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The Post and Courier

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Tuesday, January 5, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Slager out on bail

Officer charged in Walter Scott shooting death posts \$500K

BY ANDREW KNAAPP
aknaapp@postandcourier.com

The former North Charleston officer who fatally shot Walter Scott was released from jail Monday night after a judge said he was troubled by a delay

in the trial and granted bail.

The decision was met with gasps from Scott's family and with tears from Michael Slager's wife and parents, who appeared together for the first time in the downtown Charleston courtroom. Slager was released at 7 p.m. after post-

pc Poll
Do you agree with the judge's decision to grant bail for Michael Slager? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

ing \$500,000 bail, a jail spokesman said. Under a surety bond, he would have to pay \$50,000 of that total.

Please see **SLAGER**, Page A5

Former North Charleston police officer Michael Slager talks with his attorney, Andy Savage, on Monday before a hearing.

Medicaid seeking \$130M increase

Chief wants \$1.1B in state funds to avoid 2016-17 cuts

BY LAUREN SAUSSER
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Gov. Nikki Haley isn't expected to release her proposed executive budget until mid-January, but the South Carolina Medicaid director already said his agency needs millions more from the General Assembly next year.

If it doesn't get the extra funds, the S.C. Department of Health and Human Services, which administers the low-income Medicaid program, will consider scaling back services or cutting reimbursement rates paid to doctors and hospitals.



Soura

In the agency's preliminary budget request, Director Christian Soura has asked the Legislature for \$1.1 billion in state funds for the 2016-17 fiscal year — nearly \$130 million more than the agency has been appropriated to spend in state dollars the current fiscal year.

Federal funding for the Medicaid program pushes the department's annual budget above \$7 billion.

"As you look at the last four years, the agency's recurring resources are basically flat," Soura said.

Meanwhile, cigarette tax revenue declined and health care costs grew, he said, forcing the department to spend money from its reserve account. A portion of South Carolina's 57-cent tax on a pack of cigarettes provides more than \$500 million for the state Medicaid program.

In a hearing before state lawmakers, Soura said the agency spent about \$500 million from reserves last fiscal year and is tracking to spend about \$127 million from reserves this fiscal year.

"That isn't sustainable, he said. "It winds up being the time for action."

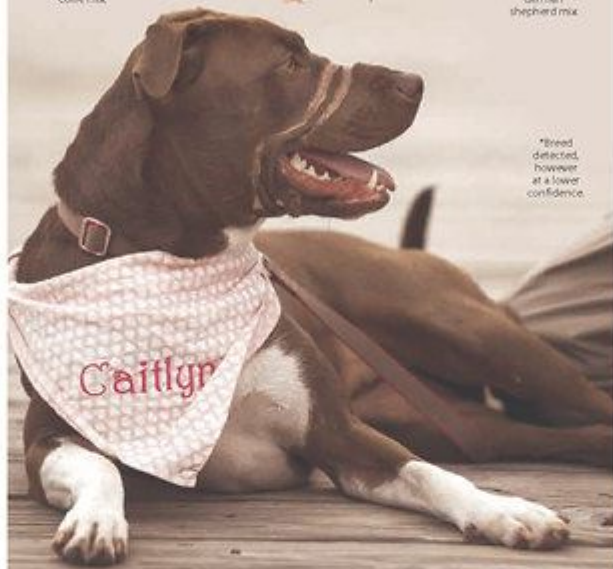
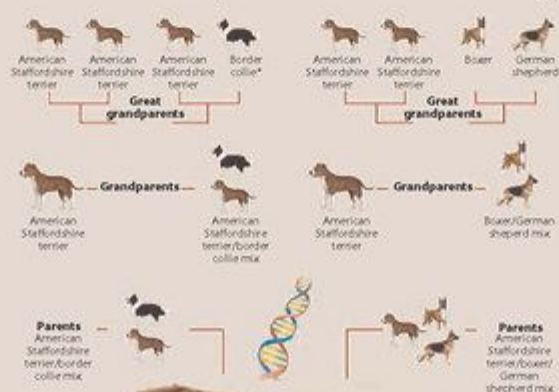
South Carolina and 19 other states have decided against expanding Medicaid eligibility under the Affordable Care Act.

Please see **MEDICAID**, Page A5

pc Poll
Should lawmakers grant the Medicaid agency's request for more money? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

Who is Caitlyn?

DNA reveals ancestry on both sides for 'America's Dog'



SOURCE: WISDOM PANEL AND CHARLESTON ANIMAL SOCIETY

STAFF

BY DAVE MUNDAY
dmunday@postandcourier.com

A DNA test on Caitlyn, the abused dog whose story was repeated around the world last year, establishes her identity as "America's Dog," according to the Charleston Animal Society. Shortly after the dog was found with her muzzle painfully taped shut in North Charleston in May, the staff at the shelter labeled her a Staffordshire bull terrier mix.

That never seemed fully satisfactory to those who knew her as the recovered

from her injuries, so the staff decided to look a little closer.

They used one of the \$60 Wisdom Panel 2.0 DNA tests that the shelter sells on a sample of her saliva and sent it off to a lab. The results were published in the society's magazine, Carolina Talk, which will be available in supermarkets Wednesday. The DNA test traces her lineage back to her great-grandparents. She's a mixture of American Staffordshire terrier, border collie, boxer and German shepherd, according to the test. The results "show she truly is

"America's Dog," with a combination of breeds that we, as Americans, love," Animal Society Director of Community Outreach Kay Hyman said.

Caitlyn has recovered and is living with foster parents. The man who taped her muzzle shut — William Leonard Dodson, 42, of Quitman Street in North Charleston — is in the jail awaiting court proceedings on various charges, including felony animal cruelty, possession of cocaine and illegal possession of a firearm.

Reach Dave Munday at 843-937-5553.

Fierce gun fight shaping up in S.C.

Charleston reflects divide as Obama plans new controls

BY SCHUYLER KROPP
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President Barack Obama's package of sweeping gun reforms will be announced Tuesday and among its targets is the unregulated transfer of weapons through gun swaps, trade shows and Internet sales.

In Charleston — home to one of the most disturbing gun massacres in the nation last year — the differing opinions behind the gun debate illustrates how deeply rooted that fight will be.



Obama

On the pro-regulation side are people like Sharon Risher, whose 70-year-old mother Ethel Lance died in a hail of gunfire June 17 at Emanuel AME Church.

"People are waking up to understand that it's not certain ethnicities and cultures that are affected by gun violence. It's everybody," said Risher, a trauma chaplain at a large Dallas hospital.

But Chris Plumer, of The Ammo Dump gun store in Summerville, said it's wrong to further burden law-abiding citizens for the acts of unpredictable criminals.

Please see **GUNS**, Page A5

pc Poll
Should President Obama use executive action to tighten gun control measures? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

Inside



WORLD

Saudis light fuse on regional tensions in Middle East. A8

NATION

Ranchers who inspired Ore. occupation head to prison. A8

BUSINESS

Steady outlook for Dreamliner after record delivery year. B1



Clear, High 45, Low 29. Complete 5-day forecast. B10

Bridge B9
Business B1
Classified B6
Comics B8.9
Crossword B6, C10
Editorial A6
Events B7
Obituaries B9

Sports C1
Sudoku B7
Television B6
Your Health D1

Charleston Deals Today

Brown Dog Deli
Pay \$10 for \$20.
See A2



CLEMSON FOOTBALL, 1C
**IS TIGERS'
SHAQ BACK?**



LIFESTYLE, 1D
**Cervical
cancer in
limelight**

Greenville News

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TUESDAY,
JANUARY 5, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY CHECKS EXPANDED IN GUN ACTIONS THAT ROLL OUT TUESDAY **PAGE 1B**

Pickens to fight coal ash landfill plan

Resolution receives unanimous approval from board to reject major disposal project

RON BARNETT
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PICKENS - Pickens County Council told an overflow crowd Monday that it will fight a company's plans to bring thousands of tons of coal ash to a landfill near Liberty and will go to court if necessary to stop it.

"We are prepared to defend you," Council Chairman Jennifer Wills declared, drawing applause from the audience of more than 100, many of whom came to urge the council to take action. The council gave unanimous approval to a resolution urging the state Department of Health and Environmental Control to reject a variance requested by Ra-

leigh-based MRR Pickens, LLC that would allow it to undertake a major coal ash disposal project.

Council members asked the county attorney to brief them in closed session on legal options to stop the project.

In a public session portion of the meeting, 10 people spoke against allowing coal ash disposal here.

"My opinion on it is if the folks in North Carolina want a Class 3 landfill to dump coal ash in, they can dig a hole up there and dump it in. We don't want it here," Eric Boughman, mayor of Liberty, said as the crowd cheered.

"I'm gonna holler as loud as I need to to stop this," he said. "We don't need to be a dumping ground for anybody."

Free Hamilton, who lives across the

See COAL ASH, Page 7A

Greenville Sanitation will charge to recycle



Natalie Snow, a customer service specialist with Greater Greenville Sanitation, places an item into her recycling cart at her home.

One-time registration fee per residence will cover changes in expenses with program

AMANDA COYNE
THE GREENVILLE NEWS

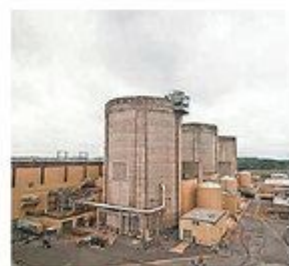
Greater Greenville Sanitation will require customers to pay a one-time registration fee of \$25 to continue using its recycling services in a set of changes to the

ated with the recycling program, according to spokesman Chuck LaGrange. The registration will let the utility service, which reaches nearly 60,000 customers, know you still want to recycle. The fee will cover half the cost of the new roll cart each customer will receive. Residents in the past will not have the

WHAT TO EXPECT

- A switch from bins to roll carts, which can hold more items
- No glass accepted for recycling
- A change in the collection schedule from weekly to biweekly

thing they don't do," LaGrange said. The changes include a switch from bins to roll carts, which can hold more items and leave less space to be



FILE/STAFF

The Oconee Nuclear Station's three reactors operate west of Greenville.

Nuclear station facing inspection

Cable problems prompt special assessment

ERIC CONNOR
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Federal regulators will conduct a special inspection of the Oconee Nuclear Station's three reactors on Tuesday after it was discovered that power cables either hadn't been connected or were in poor condition.

Duke Energy, which owns and runs the 42-year-old nuclear station on the shores of Lake Keowee about 30 miles from Greenville, said it welcomes the inspection and will cooperate fully.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which oversees operation of the nation's 99 nuclear reactors, will inspect the Oconee station over the next several days, the agency said.

The special inquest was initiated after routine inspections on Dec. 7 found cable problems associated with startup transformers, which provide electrical power to safety equipment, said Leonard Wert, acting administrator of the NRC's regional office in Atlanta.

At the station's third reactor, a plant operator discovered that a cable should have been connected, the agency said in a release.

Also, cables at the station's first reactor were in a "degraded condition." All cables have been repaired and are available for use if needed, the NRC said.



USC FOOTBALL

'We're a 3-9 team'

In exclusive interview, new coach Will Muschamp says he plans a rigorous offseason of conditioning for the Gamecocks, **1B**



Roper to lead offense: With Cleveland Browns season over, Kurt Roper joins Gamecocks as offensive coordinator, **3B**

Door open for return: Junior linebacker Skai Moore has been in discussions with Muschamp about returning to the Gamecocks, **3B**



CLEMSON FOOTBALL

Alabama coach Nick Saban impressed with Clemson and Watson, **B1**



Robert Ariail on Clemson's new year, **2C**

Former Clemson football coach Red Parker dies in Arkansas, **2B**

TUESDAY JANUARY 5 2016

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The State

Legal fight to close sex shop years from end, owner says

BY CLIF LEBLANC clblanc@thestate.com

Legal wrangling has kept Columbia's only legal sex shop open for two years beyond when City Hall wanted it closed as its owner vows a lengthy fight that he said will go to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Taboo Adult Superstore owner Jeff White and city officials are waiting on U.S. Judge Terry Wooten's consideration of the shop's request for the judge to withdraw his March 2015 decision tossing out the store's lawsuit.

Wooten's 50-page decision rejected Taboo's arguments, including that shuttering the store was a violation of constitutional guarantees of freedom of expression and of due process, which means fair treatment under the law. Taboo said there are no other suitable locations in the city. Both sides expect Wooten's ruling soon.

"If I win, the city is going to appeal. If the city wins, I'm going to appeal," White said. "We'll be in the (U.S. 4th Circuit) court of appeals for at least two years."

"This case is going all the way to

SEE SEX SHOP, 7A

SC residents rip, praise Obama's plan on guns

President will unveil executive actions on guns Tuesday

BY JAMIE SELF AND CASSIE COPE jself@thestate.com, ccope@thestate.com

Some Midlands residents say rules will fail

Others said expanding background checks is necessary

President Barack Obama's much-anticipated new gun-control rules drew ire and praise from Midlands residents Monday.

"He wants to take my guns," said Kim Nettles, a 66-year-old West Columbia resident who said Obama's plan — to issue executive orders Tuesday enacting new gun

rules — is "illegal."

But West Columbia's John Williams, 63, said he's "all for" closing a loophole that allows some guns to be sold at gun shows without background checks on purchasers. Allowing those gun sales is "giving away our safety," he said.

Still, the retired Chicago police officer said he opposes any other gun-control ef-

SEE GUN RULES, 7A



Forest Acres Chief of Police Gene Sealy examines the courtroom area as renovations continue.

RENOVATED POLICE STATION

Forest Acres police begin



ONLINE

AT THE STATE.COM: More photos and video

Classic literature fit for a toddler **4B**



The Beaufort Gazette

TUESDAY, January 5, 2016

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Established in 1897 75 cents

GUN CONTROL OBAMA STARTS 2016 WITH A FIGHT

Boundary Street facelift begins

The project will create landscaped, concrete medians, narrower lanes and a more square intersection.

By **STEPHEN FASTENAU**
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843-706-8182

A yellow backhoe towered ominously next to the former KFC building on Beaufort's Boundary Street on Monday.

The equipment, parked in preparation to demolish the restaurant, was one of the few signs that work has begun on the \$33-million facelift to one of Beaufort's busiest corridors. City officials are touting the benefits of a safer, more attractive entrance to the city, though some area business owners are nervous.

The project will create landscaped, concrete medians, narrower lanes and a more square intersection at Robert Smalls Parkway and Boundary Street. A parallel road starting north of the reworked intersection will extend east to Hogarth Street.

As part of the work, KFC and two houses behind it were claimed by eminent domain and will be torn down.

Initial work will include demolishing the buildings, erosion control, storm drains and utility work. The contractor will then begin work to bury utilities.

Drivers should eventually expect lane shifts and slower going in the area — a 1.2-mile stretch from Neil Road to Greenlawn Drive. But four lanes will remain open during daytime hours Monday through Friday.

"People do not need to worry about adjusting their schedule to get to work," city project manager David Coleman said.

The long-awaited, delayed project is expected to take two years to complete. Lane closures will be allowed from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Monday through Friday, all day Saturday and on Sundays except from 9 a.m. until noon.

The first year of the project will be devoted to burying utilities, Coleman said.

Coleman said he had spoken to some business owners in the area and tried to explain how the finished roadway will work. He will hold weekly meetings on Fridays at City Hall.

President defends beefed-up gun measures as constitutional

By **JOSH LEDERMAN**
The Associated Press

President Barack Obama moved Monday to expand background checks to cover more guns sold at gun shows, online and anywhere else, aiming to curb a scourge of gun violence despite unyielding opposition to new gun laws in Congress.

Obama's plan to broaden background checks forms the centerpiece of a broader package of measures the president plans to take on his own on gun control in his final year in office. Although Obama

Beaufort County gun retailers experience significant sales

By **ASHLEY FAHEY**
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Anticipated executive orders for tighter firearms restrictions have prompted strong opposition from Republican lawmakers, and a surge in gun sales and production.

President Barack Obama is expected to announce executive action today aimed at curbing gun violence on the heels of a year that saw a significant number of mass shootings. National media outlets



'SMART-TECH' BECKONS AT GADGET SHOW

BUSINESS, C5



PANTHERS GET THEIR SWAGGER BACK

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Tuesday, January 5, 2016



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TODAY WED THU

 42°/22° 46°/34° 53°/43°
 Complete forecast, B6

UPSTATE

Accused of evading traffic stop

A former Spartanburg High star athlete and former NFL player, Landon Cohen, who was charged with failing stop for a blue light says he was attempting to find a safe, well-lit area to pull over. **C1**

Void in the arts community

The permanent closure of the Carolina Foothills Artisan Center due to financial difficulties has left a void in the local arts community. **C1**

Traffic at GSP sets record

Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport announced its business hit record highs in October and November. **C1**

NATION/WORLD



Saudis ignite regional tensions

By executing a senior Shiite cleric, Saudi Arabia effectively lit a match to set off regional sectarian tensions and its rivalry with Iran, threatening to derail already-shaky peace efforts over the wars in Syria and Yemen. It also is part of a more aggressive stance by the kingdom in the past year, which included launching an air campaign against Shiite rebels in Yemen and increased aid to rebels in Syria. **A5**

GUN SALES

Obama: Background checks required

By Josh Lederman
 The Associated Press



Obama

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama moved Monday to require all gun sellers to register as dealers — even those who sell at gun shows and online — and to run background checks on all prospective purchasers, aiming to curb a scourge of gun violence despite unyielding opposition to new gun laws in Congress.

In a bid to narrow the so-called gun show loophole, the Justice Department's Bureau of Alcohol,

Tobacco, Fire-arms and Explosives will issue updated guidance that says the government can consider someone a gun dealer regardless of where he or she sells the guns, officials said.

Only federally licensed gun dealers must conduct background checks on buyers, and gun control advocates say

SEE OBAMA, A6

Upstate lawmakers skeptical

By Zach Fox
 zach.fox@shj.com

Executive orders from President Barack Obama designed to tighten gun control measures are drawing the ire of some Upstate lawmakers.

As the calendar turned to 2016, the Obama administration was expected to announce several executive orders designed to expand background checks on gun sales by

forcing sellers to register as federally licensed gun dealers, according to The Associated Press. The changes would be targeted at unregistered sellers at gun shows, online or in other informal settings.

Currently, only licensed dealers are required to seek background checks.

U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-Spartanburg, said the

SEE SKEPTICAL, A6

OREGON STANDOFF

Father-and-son ranchers report to prison



Ammon Bundy, center, one of the sons of Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, speaks with reporters Monday during a news conference at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge headquarters near Burns, Ore. PHOTOS BY RICK BOWMER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

By Rebecca Boone
 and Brian Melley
 The Associated Press

BURNS, Ore. — Father-and-son ranchers convicted of setting fire to federal grazing land reported to prison Monday as the armed anti-government activists who have taken up their cause maintained the occupa-

over the weekend as part of a decades-long fight over public lands in the West.

There appeared to be no urgent reason for federal officials to move in. No one has been hurt. No one is being held hostage. And the refuge is a bleak and forbidding stretch of wilderness about 300 miles from Portland, and it's the middle of winter.



the Sumter ITEM

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Gone for another year

Jeff Bremer, a city of Sumter construction worker, begins the process of unplugging and taking down Christmas lights on Liberty Street on Monday afternoon, a sure sign the season is over. And although he was removing a snowflake, the decoration might be appropriate because temperatures were expected to drop to as low as 25 degrees by this morning and 23 degrees by Wednesday morning. However, snow is not in the immediate forecast.

RICK CARPENTER / THE SUMTER ITEM



Police ask for info on suspects

2 Sumter men wanted on attempted murder charges

BY KONSTANTIN VENGERSKY
konstantin@thetitem.com

Sumter Police Department is looking for two suspects wanted on attempted murder charges in an incident involving gunfire on Frazier Street on Dec. 29.

Authorities are offering a \$1,000 reward for any information on Henry Dingle, 21, of 2A David Court, and William Jerquees Spann, 18, of 28 Carolina Ave., said Tonya McGirt, spokeswoman for the department.

Five other men involved in the incident were arrested last week.

Officers responded to shots fired on Frazier



DINGLE



SPANN

SEE SHOOTING, PAGE A3

USARCENT: From 'Dash' to the Daesh

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS LUKE GRAZIANI
U.S. Army Central

SHAW AIR FORCE BASE — U.S. Army Central, "Patton's Own," Third Army, has a long and distinguished history in and out of battles and conflicts around the world. Headquartered at Shaw Air Force Base, with a forward element at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, it is the Army service component command for U.S. Central Command.

USARCENT, a forward positioned land power presence, shapes the CENTCOM area of responsibility in order to support operations against extremists, assure access, build partner capacity, develop relationships and deter adversaries while providing a mission command capability that can set the theater and execute unified land operations in support of commander requirements.

The vast AOR, spanning some 20

Medicare changes coming this year

New counseling, teamwork part of 2016 features

BY RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Whether it's coverage for end-of-life counseling or an experimental payment scheme for common surgeries, Medicare in 2016 is undergoing some of the biggest

changes in its 50 years.

Grandma's Medicare usually just paid the bills as they came in. Today, the nation's flagship health-care program is seeking better ways to balance cost, quality and access.

The effort could redefine the doctor-patient relationship, or it could end up a muddle of well-intentioned but unworkable government regulations. The changes have been building slowly, veiled in a fog of acronyms and bureau-

cratic jargon.

So far, the 2016 change getting the most attention is that Medicare will pay clinicians to counsel patients about options for care at the end of life. The voluntary counseling would have been authorized earlier by President Obama's health care law but for the outcry fanned by former Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin, who charged it would lead to "death panels."

Hastily dropped from

the law, the personalized counseling has been rehabilitated through Medicare rules.

But experts who watch Medicare as the standards setter for the health system are looking elsewhere in the program. They're paying attention to Medicare's attempts to remake the way medical care is delivered to patients, by fostering teamwork among clinicians, emphasizing timely preventive services

SEE MEDICARE, PAGE A7

SEE ARCENT, PAGE A3



Morning News

TUESDAY JANUARY 5, 2016

The Voice of the Pee Dee

TODAY'S WEATHER

Chilly with plenty of sun.
High 43, low 22.
DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

75 cents

Market drop puzzles experts

BY JOE PERRY
Morning News
jperry@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Growing tension between Saudi Arabia and Iran coupled with a slowing Chinese economy contributed to a harsh first trading day of the new year as the Dow Jones industrial average saw major sell-offs and a drop of 276 points.

Barry O'Brien is baffled. He thinks there's a disconnect from solid economic stats at home vs. what's happening overseas.

As the dean of Francis Marion University's school of business, O'Brien studies market gyrations as an economist and not an investor.

INSIDE

For more information about today's stock market activity see **Page 8A**.

With about 15 minutes left before the New York Stock Exchange closed, he had just come

back into town to see the stock market "folding up."

"I don't see where the news out of China or with the Saudi Arabia and Iran conflict — I really don't understand it very well," he said. "Watching the Dow, it seems to me — I hate to say it — but it's more of an over-reaction or something like that. I'm at a loss."

Listening to the din of the talking heads and analysts on TV leaves him scratching his head.

"I haven't heard anyone come up with one (reason) yet. Nothing makes sense," O'Brien said. "I don't understand the markets selling off this much as we are with the news we got."

A report showing manufacturing in China at lower and slower levels than those reported by official government channels helped fuel the market plunge, as the Shanghai Composite Index dropped 6.9 percent before authorities halted trading.

On Wall Street, the Dow dropped 476 points before staging a minor rally.

"Our economy is on pretty solid

See **MARKET**, Page 3A

Get your run on



Personal trainer Brock McCallister talks with Dyan Cohen during her workout at Fitness Forum in Florence. The gym, located on East Elm Street, is holding a Couch-to-5K program to help people kickstart their resolutions to be healthier in 2016.

Couch-to-5K promotes health in the new year

BY MELISSA ROLLINS
Morning News
mrollins@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Getting a jump-start on the New Year's resolution to be healthy in 2016 is a little easier, thanks to Fitness Forum and the Carolinas Hospital Healthy Woman Program. The two organizations are partnering for a Couch-to-5K

program, starting Monday. The program will have two classes per week leading up to the Pacing for Pieces 5K on March 12.

Healthy Woman program coordinator Ashley Hobbs said the partnership has worked out well.

"This is the third year that we have been a sponsor," Hobbs said. "It has been super successful in the past,

and it is just a way to get people moving, which is something that people usually want to do at the beginning of the year."

Hobbs said that taking part in a program such as Couch-to-5K helps people work past any preconceived ideas of what they can and cannot do.

See **RUN**, Page 3A

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

» **WHAT:** Couch to 5K. An information session will be held at 6 p.m. Monday at Fitness Forum, prior to the first trainer meeting at 6:30 p.m. The Pacing for Pieces 5K will be held on March 12.

» **WHERE:** Fitness Forum is located at 120 E. Elm St. in Florence and can be reached by phone at 843-661-3800.

» **SIGN UP:** To be a Healthy Woman member, visit carolinashospital.com/Carolinas-Hospital-System/Healthy-WomanEvents.aspx

Florence School District 1

Community invited to Discovery Education launch party

WANT TO GO?

» **WHAT:** Discovery Education launch party with Florence School District 1
» **WHEN:** 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday
» **WHERE:** Francis Marion Performing Arts Center, 201 S. Dargan St.
» **WHO:** All community members are invited to attend

BY MELISSA ROLLINS
Morning News
mrollins@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The public will have a chance to learn more about Florence School District 1's professional development partnership with Discovery Education during a launch party Wednesday night. The event will take place at the Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center on South Dargan Street

from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

During the launch party, community members will learn about the Digital Leader Corps, and will be introduced to the 36 teacher-leaders from Florence 1 who will be participating.

Rob Warren, Discovery Education's Director of Education Partnerships, said that the launch party is a chance for the community to be involved in the new partnership.

"We encourage community

members to come out to the event in order to learn more about the Digital Leader Corps initiative, as well as honor the teachers who have been selected to drive innovation in the school system," Warren said. "By attending this event, community members can show their support for the school system as well as the educators who work so hard every day to support Florence's

See **DISCOVERY**, Page 3A

Army liaison to Middle East gives Rotarians food for thought

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — An expert on the international political and military environment in the Middle East was in Florence on Monday afternoon to give

but did take time to talk on his experience on a coalition of nations operation in the region.

"What we were trying to do at the time was identify what these other countries had to offer," Wyatt said. "It's a full spectrum of help, not just military support

the Islamic State. "Iraq is pretty much destroyed, so you have to ask what we do when Daesh is defeated," he said. "A lot of the dams and roads are destroyed, the infrastructure is gone, agriculture is gone, normal things you see in every city are all de-

to a combination of U.S. and Middle Eastern forces quelling movements.

"What you see them doing now, their technique today, is a result of the tactics and effectiveness of Iraqis and coalition forces," Wyatt said. "They're having to revert from standard, gue-



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2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

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DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

City unveils capital sales tax projects

By COLIN RIDDLE
criddle@indexjournal.com

With the application process in full swing, the city rolled out some potential projects to be funded by a possible capital sales tax in the coming years.

City Manager Charlie Barrineau updated City Council on Monday with a collection of anticipated projects located in the city likely to be presented to the capital project sales commission, which was appointed by County Council and

City Council, and ultimately residents of Greenwood County and its municipalities.



CHARLIE BARRINEAU

County Council Chairman Steve Brown announced the county's intent in pursuing a 1-percent capital project sales tax, also known as a penny tax. In July during his State of the County Address and will likely start funding projects in 2018.

The county opened up the application process last week, accepting applications for capital projects to be funded by the tax if approved by County Council and the general public as a referendum on the November ballot.

Acceptable projects are outlined in state statute and the county plans on focusing on five major categories: economic development, infrastructure, parks and recreation, public safety and quality of life.

Barrineau said the city will focus on projects outside the city center.

"We have heard in the past that people feel Uptown gets a lot of love, so we're focusing on projects outside the Uptown," Barrineau said.

Parks and recreation

Barrineau said he is anticipating the Greater Greenwood Parks and Trails Foundation to submit one unified application for park, trail and greenspace projects countywide and focusing on three key parks in city limits, including Magnolia Park, Grace Street Park and a new park in

South Greenwood.

Magnolia Park, one of the city's oldest parks near Uptown, is in need of upgrades, while Grace Street Park, which is newer and includes a dog park, has been a recent focus for development.

Meetings have already been organized to establish a park in South Greenwood at Foundry Road, marking a first for the area with plans to work with the Greenwood Housing Authority.

See TAX, page 4A

NINETY SIX

Town to get three new police cars

By DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ
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NINETY SIX — Mike Rowe started off his first meeting as Ninety Six's mayor with the usual invocation and pledge of allegiance, then conferred with town attorney Doug Bell on how to phrase the motion to go into executive session.

"It's a learning process," Rowe said, "like riding a bike. Once I get used to it, it will be smoother sailing."

The mayor said he's glad to have the attorney's help as he gets used to the official language and phrases used in town council meetings.

After the executive session, council voted unanimously to buy three new cars for the town's police department. The cars will cost \$44,300, which will be covered by a reimbursement grant, Rowe said.

Police Chief Chris Porter aims to have the decals and lights for these cars match the Ninety Six patrol car that won first place in Law and Order magazine's annual police vehicle design contest, Rowe said. The town won in the municipal department with less than 10 officers category in September.

The cars will be bought from Butler Automotive in Beaufort, and the lights and decal packages will be bought at a later date, Rowe said.

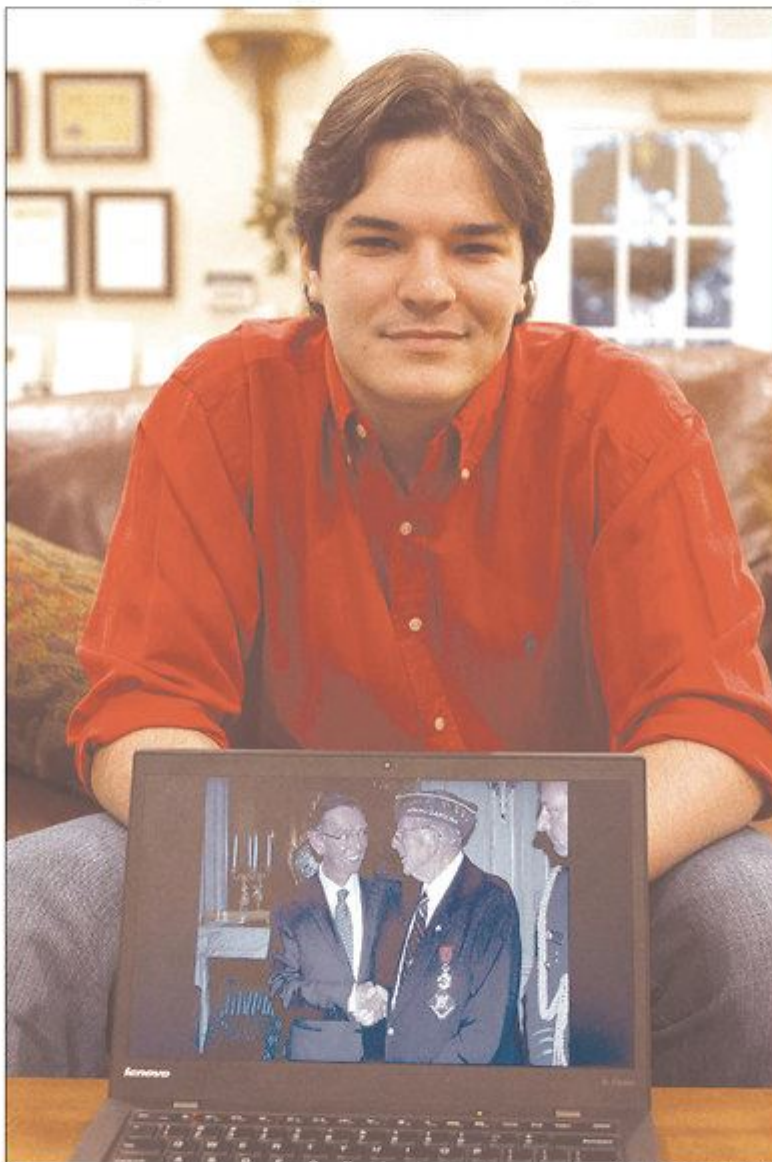
CHARLESTON

Former officer charged in shooting death released on bail

By BRUCE SMITH
Associated Press

CHARLESTON — A former South Carolina police officer charged with murder in the shooting death of an unarmed black motorist was released from jail Monday eve-

HONORING A HERO



Michael Hicks, Clemson University sophomore history major, poses with a photo of his grandfather, Harvey Lee Hicks, right, with the Belgian Ambassador to the United States at a banquet where he was awarded the Knight of the Order of the Crown, an honor awarded for services to the Belgian state, last December in Washington.

Hick's letter to Belgium

From staff reports

An excerpt from Harvey Lee Hicks' grandson Michael Hicks' letter to the King of Belgium:

"I understand that Your Majesty must have many letters to read and must be, of course, very busy, so allow me to get straight to the point. I am writing to request that my grandfather, Harvey Lee Hicks, be considered as a recipient of the Order of the Crown."

"My grandfather, Harvey Lee Hicks, now a man of ninety-one, was, like most men of his age in the United States of America, swept up in the fires of World War II. He was shipped to Europe where he made land in England before being ferried to France. He took part in the campaign of the Rhineland and, more importantly the Battle of the Bulge. As I am sure Your Majesty is aware, the greatest fighting of that battle took place in the Kingdom of Belgium, where my grandfather fought. While fighting in the Kingdom, he was severely wounded in the leg by a German artillery shell, which saw to the deaths of the rest of his squadron, in Belgium on the twenty-third of December, 1944. My grandfather's will to live and to return home to my grandmother kept him alive, with the help of excellent surgeons, of course. Said surgeons considered him lucky to keep his leg at all, though he would always live with some hindrance to his mobility."

"Harvey Lee Hicks fought and nearly died in Belgium for not just the United States of America, but for all of his country's allies and the cause for which they all stood against Adolf Hitler's Deutschland. He has continued to live as an example to all men of the United States of America and her allies, which includes the illustrious Kingdom of Belgium."

Man asks for prestigious award for World War II veteran grandfather

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Town's priority: Fighting crime

Hilton Head Island to review data to combat problems in South Forest Beach.

By ZACH MURDOCK

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Combating crime in South Forest Beach is at the top of Hilton Head Island leaders' to-do list following concerns this fall about split units in Oceanwalk and Xanadu villas.

Mayor David Bennett has ordered the town's Public Safety Committee to review crime data and confer with neighborhood residents on recommendations the town should consider to curtail crime near the island's bustling Coligny tourist district.

The committee met with residents for the first time on the issue Monday morning, but no ready solutions emerged for what has become an increasingly complex crime problem there, town leaders said.

"You've got some problems on South Forest Beach," said Bruce Bartow, an Oceanwalk owner and former condo board president. "Are they insurmountable? No. Can they get worse? Yes, especially if (town officials) sit back and do nothing."

Bennett agrees and has asked the committee to quickly prepare recommendations by next month. But it's clear that more homework needs to be done before the town can act, he said Monday.

"This issue is much more broad than just (split) units at Oceanwalk and Xanadu," Bennett said. "Based on the calls, emails and conversations that South Forest Beach residents are initiating, I think we need to take a look at the underlying issue. (Split units) are a symptom and a contributor (to crime)."

MORE THAN TRIPLE THE NUMBER OF POLICE CALLS AT OCEANWALK

The new push to investigate South Forest Beach crime was born after Bartow and other neighborhood residents repeatedly raised concerns that split units at Oceanwalk Villas could be contributing to crime in the area.

They have asked the town to prohibit splitting these bedrooms

President defends beefed-up gun measures as constitutional

By JOSH LEDERMAN
The Associated Press

President Barack Obama moved Monday to expand background checks to cover more guns sold at gun shows, online and anywhere else, aiming to curb a scourge of gun violence despite unyielding opposition to new gun laws in Congress.

Obama's plan to broaden background checks forms the centerpiece of a broader package of measures the president plans to take on his own on gun control in his final year in office. Although Obama

Beaufort County gun retailers experience significant sales

By ASHLEY FAHEY
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Anticipated executive orders for tighter firearms restrictions have prompted strong opposition from Republican lawmakers, and a surge in gun sales and production.

President Barack Obama is expected to announce executive action today aimed at curbing gun violence on the heels of a year that saw a significant number of mass shootings. National media outlets

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