

From: Symmes, Brian

To:

Date: 12/3/2013 10:36:30 AM

Subject: SC Front Pages - Tuesday, December 3, 2013

SC Front Pages – Tuesday, December 3, 2013



Odd



Carolina to Cotton?
Clemson vs. 'Bama?

Sports, B1



Pough,
Bulldogs down,
but not out

Sports, B1

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2013

The Times and Democrat

75 CENTS • ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA



TheTandD.com

4 SECTIONS, 40 PAGES • VOL. 132 • NO. 337

Pinson wants racketeering charge tossed



Pinson

By DALE LINDER-ALTMAN
T&D Staff Writer

Former South Carolina State University Board Chairman Jonathan Pinson, who's been accused of being at the heart of a criminal enterprise, wants a charge of racketeering thrown out.

Pinson was served with a 91-count indictment in early November that charged him with illegal financial activities including racketeering, mail fraud, wire

fraud, extortion under color of law, bribery, money laundering and the misuse of state and federal grant funds. He has pleaded not guilty.

His attorneys filed a motion on Nov. 26, asking a judge to throw out the racketeering charge "because the facts as alleged... do not provide sufficient basis" to support the charge of racketeering.

On the other hand, the government's response was that an indictment is sufficient if it included a plain, concise and

definite written statement of the essential facts related to the charges.

The defense motion stated that the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act requires that alleged criminal acts must be related and "pose a threat to continued criminal activity" to become the basis for a racketeering indictment.

According to the defense, the government had not met those criteria.

Pinson has been accused of criminal acts in connection with his service as

chairman of the S.C. State Board and with the Village at Rivers Edge public housing construction project. Pinson's motion says those charges are unconnected, as is a charge of improperly using funds awarded to a Manning duplex plant.

Additionally, the alleged acts did not lead to a long period of criminal conduct, the defense said.

See PINSON, A6

HOLIDAY MAGIC



CARRY HERGEN/TSO

Alexis Crosby is all smiles as she sports her elf hat Sunday before the start of the Cops Christmas Parade. View more photos of the parade at TheTandD.com. Coverage of the Norway Christmas Parade can be found on page A2.

Five die on state roads over holiday

T&D Staff Report

The Columbia woman who died after being ejected from her SUV has been identified. She was one of five people who died on the state's roads over the long holiday weekend.

Orangeburg County Chief Deputy Coroner Sean Fogle said 23-year-old Conthia Patterson of Zimarest Drive has been identified as the victim in the single-vehicle crash Saturday morning in western Orangeburg County.

S.C. Highway Patrol investigators said Patterson was thrown from her 1998 Ford Explorer after the vehicle ran off the left and then the right side of the road before overturning.

Patterson was declared dead at the scene.

Investigators said the crash happened on S.C. Highway 3 just before 7 a.m.

The fatal crash became Orangeburg County's 31st for the year. Last year at this time, 23 deaths had been reported in

See ROADS, A6

Haley weighs in on Columbia strong mayor special election

By SEANNA ADCOX
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina Republican Gov. Nikki Haley is asking voters in the Democratic stronghold of Columbia to give the mayor more power.

Voters in the state's capital city will decide in a special election Tuesday whether to move to a strong mayor form of government, trans-

mean good things for all of South Carolina," he said.

Haley made the plea to voters in a mailer sent out late last week, funded by the pro-referendum group Columbia Citizens for Better Government.

"The present system is clearly flawed. As it is now, a committee of politicians hires a city



Haley

County asks lawmakers to dump trash bill

By MARTHA ROSE BROWN
T&D Staff Writer

Orangeburg County officials have a clear message for the General Assembly: It's time to ditch legislation that would limit counties' control over trash.

A "flow control" bill has already been approved by the House. If approved by the state Senate, it would stop local governments from requiring residents

strip away authorities from the Counties and citizens for the benefit of these corporations without altering the burden of responsibility on the Counties whatsoever."

The counties claim that they've been forced to invest in expensive, specially constructed landfills, but the bill could cause their customers to leave. Supporters say the bill would stop local government monopolies and give businesses more options.

Are we going to
let states come
from outside and



KING OF THE BLOCK

CLEMSON BASKETBALL, 1C

BUSINESS, 4A



Amazon wants to use drones

The Greenville News

A GANNETT COMPANY

TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 3, 2013
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

NATION

UnitedHealthcare patients thrown for a loop as doctors get dropped, 2A

FINAL EDITION

Group targets school prayer

Humanists file injunction in lawsuit against district

By David Dykes
Staff Writer

A humanist group is seeking a preliminary injunction against the Greenville County school district to block district officials from allowing prayers as part of any school-sponsored event or events to be held in churches or other places of worship.

The injunction request is part of the American Humanist Association's lawsuit to prevent a Taylors-area elementary school from holding its fifth-grade graduation ceremonies at North Greenville University, a Christian college, according to federal court records.

A hearing was scheduled for today in U.S. District Court in Anderson.

Filed in U.S. District Court in Greenville, the suit alleges that school events held in a chapel on a Christian university campus and the inclusion of school-sponsored prayers violate the constitutional principle of separation of church and state.

A fifth-grade student known as "Jill Doe" was "offended, affronted and distressed" by Mountain View Elementary's actions in holding its official graduation ceremony in North Greenville's chapel, according to the association's suit.

The student believed the school was "affiliating itself with and endorsing Christianity," according to the suit.

The girl's parents, who joined the association as plaintiffs, felt their daughter was being pressured to believe in God and "coerced into participating in the school-sponsored religious activity," according to the suit.

In court filings, school district officials said Mountain View Elementary held fifth-grade ceremonies on the university's campus in 2012 and 2013.

The officials oppose the association's request for a preliminary injunction, arguing that the school's purpose in selecting Turner Chapel for the graduation venue was "entirely secular" to avoid using Mountain View's "hot, crowded and limiting environment" for the annual fifth-grade program, according to court filings.

The school's use of the chapel "neither advances nor inhibits religion," district officials said in court filings.

See LAWSUIT, Page 7A



ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN TERHUNE/GO

HANDS FREE ONLY

Greenville looks at ban on hand-held devices while driving

By Anna Lee

Staff writer
allee@greenvillenews.com

It's not just texting any more.

A new proposal could make Greenville the first city in South Carolina that bans the use of hand-held devices while driving, a move that could include talking, texting and using a GPS.

City officials had originally considered a texting ban but said it soon became clear that the problem wasn't just sending texts but an

"epidemic" of people being distracted behind the wheel.

"We need to create an environment and a system where we need to provide encouragement for people to have two hands on the steering wheel and two eyes on the road," said Mayor Pro Tem David Sudduth, who was part of the task force that looked into the issue.

At least 13 cities in South Carolina have banned texting while driving. Charleston became the latest

See TEXTING, Page 7A

“

If it's in their hand and we can see them doing something, it's easy for us to enforce."

TERRI WILFONG,
Greenville Police chief

INSIDE

\$3M to fund N. Greenville arena

**SCE&G
plans to build
solar farms
across state**

SOUTH, B1



**School vending
machines
get a healthy
overhaul**

YOUR HEALTH, D1

The Post and Courier

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TUESDAY, December 3, 2013

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

Charleston, North Charleston, S.C. ★★ \$1.00

Health care enrollees can get free local help

Volunteers to staff Affordable Care Act center in Charleston



Volunteers Jackson Hamilton (left) and George Hopkins place signs Monday to help customers find the South Carolina Progressive Network's "Get Covered" Surge Center that opened at Charleston's Fountain Walk. The center will be staffed with Affordable Care Act navigators and volunteers to assist customers as they enroll in health insurance.

BY LAUREN SAUSSER
lsausser@postandcourier.com

A new pop-up health insurance enrollment center near the South Carolina Aquarium was crowded during its first hour of business Monday morning — but not with residents eager to sign up for a policy under the Affordable Care Act. The small storefront, provided by the city of Charleston free of charge, was mainly full of volunteers and paid navigators. They were busy organizing pamphlets, answering cellphones, setting up a Christmas tree — all preparing for the rush of residents they hope

will walk in over the next three weeks. "I hope we have a good turnout," said volunteer Catherine Johnson, who stood near the front, waiting to greet new enrollees as they walked through the door.

"I think a lot of people are getting misinformation," she said. "They at least should know what they are able to get (under the Affordable Care Act)."

This temporary enrollment center in Fountain Walk is open on weekdays through Dec. 20. It is

Please see **ENROLL**, Page A7

'Crunch time' a crucial test for troubled health website

BY RICARDO ALONSO ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's new and improved health care website faces yet another test in just a couple of weeks, its biggest yet. If HealthCare.gov becomes overwhelmed by an expected year-end crunch, many Americans will be left facing a break in their insurance coverage.

Until now, the main damage from

the website's technology woes has been to Obama's poll ratings. But if it chokes again, it will be everyday people feeling the consequences.

Some of those at risk are among the more than 4 million consumers whose individual policies have been canceled because the coverage didn't comply with requirements of the new health care law. A smaller number, several

Please see **SIGNUPS**, Page A7

Solicitors want Beatty off cases

Say justice biased
against prosecutors

BY GLENN SMITH
gsmith@postandcourier.com

S.C. Supreme Court Justice Donald Beatty's rant against unethical prosecutors at a recent conference has sparked a push by 9th Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson and her colleagues to get him disqualified from hearing criminal appeals of their cases.

Thirteen of the state's 16 solicitors have signed onto a request to have Beatty barred from considering their cases or ruling on grievances against prosecutors. They contend he demonstrated a clear bias against prosecutors in his remarks at a September solicitors' gathering in Myrtle Beach and cannot be counted upon to be impartial in his rulings.



Beatty



Wilson

Wilson led the charge with an Oct. 29 letter asking for the state attorney general's help in getting Beatty recused from her cases. Others soon followed suit, including 1st Circuit Solicitor David Pascoe, who stated that Beatty appeared to have "an extreme bias against prosecutors and cannot be objective."

Neither Beatty nor Chief Justice Jean Toal returned phone calls to The Post and Courier seeking comment Monday, but a group of criminal defense lawyers issued a statement questioning why Beatty's words struck such a nerve with prosecutors.

Please see **JUSTICE**, Page A6

Poll

Should Supreme Court Justice Donald Beatty recuse himself from cases involving 9th Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson? Find this story at postandcourier.com to vote.

Teen separated from family needs help during the holidays

Sandy is a 16-year-old girl who was taken into protective custody by the Department of Social Services because of parental neglect. She will be spending her second holiday away from family this year in an emergency shelter.

Since coming into care, she has been able to focus more on her schoolwork and begins her homework now without hesitation. Sandy has also learned to ask for help when needed. Staying positive has been her biggest challenge, especially after visits with her mother. Through the support of caring



adults and the other children in the house, Sandy has started to gain more self-confidence. Like other teenagers, she enjoys makeup and likes to express herself through art. She loves to draw, paint and write. Your generous contribution to the

Good Cheer Fund can help show Sandy and other children like her that they are special in every way this Christmas season.

Since 1927, donations to The Post and Courier's Good Cheer Fund have helped the less fortunate in the Lowcountry during the holiday season. The six charitable organizations sharing the funds collected are the Association for the Blind, Salvation Army, Star Gospel Mission, Carolina Youth Development Center, Coastal Catholic Charities and the Lowcountry Food Bank. Every cent of the money goes directly to the agencies.

To help

To donate to the Good Cheer Fund, go to goodcheerfund.com. For more stories, go to postandcourier.com/goodcheer.

as there are no administrative costs involved. Send tax-deductible contributions to the Good Cheer Fund, c/o The Post and Courier, 134 Columbus St., Charleston, SC 29403-4800. Donations also may be made in person or online at www.goodcheerfund.com.

TOTALS

TODAY'S TOTAL \$4,045.00
PREVIOUS TOTAL \$3,912.34
YEAR TO DATE \$7,957.34
LAST YEAR TO DATE \$5,038.99

CONTRIBUTIONS

In honor of Steven Alfred Brinson from Ruth McDaniel 100.00

IN MEMORY OF

Steven Alfred Brinson Soper:
Jo Lynn Harrison 50.00
Mary Kargers 40.00

Please see **CHEER**, Page A6



Partly sunny
High 68, Low 54.
Complete 5-day
forecast, B8

Bridge D5
Classifieds B1
Comics D4.5
Crossword D4.5
Editorial A12
Your Health D1
Horsepage D5
Movies D1
Obituaries B4
The South B1
Sports D1
Television D6



Chamber Music Charleston
Half off 2 tickets to "The Night Before Christmas" at the Sottile Theater, Dec. 21. See A2



BOWL OUTLOOK
Gamecock fans hope to roll in Cotton, **B1**



WEEKEND OF CHAMPIONS
Dutch Fork's playoff run has erased any self-doubt. **B1**

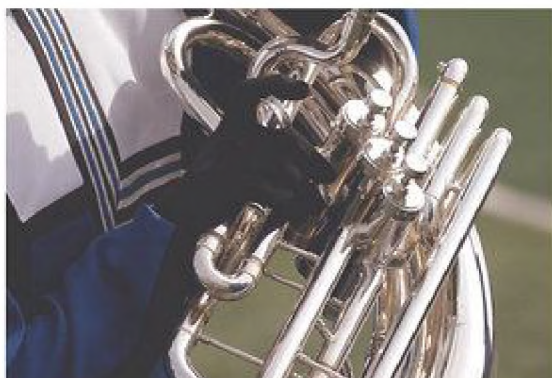


TRACY GLANTZ/TGLANTZ@THESTATE.COM

STALEY HITS CENTURY MARK
USC women clip N.C. Central's wings with 79-27 win. **B1**

IN THE NEWS

On perhaps the busiest online shopping day of the year, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that Monday is



VOTE FOR THE BEST

High school marching band video competition kicks off. **A5**

The State

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2013 | THESTATE.COM

Ex-athletics director to serve his sentence on weekends

By JOHN MONK
jmonk@thestate.com

The former White Knoll High School athletics director who used a forgotten booster club bank account to embezzle some \$112,000 in public money over four years as his personal slush fund, was sentenced Monday to a year of weekends in jail.

The sentencing of Bryan Butz, 49, before Circuit Judge Robert Hood came after a 90-minute court battle by prosecution and defense lawyers over how severe a sentence to give. Butz, who had no criminal history, had faced 10 years in prison.

"Mr. Butz violated the trust of students and parents," 11th Circuit Assistant Solicitor Robert Elam told Hood,

explaining that donations to the school's booster club plummeted after Butz's theft was discovered.

Elam argued a substantial sentence would show that such a violation of public trust is taken seriously by society, noting Butz stole repeatedly from the booster club account and showed

SEE BUTZ PAGE A4

WOW! | OH CHRISTMAS TREE!



COLUMBIA VOTES TODAY

Absentee voting weak on mayoral referendum

By CLIF LeBLANC
clblanc@thestate.com

The number of absentee ballots cast in Tuesday's contentious strong mayor referendum indicates that the passion of advocates has not translated into a lot of interest among typical voters.

Absentee voting usually is a benchmark of voter participa-

SEE ABSENTEE PAGE A4

CITY OF COLUMBIA voters will head to the polls Tuesday to decide whether to change its form of government.

AT THESTATE.COM

- Election-night results, with voter updates during the day
- A list of polling places, open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- A primer: Understanding the strong-mayor form of government

WHAT THE BALLOT WILL SAY

"The Municipal Election Commission of the City of Columbia has announced a

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

TUESDAY, December 3, 2013

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 147, No. 337 Aiken, S.C. ★★ 75¢

Times cites apprenticeship model



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Nigeria Williams, a South Aiken High and Aiken County Career Center junior, is one of six new apprentices through a collaboration between the Center and Tognum America.

New York Times highlights local partnership

BY ROB NOVIT
rnovit@aikenstandard.com

As Jordan Dunbar learned more about the partnership of Tognum America and the Aiken County Career Center during the past year, "the more I realized it's an amazing opportunity. I couldn't pass it up." Less than four months into an apprenticeship program at the center, Dunbar has found himself in a video news clip on *The New York Times* website, along with other Career Center students. A related article

The *Times* article and video can be found at tinyurl.com/ACCC-vid.

also appeared with it in the *Times* online on Saturday.

For the second year, Tognum—a diesel engine manufacturer—is collaborating with the Career Center and the Aiken County School District on a program that is virtually unique in the United States.

"We're offering registered apprenticeships for students still in high school and (who)

haven't reached the age of 18," said Brooks Smith, the Career Center director. "Most other apprentice programs are for those who have finished high school."

Tognum, a German company, relies on that concept to help train younger teenagers in Germany, said Joerg Kirsch, vice president of North American operations. Nothing like it has existed in the U.S., and Tognum wanted to bring its own program to America, he said.

Please see *TIMES*, Page 12A

INSIDE TODAY



Silver Bluff prepares for state championship
Sports, 1B



Nutmegger Tea to offer magical experience
Local news, 2A



Femata Club seeks funding for restoration
Local news, 3A

Aiken man faces charges of sexual misconduct
Local news, 5A

AREA DEATHS

Bernice Gantt, Graniteville
Richard Neal Battle, Aiken
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER



Salvation Army: Beware of fake kettle volunteers

Use caution, ensure gifts make it into right hands

BY AMY BANTON
abanton@aikenstandard.com

The bells are ringing in front of various retail stores across the country as the Salvation Army's annual Kettle Campaign gets underway, but residents are asked to make sure their generous donations are going into the right hands.

Aiken Salvation Army Maj. Angela Reposs said she recently received a call alerting her to the possibility of someone posing as a volunteer and attempting to collect donations. She wants to make sure those making monetary donations aren't getting bamboozled, Reposs said.

"We don't want to discourage people from giving, but rather encourage them to be diligent so that we can ensure that their donations are truly used to help those in our community," Reposs said.

The individual who contacted Reposs said someone was standing at an undisclosed retail store with a cardboard sign and a red bucket.



STAFF PHOTO BY AMY BANTON

Please see *KETTLE*, Page 12A

Aiken Salvation Army volunteer Lewis Rare rings a bell at Walmart on Richland Avenue for the Kettle Campaign.

Year-end signups crucial test for health site

BY RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Barack Obama's new and improved health care website faces yet another test in just a couple of weeks, its biggest yet. If HealthCare.gov becomes overwhelmed by an expected year-end crunch, many Americans will be left facing a break in their insurance coverage.

Until now, the main damage from the website's technology woes has been to Obama's poll ratings. But if it chokes again, it will be everyday people feeling the consequences.

Some of those at risk are among the more than 4 million consumers whose individual policies have been



AP PHOTO/PAUL VUCCI

White House press secretary Jay Carney answers a question during the daily press briefing on Monday in the White House briefing room.

several hundred thousand, are in federal and state programs for people whose health problems already were

cent that someone who would like to continue coverage next year and intends to enroll it is not going to be

President George W. Bush.

"It's important to recognize that none of these programs are going to work perfectly from the start and a big part of implementation is having mechanisms in place that anticipate problems and help mitigate their effects," added McClellan, now a health care policy expert with the Brookings Institution think tank in Washington, D.C.

But on Monday, administration officials projected renewed confidence that they're on top of things. White House spokesman Jay Carney declared that the federal site serving 36 states got 375,000 visitors by noon.

Even as fixes continued on back-end features of the system, enrollment counselors said the consumer-facing front end was working noticeably better—but still leaves not free of



Herald-Journal

TUESDAY

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HJ
IN A HURRY5
Things
to read
today

Speeding train

The Metro-North commuter train that crashed in the Bronx Sunday morning was traveling 82 mph in a 30 mph zone as it entered the curve where it derailed, killing four, the NTSB said Monday. No word yet on whether it was human or mechanical error.

PAGE A4

Infecter sentenced

A medical technician who stole painkillers and infected dozens of people with hepatitis C through tainted syringes was sentenced to 39 years in prison Monday.

PAGE A3

Fast-food protest

Fast-food workers in about 100 American cities are expected to walk off the job Thursday in the largest effort yet to bring attention to their low wages.

PAGE D1

Kelly's famous suit

A memorabilia collector is selling the gray wool suit Gene Kelly wore as he danced in a downpour in the movie "Singin' in the Rain." The suit is expected to sell for more than \$20,000.

PAGE A3

Versatile playmaker

Stocky Carolina fullback Mike Tolbert is easy to overlook, but his low center of gravity and surprising speed have made him a valuable and versatile commodity for the Panthers. In any case, Tolbert hopes his opponents continue to underestimate him. **PAGE B1**

NY cleared to tax online sales

Top court silent on appeals from Amazon, Overstock

By JESSE J. HOLLAND
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — On perhaps the busiest online shopping day of the year, the Supreme Court refused on Monday to wade into a dispute over state sales taxes on purchases on websites such as Amazon.com, an outcome likely to prompt more states to attempt to collect taxes on Internet sales.

It's part of a furious battle — also including legislation in Congress — among Internet sellers, millions of buyers, aggrieved brick-and-mortar stores and states hungry for billions of dollars in extra tax revenue.

The high court without comment turned away appeals from Amazon.com LLC and Overstock.com Inc. in their fight against a New York court decision forcing them to remit sales tax the same way in-state businesses do. This could hurt online shopping in that state, since one of the attractions of Internet purchasing is the lack of a state sales tax, which makes some items a little cheaper than they would be inside a store on the corner.

The effect could be felt far beyond New York if it encourages other states to act. The National Council of State Legislatures estimates that states lost an estimated \$23.3 billion in 2012 as a result of being unable to collect sales tax on online and catalog purchases.

This decision came down on Cyber Monday, expected to be the busiest day of the year for

online shopping. Millions of people head online on the first working day after the long Thanksgiving weekend in search of Internet deals. Overall, Internet shopping has become more and more popular, with the National Retail Federation predicting that more than 131 million people would shop online on Monday, up about 2 percent from last year.

Web retailers generally have not had to charge sales taxes in states where they lack a store or some other physical presence. But New York and other states say that a retailer has a physical presence when it uses affiliates — people and businesses that refer customers to the retailer's website and collect a commission on sales. These affiliates range from one-person

◆ SEE INTERNET PAGE A7

VICTORIAN CELEBRATION



MICHAEL JUSTUS/MICHAEL.JUSTUS@SHU.COM

A horse-drawn carriage adds to the Victorian atmosphere of last year's A Dickens of a Christmas celebration in downtown Spartanburg. This year's A Dickens of a Christmas event will be held tonight from 6-9.

Downtown dressing up for Dickens of a Christmas

By JENNY ARNOLD
jennifer.arnold@shj.com

Downtown Spartanburg's Victorian Christmas celebration will be the largest in years, according to organizers.

Mandy Merck, special events coordinator for the city of Spartanburg, said Dickens of a Christmas includes 50 living window displays and performances at

have been added, at Richardson Park and Spring Street near the Herald-Journal, where the Christmas market and Victorian children's games will be held. Church and school bands and choruses will perform throughout the evening. Festivities also will include strolling carolers in the crowds and other musical performances at downtown businesses.

Main and Dunbar streets, Spartanburg Ballet will perform excerpts from "The Nutcracker" at the Plaza on Main. A Lionel train exhibit, also at the Plaza on Main, is sure to delight train enthusiasts young and old.

Food vendors will set up along Church Street. Roasted chestnuts, chili, corn on the cob and hot chocolate are just some of the

Fertility clinics see boom in twin births

Doctors urge couples to opt for a single embryo transfer

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Chief Medical Writer

BOSTON — Doctors are reporting an epidemic — of twins. Nearly half of all babies born with advanced fertility help are multiple births, new federal numbers show.

In the five years since the "Octomom" case, big multiple births have gone way down but the twin rate has barely budged. Twins aren't always twice as nice; they have much higher risks of prematurity and serious health problems.

Now fertility experts are pushing a new goal: One. A growing number of couples are attempting pregnancy with just a single embryo, helped by new ways to pick the ones most likely to succeed. New guidelines urge doctors to stress this approach.

Abigail and Ken Ernst of Oldwick, N.J., did this to conceive Lucy, a daughter born in September. Using one embryo at a time "just seemed the most normal, the most natural way" to conceive and avoid a high-risk twin pregnancy, the new mom said.

Not all couples feel that way, though. Some can only afford one try with in vitro fertilization, or IVF, so they insist that at least two

INDEX-JOURNAL

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www.indexjournal.com

News: Amazon looks to go high-tech with deliveries, **8A**

State teams await bowl bids, **1B**



Remaking a mascot
Some schools are changing the look, keeping the name **7A**



2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2013

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

Project costs rise

City Council passes first reading to add \$200,000 to Oak/Main work

By CHRIS TRAINOR
ctrainor@indexjournal.com

Much progress has been made on the City of Greenwood's latest

streetscaping project along Oak Avenue and a portion of Main Street in Uptown Greenwood.

However, the project will now cost more than originally planned.

During a special called meeting Monday night at the Municipal Building, Greenwood City Council

See **COSTS**, page 4A



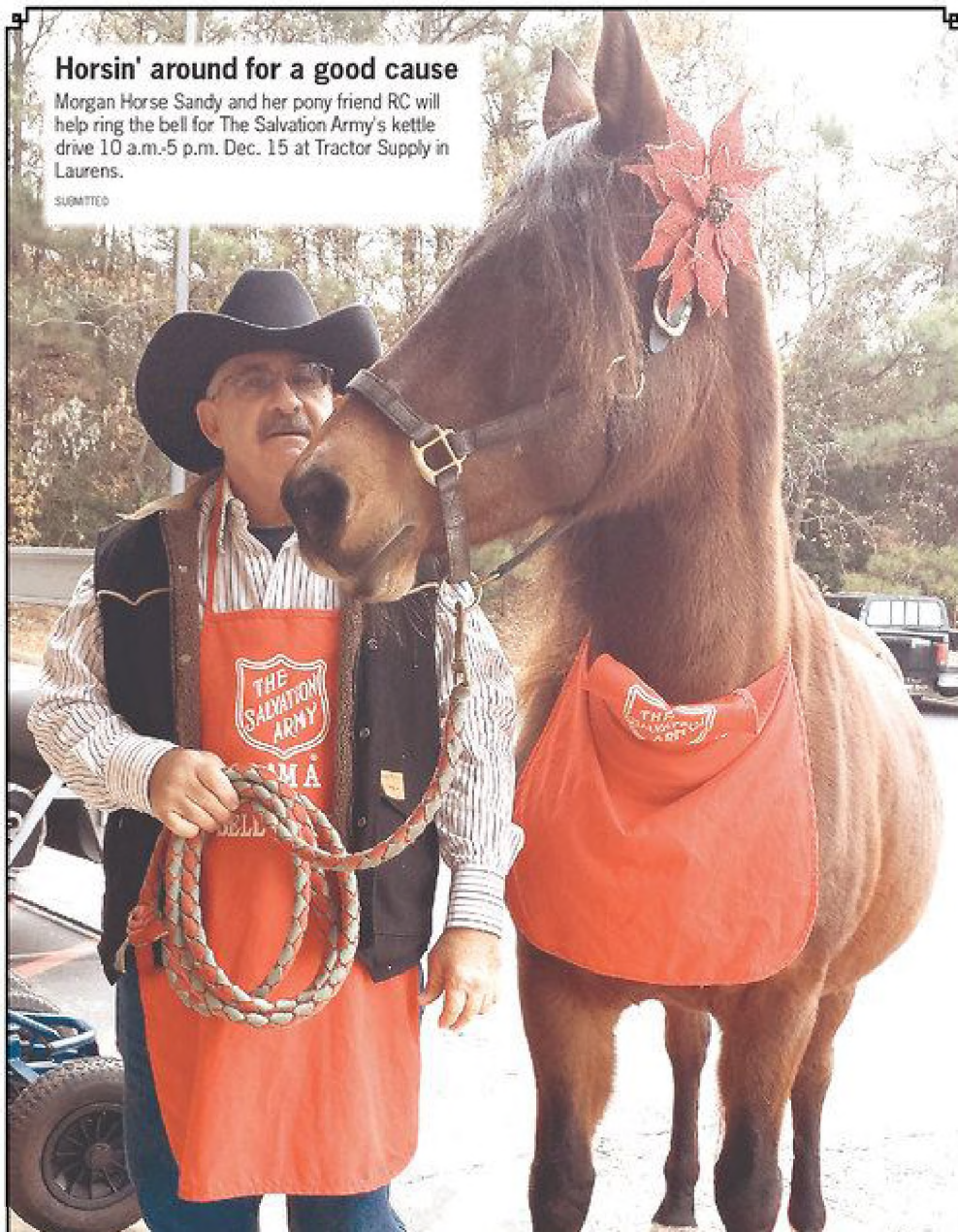
Greenwood city manager Charlie Barmineau, left, scrolls through a presentation as assistant to the city manager Julie Wilkie listens during Monday's City Council meeting.

CHRIS TRAINOR
INDEX-JOURNAL

Horsin' around for a good cause

Morgan Horse Sandy and her pony friend RC will help ring the bell for The Salvation Army's kettle drive 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 15 at Tractor Supply in Laurens.

SUBMITTED



■ ABBEVILLE COUNTY

Industrial park gets designated

Council OKs part of fee-in-lieu of taxes plan for Pro Towel

By FRANK BUMB
fbumb@indexjournal.com

ABBEVILLE — With the end of the year fast approaching, Abbeville County Council had a special called meeting Monday to hurry the passage of a joint industrial park designation for Anderson and Abbeville counties.

The designation, which must be approved before the end of the year, provides tax incentives to Pro Towels Inc. The designation is part of the fee-in-lieu of taxes agreement the county has with the company. Council approved the designation by a 6-0 vote with Council member, John Calhoun, absent.

An industrial park designation gives the business increased job tax credits on its state taxes, while giving the county more control of where the funds from such revenue are directed.

The distribution for the funds is as follows: 50 percent to an Abbeville County Economic Development and Infrastructure Fund, 25 percent to the Abbeville County Operations fund, 20 percent to the Abbeville County School District's operations fund and 5 percent to the Abbeville County School District's bonded indebtedness.

In other business, Council passed a proposal by Council member Charlie Stone to provide an extra holiday to county employees. County employees will receive Dec. 24, 25 and 26 off — Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and the day after Christmas — as holidays this year. The motion passed 6-0.

"It's in the update to the personnel manual," Stone said. "But that

See **PARK**, page 4A

■ CALHOUN FALLS

Manning mayor needs kidney transplant

BY ROB COTTINGHAM
rcottingham@theitem.com

After a longtime struggle with a kidney disease, the mayor of Manning announced Monday that recent tests have indicated that she is in need of a kidney transplant.

Julia Nelson released a statement early Monday afternoon divulging the details of her illness, stating that recent bloodwork revealed her kidney disease is



NELSON

"at a critical point" that will require her to have a kidney transplant. She spent several days at Tuomey Regional Medical Center after receiving the results from the bloodwork.

"It is uncertain when my kidneys may shut down, so

I'm in a very fragile state," she said in the press release. "I have 10 percent (kidney) function remaining."

Nelson, now in her second year as mayor of Manning, offered a bit of relief to the public as far as her official duties are concerned.

"I'll still be able to operate at full capacity as mayor," she said. "I'm not resigning nor am I taking an extended leave. I feel fine, in fact. I just need to be careful. This illness won't interfere with my duties to the

SEE NELSON, PAGE A8

Sumter debates land use by-laws

BY BRADEN BUNCH
bbunch@theitem.com

Local residents and businesses concerned about the efforts to change the city's landscaping regulations will have their chance to speak to Sumter City Council this evening.

A public hearing on the ordinance that would clarify, and in some cases, set stricter standards for future business construction is set for 6 p.m. during council's meeting at City Centre, adjacent to the Sumter Opera House, on North Main Street. The council meeting itself will begin at 5:30 p.m.

If approved, the changes will impact the landscaping requirements for future developments in several areas, including parking

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE A10



THE LIGHTS ARE GOING UP IN SUMTER



PHOTOS BY BRADEN BUNCH / THE ITEM

LEFT: Master Fireman Joey Timmons sits upon the county's highest ladder, attached to the department's ladder truck, working to untangle lights for the Sumter Fire Department's tree decorations outside their headquarters on Harvin Street.

ABOVE: Employees with both the City of Sumter and Sumter County work together to install the official Sumter Christmas Tree in front of the courthouse on Main Street. The official lighting ceremonies are on Friday at 4:30 p.m. After the lighting ceremony, the Sumter County Recreation Department will sponsor its annual Walk With St. Nick, from the Courthouse to the Sumter County Library.

Fireside helps several families, elderly during Thanksgiving week

BY JACK OSTEEEN
jack@theitem.com

For the majority of us, we have a warm house, warm clothes and food in our pantry. But for many in our community, there was little to give thanks for last week during the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Salvation Army social struggles day in and day out by those coming to her office seeking assistance. Lassiter said she was able to help many more families last week, including several elderly folks.

"These folks only have a disability check which is used up in a few days," Lassiter said.

The Item's Annual FIRESIDE FUND 2013-14
Dedicated to the memory of Glen Sharp



I have learned that I am truly blessed and should not com-

Founded in 1969, the Fireside Fund collects money for

cluding past-due electric bills and vouchers for kerosene and wood. *The Item* collects the money and The Salvation Army interviews candidates, who must provide a valid form of picture identification, paycheck stubs and copies of late bills.

This year's Fireside Fund is dedicated to the late Glen



RELISH
10 indulgent
recipes to prepare
for visits from
family and
friends. **INSIDE**

WAITING GAME: Tigers await bowl fate after disappointing defeat. **C1**
TASTE/TRAVEL: Hagood Mill celebrates past, plans for future. **B1**



Several days of inmate populations of more than 160 last week caused bunks — even triple bunks — to be filled, forcing inmates to sleep in the floor like they did during this 2011 photo.

Crenshaw seeks jail flexibility in 'emergency situations'

BY NORMAN CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — With inmate population at the Oconee County Detention Center reaching 180 inmates Monday, Sheriff Mike Crenshaw said he is looking for ways to address increases in the jail population in "emergency situations" when the county's new jail opens in 2015.

The \$15.7 million jail facility, which will likely break ground in the spring, will be rated for 192-393 beds. He said the current plans call for single-occupancy cells to be large enough to be able to add more beds at peak times.

"We're getting in our purchase price

SEE JAIL, PAGE A3

'I know there's some projections out there about what Oconee County is going to need in 25 years, but to me that's no more than someone looking into a crystal ball.'

Mike Crenshaw
Oconee County Sheriff

Entrance to industry park to be reworked, McCall still concerned

BY NORMAN CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

WESTMINSTER — About 24 feet of a median at the entrance to the nearly completed Oconee Industry and Technology Park will be taken out to allow easier access by heavy trucks coming in from S.C. Highway 11, but one County Council member said the

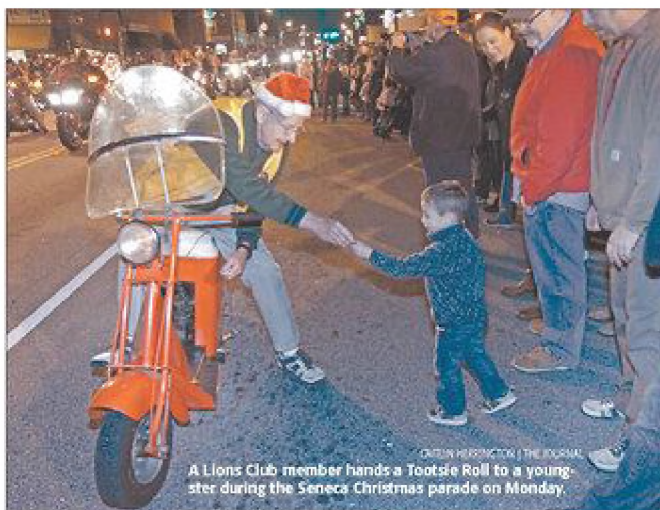
entire median should be gone. Councilman Wayne McCall said he was under the impression the median was going to be taken out completely. "I've already made my suggestions," McCall said Monday. "I'm the one who has been driving a truck

SEE INDUSTRY PARK, PAGE A5



JESSICA NELMS | THE JOURNAL

About 24 feet of this median at the entrance to the Oconee Industry and Technology Park will be taken out to make it easier for trucks to enter the park from S.C. Highway 11.



A Lions Club member hands a Tootsie Roll to a youngster during the Seneca Christmas parade on Monday.

SENECA SPREADS HOLIDAY SPIRIT

BY JOSIE RABBITT
THE JOURNAL



Santa Claus waves to those in attendance at the Seneca Christmas parade on Monday evening.

SENECA — Precious Robinson, 9, is going to be a dancer, she hopes, in next year's Seneca Christmas parade.

"I'm not here for the candy," she said. "I'm here to watch the dancers. I'm going to be one next year and I'm already praise-dancing with my church, House of Judah, to practice."

Precious was not the only aspiring dancer among the crowd. Pashience Jenkins, 9, said she, too, "wants to be a dancer in the parade next year."

While many unique floats

SEE SPIRIT, PAGE A5

\$610K decision in cities' hands

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — It is now officially up to the cities of Seneca, Walhalla and Westminster to decide whether to rip up a contract worth \$610,000 a year for another 25 years signed between the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority (OJRSA) and Oconee County.

The OJRSA board met Monday night and unanimously agreed to request of its three member cities "if they agree or do not agree to rescind the Revenue Sharing Agreement" signed Nov. 18, 2008, with the county.

The proposition to the cities is contained in a three-page resolution that will be delivered to the three cities for their action.

The meeting attracted quite a few interested parties who usually don't attend, including County Councilmen Paul Corbett and Reg Dexter, and Walhalla Mayor Pro Tem Tjay Bagwell.

Bagwell said the resolution would be discussed during a Walhalla City Council work session tonight.

"We'll look at it and discuss it," Bagwell said. "I'm not sure if we can actually vote (at the work session)."

The OJRSA Resolution 2013-22 now going to the cities gives a chronological history leading to the signing of Intergovernmental Agree-

SEE DECISION, PAGE A5



SPORTS Dillon ready for shot at another state championship. **Page 1B**

Morning News

TUESDAY DECEMBER 3, 2013

**TODAY'S
WEATHER**

Partly sunny,
high 64, low 50
DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

OUT WITH THE OLD?



Florence County Museum Director Andrew Stout stands among moving boxes on Monday looking at one of several William H. Johnson paintings. The museum, currently closed, will re-open in 2014 at its new location at the corner of Cheves and Dargan streets in downtown Florence.

PHOTOS BY JOHN D. RUSSELL/MORNING NEWS

History on the move

No plans set yet
for old Florence
County Museum

BY TRACI BRIDGES

Morning News
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FLORENCE — The Florence County Museum soon will have a new home in downtown Florence.

But what will happen to its former home in Timrod Park?

At this point, members of the museum's Board of Trustees say, the building's fate is up in the air.

"We've been so busy working on the lease of the collection to the new entity that the Spruce facility has really taken a back seat," Florence County Museum Board of Trustees Chairman Lloyd Willcox said. "We own the building, and there are some people, like me, on the board who would like to see us keep it



The old Florence County Museum was located at 558 Spruce St. in Florence will re-open at 111 W. Cheves St. in 2014.

forever. There are others who are a little more reasonable and realize that might not be possible.

"I think of it as a piece of art itself. We are discussing it, but we haven't discussed it nearly enough at this point."

So far, Willcox said the board has discussed leasing it to an outside entity, selling it or keeping it to rent to people for special events.

See **MUSEUM**, Page 3A

**Darlington
County**

Child fatally shot

Hartsville authorities
arrest man suspected of
shooting 21-month-old girl

BY BOB SLOAN and LINDSAY S. BUCHANAN

Morning News
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lbuchanan@florencenews.com

HARTSVILLE — A young child was fatally shot Monday evening in the front yard of a home on Bell Avenue in Hartsville, leading to a manhunt and arrest of a shooting suspect.

The 21-month-old girl died after being shot while in the front yard with her mother around 6 p.m., Darlington County Coroner Todd Hardee said.

"We don't know who fired the bullet or where it came from," he said.

A manhunt began shortly after the incident led by the Hartsville Police Department and assisted by both Darlington County Sheriff's Office and S.C. Law Enforcement Division and bloodhounds were released in the neighborhood by DCSO as part of the search efforts.

Authorities reported that after 11 p.m., the search for a suspect had been called off. However, around 11:30 p.m., authorities confirmed that they had taken a man into custody in connection with the shooting.

The suspect's name and any charges have not been released and it's unclear if the person who was detained was captured during the manhunt, authorities said.

Hardee said authorities believe the shooting stemmed from an alleged altercation earlier in the week.

Local politicians were quick to respond to the shooting, including Hartsville Mayor Mel Pennington who took to Twitter to relay his grief and call for stronger measures in crime fighting.

"Our hearts are heavy tonight as a city mourns a senseless act of violence, ending the life of an innocent little angel," Pennington wrote. "We have a responsibility to protect our citizens and our city. We must deploy stronger measures in high-crime areas — immediately."

State Sen. Gerald Malloy was also at the crime scene and said that he was there to show support to the family and community.

Pee Dee Filipinos lead effort for friends back home

BY LINDSAY S. BUCHANAN

Morning News
lbuchanan@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — With nearly 4 million people left homeless and at least 10 million impacted, relief cannot come fast enough for those who have survived Super Typhoon Haiyan after it smashed the central Philippines with unprecedented force

For \$10, Pee Dee residents can hear the bands, participate in a silent auction and photo booth, purchase event T-shirts and contribute their gently used clothes, nonperishable food items or make a monetary donation to help survivors in the Philippines who are without even basic necessities to make it through each day.

Many people lost everything when

provide a way to send them directly to where the need is most greatly felt. That way, donors here will know they are making a direct impact.

"We're already starting to collect donations of clothes, and you don't necessarily have to buy new clothes," she said. "Everyone has clothes that don't fit them anymore, and you can clean out your closet."

Although Florence does not have

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Love Across the Sea benefit concert featuring Sub Zero band and other musical talents. It's a relief effort to support victims of the recent typhoon in the Philippines

WHEN: 2-5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 14

WHERE: Southern Hops Brewing, 911 S. Sunset Acres Lane, Florence

INFO/TICKETS: Tickets are \$10, available at drop off locations, and do not include food purchases. The concert will include a silent auction, photo booth, event T-shirts for sale, clothes and food drive. Donations also can be made at the following locations:

Cheraw Physical Therapy, 301 Chesterfield Hwy., Suite 1,

Brian Symmes
Direct Line: (803) 734-0304
Cell: (803) 673-9437