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**MURPHY**  
 LAW FIRM

136 West Richardson Ave  
 SUMMERVILLE  
 (843) 832-1120  
 MurphyLawFirmLLC.com

Jeana Westbrook  
 Domestic Paralegal

the summerville  
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## ‘A miracle drug’

How Narcan is impacting opioid crisis, first responders locally

BY JENNA-LEY HARRISON  
 jharrison@journalscene.com

In 2016, more than 46,000 people nationwide overdosed on opioids, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The death rate from the drug type was a historical high for the United States—the CDC reporting most overdoses having occurred that year from heroin, prescription opioids and fentanyl.

The weight of the country’s rising opioid crisis is also being felt across South Carolina and the tri-county, as an in-

creasing number of law enforcement agencies are equipping officers with Narcan to reverse the drug’s fatal effects.

Just last month Dorchester County Sheriff’s Office reported its first incidents administering the life-saving drug.

In each incident, as reported in police reports, the scene starts with an unconscious person near death, and ends with an account of the same person breathing and speaking. The reports testify to the unprecedented power of the narcotic antagonist Narcan.

In most cases, once it’s applied the drug

takes effect in less than a minute, reversing respiratory depression and other overdose effects on the body’s central nervous system.

### Local incidents

Deputies first administered the drug on Jan. 18 after responding to a call of an unconscious woman, overdosed on heroin, according to a report. Officers arrived on scene to find the woman’s son giving her chest compressions. A bag of syringes sat next to her, her 7-year-old grandchild not far from the chaotic site, according to deputies.

By all appearances, she was lifeless. Deputies first tried a strong sternum rub on the woman, but there was no response, the report said. Deputies then shot 4 mg of Narcan into her nostril. Less than 45 seconds later, the deputies heard the pale, limp woman take a deep breath, the report said. Her respiratory rate improved, and after a second round of medicine, she was hooked up to oxygen and regained consciousness, deputies said.

Five days later a separate, similar incident occurred. On Jan. 22 deputies said they administered Narcan to another unconscious woman at a Ladson residence. Dispatch reported a possible heroin overdose, with CPR in progress.

At the scene the victim lay unconscious on a bedroom floor. In her hand she held a white, rock-like substance, the report said.

Because EMS had an extended time of arrival, a sergeant with Narcan responded first. One dose was all it took to force movement in the victim. The report said she immediately opened her eyes, and after a second IV dose from EMS, she regained consciousness and started talking.

Sweeping the state and nation, the opioid epidemic caused Gov. Henry McMaster to declare a state of emergency in December and President Donald

Please see **NARCAN**, A4

## County weighs design changes

Council considers guidelines for historic district’s subdistrict 5

BY JENNA-LEY HARRISON  
 jharrison@journalscene.com

Nearly a year after Dorchester County Council members approved the creation of a fifth subdistrict in the Ashley River Historic Overlay District, the county is looking at hiring a design consultant to create guidelines for the project.

During its meeting Monday in Summerville, council members approved transferring funds to hire a consultant.

On Thursday the county’s Planning Commission will hear a presentation from Urban Design Associates regarding design guidelines for the intersection of S.C. 61 and 165, known as Cooks Crossroads, part of the new subdistrict.

An area of about 90 acres, including the intersection, aren’t currently in a subdistrict but will be in subdistrict 5 once the lines are redrawn.

In April 2017 council approved an ordinance to expand the Overlay District by 186 acres. The goal of the fifth subdistrict is to also create a space allowing more commercial use since most of the Overlay District maintains strict guidelines on commercial growth. Current zoning allows only limited commercial uses within a quarter-mile of Cooks Crossroads.

The Overlay District was established in 2007 to keep commercial and housing development at bay by preserving the rural character of the land in and around the Ashley River and protecting the area’s natural wildlife. It currently has four subdistricts; they border Highway 61, Highway 165 and Bacon Bridge Road.

County officials said half of the fifth subdistrict will incorporate small portions of property east of S.C. 61 that are currently parts of subdistricts 1 and 2. The other half will be located west of S.C. 165 and

Please see **COUNTY**, A3

## ‘This is a great day’



Attendees circle up and hold hands during a moment of prayer.

PHOTOS BY JENNA-LEY HARRISON/JOURNAL SCENE

Summerville seminary celebrates large donation, local ties to black history

BY JENNA-LEY HARRISON  
 jharrison@journalscene.com

Friday was a day of celebration, reflection and looking ahead to the exciting new future awaiting the Lowcountry’s only seminary.

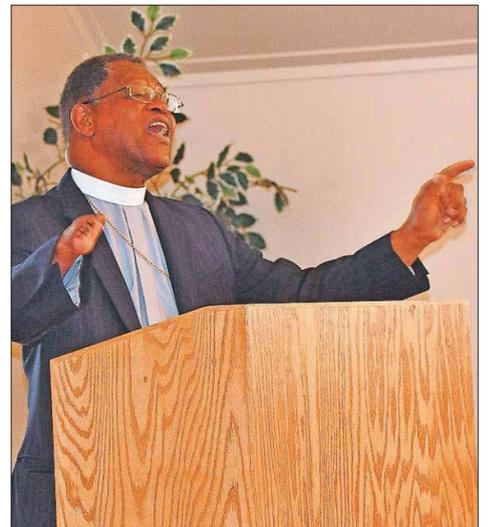
Alumni, faculty and religious leaders from Cummins Memorial Theological Seminary in Summerville gathered with community members inside the historic building on South Main Street to not only announce the facility’s success in matching a \$50,000 anonymous donation but also praise past leaders and ongoing renovations.

The event also centered on the seminary’s ties to local black history. “This is a great day...and this is just the beginning of what God will do,”

Please see **SEMINARY**, A3



The Cummins Memorial Theological Seminary has long been a fixture on Main Street.



The Rev. Dr. Julius Barnes, president and dean of Cummins Memorial Theological Seminary



MONICA KREBER/JOURNAL SCENE

Irongate is unique in that parts of the neighborhood are in town limits while other parts are in the county; some residents reportedly are hesitant to annex because of increased property taxes.

## Eating up doughnut holes

BY MONICA KREBER  
 mkreber@journalscene.com

Summerville has a number of “doughnut holes” throughout town — an area that is completely surrounded by properties in town limits and yet remains part of the unincorporated county.

There is ongoing legislation in South Carolina that could help municipalities annex properties that have been surrounded by town or city properties for at least five years.

In the meantime, Summerville continues to show an interest in addressing local doughnut holes. When the town council discussed the 2018 budget, the council opted to pay for a full-time

arborist instead of a full-time annexation coordinator. Zoning administrator Tim Macholl, formerly the town’s annexation coordinator, was hired to come up with an annexation plan; he said while coordinating annexation is important, the responsibilities of that position can be spread out across staff.

He said the town had previously put together an internal plan to address annexation.

State law requires property owners to petition to be annexed into town, so Macholl worked on a coordinated effort to entice areas that “made sense” — that would be mutually beneficial to the

Please see **DOUGHNUT**, A6



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