



CLEMSON FOOTBALL

Swinney sounds off on what ails Clemson

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North firefighter helped by new gel that stops bleeding

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MUSC Health-Orangeburg’s CEO steps down

Charleston CEO to serve temporarily

GENE ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

MUSC Health-Orangeburg Chief Executive Officer Walter Bennett III has stepped down. “This week, Walter Bennett has decided to step down as CEO of MUSC Health Orangeburg and

Calhoun County Medical Center, effective Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025, to pursue other activities,” the hospital said in a statement. “We thank him for his leadership and service to our organization and community for the past two



Joy

years,” it said. In addition, “Dr. Saj Joy will lead effective immediately while we search for a successor, while also continuing to serve as the Charleston CEO. The Orangeburg and Calhoun area remains our key focus during this transition.” Bennett arrived at MUSC Health-Orangeburg in June 2023. Under Bennett’s leadership, the hospital continued to tran-

sition from the former Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties to the MUSC system. MUSC acquired the former Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties in March 2023. Bennett traveled throughout the T&D Region, updating the public on measures the hospital took to enhance services under

his leadership. These included hiring new providers, improving the hospital’s balance sheet, raising its Leapfrog grade from a D to a C, and rebranding the hospital. The hospital has also implemented a new medical records system and brought formerly outsourced services such as radiology, lab

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DEDICATED TO THE FAIR



ORANGEBURG COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION/CONTRIBUTED

A sign is placed naming the former Orangeburg County Fairgrounds cattle building “The Paul ‘Pappy’ Gramling Building.”

Retired Orangeburg County farmer honored for lifetime of service

GENE ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

Retired Orangeburg County dairy farmer Paul “Pappy” Gramling has spent much of his life’s passion and energy at the Orangeburg County Fairgrounds. The 81-year old used to show cattle with his father. From that experience he developed respect for the fair and its agricultural history. Gramling’s dedication to the fairgrounds was recognized Sunday

by the Orangeburg County Fair Association Board. The former cattle barn show building was named “The Paul ‘Pappy’ Gramling Building.” “That was the biggest surprise I have had in a long time,” Gramling said. “I didn’t expect that. I didn’t want that, but they did it. Whatever they say.” “I ain’t know nothing about this thing,” he continued. “I thought I knew everything that goes on at the fairground.” From starting a commercial calf

club to his involvement with the local 4-H youth program, Gramling’s association with the Orangeburg County Fair has included serving as overseer of the cattle barn and his current service as the go-to guy for the maintenance of its buildings and grounds. His late father, S.W. Gramling Sr., was on the Orangeburg County Fair board of directors and led the efforts to have the cattle barn built.

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SC State Homecoming Week underway

SPECIAL TO THE T&D

South Carolina State University is celebrating Homecoming Week with a full slate of concerts, reunions, student activities, community gatherings and the traditional football game. While some events are strictly for students and in some cases alumni, others are open to the public. Some events require tickets, which may be purchased online at www.bulldog-homecoming.com.

2025 SC State Homecoming highlights

Thursday, Oct. 2

- The Power of Financial Literacy: How to Leverage your Network & Net Worth: Alumni & Student Panel/Mixer
4 p.m., Bulldog Lounge in the Kirkland W. Green Student Center
Open to students, alumni and the public
- Fans in the Air Line Dancing Class
7 p.m., SHM
Open to students, alumni and the public
- Tickets required
- Homecoming Comedy Show
8 p.m., MLK
Featured performers: Darren Brand and Tyler Chronicles
Open to students, alumni and the public
- Tickets required

Friday, Oct. 3

- YardFest & Bulldog Fan-Fest
Noon, Benjamin Mays Field
Yard Show at 5 p.m.
Open to students, alumni and the public
- Bulldogs on the Ground: Homecoming Alumni Concert
8 p.m., Lorry H. Dawkins Track area
Featured artists: King George, 803 Fresh, Tonio Armani, Nephew Jones, DJ Trucker and Smilez
Doors open at 7 p.m.
Tickets required
Open to students, alumni and the public

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Prosecutor seeks death penalty after reduced sentence

JEFFREY COLLINS
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A local prosecutor in South Carolina said Tuesday he will seek the death penalty against a man whose federal death sentence for killing two bank employees in a robbery was commuted to life in prison by President Joe Biden at the end of his term. Brandon Council, 40, did not ap-



Council

pear in state court in Horry County as prosecutors formally let the court know that if he is convicted of murder they will ask a jury to sentence him to death. State murder, armed robbery and other state

charges against Council were dropped in 2019 after a federal jury found him guilty of similar charges and sentenced him to death. But in December, Biden reduced the death sentences of 37 federal inmates, including Council, to life in prison, saying he felt the federal use of the death penalty had to stop

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Deaths • A9

- Paul Leslie Abbott -- St. Matthews
- Betty Jean Peterson Chaplin -- Neeses

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Weather

Partly sunny and pleasant
High 78
Low 55
FORECAST • A10

COMMUNITY OF CHARACTER INTEGRITY

