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To:
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SC Front Pages – Thurs day, November 17, 2016

The Post and Courier

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Thursday, November 17, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Haley, McMaster could join Trump Cabinet

Lt. governor says they're being considered; Gowdy also may be on list

BY ANDY SHAIN
and SCHUYLER KROPP
The Post and Courier

COLUMBIA - Gov. Nikki Haley is scheduled to meet with President-elect Donald Trump Thursday amid growing reports she is being considered for a spot in his administration.

News of the meeting, set for this morning in New York, began to filter out late Wednesday night from multiple press

Inside

Trump's businesses could create conflicts while he is in office. **B7**

outlets. It also came after Trump ally Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster told *The Post and Courier* earlier in the day he and Haley are being considered for Cabinet positions in Trump's White House.

McMaster said Haley is being considered for several posts including

secretary of state. McMaster, one of Trump's earliest stateside political endorsers, said the daughter of Indian immigrants could provide a fresh set of eyes on foreign affairs.

"It would be like how Mr. Trump is bringing fresh eyes to running our government," he said.

McMaster said he has been speaking with the Trump transition team about becoming attorney general. McMaster was a U.S. attorney and the elected state

attorney general before becoming lieutenant governor.

He said he started speaking with the Trump transition team soon after the New York billionaire clinched the election last week. McMaster said he spoke again with the team earlier Wednesday.

McMaster has been weighing a run for governor but said he would do whatever he could to help Trump. He said he did not know if he would take a role as a deputy to the attorney general.



McMaster Haley

McMaster said he would tackle growing problems with drugs and human

Please see **CABINET**, Page A6

Defending the fort

Groups protect Revolutionary War site in Berkeley, will open to visitors



WIDE SPREADSHEET

Mike Yanopoulos (foreground) of the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust and Raleigh West III of The Lord Berkeley Conservation Trust are in the early stages of defining the archaeological assets of a British Revolutionary War outpost, Fort Fair Lawn, in Moncks Corner on Monday. The earth that created the raised fort was taken from the trench that surrounds it on all sides.

BY BO PETERSEN
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A 6-pounder gun mounted on the corner platform of Fort Fair Lawn could be wheeled into aiming at the Cooper River below to fire at the vital trading road past Calleton Castle above it. On this day more than two centuries ago it was.

The British earthen fort at the river's headwaters near today's Moncks Corner was attacked by 300 Patriot soldiers. Fewer than half that many troops managed it, but the Patriots failed to take it. At other times, troops led by Colonel

Francis "Swamp Fox" Marion, Wade Hampton and "Light Horse" Harry Lee also made tries and failed. This backcountry redoubt might have been the most impressive Revolutionary War post in the Lowcountry.

Even more impressive, it's still largely intact, and you'll soon get your chance to see it. On Thursday, the Lord Berkeley



Bostick

Conservation Trust and the South Carolina Battleground Trust will announce the protection of the fort and 80 surrounding acres, as well as plans to eventually open it to the public, in line with the anniversary of the Nov. 17, 1781, battle. The fort was purchased from private owners, in a wooded area surrounded by the ribbons, stakes and pipes of a development that had been planned.

The purchase was made in the nick of time, said Doug Bostick, the battleground trust director.

"Now you can walk inside of Fort Fair Lawn and be lost in the 18th century," he said.

"It's a fascinating story how this came to be," said Raleigh West, Lord Berkeley trust director.

The remarkable structure was built to guard both a major river and a land route out of Charleston. It was erected with such precision that its sides line up with the east, west, north and south compass points. Some 235 years after the battle, 6-foot-high walls still enclose it.

One of the last two intact forts of 30 built in South Carolina during the Revolutionary era, it's in better shape than most Civil War earthen

Please see **FORT**, Page A5

State offers shooting timeline in Slager trial

Prosecution rests; acquittal denied

BY ANDREW KNAPP
and BRENDA RINDGE
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brindge@postandcourier.com

Charleston's top prosecutor stepped in front of a jury Wednesday and grabbed one end of a tape measure.

A witness, one of the last to testify against former North Charleston policeman Michael Slager, stretched out the other end and walked 17 feet. "That's how far the witness said Walter Scott had run from Slager when the officer fired the first gunshot."

He walked farther and stopped near a courtroom door, holding the measuring tape to his chest. "That's 34 feet," the prosecutor, 9th Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson, said. "The seventh shot."

Scott would step a few more feet before the eighth and final shot rang out.

A silence spread over the room during the demonstration. A juror's eyes grew wide. Two others scratched their chins with their fingers.

The display that included a virtual timeline of Scott's shooting and an animation of what led to it helped cap the state's quest for Slager's conviction on a murder charge. Jurors saw a bystander's video of Scott's death two more times before prosecutors rested, pulling the trial closer to an end after 12 witnesses and nine days of testimony.

Prosecutors hoped the final presentation would create a lasting impression before Slager's defense team started to tell its version of the story. The defense is expected to call witnesses for



Online

For more photos and a video of testimony excerpts, go to postandcourier.com.

Please see **SLAGER**, Page A6

Flag battle pits restaurant owner. Confederate group

Inside CHARLESTON SCENE
McCrady's, Brock dish up new

Judge suspended over comment Facebook posting
But Wednesday's filing is retroactive to Johns' interim suspension, mean-

SPORTS

2 Trojans among area college-bound athletes 18



LOCAL

Clover teen pleads guilty to torching his own home, 2 others 3A



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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016

\$1.00

Mostly sunny
70°/41° See 2C

The Herald

COMMENTARY

'Incredible' Fort Mill substitute teacher dies at 95



BY ANDREW WYNN
andy@heraldonline.com

FOUNTAIN

There are legendary teachers. But substitute teachers? Generally not so much.

Except one. Among substitute teachers, there was one legend, first in Charlotte and then in Fort Mill schools. A legend at 5 feet 4 inches tall, about 125 pounds.

And his name was Jerry Vawter, Dr. Vawter. He worked as a sub well into his 90s, and he regaled students with real-life tales of World War II and growing up so poor a turnip was good eating. And so much more. Jerry Vawter died late Monday at 95.

Generations of Fort Mill students and staff lost a part of their lives with his passing. Students for years would gather around him, bring him treats, listen to him talk. He never said no. For 22 years, he was "The Sub."

"Dr. Vawter was an amazing man, a person who captivated students," said Keith Griffin, the only principal Fort Mill's Springfield Middle School has ever had. "The man was incredible."

Students who had Dr. Vawter for a sub and teachers who worked with him will never forget him. He wore a suit and tie. His clothes were so creased you could cut a hand on the pleats. His shoes shone with polish.

But more, he was a walker. When not in class — and this man taught, he was no babysitter — he walked around the school building. He walked and walked.

He took time for every student he met.

For so many years he woke up before dawn, got dressed, drank coffee and waited for the phone call that would send him to a school.

He loved it all. "The students keep me young," Vawter said in 2008. Vawter had four degrees. He was a teacher and doctor of law and so much more in an incredible life before substitute teaching. He moved to quit substituting at age 70 and sailed past that date like a destroyer in the Pacific.



Gov. Nikki Haley speaks Tuesday at the Republican Governors Association annual conference in Orlando, Fla. Members of President-elect Donald Trump's transition team have discussed Haley as a potential secretary of state.

POLITICS

Haley, McMaster reportedly being considered for Trump Cabinet

BY STEVEN BRANCHANT
AND GABRIEL GORT
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Gov. Nikki Haley and state Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster are contenders for positions in President-elect Donald Trump's Cabinet.

Trump's transition team approached McMaster, a former S.C. attorney general, about possibly being U.S. attorney

general. "I've been asked if I would be interested," said McMaster, the first statewide elected official nationally to endorse Trump.

In addition, members of Trump's presidential transition team have discussed Haley as a potential secretary of state and for at least one other position, McMaster said, declining to name that post.

"Her name has been mentioned," McMaster said, adding,

"The depths of consideration for the various names that have been mentioned for various things, I couldn't tell you."

MSRDC's Joe Scarborough tweeted Wednesday that Haley, a second-term governor, reportedly is being considered by the Trump transition team for secretary of state.

Other names being floated for the nation's chief diplomat include former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, former Sen.

York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani and former U.S. ambassador John Bolton.

The choice of Haley would be surprising.

She opposed Trump during the GOP's primary season, endorsing first U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida and, after Rubio dropped out, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, the last Trump challenger.

As a governor, Haley has limited foreign policy experience other than trips abroad — to Canada, England, France, Germany, India and Japan — for business recruitment.

Also, she was elected vice chair of the Republican Governors Association on Wednesday and is expected to become chairman of that group in 2018.

The governor's office declined to comment Wednesday on the speculation.

McMaster, meanwhile, previously has said he planned to run for the GOP nomination for governor in 2018, when Haley's second term ends.

POLITICS

Governors Association post raises Haley's national profile

BY KASSIE COPELAND
kassie@heraldonline.com

results to the people of their states, and our record-breaking

In her second term as South Carolina's governor, Haley has

Bobby Jindal, a former RGA chair; former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, a former RGA chair; and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who was elected RGA chair Wednesday.

Haley also has campaigned actively for Republicans outside South Carolina, including stumpng for Walker in Wisconsin, N.C. Gov. Pat McCrory and

SPORTS: Local teams hit the road for playoffs, 1B

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2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016

DAILY \$1, SUNDAY \$1.50

Davis helps Sheriff-elect Kelly transition into office

By DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ
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Sheriff Tony Davis has rolled out the red carpet for Sheriff-elect Dennis Kelly, hoping to make his transition into the office as smooth as possible.

Davis, who has served for two terms as Greenwood County sheriff, said he invited Kelly to ride along with

officers and meet all the employees at the office. Though Kelly is a retired S.C. Highway Patrol trooper with 29 years of experience, Davis said being sheriff is a very different responsibility.

"Coming from the Highway Patrol into the sheriff's office, it's basically a whole different kind of law enforcement," he said. "It's going to be a

learning curve for him, but I think he's very capable."

Working to familiarize himself with the different divisions in the sheriff's office, Kelly said he plans to spend some time once he takes office Jan. 3 working alongside detention center officers, 911 dispatchers and other personnel.

"I met with Sheriff Davis, and Jim

going to start meeting with each employee," he said. "I'll answer any questions they have, and address any concerns."

Davis said he was proud to be handing the office over to Kelly after it got re-accredited, with the agency meeting the more than 200 standards

See **TRANSITION**, page 4A



TONY DAVIS



DENNIS KELLY

Trump eyeing SC leaders?



Reports: Top Republicans could be up for cabinet posts

From staff and wire reports

Gov. Nikki Haley might be one choice for the president-elect's top diplomat, according to a former Republican congressman.

Joe Scarborough, now a host of MSNBC's *Morning Joe*, tweeted Wednesday: "Sources tell me Donald Trump is now considering Governor Nikki Haley for Secretary of State."

She might not be the only top South Carolina Republican under consideration for a top post.

U.S. Gov. Henry McMaster, a former state attorney general, told several news outlets that Trump's transition team reached out to him to see if he might be interested in being U.S. attorney general. He also confirmed that Haley is under consideration for several positions, including secretary of state.

See **TRUMP**, page 4A



LT. GOV. HENRY McMASTER
future U.S. attorney general?



GOV. NIKKI HALEY
future secretary of state?

IT'S YOUR TURN: Do you think S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley would make a good secretary of state? Take our Twitter poll @ijindexjournal or weigh in on our Facebook page.

■ PARTNERSHIP

Marketing plan uses economic wins

By ADAM BENSON
abenson@indexjournal.com

Three economic development wins that have come to fruition in the past year are being rolled into Greenwood Partnership Alliance marketing materials in a move officials hope will separate the county from its peers in attracting new investors.

On Wednesday, Greenwood Partnership Alliance Business Development Manager James

Bateman said the Greenwood Promise campaign, adoption of a penny sales tax to pay for 27 capital improvement projects across the county and Teljink's arrival are being viewed as catalysts for even more growth.

"Teljink's consumption of utilities is now a factor in our response to these RFI's (requests for information), as is the capital project initiative and the Greenwood Promise and how it ties into other educational initiatives," Bateman told the alliance's board of directors. "We want them to hear that message."

Bateman said the Alliance - which serves as the county's economic development arm - has 53 total projects in the pipeline, up from 48 in September.

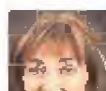
Bateman said several projects included in the capital projects sales tax portfolio - particularly construction of the Upstate Center for Manufacturing Excellence at Piedmont Technical College, the widening of Highway 296 and implementation of a fire services master plan - should have favorable, long-term benefits for the county's economy.

"Whether it be the fire mar-



JAMES BATEMAN

District 52 to conduct its own superintendent search



PTC board discusses its presidential search



USC FOOTBALL

Josh Kendall makes his bowl predictions. Shreveport anyone? 1B



CITADEL FOOTBALL

Undefeated Bulldogs hoping for a top four seed in FCS playoffs 1B

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2016

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TODAY: SUNNY 10-12 10-45
YESTERDAY: 16-22 10-37 9:00P- 10:00P- 10:00P- 10:00P-
FORECAST: 6C

The State

Health officials still wary as smoke stifles Midlands

Officials are stressing Midlands residents limit their outdoor activity until stronger winds pick up and dissipate the smoke that has settled in the area.

BY CYNTHIA ROSSMAN
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The air quality of more than half of South Carolina's counties was declared unhealthy Wednesday by the state's health

agency.

Just six days after the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control warned of possible side effects related to the wildfires burning throughout several Southeastern states, the agency issued a "Code Red" air

quality alert for 25 counties, including Richland and Lexington.

Melissa Overman, assistant state epidemiologist, warned against children spending too much time outdoors, since they take in more air than adults. Kids who are suffering from the air's pollutants might complain of tightness in their chests or irritated eyes and throats.

Overman said healthy athletes should consider limiting their time outside as well. She also suggested not taking pets for a jog. Plus, those with respiratory illnesses, such as asthma and bronchitis, who live in the areas that will remain under code red on Thursday should remain indoors as much as possible, she said.

The South Carolina High

School League announced Wednesday it would wait until Thursday to decide what to do with games scheduled for Friday. Game officials who can't officiate because of air quality concerns will be replaced. "We will have an update (Thursday) afternoon with the most up-to-date weather conditions and

SEE SMOKE, 2A



Stone Stadium will host three soccer matches Thursday.

USC women's soccer program 'trying to get better every game'

BY CARLSON MASON
Special to The State

The USC women's soccer team achieved a number of

There was head coach Shelley Smith's 200th career win — against Alabama State in the first round of the NCAA Tournament last Friday.

"We're not looking ahead," Smith said. "We're learning from what we've done and trying to get better every game. I think what we did in the first round is an arrest to what we've done all year."



NCAA soccer tripleheader

A look at the three NCAA Tournament games on Thursday:

USC men: USC vs. Mercer, 1 p.m.

NCAA women: BYU vs. Oklahoma, 4 p.m.



SPORTS 1C
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PROTECT**



METRO, 3A
**New space
for Lead
Academy**

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 17, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY SOME AMERICANS ARE TAKING A POST-ELECTION BREAK FROM FACEBOOK **PAGE 1B**



St. George Greek Orthodox Church members bake pastries on Wednesday in preparation for the Greek pastry and cookie bake sale.

PHOTOS BY HEIDI HELBRUNN/STAFF

Greek church facing change with bake sale

Women at St. George mix philanthropy with cultural history

ULLIA CALLUM-PENSO
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Helen Fosball can't remember the first time she came to help in the kitchen at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, but every October and November, the grandmother of seven knows she will be there.

On a Wednesday morning in early November, just two weeks before the annual Greek pastry and cookie bake sale and bazaar, Fosball directs the dozen or so women gathered in their baking endeavors. The day's tasks are the kourambiedes (wedding cookies) and the galaktoboureko (custard pie).

"It takes a lot, because everything is done by hand," Fosball says with a nod. "It takes a lot of work and a lot of hands."

In 50 years, the sale has become part lifeblood for the church, part philanthropy and part cultural history. The sale is put on each year by Philoptochos, the women's philanthropic arm of St. George, and it is the



Philoptochos, the women's philanthropic arm of St. George, uses money it raises from the sale to help the poor, children and the community.

largest fundraiser the church does all year.

So far, this year, Philoptochos has given more than \$12,000 to local and national charities.

"That is what Philoptochos

does," says Frances Pappas, the group's president. "This allows us to be able to extend ourselves and help within our community here and in the Upstate."

But the sale's 50th year has

pushed members of the group to examine a conversation that has been whispered in the back ground, but pushed to the side for a long time. The veteran members, the women who developed the recipes, the ones who have perfected the baking process and who have been able to mass produce the Greek food that Greenville has come to know and love, are getting older. The past few years has seen several members pass away, and each time that happens, so does a piece of food history. "We lose members as they get older, and it's getting harder to get the young people interested," says Mary Koutoulas, a member of Philoptochos and the group's current treasurer. "It's a day-to-day task, so you almost have to be without a job. That's another reason why some of the art of making these pastries has been lost."

Yet, the task remains, how to preserve a tradition that is as

2,000 acres to get torched

Fire crews looking to control wildfire

LIV OSBY
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Firefighters will take aggressive measures today to bring the Pinnacle Mountain wildfire under control by burning more than 2,000 acres ahead of the fire, officials said Wednesday.

Local fire departments are going door-to-door to evacuate about 70 families who live in the affected area close to the burnout operation. The evacuation affects the area north of State 11 from Buck Park Road to South Saluda Road and north to Table Rock Reservoir, according to Russell Huhright, spokesman for the SC Forestry Commission.

Fire officials are concerned about a cold front moving into the Upstate that will bring high winds and lower humidity, he said.

The burnout affects both sides of Table Rock and will extend north to the Table Rock Reservoir, south to the Pinnacle Lake area, and east to the Table Rock State Park boundary near High Low Gap.

The burnout also will significantly increase the amount of smoke in the air, Huhright said. The smoke on Wednesday forced state health officials to declare another air quality alert, while the prospect for rain to ease the situation remained grim.

The Department of Health and Environmental Control issued the Code RED air quality alert for the Upstate, saying that active children, adults and people with asthma and other respiratory illnesses should stay indoors. Area hospitals have reported an increase in patients with respiratory issues but they couldn't confirm that they were related to the smoke.

Meanwhile, Greenville County Schools canceled outdoor recess at many schools, sealed back outdoor athletic practices or moved them indoors, and

See ST. GEORGE, Page 6A

See BURN, Page 4A



GARTH BROOKS RETURNS TO GREENVILLE

ESCAPE, D1



PANTHERS MUST KEEP BREESES IN CHECK

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Thursday, November 17, 2016



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TODAY **FRI** **SAT**

 72°/42° 77°/48° 88°/34°
 Complete forecast, B8

NEWS DIGEST

Comment in Seneca case gets judge suspended

COLUMBIA — The state Supreme Court has suspended a judge who wrote on his Facebook page that a family's \$2 million settlement after an officer fatally shot their son was "all about the money."

Judges accepted a six-month suspension for Doonee County Probate Judge Kenneth Johns. But Wednesday's filing is retroactive to Johns' interim suspension in April, meaning it ended last month.

Attorney Eric Bland calls Johns' actions a "stain on the justice system." Bland represents the family of 19-year-old Zachary Hammon, who was shot to death last year as he tried to drive away during a drug sting in Seneca.

Jurors view animation of shooting

CHARLESTON — Jurors in the murder trial of a white former South Carolina patrolman viewed animation Wednesday of the shooting of a black motorist compiled from cellphone and dashcam video, police radio chatter and drone footage of the scene.

Former North Charleston patrolman Michael Slager is charged in the April 2015 shooting of 50-year-old Walter Scott, who ran unarmed from a traffic stop.

Cellphone video of the shooting recorded by a bystander shows Scott being shot five times in the back by Slager from yards away. It stunned the nation and was seen worldwide on the internet.

—The Associated Press

UPSTATE

HOPE TO SLOW PINNACLE WILDFIRE

Firefighters plan burnout

By Bob Montgomery
 bobmontgomery@sjr.com

Nearly six dozen families in northern Pickens County have been asked to leave their homes while firefighters conduct a large-scale burnout operation Thursday to stop the spread of a growing wildfire.

So far there have been no injuries or damaged structures resulting from the 3,283-acre wildfire that was started last week by an errant campfire, S.C. Forestry Commission spokesman Russell Hubright said Wednesday.

Thursday's burnout will cover about 2,000 acres and "will put a tremendous amount of additional smoke in the air in northern Pickens County," Hubright said.

"Motorists traveling in the area are urged to use caution and avoid SC 11, and people with respiratory conditions are encouraged to stay indoors," he said.

An area north of SC 11 that is close to the burnout operation, from Back Park Road to South Saluda Road and north to Table Rock Reservoir, will be evacuated Thursday. Residents are being told to prepare to be away from their homes for 72 hours, according to Pickens County Emergency Management.

Local fire departments were going door-to-door Wednesday to tell residents about the evacuation, Hubright said.

Hubright said the burnout will allow



Source: S.C. Forestry Commission; maps4news.com/HERE

GATEHOUSE MEDIA

SEE BURNOUT, A4

ST. LUKE'S

Growing demand strains free clinic's budget



Nurse practitioner Georgina Rivas, who began working at St. Luke's Free Medical Clinic in March, is the only full-time medical professional on staff who can see patients five days a week. PHOTOS BY ALEX HICKS JR./SPARTANBURG HERALD-JOURNAL

IN THE UPSTATE

Immigrant impact predicted to grow

Region becoming more diverse with international business, demographic shift

By Zach Fox
 zach.fox@sjr.com

After an election where immigration became a hot-button topic, a University of South Carolina Upstate event highlighted the growing diversity of the Upstate and the impact of immigration on the area.

Wednesday's panel discussion, *The Global South*, examined the changing face of the Upstate. Panelists noted how the region has grown more diverse over the past few decades due to international businesses and a changing population.

"No region in the United States has undergone greater transformation than the American South," said Ramon Galinanes Jr., the keynote speaker.

FESTIVAL OF TREES

Foothills Alliance fundraiser shows the beauty of the holidays.
Current - Inside

Independent Mail

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

Anderson's downtown director departs

KIRK BROWN
KIRK.BROWN@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

Arlene Young, who is credited with helping spark the revitalization of downtown Anderson, has left her post with city.

Young stepped down last month after eight years as the city's downtown and business development director. She accepted a job as grant services director for the Greenville-based Appalachian Council of Governments.

Her departure means that the top two positions in the city's economic development division are now vacant. Glenn Breed resigned abruptly in May after spending less than two years as the city's economic development director.

Breed was hired in July as vice president of operations for ATM, formerly known as Anderson Interfaith Ministries.

City officials created the economic development division in 2014.

The division, which is housed on the ground floor of the city's downtown parking garage, has an annual budget of \$700,000.

"We need to get somebody back in there as soon as we can," city Councilman Buck Roberts said Wednesday.

City Manager Linda McConnell said in an email Tuesday that "our search process is underway" for a new economic development director.

McConnell praised Young for playing a key role in developing Carolina Wren Park, completing the downtown parking garage and creating events such as the Fresh Taste culinary festival.

"Arlene's accomplishments left a positive mark on downtown," McConnell said.

See DIRECTOR, Page 5A



KEN RUSNARD/INCH PRESENT AREA

Arlene Young, right, and Anderson Mayor Terance Roberts prepare to unveil artwork for Carolina Wren Park during a dedication ceremony in August 2013.

SPARING CHANGE TO MAKE A CHANGE



T.L. Hanna Principal Shawn Tablin, left, is awarded a trophy by Carol Burdette, president and CEO of United Way of Anderson County, near Westside High School Principal Kory Roberts during the first Change War event by United Way of Anderson County.

KEN RUSNARD/INDEPENDENT MAIL

Fire crews to evacuate about 70 families

LIV OSBY
LIV.OSBY@INCHNETT.COM

Firefighters will take aggressive measures today to bring the Pinnacle Mountain wildfire under control by burning more than 2,000 acres ahead of the fire, officials said Wednesday.

Local fire departments are going door-to-door to evacuate about 70 families who live in the affected area close to the burnout operation.

Online

Get continuing coverage of the fire, including photos, at independentmail.com.

Hubright, spokesman for the SC Forestry Commission.

Fire officials are concerned about a cold front moving into the Upstate that will bring high winds and lower humidity, he said.

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See FIRE, Page 8A

PACER POWER

USC Aiken women
knock off Benedict, 1B



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THURSDAY, November 17, 2016

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Trump considers Haley, McMaster for Cabinet

BY ANDY SILAIN
AND SCHUYLER KROFF
The Post and Courier

COLUMBIA — South Carolina Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster told *The Post and Courier* in Charleston on Wednesday that he and Gov. Nikki Haley are being considered for Cabinet positions in President-elect Donald Trump's administration.

McMaster said Haley is being considered for several Cabinet posts including secretary of state. McMaster, one of Trump's earliest statewide political endorsers, said the daughter of Indian immigrants could

provide a fresh set of eyes on foreign affairs.

"It would be like how Mr. Trump is bringing fresh eyes to running our government," he said.

McMaster said he has been speaking with the Trump transition team about becoming attorney general. McMaster was a U.S. attorney and the elected state attorney general before becoming lieutenant governor.



Haley

He said he started speaking with the Trump transition team soon after the New York billionaire clinched the election last week. McMaster said he spoke again with the team earlier Wednesday.

McMaster has been weighing a run for governor but said he would do whatever he could to help Trump. He said he did not know if he would take a role as a deputy to the attorney general.



McMaster

McMaster said he would tackle growing problems with drugs and human trafficking as attorney general. He also would work for better coordination between state and federal law enforcement. If he's appointed attorney general, McMaster said he would need to look at the facts before launching any investigation of Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server when she was secretary of state.

Haley, who is in her second and final term as governor, has clashed with Trump over some of his foreign policy proposals, notably a temporary

ban on Muslims entering the country. But the pair apparently have repaired their relationship as Haley voiced support for Trump as Election Day approached.

Calls to Haley's media spokesmen were not immediately returned Wednesday. A Trump spokesman also did not respond to phone and text messages asking for comment.

Trump sources in South Carolina recognized there has been a healing since the heated primary season.

Please see **CABINET**, Page 10A.

Grant funds domestic violence investigator

BY DAN BROWN
d.brown@aikenstandard.com

The Aiken Department of Public Safety was awarded this week a grant dedicated to the hiring of a domestic violence investigator.

Public Safety Chief Charles Barranco made the announcement Monday at City Council meeting.

The more than \$26,000 grant, with a 10 percent local match, is funded through the South Carolina Justice Assistance Grant, or JAG, program.

In a memo to Council, Barranco said, "Through our Safe Communities Initiative, we have identified that many of our offenders have domestic violence issues in their families. It is felt that having a dedicated investigator to work with the offenders — and by referring them to support agencies — would help reduce occurrences of domestic violence."

Last year, 47 South Carolinians were killed by their partners — 35 female and 12 male, according to the South Carolina Attorney General's Office. In Aiken County last year, four people were killed by their partners.

Please see **GRANT**, Page 10A.

Aiken nonprofit named 'Angel'



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

South Carolina's Secretary of State, Mark Hammond, left, recognizes Aiken Performing Arts as an "Angel" among charitable organizations during a press conference at the Statehouse in Columbia on Wednesday. He is shown with Aiken Performing Arts President Anthony Ateca.

Aiken Performing Arts honored for work with charitable donations

BY DEDE BILES
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

COLUMBIA — Aiken Performing Arts, or APA, is among the organizations in the Palmetto State that "exceedingly charitable giving" based on

of State Mark Hammond released Wednesday.

APA President Tony Ateca accepted a framed certificate from Hammond during a press conference at the Statehouse.

Sitting in the audience were APA

Solzman, Ken Blohm and Bob Kelley.

Solzman and Blohm are both vice presidents, and Solzman also is APA's treasurer.

"This is a great honor," Ateca said. "It shows that we use the money that

The 10 organizations on the Angels list all devoted 80 percent or more of their total expenditures to charitable programs.

In addition to APA, other Angels included Lowcountry Food Bank of Charleston, Specs for Animals of

Dean Carver, *Gaithersville*
Duane Davenport, *Waynesville*
Samuel Dunbar, *Salley*
Tracy Jenkins Sr., *Williamston*
James Lybrand Sr., *Waynesville*
James Watson, *Aurora, Colorado*
Wilroy Williams, *Pompano Beach, Florida*
Deaths and Funerals, 8A

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Digging deeper

SLED helping investigate series of fires

From staff reports

FLORENCE — Investigators are continuing to follow up on leads in a series of fires that have burned several houses, a mobile home and a fire warehouse in and around Florence starting election night.

Lt. Mike Brandt said the Florence Police Department's arson investigator is working with South Carolina Law Enforcement Division agents on leads in the investigation and additional personnel have been assigned to patrol the city in an attempt to prevent other fires.

The fires started overnight into Nov. 8 when West Florence firefighters battled a house fire on Harmony Street and, several hours later, Florence firefighters battled a house fire

See FIRE5, Page 3A

Downtown flux brings new businesses, end to others

BY JOE PERRY
Morning News
joeperry@10news.com

FLORENCE — Downtown is in flux. As The Emerson apartments get new residents and the long-awaited parking garage is soon to get real traffic that should increase feet on the street, plans for a new brewery and pub on North Dargatzis Street have been announced.

Local Motive Brewing Company is scheduled to open next spring. Owner Billy McBride is working with the brain trust behind the Kress project to offer Florentines another dining

See FEUX, Page 3A

QUICK RESPONSE



PHOTO BY MATT ROBERTSON/MORNING NEWS

West Florence firefighters work to extinguish a fire in the upstairs of a Vintage Place residence at 3415 Stockton Drive.

The firefighters managed to keep the fire confined to the attic area.



A house on Stockton Drive in Florence was damaged by a fire Wednesday, but West Florence firefighters arrived quickly and were able to get it under control. Story on Page 3A.

City of Florence updates Hurricane Matthew recovery efforts

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jloyn@10news.com



Contributed photo

FLORENCE — Florence officials said Wednesday that the city is taking strides in an effort called "Next Phase Florence" to clean up the large amounts of debris left last month after Hurricane Matthew.

Officials said about 275 tons of debris, totaling more than 2,300 cubic yards of waste, have been picked up by city crews

"That total will grow in the coming weeks.

"We're glad to say that we've bid the debris cleanup, those bids opened (Wednesday) and from there we'll select a contractor," said City Manager Drew Griffin. "Hopefully we'll name a contractor, hire and authorize them to start debris cleanup by the end of next

week."

Griffin said the debris contractors will be required to make three passes through coverage areas. All debris will eventually be picked up.

Griffin said there are 15 documented leaning trees that could pose a danger to city residents.

See RECOVERY, Page 3A

McLeod to expand emergency department

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jloyn@10news.com

FLORENCE — McLeod

Center, confirmed an expansion in the weeks.

"We are in the planning stages to build approximately 50,000 square feet

facility on Griffin Street.

McLeod said the decision to increase the size of the emergency department was out of a growing

this project remains in the planning phase and certain matters still require approval from the hospital's board of trustees.



—

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