

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>

To:

Date: 6/12/2015 2:24:09 PM

Subject: SC Front Pages – Friday, June 12, 2015

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## **SC Front Pages – Friday, June 12, 2015**



SPORTS, 1C  
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**USA TODAY** DEMS BLOCK EFFORT TO LINK CYBERSECURITY LEGISLATION TO DEFENSE BILL **PAGE 1B**

**Fraternity alleges 'negligence'**

Claims Hipps voluntarily jumped into the water

**RON BARNETT**  
STAFF WRITER  
RBARNETT@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

PICKENS — Clemson student Tucker Hipps' death was caused by his "voluntarily jumping into the water" from a bridge over Lake Hartwell, and resulted from his own "negligence," Sigma Phi

Epsilon Fraternity, Inc., alleges in its answer to a wrongful death lawsuit filed by Hipps' family.

Clemson's former SigEpsilon chapter also filed a motion asking that the case against it be dismissed, because the chapter had been dissolved by the time the lawsuit was filed.

Documents filed at the Pickens County courthouse last week also give the responses of Clemson University and two members of the fraternity who took part in the early morning run across the State

93 bridge last Sept. 22 during which Hipps died, all of which allege that Hipps' own "negligence" caused his death.

The wrongful death suit, which seeks \$25 million in damages, along with a separate but identical \$25 million personal injury suit, claims that fraternity member Robert Carter King confronted Hipps on the bridge about Hipps' failure to bring breakfast as he had been told, the lawsuit says.

Then, Hipps, who was still a pledge

with the fraternity, went over the bridge and into the lake, the suit alleges.

The suit contends that King shined the flashlight on his cell phone into the water looking for Hipps and then called another defendant, Campbell T. Starr. Starr would later tell police that he knew about the pledges' failure to provide breakfast and that "Tucker would be held responsible."

In King's answer, attorneys say King

See HIPPS, Page 5A

**State saves millions with early payoff**

**TIM SMITH**  
STAFF WRITER  
TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

COLUMBIA — South Carolina on Thursday made its final payment early on a federal unemployment loan that at one point reached almost \$1 billion, spanned the terms of two governors and spawned sweeping reforms of the way the state compensates the jobless.

Gov. Nikki Haley announced the final payment, backed by lawmakers who helped craft the reforms, as well as business leaders and the director of the state Department of Employment and Workforce.

"This is a fantastic celebration," Haley said. "We saved the businesses of South Carolina \$13 million by paying this off early."

Lewis Gossett, president and CEO of the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance, said his members "didn't feel good" about the Employment Security Commission, what DEW previously was named.

"We can actually say something quite different now," he said. "A billion dollars out of the state's economy was painful. For my members, it was not fun. But we did it and made it work."

The state wasn't scheduled to make its final payment until November. Officials credited a much lower unemployment rate, increased job training efforts, Haley's industry recruitment and a sharp drop in improper unemployment payments with allowing the early loan payoff.

The state began requesting loans from the federal government in December 2008, when then-Gov. Mark Sanford, who had refused to seek money to replenish the state's depleted unemployment trust fund because he was upset over the management of the agency, relented, asking for \$146 million.

He called the Employment Security Commission then, whose board was picked by lawmakers, incompetent and said he would seek an audit.

Subsequent audits disclosed mil-

See STATE, Page 7A



**ECONOMIC GROWTH BYPASSING PICKENS COUNTY**

Lack of an interstate highway a major drawback, some say

**RON BARNETT**  
STAFF WRITER  
RBARNETT@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

Over the past two years, the state Department of Commerce has announced 22 new or expanding industrial projects in Greenville County, 15 in Anderson, nine in Oconee and nine in Laurens.

And zero in Pickens County. After years of recession, economic development is fairly booming in the Upstate — except in Pickens County.

County Councilman Tom Ponder says the lack of an interstate highway running through it is the county's biggest drawback in luring industry.

"Pickens County has been a bedroom community for decades," he says.

Others point to the county's decision three years ago to pull out of the Upstate Alliance, an economic development organization that touts the region as a great place to do business.

"I think it's obviously had an impact in a negative way," says Dean Hybl, executive di-



PHOTOS BY  
RON BARNETT/STAFF  
Above: Ray Farley, executive director of Alliance Pickens, discusses his efforts to lure businesses to Pickens County.  
Left: TaylorMade announced in 2013 that it would move its golf ball operations to Pickens County Commerce Park.

rector of Ten at the Top, which markets the 10 Upstate counties with the Upstate Alliance. "Pickens County, while they are doing things on their own, they're not part of the larger message of what's going on in the region. It definitely is not a positive for them."

Not everyone in Pickens County has taken the isolationist route. Its municipalities and chambers of commerce have remained active in Ten at the Top, Hybl says. It's the Coun-

See GROWTH, Page 4A

"To me, it doesn't make any sense at all. We've gone back 20 years under this council."

**TOM O'HANLAN**  
CEO OF SEALEVEL SYSTEMS INC.



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Friday, June 12, 2015

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## Big pay raises likely for county officials

Finance panel OKs double-digit hikes, including 34 percent, for Charleston County auditor

BY PRENTISS HINDLAY  
phindlay@postandcourier.com

Double-digit raises for the Charleston County auditor, clerk of court, coroner, treasurer and register of mesne conveyance were approved Thursday in a vote by members of the Council Finance Committee.

An independent consultant recommended the salary hikes after reviewing how much other counties paid

lected officials in the same positions. Council will consider whether to approve the raises next Tuesday. They would take effect on July 1 when the county's new budget year begins.

Proposed pay raises for the elected positions are: auditor, 34 percent to \$188,736; clerk of court, 22 percent to \$131,543; coroner, 24 percent to \$112,477; treasurer, 26 percent to \$124,131; register of mesne conveyance, 12 percent to \$116,965.

### PC Poll

What do you think of Charleston County's proposal to raise the property tax rate 9.8 percent to help pay for costs associated with the library system? Go to [postandcourier.com/polls](http://postandcourier.com/polls) to vote.

Councilman Joe Qualey voted no. Council members Vic Rawl and Henry Darby were absent. The other six members voted yes. The Finance Committee includes all Council mem-

bers. County Auditor Peter Teskensburg noted that the raises were recommended by a county consultant who reviewed salaries of comparable posi-

tions locally and in the region. "I think the outside consultant's report identifies how significant the disparities are both inside and outside of Charleston County," he said in an email.

The new budget includes a 9.8 percent property tax rate hike that council will vote on next Tuesday. If approved, it would increase the tax

Please see **RAISES**, Page A4

## Army 'brothers' reunited at last

Bob Robinson's search for buddy he lost touch with nearly 46 years ago pays off



PROVIDED  
Pictured in 1969, Ed Britt (left) and Bob Robinson were stationed at the same base camp in Pleiku, South Vietnam.



After meeting Thursday afternoon with hugs in a hallway at Charleston International Airport nearly 46 years after serving in Vietnam together, Ed Britt (left) of Mount Pleasant and Bob Robinson of Arkansas laugh over the misspelling on the welcome sign. In Vietnam, Britt had always addressed the man he looked up to like an older brother as just "Sarge."

BY LAUREN SHIRLEY  
lshirley@postandcourier.com

When Ed Britt saw Bob Robinson coming out of the terminal exit at the Charleston International Airport on Thursday, there was nothing that could stop him from running into the arms of the man who he fondly called his big brother.

### Inside

Images of Vietnam War make homecoming in an exhibit. **A7**

even if it meant running past the "Do not enter" sign that guarded the exit.

"Forty-six years!" That was all Britt could get

out as the pair stood hugging and weeping.

"All this time looking," Robinson said.

For a while, they stood in the middle of the airport, arms wrapped around each other as they took in the reality of the reunion. Even people passing by stopped to observe. The last

Please see **REUNITED**, Page A7

## Witness to slaying honored by House

Video led to arrest in Walter Scott shooting

BY MELISSA BOUGHTON  
mboughton@postandcourier.com

Felidn Santana, who filmed the deadly shooting of Walter Scott with his cellphone, said his life has changed since April 4.

"Even though I didn't have the opportunity to meet Walter Scott, because of him, I met my true self," he said Thursday after receiving a resolution from the S.C.

House honoring him. "I met the Felidn Santana that will stand up for truth without fearing the consequences, the Felidn Santana that without a second thought would stand up for justice and the Felidn Santana that would give everything for justice and love."

Charleston Democratic Rep. Wendell Gilliard presented Santana with a plaque at the International Longshoremen's Association Hall in front of several community leaders and activists. The resolution acknowledges that Santana's "coming forward with the video contributed to an orderly and prompt judicial processing of the incident."

"If it were not for him, you and I would not be in this room having this discussion," Gilliard said. "He's the one who took it upon himself to record that infamous act of what happened to that young brother that's now seen around the world. He should be deemed as a hero."

Santana was walking from his job.

Please see **WITNESS**, Page A4



Santana



### Read more

For complete coverage of the Walter Scott shooting, go to [postandcourier.com/Walter-Scott](http://postandcourier.com/Walter-Scott).

## Floating gator carcasses raise hunting questions

BY BO PETERSEN  
bpetersen@postandcourier.com

The alligator carcasses found floating without heads or tails in the Ashley River earlier this month are more evidence that the state might have a problem with how it manages hunting for the otherwise protected species.

Daniel Rogers, 36, of North Charleston and Larry Dennis Lewis, 64, of Charleston turned themselves in to the

S.C. Department of Natural Resources when media reports of five "poached" carcasses made them realize they might have committed a violation.

They have been charged with littering in a misdemeanor case scheduled to be heard next week.

But they didn't poach the alligators; they hunted them legally, under an exclusion in state law that allows

Please see **GATOR**, Page A4

### Inside

#### WORLD

General: New U.S. hub in Iraq could be model. **A8**

#### BUSINESS

Boeing projects demand for Dreamliners to continue. **B1**

#### PETS

Let Caitlyn's sad story inspire a greater good. **D1**

## Every federal employee's data stolen, union says

Calls cybertheft an 'abysmal failure'

BY KEN DILANIAN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hackers stole personnel data and Social Security numbers for every federal employee, a government worker union said Thurs-

day, saying that the cybertheft of U.S. employee information was more damaging than the Obama administration has acknowledged.

Sen. Harry Reid, the Democratic leader, said on the Senate floor that the December hack into Office of Personnel Management data was carried out by "the Chinese" without specifying whether he meant the Chinese

Please see **DATA**, Page A9



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See Page A2



**HOOPS RECRUITING:** Two Midlands players high in ESPN rankings. **B1**

# The State

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2015 | THESTATE.COM

## Fraternity blames pledge in his death

Tucker Hipps 'voluntarily' jumped in lake, answer to suit says

By **RON BARNETT**  
The Greenville News

**GREENVILLE** — Clemson student Tucker Hipps' death was caused by his "voluntarily jumping into the water" from a bridge over Lake Hartwell, and resulted from his own "negligence," Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity Inc., alleges in its answer to a wrongful death lawsuit

filed by Hipps' parents. Clemson's former SigEp chapter also filed a motion asking that the case against it be dismissed, because the chapter had been dissolved by the time the lawsuit was filed.

Documents filed at the Pickens County Courthouse last week also give the responses of Clemson University and two members of the fraternity who

took part in the early morning run across the S.C. 93 bridge last Sept. 22 during which Hipps died. Each allege Hipps' own "negligence" caused his death.

The wrongful death suit, which seeks \$25 million in damages, along with a separate but identical \$25 million

SEE **HIPPS PAGE A8**



Hipps

**FORE!!!**



Caden Brennan laughs Thursday during warm-ups at The First Tee of Columbia golf program.



6 year-old Tyler Glover stoically awaits instruction from his coach.

## IN FULL SWING

The First Tee of Columbia is a program that teaches 5- to 17-year-olds sportsmanship, honesty and responsibility through the game of golf. The program at the James E. Clyburn Golf Center in Columbia runs through Aug. 15. For more information, see [www.thefirstteecolumbia.org](http://www.thefirstteecolumbia.org)

## Costco flirting with Columbia again

Retailer returns to talks on building Midlands' first store along Piney Grove road

By **ANDREW SHAIN**  
[ashain@thestate.com](mailto:ashain@thestate.com)

Costco — long considered by shoppers the most-sought-after retailer that is absent from the Midlands — again is working on opening a store in the Columbia area, Richland County officials told The State.

The Issaquah, Wash.,-based warehouse chain is eyeing the same 17-acre site — at Piney Grove and Fernandina roads, near Harbison — that it considered in 2013, Richland County councilmen Greg Pearce and Seth Rose said Thursday.

The 2013 deal, brokered by a Mount Pleasant real estate commercial developer, fell apart when County Council balked at meeting demands for incentives to pay for road improvements.

Richland County was ready to give Costco \$3 million, unusual because the county does not typically offer economic incentives to retailers. But the developer suggested \$10 million — a deal-breaking amount for county leaders.

Now, Costco is back.

Store officials have started working with Richland County's planning department to get permits for the site, the councilmen and a county spokeswoman said.

Costco has not requested economic incentives, county spokeswoman Beverly Harris said.

During talks with Richland County in 2013, the developer working with Costco said the store would hire more than 200 workers and

SEE **COSTCO PAGE A8**



### In SPORTS

Where do the way-too-early bowl projections put USC and Clemson?

**B1**



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**Aiken MUSIC FEST**  
returns  
Living on the Go, 1C

**Langdale returning to top form at Palmetto Amateur Sports, 1B**



**Below the fold: Dougherty Road improvements moving forward, turn lane suggested**

FRIDAY, June 12, 2015

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 149, No. 163 Aiken, S.C. ★★ 75¢

## One dead in early-morning fire

STAFF REPORTS  
editorial@aikenstandard.com

A North Augusta woman was killed in an early-morning fire in Belvedere on Thursday.  
The victim has been identified as the

homeowner, 64-year-old Debra Hurst, said Aiken County Coroner Tim Carlson. The fire happened at 608 Ashley Circle about 4 a.m. after a North Augusta Department of Public Safety officer made the initial call.  
The Coroner's Office is being assisted

by the S.C. State Law Enforcement Division Arson Unit but, at this time, there is no evidence of foul play, Carlson said.  
An autopsy is scheduled for this morning in Newberry.  
Belvedere Fire Department firefighters were on the scene in less than four minutes, according to Assistant Fire Chief Jason Todd. He added the firefighters already were working a wreck when the house fire call came in.  
"By the time we arrived on scene, the fire was shooting above the house," Todd said.

North Augusta Department of Public Safety and the Merrimether Fire Department assisted with the fire, according to Aiken County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Jason Feenster.  
The fire was under control by around 5 a.m., Todd said.

### INSIDE TODAY



**Aiken Career Center camp draws in students**  
Local News, 2A



**No serious injuries reported in truck wreck**  
Local News, 3A



**Construction falls behind on N.A. parking deck**  
Local News, 5A

**'Jurassic World' bites into the modern blockbuster**  
Living on the Go, 1C

### AREA DEATHS

**John Crean Schlessler, Aiken**  
**John W. "Jack" Wood Jr., North Augusta**  
**Mary Whetherly Wilson, Aiken**  
**Thomas O. Adams Jr., Clearwater**  
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

### WEATHER

## Gateway opens door to arts

BY LARRY WOOD  
lwood@aikenstandard.com

The halls are alive with the sounds of music, dancing feet and busy hands sculpting clay and weaving baskets at Kennedy Middle School this summer.

More than 100 elementary-school students who have completed third grade and 75 middle- and high-school students from Wagener-Salley to North Augusta are participating in the Aiken County Public School District's Gateway program, which stands for Gifted And Talented Education

With Artistic Youth.  
For four days a week for the next four to five weeks, the students are polishing their skills in the performing, visual and creative arts, including drama, dance, strings, band, chorus and, for middle- and high-school students, creative writing.

"The kids are unbelievably talented," said Meredith Leopard, who teaches art at Hammond Hill Elementary in North Augusta and is in her second year as Gateway director. "It's wonderful that we have the resources to provide a service for gifted and talented students in the arts, and they love it. They thrive here."

On Thursday morning, classrooms buzzed with creativity.  
Writing students created poems, choosing specific words and blacking out the rest on printed pages that instructor Lauren Gehr, who taught at Midland Valley High and now teaches at White Knoll High in Lexington County, ripped from old books.

Please see ARIS, Page 14A



Emma Poteat, 11, who will attend Kennedy Middle in the fall, and Alexis Mitchell, 11, who will be at New Ellenton next year, create head-and-shoulder busts from clay, which later will be fired in a kiln.

### Gateway students showcase talents

BY LARRY WOOD  
lwood@aikenstandard.com

Performing, visual and creative arts students in Aiken County's Gateway program will celebrate the skills they learned this summer at two showcase performances.

The showcase for elementary students will be at 7 p.m. July 1, and the showcase for middle-

and high-school students will be at 7 p.m. July 8. Both will be at Kennedy Middle School.

The school cafeteria will be transformed into a gallery to display the artwork and to demonstrate the collaborative effort among the different arts: drama, dance, strings, band and chorus, which will include singers, visual artists, creative writers and others.



Connor Salch, 10, eyes just the right length of yarn he needs for weaving a basket in art class in the Gateway program.

## Dougherty Road upgrades approved



BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER  
mschechter@aikenstandard.com

**Editor's note:** The Aiken Standard will continue updates on Aiken's road projects throughout the week. Today's article is about the proposed Dougherty Road improvement project that would add an additional turn lane onto Whiskey Road from Dougherty Road.

The estimated \$1.2 million road project that Aiken City officials expect to alleviate traffic congestion on Dougherty and Whiskey roads is moving forward.

George Gritton, the City's engineering and utilities director, said Dough-

Per City Council's approval, the right-of-way consultant was hired, and Gritton expects title reports for right-of-way acquisition to be completed by Monday. He also anticipates appraisals to be completed by the end of the month.

In 2013, the 1-mile road reached 94 percent of its design capacity, causing congestion for drivers who want to use Dougherty Road as a cut-through from Silver Bluff Road to Whiskey Road.

Aiken County and the City of Aiken hired URS Consultants for \$90,000 to do a transportation study. That study recommended constructing an additional right-hand turn lane from Dougherty Road onto Whiskey Road.

# CUTTING IT OUT

Parents finding alternatives to ugly haircut videos meant to shame kids straight C6



# Herald-Journal

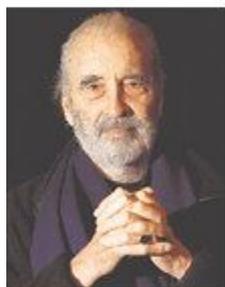
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5 Things to read today



## Actor Lee dies

Christopher Lee, an actor who brought dramatic gravitas and aristocratic bearing to screen villains from Dracula to the wicked wizard Saruman in "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy, has died at age 93. **PAGE A7**

## Vandals hit Pacolet

A rash of vandalism has cost thousands of dollars in damages to several businesses in Pacolet. **PAGE C1**

## Rapist to stay put

A circuit judge has ordered that an Arkwright man who raped two women remain confined to a treatment program for sexually violent predators. **PAGE C1**

## Longer reach

The Pentagon's top general said Thursday the U.S. military's reach could extend even further into Iraq if the anti-Islamic State campaign gains momentum, and he held out the possibility of eventually recommending to President Barack Obama that U.S. troops take on the riskier role of calling in airstrikes. **PAGE A3**

## Staying open

A decision Thursday to keep the troubled South Carolina State University's accreditation on probation removed an immediate threat of forced closure for the state's only historically black public university. **PAGE C1**

Weather

# Union: Hack hit all fed workers



SUSAN WALSH / AP FILE

A government worker union said Thursday that hackers stole personnel data and Social Security numbers for every federal employee, and is worse than has been acknowledged.

Theft of personal data far worse than officials have admitted, group charges

By KEN DILANIAN  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hackers stole personnel data and Social Security numbers for every federal employee, a government worker union said Thursday, asserting that the cyber theft of U.S. employee information was more damaging than the Obama administration has acknowledged.

Sen. Harry Reid, the Democratic leader, said on the Senate floor that the December hack into Office of Personnel Management

data was carried out by "the Chinese" without specifying whether he meant the Chinese government or individuals. Reid is one of eight lawmakers briefed on the most secret intelligence information. U.S. officials have declined to publicly blame China, which has denied involvement.

J. David Cox, president of the American Federation of Government Employees, said in a letter to OPM director Katherine Archuleta that based on the incomplete information the union received from OPM, "We believe that the Central Personnel Data File was the targeted database, and that the hackers are now in possession of all personnel data for every federal employee,

◆ SEE HACK PAGE A7



PHOTOS BY TIM KIMZEY/TIM.KIMZEY@SHU.COM

Peaches are nearly ripe on the trees at Belue Farms in Boiling Springs. The Upstate crop is already starting to come in, and farmers say this year's harvest could be tastier than ever, thanks to a late cold snap that thinned some peaches.

## This year's peach crop could be one to savor, farmers say

By ZACH FOX  
zach.fox@shj.com

An April cold snap might be responsible for higher quality peaches in the Upstate.

Local farmers and agricultural officials say the cold temperatures late in the season thinned out some of the peaches that typically bloom and ripen earlier in the year. That thinning process has caused the peaches that ripen during peak season, from June to September, to be stronger, bigger and tastier than in years past.

"I'm very encouraged by what



# Wrestler Dusty Rhodes dies at 69

By KYLE HIGHTOWER  
The Associated Press

WWE says Virgil Runnels, a former professional wrestler known by his fans as Dusty Rhodes, has died. He was 69.

The company said Runnels died Thursday, but a spokesman declined to say where or how, saying the family had not authorized the release of that information.

Runnels, who also went by the nickname "The American Dream," was a member of the WWE Hall of Fame, and held the NWA championship three times. He became famous during the height of wrestling's popularity in the 1970s and 1980s, appearing in signature yellow polka dot tights with his sidekick "valet" Sapphire.

In a statement, WWE offered condolences to Runnels family, calling him "a caring husband and a creative visionary who helped shape the landscape of WWE long after his in-ring career had ended."

Runnels remained a fixture with WWE after retiring from the ring and was working at WWE's Performance Center in Orlando, Florida.

Throughout his several decades in the ring, the Austin, Texas, native endeared himself to fans as an everyman with a less than stellar physique, but a gregarious gift of gab behind a microphone.

Runnels was also the father of



# the Sumter ITEM

Ukraine brain drain; educated flee for new lives in Kiev A6

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## New Tuomey CEO seeks to inspire, build trust

BY JIM HILLEY  
jim@thetitem.com

More than three decades ago, a 10-year-old girl from the small, off-the-beaten-path community of Pinewood tagged along as her grandfather sought treatment for mesothelioma at Baptist Hospital in Columbia.

The caring and compassion shown by the doctors, nurses and staff during her grandfather's ultimately unsuccessful treatment left an indelible mark on the young girl.

"They took phenomenal care of my grandfather," she recalled. "The cancer was terminal, but the care they took of my mother: They loved her, embraced her, made sure that she ate. They loved her and were passionate to her, and she loved them back."

Michelle Logan-Owens' passion for health care was ignited.

"I saw that as a child of 10 or 11 years of age, and I thought to myself, 'I want to do for other people what they've done for my mom,'" she said. "That's when I decided I wanted to be an oncology nurse."

She focused on that goal throughout school, she said, eventually attending University of South Carolina.

"I was going to come back, and I was going to take care of cancer patients, and I was going to pour my heart and soul into being the very best oncology nurse I could be, and that is what I do," she said.

Now, with a master's degree and a recently obtained Ph.D. in hospital administration from Medical University of South Carolina, Logan-Owens on Monday became the acting CEO and president of the hospital in which she was born — Tuomey Regional Medical Center.

Logan-Owens said she did not apply for the position and was surprised when it was offered.

"I was deeply humbled



Michelle Logan-Owens, the newly named CEO of Tuomey Regional Medical Center, is hoping to inspire passion at the hospital where she was born.

when (Board Chairman John) Brabham asked me to take on this role and honored to have a chance at this significant responsibility that I don't take lightly," she said. "I am excited to be able to shoulder the responsibility."

She said the hospital's board of directors decided the hospital could remain in a transition period for a long time before a planned merger with Palmetto Health of Columbia can come to fruition, and the hospital need-

ed leadership during the transition.

Previous interim CEO and President Michael Schwartz' last day was May 29, Logan-Owens said.

SEE TUOMEY, PAGE A8

### COUNTY COUNCIL

## New vehicle management policy will save money

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS  
adrienne@thetitem.com

Sumter County has adopted a countywide Fleet Management Policy for the maintenance and replacement of all county vehicles, and county administration thinks it will be a money and time saver.

County Assistant Administrator Lorraine Washington-Dennis said the county did not have a vehicle management policy before the adoption of the Fleet Management Policy during Sumter County Council's meeting Tuesday.

Previously, County Public Works managed the purchase, repair and replacement of county vehicles.

Washington-Dennis said under the new policy, a few employees from public works will serve as fleet management staff, and an advisory committee and management board will be created to oversee the policy.

The advisory committee will consist of representatives from Sumter County Public Works, Sumter County Sheriff's Office, Sumter County Recreation and Parks Department, Sumter County Assessor's Office and Sumter County Purchasing Department.

Washington-Dennis said those departments have been chosen for the committee because they have the most vehicles.

The vehicle management policy board will consist of the county administrator, Washington-Dennis, the county purchasing director, the county finance director and the county public works director.

Washington-Dennis said the policy will be beneficial because the county will have a more efficient way of recording the conditions and department assignments of all of its vehicles.

All vehicle assignment and purchase requests will

SEE COUNTY, PAGE A8

## Chinese hackers may have data, SSN of every federal employee

BY KEN DILANIAN  
AP Intelligence Writer

of eight lawmakers briefed on the most secret intelligence information. U.S. officials have declined to publicly





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MORE DETAILS ON PAGE 3A

# Morning News

FRIDAY JUNE 12, 2015

**TODAY'S WEATHER**

A thunderstorm in some spots in the afternoon. High 92, low 74. DETAILS 2A

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## Suspect found guilty

# Inman attacks court officer, spits at prosecution

BY JOSHUA LLOYD  
Morning News  
jlloyd@florencenews.com

DILLON — Chaos erupted in a Dillon courtroom Thursday afternoon when a 22-year-old Dillon man convicted of kidnapping and murder attacked a courtroom officer and spat at state officials.

In a retrial, Damian Inman was found guilty of all charges — murder, kidnapping, armed robbery, first-degree burglary and a weapons violation. He was charged in the death of 75-year-old Mary Alice Stutts

in August 2009.

Shortly after the verdict was read, a sheriff's deputy attempted to handcuff Inman. He resisted and punched the officer in the face. A swarm of officers tackled him to the floor as distraught family members cried out.

During the scuffle, a woman identified as Inman's sister crossed the divider from the spectator section of the courtroom in an apparent attempt to help him. Resident Circuit Court Judge Paul M. Birch ordered her arrest, and she was quickly escorted out.

As Inman was escorted out of the courtroom, he spat in the faces of 4th Circuit Deputy Solicitor Kernard Redmond and Dillon County Sheriff Major Hulon. A short time later he was brought back in, fully cuffed and wearing a muzzle.

The judge sentenced Inman to 30 years in prison for armed robbery; five years for possession of a weapon during a violent crime and five years for criminal conspiracy. A date has not been set for sentencing for the murder and kidnapping.



Damian Inman is muzzled after attacking a court officer in court. He was convicted of murder, kidnapping and other charges Thursday.

See INMAN, Page 3A

JOSHUA LLOYD/MORNING NEWS

## Florence School District One

# Board OKs additions to bonds

2 open positions filled

BY MELISSA ROLLINS  
Morning News  
mrollins@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Trustees of Florence School District One voted Thursday night to approve recommendations for filling two personnel positions — one at Dewey L. Carter Elementary School and one at the district office level.

Wendy Frazier, currently the assistant principal at Savannah Grove Elementary, will be the new principal at Carter. Kelvin Wymbs, current principal of Lower Richland High School in Hopkins, will replace Neal Vincent as the director of secondary education; Vincent will become superintendent of Florence District Two on July 1.

"Dr. Wymbs has extensive experience as a high school principal and alternative school principal and even did a little basketball coaching at Francis Marion University and at University of South Carolina Aiken," said District One Superintendent Randy Bridges. "He comes highly recommended and we are fortunate to get him to join us. Wendy has been an assistant principal for a number of years. She has been an elementary school teacher and a middle school teacher, an elementary principal and a middle school principal. She has done a very good job for us and we are looking forward to her leadership at Dewey L. Carter Elementary School."

Board members were also presented an amendment to the bond resolution passed previously. Lu-

# Kansas kicks off concerts



Kansas vocalist and keyboardist Ronnie Platt (center) sings at the Francis Marion Performing Arts Center.

VEASEY CORNWALL/MORNING NEWS

The rock band Kansas performed in Florence on Thursday night at the first event in the summer concert series at the Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center. The band, which was formed in Topeka, Kansas, has been performing for more than 40 years. The summer concert series will continue with a performance by pop rockers Christopher Cross on July 30 and Bruce Hornsby on Aug. 20.

# Tentative site found for Art Trail Gallery

BY GAVIN JACKSON  
Morning News  
gjackson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — A new home

relocate them in to be considered at the July (city) council meeting," Griffin said. "I think that will occur; it gives them a great space and allows this

intersection with Irby Street, to a location to be announced next month.

Downtown development manager Ray Reich said a relo-

"There's no way you can do it just with volunteers."

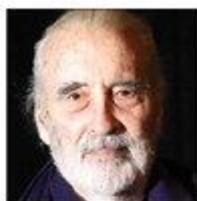
Such proposed changes are in discussions.

An economic development





Actor Christopher Lee,  
musician Ornette Coleman die  
Obituaries 4A



# INDEX-JOURNAL

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"I'm piecing it together like everyone else."  
— Julie Wilkie



"It's tragic a child lost his life."  
— John Long, of Ninety Six,  
a parent of two Learning Vine  
children



"(Learning Vine director Cindy Ray) was forced to act as a crisis manager for several days."  
— Brad Thompson



"E. coli is not some rare disease out of Africa."  
— Karen Jenks

## VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY CONCERN & CONFUSION

### Deficiencies fixed at Learning Vine

■ The Learning Vine Child Development Center's regulatory deficiencies from the South Carolina Department of Social Services were changed Thursday afternoon on the agency website from "pending" to fully resolved.

DSS released Thursday morning the June 8 letter sent to Learning Vine Child Development Center owner Cindy Ray regarding 14 deficiencies found during a June 4 follow-up inspection. Ray talked Thursday night about what had happened regarding each deficiency found.

#### The deficiencies were:

1. DSS: Changing table needed to be adjacent to a hand-washing sink in the toddler room and 2-year-old room.

Ray: The rooms had the same design since the facility opened 16 years ago. A new sink was installed to accommodate the built-in changing tables.

2. DSS: Medicine was not in a locked box in a refrigerator in the toddler room.

Ray: A teacher put Pepto-Bismol on a high shelf in the refrigerator out of reach of children.

3. DSS: The front of a refrigerator in the 1-year-old room needed to be cleaned.

Ray: McWhorter's Cleaning and Contracting Service of Greenwood cleaned the refrigerator.

4. DSS: A mop bucket full of water was in a toddler room bathroom.

Ray: A teacher put the bucket in a bathroom that is not used by children.

5. DSS: A bottle in the 1-year-old room was not covered or labeled.

Ray: A lid did not have a child's name on it.

6. DSS: A probe thermometer was needed to check food temperature in the kitchen.

Ray: She could not find the thermometer but a staff member was able to find it. She said they do not use raw meat and use pre-cooked food to

See **FIXED**, page 3A



A circle of concerned parents discuss their opinions, concerns and unanswered questions Thursday regarding the outbreak of the E. coli-related illness at Learning Vine.

### Forum aims to address Greenwood E. coli outbreak

By DANIEL PERRY  
dperry@indexjournal.com

A group of parents have pointed fingers at the state Department of Health and Environmental Control for not taking strong enough ownership of problems regarding a Greenwood child development center, the death of a child and the Shiga toxin-producing E. coli illness generating increasing concern by the day.

Some of the questions raised include how a positive diagnosis for E. coli was determined and what state agency was setting the criteria for the Learning Vine Child Development Center on Overland Drive to re-open. The facility and DHEC signed a public health consent agreement to voluntarily and temporarily close Monday after one of its students died of an illness tied to Shiga toxin-producing E. coli.

The Index-Journal hosted a forum Thursday night and 15 people showed up to discuss,

See **FORUM**, page 3A

PHOTOS BY MADDY JONES | INDEX-JOURNAL





Local designer puts pearl in all pieces **1C**

# The Beaufort Gazette

FRIDAY, June 12, 2015

[beaufortgazette.com](http://beaufortgazette.com)

Established in 1897 75 cents

## Hatching a plan

Local businesses scrambling after bird flu causes egg shortage



JAY KARR • Staff photo

Laura Best, 9, of Beaufort, pets a chicken held by Tim Guade after an egg-gathering expedition to Guade's chicken coop during a youth summer day camp Thursday at Above Standard Equestrian in greater Bluffton. Guade is planning to rear his own chicks this year, rather than buying them from outside, in hopes of avoiding introducing avian flu to his flock.

By REBECCA LURYE • [rlurye@islandpacket.com](mailto:rlurye@islandpacket.com) • 843-706-8155

Each year, about 140,000 eggs are cracked, whipped and cooked inside Signe's Heaven Bound Bakery and Cafe on Hilton Head Island.

That includes about 100 batches of French toast, each one calling for 55 pounds of eggs. Another 12 pounds or so go into each of the bakery's thousands of pound cakes, all five different varieties of them.

"And then we serve breakfast," owner Signe Gardo said.

Eggs are an absolute necessity for local bakeries and restaurants like Gardo's Arrow Road shop, which means owners are hit all the harder by the recent outbreak of avian flu that has already killed more than 47 million chickens and turkeys since December.

Please see EGG on 7A

**MORE ONLINE** To watch video of Tim Guade talking about raising his own chicks this year, go to [bit.ly/1gflc6W](http://bit.ly/1gflc6W).

IN DOWNTOWN BEAUFORT

## Panel: Free parking must go

By STEPHEN FASTENAU  
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843-706-8182

Beaufort should stop offering two free hours of parking downtown and immediately create more spaces, the city's parking task force recommended Thursday night.

**MORE ONLINE** To watch video of people talking about how they feel about free parking downtown, click on this story at [beaufortgazette.com](http://beaufortgazette.com).

In the end, there was no discernible benefit to downtown business by way of increased sales, according to numbers provided to the parking group by the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce. In some cases, merchants' numbers were worse compared to the same time last year.

During the free trial, which began in December, people parked an average of two hours and moved, the study found. Employees of downtown business clogged prime spaces the task force valued at \$37.50 an hour for the business they fronted.

Free parking has created a \$62,000 deficit for the city, which has contracted with SP+ to manage parking.

The report was a wake-up call for some who previously supported the idea, including Parini's owner Paul Thompson. He said he came to the meeting to speak in support of free parking because of what he saw as an increase in foot traffic to his restaurant but adjusted his comments to suggest enforcement have more teeth.

"Virtually everybody we asked liked (free parking)," said Pete Palmer, who co-chaired a subgroup that looked at immediate needs. "However, it's administratively impossible to do it. It's chaos."

The group also suggested the city provide employees a secure parking area and create signs and brochures educating drivers on where to park

Please see PARKING on 7A

General: US hub in Iraq could be model for further expansion

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