

S.C. COLLEGE FOOTBALL

- S.C. State routs Howard, 43-13
- South Carolina falls to Arkansas
- Clemson defeats Fla. State, 40-24

SPORTS BEGINS ON B1

GREATEST GENERATION

World War II vets recall service, C1



FARMING

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Chief? Mayor?

Preacher says he can do both

By PHIL SARATA T&D Staff Writer

NORWAY — Norway's mayor-elect says a South Carolina attorney general's opinion will not prevent him from serving in both his new position and as police chief in Ehrhardt.

Jim Preacher says he consulted the state Ethics Commission and his attorney prior to running for mayor.

"They said it was not an ethics violation because the election was non-partisan election and not for the same municipality," Preacher said.

"Of course I understand that if I'm mayor in Norway, then I couldn't be a police officer there."

Preacher was elected Tuesday, defeating the mayor who fired him from his position as police chief in 2007.

The state attorney general's office says that someone can't serve as both a police chief and a mayor, even if they work for one town and serve as mayor of another.

"The individual serving as chief should resign that post prior to being sworn in as mayor," said Mark Plowden, spokesman for state Attorney General Henry McMaster.

"It's perfectly legal to run and be elected, but he would need to resign. There have been numerous opinions written over the years covering myriad specific situations. But this situation is clear cut," he said.

See PREACHER, A8

The power of wood

Company wants to make electricity with biomass

By PHIL SARATA T&D Staff Writer

A company is seeking state permission to construct a 35-megawatt, wood biomass-fired electrical power generator in the John Matthews Industrial Park.

Few details are available on the proposed project. But Orangeburg County Biomass, LLC has filed a permit request providing some information with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Bureau of Air Quality.

Orangeburg County Development Commission Executive Director Gregg Robinson says he can not comment on any specific proposed project.

"We are working with a number of green energy projects," Robinson said. "Solar, wind and biomass are all areas under consideration."

"Creating capital investment and jobs is our mission and alternative energy is one more option. Our industrial vision is to make Orangeburg County as green as possible."

The notice filed with DHEC says, "The facility will provide direct power to local purchasers, as well as provide surplus power to the local power supplier via direct grid connection."

Tri-County Electric Cooperative spokesman Chad Lowder says the utility has been talking with the group for about a year about purchasing power, although nothing is settled yet.

"Central Electric Cooperative has joined us in these discussions," Lowder said. "The actual purchasing of power would be handled and distributed by them to all the cooperatives on the power grid."

"In this climate of energy production, this is just one of the renewable power options that cooperatives are looking at as a source of power."

See WOOD, A8



LARRY HARDY/T&D

Process offers way to get value from waste

By PHIL SARATA T&D Staff Writer

South Carolina's sawmills have been burning wood residue for years because it provides a cheaper form of energy for internal use.

"The forest industry in the U.S. is much further along than

other countries in getting this fuel off the ground," Richardson said. "Forestry has been way ahead in that area."

But while biomass has been advertised as way to increase the value of timber residue, she says "There is an extra cost involved to collect the biomass residue because it's not standing timber."

See VALUE, A8

How's it work?

The wood biomass-fired electrical power generation facility proposed for the John Matthews Industrial Park at U.S. 301 and Highway 176 would use a "bubbling fluidized boiler" process.

The boiler would use natural gas as a start-up fuel and a mixture of wood biomass (wood chips and forestry thinning) as the primary fuel.

According to information from the S.C. Energy Office Web site, a typical wood biomass generator employs the boiler complemented by steam turbines. The wood is introduced into the boiler, which contains a chamber for biomass combustion.

The equipment within the chamber distributes biomass over a grate that separates the burning biomass from the ash that is formed after burning. The heat in the boiler creates steam in a high-pressure water tube boiler within the machine.

The steam is passed through a multistage steam turbine, which produces the electricity.

House passes health care bill

Landmark measure extending coverage to tens of millions now goes to Senate

By DAVID ESPO AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — In a victory for President Barack Obama, the Democratic-controlled House narrowly passed landmark health care legislation Saturday night to expand coverage to tens of millions who lack it and place tough new restrictions on the insurance industry.

Republican opposition was

nearly unanimous.

The 220-215 vote cleared the way for the Senate to begin debate on the issue that has come to overshadow all others in Congress.

A triumphant Speaker Nancy Pelosi likened the legislation to the passage of Social Security in 1935 and Medicare 30 years later.

"It provides coverage for 96 percent of Americans. It offers everyone, regardless of health or income, the peace of mind that comes from knowing they will have access to affordable health care when they need it," said Rep. John Dingell, the 83-year-old Michigan lawmaker who has introduced national health



House Majority Whip James Clyburn, D-S.C., left, looks on as President Barack Obama talks with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., Saturday on Capitol Hill in Washington.

insurance in every Congress since succeeding his father in 1955.

In the run-up to a final vote, conservatives from the two political parties joined forces to impose tough new restrictions on abortion

coverage in insurance policies to be sold to many individuals and small groups. They prevailed on a roll call of 240-194.

Ironically, that only solidi-

See HEALTH, A8

SCSU alumna's husband among injured soldiers

The Associated Press

AIKEN — A soldier who grew up in South Carolina had to wait five hours to see her husband, who was wounded in Thursday's rampage on Fort Hood, even though she was on the base, her mother said.

"It was chaos in there," Jackie Gray told The Aiken Standard.

Gray said her daughter was working at another part of the base when she got a message her husband, Chris, had been shot. She couldn't make it to the hospital for five hours because of the lockdown.

■ Firefight ended killing spree; military therapists emotionally drained, overworked. Stories, A9

Chris Royal didn't realize at first he had been shot, Gray said.

"He was telling people to get down, and then someone told him he was bleeding and tried to stop it," Gray said.

"My son-in-law is grateful that the Lord guided the bullet. It almost touched his spine," Gray said.

See ROYAL, A8

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- Marianna M. Dyches ~ North
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WEATHER

Today: Sunny. High mid 70s. Low upper 40s.



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