

METRO

LOCAL / STATE

Warden replaced at prison where inmate escaped last month

RIDGEVILLE - There is a new warden at the South Carolina prison where an inmate got an 18-hour head start on an escape.

Corrections Department spokeswoman Summer Sharpe told local media Joel Anderson took over as warden at the maximum security Lieber Correctional Institute in Ridgeville on Thursday.

Anderson replaces Joseph McFadden, who had been warden since 2013.

Sharpe would not say whether McFadden's replacement was related to the July 4 escape of 46-year-old Jimmy Causey, who was captured near Austin, Texas, three days later.

He escaped using wire cutters that were apparently dropped into the prison grounds by a drone. He had created a dummy under the covers in his cell to cover his escape, similar to what he had done when escaped a Columbia prison in 2005.

City won't force removal of Confederate flag

ORANGEBURG - A South Carolina city is refusing to order the removal of a Confederate flag from a tiny piece of land in front of an ice cream shop.

An appeals board in Orangeburg decided Thursday in a 6-0 vote that the flag on a 130-square-foot parcel in front of Edisto River Creamery doesn't violate the city's zoning laws, local media outlets reported.

The ice cream shop's owner, Tommy Daras, wanted the flag removed, saying it has cost him customers and that he has received threats and racially charged letters.

The land was deeded to the Sons of Confederate Veterans a dozen years ago.

Thursday's decision can be appealed to a Circuit Court within 30 days. Attorney Justin Bamberg, who's also a Democratic state representative, represented Daras and said they'll talk about whether to appeal.

Joseph Braxton with the Sons of Confederate Veterans said if the restaurant appeals, the heritage group will defend its right to fly the flag on its property.

"I hate that it came to this," Braxton said. "I would like to see the Creamery be successful." Bamberg had asked the city's zoning administrator to rule that the flag violates the business district zoning. The zoning administrator said the ordinance does not regulate flags. The restaurant then asked the appeals board to remove the flag, which the panel refused to do Thursday.

The restaurant was once owned by Maurice Bessinger, who raised Confederate flags on all his establishments in 2000 after the Confederate flag was removed from the Statehouse dome.

In 2005, Bessinger gave the Sons of Confederate Veterans' local group a deed to the tiny piece of land in front of the restaurant. The land holds a historical marker referencing Union Gen. William T. Sherman's crossing of the Edisto River in 1865.

-AP

Greenville man sentenced to 16 years in federal prison for two armed robberies

TESALON FELICIEN
THE GREENVILLE NEWS

A Greenville man was sentenced in federal court Friday for two armed robberies in 2015, the United States Attorney's Office said Friday.

Trione Bonds, 27, was sentenced to 16 years in federal prison and three years of supervised release, according to U.S. District Attorney Beth Drake.

Evidence presented at the hearing indicated Bonds and another subject planned and

robbed two businesses on Oct. 25, and Nov. 13, 2015, Drake said. Bonds committed the robberies with a firearm and took cash, retail inventory and store cell phones, Drake said.

The case was investigated by the Greenville County Sheriff's

Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Assistant U.S. Attorney D. Joseph Brewer handled the case.

Bonds was also ordered to pay \$1,400 in restitution, according to Drake.

WHY DID REEDY RIVER RUN DRY?



ERIC CONNOR/STAFF

City workers try to lower a sluiceway gate that got stuck on the Reedy River downtown.

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It wasn't a strange tide related to the coming solar eclipse or the lack of rain Greenville has received in recent weeks.

If you saw the Reedy River in the heart of downtown dried up like a salt marsh at low tide Thursday, it amounted to a technical malfunction.

Earlier in the day, city of Greenville public works crews were doing routine maintenance on the sluiceway gate regulating water at the dam behind the Peace Center when the gate wouldn't close.

The river was little more than mud next to

the Wych Pavilion since the gate — a remnant of a railroad trestle used more than 100 years ago — became stuck in an open position.

Engineers worked to have the gate lowered and water levels restored by sundown, City Engineer Dwayne Cooper said.

In an alert, the city said that "there has been no negative impact on the river," but the city contacted the state Department of Health and Environmental Control to "monitor water quality downstream to ensure that there has been no disruption to the river bank or bottom."

Crews will work to repair the gate after water levels have returned to normal, Cooper said.

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Camper care center named for former medical director, Stroud

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The Camper Care Center at Pleasant Ridge Camp & Retreat in Marietta was dedicated in honor of Dr. Cary E. Stroud on Thursday.

Stroud helped found the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Center in 1986, now the BI-LO Charities Children's Cancer Center at Greenville Health System, and served as its medical director until 2013, when he started the Supportive Care Team at Children's Hospital.

"This outstanding medical facility is a fine tribute to a superb physician who spent most

of his professional career caring for Upstate children with cancer and blood disorders," said Dr. Bill Schmidt, medical director of the Children's Hospital.

"The Cary E. Stroud Camper Care Center sounds just right to me," he added.

"It's fitting that future campers will know his name and read about his unmatched compassion for children and their families."

Pleasant Ridge houses Camp Courage and Camp Spearhead,

which offer those with medical, physical or intellectual limitations the chance to experience camp life.

The new Stroud center will enable even more campers to enjoy that experience, said Gene Smith, executive director of Greenville County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism.

"This new facility increases our capacity to serve medically fragile campers," he said. "We are grateful for the private support of a public asset which will serve so many in Greenville County."

The center was made possible by a gift of \$431,000 from a partnership between Clement's

Kindness and Camp Courage, which is for patients and families of the Children's Cancer.

Stroud said he was humbled by the honor.

"This Camper Care Center will make it possible for children now unable to attend camp to have a Camp Courage experience," he said. "I am extremely grateful to Clement's Kindness for their steadfast and continuing commitment to make a difference by improving the lives of children and teenagers with cancer and chronic blood diseases."