

Father of 2-year-old killed by brother released on bail

BY NITA BIRMINGHAM
The Post and Courier

MONCK'S CORNER — The father of a toddler accidentally shot and killed by her 4-year-old brother was released from jail Monday.

A separate hearing determined that the boy will remain in state custody.

Doremus David Alston, 33, was released from the Hill-Finklea Detention Center on \$150,000 bail. Alston, who has ties to New York, will be on satellite monitoring. He may not have contact with his son without the permission of the court or the

Department of Social Services, Deputy Solicitor Blair Jennings said. That was also a condition of the \$150,000 bail for the children's mother, Natasha Wright, 25, who was released from jail Friday.

They are accused of endangering their children by leaving a loaded sawed-off shotgun on a bedroom floor within reach of their son. He shot his 2-year-old sister, Deziyah Alston, in the abdomen Thursday in the family's home at 2834 S.C. Highway 311. The parents were also in the room.

Alston and Wright were arrested on charges of homicide by child abuse,



Doremus Alston

shorter than 18 inches. The 4-year-old boy was placed in emergency protective custody after his

unlawful conduct toward a child and possession of a sawed-off shotgun. Berkeley County sheriff's detectives said Alston bought the 12-gauge shotgun and lopped off the barrel to 12 3/4 inches. A shotgun is illegal if the barrel is

parents' arrests. A hearing must be held within 72 hours, excluding holidays and weekends, to review a child's removal from the home, said DSS General Counsel Virginia Williamson.

The state agency does not comment on specific cases, but Jennings said it was his understanding the hearing was held Monday and the state will retain custody of the 4-year-old. Williamson said a child that young probably is being cared for in a licensed foster home.

Another hearing will be held later to look at a treatment plan for the family or long-term placement of the child, such as

Funeral today

Deziyah Alston's funeral will be at noon today at Ebenezer Zion AME Church on U.S. Highway 176. Burial will follow in the church cemetery, according to Eutawville Community Funeral Home.

with relatives, Williamson said.

"It's better for kids to be with people they know, if they can be safe," she said.

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Height limit proposed

40 feet would be Folly maximum

BY EDWARD C. FENNELL
The Post and Courier

FOLLY BEACH — A height limit of 40 feet above base flood levels in the city's new commercial corridor was recommended Monday by the Planning Commission.

The matter now goes to City Council, which last summer created the C-4 zoning classification without stipulating height restrictions or setbacks from marsh. The commission on Monday voted 7-0 for a 40-foot height limit, deciding against the 35-foot limit City Councilman Eddie Ellis asked the commissioners to endorse.

Commissioner Rex Whitcomb said council consistently has indicated it wanted a 40-foot limit. "If we send them a 35-foot limit, it is going to open up the discussion again," he said.

Commission Chairwoman Laura Beck said deviating from the proposed 40-foot limit could delay resolution of the issue and require a new public hearing.

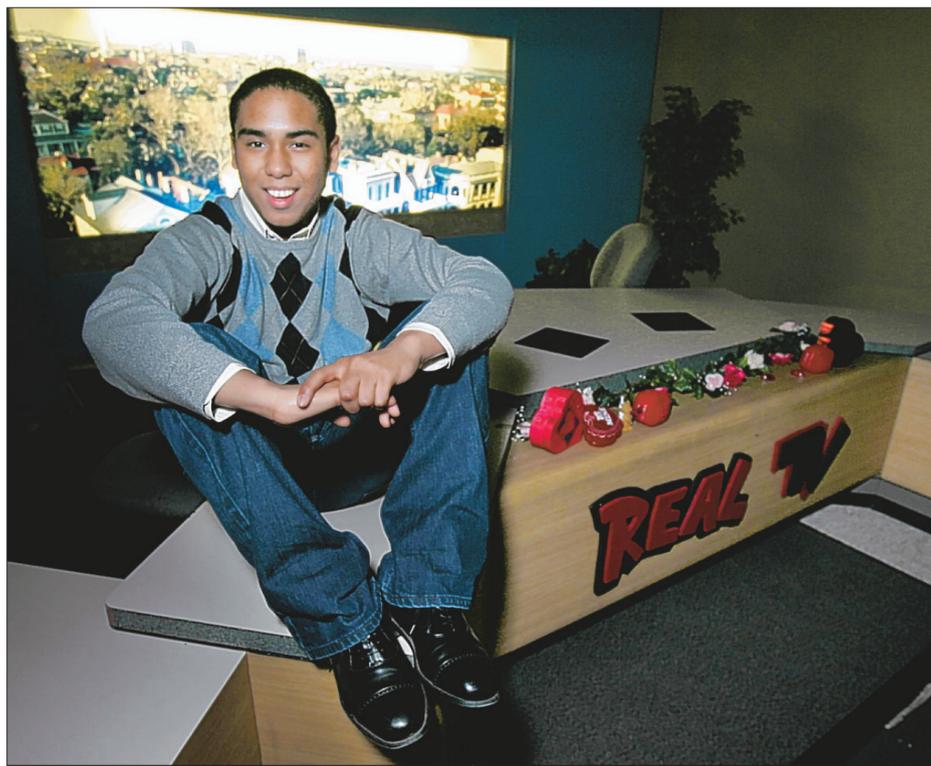
Ellis said when council considers the commission's recommendation Feb. 14 or 28, he will try again to persuade it to set the limit at 35 feet. He said he tried last year to get council to set 35 feet as the limit, but his motion did not get a second.

Although C-4 zoning currently applies only to two newly annexed small parcels on Folly Road at Sol Legare Road, a standing-room-only crowd came to the hearing on the proposed height limits and for hearings on proposed new regulations on oceanfront and marsh setbacks.

The commission struggled to find consensus on the oceanfront and marsh setback proposals. Some commissioners expressed concerns that new regulations would rob owners of under-sized lots the opportunities to build on their property or to replace homes that might be destroyed by storms or fire. Concern that the proposed ordinances did not allow reasonable opportunities for variances were expressed by some residents and commissioners.

The oceanfront setback question was tabled, and single-family zoning was

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GRACE BEAHM/STAFF

Senior Justin Fenner, inside Stratford High School's "Real TV" studio, won first place for anchoring at the Student Television Network convention this past weekend.

This just in — Stratford senior named top anchor

2 other broadcasting students also honored at national convention

BY YVONNE M. WENGER
The Post and Courier

GOOSE CREEK — Anderson Cooper might not have heard of Justin Fenner yet, but it's only a matter of time.

Fenner, a senior at Stratford High School, sat on the "Real TV" desk in the school's broadcast studio Monday and talked about how he stole the title of best student anchor in the nation at the Student Television Network convention in Anaheim, Calif.

"It was absolutely the last thing I thought would happen," Fenner, 16, said of his first-place win at the convention, which was held over the weekend. "I don't think I ever felt this kind of euphoria before."

"I don't think I ever felt this kind of euphoria before."

Justin Fenner

Fenner wants to join the ranks of Cooper, the illustrious hurricane reporter and anchor of "Anderson Cooper 360" on CNN, or take a seat at one of the major network news desks, such as those once held by broadcast legends Walter Cronkite and the late Peter Jennings.

About 1,500 students and teachers from 44 states attended the convention, featuring sessions and competitions on anchoring, reporting and editing.

Eight students from the Berkeley

County school's broadcast journalism classes took part in the event. Senior Sarah Murphy and junior Rishi Patel also placed in the competition. They took fourth place as a reporter and cameraman duo.

Stella McCombs, the school's broadcast journalism teacher and adviser for the school's in-house television network, "Real TV," said she is proud of the students. It was the first time Stratford participated in the convention. Stratford is the only area school believed to have participated.

"It is the best of the best and a good way to see how we stack up," McCombs said.

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Utility, town at odds on sewage

Water system wants Hollywood to have its own plan by 2015

BY ROBERT BEHRE
The Post and Courier

HOLLYWOOD — The town might have to halt all new development requiring sewer service by 2008 because the Charleston Water System has said it no longer will keep pace with the town's growing needs.

The utility is less willing to accept a growing volume from Hollywood because of limitations on its Plum Island treatment plant, which can accept about 36 million gallons a day, Water System Executive Director John Cook said. That's about 14 million gallons more than the current average daily flow.

"We're not trying to tell Hollywood what to do. What we're telling them is we don't have the capacity."

Charleston Water System Executive Director John Cook

"I think we're being pushed. It's one of those things, but we will deal with it."

Hollywood Mayor Gerald Schuster

Cook said that extra capacity must be saved for new developments planned on Daniel Island, the Cainho peninsula, West Ashley and James and Johns islands. The city-owned utility's first priority is serving property inside Charleston's city limits.

"We're not trying to tell Hollywood what to do," Cook said. "What we're telling them is we don't have the capacity."

Another factor is that the utility reinforces "smart growth" policies, including the city of Charleston's support for concentrating new development within an urban growth boundary, Cook said.

Mayor Gerald Schuster said the utility's decision has caused a headache that needs "more than two aspirin."

"I think we're being pushed," he said. "It's one of those things, but we will deal with it."

In November, Schuster wrote Charleston Water System, then known as the Commissioners of Public Works, asking it to accept 200,000 more gallons of sewage a day, enough to serve about 500 new homes.

The town has its own trunk and sewer lines but contracts with the Charleston utility to have sewage treated and disposed of.

"We anticipate at least 500 new homes will be built within the next 1 1/2 years," Schuster's letter said. "The projects are scattered all over town, from one end to the other."

Kin Hill, Charleston Water System's operations manager, wrote back that the utility would be willing to "loan" enough

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Just hangin'



BRAD NETTLES/STAFF

Andrew Norris of West Ashley flies through the air as he rides his skateboard Monday at Ackerman Skate Park. The 2003 Citadel graduate says he comes to the West Ashley Skate Park in his spare time to get exercise.

Speeders can't believe it: Busted by an old pickup

BY CHRIS DIXON
The Post and Courier

MOUNT PLEASANT — Rocketing into pursuit of another speeding driver, it's apparent that Mathew Pagliarini has found a traffic enforcement vehicle that suits him.

The Mount Pleasant traffic officer isn't cruising around in a stealthy Camaro, Mustang or Dodge Charger, but rather an off-the-shelf, American-made, six-cylinder-powered pickup truck.

Motorists have started noticing Pagliarini's rickety long-bed truck, outfitted with tinted windows and hidden blue lights, but he wants to limit descriptions of the make and model for now. Police seized the truck in a drug raid, and Pagliarini said a newer, V-8 powered truck is expected to arrive next month.

"I don't know any other officers who drive (an unmarked) pickup truck," he said. "When I'm driving around with my wife in a normal car, we always see drivers do crazy things that they wouldn't

"At the beginning of my career I liked a marked car because I wanted people to know I was a cop. Now that I've been doing this for a while, I like them not knowing because I like to see the dirty things people are up to. And I like to catch them."

Mount Pleasant traffic officer Mathew Pagliarini

do if they saw a police car. Now I can do something about it."

At the base of the James B. Edwards Bridge, which spans the Wando River on Interstate 526, Pagliarini fired up his hazard flashers and clocked cars and tractor-trailers consistently exceeding 75 mph. Just as he prepared to pursue a

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