



Title: Leatherman's call
Author:
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Leatherman's call

Thumbs up to S.C. Sen. Hugh K. Leatherman for passing on a chance to ascend to a statewide office as lieutenant governor so he can continue to represent the people of Florence County who have elected him again and again (and again and again and again ...). He said this week that he wants to stay where he is, which means he will remain as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. In that role, Leatherman holds as much power as anyone in the state....

South Carolina voters decided two years ago to stop electing a lieutenant governor. Rather, the governor will get to appoint a lieutenant governor. But that law is not supposed to go into effect until 2018. It could be a court has to decide who will replace Henry McMaster, who will replace departing Gov. Nikki Haley (if the U.S. Senate approves her appointment as the United States' ambassador to the United Nations).

- Morning News Florence



Title: **Is winter weather headed to Aiken?**  
 Author: BY DEDE BILES dbiles@aikenstandard.com  
 Size: 107.26 column inches  
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635

# Is winter weather headed to Aiken?

## Prepare during Winter Weather week

BY DEDE BILES

dbiles@aikenstandard.com

Winter weather is on its way to Aiken County. The first arctic blast of the season is scheduled to arrive later this week. Alaska and northwestern Canada are the sources of the large mass of frigid air that will be causing thermometers to plunge throughout much of the Lower 48.

"The temperatures will be the coldest of the season so far," said Jeff Linton, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Columbia.

Residents will start experiencing the chilly conditions on Thursday night, when the low will be near 30 degrees.

The highs Friday and Saturday will be only in the mid-40s.

## Winter

from 1A

During the cool-down, the chance of precipitation will be low.

"Along with this cold front, there is a little bit of moisture,

On Friday evening, the low will be close to 22, and on Saturday night, it will be around 29.

"It's going to be breezy on Friday, so that's going to make it feel colder," Linton said.

"There will be northwest winds of 15 to 25 miles per hour. During the middle of the day, the wind chill values are going to be in the middle 30s. On Sunday, some moderation in temperatures will begin to occur, and the high will be in the mid-50s."

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and there is a 20 percent chance of rain Thursday, but behind the front, it will be dry," Linton said.

The forecast is calling for partly sunny skies Thursday

and Sunday. It will be sunny Friday and Saturday.

According to The Weather Channel, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-

tion is predicting that it will be drier than average in the South during December, January and February. It also probably will be warmer than average.

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The South Carolina Emergency Management Division, South Carolina's National Weather Service offices and the State Emergency Response Team issued a press release Monday stating that Gov. Nikki Haley had proclaimed Dec. 4-10 as South Carolina Winter Weather Preparedness Week.

The release also offered some suggestions for how Palmetto State residents could get ready to

deal with snow and ice storms.

The tips included the following:

- Make sure shovels and rocks salt are in household emergency kits.
- Prepare for possible isolation in the home by having sufficient heating fuel.

- Cover pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic.

- Learn how to shut off water valves in case a pipe bursts.

- Make sure fireplaces have sturdy screens to stop sparks

from flying into rooms.

- Get a qualified professional to clean and inspect chimneys.

- Have vehicles serviced to ensure they are prepared for the winter season.

According to the release, winter emergency kits should be placed in all vehicles. In each of those kits there should be a shovel, a windshield scraper and a small broom, a flashlight, a battery-powered radio, extra batteries,

matches, extra hats, socks and mittens, water, snacks, and a first aid kit with a pocketknife.

The items in each kit also should include medications, blankets, a tow chain or rope, road salt and sand, booster cables and a fluorescent distress flag.



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

Tiffany Dixon dressed to keep warm Monday as she rode her bicycle on Gayle Avenue.

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STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

**Cynthia Rankin, left, and Geoffrey O'Brien dressed to keep warm while walking in downtown Aiken on Monday.**

Title: **Mistrial declared in shooting by officer**  
 Author: BY BRUCE SMITH AND SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press  
 Size: 51.77 column inches  
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



# Mistrial declared in shooting by officer

BY BRUCE SMITH  
AND SEANNA ADCOX  
*Associated Press*

CHARLESTON — A South Carolina judge declared a mistrial Monday after a jury deadlocked in the murder trial of a white former police officer charged in the shooting death of an unarmed black motorist.

A panel of one black and 11 white jurors — who had seemed close to a verdict to convict Friday, with apparently only one holdout — said Monday they were unable to reach a unanimous decision after deliberating more than 22 hours over four days.

“We as a jury regret to inform the court that despite the best efforts of all parties we are unable to come to a unanimous decision,” said Circuit

Judge Clifton Newman, reading a note from the jury before declaring a mistrial.

Former patrolman Michael Slager was charged with murder in the April 4, 2015, shooting death of 50-year-old Walter Scott. The judge had said the jury could also consider a lesser charge of voluntary manslaughter.

Outside the courtroom, Scott’s mother and brother said justice will eventually prevail.

“I’m not sad, because I know justice will be served,” Judy Scott said.

Asked whether he could forgive Slager, Anthony Scott said he could eventually “find the peace” to forgive

the ex-officer but not before justice is served.

“He gets to spend Christmas with his family,” he said of Slager.

Cellphone video taken by a bystander that showed Scott being shot in the back five times was shown widely in the media and on the internet and shocked the country, inflaming the national debate about how blacks are treated by law enforcement officers.

After the video went public, Slager was fired by the police department and charged with murder. Scott’s family

Please see **MISTRIAL**, Page 10A

## Mistrial

from 1A

called for peace in the North Charleston community. Their calls for calm are believed to have helped prevent the kind of violence that erupted elsewhere when black men were killed in encounters with law enforcement.

It’s the second time in recent weeks a jury has deadlocked in an officer-involved shooting. A mistrial was declared Nov. 12 when a jury in Cincinnati couldn’t reach a verdict in the case of a former campus police officer who was also charged with shooting a black motorist.

The video in the Scott slaying renewed debate about how blacks are treated by white law officers. There have been simi-

lar debates over race and policing in places from New York to Ferguson, Missouri, and from Tulsa, Oklahoma, to North Carolina.

Slager’s wife, Jamie, cried after the jurors were dismissed and briefly put her head on the bench in front of her. She said “thank you for everything” to the defense lawyers as they left the courtroom. She did not respond when reporters asked if she wanted to comment.

One female juror wiped away tears with her hands and a tissue as the attorneys addressed them and thanked them for their hours of work.

There were no outbursts in the courtroom. Slager’s lawyer, Andy Savage, did not comment.

Scott’s family again called for peaceful protests.

“We’re not going to tear up this city,” Anthony Scott said. “We’re not happy. But we’re not sad.”

Wilson praised Scott’s family for their patience and understanding.

“They have not received the credit they deserve in their calm leadership for the community,” she said in a statement. “The Scotts have been a sterling example of dignity and grace in extraordinary circumstances.”

Slager also faces trial next year in federal court on charges of depriving Scott of his civil rights.

Gov. Nikki Haley said that she understood there will be “a new trial where the Scott

family and all of South Carolina will hopefully receive the closure that a verdict brings. Justice is not always immediate, but we must all have faith that it will be served I certainly do.”

While Slager is white and Scott was black, the video, not the races of the men, dominated the trial.

Scott was pulled over in North Charleston for having a broken taillight on his 1990 Mercedes and then fled the car, running into a vacant lot. Family members have said he may have run because he was worried about going to jail because he was \$18,000 behind on child support.

The prosecution argued that the 35-year-old Slager let his sense of authority get the

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better of him.

The defense maintained that the two men wrestled on the ground, that Scott got control of Slager's stun gun and then pointed the weapon at the officer before the shooting. The defense also con-

tended there was no way the officer could tell if Scott was unarmed.

Last year, the city of North Charleston reached a \$6.5 million civil settlement with Scott's family. In the wake

of the shooting, the city also asked that the U.S. Justice Department conduct a review of its police department policies with an eye toward how the department can improve its relationship with residents.



GRACE BEAHM/POST AND COURIER

**North Charleston police officer Michael Slager, right, sits in the courtroom during his murder trial at the Charleston County court on Friday.**

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Title:           **The Trenton Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution will hold a wreath placement and proclamation reading**

Author:

Size:            4.03 column inches

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**The Trenton Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution will hold a wreath placement and proclamation reading** sent to the chapter from Gov. Nikki Haley on Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the Aiken Veterans/Memorial Park on Richland Avenue. This commemorative event is in remembrance of those who perished at Pearl Harbor on this date 75 years ago and to honor those few who still remain. "Lest We Forget." The public is cordially invited to attend. For more information, call 803-641-7073.

Title: **Trump taps Carson for HUD secretary**  
 Author: BY JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press  
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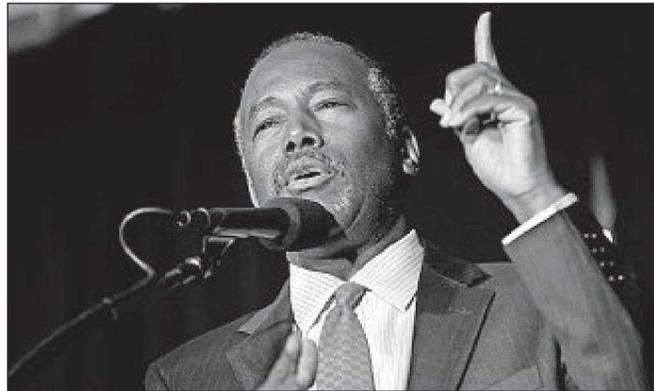
# Trump taps Carson for HUD secretary

BY JONATHAN LEMIRE  
*Associated Press*

NEW YORK—Donald Trump chose retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson on Monday to be secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, raising fresh concerns about the lack of experience some of Trump's Cabinet picks have with agencies they're now being chosen to lead.

Carson, who opposed Trump in the Republican primaries, has no background in government or running a large bureaucracy.

In addition, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, Trump's choice to be ambassador to the United Nations, has no foreign policy experience. Steve Mnuchin, a former Goldman Sachs partner and Hollywood executive, is Trump's man to lead the Treasury Department but has never worked in government. And retired Gen. James Mattis, a widely praised battlefield commander, spent decades in the Marines but now is tapped to run the nation's largest government agency, the Defense Department, with 740,000 civilian employees in addition to 1.3 million service personnel.



AP PHOTO BY GERALD HERBERT

**Former Republican presidential candidate Dr. Ben Carson speaks before Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's arrival at a campaign rally in Manchester, N.H.**

Democrats swiftly criticized Carson's qualifications for his job. House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi called him a "disconcerting and disturbingly unqualified choice." And New York Sen. Charles Schumer said he had "serious concerns about Dr. Carson's lack of expertise and experience in dealing with housing issues. Someone who is as anti-government as him is a strange fit for housing secretary, to say the least."

Carson would oversee a budget of nearly \$50 billion that provides rental assistance for more than 5 million households. Demand for that assistance is high in part because housing costs are rising faster than incomes. HUD also promotes home ownership with the Federal Housing Administration underwriting about 1 in 6 mortgages issued in the U.S. The agency is charged with enforcing federal fair housing laws, too.

Title: **Mistrial in police shooting mystifies observers**  
 Author: Associated Press  
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# Mistrial in police shooting mystifies observers

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The video was unambiguous: A white police officer fatally shot an unarmed black man in the back as the man ran away.

But a South Carolina jury was unable to agree on a verdict in one of the nation's ghastliest police shootings, with a lone holdout forcing a mistrial. The outcome stung many African-Americans and others. If that kind of evidence can't produce a conviction, they asked, what can?

"There's a jury full of people and they cannot decide if it's illegal to shoot someone who is running away from you?" said activist Johnetta Elzie, who is black. "What do you say about a country that feels this way about black people? If you can't see the humanity in that, I don't know what we're talking about anymore."

Prosecutors plan to retry officer Michael Slager, who is scheduled to be tried separately next year on federal charges that he violated Walter Scott's civil rights.

North Charleston city officials approved a \$6.5 million civil settlement for Scott's family earlier this year. Slager remains free on bail.

South Carolina Republican Gov. Nikki Haley voiced her support for Scott's family, saying in a statement that justice "is not always immediate, but we must all have faith that it will be served."

Scott, 50, was killed in April 2015 after he was shot five times. A barber on his way to work recorded the slaying on his cellphone.

The panel of 11 white jurors and one black juror deliberated for 22 hours. At one point, a juror sent a letter directly to the judge saying

he could not "with good conscience approve a guilty verdict" and that he was unlikely to change his mind. As they weighed their decision, jurors also asked the judge to explain the legal difference between fear and passion and inquired whether the self-defense standard was the same for officers as ordinary citizens.

NAACP President Cornell Brooks called the jury's decision "a disappointing delay in the delivery of justice." Hours after the mistrial, a tweet from three Black Lives Matter co-founders said, "Some days the hashtag is too painful to participate in."

Elzie, one of the first protesters in Ferguson, Missouri, after the fatal 2014 shooting of Michael Brown by a white officer, said word of the hung jury left her numb.

"When it comes to justice

and black people in America, I don't expect it," she sighed.

Randall Kennedy, a black Harvard University law professor and author of several books on race relations, had difficulty reconciling the law with the mistrial, which he called "frightening."

"It appeared as though it was open and shut," said Kennedy, a native of Columbia, South Carolina. "Obviously, this is a case of some criminal action on the part of this police officer. Is it at all plausible that you have a man running and a police officer says, 'I'm firing in self-defense?'"

He added: "It's at this point that people are truly exasperated and say, 'Do we really have anything that can seriously be called the administration of criminal justice?' Can we reach people? Are people even persuadable?"

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Judy Scott, center, Walter Scott's mother, is comforted by her son Rodney Scott, as the family attorneys, Chris Stewart, left, and Justin Bamberg, right, hold a press conference after a mistrial was declared Monday in the Michael Slager in Charleston.