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Signs of Christmas

Signs of Christmas: "Hanging of the Greens" will be held at Calvary United Methodist Church on Nov. 29, 10:10 a.m. The church will be decorated Saturday Nov. 28 at 8 a.m. Many hands are needed as we "Deck the Halls." Come join the fun and fellowship.

JUANITA FELIX COORDINATOR OF the "Angel Tree" at Andrew Chapel U.M. Church is busy being Santa's helper, planning a big Christmas party for the children of prisoners. The church also is reaching out to thousands of families who were impacted by the October flooding.

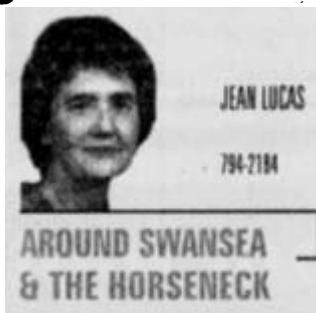
SWANSEA FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH participated in "fill-a-truck/feed a tot" for the Connie Maxwell Home food drive. The Metallic Club of Swansea honored Thanksgiving by bringing food for a needy family.

SWANSEA CHRISTMAS PARADE IS Sunday Dec. 6. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served to the children.

THE GIRLS OF ANDREW Chapel United Methodist Church are excited about a trip to the Nutcracker Ballet in Columbia Dec. 25.

FRIENDS OF THE SWANSEA Library invite you to a Book Sale Saturday Dec. 5, from 9 a.m. until noon.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MOLLIE TAYLOR who was presented the outstanding volunteer fundraiser award by the Association of



Fundraising Professionals Central S.C. Chapter. She is a member of the Dickerson Children's Advocacy Center board of directors.

The center provides treatment and support for children who have been physically or sexually abused.

THE COLUMBIA MILITARY

OFFICERS Association of America (MOAA) will celebrate its 50th anniversary Friday, Dec. 4, from 6 - 9:30 p.m., at the Ft. Jackson open mess hall. Info: call Jean (803)794-7761. Please leave a message.

MT.ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S "Bless the Animals" service was wonderful and enjoyed by all. "Rudolph the red nosed reindeer" led the elves.

THE CAROLINA CARILLON PARADE is Saturday, Dec. 5 in downtown Columbia.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS ON THE RIVER is Wednesday, Nov. 25 to Dec. 31 at Saluda Shoals Park. Admission \$15 per car. \$25 for 15 passenger vans, or \$40 for buses.

THE GOVERNOR'S CAROLIGHTING CHRISTMAS tree by S.C. Governor Nikki Haley at the State House, with various choirs performing, is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m.

IMAGINE SEEING THE SMILING children as they open the "Operation Christmas Child" boxes - a great mission for local churches.



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¹⁴⁸ Alan Wilson fights transfer of Gitmo prisoners to S.C.

BY HAL MILLARD

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S.C. Alan Wilson is warning the Obama Administration not to transfer detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to the Palmetto State.

The president is mulling a potential executive order that would transfer detainees to the United States as the federal government considers shutting down Guantanamo, which houses detainees and prisoners captured by the U.S. in its war on terrorism.

The U.S. Naval Consolidated Brig at the Charleston Naval Weapons Station in North Charleston has been mentioned as a possible site to house the detainees.

Last week, Wilson, of Lexington, joined two other attorneys general stating their opposition to any transfer of potential terrorists to their states.



Wilson

"We are committed to exploring our legal options and working with the South Carolina delegation and Governor Haley to use every tool necessary to protect South Carolina from dangerous terrorists currently detained at Guantanamo Bay," Wilson said. "The president's potential executive order would be unlawful and endanger all South Carolinians."

The three state attorneys general told the president any attempt to relocate detainees from Guantanamo Bay to their states would be illegal and should be rejected.

In a letter to President Obama, Wilson along with Colorado Attorney General Cynthia Coffman,

and Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt noted that U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch testified in Congress that federal law does not allow transfer of detainees to the U.S. mainland.

The state attorneys general asked the president to "abide by the restrictions enacted into law by Congress and decline to transfer detainees to our States."

"Moving detainees to the mainland will create imminent danger and make the communities where they are placed targets, which is precisely what the restrictive language enacted by Congress is designed to prevent," the state attorneys general wrote. "Recent attacks in France, Egypt, Lebanon and elsewhere underscore the risk your illegal action would bring to our States."

The state attorneys general also noted the lack of transparency in the administration's plans related to detainee transfers and observed that administration officials had made conflicting public statements about the federal government's intentions.

The attorneys general asked the administration for an explanation not later than December 4 of its intentions and an articulation of its claimed legal authority to transfer detainees to the mainland.

Despite the existing prohibition in federal law on the use of any funds to "assist" in the transfer of detainees to the U.S. mainland, federal survey teams have recently traveled to locations in Colorado, Kansas and South Carolina, apparently to assess facilities in those states as possible sites for the relocation of Guantanamo detainees.

