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SC Front Pages – Fri day, October 28, 2016

The Post and Courier

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Friday, October 28, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Tighter gun laws face an uphill battle in S.C.

Firearms advocates say hearings a waste of time, money

BY MAYA T. PRABHU
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COLUMBIA — After four hearings across South Carolina drew emotional testimony from hundreds of witnesses about the state's gun laws, the chairman of the Statehouse gun committee said it's time for a "full and frank"

discussion on the issue.

But gun rights advocates say the hearings were a waste of time and taxpayer dollars, insisting there will be no changes made to restrict the state's gun status quo.

"All this is, is a feel good law," Gerald Stoudemire, president of Gun Owners of South Carolina, told The Post and

Courier about the effort.

"What they're trying to introduce will do nothing to prevent crime," he added. "It will do nothing to deter the mass murders we had in Charleston and other areas."

Many reform advocates have focused on the errant background check process that allowed accused Emanuel

pc Poll

Do you think the S.C. General Assembly will pass meaningful gun law reform during the 2017 Statehouse session? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

AME Church shooter Dylann Roof to buy a pistol two months before nine worshippers inside the church were

gunned down during Bible study last year in Charleston.

Roof should have been barred from completing the purchase because of a prior admission of possessing illegal drugs. However, an error pegged to the FBI in conducting his background check held up the report longer than the required three-day wait for a response.

Please see **GUN**, Page A7

Storm recovery a haul

Nearly 30,000 residents across S.C. have applied for FEMA assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew



"I can't keep money going out when no money is coming in," said Ann Lowther about having her Hurricane Matthew damage cleaned up Tuesday in Hanahan.

BY BO PETERSEN
bpetersen@postandcourier.com

HANAHAN — She walks stiffly from the debris pile to the electric line connection torn from the wall, rubbing her hands fretfully as she talks.

"They came by my house today to pick up leaves, took a look and said, 'We'll be back tomorrow,'" Ann Lowther said, trying to grin about it.

When a tree fell on her house during Hurricane Matthew three weeks ago, it poked holes through the roof and collapsed the siding like a ladder, compounding the mess.

Lowther is 70 years old and arthritic. Her husband died two years ago. Her insurance has too high a deductible to meet and she just can't do everything anymore, she said.

The Hanahan resident is one of more than 900

Please see **STORM**, Page A6



As Edisto Beach continues the cleanup from Matthew, repairs to the beach-front park have been postponed.

Inside

Tim Scott holds Hurricane Matthew fundraiser at Charles Towne Landing. **A6**

Fast-track fixes for parks nixed

BY SEANNA ADCOX
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina legislators have put the brakes on requests to "fast-track" repairs to two beachfront parks ravaged by Hurricane Matthew, saying the state's tourism agency needs a plan addressing all its parks.

A legislative panel this week approved the engineering phase of

Please see **REPAIRS**, Page A6

Mayor backs off latest plan for I-526

Withdraws request to use \$150 million from half-cent sales tax

BY DIANE KNICH
dknich@postandcourier.com

Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg has withdrawn a request to use \$150 million from the county's proposed half-cent sales tax referendum to pay for improvements near the new port terminal in North Charleston in exchange for moving forward with the extension of Interstate 526.

But he has decided to support the \$2.1 billion spending plan for roads, public transit and green space anyway.

In a Thursday letter to Vince Graham, chairman of the S.C. Transportation Infrastructure Bank board, Tecklenburg said he is rescinding the request that he and Charleston County Council Chairman Elliott Summey proposed in a Sept. 15 letter.

That plan involved getting the \$150 million from a half-cent sales tax referendum that county voters will weigh in on Nov. 8.

Tecklenburg said he is withdrawing the request because Graham indicated the Infrastructure Bank board won't meet before voters go to the polls.

"I am interpreting your response 'I don't think so' as no," Tecklenburg stated in the letter.

The proposal aimed to revive the controversial project by promising that the county would pay for four rail overpasses near the new port terminal on the former Navy base. Under a previous legal settlement, the state is required to complete three of those overpasses before the Hugh K. Leatherman Sr. Terminal opens in 2019.

Please see **I-526**, Page A7

Inside





SPORTS, 1C

'D' SOLID ON THE ROAD



EGREENVILLE

Where to watch the big game

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 28, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY 60 MILLION MAY GET ACCESS TO LEGAL POT PAGE 1B



Athletes run the 5K, 10K, half-marathon and marathon at the Spinx Run Fest last year in downtown Greenville.

KATIE MCLEAN

LOCAL RUNNERS FORM FRATERNITY

Spinx Run Fest is just one of several yearly events

ELIZABETH LAFLEUR
ELAFLEUR@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

The rush of cold air as it fills a runner's lungs gives a feeling that is somehow more alive than the moments of inhale in a daily routine. No one knows this better than a runner.

The sport is a merger of body and soul; a way to challenge one's mental strength while battling physical will.

"I run for the joy of running. I run for fitness. I run to clear my head. I run for fellowship," says Kerrie Sijon, administrator for Greenville Track Club.

This Saturday, thousands of runners will gather at Fluor Field in Greenville's West End to put their bodies to the test for one of the Greenville Track Club's premiere events, the Spinx Run Fest.

Close to 3,000 runners will don race bibs in one of five SRF events, which include a mile fun run for kids, a 5K, 10K, half marathon and marathon. For some it will be a first race, for others an annual undertaking.



The Spinx Run Fest is Saturday and offers area runners several events to choose from.

COURTESY PHOTO

Schedule of events

- Spinx Carolina Marathon, 7:15am
- Run Town USA Half Marathon, 7:45am
- Downtown Greenville 10K Run, 7:45am
- Big Punkin 5K Run/Walk, 8:00am
- Spunky's Kids Run, 8:05am

Spinx Run Fest is just one of dozens of race days held in Greenville City and County each year. The city granted permits for 47 races in 2015. Each permit applicant pays the city \$120. A dozen or more additional races take place in the county in a typical year.

To say that Greenville's running community is thriving is an understatement. Beyond city and county races, there are hundreds of kids involved in Cross Country teams and running clubs in Greenville County Schools.

Last Saturday more than 800 Greenville County middle and high school students competed in the County Cross Country Championships at Woodmont High School, and on any given Tuesday and Thursday morning, roughly 150 students at Summit Drive Elementary can

See RUNNERS, Page 6A

Townville starting healing process

School working to re-establish routine

FRANCES PARRISH
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In a classroom at Townville Elementary School, Jacob Hall's desk remains empty.

It's a reminder of the tragedy a month ago, when Hall, another student and a teacher were shot at the school. Hall, 6, died three days later. Other reminders of that day, Sept. 28, adorn the school. Posters line the halls, students carry stuffed animals and the phrase "Townville Strong" is everywhere. But the kids are back on the playground and laughter is heard in the hallways.

It is all part of the healing. "I feel like it's a process," said Denise Fredericks, Townville Elementary's principal. "And we're not healed. We're just in the beginning stages of that and we've had so much support to help us with that."

A return to a different normal

Part of that process are the changes, and a big one is the presence of a school resource officer, which has been a comfort to students, teachers and parents.

An officer spends every recess on the playground with the children, even joining in some of their games.

"We let them know the police are our friends," Fredericks said. "That day, there were a lot of policemen and it could have appeared to be scary."

Fredericks said the children have been on the playground, near where the shooting happened, since the first day back.

"That's how it should be. They should have no concerns, no worries out on the playground. It should be about them having a good time. Running, playing, laughing," Fredericks said as she wiped away tears. "You see it through a new lens because of that. I'm appreciative of the little things, but it's a not a little thing anymore. It's a big thing that they can get out there and play with each other. That's part of school too, and we can't let anything steal that from us."

As the teachers and staff have worked to re-establish routine, counselors have been on hand to help the students. They have seen homesickness, stomach aches, reports of nightmares and trouble sleeping, children's tears and drawings of the incident or of Jacob. Sometimes children said they looked out the window and felt scared or saw a truck and felt scared as they experienced sights or sounds that reminded them of the shooting. Even noises that are normal in the school have some students wor-

See TOWNVILLE, Page 6A

HANNA, WESTSIDE FACE OFF FOR TITLE TONIGHT. 1B

Independent Mail

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2016

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TOWNVILLE ELEMENTARY SHOOTING



Clemson, Tri-County celebrate Bridge

MIKE EADS

MICHAEL.EADS@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

Clemson President Jim Clements visited Tri-County Technical College Thursday to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Bridge to Clemson, the partnership that has helped over 1,000 students get their college degrees from the university.

Bridge to Clemson enters its second decade on a bit of a roll with steady growth, an impressive graduation rate and soon a new home

Online

Watch a video of school leaders' speeches at independentmail.com.

— the \$200 million Douthett Hills complex — on the Clemson campus coming in 2018.

"More than 1,700 of our students came to us through Bridge — that's 10 percent of our overall undergraduate student body," Clem-



TIGERS PREPARE TO FACE FSU STAR COOK

SPORTS, B1



DORMAN SPIKES NORTHWESTERN IN PLAYOFFS

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Friday, October 28, 2016



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TODAY SAT SUN
79°/50° 81°/53° 84°/54°
Complete forecast, B8

COOKBOOK



Herald-Journal cookbook in today's newspaper

The Herald-Journal's new cookbook, *Nourish Upstate*, is inside today's newspaper.

Starting today, customers can also purchase extra copies of the cookbook in the Herald-Journal lobby at 189 W. Main St. in downtown Spartanburg for \$1.50 per copy.

Questions? Contact Jose Franco at 864-562-7223 or email him at jose.franco@shj.com.

UPSTATE

Sheriff candidates discuss their concerns

Sheriff candidates Chuck Wright and Russell Lynch agree that drug-related issues are among Spartanburg County's most critical public safety problems. They also acknowledge that deputy retention is a concern, but differ on the reasons for it and how to address it. **C1**

SPORTS



Playoffs at stake for Broome, Chapman

It's a win-and-in scenario tonight for Broome and Chapman as the high school football season winds down. **B1**

'OBAMACARE' HIKES FOR SOME

Health premiums to rise

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Premiums will go up sharply next year under President Barack Obama's health care law, and many consumers will be down to just one insurer, the administration confirmed. That's sure to stoke another "Obamacare" controversy days before a presidential election.

Before taxpayer-provided

subsidies, premiums for a midlevel benchmark plan will increase an average of 25 percent across the 39 states served by the federally run online market, according to a report from the Department of Health and Human Services. Some states will see much bigger jumps, others less.

Moreover, about 1 in 5 consumers will have plans only from a single insurer to pick from, after major national

carriers such as UnitedHealth Group, Humana and Aetna scaled back their roles.

"Consumers will be faced this year with not only big premium increases but also with a declining number of insurers participating, and that will lead to a tumultuous open enrollment period," said Larry Levitt, who tracks the health care law for the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation.

Republicans pounced on

the numbers as a warning that insurance markets created by the 2010 health overhaul are teetering toward a "death spiral." Sign-up season starts on Tuesday, about a week before national elections in which the GOP remains committed to a full repeal.

"It's over for Obamacare," Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said at a

SEE PREMIUMS, A7

HALLOWEEN SPIRIT

Pumpkin Fest



Wofford students carved pumpkins as part of Pumpkin Fest held on Thursday evening on campus. The pumpkins will be lined up on the steps of the Main Building. PHOTOS BY ALEX HICKS JR./SPARTANBURG HERALD-JOURNAL



2012 SHOOTING

Moore woman charged in murders

Deputies looking for possible other suspects in 2012 double-homicide

By Zach Fox
zach.fox@shj.com

Spartanburg County Sheriff's deputies have charged a Moore woman in a 2012 shooting that left two people dead.

A pair of arrest warrants charging Crystal Hawkins Johnson, 36, of 412 Santa Fe Road, with murder were signed Thursday.

Johnson has been in prison since July 2015 on two unrelated child neglect convictions, according to Spartanburg County Sheriff's deputies.

Once she is released, Johnson will be charged in the slayings of Anna Leigh Huckleba and Randy Dean Cochran, Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright said Thursday.

"We wanted to show our citizens that we are continuously working all these cases



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AUCTION

Morning News

FRIDAY OCTOBER 28, 2016

TODAY'S
WEATHER

Sunny and
pleasantly warm.
High 84, low 51.
DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Too much to handle

Florence officials
say debris cleanup
could last into 2017

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Hurricane Matthew downed thousands of trees in the city of Florence, many of which remain piled in yards, along roadways and sidewalks, and residents are wondering how long it will take to clean up.

On Thursday, city officials announced their plan to tackle the more than 150,000 cubic yards of debris in the city, with a goal of returning to a normal schedule by the start of 2017.

They have divided the city into six sections, four of which will be handled by contracted debris cleanup crews. Officials say cleanup should be in full swing by mid-November.

"In the areas that have the largest amount of debris, we're going to use contract work for those areas," said City Manager Drew Griffin. "We're trying to get bid proposals out by (Friday) or Monday, and give contractors about two weeks to submit a bid, then we will choose a contractor or multiple contractors."

Griffin said city debris crews have been running routes but the sheer volume of debris — about four years' worth of normal waste — is too much to handle.

For right now, debris crew are focusing on vegetative debris — meaning trees, limbs, leaves and other types of shrubbery. To make cleanup go faster, officials ask residents to avoid mixing debris types.

Officials estimate the total cleanup cost will be \$2 million. If Federal Emergency Management Agency guidelines are properly followed the city will pay about 25 percent of that cost.

Griffin said residents may see crews skipping over certain piles of waste or handling waste in varying intervals. He said the FEMA rules for waste pickup are extensive and must be followed closely for the city to receive the aid.

"If we do not follow the rules, what happens is FEMA may reject our reimbursement. The rules are reasonable, somewhat complicated but they're there to prevent fraud. Two million dollars is

See DEBRIS, Page 3A

The Moving Wall



A.A. Farley of the Veterans Honor Guard touches one of the 58,000-plus names on the Moving Wall.

PHOTOS BY JESSICA IMBIMO/MORNING NEWS

Vietnam Memorial replica makes stop on FMU campus



Retired USMC Major General James E. Livingston gives the keynote address during the Moving Wall opening ceremonies on Thursday at FMU. Livingston is a 1970 Medal of Honor recipient.

BY JESSICA IMBIMO
Morning News
jimibmo@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The Moving Wall, a half-size portable replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., made one of its final stops of the year on the Francis Marion University campus on Thursday.

The Moving Wall arrived in Florence after making stops in Ohio, Wisconsin and Mississippi. Florence is the second-to-last stop on the 2016 tour, which will finish in Springfield, Tennessee. The Moving Wall has two different structures that travel the nation from April through

See MEMORIAL, Page 3A

CHARLIE WILSON PERFORMS

"An Evening with Charlie Wilson" was held at the Florence Civic Center on Thursday night. The concert was presented by The



WRITERS IN THE ROUND



Florence native and country singer-songwriter Frank Rogers returned to Lake City on Thursday evening with fellow musicians Larry Hutton, Brent

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State committee releases drought update

From Staff Reports

COLUMBIA — The South Carolina Drought Response Committee, which is comprised of representatives from multiple state and local agencies, met via conference call Wednesday to update the drought statuses for all counties within the state.

According to information provided by SCDNR State Climatologist Hope Mizzell, some counties in the Upstate have received less than ten percent of normal rainfall throughout the last 60 days, intensifying the impacts to agriculture, increasing concern regarding forest fires and lowering streamflow and lake levels.

In the Pee Dee area of the state, rainfall amounts ranged greatly. While Hartsville and Florence received rain ranging from 13 to 21 inches, areas further south received much more.

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

The committee faces a challenge as it tries to agree on a declaration for each county that takes into consideration multiple factors, including agriculture, forest fire risk, water supply and water quality.

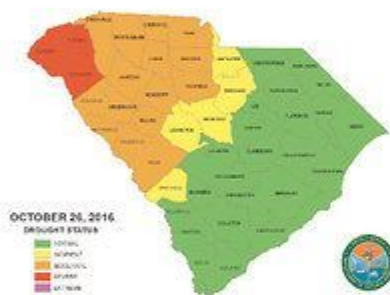
"The committee will closely monitor

the situation since the forecast is for a continued pattern of below normal rainfall," Drought Response Committee Chairman Ken Rentiers stated.

According to the S.C. Department of Agriculture, fields in the Pee Dee are drying out from Hurricane Matthew and the worsening drought in the Upstate and Piedmont is weighing heavily on livestock and crops.

"I have heard from farmers, extension agents, and our staff in the Upstate that yields on summer pasture, forages, and row crops may be down by 50 to 70 percent," Commissioner

See DROUGHT, Page 6A



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

College taps local as outstanding alumnus

From Staff Reports

CLINTON — Cody T. Mitchell of Hartsville will be named the recipient of the 2016 Outstanding Young Alumnus award from Presbyterian College at a ceremony on Saturday during Homecoming festivities. This award is designed to honor an alumnus who displays early competence within the chosen field of endeavor and exceptional promise of future achievement.



Mitchell

Mitchell is a cum laude 2008 graduate of Presbyterian College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in history and business.

While attending Presbyterian College, he served as student body president, ROTC battalion commander, and president of his fraternity, Kappa Alpha Order.

Upon completing his undergraduate work, Mitchell attended the University Of South Carolina School of Law where he earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence. While in law school, he served as vice president of the Student Bar Association and distinguished himself as a member of the Order of Barristers, Moot Court Bar, and ABA National Moot Court team.

Mitchell practices law in Hartsville

See MITCHELL, Page 6A

YOGA FESTIVAL



PHOTOS BY ARDEE ARVIDSON/HARTSVILLE MESSENGER

Yoga classes were conducted throughout the day on Saturday for the S.C. Yoga & Healing Arts Festival on Saturday at Burry Park.



Nicki Anahata Musick of Columbia is a yoga teacher whose experience spans over four decades practicing and teaching Kundalini Yoga and Meditation as taught by Harbhajan Singh (Yogi Bhajan). She has also developed Stretch and Relax, a gentle, therapeutic yoga, breathing and meditation practice. As a musician and singer, she includes the musical side of yoga.



Narzhio Stuckey created artwork during the S.C. Yoga & Healing Arts Festival on Saturday at Burry Park.



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Nucor Steel donates \$100,000 to One SC for hurricane relief

From staff reports

COLUMBIA — Governor Nikki Haley was joined Wednesday by executives from Nucor Steel and representatives from the Central Carolina Community Foundation (COCF) to celebrate the work of

have incredible corporate partners, and \$100,000 is an amazing contribution to a fund that is going to help so many people. ... To have over \$800,000 come in from individuals all across our state and from great companies like Nucor Steel goes back to the heart of

Friends of Carolina Sandhills Refuge

Meeting to feature RCW program and night prowling

From staff reports

McBEE - The Friends of Carolina Sandhills Refuge will host our Annual Meet-

2016, a light meal will be served.

Immediately following the meal, the refuge's biologist will share man-

the Sumter ITEM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2016 | Serving South Carolina since October 15, 1894

75 cents



Council OKs incentives for candy maker

No details of arrangement will be made public until second reading on Nov. 8

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Sumter County Council approved first reading of an agreement between the county and Mount Franklin Foods for a special revenue credit during its regular meeting on Tuesday.

The county can authorize Special

Source Revenue Credits that allow the county to invest in infrastructure related to specific project needs, according to information on the Sumter Economic Development website. Those credits can be included in fee-in-lieu-of-tax agreements and job tax credits which provide a \$1,000 reduction in taxes for

every new job created.

During the first reading of the ordinance 16-859, council gave approval to unspecified economic incentives.

Sumter County Attorney Johnathan Bryan said South Carolina state law allows council to adopt such measures on first reading under the heading of "caption only" to expedite the process, which doesn't become effective until after council approves the incentives on third reading. He said no details of the agree-

ment are available but will be outlined at the next council meeting on Nov. 8 when the ordinance is up for second reading.

Mount Franklin Foods announced last week that it had purchased the former Au's candy plant in Live Oak Industrial Park. The El Paso, Texas-based company said it plans to invest \$10 million in the 100,000-square-foot building that

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE A4

'It didn't go as planned, and that's OK'



Keith Gedamke / THE SUMTER ITEM
Taya Kyle, widow of "American Sniper" Chris Kyle, talks to a full house at Wilson Hall's Nash Student Center on Wednesday evening. Kyle talked about her faith and the ripple effect our actions can have on other people's lives.

'American Sniper' widow Taya Kyle draws 2,000 to Wilson Hall

BY KONSTANTIN VENGEROVSKY
konstantin@theitem.com

"My entire life can be described in one sentence: 'It didn't go as planned, and that's OK.'" That's the famous quote Taya Kyle used to summarize her life journey to an audience of 2,000 people at the Mission Series held at

Wilson Hall on Wednesday night. "Our plans really show a lack of faith compared to God's plans for our life," she said. "I thought about all of the different things that happened in my life, plans versus goals. I realized with every single plan, we've had a choice of how we would react to that."

Kyle is the widow of U.S. Navy SEAL

Chris Kyle, whose story is told in the 2014 Academy Award-winning film "American Sniper," based on his autobiography of the same name. Chris Kyle is known as the most successful sniper in American military history, with 160 confirmed kills. He served

SEE KYLE, PAGE A4

Sumter Item printing last Saturday edition

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Sumter Item publishes its final Saturday print edition Saturday, and will begin offering a range of new media tools to keep the public informed.

Item Editor and Publisher Jack Osteen announced the move a few months ago to prepare readers for the change. The Sumter Item will continue to publish news online on its website, www.theitem.com, and will also begin sending an email newsletter to readers who have supplied their email addresses to the newspaper.

The Sumter Item email newsletter starts Saturday, Nov. 5, and will offer unique content, breaking news, sports, obituaries, advertising and other relevant information. Clicking on stories will take readers directly to the website.

Many newspapers across the country are transitioning more content online, Osteen said, as a way to reach readers through multiple platforms. The move aligns The Sumter Item with changes within the newspaper industry, which has been dropping Monday and Saturday editions to reflect readership and advertising patterns.

While the print edition will appear five days per week, Osteen emphasized that The Sumter Item remains a seven-day media company and will utilize its website to fill the gap between print editions.

Pre-paid subscribers to the print edition will have their subscriptions extended to compensate for the move from six to five daily editions a week, and the newspaper will lower its monthly rate to reflect the loss of the Saturday edition.

State to take applications for 2015 flood repairs

FROM STAFF REPORTS

South Carolina Disaster Recovery Office will open a fixed intake center at 725 Broad St. at 9 a.m. Tuesday.

The center will accept individual applications for hous-

October 2015 storm will be accepted Nov. 1 through April 30, 2017, at the centers, according to a news release. The offices will be open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The first mobile offices will open in Clarendon, Charleston and Orangeburg counties, and sites will be announced Tuesday. The mobile offices will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For the full mobile intake

Housing repairs will meet construction standards, but otherwise, upgrades will not be possible. The office will provide residents with safe, sanitary and secure homes.

The office intends to repair or replace approximately

--

Camlin Moore

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