



LOCAL & STATE

Help for homeless comes in 2-day event

BY ADAM PARKER
The Post and Courier

Bo Lawson is a veteran, and he's sober now. He said he spent the past week of March in the detox program at the Veterans Administration hospital, then he secured housing in North Charleston at the Veterans Villas, a series of duplexes reserved for veterans recovering from substance abuse.

"I woke up drinking and went to bed drinking," he said. "I started feeling it in my body. I didn't have that *umph* like I used to have — just enough energy to roll out of bed and grab myself a beer."

On Friday, Lawson, who is 51, joined

For information

Contact the VA hospital at 577-5011 about the Stand Down event and health services.

Contact David Weston, Charleston Office of Veterans Affairs, at 789-7506 about veterans' benefits.

his new friends and scores of the city's homeless at North Charleston's Armory Park, where the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center and Goodwill Industries of Lower South Carolina are sponsoring the seventh annual Stand Down Against Homelessness event. By 9:30 a.m., just an hour and a half after the doors opened, at

least 150 people had registered, according to organizers. Officials expect more than 2,000 people during the two-day event, which continues today from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Services provided include medical screenings, job and legal counseling, haircuts, assistance with VA benefits and clothing donations. While many services are geared toward veterans, anyone in need of assistance is welcome, organizers said. About 200 volunteers will offer personalized help to the homeless during the event, guiding them through several tents behind the armory filled with shoes and boots, undergarments, coats, shirts, pants, sleeping bags, duffel

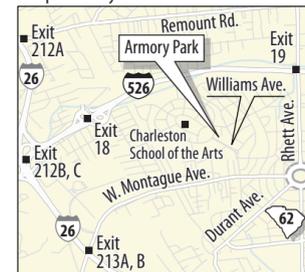
bags and blankets.

Inside, Elks Lodge and Knights of Columbus members distributed soap and shampoo, pill boxes, toothbrushes, playing cards and Tic Tacs. David Weston sat behind a laptop, ready to match discharge papers and other records with the VA's database to determine on the spot whether vets qualified for any of the department's benefits. Nearby, Anthony Holmes, Howard Boyd, Laressa Gilliam and Kenneth Cobb snipped at numerous heads of hair. A volunteer drew blood for HIV testing, and two nurses checked for lice, measured blood pressure and offered

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Help for homeless

The 7th annual Stand Down Against Homelessness event is will be held at North Charleston's Armory Park from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. today.



SOURCE: ESRI KEN HAWKINS/STAFF

All in the family



MIC SMITH/STAFF

Sandra Daniels rides a 1957 Harley around the Wall of Death as she practices before the start of the Heritage Motorcycle Rally at the Exchange Park in Ladson. The Wall of Death is 24 feet wide and 14 feet tall.

Barreling around 'Wall of Death' just kind of got into their blood

BY CHRIS DIXON
The Post and Courier

Don and Ian Daniels didn't see their father much when they were kids. Don Sr. was off somewhere criss-crossing America on the carnival circuit with a low-budget, jaw-dropping motorcycle stunt show that he called "The Wall of Death."

But when summer rolled around, the brothers left Mom and the comfort of their Massachusetts home to travel with Dad. By watching him roar around a cylindrical vertical wall at 50 mph on a vintage Indian motorcycle, "it kind of got into our blood," said Don Jr.

For the next week, you're likely to find Ian, 23, Don Jr., 27, and his beautiful wife Sandra, 26, hugging the walls of their red, white and blue "terror dome" at the Heritage Motorcycle Rally in Ladson. This is the smiling, tattooed family's first trip to Charleston, and their show and its 43-year-old mini-stadium are a rip-roaring slice of classic Americana.

There are only three remaining "Walls of Death" in America. The Daniels' 14-foot-tall, 24-foot-wide

If you go

WHAT: The Charleston Heritage Motorcycle Rally
WHEN: April 7-16. Rally events run from 10 a.m. to as late as 11 p.m.
WHERE: The Exchange Park in Ladson
PHONE: 767-4258
WEB: www.heritagemotorcyclery.com

In addition to The Wall of Death, you won't want to miss Kid Rock at 9 tonight; the Heritage Old-School Bike Show from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday; Lynrd Skynrd at 2 p.m. April 15; the Shawn Ives Motorcycle Freestyle, Globe of Death and Motorcycle Car Jump (several shows during the rally).

More on motorcycles

Motorcycles enjoy greatest popularity since the 1970s. 1E

model was built in 1963 by Joe "Pappy" Boudreau of Swansea, Mass., and was featured in the 1964 Elvis Presley film, "Roustabout." Built of planks of Douglas fir, it's a three-dimensional barrel-

shaped puzzle that must be taken apart and bolted back together each time it rolls from town to town on a flatbed trailer.

Riders begin on the flat floor and accelerate onto a ramp that rises from 45 degrees to the completely vertical wall. By the time they reach vertical, riders need to be traveling at least 35 mph to stick. It's easy to reach 4 G's and 50 mph as speeds increase. "You ain't seen nothing 'til you've seen it in your face," said Sandra, who holds the vertical on her 1957 Harley-Davidson.

And it is as loud, smoky and in-your-face a spectacle as you're likely to see. There is room for about 150 spectators to stand around the top of the wall within inches of the weaving riders. The show is free, but if you appreciate it, you're encouraged to hold out a dollar to see if a rider can grab it from your hand.

Riding the track is not for the faint of heart. Don and Ian said their father would not even allow the boys to circle on a motorcycle until they were 18 years

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State treasurer race proves run for the money

1 candidate gives \$2M gift to own campaign

BY SCHUYLER KROFF
The Post and Courier

The political race for who wants to be in charge of the state's money has turned into a race about who has the most money in their campaign bank accounts.

Republican state treasurer candidate Greg Ryberg dropped a bombshell this week when he donated \$2 million of his own cash to his campaign.

It's a state record for a single personal donation.

The irony is that one of Ryberg's leading challengers in the four-way GOP race, Charleston developer Thomas Ravenel, previously held what many considered to be the South Carolina record for a personal donation.

Ravenel, a developer, donated a total of nearly \$3 million of his own cash to his 2004 U.S. Senate race. That money came in several installments.

Political scientists say this new form of cash war suggests South Carolina political races soon could become a hobby reserved for the truly wealthy.

"The fact is, this stuff has gotten to be expensive," said Francis Marion Uni-

versity political scientist Neil Thigpen, who monitors GOP politics in the state. "Even if you're running for county council, you're talking about money that even the average businessman doesn't have."

All the money is being spent for a state office that pays roughly \$92,000 a year.

Ryberg, a state senator and real estate businessman from Aiken, said he plans to spend every dime of his loan on media advertising. That includes TV, radio and home mail-outs.

"I'm dedicated to do whatever it takes," Ryberg said Friday. He has about \$2.5 million on hand to help get him into office.

Also in the GOP race are former House majority leader Rick Quinn of Columbia, and Easley home builder Jeff Willis.

All are competing in the June 13 GOP

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Ryberg

Plan for sex-offender program drawing fire

BY GLENN SMITH
The Post and Courier

A plan to improve South Carolina's approach to treating sex offenders is causing a stir among some counselors who fear the effort will undercut their work and hurt them financially.

At issue is an agreement signed in January between the state Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services and the Needham, Mass.-based Counseling & Psychotherapy Center. The pact calls for them to work together to establish a more cohesive and consistent system for treating some 1,300 sex offenders on probation or parole in South Carolina.

State officials say the arrangement will improve efforts to make sure all offenders are getting adequate care and supervision. The center operates specialized sex-offender management and treatment programs in 35 locations across the country, according to the company's Web site.

But some counselors who work with sex offenders are concerned that the state is ceding too much control to an out-of-state company that wants to profit at their expense.

Concerns blossomed after the state notified counselors that all new referrals to treat offenders would go through CPC. The counseling center then sent out a let

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Jim Grego, victims' rights pioneer, advocate dead at 75

BY NITA BIRMINGHAM
The Post and Courier

Jim Grego, one of the first advocates for victims' rights in South Carolina, has died at the age of 75.

Grego died Thursday evening at his Johns Island home. The funeral will be at 2 p.m. Monday at the Church of Our Saviour on Johns Island.

Grego, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, a submariner and a retired commander, will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Grego came to Charleston in 1976 to open an office for a New Jersey-based electronics engineering firm. He was propelled into the issue of victims' rights when his daughter was shot and wounded in her car in downtown Charleston in 1984.



Grego

advocate offices are commonplace now, but that wasn't always the case.

"There was nothing," said Janice Clark of James Island, whose teenage daughter was slain on Folly Beach in 1973. A man stationed at the Charleston Naval

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Grego responded to the act of violence "in a very public-spirited way," his friend Larry Richter said.

Grego founded Citizens Against Violent Crime (CAVE) and funded the group largely out of his own pocket, Richter said. Victim

Concrete ideas keep students afloat



RUSS PACE/THE CITADEL

Citadel cadets (from right) Jonathan Dove, Joshua Boggs and Phil Ellis compete Friday in the American Society of Civil Engineers men's endurance concrete canoe race at James Island County Park.

BY DIANE KNICH
The Post and Courier

Engineering students from three states rowed, rowed, rowed the concrete boats across the pond Friday at James Island County Park.

The concrete canoe race is one of the highlights of the American Society of Civil Engineers' regional conference hosted by The Citadel in Charleston this weekend.

More than 250 students from engineering programs at eight colleges in South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia are attending the conference, which continues today at The Citadel.

Groups of students from six schools built concrete canoes to enter in sprints and longer endurance races Friday.

Citadel cadets Phil Ellis and Jonathan Dove, both juniors, began working on

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