

Morning News



WARM, WIND 90 • 66 FORECAST, A2 | TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2022 | SCNOW.COM | THE VOICE OF THE PEE DEE | \$2.00



ARDIE ARVIDSON/MORNING NEWS

Connie Anderson, executive director of the Florence Regional Airport, gave the Florence Rotary Club an update on the airport during its meeting on Monday at Victors.

Executive Director: Florence Regional Airport ready for takeoff

ARDIE ARVIDSON
Morning Newsaarvidson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE – This is your airport. Support it. Use it. Or you may lose it.

That was the message from Connie Anderson, executive director of the Florence Regional Airport, to the Florence Rotary Club on Monday at Victors.

Anderson said, "It is not just my airport. I need your help. We have a lot to offer in Florence."

She encouraged Rotarians to help spread the word and encourage people to use the Florence Regional Airport for their travels.

Anderson asked Rotarians to share the information she presented with others and let them know about the positive changes taking place at the Florence Regional Airport.

The only commercial airline servicing the airport is American Airline, which has two incoming and two outgoing flights a day.

Anderson acknowledged some complaints in the past have been

valid, but they are in the process of rebranding and updating the airport.

She said their prices are competitive and there really aren't as many cancellation or delays of flights as one might think.

Anderson said in 2021 there were 727 flights with only three canceled and 118 delayed. So far in 2022 there have been 16 canceled flights and 40 delays.

Anderson said some of the places people are traveling the most are New York/Newark, Chicago, South Florida, Philadelphia/Trenton and Denver. She said 26.2 percent is domestic traffic and 73.80 percent are going to other airports; 5.6 percent is International Market with 94.40 percent going to other airports.

The airport currently has 16 employees – eight in public safety, four in maintenance and four in administration – and 194 employed through tenants of airport operations.

Anderson said her primary function is to manage the 1,483

acres of land with its 15 facilities, two active runways, 10 active taxiways, Precision Air (fixed base operator) and Avis/Budget and Enterprise/National.

Anderson said COVID-19 has had a profound impact on the airport industry. She said one in 15 airports lost commercial service with American Airlines for three months and one in nine that only had American Airlines service.

Anderson said the airport survived COVID with \$18,037,776 in CARES Funding. She said \$10 million went to new project development and \$8 million to operations budget for four years. She said airport improvement projects were 100 percent funded in 2020-2021.

With these funds the airport supplemented its operating expenses, avoided any layoffs or decreased employment during the pandemic. It also paid off all its loans.

"The airport is completely debt free," Anderson said.

Please see AIRPORT, Page A2

Dance party kicks off Throwback Weekend

STAFF REPORTS

DARLINGTON, S.C. – Darlington Raceway will start the Official Throwback Weekend of NASCAR a day early with the first-ever Throwback Thursday '80s Dance Party in the midway from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The track Too Tough To Tame is known for the fierce competition on the track and its one-of-a-kind fan experience off the track, so the excitement will start a day earlier with the Throwback Thursday '80s Dance Party.

"The Official Throwback Weekend of NASCAR will kick off on Thursday night with the '80s Dance Party in the midway for race fans," said Kerry Tharp, Darlington Raceway President.

Tharp said: "Darlington Raceway has more entertainment options for our loyal race fans than ever before, so we look forward to starting race weekend with a party!"

The first-ever Throwback

Thursday '80s Dance Party in the midway will feature epic music from the decade, glow-in-the-dark yard games, NASCAR and Darlington Raceway trivia, contests and giveaways.

Darlington Raceway will handout glow-in-the-dark bracelets, necklaces, etc. to fans in attendance. Contests on the midway stage will include a lip sync competition, air guitar battle and best mullet.

Like all activities in the midway, Throwback Thursday '80s Dance Party is free and open to the public and race fans. Fans not currently camping or on property should enter through Gate 34 off of Indian Branch Road and park by Petty Blvd.

For all the details on the expansive fan experience and entertainment options for the Official Throwback Weekend at Darlington Raceway, visit the Fan Guide at www.darlington-raceway.com/fanguide.

More Information

Additional free opportunities for fans of all ages to have fun and engage with NASCAR at Darlington Raceway throughout race weekend.

- Throughout the weekend, Photo Moments will be held at various locations around track grounds. Fans can be captured with partner frames from Dead On Tools, Mahindra ROXOR and Goodyear. Cup series driver, Austin Dillon will host a fan photo station at the Goodyear frame on Sunday from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. Fans can get photos with Austin on a first come, first serve basis, with only the first 100 getting a photo.
- Trackside Live will also make its anticipated return to the heart of the activity in the midway starting Friday.

Throughout out race weekend, fans will be able to see drivers, personalities, music and all manner of entertainers including Matt DiBenedetto on Friday, 4:30 p.m., Jeb and Ward Burton on Saturday at noon, Bobby Labonte and Ron Hornaday Jr. on Saturday at 12:20 p.m., Door, Bump, Clear Podcast with guests Red Farmer and Donnie Allison, Chris Buescher on Sunday at 12:30 p.m., Brad Keselowski on Sunday at 1 p.m., Corey LaJoie's Stacking Pennies Podcast on Sunday at 1:15 p.m. and much more. Fans will also be able to see local groups perform in the midway at the Group Performance Stage throughout Saturday and Sunday. For the full list of times for Trackside

Please see DANCE PARTY, Page A2

Organization needs mentors for youths

ALTASIA JOHNSON
Special to the Morning News

The Youth Mentors of the Pee Dee needs mentors to fulfill its mission of providing a caring, adult role model in a child's life.

The organization, formerly Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Pee Dee, is a United Way Agency.

"What Big Brothers/Big Sisters did and what the Youth Mentors of the Pee Dee does, is we work with children from single parent and broken homes, that are missing or have a void in their life because they're missing a parent," Youth Mentors of the Pee Dee Executive Director Joseph Edwards said. "The whole program is based upon being the child's friend and helping them through difficult times of growing up and hopefully helping them become productive citizens."

Youth Mentors of the Pee Dee has approximately 275 children in the program and matches one mentor to one child. The dedication of the mentors and staff can be credited with the programs 90% success rate. The child's age range to get into the program are,

boys age 8-17 and girls age 6-13. Once in the program, the child can continue to work with the mentor until they graduate high school.

There are approximately 45 mentors, causing many children to be placed on the waiting for mentor waitlist. While on the waitlist, the agency staff becomes the mentor, building a relationship with the child until a mentor is available.

The process to become a mentor requires the person to be at least 21-old. Mentors must live in the area and submit an application.

Once the application is submitted, the staff will set up an intake meeting with the prospective mentor to get to know them and conduct a home visit to include meeting with their spouse or significant other (if applicable).

Further checks will include a criminal background, driver's license, and other checks to ensure the prospective mentor is a positive, good person.

Once the mentor is approved, they receive training, suggested

Please see MENTORS, Page A2

Counseling center expands into region

STAFF REPORTS

FLORENCE – Pace Center for Girls is expanding its programming to provide social, emotional, behavioral, and mental health counseling to girls ages 11-17 in South Carolina.

This expansion is in response to the growing need for mental health resources for young girls in the region. The program will serve the population through its evidence-based model to help girls and young women build healthy coping skills, address past trauma and reduce involvement in high-risk behaviors.

Over the course of a year, Pace will serve up to 80 girls in Florence and Darlington counties by providing individual, peer group and family counseling sessions, as well as individual goal setting and implementing strategies for future success.

To best determine the unique needs of girls and their families in this region, Pace will set up a Girls Coordinating Council – a community collaborative that works to improve services for girls – to analyze relevant data and inform favorable outcomes.

Enrollment in the program at Alfred Rush Academy in Flor-



COURTESY: PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS

Pace Center for Girls has expanded its programming to provide social, emotional, behavioral, and mental health counseling to girls ages 11-17 in Florence County schools and will start programs in Darlington County schools in spring. From left are April Brownlee, LMHC, MCAP, NCC, seniordirector program performance, innovation at Pace Center for Girls, Dr. Omoro King, Director of Elementary School Education, Darlington County School District and Aggie Pappas, MSW, vice president program innovation and strategic implementation.

ence has already begun, and enrollment in Darlington Middle and High School will begin this spring.

"We are excited to bring our gender-responsive and strength-based counseling services to the girls of South Carolina to support their social and emotional growth," said Lisa Spears,

program director of Pace Florence and Darlington. "Our evidence-based model has shown that when we support girls, a ripple effect occurs and strengthens the community at large."

Girls who participate in the program improve their skills and

Please see COUNSELING CENTER, Page



Israel lashes out at Russia over Nazism remarks

PAGE A4



Tharp talks about race week at Darlington

PAGE B1

INDEX

ABBY	A5	COMICS	B3
BUSINESS	B8	OBITUARIES	A7
CLASSIFIEDS	B6	SPORTS	B1

16 PAGES

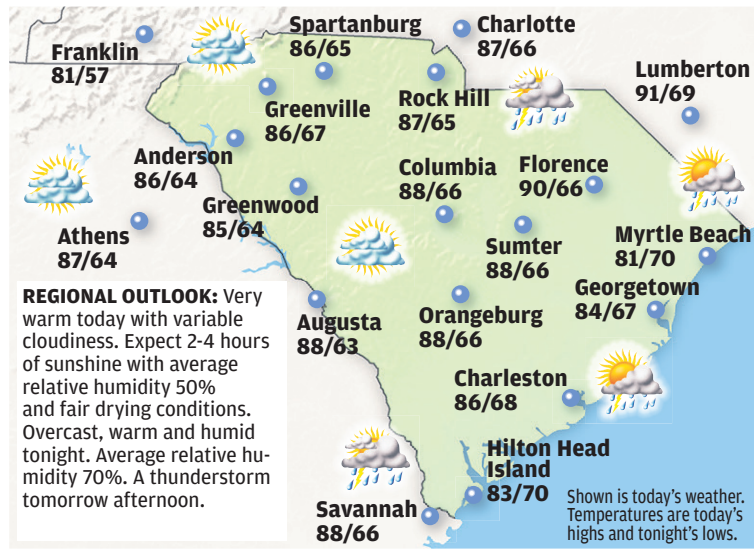
Send us your news to news@scnow.com
For home delivery, call 843-317-6397

THE BEST CLASSIFIEDS
IN THE PEE DEE
PAGES B6-7. CALL 317-SELL



FLORENCE'S FIVE-DAY FORECAST

TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Warm with variable clouds	Overcast, warm and humid	An afternoon thunderstorm	Partly sunny and warm	A shower and thunderstorm	A stray afternoon t-storm
WIND SW 7-14 mph 90°	WIND SSW 7-14 mph 66°	WIND WSW 8-16 mph 88° 66°	WIND NE 4-8 mph 86° 67°	WIND SSW 8-16 mph 86° 65°	WIND WSW 8-16 mph 82° 57°



REGIONAL OUTLOOK: Very warm today with variable cloudiness. Expect 2-4 hours of sunshine with average relative humidity 50% and fair drying conditions. Overcast, warm and humid tonight. Average relative humidity 70%. A thunderstorm tomorrow afternoon.

National Extremes

Monday for the 48 contiguous states

High: 99° in Altus, OK
Low: 10° in Bodie State Park, CA

State Extremes

Monday for South Carolina

High: 90 in Beaufort
Low: 57 in Pickens

Tides

Today High Low
Myrtle Beach
12:16 am 7:46 am 12:53 am 8:24 am
12:43 pm 7:34 pm 1:23 pm 8:11 pm

Lake Levels

Lake	Full Pool (ft.)	Level Yest.	24-hour Change
Marion	76.8	75.51	-0.02
Moultrie	75.5	75.11	-0.02

Airport

From A1

It also was able to purchase new equipment to maintain the airfield, purchase new IT equipment, computers and security cameras.

“We are converting to a badging system that will take our security to the next level,” Anderson said.

It also was able to make some much needed repairs and updates to its current infrastructure, hire a consultant to help with new air service pursuits and hire Influence Digital to build a new website and create a marketing plan.

Paige Smith of Influence Digital also was at the meeting. She said the website launched last Friday.

Smith is helping rebrand the airport. She said it is launching a massive campaign for business and leisure travelers and will be targeting people who are within driving distance of Florence.

CARES funding also enabled the airport to acquire two new corporate hangers, eight new T-hangers and new signage.

“For us to grow we have to get the flights we have full to 80 percent,” Anderson said. She said

then they can think about getting another flight.

The Florence Regional Airport was started in 1928 with the purchase of 300 acres of land. At the onset of World War II, the war department acquired an additional 1,400 acres and the site became the Army Air Corps training base – Florence Army Airfield.

In 1945, the property was deeded back to the city of Florence and later split with Florence County and was governed by City-County Airport Commission. In 1999, State Legislature created the Pee Dee Regional Airport District that includes city of Florence and counties of Florence, Dillon and Marion.

The Airport District has a nine-member board that governs the actions of the executive director and the Florence Regional Airport. Members are Lee Nettles, Rene Jolley and Dr. Daniel M. Ervin, Florence County; Kerstin Nemec and Dr. Stephen Bridgers, City of Florence; Joe Powell and one open seat, Marion County; and Tommy Parham and Glenn Greene, Dillon County.

Three new Rotarians, Griffin Lee, Carli Mapes and Matt Tranquill, were installed in the Florence Rotary Club on Monday.

Dance Party

From A1

Live and Group Performance Stage, go to the Fan Guide at www.darlingtonraceway.com/fanguide.

NASCAR Kids Zone will make its return to the midway throughout Darlington's Throwback Weekend with mini golf sets, face painting stations, puzzles, coloring stations and more kid-friendly activities that children of any age can enjoy. Drivers including Noah Gragson will host a kid's only Q&A Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. along with Erik Jones, who will make an appearance on behalf of his reading program on Sunday from 12:30 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.

The eNASCAR Retro Arcade Presented by Goodyear, a collaboration between Goodyear and eNASCAR to bring retro racing games to the track, will be featured before the green flag each race day all weekend long. The activation includes iRacing simulators, two tents dedicated to retro arcade consoles like Pac-Man, Super Mario Brothers,

Donkey Kong and vintage arcade chair racing games, Daytona USA and Cruisin' USA.

Children from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Pee Dee will be in attendance on Friday, May 6 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. for The NASCAR Foundation's Speediatrics Fun Day Festival at the College Tailgate Zone adjacent to the track's administration building on Harry Byrd Highway. Games, activities, and all manner of fun will be available for the children.

On Friday, fans are encouraged to wear their vintage NASCAR t-shirts to the track for Throwback T-Shirt Night. Offensive clothing will not be permitted. The track will give away official Darlington Raceway Throwback T-shirts throughout race day.

Darlington Raceway and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) will host a charity cycling event, Too Tough To Ride, on Saturday beginning at 7 a.m. The charity cycling event will benefit the South Carolina Coastal FCA. To register and/or learn more the event, visit tootoughtoride.org or darlingtonraceway.com/tootoughtoride.

Morning News

The Morning News is published daily and Sunday at 310 S. Dargan St., Florence, SC 29506 USPS 200-6809

OFFICE HOURS

Business Offices
M-F 8 a.m. to noon - 843-317-6397

Newsroom

Daily 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. - 843-317-NEWS

Customer Service

M-F 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Holidays 8:30 to 12:30 p.m.

DELIVERY CONCERNS

843-317-7300
6 a.m. to 8 a.m. M-Sat
7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Sun

Matthew Tranquill

President
mtranquill@florencenews.com
843-317-7200

Chris Day

Managing Editor
cday@florencenews.com
843-317-7250

William Calcutt Jr.

Regional Circulation Director
wcalcutt@florencenews.com
843-317-7301

Circulation Department

telephone number:
843-317-7300.

Subscription Offers

The Morning News may enhance the newspaper with up to six premium editions annually. These special editions are not included in our standard subscription price, so they require an additional charge that could result in a slightly earlier bill due date. If you prefer to opt out, call us at 843-317-6397.

Vacation holds up to 30 days will continue to bill at regular rate while digital access is maintained. Extended

Counseling center

From A1

ability to make healthy decisions and reduce harmful habits to their health, wellness and safety. Pace's holistic approach cares for their physical, emotional, intellectual, spiritual and relational development needs. Through these services, girls learn how to manage stress and adversities, improve personal relationships, learn new communication skills and improve school performance.

“Pace is exactly what our girls need. Their gender-responsive approach helps girls find their strengths. We are so excited to have them at the Alfred Rush Academy,” Alfred Rush Academy Principal Chris Coleman said.

“I am thrilled to see much needed gender-responsive, trauma-informed and strength-based mental health and social services coming to adolescent girls in Florence School District One, through Pace Center for Girls,” said Representative Terry Alexander. “This is an organization I believe will do great things for our community, and

Mentors

From A1

activities and are matched with a child based on similar interests. Youth Mentors of the Pee Dee asks mentors commit to at least one year of service and see the child for a few hours each week and stay in touch with them.

“We have had matches that lasted all the way through to when the child graduated high school,” Edwards said. “And even then, you know, the friendship remains forever. That's something that will never go away.”

Established in 1953, the Big Brothers of the Pee Dee, was founded by a local attorney, Eugene Ziegler Jr. During his work in family court, children were either sent to a reform school or sent back home without additional support. He noticed a trend that the returning children (especially boys) did not have a father figure in their life. He searched for programs that the boys could participate in that didn't involve sending them to reform school, but no such program existed.

As a result of this, Big Brothers of the Pee Dee was created and it was the first Big Brother organization in the South. In the 80s, the program added the Big Sisters component, becoming Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Pee Dee.

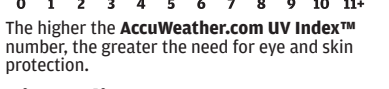
In 2018, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Pee Dee left the national organization, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America, due to rising financial costs it could no longer afford. Their name changed to the Youth Mentors of the Pee Dee, however, the overall mission remained the same. If you would like more information on the Youth Mentors of the Pee Dee, would like to volunteer to be a mentor or to assist the program in other areas, or would like to enroll your child, please visit the program website at <https://www.youthmentorsofthepeedee.com/> or call 843-662-7081.

For more information about Pace Center for Girls, visit www.pacecenter.org.

ALMANAC

UV Index Today

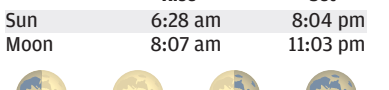
Shown is the highest value of the day.



The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Air Quality

Forecast index based on presence of man-made particulates affecting aspects of human health.



Skywatch

	Rise	Set
Sun	6:28 am	8:04 pm
Moon	8:07 am	11:03 pm



©2022; forecasts and graphics provided by

AccuWeather
Go to AccuWeather.com

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today HI/Lo/W	Wednesday HI/Lo/W
Atlanta	86/67/pc	86/66/t
Charleston	86/68/t	87/66/t
Charlotte	87/66/t	86/62/t
Fayetteville	89/67/t	90/63/t
Greenville	85/64/c	86/61/t
Hilton Head	83/70/pc	85/69/pc
Knoxville	83/65/c	78/59/pc
Myrtle Beach	81/70/t	83/68/t
Raleigh	87/67/t	87/62/t
Savannah	88/66/t	88/65/pc
Wilmington	87/70/c	87/67/pc

W-weather, s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, f-ice, r-rain, t-thunderstorms, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood Stage (ft.)	Stage Yest.	24-hour Change
Black River			
Kingstree	12	5.40	-0.28
G. Pee Dee River			
Cheraw	30	4.81	+0.27
Pee Dee	19	7.27	-0.74
L. Pee Dee River			
Galivants Ferry	9	5.28	-0.01
Lynch River			
Effingham	14	4.26	-0.17
Waccamaw River			
Conway	11	7.26	-0.19
Wateree River			
Camden	27	6.77	-0.03

Statistics through 5 p.m. Monday

Temperature
High/low 89°/65°
Normal high/low 81°/57°
Record high 93° (2010)
Record low 38° (1963)

Precipitation
24 hrs through 5 p.m. Mon. 0.00"
Month to date (normal) 0.00" (0.19")
Year to date (normal) 13.35" (12.46")
Record for date 1.33" (2004)

Pollen Today

Grass High
Trees High
Weeds Absent

Source: National Allergy Bureau

Cooling Degree Days

Degree days are an indicator of energy needs. The more the total degree days, the more energy is necessary to cool.

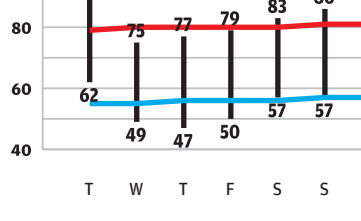
Monday 12
Month to date (normal) 19 (10)
Since January 1 (normal) 150 (126)

RealFeel Temperature® Today

An exclusive index of effective temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine intensity, cloudiness, precipitation, pressure and elevation on the human body.

72° 88° 87° 79°
8 a.m. noon 4 p.m. 8 p.m.

TEMPERATURE TRENDS



TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is **Tuesday, May 3**, the 123rd day of 2022. There are 242 days left in the year.

On this date:

In **1802**, Washington, D.C., was incorporated as a city.

In **1937**, Margaret Mitchell won the Pulitzer Prize for her novel, "Gone with the Wind."

In **1947**, Japan's postwar constitution took effect.

In **1948**, the Supreme Court, in Shelley v. Kraemer, ruled that covenants prohibiting the sale of real estate to Black people or members of other racial groups were legally unenforceable.

In **1960**, the Harvey Schmidt-Tom Jones musical "The Fantasticks" began a nearly 42-year run at New York's Sullivan Street Playhouse.

In **1987**, The Miami Herald said its reporters had observed a young woman spending "Friday night and most of Saturday" at a Washington townhouse belonging to Democratic presidential candidate Gary Hart. (The woman was later identified as Donna Rice; the resulting controversy torpedoed Hart's presidential bid.)

In **2006**, a federal jury in Alexandria, Virginia, rejected the death penalty for al-Qaida conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui, deciding he should spend life in prison for his role in 9/11; as he was led from the courtroom, Moussaoui taunted, "America, you lost."

In **2011**, Chicago's Derrick Rose became at age 22 the NBA's youngest MVP.

In **2015**, two gunmen were shot and killed by a police officer in Garland, Texas, after they opened fire outside a purposely provocative contest for cartoon depictions of the Prophet Muhammad.

In **2016**, in a stunning triumph for a political outsider, Donald Trump all but clinched the Republican presidential nomination with a resounding victory in Indiana that knocked rival Ted Cruz out of the race.

S.C. lottery

PICK 3 (Midday): 9, 5, 4 (8)

PICK 3: 5, 3, 3 (8)

PICK 4 (Midday): 3, 7, 8, 3 (8)

PICK 4: 0, 3, 0, 9 (8)

CASH 5: 17, 4, 27, 3, 34

POWER UP: X3

CASH POP (Midday): 2

CASH POP: 5

AUTO-RENEWAL, CANCELLATION, REFUND AND PAPER RENEWAL POLICY

EZ Pay is a convenient electronic payment method that automatically renews your Digital Only or news subscription service (your "subscription"). If you register for EZ Pay or debit banking (ACH) payments, your subscription will continue unless you contact our customer care center to cancel your subscription. On the last day of your current term (your "renewal date"), your plan will automatically renew for the same term unless you choose to cancel more than twenty-one (21) days before your renewal date (your "cancellation date").

If you do not affirmatively cancel your subscription before your cancellation date, you will be charged for an additional term for the plan you initially selected at the rates in effect at the time of renewal. You may cancel your subscription at any time by calling 843-317-7300.

If you have provided us with a valid credit card number or an alternate payment method saved in your account and you have not canceled by your cancellation date, your subscription will be automatically processed up to fourteen (14) days in advance of your renewal date and the payment method you provided to us at or after the time of your initial subscription purchase will be charged.

We reserve the right to change your subscription rate at the next renewal period. If you are not

satisfied with your subscription rate or service, you may cancel your subscription at any time. The full amount of any balance over \$5 will be returned. We do not provide refunds prorated for the remainder of the payment period for Digital Only subscriptions

There is a one-time account set up fee of \$6.99 for all new subscribers. Subscribers who prefer to receive paper renewal notices in the mail will be charged \$4.99 each renewal notice - this fee is waived for subscribers who sign up to receive their renewal notices via email. If you wish to receive renewal notices via email, please contact us using the contact information found at scnow.com/contact.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Print subscribers get the benefit of newspaper home delivery and digital access. Therefore, if you register for a subscription plan, you are subject to the auto-renewal, cancellation, refund and paper renewal policy described above, as well as the additional terms and conditions set forth below.

All subscriptions include unlimited digital access. To access these benefits, you must first provide your email address, register with scnow.com/ services, and activate your account online. To activate your digital account visit scnow.com/ activate.