

THE ISLAND PACKET

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88° 76°

Partly cloudy with a chance of thunderstorms. **6B**

Heritage struggle recalls man who started it all 1C

Opponents, supporters of NY mosque converge 6A

US combat likely over in Iraq

Top American commander says Iraqi security forces will be ready to protect their country without assistance from U.S. troops.

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It would take “a complete failure” of the Iraqi security forces for the U.S. to resume combat operations there, the top American commander in Iraq said as the final U.S. fighting forces prepared to leave

the country.

With a major military milestone in sight, Gen. Ray Odierno said Sunday that any resumption of combat duties by American forces is unlikely.

“We don’t see that happening,” Odierno said. The Iraqi security forces have been doing “so well for so long



Odierno commander

official who spoke on condition of anonymity Sunday. The speech will

now that we really believe we’re beyond that point.”

President Barack Obama plans a major speech on Iraq after his return to Washington, according to a senior administration

come shortly after Obama returns to the White House next week from his Martha’s Vineyard vacation.

About 50,000 U.S. troops will remain in the country until the end of 2011 to serve as a training and assistance force, a drawdown from the peak of more than 170,000 during the surge of American forces in 2007.

Please see IRAQ on 9A

Water storage plan on the table

Proposal to store drinking water in aquifer could mean property tax increase on Hilton Head.

By **TOM BARTON**
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To create a more dependable supply of drinking water, some Hilton Head Island residents will see an increase in their property tax bills.

Hilton Head Public Service District plans to borrow as much as \$4 million to store water purchased from the Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority in an underground aquifer storage and recovery unit, as salt water continues to overtake the island’s wells. The money also would go to other improvements.

The district proposes to pay for the project by increasing taxes by about 12 percent — or about \$11 on a home assessed at \$400,000.

If approved, the rate would take effect for tax bills due in January.

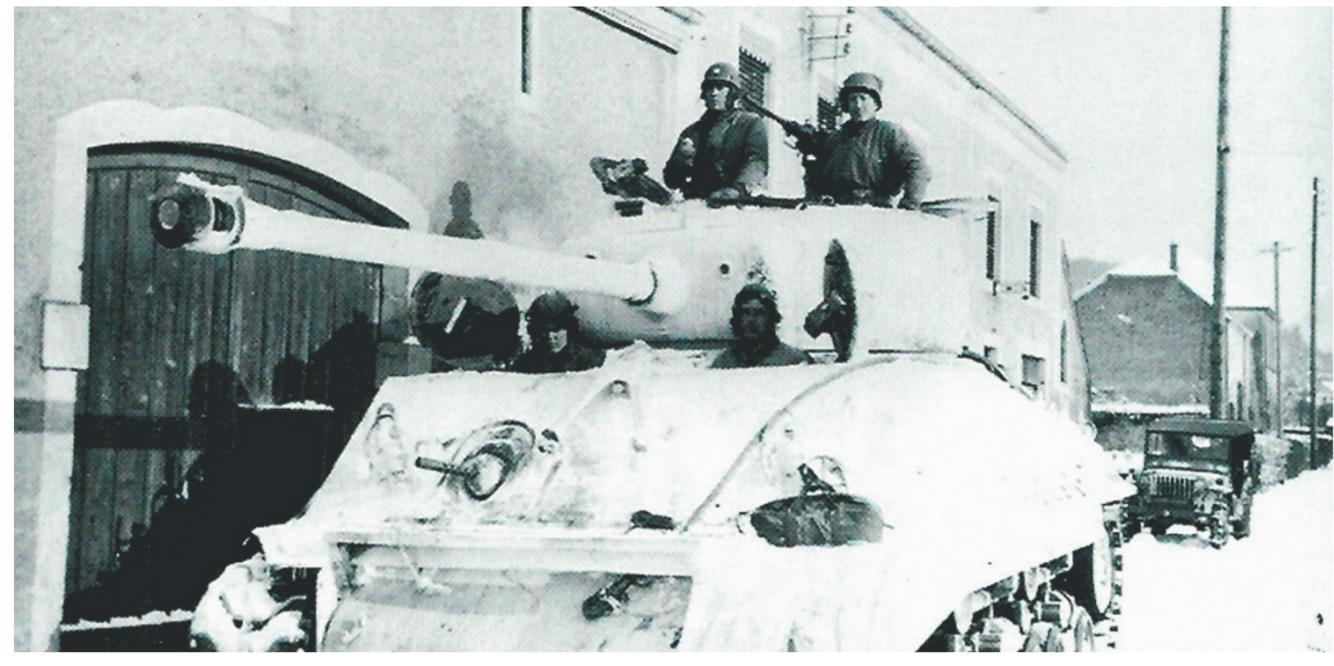
“It’s a long-term improvement and project. That’s why we are charging to a long-term source,” rather than increasing water rates, said Pete Nardi,

Please see WATER on 9A



MAN OF HONOR

World War II service earns Col. James Leach posthumous place in France’s Legion of Honor



Special to the Packet

James Leach, at left on the tank turret, is shown in Luxembourg after the Battle of the Bulge in 1945, when he was a captain. Next month, Leach will be posthumously inducted into the French government’s Legion of Honor.

WHAT IS THE LEGION OF HONOR?

The Legion of Honor was created by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802 to recognize service to the French Republic. The order was perceived as an elite group in which military bravery and civilian talents would be honored equally.

Though technically reserved for French citizens, the Legion of Honor can be bestowed upon foreign citizens if approved by French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who serves as the organization’s grand master.

Today, there are more than 93,000 members of the Legion of Honor, all of whom were appointed for life.

Source: Grand Chancellor of the Legion of Honor

By **PATRICK DONOHUE**
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Down the street from the Musée d’Orsay in Paris, the Musée National de la Légion d’honneur was a mandatory stop for Marjorie and Jimmie Leach of Beaufort whenever the couple visited the city.

The couple would stroll the halls of the museum, housed in an 18th century palace on the west bank of the Seine River, and marvel at the historical figures inducted by the French government into the National Order of the Legion of Honor. The order was created by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802 to recognize military and civilian service to the French Republic and is the highest honor in France.

President Dwight Eisenhower, Gen. Douglas MacArthur and Queen Elizabeth II are among the foreign-born members of the order, and next month, James Leach will posthumously join their ranks. Leach died in December at age 87 after suffering a heart attack while driving on Lady’s Island.

Please see HONOR on 9A

NOTABLE RECIPIENTS OF THE LEGION OF HONOR

- President Dwight Eisenhower
- Gen. Douglas MacArthur
- Walt Disney
- Gen. David Petraeus, commander of U.S. and allied forces in Afghanistan
- David Lynch, filmmaker
- Julia Child, chef
- Miles Davis, musician
- Queen Elizabeth II
- J.K. Rowling, author
- Former Russian President Vladimir Putin
- Clint Eastwood, actor and director



Source: Grand Chancellor of the Legion of Honor

HOW DOES THE AQUIFER SYSTEM WORK?

An **aquifer storage and recovery unit** is a system that allows water utilities to store water underground, minimizing evaporation. Beneath the surface, injected freshwater displaces water already in the aquifer and creates an underground storage reservoir, or bubble. Utilities can pump water into the system during times of low demand and store the water until needed during peak demand.

SC schools prepare for Hispanic students

By **GINA SMITH**
The (Columbia) State

COLUMBIA — Four percent of South Carolina’s 2010 high school graduation class was Hispanic. By 2022 — when this school year’s first-graders are seniors — that number will be 22 percent, according to data by the Southern Regional Education Board.

Three S.C. schools are majority Hispanic. Others are trending in that direction. Many S.C. teachers and principals say they are doing a good job meeting the demands of these students — for now.

Please see SCHOOLS on 9A



INSIDE TODAY’S PACKET

Yellowstone’s grizzlies are going to be particularly hungry this fall. That could mean more dangerous meetings with humans in a year that has been the area’s deadliest. 4A



QUOTE OF THE DAY

“The nice part about being a pessimist is that you are constantly being either proven right or pleasantly surprised.” **George F. Will**