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The Post and Courier

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Friday, December 4, 2015

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

Charleston, S.C. 29401

Couple equipped to slaughter 100s

U.S. says Calif. gunman, radicals spoke, but motive still a mystery

BY AMANDA LEE MYERS
and JUSTIN REICHERT
Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO, CALIF. — California gunman Syed Hassan Farooq had been in contact with known Islamic extremists on social media, a U.S. intelligence official said Thursday, and police said he and his wife had enough bullets and bombs to slaughter

hundreds when they launched their deadly attack on a holiday party. The details emerged as investigators tried to determine who set the rampage that left 14 people dead and 17 injured in a workplace tragedy.

The husband and wife killers were not under FBI scrutiny before the



DAMIAN DOVARGANES/AP

A police officer prepares to cordon off an area near where authorities stopped a vehicle Wednesday in San Bernardino, Calif.

Please see SHOOTING, Page A11

Charleston relives trauma of gun violence as S.C. debate heats up

BY JENNIFER BERRY ELANES,
GAVIN JACKSON
and CHRISTINA ELAMORE
The Post and Courier

As she watched news break about 11 dead in the San Bernardino shooting, Felicia Sanders' body ached with the faltering voice of a father whose daughter had died while hiding from the gunman. "Pray for us, I am

locked in an office," she cried for the next members of the tragic tribe of families who have lost loved ones in the nation's ever-mounting toll of mass shootings. She couldn't sleep after watching the news, frantically scrolling through photographs of her smiling young son, a 26-year-old whose body she left in

Please see REACTIVE, Page A11

Biden lauds Riley for bringing city together

Vice president speaks at tribute to fund African American museum



Vice President Joe Biden spoke at a celebration Thursday honoring longtime Mayor Joe Riley, who is retiring after 10 terms that begin in 2015. The celebration at the Colvard Center raised funds for Riley's project, the International African American Museum.

BY STEVE KROPP
Associated Press

The night drew together two average guys in a meal, both headed for retirement.

Joe Biden, the vice president with

a year left in office, paid tribute to Joe Riley, the soon-to-be departing mayor of Charleston, during a packed celebration marking the near end of Riley's 60 years at the helm.

Tracing a friendship going back

40 years as well, Biden made it clear that he had multiple political colleagues in South Carolina — Sen. Fritz Hollings, Sen. Thurmond, Lindsey Graham — but the mayor made the national impact in terms of racial healing.

"If you want to understand Joe Riley, you only have to understand the meaning of a single word: character," Biden told more than 500 people Thursday at the dinner.

Please see RUDIM, Page A1

Flag plan could cost taxpayers \$5.3M

Expansion sought for Confederate museum

BY MAYA L. PRAHL
The Post and Courier Staff Writer

COLUMBIA — Conservatives are proposing spending \$5.3 million in tax money on a museum display of the Confederate battle flag removed from the Statehouse grounds.

The plan includes expanding the S.C. Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum into a nearly 4,700-square-foot space above the current annex, states on the second floor, a renovation to the entrance, and renovation of an outdoor courtyard adjacent to the proposed new gallery space.

The gallery would include a historical area, several rooms of Confederate flags, interactive displays, and the memorial and display of the flag from the Statehouse — something that is expected to be a big ticket item.

The consultants, Watson Tate Savory Architects Inc. and Haley Sharpe Design, presented their recommendations Thursday to the seven-member S.C. Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum Commission. The commission was tasked with considering how to display the flag after lawmakers voted to remove it from the Statehouse memorial to the Columbia museum following the mass shooting at Charleston's Emanuel AME Church.

Please see FLAG, Page A9

Poll
How much do you think South Carolina taxpayers should spend for displaying the Confederate flag? Go to postandcourier.com/poll to vote.

Inside



LOCAL
Nurses organize prom for 17-year-old cancer patient. A2

College of Charleston's shortfall rises to \$2.1M. A3

Hardworking man sidelined by injury struggles to pay bills

Mr. Tim White to The Salvation Army with a great deal of shame and embarrassment. He had never asked for help before and didn't quite know what to expect. He's a child of Depression-era parents and has worked non-stop since he was a teenager. Earlier this year, he suffered a back injury. He had a number of surgeries and received physical therapy up until he was released to go back to work this summer. After working a couple of months, his back pain worsened and he had to quit his job. His doctor helped him apply for Social Security disability benefits, but his case has been



pending for quite some time. He's now just a few years shy of reaching the full benefit age for retirement but has been struggling to get into early retirement.

Being on and off the job for months now has him at risk of foreclosure, unable to pay the majority of his per-

sonal and living utility disbursements. He is divorced and does not have any close family members to rely on during hardships.

Through your donations to the Good Cheer Fund, The Salvation Army will be able to help with food and utility assistance, as well as referrals for free chronic prevention programs and prescription assistance. Contributions to The Post and Courier's Good Cheer Fund have helped the less fortunate in the Lowcountry since 2007. The charitable organizations sharing the funds collected are the Lowcountry Food Bank, the Salvation Army, Star

Angel Mission, the Association for the Blind, Coastal Catholic Charities and Carolina Youth Development Center. Every cent of the money goes directly to the agencies, as there are no administrative costs involved. Send tax-deductible contributions to the Good Cheer Fund, c/o The Post and Courier, 134 Columbia St., Charleston, SC 29401-4800. Donations also can be made in person or online at www.goodcheerfund.com. For more information, email rl@the-postandcourier.com. Please see CHEER, Page A1



Mostly sunny. High 35, low 41. Complete 5-day forecast on A10

Bridge	E1	One word	G1 D1	Moors	B1
Animals	E1	One word	B1	Outdoors	B1
Classified	D1	Short	A14	Sports	C1
Comics	B1-9	Local	A1	Reviews	B1

Charleston Deals today

Sweet 185
Friday 10:00-11:00 — \$19.99
The Four Seasons per day \$49.99
60-minute organic facial. See A2



SPORTS DISRUPTIVE DEFENDER



METRO
Graham
wants full
war on ISIS

The Greenville News

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FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 4, 2015
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY

COUPLE DROPPED BABY OFF AT GRANDPARENTS BEFORE KILLING SPREE **PAGE 1B**

PLAYOFF PAYOFFS



Southside Christian, which got past McBee in the Class A Division I playoffs last week, had never won a playoff game before this year.

Value of state football postseason run varies by the school

BOB CASTELLO
BCASTELLO@GANNETTNEWS.COM

The clock hits zero, the celebration begins and players recite the usual clichés about the hard work paying off. Over the next eight days, seven more state champions will be crowned on football fields at Benedict College and the University of South Carolina. Indeed there's a payoff in the satisfaction each championship brings to the players, coaches, fans and community.

As for a financial payoff? Green is in the eye of the beholder.

"We're making money that we didn't plan on making," said Mike Johnson, Southside Christian School's athletic director. "Being the one seed, having three home games, that was money we didn't plan on having in our budget."

The Sabres, who had never won a playoff game before this year, kept on winning and will play away from home in the postseason

for the first time Saturday, when they battle Aulander-Fairfax at noon in the Class A Division I championship game at Benedict College.

Circumstances were different last year for Hillcrest, which, like Southside Christian, had never been to a state final in football.

"I've heard people tell me that back in the early 2000s, when all the championships were at one site, they would have it at Carolina, and the schools would walk away with \$25,000, \$22,000, \$23,000 from the one game," Hillcrest athletic director Tommy Bell said.

"Our combined playoff run last year for four games was \$16,000."

Times have changed. Bell had heard of the days when there were four classes and five championship games (including the Big 36), all of them in one weekend at Williams-Brice Stadium, and the teams split the pot.

In recent years, the Class A and AA games (four in all) have been held in one weekend at

"... Having three home games, that was money we didn't plan on... in our budget."

MIKE JOHNSON
SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN'S ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

See CHAMPIONS, Page 6A

Local man found guilty in Eastside murders

ROMANNO DIXSON
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A jury Thursday found a Greenville man guilty on all charges in the brutal slayings of a married couple in 2012.

Judge John C. Hayes III sentenced 28-year-old Jonathan Thane Rhodes to three life sentences for convictions on two counts of murder and one count of first-degree burglary. The jury also returned guilty verdicts on two charges of kidnapping and four counts of possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime in the stabbing deaths of Gary and Helen Wells.

Rhodes, prior to his sentencing, maintained his innocence in a brief statement to the court and the Wells family.

"The truth shall always manifest," Rhodes said. "So if y'all satisfied with me being found guilty, peace be upon you all. I'm sorry for the loss of your family. Nobody deserved to die like that."

Gary Wells, 78, and Helen Wells, 77, were found dead Oct. 3, 2012, at their home on Terramont Drive. They each suffered dozens of wounds, including many that were inflicted postmortem.

Jake Edwin, Rhodes' attorney, said his client was not guilty of the murders in his closing argument Thursday and alleged the killer was Shirley Ann Rogers, the couple's ex-housekeeper. Solicitor Wilkins also alleged during the three-day trial that she was involved and was at the Wellises' home the night of the double homicide. Wilkins said after the trial that Rogers, 54, has not been charged because there's not enough evidence to take out warrants.

Rogers and Rhodes were in a relationship of some sort, although no one in the trial described them as boyfriend-girlfriend.

"One person couldn't stab one person 70 times while the other (victim) is just sitting there and then go brutally murder and stab them over 60 or 80 times or vice versa. It's impossible," Wilkins said during his closing argument. "You've got to have at minimum two people in that house committing these crimes."

In February 2013, Rogers pleaded guilty in federal court to aggravated identity theft and fraudulent use of Helen Wells' debit card in connection to that case. Prior to the Wellises' deaths, authorities have said Rogers was fired as housekeeper and told to stay away from the residence.

Wilkins said Rogers was the link connecting Rhodes to the Wellises. Wilkins characterized the double homicide as "violent" and "personal" in nature because of the significant number of postmortem wounds and a close-range gunshot to the face of Helen Wells.

"That's somebody who's got a beef — somebody who is upset, somebody who is mad," Wilkins said during his closing argument. "That is not a random char-

Art Crawl boosts Greenville culture

DONNA ISBELL WALKER
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Earlier this year, jeweler Kate Furman moved into her first public studio, a space at Greenville Center for Creative Arts in West Greenville's Pendleton Arts District.

The move gave her a chance to connect with fellow artists, but it also offered a new visibility for her art, a place where potential clients can find her work.

What's sheep particularly nice for Furman is the increased traffic that comes around once a month during the Black





USC coach search: Will Muschamp gets interview, 1B



Running backs will play big roles in ACC championship, 1B

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2015

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FORECAST: 100% SUNNY 55° 40-56°

The State

Consultant proposes spending \$5.3 million on Confederate flag display

The plan would have to be funded by the Legislature

Commission must make recommendation by Jan. 1

BY JESSICA KERNIN
jessica.kernin@the-state.com

A consultant has prepared a \$5.3 million project to create a display and memorial for the Confederate battle flag that was removed from the State House grounds this summer.

The plan -- which would have to be approved and funded by the state Legislature -- would utilize a 4,600-square-



WCL/STN News

Proposed Confederate flag display and memorial to Confederate soldiers

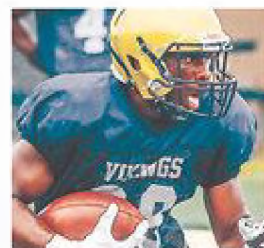
foot second-story room in the old textile mill on Gervais Street that houses both the State Museum and the S.C. Confed-

erate Relic Room and Military Museum.

The use of the now-empty Orangee Room, directly above the Relic Room, would increase the size of that small military museum by about one-third and allow curators to also display and interpret authentic Confederate flags and other items now in storage.

Watson Tate Savoy Architects Inc. of Columbia, along with British consultant Haley Sharpe Design, offered the first peek at the proposal Thursday morning during a meeting of the new S.C. Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum Commission. The consultants proposed spending \$416,000 a year to upgrade the expanded exhibit, the vast majority of which would be rent paid

SEE CONFEDERATE, 7A



PREP FOOTBALL BIG CHALLENGE FOR LEXINGTON

Lexington coach Josh Stepp is coming up with a plan to slow down the Spartanburg offense, led by running back Tavien Feaster, who was named S.C.'s Mr. Football on Thursday, 1B

Commission approves step toward Interstate 73

BY CLAYTON DUNN
AND JAMMY FLETCHER
clayton.dunn@the-state.com

The S.C. Department of Transportation Commission revised efforts Thursday to build Interstate 73, a controversial freeway long sought as a way to bring tourists to the Grand Strand.

The commission approved a new plan that members hope will appease environmental concerns about the project. The plan calls for preserving Gunter's Island in Horry County in exchange for wetlands that would be destroyed during construction of the interstate.

NOTE INSIDE
U.S. House approves bill that would pump funds for road repair to SC, 4B
This gets the road directly on the path to construction," said Transportation Department Commissioner Mike Wooten, who represents Horry and surrounding counties.

Huge hurdles, however, remain before construction can begin.

First, a federal wetlands permit must be approved. Even if the state gets that green light, paying for the project has yet to be resolved.

The portion of I-73 in South Carolina is expected to cost about \$2.4 billion, including about \$1 billion for the section from I-95 to near Myrtle Beach. About \$46.5 million

FESTIVE IN FIVE POINTS



Tashera Williams (left), Theresa Smith, Tamiyah Williams and Shayla Weeks make a



PALMETTO POLITICS EVERYONE STOPS AT TOMMY'S

Greenville restaurant marks 30 years in business, has become the place for GOP candidates making stops along the campaign trail, 3C



SC LEGISLATURE GETTING A JUMP

Prefiled legislation for the 2016 session of the General Assembly



Fahey: Red Rooster moving to bigger spot **7B**

The Beaufort Gazette

FRIDAY, December 4, 2015

beaufortgazette.com

Established in 1897 75 cents

Vigil to urge peace, communication

Beaufort native organizes event, which is part of a broader effort to address violence

By STEPHEN FASTENAU
sfastenau@beaufortgazette.com
843-706-8182

Rose Bing-Ferguson grew weary hearing of the violence in her hometown and surrounding areas.

The Beaufort native has organized a candlelight vigil in Washington Street Park at 4 p.m. Saturday. She was born

and raised a couple of blocks away.

"I just wanted to do something to help, to spread the word to try and stop all the violence that's been going on," said Bing-Ferguson, who has lived in Nashville, Tenn., for the past 15 years and says she is in the process of moving home.

The vigil is part of a broader effort

that includes other community groups in Beaufort and Jasper counties.

Representatives from "Beaufort Strong," a group that organized following the shooting death of Steven Brown on Oct. 31, are expected to attend as are representatives of Citizens Against Violence Everywhere and the city of Beaufort and area pas-

sions, Ferguson said.

Brown was shot and killed in an early morning incident outside Elks Lodge on Church Street. Two other men were wounded in the shooting.

The shooting is still under investigation.

Please see VIGIL on B1.

IF YOU GO

The candlelight vigil will be at 4 p.m. Saturday in Washington Street Park.

THURSDAY'S DEVELOPMENTS IN CALIFORNIA SHOOTING RAMPAGE

The attackers have been identified as **Syed Rizwan Farook**, a 28-year-old county restaurant inspector, and his wife, **Tashfeen Malik**, 27.

The couple left behind pipe bombs that apparently malfunctioned and had **thousands of bullets** in their car and home.

The FBI has taken over the investigation and is looking into why the couple **left behind their 6-month-old daughter** and went on the rampage.

Authorities say **first 21 people were injured**, including two police officers. Two of the wounded were listed in critical condition.

WIDESPREAD INVESTIGATION

All jobs open to military women

Defense Secretary Ash Carter's order rebuffed requests by the Marine Corps to exclude women from certain combat jobs.

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After three years of study and debate, Defense Secretary Ash Carter ordered the military Thursday to open all military jobs to women, removing the final barriers that kept women from serving in combat, including the most dangerous and grueling commando posts.

His landmark decision rebuffed requests by the Marine Corps to exclude women from certain infantry and combat jobs and signaled a formal recognition that thousands of women served, and many were wounded or killed, in the last 14 years of war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We are a joint force, and I have decided to make a decision which applies to the entire force," Carter told a news conference.

But he acknowledged some concerns "about

"I didn't lose my legs in a bar fight — of course women can serve in combat. This decision is long overdue."

U.S. Rep. Timmy Duckworth, R-Ill.

SCENE OF INITIAL SHOOTING



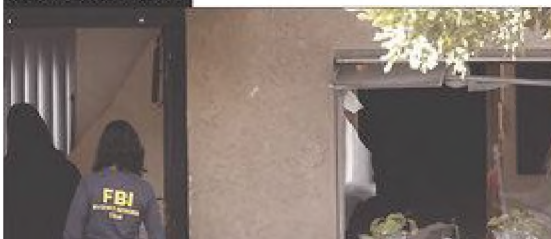
An FBI crime scene truck remains on scene at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino, Calif., on Thursday.

SCENE OF SHOOTOUT



On Thursday, authorities continue to investigate the scene of a police shootout in San Bernardino, Calif.

SUSPECTS' HOME



SUSPECTS' VEHICLE



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50 CENTS

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Coker College lacrosse team pitches in to help community

BY MARK A. HASELDEN
mhaselden@hartsvillemessenger.com

John Wall knows who to ask if he needs some help putting on an event like a 5K race, a Halloween festival or a comedy basketball game.

It's a sure bet Wall, director of the North Darlington County Recreation Department, is going to give Coker College men's lacrosse coach David Oliver a call.

"Coach Oliver and his young men have been a blessing to the different departments and Darlington County Parks and Recreation in general," Wall said. "The team has

been intertwined with us as we seek to enhance the quality of life in the community."

At the Hartsville Area Recreation annual Halloween carnival, the team ran games and the haunted room. During the Darlington County Parks and Recreation Run For Your Life 5K, players scattered themselves over the course and dressed as zombies so they could startle runners. At the recent Harlem Rockets comedy basketball event, the lacrosse players worked the ticket windows, ushered fans, checked tickets and worked the scorer's table.

"Coach O runs a great program

as evidenced by their conference championship last season," Wall said. "They are champions in the community, as well."

Oliver and his team don't mind one bit pitching a helping hand when they might have more desirable things to do on a weekend evening or morning.

After all, the Cobras use Hartsville's Dyerly Park for practice at no cost.

"So a lot of times, the rec department is like our main focus for community service to not only get people introduced to our sport and in



Nick Maddox, left, and Adam Messy sell basketballs to fans at the Harlem Rockets basketball game Nov. 12.

See LACROSSE, Page 5A

Julia Russell volunteers to stay young

BY ARDIE ARVIDSON
arvidson@hartsvillemessenger.com

Julia Russell, a volunteer with the Auxiliary of Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center, has logged more than 2,000 volunteer hours at the hospital since she started.

Most of those hours have been spent in the Cardiac Rehab Center.

"I do mostly filing," she said. "I've been doing this for about five years."

In 2000, Russell had a pacemaker put in, and afterwards, her doctor encouraged her to work out at the Cardiac Rehab Center.

"I'm working on my second pacemaker, and I'm due for a third one sometime next year," said the energetic 91-year-old Hartsville resident.

At the urging of a friend who volunteered at the front desk, Russell decided to volunteer in the rehab center.

"She had to twist my arm a little to get me to try it, but I'm glad she

See RUSSELL, Page 5A



Julia Russell is a volunteer in the Cardiac Rehab Center at Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center.

Hartsville on parade



Members of KFA Dance and Gymnastics show off their routines during last year's Christmas parade.

HARTSVILLE MESSENGER FILE

Christmas parade to bring together community organizations

From staff reports

The Hartsville community's greatest holiday tradition will arrive next Saturday, Dec. 12 as the Hartsville Christmas parade rolls onto South Fifth Street with more than 50 schools, churches, businesses, and other local organizations.

The 2015 parade, sponsored by SPC Credit Union, North Industrial Machine and Sonoma, will begin at 10:30 a.m.

This incredible community spectacle, which also celebrates Hartsville's first responders, marching bands, dance groups, elected officials and local Sheriffs organizations, will feature the HUTC cadets of Hartsville High School serving as color guard, as well as Santa Claus riding along with the Hartsville Fire Department.

"It will be a busy day in Hartsville," Jessica Cohen, tourism



Cadets of the Hartsville High School JROTC lead the 2014 Hartsville Christmas parade.

Avenue. The route will then turn left again onto North Fifth



VIKINGS' QB SCOTT NAMED GATORADE POY

SPORTS, B1



VIKINGS' RB FEASTER IS SC'S MR. FOOTBALL

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Friday, December 4, 2015



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TODAY SAT SUN



55°/33° 57°/35° 56°/37°

Complete forecast, B8

UPSTATE

Christmas party special for different reasons

The Children's Security Blanket annual Christmas party is an event that is special to people for different reasons. The local nonprofit helps the families of children who have been diagnosed with cancer. C1

Price tag for flag display put at \$5M

Taxpayers may be shelling out more than \$5 million for a new Confederate flag display at a museum. A proposal given initial approval Thursday would renovate the state's Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum, adding an entirely new second-floor room that would display dozens of other Confederate flags, uniforms and memorabilia that's currently in storage. C1



Wofford coach honored by Kiwanis

Wofford College head football coach Mike Ayers' commitment to helping young men be successful on and off the playing field has earned him the highest honor given by the Kiwanis Club of Spartanburg. C3

BUSINESS



CALIFORNIA SHOOTINGS THE SUSPECTS

Attackers had thousands of bullets

By Amanda Lee Myers
and Justin Pritchard
The Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. — San Bernardino gunman Syed Rizwan Farook had been in contact with known Islamic extremists on social media, a U.S. intelligence official said Thursday, and police said he and his wife had enough bullets and bombs to slaughter hundreds when they launched their deadly attack on a holiday party.

The details emerged as investigators tried to determine whether the rampage that left 14 people dead was terrorism, a workplace grudge or some combination.

The husband-and-wife



Farook

killers were not under FBI scrutiny before the massacre, said a second U.S. official, who likewise spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the investigation.

Wearing black tactical gear and wielding assault rifles, Farook, a 28-year-old county restaurant inspector, and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, 27, sprayed as many as 75 rounds into a room at a social service center for the disabled, where Farook's co-workers had gathered for a holiday



A small memorial is set up across from the Inland Regional Center on Thursday in San Bernardino, Calif., a day after a mass shooting at the location. JAMES QUIGG/THE VICTOR VALLEY DAILY PRESS

SEE ATTACK, A11

DOWNTOWN SPARTANBURG HOLIDAY EVENT

Hundreds fill streets for A Dickens of a Christmas

By Alyssa Muliger
alyssa.muliger@shj.com

With holiday lights all aglow and the smell of goodies filling the air, the annual A Dickens of a Christmas did not disappoint.

Hundreds of people bundled in coats, scarves and toboggans filled downtown Spartanburg to watch street performers, listen to musicians and taste holiday-themed treats. Many spectators were entranced by ballet dancers performing in shop windows, while small children laughed at magicians entertaining the crowd.

Victorian era-themed demonstrations and decorations were a highlight of the event. The area was transformed in honor of Charles Dickens Christmas classic "A Christmas Carol."

Jenessa Eubanks and Katherine Wojcik felt encouraged to dress the part. Eubanks, of Cross Anchor, and Wojcik, of Boiling Springs, were dressed as British and French carolers, respectively. They have attended the event for a few years.



The 22nd annual A Dickens of a Christmas Victorian-era holiday celebration, held along Main Street and Morgan Square in downtown Spartanburg on Thursday evening, included the lighting of the city's official Christmas tree, horse-drawn carriage rides, performances by Ballet Spartanburg and



Preview Lakelands basketball before the season begins

Sports, 1B

INDEX-JOURNAL

Vol. 17, No. 320

indexjournal.com

2 SECTIONS, 20 PAGES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2015

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

GCSO seizes 17 dogs from home Humane Society of Greenwood needs foster homes

By DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ
ddominguez@indexjournal.com

Dogs were seized from a woman's home Thursday after the Greenwood County Sheriff's Office investigated a report of a stolen dog.

Nine adult dogs and eight puppies were taken by deputies from the woman's home and taken to the Humane Society of Greenwood, said Capt. Dale Kittles.

Danielle Balady, 32, of 97 Highway 178 S., Saluda, was arrested Thursday and charged with larceny.

"This is the first time we've dealt

To help

■ For anyone interested in temporarily fostering an animal, email achandler@gvhumanesociety.org.

■ For adoptions, visit the Humane Society of Greenwood at 235 Wilbur's Circle, or call the adoption center at 864-942-8775.

with something of this magnitude," said Karen Petray, executive director of Humane Society of Greenwood.

The 16 pit-mix dogs seized were malnourished, Kittles said. An investigation will continue into Balady, he said.

One of the male dogs was the most underweight of all the seized animals,

said Amanda Chandler, receiving secretary for the Humane Society.

"He was on a chain that weighed more than him," she said. "They all devoured any amount of food we put out for them."

All of the dogs were dehydrated and underweight, she said. Many of See DOGS, page 4A



JOHN K. HARRIS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

One of 17 dogs seized by the Greenwood County Sheriff's Office looks out from a fence Thursday at its temporary home at the Greenwood Animal Shelter.

THE LOVE FLOAT



Melinda Todd, left, and Steven Todd show photos from their albums Thursday while telling the story of how they wed during the 1995 Greenwood Christmas Parade.

JOSHUA S. KOSOV/INDEX JOURNAL

Couple celebrates their marriage in style

By MARY KATE MCGOWAN
mmcgowan@indexjournal.com

Melinda and Steven Todd's wedding 20 years ago was standing room only for their guests.

But instead of tying the knot in

a church or in a rustic barn, the couple celebrated their union by getting married during the 1995 Greenwood Christmas parade.

Melinda Todd said they joked with each other throughout the route and said, "Did you think there would be so many people at our wedding?"

The Todds, who live in Cross Hill, had planned to get married on Feb. 10, 1990, but just formal owner Ian Langley reached out to the couple, and just formal sponsored the wedding and bought Melinda Todd's dress and took care of the rental trucks.

"She fulfilled my

dreams," Melinda Todd said.

The 1995 parade was not the only time Melinda Todd, 51, graced the just formal float — she modeled a dress in the 1994 parade while Steven Todd, 50, drove the truck. Melinda Todd

See FLOAT, page 4A

■ CITY PAY

Consumer price index plays role in wage hikes

By COLIN RIDDLE
criddle@indexjournal.com

The city of Greenwood is looking to provide wage increases to employees in next year's budget, in part to account for the often changing cost of living.

A measure used to anticipate cost-of-living adjustments — changes in pay to account for the changes in day-to-day expenses everyone faces — is the consumer price index. The metric is tracked by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and measures changes in the prices paid by urban consumers for a number of goods and services, such as milk, bread, rent and gas.

"I think they are a good representation of what's going on in the economy as a whole to keep us relative to everything else as far as our pay," City Manager Charlie Barrineau said.

The metric limits the amount of millage a local government can increase each year under a state law known as Act 388.

The statute uses consumer price index and population growth to determine caps on millage increases. Those numbers are pulled by the state Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office for local governments.

"These are not numbers we have created locally. These are numbers that have been given to us by the state, which is given to them by the



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