



TEEN EXPERT SHARES HIS VIEWS, **Life&Style D1**

HALO 3

Two good to be true >>

Cory Boyd (right) and Mike Davis power USC ground attack.

Sports, C1

The State

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2007

421 years — 'It's not enough'

Kidnapping, rape victim's father says Filyaw's sentence can't erase the hell he put his family through

By **JASON RYAN**
Special to The State

BEAUFORT — A judge sentenced Vinson Filyaw to 421 years in prison Wednesday, levying the maximum punishment possible for kidnapping a 14-year-old girl a year ago and raping her in an underground, explosive-laced lair in

Kershaw County. Judge G. Thomas Cooper, prosecutors and the family of the sexual assault victim all described Filyaw's actions with one word: Unforgivable. "He got what he got, but it's not enough," said her father. The family waited in anguish last September when the girl was

missing after getting off the school bus near their home on wooded property in Elgin.

"For 10 days we endured a hell we would not wish on any other family," said the victim's mother. "Our innocent child was subjected to torment and abuse and placed in a world she did not deserve."

After her daughter's rescue, the mother said, another hell began, one in which the family watched their loved one suffer through anger and sadness.

"This monster does not deserve any forgiveness from us, nor will

he ever get it," the mother told the court, crying.

Filyaw, 37, pleaded guilty Tuesday at the Beaufort County Courthouse, minutes before his trial was to begin, to kidnapping, 10 counts of first-degree criminal sexual assault, two counts of second-degree sexual assault, possession of explosives, attempted armed robbery and impersonating a police officer.

He wrote that the kidnapping stemmed from a desire to exact revenge and embarrass the Kershaw County Sheriff's Department, an

agency he felt had mistreated him while investigating a complaint he had sexually assaulted a 12-year-old girl in 2005.

Moments before the plea, Cooper ruled that prosecutors could share with jurors a manuscript Filyaw wrote from prison, evidence one prosecutor called a "play-by-play of everything he did to the victim."

Prosecutors quoted extensively from that manuscript and introduced several gripping pieces of

SEE **FILYAW PAGE A6**

WEDNESDAY'S DEVELOPMENTS

- Circuit Judge G. Thomas Cooper sentences Vinson Filyaw to 421 years in prison.
- The now-15-year-old victim and her family talk to the news media about their ordeal.
- Evidence including chains, night goggles and other items is presented.
- A victim in another sexual assault case involving Filyaw testifies. She was 12 when she was assaulted.

'I was kind of down and out. . . . I threw up my hands. I didn't know what to do.'

Lifelines from the heart



PHOTOGRAPHS BY C. ALUIKA BERRY/CABERRY@THESTATE.COM

200 homes bring hope to 200 families

By **JOYL L. WOODSON**
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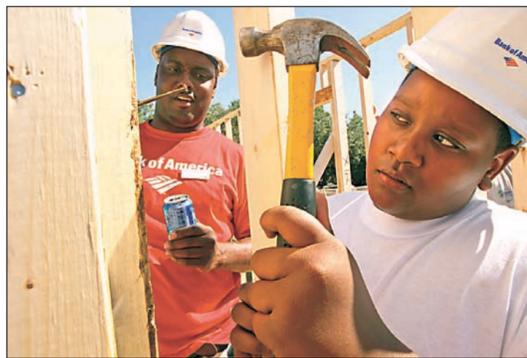
Alone, in the back room of the building where she worked, Kim Swann broke into tears.

Here it was, near the beginning of a new year, and Swann believed she had nothing to show for it.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Two jobs — one as a bank teller and the other in retail — took all her time. Her two children did not live with her. And the nondescript, one-bedroom apartment, where she lived near Columbia Metropolitan Airport, was taking all her money.

SEE **HABITAT PAGE A7**



Top: Bank of America employee Paul Trippe, along with other volunteers, helps build the frame of a Habitat for Humanity home Tuesday at Finlay Park.

Bank of America's Armond Alford, left, teaches Dectrick Carroll, 11, some hammering skills. Dectrick was helping frame his new home.

'When it gets hopeless for any woman, there we'll be'

By **CLIF LeBLANC**
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Lexington County women in crisis who find themselves with no place to go will have a haven when the county's first faith-based, full-time shelter opens this autumn.

LEXINGTON SHELTER

Samaritan's Well will be unusual on several fronts. Its existence grew from a church congregation seeing a need, citizens who stepped up to offer help and volunteers who tackled a tough job.

Named for the biblical story of Jesus opening a degraded Samaritan woman's heart to his love during her visit to a well,

SEE **SHELTER PAGE A10**

USC rituals: Dress the dog, don't wear orange

By **MARJORIE RIDDLE**
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Ellie, a 4-month-old cockapoo, will wear a Gamecock dog-jersey during USC's game against the LSU Tigers Saturday.

But she doesn't wear it because it looks cute, said her owners, Amanda Alpert and John Loveday of West Columbia.

The engaged couple won't let Ellie take it off because she's worn it every game day and the Gamecocks are so far undefeated.

Alpert and Loveday are superstitious. And they're not going to mess with a winning streak.

Many other Gamecock fans follow meticulous game-day rituals to help the team win.

Columbia resident Cynda Hurley

SEE **GAMECOCKS PAGE A5**

BUILDING OUR CITY

City areas must ask for restrictions

Columbia residents, you've got a new tool to help control how your neighborhood develops.

On Wednesday, Columbia City Council created an "opt in" plan for neighborhoods that want additional restrictions on new home construction, the subdivision of lots and home demolition.

Neighborhoods that don't want to abide by the new restrictions, they don't have to opt in and therefore, won't have to follow the new rules.

Two city neighborhoods are already in the new program. All other neighborhoods will need to take additional steps to join.

SEE **RULES PAGE A5**



Today's Weather

8 a.m. Cloudy, 75	1 p.m. Cloudy, 81	7 p.m. Cloudy, 75
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Photo Gallery: Senior games, at thestate.com/local

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