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The Post and Courier

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Tuesday, December 13, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Prosecutors link gun, hate ideology, Roof

Agent reads racist manifesto as chilling evidence, timeline emerge in Emanuel massacre trial

BY GLENN SMITH, JENNIFER BERRY
HAWES and ABIGAIL DARLINGTON
The Post and Courier

Dylann Roof picked out the gun he used to kill nine black worshippers just eight days after his 21st birthday and traveled to Charleston with a list that included six local black churches, their addresses and hours of operation.

Those were among new details that emerged Monday as prosecutors methodically worked to connect dots among a growing pile of evidence linking Roof to the mass shooting at Emanuel AME Church. The day featured a parade of law enforcement analysts — firearms, fingerprints, computers, crime scenes — whose testimony was designed to conclusively tie Roof to the gun used in the June 2015 massacre and the racist ideology said to have inspired it.

Much of the afternoon's testimony came from FBI agents who focused on a website, lastrhodesian.com, that authorities say Roof, now 22, created to espouse his beliefs about white supremacy to urge his fellow whites to take "drastic action" to protect their culture against perceived threats from blacks. The manifesto mirrored a handwritten diatribe found in a leather-bound journal in Roof's

car after the church shooting.

Roof, who earlier chatted and smiled with one of his lawyers, stared down at the defense table expressionless as FBI Special Agent Tracy Sicks read the manifesto in its entirety. Victims' loved ones listened, at times grimacing and exchanging angry glances, as they heard the racist musings.

Please see **ROOF**, Page A7



Roof

Back on the attack?

Uneasy peace between Graham, president-elect may dissolve when senator leads Russian hacking probe, fights Trump on immigration



U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham is leading a new Armed Services Committee that will investigate foreign cyber threats, including those allegedly coming from Russia during the recent election, accusations President-elect Donald Trump dismisses.

BY EMMA DUMAIN
edumain@postandcourier.com

WASHINGTON — U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham has significantly dialed down his criticism of President-elect Donald Trump in the month since the election. He has said repeatedly he wants to help the incoming commander in chief and has praised each of Trump's Cabinet nominees so far.

But the next Congress could bring with it the return of tension between the two former rivals.

Inside

GOP leaders back Russia hacking probe. **A8**
Report: Tillerson to lead State Dept. **A8**

The South Carolina Republican is about to take on a major role in Congress' investigation into alleged cyber attacks and interference out of Russia in the 2016 election.

It's an exercise Trump and his allies oppose, calling the accusations baseless and an attempt to invalidate his victory. U.S. intelligence officials have determined Russia actively tried

to undermine the U.S. democratic process by hacking into national political party email servers, among other things.

During the weekend, Graham released a statement with Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain, R-Ariz.; Armed Services Committee ranking Democrat Jack Reed of Rhode Island; and incoming Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer of New York.

The four lawmakers pledged to work across

Please see **GRAHAM**, Page A7

Opinion sought on power transfer

Sen. Davis wants
court to clarify path
for Leatherman

BY GAVIN JACKSON
gjackson@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — A rival state senator who thinks Senate Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman has amassed too much power is asking the state Supreme Court to clarify the gubernatorial succession process.

State Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort, filed papers Monday asking the court to determine what is the proper path Leatherman must follow even as he is avoiding trying to become lieutenant governor.

Davis believes — as do many in his party — that the line of succession should be as it was when the last lieutenant governor's office vacancy occurred, in 2014.

The issue is the state constitution does not accurately reflect amendments voters approved through statewide referendum in 2012 which lets the governor appoint their lieutenant governor starting in 2018.

Please see **DAVIS**, Page A6

District's kids may get magnet edge

BY PAUL BOWERS
pbowers@postandcourier.com

Academic Magnet High School attracts some of the highest-performing students in the Charleston County School District — and quite a few from elsewhere.

Nearly a third of the latest class of ninth-graders at Academic Magnet did not attend a Charleston County public school in the

Inside

'Fair' Slager jury selection urged

NAACP wants transparency
when ex-officer is tried again



Inside





SPORTS, 1C

DIPLOMA,
THEN BOWL

FEATURES, 1D

Particle
could stop
aneurysm

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 13, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY REPUBLICANS JOIN OUTCRY OVER RUSSIA PAGE 1B

City of Greenville pledges
\$2M to affordable housing

ERIC CONNOR

ECONNOR@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

The city of Greenville has pledged a major financial commitment in the efforts to provide affordable housing in the city, as real estate values continue to soar ever higher and traditional downtown neighborhoods become less accessible.

In a chambers packed to capacity, the

City Council voted unanimously to approve an ordinance that would commit \$2 million to the cause, with another \$1 million to come from private and charitable sources.

The council must give one more vote of approval at its next meeting in a few weeks before the money left over in the city's general fund can be used.

The city's staff will return in about four

months to outline the best ways to use the money, said Ginny Stroud, the city's community development administrator.

The city has a blueprint to guide the way.

Over the past year, an affordable housing committee made up of elected officials, community leaders and volunteers

See HOUSING, Page 5A

Clemson chair
focusing on futureNew auto
manufacturing
model his goalAMANDA COYNE
THE GREENVILLE NEWS

Laine Mears wants to create a "new national model" for manufacturing and engineering education.

The new BMW SmartState Chair in Automotive Manufacturing is overseeing a new partnership between Clemson University and Greenville Technical College's Center for Manufacturing Innovation to give students from both schools hands-on experience at the modern assembly line before they enter the workforce.

In a building between Clemson's International Center for Automotive Research (ICAR) and the Center for Manufacturing Innovation, an automotive assembly line will be built. Twelve of "the top" Greenville Tech students, twelve Clemson undergraduates and "a handful" of graduate students at ICAR will work together at this assembly line, preparing them for careers at all levels of automotive and advanced manufacturing.

"Normally, we do research, develop new technology and processes and then send them out into the world for students to work on," Mears said. "We're trying to combine the two."

A BMW staff member will also dedicate "a significant part of his or her time" to working with Mears and students in the new program, planned for launch in 2018. In addition to the assembly line, students will use cutting-edge technologies, including virtual reality, to learn the latest manufacturing processes.

In the new role, which he called a "dream job," Mears will look at the future of automotive manufacturing and its large role in the Upstate economy.

"For every automotive employee, there are an estimated 10 supplier employees," Mears said.

In the Upstate, suppliers to BMW's

Confusion
allowed
Roof to
buy gunDenial came two months
after fatal shootingsTONYA MAXWELL
TMAXWELL@CITIZEN-TIMES.COM

CHARLESTON - In the middle of April 2015, Dylann Roof browsed a case filled with Glock pistols at a South Carolina gun store, spoke to a clerk and filled out required federal paperwork for a purchase.

Three days later, after waiting for a background check, Roof returned to Shooter's Choice, to purchase the .45 caliber handgun. But after walking out, he returned only moments later "cash in hand," the general manager of the shop, Ronald Thrailkill, testified Monday morning.

The Glock Roof was purchasing came packaged with three magazines. He decided to buy two more.

Roof had turned 21 a little more than a week earlier, when his father gave him a card picturing an otter, in it a handwritten note, promising his son cash for a gun, partly congratulations for his new job.

"I.O.U. Good for up to \$400 toward pistol & CWP (concealed weapons permit). I love you!" Franklin Bennett Roof wrote.

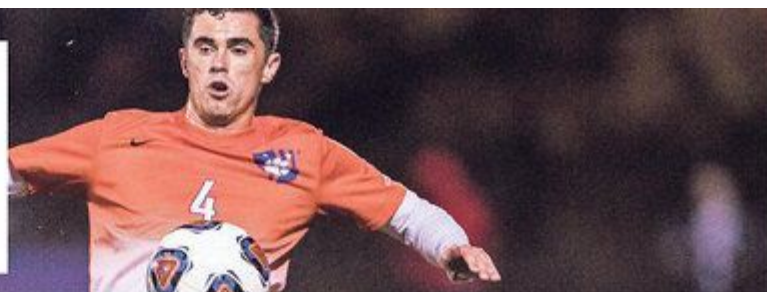
Two months after that trip to Shooter's Choice, nine black parishioners of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church were shot to death during a Wednesday night Bible study using the handgun Roof purchased. Investigators have testified he shot more than 70 hollow point bullets in the church's fellowship hall, many of them at people trying to hide under folding tables draped with white cloths.

Jurors on Monday began hearing a fourth day of testimony against Roof, an admitted white supremacist facing 33 federal charges, some relating to hate crimes and obstruction of religion in the deadly attack.

The government's case might conclude Wednesday, prosecutors have said. Roof's defense team is expected to offer few, if any witnesses, meaning the jury will likely begin deliberating this week.

BUILDING A FOUNDATION

Clemson men's soccer built for a run. **Orange and White, inside.** For more, visit orangeandwhite.com



Independent Mail

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

City Council OKs Kmart redevelopment

MIKE EADS

MICHAEL.EADS@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

New York and Tennessee developers have big plans for the Kmart property on Clemson Boulevard.

The Anderson City Council on Monday night unanimously gave final approval to annex the 12-acre property into the city and extend \$200,000 worth of incentives over the next five years to New York-based Seritage Growth. That firm has hired the Hutton development firm of Chattanooga to add retail space and a

restaurant to the land.

The announcement comes after Kmart management decided to reduce the size of its retail operation, at 3801 Clemson Blvd., by giving up half of its square footage.

"Kmart is downsizing, so we're back-filling, splitting the space and adding another retail tenant," said Amy Fischer, a senior manager for Hutton. "We're also looking to build an outparcel (for a restaurant). ... We'll give it a new face and rebranding that will give it a breath of fresh air."

Fischer said the development, which had been codenamed "Project Spirit" by city officials, would begin after the Christmas shopping season and probably wrap up late next summer. Kmart's new neighbors already have been lined up, but Fischer declined to identify them. Seritage officials did not respond to a request for comment Monday night.

City of Anderson officials said Monday that annexing the land and providing sewer service to the reconfigured Kmart and the two new businesses could mean another \$850,000 in property tax

and utility revenue over the next five years. The city already was selling water to Kmart.

"This adds to the economic base of the city by bringing in new tenants, high-growth retailers for the city," said Assistant City Manager David McCuen. "The Chili's restaurant next to Kmart was already in the city, so it's natural for us to grow up Clemson Boulevard. This could lead to future annexations."

In other business Monday, City Man-

See Kmart, Page 5A



David Wagner, the incoming 10th Judicial Circuit solicitor, stands outside the historic Anderson County Courthouse.

INCOMING SOLICITOR AIMS TO EASE FRICTION

David Wagner wants better relations with law enforcement

MIKE ELLIS

MIKE.ELLIS@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

David Wagner acknowledges there has been friction between prosecutors and law enforcement officers and working to mend those relationships will be a key part of his job when he becomes the top prosecutor for Anderson and Oconee counties in January.

He said having better working relationships will lead to more successful

Online

Visit Independentmail.com to see photos and watch video.

Inside

Sheriff-elect Chad McBride hears seniors' concerns. 3A

There has been significant turnover in the Anderson office in 2016 when several people, including Wagner's main opponent in the election, Rame Campbell, left. Most of the attorneys have been replaced, Wagner said.

"I want to get more people in the courtroom prosecuting violent crimes and repeat offenders," Wagner said. "If you get more people in the courtroom, you get the caseload down."

The solicitor's office, which employs

FBI: Roof shouldn't have been sold gun

TONYA MAXWELL

TMAXWELL@CITIZEN-TIMES.COM

CHARLESTON - In the middle of April 2015, Dylann Roof browsed a case filled with Glock pistols at a South Carolina gun store, spoke to a clerk and filled out required federal paperwork for a purchase.

Roof did not leave Shooter's Choice with the .45 caliber pending a federal background check. But after walking out, he returned only moments later "cash in hand," the general manager of the shop, Ronald Thrailkill, testified Monday morning.

The Glock Roof was purchasing came packaged with three magazines. He decided to buy two more.

Roof had turned 21 a little more than a week earlier, when his father gave him a card picturing an otter, in it a handwritten note, promising his son cash for a gun, partly congratulations for his new job.

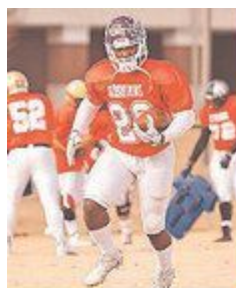
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The government's case might con-

See GUN, Page 5A



PLAYING WITH A HEAVY HEART

SPORTS, B1



SPARTANBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT EARNS TOP RATING

UPSTATE, C1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Tuesday, December 13, 2016



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TODAY **WED** **THU**

48°/40° 54°/31° 45°/21°

Complete forecast, B6

LOCAL

Christmas parade on, rain or shine

Spartanburg's annual Christmas parade will welcome the holiday season with festively lighted floats, marching bands playing Christmas tunes and an appearance by Santa Claus beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday.

The parade route is South Pine Street at Henry Street, then from East Main Street to Church Street to Daniel Morgan Avenue.

The parade is scheduled to run rain or shine, said the Spartanburg Jaycees, which has organized the event since 1985.

Any cancellation will be communicated on the Jaycees' voicemail and its website, <http://www.spartanburgjaycees.net/>.

STATE

Educators oppose rating schools with letter grades

COLUMBIA — South Carolina educators oppose the possibility of rating schools A through F on public report cards, saying the letter grades would label students and discourage economic development in communities that need it the most.

District superintendents, state Department of Education officials, and teachers' representatives were among opponents speaking out at a subcommittee meeting Monday.

"Failing labels could have a negative impact on students, teachers and the community," said Kathy Maness, director of the Palmetto State Teachers Association.

"Good teachers in F schools will leave. Those are the students who need those good teachers the most."

State report cards have rated schools "excellent," "good," "average," "below average" or "at risk."

SC high court asked to settle vacancy dispute

MOTHER EMANUEL SHOOTINGS

Roof had list of other churches

Handwritten notes in accused gunman's car

By Meg Kinnard
The Associated Press

CHARLESTON — When he was arrested, the man accused of killing nine people during a Bible study in a Charleston church had a list of other area black churches in his car, law enforcement officials

testified Monday.

At the time, Dylann Roof told FBI agents he was too "worn out" from the June 2015 shootings at Emanuel AME Church to pursue further shootings. But prosecutors trying him on dozens of federal charges presented evidence to jurors that Roof, armed with a handgun, ammunition, clothing and other supplies, could potentially have been planning more violence.

During roughly two hours on the stand, former State Law Enforcement Division agent Brittany Burke testified that names of a handful of other churches and their addresses were found on a handwritten list in a backpack in Roof's car.

Also on papers found in Roof's car were phone numbers for the Statehouse complex in Columbia, as well as the name of Denmark Vesey, one of the historic founders of Charleston's Emanuel AME.

Vesey led a failed 1822 slave rebellion that drove the church underground. After the plot was reported, Vesey was hanged and the church was burned. The church was rebuilt, but in 1834 all black churches were banned and members worshipped "underground" until 1865, when Emanuel AME Church was formally reorganized.

SEE ROOF, A6

MARY H. WRIGHT ELEMENTARY

Interactive app helps special needs students



Alexis Fox teaches special needs students at Mary H. Wright Elementary. This school year, she introduced new technology in her classroom through Osmo, an iPad platform experience that makes learning interactive and tangible by combining physical game pieces with an iPad app. Fox helps students Jaylen Edwards, 9, Shatavion Miller, 8, and Jeremiah Ross, 10, work on spelling with Osmo Words. ALEX HICKS JR./SPARTANBURG HERALD-JOURNAL

'Osmo' programs foster skills, eagerness to learn

By Alyssa Mulliger | alyssa.mulliger@shj.com

Alexis Fox's special education classroom isn't much different than other teachers' rooms at Mary H. Wright Elementary. The walls are decorated with colorful bulletin boards, bins are full of activities and bouncy ball chairs surround student work areas. But what sets it apart is the technology Fox is using inside her classroom.

PRESIDENTIAL CABINET

Trump selects Tillerson for State

By Julie Pace
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald Trump has selected Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson to lead the State Department, dismissing concerns about the businessman's close ties with Russia, two people close to Trump's transition said Monday night.

Trump's decision caps a lengthy process that often played out in public and exposed rifts within his transition team. It also sets Trump up for a potential fight with Congress over confirming Tillerson, who has connections with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Trump was set to announce Tillerson's nomination Tuesday morning. The people close to his transition team insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose the decision ahead of that announcement.

The president-elect had moved toward choosing Tillerson after a



Tillerson

LOCAL

York Vietnam veteran attacked by dogs while decorating yard 3A



SPORTS

Stallions talk about Class 4A state title game preparations 1B



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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016

\$1.00

Chance of rain
49°/43° See 8A

The Herald

CHARLESTON CHURCH SHOOTING TRIAL

Accused shooter had list of other black churches in his car

BY MEG KINNAED
Associated Press

CHARLESTON

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Roof

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church was rebuilt, but in 1834 all black churches were banned and members worshipped "underground" until 1865, when Emanuel AME Church was formally reorganized.

Burke is one of the state agents who processed evidence found in Roof's car when he was arrested after the shootings at the church known as Mother Emanuel. A jury began last week hearing testimony against Roof, 22, who is on trial on 33 federal charges, including hate crimes and obstruction of the practice

of religion.

Roof has formally entered a not guilty plea to all the charges. But his attorneys have said he's willing to change that to guilty if prosecutors agree not to seek the death penalty against him.

In his videotaped, two-hour confession played for jurors last week, Roof told FBI agents he left bullets in a magazine so that he could kill himself after the slayings but changed his mind when he didn't see any police immediately after the shooting.

"Oh no. I was worn out," Roof said, when an agent asked if he thought about killing more black people.

Evidence shown in photographs introduced Monday showed Roof was essentially living in his car. Recovered from his black sedan were items of clothing, food, beverages and an

SEE ROOF, 6A

STATE

Educators oppose rating schools with letter grades

BY SEANNA ADCOX
Associated Press

COLUMBIA

South Carolina educators oppose the possibility of rating schools A through F on public report cards, saying the letter grades would label students and discourage economic development in communities that need it the most.

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"Failing labels could have a negative impact on students, teachers and the community," said Kathy Maness, director of the Palmetto State Teachers Association. "Good teachers in F schools will leave. Those are the students who need those good teachers the most."

State report cards have rated schools "excellent," "good," "average," "below average" or "at risk." The letter grades are under consideration as the state's Education Oversight Committee attempts to craft a new, single education accountability system that's simple to understand and more informative. It will replace the dual - and often contradictory - state and federal rating systems that have confused parents for years.

In its drafted proposal, the agency responsible for



Billboards appear along major thoroughfares across South Carolina urging adults to pay closer attention to the needs of their local public schools.

and student progress; report cards would also break down schools' scores in each category.

and you're going to be on restriction for the next month," said Sheila Quinn, a deputy superin-

Meet Rose, the Rock that holds the comedian's family together

BY JOHANNA D. WILSON
For The Sun News

PAWLEYS ISLAND

Just like the flower, Rose Rock is lovely, smells good and can prick you, if you handle her the wrong way. Super sensitive people may not like her because, like a bloodhound, she ferrets out foul folks.

"Some people think she is stuck up, but she is not," said Louise Hatcher, 78, one of her best friends for nearly 20 years. "She is just Rose, and I have no better friend. She is compassionate and dependable."

So, when people don't keep it real, she will tell them off with a quickness, saying something that may be too sharp for particular people but perfectly sensible to others. Truth be told, she could actually care less about how you see her. She is who she is: tenacious, tough, talented and too thorny for folks fastened to their feelings.

Her 51-year-old, son, comedian-actor-writer-director-Oscar-host, Chris Rock, shares this fire. Actually, wit and wisdom are in rich supply for the Rocks. And Rose Rock is the fountain from which they flow.

Meet her, don't be pretentious, and she will warmly welcome you without hesitation.

"When I first met her, she was very homey," said



ROSE ROCK, mother of comedian Chris Rock, lives in North Litchfield Beach.

taken aback upon meeting the Georgetown County native.

Perhaps, they expected a prim and proper lady because she has had the Oscars, and even had tea with Oprah, cooked with Paula Deen, attended the Oscars, and even had tea with Donald Trump, long before he became President-elect.

Or, do they think her success as the author of "Mama Rock's Rules: Ten Lessons for Raising a Housewife of Successful Children," has caused her to be conceited?

No way. She gives respect where it is given, and everybody is somebody in her mind.

"One of the greatest things she has taught me is to treat everyone the same, whether it's a judge or a janitor," said Andi, Rock's 31-year-old daughter, a therapist who works with autistic children and lives in Rock Hill. "Everyone deserves respect, which is why this day I

66

FAILING LABELS

TANKERSLEY NAMED ALL-AMERICAN

Former Silver Bluff standout earns another honor, 7A

Aiken Standard

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TUESDAY, December 13, 2016

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 150, No. 347 || AIKEN, S.C.

Company incentives, pay raises on agenda

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
ccleveland@aikenstandard.com

Aiken County Council is set to discuss three fee-in-lieu of tax, or FILOT, agreements today for potential economic development projects.

The projects appear in Council documents as Project Roy, Project California and Project Washington. Proposed ordinances related to the projects are up for first reading by title only; the documents state. Three readings are required.

This is the first phase of three different companies that are contemplating investments in Aiken County, said Will Williams, president and CEO of the Economic and Development Partnership of Aiken, Edgefield and Saluda counties.



Williams



Killian

The identities of the companies do not have to be identified during the first reading of the agreement.

Aiken County Administrator Clay Killian also said he could not fully discuss the economic development projects Monday, but he and council would be briefed on the projects this week.

"We are happy to have them to consider, and I think it continues to speak well of the Aiken County economy and our approach to industry recruitment," Killian added.

In other business, a proposed ordinance to amend the Aiken County fiscal year 2017 operating budget is up for a third reading.

County Council previously voted to add \$685,000 to the budget amendment to enhance employee salaries.

The measure would mean around a 3 percent raise for employees.

It must pass a third reading to be approved.

Please see AGENDA, Page 10A

Online
Read the full Aiken County Council agenda at
aikenstandard.com.

Area deaths

Rosanne McPherson, Aiken
Roger McLane, Aiken
Jessie Hancock, Trenton
Calvin Chitty, Williston
Lura Ryans, Williston
Jack Barnes, Clearwater
Marianne Ulrich, Aiken
Lillian Heath, Aiken
John Schibill, Aiken
Reba Weisner, Aiken
Glenn Nordene, Sr., New Ellenton

Deaths and Funerals, 4A

Weather

Sullivan sentenced to 35 years

North Augusta man pleads guilty to 2014 shooting death

BY TRIPP GIRARDEAU
tgirardeau@aikenstandard.com

The brother of a North Augusta man charged with the 2014 shooting death of 30-year-old Tamar Howard Stewart asked for forgiveness before his brother was sentenced to more than 30 years in prison.

Jerome Sullivan, 34, of the 600 block of Hutchinson Drive, pleaded guilty on Monday to murder and possession of a weapon with an obliterated serial number, according to court records.

Judge Doyet A. Early III sentenced Sullivan to 35 years for the murder



Sullivan

and five years for the weapons charge. The sentences will run concurrently. "I never meant for none of this to happen," Sullivan said. "I'm sorry."

On March 23, 2014, officers with the Aiken Department of Public Safety responded around 1 a.m. to 125 Bennington Lane in reference to a male, identified as Stewart, suffering from a gunshot wound to the head.

Aiken County Coroner Tim Carlton pronounced Stewart dead at the scene.

Solicitors explained in court Monday the mother of Sullivan's child was living at the home on Bennington Lane, and on March 23, 2014, Stewart was visiting her when Sullivan showed up with a gun and was in a rage.

According to police, Sullivan showed his way into the house and found Stewart hiding in a closet. Sullivan then shot Stewart in the head before fleeing the scene in a white Cadillac, police reported.

Police reported Sullivan was seen driving down Pine Log Road shortly after

the incident, where he was pulled over. Sullivan remained in the Aiken County detention center up until his court appearance Monday.

"(Sullivan) had a chance to walk away and he came back," said Howard Page, Stewart's father. "He brought that gun because he was looking for something that night. Now, I've got a son I'll never see again. I think he should get life. He had no mercy for my son, so I've got no mercy for him."

Sullivan's brother, Chris, said he hopes one day Stewart's family can forgive his brother.

"I'm so sorry for what happened," Chris said. "My brother is not a bad person. Please have mercy on my brother. One day I hope you can forgive him."

Aiken City Council talks fire station, University Parkway



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL SMITH

Fire trucks remain parked in the bay at Aiken Department of Public Safety headquarters on Laurens Street. Aiken public safety officials say a new fire station is now not needed due to revisions in ISO ratings.

City needs \$2.9 million to widen parkway

BY DAN BROWN
dbrown@aikenstandard.com

Aiken City Council was able to reallocate \$1.25 million of Capital Project Sales Tax funds from the building of a new fire station as it had been determined a new fire station was not needed.

The funds, according to Capital Project Sales Tax Manager Jay Gillespie, will instead be transferred to the Aiken Department of Public Safety new headquarters project, bringing the total CPST II and III funds allocated for this project to more than \$2.12 million.

stations and we had five stations; and in 2014, the ISO ratings changed and we needed five stations and had five stations so the money we had earmarked for a sixth station we no longer needed," said ADPS Chief Charles Barranco. "Therefore, the money allocated for the sixth station was moved to the Department of Public Safety headquarters project."

Barranco said the ADPS Fire Department currently has an ISO rating of "2," with an average fire response time of under five minutes.

During a 5 p.m. work session, City Council looked for help in completing a major infrastruc-

Presently, the City doesn't have the necessary funds to pay for the \$13.5 million road improvement project between the Richland Avenue intersection to where University Parkway intersects with Trolley Line Road. The City has \$10.6 million in its coffers and would be forced to bear the brunt of any cost overages associated with the project.

"There are four major players in this road improvement project," said Council member Reggie Elmer. "You have the University, the hospital, the County and the City, and the City is taking point on this. Any overage costs in this project will fall in the City's lap, and ultimately City taxpayers."

To help defray costs, the project can be split



Morning News

TUESDAY DECEMBER 13, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER

Cooler with periods of rain.
High 56, low 43.
DETAILS 2A

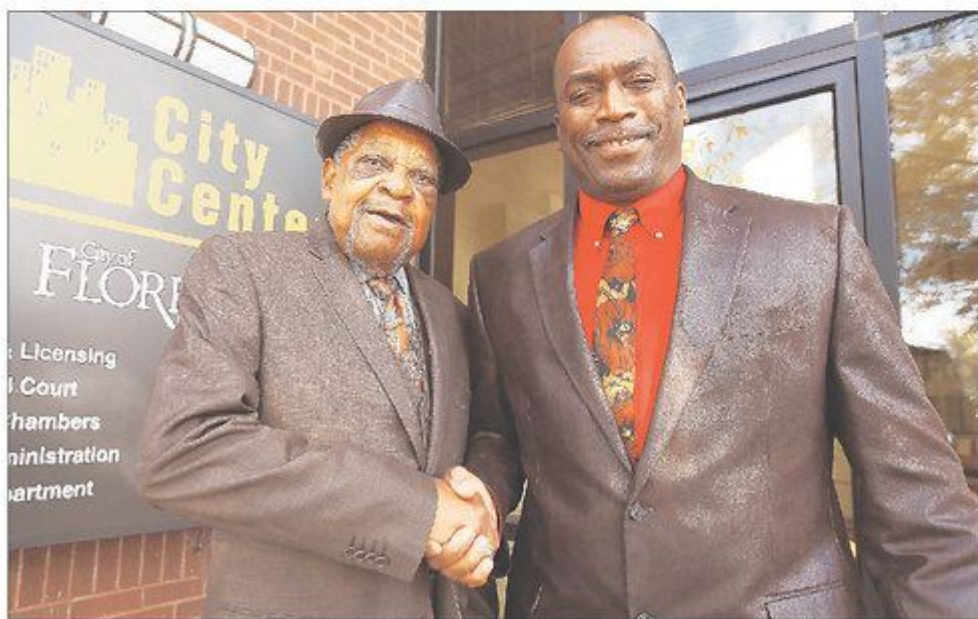
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FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL

Unity prevails



Former City Councilman Billy D. Williams (left) and Tim Waters hashed out differences over MLK Day march proceedings Monday at the December meeting of the Florence City Council.

Audit shows \$2.3M budget surplus for '16 fiscal year

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — An audit of the city of Florence's 2015-2016 budget shows the city saved more than \$1.5 million in expenses, a total higher than any in the past decade, and finished with a budget surplus of \$2,342,168.

The extra money will go into the city's reserve fund for future use.

"We had a very good year," City Manager Drew Griffin said. "We were fiscally responsible. Revenues were over expenses, and it was right in the budgeting plan that we had."

See **AUDIT**, Page 3A

Groups quell contentions over MLK march



Erica Robinson, wife of the late Ed Robinson, speaks to city council members Monday at the December meeting of the Florence City Council.

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The essence of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy is unity, and two civil rights activist groups in Florence showed just that on Monday.

What started as a miscommunication on the formation of two MLK Day marches turned into an "olive branch" moment and a pledge to work together in future planning.

Last week organizers of the "Annual MLK March for Freedom and Justice" — an event led by late Councilman Ed Robinson for 17 years — held a news

See **MARCH**, Page 3A

Florence mother charged

Urged juveniles to fight

BY JESSICA IMBIMBO
Morning News
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FLORENCE — A Florence mother was arrested on weapons and neglect charges Sunday evening after she allegedly brought her juvenile child to fight another juvenile.

Deanna N. Tyre, 31, allegedly brought her child to the 800 block of Ventura Court, where the fight was initiated, according to Lt. Mike Brandt of the Florence Police Department.

An "ongoing verbal altercation between the two juveniles" is what instigated the physical dispute, Brandt said.

"There were multiple people involved," he said, as other juveniles had joined the fight after it began.

Officers responded to the altercation at 9:22 p.m. Witnesses alleged that Tyre sprayed pepper spray on the juveniles fighting her child and then retrieved a gun from her vehicle.

Tyre was charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor, pointing and presenting a firearm and unlawful neglect of a child.

Asia McKenzie, 19, also was arrested during the investigation after witnesses alleged that she also used pepper spray while the juveniles were fighting, Brandt said. McKenzie was charged with second degree assault and battery.

At least two juveniles also were charged in connection with the incident, Brandt said. The ages and names of the juveniles involved in the altercation were not released.

Florence-Darlington Technical College

Virtual college launches new website

From staff reports

FLORENCE — The South Carolina Virtual College of Florence-Darlington Technical College (SCVC) has launched a new website just in time for the new year along with its rebranding.

The website, scvc.fdic.edu was launched shortly before

student success here at the college," said Derk Riechers, the director of the SC Virtual College of FDTC. "This website has a student-center design that allows for easy navigation to different links and pages. For instance, under the Apply Link, there are many great resources to help a student get started

choose the SCVC for their educational needs because it's affordable, it can fit into nearly any schedule and there's always student support.

Spring registration is underway at FDTC. SCVC offers a wide variety of online classes for its students. Visit Admissions in Room 100 in the 100 Building or

FMU's online programs rated among state's best

From staff reports

FLORENCE — Affordable Colleges Online, a nationally recognized reviewer of distance learning in higher education, has ranked Francis Marion University as one of the best online colleges in South Carolina.

Affordable Online Colleges evaluated schools based on criteria such as student-to-teacher ratio and the number of online programs offered.

"We wanted to highlight the schools in each state that are driving innovative learning and meeting demands of students,"

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D50 board approves goals for next year

By **ARIEL GILREATH**
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Greenwood County School District 50 board members approved a list of goals for the district for the 2016-17 school year with a 5-1 vote at Monday night's meeting.

The goals are to improve student achievement in core academic areas, reduce the gap of student achievement in minority students, broaden recruitment efforts for a diverse and skilled workforce, maintain a safe and

orderly environment, increase student participation in the Child Nutrition Program and improve teacher attendance.

David Trent, who was first elected to the board in November, voted against the list of priorities, which the board first reviewed at its October meeting.

Trent asked Shirley Boyce, assistant superintendent of instruction, if there had been any consideration into making the goals more specific so it would be easier to tell how far along

SC Schools

■ Educators vote down school rating system. **News, 3A**

the district comes in reaching their goals.

"Has there been any thought to putting in some sort of percentage, metric, that we would say we want to increase student achievement by X amount on a certain test?" Trent said

in the meeting. "It just doesn't seem like we have anything to really kind of put our hands on as far as we want to reach this goal here. It says in comparison to state and federal standards, but we don't really have anything out there we can grab on to."

Boyce said the state and federal standards are in limbo because of the new state testing.

"But what you're looking at when you're looking at the district program is an average of everything," Boyce said. "We really take this down to the

principals and ask that they do this at their school level so that they show growth at every grade level that's testing at every site, rather than just a district goal of X amount, because that might mean some schools don't progress and others do."

Trent opposed the list and said he wasn't on the board when they first reviewed them, but he wants them to have goals that have a better metric for measuring its progress.

See D50, page 4A

SC GOVERNMENT

Supreme Court asked to settle vacancy dispute

By **SEANNA ADCOX**
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A South Carolina senator wants the state Supreme Court to rule on whether Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster could pick his replacement if Gov. Nikki



HENRY MACMASTER

Haley becomes President-elect Donald Trump's U.S. ambassador. Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort, asked the state's high court Monday to settle a discrepancy on whether a constitutional amendment changing the lines of succession is in effect. If it is, Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman could easily keep his powerful leadership post, as the Senate's leader would not be called on to fill the largely ceremonial position.

Regardless, Leatherman has refused to become lieutenant governor. His office had no immediate comment Monday.

Both a 2012 law that approved asking voters about the changes and the opening clause of the ballot question itself specified they were to begin "with the general election of 2018." But a law the Legislature passed in 2014 to ratify voters' approval created separate start dates for the various changes. While it changed the constitution to say candidates for governor and lieutenant governor will run on the same ticket beginning in 2018, it allowed a vacancy in the lieutenant governor's office to immediately be filled by the governor.

'HE'S MY LIFE'

Bond between horse, rider inspires at demonstration

By **ADAM BENSON**
abenenson@indexjournal.com

From afar, the horse and his rider look like a classic team.

As he makes tight cuts and long strides across the soft dirt of Lander University Equestrian Center's arena, his owner controls the movements with an easy chemistry.

But this duo — 11-year-old quarter horse Eclipse and Mary Lapsley Daly, 26, of Richburg — are anything but typical.

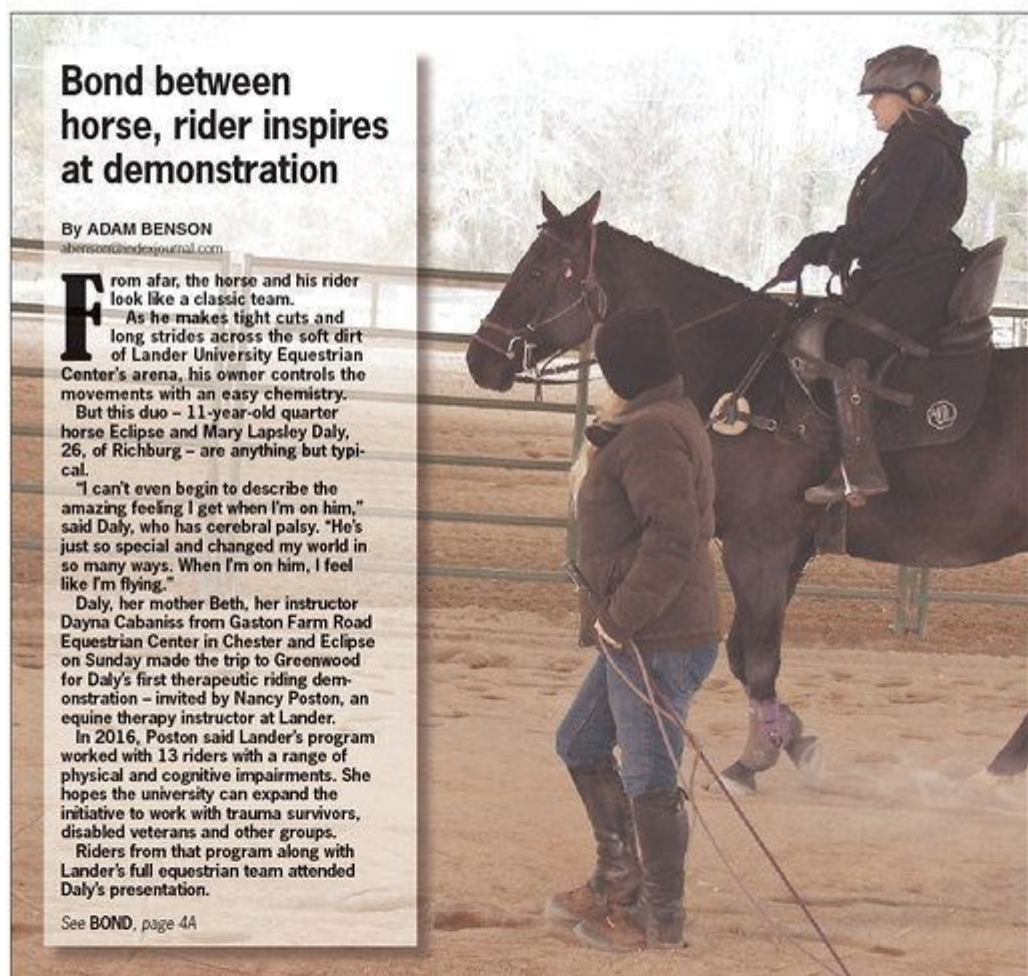
"I can't even begin to describe the amazing feeling I get when I'm on him," said Daly, who has cerebral palsy. "He's just so special and changed my world in so many ways. When I'm on him, I feel like I'm flying."

Daly, her mother Beth, her instructor Dayna Cabaniss from Gaston Farm Road Equestrian Center in Chester and Eclipse on Sunday made the trip to Greenwood for Daly's first therapeutic riding demonstration — invited by Nancy Poston, an equine therapy instructor at Lander.

In 2016, Poston said Lander's program worked with 13 riders with a range of physical and cognitive impairments. She hopes the university can expand the initiative to work with trauma survivors, disabled veterans and other groups.

Riders from that program along with Lander's full equestrian team attended Daly's presentation.

See BOND, page 4A



PHOTOS BY ADAM BENSON | INDEX-JOURNAL

ABOVE: Mary Daly rides her 11-year-old quarter horse Eclipse around the Lander University Equestrian Center arena on Sunday with her instructor, Dayna Cabaniss. **BELOW:** Beth Daly demonstrates how Eclipse, her daughter Mary's horse, has been trained to lie down so Mary can mount him. The family did a therapeutic riding demonstration on Sunday at the Lander University Equestrian Center.

"He's just so special and changed my world in so many ways. When I'm



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