said a U.S. official

briefed on the matter. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss intelligence matters publicly.

The official said there had been no formal judgment rendered by the CIA or other intelligence agencies, and that forensic evidence from the blast site, including the airplane's black box, was still being analyzed.

The official added that intelligence analysts don't believe the operation was ordered by Islamic State leaders in Raqqa, Syria.

Rather, they believe that if it was a bomb, it was planned and executed by the Islamic State's affiliate in

the Sinai, which operates autonomously.

Other officials cautioned that intercepted communications can sometimes be misleading and that it's possible the evidence will add up to a conclusion that there was no bomb.

British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said there was a "significant possibility" the crash was caused by a bomb, and Britain was suspending flights to and from the Sinai resort of Sharm el-Sheikh indefinitely.

After a meeting of the British government's crisis committee, COBRA, Hammond said Britain was advising its citizens not to go on vacation to Sharm el-Sheikh, which is visited by hundreds of thousands of Britons a year.

Please see **RUSSIA**, Page A6



Cameron



Monthly cloudy.
High 79, Low 64.
Complete 5-day
Forecast, B14

Bridge...B13 Comics...B12-13 Movies...F13
Business...B1 Crosswords...B12, D5
Charleston Scene...I1 Editorials...A8 Sports...C1
Classifieds...D1 Local...A2 Television...B11

Charleston Deals today

Smoke on the Harbor
\$10 for 2 tickets
See A2.



SPORTS, 1C

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IS BETTER

BUSINESS, 9C

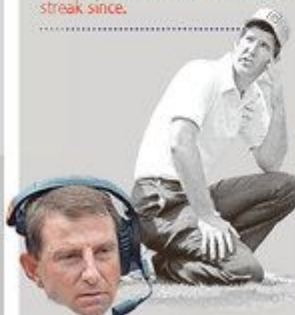
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The Greenville News

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THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 5, 2015
GREENVILLEONLINE.COMON JAN. 3, 1982,
THE LAST TIME CLEMSON WAS RANKED
NO. 1 IN THE NATION IN FOOTBALL...

Clemson had won 13 games in a row; this year's team has won 11 straight games, the longest winning streak since.



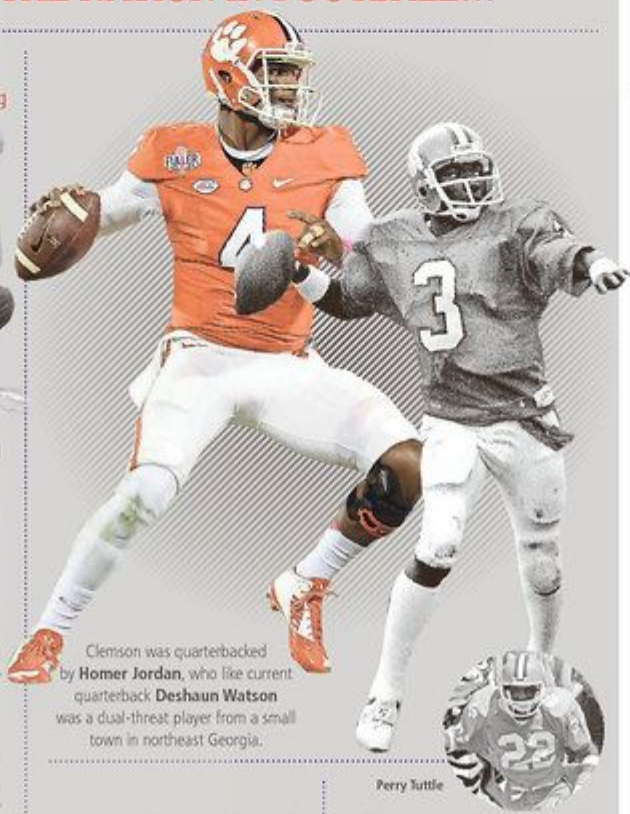
Danny Ford had just capped his third full season as Clemson's coach by becoming the youngest head coach (age 33) in history to win the national championship; both Ford and current Clemson coach Dabo Swinney are University of Alabama graduates who played and coached at the school and are the only two Clemson coaches to defeat Notre Dame.

Swinney was a 12-year-old sixth-grader at Riverchase Middle School in Hoover, Alabama; today his youngest son, Clay, is a 12-year-old sixth-grader at Edwards Middle School in Clemson.

Clemson opened the 1981 season on Sept. 5 with a 45-10 victory against Wofford; this year's Tigers kicked off the season on Sept. 5 by defeating Wofford 49-10.



Cliff Austin



Clemson was quarterbacked by Homer Jordan, who like current quarterback Deshaun Watson was a dual-threat player from a small town in northeast Georgia.

Linebacker Jeff Davis was Clemson's leading tackler and an All-American in 1981; his two sons, J.D. and Judah, are freshmen linebackers on this year's team.

Clemson's 1981 team defeated Wake Forest by 58 points — the largest margin of victory in an ACC game in Clemson history; this year's team tied that record two weeks ago with a 58-point win at Miami.

Perry Tuttle

Clemson entered its Halloween night game ranked No. 3 in the Associated Press poll in 1981; this year's team also was ranked No. 3 in the poll entering last Saturday's Halloween game against N.C. State.

Clemson's Mitch Hyatt, who has started every game this season at left tackle, is the nephew of Dan Benish, who was an All-ACC defensive tackle for the Tigers in 1981.

Duke drops
plans for
line across
mountainsResidents said project
would scar landscapeMARK BARRETT
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES

SKYLAND, N.C. — Duke Energy is dropping plans for a 45-mile transmission line that would have run from its generating plant here to a South Carolina substation in Campobello, company officials announced Wednesday.

The utility is changing its plans to reconfigure the plant, first announced in May, so that the line and the substation are no longer needed.

Instead of building one gas-fired generator to replace its coal burning turbines, Duke officials said the company will construct two smaller gas units. That switch will provide for a backup source of power in case one of the units goes down.

Duke previously had planned to use the transmission line to pull backup power from elsewhere if problems arose at the generating plant here, company officials said.

The change will come as a relief to thousands of people in Buncombe, Henderson and Polk counties in North Carolina and in Upstate South Carolina who had worried that the line would mar mountain scenery and lower property values. A bewildering array of possible transmission line routes had generated strong opposition.

Lloyd Yates, Duke's president for the Carolinas region, said the company had been swayed by the more than 9,000 comments it had received since it proposed building the line earlier this year.

"Let me thank everyone who's been involved in this process for their input and most of all for their patience," Yates said at a press conference at the plant on Lake Julian here. "The process worked."

Duke was "surprised by the volume and intensity" of opposition to the transmission line plans announced earlier this year, said the company's Western Region general manager, Robert Sipes.

A single, larger gas unit would have provided for power needs in Duke's Asheville-based western region for 20 to 30 years to come, he said.

See DUKE, Page 5A

GHS withdraws EMS take-over proposal

Councilman Kirven says
it was 'too controversial'LIV OSBY
LOSBY@GANNETT.COM

Greenville Health System has withdrawn its proposal to take over Greenville County EMS, putting an end to the controversial topic — at least for now.

County Councilman Butch Kirven said the situation boils down to the political climate.

"It became too controversial ... to move forward at this time," he told The Greenville News. "I thought it was a good decision to pull that off the table and we will continue to operate EMS as we always have in Greenville County and will do a good job of it."

Greenville Health System proposed

taking over EMS about two years ago, and the county had been considering the idea because it loses about \$5 million a year on the emergency service.

County Administrator Joe Kernell said in June that such a move could save taxpayers up to \$3 million a year.

Under that plan, the county would retain control of dispatch because it's

See GHS, Page 5A



TONYA MAXWELL/ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
Duke Energy is dropping plans for a 45-mile transmission line.

INSIDE

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YESTERDAY: 58-68 40-64 PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 0.08"
FORECAST: BC

The State



CELEBRITIES FAMOUS HORNET FLIES BACK HOME

Columbia native, soul singer
Angie Stone is back home with a
new album release and an honor
at C.A. Johnson High, her alma
mater. 1C



GOLF 'JALEN HAS A STORY TO TELL'

White Knoll High varsity golfer
Jalen Castle is a poster child for
making dreams come true. 1C



GO COLUMBIA 'THE ART SPIRIT IS HERE'

Vista Studios celebrates 25 years
with a special show. In today's Co-

AFTER THE FLOOD | MOSQUITO INFESTATION

Richland launching aerial attacks in mosquito war



Alison Gibson watches as her dog, Annie, plays with other dogs at the Columbia Dog Park. Pet owners who use the park treat their dogs with a medicine that prevents the spread of heart worms through mosquito bites.

Standing water left by floods has spawned invasion of pests



BY AVERY G. WILKS
awilks@thestate.com

Mike Daugherty has had it
with the mosquitoes plaguing
lower Richland County.
Daugherty, 37, lives on
Bluff Road and has grown
tired of the mosquitoes that
have invaded since the flood-
ing in October, taking ad-

vantage of standing water
left in low-lying spots. He
said they pester him when he
sits with friends outside,
buzzing in his ears and biting
him a dozen or so times a
night.
"They're like helicopters,"
Daugherty said. "They're
big."
Richland County is doing
something this week that it

has never done before to
combat the surging mosquito
population bothering resi-
dents and outdoor workers. It
is taking to the air.
Richland County Vector
Control will apply aerial
mosquito treatments Thurs-
day at dusk to about 114,000
acres in lower Richland

SEE MOSQUITOES, 7A

2016 ELECTION | WINTHROP POLL

Clinton's support soars among SC Democrats



Poll: 71 percent of likely S.C. Democratic primary voters back Clinton

Challengers — Bernie Sanders at 15 percent, Martin O'Malley at 2 percent — trail far behind

Clinton is favored by 80 percent of black Democratic voters

self-described democratic
socialist from Vermont, fin-
ished a distant second at 15
percent support, leading
former Maryland Gov. Mar-
tin O'Malley at 2 percent.
"South Carolina is current-
ly Clinton country," said
Winthrop Poll director Scott
Huffman. "While Sanders
has drawn large and boister-
ous crowds — including here
at Winthrop — it appears that
those crowds might not have
significant overlap with likely
primary voters.
"Sanders must convert
campaign excitement into

INDEX-JOURNAL

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2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2015

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

Parent tracking system facing further delays

DSS: Federally mandated program already 18 years overdue

By SEANNA ADCOX
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The Department of Social Services said a centralized computer system to track deadbeat parents won't be running statewide until October 2019, representing another delay in a system that's already 18 years overdue.

Federal approval of the agency's latest contract with Xerox took

longer than expected, shifting the four-year timeline, said DSS project manager Jimmy Earley.

While final approval came Aug. 27, "we were hoping to get it much earlier, in April," he told a Senate Finance panel Wednesday.

Earlier this year, agency officials said the system would operate statewide by March 2019. Legislators warned then they won't tolerate more broken promises in

implementing a federally required system for collecting, enforcing and distributing child-support payments.

State Sen. Thomas Alexander, the panel's chairman, said he's extremely disappointed by yet another delay.

"But I think we're definitely headed in the right direction," Alexander, R-Walhalla, said after the meeting. He said he under-

stands why the federal government would scrutinize another contract.

Earley asked the panel for \$17 million next fiscal year toward the system's creation. A series of contract disputes and lawsuits have delayed that for decades.

The latest litigation with Hewlett-Packard, on its 2007 contract, ended in January. Under that

See **TRACKING**, page 4A



COLIN RIDDLE | INDEX-JOURNAL

The newly painted silos near downtown Calhoun Falls sit on location where a potential entry plaza could be built as part of efforts to revitalize the town's city center.

CALHOUN FALLS

Leaders look to revitalize troubled town

By COLIN RIDDLE
criddle@indexjournal.com

CALHOUN FALLS — Engulfed in controversy through the years, the small, rural town on Abbeville County's western border has been dealing with its troubled past, while tending to wounds left from mill closures, declining population and a high unemployment rate.

A group of leaders from Calhoun Falls and Abbeville County is on a mission to shed that trend.

Under the guidance of the newly formed Freshwater Coast Community Foundation and Clemson Extension instructor and economist Wilder Ferreira, the town has started looking at ways to revitalize its downtown, similar to many South Carolina municipalities hoping to bring more commerce and a higher quality of life.

West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, headquartered in Abbeville, provided a \$300,000 gift to create the foundation, which partnered with Clemson University to help foster entrepreneurship-friendly communities.

See **TOWN**, page 4A



PHOTOS BY ARIEL GILREATH | INDEX-JOURNAL

The Ninety Six marching band's drum line rehearses at the old high school after winning the state championship Saturday night.

Strike up the state champion



BAND

Ninety Six wins it all at competition

By ARIEL GILREATH
agilreath@indexjournal.com

On Halloween night, the Ninety Six Wildcat middle and high school marching band won the 1A state championship — the highest honor for 1A bands in the



JOSHUA S. KELLER | INDEX-JOURNAL

Elizabeth Dorn and Gretchen Wanning perform Wednesday during the South Carolina Independent School Association high school drama competition at Greenwood Community Theatre.

THEATRICAL SUCCESS

Cambridge drama teams going to state

The Beaufort Gazette

THURSDAY, November 5, 2015

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LIMITED
VOICE?

Newly interpreted school board rules anger meeting participants

By REBECCA LURYE

rlurye@islandpacket.com • 843-706-8155

Community members and at least one school board member say newly interpreted school board rules are ridiculous and unfairly limit the public's input.

At issue are two rules that newly elected school board chairwoman Mary Cordray brought up during Tuesday's meeting.



Cordray

The first, which she enforced Tuesday, dictates that residents cannot identify people by name when addressing the board. Another rule, in effect going forward, requires speakers to "confine their comments to matters germane to the business of the board."

During Tuesday's meeting, Cordray banged her gavel when a speaker said the names of two board members during his comments to the board. Cordray also warned residents that the latter rule limited residents to speaking only about issues on the agenda.

Please see VOICE on 14A

MORE ONLINE

To read the school board rules, click on this story at beaufortgazette.com.

IN PORT ROYAL

Newest
official
ready
to work

Newly elected town councilman Jerry Ashmore prepared to continue hard work that lead to election win.

By STEPHEN FASTENAU

sfastenau@beaufortgazette.com
843-706-8182

Long before the September filing deadline for Port Royal Town Council candidates, Jerry Ashmore sat with his wife and children in their home off Ribaut Road to talk about how public office would affect the family.

I said "Girls, honey, this is what I want to do," said Ashmore, a father of five. "...We didn't want to disrupt our family. We talked about a lot of things, and we were all supportive."

Please see WORK on 14A

PORT ROYAL TURNOUT
HIGHER THAN NORMAL

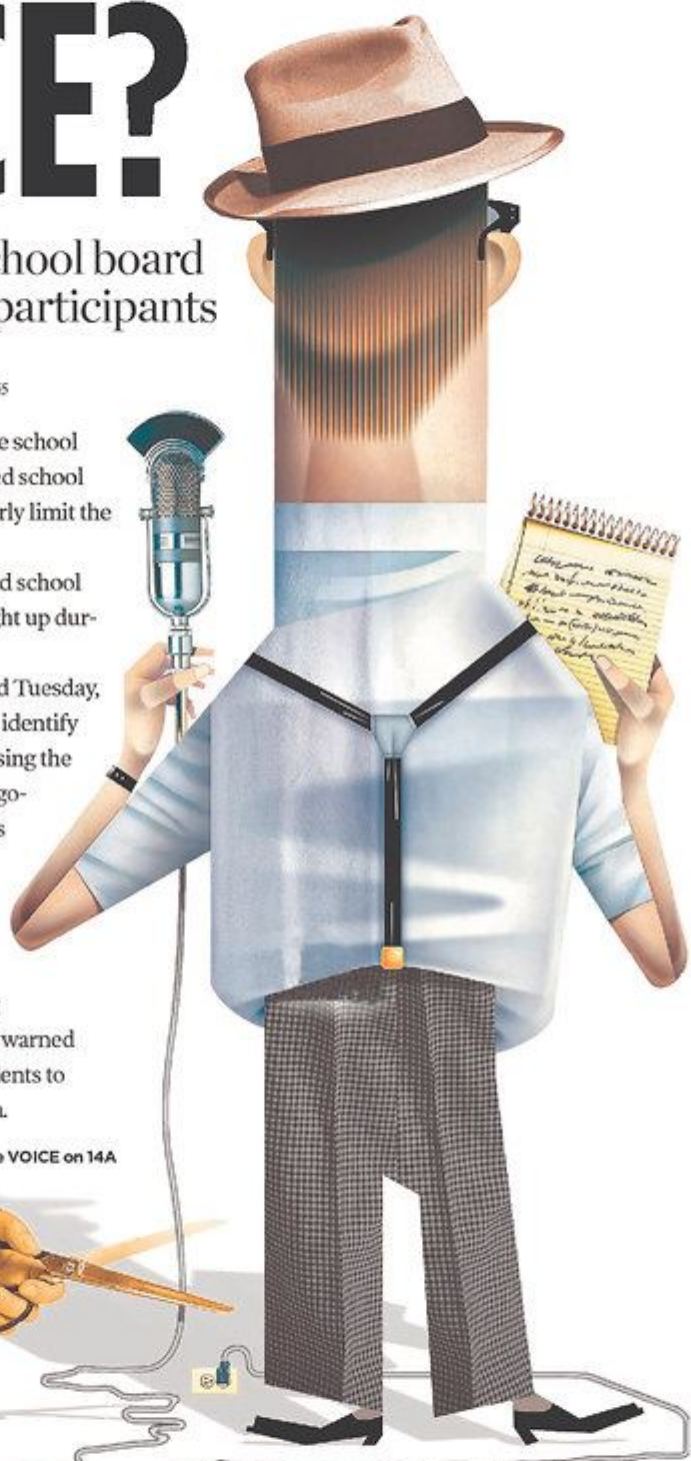
Port Royal's voter turnout was uncharacteristically high Tuesday, spurred by competition in both the mayoral and town council races.

Of Port Royal's 4,244 registered voters, 12.4 percent participated in Tuesday's election. The town's elections typically draw about 10 percent turnout, Beaufort County Board of Elections and Registration director Marie Smalls said.

The high turnout was especially notable since it came in a year without a big-ticket office — such as governor or president — on the ballot, Smalls said.

She said Port Royal experienced issues with people who live outside the town limits who were not eligible to vote being turned away at the polls. That was also an issue in Bluffton's municipal election.

"People don't always know where the boundaries are," Smalls said. "All they know is they consider themselves a Port Royal resident."



Tribune News Service illustration



'OF MICE AND MEN' STILL RELEVANT

ESCAPE, D1



WILD NAMED TOP A-SUN FRESHMAN

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Thursday, November 5, 2015



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TODAY **FRI** **SAT**

70°/62° 73°/65° 71°/49°

Complete forecast, B6

UPSTATE



No runoffs needed for school board

Spartanburg County officials have determined no runoff elections will be needed to fill seats on local school boards. After the general election on Tuesday, election officials said it was possible two runoffs would have to be held because some of the candidates didn't receive a majority of votes. **C1**

Public's help sought in finding Woodruff woman

The family of a missing Woodruff woman is asking the public to help find her. Gayle R. Harris, 71, was reported missing on Friday. Her son, Dwayne Craig, and grandson, Drew Craig, joined Woodruff Police Chief Alan Bledsoe in asking people to report any potential sightings of Harris. **C1**

BUSINESS



Oklahoma copes with oil market turbulence

At around \$45 a barrel, oil prices are about half last fall's level, and jobs continue to disappear. But people in the Oklahoma oil patch aren't panicking. Instead, they're following a familiar ritual: returning to jobs or plans they

'VOLUME AND INTENSITY' OF PUBLIC RESPONSE CITED

Duke scraps plans for transmission line



Duke Energy will put on hold the plan to build a 230-kilovolt transmission line stretching 45 miles between the Carolinas, and will convert the current coal-burning Asheville, N.C., plant to natural gas. The plant is seen from the Lake Julian Park in Skyland, N.C., on Wednesday. **TIM KIMZEY/TIMKIMZEY@SHJ.COM**

Line would have run from Asheville, NC, to Campobello

By Trevor Anderson
trevor.anderson@shj.com

ASHEVILLE, N.C. — Duke Energy will shelve its plan to build a 230-kilovolt transmission line stretching 45 miles from Campobello to Asheville, N.C.

The Charlotte, N.C.-based utility held an announcement Wednesday at its coal-fired power plant in Skyland, N.C., where it said it will suspend the transmission line project and move forward with plans to convert the coal plant to natural gas.

Duke announced last month it would extend its review of the project through early November after the transmission line proposal was met with intense public opposition.

"The original solution

for Duke Energy's Carolinas Region. "In the end, it was not the best practical solution... In general, it was the impact to local communities and economies. That's what influenced us more than anything."

Duke said the revised plan still will include retiring the coal units at the plant by 2020.

The utility will build two 280-megawatt natural gas units on the site, with the option for a simple-cycle 190-megawatt unit in 2023 or later. Duke also is planning to add a utility-scale solar power plant at the site.

The overall estimated cost of the project is \$1.1 billion. "From the beginning, we wanted to put forth the best plan," said Lloyd Yates, Duke Energy's executive vice

Opponents celebrate decision

By Chris Lavender
chris.lavender@shj.com

Opponents of Duke Energy's proposed transmission line from a Campobello substation to a plant in Asheville, N.C., celebrated the company's decision to cancel the plan.

Duke Energy announced Wednesday it created a new plan for its proposed infrastructure upgrade for the Western Carolinas in response to community feedback. Under the revised plan, the company will replace its coal plant in Asheville with two smaller gas units instead of a large one. This makes the proposed 45-mile transmission line and substation no

CHILD SUPPORT

System to track deadbeat parents overdue

DSS seeks \$17M for plan

By Seanna Adcox
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The Department of Social Services says a centralized computer system to track deadbeat parents won't be running statewide until October 2019, representing another delay in a system that's already 18 years overdue.

Federal approval of the agency's latest contract with Xerox took longer than expected, shifting the four-year timeline, said DSS project manager Jimmy Earley.

While final approval came Aug. 27, "we were hoping to get it much earlier, in April," he told a Senate Finance panel Wednesday.

Earlier this year, agency officials said the system would operate statewide by March 2019. Legislators warned then they won't tolerate more broken promises in implementing a federally required system for collecting, enforcing and distributing child-support payments.

Sen. Thomas Alexander, the panel's chairman, said he's extremely disappointed by yet another delay.

"But I think we're definitely headed in the right direction," Alexander, R-Walshalla, said after the meeting. He said he understands why the federal government would scrutinize another contract.

Earley asked the panel for \$17 million next fiscal year toward the system's creation. A series of contract disputes and lawsuits have delayed that for decades.

The latest litigation with Hewlett-Packard, on its 2007 contract, ended in January. Under that settlement, the state collected \$4.4 million from HP

the Sumter ITEM

THE CLARENDON SUN

Hometown Teams exhibit draws 1,000 visitors B1

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2015 | Serving South Carolina since October 15, 1894

75 cents Clarendon delinquent taxes A14-15

City has no plans to waive fee

Building permits not a revenue source, just cover inspection costs

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

Many Sumter city and county residents have been concerned with the costs of flood repairs and some are asking if the city

plans to waive fees for building permits.

According to city officials, the permit fees are essential to the Sumter City and County Building Inspections Department operations.

Sumter City Manager Deron McCormick said the city and county's focus after the flood has been to reduce stress of the recovery and rebuilding process for homeowners and business owners.

"All cities are a little bit different," he said.

Some cities do make money from issuing building permits, but it is not a money maker for Sumter, he said.

The fees cover the costs of the inspections, McCormick said. Also, he said some residents have been misinformed about the cost of the permits, thinking they are extremely expensive.

According to Sumter City and County Building Inspections Department, 74 residential building permits, at an average cost of

SEE FEE, PAGE A8

Flood damage after Oct. 23 not eligible for federal aid

BY JIM HILLEY
jim@theitem.com

Rains keep falling on the Midlands area, and some homeowners have reported suf-

fering flood damage that has occurred since the 1,000-year flood.

Such damage will not qualify homeowners for federal disaster aid,

SEE DAMAGE, PAGE A8

March of Dimes walks for babies

S.C. receives 'D' grade on premature birth report card

BY RICK CARPENTER
rick@theitem.com

The annual March of Dimes March for Babies in Sumter will have an interesting twist this year: The walk will be at the Sunset Country Club on Saturday, and walkers will walk the approximately 3-mile cart path throughout the country club's golf course.

The March of Dimes' mission focuses on improving the health of babies by helping to prevent birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality, according to Cory Ritchie, a seasonal March of Dimes community director.

The March of Dimes released a report today that gives South Carolina a "D" grade on its report card for premature birth. Nationwide, the organization gave the country a "C" grade.

According to information in a release about the grade, South Carolina's preterm birth rate was 10.8 percent in 2014. The March of Dimes goal is to reduce that rate to 8.1 percent or less.

"Our state is not doing as well as we should in preventing premature births, and too many of our babies must fight to overcome the health challenges of an early birth," says Breana Lipscomb, director of program services for the March of Dimes South Caroli-

Character Day at St. James Lutheran school



Saint James Lutheran school students dress up as their favorite characters and march around the building holding their favorite books Friday afternoon at the Alice Drive church.

KEITH GEDAMKE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Bomb may have downed Russian jet in Egypt



U.S., UK officials implicate Islamic State Sinai affiliate

BY JILL LAWLESS

matter. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss intelligence matters publicly.

The official and others said there had been no formal judgment rendered by



SPORTS

CCU'S 2016 SCHEDULE TAKING SHAPE

CCU faces a transition with its move from the FCS to the FBS level. With an obstacle of forming a football schedule for next season, it is still a work in progress. **1B**



LOCAL

CLINTON LEADING DEMS IN S.C. POLL

According to a Winthrop Poll released Wednesday, Democratic primary voters want Hillary Clinton to be their presidential nominee. Seventy-one percent of S.C. Democrats likely to vote in the presidential primary - including 80 percent of African-Americans polled - said they planned to vote for Clinton. **3A**

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 5 2015

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LOCAL

Baby search continues, mother charged



Carl Hall, a rescue diver with Horry County Fire and Rescue, swims back to the boat to join boat operator John Hall. The men were searching a Socastee creek where a child is believed to have been lost. The mother, Sarah Lane Toney, 33, of Socastee, is currently being held by police.

Officials looking for 5-month-old 'Baby Grace' in a Socastee creek

Police say woman lost the baby in the rushing water

Mother has long list of previous charges

BY ELIZABETH TOWNSEND
etownsend@thesunnews.com

While rescue workers continued to search for a 5-month-old baby in a Socastee creek Wednesday, Horry County police charged the mother with unlawful conduct towards a child.

Sarah Lane Toney, 33, was already behind bars at J. Reuben Long Detention Center for unrelated charges. Horry County police spokesman Lt. Raul Denis said the new warrant would be served late Wednesday. Denis declined to give details about what led to the charge.

The search for "Baby Grace" expanded Wednesday as more agencies and organizations got



Members of CUE, the Center for Missing Persons, walk through swamp and thick woods to search for the missing child.

the rushing waters of a Socastee creek.

"We have K-9 teams from Darlington County and Hartsville here helping and of course our fire rescue people are here with their divers. We have the area very well-saturated with everyone trying to help find this baby," Denis said.

The search, which began Tuesday, resumed about 9 a.m. Wednesday after a slight delay

Denis said.

Searchers scoured the water and nearby woods. Divers felt the bottom of the murky creek, which was roughly 6 to 8 feet deep. Coastal Carolina University staff also joined the search Wednesday, using sonar equipment to scan the waterway bottom.

Steady rain on Tuesday made conditions along the heavily wooded and widening search

"WE HAVE K-9 TEAMS FROM DARLINGTON COUNTY AND HARTSVILLE HERE HELPING AND OF COURSE OUR FIRE RESCUE PEOPLE ARE HERE WITH THEIR DIVERS. WE HAVE THE AREA VERY WELL-SATURATED WITH EVERYONE TRYING TO HELP FIND THIS BABY."

Lt. Raul Denis, Horry County police spokesman

Wednesday.

"Yesterday it was flooded here and the current was moving rapidly. Today the conditions are a bit better," said Sgt. J.B. Kinsey, a diver with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources.



LOCAL

ENERGY BUREAU CHIEF IN COLUMBIA

It's in the nation's interest to look for oil and gas off the coast of S.C. and nearby, but officials who'll decide on drilling aren't close to deciding, the director of the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management said. **3A**



NATION

POLICE OFFICER STAGED HIS DEATH

Illinois police Lt. Charles Joseph Gliniewicz staged his death as he was about to be exposed as a thief, authorities said Wednesday. He's accused of embezzling from his police explorer program. **9A**



LOCAL

HORRY TO SPEND MONEY ON RADIOS

The HC Council on Wednesday advanced plans to spend up to \$16 million in leftover road tax money on a new digital radio system. The current system will be obso-



Morning News

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2015

TODAY'S WEATHER

Mostly cloudy, humid and warmer. High 81, low 63. DETAILS 2A

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75 cents

Timmons ville approves flood resolution

BY SHAMIRA MCCRAY
Morning News
smccray@florencenews.com

TIMMONSVILLE — The Timmons ville Town Council on Wednesday approved a resolution of intent for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

The action comes after the re-

cent flooding that caused damage to many areas in South Carolina.

"With the National Flood Insurance Program, what that does ... is allow the citizens to take out flood insurance," said town administrator Mary Bines.

She said the town previously passed a resolution and ordinance, but the resolution of intent

was the last step to complete to participate in the program.

"We're considered a sanction community because we're eligible for the national flood program because there may be one or two areas in Timmons ville that's considered a flood zone," Bines said. "We looked on the map, and it's just a small area, but nevertheless, we're consid-

ered a flood zone."

The resolution of intent states that the council assures the Federal Insurance Administration that it will enact as necessary and maintain in force in those areas having flood or flood-related erosion hazards adequate land use and control measures with effective enforcement provisions consistent with criteria

set forth in certain parts of the National Flood Insurance Program Regulations.

In other action Wednesday, the council approved a motion to allow the administration to move forward with a search into purchasing three trucks and an SUV.

See **COUNCIL**, Page 4A

Online bullying hot topic for Wilson club

BY MELISSA ROLLINS
Morning News
mrollins@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Bullying is a national issue, facing students of all ages. At Wilson High School, students and faculty are hoping that the Friends of Rachel Club will help combat those behaviors.

Launched last year when Florence School District One OK'd an anti-bullying program, Friends of Rachel is a local branch of the national Rachel's Challenge Initiative. Named after Rachel Scott, one of the students killed in the Columbine High School shooting in Colorado, the initiative seeks to empower students to make good decisions when it comes to bullying.

At Wilson, Willie Shaw is the faculty sponsor for the Friends of Rachel Club.

"Last year, we had a national trainer that came in and did a whole school assembly," Shaw said. "From that assembly we chose 100 kids to have additional training. The facilitator took what he presented to the whole school and focused on specific things that he talked about: how to treat people, how it feels to be mistreated, how important it is to make sure people are getting along, even if there are differences among them."

Shaw said he knows bullying can be a problem among teenagers but he was happy to find that Wilson students did not report it to be a large one for them.

"We participated in a statewide survey last year, as part of a grant," Shaw said. "When our results came back, surprisingly very few of our students reported that they were bullied or had participated in bullying. I was glad about that."

One element that will be a key topic for the club this school year is cyberbullying, where the abuse takes place online rather than in person.

"The survey reported that a big issue is cyberbullying," Shaw said. "People getting on Facebook and some of the other social media sites they use. That is what we will be focusing on this year, how to address that. What we want to do more than anything else is to encourage kids to use good sense. If you don't like someone, you don't have to get on there and make comments or threats; just don't do."



Jadaisa and Zachary knead the clay that will be used to hold their 'brick' house together during a Project Lead the Way lesson in Stefanie Dorsey's kindergarten classroom Wednesday morning.



Carver Elementary School Principal Chris Rogers talks with students Ja'Quan and Matthew about what type of house they are building during their Project Lead the Way engineering lesson Wednesday morning.

Leading the Way

New curriculum creates thinkers

BY MELISSA ROLLINS
Morning News
mrollins@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Wednesday morning, Stefanie Dorsey's student architects were making plans to build a house. Separated into pairs, the students were trying to figure out the best way to build their houses using the supplied materials: "straw," "sticks," "bricks" and ... glue.

See **CARVER**, Page 4A

Cornhole tournament returns to Pecan Festival

SOUTH CAROLINA PECAN FESTIVAL

» **WHEN:** 10 a.m. Saturday
» **WHERE:** Downtown Florence
» **ADMISSION:** Free

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN
Morning News
dswearingen@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The American Cornhole Orga-

patrons to participate in," said Frank Geers, president of the ACO.

He said Pecan Festival organizers looked at cornhole as an opportunity to

game, points are scored as players throw the bags into an opening on the cornhole board. Dropping a bag directly in the hole scores three points, while land-

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LIMITED
VOICE?

Newly interpreted school board rules anger meeting participants

By REBECCA LURYE

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Community members and at least one school board member say newly interpreted school board rules are ridiculous and unfairly limit the public's input.

At issue are two rules that newly elected school board chairwoman Mary Cordray brought up during Tuesday's meeting.



Cordray

The first, which she enforced Tuesday, dictates that residents cannot identify people by name when addressing the board. Another rule, in effect going forward, requires speakers to "confine their comments to matters germane to the business of the board."

During Tuesday's meeting, Cordray banged her gavel when a speaker said the names of two board members during his comments to the board. Cordray also warned residents that the latter rule limited residents to speaking only about issues on the agenda.

Please see VOICE on 14A

MORE ONLINE

To read the school board rules, click on this story at islandpacket.com.

IN BLUFFTON

Some
turned
away
at polls

Those residents live in pockets of unincorporated Beaufort County surrounded by areas that are inside town limits.

By LUCAS HIGH

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843-706-8128

Chris Catena did his research.

He studied the issues and picked out the candidates he wanted to vote for in Bluffton's municipal election.

But when he showed up at the Rotary Community Center polling location on Tuesday to cast his ballot, he "was basically turned away," Catena said Wednesday.

"I wanted to vote but I couldn't," he said. "I have been following the campaigns and doing my homework. It felt pretty bad having to leave there without voting."

Catena couldn't vote not because he wasn't registered or had forgotten to bring his identification.

He couldn't vote because technically he does not live in town despite the fact that his mailing address and driver's license both list a Bluffton residence.

As the town grew over the past decades from one-mile square around Old Town to a sprawling 54 miles, properties were annexed into the town piecemeal.

That created pockets — known as "doughnut holes" — of unincorporated Beaufort County surrounded by neighborhoods that are inside town limits.

State law prohibits the town council from deciding on its own to annex a piece of property.

Please see POLLS on 14A



Tribune News Service illustration

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