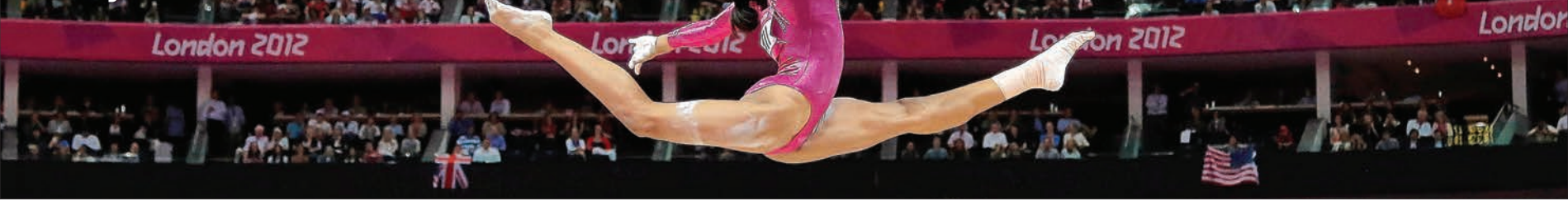


# Flying to gold

Gabby Douglas, 16, makes history with medal win **B1**



# Herald-Journal

**FRIDAY**  
AUGUST 3, 2012  
SPARTANBURG, S.C.  
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## Schools earn education A's

Leaders say the new accounting system gives more accurate grades

By **LEE G. HEALY**  
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Letter grades have replaced the all-or-nothing federal accountability system used to gage South Carolina schools and school districts. Grades released Thursday morning by the S.C. Department of Education show that the majority of school districts throughout the state earned A's or B's.

Most local districts, like the state itself, earned an A. The new evaluation system, which replaces Adequate Yearly Progress, was a component in the state's flexibility request from federal No Child Left Behind provisions. The request was approved by the U.S. Department of Education in July. The letter grades correlate to a composite score based on state standardized tests, such as PASS, HSAP, SC-Alt and end-of-course tests, the percent of students tested and the high school graduation rate. The end-of-course test scores and graduation rates used in the calcu-

### Inside

- ◆ PASS scores in Spartanburg County exceed SC average, **C1**
- ◆ More than 80 percent pass exit exams, **C1**

lations are taken from the 2011 school year, while the rest of the components are from 2012. Under AYP, schools were required to meet all performance objectives and given a rating of simply "met" or "not met." Standards steadily increased, with

◆ SEE SCHOOLS PAGE A7



**KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/AP**  
Gold medalist Etienne Stott of Britain celebrates after the C-2 men's canoe double slalom.

LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS  
**Medal count**  
as of Aug. 2

COUNTRY	G	S	B	TOT
China	18	11	5	34
United States	18	9	10	37
South Korea	7	2	5	14
France	6	4	6	16
Britain	5	6	4	15
Germany	4	8	5	17
Italy	4	5	2	11
North Korea	4	0	1	5
Russia	3	6	8	17
Kazakhstan	3	0	0	3
South Africa	3	0	0	3
Japan	2	6	11	19
Netherlands	2	1	3	6
Hungary	2	1	2	5
Ukraine	2	0	4	6
Australia	1	7	3	11
Romania	1	3	2	6
Brazil	1	1	2	4
New Zealand	1	0	2	3
Slovenia	1	0	1	2
Georgia	1	0	0	1
Lithuania	1	0	0	1
Venezuela	1	0	0	1
Mexico	0	3	1	4
Canada	0	2	5	7
Colombia	0	2	1	3
Cuba	0	2	1	3
Sweden	0	2	0	2
Belarus	0	1	1	2
Denmark	0	1	1	2
Indonesia	0	1	1	2
Mongolia	0	1	1	2
Norway	0	1	1	2
Spain	0	1	1	2
Czech Rep.	0	1	0	1
Egypt	0	1	0	1
Poland	0	1	0	1
Thailand	0	1	0	1
Taiwan	0	1	0	1
Slovakia	0	0	3	3

## Somber homecoming for fallen soldier



The body of U.S. Army Pfc. Adam Ross of Lyman was returned to the Upstate on Thursday. Below, family members shed tears as Ross' body was moved from the plane to the hearse. Ross was killed July 24 in Afghanistan. See a gallery of photos at GoUpstate.com.

## Upstate pays respects to 19-year-old shot, killed serving in Afghanistan

By **JENNY ARNOLD**  
jennifer.arnold@shj.com

GREER — Dozens of military personnel, motorcyclists and civilians stood at attention as a charter plane touched down on the tarmac at Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport for a soldier's homecoming on Thursday. They saluted and held American flags, but it was not a joyous homecoming for U.S. Army Pfc. Adam Ross. The crowd was somber and silent as a flag-draped casket was unloaded from the plane and ushered into a waiting hearse by an honor guard of soldiers. The 19-year-old was shot and killed

in an ambush while on foot patrol in Afghanistan on July 24. Ross, assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, was stationed in Vicenza, Italy, and had been in Afghanistan for less than three weeks when he was killed. As the casket was moved off the plane, it was met by U.S. Army National Guard Col. Steve Shugart, a chaplain. Shugart dropped to one knee, placed his hands on the casket and bowed his head in a short prayer. The only other sound on the tarmac was the sobs of



“ We're here to support our country and our troops. We take our freedom for granted ... . We appreciate (Ross') sacrifice so we can be free.”  
**KARYN HOXWORTH**, who brought her four daughters to the airport to honor Ross

## With the Capitol in the background, a US Airways airplane makes its final approach at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport on Thursday.



**HARAZ N. GHANBARI/AP**

## 'Not on collision course'

Officials: Too close jets never in danger

By **JESSICA GRESKO**  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — None of the commuter jets that flew too close together near Washington on Tuesday was ever on course to collide head-on with the others, federal officials said Thursday. During a news conference, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood strongly disputed media reports characterizing what happened near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport

as a near-miss. “At no point were the three aircraft on a head-to-head course. They were not on a collision course,” said Michael Huerta, administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration. However, the FAA said in a statement it “is investigating the incident and will take appropriate action to address the miscommunication.” The National Transportation Safety Board is also investigating. ◆ SEE PLANES PAGE A7

### On the Web

Visit [GoUpstate.com/olympics](http://GoUpstate.com/olympics) to see stories, photo galleries and more from the Olympic games in London.

### Weather

**Sun with showers**  
High 92  
Low 71

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NUMBER 215