

GOAAAAAL!

The U.S. gets a dramatic win to move on to round of 16 of the World Cup SEE PAGE 1B

PLAYING THEIR CARDS RIGHT

Florence Bridge Club sponsors tournament to be held next week SEE PAGE 4A



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Volunteers change lives

By Steffani Nolte

Morning News
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FLORENCE — Despite the heat this week, a volunteer youth group has been working in Florence to fix up homes.

One hundred twenty-five youth divided into nine groups to paint, roof and replace rotten boards.

They call themselves the LifeChangers, and that's exactly what they're doing.

Julius Timmons enjoyed spending time outdoors and taking care of his yard.

He was even awarded Florence yard of the week. But his life changed after he had a stroke seven years ago.

"He didn't know what being sick was, he would always take care of everybody else," Geraldine Timmons, Julius' wife, said.

Geraldine has been taking care of her husband since the stroke. Getting him outdoors has been a challenge but she still tries.

"He puts his cane down like this and I hold on to him and sometimes him and I fall but I can usually find a neighbor to help us," Geraldine said.

A neighbor built a ramp for Julius seven years ago, but the ramp has seen better days.

The LifeChangers paid a visit to the Timmons family and rebuilt the ramp for Mr. Timmons, in addition to doing some yard work and painting.

Harold Reynolds is the home's crew chief. He said the feeling he gets from helping people out is hard to explain.

"Being homebound has got to be a terrible ordeal for somebody to put up with, especially on a beautiful day with the sun shining and the cool breeze blowing," Reynolds said. "Just nothing more than to come under this carport here and sit and watch the world go by."

This isn't just a life-changing experience for the Timmonses, it is also a life-changing experience for the youth who are learning how to paint, use power tools and share their Christian faith with others at work.

"Those guys back there



STAFF PHOTOS BY STEFFANI NOLTE



Above: LifeChangers group, "the Scruffy Scrapers," work to paint the lattice that will go on the outside of Julius and Geraldine Timmons ramp on Tuesday. Left: Harold Reynolds shows Ricky Smith and Walton Threath how to saw the boards for the Timmons' new ramp on Tuesday.

Petraeus picked to replace McChrystal

By Anne Gearan and Jennifer Loven
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama sacked his loose-lipped Afghanistan commander Wednesday, a seismic shift for the military order in wartime, and chose the familiar, admired — and tightly disciplined — Gen. David Petraeus to replace him. Petraeus, architect of the Iraq war turnaround, was once again to take hands-on leadership of a troubled war effort.

Obama said bluntly that Gen. Stanley McChrystal's scornful remarks about administration officials represent conduct that "undermines the civilian control of the military that is at the core of our democratic system."

He fired the commander after summoning him from Afghanistan for a face to face meeting in the Oval Office and named Petraeus, the Central Command chief who was McChrystal's direct boss, to step in. Obama had offered the job to Petraeus during a private White House meeting earlier Wednesday, said a senior military official.

In a statement expressing praise for McChrystal yet certainty he had to go, Obama said he did not make the decision over any disagreement in policy or "out of any sense of personal insult." Flanked by Vice President Joe Biden, Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in the Rose Garden, he said: "War is bigger than any one man or woman, whether a private, a general, or a president."

He urged the Senate to confirm Petraeus swiftly and emphasized the Afghanistan strategy he announced in December was not shifting with McChrystal's departure.

"This is a change in personnel but it is not a change in policy," Obama said.

Indeed, as Obama was speaking, McChrystal released a statement saying that he resigned out of "a desire to see the mission succeed."

"I strongly support the president's strategy in Afghanistan," McChrystal said.

Obama hit several grace notes about McChrystal and his service after their Oval Office meeting, saying that he made the decision to sack him "with considerable regret." And yet, he said the job in Afghanistan cannot be done now under McChrystal's leadership, asserting that the critical remarks from the general and his inner circle in the Rolling Stone magazine article displayed conduct that doesn't live up to the standards for a command-level officer.

See McCHRISTAL, 10A

Governor race heats up

By Jim Davenport
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — With election lineups finally set for November, South Carolina's political bosses telegraphed four months of bitter campaigning Wednesday that include plans to attack some figureheads who won't even be on ballots.

Democratic gubernatorial nominee Vincent Sheheen, a state senator, likened his newly appointed GOP rival to Gov. Mark Sanford. The term-limited incumbent has long alienated even lawmakers in his own

party by refusing to compromise on spending issues and ways to entice business to the state.

Sheheen said Wednesday that voters in November will have a choice "between extending the Sanford legacy of conflict, of division, of antagonism or of working together to solve the very real problems that we face in South Carolina right now."

Republicans said they intend to link Sheheen with Washington Democrats and rolled out a huge "spend-o-meter" with flashing numbers they said showed De-

mocrat-inspired spending. On top they hoisted pictures of President Barack Obama, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Sheheen and U.S. Rep. John Spratt, the South Carolina Democrat who writes the federal budget and who has become a top GOP target.

State GOP Chairman Karen Floyd said the "extreme liberal spending machine" would travel across the state wherever Sheheen campaigns to remind voters of spending.

Republicans also plan

See GOVERNOR, 10A

Event to promote safety for local youth

By Patricia Burkett
Morning News
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EFFINGHAM — Law enforcement agencies from across Florence County joined together Wednesday to kick off an effort to cut down on juvenile crime over the summer months.

Officers from the Florence Police Department, Florence County Sheriff's Office and the South Carolina Highway Patrol announced "Operation Safe

Summer 2010" at a law enforcement training facility in Effingham.

Officers from each department joined together for the announcement, spearheaded by Florence County Sheriff Kenney Boone, Florence Police Chief Anson Shells and S.C. Highway Patrol Cpt. Jo Nell.

In the effort, the officers will work together to help curb juvenile crime and provide opportunities

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