

# perspective



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## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

**In County:** 3 months \$15; 6 months \$28; 1 year \$50.

**NC & SC:** 3 months \$25; 6 months \$41; 1 year \$75.

**Outside The Carolinas:** 3 months \$31; 6 months \$47; 1 year \$83.

**Law Enforcement:** 1 year \$28.

**Students:** 9 months \$36; Schools: 9 months \$41.

## LETTERS POLICY

1. Each letter submitted must be an original — no photocopies. E-mails are also accepted if a name and phone number is included: editor@gaffneyledger.com
2. Letters should include the writer's name, address and day and evening telephone numbers.
3. Letters should be submitted exclusively to this newspaper.
4. Letters are subject to editing for length and clarity.
5. Letters submitted in all-italic or all-capital letters will not be accepted.

We will not print letters:

- That are unsigned;
- That contain questionable or undocumented facts;
- That contain inappropriate attacks on a person or persons;
- Regarding disputes between the writer and other parties;
- Endorsing a business.

Our mailing address is: P.O. Box 670, Gaffney, S.C. 29342.

## IF YOU MISS YOUR PAPER

Here at The Gaffney Ledger, since 1894, our newspaper delivery goal has always been the complete satisfaction of our readers.

Despite our taking exhaustive measures to prevent it, a newspaper delivery will occasionally be missed. Papers are sometimes picked up by the wrong person or by a dog, or they are missed due to some other unavoidable occurrence.

With this in mind, we have developed the following standard policy for late delivery of your Gaffney Ledger.

— We guarantee same-day delivery of your Gaffney Ledger if the problem is reported to us by 5 p.m.

— You can call at any time after 5 p.m. to report a missing paper via our answering machine and your paper will be delivered the next day by noon.

— We will deliver your Gaffney Ledger on the following business day by 11 a.m. if the missing paper is reported by 9 a.m. on that day.

After that, you have the choice of:

- Having the paper delivered with the next day's paper, or
- Crediting your account for the cost of the missing paper.

If you have any questions about this policy or if you have any problems with the delivery of your newspaper, please let us know. We are here to serve our readers.

## CORRECTIONS

The Gaffney Ledger makes every effort to ensure all information in this publication is accurate and thorough.

However, in the event an error is made, it is this newspaper's policy to correct the error as soon as possible.

If you find a mistake, please notify the editor by calling 864-489-1131. Please be ready to tell us the page number and story in which the error appears.

## ATTENTION POSTMASTER

The Gaffney Ledger, established Feb. 16, 1894 (USPS 212-760) is published three times weekly by The Gaffney Ledger, Inc., 1604 Baker Blvd., Gaffney, S.C. Periodicals postage paid at Gaffney, S.C.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Gaffney Ledger, P.O. Box 670, Gaffney, S.C. 29342.

## LEDGER READERS ON THE ROAD



Andy, Rainee, Zach, and Drew Clary took The Gaffney Ledger on a recent snowmobiling trip to Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming. They enjoyed The Ledger while waiting for Old Faithful to erupt. On your next trip out of town, take a copy of The Ledger along and send a picture of yourself or your group reading the newspaper to: cody@gaffneyledger.com.

## THE MOSS REPORT

The House of Representatives amended, approved and sent to the Senate H.4620, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the South Carolina Constitution that would revise the manner in which certain constitutional officers are selected. Under the proposal, the secretary of state and the superintendent of education would no longer be selected by popular election, but would instead be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the General Assembly. The proposed amendment also provides for the joint election of the offices of governor and lieutenant governor, whereby an individual nominated for the office of governor would select a running mate for the office of lieutenant governor to run on the same ticket.

The House concurred in Senate amendments to S.453, the "FINANCIAL IDENTITY FRAUD AND IDENTITY THEFT PROTECTION ACT," and enrolled the bill for ratification. Highlights of the legislation include: requires address verification for credit card applications, requires local law enforcement to report an identity theft if contacted by a suspected victim, requires the State Law Enforcement Division to maintain an ID theft database, provides that a victim may petition a circuit court for a judicial determination of innocence and expungement of record, allows for a consumer to place a freeze on his credit information, prohibits a person from posting, printing, transmitting, selling, or exchanging a social security number or a portion that consists of six digits or more unless there is written authorization, there is a legitimate business or government purpose that provides a benefit, or for other specifically permitted reasons, restricts a business from printing the last five digits of a credit card number or the card expiration date on a receipt, requires businesses and state agencies that own or license computerized personal identifying information to disclose a breach of the security system should one be suspected, makes it unlawful for a person to obtain another's ID by rummaging through their personal, household, or commercial garbage; removes language that required an issuer of a credit card to get parental consent prior to issuing a card to a person under the age of 21.

The House amended, approved, and sent to the Senate H.4735, a joint resolution relating to the USE OF EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION NETWORK LICENSES AND EXCESS BROADCAST SPECTRUM CAPACITY. The legislation directs the Educational Television Network to make all necessary filings with the Federal Communications Commission as soon as practicable to indicate an intention to retain licenses currently operated by the Educational Television Network and an intention to form a public/private partnership to complete the necessary transition from an analog to digital system. However, Educational Television Network may not sell, lease, or otherwise alienate or obligate telecommunications and information technology infrastructure of the state until provided for by the General Assembly. The legislation directs the executive director of the State Budget and Control Board to hire, using funds from approved accounts of the Department of Commerce, a nationally-recognized telecommunications consultant to: provide an estimate of the value of licenses operated by the Educational Television Network; assist with the development of a request for proposal; analyze various business models for the leasing of excess capacity on the spectrum; and, analyze the feasibility of a wireless cloud over all public school facilities.



REP. DENNIS MOSS

The House concurred in Senate amendments to H.3632, a bill providing that the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation may require a CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECK OF AN APPLICANT FOR LICENSURE TO PRACTICE NURSING, and enrolled the bill for ratification. The legislation provides that the department may also require such a background check in connection with an investigation or disciplinary proceeding of a licensee. The legislation also provides that a licensed nurse must clearly identify himself or herself as officially licensed by the board. A licensed nurse is required to wear a clearly legible identification badge or other adornment at least one inch by three inches in size bearing the nurse's name and title as officially licensed.

The House approved S.1005, relating to AGE RESTRICTIONS ON BLOOD DONORS, and enrolled the bill for ratification. The legislation provides that a person 16 years old may donate blood with written consent of a parent or guardian. The bill also outlines that it is unlawful for person under 18 years old to sell blood.

The House amended, approved, and sent to the Senate H.3395, a joint resolution providing for a REPORT ON NET METERING PROGRAMS AT THE STATE'S ELECTRIC UTILITIES. Net metering is a means of calculating the energy that is consumed and produced at facilities equipped with renewable energy generators such as solar panels or wind turbines. The legislation provides that the South Carolina Energy Office and the Office of Regulatory Staff, not later than Jan. 1, 2009, shall provide a report to the General Assembly that recommends process and procedures for establishing net metering programs at all distribution electric utilities in South Carolina, including investor-owned electric utilities and the South Carolina Public Service Authority.

The House adopted H.4822, a House Resolution requesting that the governor apply for an EXTENSION OF THE DEADLINE TO COMPLY WITH THE FEDERAL REAL ID ACT before the deadline of March 31, 2008, which will allow South Carolina to analyze the impact of the Real ID Act but which will not require South Carolina to declare its intent to comply with this act thereby allowing the state's current credentials to be recognized and accepted during the extension period by the federal government and the Department of Homeland Security. The House adopted Concurrent Resolution H.4823, which also requests the application for extension and sent the resolution to the Senate.

The House approved and sent to the Senate H.4334, regarding EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) CERTIFICATION. This bill requires a person seeking Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification or recertification to undergo a state criminal records check and a national criminal records check. The state and national criminal records checks are not required for an EMT employed as of July 1, 2008, until the EMT applies for recertification. A state criminal records check will cost no more than \$8 and is the responsibility of the EMT or EMS agency.

If you have a comment or opinion concerning the matters discussed in this report, or if I may be of assistance to you at any time, please feel free to call your legislative office in Columbia (803-734-3073), office 422A Blatt Building, Columbia, SC 29211; or by e-mail at mossd@scstatehouse.net or my home in Gaffney (864-487-2121); or write 306 Silver Circle, Gaffney, SC 29340. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in the House of Representatives.

CONGRESS shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

(First Amendment to The U.S. Constitution)

## LEDGER COLUMNIST

### Ha, ha, ha ... you lost to a girl

The month of March involves leprechauns, honors the contributions of women, makes us aware of the dangers of colon cancer and a number of other things.

But right now, the one thing on everyone's mind is March Madness — the mad dash toward the NCAA Basketball Tournament.

I will not delve too far into the sports issue due to the possibility of being censored by my editor, but I have come to the conclusion that it's not necessarily the surprises in the opening rounds of the tournament that make this month one that could turn a regular person insane.

Rather, the madness is due to people finding themselves with empty pockets at the end of the month due

to investing in brackets only God Himself could predict. Millions made their way to the office Thursday, some here in this same office where I am writing this column.

Most years at this time I would go ahead and pay for a whole pack of paper just to print out close to 100 brackets so people could match wits with me and a host of other people for cold, hard cash.

I like to consider myself a creature of habit. But in this case, my habits were forced to change.

This year, I chose to pick for the purpose of simply being right, making me feel so much better because I know no money will be lost on my end.

I have a number of things on my plate already — mostly bills, bills and more bills.

But I place primary blame for my decision on the taste I had in my mouth following an office contest during bowl season.

Let's just say I was out of the game by the middle of the season. Of course, others would soon follow before we had a winner.

It is okay to get whipped in any type of game. After all, it is all fun. But I had never been whipped in this fashion — that is because it was by a woman.

Ask virtually any man whether they should lose to a woman in anything — from Monopoly to a weight lifting contest — and they will tell you that it is not supposed to happen.

But in this case, all the men were pawns to this lady who handed us our hind ends on a silver platter. I had never before been so embarrassed.

It hurts to this day, especially when I just recently told my fiancée where the \$10 went.

"You lost the money... usually that is something you win. Who did you lose to?" she said.

When I told her I lost to a female, the stern look on her face turned into a smile followed by a roar of laughter.

"Ha, ha, ha... you lost to a girl," she said. I still do not know which was more painful, the loss of \$10 or losing to a girl. But such confusion led me to make a pact to myself that I would not put myself in this position again.

Bowl season was January. I had enough time to recover financially and emotionally since that time and was especially amped when brackets and everyone's picks were announced on Sunday.

However, seeing the brackets on television led my lady to ask me whether I would go against my word and enter myself into a pool.

"Are you going to do it?... I know you are thinking about it," she said.

At that moment, I really began to ponder whether it was a good idea. Could I make at least an extra \$100 without having to punch the clock? In my eyes, that is pretty good.

But my conscience was telling me "no" and I assured her that I was sticking to my word.

"Good, for a second I thought you were going to jump into the pool," she said.

Nah, I won't be getting wet this time. My pride is too valuable to lose.

Joe L. Hughes II (joe@gaffneyledger.com) writes feature and enterprise stories for The Gaffney Ledger.

## THEIR VIEW

### Legislation declared dead on arrival

The legislation calling for voters to decide whether to let the governor appoint the education superintendent, secretary of state and lieutenant governor hadn't even made it to the Senate before President Pro Tempore Glenn McConnell declared it dead on arrival.

The Senate couldn't muster the two-thirds vote necessary to approve those and other constitutional referendums last year, he told The Associated Press, so it would be a waste of time to try again.

He's right that it would be a waste of time — if the people who claim to support the legislation don't do any more to generate support than they did last year. ...

There are a handful of senators who truly support letting future governors appoint top executive branch officials — or at least allowing the public a say in the matter. But few believe passionately enough in the concept to risk their political capital, or even to lobby their fellow senators. ...

Sen. McConnell and others who say they support that concept need to get to work selling the idea of a unified executive branch, of less electioneering, of better-qualified administrators, of a more accountable governor. The Senate needs to debate the issue again. And this time, senators need to approve the plan to move us in that direction.

The (Columbia) State