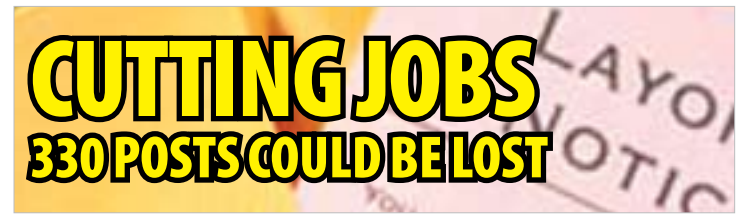




AWESOME 'O'
JACKET HAVING SUCCESS



MELTDOWN
REBOUND TO TAKE TIME



CUTTING JOBS
330 POSTS COULD BE LOST

Today's weather

SUNNY
High in the 80s
FORECAST, 8B
90th Year, No. 204 SC

THE INDEX-JOURNAL



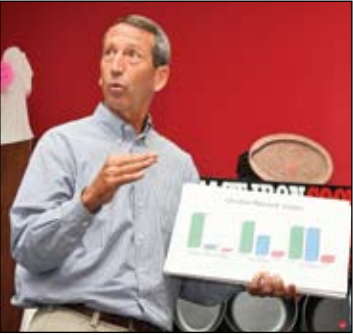
26 pages, 3 sections

GREENWOOD, SC

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2008

Daily 50¢, Sunday \$1.50

SANFORD VISITS



Staff photo by T.M. James
Gov. Mark Sanford explains a chart that details on-the-record votes during a stop at JES Equipment Sales and Services in Greenwood.

State officials discuss reforms

Governor wants to restructure S.C. government

By **GRAHAM LOVE**
Index-Journal staff writer

Gov. Mark Sanford made his way through Greenwood to talk about conservative reforms he will push for in the next year.

Sanford, along with Comptroller General Richard Eckstrom, S.C. Policy Council President Ashley Landess and Rep. Nathan Balentine, of Irmo, stopped at JES Equipment Sales and Services, where they spoke about spending limits, restructuring, transparency and ethics laws.

"We're on a harvest tour sort of. It's fall time, crops and coming in and the crops that we'll begin planting in January are legislative in nature, at least in terms of political process," Sanford said. "So we're trying to get ahead of that curb and lay out some issues that we feel will be important in this next legislative session."

The governor said the need for these reforms are more evident than ever before with the state facing a \$400 million shortfall.

He said the shortfall is "self-inflicted" because of overspending when the state's revenues were growing faster than the economy and made worse by an inefficient and unaccountable government system.

The past four years, government spending here has grown by 40 percent, a higher rate than the growth of the underlying economy.

Sanford said he hopes to stop this by calling for legislation to limit spending increases to the growth in population plus inflation.

He is also calling for the passage of a bill creating a Department of Administration, which would perform many administrative functions currently handled by the state Budget and Control Board.

See **SANFORD**, page 10A

Obama, McCain get tough

Candidates exchange harsh words in final debate

By **BETH FOUHY**
Associated Press writer

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — John McCain assailed Barack Obama's character and his campaign positions on taxes, abortion and more Wednesday night, hoping to turn

their final presidential debate into a launching pad for a political comeback. "You didn't tell the American people the truth," he said.

Unruffled, and ahead in the polls, Obama parried each charge, and leveled a few of his own.

"One hundred percent, John,

of your ads, 100 percent of them have been negative," Obama shot back in an uncommonly personal debate less than three weeks from Election Day.

"It's not true," McCain retorted.

"It is true," said Obama, seeking the last word.

McCain is currently running all negative ads, according to a study by the University of Wisconsin-Madison. But he has run a number of positive ads during the campaign.

See **DEBATE**, page 10A



BARACK OBAMA

JOHN MCCAIN



Staff photos by T.M. James
Kelvin Wright checks a piece of decking rail Wednesday on an extrusion machine at the Tech-Wood facility in Greenwood.

WOOD 2.0

Greenwood County Council gets firsthand look at what is produced at Tech-Wood

By **FELICIA KITZMILLER**
Index-Journal staff writer

Nearly three years after announcing that it would locate a plant in Greenwood, Tech-Wood North America is operational and preparing for a grand opening.

Greenwood County Council toured the 120,000 square foot plant Wednesday and learned about the companies products and method of production.

President and CEO of Tech-Wood North America Peter Kotiadis said he wanted to have the council members out to thank them for their support and show them what their efforts have helped to produce.

See **WOOD**, page 7A



Sharon Quarles, left, calibrates a section of a PVC privacy fencing while Eric Ouzts assists. The fencing is one of the products made at Tech-Wood.

PROFICIENCY RATES

Most high schools met S.C.'s AYP goals

But no local districts met the standards

By **FELICIA KITZMILLER**
Index-Journal staff writer

Lakelands-area high schools triumphed this year with the majority meeting the proficiency rates required to attain Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), and those that did not make the grade came painfully close.

Ware Shoals, Ninety Six and McCormick high schools all met AYP. This means they met all of the state's proficiency goals for students in English/language arts (ELA) and math, as well as having adequate graduation rates and test participation.

This was a significant accomplishment as fewer high schools statewide made AYP this year compared with last year.

Rhonda McDowell, assistant superintendent at Ninety Six, said the high school exceeded AYP requirements in all categories and would have a head start when the proficiency requirements for high schools jump about 20 percentage points.

"We certainly hope to continue recent trends," said Kelly Coxe, coordinator of six through 12 instruction and curriculum in McCormick.

Abbeville and Dixie high schools missed AYP by one objective — graduation rate. There are three ways for a high school to meet its graduation rate requirement.

See **AYP**, page 7A



The Index-Journal is published with pride seven days a week for the people of the Lakelands. You are important to us. If you miss your paper, please call 223-1413.

Inside today's edition

- **ABBY** 2C
- **ACCENT** 1C
- **BRIDGE** 3C
- **BUSINESS** 8B

- **CALENDAR** 2A
- **CLASSIFIEDS** 4C-8C
- **COMICS** 3C
- **EDITORIALS** 8A-9A
- **HOROSCOPE** 2C
- **LOTTERY** 5A

- **MOVIES** 2C
- **OBITUARIES** 4A
- **SPORTS** 1B-5B
- **SUDOKU** XX
- **TELEVISION** 2C
- **WEATHER** 8B

The Index-Journal is committed to editorial excellence. To report an error, contact Executive News Editor Richard Whiting at 943-2522; or rwhiting@indexjournal.com.



THE GM 100,000 MILE WARRANTY

OCTOBER IS GMC TRUCK MONTH

EVERY 2008 TRUCK AT INVOICE LESS REBATE!

0%

AVAILABLE THRU GMAC

30

IN STOCK!



C Thompson Automotive

Buick Pontiac GMC

864-223-0586

1 mile north of the mall