

**BASEBALL: SHS, WH fight to stay alive in playoffs B1**

**COMING THIS WEEK:**  
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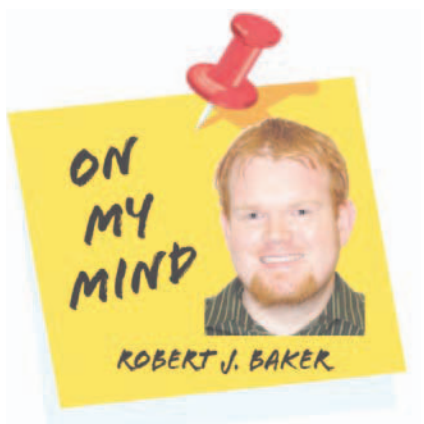
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TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2012 | SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

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**Beat cancer? Then register with American Cancer Society**

Journalism sure must be exciting. It's something I hear all the time. From friends, from family, from strangers. I even hear it from the very people I'm sent to cover.

Sometimes it is, and there are days where I go home thinking I could never do anything else for a living. Then there are days where I start listing all the other careers I could find with my 10 years' experience in this one.

**WANT MORE?**  
Sumter's Relay for Life will be from 6 p.m. May 18 to 6 a.m. May 19 at Hillcrest Memorial Stadium.  
Portions of Lee County's, which was held Friday but finished early because of storms, will be rescheduled. See more on Lee County's event on Page A2.

But last Monday was one of the former, one of those days where I am truly thankful to have a place in community journalism. Monday was the day I met Dorothy Miller. She's not famous, nor does she want to be. But she's someone you should know about.

Diagnosed with invasive breast cancer a little more than a year ago, Miller, 54, underwent a full mastectomy on Good Friday in 2011. Chemotherapy through IV soon followed, with adriamycin, what knowing cancer patients call "The Red Devil" for its color and deleterious side effects.

SEE ROBERT, PAGE A12



ROBERT J. BAKER / THE ITEM

Manning resident Dorothy Miller, 54, has gone through invasive breast cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, hip and shoulder replacements and meningitis, but credits her faith in God in getting her through. She is one of about 150 cancer survivors currently registered with Clarendon County Relay for Life, which will be held from 7 p.m. Friday to 7 a.m. Saturday at Manning High School's Ramsey Stadium.

**Flight honors Air Force history**

BY NICK McCORMAC  
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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In advance of this weekend's Shaw Air Expo, The Item will profile a different performer or static display in each issue this week. For more information about the event, visit www.shawairexpo.com.

The U.S. Air Force is an organization steeped in history and nostalgia, most

noticeably in the aircraft that have flown the skies at home and abroad for generations.

A few years ago, the nonprofit Air Force Heritage Flight Foundation was established to help continue the tradition of honoring that history and the airmen and -women of the past, present and future by presenting flight demonstrations involving aircraft old and new. One of those demonstrations will be part of the Shaw

Air Expo this weekend.

The organization was originally conceived in 1997 as a way to celebrate the Air Force's 50th anniversary. Current and retired pilots flew vintage and modern aircraft during demonstrations across the country.

The organization was so popular and well received that in 2010 it officially filed as 501(c)(3) nonprofit group.

SEE FLIGHT, PAGE A12



**HELPING THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST**

LEFT: Children enjoy a block party held at Crosswell Park during Operation Inasmuch United Sumter on Saturday. A similar event was held in the Cherryvale community as well.

BELOW: A group of youth from Northside Baptist Church painted a home on James Street.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

Twelve local churches participated in Operation Inasmuch United Sumter on Saturday. Volunteers spread out across the county to provide different types of assistance to those in need. "The purpose of our local churches being involved is to demonstrate God's love to all people with the emphasis on serving the elderly, the homeless and others often overlooked or forgotten," said Joel Singletary, a member of Alice Drive Baptist Church who brought the Operation Inasmuch concept to Sumter.

Volunteers from 12 churches gathered Saturday to help others. See more photos from Operation Inasmuch on Page A5 and in an online gallery at theitem.com.



**'Extra curricular' activities important in college**

BY JADE ANDERSON  
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The future is looking bright for Sumter higher education graduates, especially if they apply themselves.

Shannon Michaels Areford has certainly found

that to be true.

The University of South Carolina Sumter student will graduate Wednesday with an associates degree in science with highest honors. She plans



AREFORD

to attend USC Columbia to earn a bachelor's degree in biology while minoring in math. From there, she plans to go on to the Medical University of South Carolina.

"I have a Plan A and a Plan B, and ultimately it depends on resources,"

said the 40-year-old. "I have a bachelor's plan, a master's plan and an MD plan, (but) I don't want to take out a lot of student loans."

If the medical doctorate doesn't work out, she is

SEE COLLEGE, PAGE A6

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George L. Pritchard

Inez V. Davis  
Willie Young Sr.  
Jessie Lee B. Spann  
Sara A. Suttler

A4, A11

**OUTSIDE**  
**MORNING FOG**  
Partly sunny this afternoon;  
mostly clear tonight  
HIGH: 85 LOW: 62

A12

**INSIDE**  
3 SECTIONS, 26 PAGES  
Clarendon Sun C1  
Classifieds B7  
Comics B6  
Daily Planner A12  
Opinion A10  
Sports B1

# Gas prices in S.C., N.C. below levels reported year ago

(AP) —There was good news Monday for motorists in the Carolinas. After rising for much of the year, gas prices in the two states dropped below levels reported a year ago.

AAA Carolinas reports that gas in North Carolina reached the benchmark on Monday, dropping to about \$3.79 a gallon — about 2 cents less than last April 30. South Carolina's average prices dropped below last year's levels on Thursday.

The motor club reported that on Monday, a gallon of gasoline in South Carolina was just under \$3.60 a gallon — that's down 9 cents a gallon from the same time last year.

Gas hit a high of about \$3.74 a gallon on April 9 in South Carolina and \$3.91 a gallon in North Carolina on April 7. Gas prices have been dropping steadily since then.

The reason for the difference in prices between the two states is the state gasoline tax. In North Carolina, the gas tax is more than 34 cents a gallon, compared with 16 cents a gallon in South Carolina.

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Last year's gas prices increased until early May before dropping again.

When the year began, tourism officials in South Carolina worried that gas might reach \$4 a gallon — a sort of psychological level at which travelers were expected to cut back on vacation travel.

But the motor club says prices have eased in recent weeks for several reasons.

Among other things, the Euro has weakened against the dollar, making speculative investment in oil futures less attractive. The motor club also says that the weakening Chinese economy has led to less demand.

In addition, Americans are driving about 6 percent less than a year ago because of the earlier run up in prices.

## OPERATION INASMUCH



**CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP:** A group of Inasmuch volunteers are seen outside a local grocery store Saturday morning. Even kids got involved with different projects. Volunteers talk with patrons of a laundromat and pay for their drying time. A group of men gather for prayer before heading out to do yard work for wives of deployed airmen.

PHOTOS PROVIDED



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