



Novak ready to compete for Heritage crown

PAGE B1



Lebanon-Israel War explained

PAGE A9

Thursday, April 16, 2026

WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

Orangeburg, South Carolina • TheTandD.com

MUSC HEALTH-ORANGEBURG

CEO: Hospital wait times improving



GENE ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

The Medical University of South Carolina Health-Orangeburg continues to strive to reduce emergency room wait times.

The hospital is also looking to provide new treatment for Alzheimer's disease and to offer outpatient

cardiology services at the MUSC Health Bamberg-Barnwell Medical Pavilion in Denmark.

This was the message new hospital Chief Executive Officer Matthew Medley brought to the Orangeburg County Legislative Delegation Monday evening during the group's quarterly meeting.

"I recognize I've got a lot of work to do ahead," Medley said. "The future is bright for MUSC of Orangeburg. We are financially stable. We are growing. We are attracting multiple physicians."

Medley, who lives in Orangeburg, has been at the helm of the local hospital for the past month.

Emergency room

Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, D-Orangeburg, asked about the emergency department status and wait times.

"We are providing high-quality, safe care for every single person that comes in our emergency department,"

Please see HOSPITAL, Page A6

SAFER ROAD



LARRY HARDY, T&D

Safety improvements are planned for Chestnut Street from Ashley Street to the Columbia Road/Chestnut Street intersection.

Improvements planned for Chestnut Street

GENE ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

The South Carolina Department of Transportation is planning to improve traffic safety on Chestnut Street in Orangeburg.

The improvements are planned from Ashley Street to the Columbia Road/Chestnut Street intersection. Ashley Street is just east of the Magnolia Street intersection. This portion of Chestnut Street is about 1.3 miles long.

The SCDOT says the safety improvements are needed due

to the frequency and severity of crashes along this particular section of road.

This section of Chestnut Street was selected for improvements based on statewide crash data and injury severity data. The stretch of road was also evaluated by a multidisciplinary team for potential roadway safety improvements.

Preliminary engineering, right-of-way and construction work for the project will be funded by the federal Highway Safety Improvement Program.

SCDOT is seeking public comments on the work. The public comments will help the SCDOT determine whether to include the project in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

SCDOT will receive public comment on the improvements until April 30.

Visit scdot.org/projects/public-comment-notices to view all STIP comment notices and submit comments online.

Please see CHESTNUT, Page A6

CASA chairman defends nonprofit

Hutto: 'Y'all do a great job'

GENE ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

The chairman of the CASA Family Systems board of directors said the Orangeburg nonprofit's state funding is "used in full compliance" with "all applicable regulations."

"CASA Family Systems have been a mainstay in this community for almost 50 years. We have always operated above board and with integrity," Chair Dr. Louis Whitesides said, appearing before the Orangeburg County Legislative Delegation Monday evening.

Whitesides said he and the organization were "blindsided by all the allegations" that have been made about the nonprofit.

Whitesides' statement comes as the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division investigates state Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, D-Orangeburg. Cobb-Hunter is the executive director of CASA.

The investigation came at the request of Senate Finance Committee Chairman Harvey Peeler after state Sen. Stephen Goldfinch, a Republican candidate for attorney general, questioned an annual budget appropriation of \$350,000 to CASA.

The money is allocated through the Department of Juvenile Justice to the 1st Judicial Circuit. The 1st Judicial Circuit solicitor is David Pascoe, who is also a Republican candidate for attorney general.

Goldfinch says there's a potential conflict of interest and issue with state ethics law for Cobb-Hunter, who's a member of the budget-writing House Ways and Means Committee. Cobb-Hunter did not vote on the Department of Juvenile Justice's annual budget this year because of the potential conflict of interest and said she has always recused herself from the vote.

Please see NONPROFIT, Page A6

GET THE FULL BENEFITS OF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION!

Activate your digital account to get updated stories, videos, and hundreds of additional puzzles and comics. Visit thetandd.com/activate and download our app for the E-edition and breaking news on the go!

Haley rules out 2028 White House run



Haley

JOSEPH BUSTOS
TNS/The State

Former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley appears to have ruled out a 2028 White House run.

The Bamberg native, while speaking Sunday on CNN's State of the Union, told host Dana Bash she won't seek the Republican nomination

for president in 2028.

Haley was on the show discussing foreign policy including the ongoing war with Iran, negotiations with that country and the need to confront China over its support for the Middle Eastern nation.

Bash also asked Haley if she thought Vice President JD Vance should be the 2028 Republican

nominee for president.

"I think it's too soon to tell. I think that primaries are healthy. I think a year is a lifetime in politics. I think we'll be having a different conversation a year from now," Haley said. "Who's going to be in that I have no idea."

Please see HALEY, Page A6

Deaths • A10

- Louvenia Spells -- Orangeburg
- Theodore Thomas, Sr. -- Ehrhardt

Inside

Nation/World	A7
Obituaries	A10
Opinion	A8
Sports	B1
Weather	A12

Weather

Hot
High 92
Low 59
Forecast • A12

COMMUNITY OF CHARACTER ADAPTABILITY

