

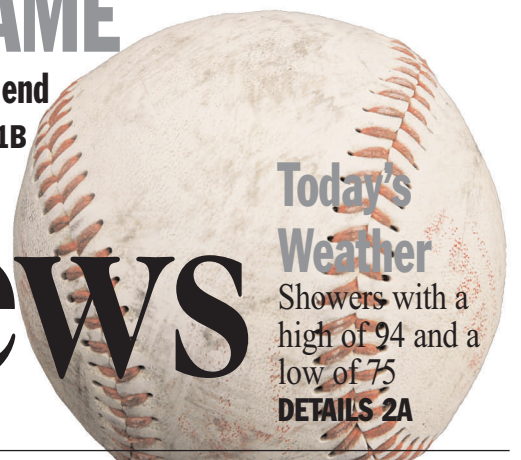


## FOND MEMORIES

Basketball trailblazers look back on time spent playing professionally **PAGE 1B**

## ALL-STAR GAME

National League stars try to end AL dominance **PAGE 1B**



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# Meeting marred by quarreling

By **Dwight Dana**  
*Morning News*  
ddana@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — A Purple Heart recipient got up two hours into the Florence City Council meeting Monday and stormed out of the chambers before council

passed a resolution making Veterans Day an official city holiday.

Mike McIntire, commander of Florence American Legion Post 1, had enough of the city governing body bickering about black and white issues.

He agreed with Council-

woman Octavia Williams-Blake who said, "This is not about black and white issues. It's embarrassing to sit up here before these veterans and argue like this. We need to work together to get things done. Decisions should be made ahead of time."

McIntire said he had

heard enough of Councilman Ed Robinson's arguments, mostly concerning additional funding for the Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority.

"I'm going to do the right things," Robinson said as Mayor Stephen J. Wukela tried to ease the tensions by

telling both Robinson and McIntire they were out of order. "The facts are facts and that's that."

McIntire and other veterans were waiting for council to discuss a resolution to add Veterans Day to the city's list of official holidays. The meeting had been going on

for two hours, with the bulk of the time being spent on discussing council writing a letter of support for a PDR-TA grant request and other PDRTA matters.

Council allocates \$35,000 a year to PDRTA, but PDRTA

**See COUNCIL, 8A**

# 'A very slow, harsh death'

Third animal cruelty case in Pee Dee reported on Monday

By **Elizabeth Lamb**  
*Morning News*  
elamb@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — A Florence dog joined the ranks Monday as the third case of animal cruelty in the Pee Dee in the past month.

Florence County Animal Control officials found a large black dog dead in a small transport crate in late June after neighbors reported seeing the animal.

Scotty Davis, director of community services in Florence, said the temperature inside the crate reached 114 degrees before the dog died, after spending three days in the crate.

Charles Bell, of 705 Ventura Court in Florence, faces animal cruelty charges. He was not arrested, but is scheduled to appear in court July 23 at 10 a.m. to face the charges.

Davis said crimes like these are typically classified as misdemeanor offenses and carry a \$500 fine and possible 30 days in jail.

"Certainly in our opinion the animal died a very slow, harsh death in the heat," Davis said.

Davis said Bell's first offense came in 2008, when officials found two pit bulls in a cage with feces.

Bell surrendered the dogs to officials after they checked up on the case a few weeks later and found

Bell had not complied with orders.

Jayne Boswell, president of the Florence Area Humane Society, said animal cruelty can be intentional or unintentional, but pets are ultimately their owner's responsibility.

"I always tell people, if you don't think that cruelty exists in our community, then go take a peek in your neighbor's backyard. I think, unfortunately, animal abuse and animal cruelty is not stamped on any one level of person or any area of town, it can happen anywhere," Boswell said.

Both Davis and Boswell emphasized keeping pets hydrated and out of hot cars during the summer months.

"If we see something like that happening, it's crucial that we get help immediately because a body's temperature, even a human body's temperature, goes up quickly in a hot car or in the hot sun without any kind of shade or any kind of water and those animals lives are on the line," Boswell said.

Davis said the number of animal cruelty cases tends to have an upward trend during the summer months.

"We have a lot of citizens who are outside a lot more and they're more aware of animal cruelty and they're calling us on a more frequent basis," Davis said.

As for the recent rash of animal cruelty cases,



Boswell said she's glad members of the community are stepping forward.

"I think that we have to step forward as a body and as a group of compassionate people to end animal abuse and animal neglect, as well," Boswell said.

Other recent incidents of animal cruelty include Timmonsville's Doc Smith, who tethered four pit bulls

**See CRUELTY, 8A**

STAFF PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH LAMB

**Above: A dog rests at Florence County Animal Control shelter in Effingham after being brought there in early July suffering from malnutrition.**

**Herbie Christmas, Florence County environmental services officer, said making sure pets have enough water to drink during the summer is important to making sure dogs like this one stay healthy.**

**Right: This dog has been at the Florence County Animal Control building since early July.**



## Senate candidate's obscenity trial postponed

By **Robert Kittle**  
*Morning News*  
Columbia Bureau  
rkittle@florencenews.com

MANNING — Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Alvin Greene had the first cloud that's been hanging over him lifted Friday when the State Law Enforcement Division cleared him of doing anything wrong in paying his \$10,440 filing fee.

But the second cloud, a felony obscenity charge, isn't going away anytime soon. The trial on the charge was supposed to

start Monday but was postponed indefinitely by the solicitor's office.

SLED investigated where Greene got the money to pay his filing fee, since he's unemployed, and why he was assigned a public defender if he had the \$10,440 he later paid for the filing fee.

SLED looked at his bank records and court proceedings and found



Greene

that he did, in fact, save the money himself from his Army pay. He served 13 years in the Air Force and Army but has been unemployed since last year.

SLED also found that the court asked Greene what his monthly income was, but did not ask if he had any savings. He qualified for a public defender based on his income and was assigned one, but later released him and hired a private attorney.

Greene's reaction to SLED's findings? "Good. It was like I said all along."

He said he was hoping

the obscenity charge could be taken care of quickly but now doesn't know if it will be resolved before the November election. He's charged with showing pornography to a University of South Carolina student in a dorm computer lab and asking to go to her room with her. He won't discuss what happened because the court case is pending.

Greene came out of nowhere to win the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate, defeating former

**See GREENE, 8A**

## Americans using cell phones for health

By **Lauran Neergaard**  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — What if my blood sugar's too high today? Is it time for my blood pressure pill? With nagging text messages or more customized two-way interactions, researchers are trying to harness the power of cell phones to help fight chronic diseases.

"I call it medical minutes," says Dr. Richard Katz of George Washington Uni-

versity Hospital in the nation's capital.

He's testing whether inner-city diabetics, an especially hard-to-treat population, might better control their blood sugar — and thus save Medicaid dollars — by tracking their disease using Internet-connected cell phones, provided with reduced monthly rates as long as they regularly comply.

**See PHONES, 8A**

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