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To:
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Subject: SC Front Pages – Wednesday, January 20, 2016

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The Post and Courier

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Wednesday, January 20, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Fraud puts S.C. refunds in slow lane

State will verify records, so early filers won't get a dime until at least March

BY DAVID WREN
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South Carolina taxpayers won't get their state income tax refunds until after March 1, regardless of how early they file as the S.C. Department of

Revenue joins a growing list of agencies nationwide taking stricter measures to combat fraud.

"Our number one priority is to make sure your refund ends up in your pocket," Rick Reames III, the department's director, said in a statement. "We will

Inside

Feds warn taxpayers about phone scams. **Page B1**

not simply stand by and allow thieves to prey on hardworking taxpayers and steal from our state."

The delay will give the agency time to verify wage documents with the Internal Revenue Service to make sure state returns are legitimate. While

employers must send W-2 wage statements to employees by Jan. 31, those documents often don't reach the IRS until weeks later.

Taxpayers filing after March 1 can expect refunds within two to three weeks of the date those returns are received by the state.

The decision has caught some Charleston area tax preparers off guard.

"I was stunned," said Kirk Taylor, a Goose Creek tax adviser. "This is

something people need to know about. A lot of places are going to be sending clients away thinking they're going to get their refund in a couple of weeks and it's not going to happen. That will not make people happy."

Department spokeswoman Ashley Thomas said the agency realizes "it's not popular to delay refunds, but we need people to take a breath and realize this is the right thing to do."

Please see **TAXES**, Page A7

Immigration case to have big local impact

Outcome could bring relief, hardships to Lowcountry, S.C. families



Immigration supporters from CASA de Maryland, an advocacy group, rally outside the Supreme Court last Friday in Washington.

BY BO PETERSEN
and CYNTHIA ROLDAN
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Thousands of people's lives in the Lowcountry could be changed by the Obama immigration overhaul. South Carolina is among 26 states that have challenged it as unconstitutional.

That is what's at stake here with the U.S. Supreme Court's hearing of the controversial executive order that has opened a seismic fault in Congress, the country, political candidates and voters.

The court said Tuesday that it would consider a legal challenge to the overhaul of the nation's immigration rules. The court, which has twice rejected challenges to Obama's health care law, will now determine the fate of one of his most far-reaching executive actions, according to The New York Times.

As many as 5 million immigrants could be affected. For Lucia Santos Lopez, 33, of Bluffton, it could mean her 3-year-old daughter's health.

PC Poll

How do you think the Supreme Court should rule on President Obama's 2014 executive order, which allows some undocumented immigrants to stay in the United States? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

"Without (the law), doors get closed for me," Santos Lopez said. "I feel like I can't achieve or accomplish anything because I lack an identification card. I can't even pick up medication for my baby from the pharmacy," she said.

The specific law being contested allows immigrants living in the United States illegally, who are the parents of citizens or of lawful permanent residents, to apply for a program sparing them from deportation and providing them work permits. The program was called Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents, or DAPA.

Please see **IMMIGRATION**, Page A10

U.S. Supreme Court to weigh divisive issue

Review of Obama order to help fuel political debate

BY MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court stepped into a boiling political dispute over immigration Tuesday, setting up a likely decision in the middle of a presidential campaign marked by harsh rhetoric about immigrants.

The justices agreed to review whether President Barack Obama, acting without congressional approval, has the power to shield from deportation up to 5 million immigrants living in the U.S. illegally and make them eligible to work without fear of

being rounded up. Underscoring the political dimension, the case will be argued in April and decided by late June, about a month before both political parties gather for their nominating conventions.

If Obama prevails against opponents led by Republican governors, there would be roughly seven months left in his presidency to implement plans that would affect the parents of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents, as well as some people who arrived in the United States before they turned 16.

"We are confident that the policies will be upheld as lawful," White House spokeswoman Brandi Hoffine said after the court's announcement Tuesday.

Please see **COURT**, Page A10

Gov. Haley to step up efforts to end abuse

To address domestic violence initiatives in State of State speech

BY GAVIN JACKSON
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COLUMBIA — Gov. Nikki Haley will call for more action to end the "domestic violence epidemic" plaguing South Carolina in her State of the State speech Wednesday night.

"We need a culture of empowerment rather than one of re-victimization," Haley will say, according to an excerpt of her speech.

"South Carolina is one of only three states that allow law enforcement officers to prosecute domestic violence crimes. That ends this year."

Haley, with the help of her criminal domestic violence task force, rolled out a \$19 million initiative earlier this month to add 144 prosecutors statewide, three Circuit Court judges, staff and 88 public defenders to combat the problem from the judiciary's side.

Please see **HALEY**, Page A7

Lawmaker: Journalists should have to register

Industry experts call Pitts plan 'nuisance bill,' unconstitutional

BY GAVIN JACKSON
and SCHUYLER KROPP
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An Uptate lawmaker who tried to keep the Confederate battle flag flying and whose campaign spending habits were part of a Post and Courier examination of Statehouse money trails says it's time to register journalists in the state.

State Rep. Mike Pitts, R-Laurens, on Tuesday introduced a bill called the "South Carolina Responsible Journalism Registry Law."

The bill would create requirements for people wanting to work as a journalist for a media outlet, and also before that outlet could hire anyone for a reporting position.

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Former Alaska governor Palin endorses Trump, **A7**



LOCAL
MLK breakfast crowd hears call for action to end discrimination, **A5**



FOOD
Charleston rabbi keeps pair of bakeries up to religious code, **D1**

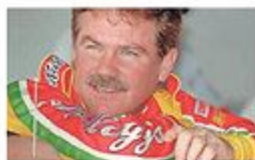


Mostly sunny.
High 50. Low 37.
Complete 5-day
forecast, **B10**

Bridge... **B9** Crossword... **B8-E4** Obituaries... **B4**
Business... **B1** Editorials... **A14** Sports... **C1**
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Comics... **B8-9** Movies... **B7** Television... **B6**

Charleston Deals today

Footlight Players
\$35 for two tickets to "A Streetcar Named Desire"
See **A2**



SPORTS RACING MEMORIES



LIFESTYLE Chili will warm up a snow day

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 20, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY SUPREME COURT TO RULE ON PRESIDENT OBAMA'S IMMIGRATION PLAN PAGE 1B

Advocates argue against refugee bills

TIM SMITH
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COLUMBIA - The president of a private agency that resettles refugees in South Carolina is opposing two pending bills that would restrict state agencies in their assistance of refugees, saying the bills are "unnecessary and will only promote fear of all refugees."

The statement by Ted Goins, president of Lutheran Services Carolinas, one of two resettlement agencies in South Carolina, was read to a Senate subcommittee as it opened hearings Tuesday about the bills and the refugee issue.

"The reality is these refugees have experienced unspeakable violence or per-

secution," he said. "They are fleeing terror, not causing it."

Two Upstate senators have filed bills that would place restrictions on the resettlement process in the state, arguing they do not trust the vetting process by the federal government.

Sen. Kevin Bryant, an Anderson Republican, wants South Carolina's policy on refugees from countries with ties to terrorism to be "the most resistant and the least cooperative" of the nation's 50 states.

Sen. Lee Bright, a Spartanburg County Republican and chairman of the subcommittee holding the hearings, said he would like to halt the federal refugee program. But failing that, he said he wants to

"The reality is these refugees have experienced unspeakable violence or persecution. They are fleeing terror, not causing it."

TED GOINS
PRESIDENT OF LUTHERAN SERVICES CAROLINAS

track any refugees brought into the state. "It's about public safety," Bright told *The Greenville News*. "There's been a lot of questions that even the federal government can't answer. As state elected officials, we have a duty to protect the public."

Refugee resettlement has been a controversial issue in the Upstate, but the terrorist attacks on Paris last year sparked concerns among many officials about the adequacy of security checks of refugees.

In November, Gov. Nikki Haley asked Secretary of State John Kerry not to place any of the Syrian refugees in South Carolina because of concerns of inade-

See REFUGEES, Page 11A

TRAYVON MARTIN'S MOM

DELIVERS WITH PURPOSE



Sybrina Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin, told the audience Tuesday night, "I'm a mother and I speak to you as a mother."

'We have a crisis on the black lives,' she says, as tears expose pain over son's killing

NATHANIEL CARY
NCARY@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

The committee that organized Clem-

son University's Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Performing Arts, that's what she said she'd deliver.

Fulton does not speak with the polish of a public orator, but she spoke with

her memory.

"I'm a mother and I speak to you as a mother," Fulton told an audience that nearly filled the Brooks Center for Clemson's 34th annual MLK Celebration.

Fulton is the mother of two boys. One is a college graduate with an IT degree. The other is Trayvon Martin, her 17-year-old son, who was fatally

Experts disagree on hazards of coal ash

RON BARNETT
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Whether the Pickens County Planning Commission's suspension of a land use permit for a coal ash landfill near Liberty will stop it from coming "is not yet determined" because the company that wants to build the facility could appeal the action, according to the state Department of Health and Environmental Control.

As far as DHEC is concerned, the plan by Raleigh-based MRR Pickens, LLC meets the standards of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and falls within the state guidelines for a Class 2 landfill, which handles non-toxic waste, a DHEC spokesman said in response to questions from *The Greenville News*.

Experts disagree on the potential danger of coal ash landfills.

John Daniels, chair of the department of civil and environmental engineering at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, says the toxic materials in coal ash are at such low concentrations that they're not hazardous, unless they leach into the drinking water supply.

"If you've got ash going to a facility that is lined, those residents living nearby have got nothing to fear," he said.

His current research, funded by the Environmental Research and Education Foundation, focuses on re-using coal ash as a construction material and for other purposes by combining it with chemicals that make it water-repellent and environmentally safe.

Daniels also has received funding from Duke Energy and other power companies but said his research meets all ethical standards required by the university.

All scientific data corroborate the EPA's finding that coal ash need not be treated as a hazardous waste but should be contained in lined landfills, he said.

**USC men's
furious rally
results in
overtime win
at Ole Miss,
1B**



**Recruiting
rankings do
matter for
USC, coach
Muschamp,
1B**



WEDNESDAY JANUARY 20 2016

\$1.00

VOL. 125TH No. 33
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TWITTER.COM/THETATE

TOOK: PARTLY SUNNY HI 44 LO 34
YESTERDAY: HI 40 LO 19 PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 0.00"
FORECAST: BC

The State



PHOTOGRAPH BY GERRY MELNICK gmmelnic@thejax.com
Amy Stalk, 37, talks about living at Gonzales Gardens as she cradles her neighbor's child, Chase Chapman, 2, on Tuesday. She said she saw someone get shot outside her door during her second week of living at the complex.

GONZALES GARDENS DEMOLITION

Residents say they won't miss 'violence and stuff'

Columbia officials hope to raze public housing complex

Residents just want time to find new places to live

Fresh starts, safer lives are the goals

BY GLEN LUKE FLANAGAN
gflanagan@thejax.com

Carolyn Hutchinson has lived at Gonzales Gardens for more than two decades. She's 54, and lives in a unit in H building with her sister and adult son. With plans underway to tear the apartment complex down, she's ready to get out.

"The atmosphere with the young people out here is getting ridiculous with the violence and stuff,"

ONLINE

AT THESTATE.COM: See more photos and a video with this story

Hutchinson said, "I have my grandson, who is 8—he comes and visits, and I don't like taking him outside and never knowing when something is going to happen."

Officials at the Columbia Housing Authority recently received permission from the federal government to tear down the longstanding public housing complex across from



Dorothy Chapman, 33, has lived at Gonzales Gardens for nine years and plans on moving out once the complex is torn down and replaced.

Providence Hospital. Hutchinson said this is the latest of a series of attempts to tear the complex down, and that if it does come to pass this time, she hopes residents are

given sufficient time to find new places to live.

"They kept saying they were going to tear them down, then they'd postpone," she said. "Then

SEE HOUSING, 7A

STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

Haley will seek unity from SC's 'brothers, sisters'

State of the State address comes after Emanuel slayings, flooding disaster

Haley will mention slain Sen. Pinckney, who was pastor of church where nine were killed

Paying for road repairs, school improvements also will be top priorities

BY ANDREW SHAIN
ashain@thejax.com

Gov. Nikki Haley will invoke the memory of slain state Sen. Clementa Pinckney to ask state lawmakers to work together for South Carolina, according to an excerpt of her State of the State address



Haley

obtained by The State. "I did not know him well, but what I knew was that in every interaction we had, he was always kind and respectful," the Lexington Republican plans to say Wednesday of the late Democratic lawmaker and pastor at Charleston's Emanuel AME Church, who was slain last June with eight of his parishioners.

"The building we sit in

S.C. State of the State

When: 7 p.m. Wednesday

Who: Republican Gov. Nikki Haley; state Rep. Mandy Powers Norrell of Lancaster will give the Democratic response immediately afterward

Watch: S.C. ETV

ONLINE

theState.com: An exclusive excerpt of Gov. Nikki Haley's State of the State address that she will deliver Wednesday to the General Assembly

invites disagreement," according to the excerpt. "Honest policy differences do not need to morph into personal dislike, distrust and disillusion. After all, to paraphrase something I

SEE HALEY, 7A

REMAKING FINLAY PARK

Price tag for park, other projects stymies council

BY CLIF LEBLANC
clleblanc@thejax.com

Finlay Park would offer a lot more water features and a \$20.6

plan for the downtown park that calls for a circular building with a glass lookout from which visitors could gaze over the park, a tiered series of waterfalls that would cascade from the signa-



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Morning News

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 20, 2016

**TODAY'S
WEATHER**
Sun yielding to clouds.
High 45, low 27.
DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Program invites public to explore culture in the Pee Dee

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN
Morning News
dswearingen@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — To encourage people to explore and learn at museums and art galleries, the city of Florence Recreation Department has created a new program called Museum Muses.

The first of these monthly pro-

grams, happening on Jan. 27, invites the public to the Florence County Museum, where the group will take a guided tour of the "In Times of War" exhibit.

The exhibit uses the museum's existing collections, newly acquired and loaned arts and artifacts to demonstrate the Pee Dee's involvement in the Civil War and both World Wars.

Teresa Simons, who works at the recreation department, said the idea behind Museum Muses was simple: to get people together to participate in some of the many activities available in the area.

"One of the things I realized is that a lot of people are not doing them (local activities) because they don't make a plan, and they

don't have anybody to do it with," Simons said. She hopes this program will help with that.

"If you've got people there, you know, somebody that's going to meet you for a purpose, you don't feel like you're walking into the party by yourself," she

See **MUSES**, Page 3A

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Museum Muses explores "In Times of War"
WHERE: Florence County Museum, 111 W. Cheves St.
WHEN: 2 p.m. Jan. 27. The group will congregate in the museum lobby at 1:45 p.m.
ADMISSION: Free

CSX may ship 121 jobs to Florence

BY JOE PERRY
Morning News
jperry@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — CSX announced Tuesday it will close its Huntington, West Virginia, administrative office in a consolidation that will see job reassignments to divisions in Atlanta, Baltimore, Florence, Great Lakes and Louisville.

As many as 121 positions could be coming to Florence, which the company designates as a major rail yard. South Carolina's other major rail yard is in Charleston; CSX also has facilities in Spartanburg, Greenville, and two in the Columbia area. The move comes as the company shows \$1.4 billion in coal revenue lost over the last four years.

According to a Tuesday press bulletin, 121 management and union employees in Huntington will remain employed there for the time being during a "transition period," after which "many employees will be given an opportunity to fill positions in other areas of the network."

Company spokeswoman Melanie Cost said in an email that the Florence division will take on dispatching and other administrative responsibilities for a portion of the Huntington territory. "From a personnel standpoint we are still working through the operations plan and related personnel needs," she wrote, "so it may be some time before we know if any employees from the Huntington division will relocate to Florence."

The number of people CSX employs in Florence was not immediately available.

As natural gas prices fall and "regulatory actions" hit the central Appalachian coal field, the com-



A house on Holloway Lane in West Florence was destroyed by a fire Tuesday afternoon. No one was in the home at the time of the fire and no injuries were reported.



Firefighters were unable to save this house on Holloway Lane in West Florence Tuesday afternoon.

Fire destroys house, vehicle

From staff reports

FLORENCE — A house on Holloway Lane in west Florence was destroyed by fire Tuesday afternoon despite the efforts of Florence and West Florence firefighters.

"At approximately 2 p.m., firefighters from the Florence Fire Department were dispatched to a smoke investigation in the vicinity of Homestead Lane. A secondary report was received of heavy smoke in the area of

Darlington Street," Florence Fire Marshal Ken Carr wrote in a media advisory.

Firefighters were able to locate the fire at 107 Holloway Lane — outside the city limits and in West Florence Fire Department's district, Osterman said.

"An initial attack was started along with a search for victims. The fire was determined to be in the West Florence Fire Department's (WFFD) fire district.

See **FIRE**, Page 4A

Cooking with love is theme for local restaurant owner

BY JOE PERRY
Morning News
jperry@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — During his se-

restaurant and catering service, Cooking @ Rocky's, he can credit Nancy Nicholson with providing early guidance that ultimately paid off.





Alabama, Charlie Daniels
coming to Augusta • 1C

**Aiken
Standard**
YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867



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AIKENSTANDARD.COM

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Council re-tables dam repairs

BY BILL BENGTON
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The question of approving a \$6 million bond to support repairs to Langley Dam remains to be settled, in the wake of Tuesday evening's Aiken County Council meeting, after a unanimous vote to set the matter aside for a future meeting, when

more specifics might be available. "The reason we're re-tableing it is, we don't know the final amount of the repair," said County Administrator Clay Killian. "We'll have better idea and hope to make a presentation in a couple of weeks to Council."

The \$6 million figure, he said, is extremely likely to change — "not

for the better."

Hopes are for a \$1.5 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, with Aiken County adding \$500,000 toward the repair effort.

The meeting's topics also included the Aiken County Recreation Center's pool, in Graniteville, on U.S. Highway 1. Councilmen Chuck

Smith and Sandy Haskell, in a 7-2 vote, went against a resolution for an agreement with J.E. Stewart Builders to address the facility's pump house and pool, including possible replacement of the existing pool. Funding would be through the one-percent capital project sales tax.

Statements in favor of the pro-

posed work focused on the pool's history, dating back to the land's donation by the Graniteville Company, and its popularity and service as a place where residents could learn to swim.

Statements against the proposal focused on questions of liability.

Please see COUNCIL, Page 12A



MCC PHOTO

Today last chance to sign up for GOP primaries

STAFF REPORTS
editorial@aikenstandard.com

Wednesday is the last day to register to vote in the Feb. 20 Republican presidential primary in South Carolina.

Voters can register at scVOTES.org, or visit the Voter Registration Office in the Aiken County Government Center, 1930 University Parkway.

When registering online, voters must have a South Carolina driver's license or Department of Motor Vehicles ID card.

Chris Whitmore, the spokesman with the State Election Commission, said the Commission's calendar listed the registration date for the Republican primary as Jan. 27, but is working quickly to "get the word out" about the correct date.

Please see **GOP**, 12A

AREA DEATHS

Alvin Dewitt Herndon, Williamsburg, Virginia
Annie Mae Weir Ford, New Ellenton
Anson L. "Red" Harding, North Augusta
Janet Brock Kight, New Ellenton
Jovlyn Furtick, Salley
Larry Greene, Warrenville
Letha Lorene Peterson, Aiken
The Rev. Louie L. Anderson, Aiken
Ruby Mae Cuthbertson Bates, Windsor
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

U.S. Congressmen tour MOX facility



STAFF PHOTO BY DERREK ASBERRY

U.S. Reps. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., left, and Rick Allen, R-Ga., said Tuesday's tour of the MOX facility reaffirmed their support of the project.

Lawmakers say mothballing project too costly

BY DERREK ASBERRY
dasberry@aikenstandard.com

It would cost \$500 million to mothball construction of the Savannah River Site's MOX facility — one of the many reasons U.S. Reps. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., and Rick Allen, R-Ga., are advocating to continue building the facility which would turn weapons-grade plutonium into commercial nuclear fuel.

The two congressmen, along with U.S. Reps. Mick Mulvaney, R-S.C., and Donald Norcross, D-N.J., toured the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility on Tuesday.

Afterward, Wilson and Allen said

it would make no sense to cease funding for a project that is 68 percent complete, according to CB&I, the parent company of AREVA MOX Services who is constructing the facility.

That number has been disputed by Department of Energy officials who have said the project is closer to 40 percent complete, based on how much it will cost to finish construction.

Wilson and Allen reported that the National Nuclear Security Administration, or NNSA, said it would cost \$500 million to shut down the project. The two believe that money could be used to continue building

the facility.

"If there are no alternatives, and we decided to start this process again, what would be the startup cost?" Allen asked NNSA officials. "That was a number they couldn't give me. If it's shut down, it's shut down. It'll never be restarted. That's an issue."

The MOX project is based on a 2000 agreement signed by the U.S. and Russia that states each nation must dispose of 34 metric tons of weapons-grade plutonium.

The project has been plagued with cost overruns and delays over

Please see **MOX**, Page 12A



AIKENSTANDARD FILE PHOTO

South Boundary is covered in a light dusting of snow. Snow may occur in the Aiken area early on Saturday, but not much is expected to accumulate.

Chance of snow possible Saturday

BY DAN BROWN
dbrown@aikenstandard.com

Weather forecasters are calling for snow Saturday morning as a weather system that could grow into the biggest winter storm of the season passes through the South.

The National Weather Service has upgraded its forecast to include the possibility of snow overnight Friday into Saturday morning with less than an inch of accumulation expected. Most of the snow will stay to the north and east of Aiken, according to the National Weather Service.

Although the chance of snow in the CSRA is remote, some snow might fall in the form of light flurries on the back end of the weather system, National Weather Service Meteorologist Al Moore said.

"There could be some light snow as the colder temperatures move in and the back end of the low pressure system producing the rain leaves the area," Moore said. "It is remote, but it could happen."

Please see **SHOW**, Page 12A



Aiken podiatrist facing illegal drug charges

STAFF REPORTS
editorial@aikenstandard.com

An Aiken physician is among "multiple individuals" and several Aiken County for the District of South Carolina.

The report, attributed to U.S. Attorney Bill Nettles, names Dr. Mackie James Walker Jr., a podiatrist, among defendants alleged to have

"consented to possess with intent to distribute Walker also is charged with two counts of distributing oxycodone without a legitimate medical purpose, as well as one count of using a telephone to facilitate the commission of a felony under the Controlled Substances

Walker also is charged with two counts of distributing oxycodone without a legitimate medical purpose, as well as one count of using a telephone to facilitate the commission of a felony under the Controlled Substances

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Floodwaters still impacting area farmers' fields



Jason Creamer (middle) with ArborOne Farm Credit, talks Thursday with William Lawson, foreground, a Darlington turf, wheat, peanuts and soy farmer, with Marc Marsh, a Chesterfield turf and hatch eggs farmer during the second day of the 2016 S.C. AgriBiz & Farm Expo at the Florence Civic Center.

BY DONNA TRACY
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dtracy@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Flood waters have receded from memory for most peoples' daily routines but for local farmers standing water and saturated ground is still an issue — and will be for some time to come.

"It was an awful year we had. First of all we had one of the worst droughts we ever had and then we had floods on top of that. Mainly everybody is trying to get back on their feet," said William Lawson

of Lawson Farms, a multi-generational family farm in Darlington County since 1834.

Lawson said the drought, which had been declared a disaster of its own shortly before the October 4 rains began, combined with the floods has created the worst farming season his family can recall.

"My father's 84 and farmed all his life and never seen anything like this. It's the biggest logistical and financial challenge we've ever faced," he said. "We haven't been able to get into any fields to

do any crop destruction or prep work for 2016," said Lawson. "That means we're behind to start with. Typically we put out the fertilizer, put out limestone, and preparing the fields for planting again next year, but it's been so wet since the previous crop that we haven't been in the fields at all."

Fall is typically the dry season for South Carolina and Lawson said winter is expected to stay wet and cold. That, he added, is a concern for spring crops if they cannot be planted in time, as it is, almost no

winter wheat has been planted this season.

"When you don't have any winter wheat planted, no seed gets spread, no fertilizer was used, none of the spreader trucks get used. It's just a mushroom effect in agribusiness and goes from the bottom to the top; nobody spends any money this year," said Lawson.

Lawson said farmers are currently in a "sit and wait" mode till lands dry enough to be assessed and that most of what can

See AGRIBIZ, Page 3A

Traffic stop leads to meth lab discovery

From staff reports

DARLINGTON — A Bonnie Drive traffic stop Thursday ended with four methamphetamine related arrests for Darlington County Sheriff's deputies.

Deputies with the department's Drug Enforcement Unit made the stop in the 2000 block of Bonnie Drive and found "all the makings of a methamphetamine lab" inside the vehicle, according to a release issued by the sheriff's office. "Information was gained through the course of the traffic stop that additional methamphetamine was located at their residence on Candy Lane," according to the release.

Deputies obtained permission from the home owner to search the home and as they approached the home they saw a man flee toward the rear of the residence, according to the release.

"Three Agents entered the residence in an attempt to apprehend the male subject inside and prevent the subject from disposing of evidence. The subject was located inside the bathroom of the residence, trying to dispose of ingredients of a methamphetamine lab," according to the release.

After a brief struggle the deputies subdued the man and evacuated him and themselves from the residence. The deputies were later treated and released for exposure to hazardous gases at a Pee Dee hospital, according to the release.

"This is an ongoing investigation and additional charges will be forthcoming," according to the release.

Arrested and charged in the incident were:

Heather Elaine Mauk, 30, Candy Lane, Darlington, was charged with

See METH, Page 3A

Together as one



People to People in Hartsville hosted a Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Service at Jerusalem Baptist Church. The keynote speaker was Hartsville native Dr. Dennis Wilson of Columbia.

MLK service highlighted by calls for 'oneness' in community

BY ARDIE ARVIDSON
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HARTSVILLE — A tone of "oneness" was established at the beginning of the Hartsville Community Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Service at noon Monday at Jerusalem Baptist Church. The event was sponsored by People to People.

In welcoming the congregation, People to People founder, Clayton Richardson, said, to become as

differences to make this a better state, a better community, and that it will take everyone working together as one.

"Together we can build a new South," he said.

"We don't accomplish anything in the world alone," said South Carolina House Speaker Jay Lucas.

He said it takes people working together to make things happen.

Lucas said Martin Luther King Jr. Day is not just a day off from work but a day of

Driverless cars still at least a decade away



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CLASH ON IMMIGRATION HEADS TO SUPREME COURT



Members of CASA de Maryland participate in a immigration rally outside the Supreme Court in Washington on Friday. The Supreme Court has agreed to an election-year review of President Barack Obama's plan to allow up to 5 million immigrants to "come out of the shadows" and work legally in the U.S.

Justices agree to review whether Obama has the power to shield up to 5 million immigrants from deportation

By MARK SHERMAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court stepped into a boiling political dispute over immigration Tuesday, setting up a likely decision in the middle of a presidential campaign marked by harsh rhetoric about immigrants.

The justices agreed to review whether President Barack Obama, acting without congressional approval, has the power to shield from deportation up to 5 million immigrants living in the U.S. illegally and make them eligible to work without fear of being rounded up.

Underscoring the political dimension, the case will be argued in April and decided by late June, about a month before both political parties gather for their nominating conventions.

If Obama prevails against opponents led by Republican governors, there would be roughly seven months left in his presidency to implement plans that would affect the parents of U.S. citizens and lawful

permanent residents, as well as some people who arrived in the United States before they turned 16.

"We are confident that the policies will be upheld as lawful," White House spokeswoman Brandi Hoffine said after the court's announcement Tuesday.

At issue is the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans program, which Obama said in late 2014 would allow people who have been in the United States more than five years and who have children who are in the country legally to "come out of the shadows and get right with the law." He also announced the expansion of a program that affects people who came here illegally as children.

That earlier program, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, is not being challenged and has resulted in more than 720,000 young immigrants being granted permission to live and work in the United States.

When he announced the measures 14 months ago,

School leader: Media to blame

Evva Anderson says she has "taken a public flogging" since her remarks about a proposed RV park.

By MATT McNAB

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A defiant Beaufort County school board member under fire for claiming that "pedophiles like to hide out in RV parks" says the media is to blame for choosing to air that statement over her many other concerns about a proposed plan to improve a blighted lakeside property near her residence.

In an email Monday night to county council members and several state and county officials, among others, Evva Anderson said The Island Packet and Beaufort Gazette misrepresented her words and intentions "just to draw interest." Anderson's email referred to a "public flogging" she has taken for her remarks at a Jan. 11 council meeting, in which she spoke against a plan for a new RV park off Gibbet Road in Prichardville.

While speaking against the proposal, Anderson was quoted as saying, "If anyone in this room believes that someone driving an RV is not a pedophile or a criminal — I'm not saying they all are — but pedophiles like to hide out in RV parks and places like that."

Anderson does not deny making the statement but says it was merely a generalized response to what she described as property owner Doug Hubbard's representation that "if you drive a high-end vehicle, or live in a high-end space, there is no crime."

"Did I blunder some words?" Anderson wrote in her email. "Yes, but you be the judge if the intent

Please see RV on 9A

MORE ONLINE

Read Evva Anderson's full email, explaining her controversial statement about pedophiles in a proposed RV park at <http://bit.ly/EvvaAndersonResponse>.

Please see SUPREME on 9A

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