

From: Symmes, Brian

To:

Date: 12/18/2013 10:09:07 AM

Subject: SC Front Pages - Wednesday, December 18, 2013

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BUSINESS VANISHING INGREDIENTS



SPORTS Clemson seeks to stop Hyde

The Greenville News

A GANNETT COMPANY

WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 18, 2013
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

METRO

Darla Moore School of Business names new dean, 1B

FINAL EDITION

Home sales gain more ground

Numbers exceed those of last pre-recession year

By Angelia Davis

Staff writer
davisall@greenvilleonline.com

Real estate experts continue to see encouraging signs from a robust market in

the Greenville metro area and solid growth around the state.

With November's numbers just in, home sales locally continue to run higher than year-ago numbers, with the latest figures showing gains for the first 11 months this year.

The number of residential units sold last month — 679 — were 14.1 percent higher than the 595 sold in November

2012. Buyers closed on 721 residences in October 2013.

Overall, home sales statewide were up 0.6 percent year-over-year in November, with year-to-date sales showing an increase of 18 percent, according to South Carolina Realtors.

The Multiple Listing Service statistics for the Upstate were an early Christmas present for Nick Sabatino, CEO of

the Greater Greenville Association of Realtors. He had hoped to see sales exceed the total sold in 2008 — the last positive year of home sales before the economic downturn.

Sales in the Greenville metro were also up 24.5 percent year-to-date with a total of 8,474 residences sold.

See SALES, Page 3A

KEEPING WATERWAYS HEALTHY



The Saluda River is listed among 1,044 impaired lakes, ponds and rivers in South Carolina. The entire Saluda watershed has been targeted as officials search for ways to find and fix failed septic systems. KEN OSBURN/STAFF

NO EASY FIX

REPAIRING SEPTIC SYSTEMS KEY TO CLEANUP OF STATE'S CONTAMINATED WATERS, PROPONENTS SAY

By Nathaniel Cary

Staff writer
ncary@greenvillenews.com

In the mountains high above Greenville the Saluda River runs clear and cold. But it also runs polluted.

Too many nutrients — the product of human and animal waste — flood into the river or its smaller feeder streams.

Much of the pollution flows from homes with failed septic tanks, officials say. Rather than seeping into the ground, waste floods into the river



Budget heads for Senate approval

Vote on proposal expected Thursday

By Susan Davis

USA Today

WASHINGTON — The Senate cleared a key procedural hurdle Tuesday for final passage of a two-year, bipartisan budget deal before the end of the week.

By a vote of 67-33, Senate Democrats easily surpassed the 60-vote threshold required to end debate and move toward approving the legislation, which is expected by Thursday.

"It is a step in the right direction and a dramatic improvement over the status quo," said Senate Budget Chairwoman Patty Murray, D-Wash., who crafted the agreement with House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis.

"I'm hopeful this deal can be just the first of many bipartisan deals, that it can rebuild some of the trust and bring Democrats and Republicans together and demonstrate that government can work for the people we all represent."

Twelve Republicans voted to move forward on the budget deal, including Sens. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, Roy Blunt of Missouri, Saxby Chambliss of Georgia, Susan Collins of Maine, Jeff Flake of Arizona, Orrin Hatch of Utah, John Hoeven of North Dakota, Johnny Isakson of Georgia, Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, John McCain of Arizona, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, and Rob Portman of Ohio.

All Democrats supported the deal.

"This agreement isn't everything I'd hoped it would be, and it isn't what I would have written. But

See BUDGET, Page 3A

INSIDE

Still planning for the holidays?

Meal ideas, great gifts with books, wine

Make your vote count for prettiest Christmas tree. FOOD, D1



The Post and Courier

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WEDNESDAY, December 18, 2013

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Washington battles for Boeing, woos Airbus

BY MIKE BAKER
Associated Press

SEATTLE—Even as they try desperately to hang on to Boeing Co., officials in Washington state have been courting the main competitor of the aerospace giant.

During the past several months, state officials have traveled to the U.S. headquarters of Airbus SAS in Virginia, moved to connect Airbus with Wash-

ington state suppliers, and signed a five-year confidentiality agreement with the company to allow further exploration of business opportunities, according to records obtained by The Associated Press under public disclosure laws.

In a confidential memo provided to Gov. Jay Inslee in July, state officials described dozens of potential ways to expand or recruit aerospace businesses in the state. At the top of the memo was Airbus, described as just one of a few major opportunities.

One expert said for years it was generally frowned upon for Washington state officials to jeopardize the relationship with Boeing by seeking ties with Airbus. However, the steps outlined in the memo came amid tension created when

Boeing moved its headquarters from Seattle to Chicago and started an assembly line in South Carolina to build its 787 passenger plane.

Now, as it looks for a cheaper place to build its 777X passenger plane, Boeing has been exploring bids from 22 states that could send thousands of good-paying jobs elsewhere. Hoping to convince Boeing to stay in Washington, state lawmakers gathered in a special session and approved an estimated \$9

billion in tax breaks.

Alex Dierckx, top aerospace adviser to the governor, said the talks with Airbus are not an attempt to replace Boeing. But a new relationship with another industry player would help diversify the state's aerospace economy and provide new opportunities for suppliers that are largely dependent on Boeing, he said.

Please see AIRBUS, Page A10

STRONGER STORMS

Study: Atlantic could see more-ferocious hurricanes



A satellite photo shows Hurricane Sandy off the Mid-Atlantic coastline moving with maximum sustained winds of 90 mph.

BY BO PETERSEN
bopet@postandcourier.com

Not only have Atlantic hurricane winds gotten 27 mph stronger overall in the past 30 years, but they will keep getting stronger and more quickly than in other regions.

That's not a model prediction that few people will have the patience to bear, after a quiet tropical cyclone season where "busy year" model predictions went bust. But the

past season is a prime example why this model might just be right.

The National Climatic Data Center study is the first analysis that sorts through as much as possible the "noise" of year-to-year variations in order to more accurately read trends.

The analysis found that hurricane winds across the globe have increased 2 mph each 10 years since 1982.

Please see HURRICANE, Page A6

ONLINE

POLL: When do you think the Lowcountry will see its next big hurricane? Find this story to vote, and hurricane resources, at postandcourier.com/hurricane.

GALLERY: For more photos of past hurricanes, go to postandcourier.com/galleries.



Waves from Hurricane Sandy crash onto the damaged Avalon Pier in Kill Devil Hills, N.C., on Oct. 29, 2012, as Sandy churns up the East Coast.

Officer's conduct under scrutiny

Profanity during girl's arrest recorded

BY CHRISTINA ELMORE
celmore@postandcourier.com

A North Charleston police officer's conduct has come under question after video surfaced of him using profanity while arresting a 15-year-old girl, authorities said.

The arrest occurred around 6 a.m. Saturday as hundreds of shoppers flocked to Northwoods Mall to get their hands on Nike's newly released Air Jordan basketball shoes.

According to an incident report, officers struggled to control an unruly crowd of more than 250 people.

An officer ordered the 15-year-old girl to leave the property. She was later charged with disorderly conduct, trespass after notice and resisting arrest, the report states. Her name was redacted from the report.

Shaky cellphone footage captured by a witness shows the girl bent over the hood of a vehicle, apparently crying in pain while a North Charleston officer forcefully orders her to stop moving.

North Charleston police spokesman Spencer Pryor identified the officer who used profanity as Sgt. Scott Wyant, who Pryor said remains on active duty. In the report, Wyant said he was assisting another officer who was struggling to arrest the girl.

"I'm telling you, if you get up off this (expletive) hood again I'm going to throw you on the (expletive) ground and I'm going to sit on your mother (expletive) head," Wyant is heard saying in the video.

The girl insists that she is not resisting, but that the angle of her arm is causing her pain.

The video had received 525 shares on Facebook by Tuesday morning.

"This is how the North Charleston police department arrest a little 15-year-old girl with manners," its caption read.

According to North Charleston police, here's how the situation unfolded:

Please see VIDEO, Page A6



Clear
High 58, Low 34
Complete 3-day
forecast B1

Bridge...D7
Business...B6
Classifieds...E1
Comics...D6,7

Crossroads...D6
Editorials...A8
Food...D1
Homes...D4

Obituaries...D4
The South...E1
Sports...C1
Travel...D5

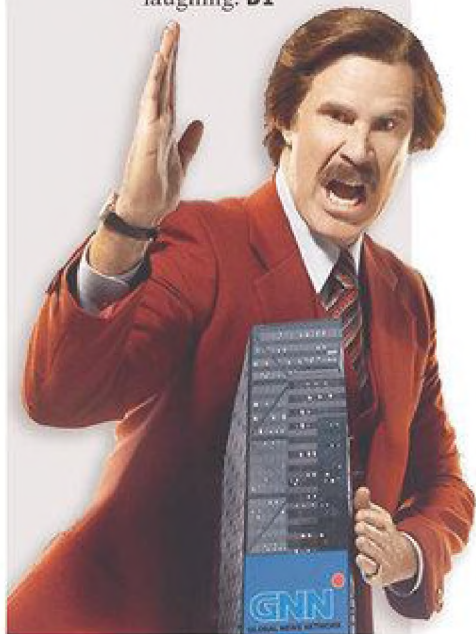
Charleston
Deals today

McGraw's

50% off cleaning for oriental area rug
See A2

News really can be funny

Tough to top the original, but Will Ferrell and 'Anchorman 2' will leave you laughing. **D1**



S.C. senator: Eliminate individual income tax

Haley endorses plan, but others are skeptical

By ADAM BEAM
abeam@thestate.com

State Sen. Katrina Shealy wants to eliminate the state's individual income tax, and she has Republican Gov. Nikki Haley's support.

The Lexington County Republican filed a bill Tuesday that would abolish the state's individual income tax over the next five years. If the bill becomes law, South Carolina would join seven other states — including Texas and Florida —

that do not have state income taxes.

"That would be like a 9 percent cut (in the first year followed by other cuts) if every agency cut their budget," Shealy said. "My husband has gone without a paycheck the last two years because the way his business has been. ... So if we've had to do it, the state needs to do it, too."

South Carolina would lose \$3.4 billion in revenue — more than half of its general fund. Shealy does not propose to replace that money with other taxes. Instead, she says the government should spend less.

Initial reaction from other Republicans, who control the Legislature, was skeptical.

"It's very easy to propose

SEE TAX PAGE A5



Shealy

HOT TICKETS

USC has distributed 9,000 of its allotted 12,500 tickets for the Capital One Bowl so far, ahead of its bowl pace for the past two years. **C1**

The State

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2013 | THESTATE.COM

EXCLUSIVE | 3 PROJECTS IN COLUMBIA

Accused schemers courted council



Jonathan Pinson faces dozens of corruption charges

Council members heard pitches from those charged with corruption

By CLIF LeBLANC
clleblanc@thestate.com

Jonathan Pinson and a Florida business associate, both facing federal corruption charges, courted Mayor Steve Benjamin and two others on City Council about more Columbia development projects, according to interviews and documents obtained by The State newspaper.

Federal prosecutors have tied only Pinson's Village at River's Edge to their ongoing investigation. But the newspaper's inquiries show that Pinson and admitted kickback payer Richard Zahn of Florida have been much more active in Columbia than had been known publicly.

The corruption case against Pinson, a close friend and business partner of Benjamin, enters a critical stage Wednesday with a hearing in Charleston. U.S. District Judge David Norton will determine whether months of the FBI's secretly taped telephone conversations from the investigation can be played at trial or ruled inadmissible.

Pinson is charged with more than 50 counts in a sweeping corruption case. Five people have pleaded guilty. Federal prosecutors allege they offered bribes and accepted kickbacks. In one case, Pinson is accused of asking for a \$100,000 Porsche in exchange for selling land to S.C. State University, the historically black public college in Orangeburg.

No one on City Council has been charged with a crime.

The corruption case stretches from S.C. State University, where Pinson once chaired its trustee board, to the River's Edge in north Columbia. No indictment

ONLINE

Read emails showing Zahn's interest in city projects. At thestate.com



Richard Zahn has pleaded guilty, agreed to cooperate



Mayor Benjamin explored projects with Pinson, Zahn



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TODAY'S DEAL

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The Facebook Dinner Club – 1C

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

WEDNESDAY, December 18, 2013

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 147, No. 352 Aiken, S.C. ★★ 75¢

Senators: No to proposed budget

Graham, Scott vote against bill cutting military benefits



Graham



Scott

BY DERREK ASBERRY
dasberry@aikenstandard.com

Both of South Carolina's senators voted on Tuesday not to approve the proposed federal budget. The budget is the next step in securing funding for the Savannah River Site.

In route to the Senate approving the budget, U.S. Sens. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and Tim Scott, R-S.C., voted against it. The two joined 31 other

senators who voted against the budget.

Sixty-seven senators voted yes, which is more than the 60 votes required to move towards a final passage that only requires 51 votes.

In an email newsletter to constituents, Scott expressed his satisfaction in the Senate coming together to push for legislation as well as in his reasoning for voting against the proposed budget.

"I'm encouraged by the willingness we've seen from both sides to sit down

INSIDE

Year-end agreement: Budget heads to final passage — "How could any commander in chief sign a bill that does this?" said Sen. Lindsey Graham. **11A**

and negotiate a budget agreement for the first time in years, but the details of this plan make me unable to support it," Scott wrote in the newsletter.

Specifically, Scott said the proposal asks too much of the men and women in the military. He added that esti-

mates show a 42-year-old retiring as an enlisted E-7 could lose more than \$70,000, and a lieutenant-colonel retiree of the same age could lose nearly \$110,000.

Please see **BUDGET**, Page 16A

Oh, snap!

Lab's latest inhabitant



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

An alligator snapping turtle that is used in the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory's education programs opens its mouth wide on Tuesday at the Savannah River Site. Males can weigh as much as 200 pounds. Also, alligator snappers can use their wormlike tongues as lures to attract small fish and other prey.

STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

Whit Gibbons of the University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Laboratory shows a large alligator snapping turtle, which is used in the laboratory's education programs, to a visitor to the Savannah River Site on Tuesday. Alligator snappers live in streams and rivers that flow into the Gulf of Mexico and are not native to South Carolina. They are the largest freshwater turtles in North America.

Rep. Smith stays mum on bid for re-election

BY DERREK ASBERRY
dasberry@aikenstandard.com

One of Aiken's state representatives has decided on whether he will run for re-election next year, but won't announce his decision until next month.

S.C. Rep. Roland Smith, R-Aiken, said he is withholding his announcement until Monday, Jan. 13 — the date of the Aiken County Legislative Delegation meeting. The meeting will begin at 5 p.m., and Smith said he will make a brief announcement on his decision.

When asked why he is waiting until the meeting, Smith told the *Aiken Standard* that it is an issue of fairness.

"I just want everyone to be able to hear it at the same time," Smith said. "All of the other legislators will be there so it's a good opportunity."

Smith has a decorated history in South Carolina. He began serving in the South Carolina House of Representatives in March 1989 and has been an elected representative for nearly 25 years. In addition, Smith is a former chairman of the House Ethics Committee, which oversees the actions of legislators in the House.

In 2012, Smith was chair of the committee when Gov. Nikki Haley was under investigation for alleged illegal lobbying as a state representative. Smith was part of the majority that voted her innocent in the case.

Please see **SMITH**, Page 16A



Smith

Aiken Together campaign brings in pledges

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER
mschechter@aikenstandard.com

Since the Aiken Together capital campaign announcement in September, about \$344,000 has been pledged.

The Aiken Together campaign seeks \$2.9 million in pledged donations over the span of five years for three institutions — the Aiken Visitors Center and Train Museum, the

Savannah River Site Heritage Center and the Center for African American History, Art and Culture.

Each of the three institutions strive to share stories of the area's history with residents and visitors.

"We're making a lot of progress, and we still have five years to go," said Tim Simmons, Aiken Railroad Depot Committee president. "All three projects are well-

received from all the people who heard the presentation, and we're very optimistic about the successful completion of the campaign."

Thirty-one percent of donations will go to the Heritage Center, 28 percent to the Aiken Visitors Center and Train Museum and 41 percent to the Center for African American History, Art and Culture.

Please see **TOGETHER**, Page 16A

WEATHER



AREA DEATHS

Barbara Joan "Bobbie" Thomas, Versailles, Mo.

Carrie Pearl Ward Belville, Windsor

Charlene Kay Lambert Cook,

Johannie Marvin Kelly, Monetta

Cora Lee Bryant Smith,

New Ellenton

Elsie L. (Chapman) Greene, Aiken

Henry Platt Moseley Jr., Aiken

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

The *Aiken Standard* wants to share your Christmas memories — New and Old. We want to see how you and your family celebrate the holidays.

Email your Christmas Memories photos to editorial@aikenstandard.com by Dec. 23. Please include names, a brief description and the year the photo was taken. Photos also can be scanned at the *Aiken Standard*

Gifts for the fitness fans

For those on your Christmas list who like to stay healthy, here are some options **E1**



Herald-Journal

WEDNESDAY

DECEMBER 18, 2013

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HJ
IN A HURRY

5 Things to read today



Did you play?

Many people across the country rushed out to make a last-minute purchase Tuesday, but it wasn't related to Christmas shopping. Lottery tickets flew out of convenience stores as the Mega Millions jackpot reached \$636 million, the second-highest lottery prize in history. **PAGE C1**

Dial-a-Carol

The phones are jingling off the hook at Dial-a-Carol, a student-run project on the University of Illinois' Champaign campus. It's a hotline of sorts for people who prefer hearing holiday music sung by a choir of amateurs. **PAGE A7**

No ruling

A state House committee that is looking into possible ethics violations by Rep. Harold Mitchell made no ruling Tuesday after meeting for several hours behind closed doors. **PAGE C1**

Doomsday preacher

Harold Camping, the California preacher who used his radio ministry and thousands of billboards to predict the end of the world but gave up public prophecy when his date-specific doomsdays did not come to pass, has died at age 92. **PAGE C3**

Keeping resolutions

With New Year's just around the corner, one local businesswoman hopes to help Upstate residents quit the dieting game and keep their resolutions for good this time. **PAGE C5**

Weather

Budget deal nearing passage

Bill appears safe despite GOP issues

By DAVID ESPO
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Year-end legislation to ease Congress' chronic budget brinkmanship and soften across-the-board spending cuts moved to the cusp of final passage Tuesday, a rare display of Senate bipartisanship that masked strong Republican complaints about slicing into military retirement benefits.

The measure is expected to clear the Senate and go to President Barack Obama for his signature today, marking a modest accomplishment at the end of a year punctuated by a partial government shutdown, a near-default by the U.S. Treasury and congressional

sional gridlock on issues ranging from immigration to gun control.

"This bipartisan bill takes the first steps toward rebuilding our broken budget process. And, hopefully, toward rebuilding our broken Congress," said Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., who negotiated the compromise with Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis. The first major test of that is likely to come in February, when Congress faces a vote to raise the government's debt limit.

Tuesday's vote to send the measure toward final approval was 67-33. But even as it was advancing, Republicans vowed that the requirement for curtailing the growth in cost-of-living benefits for military retirees younger than 62 wouldn't long survive.

◆ SEE BUDGET PAGE A5



SUSAN WALSH/AP

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., right, accompanied by Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington on Tuesday, urging Senate colleagues to change the budget proposal that cuts retirement benefits for current and future military retirees.

STAYING ON GUARD

Learning how to tackle identity theft



Security experts say there are three major things a thief needs to steal someone's identity: the victim's full name, date of birth and Social Security number. Use of strong privacy settings on social networking sites is essential.

ILLUSTRATION BY GARY KYLE/GARY.KYLE@SHJ.COM

Class teaches area law enforcement about growing crime in state

By JENNY ARNOLD
jennier.arnold@shj.com

The FBI and an identity protection company joined forces this week to teach area law enforcement officers

During a morning session, presenters talked about the common forms of identity theft in South Carolina. Officers shared stories about the different cases that have been reported to their

to 83 in 2012, Hanson said.

Credit card fraud and phone/utilities fraud also are common in South Carolina, Hanson said. It's common for identity thieves to open 10 or 12

◆
"When it comes

**CHECK YOUR TICKETS TO SEE
IF YOU'RE A WINNER** Mega Millions
results, 6A

INDEX JOURNAL

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2 SECTIONS, 22 PAGES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2013

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

SPORTS: Emerald comes from behind against Abbeville, 1B • NEWS: Facebook tests video ads on its site, 6B

Pushing forward

County Council passes second reading on pair of economic development deals

By **CHRIS TRAINOR**
ctrainor@indexjournal.com

A pair of economic development projects moved forward Tuesday night during the regular meeting of Greenwood County Council.

Council unanimously passed second

reading on a fee-in-lieu of tax agreement for an industrial project codenamed Project Pine. The project would bring 70 new jobs and \$90 million in capital investment to Greenwood County.

Project Pine is a project that has been on economic development firm Partnership Alliance's "hot list" for some time.

Meanwhile, Council also passed second reading on a fee-in-lieu of tax agreement for Project Rooster, which is an existing industry project. The project would entail a \$50 million capital investment from a local industry.

See **FORWARD**, page 3A



Greenwood County Councilman Steve Brown discusses an issue Tuesday during a meeting of Council at Greenwood County Library.

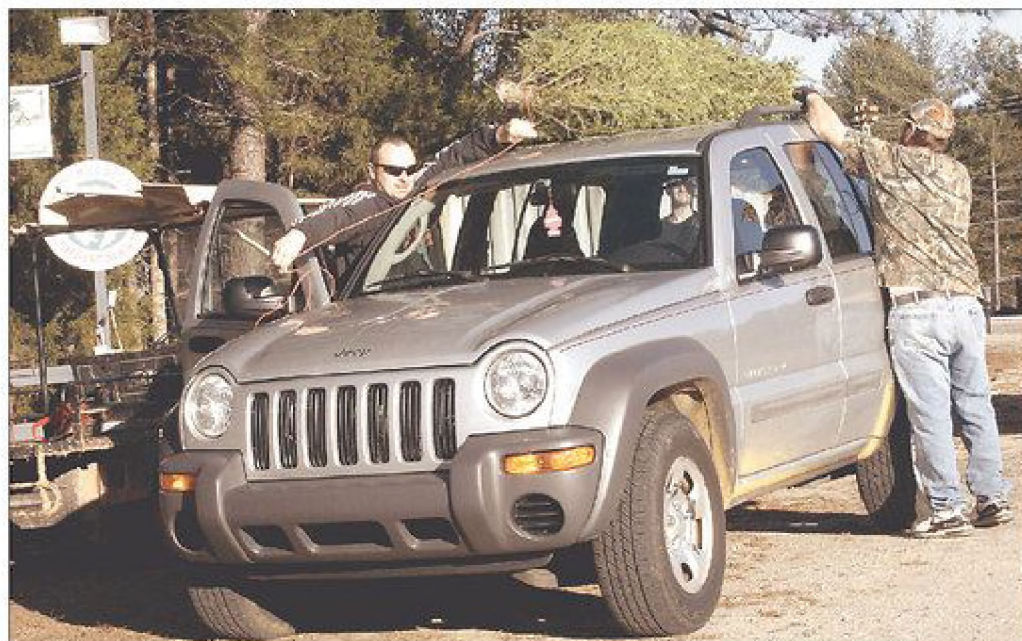
CHRIS TRAINOR
INDEX JOURNAL

Shoppin' around for a Christmas tree

The Kay family was out shopping for their Christmas tree Tuesday and went to Davenports to make its selection. For the Kays, picking out a live tree will hopefully become a family tradition.



The Kay family, of Honea Path, visited Davenport's Christmas Tree Farm in Greenwood on Tuesday to choose their tree. From left is Christian Kay, with his 18-month-old son Alex, and wife, Ashley, along with Charles Bowick and Tanner Thompson, of Davenport's. The Kays said they want to start a tradition of picking out a tree with their son. The tree farm boasts a petting zoo and amenities such as hot chocolate.



Charles Bowick and Tanner Thompson, of Davenport's Tree Farm, secure the Kay family's tree to the top of their car.

PHOTOS BY ST. CLARE DONAGHY | INDEX JOURNAL

■ CRACK COCAINE

Man gets 8 years for drug trafficking

By **MATT BRUCE**
mbruce@indexjournal.com

A Greenwood man is off to prison after being convicted of drug trafficking charges Tuesday morning.

Jamaica Price, 34, stood before a judge and pleaded guilty to trafficking in crack cocaine 10-20 grams, second offense, and possession with intent to distribute marijuana during a hearing inside the Greenwood County Courthouse. Circuit Court Judge Frank Addy issued an eight-year prison sentence on the charges.

Greenwood police arrested Price on Oct. 27, 2011 after finding marijuana and crack on him while patrolling at Phoenix Place Apartments, 1401 Phoenix St. Addy sentenced the man to eight years for the cocaine charge, and one year for the other offense. Both sentences will run concurrently.

Eighth Circuit Assistant Solicitor Aaron Taylor handled the case for the state and circuit Public Defender Shane Goranson represented Price. The two attorneys negotiated a sentence prior to Tuesday's plea hearing. It was the defendant's second drug conviction, prosecutors said. He was convicted of drug trafficking in 2000 and ordered to serve up to seven years behind bars.



JAMAICA PRICE

See **8 YEARS**, page 11A



STRONG FINISH

Heading to Capital One Bowl, Clowney says he is healthy **B1**

The Item

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2013 | SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

FOUNDED OCTOBER 15, 1894 60 CENTS

Clarendon 2 awarded \$25M

Students will get electronic devices with Race to the Top money

BY BRADEN BUNCH
bbunch@theitem.com

A public school consortium led by Clarendon School District 2 has received a nearly \$25 million

grant in the 2013 Race to the Top-District program, the U.S. Department of Education announced Tuesday.

Coupled with the schools from Orangeburg

5, Richland 2 and Williamsburg County, the winning grant will allow the Manning-based school district to equip each of its students with electronic learning devices — such as

laptops or tablets — to allow the district to change its teaching methodology to a more personalized approach.

"The ultimate goal is to transform education in

Clarendon School District 2," said Clarendon School District 2 superintendent John Tindal. "We have to do some things differently.



TINDAL

SEE GRANT, PAGE A10

'You never forget the heat, and you never forget the smell'

7-year-old honored for alerting family to fire

BY TYLER SIMPSON
tsimpson@theitem.com

A 7-year-old Thomas Sumter Academy student was honored by the Sumter Fire Department on Tuesday for saving her parents from a house fire in September.

Olivia Diller, who woke her parents up in the middle of the night when their house caught fire, received the Sumter Fire Department's Bravery and Valor Award, which the department started in March to highlight and promote young students who successfully practice fire safety. This was the second time the department has presented the award, the first going to a Cherryvale Elementary School student who saved his mother and baby sister when his house caught fire.

"She has done a great job for her community, and she has done a great job for her parents," said Johnnie Rose, battalion chief for the Sumter Fire Department.

Speaking in front of Olivia's classmates at the Thomas Sumter Academy auditorium, Rose said that 57 deaths in South Carolina in 2013 were caused by



Assistant Fire Chief Eddie Gardner with the Camden Fire Department presents Thomas Sumter Academy stu-

TYLER SIMPSON / THE ITEM

Sheriff's office collects bicycles

More than 100 amassed for Toys for Tots

BY JADE ANDERSON
jander@theitem.com

After collecting more than 100 bicycles for the Toys for Tots campaign, the Sumter County Sheriff's Office wants to thank the community for helping the office bring a better Christmas to some children in need.

"Everybody re-members their first bicycle," Lt. Lee Monahan said.

While the sheriff's office has collected and donated toys to the program for a number of years and continues to donate, this was the first year for the bike drive.

"We've worked with them about eight years," said Sheriff Anthony Dennis. "We've had several kids inquire about bicycles, (so) we set a goal of 100 bikes. We'll exceed 100 bikes ... for toddlers to teenagers. It shows people in Sumter have a big heart."

The sheriff's office, which

INSIDE

Sumter County Sheriff's Office surpasses goal in inaugural Elizabeth Foxworth Helping Hands Food Drive / A2



FOOD Christmas breakfast needs to be fast and easy. **Page 1C**

Morning News

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18, 2013

TODAY'S WEATHER

Mostly sunny, nice,
high 54, low 30
DETAILS 2A

www.foxnews.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

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Full bellies, warm heads is a Help 4 Kids

Nonprofit partners with St. Anthony's to give food, hats to needy FSD1 students

BY LINDSAY S. BUCHANAN
Morning News
lbuchanan@foxnews.com

EFFINGHAM — While many children are eagerly anticipating the thrill of winter break away from school and the holiday season, some kids in Florence School District 1 are look-

ing forward to school starting back in January. That's because for more than 450 children in the area, school is the only place where they are sure to get at least two meals a day.

"A lot of people are clueless about how our kids live," Dewey L. Carter Elementary Principal Luke Matthews said.

"We have kids living with no electricity, no water. It's not neglect; the parents just can't afford it. There's just a lot that people don't see."

And that's where Help 4 Kids steps in.

A local nonprofit serving all of FSD1, Help 4 Kids is determined to do what they can to eradicate hunger over what can feel like a brutally long



Help 4 Kids board member Tara Durden (right) shows Dewey L. Carter Elementary School physical education coach Brenton Coe one of the handmade hats included in the food bags her organization provides for underfed children each week.

See **KIDS**, Page 4A

TOGETHER AGAIN



Giana Jenkins, 8, hugs her mother, Sgt. Tiesha Jenkins, after being surprised Tuesday in her Greenwood Elementary School class with her mother's return from deployment in Afghanistan.

Christmas present like no other

Florence third grader excited to see 'Mommy' back from seven-month tour in Afghanistan

BY ELLEN MEDER
Morning News
emederi@foxnews.com

FLORENCE — One Florence girl got a surprise Christmas gift that Santa himself could not have devised so well: her mother, home from seven months of deployment right in time for the holidays.

Third-grader Giana Jenkins would hardly believe it when her mother, Army National Guard Sgt. Tiesha Jenkins, came into her classroom Tuesday at Greenwood Elementary School.

"It went great," said grandmother Roberta Collins. "She came and gave me a hug and didn't see her mom until she turned and realized she was there and just said 'Mommy!' and ran over to her."

Jenkins, who was deployed in Afghanistan with the 251st Area Support Medical Company out of Darlington as a medic, said even though serving in the military is a way of life for her and it was not her first deployment, it was the first since her daughter was born, making it tough.

"I've been deployed about seven months and she's my



Giana Jenkins and Sgt. Tiesha Jenkins walk down a hallway of Greenwood Elementary.

youngest child and she's my only daughter, so me and her are really close," she said. "So being gone, all the little things that you take for

granted like going shopping with mommy or baking cookies, it was difficult for

See **MOMMY**, Page 3A

Florence eyes new districts

Elections director says it is too late to change before November vote

BY GAVIN JACKSON
Morning News
gjackson@foxnews.com

FLORENCE — Florence saw its population grow 22.5 percent between the 2000 and 2010 Census and with that growth, demographics in the three council districts shifted to where the city needs to adjust district lines to get within population guidelines.

The city will continue to work with council members Teresa Myers Ervin (District 1), Ed Robinson (District 2) and Mayor Pro Tem Buddy Brand (District 3) and will solicit feedback from the public in those districts in January, beginning with Brand's district in a meeting from 3:30-6:30 p.m. on Jan. 7 at First Presbyterian Church.

Florence City Manager Drew Griffin said the city began looking at the map with current data in October and is focusing on completing maps late in January and receiving approval by council in February.

"We just have to redistrict before it affects the first election. Some people did it probably earlier, like if we had an election earlier than we would have to do it earlier, but November is the first election we've had that affects the districts," Griffin said. "So we have to put it in play prior to anyone filing in March."

But Florence County Voter Registration and Elections Commission Director David Alford said with a busy election year schedule, including a June 10 primary, the city should have done this last January.

"If they're going to wait for February to do it, might as well wait until implementing until after November elections because that's waiting way too long," Alford said. "And the filing deadline being in March for the June primary. There's no way with my limited staff I can implement a redistricting with any amount of changes that amount to anything."

Alford said he has yet to hear from or talk with the city regarding redistricting.

Letters to Santa deadline has arrived

Christmas is still a week away, but

All children are invited to write. Let-



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TASTE, C1



7
DAYS

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OCSD 5 wins \$3M in national competition

Race to the Top money will promote 'anytime, anywhere learning'

By DALE LINDER-ALTMAN
T&D Staff Writer

Orangeburg Consolidated School District 5 learned Tuesday afternoon that it has received a \$3 million, three-year Race to the Top grant through a national competition.

"We were screaming over here," Superintendent Cynthia Wilson said. "It certainly is an opportunity for students in District 5 to be on the cutting edge of

learning. Often people feel we're not at the forefront."

OCSD 5 shares the honor with districts in three other counties: Clarendon 2, Richland 2 and Williamsburg. The districts' Carolina Consortium for Enterprise Learning received one of only five grants given out by the U.S. Department of Education nationwide on Tuesday. More than 200 school dis-

See NATIONAL, A5



"A lot of people signed letters of support and the entire community can be proud of this recognition."

ORANGEBURG CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 5 SUPERINTENDENT CYNTHIA WILSON

Other Race to the Top winners

Clarksdale Municipal School District, Miss.

Houston Independent School District, Texas

Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (consortium of 18 rural districts)

Springdale School District, Ark.

KIDS CREATE ORNAMENTS



Omariyan Hayward was one of several kids attending the Orangeburg County Library's Family Crafts "Jigsaw Ornaments" workshop on Tuesday. Children and their guardians created handmade ornaments in the shape of candy canes, picture frames and Christmas wreaths during the session.

Reusing debris for roads earns county award

By MARTHA ROSE BROWN
T&D Staff Writer

An Orangeburg County project has earned the "project of the year" award from the Lower Savannah Council of Governments.

Orangeburg County Councilwoman Jamie Cooper-Smith, who also serves on the LSCOG board of directors, announced Monday that the county's "Paving the Way" project earned the top award.

Orangeburg County Administrator Harold Young described the "Paving the Way" project as the county's "holistic approach to community development."

"What we did was we took some of the dilapidated structures that had blocks and bricks and other things and as we were tearing these structures down, we worked out an agreement with Sunshine Recycling, locally, to grind the block and material up into aggregate which they sold back to us at a discounted rate. And now we use it on our roads," Young said.

"In essence, we've been saving money

See ROADS, A5

City and county will be talking about closer ties

By MARTHA ROSE BROWN
T&D Staff Writer

For the first time in recent history, Orangeburg County Council and Orangeburg City Council will meet together to discuss how the



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