

From: Taillon, Jeff
To: Taillon, Jeff <JeffTaillon@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 12/27/2012 9:32:23 AM
Subject: S.C. Front Pages - Thursday, December 27, 2012

CHARLESTONSCENE New Year's Eve events



Top albums, plus the best, worst films of 2012. **INSIDE**



The Post and Courier

THE SOUTH'S OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER • FOUNDED 1803

THURSDAY, December 27, 2012

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Mt. Pleasant's Sette to reopen in 2013 as a new Italian restaurant
Business, B6



Roundball Classic opens with a couple of blowouts
Sports, C1

26 Acts of Kindness: Dream up your own, let the world know

Stephanie Harvin column, Your Lowcountry



How working hard at chess is helping local youngsters succeed
Your Lowcountry, inside



Rags2Ritz Two watches for \$7
See A2



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Setting the record straight: A3



Flu up sharply locally, in state

10 deaths reported; season has months to go



After taking a nasal swab to test for flu, Angelina Barchi (right) does a strep swab Wednesday on Nevaeh Turner-Hendley after her father brought the 4-year-old to Nason Medical Center on Rivers Avenue with symptoms of vomiting, congestion, fever and a sore throat.

BY PRENTISS FINDLAY
pfindlay@postandcourier.com

Ten deaths from the flu have been reported in South Carolina as the number of hospitalizations and fatalities climbs well above last year's mild season.

Statewide, 319 people with laboratory-confirmed influenza were admitted to hospitals from Sept. 30 through Dec. 15, only partially through the season, according to the latest figures available from the state Department of Health and Environmental Control.

In comparison, last year's flu season began late and resulted in one death and 114 people hospitalized with lab-confirmed flu from Oct. 2, 2011, to July 7, 2012, according to DHEC.

So far, widespread flu has been reported in 29 states, including South Carolina, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

On Christmas Eve, 68 patients tested positive for the flu at Nason Medical Center's five locations in the Lowcountry. This month, the centers treated 832.

Please see B1B, Page A5.



The Nason Medical Center on Rivers Avenue is well-prepared for an influx of flu patients.

Flu facts

SYMPTOMS: Fever, headache, body aches, severe fatigue and cough.

DURATION: One to two weeks.

HOW IT'S SPREAD: The flu is contagious up to seven days from the start of symptoms.

HOW IT'S TREATED: Anti-viral medicines given within 48 hours of the start of symptoms, plenty of rest, drinking a lot of liquids, taking aspirin or acetaminophen to reduce fever and aches. Children with the flu should not take aspirin.

AVOIDING THE FLU: A flu vaccination is the most important thing. It typically takes about two weeks to become fully effective. Frequent hand-washing and avoiding crowds also will help.

PRECAUTIONS: Those allergic to eggs, pregnant women and those who have a chronic disease should check with their physician before getting a flu shot.

—State DHEC

S.C. to buy new school buses

Number unknown; \$12.5M to be spent

BY BRENDA RINDGE
brindge@postandcourier.com

Some students in the Palmetto State soon will be riding in style on brand-new school buses.

State Superintendent of Education Mick Zais is expected to announce today the delivery of the first additions to the state-owned fleet since 2007-08.

The new buses will be funded by almost \$12.5 million in unclaimed lottery prize money.

Zais and other state officials were unavailable for comment Wednesday, which was a state holiday. It was unclear how many new buses are expected.

South Carolina operates the only state-run bus fleet in the country, and it also is the oldest fleet in the nation, with the majority of the buses more than 15 years old, according to the state Department of Education. Many of the buses date to the 1990s and some even to the 1980s. Some had logged more than 400,000 miles.

The fleet of 5,637 buses traveled more than 81 million miles to transport more than 655,000 students daily during the last school year.

In 2007, an investigative series in The Post and Courier revealed that the state's buses are the oldest, most polluting and least safe in the nation. As a result, the state established guidelines that call for buses to be replaced after 15 years, which was to have created a cycle of replacing about 375 buses annually at a cost of \$60 million per year.

In the decade before that, the state bought an average of about 90 new buses per year. At that rate, it would take about 62 years to replace them all.

But so far the state has failed to follow its replacement program, and instead the Legislature is now studying the "South Carolina School Bus Privatization Act of 2012," which would require districts to take over their bus operations or contract out the operation to private companies.

The proposal is in the Senate Committee on Education and has the support of Gov. Nikki Haley.

Locally, some districts, such as Charleston, Beaufort and Dorchester District 2, already contract out bus service with Durham School Services, but maintenance facilities are still state-run.

The Berkeley County School District operates its own buses.

Reach Brenda Rindge at 937-5713 or www.facebook.com/brindge.

Even if we fall off 'cliff,' result may not be awful

BY CHRISTOPHER S. RIGABER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The economic threat that has kept many Americans on edge for months is nearing reality, unless the White House and Republicans cut a budget deal by New Year's Day.

Fluge tax increases, Deep cuts in domestic and defense programs. The likelihood of sinking stock prices, reduced consumer spend-

"The simple conclusion that going off the cliff necessarily means a recession next year is wrong."

Lewis Alexander, an economist at Nomura Securities

ing and corporate layoffs. The risk of a recession within months.

Still, the start of 2013 may turn out to be far less bleak than feared. For one thing, the two sides may strike

a short-term agreement before New Year's that postpones spending cuts until spring. President Barack Obama and members of Congress return to Washington today.

Even if New Year's passes with no deal, businesses and consumers would not likely panic as long as some agreement seemed imminent. The tax increases and spending cuts could be retroactively repealed.

And the impact of the tax increases would be felt only gradually. Most people would receive slightly less money in each paycheck.

Please see C1B6, Page A5

Inside

Lots of talk, but still no action on fiscal cliff. A3

Editorial: Down to the diffianger wire. A6

FIREWORKS GUIDE: Bigger bangs in store for New Year's Eve. **Life&Style**



USC NOT IN FLA. FOR FUN

Gamecocks begin 'business trip' to Tampa to prep for Outback Bowl against Michigan on Tuesday. **C1**

Gamecocks Corey Robinson, left, Jadeveon Clowney and Shon Carson arrive Wednesday at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay in Tampa in preparation for the Outback Bowl against Michigan on New Year's Day.

GUSPY MELLINCKX/SCMELLENCKX@THESTATE.COM

The State

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2012 | THESTATE.COM

S.C. ROADS

Group wants state to raise gas tax

Money would finance road construction and repair work throughout S.C.

By ADAM BEAM
abeam@thestate.com

A onetime educational group has hired two lobbyists—including a nine-year veteran of the state Department of Transportation—to push for an increase

in South Carolina's 16-cent-a-gallon gas tax, the third-lowest in the country.

The group, the S.C. Alliance to Fix Our Roads, says the tax hike is needed to pay for almost \$50 billion in road construction and repairs that will be needed

over the next 20 years. But the alliance faces considerable opposition, including from Gov. Nikki Haley, who came out against increasing the gas tax as part of her executive budget proposal earlier this month.

The S.C. Alliance to Fix Our

Roads has been around since 1981, when it was founded as South Carolinians for Better Highways. It changed its name in 1991 to the Transportation Policy and Research Council

SEE ROADS PAGE A5

IN ICU Bush's fever rising

By RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Former President George H.W. Bush has been admitted to the intensive care unit at a Houston hospital "following a series of setbacks including a persistent fever," but he is alert and talking to medical staff, his spokesman said Wednesday.



Bush

Jim McGrath, Bush's spokesman in Houston, said in a brief email that Bush was admitted to the ICU at Methodist Hospital on Sunday. He said doctors are cautiously optimistic about his treatment and that the former president "remains in guarded condition."

SEE BUSH PAGE A5

HOLIDAY SALES



Lexington Best Buy sales associate Alyssa Eskew helps Ethan Wolf, 6, make a purchase with money he got for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS IS OVER? DON'T TELL SHOPPERS

From Staff and Wire Reports

Bargain-hungry Americans will need to go on a post-Christmas spending binge to salvage this holiday shopping season.

They got a good start in the Columbia area during day-after

MORE BUSINESS NEWS

Venerable Columbia retailer Moe Levy's will no longer sell skiwear, blaming the economy, warmer winters. **Page B4**

offered, leading up to Christ-

week of December can account for about 15 percent of the month's sales, and the day after Christmas is typically one of the biggest shopping days of the year.

Toni Little was in Best Buy in Lexington on Wednesday with

DUMP CLOSING Operator to check water for 35 years

\$43,500 to be used to monitor wells near Pelion

By SAMMY FRETWELL
sfretwell@thestate.com

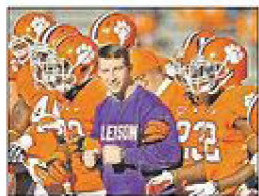
The operator of an unpopular sewage dump near Pelion will set aside \$43,500 to investigate groundwater pollution and monitor the 287-acre site for signs of further contamination, according to an agreement with state regulators.

C.E. Taylor Pumping Inc. struck the deal with the state's environmental department as part of a plan to close the disposal ground early next month. Regulators announced the deal at a public meeting in November, but the amount Taylor would pay had not been established until the agreement was signed Dec. 10.

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control won't require Taylor to clean up nitrate-poisoned groundwater be-

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TODAY'S DEAL



CHICK-FIL-A BOWL

ON THE LINE

Clemson victory will go a long way

BUSINESS

Toyota to pay \$1.1 billion in recall case

The Greenville News

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THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 27, 2012
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LIFESTYLE

See if your favorite film made the Top 10 Movies list of 2012, 1D

Legislators want answers

Senator:
Latest data
breach likely
not a prank

By Tim Smith
Staff writer

COLUMBIA — The chairman of a Senate panel investigating the massive data breach at the state Revenue Department says he doesn't believe the hacking of another agency's website last week was a prank.

Sen. Kevin Bryant of Anderson, who chairs the Senate sub-



"Why we still have some agencies that are careless with our data, seems to be a problem."

Rep. Bruce Bannister of Greenville

committee looking at the hacking of the Department of Revenue, told GreenvilleOnline.com that he believes there was more to the attack of the website for

the state Department of Employment and Workforce than is publicly known, though he hopes he is wrong.

"Why would someone go to

all the trouble to hack a website just to pull a prank?" he asked. "My gut feeling is what a criminal would do is maybe hack into a system, get what they want and then do this on their way out, kind of a way to thumb your nose at the agency."

Someone attacked the website Dec. 22 and replaced the

See HACKING, Page 3A



A NEW PLAN TO DEAL WITH

STORM WATER



County looks at voluntary pay-to-build rain garden program to ease strain on system

By Nathaniel Cary
Staff Writer
ncary@greenvillenews.com

Three dozen Girl Scouts tugged on gardening gloves and grabbed shov-

gan, hesitantly at first, to loosen dirt where they would soon plant dozens of native shrubs, grasses and flowers.

The Girl Scouts were building a rain garden, a new storm water management technique that essentially filters storm

Dan Powell from Keep Greenville County Beautiful carries some of the plantings being used to install a rain garden at the Lake Conestee Nature Park. Powell worked with Girl Scout troops, members of Palmetto Pride, the Greenville County Soil and Water Commission and other members of Keep Greenville County Beautiful. KEN OSBURN/STAFF

GreenvilleOnline.com

US may handle fall over 'cliff'

Delay likely doesn't ensure recession

By Christopher S. Rugaber
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The economic threat that's kept many Americans on edge for months is nearing reality — unless the White House and Republicans cut a budget deal by New Year's Day.

Still, the start of 2013 may turn out to be far less bleak than feared. For one thing, the two sides may strike a short-term agreement before New Year's that postpones spending cuts until spring. President Barack Obama and members of Congress return to Washington Thursday.

Even if New Year's passed with no deal, businesses and consumers would not likely panic as long as some agreement seemed imminent. The tax increases and spending cuts could be retroactively repealed.

And the impact of the tax increases would be felt only gradually. Most people would receive slightly less money in each paycheck.

"The simple conclusion that

See ECONOMY, Page 5A

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High 48
Low 30

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LOOKING BACK AT 2012

A look back at business

Several new businesses open, plan to open while others close in 2012

BY AMY BANTON
AND HALEY HUGHES
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hhughes@aikenstandard.com

Some new businesses opened and others closed their doors for good this year throughout the Aiken area. Other businesses have recently announced plans to locate in the city or county and those projects are currently under way. Here's a review of several business happenings in 2012 and what to expect in 2013.

Opened in 2012

Apizza di Napoli

Owned by Cliff and Wanda Garzillo, Apizza di Napoli opened in the Centre South Shopping Center on Silver Bluff Road this year.

The restaurant holds a certification of True Authentic Neapolitan Pizza from the VPN Association in Naples, Italy, using the guidelines set out by the Verace Pizza Napoletana Association.

The dough is made fresh daily, and Apizza di Napoli uses San Marzano tomatoes, which according to its website, come from the base of Mount Vesuvius in Naples.

Swamp Fox

Swamp Fox opened on Chesterfield Street in the old Olive Oil's building this year.

Located across the street from the Aiken County Courthouse, Swamp Fox bills itself as a fine Southern cuisine restaurant.

The restaurant's name honors Revolutionary War militia leader Francis Marion, who was nicknamed the "Swamp Fox" for leading a band of fighters through the low- and back-country swamps against British troops.



Owen Chelchowski, center, enjoys checking out the toys at the new Cracker Barrel store as store manager Heather Bradley and store associate Pam Johnson find delight in his fun.

Cracker Barrel

Cracker Barrel Restaurant and Country Store opened its doors on Jan. 30 and has kept busy since then, as it was highly anticipated by residents who waited several years for the eatery to come to Aiken.

Located at 2634 Whiskey Road, the construction of the restaurant was given the official thumbs up by

City Council on December 2010. Construction began in late August of 2011.

The business brought approximately 185 jobs to Aiken.

LaDolce

LaDolce, a downtown cafe, opened on Nov. 29 and is run by Executive Pastry Chef Kinsie MacVean and

her mother, Tea Master Lady Kelly MacVean.

This new business offers gourmet desserts, including wedding cakes. It also offers a variety of coffee drinks and teas.

LaDolce is located at 123 Laurens St.

Please see BUSINESS, Page 14A.

Powerful winter storm heads east

BY DAN SEWELL
Associated Press

A powerful winter storm system pounded the nation's midsection Wednesday and headed toward the Northeast, where people braced for the high winds and heavy snow that disrupted holiday travel, knocked out power to thousands of homes and were blamed in at least six deaths.

Hundreds of flights were canceled or delayed, scores of motorists got stuck on icy roads or slid into drifts, and blizzard warnings were issued amid snowy gusts of 30 mph that blanketed roads and windshields, at times causing whitout conditions.

"The way I've been describing it is as a low-end blizzard, but that's sort of like saying a small Tyrannosaurus rex," said John Kowiakowski, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Indianapolis.

The system, which spawned Gulf Coast region tornadoes on Christmas Day and a historic amount of snow in Arkansas, pushed through the Upper Ohio Valley and headed toward the Northeast. Forecasts called for 12 to 18 inches of snow inland from western New York to Maine starting late Wednesday and into Thursday and tapering off into a mix of rain and snow closer to the coast, where little accumulation was expected in such cities as New York and Boston.

The storm left freezing temperatures in its aftermath, and forecasters also said parts of the Southeast from Virginia to Florida would see severe thunderstorms.

Schools on break and workers taking holiday vacations meant that many people could avoid messy commutes, but those who had to travel were implored to avoid it. Snow was blamed for scores of vehicle accidents as far east as Maryland, and about two dozen counties in Indiana and Ohio issued snow emergency travel alerts, urging people to go out on the roads only if necessary.

Some 40 vehicles got bogged down trying to make it up a slick hill in Central Indiana, and four state snowplows slid off roads as snow fell at the rate of 3 inches an hour in some places.

Two passengers in a car on a sleek-slicked Arkansas highway were killed Wednesday in a head-on collision, and two people, including a 76-year-old Milwaukee woman, were killed Tuesday on Oklahoma highways. Deaths from wind-topped trees were reported in Texas and Louisiana.

COMING UP

- ☒ Dec. 26: City Council, County Council
- ☒ Dec. 27: Business
- ☐ Dec. 28: SRS

- ☐ Dec. 29: Education
- ☐ Dec. 30: Top stories of the year
- ☐ Dec. 31: Person of the Year

Aiken retailers optimistic about end of holiday shopping season

Local News, 2A

AREA DEATHS

Delores Jackson, Aiken
Evelyn H. Davis, Clearwater
James D. Patterson, Aiken
John Henry McKie, Graniteville
John McCutcheon, Salley
Julia Frances Bohringer, Aiken
Louise Bedenbaugh Antley, Graniteville
Russell Goodman, Philadelphia, Pa.
William P. "Bill" Vanca, Columbia

U.S. economy could handle short fall over 'cliff'

BY C.S. RUGABER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The economic threat that's kept many Americans on edge for months is nearing reality — unless the White House and Republicans cut a budget deal by New Year's Day.

Huge tax increases, deep cuts in domestic and defense programs. The likelihood of sinking stock prices, reduced consumer spending and corporate layoffs. The risk of a recession within months.

Still, the start of 2013 may turn out to be far less bleak than feared. For one thing, the two sides may strike a short-term agreement before New Year's that postpones spending cuts until spring. President Barack Obama and members of Congress return to Washington to face

lion in tax increases and spending cuts could be retroactively repealed.

And the impact of the tax increases would be felt only gradually. Most people would receive slightly less money in each paycheck.

"The simple conclusion that going off the cliff necessarily means a recession next year is wrong," said Lewis Alexander, an economist at Nomura Securities. "It will ultimately depend on how long the policies are in place."

It's always possible that negotiations between President Obama and Republican congressional leaders will collapse in acrimony. The prospect of permanent tax increases and spending cuts could cause many consumers and businesses to delay spending, hiring or expanding.

Without any agreement at all for months, the fiscal cliff would cause the

The simple conclusion that going off the cliff necessarily means a recession next year is wrong. It will ultimately depend on how long the policies are in place.

Lewis Alexander, economist at Nomura Securities

But most economists expect a deal, if not by New Year's, then soon after. Businesses and consumers will likely remain calm as long as negotiators seem to be moving toward an agreement.

"The atmosphere is more important than whether the talks spill" into next year, said Paul Ashworth, an econom-

— Though the fiscal cliff would boost taxes by \$386 billion for all of 2013, the tax hit for most people would be modest at first. The expiration of Social Security and income tax cuts would be spread throughout 2013. For taxpayers with incomes of \$40,000 to \$66,000, paychecks would shrink an amount of about \$1,500 next year.



The Beaufort Gazette

THURSDAY, December 27, 2012

beaufortgazette.com

Established in 1897 50 cents

Fisherman dies after boat capsizes on river

Second man currently hospitalized for treatment of hypothermia

By ANNE CHRISTNOVICH
achristnovich@beaufortgazette.com
 843-706-8125

A Beaufort fisherman is dead and a second was hospitalized for treatment of hypothermia after their 19-foot skiff

capsized on the Beaufort River on Wednesday afternoon.

The men were fishing for oysters near Com Island when the boat capsized, the surviving fisherman told Beaufort Water Search & Rescue Squad officials.

The men stayed atop the capsized boat for a time before one of them tried to swim to shore. He died during the attempt.

The identities of the two men were unavailable late Wednesday. The men

were employed by Sea Eagle, a Beaufort seafood market, according to Robin Clevinger of search and rescue. Sea Eagle reported the men missing at 6:30 p.m. after they did not return at 5 p.m. as scheduled.

The surviving fisherman was rescued at about 7:15 p.m., Clevinger said.

The body was located by a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter at about 11:30 p.m.

Both men were wearing life jackets, officials said.

A gale warning remained in effect until 4 a.m. today with wind gusts reaching 34 to 39 knots and seas of 6 to 9 feet.

AT LEAST 6 KILLED AS NATION HIT BY WINTER STORMS



A vehicle abandoned by its driver lays buried in snow Wednesday in Little Rock, Ark. A winter storm dropped about a foot of snow on parts of the state, shutting down workplaces, downing trees and power lines and making travel treacherous.

BENJAMIN KRAIN • The Associated Press

A powerful winter storm system pounded the nation's midsection Wednesday and headed toward the Northeast, where residents braced for the high winds and heavy snow that disrupted holiday travel, knocked out power to thousands of homes and caused at least six deaths.

The system, which spawned Gulf Coast region tornadoes on Christmas Day and a historic amount of snow in Arkansas, pushed through the Upper Ohio Valley and headed toward the Northeast. Forecasts called for 12 to 18 inches of snow inland from western New York to Maine starting late Wednesday and into today.

To see how the winter weather system will affect today's forecast, see page 6B.



Emergency and power crews block a road Wednesday outside Stantonburg, N.C., after a storm tore through the area, leaving many without power.

BRAD COVILLE • The Associated Press

'FISCAL CLIFF' NEGOTIATIONS

Experts: Outlook likely not so bleak

Although there is still cause for concern, economists say the economy could handle tax hikes and spending cuts for a short time.

By CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
 The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The economic threat that's kept many Americans on edge for months is nearing reality — unless the White House and Republicans cut a budget deal by New Year's Day.

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MORE INSIDE
 Starbucks is asking Washington to come together as lawmakers report little progress toward a deal. 7A

Please see FISCAL CLIFF on 7A

BEAUFORT'S COMMERCE PARK

City courts potential tenant

Mayor Bill Keyserling said he hopes to make an announcement in the first quarter of 2013.

By ERIN MOODY
emoodys@beaufortgazette.com



Retailers seeking
post-Christmas
boost C4

Herald-Journal

THURSDAY

DECEMBER 27, 2012

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5 Things
to read
today



Toyota settlement

Toyota Motor Corp. said on Wednesday that it has reached a settlement worth more than \$1 billion in a case involving hundreds of lawsuits over acceleration problems in its vehicles. **PAGE C4**

In intensive care

Former President George H.W. Bush has been admitted to the intensive care unit at a Houston hospital "following a series of setbacks including a persistent fever," but he is alert and talking to medical staff, his spokesman said Wednesday. **PAGE A3**

Top runner

Consistency is a vital part of being a cross country runner. Chesnee senior River Lawrence demonstrated that quality all season long and has been named the *Herald-Journal/GoUpstate* Prep Boys Runner of the Year. **PAGE B1**

Military discount

Melanie Pelletier has graduated from Sherman College of Chiropractic, but she is leaving an important legacy. Pelletier is the impetus behind an initiative to provide discount chiropractic services to military men and women. **PAGE C1**

Saving history

Blood once soaked the soil of battlefields that have since been covered up by development across the South. Now, 150 years after the American Civil War, two musicians are trying to keep that history from being lost in the new landscape. **PAGE C3**

Storm slams much of nation

Heavy snow disrupts holiday travel in Midwest, then turns toward Northeast

By DAN SEWELL
The Associated Press

A powerful winter storm system pounded the nation's mid-section Wednesday and headed toward the Northeast, where people braced for the high winds and heavy snow that disrupted holiday travel, knocked out power to thousands of homes and were blamed in at least six deaths.

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The system, which spawned Gulf Coast region tornadoes on Christmas Day and a historic amount of snow in Arkansas, pushed through the Upper Ohio Valley and headed toward the

◆ SEE STORM PAGE A4



Union County, Ohio, Sheriff Jamie Patton directs traffic around a crash near Marysville, Ohio, on Wednesday.

Keeping a colorful medium alive



Petra Manning-Brooks, a local stained glass artist, at work in her studio. Below, an example of her craft. See a photo gallery at GoUpstate.com.

PHOTOS BY ALEX C. HICKS JR./ALEX.HICKS@SHJ.COM

Stained glass artist loves her craft



Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles looking at old-fashioned arts and skills. Coming Friday: Metalsmithing.

BY LYNN R. SHACKLEFORD

lost Arts

Andre Ellington prepares for final game as a Tiger, 1B

Inside today's edition

News: Some new laws enter the books, 3A

Business: Holiday shopping down this year, 8A

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2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

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INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 94, NO. 228

Brutal beating ruled a homicide

Charges against Russell Aiken upgraded to murder, according to jail records

From staff reports

A brutal beating that began outside of a Greenwood bar and spilled into Hodges during the weekend has been ruled a homicide.

Jason Miller Bush, 29, of 1309 Morgan Road, Hodges, died Monday morning at

Self Regional Medical Center. According to police reports, he was beaten into unconsciousness Saturday following a drunken bar fight with a friend that began at JD's Bar and Grill, 812 Montague Ave.

Russell Aiken, 33, 3527 S.C. Highway 246 North, Hodges, was arrested Saturday morning and charged with assault and

battery of a high and aggravated nature in connection with the incident. Jail records at the Greenwood County Detention Center on Wednesday indicated the count of assault was upgraded to a murder charge.

Authorities performed an autopsy on the victim Wednesday morning, which determined he died of asphyxia. Green-

wood County Coroner Jim T. Coursey, who ruled the death a homicide, said Bush also suffered severe trauma to the head from the attack.

The Greenwood County Sheriff's Office and the Greenwood Police Department

See HOMICIDE, page 2A



RUSSELL AIKEN

CITY OF GREENWOOD



City of Greenwood sanitation workers Hiram Robinson, left, and Alfred Etheredge were among the many city workers tasked with collecting garbage Wednesday on the day after Christmas.

AFTER THE HOLIDAY

City sanitation workers tasked with hauling copious amounts of trash

By CHRIS TRAINOR
ctrainor@indexjournal.com

The scene played out similarly in living rooms across the Lakelands. Christmas Day arrived Tuesday, and young and old alike ripped into holiday gifts. Wrapping paper was torn and balled up. Boxes were folded,

crushed and discarded. Toys, electronics and more were opened, and the packaging was tossed away.

All of that Christmas day refuse leads in one direction: a big mess for the city's sanitation workers in the days after Christmas.

Members of the City of Greenwood's sanitation department were out in force Wednesday morning, collecting the garbage from rollcarts (and the boxes, bags and other

garbage that spilled out of some of those carts).

The City of Greenwood did not run its normal Tuesday routes on Christmas Day and instead ran those routes Wednesday.

City sanitation superintendent Robert Anty said the day after Christmas is always a challenging day, as residents typically put much more garbage at the curb than on a normal day. The City of Greenwood

ran four garbage trucks Wednesday, whereas on a typical day it would run three trucks.

Anty, who has worked in sanitation with the city for about eight years, said he has noticed a trend through the years: When the economy is stronger, there is more garbage to collect after Christmas.

The superintendent said there

See TRASH, page 3A

■ WASHINGTON

'Cliff' still looms

Christmas break doesn't provide breakthrough

By DAVID ESPO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When it comes to the nation's budget challenges, congressional leaders are fond of saying dismissively they don't want to kick the can down the road.

But now, a deadline hard ahead, even derided half-measures are uncertain as President Barack Obama and lawmakers struggle to avert across-the-board tax increases and spending cuts that comprise an economy-threatening fiscal cliff.



BARACK OBAMA

Congressional officials said Wednesday they knew of no significant strides toward a compromise during a long Christmas weekend, and no negotiations have been set.

After conferring on a conference call, House Republican leaders said they remain ready for talks, urged the Senate to consider a House-passed bill that extends all existing tax cuts, but gave no hint they intend to call lawmakers back into session unless the Senate first passes legislation.

"The lines of communication remain open, and we will continue to work with our colleagues to avert the largest tax hike in American history, and to address the underlying problem, which is spending," the leadership said in a statement.

A short while later Senate

See CLIFF, page 3A

Oldest Southern library starts book bindery

A 1649 book will be rebound at



THE ISLAND PACKET

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2012

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55°  34°

Sunny but chilly; bundle up and try to stay warm. 6B

Bluffton High boys, girls to host, compete in this week's Bobcat Classic 1B



Save 50% on dinner and lunch at Hugo's — go to dealsaver.com/HiltonHead

Could economy handle short fall over cliff?

Economists: If New Year's passes with no deal, impact of tax hikes would be felt only gradually

By CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The economic threat that's kept many Americans on edge for months is nearing reality — unless the White House and Republicans cut a budget deal by New Year's Day.

Huge tax increases. Deep cuts in

domestic and defense programs. The likelihood of sinking stock prices, reduced consumer spending and corporate layoffs. The risk of a recession within months.

Still, the start of 2013 might turn out to be far less bleak than feared.

For one thing, the two sides might strike a short-term agreement before

New Year's that postpones spending cuts until spring.

President Barack Obama and members of Congress return to Washington today.

Even if New Year's passed with no deal, businesses and consumers would not likely panic as long as some agreement seemed imminent.

The \$671 billion in tax increases and spending cuts could be retroactively repealed.

And the impact of the tax increases would be felt only gradually. Most people would receive slightly less money in each paycheck.

Please see CLIFF on 7A

DEADLINE NEARS

- Obama returns to Washington to resume debt talks. 7A
- D.C.-area Starbucks writing messages on coffee cups to push for fiscal cliff deal. 7A

STORM POUNDS MIDWEST, HEADS TO NORTHEAST



Jak Tichenor clears snow from the driveway of his Carbondale, Ill., home on Wednesday.

AARON EISENHAEUER • The Associated Press



WEATHER

For today's forecast, please see page 6B

A powerful winter storm system that pounded the nation's midsection, wrecking holiday travel plans and dumping a record snowfall in Arkansas, began lashing the Northeast on Wednesday with high winds, snow and sleet.

The storm, which knocked out power to thousands of homes, mainly in Arkansas, was blamed in at least six deaths.

Hundreds of flights were canceled or delayed, scores of motorists got stuck on icy roads or slid into drifts and blizzard warnings were issued amid snowy gusts of 30 mph

that blanketed roads and windshields, at times causing whiteout conditions.

The system, which spawned Gulf Coast region tornadoes on Christmas Day, pushed through the Upper Ohio Valley and headed northeast Wednesday night. High winds, snow and sleet slickened roads in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. Today's forecasts calls for 12 to 18 inches of snow inland from western New York to Maine.

The storm left freezing temperatures in its aftermath, and forecasters also said parts of the Southeast from Virginia to Florida would see severe thunderstorms.

ON BEAUFORT RIVER

Fisherman dead after 19-foot boat capsizes

By ANNE CHRISTNOVICH
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843-706-8125

A Beaufort fisherman is dead and a second was hospitalized for treatment of hypothermia after their 19-foot skiff capsized on the Beaufort River on Wednesday afternoon.

The men were fishing for oysters near Corn Island when the boat capsized, the surviving fisherman told Beaufort Water Search & Rescue Squad officials.

Please see BOAT on 7A

TOP STORIES OF 2012 TODAY: PUBLIC SAFETY

Shooting of 8-year-old is year's top crime story

By ALLISON STICE
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843-706-8138

The death of an 8-year-old boy caught in the crossfire of a Hilton Head Island gun battle shocked Beaufort County in September, prompting calls to curb violence through a number of reforms.

Khalil Singleton, a third-grader at Hilton Head Island Elementary School, was playing in his grandmother's yard on Allen Road when he was shot and killed about 5 p.m. Sept. 1.

Please see CRIME on 7A

STORIES OF THE YEAR

The Island Packet will count down the top 10 stories of 2012.



Morning News

THURSDAY DECEMBER 27, 2012

TODAY'S WEATHER
Partly sunny, cooler,
with 57 high, 29 low.
DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Smith takes Florence County reins, digs in

BY JOHN SWEENEY

Morning News
jsweeney@florencenews.com

The Morning News is taking time to look back at the stories that made the news in 2012. Today, we look at the news that shaped the world of government in the Pee Dee and beyond.

Top story: Rusty Smith

Love him or hate him, Florence County

2012 REMEMBERED GOVERNMENT

Administrator K.G. "Rusty" Smith Jr. is a name most in the area know well. In 2011, Smith made headlines and sparked

protests by throwing his hat in the ring to become the county's top bureaucrat. Though he missed out on the post that year, Smith was finally given his chance at the end of 2012 when former Administrator Thomas Robinson was forced out after failing to meet the county council's expectations.

The former county council chairman, Smith was ushered in as a "knight in shining armor," and hailed as the only man

who could get Florence County back on track after a year of what some described as a "holding pattern." Though his induction into the administrator's position was met without nearly any protest in November — his loudest critics merely grumbled that the fix had been in since Robinson had been hired — Smith attacked the job with a vengeance. Saying

See 2012, Page 4A

GREEN ACRES



Gilda Lee and Sarah Carpenter laugh with retail manager Tom Karleski as they sample sesame rice crackers and moonshine jelly Dec. 20 at Green Acres. Opened in September, Green Acres offers a huge selection of specialty foods, home-grown vegetables, as well as a lunch counter with sandwiches, burgers and cheesecakes.

Farm market is the life for owners

Green Acres Country Market offers plenty for locals, travelers

BY REBECCA J. DUCKER
Morning News
rducker@florencenews.com

FLORENCE
Green Acres is the place to be. Not Eddie Albert's old place from the 1960s TV show, but rather the Green Acres Country Market.

The farm fresh market opened its doors on North Williston Road in eastern Florence County in late September, and despite a somewhat remote location, it has turned into something of



a hotspot because of its eclectic retail mix.

Patrons include the expected roadside traffic on this thoroughfare to Myrtle Beach, as well as local residents looking for a fun day in the "country" and employees from the big industrial

Customers crowd the dining area during the busy lunch rush Dec. 20 at Green Acres. The location of Green Acres Country Market on North Williston Road makes it the perfect stopping place for beach travelers and locals alike.

park nearby.

Inside the market, a spacious faux barn-style Morton building, patrons can check out country crafts, stroll through the aisles filled with Amish

See MARKET, Page 6A

Hey Prez, we have issues too

Students at Sneed Middle quiz Obama about USA's woes

BY ELLEN MEDER
Morning News
emed@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Most Americans see plenty wrong with the state of the nation these days, but plod along, suffering in silence. But not a group of Sneed Middle School students who are taking their concerns straight to the top, writing letters to the president.

Teacher Modestine Samuel got the idea to have her seventh-grade reading students research and work through the issues of the day from the Rand McNally Dear Mr. President Contest. Though only a few students met the 13 years age requirement in time, she said it was a valuable exercise in educating themselves on the world around them.

"I base my class on research and current events because I feel like they would read if it was relevant to what they were studying," Samuel said. "I love history and use historical documents to teach

snow.com

DEAR PREZ

» Sneed Middle School students write Obama
bit.ly/VUlmS

See LETTERS, Page 3A



Students clamour to answer questions about the constitution in Modestine Samuel's seventh-grade reading class at Sneed Middle School.



South's oldest library to start book bindery

The Associated Press

CHARLESTON — The oldest library in the South has started its own book bind-

been the bookbinder at The Charleston Library Society since August.

Biedler, 22, has been binding books for almost

tonians who said they didn't want their children to grow up, as they put it, like savages. It's thought to have as many as 100,000 volumes.

To support the library's new bindery and archival lab, the library published a new, limited edition of the "Carolinian Florist," a 1798



Odd



Orangeburg's Jennings makes Pro Bowl — SPORTS, B1

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2012

The Times and Democrat

75 CENTS • ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA



TheTandD.com

3 SECTIONS, 24 PAGES • VOL. 131 • NO. 361



Fire swept through a Jade Circle residence Wednesday morning. No one was home at the time of the fire.

RICHARD WALKER/T&D

Strong blaze

Firefighters battle wind, flames

By RICHARD WALKER
T&D Staff Writer

Fire severely damaged an Empire Estates residence as emergency crews fought both the blaze and the weather.

A preliminary investigation into Wednesday's fire points to an accident, Orangeburg Department of Public Safety Capt. Mike Adams said.

"The fire appears to be electrical and is not suspicious in nature," he said. "There does not appear to be any foul play."

No one was home at the time of the fire. But emergency crews were notified around 9:35 a.m. by a passerby who was uncertain of the street name.

From instructions given by the caller, crews determined the home to be on the 100 block of Jade Circle about two miles east of Orangeburg off Five Chop Road. Firefighters arrived in front of the burning structure five minutes later.

Adams said the first crews on the scene found the house "involved in heavy fire and smoke."

Gusty winds may have played a factor in pushing the flames through the home. Both the lower and upper level were burning when crews arrived.

Adams said to push the fire back, crews entered the home and positioned themselves between the flames and the untouched portion of the home.

Firefighters fought the blaze for two hours before getting the flames extinguished. An office area and garage sheltering two automobiles remained unscathed.

Inspecting the damage Wednesday morn-



SPECIAL TO THE T&D

Firefighters fought both the flames and the wind for two hours before extinguishing the blaze.

ing, Orangeburg County Sheriff Leroy Ravenell and his wife, Angela, both described the homeowner as a respected community business person and the family members as close friends.

"It's a shame this has to happen to anyone, at any time," Sheriff Ravenell said.

ODPS sent three engines, a ladder company

and a rescue truck. It was assisted by West Middle Fire Department, Jamison Fire Department sent an engine that was placed on standby.

■ Contact the writer: rwalker@timesanddemocrat.com or 803-531-5516.

Missing mother's trail leads to North

T&D Staff Report

The search for a missing Lexington County mother is focused on Orangeburg County following the discovery of her vehicle in North.

Kimberly Parrish has been missing since Friday morning, when she went to pick up her paycheck in Columbia.

Since then, the 40-year-old's vehicle has been discovered in North. The case has been handed over to the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office.

"At this point in our investigation, we know that Mrs. Parrish had an acquaintance in the area and investigators have developed a person of interest," the Sheriff's Office announced



Parrish

See MISSING, A3

Two die following collisions

T&D Staff Report

Two area men have died as a result of collisions on the state's roads. One crash happened Christmas Day, the other three weeks before.

Tuesday's fatal collision occurred at about 11:30 p.m. on S.C. Highway 210 near the intersection with Highway 15, S.C. Highway Patrol Sgt. Bob Beres said.

Orangeburg County Deputy Coroner Sean Fogle said 26-year-old David Houser III of Mount Olive Road, Santee, died as a result of internal injuries sustained from the automobile accident.

Investigators say Houser was a passenger in a 2002 Dodge Charger driven by 26-year-old Adrian Johnson. Both Johnson and a second passenger, 24-year-old Jarrett Smith, were taken to the Regional Medical Center in Orangeburg with unspecified injuries.

The driver of a 2012 Chrysler, 44-year-old Walter Wallace of Hanahan, was also taken to the Regional Medical Center.

Beres said the Dodge was traveling south on Highway 210 when the two cars collided.

At this point, it's not clear what hap-

Killer storm pounds Northern U.S. with wind, snow

By DAN SEWELL
Associated Press

A powerful winter storm system pounded the nation's mid-section Wednesday and headed



Heavy rain, little damage in S.C.

COLUMBIA (AP) — The storm system that brought

Jeff Taillon

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