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To:

Date: 12/29/2015 9:34:09 AM

Subject: SC Front Pages – Tuesday, December 29, 2015

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**SC Front Pages – Tuesday, December 29, 2015**



## PANTHERS FOOTBALL, 1C STARTERS TO PLAY



## METRO, 3A Furman cutting down trees

# The Greenville News

A GANNETT COMPANY

TUESDAY,  
DECEMBER 29, 2015  
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY ONCE AGAIN, OBAMA THE MOST ADMIRER MAN PAGE 1B



## CLEMSON VS. OKLAHOMA

Thursday, Dec. 31 at 4 p.m. on ESPN



# Tigers' Top 10

### Key plays help propel Clemson to playoff semifinals

MANDRALLIUS ROBINSON  
SPORTS COLUMNIST

Clemson University has enjoyed an enchanted run to perfection. There have been masterful rushes, clutch kicks, jarring tackles, lucky breaks, inexplicable lapses and questionable calls. Here is a countdown of 10 of the most memorable "plays" through Clemson's first 13 games.

#### 10. CLEMSON BUILDS A NEW HYATT Signing Day

Perhaps the most pivotal play of Clemson's season occurred long before the season started. Mitch Hyatt led an impressive class of offensive line recruits, which also included Jake Frumorgen, Zach Giella and Noah Green. Hyatt enrolled in January from Sugar Hill, Georgia, listed at 6-foot-6, 285 pounds. He quickly seized the starting role at left tackle, responsible for protecting the blind side of quarterback Deshaun Watson.

Hyatt has started all 13 games while logging 886 snaps. He was named a first-team freshman All-American by *USA Today*.

#### 9. WAYNE TRAIN COLLISION Sept. 12 vs. Appalachian State

Get off the tracks, Alex Gray. Appalachian State's ambitious defensive back attempted to impede Clemson running back Wayne Gallman during the second quarter as he sped towards the end zone. Gray met Gallman at the goal line, but Gallman crashed through him.

Gallman's 23-yard touchdown run signified the 41-10 rout Clemson enjoyed. It also established Gallman as the engine of Clemson's running game. He has netted 1,332 yards through 12 games, an average of 111 per game. He has rushed for 10 touchdowns and averaged 5.5 yards per carry.

#### 8. PIVOTAL PEAKE Oct. 31 at North Carolina State

North Carolina State scored touch-



BARV BOATWRIGHT/STAFF

From left, Clemson defensive tackle Kevin Dodd, safety T.J. Green, and defensive end Shaq Lawson sack Louisville quarterback Kyle Bolin in their game at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium.

downs on three of its first six possessions and claimed a 20-19 margin late in the second quarter.

However, Clemson reclaimed the lead and momentum in 15 seconds. Artavis

Scott opened the drive with a 31-yard reception. On the next play, Deshaun Watson connected with senior receiver

See **TIGERS**, Page 2A



## Weirdly warm weather to wane

### After a wet start to the week, we'll likely ring in the New Year with temperatures more typical of the season

AMANDA COYNE  
THE GREENVILLE NEWS

The past week's weather has felt more like spring than winter, but it should gradually shift to cooler temperatures through the week, according to Lauren Visin, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service at the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport.

While the warm weather has come with severe side effects, including

The highest risk times for flooding would be in the afternoon, when the temperature is highest, Visin said.

Though recent highs have been in the low 70s and high 60s, they are expected to steadily decline through the week, returning to normal by Friday or Saturday, with highs in the mid-50s and lows at or near the freezing point.

The unusually warm weather has a relatively normal explanation: the El Niño weather pattern, through which



## State regulators file few dam cases

SAMMY FRETWELL  
THE STATE

South Carolina regulators who are charged with protecting the public from hazardous dams made just a dozen enforcement cases against dam owners in 21 years, records show.

And during one decade-long stretch, state officials didn't take enforcement action against anyone for breaking dam safety laws.

A state database, reviewed by *The State* newspaper, shows a history of sparse enforcement by the Department of Health and Environmental Control of South Carolina's dam safety laws.

The records show that, from 1994 through September of this year, DHEC issued enforcement orders to less than 1 percent of the owners of South Carolina's 2,400 regulated dams. Most of those enforcement cases were in a handful of counties. When fines were levied, they typically were for less than \$1,600, according to DHEC's enforcement database and a Dec. 4 email to the newspaper.

Details of the department's enforcement efforts, which current and former agency officials concede were spotty, are emerging at a time of increased scrutiny about the dam safety program DHEC has run since 1994.

About three dozen DHEC-regulated dams are known to have broken across the state during heavy rains and flooding the weekend of Oct. 3 and 4, prompting questions about whether a lack of oversight contributed to the failures. DHEC and other



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Tuesday, December 23, 2015

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## Retiming traffic lights only helps so much

### Charleston to adjust signals but it still must address growth-fueled congestion

BY ADAM PARKER  
aparker@postandcourier.com

Traffic problems in Charleston have been getting worse. The city is growing, and to accommodate the influx of new residents

(more than 40 a day on average), developers are erecting apartment buildings and new homes all over the place. One result is more drivers on the roads and longer commutes.

Traffic congestion was a hot topic of the recent mayoral campaign, with



#### Poll

Do you think Charleston officials can improve traffic congestion by retiming the city's traffic lights? Go to [postandcourier.com/polls](#) to vote.

two of the candidates, Ginny Deerin and Leon Stavrinakis, promising to synchronize traffic lights in order to improve flow. Stavrinakis raised the

subject of synchronization numerous times.

But here's the thing: Charleston's traffic lights already are synchronized, and they have been for decades. The city currently is finishing up its analysis in preparation for a new "retiming" project, to begin early next year. The last time Charleston synced its lights was 2009, according to the city's Traffic and Transportation Director Hernan Peta.

The result then was a cycle increase

from 120 seconds to 140 seconds, giving each signal a little more time to run through all its illuminated directions (stop, go, turn left, turn right, etc.).

There's even a traffic-control center from which civil servants communicate with most signals, in particular those along major thoroughfares, such as Savannah Highway, Folly Road and Ashley River Road.

Please see **TRAFFIC**, Page A8

## Year of wild weather to end on balmy note

### But 2016 to usher in a chill as Lowcountry looks back on records



Some area residents took to the beach at Sullivan's Island to enjoy Monday's mild weather, while others went sailing around Charleston Harbor. This year has been one for the record books weather-wise, as climate change continues to bring surprises.

BY BO PETERSEN  
and DAVE MUNDAY  
bpetersen@postandcourier.com  
dmunday@postandcourier.com

The Lowcountry is in the midst of what could become a string of seven consecutive days of record December heat. And the record-breaking rain isn't done for the year. Just a few months ago, the state was in drought, then came a historic flood.

To say the least, it's been an un-

usual year weather-wise.

"Any time you have an extreme event like the historic flood (in October) that impacted so much of the state, it's a significant year," said state climatologist Hope Mizell. "To have drought, then flood, then record temperatures, makes this year stand out."

But take a breath, next year will start out like January would be expected to.

Please see **WEATHER**, Page A8

## Storm victims survey damage

BY DAVID WARREN  
Associated Press

GARLAND, TEXAS — Jacqui Gordon spent Monday sifting through the debris that had been her home, searching for old family photographs — especially of her father, who died two years ago.

She and nine others were en-

joying a holiday gathering when winds began to rattle her home in suburban Dallas.

They all dashed into closets and suffered only bumps and bruises, but Gordon's house was destroyed.

"I just got divorced, and this is all I had," she said.

Please see **STORM**, Page A8

## Company apologizes for response to Emanuel photo

### Hotel manager says staff 'mishandled situation' on Twitter

BY ALLISON PRANG  
aprang@postandcourier.com

The manager of a downtown Charleston hotel apologized Monday for asking a Twitter user not to include the property in photographs of the nearby Mother Emanuel AME Church, the site of a shooting rampage that killed nine people in June.

Interstate Hotels said in a written statement that the staff at the Courtyard Charleston Historic District

"mishandled the situation."

"We're taking steps to prevent this mistake from happening in the future," the Arlington, Va.-based company said.

Part of the Calhoun Street hotel was included in a photo of the church that independent journalist and YouTube interviewer Quintin Washington shared on his Twitter feed.

"The Mother Emanuel Way Memorial District on a warm, Sunday afternoon in December," Washington wrote in the accompanying post. The hotel later responded, also on Twitter, saying, "We respectfully ask you not to include the hotel in mother AME photos. TY."

Please see **HOTEL**, Page A10



In response to this photo shared by Quintin Washington on Twitter, the Courtyard Charleston Historic District hotel asked that its property not be included in photographs of Emanuel AME Church.



One of the 72 rabbits rescued Sunday afternoon in Charleston County shows signs of distress and poor care.

## Deputies seize over 100 pets at home

### Animal society wants prosecution for 'repeat offender'

BY DAVE MUNDAY  
dmunday@postandcourier.com

After spending the night examining more than 100 rabbits and cats taken from a house Sunday afternoon, staff at the Charleston Animal Society are calling for prosecution of the woman they say was hoarding them.

It wasn't the first time deputies had confiscated neglected animals from 829 Selah St., according to Joe Elmore, the shelter's executive director. He hopes it will be the last.

"This is a known repeat offender," he said. "We're calling for prosecution. I don't want to see her behind bars, but she needs treatment, and she should never be allowed to have another animal."

The woman's name has not been released, and Charleston County offices were closed Monday. Charges won't be considered until the shelter staff files a report on the condition of the animals, sheriff's Maj. Eric Watson said.

North Charleston police officers discovered the animals living in deplorable conditions during an unrelated burglary investigation Sunday afternoon and called in county deputies, Watson said.

The neighborhood is between College Park and Otranto roads outside North Charleston city limits.

The seizure included 72 rabbits, 32 cats and four dogs. Many of the animals were sick.

Please see **ANIMALS**, Page A10

## Inside

### LOCAL

Cast of Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton comes to C of C. **A4**

### BUSINESS

Starbucks planning to sell alcohol at 4 local shops. **B1**

### SPORTS

Clemson fans nostalgic about 1981 championship season. **C1**



Cloudy, High 82, Low 64. Complete 5-day forecast. **B10**

Bridge ..... B9 Crowded ..... B2.E6 Obituaries ..... B4  
Business ..... B1 Editorials ..... A12 Sports ..... C1  
Classifieds ..... E1 Food ..... D1 Sudoku ..... B7  
Comics ..... B5-9 Movies ..... B7 Television ..... B5

Charleston Deals today

Chas. Harbor Resort and Marina  
\$10 for \$20 at marina store.  
See **A2**



PALMETTO

Clemson linemen benefited from tough love, 1C



ORANGE BOWL

Clemson, Oklahoma defenses preparing for difficult task of containing Watson, Mayfield, 1B



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# The State

CHEAP GAS, BALMY WEATHER ARE FACTORS

## SC traffic fatalities rise in 2015



Firefighters at a fatal accident involving a tanker in Spartanburg on June 27.

BY VERA BERGENGRUEN  
McClatchy Newspapers

After years of near-historic lows, 2015 saw an abrupt spike in traffic fatalities on South Carolina's roads — partly due to an unlikely cause.

"We can't ignore the fact that as gas prices have decreased we have seen more people on the roads," S.C. Highway Patrol Sgt. Bob Beres said. "This doesn't necessarily mean we'll see a lot more collisions, but we will if people are making the wrong decision behind the wheel."

As of Monday, there had been 875 fatal crashes this year, compared with 744 in 2014. They had resulted in 942 deaths, compared with 813 in 2014, according to the S.C. Office of Highway Safety. As the numbers continued to climb this year, South Carolina's

In 2015, there've been 942 traffic fatalities in South Carolina, up 16 percent from 2014

South Carolina remains among the states with the most deaths from drunk driving

Department of Public Safety experiments with outreach via social media and Uber

public safety officers and Highway Patrol troopers expanded their outreach in old ways and new.

The week before Christmas, the state graduated 40 new troopers, bringing the total number to 772. They went straight to work during the busiest season of the year, as an estimated 1.93 million South Carolinians were expected to travel 50 miles or more from home during the holidays, about 90 percent of them by car.

To add to the list of concerns, unseasonably high temperatures have officers worried there may be even more people driving irresponsibly this month.

"There are people out on motorcycles and mopeds, and way more pedestrians walking around than if it was cold," Beres said. "They're enjoying the weather, having picnics and family gatherings outside, and driving out to a lot more holiday parties and

SEE FATALITIES, 7A

18% Increase in the number of fatal crashes in South Carolina vs. a year ago

16% Rise in the number of deaths from those crashes

1.3% Growth in South Carolina's population in the past year  
SOURCE: S.C. Office of Highway Safety and U.S. Census Bureau



### USC BASKETBALL UNDEFEATED AND LOVING IT

South Carolina's men's and women's basketball teams are both undefeated and ranked among the nation's top 25 teams as SEC play nears, 1B

### SHOP AROUND

#### CHEF'S KITS AT WILLIAMS-SONOMA

Fans of New York chef Sarah Simmons — a Columbia native who owns a Harden Street restaurant in Five Points — can create some of her restaurant fare at home through special kits being offered for a limited time, 5B



### OBITUARY



#### MEADOWLARK LEMON DIES AT 83

Former Harlem Globetrotter



## Spring Honor Flight could be the last one

# Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

TUESDAY, December 29, 2015

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 149, No. 363 Aiken, S.C. ★★ 75¢

## This year's most-clicked

### Top 10 online news stories of 2015

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER  
mschechter@aikenstandard.com

In 2015, online news played just as big, if not bigger, of a part in the digest of news. Whether local, state or international articles were read across social media like Facebook or Twitter, or readers scrolled through news apps by clicking on the latest headlines, readers played a major role in how news is read. These are the top 10 *Aiken Standard* online news stories of 2015:

#### 1. Black students around U.S. complain of casual, everyday racism

After black students at the University of Missouri staged walkouts and rallies on the college campus, thousands of students across the country did the same, showing solidarity with Missouri protesters over the subtle and pervasive brand of racism, *The Associated Press* reported. At some colleges, students listed demands to school administrators, calling for greater diversity among students and faculty, more funding for minority scholarships and more classes and instruction on tolerance and sensitivity.

#### 2. Four Aiken residents dead after I-95 crash in Fayetteville, North Carolina

Four Aiken residents died and three others were injured in North Carolina in October after crashing their car on Interstate 95 northbound outside Fayetteville. The deceased are Reginald Reddish, 33, Jennifer Reddish, 31, Koedale Sapp, 13, and Reginald Reddish Jr., 2. Reginald and Jennifer's other two children and Jennifer's niece were also in the vehicle and were transported to a Fayetteville area hospital. The three other children are Deangelo Washington, 15, Rejerra Reddish, 4, and Jennifer's niece, Faye Cushman, 7. The accident happened while the family was on its way to a reunion with two other vehicles. North Carolina Public Safety reported that Reginald was driving a 2000 Dodge Durango when the vehicle ran off the road at mile marker 47 and struck a tree in the median.

#### 3. No explosives found at Savannah River Site following lockdown

The Savannah River Site was put on lockdown on Aug. 17 after electronic and canine



In January 2015, Reginald and Jennifer Reddish play with their daughter, Rejerra, at a Children's Place event. The couple and two of their children died in car accident near Fayetteville in October. Rejerra survived, along with a brother and a cousin.



Students at Boston College raise their arms during a solidarity demonstration on the school's campus in Newton, Massachusetts. The protest was among numerous campus actions around the country following the racially charged strife at the University of Missouri.

scans of a vendor delivery truck indicated a possibility of explosive material on the truck. No such explosive residue or device was located on the truck, but the possible alert caused the site to be put on a three-hour lockdown, which prohibited anyone

#### Year-end :

- Monday, Dec. 28 - Top 10 Local Photos of the Year / Top 10 Online Photo Galleries of the Year
- TODAY - Top 10 Online Stories of the Year
- Wednesday, Dec. 30 - Top 10 Local Stories of the Year Part 1
- Thursday, Dec. 31 - Top 10 Local Stories of the Year Part 2 / Top Stories of the Year Honorable Mention

from entering the site and barricades were also set up to prevent incoming traffic. SRS officials later confirmed a Coca-Cola truck, that routinely stopped at a gun manufacturer in Jackson, about 13 miles from the site, stopped at the gun store to refill the machines and get the money. A site drug dog sniffed out gun powder residue on the dollar bills.

Please see **STORIES**, Page 9A



People join hands against the backdrop of an American flag as thousands of marchers meet in the middle of Charleston's main bridge in a show of unity after nine black church parishioners were gunned down during a Bible study in Charleston.

## South Carolina comes through 2015 with hope

BY JEFFREY COLLINS  
AND BRUCE SMITH  
*Associated Press*

COLUMBIA — The police shooting of an unarmed black man in North Charleston. The killing of nine people during Bible study at a historic African-American church in Charleston. Historic flooding that dropped nearly half their yearly rain fall in less than two days. The Confederate flag blown on the Statehouse grounds coming down after multiple other efforts had failed. The past year has been one of significant change for South Carolina. Here are a series of snapshots about the key moments and players in 2015:

#### Walter Scott

Before his death was shown around the world and he became a symbol of the ongoing debate over police shootings of unarmed African-Americans, Walter Scott was just a 50-year-old forklift driver at a warehouse and a father behind on his child support payments. He was pulled over on April 4 for a broken brake light by North Charleston Officer Michael Slager. People go to jail all the time in South Carolina for missing child support payments and Scott, who was behind on his, called his mother from his car to say he might need her help getting bail. Moments later, he ran from his car and around the corner. Slager ran after him toward a vacant field. A passer-by captured what happened next on his cellphone. The video showed Slager firing eight shots at Scott's back. Scott was struck by several bullets and fell. The shooting happened in a city whose officers faced years of accusations of mistreating minorities. Scott's family called for calm, especially after Slager's swift arrest, saying they did not want Scott's memory soiled by violence. A co-worker of Scott said at the time it was a fitting tribute. "He wouldn't hurt a fly, man," Ronald Smith said.

#### Joe Riley

In his 40th and final year as Charleston's mayor, Joe Riley faced his most trying time. The man who steered the city through Hurricane Hugo

Please see **HOPE**, Page 11A

#### AREA DEATHS

Billie V. Siddall, Aiken  
Margie Searingen Mullis, Clearwater  
Shirley DeFonce Acosta, Aiken  
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

#### WEATHER



## Officials: Plan ahead to ring in 2015 safely

BY TRIPP GIRARDEAU  
tgirardeau@aikenstandard.com

As the final hours of 2015 tick away, many revelers will head out to bars, parties or other gatherings to ring in the new year, but law enforcement has a few things to keep in mind to ring in the new year safely.

The S.C. Highway Patrol will be ramping up its presence around the state, especially with license and DUI checkpoints, said Lance Cpl. Judd Jones. This includes putting a majority of troopers out during

Making a plan to call us, and we can be there. Don't wait until the bar closes to call, because everybody else does.

Wendy Scott, owner of Aiken Taxi Service

have been 25 fatalities on Aiken County roadways this year, compared to 20 at the same time last year.

Thursday night, New Year's Eve. "We understand folks are going to be celebrating, and we don't want to not a danger on their

Thursday night, be responsible and have a designated driver, or have cab fair. So you and everyone else trying to have a good time can get home safely."

Anyone caught driving drunk will be arrested, according to law enforcement.

Under South Carolina law, a first-offense conviction for DUI carries fines of almost \$1,000 when assessments and surcharges are tallied, imprisonment for up to 30 days and suspension of a driver's license for six months, according to *The Associated Press*.

No indictment for officers in Tamir Rice case **News, 3A**

# INDEX-JOURNAL

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2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2015

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JOSHUA S. KELLY | INDEX-JOURNAL

Officer Brian Sill with the Ninety Six Police Department shows a warning slip to a driver Monday afternoon.

## 'Selling safety'

### A look at fines and how that money is divided

By **DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ**  
ddominguez@indexjournal.com

As blue lights flash and the yelp of a siren lets a driver know to pull over, the worry of a ticket can creep in.

While the driver hands over their license and registration, Ninety Six police Chief Chris Porter said he's heard people say that cops only write tickets to make some easy money. This attitude is one he said he's heard while writing tickets and while out and about in town.

"That's just not what we're out here to do," he said. "We get paid by the town, not through tickets."

When a ticket is paid, the money is separated and sent away to a number of different agencies, leaving the town with a fraction of what was initially paid. In Ninety Six, the police department took in more than \$70,000 in fines, but about \$43,000 of that was sent to the state and the county's victim's assistance fund, according to documents provided by Tasha Clark, the town's clerk of court.

The dollar amount on a ticket isn't an arbitrary amount decided by the officer — it's usually a number the state recommends officers use, said Terry Leverette, state summary court representative. The recommended amount varies depending on the offense, he said.

"We try to encourage the municipalities and sheriffs to live by this, and most of them do," he said.

The way a ticket is divided and split up varies depending on the offense, he said. See **SAFETY**, page 4A

#### ■ CALHOUN FALLS

### Town to acquire bank building with bond proceeds

By **COLIN RIDDLE**  
criddle@indexjournal.com

**CALHOUN FALLS** — Town Council approved the first reading of an ordinance to issue and sell up to \$60,000 in general obligation bonds Monday night to acquire the old First Citizens Bank building.

The move is the latest in bringing a new bank to the town after Park Sterling announced in August it would close its Calhoun Falls branch, which was subsequently robbed in September and closed in November.

Abbeville First Bank announced its intentions to open a branch in town and lease the First Citizens Bank building at 254 Savannah St. from the town.

Mayor Johnnie Waller said he hopes to close on the building by Jan. 7.

The ordinance issuing the bonds will require a second reading at the next council meeting.

Waller said Abbeville First representatives have toured the building and are pleased. Town and Country inspected the building to make sure there were no major issues.

"There are some minor repairs that will have to be done," said Waller, adding the repairs will likely be in the \$1,000 to \$3,000 range, including some necessary plumbing.

"After we close on next week, hopefully within six or eight weeks, they will be open and physically present here," Waller said.

Waller said the bank is waiting to get approved by federal and state regulators for the new branch, which will likely

## CARING FOR THE NEEDY



JOSHUA S. KELLY | INDEX-JOURNAL

Joshua and Kaylee Brooks pose with their son Elijah, 2, in their home studio.

### Local couple serves orphan, widow through adoption

By **MARY KATE MCGOWAN**  
mmcgowan@indexjournal.com

**F**or Joshua and Kaylee Brooks, adopting an infant boy from India is "putting their money where their mouth is."

Both practicing Christians who are looking to continue living the Gospel,

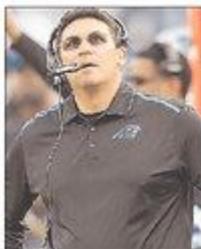
minutes, not running for 50 years then running another marathon.

The pair has received all the needed approval from the United States to proceed with the adoption of their son Matthew, who is currently in an orphanage in the southwest Indian state of Karnataka. The Brooks are waiting for one document from the Indian side of the adop-

are working with an adoption agency based in Fairhope, Ala., which is about 30 miles southeast of Mobile. They moved to Greenwood in August 2013.

Although they have not traveled to India, they have seen their son through photos and a video sent by the orphanage. Joshua Brooks said Matthew's biological parents abandoned him when





# Morning News

TUESDAY DECEMBER 29, 2015

**TODAY'S WEATHER**

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DETAILS 2A

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## Jesse Jackson to be featured at forum

BY SHAMIRA MCCRAY  
Morning News  
smccray@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The Rev. Jesse Jackson will be the featured guest Sunday afternoon at an open forum organized by Pee Dee area pastors and ministers. The Pee Dee Baptist Association is one of the sponsors for Sunday's forum that is sched-

uled to spark discussion on the upcoming presidential election, voting and insurance benefits for South Carolinians.

The Reverend Ralph W. Canty, Sr., pastor at Savannah Grove Baptist Church in Effingham, said the forum will

represent the official kickoff for voter registration and the Get Out To Vote campaign. He said he believes voting is the only way to neutralize the grieving spirit in the land.

"We invited Dr. Jesse Jackson to speak to our community on the issues of this election cycle and the need for us to maximize our participation," Canty said. Jackson is set to be the speaker

at 10:30 a.m. Sunday for the Savannah Grove Baptist Church worship service and then attend the forum at 4 p.m. Sunday at Majority Baptist Church in Florence.

"As community leaders, we must continue to keep the flames of emancipation and liberation," Canty said. "Persons like Dr. Jackson have the capacity to mobilize people and to get

them motivated for critical work that's important to God and preserve our freedom and liberty."

Reverend Henry B. Peoples, the Pee Dee Baptist Association moderator, said Jackson is an individual who keeps citizens informed on many political issues.

Canty said other issues that are

See **JACKSON**, Page 3A



Jackson

## The year of new leaders

Three of Florence's five school districts got new superintendents in 2015

Fifth of nine parts

BY MELISSA ROLLINS  
Morning News  
mrollins@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — In 2015, the education community in Florence County got some new players and also saw familiar faces in new positions. Three of the five Florence County school districts got new superintendents in the first five months of the year.



Bridges



Vincent

With almost an entire year under the belt of one superintendent and half of a school year completed for the other two, three board of trustees chairmen reflected recently on how that time has been used so far and what is expected for the upcoming year.



Hickson

### Florence 1

In Florence 1, Randy Bridges' contract began Jan. 1. The decision to offer Bridges a contract was a unanimous one after an

initial search ended with three finalists and no consensus among the school board. Chairman Porter Stewart said that Florence 1's trustees have

been very happy with their decision. "I think his first year has gone very well," Stewart said. "We had a good understanding about what he wanted to do coming in, as far as getting acquainted with the community and the district and making his observations."

Finding someone who wanted to work closely with the board has been



Ayden McCoy, 3, puts the ball in for two points Monday night at West Florence High School during halftime of the Hartsville-Johnsonville game in the Pepsi Carolina Classic.

PHOTOS BY JOE PERFORMING NEWS



Kids line up at halfcourt during a contest at halftime of the Hartsville-Johnsonville game on the opening day of the four-day Pepsi Carolina Classic at West Florence High School.

## Halftime hoopla

FLORENCE In the middle of four Pepsi Carolina Classic games Monday at West Florence High School, HopeHealth hosted halftime contests and gave away basketballs. HopeHealth is one of the sponsors of the four-day boys' basketball tournament that concludes Thursday. For full tournament coverage, see Sports on pages 1B and 3B. See photo galleries at scnw.com.

### PEPSI CAROLINA CLASSIC

Today's games at West Florence High School

- » 11:15 a.m.: Florence Christian vs. Hannah-Pamplico
- » 1 p.m.: Johnsonville vs. Lake City-Herningway loser
- » 2:45 p.m.: South Florence vs. Hartsville
- » 4:30 p.m.: Crestwood vs. Trinity-Byrnes
- » 6:15 p.m.: North Augusta vs. Cheraw
- » 8 p.m.: West Florence vs. Lake City-Herningway winner

## YMCA selling tickets for annual Father-Daughter dance

### WANT TO GO?

» **WHAT:** The Florence Family YMCA Father-Daughter Dance

» **WHEN:** 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 5. Photos start at 5:30 p.m.

» **WHERE:** The Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology Center on the Florence-Darlington Technical College campus.

BY JESSICA IMBIBO  
Morning News  
jimbibo@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The Florence Family YMCA will host the 17th annual Father-Daughter Dance on Feb. 5 at the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology Center

prices are a minimum donation of \$25 per family. Each ticket is good for a father and multiple daughters. Florence YMCA CEO Brian New said this event gives fathers and daughters a chance to have quality time together.

"This is something that all fathers and daughters need,"

raised roughly \$15,000 last year. Around 20 sponsors are donating to the event, including Pepsi, Piggly Wiggly, Food Lion and Kohl's. Along with the various sponsors, New said volunteers are another crucial part to making sure the Father-Daughter dance runs smoothly.

Brian Symmes

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