

# The Beaufort Gazette

FRIDAY, September 23, 2011

[beaufortgazette.com](http://beaufortgazette.com)

Established in 1897 50 cents

## Former clerk sentenced to house arrest

By **PATRICK DONOHUE**

[pdonohue@beaufortgazette.com](mailto:pdonohue@beaufortgazette.com)  
843-706-8152

Former Beaufort County Clerk of Court Elizabeth Smith will not serve any prison time for misusing federal child-support enforcement funds, a judge ruled Thursday.

Instead, she will serve six months of house arrest, followed by two years of probation.

Smith, 47, appeared before federal District Judge Sol Blatt in Charleston



Smith

for a sentencing hearing after pleading guilty in March to one count of conversion of public money for writing five unauthorized checks worth \$338,500 in federal child-support funds. The money was used to pay her husband's salary while he oversaw the Beaufort County Drug Court between January 2006 and June 2009, prosecutors claimed.

Prosecutors had recommended Smith serve a short prison sentence, federal prosecutor Winston Holliday said.

"The judge varied downward, citing the fact that Ms. Smith had already paid back \$68,500, had suffered professionally ... and had two elderly parents in failing health to care for," Holliday said. "It was certainly less than what the sentencing guidelines set forth. They recommended she be put in prison for a short time, and we agreed

with those guidelines."

The charge carried a possible penalty of up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, according to federal law.

Blatt's sentence likely signals the end of a legal saga for Smith that began more than two years ago when she was indicted by a Beaufort County grand jury for writing checks worth \$23,500 to help pay for insurance premiums and a vacation home on Pawleys Island.

A Beaufort County jury found Smith guilty in September 2010 of embezzle-

ment of public funds and misconduct in office, and she was sentenced to five years of probation and 200 hours of community service.

The day after she was convicted in state court, Smith was charged by the U.S. Attorney's Office with conversion of public money.

Attempts Thursday to reach Smith for comment were unsuccessful.

Follow reporter Patrick Donohue at twitter.com/ProtectServeBft.

## Watching Lady's Island like a ... hawk



JONATHAN DYER • The Beaufort Gazette

A hawk perches atop a tree to get a good view of the marsh Wednesday during low tide on Lady's Island.

IN JASPER COUNTY

## Driver charged in fatal crash

By **ALLISON STICE**

[astice@islandpacket.com](mailto:astice@islandpacket.com)  
843-706-8138

A man involved in a crash on a Jasper County road that killed a 29-year-old Ridgeland woman and two of her young sons this month was charged Thursday with three counts of felony DUI, according to the S.C. Highway Patrol.

Franklin Bostic, 22, is in the Jasper County Detention Center with bond set at \$300,000 after an investigation by the patrol's Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Team, according to Cpl. Bob Beres.

The maximum penalty for felony DUI is 25 years in prison, meaning Bostic could face a sentence of 75 years if convicted, Beres said.

Wendy Orozco Garcia and her 6-year-old son Frankie died in the Sept. 9 crash, after Bostic's car crossed the center line and collided with the family's car on S.C. 462, about four miles east of Ridgeland, Jasper County Coroner Martin Sauls has said.

Orozco's youngest child, 2-year-old Jacob, died at Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah several days later.

Orozco's husband, Pablo, who was taken by helicopter to the Savannah



Bostic

Please see **CRASH** on 11A

**GOP PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS SQUARE OFF**

## Perry, Romney dominate debate

By **PHILIP ELLIOTT**

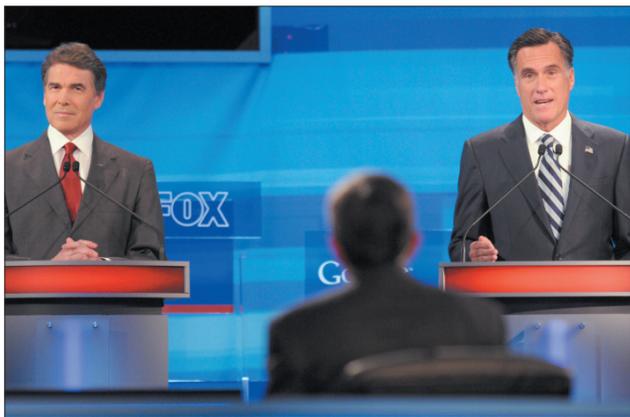
The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Side by side in confrontational debate, Republican presidential hopefuls Mitt Romney and Rick Perry accused each other Thursday night of flip-flopping on Social Security and health care, flashpoints in their struggle for the party nomination.

In a debate that focused on character and credibility as much as other issues, Perry insisted he had backed off "not one inch, sir" from what he had written in a campaign-season book published a few months ago.

Romney vouched for his own steadfastness moments later. "There are a lot of reasons not to elect me," he said.

Please see **DEBATE** on 11A



The Associated Press

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, right, comments as Texas Gov. Rick Perry, left, listens during the GOP presidential candidate debate Thursday in Orlando, Fla.

## Brain scans let computer reconstruct movie scenes

By **MALCOLM RITTER**

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It sounds like science fiction: While volunteers watched movie clips, a scanner watched their brains. And from their brain activity, a computer made rough reconstructions of what they viewed.

Scientists reported the result Thursday and speculated such an approach might be able to reveal dreams and hallucinations someday.

In the future, it might help stroke victims or others who have no other way to communicate, said Jack Gallant, a neuroscientist at the University of California, Berkeley, and co-author of the report.

He believes such a technique could eventually reconstruct a dream or other made-up mental movie well enough



The Associated Press

At left is an original video image of actor Steve Martin. At right, the image is reconstructed from brain scans.

to be recognizable. But the experiment dealt with scenes being viewed through the eyes at the time of scanning, and it's not clear how much of the approach would apply to scenes generated by the brain instead, he said.

Please see **BRAIN** on 11A

**DEATHS, 4A**

Stella Beard, 93  
Reynold Bishop, 79  
Joyce Eisler, 79  
Ethel Jenkins, 85

Henry Johnson Sr., 85  
William Kirchner, 84  
Harry Price, 68  
Kelly Roberts, 46

Marie P. Saunders, 77  
Melvin Taylor, 54  
LeRoy Williams

**INSIDE TODAY'S GAZETTE**

Beaufort lawyer Scott Graber's book chronicles his experiences in Africa. **1C**

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"Roam abroad in the world, and take thy fill of its enjoyments before the day shall come when thou must quit it for good." Saadi

