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Subject: SC Front Pages – Wednesday, December 28, 2016

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SC Front Pages – Wednesday, December 28, 2016

# The Post and Courier

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Wednesday, December 28, 2016

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

## Lawmaker accused of beating wife, pointing gun

### Conservative voice for gun rights, Confederate flag

BY MAYA T. PRABHU and MAAYAN SCHECHTER  
mprabhu@postandcourier.com  
mschechter@atkenstandard.com

COLUMBIA — A young, conservative state lawmaker known for his defense of gun rights and support of the Confederate battle flag was released from jail Tuesday after posting \$20,000 bail on charges that he

beat his wife and pointed a handgun at her.

As a condition of his release, state Rep. Chris Corley, R-Graniteville, is to have no contact with his wife and cannot be in possession of a firearm, Magistrate Melanie James DuBose said.

Corley, 36, is charged with

Please see **CORLEY**, Page A7



Corley

## Officials won't release Corley footage

### Newspapers file FOIA requests for arrest records

BY MICHAEL SMITH  
msmith@atkenstandard.com

AIKEN — Aiken County law enforcement officials are refusing to release public records relating to the arrest of state Rep. Chris Corley, who faces

criminal domestic violence and weapons charges.

Corley, 36, R-Graniteville, is charged with first-degree domestic violence and pointing and presenting a firearm at his wife, according to arrest warrants.

Bail was set at \$20,000 during a hearing Tuesday afternoon.

Dashcam footage of the South Carolina lawmaker's early morning arrest, however, is not being disseminated.

Please see **DASHCAM**, Page A7

## Magical winter mist

### Weather conditions leave Lowcountry shrouded in dense fog



MICHAEL PRONZATO/STAFF

Low visibility was not enough to dampen the appeal of a stroll along the Mount Pleasant Memorial Waterfront Park pier as a fog advisory was in effect for the Lowcountry on Tuesday. Above-normal temperatures will continue through Thursday.

BY BO PETERSEN  
bopete@postandcourier.com

The rain clouds that hung around all day Monday settled in for the night. That's why it was so spectacularly foggy Tuesday morning. Fog could return by the early hours Wednesday, but it won't be nearly as widespread.

### Gallery

For more photos, go to [postandcourier.com/photos](http://postandcourier.com/photos)

A temperature inversion in the atmosphere trapped the rain underneath an approaching weather front, creating calm conditions with humidity and dew point hitting the same point. In other words, if the air had been much wetter outside, it would have been water.

"A lot of times in these situations the stratus (rain cloud) can lower and lower itself to the ground," said National Weather Service meteorologist Blair Holloway. That's what happened.

"The process is known as 'cold damming,'" said meteorologist Shea Gibson, of WeatherFlow.

How dense the misting became might have been unusual, but the phenomenon isn't. Winter is the Lowcountry's foggy season, Holloway said.



MICHAEL PRONZATO/STAFF

Felicia Duck untying her shrimp net at the Northbridge Park in West Ashley on Tuesday.

## Few local drivers cited for texting

### S.C. law only lightly enforced, penalties for violations minor

BY DAVID SLADE  
dslade@postandcourier.com

A two-year-old South Carolina law prohibiting texting while driving has been enforced lightly — and sometimes not at all — while safety advocates say the behavior can be more dangerous than driving drunk.

North Charleston, the state's third-largest city, has not ticketed a single driver.

### Poll

Do you text while you drive? Go to [postandcourier.com](http://postandcourier.com) to vote.

Charleston, despite pledging tough enforcement at the end of 2013 when the city had its own anti-texting ordinance, has ticketed fewer than three dozen drivers since that time.

Mount Pleasant, the state's fourth-largest city, has ticketed more than twice as many drivers as Charleston but has averaged fewer than five citations per month since the state law took effect two years ago.

"Even if it's just one a week, maybe that's one accident that's been avoided," said Mount Pleasant Mayor Linda Page. "The bigger story for me is, really

Please see **TEXTING**, Page A7

### Inside



**NATION**  
'Star Wars' princess Carrie Fisher dies at age 60. **A12**





USC FOOTBALL

# Zandi sad to leave, 'excited' for future of Gamecocks program

BY BEN BREINER  
bbreiner@thestate.com

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — South Carolina offensive tackle Mason Zandi is at a new stage. In his first three seasons, he was among the Gamecocks football players who spent their bowl practices working to develop themselves to perhaps take on a

bigger role the next year. He and the team missed a bowl last season, and he's now perhaps preparing for a run at the NFL or the real world if that doesn't come to pass. In any case, the Birmingham Bowl on Thursday will be his last ride. As he surveys his teammates, he badly wishes it wasn't. "This program is going somewhere," Zandi said. "And wheth-

er individuals see it or not, I see it. I've been on the No. 4 team in the country. I've played some of the best athletes still playing in the NFL." Zandi started his career on the scout team trying to handle defensive end Jadeveon Clowney, who went on to become the No. 1 pick in the NFL Draft. He worked

SEE USC, 6A

**MORE INSIDE**  
Gamecocks runners eyeing Bulls and 2017 position battle. **1B**  
**NOTEBOOK:**  
USC defense looking to rebound against Bulls. **3B**

**ONLINE**  
**GOGAMECOCKS.COM:**  
Photos and videos from Tuesday's practice and children's hospital visit.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 28 2016

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TODAY: PARTLY CLOUDY HI 67 LO 52  
YESTERDAY: 76 71 LO 54 PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) TRACE  
FORECAST: 2A

# The State

1956 - 2016



## CARRIE FISHER DIES AT AGE 60

Onscreen, she was Princess Leia from the 'Star Wars' franchise. Offscreen, she was not shy about sharing her struggles. **2A**

# Legislator accused of domestic violence

Aiken Rep. Corley punched his wife, pointed gun at her, officials allege



Rep. Chris Corley attends a bond hearing at the Aiken County detention center Tuesday. Corley is charged with pointing and presenting a firearm and first-degree criminal domestic violence, which is a felony in S.C.



## PALMETTO THE DISH ON NEW RESTAURANTS

Owners of several new Midlands restaurants talk about what's been working and what they learned in their new ventures. **1C**

## FIESTA BOWL CLEMSON STAYS FOCUSED

Experienced Tigers prepared for playoff-related distractions. **1B**

BY CYNTHIA ROLDAN  
croltan@thestate.com

AIKEN COUNTY — State Rep. Chris Corley was arrested Tuesday on charges of punching his wife in the face and pointing a 9mm pistol at her when she accused him of cheating, according to Aiken County sheriff's records. Corley, R-Aiken, was charged with first-degree criminal domestic violence, which is a felony, and pointing and pre-

**ONLINE**  
**THESTATE.COM:** Watch videos of Rep. Chris Corley's bond hearing Tuesday in Aiken and his comments about the removal of the Confederate flag.

senting a firearm at his wife of 12 years in the presence of two of their children, ages 2 and 8, the incident report states. The 36-year-old legislator faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted of the domestic violence charge, which is the second most serious charge related

to domestic violence. The most egregious charge is domestic violence of a high and aggravated nature. The little-known legislator thrust himself into the national spotlight in 2015 when he said on the S.C. House floor that removing the Confederate flag from the State House grounds was tantamount to the state's Republican Party surrendering to political correctness in the wake of the Charleston church shootings. A judge in Aiken released

Corley on a total of \$20,000 in surety bonds, banned him from going near his wife or holding a firearm, and told the lawmaker he could travel only to and from his job in Augusta, Ga. Corley, wearing a white long-sleeve Southern Tide T-shirt, blue athletic shorts, tennis shoes, handcuffs and shackles, said little during his bond hearing. His attorney, who declined to give reporters his name, is thought to be a relative of Corley's. **SEE LEGISLATOR, 6A**





USC FOOTBALL, 1C  
**TAILBACK CHECK**



MINI-PAW, 3A  
Golf course honors Tigers

**The Greenville News** PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2016  
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

● **USATODAY** 'STAR WARS' PRINCESS DIES AT 60 **PAGE 1B**

**Leaders: Boulware, Elflein show way**

RALPH D. RUSSO  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. - Coaches often talk about how the best teams have players who take ownership and convey their messages as well as they do. Ohio State center Pat Elflein and Clemson linebacker Ben Boulware are those types of players. The No. 2 Buckeyes (11-1) and No. 3 Tigers (12-1) meet Saturday in the Fiesta Bowl semifinal at University of Phoenix Stadium and it is likely seniors Elflein and Boulware will run into each other a few times. For one, it will be his last game. For the other, it will be on to Tampa, Florida, to play for

the College Football Playoff championship. They will definitely be missed when they are gone. "I don't even want to think about that right now," Ohio State offensive coordinator Ed Warinner said Tuesday about Elflein. It could very well have been Clemson defensive coordinator Brent Venables talking about Boulware, too. Elflein is a born Buckeye from Pickerington, Ohio, but it took a while from him to get the scholarship offer Ohio State. He committed when Jim Tressell was Ohio State coach, but ended up playing for Urban Meyer. Elflein redshirted as a freshman with a foot injury and his

first major playing time came in 2013 against Michigan. He has become a fixture on the Buckeyes' offensive line since, starting at guard the last two seasons and then moving to center this year and becoming an All-American. Most of the dominant players who helped Ohio State go 26-2 with a national championship the last two seasons have moved on to the NFL. The 2016 Buckeyes were in reload mode with a bevy of new

**Reading the QB**  
Clemson's defense sees a big challenge in Ohio State's J.T. Barrett. **Page 1C**



KIM KLEMENT-USA TODAY SPORTS  
Clemson's Ben Boulware was the only returning starter for the Tigers at linebacker.

See LEADERS, Page 4A

**Personal need stirs food entrepreneurs**

Nutrition businesses often generated by necessity

LILLIA CALLUM-PENSO  
LPEHSO@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

Julie Maddox's story is well-worn now. The former teacher tells the tale of how she discovered her son, Benjamin, had Type 1 Diabetes when he was just 3 years old, with skill. Maddox knows just the places to pause to let information sink in, and just the places to offer explanation when medical terms prove confusing.

Today, Maddox not only tells the story, but she has turned it into a business. Benji Bars are high protein, perfectly balanced snacks that are delicious, nutritious and were inspired by Maddox's son. The tag line is "Make it Better," and that has become the force that guides Maddox day in and day out.

"It's whatever, your next action, your next bite, whatever is important to you, make it better," she explains. "Whatever it is for you. For me, I wanted to provide a better product for my son. I wanted to make it better for my child and this is how it happened."

Maddox is but one of a handful of food entrepreneurs with businesses born of necessity. These are mothers who learn how to make all gluten free baked goods because their child can't stomach gluten, mothers who develop special nut free and egg free items because their child is allergic to both and mothers who, exasperated at finding a snack that keeps her son's insulin levels balanced when he's at soccer practice, create their own.

While numbers of these businesses are hard to come by, Kimberly Baker, of Clemson's Food2Market program, predicts that as the popularity of local food grows, so will these sort of necessity-based food entrepreneurs.

"Right now, it's really hard for those who are making the salsas and the pickles because there are so many out there," says Baker, who works with food entrepreneurs from all over the state, helping them hone their products by offering advice, food and nutrition testing and help with licensing and permits.



Julie Maddox, founder of Benji Bars, Maddox weighs and packages the bars.

KEN OSBORN

"I wanted to provide a better product for my son. I wanted to make it better for my child and this is how it happened."

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**Bright: No regrets six months after loss**

Controversial lawmaker knew battle was uphill

TIM SMITH  
TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

COLUMBIA - For Lee Bright, the situation appeared beyond daunting.

The headline-grabbing arch conservative from Spartanburg County faced a trio of opponents in his primary battle to win a third term in the Senate. The State Chamber of Commerce also opposed his re-election.

His proposals to require transgender people to use the bathroom for their sex at birth, his push for anti-abortion legislation and support of the Confederate flag had collected a basketful of political enemies.

And then, during the final weeks of the legislative session, with his daughters' graduation and the primary vote on the horizon, he decided to postpone surgery to remove his gall bladder, leaving him sick and in pain.

Weeks later he lost in a runoff with former Rep. Scott Talley. But Bright, 46, insists today he has no regrets.

"I knew I had collected so many enemies that winning that re-election was going to be really hard," he told The Greenville News, "so I thought, 'You've got to live like this is it, like you're nev-

See NO REGRETS, Page 4A





# POSITION BATTLE

South Carolina freshman A.J. Turner knows the team's showdown with South Florida in the Birmingham Bowl is just the beginning of a fierce competition at tailback. **1B**

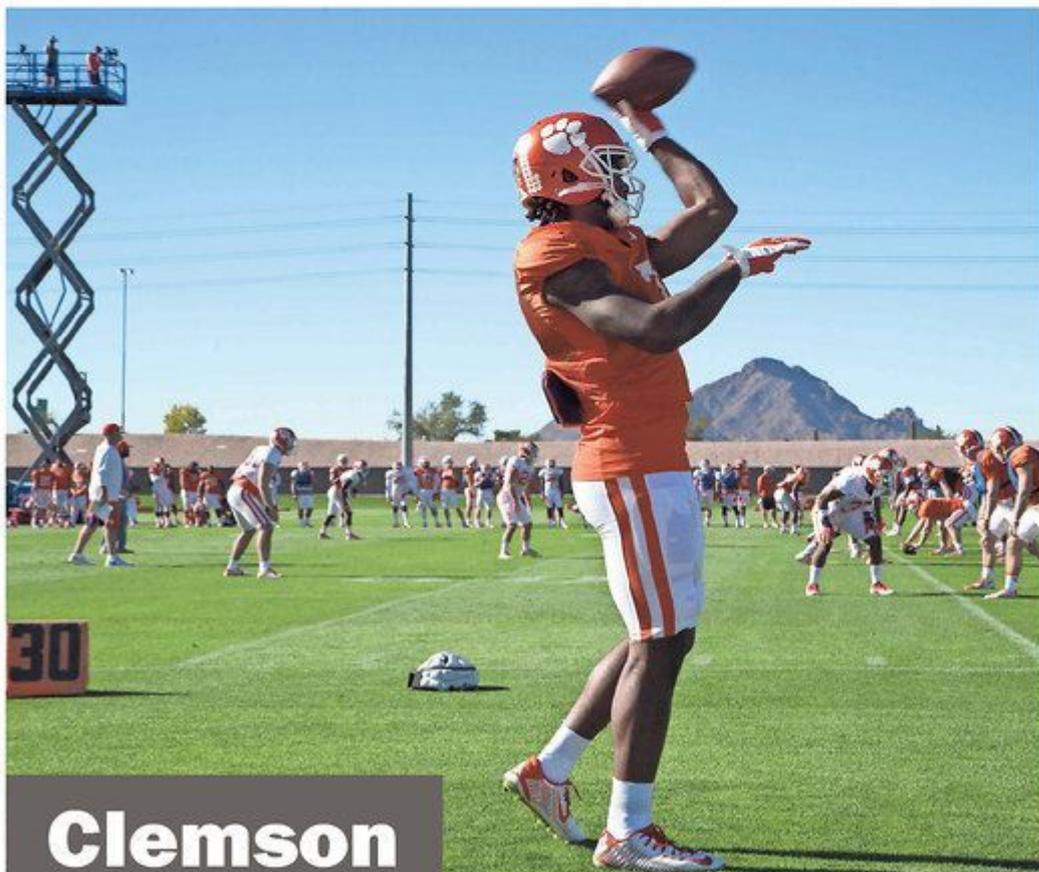
# Independent

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2016

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



## FIESTA BOWL



MARK HENLE/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Wide receiver Mike Williams plays catch Tuesday during practice at Scottsdale Community College in Arizona. Clemson will face Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl on Saturday. **More coverage on 1B.**

## Clemson hits the practice field in Arizona



**ONLINE**  
Visit [orangeandwhite.com](http://orangeandwhite.com) for Clemson sports coverage.

Clemson took to the practice field Tuesday in Scottsdale, Arizona. The Tigers take on Ohio State on Saturday night in the Fiesta Bowl. There is a lot on the line as the winner advances to play the winner of the Alabama vs. Washington game and for the national championship. The Tigers and Buckeyes played in the 2014 Orange Bowl, with Clemson winning 40-35. Urban Meyer and his Buckeyes are seeking revenge. Clemson head coach Dabo Swinney and two-time Heisman Trophy quarterback Deshaun Watson want a win Saturday and another chance at the national title. Clemson lost a heartbreaker to Alabama last year. In terms of bowl activities this week, Clemson doesn't have too many planned. Comedian Frank Caliendo will perform for the Tigers and Ohio State today. *Keep up with all the pre-game practices and player profiles at [independentmail.com](http://independentmail.com) and [orangeandwhite.com](http://orangeandwhite.com). Photos, video and analysis provided by our USA Today Network team in Arizona. Also watch the Orange and White Facebook page for live updates.*

## 2 bills address public records access

Proposals seek to keep FOIA denial challenges from being dragged out in courts

**KIRK BROWN**  
[KIRK.BROWN@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM](mailto:KIRK.BROWN@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM)

Two bills filed this month in the South Carolina General Assembly would lessen the time and cost associated with challenging denials of public records requests.

The measures introduced by Sen. Chip Campsen and Reps. Weston Newton and Bill Taylor call for state administrative hearing officers to preside over disputes regarding requests made under South Carolina's Freedom of Information Act.

Those who want to challenge the denial of a public records request now must often wait up to a year for a circuit court judge to rule on the matter, said Campsen, a Republican from Charleston. He said administrative hearing officers would be able to handle these cases more promptly.



Sen. Chip Campsen



Bill Rogers

In October 2015, the Independent Mail, The Greenville News and The Journal of Seneca sued the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division after authorities refused to release a video from a dashboard camera related to the fatal shooting of 19-year-old Zachary Hammond. The video was released about two weeks after the lawsuit was filed and the case was ultimately dismissed, according to court records.

An added advantage of the proposed bills is that people and groups would not necessarily have to hire an attorney to challenge the denial of a records request before a hearing officer, said Bill Rogers, executive director of South Carolina Press Association.

The bills include other proposed changes in the state's Freedom of Information Act.

The amount of time that government agencies have to approve or de-

See ACCESS, Page 5A

## 6 money resolutions you can keep

**LIZ WESTON**  
NERD/WALLET

Let's face the grim truth: Those 10 pounds you want to lose will likely be among your New Year's resolutions next year, too.

If you really want a sense of accom-

» **Consolidate retirement accounts:** Consolidating makes it easier to monitor your investments and can save you money. Investment choices in 401(k)s typically cost significantly less than those available outside the plans, and many large-company 401(k)s offer dirt-cheap funds not available to retail investors. If

### RESOLUTIONS FOR 2017

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.





## FANS MOURN CARRIE FISHER'S DEATH

NATION, A6



## 2017 HARD TO PREDICT FOR INVESTORS

BUSINESS, C4

# Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Wednesday, December 28, 2016



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Complete forecast, B6

75TH ANNIVERSARY

## Japan PM visits Pearl Harbor



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, left, and President Barack Obama speak with Pearl Harbor veterans, all seated, from left, Sterling Cale, Al Rodrigues and Everett Hyland, Tuesday at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam in Honolulu.

MARCO GARCIA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Obama, Abe mark historic moment

By Josh Lederman and Caleb Jones  
The Associated Press

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii — In a historic pilgrimage, the leaders of Japan and the United States took to the hallowed waters of Pearl Harbor on Tuesday to prove that even the bitterest enemies can become allies. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe did not apologize, but conceded Japan “must never repeat the horrors of war again.”

Seventy-five years after

Japan's surprise attack sent America marching into World War II, Abe and President Barack Obama peered down at the rusting wreckage of the USS Arizona, clearly visible in the tranquil teal water. More than 1,000 U.S. war dead remain entombed in the submerged ship, and in a show of respect, Obama and Abe dropped purple petals into the water and stood in silence.

“As the prime minister of Japan, I offer my sincere and everlasting condolences to the souls of those who lost their lives here, as well as to the spirits of all the brave men and

SEE HISTORIC, A6

### NEWS DIGEST

#### Roof to appear before judge today

The Columbia-area man who killed nine black parishioners at a Charleston church will go before a judge today to prepare for the sentencing phase of his hate-crimes trial.

Dylann Roof, 22, is expected to represent himself when the jury returns Jan. 3 to decide if he should get the death penalty.

Roof has until then to change his mind and have his highly experienced, anti-death penalty lawyer David Bruck take over.

But before then, he'll attend a pretrial conference at 10 a.m. at the Charleston federal courthouse.

Details on what the hearing will entail were not included in the Dec. 19 order by presiding U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel.

Since Roof was found guilty Dec. 15, few motions have been filed in federal court.

On Dec. 16, Roof filed a handwritten note that he would not be offering expert evidence on his mental condition during the sentencing proceedings.

A few days later, Gergel filed a sealed order, and lead prosecutor Jay Richardson filed a sealed document Monday.

Shooting survivor Felicia Sanders — whose harrowing testimony brought many to tears in court — has said she will testify during the sentencing phase of the trial.

Bruck has argued that Roof's mental health should be a factor, but Bruck's efforts were continually rebuffed by Gergel and rebuked by Richardson. Roof wrote, as part of his online white-supremacy manifesto, that he didn't believe in psychology.

Roof has been warned repeatedly by Gergel that he thinks it's a bad idea for Roof to represent himself.

— The (Columbia) State

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF

## New day in the desert



WHERE ARE THEY NOW



Isaac Edens, 14, at his home in Chesnee. Michael and Marsha Edens say their son, who suffered a stroke in utero, has made remarkable progress. TIM KIMZEY/SPARTANBURG HERALD-JOURNAL

## Beating the odds

Chesnee teen living full life after successful brain surgery

By Chris Lavender  
chris.lavender@shj.com

Fourteen-year-old Isaac Edens doesn't have life-threatening seizures anymore, allowing him to enjoy life with family and friends, especially during the holidays.

It's been nearly 10 years since he had surgery to remove most of the left side of his brain, which was damaged by a stroke in utero, seven months into his mother's pregnancy. The surgery, completed in March



## LOCAL

Have a horse?  
York Co. may  
want you for  
search, rescue 3A



## SPORTS

Tigers land in  
desert, ready for  
added attention  
with playoff 1B



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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2016

\$1.00

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61°/45° See 2C

# The Herald

## STATE

## Deputies: S.C. lawmaker beat wife, pointed gun at her

BY JEFFREY COLLINS  
Associated Press

## COLUMBIA

A South Carolina House member who rebuked his colleagues in a Christmas card for lacking morals when they took down the Confederate flag is accused of beating his wife and

pointing a gun at her, deputies said.

Officers in Aiken County charged Rep. Chris Corley with a pair of felonies that could send him to prison for up to 15 years after he attacked his wife during an argument over his infidelity late Monday night at their home in Graniteville, according to a police report.



Corley

would kill himself, the report

said. The couple's young children were there, and the wife took the family to her mother's house across the street after Corley threatened to kill her, then said he

said.

Corley's wife said he stopped hitting her only after noticing she was bleeding and hearing the children screaming, deputies said.

Corley told officers his wife tried to punch him after accusing him of cheating, and the police report noted a scratch on his forehead.

Corley is charged with first-degree criminal domestic violence, which carries up to 10 years in prison if convicted, and pointing a firearm at a person, which has a maximum sentence of five years. Neither charge has a minimum punishment.

A judge set Corley's bond at \$20,000 and ordered him to not contact his wife. Corley didn't talk about the charges during his brief hearing Tuesday afternoon.

The 36-year-old Republican lawyer was just elected to a second term.

Corley's arrest comes after a legislative session where lawmakers strengthened punishments for domestic violence.

SEE CORLEY, 4A



Some state lawmakers plan to take another swing at moped laws as South Carolina moped-related collisions and deaths continue to rise.

## STATE

## Require helmets, reflective vests? Moped bill gets another look

BY AVERY G. WILKS  
[awilks@thostate.com](mailto:awilks@thostate.com)

## COLUMBIA

As moped-related collisions and deaths continue to rise in South Carolina, a group of state lawmakers plans to take another swing at moped laws they call slack and loophole-ridden.

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

“

LIVES ARE BEING LOST NEEDLESSLY WITH  
NOT A WHOLE LOT OF REGULATION.

State Sen. Greg Hembree, R-Horry County

prefiled bills in each Statehouse chamber that would require moped drivers to register with the Department of Motor Vehicles, follow the same traffic rules as all other vehicles and wear reflective vests at night.

moped to 15. Crosby's leaves it at 14.

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

ly in rural areas

• Mopeds are held to lower legal standards than other vehicles

For example, moped drivers cannot be charged with driving under the influence because the so-called "liquor cycles" are not considered "motor vehicles" under South Carolina law.

No training is required to operate them, and users as young as 14 years old can apply for a moped-specific license.

Mopeds also need only generic tags issued by the dealer, making it tougher for law enforcement to track down their owners.

## DEATH TOLL RISING

The bills are the latest in a push over the past few years to shore up so-called soft spots in South Carolina moped laws some blame for the rising death toll on state roadways.

That toll reached at least a five-year high last year. Forty-five people died in moped collisions in 2015, up from 21 in 2010 and 12 in 2001, according

## MILDRED BROWN, 1934-2016

## Hairdresser leaves lasting legacy

BY ANDREW DYN  
[ady@heraldonline.com](mailto:ady@heraldonline.com)

## ROCK HILL

Fifteen years ago, it took only one person to change an obscure South Carolina law for experienced hairdressers. That one person was Rock Hill's Mildred "Skeet" Brown.

Yet she never heard her name called after age three when she lost her hearing due to an illness. But Brown never stopped smiling, except for a brief time in 2001 when the state took her hairdressers' license.

That smiling life ended Christmas Day. She died at age 82 in Hospice & Community Care, family said.

"Skeet's smile was legendary," said a niece, Louie Mills. "Her kindness has been known in Rock Hill for as long as she has been doing hair. And that was a long, long time. She started in the 1950s."

Brown, who operated a hair salon on Hall Street in Rock Hill, was an icon and institution rolled into one.

She started doing hair in 1954 at age 20 - deaf, but independent.

In 2001, after a mix-up in the process to renew her hairdressing license, the state shut her business down. An outcry from hundreds of people in Rock Hill that reached elected officials forced a change in the law.

In 2001, one of Brown's sisters who had handled the licensing process for decades passed away. The renewal notice was

SEE BROWN, 4A







**REMEMBERING CARRIE FISHER**  
Star Wars actress who played Princess Leia dies at age 60, 1C

# Aiken Standard

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WEDNESDAY, December 28, 2016

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 150, No. 361 || AIKEN, S.C.

## Corley facing felony counts

### State lawmaker jailed on domestic violence charges

### Corley no stranger to controversy

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER  
mschechter@aikenstandard.com

A judge set a \$20,000 bond on Tuesday for the South Carolina House Representative from Graniteville charged with assaulting his wife and pointing a handgun at her.

Wearing a long-sleeved T-shirt, blue shorts and gray New Balance shoes, Republican Rep. Chris Corley stared straight ahead at Magistrate Judge Melanie James DuBose as she told him he was to have no contact with his wife and couldn't possess



Corley

any firearms while on bond. Corley will be able to drive to and from Augusta, where he works as an attorney. Corley was arrested by the Aiken County Sheriff's Office early Tuesday morning on felony charges of first-degree domestic violence and pointing and presenting firearms at a person. He was issued a \$10,000 bond on each charge. On domestic violence

first degree, if convicted, the charge carries a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, according to the Solicitor's Office. On the gun charge, if convicted, Corley could be sentenced up to five years in prison.

He is being represented by a family member.

Sheriff's Office deputies responded Monday night to Corley's home in the 100 block of Sugar Hill Drive in Graniteville, where a woman, identified as Corley's wife, said Corley hit her in

Please see **BOND**, Page 12A

BY MAYA PRABHU AND MAAYAN SCHECHTER  
mprabhu@postandcourier.com, mschechter@aikenstandard.com

**Online**



First reported online at 8:30 a.m. Dec. 27. View additional video coverage at [aikenstandard.com](http://aikenstandard.com).

COLUMBIA — A young, conservative state lawmaker known for his defense of gun rights and support of the Confederate battle flag was released from jail Tuesday after posting \$20,000 bail on charges that he beat his wife and pointed a handgun at her.

As a condition of his release, state Rep. Chris Corley, R-Graniteville, is to have no contact with his wife and cannot be in possession of a firearm, Magistrate

Melanie James DuBose said. Corley, 36, is charged with first-degree domestic violence and pointing and presenting a firearm, according to charges filed by the Aiken County Sheriff's Office.

The felony allegations were first reported by the *Aiken Standard* and stem from

Please see **CORLEY**, Page 12A

**Inside today**



Hamilton puts South Aiken football on the map  
Sports, 1B



Congressman voices support to complete MOX  
Local News, 2A

**Area deaths**

- Nichel Holland-Swindler, Hopkinsville, Ky.
  - Henry Coleman, Aiken
  - Jerry Lee Lewis, Aiken
  - Johnnie Mae Davis, Aiken
  - Ronald James Wood, Aiken
  - Chester W. Dyczewski, Aiken
  - Carol Phillips, Ridge Spring
  - Arnold Van Trump, Aiken
  - Bertha M. Williams, Aiken
- Deaths and Funerals, 6A

**Weather**

## Aiken readers clicked it



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY MICHAEL SMITH

The Aiken Mall has been purchased by Southeastern Development Associates in May 2016.

### Aiken Mall, ADPS suit among top web stories for 2016

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER  
mschechter@aikenstandard.com

**Employee reports potential drone sighting over Savannah River Site**

The year 2016 had its fair share of world, country and state news. Whether it was the historic election of President-elect Donald Trump, the issue of "fake news," the deaths of celebrated people or the South Carolina coastal evacuations for Hurricane Matthew, readers took to online to pour through millions of news articles.

Aiken County was no exception. Here are the top five online stories that created conversation in the

Rarely does breaking news leave the gates of the Savannah River Site. But this summer it was announced Site officials were investigating at least nine drone sightings above the Savannah River Site, including the sensitive K Area, each prompting site-wide security alerts.

A potential 10th sighting in September did stir things up, but U.S. Department of Energy officials



AP FILE PHOTO/MIKE KINNARD

Lakeya Hicks and Elijah Pontoon have sued the City of Aiken, Aiken Public Safety, Public Safety Chief Charles Barranco and four former and current officers alleging both were





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# Morning News

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 28, 2016

**TODAY'S WEATHER**

Mostly cloudy, rain late.  
High 65, low 46.

DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

## Double homicide in Darlington County still under investigation

BY JESSICA IMBIBO  
Morning News  
jimibbo@florencenews.com

DARLINGTON — Pee Dee law enforcement officers were busy in 2016, a year that might be remembered most by a double homicide in Darlington County.

Two people were arrested and charged after a 9-year-old girl and her grandmother were found slain in July in their Darlington County home.

Cephas Cowick, 23, and Katherine Baucom-Cowick, 25, face charges of murder, first degree bur-

glary, third degree arson, grand larceny and armed robbery with a deadly weapon. Both were held without bond following their arrest.

The incident occurred at 2129 Bobo Newsome Highway in the Swift Creek community outside of Darlington where the two victims, Dezyah Davis, 9, and her grandmother Denise Couplin, 52, were found dead. Coroner Todd Hardee ruled their deaths as a double homicide.

According to an incident report from the

See **CRIME**, Page 3A

## Green, leafy and good



Bunches of collards sit in a pile Tuesday at Wilson Farm's stand at the Pee Dee State Farmers Market in Florence.

Collards tradition as much about the past as the future

BY MATTHEW ROBERTSON  
Morning News  
mrobertson@scnw.com

FLORENCE — Why collards and black-eyed peas for New Year's?

The answer amounts to a primer in Southern culinary and agricultural history — with the emphasis equally placed on Southern, culinary, agricultural

and history.

Most of the meal, and some of the pre-work, comes with symbolic meaning to go with it, as families celebrated in equal portions of having food at the end of the year and the promise of a better year to come.

It all started with Union

See **COLLARDS**, Page 3A

### TOP AREA CRIME STORIES OF 2016

» **1. Two arrested after double-homicide:** Two people were arrested and charged after a 9-year-old girl and her grandmother were found slain in their Darlington County home in July (see main story).

» **2. Florence doctor arrested for bank fraud:** A Florence physician was arrested in August on charges of bank fraud and filing a false police report. Lloyd Charles Miller Jr., a doctor employed with First Choice Healthcare in Florence, filed a report with the Florence Police Department stating that his bank account was compromised. Miller, 62, alleged that a large sum of money was missing from his bank account, so when he informed the bank of the loss, he was refunded the money, Brandt said. An investigation followed and detectives discovered that Miller had made the transactions he had claimed were fraudulent. Miller was released from the Florence County Detention Center less than three hours after his arrest on personal recognizance bonds.

» **3. Murder charge dismissed for Kingstree man:** A man arrested and charged with murder in October 2015 had his charges dismissed earlier this year after video evidence showed the man acted in self-defense. Darnel O'Brian Thomas Fulton, 25, of Kingstree was arrested after shooting another man in the face in the parking lot of a Lake City McDonald's. According to Fulton's attorney, Fulton and his family were driving from their house to McDonald's when a pickup truck ran a stop sign in front of them. They honked their horn to let the person know they ran a stop sign. The driver of the pickup truck, James Adam Culick, 28, of Lake City, pulled over to the side of the road and tried to start an altercation. Fulton lawfully had a firearm in his car. Fearing for his life and his family, Fulton fired his weapon once, striking Culick and killing him. After the shooting, Fulton was arrested and charged with murder and released on bond totaling \$85,000. An investigation ensued, and videos from surveillance cameras from local businesses verified Fulton's original story. All charges against Fulton were dismissed.

» **4. Deputy discovers marijuana-infused candy during traffic stop:** A member of the Florence County Sheriff's Office Criminal Enforcement Unit found hydroponically grown marijuana as well as marijuana-infused candies during a traffic stop on I-95 in June. The candy products contained 100 milligrams of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the primary psychoactive constituent of marijuana. The candies resemble ones bought in retail stores and are virtually indistinguishable from the brand-named candies without a chemical analysis.

» **5. Chase and manhunt:** Two people were arrested earlier this month after an attempted traffic stop, pursuit, crash and manhunt along South Hwy. Street. Deputies brief-



## PEPSI CAROLINA CLASSIC TIPS OFF



Hemingway coach Greg Lawson yells to his players to cover an open Lake City player during overtime of a first-day Pepsi Carolina Classic boys' basketball game Tuesday at West Florence High School. Hemingway won 73-68.

MEGAN MAY/MORNING NEWS

### TUESDAY'S RESULTS

at West Florence High School  
**DAILY TICKETS:** Adults \$6, 4-12-under, Free 5-under  
» No. 5 Darlington 58, No. 12 Laurence Manning 37  
» No. 9 Hartsville 78, No. 8 Cheraw 69  
» No. 7 Hemingway 73, No. 10 Lake City 68, OT  
» No. 6 South Florence 53, No. 11 Timmonsville 43

### TODAY'S SCHEDULE

» Laurence Manning vs. Cheraw, 11:15 a.m.  
» Lake City vs. Timmonsville, 1 p.m.  
» No. 2 Blythewood vs. Hemingway, 2:45 p.m.  
» No. 3 Crestwood vs. South Florence, 4:30 p.m.  
» No. 4 North Augusta vs. Darlington, 6:15 p.m.  
» No. 1 West Florence vs. Hartsville, 8 p.m.

### FLORENCE

The 31st annual Pepsi Carolina Classic started Tuesday with four boys' high school basketball games at West Florence High School. See complete coverage in **Sports**, Page D1. See photo galleries at [scnw.com](http://scnw.com).

## SC lawmaker charged with domestic abuse

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A South Carolina House member who rebuked his colleagues in a Christmas card for lacking morals when they took down the Confederate flag is accused of beating his wife and pointing a gun at her, deputies said.



Corley

Officers in Aiken County charged

Rep. Chris Corley with a pair of felonies that could send him to prison for up to 15 years after he attacked his wife during an argument over his infidelity late Monday night at their home in Graniteville, according to a police

report.

The couple's young children were there, and the wife took the family to her mother's house across the street after Corley threatened to kill her, then said he would kill himself, the report said.

Corley's wife said he stopped

See **CORLEY**, Page 3A

## Boston bombing survivor to speak at fundraiser



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## SC Legislature

# Possible corruption charges loom over 2017

BY SEANNA ADCOX  
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Following the 30-count indictment of a former state House majority leader, questions over who else may face corruption charges will loom over the 2017 legislative session.

The misconduct and ethics charges announced Dec. 14 against 16-year veteran GOP Rep. Jim Merrill — the first since former Speaker Bobby Har-

rell pleaded guilty and resigned more than two years ago — ended all speculation that lawmakers could breathe easy.

And prosecutor David Pascoe made clear he's not done.

"This is still an ongoing investigation," he said in his Dec. 14 statement.

He repeated that to a judge on Thursday, when Merrill was allowed to remain free from jail without paying a bond.

Merrill, majority leader from

2004 to 2008, is accused of illegally profiting from his position. The indictments allege his public relations and political consulting firm, Geechie Communications, collected more than \$1 million between 2002 and 2016 from clients who hired him because of his office. That includes \$276,600 the GOP caucus paid his company for political mailers and ads.

He's accused of being a lobbyist and sponsoring legislation

beneficial to two clients — one of which became law.

Ten of the counts accuse him of not reporting income from clients who lobby state government on 2008-2013 annual campaign disclosure reports.

Merrill adamantly denies doing anything illegal. His attorneys point to opinions issued by the House Ethics Committee and Attorney General Alan Wilson saying it's not illegal for a legislative caucus to hire and pay a major-

ity leader's business.

"For over 20 years, his vocation and livelihood have been in the field of advertising, direct mail, and public relations," their statement said.

But those opinions are just that — nonbinding interpretations of the law. They don't have weight in court.

And Pascoe said Thursday Merrill overcharged the House

See ETHICS, Page 3A



Hartsville Police are asking for the public's assistance to identify and locate persons of interest in the theft of cash from the city's Walmart.

## Trio sought in suspected theft

From Staff Reports

Hartsville Police are asking for the public's assistance to identify and locate persons of interest in the theft of cash from the city's Walmart.

"On Thursday at approximately 1 p.m., at the Walmart store in Hartsville, three men entered the store and went straight to the garden center. Once they saw it was clear, one guy acted as the lookout and the other two stole the cash drawers. They took the drawers down an aisle and popped the drawers open. A substantial amount of money was taken from the store," Lt. Mark Blair, Hartsville Police Department, wrote in a release on the incident.

The three may be connected with other similar incidents, according to the release.

If you know who they are, please contact the Hartsville Police Department Investigations Division at 843-383-3029, or you may send an email to our Detective Lieutenant: brian.rudick@hartsvillesc.gov," according to the release.

"You can also leave anonymous tips at CrimeStoppers, and may even receive an award if your tip leads to an arrest and prosecution. CrimeStoppers can be reached at 1-888-CRIMESC. We will take tips through our Facebook page's message system too, at Hartsville Police Department SC!" Blair wrote in the release.

## YEAR IN REVIEW



The 2016 Dancing with the Stars of Darlington County trophies go to Dr. Jamie Harvey and his professional partner Ariadne Roberts. The event is held as a fundraiser for the Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault.

# Mid-summer starts off with a bang



**Editor's Note:** This is the third of a four-part series reviewing the news of 2016. The time frame is from July through September.

From Staff Reports

Kerry Tharp was named as the incoming president of Darlington Raceway, replacing Chip Wile who moved to a different track.

A Hartsville man called his fiancée at work and led with "I'm quitting my job."

ian of the Year.

Duke Energy proposed a 14.5 percent rate hike that would be the first raise in rates in nearly three decades.

Hartsville celebrates its second All-American City designation for the second time in 20 years.

A local mom was sentenced to seven-and-a-half years in prison for the death of her children.

Two suspects were arrested in a double-homicide



**NATION**  
**'Star Wars'**  
 actress and  
 author Carrie  
 Fisher dies 4A



**THE LONG READ**  
 I'm 26 and have  
 skin cancer – it  
 didn't have to  
 happen 1C



WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 28 2016

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Mostly cloudy  
 68°/58° See 2A

# THE ISLAND PACKET

**U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONS**

## At Pearl Harbor, U.S., Japan look to move past legacy of war

BY JOSH LEDERMAN  
*Associated Press*

**HONOLULU**

Putting 75 years of resentment behind them, the leaders of the United States and Japan are coming together at Pearl

Harbor for a historic pilgrimage to the site where a devastating surprise attack sent America marching into World War II.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit Tuesday with President Barack Obama is powerful proof that the former enemies have transcended the recriminatory

impulses that weighed down relations after the war, Japan's government has said. Although Japanese leaders have visited Pearl Harbor before, Abe will be the first to visit the memorial constructed on the hallowed waters above the sunken USS Arizona.



BRUCE ASATO/AP

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visits the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific to place a wreath on Monday.

For Obama, it's likely the last time he will meet with a foreign leader as president, White House aides said. It's a bookend

of sorts for the president, who nearly eight years ago invited

SEE PEARL, 7A



**MOPED SAFETY PROPOSALS**

## Helmets and vests: 'Burden' or boon?

■ "Nothing has changed except more people have died," says one lawmaker who plans to try again on a bill to deal with moped-related collisions and deaths.

BY AVERY G. WELLS  
 awl@thestate.com

**COLUMBIA**

As S.C. moped-related collisions and deaths continue to rise, a group of state lawmakers plans to take another swing at moped laws they call slack and loophole-ridden.

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

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

“  
**LIVES ARE BEING LOST NEEDLESSLY WITH NOT A WHOLE LOT OF REGULATION.**

State Sen. Greg Hembree, R-Horry

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

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

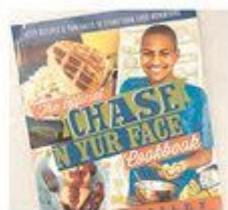
Two other House members, Reps. Mike Ryhal and Alan Clossman of Horry, are also



**SPORTS**

### BLUFFTON READY AT TOURNEY TIME

Ten Bobcats couldn't hit the court until the storm-delayed football season finished, but they are in stride now. 1B



**LOWCOUNTRY LIFE**

### AUTISTIC TEEN HAS COOKBOOK

Diagnosed with autism at 2, Chase Bailey of Irvine, Calif., is the author of "The Official Chase 'N' Yur Face Cookbook." 3C





# LANDER vs. the SEC

Bearcat men's hoops battle USC, 1B



# INDEX-JOURNAL

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2 SECTIONS, 20 PAGES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2016

DAILY \$1, SUNDAY \$1.50

## Deputies: SC lawmaker beat wife, pointed gun at her

By JEFFREY COLLINS  
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A South Carolina House member who rebuked his colleagues in a Christmas card for lacking morals when they took down the Confederate flag is accused of beating his wife and pointing a gun at her, deputies said.

Officers in Aiken County charged Rep. Chris Corley with a pair of felonies that could send him to prison for up to 15 years after he attacked his wife during an argument over his infidelity late Monday night at their home in Graniteville, according to a police report.

The couple's young children were there, and the wife took

the family to her mother's house across the street after Corley threatened to kill her, then said he would kill himself, the report said.

Corley's wife said he stopped hitting her only after noticing she was bleeding and hearing the children screaming, deputies said.

Corley told officers his wife tried to punch him after accusing him of cheating, and the police

report noted a scratch on his forehead.

Corley is charged with first-degree criminal domestic violence, which carries up to 10 years in prison if convicted, and pointing a firearm at a person, which has a maximum sentence of five years. Neither charge has a minimum punishment.

A judge set Corley's bond at

\$20,000 and ordered him to not contact his wife. Corley didn't talk about the charges during his brief hearing Tuesday afternoon.

The 36-year-old Republican lawyer was just elected to a second term.

Corley's arrest comes after a legislative session where lawmakers



CHRIS CORLEY

See **LAWMAKER**, page 4A

### LOOKING BACK

# A LEARNING EXPERIENCE IN 2016

## Lakelands see changing leadership in education

By ARIEL GILREATH  
agilreath@indexjournal.com

For much of the Lakelands, 2016 was a year of change for those in education — Richard



RAY BROOKS



PAUL COBB

school districts hired new superintendents.

For others, leadership remained the same. Greenwood County School District 52 is still searching for a new superintendent, and Ray Brooks said he would stay on as president of Piedmont Technical College only months after announcing his plans to retire.

### Piedmont Tech

Piedmont Technical College had a lot to celebrate this year, including its 50th anniversary of being open.

"This past year has been one of the most exciting and

productive years in the history of the college," Brooks said. "We've celebrated not only the historical things that have happened at the college, but we're seeing the results, tangible results now, of many of the planning efforts and our various strategies that we've put into place to improve our graduation rates, improve our retention rates (and) provide a better education for our students."

In September, Brooks announced he would retire effective June 30, 2017, after more than eight years of leading the college.

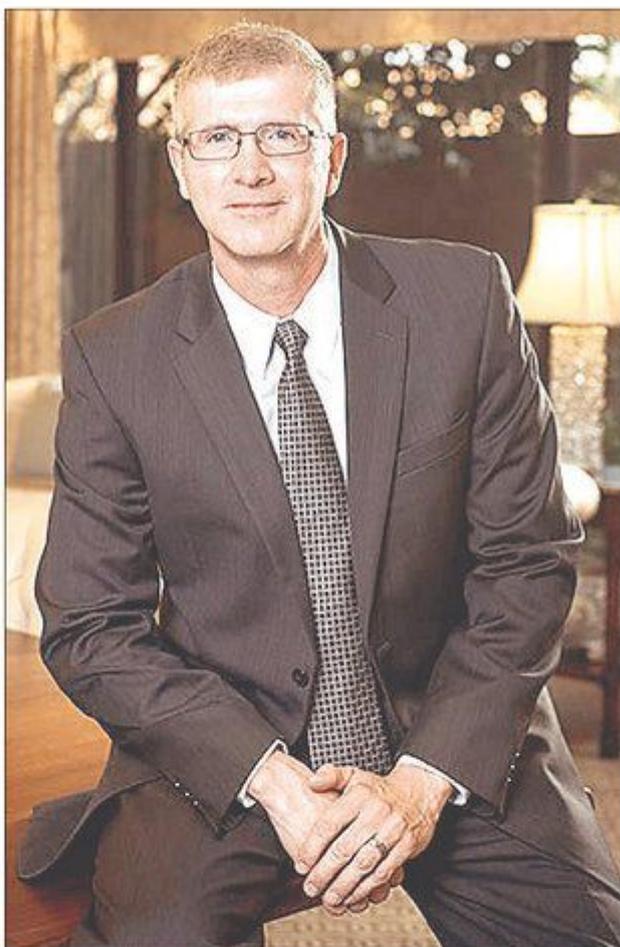
Piedmont Tech's area commission began the process of searching for a new president until Brooks approached them months later and asked to remain as president and postpone the search.

Brooks said he decided to postpone his retirement after a company he helped bring to Greenwood announced it would be moving to the county after six years of planning.

Piedmont Tech has promised to build a manufacturing building to help workers and future workers in local industries gain the skills they need.

"This is a very exciting project, it's a game changer," Brooks said. "I really don't think anybody, including myself, can sit today and tell you what the potential impact down the road is for the type of facility that we're going to build and what might come

See **LEADERSHIP**, page 3A



INDEX.JOURNAL FILE

Richard Cosentino sits in his office at Lander University just a few months after starting the job in 2015.

## A year full of promise, tumult

From staff reports

### Greenwood Promise

The initiative to give every student living in Greenwood County a free college education officially kicked off in 2016 with Greenwood Promise Day on Oct. 19.

This year's graduating classes will be the first students eligible for Greenwood Promise, which will provide students living in the county since at least their freshman year of high school with scholarships.

The amount of money students receive is based on a sliding scale depending on the length of time they have lived in the county, and students living in the county for many years will have their associate degree paid for or two years of their bachelor's degree.

Anyone in school in the county is eligible, including students in private schools and home-schooled students.

The Greenwood Promise campaign has nearly reached its goal of \$5 million since starting the campaign in October 2015.

### ACT tests

The S.C. Department of Education decided on an assessment for students by the company ACT Inc. not long before the test had to be administered to

See **YEAR**, page 3A

## Local couple feel loss of Carrie Fisher

Carrie Fisher as Princess Leia

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