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The Post and Courier

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Friday, December 30, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Slager retrial scheduled for March 1



Slager

State proceedings in Scott shooting case to take place ahead of federal trial, which is set for May 1

BY ANDREW KNAPP
aknapp@postandcourier.com

The state's retrial of former police officer Michael Slager was set Thursday for March 1, two months before a federal civil rights

proceeding is slated to begin.

Slager's first murder trial in Walter Scott's shooting death ended earlier this month in a mistrial, but 9th Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson vowed to retry him promptly. It was unclear until Thursday, though, how soon

that might happen.

After a deadlocked jury couldn't decide whether to convict Slager, 35, of murder or voluntary manslaughter, or to acquit him, the focus shifted to the separate case in U.S. District Court, where the former North Charleston patrolman is charged with violating Scott's civil rights, lying to authorities and using a firearm in a violent crime. A federal judge last week set the trial's start date at May 1 after discussions with prosecutors

and Slager's defense team.

Wilson, meanwhile, expressed hope that the state's retrial would be scheduled "sooner rather than later."

Circuit Judge Clifton Newman's order setting the March start date came late Thursday afternoon. State Rep. Justin Bamberg, an attorney for Scott's family, said he was not surprised by the move.

Please see **SLAGER**, Page A7

Chanukah shines light on love, unity

Hundreds join downtown Charleston celebration featuring message of inclusion



WADE SPEEDS/STAFF

After the menorah lighting, Pat Votava joined others singing the Jewish liturgical poem "Ma'oz Tzur (Rock of Ages)" on Thursday during the Chanukah in the Square celebration in Charleston's Marion Square.

BY GREGORY YEE
gyee@postandcourier.com

Marcus Kronick smiled as he held his plate of latkes and applesauce at the Chanukah in the Square celebration.

The holiday is one of the West Ashley resident's favorite times of year.

"It's hope," Kronick said. "It's celebrating being free. It's about having fun."

Kronick was one of hundreds of people who attended the event

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

Thursday night at Marion Square in downtown Charleston. The 12th annual Chanukah in the Square featured free food, live music and children's activities. Dr. Ruth Westheimer was one of several speakers and Holocaust survivors Diny Adkins, Joe Engel and Rose

Goldberg helped light the menorah along with Mayor John Tecklenburg.

"It's just a great opportunity for people all throughout the community to come together," said Mark Swick, liaison for the Yashik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program at the College of Charleston.

The program helped put on the celebration along with Chabad of Charleston and the Low Country and the city's Office of Cultural Affairs.

"Chanukah is the Festival of

Lights, and it signifies or commemorates the rededication of the Temple in ancient Jerusalem, but really, it's just a great opportunity for the Jewish community to come together ... to celebrate being Jewish and also to celebrate being together in our larger community," Swick said. "That's something that Charleston has done so (well) as far as being the Holy City and a city that has a deep history with the Jewish community."

Please see **CHANUKAH**, Page A9

Hacking will cost Russia

Obama retaliates with sanctions

BY TAMI ABDOLLAH
and JOSH LEDERMAN
Associated Press

HONOLULU — In a sweeping response to election hacking and other bad behavior, President Barack Obama on Thursday sanctioned Russian intelligence services and their top officials, kicked out 35 Russian officials and shuttered two Russian-owned compounds in the U.S. It was the strongest action the Obama administration has taken to date to retaliate for a cyberattack.

"All Americans should be alarmed by Russia's actions," Obama said, adding, "Such activities have consequences."

Please see **RUSSIA**, Page A9

New Roof hearing Monday

Competency review to precede penalty phase

BY GLENN SMITH
gsmith@postandcourier.com

A federal judge has ordered another competency hearing for Emanuel AME Church shooter Dylann Roof for Monday, just one day before the penalty phase of the convicted killer's hate crimes trial is set to begin.

The move came a day after the 22-year-old white supremacist reaffirmed his decision to represent himself during the penalty phase, where a jury will decide whether to sentence him to death or a life prison term for killing nine black worshippers at the historic church in June 2015.

Please see **ROOF**, Page A9

BIRMINGHAM BOWL
USF 46 | USC 39

Gamecocks fight back to bring game into OT but fall to Bulls in the end 18

Wide receiver Deebo Samuel walks off the field Thursday after USC's loss to South Florida.



GERRY MELLENZ gmelendez@thestate.com

FRIDAY DECEMBER 30 2016

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YESTERDAY: HI 71 LO 45 PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 0.25"
FORECAST: 2A

The State

FIESTA BOWL

CLEMSON (12-1) VS. OHIO STATE (11-1) | 7 P.M. SATURDAY | GLENDALE, ARIZ. | TV: ESPN | LINE: OSU BY 3

ABOUT ROBERT ARIALL

Robert Ariall is the editorial cartoonist for The State newspaper. His syndicated work is published in more than 600 newspapers. Ariall has been honored with top awards of the Overseas Press Club, the National Press Foundation, the United Nations and the Society of Professional Journalists, among others. He is a three-time finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. The State is South Carolina's capital city newspaper.

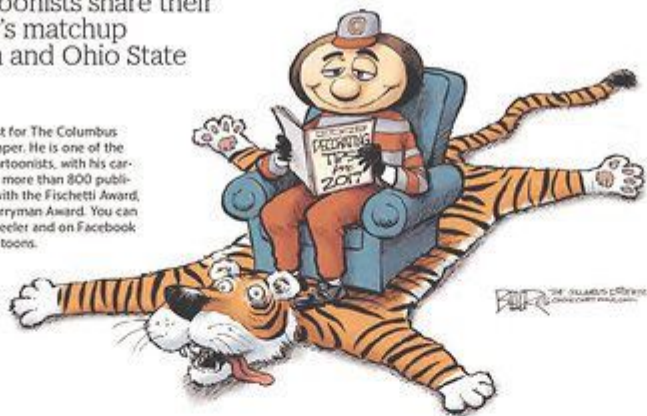


Fiesta Bowl Showdown

Two editorial cartoonists share their takes on Saturday's matchup between Clemson and Ohio State

ABOUT NATE BEELER

Nate Beeler is editorial cartoonist for The Columbus Dispatch, Ohio's capital city newspaper. He is one of the most widely syndicated editorial cartoonists, with his cartoons distributed internationally to more than 800 publications. Beeler has been honored with the Fischetti Award, the Thomas Nast Award and the Berryman Award. You can follow Beeler on Twitter at @natebeeler and on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/beelercartoons>.



Watson will go down as a legend at Clemson



HURRICANE MATTHEW RECOVERY

Feds say SC to get \$65M

■ The Palmetto State can use the \$65 million to rebuild housing, invest in economic revitalization and repair infrastructure damaged by the storm that battered the S.C. coast Oct. 8.

BY AVERY G. WILKS
awilks@thestate.com

South Carolina will get more than \$65 million in federal aid to help pay for long-term recovery from Hurricane Matthew.

The state plans to use the money to rebuild and replace housing damaged by the storm that churned along the S.C. coast Oct. 8.

Officials from the reeling Pee Dee town of Nichols say the money could be a godsend.

The \$65 million from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department is part of a \$2.3 billion aid package for states hit hard by disasters in 2016.

It is one of the largest sources of long-term federal aid South Carolina can expect after Hurricane Matthew.

"Our team worked quickly to make sure these funds reach the communities most impacted by a major disaster this year," HUD Secretary Julian Castro said in a statement. "We'll do everything we can to support the people and places still struggling to rebuild."

Earlier this spring, South Carolina was given nearly \$157 million through the same housing program to pay for recovery from the historic October 2015 storm and subsequent flooding.

Money from that grant will help the state's poorest storm victims by paying to repair houses, replace mobile homes and offer temporary rental assistance, state

SEE RECOVERY, 8A

FIESTA BOWL

SECOND CHANCES

The Greenville News

FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 30, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY US SANCTIONS TARGET RUSSIAN INTELLIGENCE PAGE 1B

New competency hearing set for Roof

TONYA MAXWELL
TMAXWELL@CITIZEN-TIMES.COM

Dylann Roof, convicted of killing nine people in a Charleston church, will undergo a second hearing to determine if he is competent to stand trial, this one just ahead of a sentencing phase where jurors will decide whether he should receive life in prison or death.

Standby counsel for Roof, 22, filed a motion under seal Thursday asking that U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel determine whether the defendant is competent to proceed. Gergel granted that motion and scheduled the competency hearing for Monday, with jurors expected to reconvene for the sentencing phase Tuesday.

The motion came one day af-

ter a presentencing hearing during which Roof again said he would represent himself in the sentencing phase of the trial. He told the court he plans to offer an opening statement, but will not call witnesses or submit evidence in his defense.

Earlier this month, a federal jury in Charleston found the admitted white supremacist guilty of 33 federal counts, many of

them related to hate crimes and obstruction of religion, in the June 2015 attack at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church. All nine parishioners killed were African-American.

Jury selection was set to begin in November, but was postponed after defense attorneys for Roof asked for a competency evaluation, one that was requested against Roof's wishes and af-

ter he had asked to represent himself in court.

Following two days of closed-door testimony, Gergel found Roof could understand the nature of the trial as well as its consequences and allowed the case to proceed with the defendant representing himself.

Through jury selection, Roof

See ROOF, Page 4A

THE GREENVILLE NEWS PHOTO OF THE YEAR



Greenville Police Officer Josh Tankersley carries Jaiden Kennedy, 3, during a Black Lives Matter rally in Greenville on July 8. Demonstrators marched for miles through temperatures in the upper 90s.

An endearing image during Black Lives Matter rally

In 2016 our photojournalists chronicled a year marked by a bitterly divisive presidential campaign that split our country, and a series of tragedies that took a toll on our community.

We mourned the killing of Greenville Police Officer Alen Jacobs in March and the September shooting at Townville Elementary that took the life of "God's strongest soldier," 6-year-old Jacob Hall. The discovery in November of Kala Brown, 30, "chained up like a dog" inside a metal shipping container and three bodies buried nearby left us grappling to explain inexplicable evil and horrified to learn a serial killer might have been living among us. Wildfire raged across Pinnacle Mountain, threatening lives and property. A tornado touched down near Simpsonville, and a

try to protest the killings of black men at the hands of law enforcement officers.

Our photojournalists documented all these events and more during the year, but it was during one of these protests on July 8 that photographer Lauren Petracea captured an image that reminded us of our shared humanity and our ability to come together as a community.

As marchers made their way up Greenville's Main Street during a Black Lives Matter rally, Greenville Police Officer Josh Tankersley stopped to scoop up 3-year-old Jaiden Kennedy in his arms and carry him along the route. In a brief, little-noticed act of compassion, Tankersley reminded us of how much we have in common and our ability to respect each other and our differences while working to-

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Bennett's a winner on coast of Florida

Christ Church grad's college team is No. 1

BOB CASTELLO
BCASTELLO@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

Shayla Bennett is still on a team that's No. 1, still on a team that does a lot of winning.

"I try not to lose," Bennett said last week while home on break, in between academic and athletic schedules at Gulf Coast State College in Panama City, Florida.

Bennett, a 2016 Christ Church graduate, led the Cavaliers to a 53-5 record and back-to-back Class A state championships in her junior and senior seasons.

She was the Class A state player of the year as a junior, a two-time Greenville County Player of the Year and The Greenville News All-Upstate Player of the Year as a senior.

Bennett signed a National Letter of Intent with the University of North Carolina but had an issue with her SAT score.

"It wasn't matching my (grade-point average)," she said. Division I uses a sliding scale

See BENNETT, Page 4A



PHOTOGRAPH BY FILE PHOTO



USC FALLS IN OVERTIME

Bulls beat Gamecocks 46-39 in Birmingham Bowl **1B**

Independent Mail

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2016

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

Sheriff-elect takes oath of office

But McBride to assume Anderson County post Jan. 3

MIKE ELLIS
MIKE.ELLIS@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

Chad McBride's youngest daughter, 2-year-old Gracie James, lost her shoe in her rush to be beside him Thursday evening as he took the oath of office for the Anderson County's sheriff post.

"We rehearsed that all day," McBride joked.

He will become sheriff at the stroke of midnight at the start of Jan. 3, which will make him the chief law enforcement officer in a department of around 450 employees including office staff, support personnel and deputies.

McBride is required to take the oath before assuming office, but John Skipper remains the sheriff until the first moments of Jan. 3.

On a stage at Anderson University's Henderson Auditorium, McBride was joined for a swearing-in ceremony Thursday by several pastors he said would help hold him accountable.

"My faith is very important to me," he said. "It's who I am, it's part of my life."

He took the oath on a stage on a Bible that belonged to his father, who died while McBride was a freshman at the university.

"This Bible is very important to me,"

McBride said.

He said he wished his father could see him become sheriff, but Brent McBride was certainly watching over him Thursday.

McBride echoed words spoken by the pastors, who emphasized the role of service as a public official and as a man of faith.

The Rev. Brad Cooper worked with McBride at NewSpring Church when McBride was head of security there, a role he left when he ran for office.

Cooper said he and McBride shared a moment a year and a half ago when Cooper realized that McBride had a calling to

See SHERIFF, Page 7A



KATIE MCLEAN/INDEPENDENT MAIL
Anderson County Sheriff-elect Chad McBride takes the oath of office Thursday.



Alex Bina, left, Gregory Batt and John Desjardins use a linear drop tower with a head model for their football helmet facemask tests.

Clemson researchers push limits of football facemasks

Study aims to set new standards for sport's safety

DAN HOPE
DANIEL.HOPE@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

Could a better facemask decrease head injuries in football?

Researchers at Clemson University believe it can, but first they need to figure out exactly what

met has on the helmet's performance," Desjardins said.

Desjardins, Batt and doctoral student Alex Bina are working to develop new standards for testing facemasks, with the hopes of eventually designing a facemask that provides better protection while allowing for optimum performance.

More Clemson coverage

Visit independentmail.com and orangeandwhite.com and see today's Sports section for coverage of Clemson football

2016 race headlines show gains, struggles

Political rhetoric, police brutality ramp up division

ERRIN HAINES WHACK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

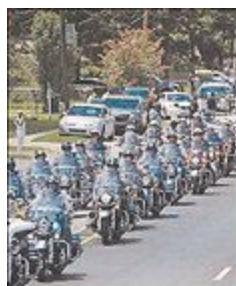
Of the many events marking the closing year of Barack Obama's time as the nation's first black president, none had deeper resonance than his opening of the National Museum of African-American History and Culture on the National Mall. Tracing the history of black America from its dark beginnings in human bondage to Obama's historic election, the museum has already welcomed more than 600,000 visitors.

"It is a monument, no less than the others on this mall, to the deep and abiding love for this country and the ideals upon which it is founded. For we, too, are America," the president said that day in September.

The opening was a watershed cultural moment for many African-Americans, including some who lived through an era when they were unable to cast a ballot. And the highs and lows depicted within the museum's walls echoed in the progress and struggles of minorities in America during the past 12 months.

Many in the African-American, Muslim, Latino and LGBT communities watched the presidential election with alarm as Republican Donald Trump ascended to party nominee, then president-elect. Trump's rhetoric — including his reference to Mexican

See RACE, Page 5A



DANGEROUS YEAR FOR POLICE COMING TO END

NATION & WORLD, A8



GAMECOCKS FALL SHORT IN BOWL SHOOTOUT

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Friday, December 30, 2016



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Complete forecast, B10

ELECTION HACKING

US sanctions Russia

By Josh Lederman
and Tami Abdollah
The Associated Press

HONOLULU — The United States struck back Thursday at Russia for hacking the U.S. presidential campaign with a sweeping set of punishments targeting Russia's spy agencies and diplomats. The U.S. said Russia must bear costs for its actions, but Moscow called the Obama administration "losers"

and threatened retaliation.

A month after an election the U.S. says Russia tried to sway for Donald Trump, President Barack Obama sanctioned the GRU and FSB, leading Russian intelligence agencies the U.S. said were involved. Those sanctions could easily be pulled back by Trump, who has insisted that Obama and Democrats are merely attempting to delegitimize his election.

In an elaborately coordinated

response by at least five federal agencies, the Obama administration also sought to expose Russia's cyber tactics with a detailed technical report and hinted it might still launch a covert counterattack.

"All Americans should be alarmed by Russia's actions," Obama said, adding, "Such activities have consequences."

He said the response wasn't over and the U.S. could take further, covert action — a thinly

veiled reference to a counter-strike in cyberspace the U.S. has been considering.

Trump issued a statement saying it was "time for our country to move on to bigger and better things." Yet in the face of newly public evidence, he suggested he was keeping an open mind.

"In the interest of our country and its great people, I will meet

SEE RUSSIA, A7

UPSTATE



Judge orders another evaluation of Roof

A judge ordered another competency exam for Charleston church shooter Dylann Roof, who faces the death penalty for killing nine black parishioners last year. **C3**

Legislators could begin tackling ID issue

South Carolina might be taking steps to conform with federal Real ID standards just a month before the state's refusal threatens to disrupt citizens' access to military bases. **C1**

NATION/WORLD



Republicans hope to overhaul Medicaid

When President-elect Donald Trump takes office in January, Republicans will have the opportunity to pull off something they have wanted to do for years — overhaul Medicaid, the program that provides health care to tens of millions of lower-income and disabled Americans. **A3**

Minimum wage hike

Workers in 19 states will see an increase in the minimum wage

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Her memory lives through them



The story of 19-year-old Ashton Hughes touched the lives of many when she crashed her car leaving a prenatal doctor's appointment in January 2015. Doctors were able to deliver her twin babies moments before Hughes died from crash-related injuries. The fraternal twins, Brantley and Ashton, are now almost 2 and are healthy and happy in the care of Hughes' parents, Tonya Hughes holds the twins as they play at the Hughes home in Enoree on Thursday morning. **TIM KIMZEY/SPARTANBURG HERALD-JOURNAL PHOTOS**



Ashton lies on a pillow printed with photos of her mother at the Hughes home in Enoree on Thursday morning.



A plaque commemorates the life of Ashton Hughes.

Twins of mother killed in crash

appointment on Jan. 6, 2015.

The 19-year-old was rushed to the hospital, and doctors were

children are thriving — dancing, singing, playing and smiling like most other toddlers.

CHECKING IN

This week the Herald-

WITHIN REACH

Gamecocks rally, fall short in OT

Sports, 1B



RIVALRY REVISITED: Greenwood, Emerald face off for tournament championship, 1B

INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 94, NO. XXX

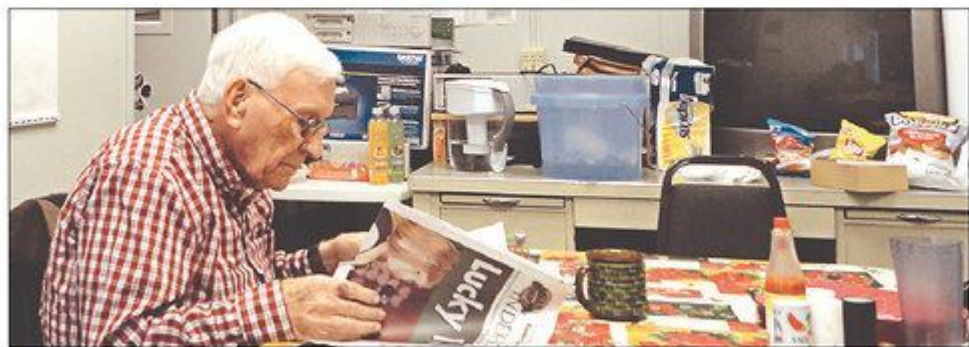
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2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2016

DAILY \$1, SUNDAY \$1.50

LOOKING BACK | IN MEMORIAM



Sen. John Drummond sits in his office while reading the Index-Journal.

INDEX-JOURNAL (FILE)

EDUCATION SHORTAGES

WANTED: Bus drivers for schools

By ARIEL GILREATH
agilreath@indexjournal.com

One of the most difficult positions to consistently fill in a school district is the bus driver, which Lakelands districts have a shortage of nearly year-round.

Because bus drivers have a list of credentials they must meet as well as the responsibility of managing students, school district administrators say it's difficult to find people willing to take the job on.

Sherwin Johnson, director of federal programs, student services and transportation in Abbeville County School District, said the bus driver shortage is a complex issue with many factors.

"Bus drivers are required to meet the same Commercial Driver's License requirements under the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Act, as other charter bus drivers, plus they have to maintain the certification by the South Carolina Department of Education," Johnson said. "As a result, there is extensive training before they can start driving — this is a good thing because they are charged with transporting precious cargo — however, it does require a substantial level of commitment just in training."

On top of the added licenses and training, bus drivers must pass all of the tests required of every public school district employee.

"Add to this the medical physicals, background checks, and pre-employment drug test they have to pass, (and) the whole process is quite involved and time consuming," Johnson said.

In 2015, Greenwood County School District 50 paid bus drivers \$11.86 an hour, Greenwood County School District 52 paid drivers \$11.46 an hour and Abbeville County School District paid them \$10.82 an hour. Greenwood County School District 51 approved a pay increase for bus drivers in 2015 from \$8.81 an hour to \$11.41 an hour in order to stay competitive.

Fay Sprouse, superintendent of District 51, was a student bus driver several years ago and said not only are the requirements intimidating, but so is being a successful driver.

"Most of us are constantly searching for drivers and yes, it is competitive for that reason," Sprouse said.

The drivers could have as many as 72 students on one regular size bus, and Sprouse said it can be difficult to manage behavior without any immediate threat of punishment.

See DRIVERS, page 3A

2016's LOSSES

Several big names among those who died this year

From staff reports



BILLY O'DELL



NORVAL DAVIS



CHRIS SIZEMORE



GEORGE BALLENTINE

In 2016, the world mourned the loss of many notable people — from David Bowie to Gene Wilder, from Muhammad Ali to John Glenn.

The Lakelands was also not immune to loss this year. Below are just some of the people who changed their communities for the better.

Sen. Billy O'Dell

Born in Ware Shoals in 1938, state Sen. Billy O'Dell had a 27-year career in the Senate where he rallied for each of the three counties he represented until he died Jan. 7 at age 77.

Remembered as a Southern statesman, O'Dell was known as a champion of the arts who led the fight to override vetoes that affected funding for the South Carolina Arts Commission and helped secure state funding for local entities such as the Greenwood Genetic Center.

Those who served with O'Dell, who left the Democratic party when control of Senate flipped, saw him as a mentor.

O'Dell had a huge presence in Ware Shoals not only as a senator, but as the CEO of the O'Dell Corp., which O'Dell's father started as a mop, broom and dust mop manufacturing company after returning from serving in World War II. He also served in several positions within the Ware Shoals community, including as chamber president and school board member.

A 1960 graduate of The Citadel, O'Dell had several committee assignments as a senator, including Banking and Insurance; Finance; and

Labor, Commerce and Industry.

He left behind a widow, Aedra Gayle Tisdale, and his two children, William B. and Patricia Michelle.

Sen. John Drummond

Often called "Bulldog" for how fierce he fought for those he represented, state Sen. John Drummond represented Greenwood and Abbeville counties for 42 years in the state Senate after a two-year stint in the House of Representatives.

He died Sept. 3 at his home in Ninety Six. He was 96.

Born in the Ninety Six Mill Village in 1919, Drummond served in World War II and was a prisoner of war in Germany for 10 months after his P-47 Thunderbolt named "Hot Raid Mama" went down in France.

After returning home from war, he tried his hand at business, briefly running a doughnut shop before running two successful companies in Greenwood — Drummond Oil Company and Greenwood Petroleum Company.

In 1996, he was elected president pro tempore — the highest position in the Senate — and a bipartisan group of his colleagues created the president pro tempore emeritus title for the long-time Democrat in 2001 when Republicans took control of the chamber and cost him the president pro tempore position.

Drummond has received a number of awards both from the military and the statehouse, including a Distinguished Flying Cross, two



JOE MANN



VIRGIL DRISKILL



MARGARET SCHEIBLER



HENDERSON LOUDON JR.

See LOSSES, page 4A

SPORTS

Winthrop men win
84-68 at Charleston
Southern 1B



STATE

Billy Graham
again among men
most admired by
Americans 3A



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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2016

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Sunny and crisp
47°/25° See X

The Herald

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BOWL MANIA IN FULL SWING

South Carolina's
Deebo Samuel, left, catches a pass for one of his two touchdowns against South Florida in the Birmingham Bowl on Thursday. The Gamecocks rallied from 18 points down to force overtime. But the Bulls scored first in the extra session and made it stand for 46-39 win. See page 1B for more on the game.



BUTCH DILL, AP



WATT YORK AP

Clemson head coach Dabo Swinney speaks during the Fiesta Bowl media day Thursday in Scottsdale, Ariz. Clemson will face Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl at 7 p.m. Saturday on ESPN, with a chance to play for the national title on the line. See page 1B for more on the game.



In this 2015 photo, York County Sheriff Bruce Bryant speaks at a news conference at the Statehouse in Columbia. In January, he will retire from law enforcement after 45 years of service, then he plans to enter the state political arena.

YORK COUNTY SHERIFF

Bryant eyes public office as retirement plan

BY DAVID THACKHAM
dthackham@heraldonline.com

from his beloved wife, Blanche. After 45 years in law enforcement - the last 20 of them as

about it. I'm thinking 'Am I going to wake up in the morning and not have anything to do?'

“
HE WON OVER A LOT
OF PEOPLE VERY
QUICKLY.”

David Hamilton,
York County clerk of court

York Police Department, the State Law Enforcement Division and the York County Sheriff's Office.

"I'm sitting around at these stump speeches with my family and a few friends, but (Bryant) had this big gathering of people where he went," Hamilton said.

RUSSIAN CYBERATTACK

Hacking response involves sanctions

BY DAVID E. SANGER
New York Times

WASHINGTON

The Obama administration struck back at Russia on Thursday for its efforts to influence the 2016 election, ejecting 35 Russian intelligence operatives from the United States and imposing sanctions on Russia's two leading intelligence services.

The administration also sanctioned four top officers of one of those services, the military intelligence unit known as the GRU, which the White House believes ordered the attacks on the Democratic National Committee and other political organizations.

The expulsion of the 35 diplomats was in response to the harassment of U.S. diplomats in Russia, officials said. But some individuals involved are believed to be linked to the hacking, according to two officials briefed on the intelligence. In addition, the State Department announced closure of two "recreational facilities" - one in New York, another in Maryland - that it said were used for Russian intelligence activities, although officials would not say whether they were specifically used in the election-related hacks.



Obama

2016 COUNTDOWN

Top local living
stories of the year, 1C



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FRIDAY, December 30, 2016

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 150, No. 363 || AIKEN, S.C.

Year's biggest headlines: Part 1

Top local stories of 2016

BY STAFF REPORTS
editorial@aikenstandard.com

It has been a wild ride in the news in 2016.

This year's top 10 stories appearing in the *Aiken Standard* ran the gamut from politics to crime to failed park developments. From Aiken's downtown developments to high school standouts to a ballpark and a new shopping mall.

The *Aiken Standard* staff takes a look back at the top news stories impacting readers over the past 12 months, starting with stories 10 through 6 today, and the top five stories Saturday.

No. 10: N.A. mayor does not seek re-election

North Augusta Mayor Lark Jones announced in early December that he will not seek re-election in the upcoming year's Municipal Election.

Jones has been the mayor of North Augusta since being elected in 1997. His term will officially end May 1, 2017. Prior to serving as the City's mayor, Jones served on North Augusta City Council from 1985 to 1997.

After the announcement, North Augusta City Administrator Todd Glover and Councilman Fletcher Dickert weighed in on Jones' impact on the city during his time as mayor.

"It's funny, Lark and I always joke about he was first elected to City Council the year I was born," said Dickert, who was elected to Council in 2013. "Having done it for three and a half years, I have a huge appreciation for Lark doing it 10 times that long. He's been in public service my entire life serving the citizens of North Augusta."

Glover said the city has been able to thrive during Jones' tenure, and part of that is due to the stability Jones created at the top through his 20 years as mayor.

"I think it has been stability. A lot of the reason the city has been able to thrive is stability in its leadership position," Glover said. "Just him being there that long provided consistency throughout that time."

Please see LOCAL, Page 12A.



AP PHOTO/PAUL SANCIYA

No. 6: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a South Carolina Republican primary night event in Spartanburg on Feb. 20. President-elect Trump spent time campaigning in the Aiken area prior to his win over Hillary Clinton.



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY NICK TERRY

No. 10: North Augusta Mayor Lark Jones announced in December he won't seek re-election in next year's Municipal Election.



NORTH AUGUSTA DPS VIA AP

No. 9: This screen shot from dashboard camera video, provided by the North Augusta Department of Public Safety, shows former North Augusta police officer Justin Craven outside the vehicle of Ernest Satterwhite in his driveway Feb. 9, 2014, after Satterwhite led police trying to stop him for drunken driving on a 13-minute chase. Craven was sentenced to three years of probation but no time behind bars for the killing of 68-year-old Satterwhite.

Area deaths

Adriene B. Huffman, Columbia
John Guss, Aiken
Robert Baris, Aiken
W.C. "Sandy" Sanders, Graniteville

Deaths and Funerals, 6A

Weather

Final goodbye: Roll call of who died in 2016

BY BERNARD MCGHEE
Associated Press

Death claimed transcendent political figures in 2016, including Cuba's

music, from Prince and David Bowie to George Michael.

Embracing Soviet-style communism, Fidel Castro, who died in November, overcame imprisonment and



Have a Happy New Year from everyone at The Hartsville Messenger.

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scnow.com

State still wrestles with Real ID law

BY JEFF WILKINSON
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COLUMBIA — South Carolina might be taking steps to conform with federal Real ID standards just a month before the state's refusal threatens to disrupt citizens' access to military bases.

Beginning on Jan. 30, visitors, delivery people and workers without U.S. Department of Defense identification will not be able to use their state driver's licenses to gain entry to installations such as Fort Jackson in Columbia and Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter — unless the federal Department of Homeland Security grants another exemption to

the ID standards. Without one, visitors will have to show another form of federally acceptable identification, primarily a passport, to gain entry to the bases.

In January 2018, S.C. driver's licenses would no longer be accepted to board an airplane anywhere in the nation or enter a secured federal building like the Matthew Perry Federal Courthouse in Columbia, unless the exemption is extended. While an extension has been granted for five years, the Department of Homeland Security has threatened not to grant another one.

"We've been tiptoeing around a huge nightmare," said state Sen. Thomas McElveen, D-Sumter,

whose district includes Shaw.

Bills pre-filed in both the S.C. House and Senate would begin the process of making the state's driver's licenses comply with such requirements as an eight-year federal renewal period, rather than the 10-year state period.

McElveen said he pre-filed the Senate bill as a first step in addressing the issue. Homeland security officials met with key state leaders Dec. 5 and outlined a path toward a possible extension.

The senator said he was sympathetic to fears that a national identification card would lead to intrusive government surveillance.

"But it's come back to haunt us," he said. "At some point, you have to cut your losses and move on."

Congress passed the Real ID Act in reaction to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The idea behind the law was that secure, modern identification should be consistent across the country, and it should be linked to the data the individual used to get the driver's license.

But many states, including South Carolina, passed laws prohibiting Department of Motor Vehicle officials from complying with the Real ID requirements. The thought was the federal government was overstepping its

authority by requiring what the states considered to be a national identification card.

State Sen. Paul Campbell, R-Berkeley, is co-sponsoring the Senate bill with McElveen. Campbell is chief executive of the Charleston County Aviation Authority, which operates the Charleston International Airport and two smaller general aviation airports in the Lowcountry.

Campbell said he, too, was sensitive to fears of federal intrusion. But the lack of compliance would heavily impact the nearly 2 million people who fly out of Charleston each year.

See **REAL ID**, Page 4A

Legislators push for more moped safety in SC

BY AVERY G. WILKS
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COLUMBIA — As S.C. moped-related collisions and deaths continue to rise, a group of state lawmakers plans to take another swing at moped laws they call slack and loop-hole-ridden.

State Sen. Greg Hembree, R-Horry, and state Rep. Bill Crosby, R-Charleston, have revived a wide-sweeping, two-dozen-page moped safety proposal that nearly became state law last summer.

"Nothing has changed except more people have died," Hembree said. S.C. moped-related deaths reached a five-year high last year, and early data indicates 2016 will see no substantial drop-off. "I'm trying to get it pushed through as fast as we can."

Require helmets or safety vests?

Hembree and Crosby have pre-filed bills in each state House chamber that would require moped drivers to register with the Department of Motor Vehicles, follow the same traffic rules as all other vehicles and wear reflective vests at night.

The proposal, criticized by some lawmakers last year as convoluted and onerous, also would mandate moped drivers younger than 21 years old wear a helmet.

It would give mopeds a single definition under state law. That is needed, legislators say, because conflicting definitions make laws involving mopeds unenforceable.

Hembree's bill also raises the minimum legal age to drive a moped to 15. Crosby leaves it at 14.

Two other House members, Reps. Mike Ryhal and Alan Clemmons of Horry, are proposing to require moped drivers and passengers wear

See **MOPEDS**, Page 4A

YEAR IN REVIEW



This 125-year-old oak tree is now firewood in the 500 block of East Carolina. A quick look at the center of the trunk shows the aging process.

Hurricanes to holiday events finish out 2016

From Staff Reports

Editor's note: This is the final installment of a four-part series reviewing the top news stories of 2016. It will cover the last three months of the year.

October

Hurricane Matthew will have lasting effects on the Pee Dee area for years to come. Even the anticipation of the storm was so great that Gov. Nikki Haley ordered schools closed and events canceled.

Hartsville homecoming court announced.

Former Governor's School graduate wins an Emmy.

Born Learning Trail opens up.

Dancing with the Stars of Darlington County partners re-



the Sumter ITEM

NATION

Obama sanctions Russia for alleged election hacking A3

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School attorney defends executive session

Claims personnel issues 'significant'

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@thetitem.com

Attorneys representing *The Sumter Item* and the Sumter School District Board of Trustees disagree on whether the board provided a legitimate reason for going into executive session and behind closed doors last week to discuss an audit report at a special called meeting.

The South Carolina Freedom of Information Act requires public bodies,

such as school boards, to provide a viable purpose for entering executive session and leaving the public's view at their meetings. Section 30-4-70 of the state's FOIA provides six specific reasons for public boards to enter executive session. Each reason — such as employment matters — must provide a specific, detailed explanation, according to the law.

On the printed agenda and at the beginning of the special called meeting Dec. 20 at the district office, the board

said its purpose for entering executive session was "to discuss personnel matters and legal briefings," according to a news reporter's taped transcript of the meeting.

According to the state's FOIA and *Sumter Item* attorney Taylor Smith IV of Harrison & Radeker, P.A., of Columbia, that's technically not sufficient information and a justifiable purpose for a public board to enter executive session.

"Unfortunately, when school board members went into executive session

on Dec. 20, they failed to announce a specific purpose for why the public would not be allowed to know what they would be discussing," Smith said after reviewing the transcript and printed agenda.

When contacted, the school board's attorney — William "Bick" Halligan, of Childs & Halligan, of Columbia — said in his legal opinion, the executive session was not in violation



SMITH



HALLIGAN

SEE BOARD, PAGE A4

'A cop's cop'

Sheriff Randy Garrett reflects on 42-½ year career; 8 years as sheriff

BY KONSTANTIN VENGERSKY
konstantin@thetitem.com

Grateful for the opportunity to serve.

That's how Clarendon County Sheriff Randy Garrett said he would describe his 42-½ year career in law enforcement and his last eight years as the top lawman in Clarendon County.

In January, he will officially give up his post to Sheriff-elect Tim Baxley, to whom he lost the election in the Democratic primary in June. There was no Republican opposition to the seat.

"I've had a great career and I couldn't accomplish anything without the support of the people around me," Garrett said in an interview on Wednesday. "I've worked with some fine law enforcement officers over the years, and we got through many difficult situations by working together. That's where the success came from. I'm just blessed to have had the head job."

Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said he knew Gar-

rett before he was elected sheriff and had developed a friendship with him.

"He was a cop's cop," Lott said. "As Manning Police Department chief he developed a reputation of honesty, integrity and being tough on crime. Once he was elected sheriff, he carried those traits with him and never compromised on them. I watched him face personal and family challenges while keeping his faith strong. I am honored to call him my friend."

Sumter County Sheriff Anthony Dennis described Garrett as a "longtime lawman who always stayed on the forefront of technology."

"He made sure his deputies were well-trained and ready for almost any situation," Dennis said. "We worked many operations together and enjoyed a great working relationship. I not only knew him as a colleague but also as a friend."

Clarendon County Chief Deputy Preston Stukes said he considers Garrett to be a big brother to him.

"He's a great boss and a



Clarendon County Sheriff Randy Garrett has spent 42-½ years in law enforcement, including eight years as sheriff.

KEITH GEDAMKE / THE SUMTER ITEM

very compassionate person," Stukes said. "He is a great leader who would always steer you in the right direction."

Clarendon County Council Chairman Dwight Stewart said he appreciated all of the hard work that Garrett has put in over the years to the county and City of Manning.

"Sheriff Garrett is well respected throughout our county and the law enforcement community," Stewart said. "He had to deal with a lot of changes in law enforcement

over his 42 year career. He worked well with other agencies in fighting crime throughout the region."

Manning Mayor Julia A. Nelson said she always found Garrett to be very approachable and responsive.

"During the times of natural disasters, his leadership played a major role for the best outcomes, which ensured safety for public safety workers and our citizens," Nelson said. "His public service will be missed but not forgotten."

Garrett, 62, a native of Holly

Hill, said he was always fascinated with law enforcement while growing up.

At age 20, Garrett started out as a dispatcher with the Gaffney Police Department and at 21 he became a full time officer. In the early 1970s, he moved to Clarendon County and started out as an officer with the Summerton Police Department.

He then served the Manning Police Department for four years and the Clarendon

SEE SHERIFF, PAGE A4

Judge orders Roof evaluated again before sentencing

COLUMBIA (AP) — A judge has ordered another competency exam for Charleston church shooter Dylann Roof, who faces the death penalty for killing nine black parishioners last year.

Federal Judge Richard Gergel ordered another evaluation of Roof "in an abundance of cau-

Hoppin' John a South Carolina tradition, New Year's Day or not

BY JIM HILLEY
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There is a tradition in South Carolina that it is good luck to eat Hoppin' John on New Year's Day.

Sources vary about why this is true, but many cite old sayings such as "Eat poor for a day, live rich for a year."

"Eat poor for a day, live rich for a year."

OLD ADAGE

wife," published in 1847:

"HOPPING JOHN

One pound of bacon, one pint

the dish, and the bacon on the top."

Modern critics say Rutledge's recipe would lead to a flavorless mush using today's ingredients. The rice we eat today is not the plantation rice harvested by hand in 1847, black-eyed peas lack the color or flavor of older varieties, and modern processed bacon is a far cry from the

--

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