

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 3/7/2014 10:30:10 AM
Subject: SC Front Pages – Friday, March 7, 2014

SC Front Pages – Friday, March 7, 2014



E GREENVILLE
**GO GREEN ON
THE WEEKEND**



METRO, 3A
**Ex-student
charged in
motel death**

The Greenville News

A GANNETT COMPANY

FRIDAY,
MARCH 7, 2014
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USATODAY DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION SOUGHT IN CRIMEA CRISIS **PAGE 1B**

FINAL EDITION



Peggy Brown, daughter of 84-year-old Betty Ellenburg, and Jeffrey Bearden, Ellenburg's grandson, survey the damage done to Ellenburg's home when it was struck by a truck during a high-speed chase. PHOTOS BY MYKAL MCELLOWNEY STAFF

Survivor describes fatal shootings

Victims' identities released

By Nathaniel Cary
Staff Writer
ncary@greenvillenews.com

Lights still illuminated the inside of a white house on Thursday, visible through cockeyed blinds and ruffled curtains, where authorities said three people were shot and killed Wednesday in a Peizer shooting that an injured witness told officers took place during an argument when a man pulled a gun and started firing.

On the front porch, next to worn white wicker chairs and a throw pillow that reads "My family tree is full of nuts," a dog's food dishes sat full of water and food, filled by the daughter of a caring elderly neighbor who the day before had dialed 9-1-1 when the lone surviving shooting victim

stumbled onto her front porch and begged for help.

Police who responded to the call Wednesday first located the injured woman, then discovered the victims' bodies in a home just down the hill at 104 Law St., authorities said.

Then, after a high-speed chase along country roads, through fields, across lawns and onto the main road into the town of Piedmont, a swarm of police officers corralled a man after a black Ford F-250 he was driving went airborne and landed in the side of a house, authorities said.

The man, identified by police and an incident report as Jared Michael Williams, was taken to Greenville Memorial Hospital where Anderson County sheriff's deputies



The sole survivor of the shootings at 104 Law St. in Peizer said an argument between her brother and another man grew increasingly heated until the man pulled out a gun and shot her brother.

PICKING UP THE PIECES

Hear what family members of 84-year-old Betty Ellenburg had to say about the damage to the woman's house and what they're doing to move on in a video at GreenvilleOnline.com.

See SLAYINGS, Page 4A

Vet to receive Medal of Honor

Marine threw self on grenade to save friend

By Jeff Wilkinson
The State

William Kyle Carpenter, a Marine Corps veteran from Gilbert who was severely wounded in 2010 while fighting in Afghanistan, will receive the Medal of Honor, the nation's top honor for valor, according to a report in Marine Corps Times.

He would be the third Marine to receive the Medal of Honor from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the first South Carolinian to receive the decoration since the Vietnam War.

Carpenter, 24, was wounded when he threw himself on a grenade to save a friend and fellow Marine's life. The young corporal lost his right eye and most of his teeth. His jaw and right arm were shattered and he has undergone dozens of surgeries.

Carpenter was a student at the University of South Carolina last fall studying physical education, but he is not currently enrolled there, according to the school. He could not immediately be reached for comment.

Efforts by *The State* to confirm the report with the White House and Headquarters Marine Corps were unsuccessful.

The Rev. Eric Wolf of St. John's Lutheran Church in Lexington, who has held several fundraising events to help pay for travel expenses for Carpenter's family, said he had not heard the news Wednesday.

"But I think Kyle is one of the most genuine human beings I've ever met," he told *The State*. "He deserves it."

Carpenter family friend Ann Ricard, Midlands president of Blue Star Mothers, an organization for mothers who have children in military service, said that while she knew that Carpenter had been nominated, she had received no word about the honor as of Wednesday.

According to the report, the Marine Corps is finalizing plans with the White House for a ceremony in Washington later this year, unnamed officials said.

Carpenter, in a 2011 interview with *The State*, said his

See MEDAL, Page 4A

BMW prepares to launch X4 production

Upstate-manufactured model will be unveiled at NY auto show

line six turbo engine.





**Tim Scott
boosts
school
choice**
SOUTH, B1



Suspended
USC coach Frank Martin
won't be at final game
SPORTS, C1

The Post and Courier

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FRIDAY, March 7, 2014

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

Charleston, North Charleston, S.C. ★★ \$1.00

Troubled mom cited in '07 fatal crash

Children in protective custody after Cross resident accused of driving van into ocean

BY NATALIE CAULA HAUFF
ncaula@postandcourier.com

The Cross woman accused of driving a van with her children in to the ocean near Daytona Beach had previously been involved in a Florida car wreck that killed a woman, according to records and

published reports.

Ebony Wilkerson, 32, is currently undergoing a mental evaluation after police said she submerged her minivan with her children in the Atlantic Ocean on Tuesday. Florida court records show Wilkerson had previously been cited in a fatal car wreck that oc-

curred in Delray Beach on Feb. 23, 2007.

Wilkerson changed lanes on Interstate 95, causing the driver of the other car to lose control and crash into a concrete barrier, the Sun Sentinel newspaper in Broward County reported at the time. The passenger, 35-year-old Jen-

nifer Krane, was critically injured but died two weeks later, according to her obituary.

Wilkerson was cited for improper lane change, according to court records.

Her driver's license was suspended for a year and she was ordered to serve 132 hours of community

service, court records stated.

Investigators are now evaluating whether Wilkerson should be charged in this week's incident.

Her three children — ages 3, 9 and 10 — were rescued from her van Tuesday and taken to a

Please see WILKERSON, Page A5



Online

To listen to the 911 call from Wilkerson's sister, go to postandcourier.com/audio.

CHARLESTON WINE + FOOD FESTIVAL

SOUP'S ON!

Bowls of comfort, party atmosphere help guests shake off chill



WADE SPEER/STAFF

After slogging through the chilly drizzle, festival-goers packed the warm, dry tent to sample fare from area restaurants at the Charleston Wine + Food opening party on Thursday night.

BY HANNA RASKIN
hraskin@postandcourier.com

Cypress' Craig Dehl smoked two whole goats for the grove he served at Charleston Wine + Food Festival's opening party, but the dish element which ultimately gave him trouble was the pita bread: Like everybody else in attendance, he hadn't figured on 43-degree weather, punctuated by rain and gusts of wind.

"This is our makeshift pita warmer," Dehl said, showing off the sheet pan he'd slid over a clutch of Sterno heat-



Gallery

To see more photos from the event, go to postandcourier.com/galleries.

ers. "Normally, we'd toast them in the restaurant; bring them and put a lid on it. They would have been good."

But the air temperatures put a crimp in Dehl's plans, rendering his house-made rounds of bread unappealingly clammy. Dehl was one of a number of Charleston chefs inconvenienced by

the eccentrically cold and damp conditions, although the event's hundreds of guests didn't seem ruffled by the conditions. Heaters and thoughtful flooring prevented any aggravations, even for the most comfort-oriented attendees.

"You enjoyed it, I hope," Wild Olive's Jacques Larson told a guest who announced he'd visited the Johns Island restaurant.

"Oh, we liked the parking part," the guest replied.

Please see PARTY, Page A7

Inside

More coverage of the Charleston Wine + Food Festival. A6

Indigo Road's Steve Palmer creates restaurant cultures that express genuine hospitality. D1

Haley changes obesity strategy

Original food stamp proposal drew fire

BY LAUREN SAUSSER
lsausser@postandcourier.com

Gov. Nikki Haley is backing down from a controversial proposal that would have restricted what food stamp recipients can buy, instead shifting her focus on a new strategy to link food stamp eligibility with finding a job.

First announced last year, the intent of Haley's original plan was to curb South Carolina's high obesity rate by eliminating unhealthy foods from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) — products like candy, soda, chocolate and chips, she said during a press conference in February 2013.

South Carolina has the sixth-highest obesity rate in the country, according to the new Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index released Tuesday. State officials estimate at least 60 percent of the population in this state is obese or overweight.

The proposal to limit what SNAP benefits could buy in South Carolina would have required federal approval. Other states have tried before to implement similar programs and failed.

On Thursday, Haley's chief of staff, Ted Pitts, in an exclusive interview

Please see OBESITY, Page A5



Poll

Do you think the Haley administration's plan will help reduce the state's obesity rate? Find this story on postandcourier.com to vote.

Coming Sunday

Fifty years after the first black students walked into Charleston's all-white schools, the Charleston County School District still struggles to offer racially balanced learning environments. Find out where the district has had success and where challenges remain. In News



Showers
High 50, Low 38.
Complete 5-day
forecast. B6

Bridge...D7
Business...B6
Classifieds...C1
Comics...D6,7

Crosswords...D6, D8
Editorials...A14
Market...D4
Obituaries...B4

People...D1
The South...B1
Sports...C1
Television...D5

Charleston
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and tire rotation.
See A2

READY TO ROLL

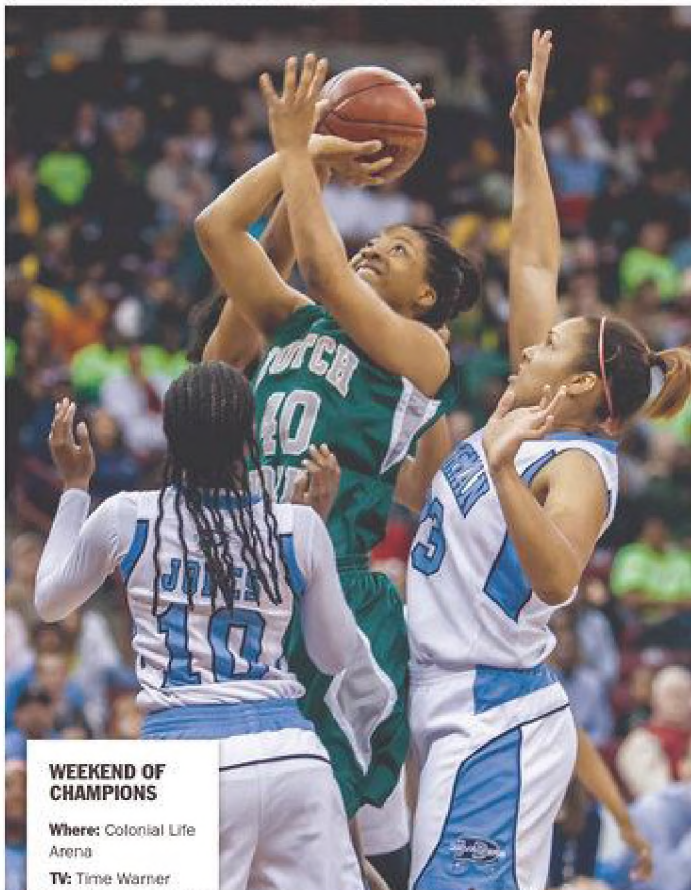
Mitchell and Welch lead the powerhouse USC women into SEC tourney play at noon Friday. **C1**

The State

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2014 | THESTATE.COM

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dutch Fork girls dedicate playoff run to classmate, a fellow student-athlete who was killed last month



JEFF BLANKS/BLANKS@THESTATE.COM

Dutch Fork's Morgan Williams (40) shoots over Dorman's KJ Jones (10) during the 2013 state championship game.

WEEKEND OF CHAMPIONS

Where: Colonial Life Arena

TV: Time Warner Cable channels 520 or 323

Tickets: \$10

FRIDAY'S GAMES

4A girls: Dutch Fork vs. Greenwood, 7 p.m.

4A boys: Hillcrest vs. Wando, 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES

A girls: St. Joseph's vs. Latta, 11 a.m.

A boys: C.A. Johnson vs. Whale Branch, 12:30 p.m.

2A girls: Andrew Jackson vs. Bishop England, 2 p.m.

2A boys: Newberry vs. Lake Marion, 4 p.m.

3A girls: Dreher vs. Crestwood,

TEAM PLAYS FOR 'CAPE'



Capers

INSIDE

Dreher's Kaydra Duckett

By CHRIS DEARING
Special to The State

When the Dutch Fork girls basketball team steps on the Colonial Life Arena floor Friday night for the Class 4A championship game against Greenwood, the burden of healing a school and a community will be on their shoulders.

On Feb. 18, Dutch Fork senior Da'Von Capers was killed during an altercation after a basketball game at Lexington. The school has mourned the tragic loss since the boys and girls basketball teams entered the postseason.

The boys' run ended with a third-round



GERRY MILENDEZ/GAMELIX@THESTATE.COM

USC coach Frank Martin gives Duane Notice an earful, followed by a profanity, Tuesday during a timeout in the Florida game.

Outburst gets Martin suspended

USC benches coach 1 game for profane tirade at player in Florida game

By DAVID CLONINGER
dcloninger@thestate.com

South Carolina basketball coach Frank Martin was suspended for Saturday's regular-season finale at Mississippi State by athletics director Ray Tanner on Thursday, following a verbal confrontation with a player during Tuesday's 72-46 loss to Florida.

It is the second time this season that Martin's sideline behavior has been called into question.

"The one-game suspension is a result of inappropriate verbal communica-

ONLINE

A roundup of social media reaction to Frank Martin's suspension at GoGamecocks.com

INSIDE

The USC football team experiments with the 3-4 defense. **SPORTS**

tion as it relates to the well-being of our student-athletes," Tanner said in a statement. Tanner did not return phone messages on Thursday.

SEE MARTIN PAGE A8

S.C. LEGISLATURE

Bill would repeal state's 'Stand your ground' law

By JOHN MONK
jmonk@thestate.com

The chairman of the state Legislative Black Caucus, backed by several ministers, former law enforcement officials and activists, has introduced a bill to repeal South Carolina's "Stand your ground" law.

The bill would not do away with residents' longstanding right to defend themselves with deadly force while inside their

homes, vehicles and businesses, Rep. Harold Mitchell, D-Spartanburg, stressed at a Thursday news conference at the State House.

But the bill - which has 17 co-sponsors in addition to Mitchell - would eliminate the "Stand your ground" legal defense used by those who use a knife or gun to kill or wound people in public places, then claim

SEE STAND PAGE A4

dealsaver™

TODAY'S DEAL

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

FRIDAY, March 7, 2014

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 148, No. 66 Aiken, S.C. ★★ 75¢

Sir Big Spur



The University of South Carolina's Sir Big Spur made an appearance at the Statehouse on Wednesday.

Nothing fowl about Aiken honor

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER
mschechter@aikenstandard.com

Aiken residents Mary Snelling and Ron Albertelli were honored at the South Carolina Statehouse on Wednesday morning for their years of hard work and dedication, caring for the famed live mascot for the University of South Carolina Gamecocks.

S.C. Rep. William "Bill" Clyburn, D-Aiken, who represents Aiken County, honored the couple with a state proclamation for the years they've devoted to taking a long line of famed Sir Big Spur gamecocks back and forth to Gamecock athletic games.

"It's one of the few live mascots in the country," Clyburn said. "This is a University of South Carolina mascot who brought so much fame and joy to their programs, and the bird is from Aiken. They (Snelling and Albertelli) are from Aiken, and I wanted them to be recognized. They have traveled with that bird all over the place and on their own expense."

Please see SPUR, Page 14A



PHOTO BY S.C. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PHOTOGRAPHER SAM HAMMOND

From left, University of South Carolina Gamecocks Student Body President and head cheerleader Chase Mizzell; handler Ron Albertelli; handler Mary Snelling, holding Sir Big Spur; and S.C. Rep. William "Bill" Clyburn, D-Aiken, pose for a picture on Wednesday morning after Clyburn gave both Snelling and Albertelli a proclamation for their years of service to the Gamecock community.

Officials: MOX 'smells like Yucca'

A look at jobs, economic impact of proposed funding freeze

BY DERREK ASBERRY
dasberry@aikenstandard.com

Aiken County Council member Chuck Smith said news about President Barack Obama's fiscal year 2015 budget proposal to freeze the Savannah River Site's MOX program "smells like Yucca Mountain, part two."

The proposal states the MOX facility — which is designed to turn 34 metric tons of weapons grade plutonium into nuclear fuel — is too expensive, based on a recent DOE study that estimates the life-cycle cost of the project



Smith

could rise to \$30 billion. The proposal suggests placing the program in a "cold stand-by" to allow the National Nuclear Security Administration to search for cheaper options.

The news reaffirms two main concerns for Aiken: Being stranded with more unwanted nuclear materials and a significant loss of jobs. Smith referenced Yucca because the federal government's plans to use the location as a waste repository were canceled when funding was cut in 2010. The decision left several DOE sites holding unwanted waste, including SRS.

Chuck Smith, vice chair of the Energy Communities Alliance and Aiken County Council member



cluding SRS.

"It has the same smell as Yucca, and it looks to be politically motivated," said Smith, who is also vice chair of the Energy Communities Alliance — an organization that is prevalent in any community that houses a Department of

INSIDE TODAY

St. John's pastor Howle to leave in June

Local News, 2A

Bojangles' coming to Aiken County

Local News, 2A

COMING SATURDAY

Aiken County's most dangerous intersections

AREA DEATHS

Annie "Louise" Lee, North Augusta

Charles W. Chandler, Aiken

Harold L. Fox, Aiken

Joyce Owens Fennington, Wagener

Mary Lou Dunbar, Williston

Rosa Lee Jones, North Augusta

William James "Bill" Bigelow, Aiken

Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER

Public Safety launches presentation on scams

BY TEDDY KULMALA
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

The Aiken Department of Public Safety has a new weapon to combat phone scams commonly targeting the elderly, as well as a plan for what people can do to protect themselves.

Sgt. Jennifer Bickel has been working on a presentation that informs people about the most common scams seen in the Aiken community and has received good feedback so far.

"It seems, not necessarily that seniors are the victims, more often than not, but just because they're more of an at-risk population," she said. "Identity theft is a very large-scope thing. What we're seeing is smaller aspects of that. Maybe (scammers) will get your name or your bank account number, or just your Social Security number. And then they use those small pieces of information they have and call you."

The scam most commonly reported involves a caller posing as a representative of a company like Medicare who informs the victim they've just

Want to host a presentation?

To schedule a presentation from Aiken Public Safety for your church, civic group or senior center, call Sgt. Jennifer Bickel at 803-642-7620.

For more information on identity theft and how to prevent it, visit the Federal Trade Commission's website at <http://1.usa.gov/1fth5TC>.

bank account information so they can ship the item.

Bickel said the victim will feel like the scammer knows them and is a legitimate person if they already have some personal information about the victim, who will in turn provide the information the scammer has requested.

Another common scam has the scammer claiming to be from a government agency and telling the victim they owe some kind of money or back taxes. The caller tells the victim they risk penalties, including arrest or jail time, unless they send a prepaid credit card or GreenDot card to the scammer. Typically, the victim is asked to go to a nearby store to buy the card and then provide the card

on the back and read them off, they can turn around and use that card just like they had it in their possession," Bickel said.

The other most common scam involves the scammer providing the victim with a couple pieces of personal information in order to appear legitimate to the victim and obtain more personal information.

"They'll say, 'I'm from Bank of America. I just need you to verify the rest of the information,'" Bickel said. The scammer may already have your card number but is looking for the three-digit security code in order to use it.

Bickel said people often realize they've been scammed after being informed by their credit card com-



The Beaufort Gazette

FRIDAY, March 7, 2014

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UNREST IN UKRAINE

DETERMINING CRIMEA'S FATE

Lawmakers in Crimea vote to leave Ukraine, join Russia; Obama: Referendum would 'violate international law'

HOUSE VOTES IN FAVOR OF \$1 BILLION AID BILL

The House of Representatives voted 385-23 on Thursday in favor of the first U.S. aid bill for Ukraine, following an Obama administration promise of \$1 billion in loan guarantees. Senators are at work on a larger bill putting together all elements of a U.S. response and hope to introduce the legislation next week.



Natives of Ternopil, western Ukraine, join Ukrainians and their supporters at a rally to protest Russian President Vladimir Putin's "invasion of Ukraine and aggression in the region" Thursday in front of the White House.

The Associated Press

By YURAS KARMANAU and JUERGEN BAETZ • The Associated Press

Ukraine lurched toward breakup Thursday as lawmakers in Crimea unanimously declared they wanted to join Russia and would put the decision to voters in 10 days. President Barack Obama condemned the move and the West answered with the first real sanctions against Russia.

Speaking from the White House, Obama said any de-

cisions on the future of Crimea, a pro-Russian area of Ukraine, must include the country's new government.

"The proposed referendum on the future of Crimea would violate the constitution and violate international law," Obama said. "We are well beyond the days when borders can be redrawn over the heads of democratic leaders."

Please see CRIMEA on 7A

SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA

• President Barack Obama issued an executive action slapping new visa restrictions on Russian and other opponents of Ukraine's government in Kiev and authorizing wider financial penalties against those involved in the

military intervention or in stealing state assets.

• European Union leaders decided to suspend talks with Vladimir Putin's government on a wide-ranging economic agreement and on granting Russian citizens visa-free travel within the 28-nation bloc — a long-standing

Russian objective.

• NATO has halted military cooperation with Russia and has decided to review all aspects of the relationship with Moscow.

• The U.S. and European countries have halted preparations for a planned June summit in Sochi, Russia.

SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY

Senate blocks change

Lawmakers leave authority with military commanders to prosecute sexual assaults and other crimes.

By LINDSAY WISE

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Thursday rejected legislation that would have stripped military commanders of the power to prosecute sexual assaults and other major crimes.

The bill, proposed by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-NY, had the support of 55 of the chamber's 100 members, including 10 Republicans. But it was blocked by fellow Democrat Claire McCaskill of Missouri and other lawmakers from both sides of the aisle, who used procedural tactics to prevent an up-or-down vote on the measure.

The Senate instead moved unanimously toward approval of an alternative bill championed by McCaskill that would preserve commanders' authority to convene courts-martial but would give victims a formal say in whether their cases go before military or civilian courts. That version awaits final passage next week.

"I know this has been tough for everyone," said McCaskill, a former prosecutor, as two hours of tense debate drew to a close Thursday. "But I stand here with years of experience of holding hands and crying with victims, knowing that what we have done is the right thing for victims and the right thing for our military."

The hard-fought policy battle between two influential female senators came down to just a handful of votes, with Gillibrand's bill falling five short of the necessary 60-vote threshold.

Although she lost this round to a technicality, Gillibrand demonstrated she has the support she needs to keep her vision for change alive, said Eugene

Please see SENATE on 7A

MORE INSIDE

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Sinclair pleads guilty to three charges that could send him to prison for up to 15 years. **7A**



Sinclair

DOWNTOWN MARINA PARKING LOT

Developers to reveal plans at public meeting March 26

Beaufort sets seminar on open-meetings law



Rising to the challenge

Success continues for Christian rock band Skillet with latest CD; tour coming to Greenville E1

Herald-Journal

FRIDAY

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HJ
IN A HURRY
5 Things to read today



Heartbreaker

In a classic battle that just wouldn't end, USC Upstate fell short, 78-75, in double overtime Thursday night to Mercer in the Atlantic Sun Conference tournament semifinals in Hawkins Arena in Macon, Ga. **PAGE B1**

Ukraine split?

Ukraine lurched toward breakup Thursday as lawmakers in Crimea unanimously declared they wanted to join Russia and would put the decision to voters in 10 days. **PAGE A3**

Portraying Jesus

In the popular new film "Son of God," Jesus is so handsome that some have wondered: Did Jesus really look like Brad Pitt, only slightly better? But those who study religion as portrayed in popular culture note that depicting Jesus on the screen has always been tricky. **PAGE A6**

El Nino coming

Relief might be on the way for a weather-weary United States with the predicted warming of the central Pacific Ocean, called El Nino, brewing this year in what likely will change weather worldwide. **PAGE A7**

Pricey beef

Next time you bite into a big, juicy hamburger, don't be surprised if it bites back — at your bank account. Unrelenting drought across parts of the farm belt have led to the smallest U.S. cattle herd since 1951. **PAGE C4**

'Stand your ground' repeal sought

Most in Black Caucus back bill to void use of deadly violence to protect 'castle'

By SEANNA ADCOX

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Members of the Legislative Black Caucus said Thursday South Carolina's "stand your ground" law is wrong and should be repealed.

The government should not tell people to confront force with force, said its chairman, Rep. Harold Mitchell. "We were taught in Sunday School to retreat," said Mitchell, D-Spartanburg. "We're taking back 'stand your ground' and protecting the citizens of this state."

His bill would delete from state law residents' right to use deadly force to defend themselves against an attacker wherever they are, as long as they have a right to be there. That language was added in

June 2006 as part of a law dubbed the "Protection of Persons and Property Act" that sailed through the Legislature with little attention, receiving unanimous approval in the House. The Senate passed it on a voice vote.

Mitchell's bill would limit the ability to use deadly force against someone illegally and forcibly entering a home, business or occupied vehicle.

"We are here to put the castle back in the castle doctrine. We are not opposed to people protecting themselves and their property. What we are opposed to is the



Mitchell

misuse and abuse of the castle doctrine," said Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, D-Orangeburg. We are "very, very tired of seeing black and brown parents crying and praying over their dead sons."

She is among 16 other caucus members who have signed on to Mitchell's bill, which he introduced last week. They argue the law provides an excuse for violence, rather than preventing it.

Those disagreeing include fellow caucus member and House Minority Leader Todd Rutherford, an attorney who has successfully argued that defense for clients.

Rutherford, D-Columbia, said people instinctively believe they can defend themselves, and the law guarantees that. He believes

the law is working, saying he's yet to see a criminal set free by using that defense.

"Stand your ground" laws have gotten a lot of attention since the fatal shooting of Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Fla., but Rutherford points out it was not directly used in George Zimmerman's self-defense case. Zimmerman was acquitted last year in the shooting death of the unarmed teenager. While not directly mentioned in the trial, Florida's "stand your ground" law was included in the jury instructions and sparked protests across the country.

Rutherford said the law is not the problem.

"What needs to be repealed is racism and bigotry," he said.

DEADLY BLAZE



MICHAEL JUSTUS/MICHAEL.JUSTUS@SHU.COM

Firefighters and other authorities investigate the cause of a fire that destroyed a home on the 1600 block of Cherokee Avenue in Gaffney. A mother and her daughter died as a result of the fire, which started early Thursday morning.

Gaffney house fire kills mother, daughter

Coroner says 2 other relatives, got Latetia Lora from her bedroom.

"This was a tough fire for us because of the

Greenwood Eagle's Tianna Swearinger brings winning attitude to the court as girls head to state championship, **1B**

SPORTS: Mike Doolittle to lead Ninety Six's football program, **1B**

INDEX-JOURNAL

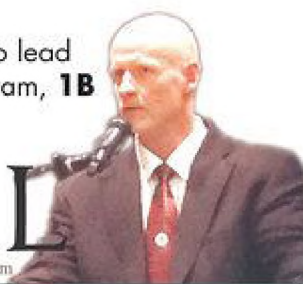
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2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2014

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50



LANDER'S DAN BALL RETIRING

Lander University's President Dan Ball is seen in his office in March 2011.

INDEX-JOURNAL



University president calls for end to long tenure

By RICHARD WHITING
rwhiting@indexjournal.com

DANIEL W. BALL,
12th president of
Lander University

Educational background

- Doctorate in science education from the University of Northern Colorado.
- Master of Arts in Teaching in biological sciences from Duke University.
- Bachelor's in biology from Truman State University.

Employment history

- Vice president for Academic Affairs at Southern Arkansas University.
- Dean of the College of Education at Idaho State University in Pocatello.
- Head of Northeast Missouri State's Division of Education.
- Professor of biology and science education at Ball State University, where he was named Outstanding Young Professor.
- High school science teacher.

Dan Ball will have some substantial accomplishments to tack onto his extensive resume in the academic world, but as he prepares to retire next June, it's the little things that seem to give him the most pleasure.

Ball, Lander University's 12th president, will leave the institution's helm and take time for travel with his wife, Marge, and visit with their grandchildren, which currently number three. When he leaves, he will have served Lander a little more than 15 years. He made his plans known to Lander's board of trustees Tuesday and to the campus at large Thursday.

He said he announced his retirement plans early in an effort to afford the board sufficient time to search for and name its 13th president.

See **BALL**, page 3A

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Plum Branch man faces five charges

From staff reports

McCormick County authorities filed charges against a Plum Branch man last week after finding five horses dead from malnutrition.

Trenton Neal, 21, of 1750 New Hope Road, was charged with five counts of treatment of animals in connection with the incidents, court records showed.

Officials from the McCormick County Sheriff's Office said they arrested Neal on Feb. 27 after seizing a horse in poor condition and having to euthanize another one that deteriorated beyond relief. Records showed the suspect was released from the McCormick County Detention Center the following day on a \$10,000 personal recognizance bond for the five charges.

According to officials, the horses died of malnutrition from starvation. Deputies said they began receiving reports about the man's treatment of more than 25 horses on his property several weeks ago. Officers responded to the suspect's



TRENTON NEAL

County manager's car allowance approved

Toby Chappell receives \$8,400 per year for automobile purposes

By CHRIS TRAINOR
ctrainor@indexjournal.com

Greenwood County Council approved a car allowance for county manager Toby Chappell.

Council approved the car allowance during Tuesday night's regular meeting. The vehicle allowance will be \$8,400 per year and can be used to "purchase, lease or own, operate and maintain a vehicle."

According to the agreement, the county manager shall be responsible for paying all costs associated with the vehicle, including, but not limited to, liability, property damage and comprehensive insurance coverage, and he also will be responsible for all expenses related to the purchase, operation, maintenance and repair of the vehicle.

"This vehicle allowance is intended to be in lieu of the employer providing the employee a county owned vehicle," the agreement



CHRIS TRAINOR | INDEX-JOURNAL

Greenwood County Councilman Steve Brown, left, talks about an issue Tuesday as Councilman Bob Fisher checks something on his iPad during a council meeting.

"We have had several discussions on this, amending Mr. Chappell's contract," Allison said.

"When he was brought on, we were pro-

Along with that car allowance, he will be responsible for paying all costs associated with the vehicle."

In asking business to pay more than what

'STAND YOUR GROUND': Legislation would repeal S.C. law A4

the Sumter ITEM

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2014 | Serving South Carolina since October 15, 1894



Clemson's Pro Day

Former Tigers hope to impress NFL scouts **B1**

75 cents

District crams to avoid testing mistakes

BY RAYTEVIA EVANS

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With the High School Assessment Program testing right around the corner, Sumter School District is preparing to properly administer the test in early April to its high school students and avoid any mishaps in the process.

Last year, the South Carolina Department of Education launched an investigation into testing procedures

at Sumter High School, and after its findings, it in turn asked the State Law Enforcement Division to investigate what happened on the campus leading up to and during HSAP testing in April 2013 at Sumter High School.

According to the S.C. Attorney General's Office, investigators were unable to find any criminal activity, and the case was officially closed in October.

During last year's investigation, auditors with the education department

described the conditions during the exit exam for high school students as "one of the worst and unprepared buildings to give a test that they have ever seen" before they requested SLED investigate the testing procedures.

David Trombly, director of teaching and learning, testing and accountability for the district, said the district is currently making sure testing coordinators are prepared and is also training testing administrators at the high-

school level before testing begins for all schools in the county. It's important to him and the district that they avoid repeating errors previously made at Sumter High during testing.

"It's a big deal to me to avoid situations like that (at Sumter High)," he said. "So how this works is the state contracts the Data Recognition Corp., and they're our testing providers. They train me, then I'm responsible

SEE TESTING, PAGE A8

CRISIS IN UKRAINE

Power play: Crimea could join Russia



PHOTOS BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks with Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko in the Novo-Ogaryovo residence outside Moscow on Wednesday. In a move Putin is almost certainly behind, on Thursday, Ukrainian lawmakers in Crimea unanimously said they wanted to join Russia.

West answers with sanctions

SIMFEROPOL, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine lurched toward breakup Thursday as lawmakers in Crimea unanimously declared they wanted to join Russia and would put the decision to voters in 10 days. President Obama condemned the move, and the West imposed the first real sanctions against Russia.

Speaking from the White



talks. Both Washington and the EU said they were discussing further sanctions.

"I am confident that we are moving forward together, united in our determination to oppose actions that violate international law and to support the government and people of Ukraine," Obama said.

Crimea's parliament rammed through what amounted to a declaration of independence from Ukraine, announcing it would let the Crimean people, 60 percent of whom are ethnic Russian,

Penny tax committee underway

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT

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All the stakeholders are in place and the projects submitted. Now the process has begun to prepare a formal list of proposals for spending a new capital penny sales tax.

The 20-person committee tasked with formulating that project list held the first in a series of meetings Thursday to consider a wide array of proposed projects. But this was more of an introductory meeting for stakeholders drawn from different proposal groups to familiarize themselves with the project list, mostly behind closed doors.

In the course of a one-hour meeting over lunch in Sumter County Council chambers, about 50 minutes were spent in executive session closed to the public, discussing proposals too sensitive to be disclosed ahead of time.

County attorney Johnathan Bryan, whom the committee designated as its public spokesman, said certain projects require secrecy so the county can acquire the space for infrastructure and building projects confidentially.

"Some of these will require the purchase of privately held land," he said, "so we have to go out and negotiate with the property owners to get a reasonable price."

In fact, no list of proposed projects was released at Thursday's meeting, and participants were presented with confidentiality agreements requiring holding meeting information in "strict confidence."

"Now, someone might ask, 'why can't the rest of the projects be released?'" Bryan said. "Because we're not able to discuss the more sensitive ones in isolation. Inevitably, there will be comparisons made between different projects, on the expense, the impact on the public and the cost of public



AIR SHOW
Boyd, Watkins
star at Clemson
Pro Day. C1

FLOUR POWER: *Kauffman's Bakery in Fair Play is a family operation. B1*
UKRAINE TURMOIL: *Crimean lawmakers scheduled vote to join Russia. D1*

Residents raise questions at OMC forum

'I guess the only thing that bothers me is the largeness of (Greenville Health System). ... I don't want to get gobbled up.'

Ted Wallenius | Local resident

BY NORMAN CANNADA
 THE JOURNAL

SENECA — More than 100 local residents turned out on a cold, rainy night Thursday for a forum to hear discussion on a proposed partnership between Oconee Medical Center (OMC) and Greenville Health System (GHS).

Only 10 of those in attendance actually spoke to the

FOR MORE

To read a related Journal editorial, turn to page A4.

OMC board of directors and top officials during the forum, as others came to listen. Some expressed support for a partnership, while some expressed their confidence in OMC president and chief executive officer Jeanne Ward.

But, most had questions — questions that went unanswered.

Hunter Kome, the hospital's chief operating officer, told the audience at the beginning of the meeting that the process was too early for most questions to be answered Thursday night.

Nelson Vazquez said after the meeting that he was disappointed that there were not answers for the questions.

"I was hoping to get answers," he said. "How will they let us know the answers?"

Vazquez told the board members that while they will have to make the final decision about any partnership, he and others in the community could help with providing input about how the process works out.

SEE FORUM, PAGE A5

No seats, no lights, no debate

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
 THE JOURNAL

SENECA — The first meeting between the two candidates seeking the vacant District 3 seat on the Oconee County Council drew a standing-room only crowd — literally — because there were no seats. There were also no lights.

Republicans Paul Cain and Andy Inabinet arrived at the Outback Mini Storage strip Thursday night to find a mingling crowd outside the meeting place that used to be the worship center for the River of Life Community Church. The congregation moved to a new location, took the seats out and disconnected the electricity.

No one bothered to tell co-organizer Judy Adams, of Limited Government for Oconee County, which has been using the facilities for the group's monthly meetings since last fall.

When she turned the key and opened the door to the meeting room before the 6 p.m. start, it was empty, cold and dark.

SEE DEBATE, PAGE A5



Cain



Inabinet

Surprising shine



PHOTOS BY JESSICA REILLY | THE JOURNAL

Illegal moonshine still found near Westminster

BY NORMAN CANNADA
 THE JOURNAL

WESTMINSTER — S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officers investigating an unrelated complaint near Westminster found something Wednesday afternoon many law enforcement officials have not seen in years — a functioning moonshine still.

Narcotics agents with the Oconee County Sheriff's Office were called in and took possession of the still, as well as two half-gallon

Ball Mason jars and 19 quart Ball Mason jars all filled with moonshine, according to sheriff's office public information officer Jimmy Watt. In addition to the still, there were two pieces of copper tubing, one hydrometer and one bucket containing corn.

Lt. Jeremy Chapman of the sheriff's office narcotics division said moonshine sells for about \$40 a quart, so the total street value of the jars of moonshine was around \$1,000.

SEE STILL, PAGE A6



At left, Lt. Jeremy Chapman of the Oconee County Sheriff's Office looks over a still that was discovered Wednesday afternoon. Two half-gallon Mason jars and 19 quarter Mason jars filled with moonshine, pictured above, were also found.

SENECA ELECTION

Council candidates address communication issues

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the fourth in a five-part se-

SENECA — One of the criticisms of the current Seneca City Council is that

from the eight candidates for four council seats in next Tuesday's election.

Today's question: What

in his business, Integrity Remodeling and Custom Showers. A 1987 graduate of Winthrop University, she

as many people do not have access to the Internet, where it is currently posted. We could also post the meetings through the other city na-

Stuart D. Pohl, 59, is the owner of The Spot on the Alley at Ram Car Alley in Seneca.



PEOPLE 'N PLACES

Meet two more local Dancing with the Stars pairs. 2B



NASCAR THIS WEEK

Rodney Childers feels good about changing racing teams. 5D



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Morning News

FRIDAY MARCH 7, 2014

TODAY'S WEATHER

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high 46, low 29
DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

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Skaggs brings bluegrass to Florence

Tickets for country music legend's performance on sale Friday

From staff reports.

FLORENCE — Fourteen-time Grammy Award winner Ricky Skaggs and his famous blue grass band, Kentucky Thunder, will perform at 7:30 p.m. April 5 at the Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center for a special concert featuring some of Skaggs' chart-topping hits.

Tickets go on sale at noon Friday and are available at the box office, by phone at 843-661-4444, or online at fmu.org. Ticket prices range from \$39 to \$59.

Skaggs' PAC date follows hard on the heels of the February sellout of country star Travis Tritt's acoustic concert in the same building. PAC Director Laura Sims says this latest addition to the venue's schedule just adds to the momentum.

"Following the success of last month's Travis Tritt concert here, we're excited to have Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder coming to the performing arts center," Sims said. "Ricky puts on a great show and is rightfully celebrated as one of America's most talented and most unique musicians. This should be another big night for country music

and bluegrass fans in the Florence area and throughout the Carolinas."

Skaggs, the 1985 Country Music Association Entertainer of the Year, is a Kentucky native who made a splash as a child prodigy, playing mandolin onstage with bluegrass legend Bill Monroe while just 5 years old and appearing on national TV with Earl Flatt and Lester Scruggs when he was 7.

Skaggs spent his early professional career with the Clinch Mountain Boys, the Country Gentlemen, J.D. Crowe &



Country music legend Ricky Skaggs and his band, Kentucky Thunder, will perform April 5 at Francis Marion University's Performing Arts Center. Tickets for the concert go on sale at noon Friday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

See SKAGGS, Page 3A



Third-grade Delmar Elementary student Brayden Greene begins reading aloud to a Francis Marion University education student via Skype on an iPad in his classroom Thursday. The reading materials were picked out just for him by his teacher candidate as part of a new distance-learning pilot program.

Skype classes allow individualized reading lessons

BY ELLEN MEDER
Morning News
emed@foxnews.com

FLORENCE — It's not every day you find every single student in a classroom intensely reading aloud, pausing only to grin and listen to feedback. But in Julie Shealy's third-grade classroom at Delmar Elementary School, that is exactly what you'll find on Thursdays, when her students plug headphones into iPads to videoconfer-

Francis Marion University. "They love it," Shealy said. "They get exactly what they need. They've got a confidence about reading. They've got somebody that is encouraging them and motivating them and helping them one-on-one with a deficiency they may have in reading."

In a new extension of Delmar and FMU's previous student teaching partnerships, third-grade students are being matched up individually with college

Partnership of FMU, Delmar uses iPads to bring students, future teachers face to face despite distance

methods course. Once a week they use Skype to hold intimate one-on-one lessons, with each set of students at their own school. Delmar Assistant Principal Nancy Granath said right off the bat, she knew the technology would be exciting for the students while providing differentiated instruction, the gold standard in schools. But the overall impact is a major win-win.

"We already had a partnership

Florence County Democrats gear up for '14 races

BY GAVIN JACKSON
Morning News
gjackson@foxnews.com

FLORENCE — Gloria Bromell Tinubu told Florence County Democrats at their biennial convention Thursday that her first race for Congress in 2012 was just the "dress rehearsal" for the real production this year.

"Unless we exercise commitment and boldness to bringing our party's perspective back to the table, it will never happen," Tinubu said. "We have a wonderful opportunity this year to make it happen because people have seen the extreme behavior on the other side that resulted



Seventh Congressional District candidate hopeful Gloria Bromell Tinubu speaks Thursday during the Florence County Democratic County Convention at the South Florence High School Auditorium.

See RACES, Page 6A

Parole denied for Marlboro County man, two others

BY TRACI BRIDGES
Morning News
tbridges@foxnews.com

FLORENCE — A Marlboro County man who murdered his estranged wife and her cousin in 1992 was denied parole during a

Covington, and her 19-year-old cousin, Adrian Wilson. Covington also shot his mother-in-law, who survived, and received an additional 18-year sen-





The
starting

Gators' first unit
sets the tone
for battle. **B1**

5

WHAT THE LORD REQUIRES

Trinity UMC at center
of Civil Rights Movement. **A7**



FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2014

The Times and Democrat

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A TOUCH OF COLOR



LARRY HENRY/T&D

Harriet Hutto works on the background of her painting before filling in the main subject. She is a part of the class "Water: Plain & Simple," instructed by Elaine Lewis. The class is held every Monday in March at the Orangeburg County Fine Arts Center.

See more images from the
Monday, March 3, session at
TheTandD.com

2-month-old among three killed in crash

By RICHARD WALKER
T&D Staff Writer

SANTEE — A 2-month-old was among the victims in Wednesday's fatal crash that killed three members of one family.

The three crash victims were from North Carolina, Orangeburg County Chief Deputy Coroner Sean Fogle said.

"First, our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of those who were involved in the accident that occurred on I-95," Fogle said. "Those that succumbed to their injuries were 2-month-old Duhana Blue, her brother, 6-year-old Lorenzo Blue Jr., and their mother, 42-year-old Dione Blue, all of Rocky Mount, N.C."

Fogle said each suffered blunt force trauma when their light SUV crashed into the rear of a parked tractor-trailer. The three family members died at the scene as a result of internal injuries from the accident.

S.C. Highway Patrol investigators said the crash happened around 10:25 a.m. when nine members of the Rocky Mount family were traveling north on Interstate 95.

Near the 88 mile marker about six miles south of Santee, the family's Isuzu Amigo left the roadway before slamming into the rear of a parked Freightliner tractor-trailer.

The six surviving family members were initially taken to area hospitals, with at least some transported to Palmetto Heath Richland in Columbia. Their conditions have not been released.

The driver of the tractor-trailer was not injured. Authorities said the cause of the crash remains under investigation.

■ Contact the writer: rwalker@timesanddemocrat.com or 803-533-3316. Follow Walker on Twitter at @rwalker-tandd for insight on crime.

Haire: Efforts to control cities 'just criminal'

By MARTHA ROSE BROWN
T&D Staff Writer

An Orangeburg city councilman says "it's just criminal" the way some state lawmakers are trying to change the way local governments handle elections through the state budget.

"We're supposed to have Home Rule and this to me is not Home Rule where they're dictating to us what to do, how to do it and

when to do it," Councilman Bernard Haire said.

"This is another case where state legislation is mandating things to us that we don't have any input in and I think it's unfair the way they're doing it," Haire added.

Haire spoke on changes to the state's budget during Tuesday's city council meeting.

The House Ways and Means Committee made additions to the state budget that vi-

olate the state's Home Rule Act, he said. The budget has not yet been adopted.

In one section of the state budget proposal, the state Election Commission would be tasked with standardizing all election and ballot refer-



Haire

See COUNCIL, A5

"We are not opposed to people protecting themselves. What we are opposed to is the misuse and abuse of the castle doctrine."

— REP. GILDA COBB-HUNTER,
D-ORANGEBURG



Sorority shows it's D.S.T.: Dedicated to Supporting our Troops

By KIMBERLEY N. DAVIS
T&D Staff Writer

"Thank you so much for the Mission D.S.T. package. ... It's one thing to receive something from friends and loved ones, but it's very special to receive something from complete strangers."

In a letter written to members of Alpha Xi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., U.S. Army Sergeant Byron Jasper goes on to say, a "little encouragement like this may seem small to you, but it's huge to us and it does spur us on."

Founded on the campus of



KIMBERLEY N. DAVIS/T&D

The Orangeburg Post Office opened early for members of the Alpha Xi Chapter of Delta Sigma

'Stand your ground' law would be repealed under proposed bill

By SEANNA ADCOX
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Members of the Legislative Black Caucus said Thursday South Carolina's "stand your ground" law is wrong and should be repealed.

The government should not tell people to confront force with force, rather than just walk away, said its chairman, Rep. Huoold Mitchell.

Brian Symmes

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