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To:
Date: 12/21/2016 8:19:53 AM
Subject: SC Front Pages – Wednesday, December 21, 2016

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The Post and Courier

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Wednesday, December 21, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Brandy Hanna's ex-boyfriend charged



Hanna

Recent statements may help solve 2005 disappearance, police say

BY BRIAN HICKS
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North Charleston police have charged Brandy Hanna's former boyfriend in connection with her disappearance more than 11 years ago.

Investigators are hopeful this is the first step in solving a missing person cold case — and possible murder — that has gained

national attention.

Garland "Zeke" Lankford faces one count of obstruction of justice after he recently made several statements in direct contradiction to earlier information he gave police in the weeks after Hanna vanished in 2005.

The most damning revelation is Lankford's admission that he "may have gone" to Hanna's apartment on the night she

disappeared.

"This is definitely a step in the right direction," said North Charleston Police Sgt. Ron Lacher, who has been working the case for more than six years. "We are treating this as a homicide investigation and we're still working it. Anyone who has any information should come forward now."

Hanna, 32 at the time, disappeared on May 20, 2005. She had worked the

Friday night shift at Alex's Restaurant on Dorchester Road, then got a ride home from a customer around 3 p.m.

She talked by phone with her mother, Donna Parent, at 5:30 that afternoon and mentioned that Lankford was coming to visit.

That was the last time Parent heard from her daughter.

Please see HANNA, Page A6

Death renews push for safer Crosstown

Woman who lost daughter in 2014 upset over latest fatality; Gilliard to take action



WADE SPEES/STAFF

A pedestrian waits to cross the street on Tuesday as Crosstown traffic flows past Coming Street. Dwayne Stanley, a 57-year-old man from North Charleston, was the victim of a hit-and-run Monday night at the crossing.

BY ANGIE JACKSON
ajackson@postandcourier.com

The pain of losing her daughter nearly three years ago flooded back to Lynnette Ranz when she heard that another pedestrian had been hit by a car and killed at the intersection of the Septima P. Clark Parkway and Coming Street.

Her first reaction was to cry. Then her mind went back to when she testified before lawmakers — one step in her fight for changes to the intersection that she calls unsafe and

poorly designed — and proclaimed another tragedy would surely happen if nothing was done.

A hit-and-run on Monday marks the third pedestrian death at the intersection since 2012, and Ranz is still waiting for changes to the crosswalk that traverses eight lanes.

"My main thought is, 'How many deaths do we have to have before it's fixed?'" she said. "It hurts down to my soul that they can't get it fixed. It's senseless."

Police said Monday's crash hap-

pened about 7:30 p.m. in a north-bound lane of the state highway also known as the Crosstown.

The victim, identified as Dwayne Stanley, 57, of North Charleston died shortly after at Medical University Hospital.

Charleston Police Sgt. Matthew Wojcikiewicz said two witnesses told investigators that Stanley was running in the crosswalk, in the direction of downtown, while cars had a green light.

Please see CROSSTOWN, Page A6

To offer tips

Anyone with information about Monday's crash is asked to call the Charleston police accident investigation team at 843-965-4084 and ask to speak with Investigator Marcell or Sgt. Wojcikiewicz.



Poll
Should the state pay to build a pedestrian bridge over the Crosstown at Coming Street? Go to postandcourier.com to vote.

Bill aims to curb trustees' spending

Report told of lavish habits at MUSC

BY DOUG PARDUE
and LAUREN SAUSSER
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A bill to prevent the kind of lavish spending on ritzy hotels, gourmet meals and top-shelf liquor that board members of the Medical University of South Carolina have enjoyed for years has been pre-filed in the state Legislature.

MUSC Board of Trustees members spent almost \$600,000 between 2011 and early 2016 when they traveled to Charleston for meetings. Their spending patterns were revealed in August after an investigation by The Post and Courier.

Please see MUSC, Page A6

Sheheen takes aim at 'sissies'

Bashes parties, weighs a run for U.S. Congress

BY MAYA T. PRABHU
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COLUMBIA — State Sen. Vincent Sheheen, who twice ran as the Democratic candidate for governor, said the leaders of his own party are "sissies" and too focused on "political correctness" as he speculated on social media about a possible run for Congress.

Sheheen, D-Camden, this week took aim at both national parties, saying Republican leaders were "elitist billionaires" as he then went on to call both Democrats and the GOP out of touch.

Please see SHEHEEN, Page A1

USC BASEBALL

Back to Omaha? Gamecocks picked No. 4 in preseason poll, 2B



HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Best against the best: Williamson, Spartanburg Day top Felton, Gray Collegiate, 1B



WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 21 2016

\$1.00

VOL. 126TH No. 308
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TWITTER.COM/THESTATE



TODAY: SUNNY HI 56 LO 38
YESTERDAY: HI 47 LO 37 PRECIP. (in of 5 pm) TRACE
FORECAST: 2A

The State

USC seeks funds for new project

■ University expects local governments to step up with money for the medical school building. City and county leaders are not eager to help.

BY AVERY G. WILKS
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The University of South Carolina expects local governments to chip in \$15 million for the university's new medical school building on the Bull Street prop-

erty in downtown Columbia.

But Columbia and Richland County leaders are not eager to pitch in. Nor have they been asked for the money, weeks after USC filed a document with the state saying local governments would be on board.

"It has not even been mentioned in any of the meetings or casual conversations of the council," Columbia City Councilman Howard Duvall said.

USC wants the money, plus \$50 million from the state, to

kick-start a new \$200 million health sciences research complex on 16 acres of Bull Street land donated by Greenville developer Bob Hughes, it told the state in a budget request last month.

The \$65 million in state and local dollars would go toward an \$80 million, 130,000-square-foot medical school building slated to open in 2020, the budget request said. Private donations would make up the other \$15 million.

But some city and county leaders are tapping the brakes ahead of USC's official request, citing budget constraints and the number of public dollars already invested at the Bull Street property.

"It won't be from the City of Columbia," Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin said of the money.

"While this may be a good move for the university, it would be a bad move for the city and

county," Richland County Councilman Seth Rose said.

'CITIZENS HAVE STEPPED UP'

Some local leaders say the donation of part of the Bull Street land to the tax-exempt university runs counter to a proposed benefit of the Bull Street redevelopment deal: bringing the long-exempt former state mental health property onto the city's tax rolls.

SEE USC, 6A



NFL

CLOWNEY NAMED TO PRO BOWL

Former USC standout selected to play in first all-star showcase. 4B



BUSINESS

WHEN WILL STORES BE OPEN THIS WEEK?

Many retailers have extended holiday hours this week for last minute Christmas shoppers. 7A



Lighting up the Christmas season . . . for a reason



GERRY MELENDEZ gmelendez@thestate.com

Christina Churchwell has some fun finishing a section of her father's Christmas light show. The show, in Elgin, goes beyond pretty lights. It raises money for Camp Kemo and honors veterans. Below: A photo of Cole Sawyer is displayed at Paul Towns' Elgin Christmas Light Show.

■ Elgin resident's display brings people and donations from all around. And he passes the money on to Camp Kemo.

BY MATT WALSH
mwalsh@thestate.com

The first year Paul Towns put on his



Other amazing light shows

Paul Towns is not the only one in the Midlands in a Clark Griswold-like state of Christmas spirit. Check out these other locations with awesome Christmas light displays.



SPORTS, 1C

DEFENSIVE
DOMINANCE

LIFESTYLE, 1D

Tips for
holiday
leftovers

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 21, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

Public health preparedness improves

LIV OSBY

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South Carolina scored a seven out of 10 in a new report on public health preparedness, improving one point since the last time the report was issued.

Produced by the Trust for America's Health, the report, called "Ready or Not?" gauged state preparedness based on 10 key indicators such as public health funding, food safety and emergency health care access.

Released on Tuesday, it concluded that the U.S. is often caught off-guard by emerging threats like Zika, Ebola and bioterrorism. As a result, resources must be diverted from other priorities,

leaving the country vulnerable.

"Health emergencies can quickly disrupt, derail and divert resources from other ongoing priorities and efforts from across the government," said Rich Hamburg, interim CEO of TFAH, a non-profit, non-partisan group that works to protect the health of every community and make disease prevention a national priority.

"Many areas of progress that were made after 9/11 and the anthrax attacks to improve health security have been undercut," he added. "We aren't adequately maintaining a strong and steady defense, leaving us unnecessarily vulnerable when new threats arise."

The state Department of Health and

Environmental Control takes all health reports seriously and is continually focused on improving its processes and procedures regarding preventing and controlling infectious disease outbreaks, spokesman Robert Yanity said.

"With regards to key indicators for South Carolina highlighted in the Trust for America's Health report, the state scored seven out of 10 on the key indicators," he added. "Of the three that South Carolina did not meet, DHEC has seen positive results in those areas and will continue to strive to improve."

Massachusetts was the only state to score 10 out of 10, with North Carolina and Washington scoring a nine and California, Connecticut, Iowa, New Jersey,

Tennessee and Virginia scoring eight.

And 26 states scored six or lower with Alaska and Idaho scoring the lowest with just three of 10 indicators.

South Carolina, which scored a six in the last analysis in 2012, was among 15 states to score a seven.

"It means there are some areas of accomplishment," Laura Segal, vice president of public affairs for TFAH, said of the Palmetto State's score. "But there are certainly some areas that really still need to be worked on."

South Carolina did maintain or increase the amount it spends on public health, according to the report.

See HEALTH, Page 4A



Clemson coach Dabo Swinney celebrates the Tigers' 37-34 win over Florida State at Doak Campbell Stadium in Tallahassee, Florida, on Oct. 29.

FOR SWINNEY, TITLE
GETS \$1.4M BONUS

It's largest incentive package of the four CFP coaches

MANIE ROBINSON
SPORTS COLUMNIST

The four College Football Playoff coaches are chasing glory. They can etch their names in eternal lore. Two can extend their championship legacy. Two others can join that elite company.

They can fill the void in their résumés. They can fill the hearts of their fans. They can fill the trophy case.

And they can fill their wallets.

Clemson University coach Dabo Swinney can earn a total

ranked in the Top 5 of either the USA TODAY Sports Amway coaches poll or the Associated Press poll. Swinney will earn an additional \$400,000 if Clemson defeats Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl semifinal on Dec. 31. He will earn another \$100,000 if Clemson wins the subsequent national championship game.

Swinney collected \$1.1 million in bonuses during the 2014-15 school year, including rewards for players' academic performance. The enticing incentive package was expanded as part of the six-year contract extension Swinney signed in April. That agreement increased his base annual salary by

Background
checks for
Realtors
considered

KIRK BROWN

KIRK.BROWN@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

Criminal background checks would be conducted on real estate professionals seeking to renew their South Carolina licenses under a proposed bill.

The bill's sponsor, South Carolina state Rep. Chip Huggins, said he decided to propose the measure after Spartanburg County real estate agent Todd Kohlepp was recently charged with kidnapping and seven counts of murder.

Huggins, a Republican from Columbia who is a former realtor, said he also is working with Rep. Eddie Tallon on legislation that might spec-

See BILL, Page 9A

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Pokémon Go:
More than a
blip on radar

ELIZABETH LAFLEUR

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On July 13, 2016, just one week after the release of Pokémon Go, downtown Greenville was saturated with people playing the first of its kind augmented reality game.

There were Pokémon-themed bar crawls, meet-ups and sales. Outside the Peace Center, dozens of people could be found sitting side-by-side with strangers daily. A few yards away, others huddled over phones at silver tables and chairs. Even more moved up and down the sidewalks

See POKÉMON GO, Page 4A

USA TODAY
NETWORK

ODDS & ENDS

Clemson's young linemen have more than matched expectations this season. More on **1B** and at orangeandwhite.com



Independent Mail

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2016

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM



State Rep. Anne Thayer, middle left, hugs Anderson County Councilman Francis Crowder after state Sen. Kevin Bryant, left, read a resolution Tuesday honoring Crowder at his last meeting at the council chambers in Anderson.

KEN RUINARD/INDEPENDENT MAIL

Crowder, Townville firefighters honored

82-year-old councilman stepping down after 6 years

NIKIE MAYO

NIKIE.MAYO@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

In an emotional ceremony Tuesday night, firefighters from Townville were honored for their efforts to respond to a Sept. 28 shooting at an elementary school.

Outgoing Anderson County Councilman Francis Crowder, who decided not to seek another term, was also honored by legislators and colleagues for serving six years in public office.

The Anderson County Council unanimously approved a resolution honoring the Townville firefighters, who volunteer daily to cover one of the most rural communities in the Upstate.

Councilman Tom Allen, who read the resolution, said he had already presented it to the firefighters at their recent Christmas dinner.

"I thought it would mean more to

Online

Visit independentmail.com to see photos and watch video.

them there," he said Tuesday at the council meeting.

The firefighters did not attend the council meeting Tuesday and wanted to remain out of the spotlight, county officials said.

Allen, whose district includes Townville, said that when life in the rural community changed in an instant, the firefighters acted "without regard for their own safety" to help others.

Townville Fire Chief Billy McAdams and volunteer firefighter Jamie Brock were working on McAdams' farm when they heard the first call about an active shooter on the playground at Townville Elementary School.

McAdams and Brock were the first to respond to the school, followed quickly by other firefighters and law enforcement officers. Brock is credited with stopping the accused teen shooter, Jesse Osborne, while McAdams and others tried to help those who were shot. Jacob Hall, 6, was mortally wounded. Another 6-year-old student was also shot, along with first-grade teacher Meghan Hollingsworth. A third student suffered minor injuries.

"The professionalism and rapidity of action taken by the Townville Volunteer Fire Department during the early moments of this shooting resulted in halting any further injury to students and staff at the Townville Elementary School," Allen read, his voice breaking. "Such actions by volunteers within the Townville community speak volumes for the

See **HONORED**, Page 4A



INDEPENDENT MAIL FILE

Connor Ayers helps Erica Ayers tie on a mask at a Cotton Ball at the Civic Center of Anderson.

Cotton Ball put on hold for 2016

Clemson's football success leads organizers to plan Warrior Ball instead

ABE HARDESTY

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The Cotton Ball is out for 2016, an apparent victim of Clemson University's football success.

But the Warrior Ball is in.

The Palmetto Distilleries Cotton Ball, which returned to the Anderson social calendar in 2014 after a 100-year lapse, has once again been put on hold. After celebrating New Year's Eve with a black-tie event at the Civic Center of Anderson in 2014 and 2015, organizers of the event have decided not to stage it this year.

But organizers intend to replace it with another event that might prove more enticing to Clemson football fans.

"We're going to put it (the Cotton Ball) off for a year, and try to rebuild for next year," said Liz Carey, executive director of Pints for the People, a nonprofit organization that sponsored the event. "The Clemson game last year knocked us for a loop, and since they're playing again this New Year's Eve, we thought we should put it on hold."

Carey said the attendance of the event, which helps raise money for local charities, was crippled last year by the timing of Clemson's appearance in the semifinal round of the first NCAA football playoff. Carey had been expecting up to 400 attendees for the Cotton Ball, but a conflict with the Clemson game dropped that number to 176 at the Civic Center.

"We had a huge-screen TV over there so folks could watch the game,"

See **WARRIOR BALL**, Page 4A

TV's Mr. Doohickey cherished by many

Legions of children knew Hoyle as 'Monty's Rascals' star

the weekend, as Channel 4's weather man or news anchor. But many knew him as Mr. Doohickey as they were growing



INDEPENDENT MAIL FILE

Stown Hoyle





VIKINGS FALL TO WESTSIDE IN OVERTIME

SPORTS, B1



'TIS THE SEASON FOR HOLIDAY COOKIES

FOOD & HEALTH, D1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Wednesday, December 21, 2016



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TODAY THU FRI

58°/38° 62°/33° 52°/36°

Complete forecast, B8

NEWS DIGEST

Guest workers to split \$2M under settlement

COLUMBIA — About 240 Jamaican workers at a luxury golf resort in South Carolina will be splitting \$2 million under a deal to settle a lawsuit alleging they had been cheated.

The order signed Dec. 16 by U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel applies to a pool of Jamaican guest workers who worked for Kiawah Island Golf Resort on H-2B visas. The program allows U.S. employers to bring foreign nationals to the country to fill temporary nonagricultural jobs.

Several guest workers filed a class-action lawsuit last year accusing Kiawah of failing to properly pay them minimum wages by deducting housing and transportation costs from their pay for kitchen, serving and housekeeping jobs from 2012 through 2014. Those deductions, the lawsuit argued, weren't put in writing when the employees were hired for jobs at the resort island property, located about 25 miles southwest of downtown Charleston. Kiawah was the site of the 2012 PGA Championship and will be the site of the 2021 championship.

Under the agreement, roughly 240 housekeepers, cooks, bellmen and other service workers would share \$2 million. Kiawah has agreed to pay an additional \$300,000 in legal fees.

Kiawah officials have denied the allegations. The agreement was reached earlier this year and finalized in Gergel's order.

—The Associated Press

NATION/WORLD



ARCTIC, ATLANTIC OCEANS

Obama bans future oil leases

By Kevin Freking
The Associated Press

HONOLULU — President Barack Obama on Tuesday designated the bulk of U.S.-owned waters in the Arctic Ocean and certain areas in the Atlantic Ocean as indefinitely off limits to future oil and gas leasing.

The move helps put some finishing touches on Obama's environmental legacy while also testing President-elect Donald Trump's promise to unleash the nation's untapped energy

reserves.

The White House announced the actions in conjunction with the government of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, which also placed a moratorium on new oil and gas leasing in its Arctic waters, subject to periodic review.

Obama is making use of an arcane provision in a 1953 law to ban offshore leases in the waters permanently. The statute says that "the president of the United States may, from time to time, withdraw from

disposition any of the unleased lands of the outer Continental Shelf."

Environmental groups hope the ban, despite relying on executive powers, will be difficult for future presidents to reverse. The White House said it's confident the president's directive will withstand legal challenge and said the language of the statute provides no authority for subsequent presidents to "unwithdraw" waters from future lease sales.

The Atlantic waters placed off

limits to new oil and gas leasing are 31 canyons stretching off the coast of New England south to Virginia.

The administration cited environmental concerns to justify the moratorium. The president also issued a statement noting the minimal level of fuel production occurring in the Arctic. Obama said just 0.1 percent of offshore crude production came from the Arctic in 2015, and at current oil prices,

SEE OIL, A7

GIVING BACK

Goodfellows volunteers prepare food bags for families

Campaign will feed 1,200 households this holiday season

By Alyssa Mulliger
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Robbie Swofford steered large carts of grocery bags, Summer Laney divided up cans of green beans and Stephen Greene unloaded the full bags at the end of the assembly line Tuesday evening during the *Herald-Journal's* annual Goodfellows campaign.

The three volunteers were among the hundreds of community members helping to pack 1,200 bags of groceries at the Piedmont Interstate Fairgrounds in Spartanburg for distribution Wednesday morning to pre-selected families.

Started in 1947, the Goodfellows campaign provides bags filled with enough groceries to feed a family of four for a week during Christmas. Each bag contains about 50 pounds of food, including fresh fruit and vegetables and staples such as cereal, peanut butter, pasta and beans.

Community donations to



ABOVE: Campbell Laney, 4, helps put cans of green beans in bags on the assembly line during Goodfellows packing night Tuesday at the Piedmont Interstate Fairgrounds.



LEFT: Zoe Cothran, 13, left, and Brynn Laney, 12, both of Spartanburg, stack canned goods that will be packed in

SPORTS

Indian Land names defensive coordinator as new head coach 1B



SPORTS

Winthrop thrills 'small' home crowd with big rally 1B



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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2016

\$1.00

Partly cloudy
56°/36° See X

The Herald

CLOVER

2 town council members resign

BY ANDREW DYS
ady@heraldonline.com

CLOVER

A pair of Clover council members have resigned, forcing the town to hold a special election in March to fill both seats.

Councilmen Jay Dover and Todd Blanton each resigned, but for different reasons.

Filing begins Dec. 30 and



Blanton

2015, was a frequent critic of the town and often butted heads

ends Jan. 9 for a special election on March 7, York County elections officials said. Council members serve four-year terms.

Blanton, elected first in 2011 and again in



Dover

"I just don't feel like I can be effective," Blanton said. "The

whole reason for being on council was to help others." Blanton's resignation took effect immediately when tendered late last week.

He was in the middle of a still-ongoing controversy over a proposed cell tower, clashing publicly with other town officials and speaking out against the tower site and changes to zoning laws that would allow the tower to be built. Blanton

also was part of a protest against the tower outside town hall.

When Clover jailed a disabled veteran in 2012 over a town law about junk in the man's yard in a story reported by The Herald,

Special Clover election March 7

Filing for two open seats runs from Dec. 30 to Jan. 9. For information contact York County Voter Registration and Elections at 803-684-1242.

SEE CLOVER, 6A



PHOTOS BY TRACY KIMBALL tkimball@heraldonline.com

WINTHROP BASKETBALL

YOUNG EAGLES FANS RAISE THE ROOF

Richmond Drive Elementary School students cheer during a field trip to watch the Winthrop University men's basketball team play Georgia Southern on Tuesday at Winthrop Coliseum. The children attended the game as part of a community-building partnership with the Rock Hill school district. More than 2,000 elementary and middle school students attended the game as part of an anti-bullying experience. Winthrop senior Tevin Prescott said of the students, "It was exciting



WILDLIFE

Coyotes are here, there, everywhere in S.C.

BY JOHN MARKS
jmarks@fortmilltimes.com

FORT MILL

As Tega Cay takes another look at coyotes, there's a much broader picture out there.

Coyotes, it appears, are everywhere.

"Coyotes are kind of like the cockroaches of the mammal world," said Suzanne Edson, supervisor with York County Animal Control.

"They're everywhere."

And like cockroaches, it's mainly because they are good at surviving. It's the issue in Tega Cay, where some city residents are calling for more to be done to control the coyote population while others argue the city shouldn't throw money at a problem it can't fix.

The city already had one public forum on coyotes. An update on the city's plans was on the agenda when Tega Cay City Council met Monday.

Tega Cay isn't alone.

When the Fort Mill Times posted the recent story of a former City Council member asking current leaders to do more to curb coyotes in Tega Cay, Facebook and phone messages came in detailing other accounts with the animals. Readers mentioned Whitegrove, Gold Hill Road, Beacon Knoll, Sutton Road and Baxter Village.

Some said or wrote they lost pets to coyotes.

When the Lake Wylie Pilot asked readers on its Facebook page whether coyotes are an issue, plenty of readers responded. There were reports on Pole Branch, Griggs, Evergreen, Kingsbury and Harper Davis roads. There were footprints on the banks of Crowders Creek, and the video one person shot of an animal in her backyard while she ate breakfast.

Coyotes, and in one case a fox den, were seen and heard in River Hills and Betheldfields.

SAVANNAH RIVER SHOOTOUT

Championship games
set for tonight, 1B



Aiken Standard

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WEDNESDAY, December 21, 2016

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 150, No. 355 || AIKEN, S.C.

Waste repository search begins Nuclear storage plan gives potential pathway out of SRS

BY THOMAS GARDINER
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A draft plan to build a new defense waste repository for nuclear materials

that could replace the defunct Yucca Mountain facility in Nevada has been released by the U.S. Department of Energy, giving hope for a future nuclear pathway out of South Carolina.

Barack Obama's administration in 2015 authorized the Energy Department to begin developing a new facility, and the draft lays out a path forward to find a permanent resting place for tons

of U.S. radioactive waste. That includes thousands of cubic meters of waste currently sitting at Savannah River Site. Please see **REPOSITORY**, Page 12A

Online



View a PDF of DOE's full draft with this story at aikenstandard.com.

AECOM, Energy Solutions win big contract

BY THOMAS GARDINER
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Two of the area's nuclear players have been awarded a major contract to clean up and decommission one of the nation's largest nuclear power facilities, the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station in California.

Southern California Edison, the owning utility company, announced that AECOM and Energy Solutions were awarded the contract Tuesday.

AECOM is the lead company of the partner organizations that make up Savannah River Remediation, the liquid waste contractor at South Carolina's Savannah River Site. Energy Solutions owns and operates the ChemNuclear low-level nuclear waste disposal facility near Barnwell.

The overall value of the contract is approximately \$4.4 billion. In a press release from Energy Solutions, the company said, "The Decommissioning General Contract represents a significant portion of the work required to safely decommission the San Onofre nuclear plant. San Onofre is one of the largest commercial nuclear plant decommissioning projects to date in the United States."

It is expected to take about 10 years to

Please see **CONTRACT**, Page 12A

Area deaths

Richard Barton, Aiken
Gene Cook, Aiken
Dr. Gayle Lee, Indian Land
John Henry Rankin Jr., Batesburg
Fred Robinson Jr., Aiken
John Owen, Aiken
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

Weather

Sunny.

'Counting the days forward'

Former Aiken resident doing well after double-lung transplant

BY DEDE BILES
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

A former Aiken resident's long battle against cystic fibrosis isn't over, but a recent surgical procedure has given her the opportunity for a longer life.

Jen Eisenmann received a double-lung transplant Dec. 14.

"We're not counting down the days until she's going to die anymore," her husband, Pete Eisenmann, said on Monday. "We're counting the days forward that she is going to live."

And, so far, everything is going well.

"She is a good patient, and she's very excited about having her new lungs," Pete said. "She is walking about three times a day in the hospital, and today, she had a swallow test that showed her esophagus is doing the right things, which means she can start to eat and drink rather than just get IV (intravenous) fluids."

Pete used to work in property management for Meybohm Realtors, and Jen was an accounting assistant at Dogwood Stable.

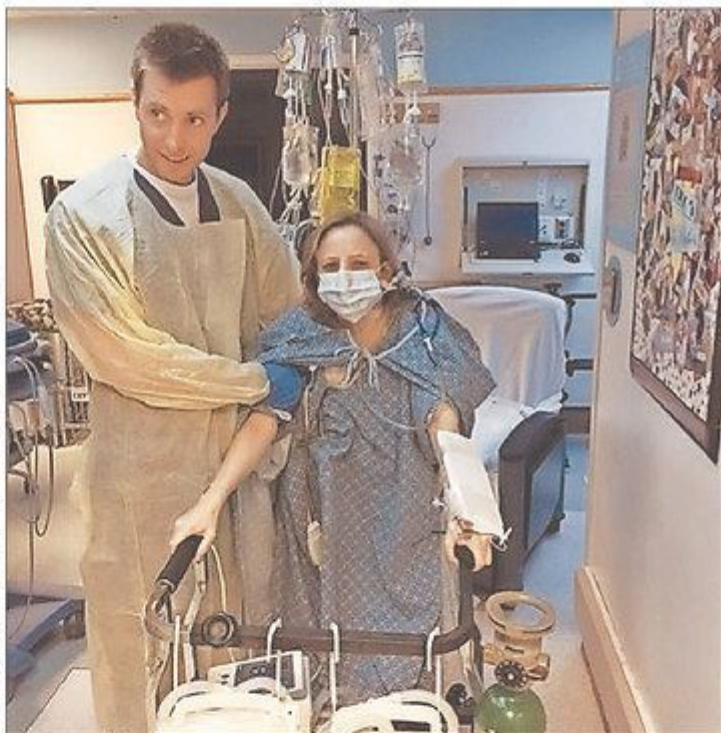
In 2015, the Eisenmanns left Aiken and moved to North Carolina because Jen wasn't able to get the more extensive care that she needed at the University of North Carolina Cystic Fibrosis and Pulmonary Diseases Research and Treatment Center.

"It has been an arduous process," Pete said. "The way I describe it is that Jen was climbing the sheer face of El Capitan. Jen would climb a little bit and climb a little bit, and then she would just hold on."

In July, Jen went on the waiting list for a transplant.

Three times, she heard the good news that a suitable set of lungs might have been found.

Three times she heard the devastating news that, no, it wasn't going



Former Aiken resident Jen Eisenmann walks for the first time the day after receiving a double-lung transplant at the University of North Carolina Medical Center earlier this month.

"It was discouraging," Pete said. "We knew more than a handful of people with cystic fibrosis who had died waiting on lungs, and she had only about 200 days to live. She was on 7 liters of oxygen a day, so she was getting oxygen constantly."

Then, at around 11 a.m. on Dec. 13, Jen received another phone call about the possibility of a transplant. The Eisenmanns, however, didn't immediately leave their home in Durham and rush to the University of North Carolina Medical Center in Chapel Hill.



Pete, left, and Jen Eisenmann are shown here before they moved from Aiken to North Carolina in 2015 so Jen, who has cystic fibrosis,



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*A physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner is committed to working diligently to have you initially seen within 30 minutes of your arrival. If you are experiencing a medical emergency call 911.

Morning News

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 21, 2016

**TODAY'S
WEATHER**

Mostly sunny
and milder.
High 60, low 31.
DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Hope Charities provides luncheon to Boys & Girls Club



Jerrie T. Brown (left) and a small group of volunteers helped provide lunch to more than 175 kids at the Boys & Girls Club of Florence on Tuesday afternoon.

BY JESSICA IMBIMO
Morning News
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FLORENCE — The Hope Charities Organization visited the Boys & Girls Club of Florence on Tuesday afternoon to deliver a hot lunch for more than 175 children right before the Christmas holiday.

Hope Charities is a nonprofit community-based organization that provides goods and services to underserved populations. The charity uses a small group of volunteers to collect monetary and item donations from businesses, churches and generous individuals in Flo-

rence, Williamsburg and Georgetown counties.

Jerrie T. Brown, the director of Hope Charities, has provided a Christmas luncheon for the Boys & Girls Club for the last three years. At the luncheon on Tuesday, the 175-plus children were given chili dogs, pizza, sandwiches and cookies, all packaged in a to-go container to take home with them.

"Children are not hard to please," Brown joked. "I want them to have a nice day."

Because it is a smaller charity, Brown said, she relies more heavily on donations. This year she was happy to have numerous sponsors

for the Christmas luncheon including Rick's Pawn Shop, Papa John's, Walmart and Jimmy John's. Overall, Brown deems her third Christmas luncheon a victory for Hope Charities.

"I think it was a success," Brown said. "Once the food is gone I know we made a difference, even if only for one day."

Brown said once the luncheon is over, she questions whether or not she will do it again the following year.

"I keep saying, 'I'm not going to do it this year. I'm too old,'" Brown said. "It's just love that keeps me coming back."

Lions gift means bikes for children

From staff reports

FLORENCE — In a round-about way Tuesday, one of the largest annual groupings of bikers to gather in Florence paid it forward with a donation that will make sure some children in Florence have bikes to ride come Christmas morning.

The Florence Lions Club, whose 33rd annual Toy Run Parade took place about two weeks ago, donated \$3,000 of the money the group raised to the Florence Corps of the Salvation Army.

When he heard of the coming donation, Maj. Christopher Thornhill said he knew exactly where the money was going to be put to use — bicycles.

"Children love bicycles. If you had a bike growing up you remember how much you loved those moments riding on your bike," Thornhill told the Army advisory board members at their monthly meeting.

Thornhill said he took the donation and reached out to Florence retailers Walmart and Academy Sports for the bikes and to make sure they were correctly assembled.

"You don't give a kid an unassembled bike for Christmas," Maj. Lynda Thornhill said.

"The children who will be receiving these bikes, you'll never see them, you'll never meet them but deep down inside I know that they'll want to say thank you to you, so for them



BRUINS ADVANCE



South Florence's Kyana Willis is introduced prior to the basketball game against Lamar in the Little Caesars Invitational at South Florence High School on Tuesday. The South Florence Bruins won, 38-26.

FLORENCE

South Florence and Lamar faced off for the semi-finals of the Little Caesars 2016 Invitational at South Florence High School on Tuesday. The South Florence Bruins beat the Silver Foxes, 38-26, and will move on to the championship game against Darlington High School at 7:30 p.m. today.

Wilson urges Trump to 'shelve' climate change rules

BY SAMMY FRETWELL
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proposal by the Obama administration to curb gases that contribute to climate change. The rule

who have already sued to stop the rule. The matter is hung up in federal court and may ultimately be decided by the U.S.

tutional manner, circumventing Congress and excluding the vote of the people's representatives," Wilson said in a media

THE HARTSVILLE MESSENGER

Darlington County's News Leader Since 1893

50 CENTS

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 21, 2016

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Year in Review

Election coverage dominated headlines

From Staff Reports

Editor's Note: This is the first of a four-part series that gives a retrospect of 2016. Part one will focus on events from January through March.

January

Election coverage began in January and continued through this election year.

Gloria Cheesbro Hines was sworn in as Darlington's new

mayor. She won a run-off election in November 2015 by just 10 votes, making her not only the city's first female mayor but the city's first black mayor as well.

Also in January, one Hartsville business, Anderson Brass Company, received a new custom-built transfer machine made in Brescia, Italy. It was expected to boost production at the family-owned valve manufacturer.

February

Election news continued in February with the announcement by Tony Chavis, a Darlington County resident and 28-year veteran of law enforcement, that he planned to run for the office of Sheriff of Darlington County.

Coker College professor Mal Hyman announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for S.C.'s 7th Congressional District seat.

R. Benton Dana of Darlington announced he would run for auditor.

A group of Hartsville business people, professionals and others sought a public referendum on whether to allow Sunday alcohol sales in the city limits. Before the month was out, Hartsville City Council gave overwhelming preliminary approval to an ordinance aimed at putting a public referendum on the November general election

ballot.

At the 95th annual meeting and banquet of the Greater Hartsville Chamber of Commerce, Jamie Morphis received the Rotary 2015 Citizen of the Year award. Eldon Henderson, owner of Henderson Ace Hardware, received the Greater Hartsville Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year award. Clayton Richardson was picked

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Prepare for winter weather

From Staff Reports

As cold winter weather approaches, State Fire Marshal Bert Polk is urging citizens to be fire safe.

"More home fires occur during the winter months than during any other part of the year," Polk said. "In our state, during last year's winter months, there were 23 fatal fires resulting in 26 fire deaths. Our records indicate almost half of those fatalities were heating related."

However, many of these fires are preventable. South Carolinians can reduce their risks of becoming a fire casualty by identifying potential hazards and following these safety tips:

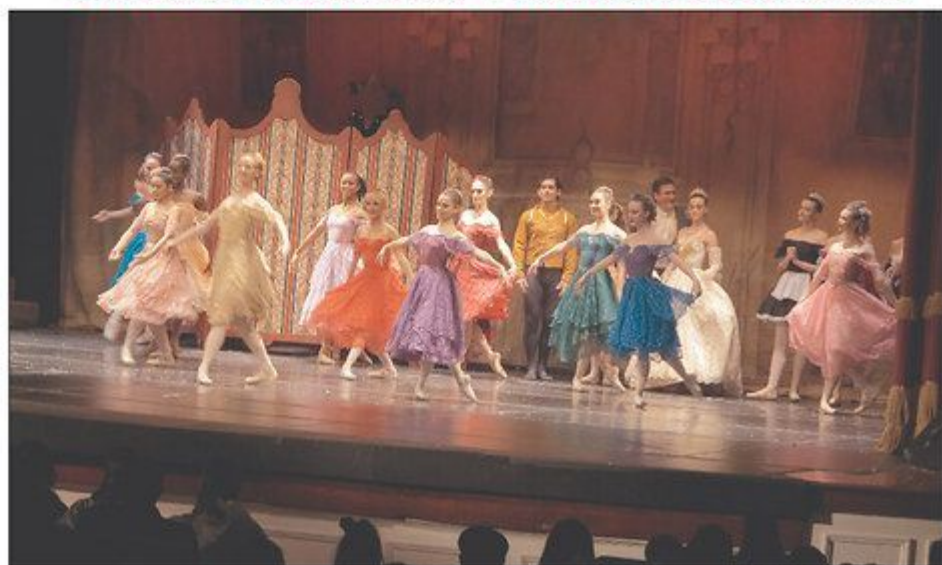
Only use kerosene heaters and space heaters according to the manufacturer's instructions. They can be a convenient source of supplemental heat. However, they must be used properly and safely. Inspect the heater for cracked or broken plugs. If frayed, worn, or damaged, do not use the heater. Never leave a heater unattended. Turn it off when leaving a room. Don't let pets or children play too close to it. Keep the unit on a flat surface at least three feet away from anything that can burn. Refuel a kerosene heater outdoors. Additionally, always plug the space heater directly into the wall. Don't use an extension cord or power strip.

Heating pads and electric blankets also pose a fire risk - especially if more than 10 years old. Don't allow anything on top of either one when in use - this includes other blankets or pets. Never fold electric blankets or use while sleeping.

Portable generators are commonly used in the winter as a result of storm-induced power outages. Carbon monoxide fumes are odorless and deadly. Follow manufacturer's instructions to prevent death from carbon monoxide.

Be careful when using candles. They are an open flame. Never use

'THE NUTCRACKER' VISITS HARTSVILLE



PHOTOS BY ARDE APONSON/HARTSVILLE MESSENGER

'The Nutcracker' was presented by the Columbia City Ballet on Friday night at the Center Theater, featuring the professional company dancers from the CCB and 28 local dancers. This was the third season the ballet was brought to Hartsville by the Brenda Cranford School of Dance and the Hartsville Community Players. The ballet company also performed for school children during the day a program about bullying themed Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer.



Director of the Columbia City Ballet's 'The Nutcracker' William Starrett holds one of the many nutcrackers, ornaments and bears available Friday night.



The Columbia City ballet presented 'The Nutcracker' in Hartsville on Friday night.

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