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# THE HORRY INDEPENDENT

## OUTSIDE

Forecast by:



THURSDAY

Sunny  
High 83, Low 64

FRIDAY

Sunny  
High 83, Low 64

SATURDAY

Mostly Sunny  
High 85, Low 55

SUNDAY

Mostly Sunny  
High 75, Low 50

## INSIDE



### CERNY WRITES ABOUT LIFE:

Motivational speaker has published another book.

See B7



### LCOAL CHURCH ON A MISSION:

Conway Methodists hope to finish the Bible in one year.

See B1

## HAPPENINGS

Saturday is the final day to register to vote in the June primaries. The Horry County Voter Registration office at 103 Elm St. in Conway will be open 9 a.m.-noon Saturday for last-minute registration.

The Salvation Army invites the public to its facility on Second Avenue in Conway for a free hot dog lunch Wednesday, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

## QUOTABLE

'It would have been really easy to fall in with the wrong crowd, but she made it.'

Gwen Winn  
Story on B5



## Chief's advice: Ignore the protesters

BY MICHAEL SMITH  
AND ETTIE NEWLANDS  
FOR THE INDEPENDENT

A radical church group with a reputation for fiery rhetoric and protesting military funerals is planning a series of protests at Horry County schools including Conway and Carolina Forest high schools, according to the church's website.

Conway officials say the group has gotten the permit it needs to

demonstrate at CHS and police are ready to make sure the situation is handled professionally.

Westboro Baptist Church, an independent congregation based in Topeka, Kan., plans to picket Conway High School May 21 from 7:45 a.m. - 8:15 a.m., according to a letter from the group's attorney written to Conway Police Chief Reginald Gosnell.

Gosnell says 20 will be the maximum number of people traveling

with the group, and 10 is the maximum number likely to turn out for Conway's protest.

According to Gosnell, Westboro's other protests typically have five or six people.

"I would say it's not a great concern, just something to be aware of," he said.

The Conway chief says the school district hasn't given permission for the protesters to be on school property, so they will likely be on the

public right-of-way. His department and the school district are working together to make sure that the protest doesn't affect traffic or school and that everyone stays safe while the Baptists exercise their First Amendment right to speak and demonstrate.

He says the group gets most of its attention through the reaction of

PROTEST, A5

## Aynorite teacher of year

BY MICHAEL SMITH  
FOR THE INDEPENDENT

She spends her weekdays standing in front of 20-plus children, but Tuesday night her audience grew to more than 300.

Speaking to fellow teachers and school district staff, Aynor Elementary School teacher Michelle Richardson said she was overwhelmed by being named the 2011 teacher of the year for Horry County Schools.

"What an amazing journey this has been," Richardson, a mother of three, said. "Our classroom is a family. I'm so proud to be a part of Horry County



MICHAEL SMITH | FOR THE INDEPENDENT

TEACHER, A3 Aynor Elementary School teacher Michelle Richardson receives congratulations from her husband and Robert.



COURTESY

### Waccamaw sunset

Migratory birds take flight as the sun sets on the Waccamaw River, providing a picture-perfect moment. Photographer Mike Covington of Pawleys Islands snapped this photo, which won third place in the scenic category of the Winyah Rivers Foundation photo contest. See A9 for other winning photos.

## Solicitor closes case on shopper's death

BY KATHY ROPP  
EDITOR

The 15th Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office has reviewed the death of a woman involved in a shoplifting complaint at the Conway Walmart in January and has stamped the case closed.

Deputy Solicitor Jimmy Richardson first looked at the case

shortly after the death of 41-year-old Dorina R. Williams of Mullins, but held his final judgment until after reviewing the final autopsy.

Dr. Lee Proctor performed the autopsy at Grand Strand Regional Hospital the day after Williams died, but no cause of death was confirmed at that time.

Proctor continued to study organs and tissue samples himself

and sent away samples necessary for a toxicology report.

According to the final autopsy, Williams died from sudden cardiac arrhythmia, although she had several health concerns including an enlarged heart, bronchitis and a history of asthma.

Richardson says the spray that

DEATH, A5

## YOU ASKED FOR IT

Q. Will the chance of earthquakes in our state increase when the offshore oil drilling begins off our coast? Is there a correlation between offshore drilling in California and the number of earthquakes they have?

A. Philip Croftwell, a staff member in the University of South Carolina's Department of Geological Services, says you need not fear.

"I've never heard of any earthquake of any size being caused by oil extraction," said Croftwell, who holds a doctorate degree in seismology.

However, Croftwell says there could be some quakes so small as to be undetectable except by instruments located within several miles of the exploration.

"We have earthquakes in South Carolina, especially down in Charleston and in some other parts of the Coastal plain with fair frequency and very rarely do people feel them," he said.

In regard to your question about California, Croftwell says the earthquakes there have been caused for millions of years and will continue to be caused for millions more by the interaction of the North American and Pacific plates along the San Andreas Fault.

"What people are doing is almost irrelevant," he said.

Croftwell adds for your information that putting substances into the ground can be more harmful than taking them out.

He points to filling reservoirs when people build dams and create large lakes.

After some of these actions, he says small earthquake activity has been detected for several months.



## MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON FEES

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