

NEWEST TOUR

Black Girls Golf opens first junior event. **1B**



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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2017

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Mayor in good condition at hospital

Roberts has been at Greenville Memorial since Sunday

KIRK BROWN

KIRK.BROWN@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

Anderson Mayor Terence Roberts remained in good condition Tuesday at Greenville Memorial Hospital, where he was airlifted after being stricken Sunday.

An ambulance took Roberts to AnMed Health Center in Anderson on Sunday afternoon. He was then flown by helicopter to Greenville.

Roberts, 57, was in an intensive care unit at the hospital Monday morning but his condition has improved significantly since then, according to city officials.

According to a spokeswoman at the Greenville hospital, Roberts had experienced shortness of breath and became light-headed.

Roberts daughter, Tera Roberts, said Monday her father was resting comfortably and speaking with family members, according to a statement issued by the

hospital.

Councilman Matt Harbin presided over Monday night's City Council meeting in Roberts' absence.

"I am here to report that he is doing fine," Harbin said. "He has sent me word to not screw up this meeting."

More than 20 people have posted comments on the mayor's Facebook page expressing hope that he recovers soon. Several of the people said they are praying for him.



KEN RUINARD/INDEPENDENT MAIL
Councilman Matt Harbin told reporters that Mayor Terence Roberts "is doing fine."

See **ROBERTS**, Page 2A

'UNDER THE BRIDGE' A GO DOWNTOWN



KEN RUINARD/INDEPENDENT MAIL

Charlie Sadler looks toward the railroad tracks on Tuesday. He says the "Under the Bridge" project would be a welcome improvement to the area.

Plans call for creating monument, pedestrian-friendly area

KIRK BROWN

KIRK.BROWN@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

By next summer, the blighted area under the Murray Avenue bridge in downtown Anderson may be transformed into a pedestrian-friendly park featuring an array of trees, decorative lighting, new sidewalks and public art.

Anderson City Council members praised plans to spruce up the area before voting Monday night to approve the \$145,000 "Under the Bridge" project.

"It would certainly brighten it up," said Councilman Don Chapman. "It would be a great addition to that area."

The improvements are "something that is certainly needed," said Council-

The park could serve as "a missing puzzle piece from a very developed, commercial Main Street to the underdeveloped West End area."

MARY HALEY THOMPSON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

man Rick Laughridge.

Anderson resident Sonny Duncan also expressed enthusiasm Tuesday about the project.

Duncan said the proposed improvements would make the area "come alive again."

As a child growing up in Anderson, Duncan said, he and his grandmother would walk under the bridge on their

way downtown.

Back then, he said, there was "never a dull moment" in the area.

"It was altogether different," Duncan said.

Anderson Police Chief Jim Stewart said the addition of more lighting and the presence of more people would improve public safety around the bridge, which is near an abandoned steel plant and several other vacant buildings, as well as the popular Earle Street Kitchen and Bar.

A \$30,000 grant from the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor served as a catalyst for the project, which has

See **BRIDGE**, Page 2A

Inmate describes 4 prison killings

'I did it for nothing'

ALLEN G. BREED AND JEFFREY COLLINS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA - Guards at the Kirkland Correctional Institution rushed to Denver Simmons' cell and made a grisly discovery: Four men from the unit for mentally ill prisoners had been beaten and strangled.

Simmons, 35, and Jacob Philip, 26, both already serving life without parole for double murders, were charged with the slayings.

In a series of phone calls to The Associated Press, Simmons confessed to the April 7 killings. Why? They could not endure lives in prison, he said, and wanted to be executed.

"The more people (you kill), the more chance they're gonna give it to you," Simmons said.

Simmons said they had two main criteria for choosing their victims: "We come up with who was easiest, as far as doing it to," he said. "And who trusted us."

Once they had their list, they came up with a way to lure each to their deaths.

"And we did it," Simmons said.

The victims

» John King, 52. Doing 25 years for burglary, larceny and theft. Liked to "bum coffee."

See **KILLINGS**, Page 2A

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SPIETH'S JUST GETTING STARTED

So says legend Jack Nicklaus. 3B



1B

USC FOOTBALL

Bentley: 'We are capable of anything'

Gamecocks QB not shying away from talking about SEC Championship berth

JOSH KENDALL
THE STATE

THIBODAUX, La. — Jake Bentley has big plans for the University of South Carolina's 2017 football season.

"I think we are capable of anything," Bentley told The State while serving as a counselor at the Manning Passing Academy. "Our goals are to beat the (SEC)

East and win the state; that's what it is every year, that's what it's always going to be, and I think we are definitely capable of that."

He means this year. The Gamecocks are coming off 6-7 season and probably won't be picked to finish at the top of their division in any preseason predictions, but the Gamecocks' 6-foot-4 sophomore starting quarterback isn't shying away from talking about ending up in Atlanta in December for the SEC Championship Game.

"That should be the goal for every SEC team," Bentley said. "It's not just us. I feel like everywhere around the coun-

try that should be their goal, to play in their conference championship game."

As Bentley returns to South Carolina after four days at Nicholls State University, where he worked alongside 42 other college quarterbacks helping tutor high school age offensive players, he will return to the team's summer program and player-run practices.

"The day-by-day goal is just to get better," he said. "Game by game is what we have to focus on and just get better. As

long as we continue to outwork everybody and just continue to be the best that we can be, I think we've got a chance."

Bentley is one reason for optimism. The invitation to the Manning Passing Academy was an indication of the high regard he is held in and will increase his profile this season. It also served as a valuable learning week for him.

"Part of being a good quarterback is understanding how to be a quarterback, and there are no better teachers than Peyton and Eli and Archie and to talk to them about the daily work routine, in

See BENTLEY, Page 2B

GOLF



Kelpie Jackson, 15, of Miami, Fla., practices at the Keowee Springs Golf Club driving range on Monday.

PHOTOS BY JOSH MORGAN/USA TODAY NETWORK

The Cliffs hosting 1st Black Girls Golf camp

Organization founded in 2013 to bring more diversity to sport

MANIE ROBINSON
SPORTS COLUMNIST

Tiffany Mack Fitzgerald was the model Corporate America employee. A sharp thinker. A hard worker. A team player.

Yet, to her colleagues, she was simply another anonymous associate.

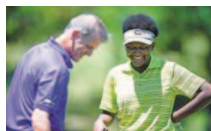
"I got there early. I stayed late. I did what was required of me, so there was no need for them to know my name," Fitzgerald said. "I was just the 'black girl in marketing.'"

Fitzgerald's knowledge and productivity did not grant her access to the most important meetings, because they were not conducted at the office.

They were held on a golf course. "I had to figure out a way to make a better connection at work, so I knew I had to learn how to play," Fitzgerald said. "It was uncomfortable. It was intimidating. I didn't know the rules. But I did it anyway."

Fitzgerald gradually grasped the game and earned her spot at those 18-hole meetings. After a few rounds, her colleagues learned her name and included it on major projects.

Fitzgerald realized many professional women encounter the same obstacles



Khaliah Gilbert, 15, of Tampa, Fla., laughs with PGM program director Rick Lucas at the Keowee Springs Golf Club on Monday.



Online
To see video,
go to independentmail.com

and intimidation on the corporate course. In 2013, she founded Black Girls Golf to facilitate instruction and foster camaraderie.

"It was a need to have a community of

women who made golf more comfortable," she said.

The organization is based in Atlanta but has attracted more than 3,000 members in 33 states, Canada, Botswana and Ghana. On Monday, Black Girls Golf opened its first junior golf event, a week-long camp organized in conjunction with the Clemson University Professional Golf Association golf management (PGM) program.

Fitzgerald and PGM program director Rick Lucas welcomed ten young ladies from Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, Mississippi, Maryland and Texas to the Cliffs at Keowee Springs. They will sharpen their skills through instructional sessions and explore potential careers in the golf industry.

They also will establish a community fastened more by a shared interest than a shared skin tone.

"I don't usually know a lot of African-American girls that play golf," said Kennedy Whitener, a rising high school junior from Fayetteville, North Carolina. "At my first golf camp, I was the only girl and the only black girl, but programs like this will help a lot to get more people to learn about golf."

See CAMP, Page 2B

CLEMSON FOOTBALL

Tale of the tickets: How Tigers stack up

University has four games among country's priciest

SCOTT KEEPFER
SKEEFEN@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

Based on early returns, Clemson and Ohio State football fans will be paying a bit more than the majority of their college football brethren to watch their team play this fall.

According to StubHub — an online clearinghouse for sports, concerts and other entertainment tickets — four games involving Ohio State rank among the eight most expensive based on the advertised price for the cheapest available ticket.

Clemson had no game tickets ranking among the top 10 highest priced, but had four games in the top 20, topped by the Sept. 9 Auburn at Clemson game, which ranked 11th at \$200 for the lowest-priced ticket.

That game was followed by Clemson at South Carolina on Nov. 25, which ranked 13th at \$171, and Clemson's Nov. 11 home game against Florida State and

See TICKETS, Page 2B

The most expensive tickets in college football

1. Georgia at Notre Dame, Sept. 9 (\$478)
2. Alabama vs. Florida State in Atlanta, Sept. 2 (\$402)
3. Oklahoma at Ohio State, Sept. 9 (\$349)
4. Penn State at Ohio State, Oct. 28 (\$282)
5. USC at Notre Dame, Oct. 21 (\$250)
6. Alabama at Auburn, Nov. 25 (\$222)
7. Michigan State at Ohio State, Nov. 11 (\$219)
8. Ohio State at Michigan, Nov. 25 (\$218)
8. Oklahoma vs. Texas in Dallas, Oct. 14 (\$218)
10. LSU at Alabama, Nov. 4 (\$210)
11. Auburn at Clemson, Sept. 9 (\$200)
12. Michigan State at Michigan, Oct. 7 (\$199)
13. Clemson at South Carolina, Nov. 25 (\$171)
14. Michigan at Wisconsin, Nov. 18 (\$169)
15. Florida State at Clemson, Nov. 11 (\$160)
15. Clemson at Virginia Tech, Sept. 30 (\$160)
17. Miami at Florida State, Sept. 16 (\$159)
17. Pittsburgh at Penn State, Sept. 9 (\$159)
19. Georgia vs. Florida in Jacksonville, Oct. 28 (\$155)
20. Maryland at Ohio State, Oct. 7 (\$143)

Calendar



SOCCER (W) VS. AIR FORCE
6 p.m. Aug. 8

SOCCER (W) VS. DUKE
6 p.m. Aug. 11



SOCCER (W) AT COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
7 p.m. Aug. 10

SOCCER (M) AT DUKE
7 p.m. Aug. 13



NO EVENTS SCHEDULED

Today's TV listings

COLLEGE BASEBALL

8 p.m. NCAA College World Series, Finals, Game 3, teams TBA (if necessary), at Omaha, Neb. ESPN

GOLF

4:30 a.m. (Thursday) European PGA Tour, HNA Open de France, first round, at Paris GOLF

MLB BASEBALL

7 p.m. Regional coverage, Texas at Cleveland OR Chicago Cubs at Washington MLB

10:10 p.m. Atlanta at San Diego FSSE

SOCCER

2 p.m. FIFA Confederations Cup, semifinal, teams TBA, at Kazan, Russia FS1

SWIMMING

7 p.m. Phillips 66 National Championships, at Indianapolis (same-day tape) NBCSN

NBA

Westbrook calls being named MVP 'a true blessing'

BRIAN MAHONEY

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - Russell Westbrook moved past Oscar Robertson and kept right on going to the top of the NBA.

Westbrook was voted MVP on Monday night after setting a record with 42 triple-doubles during his historic season. He led the league with 31.6 points and added 10.7 rebounds and 10.4 assists per game, joining Robertson as the only players to average a triple-double for the season and breaking Robertson's single-season record of 41 triple-doubles in 1961-62.

"To be standing here with this trophy next to me is a true blessing, man, and it's an unbelievable feeling, something that I can never imagine," Westbrook said.

He received 69 first-place votes and 888 points from a panel of 100 media members and a fan vote to easily beat Houston's James Harden, who had 22 first-place votes and 753 points. Kawhi Leonard was third with nine first-place votes and 500 points.

Westbrook succeeded Stephen Curry, who had won the past two MVP awards. Earlier, Milwaukee's Malcolm Brogdon won NBA Rookie of the Year, beating out Philadelphia's Dario Saric and Joel Embiid.

Camp

Continued from Page 1B

"It's revolutionary," said Rus Kingman, co-chair of the ONE Clemson Cabinet for Advancement, which raised funds to cover camp costs for all 10 participants.

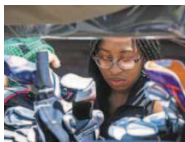
"Those of us who love golf, we're hopeful we'll be successful in attracting some of these young ladies to enter the golf industry at some point in their lives," Kingman said.

"It's such a great game, but more diversity in golf is sorely needed."

In 2015, the World Golf Foundation reported that, although minorities comprise 37.9 percent of the American population, they comprise merely 13.5 percent of amateur golfers.

The foundation examined a cross-section of golf management, equipment and manufacturing companies and determined that 80 percent of the golf workforce were Caucasian men. African-Americans comprised 1.4 percent. African-American women accounted for 0.26 percent.

"The more that we get minorities into the game and show that this is a game for everyone, then we'll be able to grow the game as a whole," said Mackenzie Mack, one of only five African-American



JOSH MORGAN/USA TODAY NETWORK
Kennedy Whitener, 16, of Fayetteville, N.C., packs her clubs on the back of a cart before going golfing on Monday.

members of the LPGA.

Mack served as an instructor for the Black Girls Golf camp. She was encouraged by the partnership with Clemson and The Cliffs. It reveals that minority golfers are not the only ones concerned about golf's lack of diversity.

"People are starting to realize, 'Hey why don't we have more (diversity) and what can we do?'" Mack said. "It's starting to grow, but it's going to take everybody, just to show the kids that it actually is possible. I'm proof of that."

According to Kingman, the partnership aligns with Clemson's university-wide initiative for diversity and inclusion. Fitzgerald and Lucas found a three-way benefit. They can enhance their organiza-

tions, and most importantly, they can enrich the lives of some deserving young women.

"This is something that we've really been wanting to do," Lucas said. "Our goal is to increase our enrollment particularly in diversity inclusiveness, and the long-term benefit is obviously we want to get some diversity in golf. The benefit to all the ladies out here, they get the opportunity to be in the golf business or the opportunity to come to Clemson University and to develop a career in golf."

Clemson and The Cliffs are scheduled to host another Black Girls Golf camp in July. Fitzgerald hopes this initiative will foster an environment that prevents any young woman from ever feeling like just another anonymous associate.

The "black girl in marketing" can make a name for herself.

"We've been able to take a pilot group of girls and help them get better at golf, become more well-rounded and understand how many opportunities are available for girls, particularly girls of color, who understand golf," Fitzgerald said. "Hopefully, by the end of the week, they'll understand that really focusing in a particular area will make you that much better. And when they leave, they'll be able to compete with their peers on a higher level."



BART BOATWRIGHT/USA TODAY NETWORK
Clemson led the ACC and ranked in the Top 15 nationally last season with an average attendance of 80,970.

Tickets

Continued from Page 1B

the Tigers' Sept. 30 trip to Virginia Tech, which tied for 15th at \$160 per ticket. Clemson's game at N.C. State on Nov. 4 finished just outside the Top 20 at \$139.

Ticket prices aren't expected to be a major hindrance for Clemson fans, whose team is coming off a 14-1 season and the program's first national championship in 35 years. Clemson fans led the Atlantic Coast Conference and ranked

among the Top 15 nationally with an average home attendance of 80,970 last season.

Ohio State was the only team with five games that ranked among the Top 20 for ticket prices while Clemson was next with four, followed by Florida State and Alabama with three each.

The most expensive ticket at the moment is the \$478 admission price being advertised for the Georgia at Notre Dame game in South Bend, Indiana, on Sept. 9. The season-opening clash between Alabama and Florida State in Atlanta on Sept. 2 is next at \$402 for the lowest-priced ticket.

Bentley

Continued from Page 1B

season, out of season, and to be able to see that example is invaluable," South Carolina coach Will Muschamp said.

Bentley has two main points of emphasis for improvement this summer, he said. The first is a better understanding and implementation of the team's blocking schemes.

"It's just developing our protections, trying to do all I can do to keep me upright," he said. "Obviously I trust the offensive line to do it, but there are certain things that it is not their assigned job, and I can fix it and help them out."

The second aspect has to do with leadership, especially when things aren't going well.

"In the Florida game especially, I kind of felt it. We were kind of struggling on offense and I felt like I sat there a little bit," he said. "I could have been more vocal, more positive."

He's already working on being more positive by having lofty goals for this season.