

From: Symmes, Brian

To:

Date: 12/19/2013 9:31:56 AM

Subject: SC Front Pages - Thursday, December 19, 2013

SC Front Pages – Thursday, December 19, 2013



NATION

LESS PRESSURE

New advice could reduce meds

INSIDE, 8A

Insurers extend deadlines for premiums

The Greenville News

A GANNETT COMPANY

THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 19, 2013
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

LIFESTYLE

Parenting experts have little love for Elf on the Shelf, 1D

FINAL EDITION

Limit on NSA snooping urged

Obama will decide on changes next month

By Aamer Madhani
USA Today

WASHINGTON — A White House advisory panel has recommended to President Barack Obama that the National Security Agency no longer keep a massive phone database that includes nearly every phone call made and received in the U.S.,

and that the president create a new process requiring high-level approval to spy on foreign leaders.

The proposals are among 46 recommendations set out by the Review Group on Intelligence and Communications Technologies that were delivered to the president last week and released Wednesday by the White

House.

Obama will review the recommendations in the coming weeks and announce potential policy changes next month, said White House press secretary Jay Carney.

Obama met with the five-member review panel Wednesday.

See NSA, Page 3A



A presidential advisory panel has recommended dozens of changes to the government's surveillance programs, including stripping the National Security Agency of its ability to store Americans' telephone records.

PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP
FILE

Families turn grief to suicide prevention



Mary Reeves, left, with her daughter Anna Steele, found help through the support group Survivors of Suicide following the death of her son, Trey. She now works to help others. HEIDI HEILBRUN/STAFF

Those who have lost loved ones, experts, urge awareness of depression over holidays

By Liv Osby

Staff writer
losby@greenvilleonline.com

The morning after the 2005 Super Bowl, Trey Reeves drove his father's pickup truck to his parents' place at Lake Keowee.

The month before had been tough for Reeves. Depressed over a break-up with his girlfriend, he was also suffering withdrawal from the anabolic steroids he'd been using to bulk up.

Worried, his mother, Mary Reeves, followed him from their home in Piedmont and raced inside to find her beloved son lying dead from a self-inflicted gunshot. He was 25.

"He had just shot himself when I got there," Reeves told The Greenville News. "It is a



Bryan Terry

life-altering event. You never get over it."

Though suicide is a subject fraught with religious and moral implications that many people want to avoid, it happens more often than people think. And the numbers are on the rise, both locally and across the nation.

There were four suicides in Greenville County between Nov. 8 and Nov. 13 alone, according to Coroner Parks Evans.

And the holidays can be a particularly tough time of year, with higher rates of depression, according to Dr. Kenneth Rog-

See SUICIDE, Page 3A

AIRLINE CHANGES RAISE CONCERNS SOUTHWEST CUTS GSP-NASHVILLE FLIGHTS



Southwest's decision to eliminate nonstop service from Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport to Nashville leaves the airport with only four Southwest flights. HEIDI HEILBRUN/STAFF

By David Dykes

Staff writer
ddykes@greenvilleonline.com

Southwest Airlines said it is cutting nonstop flights from Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport to Nashville, leaving the carrier with four flights from GSP.

The change is effective June 8. The change will leave Southwest with two flights from GSP to Chicago Midway and one each to Baltimore/Washington and Houston.

"All of our decisions are based on customer demand," Dan L. Jenkins, the Southwest

planning to continue bringing our low fares and customer service to GSP. That's something that has not changed."

A local business leader, however, expressed concern. "This is not good news," Ben Haskew, president and chief executive of the Cen-

INSIDE



High 61

Sanford, Templeton favor splitting up DHEC. SOUTH, B1

CHARLESTONSCENE



MOVIE REVIEWS 'ANCHOR MAN 2' AND MORE



FOWLER'S MUSTACHE Band talks recovery, rejuvenation with new album

The Post and Courier

THE SOUTH'S OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER • FOUNDED 1803

THURSDAY, December 19, 2013

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

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

Looking for a cheap ride to Charleston airport?

\$3 CARTA route to link aviation center and downtown Charleston

BY PRENTISS FINDLAY
pfindlay@postandcourier.com

CARTA will offer a new \$3 express route to connect Charleston International Airport and downtown Charleston as part of changes its

board approved Wednesday to help the struggling North Area Shuttle, which is free.

Cab drivers who compete for airport business did not welcome news of the new Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority service.

Poll

Would you utilize the expanded free North Area Shuttle route offered by CARTA? Find this story at postandcourier.com to vote.

"I'm really angry about it. It's stopping the growth of my company, which will discourage job creation," said James Jones, president of Charleston Cab Co.

The CARTA plan is an example of government intrusion into free enterprise, he said.

The Charleston County Aviation Authority recently approved a 17-percent price hike for taxi passengers at the airport at the request of the Charleston Airport Association of Limo and Taxi Drivers, who wanted the higher rates to match the cost of living increase since rates were last set in 2005.

The Aviation Authority, Charleston County and Boeing will share

\$900,000 in annual costs for the new North Area Shuttle (NASH) route scheduled to begin in late January.

CARTA officials described the new service as an expansion of NASH, which they said has drawn too few passengers since its launch in June.

In November, NASH had about three passengers per hour on its daily 12-mile route. It was envisioned to draw at least 20 riders hourly.

Please see **CARTA**, Page A5

School bus heroes

Quick-thinking pair keep kids safe on driverless, runaway bus



Sign-language interpreter Lee Morris (left) and teacher Amy Ryan of Pinckney Elementary prevented a potentially serious school bus accident on Dec. 4. Their quick actions prevented a runaway school bus from turning over and crashing.

BY DIETTES COURAGE CASEY
dcourage@postandcourier.com

AWENDAW — Fourth graders and teachers shrieked as the school bus barreled through an intersection and swerved off the road in an attempt to turn.

The 26 children and their chaperones had spent a picture-perfect day on a field trip at Bull's Island, but their idyllic outing turned treacherous on the way back to Pinckney Elementary.

The bus sped through a stop sign with-

Video

To see footage of the incident, go to postandcourier.com/videos

out slowing down, and momentum from a left-hand turn threw the disoriented driver from his seat and to the floor. With no one behind the wheel, the school bus veered into a sloping drainage ditch, where it threatened to tumble to its side.

Please see **BUS**, Page A5



PROVIDED

Fed move a sign of recovery

Stimulus pullback reflects confidence; rates to remain low

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve on Wednesday sent its strongest signal of confidence in the U.S. economy since the Great Recession, deciding that the nation's economic prospects are finally bright enough to withdraw a slight pullback in stimulus spending.

Yet the Fed also made clear that it will keep supporting an economy that remains less than fully healthy. It will continue to keep interest rates low and try to boost unusually low inflation, which can be a drag on spending and borrowing.

At his final news conference as Fed chairman before he leaves in January, Ben Bernanke managed a delicate balance. He announced a long-awaited and long-feared reduction in the stimulus.

Yet he did so while convincing investors that the Fed would continue to bolster the economy indefinitely. Wall Street roared its approval.

In a statement after a two-day policy meeting, the Fed said it would trim its \$85 billion a month in bond purchases by \$10 billion starting in January. Bernanke said the bank expects to make "similar moderate" cuts in purchases if economic gains continue.

Please see **PULLBACK**, Page A6

Inside

Congress passes bill easing across-the-board spending cuts and threat of future shutdowns.
Page A7

Fast times

Homes and businesses in Moundstraco's new Nexton development will be equipped with ultra-fast Internet.



SOURCE: EW

Nexton to be state's first 'gigabit' community

BY SCHUYLER KROFF
and JOHN P. MACDERMOTT
skroff@postandcourier.com
jmacdermott@postandcourier.com

Get ready because the Internet is about to get a lot faster for some of the region's newest residents.

The Nexton project — a planned 4,500-acre mixed-use community on the northeast side of Summerville — will be the first in South Carolina to meet federal challenges to provide the fastest, highest-capacity broadband connections.

MWV Community Development and Land Management announced

Poll

Would you consider moving to get faster Internet speeds? Find this story at postandcourier.com/business to vote.

the program Wednesday, saying every part of the site near Interstate 26 and Highway 17A will be wired end-to-end with fiber-optic technology from project partner Home Telecom.

The service will be marketed as "Gigabit" and promoted as the most technologically advanced community in the region.

How fast will it be? The Federal

Communications Commission has defined gigabit communities as those that offer one gigabit-per-second service, or about 100 times faster than the average fixed high-speed Internet connection.

The service is already available for commercial businesses, which will be among the first to move into Nexton. The first residence is not expected to be finished until the end of next year, on a pace toward more than 5,000 housing units expected to come.

Companies that want to move large data-rich files quickly, such as medical reports or engineering studies, would be ideal users. It will be ultra-fast.

The offering "really puts South Carolina on the map as a state ready to support the growth of tech development businesses," said Ken Seeger, president of MWV Community Development.

Nexton has already been chosen as the future home base for the South Carolina Research Authority.

The private user cost was not immediately available. Gina Austin, marketing director for Moundstraco-based Home Telecom, said she anticipates the retail price being less than \$150 a month for residential service, while

Please see **GIGABIT**, Page A5



Monthly sunny
High/Low 45-
Complete 3-day
forecast B6

Bridge 122
Bridges 65
Classified B1
Comics 126-29

Crossword 127
Editorial A10
Food 129
Local News B1

Obits 110
Obituaries B4
Sports C1
Travel 130

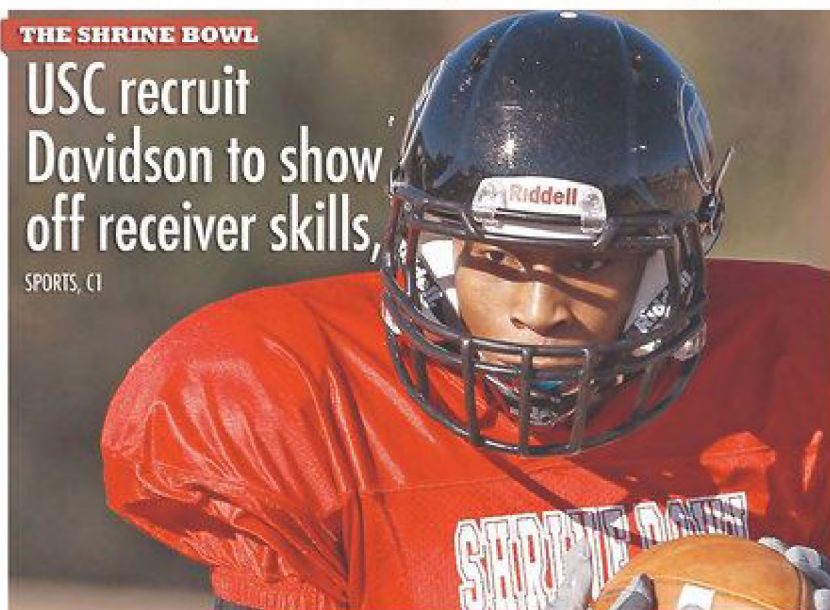
Charleston
Deals today

Krispy Kreme
BOGO Dozen Original Glazed
Donuts \$8.50
See Page A2

THE SHRINE BOWL

USC recruit Davidson to show off receiver skills

SPORTS, C1



USC falls to UNC 74-66 in Myrtle Beach. C1



ELF ON THE SHELF

A holiday goodie or is he just a little too creepy? **Page D1**

Two children killed in Irmo apartment fire

Father tried to save them before firefighters arrived

By ANNE-KATHRYN FLANAGAN, NOELLE PHILLIPS and CHRIS WINSTON
State staffers

A brother and sister were killed in a Wednesday morning apartment fire off St. Andrews Road despite firefighters entering the burning building to try to save them.

Jarmaion Martin, 5, and his sister Reghin Stevens, 1, were pronounced dead at the scene from injuries sustained in the fire, according to Lexington County Coroner Harry Harman.

The children's father was home with the children when the fire started, said Irmo Fire Chief Michael Sonefeld. Witnesses said they saw the father in

the second-story window but they were not sure if he jumped or fell while trying to get his children out, the fire chief said.

After hitting the ground, the father tried to run back inside, Sonefeld said.

"As soon as he opened the door, the fire pushed him back," Sonefeld said. "It was pandemonium with all of the neighbors trying to figure out if someone else was inside the building or not."

Neighbors also restrained the father from going back inside, he said.

Firefighters were notified of the fire at St. Andrews Apartments near Interstate 26 just before 10 a.m. Wednesday. Firefighters from Columbia and Lexington County were called to assist.

According to Irmo Fire Marshal Jeff Allen, fire was leaping from the front of

SEE FIRE PAGE A5

The State

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2013 | THESTATE.COM

PINSON CORRUPTION PROBE

Attorney: Benjamin original target of FBI



"... this is a matter for the legal system, which should be allowed to run its course without interference."

Jonathan Pinson arrives Wednesday in Charleston for a critical hearing in his upcoming federal corruption trial.

Assertion comes just before judge rules

FED BOOSTS MARKETS

The stock market soared Wednesday after the Federal Reserve unveiled a plan to cut back on its controversial bond buying program amid improving economic conditions. **Page B4**

Young guardian angel protects ancient Angel Oak

By SAMMY FRETWELL
sfretwell@thestate.com

CHARLESTON — The centuries old oak tree with the broad branches seemed



gel Oak on Johns Island south of Charleston. She fought a stubborn



The Nutcracker

Aiken Civic Ballet's annual production opens Saturday | 1C



Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

THURSDAY, December 19, 2013

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 147, No. 353 Aiken, S.C. ★ ★ 75¢

SRS misses out on award for small modular reactors

BY DERREK ASBERRY
dasberry@aikenstandard.com

The Savannah River Site's goal of bringing small modular reactors to South Carolina has taken a significant blow now that a final award to fund the reactors is going toward a project based in Oregon.

The Department of Energy announced it was giving the award to NuScale Power LLC in a release

Project in Oregon gets \$452M in federal funds

dated Dec. 12. Details must still be worked out, but funding will come from the \$452 million Small Modular Reactor Licensing Technical Support program.

Small modular reactors — or SMRs — are defined as reactors with electricity outputs of less than 300 megawatts. They are said to allow for less on-site construction and in-

creased containment efficiency.

"Small modular reactors represent a new generation of safe, reliable, low-carbon nuclear energy technology and provide a strong opportunity for America to lead this emerging global industry," said Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz in an online news release. "New technologies like small modular reactors will help

Please see **REACTORS**, Page 5A



AP PHOTOS: SCOTTALEXWHITE

From left, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., and Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md., rush to the chamber for the final votes on the bipartisan budget deal on Wednesday.

Conservationists want tighter laws



STAFF PHOTO BY AMY BANTON

Doug Busbee looks at the site where the Walther Farms potato farm expansion will be located along the Edisto River. Walther Farms, located in Windsor, has applied for an agricultural registration from the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, to withdraw surface water for its large potato-growing operation. This is the second registration it has applied for this year to pull up to 805 million gallons of water per month. The registration is currently under review by SCDHEC.

Potato farm's request for water sparks angst

BY AMY BANTON
abanton@aikenstandard.com

Some residents who are concerned with a recent request by a large potato farm to draw water from the South Edisto River said state regulations need to be tightened.

Walther Farms, which owns several thousands of acres of land in Windsor, has applied for an agricultural registration from the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, to withdraw surface water for its large potato-growing operation. This is the second registration it has applied for this year to pull up to 805 million gallons of water per month.

The registration is currently under review by SCDHEC.

The issue has sparked angst among local farmers, conservationists and residents, but, as many point out, Wal-



STAFF PHOTO BY AMY BANTON

Walther Farms will grow potatoes on a site in Windsor along the Edisto River. The farm is awaiting a second permit to withdraw water from the river for a site closer to the Aiken County lines.

ther Farms is following the law.

Rules and regulations

Dr. John Bass, who once worked

with DHEC, is pretty familiar with the state's rules and regulations.

He said he doesn't feel the safe yield analysis, which looks at how much surface water can be withdrawn

without adverse effects to the river, is enough to determine the impact this will have on the Edisto in the future. The Friends of the Edisto is working to collect its own data to have a better idea of that impact.

Bass said the law states that SCDHEC can pull a registration if the activity is endangering human health or the environment, but he said any negative effect may not be fully understood until it's too late.

A lot of the frustration from the public and the Friends of the Edisto stems from the fact that nobody really knew this was happening, Bass said.

According to SCDHEC, there's no requirement by law for a public notice or meeting to be held for an agricultural registration.

Please see **RIVER**, Page 16A

Senate passes federal budget

Graham, Scott vote against proposed bill

BY DERREK ASBERRY
dasberry@aikenstandard.com

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said he knew he was going to lose the fight against passing the proposed federal budget.

The budget was passed in the second round of voting on Thursday after both Graham and U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., voted against it.

The budget passing is a major step toward getting adequate funding for the Savannah River Site.

Next, the bill will be submitted to President Barack Obama.

After that, the Appropriations Committee will take the bill and divide the funding.

SRS is looking to get a full budget or an adequate continuing resolution before the Jan. 15 deadline.

Both senators oppose the budget because of its cuts to military benefits.

According to Graham's records, the retirement pack-



Graham



Scott

INSIDE
Congress sends Obama legislation. 9A

AREA DEATHS — 6A

Shawnt'a Smalls, Aiken

WEATHER

INSIDE TODAY

South Aiken High teacher faces charges of sexual battery

SHARE YOUR CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

The Aiken Standard wants to share your Christmas Memories — New and Old. We want to see how you and your family celebrate the holidays. Email your Christmas Memories photos to editorial@aikenstandard.com by Dec. 23. Please include names, a brief description and the year the photo





The Beaufort Gazette

THURSDAY, December 19, 2013

beaufortgazette.com

Established in 1897 50 cents

Attempted-robbery case heads to grand jury

Three Marines were charged in alleged pot deal that left another Marine dead in November



Lytle Dent

By **MATT McNAB**
mmcnab@beaufortgazette.com
843-706-8125

More charges could be filed in an alleged robbery attempt last month in Beaufort that left a Marine dead.

The case will be presented to a grand jury in January, a spokesman for the 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office said Wednesday.

The Solicitor's Office continues to review the Nov. 23 robbery attempt of Karl Brather Lytle, 21, of

Beaufort, the spokesman, Daniel Brownstein, said.

Pfc. Jerri Timberson, 20, and Pfc. Kelsey Dent, 18, both of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, attempted to rob Lytle with fake pistols during a marijuana deal,

according to reports from the Beaufort Police Department. Lytle pulled a real gun and shot Timberson, who was pronounced dead at Beaufort Memorial Hospital soon after.

Lytle faces marijuana charge-

es but was not charged in the shooting. Dent was charged with armed robbery and criminal conspiracy in the robbery attempt.

Brownstein said more charges

Please see **ROBBERY** on 9A

Senate approves budget

President Barack Obama is expected to sign the bill, which the House passed last week.

By **DAVID LIGHTMAN**
McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Senate approved a bipartisan federal budget Wednesday that could lead to two rare years of fiscal stability for a government that's lurched from showdown to showdown for two years.

The modest plan largely maintains the status quo, doing nothing to reduce the national debt or curb the growth of Medicare, Social Security or other entitlement programs that drive budget deficits.

Nor does it guarantee the government will not shut down again early next year, though that prospect now appears highly unlikely. The agreement sets spending levels, and it's now up to appropriations committees to fill in details of how the money will be spent.

The Senate approved the budget 64-36, with all 53 Democrats voting yes along with two independents and nine Republicans. President Barack Obama is expected to sign the bill, passed overwhelmingly by the House of Representatives last week.

The small-scale agreement will ease

Please see **BUDGET** on 9A

\$5 MILLION ALBERGOTTI CREEK BRIDGE PROJECT

NEW BRIDGE TO CROSS



DELYNA EARLEY • Staff photo

Engineers with F&ME Consultants test the compactness of the soil at the Albergotti Creek Bridge construction site Thursday. They were determining whether construction on the new bridge could begin early next year. The Albergotti Creek Bridge, a section of U.S. 21 south of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, has been on AAA Carolinas' list of the state's worst bridges for several years. The bridge is being replaced with a wider, longer span as part of a \$5 million S.C. Department of Transportation project. The work is scheduled to be finished by October 2015.

Trask parking lot sale closes at \$2.9 million

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A preliminary plan for development of property owned by Developer 303 Associates and principal Dick Stewart includes expanding the Beaufort Inn, as well as building town homes south of Port Republic Street.

By **ERIN MOODY**
emoody@beaufortgazette.com
843-706-8184

The \$2.9-million sale of the downtown Beaufort property known as the Trask parking lot closed Tuesday, and new owner 303 Associates is moving ahead with a multi-block redevelopment project.

The property, originally listed at \$34 million, covers most of the block bounded by Port Republic, Charles, Craven and West streets

can insert in that vision and help continue the successful growth of Beaufort," Trask said.

The deal has been in works for months, and the city's Historic District Review Board began looking at conceptual development plans in October.

Stewart said additional planning was delayed until the sale closed, but as of Wednesday, architects and engineers were back at the drawing board.

"We will be moving forward

Panel urges nearly 50 fixes to NSA spy program

By **LESLEY CLARK** and **ALI WATKINS**
McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A group appointed by President Barack Obama to review U.S. surveillance tactics is recommend-



Light up the Christmas season

You can also visit with Santa at Roper Mountain display escape

Herald-Journal

THURSDAY

DECEMBER 19, 2013
SPARTANBURG, S.C.
50 cents

www.GoUpstate.com

HJ
IN A HURRY

5 Things to read today



Confident he'll play

Standout Daniel running back and Shrine Bowl selection Jae'lon Oglesby's physical on Sunday revealed possible knee damage, but he was cleared for practice this week and is confident he'll be on the field for the South Carolina squad on Saturday. **PAGE B1**

A 'Duck' hiatus

"Duck Dynasty" patriarch Phil Robertson is off the hit A&E reality series indefinitely. The cable network announced Wednesday what it called a "hiatus" for Robertson, 67, after he disparaged gays in the January edition of GQ magazine. **PAGE A2**

Lucky numbers

A Georgia woman who bought just one ticket and used family birthdays and lucky No. 7 to choose her numbers was one of two winners of the \$636 million Mega Millions jackpot, the second largest in U.S. history. **PAGE A3**

Sentenced

Two Spartanburg area men — one of them a former teacher at Woodruff Middle School — have been sentenced on child pornography charges. **PAGE C3**

Driven by discounts

So far, this holiday season is shaping up as the most discount-driven one since the U.S. was in a deep recession. It's also the most disappointing for stores. **PAGE C4**

Weather

Fed: Economic future brighter

Agency to pull back on stimulus in Jan.

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve on Wednesday sent its strongest signal of confidence in the U.S. economy since the Great Recession, deciding that the nation's economic prospects are finally bright enough to withstand a slight pullback in stimulus spending.

Yet the Fed also made clear that it will keep supporting an economy that remains less than fully healthy. It will continue to keep interest rates low and try to boost unusually low inflation, which can be a drag on spending and borrowing.

At his final news conference as Fed chairman before he steps down in January, Ben Bernanke managed a delicate balance: He announced a long-awaited and long-feared reduction in the stimulus. Yet he did so while convincing investors that the Fed would

INSIDE

◆ Stocks soar on Federal Reserve decision. **C4**

In a statement after a two-day policy meeting, the Fed said it would trim its \$85 billion a month in bond purchases by \$10 billion starting in January. Bernanke said the bank expects to make "similar, moderate" cuts in its purchases if economic gains continue.

At the same time, the Fed strengthened its commitment to

continue to bolster the economy indefinitely. Wall Street roared its approval.

record-low short-term rates. It said for the first time that it plans to hold its key short-term rate near zero "well past" the time when unemployment falls below 6.5 percent. Unemployment is now 7 percent.

The Fed's bond purchases have been intended to drive down long-term borrowing rates by increasing demand for bonds. The prospect of a lower pace of purchases could mean higher loan rates over

◆ SEE FED PAGE A4

GOODFELLOWS 2013



MIKE BONNER FOR THE HERALD-JOURNAL

A large group of volunteers turned out Wednesday evening for the annual packing of the Goodfellow bags at the Piedmont Interstate Fairgrounds.

Hundreds of volunteers unite to pack food

Large bags will help feed area needy this Christmas

By ZACH FOX
zach.fox@ajc.com

The Piedmont Interstate Fairgrounds transformed into Santa's workshop on Wednesday evening, as volunteers played the role of elves and packed food for needy families for Christmas.

nity, many in Spartanburg have been helped over the years.

The fairgrounds building was filled with the rustling of paper bags and the squeaking of wheels moving across the cold, concrete floor.

At one end, boxes of produce, cereals, condiments and canned meats and vegetables towered in the air. Beside those boxes were large bags of potatoes and fresh apples donated by

Depot on East Main Street in Spartanburg. "We want to give back to the community that supports us."

Gallimore said the company has donated bags for the last four or five years because Home Depot puts an emphasis on employees volunteering. That emphasis was noticeable as multiple people wore bright orange "Team Depot" shirts as they packed and wheeled bags from one station to another.



Saluda residents
might soon pay
more sales tax, **2A**



Boyd's backups
Two players vying
to replace star QB
1B

News: One of two Mega Millions winners comes forward, **3A**

INDEX-JOURNAL

www.indexjournal.com

2 SECTIONS, 20 PAGES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2013

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

The line is drawn

County council passes lake boundary policy

By CHRIS TRAINOR
ctrainor@indexjournal.com

For numerous years, boundary lines and boundary line agreements have been a hot topic with many property owners along Lake Greenwood.

On Tuesday, Greenwood County Council unanimously adopted a new policy it hopes will

provide some clarity and direction on the issue.

According to county documents, Council's move Tuesday "creates a policy that can be applied to determine the boundary between real property owned by the county and real property adjacent to the same."

County Council chairman Mark Allison said with the new

policy, Greenwood County will no longer claim ownership of various small fragments of land that exist above the 440 contour line around the lake. The county will maintain ownership to everything up to the 440 line, including the lake bed and the water.

See **LINE**, page 5A



MARK ALLISON



TOBY CHAPPELL



BOB FISHER

■ ABBEVILLE COUNTY

Arrests made in shooting death

From staff reports

Abbeville County deputies made arrests in a March fatal shooting that left an Abbeville man dead on his parents' front porch.

Jamil Omar Phillips, 30, was gunned down in front of his Abbeville residence at 1522 Old Douglas Mill Road late the night of March 25. He died in his father's arms moments after the shooter ambushed him on the front stoop of the ranch-style brick home. His key was in the front door. Officials indicated he was returning home from his job at a Greenville CarMax at the time of the shooting.

Officials from the Abbeville County Sheriff's Office indicated the investigation is still ongoing and did not immediately release the names of suspects Wednesday. ACSO investigators and State Law Enforcement Division agents will be on hand to release details on the arrests during a press conference at the Abbeville County Sheriff's Office at 2 p.m. Thursday.

More information

■ A press conference will be 2 p.m. today with SLED and ACSO investigators present to release details of the arrests.

Officials from the Abbeville County Sheriff's Office indicated the investigation is still ongoing and did not immediately release the names of suspects Wednesday. ACSO investigators and State Law Enforcement Division agents will be on hand to release details on the arrests during a press conference at the Abbeville County Sheriff's Office at 2 p.m. Thursday.

■ JOHN DE LA HOWE

Board OKs hiring lawyer for legal issue

By KATE HRUBY
khruby@indexjournal.com

The John de la Howe School board of trustees convened Wednesday for its fourth special called emergency meeting within the past 28 days.

After approving the minutes from the three prior special emergency meetings that occurred Nov. 21, Nov. 22 and Nov. 23, the board will



Young Nicole Simon, left, was all smiles Wednesday morning as she got some books from Greenwood County First Steps director Michael Gaskin. First Steps gave out books in Greenwood and Abbeville counties Wednesday.

GIFT OF READING

Greenwood and Abbeville First Steps



THE ISLAND PACKET

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2013

islandpacket.com

SERVING THE LOWCOUNTRY • 50¢

61°  56°

Temps should warm up just a bit today. 4B

The Federal Reserve will begin tapering back bond-buying program 10A**\$8 gets you \$16 worth of real Southern cooking**
dealsaver.com/HiltonHead

NSA SURVEILLANCE

Panel: Curb spying program

By LESLEY CLARK and ALI WATKINS
McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A group appointed by President Barack Obama to review U.S. surveillance tactics is recommending widespread changes to the controversial National Security Agency spy programs, including ending the NSA's dragnet collection of millions of Americans' telephone records.

The report by the Review Group on Intelligence and Communications Technologies doesn't call for the elimination of the spying program, but proposes nearly 50 fixes, acknowledging that privacy and civil liberties "can be and at times have been eroded by excessive intelligence collection."

Obama, who met Wednesday at the White House with members of the panel, is reviewing the recommendations with his national security staff

Please see SPYING on 9A

New site for distribution

Bluffton Self Help receives donations of new, unwrapped toys each Christmas season to give to deserving families in Beaufort, Hampton and Jasper counties.

WHO DONATED?

See a list of who contributed to Bluffton Self Help. 9A

but some families in Hampton and Jasper counties couldn't afford the trip. So this year, the agency partnered with local service organizations to distribute toys.

Because of this outreach effort, more than 300 additional families with children will have a toy to celebrate the holidays, bringing the total to more than 1,600 children to receive toys from Bluffton Self Help this season.

Bluffton Self Help provides a broad range of social services for poor working families, the disabled, sick and elderly.

TO CONTRIBUTE

Those who wish to partic-



AT BLUFFTON HIGH SCHOOL

Building lawsuit may head to trial

Efforts to settle a three-year legal battle over roof, floor problems have failed

By SARAH BOWMAN
sbowman@beaufortgazette.com
843-706-8138

A three-year legal battle over roof and floor problems at Bluffton High School could head to trial in February after efforts to reach a settlement failed.

The Beaufort County School District and those it is suing over alleged faulty construction at the school

MORE INSIDE

Bluffton's Planning Commission favors annexing site of new school. 3A

— including the contractor and architect, and some subcontractors and materials providers — spent two days last month in mediation. Superintendent Jeffrey Moss said the mediation was unsuccessful.

"There was some back and forth, but nothing was concluded by the mediation," said school board Chairman Bill Evans, who participated in the talks. "A monetary number for the damages couldn't be reached."

The problems include a leaking roof and a floor that separated from the foundation. In several places the vinyl tile floor had bubbled up

3 to 4 inches, former district facilities officer Chris Poe has said.

Evans said the district can identify more than \$900,000 it has spent repairing problems at the school since it opened in 2004. He said that amount does not include the costs of legal fees and expert witnesses.

Please see LAWSUIT on 9A

Hilton Head panel endorses new PARK TRAIL DESIGNS



THEOPHIL SYSLO • Staff photo

A boardwalk would be built over The Folly at Burkes Beach under a trail design recommended for approval Tuesday by a Town of Hilton Head Island committee.

The trail would stretch from Shelter Cove to Collier Beach

By TOM BARTON
tbarton@islandpacket.com
843-706-8169

Some residents and biking advocates like the look of new drawings for a 1.5-mile park trail that would stretch from Shelter Cove to Collier Beach.

Hilton Head Island Town Council's Public Facilities Committee voted 2-1 Tuesday to endorse a new design for the \$8 million to \$9 million project, which would connect a string of town-owned properties along Broad Creek to nearby recreation fields and Collier and Burkes beaches.

Please see PARK on 9A

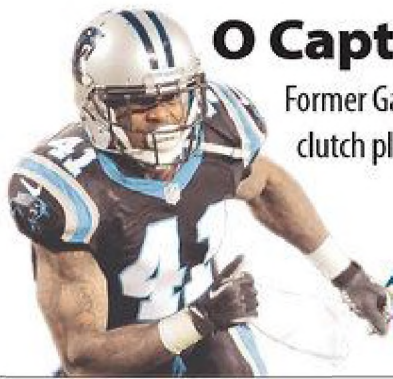
MORE INSIDE

See a graphic of the proposed trail design. 9A

MORE ONLINE

To see the trail drawings, click on this story at islandpacket.com.

Senate approves budget, awaits Obama's signature



O Captain! My Captain!

Former Gamecock standout Munneryn making clutch plays, showing leadership for Panthers

B1

The Item

ESTATE JEWELRY
large selection

SAVE UP TO 75-80% OFF REGULAR RETAIL PRICES

JEWELRY WHOLESALE
41 E. WESMARK BLVD. • SUMTER, SC • 778-1031
OPEN SUNDAY FROM 12PM-6PM

VOL. 119, NO. 56 WWW.THEITEM.COM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2013 | SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

FOUNDED OCTOBER 15, 1894 60 CENTS

Man robs Bank of Clarendon in Manning

BY ROB COTTINGHAM
rcottingham@theitem.com

Local law enforcement was on high alert after an unknown man robbed a Manning bank on Wednesday.

According to the Manning Police Department, a man entered the Bank of Clarendon on Wednesday morning, approached one of the tellers and handed her a note demanding money. Authorities say the note also claimed the man had a gun.

The teller cooperated, and the man left with an undisclosed amount of cash.

"We're uncertain as to how much money he took," Maj. Doug Ridgeway said. "The teller just did what she was supposed to do, which is cooperate. Better to be safe than sorry."

Considering what can go wrong during a robbery, Ridgeway expressed his relief that no violence occurred.



A white male wearing a navy blue stocking cap and a blue sweatshirt is seen standing at a counter at Bank of Clarendon headquarters in Manning on Wednesday. He reportedly handed the teller a note claiming he had a gun and demanded she give him money.

PHOTO PROVIDED

SEE ROBBERY, PAGE A10

Local animal rescue works with officials to aid horde of dogs

BY HOLLY BUNCH
holly@theitem.com

A local animal rescue is slowly coping with a massive influx of dogs as they try to assist local officials with a dog-hoarding case.

Two weeks ago, Sumter City-County Animal Control responded to a home on Benenhaley Road in Dalzell after receiving reports from people complaining about various problems

caused by a horde of dogs roaming the local neighborhood.

Upon arrival, officials found about 65 dogs at the property and an elderly owner who was no longer able to care for them.

Starting 20 years ago, the homeowner began taking in animals abandoned on or around Shaw Air Force Base. Over time, however, the dogs procreated, growing

SEE RESCUE, PAGE A8

Pet adoptions for the holidays: yay or nay?

BY JADE ANDERSON
janderson@theitem.com

The age-old problem of baby animals growing into adult pets is magnified during the holidays.

"Children ask for puppies and kittens, but puppies and kittens grow into dogs and cats, and many

times they end up in shelters just months after the Christmas 'newness' wears off," said Leigh Newman, who has worked with animal rescue cases for about 10 years. "Many rescues won't even adopt out their animals during the

SEE ADOPTIONS, PAGE A8



PHOTOS BY MATT WALSH / THE ITEM



TOP: Shelby Bird, left, administers a dewormer to one of the eight 7-week-old puppies that she and her husband, Christian, right, rescued in the horde from Dec. 4 found in Dalzell.

RIGHT: Lisa Tinker Morrison kisses her newly fostered Great Dane, Malcolm, on Thursday before he's



SWEET HOME ALABAMA
K.J. McDaniels returns home as Tigers head to Auburn. C1

FAMILY: Things to do on holiday road trips with the kids. **B1**
WORLD | NATION: Georgia woman wins half of Mega Millions jackpot. **D1**

Sewer talks tentatively set



Winchester



Moulder

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEJE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — The stage appears to be set for new talks between the major players with a big stake on how sewer service will be paid for, operated and

maintained going forward. Bob Winchester, executive director for the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority (OJRSA), said Wednesday that he's been approached by the county on his availability to meet tentatively Jan. 8 with rep-

resentatives of the county and the cities. Winchester said he would be available.

A new round of discussions between the parties appears to be the only way out of an impasse with millions of dollars in play. If a negotiated settlement can-

not be reached, the parties could wind up trying to settle their differences in court.

Of immediate urgency is what to do with an inter-governmental agreement signed in 2008 by all the parties in which Oconee

County committed to paying OJRSA \$600,000 annually until 2038. The agreement stipulates that the money from the county go toward funding sewer services in areas outside the cities.

SEE SEWER, PAGE A6

Adams steps down from SCDOT

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Seneca resident Eddie Adams Wednesday called the opportunity to serve as a member of the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) Commission "a real honor and something I've greatly enjoyed."

Nevertheless, Adams is leaving the commission after four years, including serving as chairman in 2012, to spend more time with his family. In looking back over his service, Adams said he is proud of the "tremendous improvements" the SCDOT has made the past four years.

"Financially, we've gotten our house in shape, so there's a much better handle on finances," Adams said. "We have also worked hard to select the first stages of getting projects and repairs done that needed to be done. While there's still a lot of work to do, we're making progress."

Adams said he is especially



Adams

SEE ADAMS, PAGE A6

'It's all about safety'



JESSICA NELMS | THE JOURNAL

Tatem Tollison, 10 years old and 5 feet 5 inches, would not be allowed to sit in the front seat of a car if a new bill proposed by Sen. Thomas Alexander becomes law.

Fifth graders say height, weight more important than age

BY NORMAN CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — If members of the General Assembly are looking for advice about changing the requirements for children sitting in the front seats of vehicles, a group of fifth graders at Northside Elementary School spoke

almost in unison on the issue Thursday — height and weight are more important than age.

State Sen. Thomas Alexander, R-Wallhalla, introduced a bill last week that would make several changes for vehicle safety for children that would fall in line with recommendations by the American

Academy of Pediatrics and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Among the proposals is one that would not allow a child to sit in a front seat until he or she reached age 13.

"I think that they should do it by weight and height and

SEE FIFTH GRADERS, PAGE A5

Alexander introduces bill resetting age limits for children in vehicles

BY NORMAN CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — A bill recently introduced by State Sen. Thomas Alexander would change the age requirements for children sitting in the

front seat of a vehicle, but Alexander said he hopes the attention drawn to his legislation will help improve safety for children in vehicles.

"It is all about safety as far as I'm concerned and trying to protect our children," Alexander said. "At this point, I am more interested in education than getting the legislation passed. It is not designed to be punitive; it is not designed for them to write tickets."

Senate Bill 823 would raise the age from 1 to 2 for children moving from a rear-facing car safety seat to a front-facing one. It would also require children to be at least 57 inches tall before moving out of a booster seat, but the child would have to remain in the back seat until age 13. The current law requires a child be 6 years old and weigh 30 pounds before being allowed to sit in the front seat.

SEE BILL, PAGE A5

Upstate Orthodontics collects toys and blankets for Safe Harbor

BY JOSIE RABBITT
THE JOURNAL

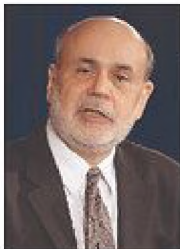
SENECA — Children in an area domestic violence

practice's first "Toys and Blankets" event benefiting residents at the Safe Harbor domestic violence shelter.

started the "Toys and Blankets" fundraiser a month ago. Staff spread the word through their Facebook pages, posting



Dr. Mark McInnis poses with his "super proud" Upstate Orthodontics staff by the immense collection of toys and blankets they received from their cli-



Morning News

THURSDAY DECEMBER 19, 2013

TODAY'S WEATHER
Mostly sunny,
high 64, low 43
DETAILS 2A

www.snow.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Another round of jobs for agribiz

Darlington's Canfor Southern Pine to add 50 employees for new second shift

BY GAVIN JACKSON
Morning News
gjackson@florencenews.com

DARLINGTON — Another agribusiness in the Pee Dee is expanding. Canfor Southern Pine announced Wednesday it will be investing \$8 million to upgrade its Darlington plant, creating 50 more jobs for a second shift at the manufacturing facility. This news comes less than a week after McCall Farms announced a \$19.3 million expansion, creat-

ing 140 jobs over the next five years. The plant's 84 employees manufacture Southern yellow pine dimensional lumber, primarily used in the construction industry at its 1100 Chesterfield Lumber Drive facility. With this \$8 million investment, the plant will see an increase in production by adding a second shift by the third quarter of 2014.

Douglas Warstler, president of Canfor's operations in Myrtle Beach, said the

See **CANFOR**, Page 3A



The Canfor Southern Pine lumber facility in Darlington will be expanding its operations with an \$8 million investment that will upgrade the facility to increase its production while adding 50 new jobs with a second shift.

GAVIN JACKSON/MORNING NEWS

CHILDREN OF THE WORLD sing to raise funds for the needy



PHOTOS BY J. NEGAY & BUCKHORN/MORNING NEWS

Jemimah from Uganda leads with a big smile at a Rescue Tour concert Wednesday by Children of the World's International Children's Choir at Central Baptist Church in Darlington. The group performed to a packed audience who took up an offering to support the program which provides clean water, food, shelter and education for needy children around the world. For more photos, visit snow.com.



Christlaire (left) smiles at Stanly, both from the Philippines, as they perform Wednesday at Central Baptist Church in Darlington.

ScienceSouth scores big NASA grant for Pee Dee

Local outreach group gets funds for programs, FMU planetarium upgrade

BY ELLEN MEDER
Morning News
emed@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — ScienceSouth in Florence, in conjunction with Francis Marion University, has been awarded more than \$780,000 from NASA as part of a prestigious grant program.

NASA announced 10 winners from 67 proposals it received, each of which will receive a portion of \$7.7 million to be used for educational outreach to increase awareness and excitement about the agency's space exploration achievements, current projects and its impacts on daily life.

ScienceSouth, a nonprofit science education orga-

nization in Florence since 2000, will use the three-year grant to provide new NASA Saturdays in the Pee Dee programming with hands-on activities for students, families and the public, which are scheduled to start next year. About half of the grant will go toward upgrading and renovating Francis Marion's Dooley Planetarium to a digital, interactive system.

"We are just thrilled that we were recipients of this grant, and we are looking forward to getting out into the Pee Dee and providing some quality science programming with FMU," said Stephen Welch, the executive director of ScienceSouth.

See **GRANT**, Page 3A



JOHN RUSSELL/MORNING NEWS

ScienceSouth Science Specialist Tony Martinez assists students during the Extreme Engineering Summer Camp at ScienceSouth.

City Council to remove itself from any Trust appeal

No complaints filed so far opposing demolition of historic building

BY GAVIN JACKSON

the Design Review Board's ruling for its own application."

TRUST TIMELINE

» **Aug. 22:** City enters into an agreement to purchase the Trust building property, contingent upon approval by council.



CMYK



Odd

CHRISTMAS HAPPENINGS

PLUS A LOOK AHEAD TO NEW YEAR'S, LEISURE A8

THURSDAY

6
DAYS

DECEMBER 19, 2013

The Times and Democrat

75 CENTS • ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

TheTimes.com

3 SECTIONS, 28 PAGES • VOL. 132 • NO. 353

Judge lets feds
use wiretaps,
keep charges
against Pinson

MOTIONS DENIED!

By GENE ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

CHARLESTON — A federal judge decided Wednesday that federal prosecutors can use wiretap evidence in the public corruption trial of former South Carolina State University Board Chairman Jonathan Pinson despite claims the evidence was wrongfully collected in an investigation of Columbia officials.

U.S. District Judge David Norton ruled Wednesday FBI wiretaps against Pinson were gathered legally and were conducted in an "objectively reasonable fashion."

Norton also denied a motion by Pinson's attorney to have racketeering charges dismissed. In addition, Norton denied a motion by co-defendant Eric Robinson to be tried separately from Pinson.

Pinson was served with a 51-count indictment in early November that charged him with illegal financial activities including racketeering, mail fraud, wire fraud, extortion under color of law, bribery, money laundering and the misuse of state and federal grant funds. Robinson is facing 11 charges.

They have both pleaded not guilty.

During a hearing in Charleston on Wednesday, Pinson's attorney Jim Griffin painted the FBI as overly intrusive into Pinson's private and professional business dealings while chairman at S.C. State.

"We are talking about a business man doing business," Griffin told the court. He said the government misled the court in claiming it would not listen to Pinson's phone calls related to S.C. State business.

Griffin said the initial FBI wiretaps targeted Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin and others in an inquiry into The Village at River's Edge, a lower-income housing



Former South Carolina State University Board Chairman Jonathan Pinson arrives at the federal courthouse in Charleston Wednesday morning for a hearing related to his federal corruption charges.



Eric Robinson, left, arrives at the courthouse with his attorney, Shaun Kent. Kent unsuccessfully tried to have Robinson's case and trial severed from Pinson's citing a single trial would prejudice his client. The request was denied.

See MOTIONS, A5

VETERANS
MEMORIAL
TO GET
PARKING LOT

LOCAL, A2



Pediatrician's
office robbed
by gunman

T&D Staff Report

Police are looking for a man armed with a handgun they say robbed a Middleton Street pediatrician's office late Tuesday.

Orangeburg Department of Public Safety officers arrived at Wilson Pediatrics after employees inside called police around 7:45 p.m.

Unsure if any armed subjects were inside, the first officers at the scene checked the building to ensure no gunmen were still around.

No one was found.

Employees said they stayed late at the office Tuesday night. As they were leaving around 7:15 p.m., a man wearing what looked like a ski-type mask forced his way into the office, according to a police incident report.

Once inside, the man brandished a handgun and stated something that was initially inaudible to the employees. The gunman then stated clearly he wanted money and demanded the employees' handbags. Police say one of the two employees was struck in the face.

The man then forced the employees into a room where he ordered them to count to 100 before they came out.

After waiting for a period, the employees fled the building and ran to a nearby residence to call police.

Investigators said they recovered a significant amount of forensic evidence.

The gunman is described as a dark-complexioned black male with a slender build standing about 6 feet tall. He is said to have been wearing dark clothing.

If anyone has any information on the subject, they are asked to call the ODPs at 803-534-2812 or Crimestoppers at 1-888-CRIME-SC.



Ga. woman has
1 of 2 winning
lottery tickets

By JOHNNY CLARK
Associated Press

ATLANTA — A Georgia woman who bought just one ticket and used family birthdays and lucky No. 7 to choose her numbers was one of two winners of the \$636



By DALE LINDER-ALTMAN
T&D Staff Writer

BAMBERG — Residents of Bamberg

the real problem was that the board refused to listen to what anyone had to say about the issue.

In a succeeding board meeting, trustees

Allegations fly at Bamberg One trustee meeting

Brian Symmes

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304

Cell: (803) 673-9437