

# THE ISLAND PACKET

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2011

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79° 68°

Let's hope the wind lets up and the rain stays away. **8B**

**3 local triathletes, all in their 70s, prove age is no barrier **1C****

**Hilton Head High girls repeat as Class 3-A state swimming champs **1B****

## Expansion of state's DNA database stalls

By **GLENN SMITH**  
postandcourier.com

CHARLESTON — South Carolina's storehouse of DNA from criminals has helped crack hundreds of unsolved cases, but plans to expand the database have stalled because money hasn't been available.

In 2008, legislators passed a bill allowing DNA samples to be collected when felony suspects are arrested.

**MORE INSIDE**

Beaufort County Sheriff P.J. Tanner supports collecting DNA samples from felony suspects. **17A**

The idea was to expand the reach and usefulness of the state's existing DNA database, which only stores the DNA

of convicted felons.

But lawmakers didn't provide money for the expansion, so the DNA of felony suspects isn't being collected and put in the database.

Some lawmakers want to try again to allocate money for expanding the program when the legislature reconvenes in January. But with an estimated start-up cost of about \$4 million, it could be difficult.

And some individuals and groups, including the S.C. chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, say collecting DNA from people who haven't been convicted could violate their privacy rights.

Senate President Pro Tem Glenn McConnell, who pushed for the 2008 measure, said it's disheartening that a law that could have helped solve crimes has been ineffective.

"It's only going to help the innocent and it's only going to hurt the guilty," he said. "It will certainly help put the finger on criminals who have injured or harmed victims."

DNA's effectiveness in solving crimes was underscored last week when a sample tested by the State Law Enforcement Division led to an arrest

Please see DNA on 17A

**REAL ESTATE**

## More SC agents leaving industry

According to the S.C. Real Estate Commission, the number of agents holding a "salesman license" has dropped about 25 percent since 2007.

By **GRANT MARTIN**  
gmartin@islandpacket.com  
843-706-8145

Elizabeth Jumper's mother, sister, aunt and sister-in-law had each worked in the real estate industry, so when the long-time Bluffton resident abandoned her accounting job to become a full-time agent in January, she had an idea of what she was getting into.

"I knew about the economy, I knew about the short sales," Jumper said. "I'd followed the business long before I finally became a Realtor."

But by July, she was looking for another job in accounting, having determined that the costs associated with staying in real estate were too much to handle.

It seems thousands of agents statewide have realized the same thing in the past five years.

According to the S.C. Real Estate Commission, the number of agents holding a "salesman license" — the most common in the industry — has dropped about 25 percent since 2007, when 24,202 held that certification. The number has declined each year since and is now at 18,348.

"I got out of it before I totally drained myself," Jumper said, citing what she felt were "exorbitant fees" required for membership in various professional organizations.

Please see AGENTS on 17A

**KIWANIS CLUB'S ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF**

## DISHING UP SOME FUN



Photos by **SARAH WELLIVER** • The Island Packet

**Suzanne Brown of the Town of Hilton Head Island Fire & Rescue Division dishes up chili Saturday afternoon with help from Fire & Rescue Explorer John Krause during the Kiwanis Club of Hilton Head Island's annual Chili Cookoff at the Coastal Discovery Museum at Honey Horn.**



**Alan and Pat Taub look over their voting choices while enjoying some cornbread and chili.**

### And the Chili Cookoff winners are:

**BLIND JUDGING**

**PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY**

- First Place:** Salty Dog Cafe
- Second Place:** Red Fish
- Third Place:** The Smokehouse

**AMATEUR CATEGORY**

- First Place:** Central Church
- Second Place:** Hilton Head Firefighters
- Third Place:** Jim Schmid

**POPULAR VOTE**

**PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY**

- First Place:** The Smoke-

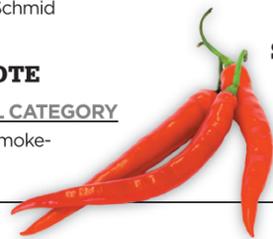
- house
- Second Place:** Bomboras Grille
- Third Place:** The Lodge/One Hot Mama's

**AMATEUR CATEGORY**

- First Place:** Hilton Head Firefighters
- Second Place:** VanLandingham Rotary Club
- Third Place:** Central Church

**SHOWMANSHIP AWARD**

- Wild Wing Cafe
- Source: Carolyn Adams



**TRACKING LICENSES**

Number of S.C. real estate agents holding salesman licenses:

- 2011: 18,348
- 2010: 20,436
- 2009: 22,789
- 2008: 23,247
- 2007: 24,202

Source: S.C. Real Estate Commission annual reports



## Haley's agenda: Jobs, taxes, retirement system



Haley

By **GINA SMITH**

The (Columbia) State  
COLUMBIA — Gov. Nikki Haley's priorities for her second year in office include replicating a Georgia jobs program to retrain S.C. workers, taking another stab at reforming the

state's tax code and requiring state employees to work longer — 30 years instead of 28 — to receive full retirement benefits.

The Lexington Republican is traveling across the state this month, talking to residents in a series of town-hall meetings.

In those meetings, including one Tuesday in Bluffton, the governor is laying out her agenda for her second legislative session. In an interview Friday, she fleshed out that agenda, starting with what can be done to lower the state's high unemployment

rate, now 11.1 percent.

Haley said she and her team have been talking with Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue about how they can replicate that state's "Georgia Works" program.

Please see HALEY on 17A



**INSIDE TODAY'S ISLAND PACKET**

**As police continue to search for a missing baby in Kansas City, her parents set up a reward they hope will lead to new information in the case. **6A****



**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"Emergencies have always been necessary to progress. It was darkness which produced the lamp. ... And it took a depression to teach us the real value of a job." **Victor Hugo**