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Finding and keeping young referees for high school football
Sports, 1C

Civil service test in high school led to career spent abroad
Lowcountry Roots, 7B



Rain did little to dampen BBQ and Bluegrass Festival
Local & State, 2B

Cruise ships and the meaning of Labor Day in the Lowcountry
I'm just sayin', 1B



Chance of storms. High 88. Low 74. Complete 5-day forecast, 16A

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Fab four grab GOP spotlight

S.C.'s conservative freshmen team up for ideals, fundraising

BY YVONNE WENGER
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COLUMBIA — The New York Times put America on notice in April when it chronicled how South Carolina's four GOP freshmen congressmen refused to adopt a go-along-to-get-along attitude on Capitol Hill.

POLITICO and the national cable circuit further developed the story line that these men from a historically rebellious state were people to watch, a



Scott



Duncan



Gowdy



Mulvaney

Who's Who of the 87 conservative men and woman elected in 2009.

Cameras and scribes documented their collective decision to buck their own Republican Party leadership in the dramatic countdown to the country's

debt default, as they ducked into the chapel to pray about the situation that was ultimately averted.

U.S. Rep. Tim Scott, the 1st District congressman from North Charleston, said he and his bunch aren't seeking

any special attention. "If it comes, it comes," he said.

"Last November, the voters of South Carolina sent the four of us to Washington, not for minor change but for major change," Scott said. "Washington, D.C. is broke. It spends too much. It taxes too much and it regulates too much."

Along with Scott, U.S. Reps. Jeff Duncan of Laurens, Trey Gowdy of Spartanburg and Mick Mulvaney of Indian Land round out the "fab four" — as they're called for a high-dollar fundraiser planned for Tuesday.

The \$2,000-per-plate breakfast and

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Searching globe for healing plants



PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRAD NETTLES/STAFF

MUSC cancer researcher Dr. Michael Wargovich works with leaves and stems from Bridelia ferruginea in his lab Friday in the Hollings Cancer Center. Wargovich searches the world for plants that can be used for preventing and treating cancer.



People always ask in this lab, 'What is it in our diet that causes cancer?' The question really is, 'What is it that we have given up?'

Dr. Michael Wargovich

MUSC scientist on mission to help prevent cancer

BY ALLYSON BIRD
abird@postandcourier.com

Dr. Michael Wargovich works in a lab seven stories up in the Hollings Cancer Center, where he studies leaves and bark gathered from muddy corners of this wide world.

If you take nothing else from what he's learned, just do this: Drink a glass of tea. Drink it hot or iced, green or black, sweetened or not. Just drink it. Every day.

Wargovich is perfectly qualified to offer this advice. He works as an ethnobotanist at the Medical University of South Carolina, meaning he studies the relationship between humans and plants.

Still reading? Good, because "ethnobotanist" is an unfairly boring title, given what Wargovich actually does.

An Indiana Jones of flora, he travels the world in search of healing plants. Then, with help from a few select medical and graduate students, he researches how those plants can help prevent cancer here in the United States.

Color maps tell the story of cancer in today's world. The more modern, industrialized, plugged-in the society, the more likely its people will develop the disease.

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Struggle to find work gets tougher

Jobless numbers don't reveal whole picture of competition

BY PAUL WISEMAN
and CHRISTOPHER LEONARD
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The job market is even worse than the 9.1 percent unemployment rate suggests.

America's 14 million unemployed aren't competing just with each other. They must also contend with 8.8 million other people not counted as unemployed — part-timers who want full-time work.

When consumer demand picks up, companies will likely boost the hours of their part-timers before they add jobs, economists say. It means they have room to expand without hiring.

And the unemployed will face another source of competition once the economy improves: Roughly 2.6 million people who aren't counted as unemployed because they've stopped looking for work. Once they start looking again, they'll be classified as unemployed. And the unemployment rate could rise.

Intensified competition for jobs means unemployment could exceed its historic norm of 5 percent to 6 percent for several more years. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office expects the rate to exceed 8 percent until 2014. The White House predicts it will average 9 percent next year, when President Barack Obama runs for re-election.

The unemployment rate in South Carolina is 10.9 percent, one of the nation's worst.

The jobs crisis has led Obama to schedule a major speech Thursday night to propose steps to stimulate hiring. Republican presidential candidates will likely confront the issue in a debate the night before.

The back-to-back events will come days after the government said employers added zero net jobs in August. The monthly jobs report, arriving three days before Labor Day, was the weakest since September 2010.

Combined, the 14 million officially unemployed; the "underemployed" part-timers who want full-time

work; and the 2.6 million people who aren't counted as unemployed because they've stopped looking for work — together make up a large portion of the labor force that is struggling to find work.

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They're acting like freshmen congressmen, inexperienced and immature, and I think that it is going to come back and haunt them.

S.C. Democratic Party Chairman Dick Harpootlian

Fab four grab GOP spotlight

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roundtable event in Columbia follows today's American Principles Project Palmetto Freedom Forum with the top GOP presidential contenders.

U.S. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., state House Speaker Bobby Harrell, R-Charleston, and U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-Lexington, are special guests at the so-called South Carolina Young Guns Victory Fund event intended to help the freshmen get re-elected in 2012.

South Carolina Democratic Party Chairman Dick Harpootlian said he is not worried about any momentum Scott and the three other GOP freshmen will have going into upcoming election. They've accomplished nothing for the state and developed a reputation as obstructionists, he said. He promised that Democrats will challenge at least the majority of them in next year's election.

"They're acting like freshmen congressmen, inexperienced and immature, and I think that it is going to come back and haunt them," Harpootlian said.

Andrea Bozek, a spokeswoman for the National Republican Congressional Committee, said South Carolina's freshmen Republicans have fought for fiscal responsibility to undo the policies put in place under Democratic control.

"It's no surprise that leaders like these have gotten national attention for standing up for the real reforms," she said.

Charles Bierbauer, dean of the College of Mass Communications and Information Studies at the University of South Carolina, said the freshmen captured the spotlight by sticking together and creating a unified front. Bierbauer, the former senior White House correspondent for CNN, said that individually, the four have made less of an impression.

Their story is not yet told. "I don't know that they've done anything remarkable as yet — emphasis on the 'as yet' — to suggest that they have significant longevity, other than the fact that they are in pretty safe districts," he said.

Reach **Yvonne Wenger** at 803-926-7855, follow her at twitter.com/yvonnnewenger and read her political blog at postandcourier.com/blogs.

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Searching the globe for healing plants

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A look at cancer maps

The future projections, though, show cancer hot spots migrating from North America, western Europe and Australia to countries south of the equator, to Asia and to Saharan Africa.

Wargovich attributes that shift to a corresponding shift in culture. As those people abandon their traditional foods and beverages, they start consuming ours, replacing indigenous spices and green tea with fast food and soda.

They stop taking in the beneficial properties of those native plants and, as a result, they develop tumors.

Looking at those cancer maps, Wargovich says, "People always ask in this lab, 'What is it in our diet that causes cancer?' The question really is, 'What is it that we have given up?'"

Chronic inflammation, something people with problems such as arthritis or emphysema know all too well, provides the perfect environment for tumors to grow. Given the high levels of diabetes, heart disease, obesity and stroke in South Carolina, Wargovich likes to call this place "the inflammation state" and quips that it might reveal his political leanings.

It also reveals this state's great risk for cancer.

Wargovich describes tumors as race cars, traveling through the body without regard for speed limits or even boundaries. He studies how to apply brakes on those race cars through natural products such as tea, bright-red fruits and the spice turmeric.

His quest has led him to places such as Mali, Niger and Senegal. He and his wife, MUSC assistant epidemiology professor Joan Cunningham, traveled to Guinea, West Africa, several times between 2003 and 2007, first as a social visit to a doctor friend they met at the University of South Carolina and then with research in mind.

On one trip, Wargovich met the Guinea Minister of Public Health and learned about the leader's passion for his culture's traditional healers. The minister showed Wargovich a book on all the medicinal plants in West Africa, complete with drawings.

Wargovich, realizing he held something sacred to his own work, asked if he could photocopy the entire document. Then, he asked to meet one of these healers.

Wargovich found the Guinea medicine man in a makeshift office — a shipping container with anatomical drawings hanging on the walls. The healer agreed to collect samples of the plants contained within the book's pages but said Wargovich couldn't go with him.

Medicine, even when practiced from inside old shipping containers on the other side of the world, is still business. Healers process the plants and then dole them out in a specific number of tea bags, just as Western doctors distribute



BRAD NETTLES/STAFF

MUSC cancer researcher Dr. Michael Wargovich looks over bark from a tree in Africa in his lab in the Hollings Cancer Center on Friday

prescription drugs. The small plastic packages include typed instructions with the healer's phone number and email address, despite how unreliable Internet service in Guinea might be.

In his lab at MUSC's Hollings Cancer Center, Wargovich studies the plants he brought back and references pages of the book he copied from the minister, now dog-eared and covered with sticky notes. He and his team of students explore greens at their most basic level.

"I'll always eat a leaf," says Vondina Moseley, a fifth-year

graduate student from Baltimore who studies the cancer-preventive properties of green tea. At Wargovich's request, she fetches a piece of bark from a freezer in the hallway, preserved at 80 degrees below Celsius.

A logger from Australia mailed the African mahogany bark to Wargovich after reading about him online. The logger called the scientist and told him he has 20,000 acres of the tree and no use for its bark, which provides the same pain relief as prescription drugs but without harmful side effects.

Now, the logger and the scientist will try to figure out how to collaborate.

That's the big challenge for Wargovich: putting his work to practical use. He and Sue Reed from MUSC's College of Dental Medicine developed a mouthwash from neem, a leafy tree native to India and Africa, that could help prevent painful inflammation that commonly plagues head- and neck-cancer patients undergoing treatment. For a year, Wargovich and Reed have been waiting for the federal funding to get their clinical trial under way.

Several months ago, Wargovich met a local chef, Iverson Brownell, with whom he wants to create cancer-preventive meals at Hollings Cancer Center. They hope to blend familiar and exotic foods in ready-to-go meals for patients and people who want to eat with a purpose.

"I don't think it's going to cure tumors," Wargovich concedes. "Technically, you're cured through chemo or surgery, but then it's preventing reoccurrence."

Brownell, who previously ran locally based Iverson Catering, sees the project as a simple way to make a hospital stay more tolerable.

"The food that's being offered — I'm not knocking it — but it could be so much healthier and so much more preventive," Brownell says. "I'd love for people to do it before they get sick."

Wargovich wants to see the meals start small at Hollings, then reach hospitals around the Lowcountry and beyond. But as with his neem project with Reed and any plans for future plant-gathering trips, this project takes funding, and funding takes time.

Preventive measures

These days, Wargovich admits, he spends most of his time working on grants instead of plants.

As for his own habits, he and his wife — a breast-cancer survivor — frequent Asian markets and Indian grocery stores.

"Come and look in our pantry, and people would say, 'You sure are weird,'" Wargovich says.

They grow spices in their James Island backyard and eat a lot of salads made with local produce, fish bought straight from the docks at Shem Creek and chocolate with at least 80 percent cacao, an antioxidant. And every day, of course, they drink tea.

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