



Saturday

November 5, 2005

Today's Weather



Low
50°
High
80°

Full forecast | 6C

News Summary



North Augusta High bids farewell to coach

► Longtime NAHS head football coach Joe Long led the Yellow Jackets for the last time Friday night. | 1B



A night on the town, all for charity

► The Aiken Junior Woman's Club and Sand River Woman's Club 26th Annual Community Benefit Auction Friday was a lot of fun for a great cause. | 3A

How savvy are you about eBay auctions?

► USC Aiken offers classes for Internet users who want to learn more about using eBay. | 3A

Protests grow violent at Americas Summit

► Thousands of protesters speak out against proposed trade policies. | 5B

What are you reading? Meet today's book lover



► Literacy is essential in today's fast-paced and high-tech world. In an effort to

highlight readers and reading, the *Aiken Standard* makes this space available each day to spark discussions about literature.

Ashley Hall, Aiken

► "The Bell Jar" by Sylvia Plath | 5C

AREA DEATHS

Hattie Mae Jackson,
Augusta

Frederick H. Lightsey,
Bath

Edward Lee Milner,
Washington, Ga.

Deaths and Funerals | 6A

INSIDE TODAY

Bridge	4C
Calendar	5C
Classifieds	1D
Crossword	4C
Comics	3C
Dear Abby	3C
Nation/World	5B
Markets	5B
Movie Listings	2C
Obituaries	6A
Opinions	11A
Sports	1B
TV Listings	2C



WWE brings the Smackdown to Columbia

► Life on the Go | 1C



Aiken Standard

Vol. 139, No. 309

Your Local Source Since 1867

www.aikenstandard.com

25¢

WISE PAYS ULTIMATE PRICE

Convicted killer executed for 1997 Phelon shootings

By **PHYLLIS BRITT**
North Augusta bureau

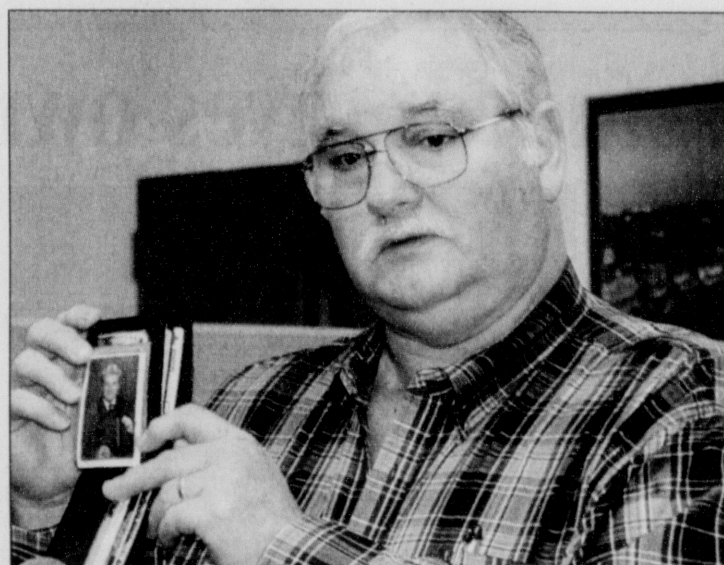
"By dying, he can never pay back what he's done to our family ... No more can be done," said John Wood after watching the execution of Hastings Wise Friday evening. The father of Sheryl Wood — one of four killed by Wise at R.E. Phelon on Sept. 15, 1997 — Wood added, "I hoped he would say he was sorry."

But Hastings Wise, 51, left the world



Wise

much the same way he had lived for the last eight years — in silence.
The convicted murderer was executed by lethal injection Friday shortly after 6 p.m. at the Broad River Correctional Institute in Columbia.



Staff photo by Karen Daily

Tommy Thompson holds up a photo of his son, David Moore, who was one of Wise's victims.

Please see WISE, page 12A

AIKEN DOMINATES S. AIKEN

AIKEN 35, SOUTH AIKEN 14



Staff photo by Ginny Southworth

Aiken High's Romon Williams dives past South Aiken defenders for extra yardage. See coverage of the game, page 1B.

Graniteville memorial plans enter final stages

By **TONY BAUGHMAN**
Staff writer

Those who were there will forever remember the morning of Jan. 6, 2005, a thick cloud of chlorine gas and the death it brought to the sleepy village of Graniteville.

Some who risked their lives to save others that morning want to make sure that the entire community never forgets, when they erect a permanent memorial to the victims of the Norfolk Southern train tragedy.

"We're in the final stages. With the money we've got collected, we're in the process of getting prices from monument companies," said Phil Napier, chief of the Graniteville-Vaughn-Warrenton Fire Department.



Napier

Please see MEMORIAL, Page 12A

Hall of Fame to honor local sports figures

North Augusta Sports Hall of Fame inducts first five members tonight

By **PHYLLIS BRITT**
North Augusta bureau

The North Augusta Sports Hall of Fame will induct its first five members tonight during a banquet held at the North Augusta Country Club.

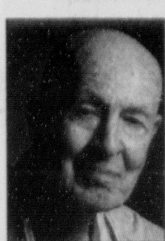
Former North Augusta High School football players Larry Baynham and Charley Britt, former NAHS Coach Cally Gault, Dr. W.G. "Curly" Watson and Sam Woodring will be named to the newly formed Hall of Fame. Tickets are still available by calling John Felak, chair of the North Augusta Sports Commission, at 215-6056.

Dr. W. G. "Curly" Watson
Dr. Walter Gamewell Watson was one of the most ardent supporters of North Augusta sports for over 50 years.

As team physician, he gave team physicals to players for no charge. Many injured players were diagnosed by Dr. Watson "in my office during the day and the hospital at night."

Dr. Watson coached high school sports for seven years before

entering medical school, five years in Edgefield, and two years at Bainbridge, Ga. He was recently recognized as the second best



Watson

winning percentage (.689) of all Bainbridge coaches with at least two years of coaching. He still hears from players he coached in the 1930s.
Dr. Watson has been widely honored, including being named 1968 Citizen of the Year from the North Augusta Chamber of Commerce, SER-TOMA Service to Mankind award in 1972 and 1998, 1981 Jefferson Award for Outstanding Service, 1988 American Legion Department of SC Award, 1990 Order of the Palmetto by Gov. David Beasley, 1990 Distinguished Alumni Award from MCG, 1998 Doctor of Humanities Degree from Clemson University and the 1998 dedication

Please see FAME, page 10A

Proposed tax changes could shrink mortgage benefits for homeowners

By **MARY DALRYMPLE**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — That most sacred of tax breaks, the mortgage interest deduction that has helped millions buy homes, could vanish if President Bush and Congress follow the recommendations of his tax advisory board.

Nine tax experts, tasked with developing simpler and fairer tax laws, concluded that the deduction does more for wealthier taxpayers than for people struggling to buy a home.

But mortgage bankers and real estate agents see irreparable harm if the tax break disappears.

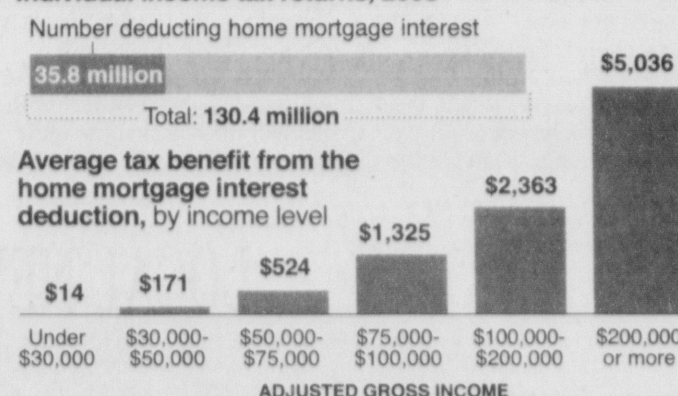
The National Association of Realtors estimated that housing prices could decline 15 percent, bad news for owners who have seen the value of their homes increase.

"You're going to be taking away from Middle America," said David Lereah, the association's chief economist. "Everyone, whether you use the mortgage interest deduction or not, the value goes down. You've just reduced the retirement nest egg for everyone."

Time to deduct that deduction?

A presidential tax reform panel is recommending that mortgage interest deductions — used by more than 35.8 million taxpayers in 2003 — should be phased out and replaced by a credit equal to 15 percent of paid interest.

Individual income tax returns, 2003



SOURCES: IRS; President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform

AP

The idea is a long way from becoming reality, and several lawmakers have already declared their opposition.

The current tax break lets homeowners deduct interest paid during the year on a mortgage up to \$1 million and a home equity loan worth up to \$100,000.

Homeowners also benefit from breaks that let taxpayers deduct state and local property taxes

from the federal bill.

Almost 36 million taxpayers claimed the deduction in 2003, according to the most recent statistics compiled by the Internal Revenue Service.

The President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform urged the administration to do away with the deduction and replace it with a credit worth 15 percent of interest paid during the year.