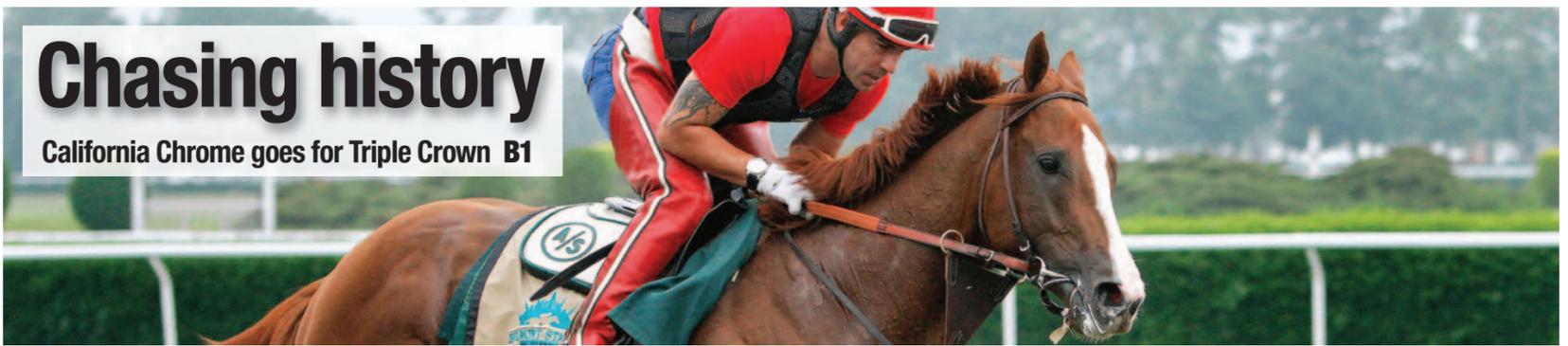


# Chasing history

California Chrome goes for Triple Crown B1



# Herald-Journal

SATURDAY

JUNE 7, 2014  
SPARTANBURG, S.C.  
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**HJ**  
IN A HURRY  
5 Things to read today



## Coke vs. obesity

Coca-Cola is taking on obesity, this time with an online video showing how fun it could be to burn off the 140 calories in a can of its soda. The ad, which notes that it typically takes 23 minutes of cycling to achieve that, shows a montage of people on a giant stationary bicycle happily trying to earn a can of cola. **PAGE C4**

## Wisconsin ruling

Same-sex couples began getting married in Wisconsin on Friday shortly after a federal judge struck down the state's gay marriage ban and despite confusion over the effect of the ruling. **PAGE A4**

## Suspect caught

A man suspected of gunning down three Royal Canadian Mounted Police was caught and charged Friday, ending a 30-hour manhunt. **PAGE A7**

## Fatal fire

A woman was found dead in a Moore home after a small fire broke out inside her bedroom Friday morning. Investigators determined no foul play was involved. **PAGE C1**

## VA concerns

South Carolina veterans shared their frustrations in getting Veterans Affairs health care with U.S. Sen. Tim Scott on Friday amid news that new VA facilities could ease the problem of getting care along the coast. **PAGE C2**

## Weather



Humid, t-storms  
High 86  
Low 67

## On the Web

Visit **GoUpstate.com** for breaking news and sports stories, and to see our editors' picks for some of the top photos from here in the Upstate and beyond.



## INSIDE

Business	C4
Classified	D1
Comics	B5
Crossword	D11
Dear Abby	A2
Horoscope	D11
Obituaries	C2
Sports	B1
TV/Weather	C6
Upstate	C1



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## CLEVELAND PARK TRAIN CRASH

# Judge approves settlement

### 1 died, 28 were injured when park ride derailed

By **KIM KIMZEY**  
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The legal wrangling may have ended, but injuries and a gaping loss linger more than three years after the Cleveland Park train crash.

A Circuit Court judge approved a \$1.6 million settlement Friday that will be split among victims, including the family of a Gaffney boy killed after a miniature train derailed on March 19, 2011. Twenty-eight people were injured.

Benji Easler, 6, died at the scene. His brothers, 8 and 11 at the time, were both injured after they were thrown from the train.

The Easler family resolved their

suit for Benji's death for \$275,000, as well as \$54,200 for their other sons' injuries. Their attorney fees total more than \$68,600.

Benji's father, the Rev. Dwight Easler, is pastor of Corinth Baptist Church in Gaffney. Many passengers on the train the day it derailed were part of the church.

Dwight Easler addressed the media after Circuit Judge Mark Hayes approved the settlement between the families, the Spartanburg County Parks Commission, Spartanburg County and the S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

"We're still living with it every day, as all these families are," Easler said.

One of the injured was 2 years old.

"We just pray that good will come of this, and we pray that

◆ SEE TRAIN PAGE A6



TIM KIMZEY/TIM.KIMZEY@SHJ.COM

The Rev. Dwight Easler, pastor of Corinth Baptist Church, and his wife, Tabitha, address the media after a \$1.6 million settlement was approved Friday in the Cleveland Park train derailment. Their 6-year-old son, Benji, died in the accident. Their other two sons were among the more than two dozen who suffered injuries in the crash.

# Return to Normandy



THIBAUT CAMUS/AP

An American flag is placed in the sand of Omaha Beach, western France, on Friday. Veterans, world leaders and Normandy residents are paying tribute to the thousands who gave their lives in the D-Day invasion of Nazi-occupied France 70 years ago.

## Veterans, world leaders honor D-Day's fallen, 70 years after pivotal invasion

By **ELAINE GANLEY**  
The Associated Press

COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER, France — It was a day of pride, remembrance and honors for those who waded through blood-tinged waves, climbed razor-sharp cliffs or fell from the skies, staring down death or dying in an invasion that portended the fall of the Third Reich and the end of World War II.

It was also a day of high diplomacy for a Europe not completely at peace.

After 70 years, a dwindling number of

### INSIDE

◆ "World would have been a very different place" without warriors at Normandy. **A3**

matched for its size, planning and derring-do.

The events spread across the beaches and lush farmlands of Normandy, in west-

ern France, had an added sense of urgency this year: It would be the last grand commemoration for many of the veterans, whether they relived the anniversary at home in silence or were among the some 1,000 who crossed continents to be present despite their frail age.

For President Barack Obama, transmitting the memory of their "longest day" means keeping intact the values that veterans fought and died for.

◆ SEE D-DAY PAGE A6

## France adds 8 SC veterans to famed Legion of Honor

By **LYNNE P. SHACKLEFORD**  
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COLUMBIA — Eight World War II veterans — one of them posthumously — received the French Legion of Honor during a D-Day anniversary ceremony Friday morning at the Statehouse.

French Consulate of the Southeast Denis Barbet presented each of the veterans with the honor — considered France's highest distinction —

which recognizes those who fought in at least one of the three main campaigns in the liberation of France and were honorably discharged. The Legion of Honor was founded by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802.

The veterans also received a bouquet of red, white and blue flowers — representative of America and France — and a proclamation from the governor.

◆ SEE HONOR PAGE A6



ALEX C. HICKS JR./ALEX.HICKS@SHJ.COM

A number of World War II veterans, some of whom were present when Allied forces hit the beaches of Normandy 70 years ago, received the French Legion of Honor on Friday in Columbia. Shown here are George A. Wheeler, a first lieutenant from Gaffney, left, and Curtis D. Flemming, a seaman first class from Greer, with their awards after the service.