

In Business: Firm's claim it could stop identity theft proves costly, B6

The State

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METRO

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Critics: DHEC arsenic limits weak

By SAMMY FRETWELL
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A flood of people upset about arsenic pollution in Lower Richland blasted state regulators Tuesday night for loosening controls over the poisonous material at the request of the Columbia area's biggest power company. Instead of dropping arsenic limits for SCE&G's wastewater discharges, state regulators should strengthen limits at the company's coal-fired power station near Congaree National Park in Lower Richland, many said during a hearing.

More than 100 people packed an elementary school cafeteria in Eastover, and virtually every speaker criticized the Department of Health and Environmental Control plan. The hearing was punctuated by loud applause each time someone spoke against DHEC's plan.

"It's ludicrous. I don't know whether to laugh, cry or throw up," Richland County resident David Shelley said. Since the 1990s, SCE&G has polluted groundwater with arsenic and allowed arsenic-riddled seepage to drain from coal ash ponds at its power plant into the Wateree River nearby, records show.

Agency officials said they've determined that any arsenic that does get into the Wateree River is in such small

senic limits in the company's discharge permit to the Wateree. It will require quarterly monitoring. The company needs a pollution discharge permit to accept coal waste from the power plant, as well as a stream of wastewater from a new landfill at the site.

At the power company's request, DHEC has proposed eliminating ar-

senic limits in the company's discharge permit to the Wateree. It will require quarterly monitoring. The company needs a pollution discharge permit to accept coal waste from the power plant, as well as a stream of wastewater from a new landfill at the site.

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Something's cooking at Pelion Middle School



PHOTOGRAPHS BY TIM DOMINICK/TDOMINICK@THESTATE.COM

Donnie Barry spins dough for pizza crust during a baking lesson taught by Paula Gray, left, an instructor for King Arthur Flour company. The pupils were given ingredients to make two loaves of bread at home.

200 seventh-graders get 'life skills' lesson in bread making



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MORE ONLINE

See Pelion Middle School students bake up the perfect loaf in our online photo gallery at thestate.com

Stirring, kneading, scraping and tossing offered the perfect recipe for an appetizing lesson Tuesday at Pelion Middle School.

The day's lesson focused on making bread from scratch as seventh-graders at the Lexington 1 school gathered in the cafeteria for an extreme bake off.

"You're getting ready to do something that's really important," Paula Gray told students, as they sized up a table with flour, cooking oils, measuring cups, cutting boards and other essentials for the perfect loaf of bread.

Gray is an instructor with the King Arthur Flour company, which offers a free Life Skills Bread Baking Program to schools nationwide.

She worked with roughly 200 seventh-graders during her 50-minute crash course in bread-making.

Students are to bake two loaves of bread this weekend, keeping one for their families and returning the second to the school for donation to PACES, a local food pantry.

"We want them to experience the joy of sharing with others," Gray said.



Pelion Middle School seventh-graders enjoy Gray's 'life skills' instruction in bread making.

Gray's assistants Tuesday were student council members Donnie Barry, Elizabeth Register and Jordan McCoy, who demonstrated the various steps of preparing bread while she talked them through the process.

Gray began the assembly by emphasizing the importance of hand sanitiz-

ing, then followed with such things as proper water temperature, ingredient levels and mixing techniques.

While her focus was on preparing full loaves, Gray also shared some techniques involved in making breadsticks,

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ELECTIONS 2010

Myers to stay in mayoral race

Candidate says tax debt won't end his campaign

By NOELLE PHILLIPS
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Gary L. Myers Jr., a retired Army officer, said Tuesday that he will stay in the mayor's race despite owing back taxes to the IRS.

The \$74,466 in unpaid taxes was listed as debt in a bankruptcy Myers filed in 2004 in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in the Southern District of Georgia.

Myers, who is not considered a front-runner in the race, owed \$26,626 in unpaid taxes for 1998-99, according to his bankruptcy filing. And he owed \$47,542 in back taxes for 2000-2003.

At least \$13,573, of that debt has been repaid, according to court documents.

Myers, 55, said he still owes the IRS, but he was not sure of the amount. He also said the debt had nothing to do with his ability to run the city.

"We will resolve this situation," he said. Politicians and their federal taxes are in



Myers

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Educator says he can lead schools

Thompson joins race for superintendent

By GINA SMITH
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Career educator and Columbia Democrat Tom Thompson announced Tuesday he's entering the state superintendent of education race.

A political newcomer, Thompson, 60, said his educational experience and ability to build coalitions separates him from the pack, which includes one Democrat, one Libertarian and five Republicans.

"The difference, ladies and gentlemen, is I know the system inside and out," said Thompson in a Tuesday press conference, referring to his career that includes time as a math teacher in an inner-city community in Chicago, being the first black principal at Winnsboro High School in Fairfield County and serving as a professor and dean at S.C. State University. He now chairs a leadership institute at S.C. State where he trains principals and superintendents.

Thompson's platform includes changing the state Constitution to guarantee every child a high-quality education, ensuring every student earns a high-school diploma,



Thompson

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SOUTH CAROLINA DEATHS

Cynthia Adams, Bennettsville
Malworth Bowers, Chapin
Audrey Brandon, Cayce
Truman Campbell, Columbia
Ulysses Cannon, Batesburg-Leesville

Charlotte Carnes, Heath Springs
Jeanette Dupree, Orangeburg
Robert Free, Williston
Emma Hall, Lugoff
Alice Harper, Columbia
Patricia Jenkins, Irmo

Ray Lominick, Whitmire
Marie Lucas, West Columbia
Grace Marvin, Summerville
Josephine McDonald, Sumter
Joe Nelson Sr., Newberry

Ruth Ripko, Columbia
Frederick Roehrich, Camden
Valinda Sargent, Hopkins
Eloise Seymore, Newberry
Charles Showalter, Charleston

Dr. Leo Simmons Jr., Williston
LaVerne Smith, Columbia
Patricia Turnipseed, Blythewood
Virginia Walker, Hopkins
James Washington, Fairfax

Sherri Wheat, Gilbert
Deloris Williams, Allendale
Essie Young, Blair

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