

From: Taillon, Jeff  
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Date: 11/30/2012 9:24:38 AM  
Subject: S.C. Front Pages - Friday, November 30, 2012

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**Cracking the holiday party dress code.** MOXIE, D1

**Senate to Obama: 'End this war,' A5**

# The Post and Courier

THE SOUTH'S OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER • FOUNDED 1803

FRIDAY, November 30, 2012

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Charleston, North Charleston, S.C. ★★ \$1.00



At Beech Hill school, 1,200 people become a giant work of art  
Local & State, B1

College of Charleston board to vote on CAA switch today  
Sports, C1



The nightclub spat that led to Lohan's latest brush with law  
People, A2



**Coming Sunday**  
"The Insider": How a top Allstate executive wrestled with his conscience over secret computer programs that increase insurance company profits at the expense of consumers. The latest installment in The Post and Courier's in-depth series, "Scorn of Money."



**Get 55% off**  
a holiday rejuvenation package at Seeking Indigo.  
See A2.



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Setting the record straight	A2		



## Free phones worth the wait



David Underwood (right), 28, examines the phone he received Wednesday a few blocks from Crisis Ministries on Meeting Street as part of Lifeline, a government-subsidized program.

### Hundreds line up to receive cellular access through project

BY ANDREW KNAPP  
aknapp@postandcourier.com

When David Underwood makes a quick buck by selling a pint of his own blood, he usually spends the cash on bus fares.

The 28-year-old has been living on Charleston streets for four years, and finding steady income is a way out of his dire straits, he said.

But he doesn't earn enough money from peddling his plasma to buy the cellphone he said is needed for potential employers to contact him.

That's why a federally funded operation based out of a mini-van in downtown Charleston has thrown Underwood a line. Hundreds of low-income people this week have been lining up in a vacant lot near the Crisis Ministries shelter on Meeting Street and, in some cases, waiting nearly three hours for a free cellphone with 250 prepaid minutes per month.

#### About Lifeline

- Eligible people can wait from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today for a free phone. The operation continues during the same hours Monday through Friday next week at two locations:
- Next to 524 Meeting St., which is near Lee Street, in downtown Charleston.
- Next to the Dollar General store at 1365 Remount Road, North Charleston.

Underwood snagged an LG with a sliding keypad and a camera.

"It's only 250 minutes, so they're very important minutes," said Underwood, who aims to earn his commercial truck-driving license. "People can't call me unless they're on fire or they have a job for me."

Please see PHONES, Page A15

#### Same-sex marriage to court?

- To participate, consumers must prove an income at or below 135 percent of the federal poverty level or participate in an assistance program, such as Medicaid, food stamps, Head Start and free lunch.
- People also must provide photo ID with a temporary or permanent address.
- Limited to one phone or discount per household.
- Monthly discounts average \$9.25. Some companies' programs, like the Enlouch Wireless efforts in the Charleston area, include the one-time distribution of phones with 250 minutes of talk time each month. Customers can purchase additional minutes.
- About 2,000 companies nationwide are eligible to provide the discounts. Those companies are reimbursed by the federal government.

—Federal Communications Commission

## Program lets families learn together

BY DIETTE COURRÉGE CASEY  
dcourreg@postandcourier.com

Nina and Ronald Clayton picked out crayons and helped their 3-year-old son, Jaquan, color a picture.

They spend about an hour most days doing various activities to help them improve as their child's first teacher.

That time is one piece of a four-hour program, four days a week during which parents work on their GEDs and WorkKeys certificates and preschool children are taught social and academic skills.

This kind of program should have a waiting list, with only 20 available spots and hundreds of eligible families. But only four families are attending regularly.

"We cannot get people to continue to come," said Eileen Chespenik, executive director of Trident Literacy Association. "I don't want to lose this wonderful opportunity."

Trident Literacy Association won a \$65,000 competitive, national grant from



Sandra Fraser, director of early childhood education for Trident Literacy Association's Families Learning Together, works with 2-year-old Elizabeth Mack and her mother, Michelle Jones-Mack, on Thursday at Celebration Station on Reynolds Avenue in North Charleston.

Please see LITERACY, Page A6

## HACKED

THE AFTERMATH OF THE CYBERATTACK

## Data on hacker fallout lacking

Critics: State needs to track crimes

BY GLENN SMITH  
gsmith@postandcourier.com

More than a month after a hacker made off with millions of South Carolina tax records, no one seems sure how much of that highly sensitive information has actually been put to use by criminals.

State officials say they don't know how many people have been victimized to date, and critics contend that's because there is no centralized system for tracking crimes related to the breach.

Various state agencies are fielding calls from anxious taxpayers and potential victims. Experian is monitoring credit reports, and individual banks and police departments are said to be taking theft complaints at the local level. But there appears to be no coordinated effort to harness all that information and chart the extent of the damage.

State Rep. Leon Stavrinakis, D-Charleston, said lawmakers have

Please see HACKING, Page A6



**READ MORE**  
For more coverage on the cyberattack, go to [postandcourier.com/hacked](http://postandcourier.com/hacked).

## Same-sex marriage to court?

Supreme Court may take on issue

BY MARK SHERMAN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The running fight over gay marriage is shifting from the ballot box to the Supreme Court.

Three weeks after voters backed same-sex marriage in three states and defeated a ban in a fourth, the justices are meeting today to decide whether they should deal sooner rather than later with the claim that the Constitution gives people the right to marry regardless of sexual orientation.

The court also could duck the ultimate question for now and instead focus on a narrower but still important issue: whether Congress can prevent legally married gay Americans from receiving federal benefits otherwise available to married couples.

The court could announce its plans as soon as this afternoon. Any cases probably would be argued in March, with a decision expected by the end of June.

Gay marriage is legal, or will be soon.

Please see COURT, Page A15



## FAIRFIELD SEEKS TITLE Davis tries to follow in mentor's footsteps. C1

### LOTS TO DO Eric Church at the arena just one of many attractions, in Weekend

## HARTSVILLE'S SHOT AT CLASS 3A TITLE PLAYING 'ALL OUT' FOR FALLEN TEAMMATE

By AKILAH IMANI NELSON  
anelson@thestate.com

It does not matter whether the Hartsville Red Foxes complete this season undefeated on the football field.

It does not matter that the Red Foxes could return to Hartsville with the program's first state title since 1988.

Since Oct. 5, when senior nose guard

Ronald Rouse collapsed during the Red Foxes' homecoming game and later died, the 2012 season has not been about football.

"People talk about our record and all that stuff, but since that time, I haven't thought much about what our record

SEE HARTSVILLE PAGE A6

### INSIDE

Fairfield Central seeking to return to glory days, C1

### COMING SUNDAY

Special section: A season of love, hope and trust with the C.A. Johnson football team

Ronald Rouse, who died this year

# The State

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2012 | THESTATE.COM

S.C. HACKED | LAWMAKERS' PROPOSALS

# Fraud-monitoring tax credits urged

Legislative leaders offer plan to aid taxpayer-victims

By ANDREW SHAIN  
ashain@thestate.com

South Carolina's top lawmakers agreed Thursday that legislation is needed to offer income tax credits for taxpayers who have to pay for fraud monitoring and to standardize the government's fractured computer operations.

They also want an independent audit of the S.C. Department of Revenue after hackers stole financial information belonging to 6.4 million consumers and businesses from the agency.

Gov. Nikki Haley's office said her administration will work with lawmakers "on ways to further protect and compensate af-

fectured taxpayers."

The governor also has no objections to a review by the independent Legislative Audit Council, though her office noted the S.C. inspector general and Mandiant, a computer security firm hired after the breach, are conducting audits.

Plans for legislative solutions

to aid taxpayers and an audit were made public at a State House news conference Thursday held by a pair of top Democrats, state Sen. Vincent Sheheen of Camden and state Rep. James Smith of Columbia. The Democrats also called for creating a

SEE CREDITS PAGE A9

## CLOSING PAINS SOCCER FANS



Photos brought in from customers adorn the back wall of Corner Kick in Irmo. The first soccer-only store in the area was also a place for the sport's enthusiasts to check out the latest cleats styles and talk shop.

By JOEY HOLLEMAN  
jholleman@thestate.com

**IRMO** — When youngsters tried on soccer cleats at Corner Kick, co-owner Jay Burns engaged them so much they felt a special connection. Sometimes, they would ask Jay to come see them play in their new shoes. As often as his busy work schedule would allow, he would show up at the fields in the Irmo area and offer encouragement.



## ELECTION MESS

McBride makes more than peers in S.C.

Her \$89,124 pay tops Greenville, Charleston salaries

By JOHN MONK  
jmonk@thestate.com

Richland County elections chief Lillian McBride is paid nearly as much as the chief of the State Election Commission and more than her counterparts in South Carolina's other two largest counties.

McBride, who on Nov. 6 oversaw the state's most bungled elections, earns \$89,124, according to county pay records released in response to a Freedom of Information Act request by The State.

State election chief Marci Andino, whose agency oversees elections statewide, makes \$90,281 — just \$1,157 more than McBride.

McBride never oversaw an



McBride





CLEMSON FOOTBALL

## WHAT'S NEXT FOR TIGERS?



METRO

## Woman in court on card charge

# The Greenville News

A GANNETT COMPANY

FRIDAY,  
NOVEMBER 30, 2012  
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

**BUSINESS**

Worker shortage hurting construction industry, 8A

FINAL EDITION

## GOP TURNS DOWN 'CLIFF' PLAN

Republican aides: Obama's \$4 trillion proposal doesn't reflect earlier conversations

By Susan Davis and Aamer Madhani  
USA Today

WASHINGTON — House Speaker John Boehner flatly rejected a \$4 trillion Obama administration plan to avoid going over the fiscal cliff that was presented by Treasury Secretary Timothy

Geithner on Thursday in a private meeting.

Publicly, Boehner said he is "disappointed" with the offer, but he offered no details. Privately, three Republican congressional aides familiar with the president's offer cast it as an "outrageous" proposal that surprised the speaker and has set back negotiations on how to avoid the "fiscal cliff" coming at the end of the year, when all of the Bush-era tax rates expire and the first of \$1.2 trillion in spending cuts over 10 years are triggered.

The combined effect of the two — without action by Washington — threaten to push the U.S. economy back into a recession.

President Barack Obama and Boehner are viewed as the chief negotiators for their parties on reaching a deal.

The GOP aides described the administration's proposal as a nonstarter that was not reflective of the conversations that have been ongoing since congressional leaders met with Obama two

### PROPOSAL HIGHLIGHTS

- \$1.6 trillion in revenues, including \$860 billion from raising the top marginal rates on wealthy Americans as well as higher capital gains and dividends.
- An extension of the Social Security payroll tax break and unemployment insurance benefits.
- A one-year deferral of "sequestration," the \$1.2 trillion spending cuts over 10 years.
- A multiyear stimulus package with at least \$50 billion for the 2013 fiscal year.
- A permanent increase in the debt limit.

See CLIFF, Page 3A

## Revenue chief's testimony challenged

Etter later changes his story, says House did agree to fund new system

By Tim Smith  
Staff writer  
tsmith@greenvilleonline.com

COLUMBIA — A key legislator is challenging testimony by the outgoing state revenue director that his request for \$14.4 million for a computer system that would have encrypted data later stolen by a foreign hacker was turned down by lawmakers.



Etter

Following that challenge, Revenue Director Jim Etter, who's become a casualty in the unprecedented hacking of residents' data, moved to change his version of events. He told GreenvilleOnline.com on Thursday that the House of Representatives agreed to fund the system in phases.

The chairman of the House budget panel who heard the Department of Revenue's request said revenue department officials didn't talk about security and weren't turned down.

"At no time during the budget talks was the term dealing with encryption or dealing with security ever brought up by the Department of Revenue," said Rep. Gary Simrill, a Rock Hill Republican.

Simrill said the budget request was for an integrated tax system and was a multi-year project, so lawmakers asked the agency if it could be funded on an annual basis and it agreed.

See TESTIFY, Page 3A

INSIDE



**DOWNTOWN**

Jason Fletcher, owner of The Green Room and Ford's Oyster House, saw some slow times during the recession, but has seen his business pick up substantially as people again feel comfortable spending money to dine out. KEN OSBURN/STAFF

## Restaurant revival

DOWNTOWN DINING GAINING STEAM WITH NEW ADDITIONS

By Lillia Callum-Penso  
Staff writer  
lpenso@greenvillenews.com

**M**ac's Speed Shop, Red Fin, Grill Marks, Rick's Deli and Market, Roost — the list of new restaurants opening







**INSIDE TODAY: All you need for holiday TV**

# Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

FRIDAY, November 30, 2012

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

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Coming Saturday



Aiken Standard  
advent calendar

Missouri Powerball  
winner verified;  
Arizona's still a mystery  
National news, 8A

Lulu's Carwash coming  
to Richland Avenue  
Local news, 2A



Applebee's to host  
breakfast with Santa  
Local news, 4A



'Secret Santa' showers  
\$100 bills on storm-hit  
New Jersey, New York  
National news, 16A

## AREA DEATHS

**Andrew Schoultz**, Jackson  
**Dolores Goodwin**,  
Gloverville  
**Frances Walsh**, Winter  
Haven, Fla.  
**Robert Randy Hunt**,  
Walhalla  
**Roy Walker**, Aiken  
**Thomas Guy Massey**,  
Aiken

## Christmas tree lights up today



AIKENSTANDARD FILE PHOTO

Candles add to the Christmas spirit following the lighting of the City of Aiken Christmas tree at a previous year's event.

BY AMY BANTON  
abanton@aikenstandard.com

The City of Aiken is kicking off the Christmas season this evening with its annual tree lighting ceremony.

This tradition has been around for more than two decades and has grown over the years. It's a time for the community to join together with lit candles in their hands and get into the holiday spirit.

Participants will be offered free refreshments and encouraged to sing along to some Christmas carols performed by the Aiken Singers.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will also be

there greeting the children.

City Mayor Fred Cavanaugh will be leading the festivities, and it's one of his most favorite events that he looks forward to every year.

"I've enjoyed it over these years, and it's always a fun time," Cavanaugh said. "It's a fun way to get into the Christmas season."

Cavanaugh loves every aspect of the event, but he particularly enjoys talking to the children and asking them what they're thankful for.

For Aden Jackson, City recreation program coordinator, this is her first

## Want to go?

**WHAT:** Aiken Christmas tree lighting ceremony  
**WHEN:** Today at 6:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Center of Laurens Street and Richland Avenue in downtown Aiken

year being involved in the event and she said she's pretty excited about it. Jackson appreciates the fact that the children are so involved in the tree

Please see **TREE**, Page 16A

## Residents provide input for Dougherty Road plan

BY AMY BANTON  
abanton@aikenstandard.com

Around 50 residents gathered at the Knights of Columbus building on Spaulding Drive on Thursday evening to hear the results of the first comments gathered regarding issues with Dougherty Road.

The Dougherty Road Corridor Study is under way with URS Consultants working on the project for the City of Aiken and Aiken County. This transportation study cost around \$90,000, with 80 percent covered by federal funding — the county and city split the remaining 20 percent.

What was presented on Thursday was very preliminary. No concept plans have been drawn as the study is in its infancy. Information and feedback gathered during a meeting earlier in the month from both residents and business owners were analyzed regarding the 1-mile road that connects Whiskey and Silver Bluff roads.

URS Senior Project Manager Ernie Boughman presented the information at the Thursday night meeting.

A total of three questions were asked to around 70 participants during the Nov. 15 meeting including "Using only one word, how would one describe Dougherty Road as it is today?" Some of the top words were "congested," "unsafe or dangerous," "busy," "inadequate," "crowded," "bottleneck," "frustrating" and "terrible."

Participants were also asked what is the biggest challenge presented by the road? Top answers included traffic flow, property owner satisfaction, drainage, tight right-of-way (there's about 60 feet of it), mixed land uses, access and geometry or sight distance.

When asked what they wish people first thought of when hearing "Dougherty Road," residents said they wanted them to think it was safe and accessible, well done, and attractive.

Please see **STUDY**, Page 16A

## New app gives readers local news anytime, anywhere

BY ALY BUFFETT  
abuffett@aikenstandard.com

The Aiken Standard and aikenstandard.com recently released new apps available for Apple iPhones and iPads, Android and Kindle devices.

The apps offer a new way to access local news on the go with the new Aiken Standard E-Edition app. The app is now available to be downloaded for free on all devices.

that is offered on aikenstandard.com.

Not only does it offer an exact replica of the newspaper in a manner that allows readers to flip through pages, but it also allows readers to zoom in on each page and story. Clicking on a particular story will take you to a "reader-friendly" layout of every story.

Readers also can customize how they want to view their edition

story that runs in the paper will be accessible through the e-edition apps.

In addition, readers can access old editions. If there is a particular story or keyword a reader is interested in, the apps offers a search option that will bring up all articles related to the search content.

Enjoy having local news at your fingertips wherever you are. Download the new app for free by search-



AIKEN STANDARD PHOTO ILLUSTRATION  
The new Aiken Standard E-Edition





# The Beaufort Gazette

FRIDAY, November 30, 2012

[beaufortgazette.com](http://beaufortgazette.com)

Established in 1897 50 cents

## Crash kills 1, injures Beaufort High senior

Former Marine killed when student's SUV collides head-on with van

By **TOM BARTON**  
[tbarton@beaufortgazette.com](mailto:tbarton@beaufortgazette.com)  
843-706-8169

A former Marine was killed and a Beaufort High School senior was

injured Thursday morning in a wreck on Sea Island Parkway on Lady's Island.

Krysten Beauchamp, 18, of Beaufort was driving south on Sea Is-

land Parkway when her 2006 Lexus SUV crossed the center line and struck a northbound 2001

Chrysler van head-on, according to S.C. Highway Patrol Cpl. Bob

Beres.

The van's driver — Chad Santoro, 47, of Beaufort — died, according to Beaufort County Coroner Ed Allen. He was a former gun-

nery sergeant and worked as a civilian at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, according to Anderson Funeral Home in Beaufort, which is handling arrangements for Santoro's family.

### ON THE WEB

For a WTOC video, click on this story at [beaufortgazette.com](http://beaufortgazette.com).

Please see **CRASH** on 7A

### RAJERICK LOVELL KNIGHT TRIAL

## VERDICT: GUILTY OF MURDER

Shooter sentenced to life in prison after jury takes hour for conviction



DELAYNA EARLEY • Staff photo

Rajerick Lovell Knight talks with one of his lawyers, Naki Richardson-Bax, during the last day of his trial Thursday morning in the Beaufort County Courthouse.

By **ANNE CHRISTNOVICH**  
[achristnovich@beaufortgazette.com](mailto:achristnovich@beaufortgazette.com) • 843-706-8125

A jury needed only about an hour Thursday to find Rajerick Lovell Knight guilty of murdering Travis Sentell Holmes last year in a Beaufort sandwich shop.

Judge Craig Brown handed down a life sentence for murder and added five years for possession of a weapon during a violent crime. Before Brown's verdict, Knight apologized to Holmes' mother and asked the judge not to sentence him to life in prison.

Knight's mother and Lashaunaka Allen, his girlfriend, made similar pleas.

"Please don't take him away from us forever," Allen said. "I'm sorry he took one life, but please don't take another."

In closing statements, attorney Arie Bax asked the jury of three men and eight women to consider whether his client shot Holmes for revenge or because he feared for his life and his family's safety.

Please see **GUILTY** on 7A

### APPROACHING THE 'FISCAL CLIFF'

## GOP rejects Obama offering

Experts view the plan as a starting point for detailed talks, even as Mitch McConnell called it "completely unrealistic."

By **DAVID LIGHTMAN, ANITA KUMAR** and **KEVIN G. HALL**  
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration Thursday offered to get the nation off the fiscal cliff with a package that includes \$1.6 trillion in tax increases over 10 years, more controversial spending to stimulate the economy and a permanent solution to the fights over raising the nation's debt ceiling.



Obama

The plan was quickly derided by Republicans, with Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., branding the offer as "completely unrealistic."

The proposal was offered by Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner in a series of private meetings with congressional leaders on Capitol Hill. Unless the White House and Congress agree to an alternative plan, Bush-era tax cuts will expire at the end of the year and \$109 billion in automatic spending cuts — called a sequester — will take effect Jan. 2.

Please see **CLIFF** on 7A

### TWO-STAGE PROPOSAL

#### STAGE ONE

■ Immediate increase in top marginal income tax rates, capital gains and dividends, which would raise \$960 billion over ten years

■ Unspecified "additional tax increases" of \$600 billion including returning the estate tax to 2009 levels and extending current business tax breaks

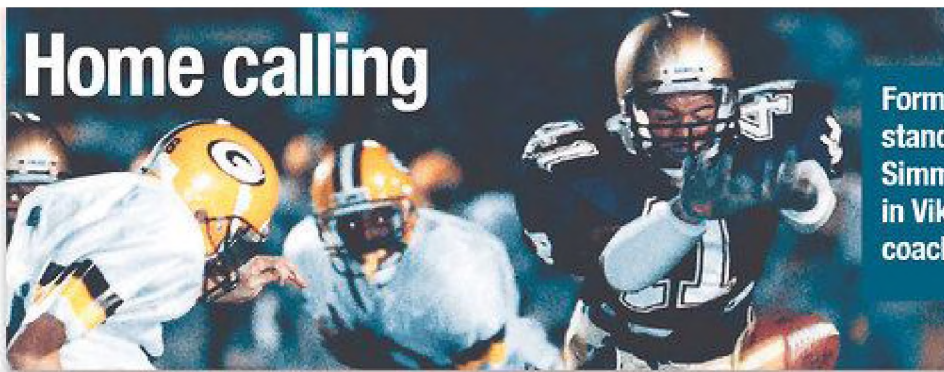
### MORE ONLINE

For a WTOC video coverage of the Rajerick Lovell Knight trial, click on this story at [beaufortgazette.com](http://beaufortgazette.com).





## Home calling



Former Spartanburg standout Anthony Simmons interested in Vikings head coaching job B1

# Herald-Journal

FRIDAY

NOVEMBER 30, 2012  
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**HJ**  
IN A HURRY

5 Things to read today



### Donations accepted

People who attend performances of "Madeline's Christmas" can drop off toys to be donated to Miracle Hill Rescue Mission and the Children's Shelter of the Upstate. Performances are 4:30 and 7 p.m. today and 2 and 4:30 p.m. Saturday. **PAGE C1**

### Twinkies survive

Hostess Brands Inc. received final approval for its wind-down plans in bankruptcy court Thursday, setting the stage for its iconic snack cakes to find a second life with new owners — even as 18,000 jobs will be wiped out. **PAGE C6**

### Dredging suit

Attorneys meeting behind closed doors are trying to settle a federal lawsuit challenging the \$650 million deepening of the Savannah River shipping channel. **PAGE C4**

### Heavy fighting

Internet service went down Thursday across Syria and international flights were canceled at the Damascus airport when a road near the facility was closed by heavy fighting in the country's civil war. **PAGE A8**

### 'Officer, gentleman'

A tourist's snapshot of a New York City police officer giving new boots to a barefoot homeless man in Times Square has created an online sensation. Thousands of people commented, including one person who praised him as "An officer AND a Gentleman." **PAGE A4**

## Palestinians get foot in UN door

General Assembly supports nonmember observer status

By EDITH M. LEDERER  
The Associated Press

**UNITED NATIONS** — The United Nations voted overwhelmingly Thursday to recognize a Palestinian state, a victory decades in the making for the Palestinians after years of occupation and war. It was a sharp rebuke for Israel and the United

States.

A Palestinian flag was quickly unfurled on the floor of the General Assembly, behind the Palestinian delegation, as the final vote was cast.

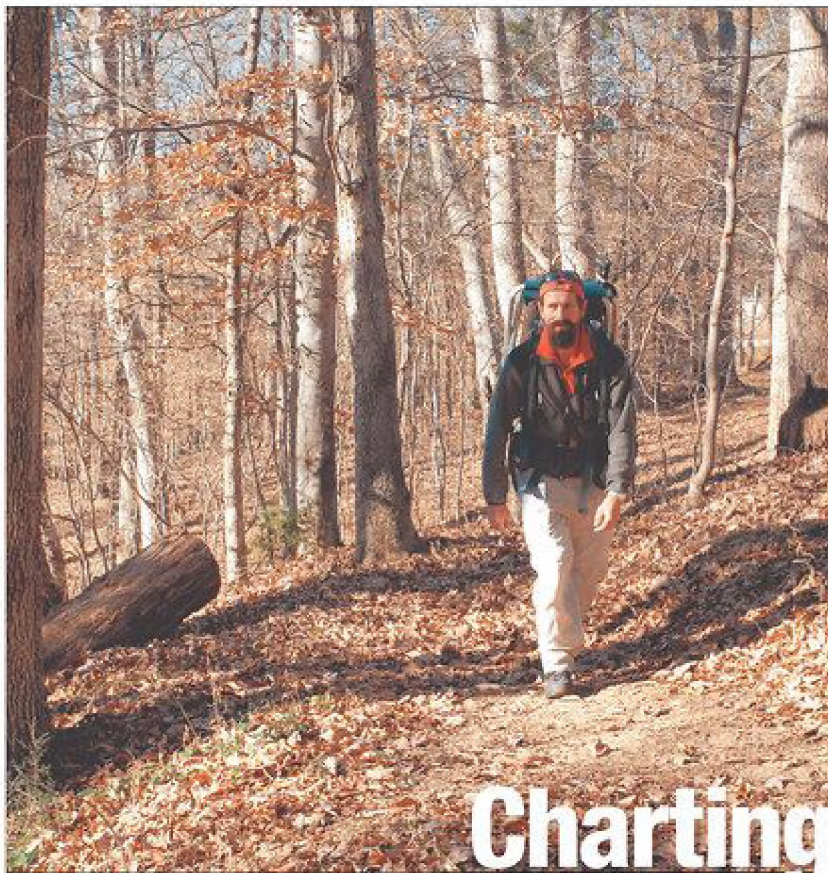
In an extraordinary lineup of international support, more than two-thirds of the world body's 193 member states approved the resolution upgrading the Palestinians to a nonmember observer state. It passed

◆ SEE PALESTINE PAGE A5



Israel's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ron Prosor gestures as he embraces the United States Ambassador Susan Rice after a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly.

KATHY WILLENS/AP



Hiker is walking through SC via the Palmetto Trail

## Charting adventure

By FELICIA KITZMILLER  
felicia.kitzmiller@shj.com

Seot Ward is charting a course from South Carolina's Upstate mountains to the sparkling coast of the Atlantic Ocean, and he is recording his trip so others can repeat the journey.

Followers had better like



PHOTOS BY JOHN BYUM/JOHN.BYUM@SHJ.COM

## SC mulls tax credit for hacker victims

Dems rip government failure to guard data

By ANDREW SHAIN  
The (Columbia) State

**COLUMBIA** — South Carolina's top lawmakers agreed Thursday that legislation is needed to offer income tax credits for taxpayers who have to pay for fraud monitoring and to standardize the government's fractured computer operations.

They also want an independent audit of the S.C. Department of Revenue after hackers stole financial information belonging to 6.4 million consumers and businesses from the agency.

Gov. Nikki Haley's office said the first-term Republican will work with lawmakers "on ways to further protect and compensate affected taxpayers."

The governor also has no objections to a review by the independent Legislative Audit Council, though her office noted the S.C. inspector general and Mandiant, a computer security firm hired after the breach, are conducting audits.

Plans for legislative solutions to aid taxpayers and an audit were made public at a State House news conference Thursday held by a pair of top Democrats, state Sen. Vincent Sheheen of Camden and state Rep. James Smith of Columbia. The Democrats also called for creating a state fund to reimburse taxpayers hurt by the hacking.

"When you have an incompetent government, you get incompetent results," Sheheen said.



**Panthers hope  
preparation pays off, 1B**

**Inside today's edition**

**Local: Lots of Lakelands holiday events planned, 2A**

**News: Hostess looks to sell off its brands, 7A**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2012

2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

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# INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 94, NO. 212

**'SHE WAS AS CLOSE TO AN ANGEL AS AN ANGEL COULD BE'**

## OFFICIALS: MAN STARTS FIRE TO COVER UP KILLING

53-year-old Bradley man charged with murder, third-degree arson

By MATT BRUCE  
mbruce@indexjournal.com

The Greenwood County Sheriff's Office arrested a man following the shooting death of a woman in Bradley early Wednesday morning, in which the victim was found in a burning house.

Darell A. Merritt, 53, of 2215 County Line Road, Bradley, was charged Thursday with murder, third-degree arson and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime in connection with the incident, according to Greenwood County Sheriff Tony Davis.

The Greenwood County Coroner's Office identified the victim as Lisa Merritt, 46, also of 2215 County Line Road, Bradley. Autopsy results confirmed she suffered gunshot wounds to the chest and head from a shotgun. She died from a laceration to the brain resulting from the head wound, Coroner Jim Coursey said. Coursey added the other gunshot wound would have also been life threatening as it hit a main artery.

Neighbors and loved ones said the couple lived in the home along County Line Road together and had been married about 10 years. Near the scene of the grisly crime Thursday afternoon, Lisa Merritt's family remembered her as a loving and understanding woman with a special zeal.

"She was a sweetheart. She loved everybody and never hurt anybody," said James Christian, the victim's uncle. "She would help anybody that she could help in any way, and she loved life."

According to a Greenwood County incident report, a deputy was dispatched to the couple's home about 2:30 a.m. Thursday because of a fire alarm. When the officer arrived, there was already a working fire under way at the double-wide mobile home.

Fire crews arrived and quickly extinguished the fire. Upon searching the trailer, they found the victim lying on the floor in a rear bedroom, the report stated.

Coroner's office officials said the fire appeared to have been ignited in the bedroom. The victim, however, was not severely burned by the blaze, a coroner's reports indicated. SLED is investigating the fire and will perform a toxicology test on the victim.

GCSO investigators Thursday said evidence indicated the suspect started the fire after the shooting in an attempt to cover up the crime.

See **KILLING** page 4A



PHOTOS BY MATT WALSH / INDEX JOURNAL  
Darell Merritt, 53, appears before the Greenwood County Magistrate judge Thursday after he was charged in connection with the death of his wife. Bond was not set. "I am just sorry for what I have done," Merritt said when the judge asked if he had any questions.



Police responded to this Bradley residence, 2215 County Line Road, where reports indicated authorities found the victim lying on the floor in a rear bedroom.

### ■ HACKED TAX RETURNS

## Democrats call for independent investigation

By BRUCE SMITH  
Associated Press

NORTH CHARLESTON — The controversy about the hacking of millions of South Carolina tax returns turned political Thursday as Democrats called for an independent investigation into what happened and tax credits for as long as a decade for those who suffered losses through identity theft.

State Rep. Leon Stavrinakis, of Charleston, said since Gov. Nikki Haley announced the hacking late last month "instead of answers and solutions, we have received a steady stream of misinformation, constantly changing stories and little to no transparency."

He spoke in North Charleston as four other Democrats had a news conference in Columbia.

"This administration has allowed a tax to be placed on every single one of us for the rest of our lives,"

See **BREACH**, page 4A



NIKKI  
HALEY

### ■ ECONOMIC GROWTH

## Projects discussed at Partnership meeting

By CHRIS TRAINOR  
ctrainor@indexjournal.com

Numerous political, business and economic development leaders gathered Thursday afternoon at Piedmont Technical College for Partnership Alliance's regular board of directors meeting.

Partnership Alliance is a public/private economic development firm operating in Greenwood County. Its board consists of leaders from different segments of the community. The firm works to recruit and retain industrial, large retail and other businesses in the county.

Partnership CEO Mark Warner talked a bit about the economic development projects the firm currently has on its "hot list." There currently are six active projects on that list, representing a potential 628 new jobs and \$458 million in capital investment.

Those projects are code named Seminole, Dixie, Zig, Circle of Life and Pine. Partnership has not yet assigned a code name to the sixth hot list project.

See **PROJECTS** page 4A



# THE ISLAND PACKET

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2012

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**United Way reaches 62 percent of \$2.8M fundraising goal 2A**



## BLUFFTON MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS

### District targets crowded schools

Overcrowding could force change in grade structures at schools — but nothing has been decided yet.

By RACHEL HEATON  
rheaton@beaufortgazette.com  
843-706-8177

More questions than answers remain for Bluffton-area parents concerned about changes that could bring ninth-graders to Bluffton High School next year.

About 250 parents and teachers assembled at Bluffton High for a community meeting Thursday, where they heard from district officials that nothing has been decided yet.

Ninth-graders could move from H.E. McCracken Middle School to Bluffton High next year — but they might not. Mobile classrooms could be added to Bluffton High next year — or not. In the long-term, a new high school could be built, but that might not be the solution either.

Please see SCHOOLS on 7A

## STILL GROWING

To view a graphic showing the projected growth next school year at Bluffton middle and high schools, please see 7A

## FISCAL CLIFF TALKS

### GOP rejects Obama's opening bid

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner unveils plan that includes \$1.6 trillion in tax increases over 10 years and a new \$50 billion stimulus package.

By DAVID LIGHTMAN, ANITA KUMAR and KEVIN G. HALL  
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration Thursday offered to get the nation off the fiscal cliff with a package that includes \$1.6 trillion in tax increases over 10 years, more controversial spending to stimulate the economy and a permanent solution to the fights over raising



Brandon Warren, 18



Javon Winston, 19

## BLUFFTON BURGLARY, MANHUNT SUSPECTS CAUGHT



DELAYNA EARLEY • Staff photo

Lance Cpl. Bryan Jacoby, center, and Cpl. Chelsea Seronka of the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office dive team prepare to search for a gun Thursday in a pond in Fernlakes. After a resident of the neighborhood discovered two men in his home Wednesday afternoon, the two suspects ran and jumped in the pond to try to get away. One of them is believed to have dropped a gun that was stolen from the home.

### 2 Bluffton teens, one who led deputies on manhunt, arrested and charged in Fernlakes burglary

By ALLISON STICE  
astice@islandpacket.com • 843-706-8138

A Bluffton man who surprised two teenage burglars carting items from his home Wednesday afternoon rescued one from a nearby pond as the pair tried to escape, according to the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office.

Later that night, both suspects — Brandon Warren, 18, and Javon Winston, 19, of Bluffton — were charged with burglary after an hours-long manhunt for Winston.

Warren was arrested soon after the homeowner rescued him from a pond and held

him at gunpoint until deputies arrived.

More charges from previous burglaries and thefts are expected, according to the Sheriff's Office.

A resident discovered the two men carrying items out of his home on Fernlakes Drive and stockpiling them in the backyard at about 2:15 p.m. Once seen, Warren and Winston jumped into a pond to swim away.

Warren began to flail, and the homeowner jumped in to rescue him, the Sheriff's Office said. Winston swam away.

Please see CAUGHT on 7A

## Palestinians granted 'state' status by UN

By EDITH M. LEDERER  
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations voted overwhelmingly Thursday to recognize a Palestinian state, a victory decades in the making for the Palestinians after years of



## Self Help aids man with medical bills

John needed to have some decayed teeth removed to avoid an infection.

He arrived at Bluffton Self Help with a note from the dental clinic, which required an up-front payment for the extraction and for dentures.

## HOW TO HELP

To participate in the Bluffton Self Help fundraising campaign, mail or drop off contribu-







## Zeigler's son: Keep Moore name for school

Family says Zeigler admired 'the Colonel'

BY ELLEN MEYER  
Morning News  
emeyer@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — A naming committee for a new Florence middle school has a list of six prominent Florentines up for the honor,

but the son of one of the potential namesakes is saying his late father would have liked the school's current name to carry over to its new facilities.

The time has come for Florence School District 1 to select a name for the new middle school

that is under construction off of North Ebenezer Road and set to replace Moore Intermediate School starting next fall.

On Tuesday the committee came up with the list of names, including Eugene "Nick" Zeigler, who died earlier this year, as well as John W. Moore, for whom the school is currently named.

After hearing of the list — which also includes Alfred Rush, Allie E. Brooks Jr., the Rev. William P. Diggs and Larry Jackson — Zeigler's youngest son, Ben Zeigler, a Florence attorney, said he's confident his late father would want the Moore legacy to live on.

"It's an incredible list of peo-

ple, people I admire like Moore, Larry Jackson, Allie Brooks, but on behalf of my family, we feel like my father's wish would be to preserve the Moore name," Ben Zeigler said.

Moore, known around town as Col. Moore because of his

See **ZEIGLER**, Page 6A

### FLYING HIGH



PHOTOS BY JOHN D. RUSSELL/MORNING NEWS

Boy Scouts salute during the Scout's pledge on Thursday at the Pee Dee Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America's "Salute to Eagles" dinner at the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology. The night was to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Eagle Scout award, honor Eagle Scouts and to recognize mentors, scoutmasters and parents.

## 100 years and still soaring

Eagle Scout award is still coveted after all these years

BY JOHN D. RUSSELL  
Morning News  
jrusell@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Boy Scouts, scoutmasters, parents and Eagle Scouts came together Thursday in Florence for the Pee Dee Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America "Salute to Eagles" dinner to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Eagle Scout Award.

The Eagle Scout award is the highest rank attainable in Scouting with more than 2 million young men achieving it since its inception.

Keynote speaker Alvin Townley attained his Eagle Scout in the mid-



Author and Eagle Scout Alvin Townley (left) talks about a recent experience with Distinguished Eagle Scout Award recipient Rocky Gannon of Darlington. Gannon, also an Eagle Scout, was recently recognized for 75 years of activity in Scouting.

1990s. During Townley's address he talked about his book, "Legacy of Honor," which explores the impact Eagle Scouts have had over the past century. Townley spent four years criss-cross-

ing the globe talking to Eagle Scouts from every region, age and background. Some of those Eagle Scouts he

See **EAGLES**, Page 3A

## SC Dems call for new hack probe

The Associated Press

NORTH CHARLESTON — The controversy over the hacking of millions of South Carolina tax returns turned political on Thursday as Democrats called for an independent investigation into what happened and tax credits for as long as a decade for those who suffered losses through identity theft.

State Rep. Leon Stavrinakis of Charleston said since Gov. Nikki Haley announced the hacking late last month "instead of answers and solutions, we have received a steady stream of misinformation, constantly changing stories and little to no transparency."

He spoke in North Charleston as four other Democrats held a news conference in Columbia.

"This administration has allowed a tax to be placed on every single one of us for the rest of our lives, man, woman, and child. A tax requiring us to pay, ourselves, to monitor our credit and financial information for the remainder of our lives," said state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, who ran against Haley in 2010.

"We are demanding and calling on other, more responsible leaders, to help clean up this mess," he added.

The news conference came the day after a Senate panel in Columbia was told the state's tax collection agency operated without a computer security chief for nearly a year before a hacker stole millions of taxpayers' personal data.

Last week Haley said the state did not do enough to prevent the cyber-attack that exposed the personal data of nearly 4 million individual filers and 700,000 businesses. She released a report on the breach compiled by computer security firm Mandiant and said she also accepted the resignation of Department of Revenue Director Jim Etter, effective at the end of the year.

The Democrats said Thursday they want the independent Legislative Audit Council to look into the security breach. They also want the state to pick up the cost of extended credit protection for

See **HACK**, Page 6A

## Florence store feels lucky after \$1 million Powerball ticket sold

Newest millionaire from Florence unknown

BY GAVIN JACKSON  
Morning News  
gjackson@florencenews.com

### INSIDE

» National Powerball mania.  
Page 4A

ing for \$587.5 million. Though the two jackpot

was sold in Rock Hill and a \$2 million ticket in Andrews.

Though the identity of the Florence millionaire is still unknown, store manager Sarwat "Sam" Hussain said it's exciting to have sold the win-



Sarwat "Sam" Hussain, manager of the Cruizers store No. 12 at 2124 N. Williston Road in Florence, holds up the winning Powerball numbers on Thursday



DEFENSE DOMINANT  
IN SEC DOMINANCE

SPORTS, B1

Make an Advent calendar and a  
**Christmas tradition**

FAITH, A7



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2012

**The Times and Democrat**

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**The route ahead**

CHRISTOPHER HUFF/110

Orangeburg County is accepting ownership of the newly built transit center at 1630 Carolina Ave., which is located where the old nurses' dorms once stood.

**COUNTY PREPARES FOR OPENING  
OF \$3.5 MILLION TRANSIT CENTER**By LEE HENDREN  
T&D Government Writer

"We are trying to make the quality of life better for our citizens," Orangeburg County Council member Janie Cooper-Smith said Tuesday after council accepted ownership of the \$3.5 million transit center on Carolina Avenue.

"It's a state-of-the-art building and everything in this building had to be made in America: the nails, the cement, the bricks, the furniture, everything," Cooper-Smith said.

County Administrator Harold Young said the grand opening ceremony for the two-story, 9,150-square-foot multi-purpose structure will be in January. The date has not yet been set.

"I would like for the citizens to come

out and witness the ribbon-cutting ceremony and take advantage of our transit system," Cooper-Smith said. "We need their ridership. It is not a countywide thing yet but we hope it will soon become countywide."

The transit center will be the hub of the Orangeburg-Calhoun Cross County Connection, a bus service begun in 2009 that has run tens of thousands of trips around downtown Orangeburg, among area college campuses and to and from St. Matthews.

Councilman Johnnie Ravenell said, "We know it's going to benefit the citizens of Orangeburg County as a whole," including rural residents."

He said routes to towns in the eastern end of the county were included in the original plans but "evidently we did

not get enough citizen participation, but hopefully it will be tried again. Sometimes when you try something new, people are not used to it and I think it's just going to take a little time."

The Santee-Waterloo Regional Transit Authority has operated the bus service out of offices in a Chestnut Street strip mall, but a need was seen for a more permanent facility.

"When we went after federal funds" to build the transit center, "the federal Department of Transportation required that it be awarded through a Council of Governments," Young explained. The county "could not be awarded directly. We had to give the property to the Lower Savannah Council of Governments until

See TRANSIT, A3

**Clyburn keeps  
post, giving S.C.  
'seat at table'**

■ Related article, A3

By LEE HENDREN  
T&D Government Writer

Rep. Clyburn

The re-election of Sixth District U.S. Rep. James E. Clyburn as assistant minority leader of the U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday came as no surprise, but local officials said they were relieved that South Carolina has kept "a seat at the table."

"Congressman Clyburn has been a major player in Congress and serves on several key committees," said fellow Democrat and state Rep. Jerry Gowan of Orangeburg. "He has the ear of the House leadership, on both sides of the aisle, and the ear of the Obama administration."

"That is critical for a state like South Carolina that has a small congressional delegation."

Clyburn is hailed by his supporters — and derided by his critics — for unapologetically bringing federal money back to his district for a variety of projects. Those projects have included everything from the Clyburn Transportation Center at South Carolina State University to the deepening of Charleston Harbor to accommodate larger ocean-going ships.

The port "is absolutely critical to the future economic development in this state," Gowan said. "We're going to need some federal help, and he is the only person in a position to get it done."

Having a seat at the table also gives Clyburn the opportunity to help set the agenda, Orangeburg County Administrator Harold Young said.

He praised the entire South Carolina congressional delegation for their efforts on behalf of their constituents, but added, "It was Congressman Clyburn in particular that showed how a lot of counties along the Interstate 95 corridor have been

See POST, A3



AP

Democratic S.C. Rep. Leon Stawinski speaks at a news conference in North Charleston on Thursday. Stawinski and other Democrats want the independent state Legislative Audit Council to review how the state Revenue Department allowed a hacker to get into its files and compromise the personal information of millions of South Carolinians.

**U.N. vote recognizes  
the state of Palestine;  
United States objects**

By EDITH M. L. FORD

The United Nations has

**S.C. Demos call  
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hacker's



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