

INSIDE  
Obituaries, 2B  
Classifieds, 3B

# Region

## In Brief

### More suspects arrested in Florence shooting

DARLINGTON — Two suspects in a June 8 shooting on Dargan Street in Florence were found and arrested Tuesday in Darlington County, Florence Police Maj. Carlos Raines said.

Cornelius Samuel "Yampa" Cade, 21, of 501 Jarrott St. in Florence and Travis Michael "Tiny" Coward, 20, were found in a mobile home on Wood Chuck Drive about 3:15 p.m. Tuesday, Raines said.

Demetrius "Meatball" Sparks, 17, of 629 S. Dargan St. in Florence turned himself in to police Saturday night.

Each are charged with two counts of attempted murder and one count of criminal conspiracy.

The shooting happened after a car with several people in it drove up on a group of people gathered at a residence at the 700 block of South Dargan Street about 9 p.m. A man opened the door of the vehicle and fired at a woman in the group outside, Raines said. A bullet grazed the woman's face and hit a man who was standing behind her. Both survived.

Florence officers tracked down the car in east Florence and arrested a 16-year-old, who was transferred to the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice in Columbia, then returned to Florence where warrants for his arrest were signed, Raines said.

### Man robbed, sexually assaulted in graveyard

FLORENCE — A 15-year-old boy was arrested Tuesday after a man told police the teen pointed a gun at him and forced him to perform a sex act in a Florence graveyard, Florence Police Maj. Carlos Raines said.

It happened just after midnight Tuesday morning when the victim was walking on National Cemetery Road. That's when the teen approached him pulled a gun and forced him into a cemetery. There, the suspect pointed the gun at the victim and forced the man to perform oral sex, Raines said.

The suspect fled the scene but was later spotted by the victim getting into a black Ford with a woman at a nearby convenience store. The victim wrote down the vehicle's tag numbers and called E-911.

A Florence police officer soon spotted the vehicle and arrested the suspect after he was identified by the victim, Raines said.

The suspect is charged with armed robbery and criminal sexual conduct and was taken to the state Department of Juvenile Justice in Columbia, Raines said.

### Seven arrested at Olanta checkpoints

OLANTA — Officers conducting a traffic safety checkpoint by the 12th Circuit Law Enforcement Network on Friday encountered 179 vehicles and issued 13 tickets for moving violations at the intersection of U.S. 301 and Kelly's Crossroads near Effingham. Officers made four arrests.

At another checkpoint conducted that same night at North Jones Road near East Hampton and Madison streets in Olanta, 78 vehicles were encountered. Two arrests were made.

Officers encountered 22 vehicles at the night's third checkpoint at Hampton Street (S.C. 341) and West Main Street in Olanta. One arrest was made.

Violations at all three locations included driver's license violations, failure to stop for blue light, open containers of alcohol, child restraint violations, improper turns, seat belt violations, equipment violations, possession of marijuana and driving under suspension, according to a Florence County Sheriff's Office press release.

— From staff, local reports

# Inmate drowns in river

## From local reports

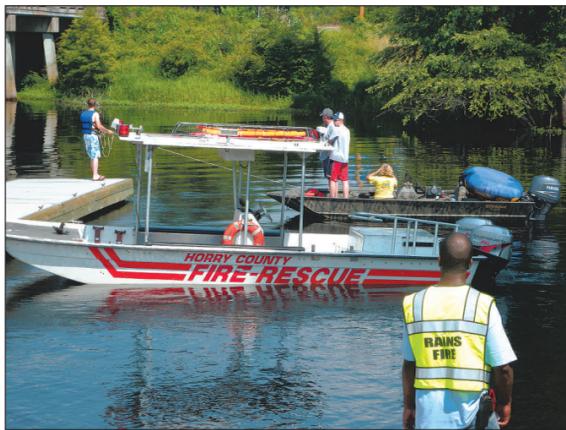
GALIVANTS FERRY — Officials have found the body of a Marion County Prison Farm inmate who went missing in the Little Pee Dee River on Tuesday afternoon.

They have only identified the inmate as a 40-year-old black man.

Inmates from the prison farm were picking up trash along the river at the Ernest Anderson Bridge when inmates asked if they could put their feet in the water to cool off, S.C. Department of Natural Resources Sgt. Joe Ard said.

One of the inmates swam out and another "went under" and did not surface.

The inmate who swam out is in custody, Ard said.



STAFF PHOTOS BY NAEEM MCFADDEN  
Horry County Fire and Rescue members search for a missing inmate from the Marion County Prison Farm at the Galivants Ferry boat landing on Tuesday. The crews located and removed the body from the river. The inmate, who has only been identified as a 40-year-old man, was working with other inmates collecting trash when he went into the water with another inmate, and only one surfaced.

Right top: Emergency responders keep an eye out for a missing inmate from the Marion County Prison Farm who went under water in the Little Pee Dee River at the Galivants Ferry boat landing Tuesday.  
Right bottom: Horry County dive team searches for the inmate who went missing in the Little Pee Dee River Tuesday.



# Veterans unveil marker



STAFF/ELIZABETH LAMB  
Charlie Warner, Post Adjunct of the American Legion Post 1, and Mike McIntire, commander of the post, unveil a new historical marker on Tuesday. The marker honors veterans in Florence, S.C., including 2nd Lt. Fred H. Sexton, who died during World War I.

By Elizabeth Lamb  
Morning News  
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FLORENCE — Members of the American Legion Post 1 in Florence gathered early Tuesday afternoon to unveil a new memorial roadside marker to honor 2nd Lt. Fred H. Sexton.

Sexton, who was born in

Union and raised in Florence, died during World War I in France.

After his death, Sexton was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest American military honor.

Bill Pace, former post adjutant at Post 50 in Hartsville, said the memorial represents living history.

"It's a record of what these guys have been through and it's important for young people to understand that," Pace said.

Michael McIntire, commander of Post 1, said the memorial is a small way to honor South Carolina's veterans.

"If it wasn't for the veterans in this country, we

would have no freedoms," McIntire said.

The marker took one year to plan and construct.

Pace, who spent six years in the Marine Corps, said celebrating all of our veterans from past and present is a tradition that should carry on.

See MARKER, 2B

# Arcade & Grill closes after 30 years

By Lisa Chalian-Rock  
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HARTSVILLE — On Tuesday, customers ate their last freshly made hamburgers from plain wax paper wrappers, and all the seats in front of the flashing screens of the video games were empty at the Hartsville Arcade & Grill.

The Tiller family sold its first hot dog at the Hartsville Arcade & Grill on North Fifth Street in 1980. The Tillers' father built the location in 1979, and they turned it into an arcade.

After Don Tiller retired from Sonoco, he took over the family business. A heart attack last year sidelined Don for awhile, so his brother Joel took a more active role.

"We hate to shut it down, but you can't take it out of your pocket to keep it open," Don Tiller said.

"Back then, the kids would pile in," he said. "Kids have games at home now."

See ARCADE, 2B

# Hartsville city budget gets final approval

By Jim Faile  
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HARTSVILLE — Hartsville City Council has given final approval to a series of ordinances making up a \$12.6 million budget package for the city for the coming fiscal year that starts July 1.

The package includes a general fund budget of more than \$7.3 million, a \$3.4 million-plus utilities fund budget, a solid waste fund budget of just more than \$1 million, a hospitality fund budget of about \$645,000, a storm water management utility fund of \$201,000 and an accommodations fund budget of \$89,430.

Council approved each budget ordinance unanimously following a public hearing on each during its regular meeting Tuesday.

Before presenting the budget for final approval on second reading, Interim City Manager Vern Myers said he moved \$30,000 back

into the Parks and Leisure Services Department's budget in the general fund after officials learned that one position had been inadvertently overlooked and that he reduced the contingency fund accordingly to \$282,603. That kept the contingency fund, which is used to cover unexpected expenses, at about 3.8 percent of the total general fund budget.

The new budget does not raise property taxes in the city. The city couldn't have raised property taxes this year even if it had needed to because its hands were tied by Act 388, the state's property tax relief act, which puts limits on the ability of local governments to raise taxes.

The utility fund budget reflects a small increase in water and sewer rates that takes effect July 1 under an ordinance adopted by council in 2009 that raises rates incrementally each year over a four-year period, Myers said. Water rates will

rise from \$2 per cubic foot to \$2.15 per cubic foot for city residents and from \$3.10 to \$3.25 for out-of-town customers under the ordinance.

The minimum monthly water charge for the first 300 cubic feet will go from \$14.25 for residents to \$15.54, while for out-of-towners it will go from \$22.40 to \$23.94.

Sewer service customers will see their minimum sewer bill increase from \$12.23 to \$13.39 a month while non-city residents will see an increase from \$24.67 to \$26.22 a month.

Council adopted the 2009 rate increase ordinance based on a 2008 rate study. The increases are aimed at replenishing cash reserves and capital improvement funds for water and sewer infrastructure, according to officials.

The new budget also includes a 2-percent range of pay increase for city employees, Myers said. "I'm glad to see that council recognized the hard work that

See BUDGET, 2B

# Taxi ordinance dies

## From local reports

HARTSVILLE — Hartsville City Council has let die a proposed ordinance it had been considering to tighten restrictions on who could receive a permit to operate a taxi cab in the city. The measure, which was sought by the police department, was aimed at preventing anyone charged with a felony or crime of moral turpitude or who is under indictment for such a crime from obtaining a permit while the charge is pending. The city code already prevents persons convicted of such crimes from obtaining a permit from the city.

But Myers told council during Tuesday's meeting a review of the language of the city's existing ordinance by the city attorney and the S.C. Municipal Association determined the

language of the current code is adequate to address the issue.

Council also got an update from Myers on the search for a new city manager. Myers told council the Charlotte professional consulting firm of Coleman Lew and Associates Inc. is moving through the process of screening the more than 80 applications the city initially received for the post.

He said the firm, hired by the city to carry out the search, has so far identified about six candidates who show significant potential for the position and will identify more before they make any recommendations to the city's search committee.

"I'm encouraged with the way they're moving forward," Myers said.

Former City Manager Dr. Jim Pennington resigned in January.