

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 12/2/2014 9:45:18 AM
Subject: SC Front Pages – Tuesday, December 2, 2014

SC Front Pages – Tuesday, December 2, 2014



USC FOOTBALL, 1C
**SPURRIER
NOT DONE**



LIFESTYLE, 1D
**Eat right to
help battle
holiday stress**

The Greenville News

A GANNETT COMPANY

TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 2, 2014
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

● **USATODAY**

OBAMA TEAM CALLS FOR NEW RULES ON POLICE EQUIPMENT **PAGE 1B**

FINAL EDITION

Charges: Conducting, financing and managing an illegal gambling business based in Piedmont

Agreement: Pay the government \$20 million -- a record for the U.S. Attorney's Office in S.C.

Background: October 2013, agents seized several hundred gambling machines and other evidence.

GUILTY PLEAS ENTERED IN GAMBLING PROBE



Bobby Mosley Sr., right, pleaded guilty in federal court on Monday to operating an illegal gambling business. His son-in-law, J. Michael Caldwell, left, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge.

By David Dykes
Staff writer
ddykes@greenvillenews.com

The case was replete with federal surveillance, millions of dollars in money transfers and the seizure of several hundred gambling machines.

In the end, two men and a software company charged in a federal indictment with conducting, financing and managing an illegal gambling business based in Piedmont pleaded guilty and agreed to pay the government \$20 mil-

lion — a record for the U.S. Attorney's Office in South Carolina.

During a hearing Monday, Bobby Mosley Sr., 63, of Townville, pleaded guilty to operating an illegal gambling business. His son-in-law, J. Michael Caldwell, 42, of Williamston, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of serving as an accessory after the fact to transportation of gambling machines in interstate commerce.

Mosley also entered a guilty plea on behalf of his company, Frontier Software Systems, LLC, to money laundering conspiracy.

Three remaining corporate defendants were dismissed from the case, prosecutors said.

Mosley will be sentenced later. Caldwell was sentenced to time served, which amounted to a day in custody after his arrest last year. Each had been free on \$100,000 bond.

Mosley and his attorneys, Billy Wilkins of Greenville and Dick Harpootlian of Columbia, declined to comment as they left the federal courthouse in downtown Greenville. Caldwell and his attorneys also declined comment after the hearing.

U.S. District Judge Bruce Howe Hendricks accepted the pleas and entered an order requiring the defendants to forfeit \$20 million to the United States that federal prosecutors said was derived from criminal activities.

Top U.S. Department of Justice officials reviewed the settlement and approved the forfeiture agreement, which isn't unusual in cases of this size, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Watkins.

"This \$20 million forfeiture is the largest forfeiture ever in the District of

See GAMBLING, Page 8A

Standoff leads to man's death

Probe of Clemson student's death nearing completion



SPURRIER: "I'm definitely planning on being back." **B1**

The State

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2014 | THESTATE.COM

Kahn loses part of Sandhill

Bankruptcy deal carves up mall development in Northeast Richland

By **RODDIE BURRIS**
rburris@thestate.com

EXCLUSIVE

Columbia businessman Alan Kahn will lose to foreclosure a portion of his 300-acre Village at Sandhill shopping complex in Northeast Richland, along with various other property holdings, in a settlement of a \$100 million Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing.

The foreclosed properties at Village at Sandhill include three portions of the sprawling complex at the corner of Clemson and Two Notch roads — the Market-

place Phase II retail center, the VAS Condominiums and another undeveloped parcel. The Market-place retail center holdings are on the west side of the 640,000-square-foot shopping complex and include the Super Bi-Lo and about 30 smaller shops. The undeveloped land sits behind that portion of the shopping center. And the condos are in various spots around a center fountain.

Another Columbia property

formerly owned by Kahn — Dutch Plaza, an office building in St. Andrews — also is being foreclosed on in the massive bankruptcy deal. Two additional former Kahn properties caught up in the bankruptcy filing, a downtown Columbia warehouse and a residence on the Isle of Palms along the S.C. coast, either have been sold already to help pay back the creditor, or will be sold soon, Kahn said.

All six of the properties were

SEE **KAHN** PAGE A2



FILE PHOTOGRAPH BY THE STATE

The Village at Sandhill, a huge retail and residential development, was a proud achievement for Alan Kahn, shown during its construction in 2005.



Emily Douglas Park, along Wheat Street in Columbia, has a dog park where owners have a great time watching their pets get some exercise while learning to play nicely with others.

Columbia, Richland County study possible parks for pooches

By **DAWN HINSHAW**
dhinshaw@thestate.com

A sunny afternoon draws a lot of Columbia residents out to the park for games of chase, tackle and Frisbee — among their dogs.

With three popular dog parks, Columbia is looking to add another facility for pet owners in Rosewood as part of an upgrade to Owens Field. Richland County, meanwhile, is studying whether to open its first dog park on creek-side property it has acquired along Decker Boulevard.

Jamie Iretson tries to bring her dog, Darcy, to Shandon's Emily Douglas Park five days a week. They both enjoy it.

"You kind of build relationships with



What's mine is not yours: Darcy, Sadie Mae and Pebbles convene to decide who'll get custody of a stick.

IF YOU GO

What: Community meeting on the master plan for Owens Field Park, including a new dog park
When: 6-8 p.m., Wednesday
Where: Hamilton-Owens Airport, 1400 Jim Hamilton Blvd., Columbia
For more information: Co-

Proposed reforms on the agenda for S.C. House

Included: Speaker term limit, ban on some PACS

By **CASSIE COPE**
ccope@thestate.com

Members of the S.C. House of Representatives will make it clear Tuesday whether they are serious about reducing the power of their leaders.

Representatives will adopt new rules that aim to prevent the corruption that led to the downfall of former long-time House Speaker Bobby Harrell, R-Charleston.

They also will elect new leaders.

Acting Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington, who stepped up when Harrell was charged with public corruption, is expected to be elected speaker of the GOP-controlled House.

After Lucas pushed for term limits for the speaker, a House rules panel approved limiting the speaker and speaker pro tempore to five terms, or 10 years. The full House will take up that proposal Tuesday.

Whether the term limits will have any real impact is

SEE **REFORMS** PAGE A5

Pilot dies

The Post and Courier

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Senator wants new agency to replace DSS

Bill would form Family Protective Services, shift other functions to state health agency

BY CYNTHIA ROLDAN
croltan@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — The state's beleaguered Department of Social Services would be dissolved in favor of a standalone protective services agency if a planned bill is approved by the legislature next session.

Sen. Katrina Shealy, R-Lexington, said on Monday that her bill, the

South Carolina Child Welfare Reform Act of 2015, would dissolve DSS and create a separate agency called the Department of Family Protective Services. She plans to prefile the legislation Wednesday.

If the bill became law, the non-child protective services responsibilities — such as welfare and Medicaid — would get shifted to the Department of Health and Human Services.



Shealy

Poll

Should the Department of Social Services be dissolved in favor of a new Department of Family Protective Services? Go to [postandcourier.com/polls](#) to vote.

"We're going to be able to get them to focus on just the things they need focus on like child abuse, child neglect, foster care and adoptions," Shealy

said. "DSS already has the means to handle the Medicaid and the welfare. We're actually going to save money because we're duplicating services as it is."

Separating the agency is a tall order, but several states have done it. Earlier this year, Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer announced she was dissolving the state's child protective services department from under the Department of Economic Security, and creating a new standalone cabinet agency, the Department of Child Safety.

Arizona's child protective services department came under fire when it

was revealed in November 2013 that the agency had not investigated more than 6,500 cases of child abuse and neglect. Other states have also separated their agencies, including Wisconsin, Texas, and Louisiana, said Carla Damron, executive director of the South Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

Separating South Carolina's DSS could create an opportunity to focus services, because the agency has a mix of priorities, said Naomi Terfin, executive director of Children Come First.

Please see DSS, Page A6

Will police body cameras be as common as badges?

Local agencies back technology, but Obama's plan spurs cost concerns



HEINRICH/ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH

Police officers wear what appear to be body cameras as they hold the line against protesters gathered at the police station during a rally in Ferguson, Mo., on Saturday.

BY ANDREW KNAPP
aknapp@postandcourier.com

President Barack Obama's push Monday to outfit more of the nation's police officers with video cameras in the wake of the disputed shooting death of 18-year-old Michael Brown came as no surprise to Charleston-area law enforcement officials, but some of the authorities doubted whether the move would make the technology any closer to reality.

The White House also announced that it wouldn't stop the flow of military surplus equipment to local police departments — a program that caught flak during officers' response to heated protests in Ferguson, Mo.

Poll

Do you think body cameras on law enforcement officers will help build trust between the public and police? Go to [postandcourier.com/polls](#) to vote.

— but that further review was needed.

Monday's developments drew interest among officials in the Lowcountry, where body cameras and military equipment have been points of contention in recent months.

Please see CAMERAS, Page A8



CHARLIE REXEL/AP

Police in riot gear patrol near an armored vehicle as smoke fills the streets Nov. 25 in Ferguson, Mo.

Coast Guard ousts local top officer

No charges expected over misconduct

BY SCHUYLER KROFF
skroff@postandcourier.com

The officer in charge of all Charleston's U.S. Coast Guard operations has been relieved of command, with officials saying they'd lost confidence in his abilities to lead.

The move comes following undisclosed allegations of personal misconduct.

Rear Adm. Jake Korn on Monday temporarily relieved Capt. Ric Rodriguez, 50, from his position at the top of Coast Guard Sector Charleston.

Officials did not disclose the specific reason for Rodriguez's ouster, but said no charges are expected to be filed.

Please see OFFICER, Page A6



Rodriguez

Teacher pay scale creates inequities, group says

BY AMANDA KERR
akerr@postandcourier.com

A local education advocacy group is taking issue with the Charleston County School District's new pay scale for teachers, asserting that the new salaries aren't equitable and leave some of the district's most experienced educators making less over the life of their careers.

EdFirstSC, an education advocacy group led by a Charleston teacher, released a study Monday which raises questions about the school district's implementation of a salary study meant to increase the pay for some employees based on market rates for similar positions in other school districts.

Please see TEACHER, Page A8

Inside BUSINESS

Short circuit sparked Dreamliner battery fire, B1

YOUR HEALTH

USC study: Vegan diet most effective for weight loss, D1

LOCAL

Mount P. rule change limiting council members advances, A7



goodcheerfund.com
Family faces medical hardships during holidays
See A4
Donate at [goodcheerfund.com](#)

Few clamoring to be next defense chief

BY JULIE PACE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Wanted: Thick-skinned candidate to oversee a sprawling bureaucracy bitten by budget cuts and join a national security team besieged by criticism. Must be tolerant of White House interference.

The job conditions for President Barack Obama's next defense secretary have already spurred some top contenders to bow out, leaving the White House with a slim list of candidates to fill the post for the administration's final two years.



Johnson



Carter



Work

Those said to still be under consideration are largely longtime public servants who have deep Pentagon experience, but may be less likely to give Obama's national security agenda the

jolt that critics — and increasingly some supporters — say is needed.

People familiar with the decision-making process say Obama's short list includes Ashton Carter, the former deputy defense secretary who left the administration in late 2013, and Robert Work, who now holds the Pentagon's

No. 2 job.

The president has also been considering Homeland Security Secretary Jeh

Please see DEFENSE, Page A11



Mostly cloudy.
High 69, Low 52.
Complete 5-day
forecast, B10

Bridge — B9
Classifieds — C1
Comics — B8, B9
Crossword — B8, C3
Editorials — A12
Movies — B7
Obituaries — B2
Sports — C1
Sudoku — B7
Television — B6
Business — B1
Your Health — B1



Pearle Vision
\$39 for \$200 of eyewear
See A2

Spurrier says he'll be back

Head Ball Coach isn't ready to walk away | **SPORTS, 1B**

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

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She's a trouper

At 10 months old, Tayler Kinard is loving life, despite having cystic fibrosis



STAFF PHOTO BY ROB NOVIT

Every day, Alecia Kinard celebrates the joy expressed by her daughter, Tayler. Ten-month-old Tayler was born with cystic fibrosis, a condition that impacts the pancreas, the lungs and the liver. A benefit race to assist the Kinard family and the national Cystic Fibrosis Foundation will be held Friday.

BY ROB NOVIT
rnovit@aikenstandard.com

All of 10 months old, Tayler Kinard celebrates her life — full of bubbly, joyous smiles — as she scoots around her living room in a self-propelled walker a week ago.

There is nothing evident today at all that her life was in jeopardy after her birth Jan. 24. There was nothing evident that her parents, Alecia and Stacy, would adjust to alternative 12-hour shifts — staying with their daughter at Palmetto Health Richland's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Tayler would not come home to Aiken for two months.

Within a few days after Tayler was born, she was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis — an acutely serious condition that affects the lungs, pancreas and



STAFF PHOTO BY ROB NOVIT

Tayler Kinard, 10 months old, loves her family and, really, everything. She's joined by her parents, father Stacy and mother Alecia Kinard, and her big brother, Christopher, 8. Tayler was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis.

Want to go?

WHAT: Frosty 5K/1 Mile Fun Run will benefit the Kinard family and the national Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

WHEN: Friday; the fun run will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the 5K race at 6:30 p.m. Registration will be from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: Citizens Park, 1080 Banks Mills Road

COST: \$20 for the 5K and \$5 for the fun run

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Email the Aiken Running Club at erikawisdom@yahoo.com or Chrystie Weimer at mweimer@aqsd.net

AREA DEATHS

Deborah Ann Ewing Kirkland,

Aiken

James Warren Harman Jr., Aiken

Willie James Caldwell, Aiken

Vickie J. Rawls, Wagener

Ilene Cook Harrah, Aiken

David Fields, Augusta

Kids removed after drugs found in home

BY TEDDY KULMALA
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

Three people were arrested and two children were removed from an Aiken home in which police found marijuana, methamphetamine

and Robin Deaton Crews, 54, of West Rollingwood Road in Aiken, was charged with simple possession of marijuana, possession of less than one gram of methamphetamine or cocaine base and possession of unlawful neglect of

charged with simple possession of marijuana.

Amenda Jacqueline Smith, 31, of Crossroads Park Drive in Aiken, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, simple possession of marijuana and two counts



AIKENSTANDARD FILE PHOTO

Firefighters wave aboard a truck from the Jackson Fire Department No. 94 during last year's Jackson Christmas Parade.

Parades spread holiday spirit

BY DEDE BILES
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

The Christmas parade season in Aiken and Edgefield counties will be in full swing this weekend, with marching bands, politicians riding in cars and colorful floats filling the streets.

Santa Claus will be appearing at all of the events.

Parades are scheduled for Saturday in Wagener at 11 a.m., New Ellenton at noon, Graniteville at 3 p.m. and Windsor at 5 p.m. Others will be held Sunday in Jackson at 3:30 p.m. and Edgefield at 4 p.m.

"Kids love parades because of Santa, and the adults like them because they want to really get into the Christmas spirit,"

said New Ellenton City Council member Ron Reynolds, who is the chairman of New Ellenton's Atomic City Christmas Parade.

Scheduled to participate in that procession, which has a winter wonderland theme, are the Silver Bluff High School NJROTC, the New Ellenton Middle School Band, fire trucks and military veterans.

Please see **PARADES**, Page 12A.



RELISH
Tis the season
—for baking
Christmas
cookies.
INSIDE

HARDLY HOMEMADE: Novice crafter? There's a project for that. **B1**
WINNING WOUNDED: Injured Watson turns in memorable performance. **C1**

Sheriff: Student's death not suicide

Hipps investigation 'nearing completion,' Crenshaw says

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — While the investigation into Tucker Hipps'

death remains ongoing, one thing Oconee County sheriff Mike Crenshaw is willing to concede is the 19-year-old Clemson University student's death

was not a suicide. "Everything is still on the table," Crenshaw told The Journal on Monday. "The only definitive that I'm willing to say at this point is that we know without any doubt this was not a suicide."

Hipps was reported missing Sept. 22 after he



Hipps

didn't return from an early-morning run with Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity members. University police found him dead in Lake Hartwell near the S.C. Highway 93 bridge that afternoon.

The Oconee County Sheriff's Office and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division are conducting the death investigation. Last week, the sheriff's office announced it would offer

a reward of up to \$2,000 for anyone who has information directly related to Hipps' death.

Crenshaw said Monday the Hipps investigation is "nearing completion," but there is no timetable for its conclusion.

"The investigation is still ongoing, we're still following up on these Crime Stoppers leads — and that's why I don't want to

SEE HIPPS, PAGE A2



PHOTOS BY REX BROWN | THE JOURNAL



Seneca officially kicked off the holiday season with its annual Christmas parade on Monday night. Children of all ages waved and yelled "Merry Christmas" as they scrambled to grab candy tossed their way, while Santa Claus got an early start on finding out who's naughty and nice as he closed the festivities. Clemson is next on the docket, as its parade is set for a 6 p.m. start today. To see more photos of Seneca's parade, visit UpstateTodayPICS.com.



County council to vote on \$30M development in eastern Oconee

'Gateway project' would have retail, restaurant space

BY STEVEN BRADLEY
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Oconee County Council can start the ball rolling on an estimated \$30 million development that would bring an influx of shopping and dining options near the county's border with Clemson at its scheduled meeting tonight.

Resolution R 2014-19 represents first and final reading on a fee-in-lieu-of-tax agreement with Casto Southeast Realty Services, LLC, a high-end commercial developer that plans to establish roughly 300,000 square feet of retail/restaurant space, according to Oconee Economic Alliance director Richard Blackwell.

Newspring Church bought the old Milliken site on U.S. Highway 123 in late

2013 and would sell "about 45 acres" to Casto, Blackwell said.

For sake of comparison, Blackwell said the recently developed

Easley Town Center on U.S. 123 that includes Wal-Mart and Sam's Club is roughly 500,000 square feet.

"So it's a little smaller than what the city of Easley has, but it's a little over half the size of that," he said.

The mixed-use development entails an estimated

SEE DEVELOPMENT, PAGE A5



Blackwell



Man dies after construction accident

THE JOURNAL STAFF

SENECA — A Liberty man died Friday morning from a head injury sustained nine days earlier in an incident on the construction site at

Keeler was initially listed in critical condition after he was injured when a scissor lift overturned at approximately 8:15 a.m. Nov. 19 at the construction site for the city of Seneca's \$10 million wa-

ter lift up in the ceiling working," Seneca Police Maj. Jeremy Rothell told The Journal that day. "The scissor lift turned over — we don't know how. He was thrown from the lift, and he's got some type of

NOT SUCH A BIG DEAL

Extended period for bargains cuts Cyber Monday sales A4



Herald-Journal

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DECEMBER 2, 2014
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HJ
IN A HURRY
5 Things to read today



New east-side eats

A new restaurant on the east side hopes to take Southern cuisine to the next level. Tracy Haynes, 33, and Barry Easler, 25, have teamed up to open their new family dining venture, Roots Deep South Eats, in the former Four Seasons Steakhouse building at 1071 Fernwood Glendale Road. **PAGE C1**

The water is wide

Crews worked Monday to repair a broken underground pipe that turned a Converse Heights street into what some residents called "an ocean." **PAGE A8**

Mom gets 8 years

A Gaffney woman, who told investigators she didn't mean to kill her 12-week-old son when she squeezed him like a "stuffed animal," was sentenced to eight years in prison for his death. **PAGE C1**

Mennonite pot ring

Authorities said Monday an unlikely alliance between a group of pacifist Mexican Mennonites and a drug cartel resulted in tons of marijuana being grown and shipped across the U.S. border. **PAGE A4**

Cookies go cyber

For the first time since sales began nearly 100 years ago, Girl Scouts of the USA will allow its young go-getters to sell cookies using a mobile app or personalized websites. But only if their Scout councils and guardians say OK. **PAGE D1**

SENATOR VISITS HIGH SCHOOL



U.S. Sen. Tim Scott speaks to advanced placement history students at Blacksburg High School and takes their questions on Monday before flying back to Washington, D.C., for his swearing-in ceremony today.

PHOTOS BY ALEX HICKS JR./ALEX.HICKS@SHJ.COM

Scott urges students not to fear failing, starting over

By **LYNNE P. SHACKLEFORD**
lynne.shackelford@shj.com

Just before hopping a plane to Washington, U.S. Sen. Tim Scott took some hard-hitting questions Monday from students in Kelli Foster's advanced placement history class at Blacksburg High School.

Scott stopped for a short visit with the class before his 2:50 p.m. flight back to the nation's capital for his swearing-in ceremony today. He was appointed by Gov. Nikki Haley when Jim DeMint resigned from the Senate in 2013 and was elected last month to serve the remaining two years of DeMint's term.

Mitchell Jones, a junior, asked Scott how he viewed himself compared to former notable South Carolina senators Strom Thurmond and Fritz Hollings.

Scott said those senators had outstanding service and "big microphones," but Scott said he's in a unique position to serve and focus on education, the catalyst he used to pull himself up even



Mitchell Jones, 16, asks U.S. Sen. Tim Scott to compare himself to former South Carolina senators Strom Thurmond and Fritz Hollings.

"The best way to succeed is to stay after what you want to do."

U.S. SEN. TIM SCOTT

Obama creates panel on policing

President also to seek funds for body cams

By **NEDRA PICKLER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama said Monday he wants to ensure the U.S. isn't building a "militarized culture" within police departments, while maintaining federal programs that provide the type of military-style equipment that were used to dispel racially charged protests in Ferguson, Mo.

Instead, the president is asking Congress for funding to buy 50,000 body cameras to record events such as the shooting death of an unarmed 18-year-old Michael Brown and look for ways to build trust and confidence between police and minority communities nationwide. He announced the creation of a task force to study success stories and recommend ways the government can support accountability, transparency and trust in police.

With protests ongoing in Ferguson and across the country, Obama spoke to reporters at the end of a White House meeting with police, civil rights activists and local leaders and acknowledged the participants told him that there have been task forces in the past and "nothing happens."

"Part of the reason this time will be different is because the president of the United States is deeply invested in making sure that this time is different," Obama said. He said he was upset to hear the young people in the meeting describe their experiences with police. "It violates my belief in what America can be to hear young people feeling marginalized and distrustful even after they've done everything right."

At least for now, Obama is staying away from Ferguson in the wake of the uproar over a grand jury's decision last week not to charge Darren Wilson, the police officer who fatally shot Brown. The U.S. Justice Department is investigating possible civil rights violations that could result in federal charges, but investigators would need to satisfy a rigorous standard of proof. Justice also has launched a broad investigation into the Ferguson Police Department.

◆ SEE OBAMA PAGE A8

Weather

my mom (live in) a place that was from scratch, then a real estate

LOCAL SPORTS



Time for hoops

Sumter High boys, girls host Lower Richland in home opener **B1**

TAKE A BYTE



Girl Scout cookie sales are about to go digital **A6**

DEATHS, B5 and B6

James W. Moree
Tammy Lee J. Williams
Francis L. Copeland
James Bradford III
Elizabeth S. Josey
Ernest Century

Tallis D. Yates III
Mary Wilder
Rufus Bennett
Helene P. Lively
Charles A. Franklin
Emma Dargan

WEATHER, A10

IS IT REALLY DECEMBER?

Partly sunny today; mostly cloudy tonight
HIGH 70, LOW 49

INSIDE

Classifieds B8
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1 dies in shooting

Police searching for suspects

BY MATT BRUCE
matthew@theitem.com

City of Sumter police are investigating a shooting that left one man dead late Monday afternoon. Witnesses reported the incident to authorities about 4:45 p.m., indicating shots rang out just off Miller Road about one block north of Broad Street.

Officers arrived and found the victim on the ground beside a Sumter School District maintenance building along Shop Road suffering from an apparent gunshot wound to the upper body. Officials had not immediately released information about the victim, Sumter County Coroner Harvin.

SEE SHOOTING, PAGE A7



MATT BRUCE / THE SUMTER ITEM
Vehicles converge at the scene of a fatal shooting near Miller Road late Monday afternoon.

ALL IS MERRY AND BRIGHT AT SWAN LAKE



JIM HILLEY / THE SUMTER ITEM

A gathering of young and old were delighted Monday evening as the annual Fantasy of Lights at Swan Lake was lit for the 27th year.

Christmas lights illuminate gardens

BY JIM HILLEY
jim@theitem.com

"This is a time when families are important," said Col. Stephen F. Jost, commander of the 20th Fighter Wing at Shaw Air Force Base, before he threw the switch

Tuesday evening to turn Swan Lake-Iris Gardens into a fantasy of holiday lights as his wife and children stood nearby.

An ample gathering of young and old sighed with delight as suddenly

SEE LIGHTS, PAGE A7

Crash kills F-16 pilot

Connection to Shaw unknown

BY RAYTEVIA EVANS
ray@theitem.com

A U.S. Air Force pilot was killed when an F-16 crashed late Sunday night while returning to its base in the Middle East.

Col. Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman, said the jet developed a problem related to maintenance shortly after takeoff, turned around and crashed before landing. Warren said the pilot apparently turned around before engaging in any combat mission.

The crash is being investigated. Warren said it was too early to say why the pilot was unable to eject.

The U.S. Central Command, which is in charge of American military operations in the Mideast, did not disclose the identity of the pilot, but it said it did not occur in either Iraq or Syria where a U.S.-led coalition has been bombing Islamic State extremists.

Citing sensitivities of host nations, Warren would not identify where the incident occurred. Shaw Air Force Base recently joined the fight against the Islamic State terrorist group, deploying one of its three squadrons of F-16 Fighting Falcons to the Middle East. At full strength, the base holds 82 F-16 fighter jets and comprises three squadrons: the 55th, 77th and 79th.

SEE CRASH, PAGE A7

POINSETTIA FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

December is here and with it, the Sumter Poinsettia Festival. Following the opening of the Fantasy of Lights, which lit up Swan Lake-Iris Gardens for the first time last evening, the fabulous display of thousands and thousands of lighted trees and various characters can be seen through Dec. 31. Meanwhile, other activities start this week, including an exclusive opportunity for kids to write and send their letters directly to Santa at his "village" at Swan Lake starting Friday. Myriad events are upcoming all month long. Here's what you can see through next Monday:

Today through Dec. 31:

• Fantasy of Lights, dusk to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 3:

• Wheat Workshop, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Wednesday, Sumter

County Museum, (803) 775-0908

Thursday, Dec. 4:

• Festival of Trees, Circle of Lights, Tuomey Regional Medical Center, through Jan. 2

Friday, Dec. 5:

• Christmas Tree Lighting, Sumter County Courthouse, 4:30 p.m.

• Walk with St. Nick, Courthouse to library, after tree lighting

• Singing Christmas Tree, First Baptist Church, through Sunday; call (803) 773-3732 for tickets

• Santa's Village, Santa's Express, Swan Lake, weekends

Saturday, Dec. 6:

• Silver Bells Arts & Crafts Show, American Legion Building, also Sunday afternoon

• Holiday House Tea & Tour, noon-6 p.m., (803) 494-3420

Sunday, Dec. 7:

• Christmas Parade, Main Street, 2 p.m.

• Morris College Chorus concert, Neal-Jones Auditorium, 6 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 8:

• Festival of Trees, Circle of Lights, Tuomey campus



Fireside Fund raises \$3,451 in 1st week this season

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The 2014-15 Fireside Fund is

and gives it to The Salvation Army to hand out to people who need help heating their

Contact The Salvation Army at (803) 775-9336 if you need help with heating costs.



FIRESIDE FUND
2014-15

of the Ascension DCW Ellen Ellerbe Chapter, \$50; Love in Action Sunday School Class,

Josie Edwards is the Lakelands Girls Tennis Player of the Year, see Sports 1B

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2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2014

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D50 board committees convene, debate ensues

By KATE HRUBY
khruby@indexjournal.com

Student-teacher ratios and hiring policy provoked fiery discussion Monday evening at the first meeting in recent memory of Greenwood School District 50's board committees.

The heated conversation on these topics spanned the latter portion of the Curriculum Committee and continued into the Finance/Personnel

Committee.

It all began at the tail-end of an in-depth presentation of 2013-14 testing data by District 50 Director of Testing Amy Young, when board member Tom Miller made an observation about the high student-teacher ratios at the district's middle and high schools.

"Emerald and Greenwood High — we are struggling. We dropped in both (accountability) ratings at both schools. Our student to teacher ratio at Emerald being 34.7 to one when

our target is 26, and Greenwood High, even worse, at 37.1 with the same target. My quick math, and I'm District 50 trained, Emerald needs eight and a half teachers right now, and Greenwood needs 18 to get to where we need to be," Miller said. "That's a huge jump, and there's no easy way to get there, but am I wrong in this? What I'm seeing is that ratio is directly reflective of our results."

Miller drew this information from the individual school summaries on the 2014 state report card. The ratios

for the high schools pertained to core academic subjects. On the report card, both high schools received an absolute rating of "average" and a growth rating of "at-risk." Likewise, both received a 2014 federal accountability rating of a "C." All three District 50 middle schools received "average" state absolute and growth ratings, with Westview and Brewer middle schools receiving a "D" federally, and Northside a "C."

Responding to Miller's inquiry, Assistant Superintendent of Instruc-

tion Shirley Boyce said the ratios contribute to results but added that state and federal expectations for achievement and growth increase every year. She went on to cite the loss of 157 teachers in recent years due to budgetary constraints as a contributing factor in the high ratios.

Since the drastic teachers cuts that began in 2007, Boyce said the district made a conscious choice to rebuild teacher levels at the elementary

See D50, page 3A

CITY COUNCIL

Solar power passes first test

By COLIN RIDDLE
criddle@indexjournal.com

With solar power becoming increasingly popular in North Carolina and Georgia, Greenwood City Council decided to move an ordinance that would allow the construction and usage of solar farms and panels inside city limits to its first reading.

During a work session Monday evening, council agreed offering the capability wouldn't hurt.

Greenwood City Manager Charlie Barrineau said North Carolina and Georgia are seeing more growth than South Carolina because the state has been much more entrenched in nuclear energy.

The ordinance does allow both industry and residential utilization of solar panels, but does require solar farms to provide a performance guarantee in the form of a surety or performance bond, certified check or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of \$50,000 or 125 percent of the estimated decommission cost minus the salvageable value, whichever is greater.

The guarantee protects the city from having to handle any decommission costs themselves.

Barrineau said he has not yet been approached by an entity interested in solar power, but the city has the option to put regulations into place in advance just in case an interest presents itself in the future.

"You'd like to have some of that code in place, so you don't have to scramble once a development comes into play," Barrineau told council, adding the ordinance also can be amended in the future if need be.

Both the Greenwood Commissioners of Public Works and Duke Energy do not purchase surplus from solar energy with no systems in place presently, but Duke could be weighing the option with a decision possibly coming next spring, according to Mayor Welborn Adams.

Adams said people tend to be more interested in solar power once a utility provider decides to start purchasing the surplus.

The ordinance will come to council in its first reading during the next regular meeting on Dec. 15.

In other news, council heard Barrineau's recommendation and findings regarding the city conducting a compensation study for its employees.

With the county recently conducting a study,

See SOLAR, page 4A

Writing Between the lines

Legislation mandating cursive writing and multiplication tables

By KATE HRUBY
khruby@indexjournal.com

What reads as a simple piece of legislation mandating the instruction of cursive writing and the multiplication tables in South Carolina schools might be more complicated, with roots potentially tangled in politics, and even business.

The Back to Basics in Education Act of 2014, requiring all students learn cursive writing and the multiplication tables by the fifth grade passed with overwhelming support in the 2014 state legislative session. While some sponsors of the bill emphasized the necessity of such legislation in today's educational environment, education experts expressed doubts concerning its supporters' underlying motivations, particularly regarding cursive writing instruction.

Cursive writing is not explicitly mentioned in the state's current English language arts standards under Common Core. However, the state Department of Education task force charged with writing new standards, set to be introduced in the 2015-16 school year, included cursive writing in its draft of ELA standards.

State House Rep. Dwight Loftis of Greenville was the primary sponsor of the bill. He said his decision to sponsor the Back to Basics Act was based in research.

"It wasn't based on opinion," Loftis said. Such research, Loftis said, concerned children's development of motor skills and memory gained exclusively from writing in cursive.

"One of the things we hear that's important for developing children is motor skills. Well, that is a major component of cursive writing," the lawmaker said. "What scientists say is that ability, and I don't understand all what the scientists know about this, but seemingly connecting letters connects the brain synapses in your brain and it does make that connection."

Loftis mentioned a National School Boards Association study supporting the teaching of cursive, but said that the night before he was interviewed by the Index-Journal on Nov. 25 he tried but could no longer find such a study online.

Kate Gladstone, handwriting remediation consultant and avid opponent of cursive legislation who has

See CURSIVE, page 4A



KATE HRUBY/INDEX-JOURNAL

A student at Ninety Six Elementary School tries her hand at cursive writing Monday afternoon. Cursive writing is currently not part of the state's common core English language arts standards, but will be integrated into elementary instruction statewide starting in the 2015-16 school year as part of the Back to Basics in Education Act of 2014.



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The Times and Democrat

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CHRISTMAS TRADITION



Soprano soloist Corrintha Sims practices "Glory to God" Monday evening. The Clafin University Concert Choir and members of Orangeburg area church choirs will kick off the holidays with a live performance of George Frideric Handel's "Messiah" at 7 p.m. today at Stevenson Auditorium. This presentation is free and open to the public, but tickets are required for admission. The tickets are available at Clafin University in the Cashiers Office in Tingley Memorial Hall, as well as at Orangeburg City Hall and the Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce.

Man shot over pool winnings, report says

T&D Staff Report

Two Orangeburg men spent Thanksgiving afternoon in the hospital, one with a gunshot wound, after fleeing from an armed robbery attempt.

The men said they were at a Recap Street residence at around 3:20 p.m. Thanksgiving Day when three men entered "wanting change," according to an Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office incident report.

One of the victims said a man pulled out a gun, shot him in the left leg and then hit him in the head with the gun, causing bleeding.

Upon witnessing the shooting, the other victim jumped out of a window and sustained cuts on his hand, the report states.

Initially, one of the victims said he was assaulted while walking near the Orangeburg Budweiser plant after being asked if he had any cigarettes, the report said.

The victim said when he told the subjects he did not have any cigarettes, the subjects presented a firearm and proceeded to chase him. He said he sustained his injuries when he climbed a fence to escape from the subjects.

Further questioning by law enforcement revealed the story to be untrue, according to the report.

Earlier, the shooting victim won about \$900 at a pool hall. Officers believe the subjects were seeking his winnings.

After investigating the Recap Street residence, officials found two stocking hats, a broken yellow necklace, shoe prints and two spent firearm casings. The evidence was gathered and the incident is currently under investigation.

RMC, MUSC near pact on clinical trials

By GENE ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

Regional Medical Center trustees have agreed to enter an agreement with the Medical University of South Carolina, enabling the Orangeburg hospital to expand its oncology and bariatric surgery capabilities.

"We are trying to find things we can do to help each other. We may need some help in oncology and they will provide us some physicians," RMC President and Chief Executive Officer Tom Dandridge said.

"The conversation has already started but this is just an agreement that underpins that," Dandridge said. "It will allow our patients the benefit of receiving care from not only physicians here but physicians from the medical university that actually come here."

RMC's board unanimously approved the agreement last week. MUSC's board will vote on the matter next month, making it official, Dandridge said.

The hospitals' agreement expands RMC's oncology and bariatric surgery programs by providing clinical trial opportunities. Clinical trials are usually research studies designed to answer specific questions about biomedical interventions in an aim to increase safety and enhance medical data.

MUSC will also be able to strengthen its relationship with the hospital by receiving referrals in complicated cases, Dandridge said. MUSC has similar clinical affiliations with the Georgetown Hospital System and Beaufort Memorial Hospital.

Start-up costs for RMC to enter the contract are about \$300,000 to \$400,000, with the annual

cost around \$50,000.

Trustees gave initial approval for hospital administration to proceed with the agreement in April of this year.

In other matters:

■ Trustees unanimously approved a three-year contract with Tennessee-based InfoPartners to manage its information technology department. The contract is for three years for about \$432,000.

"The hospital has been using the company on an interim basis for the past few months," Dandridge said. "They have done quite well."

■ The December board of trustees meeting was scheduled for Dec. 18 at 2:30 p.m. due to the Christmas holidays.

■ Trustees approved \$134,996 in capital projects, with about \$32,964 for painting of the exterior mechanical room located at top of the hospital.

Springfield voters head to polls today

By MARTHA ROSE BROWN
T&D Staff Writer

Springfield voters on Tuesday will cast their ballots to fill two vacancies on Springfield Town Council.

Running as candidates to fill the two seats are Olin Williams, Lydia Lackey and Erica Pearce. The unexpired terms run until November 2015.

In September, Josie Williams and Olin Williams (not related) announced their resignations from town council effective immediately, saying they were frustrated with not being kept informed about important town issues and not being able to obtain requested town records.

During the October town council meeting, however, Olin Wil-

New website 'welcomes you to Orangeburg County'

By MARTHA ROSE BROWN
T&D Staff Writer

Orangeburg County's website has received a sleek makeover, thanks to county web developer Bobby Etheredge and County Administrator Harold Young, along with input from department heads and employees.

The changes will be effective today. They are compatible with most web browsers and user-friendly on mobile devices such as smartphones, Etheredge said.

Young said the Orangeburg County



THE LINK

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Tuesday, December 2, 2014

75¢

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

Sheriff wants departments back

ROBERT MONNIE
Staff writer

CHESTERFIELD — Chesterfield County Sheriff Jay Brooks plans to make a case to return the detention center, E-911 center, animal cruelty and litter control to the authority of the sheriff's office during Wednesday's Chesterfield County Council meeting.

Since April 10, 2013, when council unanimously agreed to take over the operations of those entities as permitted by state statute,

those departments have been under the direct control of the county.

The changes came shortly after then Sheriff Sam Parker was indicted on charges of misconduct in office.

In March of 2011, 22 dogs were found shot in the head at the county shelter. An investigation by the South Carolina Attorney General's Office found the dogs were shot to death instead of being euthanized according to policy. The four employees involved in the killings were fired.

The charges against Parker, who is presently serving a two-year prison sentence, were not related to the shooting deaths of the animals.

Rob Lee, who was appointed sheriff by Haley, served until last month when Brooks was elected to that position. One of Brooks' first official acts was to appoint Lee as his second-in-command.

In an official letter from Brooks to Council Chairman Matt Rivers dated Nov. 10, the sheriff states: "Given the circumstances that

led to the Office of Sheriff becoming vacant, I believe that we can all agree that our county needs nothing more than to reaffirm the public's confidence in the Sheriff's Office and county government in general. We need to regain a sense of normalcy and return to a regular routine of law and order.

"With that thought in mind, I respectfully ask the Chesterfield County Council to de-

See COUNTY, 3

DAR welcomes Heritage Horse

Region Reports

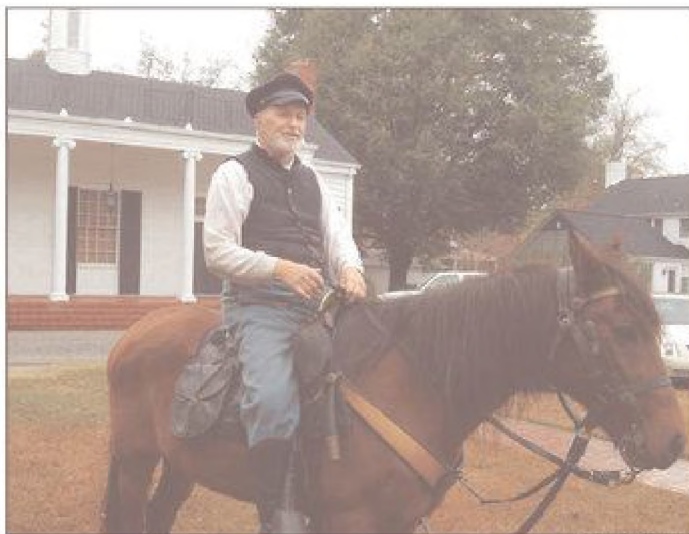
In a break from its traditional program format, the Old Cheraws Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution welcomed Janson Cox and his Carolina Marsh Tacky at the chapter's November meeting, held at Cheraw First Presbyterian Church.

The Marsh Tacky has been designated as the Heritage Horse of South Carolina. The only horse to be named a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Cox's horse, Molly, rides with a DAR pin attached to her bridle.

The first half of this popular program titled "The Importance of the Carolina Marsh Tacky to our Colonial and Revolutionary History" was held outside with permission from the church's session. Molly allowed Penelope Jean and Duward Angle, Elizabeth Chanter and Mason Chanter to ride around the churchyard to the delight of the DAR members. Janson Cox also rode in a demonstration of Molly's fine appearance.

At 24, Molly is the oldest known Tacky. In 2010 and 2011 she raced against much younger horses in organized Hilton Head beach races.

After members had an opportunity to see Molly and feed her ap-



Contributed photo

ples and carrots, the group went inside to hear from Cox about his experiences with Molly. Cox is executive director of the South Carolina Cotton Museum in Bishopville. Born in Laurens and educated at The Citadel and New York State University, he now makes his home in Rembert.

His historic preservation and projects have included work in historic Camden, Star Fort and Ninety-Six, and the Rice Museum in Georgetown. In addition to the Cotton Museum, he has been Echo Park manager of Charles Towne Landing, director of the Oneida



Rider Janson Cox, above, takes Molly for a ride around the grounds of Cheraw First Presbyterian Church. Molly is the only horse to be named a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. At left, Mason Chanter saddles up for a ride on Molly.

See HORSE, 3

House fire claims life of 57-year-old Cash man

BOB SLOAN
Editor

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY — An early morning fire in the Cash community Monday claimed the life of a 57-year-old Chesterfield County man.

The Chesterfield County Coroner's office identified the victim as Richard Noel.

According to published reports, Cash Rural Volunteer Fire Department Chief Brandon Wilson was driving his stepson to school in Cheraw just after 7 a.m. when he noticed smoke coming from a house on Highway 52. The house belonged to Noel, a friend of Wilson's.

Four fire departments responded to the scene. Firefighters took the front door off the house to provide ventilation and clear smoke from the home. There was severe smoke damage throughout the brick house.

See FIRE, 3

CPRMC at forefront of new health network

Region Reports

HARTSVILLE — Capella Healthcare and MUSC Health announced Nov. 25 the development of a clinically integrated network and a clinical affiliation agreement that will enable the organizations to partner to enhance the health and wellness of the families and communities they serve in South Carolina.

Capella recently acquired Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center in Hartsville.

Nancy's Kids: No contribution is too small



Has anyone ever shared with you the brain-teaser about how quickly pennies can add up?

A person tells you that he wants you to work for him, but he will only pay you a penny a day. As an enticement, he says he will double your salary every day for 30 days. Do you take the job?

Your initial reaction might be to say no way, not for a lousy penny? Even doubling it every day won't amount to very much, you probably think.

Do some quick math and you will discover with amazement that on your 30th day of work your take home pay will be \$5,368,708.80. Not bad for starting with a penny.

Please consider giving to The Link's Christmas Wishes Fund for Nancy's Kids. No contribution is too small. There is no way to put a price on the feeling of love an encouragement a child gets opening a gift on Christmas morning — especially when they might have expect to

See WISHES, 3



Morning News

TUESDAY DECEMBER 2, 2014

The Voice of the Pee Dee

TODAY'S WEATHER

Mostly cloudy.
High 70, low 46.
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Cpl. T.J. Christmas pets the newest member of the Darlington County Sheriff's Office, his partner, Lilly the bloodhound.

Partners in crime (fighting)

Amputee and a new Darlington bloodhound are on the case

BY MELISSA ROLLINS
Morning News
mrollins@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — There is a new duo at the Darlington County Sheriff's Office these days. Both have a unique story to tell, but they would much rather just do their job, tracking down bad guys and finding missing people.

When Cpl. T.J. Christmas was young, he was in a bad accident.

"I was in a lawn mower accident when I was 4," Christmas said. "My left leg was actually cut off, and my right heel, too, but the doctors managed to save my left leg. I went through a bunch of surgeries throughout my whole

life. I kept both legs, but I still had problems with them."

After starting a new job, Christmas realized that his injured limb was affecting him a lot.

"I kept my leg until I was 32," Christmas said. "I kept it for 26 years after I injured it. I started at the Darlington County Sheriff's Office in 2011 and realized that if I wanted to go full-time, I couldn't do it in the shape that I was in. I elected to cut off my right leg so that I could be more effective in the job."

It was not a decision that Christmas took lightly. His doctor had, in fact, been urging him to get the surgery for years.

"It was a tough thing

to have to come to terms with," Christmas said. "I was in the mindset that as long as I could keep it, I would keep it. But when I started doing the sheriff's office as a reserve, I saw that if I wanted to do it as a career I couldn't do it with my foot giving me the problems it was. I get along better now than I ever did."

These days Christmas is part of the Bloodhound Tracking Unit, and he has a new partner named Lilly.

The 1-year-old bloodhound was donated to the sheriff's office by the Law Enforcement Advocacy Foundation (LEAF). Executive Director Stacey Watts said that LEAF wanted to find a good fit for Lilly after she was found aban-

doned.

"Someone found her and her sister in a box," Watts said. "The person that found her came to us and wanted to donate them. They didn't care where; they just wanted to donate them. We talked with a couple of departments and found that Darlington needed it more."

Christmas said he and Lilly went through a certification course in North Carolina.

"The first day is a classroom seminar," Christmas said. "You have to take a written test and get at least an 85. The other mornings you go out and run tracks, just like it was a live call. Some of the times we were 500, 600 yards from our

See **DUO**, Page 3A

It's a done deal for Med-Enroll

BY GAVIN JACKSON
Morning News
gjackson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The Florence County Council approved a fee-in-lieu of tax agreement in a special called meeting Monday morning for a downtown economic development project.

Council Chairman James Schofield said the vote, which was unanimous, was held to expedite the FILOT ordinance's passage by 10 days at the request of the company as it prepares to move forward on the deal.

"They wanted us to get finished so they could get going and moving," Schofield said. "We didn't want to wait until next week, so like we do for such projects, we accommodated their request."

The project will bring 153, well-paying jobs to downtown in the Rainwater building in the 100 block of West Evans Street. The company,

See **MED-ENROLL**, Page 3A

Lucas stresses inclusion



S.C. House Speaker Pro Tempore Jay Lucas, R-Hartsville, right, speaks with S.C. Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh K. Leatherman Sr., R-Florence, on Monday at the Florence Rotary Club meeting at Victors. Lucas is set to become Speaker of the House today in Columbia when House members meet to organize for the upcoming session, which begins Jan. 13.

Hartsville legislator poised to become house speaker today

BY GAVIN JACKSON
Morning News
gjackson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — On the eve of his presumed election as Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives, Jay Lucas told members of the Florence Rotary Club on Monday that once in office, he will keep moving the state forward in an "inclusive" manner.

said.

"And, quite frankly, we'll be able to put out a better product."

Lucas noted that he has had nearly three months as acting speaker "to do what I felt needed to be done for the citizens of this great state, and that's what we've been doing."

The Hartsville lawyer never thought he'd be up for the speaker position, and when

to change the mentality of the office and House.

Now Lucas is poised to ascend from the speaker pro tempore post he's held for the past four years of his 16-year career in the House.

The final move is expected to come this morning, when House members begin their two-day organizational meeting. The election of speaker will be one of House's first orders of business before other

James Gibson of Dillon. That position, paired with Hugh K. Leatherman Sr., next door as president pro tempore of the Senate, has created an unprecedented power shift to the Pee Dee in less than a year.

"I look forward to working with Jay," Leatherman said. "We have a great relationship, and this is something this area has never had in the history of the state; the two

City-County Christmas tree will be lit tonight

FLORENCE — 'Tis the season to light Christmas trees.

The local ceremonies will start at 5:30 p.m. today when the city of Florence and Florence County hold their annual joint Christmas Tree Lighting.

Although city of Florence offices are now at a new location, the tree lighting ceremony will continue to be held at the Florence County Complex parking lot at 180 N. Irby Street.

The holiday season will kick off with music, hot chocolate and cookies, and a special visit from Santa.

For questions about the tree lighting, contact the city administration.

Brian Symmes

Cell: 803-673-9437

Office: 803-734-0304