

From: Taillon, Jeff
To: Taillon, Jeff <JeffTaillon@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 3/5/2013 9:46:13 AM
Subject: S.C. Front Pages - Tuesday, March 5, 2013

5 QUESTIONS

as spring football begins at USC

SPORTS, C1



A better back

Cutting-edge surgery offers pain relief.

YOUR HEALTH, D1

The Post and Courier

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TUESDAY, March 5, 2013

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Executive to investors:
Boeing feels 'very good' about battery fix
Business, B6

'Eating by the clock'
can help you shed pounds, stick with diet
Drs. Roizen and Oz, D1



Brett Bullard: Citadel's most determined baseball player
Sports, C1

Continental Tire
has plans for former Charleston Naval Base
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Hundreds pack
meeting to support Lincoln High School
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Americana Car Wash:
Half off your next car wash
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Mt. P. official settled assault suit

Councilman facing DUI charge accused of 2003 drugged sex

BY ANDREW KNAPP
and ROBERT BEHRE
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rbehre@postandcourier.com

Days after Mount Pleasant Councilman John Burn's drunken driving arrest, town officials called the 53-year-old a likeable person and businessman.

The College of Charleston graduate made a name for himself running Hughes Equipment Rental, which has been in his family since the early 1980s. But the year before he was elected to the Town Council in 2009, Burn was working to prevent an element of his past from seeing the light of day.

Burn and his friend acknowledged sexual contact with the woman, but they denied the assault and settled the suit privately in early 2008. The same year, their attorney pleaded with a judge to

seal the lawsuit from public view, arguing that their reputations as "successful businessmen" were at stake.



Councilman John Burn is charged with drunken driving.

Climate crisis?

Controversial DNR report on warming deals with effects on S.C. ecosystem



White ibis is one of a number of species whose prevalence or behavior in South Carolina indicate the effects of climate warming.

BY BO PETERSEN
bpetersen@postandcourier.com

White ibis are found in the Lowcountry far more than the primarily Gulf Coast wading birds once were — 9,000 percent more. Offshore, dolphin fish in herds are turning up months early. Gobbler wild turkeys strut the fields and females nest a month or more earlier than they used to.

And rising seas are swamping coastal marshes, the nursery for many fish species.

So a controversial report on managing climate warming that was shelved by the S.C. Department of Natural Resources board



POLL

is global warming real? Go to postandcourier.com to vote.

Berkeley district under scrutiny

AG's office asks for probe of Yes 4 Schools activities

BY BRENDA RINDGE
brindge@postandcourier.com

As Berkeley County School District officials geared up for their \$198 million school improvement referendum last year, District Communications Director Amy Kovach wrote an email to one of three volunteer chairs of the Yes 4 Schools committee.

The district's lawyer for the bond referendum would attend the next meeting, she wrote to Chad Vail on March 28, "to advise and provide insight to the group on what the district staff can and cannot do to support campaign activities."

Now the S.C. Attorney General's Office has requested that the State Ethics Commission and the State Law Enforcement Division look into accusations that the district violated those very laws.

State law makes it illegal for public officers or employees to "authorize the use of public funds, property, or time to influence the outcome of an election."

Ethics violations are punishable by a fine of up to \$2,000, according to the Ethics Commission.

The accusations are centered on the district's Yes 4 Schools campaign, which asked voters to approve \$198 million in general obligation bonds to build five new schools and renovate 29 others, mainly to ease overcrowding.

The district maintained that the campaign was run by volunteers that included Vail, Jane Pulling and others.

Daniel Island lawyer Josh Whitley raised questions in October about whether the district was using its own resources to produce fliers and videos and to promote the campaign to district employees and the community.

Please see **BERKELEY**, Page A6

Sequester, cuts threaten MUSC mental health research



BY LAUREN SAUSSER
lsausser@postandcourier.com

"We have a national problem in terms of our ability to provide mental health care," Dr. Thomas Uhde said.

Years before Alice Boland pulled a loaded handgun on an Ashley Hall administrator outside the school in February, she was treated for her mental illness by medical professionals.

So was Newtown, Conn., shooter Adam Lanza.

Lawmakers in Columbia and Washington realize something's not working. They are considering new gun reform laws and registries to track the mentally ill in light of these recent cases.

Dr. Thomas Uhde, chairman of the Medical University of South Carolina's Institute of Psychiatry, concedes a solution is complex, but the crux of the crisis is money — there's not enough of it.

By the numbers

100,000

Patients suffering from mental illness that the S.C. Department of Mental Health treats every year.

\$90 million

Amount cut from the Department of Mental Health's budget from 2008 to 2012.

1,784

Inpatient hospital beds in South Carolina designated to treat psychiatric patients.

\$30 million

Average funding MUSC's Department of Psychiatry receives from the federal government each year for research.

2,938

Inmates designated mentally ill by the S.C. Department of Corrections, out of an approximate 22,000-inmate population.

—Source: State agencies

5

PLAYERS TO WATCH AT USC'S SPRING PRACTICE



Thompson



Wilds



Shell



Hampton



Lewis

See Sports, B1

BASEBALL

Lexington
routes
Irmo in
season
opener, B1

The State

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013 | THESTATE.COM

Most at hearing endorse carrying guns

Majority back bill that would repeal S.C. law and no longer require permits

By JAMIE SELF
jsell@thestate.com

ROCK HILL — A crowd here Monday urged a state Senate panel to move quickly to pass a bill that would allow South Carolinians to carry handguns, concealed or not, without a permit.

More than 150 people packed a standing-room-only auditorium at York Technical College in Rock Hill for the hearing on the S.C. Constitutional Carry Act of 2013.

The bill would repeal a state law that requires residents to obtain a permit to carry a concealed firearm. The 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to carry a firearm, the proposal's sponsors say.

For several supporters, the decision facing lawmakers comes down to whether law-abiding citizens should have the right to protect themselves without jumping through un-

SEE CARRY PAGE A4

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Should residents be able to carry handguns, openly or concealed, without a state permit? Go to the survey on thestate.com.

On thestate.com

Log on to thestate.com to watch a video from Monday night's cooking demo at Charleston Cooks. See more on A10.

8.2% Urban unemployment rate

10.9% Rural unemployment rate

8.4% State unemployment rate

RURAL S.C. COUNTIES SEEK JOBS SOLUTION

Economic development leaders address discrepancy in progress between cities, rural communities

By RODDIE BURRIS
rburris@thestate.com

Jobs and the economy continue to be frontline issues across South Carolina, but nowhere more than in its rural communities, where unemployment always is higher and jobs scarcer than in the cities.

About 150 economic development leaders from around the state gathered Monday in Aiken for the annual S.C. Rural Summit to stake out some remedies to the perennial problem.

With unemployment registering in the double digits in many rural coun-

ties, the problems stack up: lack of water and sewer capacity suitable to serve industry, poor education results and inadequate healthcare facilities.

"We have a number of problems," said Ron King, a member of the Marlboro County Economic Development Board who attended Monday's summit.

Take Bennettsville, for example. The county seat has ample sewer and water capacity to attract big businesses, King said, but the town

SEE JOBS PAGE A8

ECONOMIC DIVIDE

Counties in rural South Carolina are searching for ways to boost economic development and make a dent in high unemployment levels. Rural counties — those not in a defined Metropolitan Statistical Area — have a collective unemployment rate of nearly 11 percent. Urban and suburban counties, which are in the defined areas that include larger population clusters, have an unemployment rate of close to 8 percent.



BURNING BODY CASE Jail guard charged in murder of girlfriend

Sheriff: With two kids in car, suspect drove into woods to burn pregnant woman's body

By NOELLE PHILLIPS
nophillips@thestate.com

A 23-year-old jail guard has been arrested for allegedly shooting his pregnant girlfriend and then burning her body in woods near Eastover.

Tristan Gist, a former detention officer at Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center, is charged with murder and death or injury of a child in utero due to the commission of a violent crime, the Richland County Sheriff's Department reported Monday. Gist was fired from the detention center over the weekend when he did not show up to work, according to a spokesman in the Richland County public information office.

Gist is being held at the Lexington County Detention Center. He must appear before a Richland County circuit court judge for a bond hearing.

The victim has been tentatively identified as Dierdra Fisher, 22, of Columbia, said Richland County Coroner Gary Watts. He said he was 99.9 percent sure Fisher was the victim but was waiting on medical records to be certain.

Gist is accused of shooting Fisher once in the head and then driving her body to woods off Screaming Eagle Road Extension, east of Fort Jackson, and then burning her.

Gist brought Fisher's two small children with him in the car as he drove to burn her body, said Sheriff Leon Lott.

"It's probably one of the more vicious crimes I've seen," Lott said. "I keep saying that over and over. When I don't think I can see worse, something like this happens."

SEE EASTOVER PAGE A4

EXCLUSIVE

Inmate might die from stomping in Richland jail

By CLIF LeBLANC
cleblanc@thestate.com

A homeless man arrested on trespassing charges suffered a collapsed lung, two broken ribs, a fractured vertebrae in his back as well as internal injuries during a prolonged stomping by a Richland County jail guard, authorities said Monday.

The man, 52, might die of his injuries, said Capt.



BUSINESS, 11A APPS OFFER TAX HELP



NATION, 2A
Parties
disagree on
border
panel

The Greenville News

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TUESDAY,
MARCH 5, 2013
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

INSIDE

Upstate teacher named finalist for state Teacher of the Year, 3A

FINAL EDITION

Minority districts may be in jeopardy

Court to rule on challenge to voting rights provision

By Mary Orndorff Troyan
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Voting districts designed to increase the chances of electing minority candidates, a fixture in the South, could be dismantled if the Supreme Court invalidates a key provision of the Voting Rights Act.

The court heard oral arguments recently in a case that challenges Section 5 of the 1965 landmark law. The section bars all or part of 16 states from making any changes to their election procedures without first proving the changes wouldn't discriminate against minority voters. A ruling is expected in a few months.

If the court rules Section 5 is no longer necessary, states, counties and local governments subject to the provision wouldn't have to submit new election maps to the Justice Department for review.

Civil rights advocates say that would open the door for jurisdictions like many in the South — where blacks tend to vote for black candidates and whites tend to vote for white candidates — to redraw districts in a way that makes it harder for minorities to get elected.

"There is no doubt in my mind that if there is no Section 5, the eight black (state) Senate districts in Alabama would disappear in the very near future," said state Sen. Hank Sanders, D-Selma, who holds one of those eight seats.

Because the Voting Rights Act requires that minorities have an opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice, states have created a few congressional districts with significant percentages of minority voters, and most have elected minority candidates.

"Section 5 has been an important protection for these opportunity districts," said Debo Adegbile, an attorney with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

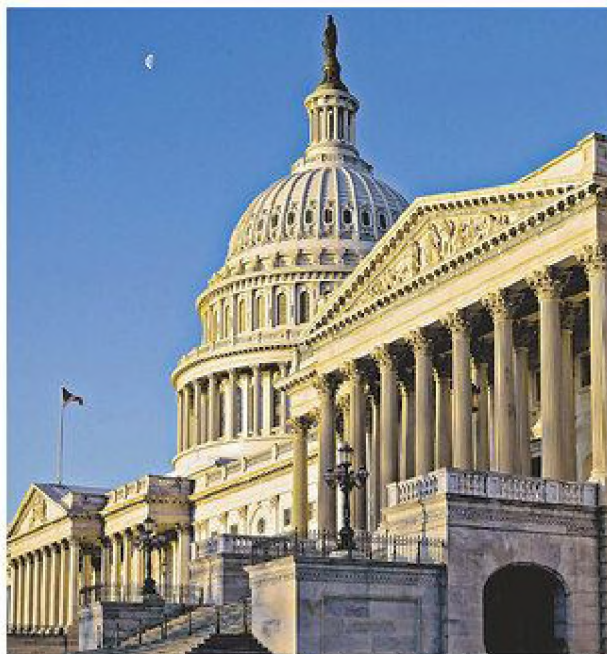
If Section 5 disappeared, he said, "Many of these districts would be attacked and the hands on the clock would start winding backwards and we would see lower minority representation."

Conservatives, who would like to see Section 5's demise, say drawing districts to include large numbers of minority voters has led to political segregation, in which white office-holders don't represent many minorities, and black office-holders don't represent many whites.

"Telling people they should be voting

See DISTRICTS, Page 5A

GOP OFFERS BUDGET PLAN



Democrats and Republicans remained at odds Monday on how to reverse automatic spending cuts that took effect on Friday.

By SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

MEASURE
WOULD
LEAVE IN
PLACE
AUTOMATIC
CUTS OF
5 PERCENT
TO DOMESTIC
AGENCIES
AND 7.8
PERCENT
TO THE
PENTAGON

Proposal would protect defense funding in '13

By Andrew Taylor
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans controlling the House moved Monday to give the Pentagon more money for military readiness while easing the pain felt by such agencies as the FBI and the Border Patrol from the across-the-board spending cuts that are just starting to take effect.

The effort is part of a huge spending measure that would fund day-to-day federal operations through September — and head off a potential government shutdown later this month.

The measure would leave in place automatic cuts of 5 percent to domestic agencies and 7.8 percent to the Pentagon ordered by President Barack Obama Friday night after months of battling with Republicans over the budget. But the House Republicans' legislation would award the Defense and Veterans Affairs departments



President Barack Obama shakes hands with Gina McCarthy, his nominee to head the Environmental Protection Agency, Monday in the East Room of the White House.

PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVIAS/AP

See BUDGET, Page 6A

INSIDE

Cardinals gather in Rome to pick pope

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

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SRNS furloughs 2,000

Wilson: Due to funding, more cuts may be necessary

BY MIKE GELLATLY
mgellatly@aikenstandard.com

The first shots in the sequestration battle were fired Monday as Savannah River Nuclear Solutions announced that about 2,000 workers will be placed on reduced schedules starting April 1, while others will suffer "full furloughs."

SRNS is the current management and operations contractor of the Savannah River Site.

"Consistent with DOE guidance, this memorandum serves as notification that beginning April 1, 2013, approximately 2,000 SRNS employees will be placed on 32-hour work schedules. Impacted employees will be notified by March 15, 2013," President and CEO Dwayne Wilson wrote to employees Monday. "In select areas, full

furloughs will begin on April 1, 2013. Impacted employees in these areas will be notified by next week."



Wilson

The finer details of the budget cuts are still being worked out.

Barbara Smoak, director of Business, Technical and Employee Communications for SRNS, said Monday that more information should be released in the next few days.

"The 32-hour week would be considered a reduction in the work schedule, while full furloughs are defined as an employee assigned to a non-duty status," Smoak said.

Non-duty status means a zero-hour

Due to the uncertain and potential fluctuating amount of funding which may be available to SRNS, further furloughs may be necessary.

SRNS President and CEO Dwayne Wilson

workweek.

The furloughs are not unexpected, as the *Aiken Standard* reported in mid-February that a report from the House Appropriations Committee Democrats laid out what sequestration would mean to the Department of Energy and other agencies.

"The Savannah River Site in South Carolina would furlough over 1,000 workers for approximately four months, and 4,000 to 5,000 workers'

schedules would be affected across the complex. Sites will be forced to suspend and/or delay cleanup activities and shutdown facilities," according to the report.

"Due to the uncertain and potential fluctuating amount of funding which may be available to SRNS, further furloughs may be necessary," Wilson said. "We recognize the difficult financial implications of any furlough, and we will make every effort to keep you

informed. Additional information and Q&As regarding implementation of reduced work schedules will be provided by Workforce Services this week."

Department of Energy officials have said they have yet to get the entire picture for how SRNS will be impacted, as they are waiting for an announcement from headquarters in Washington, D.C.

"While our circumstances are difficult, the SRNS mission remains, and I ask that you stay focused on the safe and secure performance of your work activities," Wilson said.

SRNS contractors Parsons and Shaw Arava Mos Services would only say they have no specific details on the looming cuts. DOE-HQ in Washington, D.C., and the National Nuclear Security Administration also did not have any specific comment on future cuts, they said Monday.

Haley: Rural regions should work together, move forward

BY ROB NOVIT
rnovit@aikenstandard.com

Companies are beginning to realize that small South Carolina towns in rural areas can be good places to relocate or start a new business, S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley said at the opening address of the S.C. Rural Summit in Aiken on Monday.

The event included staffers from the S.C. Commerce Department, including Maceo Nance, director of the department's Small Business and Rural Development division.

"Companies may actually prefer rural areas that are community-driven," Haley said.

With the help of the Commerce Department, jobs have recently emerged in 45 of the 46 counties, she said. Personnel with the agency are getting additional bonuses for their roles in bringing industry to rural counties like Jasper, Barnwell and Clarendon counties.

The concept in the beginning is to drive through small communities as a CEO would do.

"One town needed to have a misspelled sign changed," Haley said. "Another area informed people in a sign that it was No. 1 in HIV (occurrences), and that sign was taken down."

Please see **Haley**, Page 9A



Following her address at a statewide rural summit in Aiken on Monday, Gov. Nikki Haley receives a book on the history of Aiken from City Manager Richard Pearce. Pearce also lauds community's success | FULL STORY, 3A

GOP unveils funding measure

BY ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Republicans controlling the House moved Monday to give the Pentagon more money for military readiness while easing the pain felt by such agencies as the FBI and the Border Patrol from the across-the-board spending cuts that are just starting to take effect.

The effort is part of a huge spending measure that would fund day-to-day federal operations through September — and head off a potential government shutdown later this month.

The measure would leave in place automatic cuts of 5 percent to domestic agencies and 7.8 percent to the Pentagon ordered by President Barack Obama Friday night, after months of battling with Republicans over the budget. But, the House Republicans' legislation would award the Defense and Veterans Affairs departments their detailed 2013 budgets while other agencies would be frozen at 2012 levels — and then bear the across-the-board cuts.

The impact of the new cuts was proving slow to reach the broader public as

Please see **BUDGET**, Page 9A

AREA DEATHS

John "J.D." Beard Jr., Clearwater
Maryellyn Alphonse Gunter, Wagoner

Mildred Smoak Jones, Burnettsville

Olga Elizabeth Korolevich, Orishyn, Aiken

Thomas Davis Austin, Pelion
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER

Gaines wants to bring fresh perspective to Council

BY AMY BANTON
abanton@aikenstandard.com

Editor's note: Randy Ra Shad Gaines is one of two candidates running for a vacant City Council seat held by former Councilman Don Wells who was elected as the District 81 Representative to S.C. State House in November. Philip Merry is also running for the seat — his story can also be viewed at www.aikenstandard.com.



Gaines



Merry

with a fresh perspective, and he says he has that

A look at the City Council candidates

Today, the *Aiken Standard* is taking a look at Randy Ra Shad Gaines, one of two candidates running for a vacant City Council seat. In Monday's edition, readers got the chance to read about City Council candidate Philip Merry, who is also running for the seat.

sitting member.

"I believe that it is time for Aiken to find the right avenues to be a force to be reckoned with as we approach the next 100 years," Gaines said. "We have to find the right combination

we're using the same people and doing the same things."

Gaines would like to see a stronger forum between city officials and the younger residents. He said there needs to be more of an effort made



The Beaufort Gazette

TUESDAY, March 5, 2013

beaufortgazette.com

Established in 1897 50 cents

Threat of fraudulent tax returns increases

SC Department of Revenue hears reports of possible hacking victims

By GINA SMITH
gsmith@islandpacket.com
843-706-8145

Twenty-five to 30 tax filers have contacted the S.C. Department of Revenue, believing they are victims of identity theft as a result of the hacking of the agency last year.

That number is likely to grow as

more South Carolinians file their taxes.

"Many more people could be affected. They just don't know it yet, except for the early filers," said Paul Stephens of Privacy Rights, a California-based nonprofit group that

Please see **TAX RETURNS** on 7A

TAX RETURN HACKING

If you believe someone has submitted a bogus income tax return in your name or that you have been a victim of identity theft in some other way, call the S.C. Department of Revenue for help at 803-898-5000.



Identity theft up in county, SC

By ALLISON STICE
astice@islandpacket.com
843-706-8138

Identity theft is on the rise in both South Carolina and the Beaufort-Hilton Head Island area, according to reports last year to the Federal Trade Commission.

The agency recently released its 2012 data book, which ranked the state No. 17 in per-capita cases of identity theft — a jump from No. 29 in 2011.

FIGHTING IDENTITY THEFT

To find out how to deter, detect and defend against identity theft, go to <http://1.usa.gov/ZYdJ9l>

The number of self-reported complaints in the Beaufort-Hilton Head statistical area increased, too — from 167 in 2011 to 204 reports in 2012, a 22 percent

Please see **THEFT** on 7A

STILL STANDING

Preservationists stabilize Spring Island tabby ruins



SARAH WELLIVER • Staff photo

Howard Mills of Beekman Webb Construction works to stabilize tabby ruins Monday on Spring Island.

By ERIN MOODY • emoody@beaufortgazette.com • 843-706-8184

After months of planning and a few days of work, centuries-old tabby ruins on Spring Island that once were in danger of falling have been stabilized.

The LowCountry Institute, an arm of the Spring Island Trust, hired local preservationist Beekman Webb Construction for the work, which included careful placement of long, stainless steel beams inside the ruins to support the walls.

"One of the buildings has a wall that was going to fall,

so we had to make a decision whether to stabilize it or lose it," institute executive director Chris Marsh said.

The ruins are of a house that stood on the plantation of George Edwards, owner of Sea Island Cotton. Edwards was the richest man in the country in the first half of the 1800s.

Spring Island was deeded in 1706 by Lord James Colleton to John Cochran, an infamous Indian trader, according to the Beaufort Historic Foundation.

Please see **RUINS** on 7A

FEDERAL SPENDING

GOP unveils funding proposal

The House's measure would ease automatic cuts to some federal agencies while funding the government through September.

By ANDREW TAYLOR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans controlling the House moved Monday to ease a crunch in Pentagon readiness while limiting the pain felt by such agencies as the FBI and the Border Patrol from the across-the-board spending cuts that are starting to take effect.

The effort is part of a huge spending measure that would fund day-to-day federal operations through September — and head off a potential government shutdown later this month.

The measure would leave in place automatic cuts of 5 percent to domestic agencies and 78 percent to the Pentagon ordered by President Barack Obama Friday night after months of battling with Republicans over the budget. But the House Republicans' legislation would award the Defense and Veterans Affairs departments their detailed 2013 budgets, giving those agencies more flexibility on where money is spent, while other agencies would be frozen at 2012 levels — and then bear the across-the-board cuts.

The impact of the new cuts was proving slow to reach the broader

Please see **FUNDING** on 7A

REPUBLICANS INCLUDE HOST OF EXEMPTIONS

After accounting for the across-the-board cuts, domestic agencies would face reductions exceeding 5 percent when com-

STILL THE RICHEST

Mexican billionaire remains world's wealthiest man.

BUSINESS, D1



NO PRESSURE

Limestone beats press to advance in tournament B1



Herald-Journal

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HJ
IN A HURRY

5 Things to read today



Hotel makeover

Courtyard Spartanburg, a Marriott brand hotel, has received a \$2.5 million makeover that includes a state-of-the-art lobby, a bistro, restyled guest rooms and other upgrades.

PAGE C1

Nurse refuses CPR

A nurse's refusal to give CPR to a dying 87-year-old woman at a California independent living home spawns a criminal investigation. It also raises concerns that policies at senior living facilities could prevent staff from intervening in medical emergencies. **PAGE A3**

Election violence

Kenya's presidential election draws millions of eager voters who endured long lines to cast ballots, but the vote is marred by violence that leaves 19 people dead. **PAGE A5**

Syrian troops killed

Dozens of Syrian soldiers who had crossed into Iraq for refuge are ambushed with bombs, gunfire and rocket-propelled grenades in an attack that killed 48 of them and heightened concerns that the country could be drawn into Syria's civil war. **PAGE A5**

Shifting air travel

International fliers are now more likely to switch planes in Dubai, or Abu Dhabi, than London or Amsterdam as the Middle East becomes the new crossroads of global travel. **PAGE D1**

GOP fights for military funding

Automatic cuts could compromise national security, Republicans claim

By **ANDREW TAYLOR**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans controlling the House moved Monday to ease a crunch in Pentagon readiness while limiting the pain felt by such agencies as the FBI and the Border Patrol from the across-the-board spending cuts

that are starting to take effect.

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The measure would leave in place automatic cuts of 5 percent

to domestic agencies and 7.8 percent to the Pentagon ordered by President Barack Obama Friday night after months of battling with Republicans over the budget. But the House Republicans' legislation would award the Defense and Veterans Affairs departments their detailed 2013 budgets, giving those agencies more flexibility on where money is spent, while other agencies would be frozen at 2012 levels — and then bear the across-the-board cuts.

The impact of the new cuts was proving slow to reach the broader public as Obama convened the first Cabinet meeting of his second term to discuss his next steps.

The Pentagon did say it would furlough thousands of military school teachers around the world and close commissaries an extra day each week. And Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said the spending cuts were

◆ SEE BUDGET PAGE A7

TODAY'S ALARM IS JUST A TEST

SOUNDS OF PROGRESS

Spartanburg County's tornado warning sirens are a throwback, but they continue to be maintained. Smartphones and tablets can now alert you to severe weather, too.



MICHAEL JUSTUS/MICHAEL.JUSTUS@SHJ.COM

A warning siren is shown near the Cleveland Academy of Leadership in Spartanburg. At 9 this morning, the siren and others in the county will be tested as part of an annual statewide tornado drill.

By **JENNY ARNOLD**
jennifer.arnold@shj.com

Many residents are likely to hear an eerie, familiar sound this morning — but don't worry, it's only a test.

It's national Severe Weather Awareness Week, and Spartanburg County will test its tornado warning sirens at 9 a.m. as part of a statewide tornado drill. NOAA All-Hazards weather radios also will be activated for the drill, said

defense era, also were used to assemble firefighters for textile mill fires, Bryson said.

The sirens, which cost \$12,000 to \$15,000 each, are tested on the first Saturday of each month. Firefighters record whether each siren is working. The following Monday morning, county officials receive a report on how the sirens work and whether any of them need maintenance, Bryson said.

"It's an obsolete technology





Rivalry heads
to court, **1B**

Inside today's edition

News: Republicans unveil funding plan, **3A**

World: Cardinals begin talks about conclave, **7A**

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2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

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INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 94, NO. 387

Board picks BWP for search



JIM
LAMBETH

McCormick trustees choose firm to find new superintendent

By MICHELLE LAXER
mlaxer@indexjournal.com

MCCORMICK — The national search firm that found the last superintendent for the McCormick County school district will be returning to the area as it launches another search for her replacement.

The district's board of trustees unanimously approved Monday to contract with BWP and Associates, an Illinois-based educational leadership search firm, to help select a new superintendent during a called meeting.

Earlean Smiley announced earlier this year she would not be extending her

contract with the district. Her last day is today.

The board met Monday night to compare proposals and decide which of the three firms it would choose to find the district's new leader.

Smiley was the result of a BWP search nearly three years ago. According to the

firm's search proposal, it also recently conducted successful searches for Kershaw County School District, Richland County School Districts 1 and 2, and Greenville County.

The other main contender for the search

See **SEARCH**, page 3A

FIFTH BLITZ

Help wanted for lake cleanup

By CHRIS TRAINOR
ctrainor@indexjournal.com

Lake Greenwood truly is one of the jewels of Greenwood County.

It supplies drinking water for CPW customers, it is the home to Camp Fellowship, it provides for some of the best fishing in South Carolina and has been an area for recreation and fun for decades.



TONI
ABLE

Want to help?

■ To volunteer for the Lake Greenwood Cleanup Blitz, visit www.greenwoodsc.gov/lakecleanup/ or call 941-3370.

On Saturday, residents will have the opportunity to pitch in and show their pride in the lake, as Healthy Greenwood Neighborhoods, Keep Greenwood County Beautiful and Palmetto Pride host the fifth Lake Greenwood Cleanup Blitz.

The blitz will be from 8 a.m.-noon Saturday. The central meeting point of the blitz will be Lake Greenwood State Park shelter No. 2. The event will end at noon with a gathering at the shelter that will include food and beverage, drawings for door prizes and more.

To sign up to volunteer for the Lake Greenwood Cleanup Blitz, visit www.greenwoodsc.gov/lakecleanup/. You can also get information by calling Healthy Greenwood Neighborhoods at 941-3370.

Healthy Greenwood Neighborhoods' Toni Able

HEALTHY GREENWOOD

CHANGING THE 'DESERT'



CHRIS TRAINOR | INDEX JOURNAL

Healthy Greenwood Neighborhoods received grant money to start six more community gardens in Greenwood's USDA-identified "food desert." The Seaboard Jardin Maravilloso community garden is one of four existing in that area.

Healthy Greenwood Neighborhoods gets funds to expand gardens

By CHRIS TRAINOR
ctrainor@indexjournal.com

What is a 'food desert'?

■ The USDA defines a "food desert" as an urban neighborhood or rural town without readily available access to fresh, healthy and affordable foods.

While there is a portion of the City of Greenwood described as a "food desert," Healthy Greenwood Neighborhoods

received a \$6,400 grant from the S.C. Cancer Alliance to start six additional community gardens in that area.

a "food desert." There are currently four community gardens in that sector of the city, and, with this grant, HGN is looking to increase to 10 community gardens.

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THE ISLAND PACKET

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013

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A few clouds but at least it's getting warmer. 4B

St. Helena native vies for spot in top 10 on 'American Idol' 2A**\$29 for \$100 worth of tax prep at Liberty Tax Service**
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Hacking could bring more bogus tax returns

By GINA SMITH

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Twenty-five to 30 tax filers have contacted the S.C. Department of Revenue, believing they are victims of identity theft as a result of the hacking of the agency last year.

That number is likely to grow as more South Carolinians file their taxes.

"Many more people could be affected. They just don't know it yet, except for the early filers," said Paul Stephens of Privacy Rights, a California-based

nonprofit that advocates for consumers' rights and privacy. "Many people are just starting to think about taxes."

One Savannah man who works in South Carolina thinks he's an identity-theft victim. He received a letter Feb. 22 from the Internal Revenue Service, alerting him that the federal agency had received a tax return bearing his name and was reviewing the information in the return.

Please see HACKING on 7A

REVENUE HACKING

If you believe someone has submitted a bogus income tax return in your name or that you have been a victim of identity theft in some other way, call the S.C. Department of Revenue for help at 803-898-5000.



Identity theft reports rise in SC

By ALLISON STICE

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Identity theft is on the rise in both South Carolina and the Beaufort-Hilton Head Island area, according to reports last year to the Federal Trade Commission.

The commission recently released its 2012 data book, which ranked the state No. 17 in per-capita cases of identity theft — a jump from No. 29

in 2011.

The number of self-reported complaints in the Beaufort-Hilton Head statistical area increased, too — from 167 in 2011 to 204 reports in 2012, a 22 percent climb.

According to the report, identity theft is the top consumer complaint reported to the agency nationwide for the 13th consecutive year.

Please see IDENTITY on 7A

AUTOMATIC SPENDING CUTS

GOP offers bill to avoid shutdown

House Republicans unveiled a plan Monday to keep the government funded through September and lessen the pain for the Pentagon.

By ANDREW TAYLOR

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans controlling the House moved Monday to ease a crunch in Pentagon readiness while limiting the pain felt by such agencies as the FBI and the Border Patrol from the across-the-board spending cuts that are just starting to take effect.

The effort is part of a huge spending measure that would fund day-to-day federal operations through September — and head off a potential government shutdown later this month.

The measure would leave in place automatic cuts of 5 percent to domestic agencies and 78 percent to the Pentagon that took effect Friday night after months of battling over the budget. But the House Republicans' legislation would award the Defense and Veterans Affairs departments their detailed 2013 budgets, giving those agencies more flexibility on where money is spent, while other agencies would be frozen at 2012 levels — and then bear the across-the-board cuts.

The impact of the cuts was proving slow to reach the public as the president convened the first Cabinet meeting of his second term to discuss next steps.

Please see BUDGET on 7A



House Speaker John Boehner

Preservation work stabilizes Spring Island's
TABBY RUINS

SARAH WELLYER • Staff photo

Howard Mills of Beekman Webb Construction works to stabilize tabby ruins Monday on Spring Island.

By ERIN MOODY • emoody@beaufortgazette.com • 843-706-8184

After months of planning and a few days of work, centuries-old tabby ruins on Spring Island that once were in danger of falling have been stabilized.

The LowCountry Institute, an arm of the Spring Island Trust, hired local preservationist Beekman Webb Construction for the work, which

included careful placement of long, stainless steel beams inside the ruins to support the walls.

"One of the buildings has a wall that was going to fall, so we had to make a decision whether to stabilize it or lose it," institute executive director Chris Marsh said.

Please see RUINS on 7A



Morning News

MONDAY MARCH 4, 2013

TODAY'S WEATHER
Mostly sunny,
high 56, low 35
DETAILS 2A

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Coming Events

Coker Women and Men's Tennis: Today at 2:30 p.m. at Coker College. Coker vs. Barton. Matches are played at Coker College tennis courts. Admission is free. For information, call 843-383-8073.

Building Bridges: Every Monday through March 25 from 4-6 p.m. at the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce located at 238 S. Coit St. in Florence. This is a five week small group experience in cultural diversity. Workplace issues, religion, family dynamics and gangs will be covered throughout the course. The cost is \$15 for individuals and \$10 each for those in groups of 5 or more. Participants may receive one CEU credit from FDTIC but must attend four out of the five sessions. The first and last sessions are mandatory. Refreshments will be served at all sessions. For information, call the chamber at 843-665-0515. To register, visit www.flochamber.com.

Monthly AARP meeting: Tuesday at 9:45 a.m. at the Leatherman Senior Center, 600 Senior Way in Florence. Guest speaker is Florence County Voter Registration and Election Commission Director David Alford who will be speaking on voter registration.

Pee Dee Region National History Day Competition: Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the National Bean Market Museum located at 111 Henry St. in Lake City. There are five categories for students to pick from. Students have the opportunity to enter as individuals in any category or as teams in any except the historical paper category. For information, call 843-374-1500.

Coker Softball: Tuesday at 2 p.m. at Coker College. Coker vs. North Greenville. Games are played at Saleeby-Stokes Softball Field. Admission is \$3 for visiting students and children, \$5 for adults and free for Coker students and faculty. For more information, call 843-383-8073.

FMU Men & Women's Tennis: Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. at Francis Marion University. FMU vs. Lewis. Matches are played on Kassab Courts. Admission is free. For more information, call 843-661-1240.

Gallery Opening: Tuesday from 5-7 p.m. at the Cheraw Arts Commission Baur Gallery in Cheraw. "Young at Art" will showcase artwork by local students. The opening will feature the Cheraw Intermediate School Chorus. For more information, call 843-537-8420, ext. 12.

FMU Artist Series presents Giuseppe Lupis: Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Kassab Recital Hall in the Hyman Fine Arts Center located on the campus of Francis Marion University. Lupis is a pianist and composer with more than 20 years experience in the musical field. Admission is free. For more information,

County looks to extend penny tax

Sales tax add-on brings in about \$150 million. Focus might move from roads this time around.

BY JOHN SWEENEY
Morning News
jsweeney@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — If you thought Florence County's capital project sales tax — a.k.a. the "penny tax" — was going away after 2014, think again.

Florence County officials are

taking the necessary steps to keep the tax around for another seven years and are casting about for ways to spend the money, which brought about \$150 million into county coffers since it was approved by voters in 2007.

The county began the renewal process for the tax earlier this year, appointing a six-member

commission to identify and prioritize projects, as well as author the referendum question that will go before county citizens.

"Obviously, no list has been made," Florence County Council Chairman James Schofield said. "But as you know, we have issue with EMS, fire, a judicial complex. I'm hearing that the towns and

cities all have capital needs also ... The function of the commission is to let everyone put something on the wall and get suggestions, hold hearings, public forums and get everyone's input."

The commission consists of three Florence County citizens appointed by the county council and three from local municipalities.

Because of its population —

See **PENNEY**, Page 8A

AT YOUR SERVICE



PHOTOS BY JOHN D. RUSSELL AND NING MING

Valet Gary DeSantis makes one of many runs to the parking lot to retrieve a patron's car on Feb. 21 at the McLeod Regional Medical Center Tower in Florence.

Man on the move

Car parker's career started in Vegas, but love made sure it didn't stay there

BY JOHN D. RUSSELL
Morning News
jruspell@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Anyone who thinks working as a valet isn't a great way to stay in shape hasn't seen Gary DeSantis work at being a valet.

DeSantis, who's plying his trade at the McLeod Regional Medical Center, sprints to retrieve cars, sometimes covering 150 yards at his top speed.

And that's a pretty good speed.

"I've always been kind of athletic and I like to run a lot," DeSantis said. "I like to hold myself to a higher standard to see how fast I can deliver their car. Safely, but in a hurry. Let's face it, nobody wants to stand



Valet Gary DeSantis receives a thank you handshake from patron Carl Schultz on Feb. 21 at the McLeod Regional Medical Center Tower in Florence. DeSantis spent the last six years as a valet at the Bellagio Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

there waiting for their car any more than they have to.

And no self-respecting valet wants to leave money on the table.

DeSantis learned during six years of valet work in the valet capital of the world — Las Vegas — that time, literally, is money. Working at the Bellagio hotel and casino in Las Vegas, he learned quickly that hustling could mean the difference between a

\$5 tip and a \$100 tip. And in Vegas, at the Bellagio, there were some \$100 tips to be had.

Talking about his Vegas days, DeSantis can tick off names of the rich and famous whose vehicles passed through his care — he declined to name them on the record, a professional valet never tells — but he said that ultimately, people are all

See **VALET**, Page 5A

Proposal would boost funds for police, prisons

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The budget proposal headed for debate by the S.C. House includes roughly \$50 million to boost state law enforcement and better secure prisons.

The House Ways and Means spending plan for 2013-14 calls for hiring 25 agents to supervise parolees, 10 natural resource officers and 15 people at the State Law Enforcement Division. It also would add 18 highway troopers through a personnel shift.

Rep. Mike Pitts, chairman of the law enforcement subcommittee, said public safety agencies need to be restored after recession-era budget cuts.

His subcommittee's plan would represent the second consecutive year of employee increases. Still, it wouldn't return officers' ranks to 2008 levels.

"We're trying to play catch up" on a primary function of state government, said Pitts, R-Laurens.

The plan would spend \$732 million on state taxes on law enforcement and courts, up from \$684 million this fiscal year.

Officer safety issues in prisons stem from years of neglect, because of legislators not wanting to appear to show a soft side for inmates.

Two hostage situations last year — within three months — at maximum-security Lee

See **BUDGET**, Page 5A

BY THE NUMBERS

The House Ways and Means budget plan for 2013-14 provides law enforcement agencies an additional \$50 million. A look at some highlights:

Department of Corrections:

- deferred maintenance, \$3.6 million
- security systems and equipment, \$3.5 million
- 3 percent pay raise for maximum-security guards, \$1.7 million
- mental health and substance abuse services, \$1.2 million
- paving perimeter roads, \$1 million
- Broad River sewer system upgrade, \$700,000
- kitchen equipment, \$489,400
- observation towers at Lee Correctional, \$236,900
- weapons replacement, \$40,000

Florence Police will close southern headquarters

Agency will make more

Florence.

The department is moving its

munication between all on-duty

officers, as officers

disperse to their assigned regions

just as they always have," Shells



SPRING FOOTBALL

10 questions as Carolina opens drills today. B1



The story behind 'THE BIBLE'

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TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013

The Times and Democrat

75 CENTS • ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

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3 SECTIONS, 48 PAGES • VOL. 132 • NO. 64

Warrick can't make hires

Trustee panel won't let president name administrators

By DALE LINDER-ALTMAN
T&D Staff Writer

South Carolina State University's Executive Committee ended interim President Dr. Cynthia Warrick's authority to issue administrative contracts for the upcoming school year.

Trustees decided on a 3-2 vote Monday not to hand out any administrative-level contracts, "until after a decision has been made on a selection has been made for a permanent president."

S.C. State is searching for a new, permanent president to lead the institution. Board Chair-

man Walter L. Tobin said the reason behind the decision was not personal, but was meant to allow the new permanent president to do his or her own hiring.

Warrick has applied for the position and has the same chance any other applicant has, he said. She may become the permanent president.

Trustees Patricia Lott and Linda Edwards Duncan tried to convince fellow committee members to get a legal opinion before approving the change. When they could not get other members to agree, they voted against the motion.

"I just want to make it clear I'm not against the motion," Lott said. "The only thing I want to make sure is that we are within our legal rights to do that."

Duncan said she was not "against completing our fiduciary responsibilities in that matter, but I just want to be sure that we have covered ourselves legally."

Trustee Maurice Washington, who made the motion, said he was sure the action was legal.

See HIRES, A6



LARRY HADLEY/TS&D

David Benjamin, 27, went on trial Monday in connection with the nightclub shooting of 23-year-old Dominique Lawton.

FIREFIGHTERS DO BATTLE IN SANTEE



TS&D CORRESPONDENT MARTHA ROSE BROWN

A trash fire got out of control Monday afternoon, destroying a Ketch Circle home in Santee, along with a mobile home and two storage sheds on the property. An elderly couple and their son lost everything in the blaze, but no one was injured. Approximately 25 firefighters from several departments fought the blaze most of the afternoon. Also assisting at the scene were American Red Cross volunteers.

Trash fire spreads, destroys house, mobile home, sheds

By MARTHA ROSE BROWN
T&D Correspondent

SANTEE — A trash fire whipped out of control by gusty winds Monday afternoon destroyed the home of a Santee family and three other structures on their property.

Fire Chief Shul Shuler said the Providence

Fire Department received a call from Orangeburg County dispatch at 1:10 p.m. to respond to a "grass fire" on Ketch Circle, just off Felder Road between Santee and Providence.

Responding immediately, Shuler said he could tell by the thick smoke as he neared the scene that he and other firefighters were dealing with much more than a grass fire.

"I arrived at the scene, along with two fire trucks," Shuler said, as most of the firefighters began to leave the scene and head home after a long afternoon of battling the blaze.

Shuler said when he arrived at the scene,

See FIRE, A5

Prosecutors say dance floor bump led to club murder

By RICHARD WALKER
T&D Staff Writer

ST. MATTHEWS — A officer testified it was chaos the night a man died in a barage of gunfire at a Calhoun County nightclub known locally as "Piggy Park."

David Benjamin, 27, went on trial Monday to face a charge of murder. Authorities say an accidental dance floor bump led to a simmering anger that ended in gunfire.

"The reaction to that bump is a confrontation," prosecutor Ted Lupton told jurors. "You're going to hear the defendant's reaction to that bump."

After the altercation spilled into the parking lot of the club, 23-year-old Dominique Lawton was dead of a gunshot wound.

Two other club-goers were struck by gunfire that night as well.

In his opening statement, defense attorney Nick Thomas said his client was in danger that night.

"When David Benjamin and his buddies came out of the club, there was a little man — a little man — with a big gun, and there were shots fired," he said. "And David and his friends were just trying to get out of there."

Calhoun County Sheriff's Deputy Terry Sneed told the court the call came in about the shooting at a remote nightclub at around 4 a.m.

See BUMP, A6

Man charged in attack on woman



4th suspect sought in pistol-whipping

Jeff Taillon

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