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DAILY \$2

'...there was no crime committed'

Sheriff says driver's words 'offensive,' not criminal

By **Renee Ortiz**
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It's been weeks since a video that showed a racially motivated interaction between two drivers went viral in Greenwood County.

Sanquenetta Brown was driving down Bypass 225, near the end of February, when she said a white man in an orange Chevrolet Chevelle flipped her off and began displaying road rage.

"I didn't even realize he was beside me until he was revving his engine. That's how he got my attention," Brown explained.

Brown claimed the man at one point tried to side swipe her to send her off the road. That's when she took a photo of the

man in his car.

"I reached for my phone and took a picture because I thought, if something happens, at least I have this," she said.

The two ended up stopped side by side at a traffic light past Emerald High School. It was there that Brown started recording on her cellphone. Brown was able to capture a video that garnered thousands of views and reactions after she posted it on Facebook.

"I was already shaken up, I was nervous. That's when he said, twice, "where that car get that (N-word) at?" Brown said.

Brown contacted police. Initially, an officer with the Greenwood Police Department

See **WORDS**, page 5A



SUBMITTED

Sanquenetta Brown took this photo of the driver, who has since been identified as Dennis Allen, she said attempted to sideswipe her car along Bypass 225 in Greenwood in February.

Three states, including SC, have no hate crime laws

By **Renee Ortiz**
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South Carolina remains one of three states — joined by Wyoming and Arkansas — without any formal hate crime laws. This means the state does not enforce penalties for any crimes motivated by race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation.

People have pushed for legislation to address hate crimes and enhance punishments, such as the "Senator Clementa C. Pinckney Hate Crimes Act" or House Bill 3039 and Senate

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ERIC MCCANDLESS | DISNEY

American Idol auditions continue as Luke Bryan, Lionel Richie, Carrie Underwood and Ryan Seacrest are wowed by exceptional talent and unforgettable performances. Watch Freddie McClendon 8 p.m. today on ABC.

McClendon Idol watch party

What: Catch Freddie McClendon's American Idol audition during a watch party.
When: 7-10 p.m. March 23.
Where: Sports Break, 114 Crosscreek Connector, Greenwood.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FREMANTLE AND AMERICAN IDOL

Greenwood's Freddie McClendon props his feet up on a couch in a backstage area at American Idol auditions, while waiting before going on stage to sing for judges.

'The Idol family is fantastic'

Greenwood's Freddie McClendon reflects on American Idol audition

By **St. Claire Donaghy**
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It's a pinch-me moment for Greenwood singer-songwriter Freddie McClendon.

McClendon, a 19-year-old Belmont University student studying songwriting and minoring in music, appears on tonight's episode of the reality TV series "American Idol." It airs at 8 p.m. and streams

on Hulu.

Aspiring singers compete on the show for a shot at recording contracts and music fame.

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