

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
To:
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The Post and Courier

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Friday, January 6, 2017

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Jury hears Roof's hate-filled jail manifesto

Killer objects to 'excessive' tributes to victims, saying they could taint trial

BY GLENN SMITH,
ABIGAIL DARLINGTON
and JENNIFER BERRY HAWES
The Post and Courier

A strange letter from Dylann Roof referencing copcat suicides spurred a jailhouse search that led investigators to

a manifesto in which he took credit for his killings and sought to set the record straight about his racist motivations and actions, according to testimony Thursday.

Lauren Knapp, an intelligence officer with the Charleston County Sheriff's Office, told a federal jury that officials

decided to search Roof's solitary cell after she came across the letter from the 22-year-old white supremacist while screening mail at the county jail.

The two-page letter stood out because it contained sections that did not appear to be in normal handwriting. She searched online and saw the writings were from a book related to the so-called "Werther effect," a term applied to suicide contagion.

In his cell, investigators found a batch of racist, xenophobic and homophobic

Inside

Judge indefinitely delays
Dylann Roof's state trial. A5

biotic writings and drawings that railed against Jews, Hispanics, blacks, gays and others. This new manifesto, penned about six weeks after he gunned down nine people at Charleston's Emanuel AME Church in June 2015, built on earlier writings he posted online just

hours before the mass shooting. Roof wrote that he felt the need to complete his thoughts because he had been in a rush that day.

Knapp read the manifesto in full to the jury, including portions in which Roof made it "crystal clear" that he has no regrets for killing the black parishioners who had welcomed him into their weekly Bible study. Sacrificing his freedom was worth it, he wrote, and he shed

Please see **ROOF**, Page A5

Graham on Putin: Time to 'throw rocks'



Director of National Intelligence James Clapper (left) talks with National Security Agency and Cyber Command chief Adm. Michael Rogers on Capitol Hill in Washington on Thursday at the conclusion of a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing: "Foreign Cyber Threats to the United States."

Senator confronts Trump about election interference

BY EMMA DUMAINE
edumaine@postandcourier.com

WASHINGTON — U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham has been diplomatic in criticisms of President-elect Donald Trump since his unexpected White House victory.

But on Thursday, the South Carolina Republican made it clear he would not be polite when confronted with Trump's refusal to acknowledge Russian interference in the 2016 election.

At a highly anticipated

Congressional hearing in the Senate Armed Services Committee where the nation's top intelligence officials testified on cyberthreats, Graham pledged an aggressive response to those who would seek to undermine American democracy.

Please see **GRAHAM**, Page A6



Graham

Intel chief confident Russia interfered in U.S. election

BY HEILEEN SULLIVAN
and RICHARD LARDNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Brushing aside Donald Trump's dismissiveness, the nation's intelligence chief insisted Thursday that U.S. agencies are more confident than ever that Russia interfered in America's recent presidential election. And he called the former Cold War foe an "existential threat" to the nation.

Did Russian hacking sway the

results? There's no way for U.S. agencies to know, said James Clapper, the director of national intelligence.

Asked about the possible effect of the disclosure of private information stolen by hackers, Clapper said, "The intelligence community can't gauge the impact it had on the choices the electorate made." But he did say Russian hacking "did not change any vote tallies."

Clapper's testimony to the Senate

Massey: Corley should be ousted

Urges expulsion from House over charges

BY MAYA T. PRABHU
mprabhu@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — S.C. Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey told a room of reporters on Thursday that if Rep. Chris Corley does not resign his seat, House members should move to expel him.

Corley, R-Graniteville, was indicted Wednesday on charges of domestic violence of a high and aggravated nature and pointing and presenting a firearm — both felonies — after being accused last week of beating his wife in front of his children and threatening to kill her.

"The only thing worse than a high and aggravated indictment is murder," Massey, R-Edgefield, said. "You don't get any higher than that unless you kill somebody."

Corley, 36, initially was charged with first-degree domestic violence.

A judge issued Corley a \$20,000 bond last week. As a condition of his release, Magistrate Judge Melanie James DuBose ordered him to stay away from his wife and not to possess a firearm.

House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Hartsville, suspended Corley from his position after the official indictment, in accordance with state law.

Massey said he understood that an indictment was not a conviction, but things operate differently in the political world than they do the criminal world.

"Those folks in Graniteville and Beech Island and Jackson, they need representation in the House and they shouldn't be embarrassed by the

Please see **MASSEY**, Page A7

Inside

BUSINESS

Southwest Airlines to cater

USC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Gamecocks rout Auburn 73-47

USC's Kaela Davis scores 19 points in SEC victory, 1B



BRUNN ANDERSON/Associated Press

PALMETTO

A Disney TV show inspired USC scholar's Swamp Fox passion, 1C

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TWITTER.COM/@THESTATE



TODAY: MOSTLY CLOUDY; RAIN HI 50° LO 31°
YESTERDAY: HI 60° LO 32° PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 0"
FORECAST, 2A

The State

Let the grocery games begin

'People in Columbia don't get a lot of snow, so when they get threats of it, they go wild'

BY SARAH ELLES
selles@thestate.com

Even if it's just a dusting of snow in the Midlands this weekend, folks already are stocking up on the staples — and sleds!

Columbia-area grocery and hardware stores were busy, though not necessarily hectic, Thursday ahead of wintry weather predicted overnight Friday and Saturday. And they expect to see even more shoppers Friday.

ONLINE

THESTATE.COM: National Weather Service meteorologist Dan Miller discusses snow's impact on the Midlands.

MORE INSIDE

Cancellations and rescheduled events, 6A

Preparing for the worst is better than dealing with the consequences of being unprepared, said Melissa Brown, assistant manager at Ace Hardware on State Street in Cayce. While some of the store's

older customers express dread at the possibility of snow or ice, Brown said, the younger crowd and those with children are gearing up for, hopefully, a little fun.

"We've sold a lot of sleds today," she said. "If it gets worse, we're just going to sell our trashcan lids."

Columbia could receive about half an inch to an inch of snow, beginning to fall early Saturday morning through about lunch-



FILE PHOTOGRAPH / THE STATE

In February 2014, Will Seigler sleds down an icy hill at Crayton Middle School in Columbia.

SEE SNOW, 7A

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Williams: 'He's back here for a reason'

■ Clemson football wide receiver Mike Williams might have grown from good prospect into first-round NFL Draft pick, but his high school coach knew it could happen.

BY BEN BREINER
bbreiner@thestate.com

Chris Carter knew this was possible. The former Lake Marion coach shepherded current Clemson star wide receiver Mike Williams through his high school years, watching the tall and talented small-town kid grow and develop. And at the end of four years, he told Williams something.

"What he's going to be able to do, it's going to be a lot different when he gets to college," Carter said this



CHURCH SLAYINGS

New diary excerpts dig deeper into Roof's hatreds

■ More entries from Roof's jailhouse journal were presented Thursday to the jury that will decide if Roof lives or dies.

BY JOHN MONK
AND CYNTHIA ROLDAN
jmonk@thestate.com, croldan@thestate.com

CHARLESTON

Dylann Roof's writings revealed on Thursday horrific new depths to his white supremacy fixations, violent tendencies and hatred of Jews, blacks, gays, Muslims and Hispanics. "I believe one day that Adolph Hitler will be inducted as a saint," Roof wrote in new excerpts disclosed from a pocket-sized diary he kept in his cell.

MORE INSIDE

Dan Simmons It was bothered by doubt. Why hadn't his father used the gun he usually carried when Dylann Roof opened fire? Page 6A

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

CLEMSON REMATCH ALABAMA

The bonus round

Dabo Swinney



• Earned
\$1.3M Potential
\$100K

- Win ACC title **\$150K**
- 11 regular-season wins **\$150K**
- Play in CFP semifinal game **\$400K**
- Play in CFP title game **\$400K**
- Rank No. 5-1 **\$200K**
- Win CFP title game **\$100K**

Nick Saban



• Earned
\$425K Potential
\$100K

- Win SEC title **\$125K**
- Play in CFP semifinals **\$200K**
- Play in CFP title game **\$100K**
- Win CFP title **\$100K**

MANIE ROBINSON
SPORTS COLUMNIST

Clemson University coach Dabo Swinney answered the million-dollar question, and now, he has advanced to the extra bonus round.

Swinney is one step away from maxing out one of the largest performance incentive packages among college coaches. By directing Clemson to the College Football Playoff national championship game, Swinney has earned \$1.3 million in bonuses, above his base compensation. With a victory against Alabama on Monday, Swinney could secure his first national championship and an additional \$100,000 bonus.

Swinney received \$150,000 for directing Clemson past the 11-win benchmark, another \$150,000 for winning his third Atlantic Coast Conference championship and another \$400,000 for reaching the Playoff.

To that total of \$700,000, Swinney

added another \$400,000 for Clemson's 31-0 rout of Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl semifinal last week. That victory essentially guaranteed Swinney the \$200,000 bonus promised if Clemson closes the 2016 season ranked in the Top 5 of the either the USA TODAY Sports America coaches poll or the Associated Press poll.

Alabama coach Nick Saban has earned \$425,000 for returning to the national title game. He would earn another \$100,000 for repeating as national champion.

An additional \$100,000 may seem like a simple cherry on top of Swinney's championship pie, but performance incentive payments can be major budget hits for programs. Clemson paid \$2.3 million in bonuses, including \$1.1 million to Swinney, last year.

Athletic departments have employed a savvy strategy to offset

See **BONUS**, Page 7A



INSIDE

Championship game tickets hard to find. **Page 3A**

Five sons hope to make Clemson national title a family tradition. **Page 1C**

ONLINE TODAY

See the Clemson Tigers depart for Tampa from the WestZone of Memorial Stadium at 1 p.m. Friday at The Greenville News Facebook page.

CLEMSON QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You can't knock 'em down, you've got to knock 'em out. They're the champions."

DABO SWINNEY
TALKING ABOUT ALABAMA

Murder suspect's mom talks to families, apologizes

Group gathers to pray before going into court

MICHAEL BURNS
MBURNS@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

In a purple coat, cream-colored mittens and toboggan, oxygen tube in her nose, Regina Tague crossed a doorway in the Spartanburg County Courthouse Thursday morning to speak with family members of people allegedly killed by her son, Todd Kohlhepp.

The 70-year-old left her seat in a walker and spent more than 10 minutes talking and fielding questions from them, and at one point, they prayed together before entering a courtroom where Kohlhepp passed through in an orange jumpsuit without saying a word.

"I just said I'm sorry," Tague said. "This is the first time I've been out of the house. I was sitting over there, and they were sitting over here, and I just wanted to come over face to face and tell them I'm sorry. I'm sorry my son did this. It doesn't right it. It doesn't help them any, I'm sure."

Terry Guy, whose wife and stepson are among the seven alleged victims Kohlhepp is charged with killing, was not moved by Tague as she spoke softly and occasionally sobbed.

"She pretended to cry, but I didn't see any tears," Guy said. "I told her that her son has to pay for what he did on this earth and when he dies."

Tague's attorney, Albert Smith, filed a motion to remove her as Kohlhepp's power of attorney following a hearing for a lawsuit filed by Kala Brown, an Anderson woman Kohlhepp allegedly held chained inside a cage within a storage

See **FAMILIES**, Page 4A



LAUREN PETRACCA
Todd Kohlhepp's mother prays with family members of people who were killed, allegedly by her son.

Winter storm warning issued for Upstate

Greenville School system cancels weekend events

ANNA LEE
ALEE@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

Preparations for a winter storm that could drop between 4-6 inches of snow on the Upstate have already begun.

The National Weather Service in Greer has issued a winter storm warning for heavy snow from 7 p.m. Friday to 1 p.m. Saturday.

Rain will change to a mix of snow and sleet at this time, before changing to dry

to all snow tonight and into Saturday morning, according to the Weather Service.

A winter storm warning for heavy snow means severe winter weather conditions are expected, making travel dangerous.

Greenville County Schools canceled or postponed all Saturday and Sunday events, including the regional band event at Greer High School and an orchestra competition in Lexington, ahead of the storm, district officials announced Thursday night. A decision will be made by noon today about Friday night activities, including basketball, and the district spokeswoman Beth Brotherton said.

State and local work crews were hitting the roads early Thursday night to pre-treat bridges and overpasses as well as interstates and other major routes.

In the city of Greenville, crews will work off a priority list of locations to clear and treat if necessary, said Public Works Director Mike Murphy.

"The list includes the 35 bridges located within the city limits, major thoroughfares with steep grades, parking garage entrances and major intersections," Murphy said.

Beth's son will not be permitted on Main

Street from the Hyatt Regency Hotel to Fluor Field beginning 11:30 p.m. Friday through 8 a.m. Saturday in order to allow crews to remove any snow that has accumulated, Murphy added.

Meanwhile, Greenlink public transportation is monitoring the weather forecast and will make a determination about Saturday bus service today.

School district maintenance crews were busy Thursday distributing ice melt and other supplies to more than 100 schools to use on sidewalks, parking lots and bus loops, according to Brotherton.

See **STORM**, Page 4A

KOHLHEPP'S MOM MEETS FAMILIES

She apologized and prayed with relatives of the people her son is accused of killing. **3A**



Independent Mail

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2017

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

Anderson could see 2-6 inches of snow

MIKE ELLIS
MIKE.ELLIS@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

The National Weather Service has issued a winter storm warning for heavy snow, in the Upstate and surrounding areas, from 7 p.m. Friday until 1 p.m. Saturday.

The warning, issued around 3 p.m., calls for more accumulation than previous forecasts with up to 6 inches of snow in the region that could make many roads impassable, although some areas

are expected to get less snow, said John Tomko, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Greer.

Tomko said forecasts call for 2-6 inches of snow in the Anderson County area, with the city of Anderson expected to be on the lower end of snowfall in the region at 3.2 inches.

The most snow in Anderson County is expected in the northern parts, with 4.3 inches and the least in the southern parts with about 2.3 inches.

The first flakes in the area will likely

fall Friday evening, continuing and spreading across Anderson County by midnight and continuing until the middle of the day Saturday, Tomko said.

The most snow in the state is expected to fall in the mountains near the border of North Carolina, with 7 to 8 inches, Tomko said.

"The I-85 corridor will get a pretty good beating," he said.

Pierce Womack III, deputy Pickens County Emergency Management director, said emergency services are

focusing more on possible rain and ice on Saturday night than the snow expected Friday night into Saturday morning.

People should avoid roads if at all possible late Saturday and make plans well in advance to stay home, said Scott Krein, emergency management director for Oconee County.

"On the first night, everyone stays in and on the second night everyone thinks the roads are OK and they'll go out, and

See FORECAST, Page 4A



Bob Brower and Rick Breazeale plan to "camp" in Tampa for Clemson's championship game.

ABE HARDESTY/INDEPENDENT MAIL

Troopers to stop handing out grief books

NIKIE MAYO
NIKIE.MAYO@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

The South Carolina Department of Public Safety is going to stop giving a book to people whose family members are killed in car wrecks after an Anderson resident complained about the book's religious content.

The American Humanist Association contacted the state agency Wednesday with a letter saying that the book, "A Time to Grieve," violates the First Amendment by promoting Christianity. According to the letter, an Anderson woman who identifies as an atheist received the book from the state Department of Public Safety several weeks after her father died of injuries suffered in an October car wreck. The woman sought the association's help to send a complaint to the state.

The woman's identity is not disclosed in the letter, and officials with the association said this week that she does not want to speak publicly about the incident.

The association's letter cites multiple examples of religious messages in the book, including a Bible passage from Psalms: "Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am faint; O LORD, heal me, for my bones are in agony. My soul is in anguish. How long, O LORD, how long?"

The book includes a passage that says "Even if your hold on God seems to slip at times—don't worry. God has a firm hold on you." The book also includes a chapter called "If God Seems Far Away."

"This is a clear establishment-clause violation," David Niose, legal director of the American Humanist Association, said in a Wednesday interview, before the state agency's decision had been announced. "This is

See BOOKS, Page 4A

Tickets hard to find

Expensive or not, Clemson fans plan trips to Florida

ABE HARDESTY
ABE.HARDESTY@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

Melinda Keaton, a Clemson University sophomore when the Tigers upset Nebraska to win its first national football championship in 1981, lacked the resources to see the that Orange Bowl game 35 years ago.

"I said that if they ever get back to a national championship game, I'm going to go," Keaton said.

But when the team reached the NCAA title game last January, financial reality once again blocked the dream. Not only were the tickets expensive (the average ticket price was \$675, ac-

Clemson coverage

For more on the Tigers, see page 1B and 5A, and visit independentmail.com and orangeandwhite.com.

Florida, where Clemson will face defending champ Alabama at 65,890-seat Raymond James Stadium. Keaton plans to be in one of them.

"I stayed home last year and started saving my money and hoping and praying that they'd end up in Tampa," said Keaton, who serves as the president of the Anderson Area Clemson Alumni Club.

Ambush Tailgaters," who have been gathering at Clemson football games regularly since 1980.

"A lot of us didn't make it to Arizona last week," she said apologetically, "but this trip is doable. I think a lot of Clemson fans are going to be driving south this weekend."

Among them will be three Welborn brothers — Wes, Reid and Joey — who are part of a 10-person party that plans to begin the trip Saturday morning in two cars. Wes and Reid lead the operation of Welborn Tire & Automotive in Anderson, where they typically avoid being away from the job at the same time.



STUDENTS SHARE MOROCCO EXPERIENCE

UPSTATE, C1



CLEMSON'S OFFENSE A TWO-MAN JOB

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Friday, January 6, 2017



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TODAY **SAT** **SUN**

45°/28° 35°/15° 36°/10°

Complete forecast, B8

WINTER WEATHER

Upstate readies for snow

Spartanburg agencies prepare to aid those in need

By Alyssa Mulliger
alyssa.mulliger@shj.com

Lou Sartor was busy arranging boxes of nonperishable food items at the Spartanburg Soup Kitchen Thursday afternoon in anticipation of the Upstate's first major winter weather event.

Sartor, executive director of

the soup kitchen, said the boxes are part of the Food Lion Feeds "Holidays Without Hunger" campaign and will be distributed to people in need in the coming days. Snow is expected to begin tonight.

"We're going to watch the weather and in case someone

SEE AID, A4

Area could see 4-6 inches beginning tonight into Saturday

By Allison M. Roberts
allison.roberts@shj.com

What to expect

Lauren Visin, meteorologist with the National Weather Service at Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport, said snowfall totals are currently expected to be between

4 to 6 inches. "The snow will likely start off as rain, probably some light rain as we head into the afternoon and evening," Visin said. "We have the transition happening about 10 p.m. A lot of the county starts to transition from rain to sleet and then into snow."

SEE SNOW, A4

UPSTATE



Legislators talk roads, pension, education

Lawmakers say road fixes, other issues hinge on new governor. C1.

NATION & WORLD

Hate-crime charges filed in filmed attack

Four black people were charged in connection with a video broadcast live on Facebook that showed a mentally disabled white man being beaten and taunted. A3

US intel chief: Russia interfered in election

James Clapper said there's no way for U.S. agencies to know if the actions swayed the results, and the hacking "did not change any vote tallies." A3

SPORTS



Victory costly for Wofford women

The Terriers won their SoCon opener against Western Carolina, but a couple of injuries could prove crucial. B1.

IN BRIEF

ACCUSED SERIAL KILLER TODD KOHLHEPP

Judge freezes assets



Todd Kohlhepp was escorted through the courtroom prior to Thursday's hearing in which a Spartanburg County judge froze the assets of the accused serial killer. JOHN BYRUM/SPARTANBURG HERALD-JOURNAL

BOND HEARING

Attorney says parents asked son to kill them

Belcher charged in November shooting deaths of couple

By Zach Fox
zach.fox@shj.com

Spartanburg County attorney Doug Brannon said a Boiling Springs man accused of killing his parents shot them only because they asked him to.

Stephen Belcher, 39, of 139

Peachtree Road, has been charged by the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office with two counts of

murder and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime.

Thursday morning, Belcher, represented by Brannon, was in court for a bond hearing before Circuit Court Judge Mark Hayes.

"Both his (Belcher's) wife, I believe, and his brother, heard the father, the deceased father, plead with my client to shoot them, to end their



Belcher

Mother also resigns power of attorney

SPORTS

Rock Hill's 18-0 first-quarter run keys a win 1B



LAKE WYLIE

Improving social skills and making friends 3A



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FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2017

\$1.00

Cloudy, rain
45°/27° See X

The Herald



Robert Rush watches salt pour into a solution Thursday at the South Carolina Department of Transportation maintenance department in Rock Hill. Trucks with the department spread the liquid solution throughout York County Thursday and expect to continue Friday.

WINTER WEATHER

Shelters extend hours, events canceled

Staff Reports

ROCK HILL

Shelters and charities in Rock Hill and York County are extending hours through the weekend so the homeless and others in need are indoors as temperatures drop to single digits.

Saturday night lows are expected to be around 14 degrees. Sunday night into Monday, temperatures could drop as low as 8 degrees, forecasters say.

Those temperatures could put the homeless in danger, advocates say.

The Renew Our Community, or ROC, center at 119 E. White St. in downtown Rock Hill will open Saturday during the day. The night men shelter at Bethel United Methodist Church will stay open all day Sunday, said James Jeter, director of collective impact at the United Way of York County.

Transportation between the sites will be provided. York County police agencies and others who come in contact with the homeless have been advised of the changes.

"We have planned to make sure people in need have a place to be all through the weekend," Jeter said.

Homeless shelters at Bethel UMC, The Haven and Salvation Army are close to capacity, Jeter said, but an overflow is available.

For information, call United Way of York County at 803-324-2735 or 211.

EVENTS CANCELED

A winter storm expected to dump as much as 5 inches of snow or more on the area Friday night through Saturday has caused events to be canceled or postponed.

• "Polter-Heist" Dinner Theater at USC-Lancaster campus

WEATHER WARNING

Storm may mean 'heavy snow,' power losses, bad roads for York, Chester, Lancaster

STAFF REPORTS

ROCK HILL

York, Chester and Lancaster counties are bracing for a potential winter storm Friday night through Saturday that could paralyze traffic and knock out power, forecasters and transportation officials said.

Weather forecasters are calling for as much as 6 inches of snow, while transportation offi-

cials say up to 8 inches is possible. Temperatures are expected to drop into the low teens Saturday night and could fall into the single digits Sunday night.

The National Weather Service issued a Winter Storm Warning on Thursday, meaning an imminent storm is likely Friday night and Saturday.

The storm is expected to bring "heavy snow" and will make some roads "impassable," the

weather service said.

Power outages could result from accumulated snow on limbs and power lines, weather forecasters said. York Electric Cooperative, one of three utility providers in York County, told customers Thursday that line-men will be on standby to work any outages.

Representatives with Duke Energy and the city of Rock Hill

SEE STORM, 8A



Lewis Brazell mixes a salt solution Thursday at the South Carolina Department of Transportation maintenance department in Rock Hill.

SEE WEATHER, 8A

CHRISTMASVILLE

So how much did 4-day holiday festival make for Rock Hill?

BY DAVID THACKSHAM
dthacksham@heraldonline.com

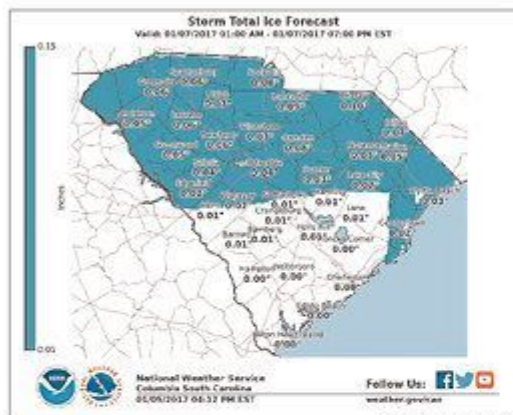
A soggy weekend didn't scare away many festivalgoers at Rock

35,000 who turned out despite rainy weather to enjoy a downtown parade.

Only about one of every 10 visitors said they stayed at least one night in a hotel during

Cathy Murphy, the city's downtown development manager, said Rock Hill did well attracting out-of-towners through Google AdWords and using social media, such as Facebook.





Aiken County is expected to get less than 1 inch of total snowfall, according to the National Weather Service in Columbia.

City, County prep for snow Plans in place to handle wintry weather

BY DEDE BILES
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

With a forecast calling for snow and frigid temperatures locally this weekend, Aiken County Emergency Management Director Paul Matthews was monitoring the situation closely Thursday.

"Some people from the American Red Cross came by today and we talked about what we would do in case we needed to open some shelters," Matthews said. "But from what I've been hearing and seeing, that's probably not going to happen. I've been sending weather briefings to the different agen-

cies that we coordinate with, and if we need to pull some folks into our Emergency Operations Center we will."

According to the National Weather Service in Columbia, there is a 50 percent chance of precipitation this afternoon. It will rise to 100 percent tonight, when the temperature will fall to around 33 degrees after a daytime high near 50.

A mixture of rain, snow and sleet is expected Saturday before 9 a.m. Then snow only will be likely until noon. After that, there is a chance of light rain.

The high will be close to 36 degrees, and the chance of precipitation will be 90 percent.

Inside

Winter weather emergency contact guide, 12A

Skies will be mostly clear Saturday night, and the low will be around 20.

"In the very northern portions of Aiken County, there might be 1 to 2 inches of snow," said Chris Rohrbaugh, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. "In the southern portion, we're looking at mostly a rain event. There may be some periods of

Please see SNOW, Page 10A

S.C. lieutenant governor post uncertain

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
AND MAAYAN SCHECHTER
ccleveland@aikenstandard.com,
mschechter@aikenstandard.com

COLUMBIA — South Carolina lawmakers said Thursday they were excited about the likely change of leadership in the state's top position next year following Gov. Nikki Haley's recent nomination to serve as U.N. ambassador for the United States.

S.C. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster would take the gubernatorial position if Haley is confirmed, though who would serve beside him should he become governor still seems unsettled.

Sen. Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, has said he won't take the lieutenant governor position should Haley become confirmed under President-elect Donald Trump's administration. Leatherman was recently re-elected to his leadership position in the Senate.

S.C. Sen. Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg, said S.C. Sen. Kevin Bryant, R-Anderson, has the votes in the Senate to be the next lieutenant governor.

But Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey told reporters the constitution is clear.

"To me, this is very clear. I think some people are having fun trying to muddy the waters. ... You look at the constitution, the president pro tem has one obligation, there's one, and that obligation is to become lieutenant governor if there's a vacancy."

This week, S.C. Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort, asked the S.C. Supreme Court to settle the confusion of whether a constitutional amendment changing the lines of succession is in effect. The

Please see POSITION, Page 10A

Area deaths

Pauline Landy Brown, Lanham, Md.
Earl T. Carlisle, Wagener
Melissa Diane Woodward, Windsor

Deaths and Funerals, 6A

Weather

State legislators urge Corley to resign



STAFF PHOTO BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER

South Carolina Senate Majority leader Sen. Shane Massey, R-Edgefield, left, said he would be surprised if Rep. Chris Corley didn't resign given his indictment on Wednesday on felony domestic violence and weapons charges. If Corley doesn't resign, Massey said he wouldn't be surprised if there are efforts of expulsion through the Legislature. Members of the House and Senate spoke to reporters on Thursday during a Legislative Workshop offered through the S.C. Press Association.

House could begin expulsion efforts if Corley doesn't resign

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER
AND CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
mschechter@aikenstandard.com,
ccleveland@aikenstandard.com

COLUMBIA — South Carolina Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey said pointedly if Rep. Chris Corley doesn't resign from the State House of Representatives given his indictment Wednesday on felony domestic violence and weapons charges, he wouldn't be surprised if there were expulsion efforts on the Legislature side.

Online

Watch our video online with this story at aikenstandard.com.

Hartsville, suspended Corley, 36, who represents District 84 in the House of Representatives, on Wednesday afternoon, after the South Carolina Attorney General's Office announced the indictment on charges of domestic violence of a high and aggravated nature and pointing and presenting a weapon

Corley is charged with punching his wife with a closed fist until she bled, then pointing a handgun at her before threatening to kill himself the night of Dec. 26 at the couple's Graniteville home.

The domestic violence charge carries a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, while the gun charge carries a sentence of up to five years in prison.

Corley was initially charged with a lesser charge of first-degree domestic violence. Massey told reporters Thursday

South Carolina Press Association that he would be surprised if Corley, who works as an attorney in Augusta, didn't resign. Massey also said if Corley doesn't resign, he wouldn't be surprised if there were efforts in the House for Corley's expulsion.

As of Thursday afternoon, Corley had not resigned from his elected seat. The Aiken Standard's attempts to reach Corley have been unsuccessful.

S.C. Rep. Tommy Pope, R-York,



Morning News

FRIDAY JANUARY 6, 2017

TODAY'S WEATHER

A couple of showers, rain to snow later. High 54, low 30. DETAILS 2A

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Weather update: Expect ice, freezing rain



BY MATTHEW ROBERTSON
Morning News
mrobertson@scnsw.com

The latest update on this weekend's winter storm has the chance of snow moving farther north and away from the Pee Dee but freezing rain and ice falling in its place.

Most of the Pee Dee was placed under a winter-storm watch Thursday.

The Thursday evening update shifted higher snowfall totals farther

northwest and expanded the freezing-rain-accumulation area, according to the National Weather Service.

The new snowfall graphic indicates that Hartsville and Bennettsville could receive 2-3 inches of snow but that Dillon, Marion and Florence should receive less than an inch and areas south and east of Florence and Marion could receive no snow.

"Highest snow accumulations are expected to occur north of a Darlington to Dillon to Ammon, N.C., line," said Steven Pfaff, warning coordination meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Wilmington, N.C.

"Highest ice accumulations are expected to occur north of a Johnsonville to Ash, N.C., to Surf City, N.C., line," according to the weather service.

Ice accumulation is forecast to be between a trace and one-tenth of an inch. For the northwestern

Pee Dee, today's rain will quickly change to sleet and freezing rain after midnight and then to snow by daybreak Saturday, ending late Saturday morning.

For the rest of the Pee Dee, the rain will slowly change to sleet and freezing rain around daybreak Saturday and end as snow showers Saturday afternoon.

Pfaff said there is increasing confidence that higher snow accumulations will

See **WEATHER**, Page 3A

Lawmakers: Schools need more funding, consolidation

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

COLUMBIA — Some legislators say more funding is needed to fix South Carolina's schools, and others say part of the answer could be consolidating some districts.

One of the hot-button issues in 2016 for South Carolina lawmakers was education reform and how to approach funding woes and a complete system overhaul. On Thursday, lawmakers met with members of the media to talk about the course for 2017.

One of the more extreme examples of school district failure in the state's "corridor of shame" — counties surrounding Interstate 95 that have notoriously low education rates — is Florence School District 4 in Timmonsville.

Florence 4 was taken over by the State Board of Education last year after more than a decade of abysmal test scores and low graduation rates. A potential remedy to Florence 4, among other failing districts in the state, is district consolidation.

With five school districts in Florence County, consolidation might be a natural move to help the struggling district. However, regardless of the recommendations from local and state officials, the Department of Education cannot force districts to merge.

Ultimately, it would require an act of the state legislature, which created the districts to begin with. Several lawmakers said Thursday that consolidation is a viable move.

Rep. Rita Allison, a Republican from Spartanburg and chairwoman of the House Education and Public Works Committee, has visited the area several times

Pairings Party



Brandi Williamson, a dance instructor for the competition, watches as numbers are drawn for song choices during the Pairings Party for the 2017 Dancing for Our Future Stars dance competition in the Floyd Center at Carolinas Hospital System on Thursday.

Partners meet at kickoff for Dancing for Our Future Stars



Chad Patterson chooses a number to determine song choice for his performance during the Pairings Party for the 2017 Dancing for Our Future Stars.

Dottie Handley watches a video of last year's dance performances.

BY MEGAN MAY
Morning News
mmay@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — A pairings party in the Floyd Center at Carolinas Hospital System kicked off the seventh annual Dancing for Our Future Stars on Thursday.

The event, formerly known as Dancing with the Stars of Florence, raises money for The School Foundation. Since 2000, The School Foundation has provided grants for students and teachers in Florence School District One.

"The teachers write the grants and ask for funds for innovative, creative projects," said Executive Director Debbie Hyler. "So many teachers have really great ideas, but their normal school budget doesn't allow them to pursue those."

Last year, the dancing competition raised over

Sears at Magnolia Mall to close

BY JOE PERRY
Morning News
jperry@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — With the Sears at Magnolia Mall named as one of 42 nationwide that will close as the parent company seeks firmer financial footing, business went on as usual Thursday as customers made purchases and perused merchandise — though employees were tight-lipped about the news.

An employee said the manager, Paul Brown, was not taking the news well.

"None of us are taking it well," she said.

Brown declined to comment. It is unknown how many Sears employees will be out of a job or when the store at 2710 David McLeod Blvd. will close its doors. The store's optical department and portrait studio have been dormant for some time.

Magnolia Mall's parent company is working to replace Sears at three of its properties, according to a statement from PREIT CEO Joseph Coradino, who said the store "recaptures" are an opportunity to enhance the shopping experience, drive traffic and create value with repositioning plans.

PREIT is finalizing a lease for an unnamed replacement tenant at Magnolia Mall, the statement said.

"The transactions are part of PREIT's plan to continue upgrading its properties following our aggressive portfolio disposition and repositioning program, which has created a quality platform that is more compelling to retailers," Coradino said.

In an email, Magnolia Mall senior marketing di-

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Hartsville Memorial Library

Tripp steps down as branch manager

BY ARDIE ARVIDSON
aarvidson@hartsvillemessenger.com

Audrey Tripp, branch manager of the Hartsville Memorial Library, has surrounded herself with books for most of her adult life, keeping an eye out for books that would appeal to all ages of patrons of the libraries where she worked.

Getting to explore new books for all ages has been one of the highlights of her library career.

Prior to landing in Hartsville, the native Up-state New Yorker moved numerous times with her husband, Dale, as he changed jobs, before taking over as vice president and general manager of Anderson Brass Company.

Tripp said she never had any problem finding jobs in libraries.

"I've been working in public libraries since 1981," she said. "It is always what I wanted to do."

In 2002, she was hired by the Darlington County Library System to fill in as a children's librarian, which led to a job with the Darlington branch in February 2003.

In June of 2006, Tripp moved to the Hartsville site as branch manager, a position she has held ever since.

"It is the first job that I have held for more than five years," she said.

After 10½ years, that will

all change on Wednesday as Tripp leaves her position at the Hartsville Library for another chapter in her life — not another job or move.

She said she is staying put in Hartsville and hopes to continue being a part of the library as a member of the Friends of the Library. She said she isn't calling this retirement.

"I don't intend to work for pay again," she said.

Hobbies and interests will

keep her busy, she added.

In addition to being a member of Friends, Tripp is a member of the Habitat for Humanity Board.

Deciding to leave the library was a difficult decision, Tripp said.

"All of the staff is unhappy with me and the patrons I have told are unhappy," she said. "I seem to be the only one who is happy."

Tripp doesn't intend to be idle or stay put for long.

She already has travel

plans for 2017 that will take up 10 weeks of her year. These plans factored into her decision to leave her job. She said it wouldn't be fair to her staff for them to have to take up slack while she is away.

Her first trip is to Williamsburg, Virginia, to take a class in making miniature dollhouse furniture, the first of several workshops planned.

See **TRIPP**, Page 3A

Oath of office

Four council members sworn in, Hudson to remain as chairman

BY JIM FAILE
jfaile@hartsvillemessenger.com

DARLINGTON — Four Members of the Darlington County Council took their oath of office Tuesday during the council's first meeting of 2017.

Robert L. "Bobby" Kilgo Jr. and Le Flowers, both Republicans from Darlington, were sworn in along with Hartsville Republican Lewis Brown and Darlington Democrat Joyce Wingate Thomas.

A former Darlington County Board of Education member, Thomas is new to the council. She defeated longtime council member Wilhelm Johnson in last June's Democratic primary for the District 3 seat.

Brown, a former council member who has been out of office for several years, defeated former Councilman Robbin Brock in the June Republican primary.

Darlington County Probate Judge

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3A

THE GIRLS OF FALL



Hartsville placed four players on the All-Region 6 team in volleyball this fall. Those selected were (from left to right) Sydney Ferrence, Lauren Dibble, Olivia Howell and Madison Rhodes.

SCOTT HUTTEN/HARTSVILLE MESSENGER



Ina Marie Sullivan (left) and Samanta McElveen were given post-season awards of Most Improved and the Red Fox Award for their efforts on the Hartsville girls' tennis team.



Emma Charles (left) and Tatum Ware were selected to the All Class 4A, Region 6 Golf Team for their performance this past fall.



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Wintry weather shifts southward

From Staff Reports

WILMINGTON, N.C. — The weather system set to deliver a dose of winter misery to the Pee Dee has also caused the area to be put under a Winter Storm Watch, according to forecasters.

"Very cold temperatures are ex-

National Weather Service.

While the cold temperatures are a sure bet, the type and timing of the precipitation remains up in the air as the forecast has changed several times since Tuesday and confidence in type and accumulation of precipitation remains low.

A slower transition from rain to

the Sumter ITEM

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A4

SCIENCE

Is a quirk of climate keeping hurricanes from battering U.S.?

Evidence paints Roof as racist, drifting loner

COLUMBIA (AP) — Before Dylann Roof was arrested for killing nine black church members, he scribbled a note to his mother, apologizing for all the repercussions his actions would cause. Weeks later, in a jailhouse journal, he wrote that he had no regrets.

The evidence, along with his manifesto, hundreds of photos and a confession to the FBI, draw a portrait of a young white man consumed by racial hatred who carefully planned the killings, picking out meek, innocent black people who likely wouldn't fight back.

Jurors who convicted Roof of hate crimes and other charges will decide whether he should be executed or face life in prison.

ROOF AND RACISM

Roof has pointed out that there was no dramatic confrontation that led him to begin hating blacks. Instead, when the Trayvon Martin case made the news, Roof went to Wikipedia to read about the black teenager who was shot to death in 2012 by neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman, who was acquitted. That led Roof to research black on white crime and to websites that offer false statistics inflating how often those crimes happen.

Roof was careful in his writings to say his beliefs came just from himself, not his parents. But one of Roof's old friends suggested otherwise.

"I don't think his parents liked his decisions, the choices that he made to have black friends," said Christon Scriven, who is black. Roof would go between partying with black friends and spewing racist diatribes to his white buddies, Scriven said.

Roof also believed the dubious claims that blacks were better off as slaves and are inferior at their cores to whites. He compared blacks to dogs, saying everyone feels bad when a man beats a dog, but no one is surprised when a dog bites a man.

THE SON

When authorities searched Roof's car, they found birthday cards from his mom and dad, who were divorced, and what appeared to be suicide notes to each of his parents.

Roof's writings to his mom show a son worried about how she would feel.

"At this moment I miss you

Sheriff seeks man in fatal shooting

42-year-old man killed in Wednesday night incident

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Sumter County Sheriff's Office seeks the public's help in locating 35-year-old Thomas David Secor Jr., wanted in connection to a shooting that left one man dead on Wednesday night.

According to a news release from the



SECOR

sheriff's office, deputies responded to a call about a man having been shot in the 4000 block of Briar Branch Road about 8 p.m.

The victim, identified by Sumter County Coroner Robbie Baker as 42-year-old Thomas Cockerill of

Sumter, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Baker said an autopsy was conduct-

ed Thursday morning and a cause of death was pending the completion of the report, as of Thursday afternoon.

Witnesses identified Secor, who allegedly fled the area before law enforcement arrived, as the shooter, according to the release.

Secor was last seen driving a green 1995 Ford F-150 four-door pickup with a tan stripe along the bottom.

SEE SHOOTING, PAGE A3

After the 12 Days of Christmas

Jerome Stanley begins the process of removing the Christmas lights from Centennial Plaza on Thursday morning.

KEITH GEDANKA / THE SUMTER ITEM



School board looks to hire finance consultant

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

In response to a debt crisis, it appears the Sumter School District Board of Trustees will secure the services of an outside school finance consultant this semester with the intention of potentially hiring a full-time person for the start of the next fiscal year, which begins July 1.

Board members informed the district's finance committee of the plans Wednesday at a meeting of the committee.

The action comes after the release last month of the 2015-16 audit report, which showed the district had gone over budget by \$6.2 million in the fiscal year ending June 30. The

SEE BOARD, PAGE A5

LATE-BREAKING NEWS ONLINE

The Sumter School District Board of Trustees was still meeting in executive session and behind closed doors at Thursday night's special called meeting at press time for The Sumter Item. For news and information from the meeting on Superintendent Frank Baker's emergency financial plan, check The Item's website today at www.theitem.com.

Unfinished business awaits General Assembly

Snow heads towards the South

Read how the Southeast prepares for winter storm **News, 7A**

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GRAB THE BREAD & MILK



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Danny Morgan, left, shops at Kroger located off of Alps Road on Thursday in Athens, Ga.

Lakelands girds for storm that could bring 5 inches of snow

By **DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ**
and **ADAM BENSON**
ddominguez@indexjournal.com
abenson@indexjournal.com

Greenwood County officials spent much of Thursday girding for a winter storm that could drop up to five inches of snow in the Upstate by Saturday afternoon.

The National Weather Service issued a hazardous outlook and winter storm watch Thursday that warns of isolated power outages and "below normal" temperatures.

Mutual aid agreements in place should the need arise, Derek Kinney, Greenwood County's director of emergency management services.

"We're making sure all of our stations are ready - all stocked and all our personnel prepared to respond," he said. "With it being the weekend, I'm hoping everybody will just bunker down, stay home and watch some old movies."

State and local agencies are coordinating response plans, said Derreck Becker, a spokesman for the state Emergency Management Division.

Weather prompts early press runs

■ Because of the potential for inclement weather, the Index-Journal's Saturday edition will go to press at 9 p.m. to allow carriers more time for delivery. Some subscribers in outlying areas still might experience late delivery.

■ On Saturday, the newspaper plans to again go to press early with the Sunday edition in anticipation of inclement weather.

■ Late stories, including area sports, will be available on the newspaper's website, indexjournal.com. Also, be sure to watch the website for weather updates.

■ Anyone with weather-related information, to include weekend closings, is encouraged to post to our Facebook page or email us at newsroom@indexjournal.com. Readers are also encouraged to post weather photos on the newspaper's Facebook page.

- The editors

Greenwood County emergency management coordinator George McKinney said even with a limited window for snowfall, motorists should be aware of conditions into early next week.

"Individuals should plan for impacts such as extreme cold and potentially hazardous driving conditions due to black ice through Tuesday morning," he said.

A National Weather Service forecast said rain will turn to snow starting late this afternoon or early in the evening, tapering off Saturday morning.

Greenwood County Manager Toby Chapell and Greenwood City Manager Charlie

Barrineau both said they spent much of Thursday in contact with emergency management officials much of Thursday.

"We do the same things that we do in anything weather related," Barrineau said. "We check our fuel levels, we ensure we have chains where necessary. But these are not common occurrences for us."

Steve Reeves, general manager of Greenwood Commissioners of Public Works, said the utility is ready for any winter weather that may occur.

See **SNOW**, page 4A

■ REP. CORLEY

Massey: 'It is not OK to beat your wife'

By **MATTHEW HENSLEY**
mhensley@indexjournal.com

COLUMBIA — State Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey had strong words about domestic violence in the wake of state Rep. Chris Corley's December arrest on allegations he beat his wife.

"We have an obligation to say this is not OK. It is not OK to beat your wife," Massey, R-Edgefield, said Thursday at a legislative workshop for members of the media. He stressed that elected representatives should "set an example."



SHANE MASSEY



CHRIS CORLEY

A grand jury indicted Corley on charges of domestic violence of a high and aggravated nature and pointing a firearm, state Attorney General Alan Wilson announced Wednesday, and state House Speaker Jay Lucas suspended the Graniteville Republican shortly after the announcement.

State Rep. Tommy Pope, R-York, said Corley is "innocent until proven guilty," a view Massey shares on the legal process, but not on the politics of the situation.

See **MASSEY**, page 4A

■ LAURENS

Civilian helps deputy make arrest

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

A civilian helped a Laurens County deputy detain a man after he forced open a house's front door on Christmas morning, according to a report.

The deputy was called to a house on the 500 block of Serene Drive in Waterloo at about 2:10 a.m. on Christmas, where she found a man had broken a house's window and was yelling and cursing at a woman, the report said.

When the officer asked the man what was going on, he said "You better call for backup because you going to need them to take me down," the officer wrote in the report.



KENNETH J. CRENSHAW



JAMES HAYES

Greenwood Kmart to close after 42 years

By **CONOR HUGHES**
chughes@indexjournal.com

store go.
"I mean that's shocking," Hawkins

--

Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044