

75°47°

The sun packs some much-needed heat today. **6B**

Amateurs beat pro golfers again in Honors Cup **1B**

Elizabeth Smart recounts abduction 'nightmare' **5A**



Hilton Head mayoral debate comes down to

VISION VS. EXPERIENCE

Obama offers tax cut options



Candidates Tom Crews, left, and Drew Laughlin square off during the Hilton Head Island mayoral debate Monday night in the council chambers at Town Hall. The event was sponsored by the League of Women Voters. Hilton Head voters will choose one of the two men to be their next mayor in a runoff Nov. 16.

By TOM BARTON

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A debate between the two remaining candidates running for Hilton Head Island mayor focused less on the issues and more on qualifications.

Drew Laughlin, an attorney and Ward 3 Town Council member, and Tom Crews, an architect, were winnowed from a pack of seven candidates Nov. 2 to head to a runoff Nov. 16 to replace Mayor Tom Peoples, who did not seek re-election after 15 years.

The two were featured in a debate Monday at Town Hall that was sponsored and moderated by the League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island. More than 90 people attended the standing-room-only event.

Please see DEBATE on 9A

RUNOFF VOTING



Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 16. Those not registered to vote in the general election will not be able to vote in the runoff.

ABSENTEE VOTING

For more information, including who is qualified to vote by absentee ballot and the procedures for absentee voting, go to www.scvotes.org, call the Beaufort County Board of Voter Registration and Elections at 843-255-6900 or e-mail voter@bcgov.net.

Want to cast an absentee ballot?

By TOM BARTON

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Hilton Head Island voters have until 5 p.m. Monday to cast absentee ballots in the Nov. 16 mayoral runoff between Tom Crews and Drew Laughlin.

Residents who voted absentee in the general election and want to participate in the runoff will automatically have ballots mailed to them.

All mailed ballots must be received by the Beaufort County Board of Voter Registration and Elections no later than 7 p.m. Nov. 16.

Please see BALLOT on 9A

The president says he's open to a "conversation" about extending cuts to top earners as well as to the middle class.

By LORI MONTGOMERY

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama said a Republican proposal to preserve the full array of Bush administration tax cuts for two more years presents a "basis for conversation" that could lead to a compromise as lawmakers prepare to meet next week for a high-stakes showdown over taxes.

But a senior House Republican on Sunday flatly rejected the option most favored by the White House: decoupling the Bush tax cuts that benefit the wealthy from the cuts that benefit the vast majority of Americans by extending each set of provisions for a different period of time.

"No, I am not for decoupling the rates," said Rep. Eric Cantor, R-Va., the No. 2 Republican in the House, on "Fox News Sunday." He echoed the GOP argument that such a move virtually would guarantee the eventual expiration of tax breaks in the upper brackets, where some of the most successful small businesses pay taxes.

 Obama

Please see OBAMA on 9A

Council changes animal rules

Bush eager to let history be judge in new memoir

By KATE CERVE

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Beaufort County Council adopted changes to the county's animal control ordinance Monday in an attempt to reduce euthanasia and stop people from repeatedly returning pets and adopting new ones.

No residents spoke during the public hearing on the ordinance and council members voted to adopt the amendments after little discussion.

Changes to the ordinance include:

- Preventing any pet owner who turns in his or her animal to the shelter from adopting another one for at least 90 days. If an owner returns more than one adopted animal in a year, that

Please see COUNCIL on 9A



BOB SOFALY • The Beaufort Gazette

Toni Lytton, director of the Beaufort County Animal Shelter and Control, shares a laugh while Jan Hughes checks out the new screened porch for cats after a ribbon-cutting ceremony Monday for the addition.

In "Decision Points," the former president writes about wars, the recession and Obama.

By CALVIN WOODWARD

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — George W. Bush knows history will shape his legacy more than anything he can say. But that's not going to stop a guy from trying.

After two years of near silence, Bush is back.

With his new memoir, "Decision Points," and a promotion tour, the president, who in cockier times could not think of a single mistake he had made, lists

many. He counts the years without a post-Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack as his transcendent achievement. He says the economic calamity he handed off to Barack Obama was "one ugly way to end a presidency."

While he's been absent from the national scene, Bush's team has been busy. Some of the most polarizing figures from his 2001-09 presidency have found second lives in the political world.

Karl Rove, the operative who might as well have put "mastermind" on his business card, became a master money-raiser for the



Please see BUSH on 9A

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INSIDE TODAY'S PACKET

Robert Kennedy once shared his love for Daufuskie Island with an off-the-beaten-track bus tour for visitors. On Saturday, his legacy will live on through a trail dedicated in his name. **3A**

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"No one means all he says, and yet very few say all they mean, for words are slippery and thought is viscous." Henry Adams