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SC Front Pages – Fri day, November 18, 2016

The Post and Courier

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Friday, November 18, 2016

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Will Haley be part of Trump's inner circle?



Haley

Reports 'good discussion' with former foe; Romney also in running for secretary of state

BY SCHUYLER KROFF
and ANDY SHAIN
The Post and Courier

From the top job in a state with no international borders, to maybe becoming the nation's chief diplomat, everyone is wondering whether President-elect Donald

Inside

Lt. Gen. Flynn offered national security advisory position, sources say. A9

Trump will pop the question. After a whirlwind 24 hours of speculation, Gov. Nikki Haley met

face to face Thursday with a previous political foe inside downtown Manhattan's Trump Tower.

Neither side disclosed details of what was discussed, but Haley's long-shot possibility of becoming the nation's next secretary of state was widely considered the topic. "They had a good discussion,

and she is very encouraged about the coming administration and the new direction it will bring to Washington," a Haley spokesman said in a statement after their midday session.

While Haley has received high marks for handling domestic matters at home, her resume includes

next to no experience in national security or foreign affairs, indicating the job may be a tough sell to the American people.

A review of her overseas travel indicates she's made fewer than 10 professional business trips out of

Please see **HALEY**, Page A8

Center to reveal real story of Drayton Hall



MICHAEL PRONZATO/STAFF

Tour guide Betsy McAmis talks to April Kleinfeldt, Anna Tollison, Margaret Barrett and Allison Barrett during a Drayton Hall tour on Wednesday. Drayton Hall plans to build a new \$5 million visitors center. Although the plantation house is unfurnished, many artifacts have been collected and will eventually be displayed for visitors to see.

\$5 million project to give visitors an experience not clouded by nostalgia

BY ROBERT BEHRE
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One of the Lowcountry's most famous works of architecture is poised to get a new visitors and education center that will help explain the site's history and other details beyond

what the eye can see.

The new Sally Reahard Visitors Center promises to be the most significant building constructed at Drayton Hall since the house itself was built more than 250 years ago. The keepers of the house museum plan a small ceremony Friday to cel-

brate the \$5 million project's start. If work goes as planned, the center will open late next year, Executive Director Carter Hudgins said.

Such a building has been a goal at Drayton Hall ever since the National Trust for Historic Preservation acquired the property in the 1970s. Currently, most visitors listen to a short orientation talk outdoors, followed by a tour through the empty house.

While the house is shown in an

Online



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

unfurnished state, the museum has amassed a large collection of furniture, artifacts, manuscripts, artwork and other objects associated with the

Please see **DRAYTON**, Page A6

Words of Scott, Slager barred

Judge won't let defense team use enhanced audio

BY ANDREW KNAPP
and BRENDA RINDGE
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Defense attorneys for the North Charleston officer who killed Walter Scott want to tell jurors that Scott was cursing the police during a struggle with the lawman.

Their evidence is based on an expert's interpretation of the sound featured in a video showing patrolman Michael Slager

firing eight times as Scott ran away. But the defense case revolves around what happened before the shooting, and the lawyers contend that Scott's alleged words portrayed his animus toward law enforcement and could explain his conduct that drew the officer's gunfire in self-defense.

The officer's words, refined in other audio recordings, also support his account that Scott had gotten control of his Taser, the defense said.

"Let go of my Taser," Slager said, according to the expert's version, "or I'll have to shoot you."

Jurors, though, had not seen those words by Thursday, the second day of defense testimony in Slager's murder trial in downtown

Please see **SLAGER**, Page A7

Online



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

Wildfire smoke takes toll on local asthma, lung patients

Inside

BUSINESS

LendingTree buys local

Troubled man sought new life

Suspect who died after clash with deputies



JEFF BLAKE / jblake@chestate.com

USC WOMEN'S SOCCER | NCAA TOURNAMENT

ON TO THE SWEET 16

Gamecocks advance with 1-0 win against Colorado, 1B

USC MEN'S SOCCER | NCAA TOURNAMENT

Gamecocks down Mercer, to face Tigers in Round 2, 4B

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 18 2016

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TODAY: SUNNY HI 76 LO 49
YESTERDAY: 66-75 LO 39 PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 0.00"
FORECAST, 6C

The State



GERRY MELUNDEZ / gmelundes@thestate.com

James Robert McClurkin
of Chester

Paroled man seeks to clear his name in slaying

■ A Chester man is released from prison 43 years after he went in. He was convicted for a murder he, police and his lawyer say he did not commit.

BY ANDREW DYS
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For the first time in 43 years Thursday, James Robert McClurkin saw the sky from outside prison walls. He breathed free air.

It came at 10:43 a.m. It had been 43 years and a month since the Chester native went inside Broad River Correctional Institution. For 39 of those years, he was in for a murder he, and now police and lawyers, say he did not commit.

"I am free," said McClurkin. "It is great. Just breathing this here is great."

Then McClurkin cried.

McClurkin was paroled Oct. 11, on his 15th parole hearing on his conviction for the 1973 killing of Chester car wash clerk Claude Killian. In a 1977 trial, where a co-defendant - who later recanted and admitted he lied - blamed McClurkin and Ray Charles Degraffenreid for Killian's death.

Thursday marked the end of weeks of processing out of prison for a crime he has denied committing since 1977. He was already in prison in 1977 for a 1973 robbery when he was charged in the Killian case, tried

THE TRUMP TRANSITION

Haley, Trump meet; did he offer a job?

Governor confers with the president-elect in New York, but no word yet on whether a Cabinet post was offered

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT
AND CASSIE COPE
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S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley met Thursday with President-elect Donald Trump in New York, but details of the meeting were scarce. "Governor Haley was pleased to meet with President-elect Trump," said Haley spokesman Rob Godfrey. "They had a good

discussion, and she is very encouraged about the coming administration and the new direction it will bring to Washington."

S.C. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, the first statewide official in the country to endorse Trump, said Wednesday that Haley was a contender for secretary of state and one other post, speculated to be secretary of the commerce. McMaster also said Trump's transition team had reached out to him about possibly being U.S.

attorney general.

Haley's meeting with Trump came a day after she was elected vice chair of the Republican Governors Association, a nationally visible post that puts her in line to become the chair of the GOP group in 2018.

Kellyanne Conway, manager of Trump's presidential campaign, told reporters at New York's Trump Tower about the Trump-



➔ MORE INSIDE

What happens if Gov. Haley, Lt. Gov. McMaster both join the Trump Administration? 6A

SEE HALEY, 6A



'DOGS, MUSTANGS MEET AGAIN

Pendleton and Palmetto face off tonight. **1B**



Independent Mail

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2016

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

Anderson squads speak out on EMS study

NIKIE MAYO

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A month after a troubling study highlighted problems in Anderson County's delivery of emergency medical services, representatives of local rescue squads spoke out Wednesday, asking for a chance to fix things.

They drew on history and community ties, recalling decades of trying to help patients during their most desperate moments. They made impassioned pleas to the Anderson County Council, which convened a special meeting just to do discuss the future of medical care.

"Our community knows us," said Sandy Sutherland, chief of Iva Emergency Medical Services. "When you have a bad call, it makes a difference that people know you when you are going into

their homes.... We want to be a part of the changes that need to be made. Please, just give us a chance to make the changes, so we can continue to serve our communities."

The County Council commissioned the study after Williamston Emergency Medical Services was forced to close in 2015 because it was operating with a debt of at least \$300,000. The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division investigated allegations of financial mismanagement, but ultimately closed the investigation and filed no charges against former Williamston EMS Chief Joe Barr.

"I don't want you to throw us all out just because one squad went under," said Buddy Durham of Pendleton EMS.

The most scathing parts of the EMS study were not about finances.

According to the analysis, county-

hired consultants heard about differences in patient care from squad to squad and also found that the closest ambulances may not always be sent to emergencies. They discovered that emergency response times are not easily tracked in Anderson County.

They learned that Medshore Ambulance Service, a private company and the largest provider in the EMS system, met stringent requirements that made it the "gold standard" among providers. But Medshore was not part of the county's advanced vehicle location system. That quirk rendered Medshore ambulances invisible to county dispatchers.

"A county employee who is not at dispatch now had turned us off so that dispatch could not see us," Medshore Chief Executive Officer Greg Shore said Wednesday. "We have no idea how or

why that happened, but it has been corrected."

Shore urged the council and the other EMS providers in the room to use the study "to turn weaknesses into strengths."

Meanwhile, Dr. Thomas Kickham, who provides medical direction and oversight of the county EMS system, spoke angrily about the study, calling it "very misleading." He railed against Fitch and Associates, the Missouri-based company responsible for the year-long analysis.

"They threw me under the bus," Kickham said.

The study described Kickham as "well intentioned," but said that he does not receive reports on "typically moni-

See EMS, Page 4A

Crews set to finish burnout operation to contain fire



Smoke rises off Pinnacle Mountain as fire burns on Thursday.

LAUREN PETRACCA/USA TODAY NETWORK

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PICKENS - Smoke cloaked Table Rock State Park all day Thursday as firefighters burned nearly 1,300 acres along the slopes of Table Rock in an effort to

Online

See more photos and coverage of the wildfire at independentmail.com.

area, said Forestry Commission spokesman Russell Hubright, and plans are to finish burning by mid-day Friday.

"Parents have the discretion to keep their children home from school all day, and all absences will be excused," Eby said.

The American Red Cross has opened a shelter at East Pickens Baptist Church in Pickens for families affected by the fire, though most residents not under mandatory evacuation

Haley in Trump's admin could impact state

AMANDA COYNE

THE GREENVILLE NEWS

The appointment of Gov. Nikki Haley or another South Carolina politician to President-elect Donald Trump's cabinet could have a serious impact on the state.

Haley met Thursday with Trump in New York. The governor's office did not say what the pair discussed, but Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster has said Haley is under consideration for multiple cabinet positions, including secretary of state.

If Haley were to join the Trump Administration, McMaster would assume the governorship, a position he has publicly considered running for in 2018. That could mean an advantageous position for McMaster, giving him experience with the job before campaigning begins.

Two candidates — House Speaker Pro Tempore Tommy Pope and former Lt. Gov. Yancey McGill — have already publicly stated their intention to run for the Republican gubernatorial nomination, and multiple others are openly entertaining the idea.

"If he were to do this, he would have two years of experience," said David Woodard, a Clemson University political science professor and Republican political consultant. "But experience has never been a problem for Henry because he has a lot of it. He would be at an advantage when it comes to time and money."

See HALEY, Page 4A



11 PREP TEAMS SET TO KICK OFF PLAYOFFS

SPORTS, B1



PANTHERS HANG ON TO DEFEAT SAINTS, 23-20

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Friday, November 18, 2016



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TODAY SAT SUN



76°/46° 65°/30° 54°/28°

Complete forecast, B8

UPSTATE

Body camera policies vary in departments

More law enforcement agencies are acquiring body-worn cameras to improve documentation and transparency, but a review of policies from local agencies shows wide variations in how cameras are handled. **C1**

BUSINESS



Not saving enough

The American dream of a blissful retirement, free of financial worries, is dying. Most U.S. households are heading for a worse lifestyle in retirement than they had while they were working, because they simply aren't saving enough, experts say. **C4**

NATION & WORLD



Trump attempts to reassure world leaders

Donald Trump sought to reassure nervous leaders around the globe with his most public foray into foreign policy since the election, welcoming Japan's prime minister to Trump Tower on Thursday. **A3**

Obama: Trump must 'stand up' to Russia

President Barack Obama prodded Donald Trump on Thursday to take a tougher approach toward Russia, urging the president-elect to "stand up" to Moscow when

NORTHERN PICKENS WILDFIRE

Crews establish firewall

Progress being made
before windy, dry
cold front arrives

By Bob Montgomery
bob.montgomery@shj.com

Crews have begun burning up to 2,000 acres of forest land in an effort to create a firewall and contain a massive wildfire in Pickens County.

The Pinnacle Mountain fire, the largest mountain wildfire in South Carolina history, entered its eighth day Thursday, having grown from 3,283 acres Wednesday to 3,683 acres the next morning.

By late Thursday afternoon, an additional 1,200 acres had been burned as part of the firewall, bringing the current total to 4,800 acres, S.C. Forestry

SEE FIREWALL, A7



An aerial view of the Pinnacle Mountain fire in northern Pickens County. PHOTO BY S.C. FORESTRY COMMISSION

DOWNTOWN CELEBRATION

Cultural district debuts



Spartanburg artist Ashleigh Shuler installs colorful crocheted discs into the fence at Morgan Square in advance of Thursday's celebration of the Downtown Cultural District. ALEX HICKS JR./SPARTANBURG HERALD-JOURNAL

Yarn project among installations celebrating arts groups in downtown Spartanburg

By Alyssa Mulliger
alyssa.mulliger@shj.com

Spartanburg artist Ashleigh

of the fence.

"It kind of goes with my background in graphic design — what you're not putting

Thursday evening during a celebration in and around Morgan Square with open galleries, live music and public art displays.

going to install them (Thursday), and then the next day she came and dropped them off to me and had crocheted another



SPORTS FAMILIAR GROUND



METRO, 3A Greenville concert vibe hot

The Greenville News

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GREENVILLEONLINE.COM



SURGEON GENERAL: ONE IN 7 OF US WILL SUFFER ADDICTION PAGE 1B



Firefighters fill a fire engine with water from Lake Oolenoy near Table Rock State Park on Thursday.

PHOTOS BY LAUREN PETRACCA/STAFF

PINNACLE BLAZE DELAYS SCHOOL

1,300 acres burned to help contain it

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PICKENS - Smoke cloaked Table Rock State Park all day Thursday as firefighters burned nearly 1,300 acres along the slopes of Table Rock in an effort to contain a historic wildfire.

At 4 p.m., the Pinnacle Mountain fire had burned approximately 4,000 acres, though most of the growth came from a burnout operation to keep the fire from crossing Saluda Road, an official with the state Forestry Commission said.

About 400 acres remain in the burnout area, said Commission spokesman Russell Hubright, and plans are to finish burning by mid-day today.

Meanwhile, Pickens County Schools announced a two-hour delay Friday due to dangerous air quality conditions.

Heavy smoke from the burnout was expected to combine with existing air pollutants to "create dangerous air quality conditions in parts of the county, especially in the morning," said school district spokesman John Eby.

"Parents have the discretion to keep

See BLAZE, Page 6A



A sign outside of a home near the state park expresses gratitude.

Mile-long sewer tunnel planned

Project under downtown
will let Greenville grow

ANGELIA DAVIS
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Next year construction will begin on a \$46 million, mile-long sewer tunnel that will go under Greenville's downtown businesses. The project, known as DIG Greenville and under the guidance of Renewable Water Resources (ReWa), is designed as a solution to Greenville's future sewer needs.

The tunnel will be 100 feet underground and go from Hudson Street to Cleveland Park. It will go under the Reedy River and roughly follow Broad Street from the River Street intersection to Dr. David C. Francis Street and into Cleveland Park. DIG Greenville is described by ReWa as a "wastewater conveyance project that will feature a one-mile long gravity sewer tunnel."

It will be the first tunnel of its magnitude constructed in Greenville and the biggest line project in ReWa's history, said Graham Rich, ReWa's executive director. It's needed, he said, to accommodate growth and development in downtown Greenville.

It's a new technology for Greenville, he said, but has been used in highly urbanized cities such as Charleston.

ReWa's current system for the Reedy Falls Basin, which affects downtown Greenville to Travelers Rest, is nearing capacity, Rich said.

"If nothing is done, economic development would grind to a halt. This project will be able to handle the basin's needs for the next 100 years," Rich said.

It will be a large tunnel and "something to see," said Greenville County Council Vice Chairman Butch Kirven, District 27.

"Growth goes where the infrastructure is, mainly sewer lines, and there are some areas in the county that need to grow. There are other areas that don't need to grow as fast," he said.

"I'm happy to see sewer improvements in the urbanized areas to encourage more infill development and future growth in those locations, and to take some of the pressure off of spreading out into the county in a sprawl type fashion," Kirven said.

See TUNNEL, Page 4A

Judge hears objections, keeps Roof hearing closed

Victims, media plead for transparency in trial

TIM SMITH
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CHARLESTON - One by one, the victims stepped forward Thursday in a Charleston courtroom to address the

Judge Richard Gergel they objected to him closing a competency hearing for the man accused of killing their loved ones.

Some did not understand why the issue had come up after jury selection had begun. Some felt victims had a right to be

gel said his order closing the hearing would remain.

"This is an unusual case, and we want to get it right," the judge said.

Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty for Dylann Roof, 22, who faces 33 federal charges in connection with the murders of nine African-Americans at the church in Charleston in June 2015.

Roof's next hearing Nov. 21 will be to



SPORTS

What you need to know as high school football playoffs begin 18



LOCAL

Catawba Indians halt plans for movie studio on reservation 3A



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The Herald

NICHOLS

'They've lost it all': Nation Ford team helps S.C. town clean up after Hurricane Matthew



The Nation Ford High School football team took 70 people to Nichols last week to help the town clean up from devastating flooding that destroyed nearly all of its 261 homes in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew.

BY BRETT MCCORMICK
bmcormick@heraldonline.com

As John Young sifted through a stranger's belongings last week, he came across a photo of a young girl. Amid the soiled and destroyed contents of an elderly lady's house in Nichols, the partially torn photo felt important. The lady's reaction when Young showed her the picture confirmed it.

"She grabbed on to it and held it like it was the last thing she had," he said.

VIDEO

Visit heraldonline.com to see video of Nation Ford football player John Young talking about his experience helping recovery efforts in Nichols.

Young was one of 70 Nation Ford High School football players who traveled to Nichols the week of Nov. 9 to help the devastated town of 400 people continue to clean up. After Hurricane Matthew passed through in mid-October, rivers in the Pee Dee region of South Carolina rose quickly, in-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL ALLEN

Members of the Nation Ford High School football team pull on haz-mat suits before cleaning out a house destroyed by October flooding in Nichols.

cluding the Lumber River, which passes just east of Nichols. At least seven dams broke upstream and the river's waters rose 17 feet in just a few hours, according to the Associated Press.

The rapid rise left no

time for escaping residents to grab belongings. Nation Ford football coach Michael Allen was told about little old ladies standing on their couches while the water rose and

SEE HELP, 6A



James Robert McClurkin wipes a tear after being released from prison. He spent 43 years locked up for a Chester County crime police now say he did not commit.

PAROLED IN 1973 MURDER CASE

'I am free': Chester man in prison 43 years goes home, still hoping to be exonerated

66

I HAVE BEEN TRYING FOR 39 YEARS FOR THIS CONVICTION, FOR A KILLING THAT I DID NOT DO, TO TRY AND GET SOMEONE, ANYBODY, TO BELIEVE ME. I AM OUT NOW, PAROLED. I AM A FREE MAN. BUT THAT IS NOT THE END. I AM STILL CONVICTED. I WANT TO BE EXONERATED. I DID NOT KILL CLAUDE KILLIAN.

James Robert McClurkin

already in prison in 1977 for a 1973 robbery when he was charged in the Killian case, tried twice, convicted at the second trial, and sentenced to life.

Being on parole means McClurkin still stands convicted of the Killian slaying. The next step, say both McClurkin and his lawyer, is exoneration.

"I have been trying for 39 years ... to get someone, anybody, to believe me," McClurkin said. "I am out now, paroled. I am a free man. But that is not the end. I am still convicted. I want to be exonerated. I did not kill Claude Killian."

Chester County Sheriff Alex Underwood told the South Carolina parole board Oct. 11 that his office had re-opened the case months ago and his detectives found discrepancies in the original investigation. McClurkin and Degraffenreid, it turns out, had alibis, witnesses and more evidence that showed both were not at the crime scene.

A third man charged in the crime who was used by prosecutors as a witness, Melvin "Smokey" Harris, testified in 1977 that McClurkin and De-

PLAYOFFS BEGIN

High school teams
open postseason play, 1B



Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

75¢

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Activities planned for Thanksgiving Day in Aiken

BY DEDE BILES
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Thanksgiving Day in Aiken is a time to mix and mingle outdoors.

Next Thursday's events will include Bloodies and Bagels, held from 9 to 10:30 a.m. on the lawn of the Aiken County Historical Museum.

The Blessing of the Hounds is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. at Memorial Gate in Hitchcock Woods. In addition, One Table, a free community dinner, will take place downtown in The Alley from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Aiken Land Conservancy is the organizer of Bloodies and Bagels. As the event's name suggests, Bloody Mary cocktails and bagels will be served. Coffee also will be available.

There is no charge to attend, but donations will be accepted.

"It's a friendly get-together, and it's a great place to bring house guests or your family and friends on Thanksgiving morning," said Land Conservancy Executive Director Katie Roth. "It helps get the holiday season started off right."

The Historical Museum is at 233 Newberry St. SW, near Hitchcock Woods' South Boundary entrance, which many Blessing of the Hounds spectators use.

The Blessing of the Hounds is part of the Aiken Hounds' opening meet, which is official start of the group's hunt season. Attendees must travel to Memorial Gate by foot, and they shouldn't bring dogs because they might distract the hounds.

No vehicles are permitted beyond the intersection of Laurens Street and South Boundary Avenue at the South Boundary entrance. From that point, residents will walk six-tenths of a mile to Memorial Gate.

The Blessing of the Hounds will last approximately 30 minutes. Senior Joint Master Linda Knox McLean will speak.

"I will give out some awards and thank some people," she said.

Please see **ACTIVITIES**, Page 12A

A higher calling?



AP FILE PHOTO/RAINER EKHARDT

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley has risen in the Republican Party ranks within the past two years and has been mentioned as a secretary of state candidate in Donald Trump's administration.

Some 'optimistic' about S.C. representation in Trump administration

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER
AND CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
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ccleveland@aikenstandard.com

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley met with President-elect Donald Trump on Thursday in Trump Tower in New York City amid news her name has been floated around for secretary of state.

Haley's Deputy Chief of Staff Rob Godfrey said through email Haley was pleased to meet with Trump. "They had a good discussion, and she is very encouraged about the coming administration and the new direction it will bring to Washington," he said.

Haley's name first showed up as a Please see **HALEY**, Page 12A



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND

Mel Minitor, co-owner of Minitor Market, talks about President-elect Donald Trump and whether South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley would make a good choice for secretary of state.

Paint store plans to relocate to Whiskey Road



STAFF PHOTO BY GINNY KUSOVIC

The owner of a Benjamin Moore Paint Store, currently located in down-

BY DAN BROWN
dbrown@aikenstandard.com

Marketplace Paints, a Benjamin Moore Paint Store currently located in downtown Aiken, is in the process of relocating to Whiskey Road, with final plans awaiting City Council approval.

Applicant Market Place Art LLC has sought Council approval to annex the property parcel located at 1212 Whiskey

niense store and renovating the interior to house a Benjamin Moore Paint Store, according to city documents.

Tom Uskup currently owns the paint store at 116 Pendleton Street in downtown Aiken. Uskup told the Aiken Planning Commission on Tuesday he'd like to utilize city sewer and other city services for the new location.

One condition to annex is the requirement of a ground based monument sign, though Uskup indicated

Area deaths

William Allen, Boca Raton, Florida
Walter Dobson Jr., Aiken
Betty Owens, Aiken
Jeanette Sullivan, Aiken
Lester Tate, Aiken
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

Weather




Football playoff preview

Sports, 1B

INDEX-JOURNAL

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2016

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ROAD SAFETY

Deadly wrecks spark SCHP enforcement of speed limit

By DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ
ddominguez@indexjournal.com

Three people have died in less than a month along S.C. Highway 72/U.S. Highway 221, near the border of Greenwood and Laurens counties — all in wrecks along the highway.

"We have realized the fatalities are up in that area," said Lance Cpl. Tony Keller with the S.C. Highway Patrol, "so we will be doing a speed-enforcement initiative in that area."

There's no particular cause Keller could pin the spike of fatal wrecks on, but he said there's a lot that can be done to decrease the likelihood of being involved in one. Having drivers monitor their speeds more closely can reduce the number of speeders along the highway, he said.

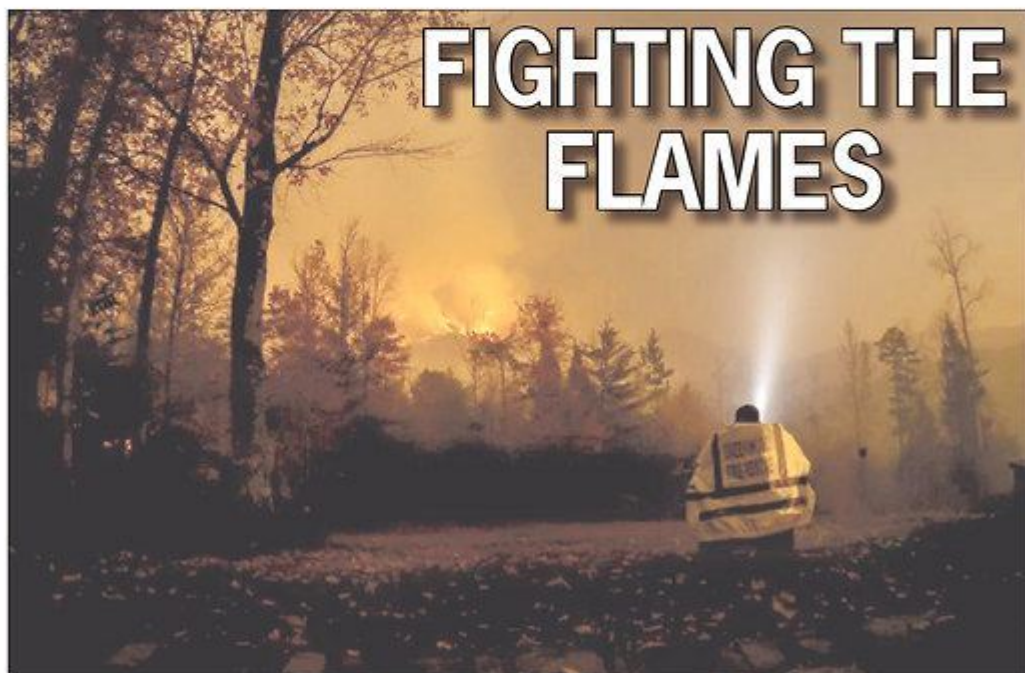
He also said pedestrians who need to walk along the roadway should remember to walk along the left side of the road, while people riding bicycles should travel on the right — in the same direction as traffic.

"Wear reflective clothing," he said. "The whole goal is to save lives."

Keller said the enforcement push along S.C. 72/U.S. 221 will start this weekend, and will continue into December. Troopers will be enforcing the speed limit and setting up safety checkpoints to minimize the risk of wrecks, he said.

During the Thanksgiving holiday and Black Friday traffic, he urged people driving along the highway to do their shopping to keep their speeds low and stay alert — as traffic congestion increases the risk of wrecks.

Contact staff writer Damian Dominguez at 864-634-7548 or follow on Twitter @JJD-DOMINGUEZ.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Fire Marshal Tanner Hall watches the back burning organized by the S.C. Forestry Commission, to help control the blaze at Pinnacle Mountain, according to a post on Greenwood's official city government page on Facebook.

Lakelands firefighters spending days battling Pinnacle Mountain blaze

By DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ
ddominguez@indexjournal.com

An orange glow pushed through the smoke covering Pinnacle Mountain in Pickens County this week — as Lakelands firefighters helped others fight back a more than 2,000-acre blaze.

Firefighters from Greenwood city and county fire departments as well as Laurens and Abbeville county firefighters joined with others from the Lakelands to aid the firefighters from North and South Carolina battling the blaze near Table Rock State Park. Greenwood Fire Chief Terry Strange said the four-man crew he sent with a fire engine has been working to set controlled fires, burning brush that could provide fuel for the spreading fire.

"Their basic responsibility is to handle structure fires," he said. "The backfires that they set are likely

See BLAZE, page 3A



A view of Pinnacle Mountain and Table Rock, taken by a Greenwood Fire Department firefighter, according to a post on Greenwood's official city government page on Facebook.

Health alert

Read how this smoke is affecting air quality on News, 3A.

Saluda administrator awarded assistant principal of the year

By ARIEL GILREATH
agilreath@indexjournal.com

SALUDA — Students at Saluda High School surprised Abbey Duggins, assistant principal for instruction, with the news that she was named the 2017 High School Assistant Principal of the Year for the state with the S.C. Association of School Administrators.

Duggins' family, students and co-workers along with Beth Phibbs,

Phibbs said candidates are nominated before they go through an application and interview process by a panel of people.

"She scored higher in the categories because they saw something in her that was outstanding," Phibbs said.

For Duggins, the award means she will be able to promote a school and district she loves that gets little recognition because of its rural setting. "I'm so proud of our kids," Dug-

in Saluda County, and so I hope that I represent them well."

Duggins was nominated for the award in October and thought she would find out the results after Thanksgiving break. Sarah Longshore, principal of Saluda High, said Duggins will now be entered in the national competition with assistant principals from across the country.

"It is hard to imagine her not being recognized like this for the work that she does," Longshore said. "She does so much for our students and our





Morning News

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Bridges: District One good, 'but we can't be content'

BY MELISSA ROLLINS
Morning News
mrollins@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Florence School District One is doing well but it can always be doing better. That is the message Superintendent Randy Bridges gave during the inaugural State of the Schools Address on Thursday morning at the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology.

"You can talk to anyone in the state of South Carolina about Florence School District One and you'll probably get a pretty common response: It's a good school district," Bridges said. "We're kind of proud of that, but we can't be content there ... you're either moving forward or you're moving back; there is no toeing the line."

Bridges addressed several hundred people, including Florence City Council members and educators from across the district. He outlined for them some of the issues that the district faces and some of its areas of strength.

The challenge areas in-

clude teacher recruitment and retention, race, professional development and instructional delivery.

"We are running out of teachers — South Carolina, North Carolina, institutions up the East Coast," Bridges said. "I don't know where we're going to get them, but we've got to get them, and we've got to make a system that makes Florence even more attractive to teachers."

Strong areas in the district include the partnership with Florence-Darlington Technical College, which

allows students to graduate from high school with a diploma and a two-year associate degree, and the partnership with Francis Marion to produce a magnet school for either the arts or for health sciences.

Addressing the board's decision to look at moving to a true middle school model, Bridges said no decisions have been made, but whatever the outcome, it would be in the best interest of everyone.

"There are a lot of



Randy Bridges, superintendent of Florence School District One, speaks during the inaugural State of the Schools Address on Thursday morning at the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology.

See **BRIDGES**, Page 3A

FMU

Board approves first doctoral degree program

BY MELISSA ROLLINS
Morning News
mrollins@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Francis Marion University is on its way to having its first doctoral degree after the FMU board of trustees approved a doctorate of nursing practice Thursday evening at its quarterly meeting.

"The nursing profession is moving advanced-practice nurses from the master's level to the doctorate level," said Ruth Wittman-Price, dean of the FMU School of Health Sciences. "It is a practice doctorate and levels the playing field within the clinical areas. Many of the other health professions, such as PT (physical therapy), have already moved to the doctorate level."

After the resolution was approved by the Academic Affairs and Accreditation Committee, trustee James Bunch spoke about the historic nature of what they had just done.

"This is a big day, folks," Bunch said. "This is our first doctoral program to come into our university; I am so proud of your work and for all of us. As we continue to have a strong presence in the Pee Dee and across the state, what a wonderful step forward for our university. ... This is going to be wonderful, especially for the Pee Dee as we struggle to find medical professionals to come to this part of the world. Those of us who live here understand its need and Francis Marion is definitely meeting a wonderful need for our people."

After the committee meeting, the resolution went before the full board and received unanimous approval. The proposed doctorate must face state approval before the program can be implemented.

The university added the master's in nursing, both nursing educators

'Compassion and service'

McLeod Health marks 110 years



Jeannette Charles Glenn and Buddy Brand listen as Dr. Dale Lusk reads a historical marker unveiled Thursday evening on West Cheves Street to mark the site of the original McLeod Infirmary. Behind Lusk is Dr. Alva Whitehead.

Infirmary became system of seven hospitals, over 90 medical practices

BY JOE PERRY
Morning News
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FLORENCE — One hundred and ten years ago Dr. Frank

H. McLeod opened his namesake infirmary in a remodeled house on West Cheves Street.

Today, McLeod Health encompasses a 15-county region from the Pee Dee to the

coast and down into Clarendon County with seven hospitals and more than 90 medical practices to serve a patient population of one million people. A historical

marker was unveiled early Thursday next to the Florence County Museum as McLeod Health celebrates its

See **MCLEOD**, Page 3A

Florence County

Council nears tax agreement for Honda expansion

BY JOSHUA LLOYD

on Honda's announcement of a \$45 mil- Wallace and the railroad.

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County school district No. 1 in the state

From Staff Reports

DARLINGTON — Darlington County School District (DCSD) ranked No. 1 in four-year graduation rate in South Carolina in 2016, according to data released today by the S.C. Department of Education (SCDE).

DCSD students graduated at a rate of 94.5 percent, an increase of more than two percent from 2015. The state average was 82.6 percent.

Within DCSD, Mayo High School for Math, Science and Technology again posted a 100 percent graduation rate. Lamar

High School's graduation rate was 98.3 percent, Darlington High School's rate was 95.1 percent, and Hartsville High School's rate was 91.5 percent. Darlington High saw an increase to its graduation rate of nearly four percent, while Hartsville High's rate rose by nearly three percent.

The data came as part of the SCDE's release of 2015-16 state report cards for schools and districts. The layouts for this year's report cards have received an extensive overhaul from last year in order to provide the public a modern and streamlined dashboard of information, according

to SCDE.

Report cards are designed to provide a progress report on how schools and districts are performing on the World Class Knowledge, Skills and Characteristics outlined in the Profile of the

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 7A

Tonight's Cabaret is sold out

BY ARDIE ARVIDSON
aarvidson@hartsvillimesseenger.com

Billed as a talent show like no other, Black Creek Art Council's Cabaret on Friday night will feature music, dance, stand-up comedy, dramatizations and more.

A one-night only fundraising performance, Cabaret is already sold out. Cabaret is one of the largest annual fundraising events for Black Creek Arts and is sponsored this year by Carolina Bank. Food will be provided by Lighter Side.

According to the director, Alissa Spittle, there will be nine sketches and four or five musical sets.

"This is my fourth year directing," Spittle said.

She describes Cabaret as "slightly risqué." She said it is definitely for an adult audience. "The night is much like a late night show," she said.

"The skits, inspired by 'Saturday Night Live,' 'The Carol Burnett Show' and the like, run between four to eight minutes each."

The sets include an old New York City pub, spacecraft, a privileged couples' dinner table and others.

"The lineup is intentionally indiscriminate to keep the audience engaged with a random mix of short sketches and musical numbers, alternating on one of three stages set around the gallery," she said. "It is fast-paced, nonstop action."

The musical numbers include originals, folk, Broadway and classic rock.

This is Spittle's fourth year directing Cabaret, and she said it is the first year since she started that they don't have anyone new to the stage. There are 13 performers.

She said one of the reasons it is so

See **CABARET**, Page 3A

PHOTOS BY ARDIE ARVIDSON/HARTSVILLE MESSENGER

Darlington County math and science teachers participated in the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics' Portable Advanced STEM Exploration (PASE) training at Darlington Middle School on Tuesday. The hands-on training was sponsored by Duke Energy.

Math, science teachers receive PASE training

Shemel J. Thomas, seventh-grade science teacher at Hartsville Middle School (left), Tracey L. Mosby, eighth-grade science teacher at Darlington Middle School, and Pansy B. Ezkiel (right), 9-12 teacher at Timmonsville High School, show Mindy Taylor of Duke Energy one of the experiments they were working on during the PASE training on Tuesday at the Darlington Middle School.

BY ARDIE ARVIDSON
aarvidson@hartsvillimesseenger.com

Fifteen Darlington County math and science teachers are participating in the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics' Portable Advanced STEM Exploration (PASE) training at Darlington Middle School.

The new education partnership between GSSM and the Darlington County School District has been made possible through Duke Energy's sponsorship.

Middle and high school math and science teachers across the district are engaged in this innovative,

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