

STATE

Two surgeons leave Greenville hospital

GREENVILLE (AP) — One of the state's top four trauma centers has ended contracts with two trauma surgeons, and the state's health agency says it might review the program.

Greenville Hospital System terminated contracts with its two trauma surgeons Monday, but said the change won't affect quality of care.

Greenville Memorial is one of four Level I trauma centers in the state. The others are in Spartanburg, Columbia and Charleston, said Dr. Spence Taylor, the system's academic chairman of surgery.

Phyllis Beasley, program coordinator at EMS Division of the state Department of Health and Environmental Control, said GHS's current trauma program was "outstanding."

The surgeons don't have to be trauma surgeons, but must be board-certified with current Advance Trauma Life Support certification, she said.

Pre-K programs receive 40 IBMs

COLUMBIA (AP) — IBM has donated 40 computers and special software to pre-kindergarten programs across South Carolina.

"Today's economy requires computer skills," Gov. Jim Hodges said Monday. "IBM is making it possible for our children to begin acquiring this knowledge early."

The computers were donated through the state's early childhood development program First Steps. Twelve public schools and 15 nonprofit children's centers in Chester, Lancaster, Lexington, Richland and York counties will receive computers and staff training as part of IBM's KidSmart Early Learning program.

"IBM is committed to improving education and giving kids a jump start at school," said Anne McNeill, a company spokeswoman.

NATION

Caffeine might ward off cancer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Researchers say laboratory mice slathered with caffeine developed fewer skin tumors than untreated animals, suggesting the chemical that adds zip to coffee and tea also might protect against skin cancer.

Dr. Allan Conney, a professor of cancer and leukemia research at Rutgers University, said a skin lotion spiked with caffeine or with another compound found in green tea reduced more than half the number of skin tumors on hairless mice that had been exposed to high levels of ultraviolet radiation.

Skin cancer is the most common of all cancers in the United States. The American Academy of Dermatology estimates about a million cases will be diagnosed in the country this year.

Alcohol industry lobbies for tax cut

WASHINGTON (AP) — As several states consider trimming budget deficits by raising taxes on beer, liquor and wine, the industry is finding support in Congress to cut the federal excise tax on alcoholic beverages.

More than 200 lawmakers seeking re-election have signed on to tax cut proposals.

At least 18 states have raised cigarette taxes in recent months. At least 15 have considered raising alcoholic beverage taxes; of those, Alaska and Tennessee have approved increases.

If Congress grants the tax cuts, it would provide a long-sought victory to an industry that has been a prolific giver of campaign cash.

Beer, wine and liquor interests have donated at least \$3.7 million to congressional Republicans and national party committees and \$2.6 million to their Democratic counterparts for this fall's election, according to figures compiled by the Center for Responsive Politics.

WORLD

Police move against banned separatists

MADRID, SPAIN (AP) — Police stormed the offices of a Basque political party aligned with the outlawed ETA separatists Monday, hours after Spain's parliament overwhelmingly voted in favor of banning the party.

The fast-moving steps against the Batasuna party began earlier Monday when a judge suspended its activities for three years, accusing it of complicity in terrorist acts carried out by the Basque ETA group.

Parliament's lower house then voted 295-10 in favor of banning the party. The government is expected to ask the Supreme Court on Friday to outlaw the party.

Supporters of the Batasuna party, which has nearly 1,000 elected representatives, gathered outside party offices Monday night in Basque region, waving red-white-and-green Basque flags and swastikas symbolizing Spanish "fascism."

Helicopter crash brings toll to 118

VLADIKAVKAZ, RUSSIA (AP) — Another soldier injured in a military helicopter crash last week has died, bringing the death toll to 118, the same number killed in the sinking of the nuclear submarine Kursk in the Barents Sea in August 2000.

Sgt. Ruslan Khalikov died Monday night in a military hospital in Rostov-on-Don, Maj. Gen. Alexander Serov said Tuesday. Khalikov was the fourth person hospitalized after the crash to die.

The Mi-26 helicopter was carrying 147 people when it went down Aug. 19 outside Khankala, the Russian military headquarters in Chechnya. The dead included conscripts, 21 officers and an army nurse and her child. Some of the survivors remain in grave condition.

Investigators still don't know whether a technical problem was to blame for the crash or whether Chechen rebels shot down the helicopter, as they have claimed.

Greene Street

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versity, the topic of improved lighting has come up numerous times.

"I am proud and appreciative of the way this group came together to improve the lighting situation of the area," Ellis said.

The shooting death of federal prosecutor Michael Messer last year made people more aware of the necessity of good lighting, according to Lt. Henry Garbade of the USC Police Department. Messer was shot as he and another visiting prosecutor, both training at USC's National Advocacy Center, were walking down Laurens Street.

Garbade said that, according to USC student crime statistics, most of the violent crime that has occurred on campus has happened in that quadrant.

"Criminals throughout history have preferred darkness," Garbade said. "I'm glad to see that the USC Neighborhood Association saw a need for this."

He said he thinks the lighting will help deter crime in the area.

Mindy Rimer, a fifth-year experimental psychology student from Lexington, said her car was broken into while she was parked in Five Points last November.

"The lighting definitely needs to be improved," Rimer said. "I don't feel safe being a 23-year-old female student walking by myself, or with a friend, in that area."

Other students shared her concern. Morgan Jones, a fourth-year theater and speech student from Saluda, said he thinks the lighting would make students feel more protected. As a resident of Capstone last year, Jones said he didn't feel safe walking back from Five Points late at night.

"I think that improving the lighting on Greene Street would be a step toward improving overall campus safety," Jones said. "Adding lighting in that area would give students in Capstone and Columbia Hall a feeling of security when walking in that area."

Kelli Horne, a second-year in-

ternational business student from Spartanburg, is living on Greene Street this year. She said the additional lighting would help her feel more secure walking to her car late at night.

"I think it provides a safer environment for the students and residents in the area," Horne said.

Third-year biology student LaZandra Tidwell from Lancaster agreed.

"I think it's a good idea to improve the lighting. I would feel a lot safer," Tidwell said.

Ellis said he wasn't sure when work would begin. Until it does, he said students can lower their chances of being a victim by walking in groups when possible, being aware of their surroundings, knowing locations of call boxes, avoiding dark areas and calling the USC Police Department if they need escorts to their cars late at night.

"USC — Use Sense and Caution," Ellis said.

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