

Too few babies get flu shots / 14A



Chasing the pack

Kurt Busch trails 11 drivers, including younger brother Kyle



USC's Pepper expects to bounce back from injury

Mild Partly sunny. High: 82° Weather, 18A

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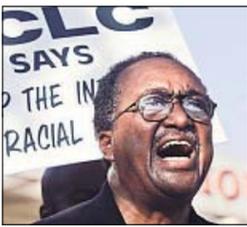


NATION / WORLD



Anti-Syria leader killed

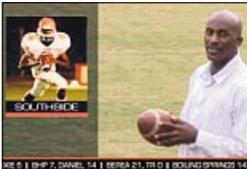
A powerful bomb killed an anti-Syria Lebanese lawmaker and six others Wednesday in a Christian neighborhood of Beirut, threatening to derail an effort by a divided Parliament to elect Lebanon's next president in voting to begin next week. **13A**



Jena girls for rally

Scores of buses from across the country are converging on Jena, La., today for a rally in support of six black teens held in a white classmate's beating. **14A**

NEW VIDEO



Get the grid scoop

Watch Cover 3, our weekly high school football show on GreenvilleOnline.com. This week, we preview Daniel at Pickens, look at Southside's program and highlight Greenville linesman Zach Robinson.

greenvilleonline.com



Get terrible twos help

Upstate moms share how they got their children through the terrible twos. Join the discussion at UpstateMoms.com.

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Homeowners to get new tax assessments

Greenville County putting notices in mail with some already online; tax bills to follow

By E. Richard Walton
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Reassessment notices for an estimated 180,000 homes in Greenville County will arrive in

mailboxes in the next several days, County Administrator Joe Kernell said Wednesday.

The notices will give each property owner the fair market value and the property's taxable

market value, he said.

Some of the new information has already been posted at the county's Web site: www.greenvillecounty.org. The remaining reassessments should be posted in the next several days, county officials said.

"People should be receiving the reassessment this week or next," Kernell said.

The fair market value is what the house will sell for or what the market will bear, he said.

"Property cannot increase more than 15 percent from one reassessment to the next," Kernell said. "While your tax value increases, it doesn't mean your taxes are going to go up."

Properties that go up more than 15 percent will be adjusted

downward, the county administrator said. Taxpayers who disagree with the assessments have 90 days to notify the county in writing, he said. He said the notice will include the exact procedure that is to be followed.

New reassessment notices are expected to be followed in a few weeks by tax bills, county officials have said.

Gas leak closes Simpsonville artery



Photos by GWINN DAVIS / Staff

Closed for repairs: Simpsonville's Main Street was closed to traffic Wednesday by a natural gas leak in front of Three Generations Boutique on the corner of Main Street and Trade Street. Above, crews work to repair the leak; at right, boutique owner Lisa McKee watches the repair work after the leak closed her shop.

INSIDE

■ Merchant alerted city to gas leak. Page 3A

SEE MORE ONLINE

■ For a photo gallery of the Simpsonville gas leak, go to

greenvilleonline.com



Greenville Tech officials say couple violating nepotism policy

Bomar says he got state ethics commission OK after marriage to college vice president

By Ben Szobody
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Top Greenville Technical College officials said Wednesday that former County Councilman and longtime board member George Bomar is in violation of state and school nepotism policies because he is married to a college vice president — allegations the two deny.

"In my opinion it has affected operations, and I think it's also had an effect on the internal and

external perception of the school," said Bob Wilson, chairman of the Greenville County Commission for Technical Education, which oversees Greenville Tech.

College President Tom Barton said Wednesday there's "no question" that the couple has violated a school nepotism policy that's enforced on other employees, creating a "double standard" that causes personnel problems.

Barbara Lassiter, vice president for planning and technolo-

gy, told *The Greenville News* she and Bomar married in late 2005, and both said Wednesday they've been cleared by the state Ethics Commission and don't believe they're in violation of any school policy.

A 2006 Ethics Commission ruling Bomar said he requested states that a public employee and a public commission member may remain in their positions following marriage.

Wilson said he received a letter this week from the commission's general counsel, Cathy Hazelwood, that says a public member and public employee

See **TECH** on page **8A**

Several Upstate projects make cut on new state priority list

By Tim Smith
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COLUMBIA — The state's highway commissioners on Wednesday approved a state-wide priority listing for the first time of road and bridge projects.

A Greenville County bridge, some sections of Interstate 85 and various roads in Greenville County are among projects to get money in the next two years.

But after spending hours unanimously approving lists of projects using a new state law, the commissioners voted 4-3 to add a project requested by Commissioner Marion Carnell of Ware Shoals that officials said didn't meet the new criteria.

The project would add a turning lane on State 72 in Abbeville near the Abbeville Medical Center and a nursing home. Carnell asked for about \$200,000 not covered by other sources.

"I trust the engineers to make an unbiased analysis of what the state's highest priorities are. I think that's the way it ought to be determined."



— Tee Hooper, DOT board chairman

Carnell, a former lawmaker, asked fellow commissioners to essentially grandfather a project that was started before legislation enacted in June required all projects to be ranked by the board using criteria ranging from pavement condition to traffic volume and safety.

Three commissioners balked, arguing it wasn't right to grant an exception just as the board

See **ROADS** on page **5A**

School board may revise expulsion policy

Some recent cases have divided trustees

By Ron Barnett
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The Greenville school board will review its discipline and expulsion policy, three months after a panel of principals and district officials revised it.

"The district committee that worked on looking at the discipline code I know worked within their scope and made some wonderful suggestions on some adjustments that needed to be made to the way we operate," said trustee Megan Hickerson, who proposed the review.

"But through discussions with community and board members, I just felt like ... perhaps it was time for us to revisit our policy."

Board members were split on several recent expulsion cases, which they discuss and decide behind closed doors without naming students publicly.

In past years, the board heard

all expulsion cases, but it now delegates that responsibility to a hearing officer. Trustees consider only appeals, and those based on written documents.

"It may need changes, or we may decide it should stay the same," Hickerson said.

The revision in June gave the hearing officer the option of allowing first-time offenders who are intoxicated at school to stay in school if they attend a counseling program.

But it still calls for expulsion for possession of drugs or alcohol on school grounds.

The new task force, composed entirely of school board members, also will examine the academic effectiveness of the district's alternative schools, which offer a limited variety of courses.

The board voted unanimously to create the task force at its Sept. 11 committee of the whole meeting.

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