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To:
Date: 7/11/2016 8:45:39 AM
Subject: SC Front Pages – Monday, July 11, 2016

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The Post and Courier

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Monday, July 11, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Part of the solution

After a heartbreaking week for nation, 200 gather at a local church to pray and speak out, while others demonstrate love at unity walk



A large crowd gathered Sunday at the top of the Ravenel Bridge to observe a moment of silence following a unity rally held in response to the killings of, and by, police officers during the past week.

BY DAVID SLADE
dslade@postandcourier.com

At the end of a bloody week, when the killings of police, and by police, shocked the nation, Charleston-area residents came together in different ways to seek peace, and solutions.

At Charity Missionary Baptist Church in North Charleston about 200 people gathered Sunday evening to pray, speak their minds, and at times question local officials who attended, including Charleston County Sheriff Al Cannon. Across the Cooper River in Mount Pleasant a crowd that grew to about 250 gathered in Waterfront Memorial Park for a unity rally and a walk to the top of the Ravenel Bridge.

The church event was first planned following the killings by police of Alton Sterling, Tuesday in Louisiana, and Philando Castile, Wednesday in Minnesota, and was originally titled "How to get black men off the endangered species list." Following the Dallas sniper attack Thursday that killed 5 police officers and injured 7 more, the church refocused the event as a community forum titled "Part of the solution."

"Things changed, with Dallas," said Pastor Nelson B. Rivers III, who compared the racially motivated slaying of white police officers with



Rev. Nelson B. Rivers III (right) reads the names of the seven victims in last week's deadly shootings in Baton Rouge, St. Paul, and Dallas at a community forum Sunday at Charity Baptist Missionary Church.

the racially motivated slaying of black churchgoers in Charleston last summer at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

"What was said by the gunman was exactly what was said at Emanuel," said Rivers. "But

Please see GATHER, Page A4

Anti-violence march shuts down I-26

BY MAYA T. PRABHU
mprabhu@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — Interstate 26 into Columbia was shut down late Sunday night for nearly an hour as more than 500 people marched through the city to protest police violence, following a path that later saw them occupy the Statehouse steps.

Chanting "No Justice, No Peace — No Racist Police" the crowd originally left from the Statehouse during the early evening, going down Main Street before ending up at the Statehouse again. They even passed the Governor's Mansion after dark.

Please see F-26, Page A4

Dallas suspect taunted officials

Leaders say gunman planned larger attack

BY NOMAAN MERCHANT
Associated Press

DALLAS — The suspect in the deadly attack on Dallas police taunted authorities during two hours of negotiations, laughing at them, singing and at one point asking how many officers he had shot, the police chief said Sunday.

The chief and the county's most senior elected official also said Micah Johnson had larger attack plans and possessed enough explosive material to inflict far greater harm.

"We're convinced that this suspect had other plans and thought that what he was doing was righteous and believed that he was going to target law enforcement — make us pay for what he sees as law enforcement's efforts to punish people of color," Dallas Police Chief David Brown told CNN's "State of the Union."

Johnson, a black Army veteran, insisted on speaking with a black negotiator and wrote in blood on the wall of a parking garage where police

Please see SUSPECT, Page A4

Militant ties explored in Dallas probe

BY LISA MARIE PANE
Associated Press

DALLAS — Police shootings of black men in Louisiana and Minnesota were followed by calls from black militant groups and others to seek vengeance against officers. Almost immediately, several officers were attacked, including the five slain by a sniper in Dallas.

Now authorities are investigating whether the Dallas gunman was directed by those groups or merely emboldened by them.

"I think it's safe to say we'll leave no stone unturned," Dallas Deputy Police Chief Scott Walton said.

Police have been tight-lipped about exactly what they're investigating and what they've uncovered so far. Although Micah Johnson was connected

Please see MILITANT, Page A4

Confederate flag defenders raise banner

Secessionist Party rallies at Statehouse as foes shout

BY MAYA T. PRABHU
mprabhu@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — The Confederate flag flew once again Sunday at the South Carolina Statehouse, when members of the S.C. Secessionist Party raised the banner on the one-year anniversary of its removal.

Bringing their own 30-foot pole with them, flag supporters raised the flag shortly after 11 a.m. in an attempt to show the rest of the state their Southern pride and heritage would not be erased, said party founder James Bessemer.

"Our flag is missing and we've come to put it back. So without any more delay, let's put it back," Bessemer said to kick off the rally that at its peak drew about 150 people.

Please see FLAG, Page A4



Supporters raise the Confederate battle flag Sunday during a rally organized by the S.C. Secessionist Party at the Statehouse in Columbia. The event marked the one-year anniversary of the Confederate flag's removal from Statehouse grounds.



Online

For more photos and a video from Sunday's raising of the Confederate flag at the Statehouse marking a year since its removal, go to postandcourier.com.

Inside



SPORTS

Portugal stuns France to win first Euro cup. C3

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Charleston
Deals & Savings

The Loophole
\$10 for \$20 worth of food
at Johns Island's The
Loophole. See A2

SEC FOOTBALL
The 5 most important players at media days 1B



USC FOOTBALL
Former RNE player Brunson among freshman standouts 1B



MONDAY JULY 11 2016

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TODAY: PARTLY SUNNY; T-STORM CHANCE HI 96 LO 76
YESTERDAY: HI 99 LO 76 PRECIP. (in of 3 p.m.) 0"
FORECAST, BC

The State



PALMETTO VOICES

LOOKING FOR A BOOZY BEACH?

Island Packet columnist David Lauderdale describes a sea change by the sea, as Hilton Head misses out on the ranking of drunk beaches. 1C

AFTER THE FLOOD

Some area homeowners eager to explore buyouts

BY TIM FLACH
tflach@thestate.com

Persistent flooding after downpours has Tami Rhodes ready to leave her home near Irmo even though it escaped major damage during last fall's record rain.

"I definitely want to get out of here," she said. "It's stressful every time it rains."

Rhodes is among homeowners eager to consider Lexington

County plans to buy, raze 30 homes in neighborhood near Irmo

Focus on flood-prone tracts along Kinley Creek

Accepting buyout is voluntary for residents; repair aid also available

County's plan to acquire and demolish residences in flood-prone parts of the Challedon neighborhood.

County officials are looking at

using \$6 million in federal disaster aid received after October's floods to buy out homes along Kinley Creek, a stream that sometimes overflows in

heavy rain. Which ones? It doesn't matter how much damage a home sustained in October: It matters where it sits, county officials say.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is recommending razing some homes that line the creek after reviewing drainage problems in the watershed through which it flows, from Broad River Road south to the lower Saluda River.

SEE FLOOD, 6A

STATE

NEWSRING PASTOR REMOVED



NewSpring Church founder Perry Noble has been removed as

pastor of the megachurch because of personal behavior related to alcohol. 3A

LOCAL

100-PLUS STREAK ENDS - FOR NOW

Columbia didn't hit an eighth consecutive 100-plus degree day Sunday, but triple digits could return by the end of this week. 3A

THE CONFEDERATE FLAG: 1 YEAR LATER



PHOTOGRAPHS BY GERRY MELLENDZ gmmellendz@thestate.com

The S.C. Secessionist Party marked the one-year anniversary of the Confederate flag coming down from the State House by raising the banner again on a temporary pole Sunday.

Banner comes back - just for a day

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT
bmarchant@thestate.com

After its removal from the State House grounds a year ago, the Confederate flag was back - if just for the day.

ONLINE

THESTATE.COM: See photos and videos from Sunday's rally, as well as stories about the one-year anniversary of the flag's removal, with this story online.

flag's removal from a Confederate soldiers memorial at the

the same spot.

But it would fly only until the event permit expired, at 5 p.m. Sunday.

The rally drew about 150 people from across South Carolina and beyond, according to an estimate from the S.C. Department of Public Safety, as

cessionist Party, which plans to make the raising an annual event.

Party chairman James Be-sseger said the flag is needed on the monument to honor the thousands of South Carolinians who lost their lives fighting for the Confederacy. "We memo-





SPORTS VAULTING TO RIO



METRO Rally calls for unity, peace

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

MONDAY,
JULY 11, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

EXCLUSIVE INVESTIGATIVE REPORT



Michelle McCarroll flips through a photo album and looks at pictures of her brother, Jamie Rosemond, in her home earlier this year.

LAUREN PETRACCA/STAFF

3 YOUNG LIVES CUT TOO SHORT

PROFILES BY RICK BRUNDRETT RBRUNDRETT@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

Three young men, all in their early to mid-20s, lived in community residential group homes in the state. The three homes—one in Mauldin and two in Charleston County—are run by a private company contracted by the state to look after the well-being of some of South Carolina's most vulnerable adults. In the span of three years, all three would die.

JAMIE ROSEMOND



ROSEMOND FAMILY PHOTO

Despite earlier wanderings, he left one last time

In 2008 and again in 2012, Jamie Rosemond walked away from the Mauldin group home where he was living, including once when he was found walking along a nearby road, records show.

In December 2012, the 25-year-old diagnosed with autism and schizophrenia, broke out a window in his bedroom at the home on Elbow Lane. Court records show he was a dangerous

FORREST CARLTON



ABCNEWS 4

Investigators say group home's logs modified

Less than three weeks before Christmas 2013, Forrest Carlton was killed by a hit-and-run driver after wandering from the Charleston County group home where he lived.

A Charleston County Sheriff's Office report reviewed by The Greenville News said Mentor's time logs for four residents of the Elbow Lane group home, Church Creek

CHARLES NOLAND



NOLAND FAMILY PHOTO

Final years of Noland's life marked by pain

The death of Charles William Noland last year marked the end of a long road of abuse allegations and hospitalizations for the severely autistic 23-year-old who lived the final years of his life in a Charleston County group home.

Little has been publicly revealed about the circumstances of the life of Noland, whose parents live in Taylors.

Noble removed as senior pastor

Board cites 'unfortunate choices and decisions'

ABE HARDESTY
INDEPENDENT MAIL

About 2,000 members made the warm walk across the NewSpring Church parking lot in Anderson for each worship service Sunday morning.



Perry Noble

Few were fully braced for the news that awaited: Perry Noble, the only senior pastor the church has known, has been removed from his duties for personal issues related to alcohol by the church's leadership team.

Williamston Town Councilman Rocky Burgess said the news "did come as a shock" in the 9:15 a.m. service, even though recent rumors had prepared him to a degree.

"But the church isn't made up of the preacher, and the church doesn't worship the preacher," he said. "The church is the people who go there, and we all love one another."

By the time members arrived for the 11:15 a.m. service, most seemed better prepared for the announcement from Executive Pastor Shane Duffey.

Early in both worship services, Duffey revealed the well-kept secret that Noble had been fired effective July 1.

In the second session, few in the near-filled lower level of the auditorium showed any visible reaction to the news.

The NewSpring Board of Directors, Duffey said, made "a difficult and painful decision" to remove Noble, adding that the founder was "no longer qualified to serve as pastor" at the state's largest church.

Duffey said the termination came after Noble "had made unfortunate choices and decisions that have caused much concern" among board members, who had confronted Noble more than once in recent months about his alcohol use and his "posture toward marriage."

Noble, who in recent years has openly discussed bouts with depression, did not appear to be at the church Sunday morning. Duffey read a statement in which Noble expressed remorse and a plan to "immediately seek spiritual guidance."

Noble said he "will no longer be pastor on July 1," indicating his statement had been written at least 10 days earlier.

"I wish this were a joke, and part of a sermon illustration," Noble said in the statement regarding his termination, "but it is true."

The revelation came as the megachurch, which boasts more than 30,000 members in 17 cities in South Carolina, is in the final stage of two expansions.

In the statement, Noble said he "never claimed to be a perfect pastor and was always a sinner."



'SECRET LIFE OF PETS' A RUNAWAY HIT

BUSINESS, A9



MURRY IS WIMBLEDON CHAMPION

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Monday, July 11, 2016



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92°/71° 92°/71° 93°/72°

Complete forecast, A10

IN BRIEF

Hotel sprinkler system damaged accidentally

After further investigation there was no explosion or fire on the third floor at the Sleep Inn on South Blackstock Road on Saturday night.

According to the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office, the incident that forced two dozen guests to evacuate was caused when a sprinkler head was accidentally damaged in one of the motel rooms by a motel guest. The damage caused the sprinkler system to engage, causing water damage in portions of the hotel. No criminal charges will be filed in the case. The Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office and fire departments from several areas responded to the hotel about 7 p.m. to investigate that the sprinkler system had been activated. —From staff reports

TIP SHEET

Today

- Spartanburg City Council meets at 5:30 p.m. in council chambers at City Hall, 145 W. Broad St., Spartanburg.
- Spartanburg School District 1 meets at 7 p.m. at the district office, 121 Wheeler St., Campobello.

Tuesday

- Spartanburg City Board of Zoning Appeals meets at 5:15 p.m. in council chambers at City Hall, 145 W. Broad St., Spartanburg.
- Spartanburg School District 2 meets at 7 p.m. at the district office, 4606 Parris Bridge Road, Boiling Springs.
- Spartanburg County Planning Commission meets at 4:30 p.m. at the County Administration Building, 366 N. Church St., Spartanburg.

Thursday

- Spartanburg City Board of Architectural Design and Review meets at 5:30 p.m. in council chambers at City Hall, 145 W. Broad St., Spartanburg.

POLICE SHOOTINGS DALLAS

Suspect taunted police

Gunman laughed, asked how many cops he had killed

By Reese Dunklin and Juliet Linderman
The Associated Press

DALLAS — The suspect in the deadly attack on Dallas police taunted authorities during two hours of negotiations, laughing at them, singing and at one point

asking how many officers he had shot, the police chief said Sunday.

Micah Johnson, a black Army veteran, insisted on speaking with a black negotiator and wrote in blood on the wall of a parking garage where police cornered and later killed him, David Brown told CNN's "State of the Union."

Johnson, who was apparently wounded in a shootout with police, wrote the letters "RB" and other markings, but the meaning was unclear. Investigators are trying



Dallas police tighten security at their headquarters after receiving an anonymous threat against law enforcement across the city Saturday in Dallas. ERIC GAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEE DALLAS, A7

REUSING AND RENEWING

Solar farm to bring power to Spartanburg neighborhoods



State Rep. Harold Mitchell says a solar power project will reverse negative environmental effects that a landfill once had on the Arkwright and Forest Park neighborhoods. ALEX HICKS JR./ALEX.HICKS@SHJ.COM

500 homes in Forest Park, Arkwright could benefit

By Alyssa Mulliger
alyssa.mulliger@shj.com

Plans for a solar project that will reuse the former Arkwright landfill to deliver

megawatt site.

The emissions offset of the project will be equal to removing about 4,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide from the environment, or taking

"The solar farm is a great option for the property, which is too large for a single public entity, like

INSOMNIA COULD PAY OFF

Restless nights mean opportunity

Greenwood man plans privately owned solar farm

By Adam Benson
The Index-Journal of Greenwood

GREENWOOD — Sometimes, inspiration strikes people in their sleep.

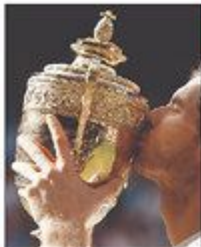
But for Marvin "Buck" Griffin Jr., it's the quiet hours in the middle of the night, when he finds his insomnia prevailing, that opportunity is discovered.

Most recently, Griffin's inability to find slumber sparked what might be his most ambitious venture: Creating one of the state's only privately operated solar farms on a portion of the 139 acres he owns.

This was not the first time insomnia has stirred his imagination.

Several years ago, his sleeplessness drew him to the Internet, where the Greenwood County GOP chairman happened upon an article espousing the virtues of geothermal home heating. So, he built a system himself.

A year ago, Griffin — who also runs the Greenwood County Air



SPORTS Murray's 1st Wimbledon was for Britain, 2nd was for himself. **Page 1B**

Morning News

MONDAY JULY 11, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER

Clouds and sun with a stray 1 storm. High 92, low 73. DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Noble ousted as top pastor at NewSpring

Alcohol use, other issues led to decision

BY ABE HARDESTY

Independent Mail
ahardesty@independentmail.com

ANDERSON — The Rev. Perry Noble, who started NewSpring Church nearly 20 years ago in Anderson, is no longer its senior pastor.

Early in a 9:15 a.m. service Sunday in Anderson, Executive Pastor Shane Duffey announced that Noble had been removed as pastor on July 1, after the NewSpring board of directors had "made a difficult and painful decision" to make a change.

NewSpring now has 17 campuses across South Carolina, including one recently built on North Cashua Drive in Florence.

Duffey said the termination by the state's largest and richest church came after Noble "had made unfortunate choices," and that the board members had confronted Noble on numerous occasions regarding his use of alcohol.

The announcement came three days after a closed-door, unscheduled meeting of church officials that fueled rumors throughout the community that the 45-year-old Noble was at odds with church hierarchy.

Noble, in a statement read by Duffey, said, "I wish this were a joke, and part of a sermon illustration, but it is true."

He also confirmed an "overuse of alcohol" in the statement, adding

See **NOBLE**, Page 4A

Lighthouse Ministries expands some of its services

BY SHAMIRA MCCRAY

Morning News
smccray@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Lighthouse Ministries has expanded some of its services this summer because of an increase in need.

The nonprofit organization is now offering food for families and fans for people age 55 and older, and it is increasing what it gives for utilities.

Lighthouse Ministries Executive Director Cecilia Meggs said Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility requirements recently were changed. Any single, able-bodied people with no dependents could no longer receive such benefits, she said.

Meggs said she and other staff members also realized that the Manna House in Florence only served food to people who reside in the city limits of Florence. Light-

Black Creek BioBlitz



Kaelin Jokisch shows off a baby frog that she found during a Pee Dee Land Trust BioBlitz.

Pee Dee Land Trust program immerses children in nature

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN
Morning News
dswearingen@florencenews.com

TO LEARN MORE

Visit peedeelandtrust.org.

FLORENCE — Frogs. Beetles. Animal tracks.

These are just a few of the items checked off the scavenger hunt lists of the seven eager children who participated last week in a BioBlitz at the Dargan Nature Preserve.

The Black Creek BioBlitz is an initiative of the Pee Dee Land Trust. The program is meant to engage youths in the community by allowing them to survey flora and fauna and become "citizen scientists" for an hour or two.

See **NATURE**, Page 3A



Each Monday, the Morning News features a good news story on a person, place or organization in the Pee Dee. If you have a suggestion for someone or something to profile, send it to news@snow.com.

Tally Ho



Katrina Hutto, owner of Tally Ho Equestrian Center, leads a riding lesson on Friday.

PHOTOS BY MEGAN MAY/MORNING NEWS

Equestrian center owner has enjoyed horsing around

BY MEGAN MAY

Morning News
mmay@florencenews.com



TIMMONSVILLE — In a way, Katrina Hutto began her career when she was 7 years old.

That was the year that Hutto, the current owner of Tally Ho Equestrian Center, had her first riding lesson. She and her father used to lease horses to ride, and one day he realized she needed to take formal lessons to really learn.

"I guess he didn't realize it would last 40 years, that it would be a life-

LOCAL
Gliders off the coast could help increase hauls of fishermen 3A



LOCAL
Museum's new exhibit dives into the rich history of the oyster 3A



MONDAY JULY 11 2016

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HILTON HEAD ISLAND
BLUFFTON

Chance of storms
91°/78° See 2A

THE ISLAND PACKET



Members of the audience pray during Sunday night's Community Prayer Vigil honoring the victims of last week's violence in Baton Rouge, La., Minneapolis and Dallas. The service was held at Veterans Memorial Park in Shelter Cove.

HILTON HEAD ISLAND

Prayer vigil honors lives lost to violence

Community members gather Sunday night to pray for those who were recently killed in shootings across the country

At least 15 different faith communities were represented at the vigil

BY JOAN McDONOUGH
jmcdonough@islandpacket.com

Scores of neighbors and community members came together on Hilton Head Island to pray on Sunday night, holding hands and remembering those who lost their lives in some of the most recent shootings throughout the country.

Veterans Memorial Park at Shelter Cove was filled with people of all ages, colors, faiths and backgrounds as the sun went down. At least 15 different faith communities were represented, offering up prayers for Alton Sterling, Philando Castile, Brent



Irvin Campbell, Commander of American Legion Post 49, speaks during Sunday's Community Prayer Vigil.

Thompson, Patrick Zamarripa, Michael Krol, Lorne Ahrens, Michael Smith and all of their loved ones.

"The challenge for all of us is to create new and positive ways to turn all of our problems, differences and hate into love," said Blaine Lotz as he opened the prayer vigil.

Mayor David Bennett addressed the community, asking them to be good Samaritans to one another, and treat everyone as a neighbor.

"If we want to be a whole community, it starts with relationships," he said.

Community leader Alex Brown said that while the community

doesn't have problems with police abusing power, there is still hate and pain that need mending on Hilton Head Island.

"Let us not be fooled; this island that we call paradise is not immune," Brown said to everyone gathered.

Cries of "amen" sounded through the park throughout the vigil, as the gathered sat in the sun, praying for the lives lost and the lives of those who are in fear because of the color of their skin or the badge that they wear.

Even then, the community seemed hopeful; shaking hands, holding each other, singing.

"Make no mistake about it," Brown reminded the crowd of people. "Our God is still in control."

Joan McDonough: 843-706-8125,
[@IPBG_Joan](https://twitter.com/IPBG_Joan)

ONLINE

For video from the vigil, go to islandpacket.com

MORE INSIDE

- Protesters shut down interstate near downtown St. Paul. 5A
- About 100 people arrested as marches continue in Louisiana. 5A
- Dallas shooting suspect taunted police during hours of negotiation. 5A
- Obama urges greater respect, understanding after shootings. 5A



SPORTS

JIN TAKES LEAD IN PLAYERS AM

Cheng Jin eases away from his competition to open a three-shot lead heading into today's final round at Berkeley Hall. 1B



LOWCOUNTRY LIFE

COMING SOON: WATER FEST

Downtown Beaufort is the place to be when the Beaufort Water Festival begins 10 days of entertainment and activities. 5B



NATION

TWA FLIGHT 800: 20 YEARS LATER

Twenty years after TWA

LAKE GREENWOOD RESCUE

Off-duty trooper saves man from drowning

By DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ
ddominguez@indexjournal.com

A tragedy was averted today on Lake Greenwood when an off-duty Highway Patrol trooper and his wife noticed a man nearly drowning, and the trooper dove in to save him.

Pfc. Preston Garner, a Department of Natural Resources officer who responded to the call, said the man who nearly drowned had gotten off his boat for a swim when high winds made him drift away. He was unable to swim back to his boat and began struggling to stay afloat at 2 p.m. Saturday when an off-duty trooper and his wife saw and rescued him.

Kara Sprouse, a nurse, and her husband, Trooper First Class W.B. Sprouse, were trying to spend the evening together alone, Kara said.

"Once or twice a month, we'll get somebody to watch all four of our kids so we can get to spend some time together," she said.

While preparing for their day together, Kara said the two of them ran into a few speed bumps. A visit to see family, stopping to make lunch and other things that ate up time before they could get on their boat and enjoy the lake. She said the lake was pleasant, and they boated out farther than they usually go. When it was time to head back to pick up their children, she said the lake was unusually quiet.

"The lake is so busy all day long," she said, "but it just seemed like everybody had disappeared."

On their way back, with few other boats to distract or clutter the scene, Kara said she saw a woman waving to them from a boat in the distance. She told her husband, who goes by Butler, she thought something was wrong.

"I guess it was the way they were waving," Butler said. "Both hands in the air, crossing the arms kind of waving, like they needed help."

She said she made eye contact with the man shortly before he sunk under the water. Butler said as they approached the man his wife looked poised to dive in after him.

"I dove in, and from the view from the water I couldn't see him anymore," he said.

Looking underwater, Butler was able to gauge where the man was when he saw him moving under water, and carried him up. Kara threw a life vest from the boat down to help the men stay afloat.

"I'm a nurse and he works in the Highway Patrol, so we've dealt with things like that from time to time," she said. "But by no means did it make it any easier or less terrifying."

The nearly drowned man didn't have the strength to climb aboard the Sprouses' boat, so Butler stayed in the water holding him up until he regained his strength. The woman who had flagged them down, who Kara said was the man's girlfriend, was also brought onboard so they could perform CPR if needed. They called 911 and navigated to the nearest dock so they could give a physical address to paramedics.

See RESCUE, page 4A



Church removes pastor

NewSpring ousts founder as senior preacher

Associated Press

ANDERSON — Leaders of South Carolina's massive NewSpring Church said Sunday that its founder has been ousted as senior pastor over issues including alcohol use.

The Independent Mail in Anderson reported that another church leader, executive pastor Shane Duffey, announced at a Sunday service that the Christian church, which has a satellite campus in Greenwood, had removed the Rev. Perry Noble on July 1.

Duffey said the removal came after the "unfortunate choices" by Noble. He said the church's board had confronted Noble multiple times about his use of alcohol.

A statement attributed to Noble and read during the service confirmed that he overused alcohol.

"No one is more disappointed in me than I am in myself," Noble said in the statement.

Noble didn't immediately respond to an email Sunday from The Associated Press seeking further comment.

The church's website says that 30,000 people attend services each week at 17 NewSpring locations around the state. The church's 2015 annual report on its website said that its income was about \$64 million for the year.

See PASTOR, page 4A



PERRY NOBLE



A photo of a NewSpring Church satellite campus, which sits at 1306 S.C. Highway 72 NE in Greenwood, on Sunday. The head pastor, Perry Noble, of the satellite church based in Anderson was fired on July 1.

ETHAN JOYCE / INDEX-JOURNAL

Master Gardener growing his passion

By ST. CLAIRE DONAGHY
sdonaghy@indexjournal.com

Jimmy L. McInville is the 2015 Lakelands Master Gardener of the Year.

Nominated by his peers and fellow Master Gardeners, McInville said he had no clue he was up for the award, announced at the beginning of 2016.

To achieve Master Gardener certification, a person must complete a course of study and contribute at least 40 hours per year to community horticultural events during the first year, with 20 service hours annually thereafter.

The local chapter has fundraisers and scholarships are available to offset cost of the class.



JIMMY McINVILLE
Lakelands Master Gardener of the Year

in-between."

"I never thought I'd be doing all the stuff I am," McInville said. "You get out of the class what you put into it. I don't get paid for it, but I love my hometown and I enjoy taking pride in where I live."

Classes meet once a week, but students continue to learn after classes are complete, McInville said.



Camlin Moore

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