

66° 51°
So much for the groundhog.
Six weeks of this is bliss. **6B**

Komen organization faces backlash after Planned Parenthood decision **7A**



Half off food & drink at Hilton Head Brewing Co.
dealsaver.com/HiltonHead

Town Council doles out bed-tax dollars

More than \$2.2 million awarded to 20 groups; Mitchelville, airport shut out

By TOM BARTON
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The bed-tax pie was slightly smaller, but most seemed to walk away with a slice similar to last year's.
Other's left empty-handed.

Hilton Head Island Town Council on Thursday awarded more than \$2.2 million to nonprofits seeking money from accommodations tax revenue for 2012.
By law, the money generated from the state tax on overnight lodging must be used to support tourism on the island.

The town collected about \$3.5 million in 2011, about \$28,000 shy of revenue collected the year before.
The Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce — already entitled to one-third of the pie — walked away with another \$240,000 to market the island as

a golf, culinary and cultural heritage travel destination.
A little more than \$1 million already goes to the chamber as the town's designated marketing and promotional arm.

Please see **BED TAX** on **7A**

WHO GOT THE MONEY?

To see a list of recipients of bed-tax awards from Hilton Head Town Council, turn to **7A**.

3-YEAR-OLD THROWN FROM BALCONY

Fund set up for medical expenses

Dionna Hagood is still being treated for injuries police described as "severe."

By PATRICK DONOHUE
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Tenisha Simmons still wonders what happened Dec. 19 in Shayla Bryan's third-floor apartment off Ambrose Run.



Authorities believe on that night, Bryan, 22, severely beat and stabbed her 3-year-old daughter, Dionna Hagood, then threw her from the apartment's balcony.
No one, including Beaufort Police Department investigators, seems to know why.

"Those are questions we still don't have answers to," said Simmons, Dionna's godmother. "We just can't imagine how this could have happened."

Bryan was charged with attempted murder and remains in the county detention center after being denied bond, according to the jail log. If convicted, she faces as many as 30 years in prison, according to state law.

Beaufort Police Chief Matt Clancy said Bryan has not stated a motive for the attack but admitted to assaulting the child.

Dionna was taken to the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, where she still is being treated for injuries police described as "severe."

The road to recovery has been long and trying for the little girl, Simmons said.

Please see **FUND** on **7A**

ANATOMY OF A

FAILED ROBBERY

THE INCIDENT: On Jan. 19, two armed men attempted to rob Palmetto State Bank on Bluffton Road. When the attempt failed, the robbers fled, discarding items including a firearm that turned out to be a BB gun.

THE PRESS CONFERENCE:



Bluffton Police Chief David McAllister, center, talks about the Palmetto State Bank robbery during a press conference Thursday morning at the Bluffton Law Enforcement Center. At right is lead investigator Sgt. Joe Babkiewicz. Renita Berry, laboratory director for the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office Forensics Services Laboratory, is at left. To see video of the press conference, click on this story at islandpacket.com.

THE STORY:

By ALLISON STICE • astice@islandpacket.com • 843-706-8138

All was going as planned for the two bank robbers.
They'd jumped the bank president in the parking lot before opening hours, forced him into the bank at gunpoint and bound him with duct tape.

They even dismantled the video surveillance system and had a duffel bag ready to carry away the loot.

Then their plan fell apart: They couldn't get the safe opened, so they ran. One of the robbers got rid of his handgun — a BB gun, it turned out — as they fled.

SARAH WELLIVER • The Island Packet

The gun and other discarded items found by Bluffton police helped identify Bluffton resident David Everett Mack Jr., 24, as a suspect in the Jan. 19 robbery of the Palmetto State Bank on Bluffton Road.

Mack ran toward Goethe Road, where he was spotted by witnesses who helped police identify him as one of the suspects, Bluffton police said Thursday at a news conference.

Please see **ROBBERY** on **7A**

THE SUSPECT:



David Everett Mack Jr., 24, faces charges of armed robbery, kidnapping and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime.

Witnesses allegedly saw Mack fleeing toward Goethe Road. A second suspect ran in a different direction.

Police say DNA evidence from discarded items matches DNA collected from Mack's Wharf Street home.

Mack is still at large.

THE TIPLINE:

Anyone with information about the bank robbery or David Everett Mack Jr.'s whereabouts is asked to call the Bluffton Police Department's Crime Tip Hotline at 843-706-4560.

WANT TO HELP?

Family and friends of Dionna Hagood have set up the "Hope for Dionna Hagood Fund" to help cover the 3-year-old's medical expenses.

For more information, contact First Citizen's Bank at 843-522-8088.



After nearly half a century, WJWJ office closes

ETV officials made the decision because of a reduction in funding. The network will continue to broadcast state programming.

By ERIN MOODY
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After about 40 years of serving Beaufort County, the ETV Lowcountry WJWJ 16 office has closed.
The station still will transmit state

ETV programming over the airwaves, but it no longer will produce local content. The last two jobs at the office were eliminated Thursday, casualties of lean times for public television, South Carolina ETV President Linda O'Bryon said.

"We have had other reductions over the past year because of our overall state funding, but there has not been another facility like this that we have closed," O'Bryon said.

The public education network is mainly funded by the state, donations and an endowment. Operations have been cut back for the last

several years — the station's local newscast ceased long ago — as funding evaporated. Executives chose to close the WJWJ studio because, unlike most of the other locations, it does not create additional revenue from programs such as media classes, O'Bryon said.

Please see **WJWJ** on **7A**



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INSIDE TODAY'S ISLAND PACKET

Billionaire Donald Trump endorses Mitt Romney in the race for the Republican presidential nomination. **5A**



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The heart has its reasons of which reason knows nothing."
Blaise Pascal