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To:
Date: 12/2/2016 8:46:43 AM
Subject: SC Front Pages – Friday, December 2, 2016

SC Front Pages – Fri day, December 2, 2016

WHEN FOOTBALL TRASH TALKING CROSSES THE LINE

“

IF SOMEONE WOULD BARK THE N-WORD AT ME, THAT WOULD RESULT IN A SERIOUS FIGHT. YOU HAVE NOW REALLY CROSSED THE LINE.”

Corey Miller, former USC and NFL player



South Carolina linebacker Bryson Allen-Williams has words with a Clemson player before the start of their game Saturday in Clemson.

■ The issue of what is and isn't said, or should be and shouldn't be said, between competitors on the football field was raised Saturday following Clemson's 56-7 victory over South Carolina.

BY JOSH KENDALL
jkendall@thestate.com

The things Cedrick Cooper has heard on the football field would make most people blush ... at a minimum. "It's crazy in the SEC," the former South Carolina linebacker told The State newspaper this week. "If we were being mic'd up, and you could hear some of the things we said in

terms of talking junk. ... The things I have heard some of my teammates say and some things I heard said, it will leave you like flabbergasted because it's so crazy."

The physical encounters on a football field are easy for spectators to see, but the wear of words surrounding those confrontations is something that only the players on the field understand, and it's the physical nature of

SEE TALK, 6A

FRIDAY DECEMBER 2 2016

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TODAY: SUNNY HI 61 LO 38
YESTERDAY: HI 66 LO 50 PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 0.00
FORECAST, 6C

The State



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL NO. 3 USC TOPS NO. 14 TEXAS

A'ja Wilson scored a career-high 31 points to lead the Gamecocks to a tough road victory. **1B**

LEGISLATORS WANT LAW REPEALED

U.S. Justice Department critical of S.C.'s 'disturbing schools' law

■ The Department of Justice has filed a statement of interest in a case filed against the state challenging the "disturbing schools" law.

BY CYNTHIA ROLDAN
crolدان@thestate.com

Midlands state legislators are doubling down on their call to have South Carolina's "disturbing schools" law repealed, after the federal government filed a statement in which it was critical of the

statute.

The Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice filed a "statement of interest" on Monday in the case filed in August by the American Civil Liberties Union of South Carolina on behalf of former Spring Valley High School student Niya Kenny and others.

In the statement, the Justice Department said the vagueness of the "disturbing schools" law has contributed to the so-called "school-to-prison pipeline," which

SEE SCHOOLS, 6A



The Spring Valley incident as seen in a student's video.



PREP FOOTBALL DOUBLE THE FUN

Chapin, with its two-quarterback system, and other Midlands teams getting ready for high school football quarterfinal playoff games. **1-2B**



PHOTOGRAPHS BY TRACY GLANTZ tglantz@thestate.com

The Post and Courier

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Friday, December 2, 2016

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Slager jurors focus on 'fear,' 'passion'

Question to judge indicates they're torn over voluntary manslaughter option; deliberations resume today

BY ANDREW KNAPP
and BRENDA RINDGE
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Nine hours into their verdict deliberations Thursday, jurors sent a note to a judge presiding over the trial of the former North Charleston policeman

who killed Walter Scott: They asked for the difference between "fear" and "passion."

The judge didn't immediately answer, but the question made it apparent that they were torn over voluntary manslaughter, the lesser of the charges that Michael Slager now faces at the end of his monthlong murder trial.

While Slager said he feared for his life when he fatally shot Scott, killing someone in the "heat of passion" is the central element of manslaughter under South Carolina law.

"This question isn't artfully worded," Circuit Judge Clifton Newman said, "but I think you get the gist of what they're pondering."

Slager, 35, was arrested on a murder count last year after an eyewitness video showed the white officer shooting Scott, a black man, in the back. It wasn't until his trial neared an end this week when prosecutors proposed that the jury also consider the lesser crime that carries between two and 30 years in prison, opposed to murder's 30 years

to life. The judge agreed.

In dispute over what any response to the question should say, defense attorneys and prosecutors are expected to propose options to the judge Friday morning. At the same time, the jury's deliberations will resume.

Please see **SLAGER**, Page A5

11 dead in wildfires

Search for Tennessee victims winds down; day of rain aids firefighters



ANDREW NELLES/THE TENNESSEAN

Veronica Carney looks at the skyline Thursday from the remains of the home in Gatlinburg, Tenn., that she grew up in. Carney flew in from Massachusetts to assist her parents, Richard and Sue Ramsey, who safely evacuated Monday night.

BY ADAM BEAM
and JONATHAN MATTISE
Associated Press

GATLINBURG, TENN. — Crews discovered the remains of three more people as they searched the rubble of wildfires that torched hundreds of homes and businesses near the

Great Smoky Mountains, bringing the death toll to 11, officials said Thursday.

Authorities set up a hotline for people to report missing friends and relatives, and after following up on dozens of leads, they said many of those people had been accounted for. They did not say whether they

believe anyone else is still missing or may have died.

"I think it's fair to say that the search is winding down," Sevier County Mayor Larry Waters said. "And hopefully we will not find any more."

He said the searches would likely be completed Friday.

Nearly 24 hours of rain on Wednesday helped dampen the wildfires, but fire officials struck a cautious tone, saying people shouldn't have a false sense of security because months of drought have left the ground bone-dry and wildfires can rekindle.

Please see **FIRE**, Page A6

3 ex-guards accused of attempted murder

Inmate was stabbed in Kirkland prison

BY MAYA T. PRABHU
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COLUMBIA — Three prison guards at Kirkland Correctional Institution are facing charges connected to the attempted murder of an inmate in their care, officials announced Thursday.

Correctional officers Jarrell Kwabie Boyan, 26, of Columbia; Pernell Fogle, 24, of Bowman; and Jaquan M. Smith, 24, of West Columbia are charged with attempted murder and misconduct in office. All three were fired from the S.C. Department of Corrections on Wednesday.

On Oct. 6, all three went into an inmate's cell, where he was stabbed four times in the torso, according to arrest warrants. The victim was handcuffed behind the back at the time, documents said.

If convicted, the former officers could serve up to 30 years in prison for the attempted murder charge. All three had been on administrative suspension without pay before being fired this week.

Boyan had been employed with S.C. Department of Corrections since October 2010, prison officials said. Fogle was hired in February 2015. Smith started with the department in October 2014.

No motive for the alleged attack was announced by the Department of Corrections. The inmate's name, crime and sentence were not disclosed in the documents.

The three guards were booked Thursday at the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center in Columbia.

Please see **DOC**, Page A4

Sleek new shuttles replace Charleston DASH trolleys

Narrow buses built for historic streets, easier to maintain

BY ROBERT BEHRE

pc **Poll**
Do you like the look of the new DASH shuttles better than the old-style trolleys that they are replacing? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

Inside



SPORTS

Wilson has 31 points as No. 3 USC tops Texas. **C1**

Roof argues judge is violating his rights by limiting ex-lawyers' role

Defendant elected to represent himself in church shooting trial

BY JENNIFER BERRY HAWES
and GLENN SMITH

gel, however, has blocked Bruck from speaking on Roof's behalf, ruling the self-avowed white supremacist's decision to serve as his own attorney limited his former legal team to providing advice.

In a motion filed Thursday by his former lawyers, Roof objected to Gergel's stance, arguing that his inability to receive "reasonable, limited assistance"



SPORTS, 1C
**TALENTED
RECEIVERS**



E GREENVILLE
Rockin' the season with dazzle

The Greenville News PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 2, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY TRUMP NAMES MATTIS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE **PAGE 1B**

RED DEVILS HAVE TOWN TALKING

Players have 'made their mark' with playoff run

ELIZABETH LAFLEUR
ELAFLEUR@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

Last Saturday morning the Liberty High School football team donned jerseys and went downtown for a celebratory breakfast at Yank's Place, paid for by a community member. The team was coming off of a second-round playoff win against Blacksburg, it's first time

making it to the third round since the five round playoff system began.

Head coach Kyle Stewart is in his sixth year with the Red Devils and this is his most successful team.

"I'm just proud for the kids. They do the work and my assistant coaches do the work."

While players decked out in red and white ate biscuits and pancakes, community members stopped at their tables to congratulate them.

Yank's is a town staple. It has two cozy rooms and no shortage of Liberty High

School memorabilia. Portraits of state championship cheerleading squads hang on the walls. A letterman's jacket worn by the restaurant's namesake in the 1950s hangs in the main dining room.

It's the place where locals gather just as they did decades ago when Yanks was Reeves Cafe and Liberty won its only state football championship. Back then, Reeves would treat the football team to dinner after every Friday night game.

The 1947 championship team won the

See LIBERTY, Page 4A



PROVIDED BY KYLE STEWART
Members of the Liberty High School football team eat breakfast at Yank's Place.

Tornado is worst to hit county since 2008



Some of the damage in Westwood neighborhood of Simpsonville.

NATE CARY/STAFF

EF1 had maximum width of 150 yards, traveled 18 miles

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AND NATHANIEL CARY
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The National Weather Service on Thursday confirmed that a tornado with winds of up to 110 mph struck Simpsonville Wednesday, making it the most powerful twister to touch down in Greenville County since 2008.

Investigators' preliminary findings say the tornado was an EF1 on the Enhanced Fujita scale, which is based

Two people were transported for medical care and an elderly woman was rescued from her home as high winds, heavy rain and lightning battered a narrow path west of downtown Simpsonville, according to Greenville County Emergency Management.

Public works crews from the cities of Greenville and Fountain Inn will assist Simpsonville Public Works for the next week to collect yard debris curbside from residents' homes after the twister tore through the city, downing trees, tearing siding and roofing material off homes and strewn limbs and branches across residential

neighborhoods of Westwood, Poinsettia, Brentwood and Neely Forest as well as Cox, Richardson, Main and South streets in downtown Simpsonville, while tree service companies descended on the city to help clear trees from numerous homes and yards.

Simpsonville Mayor Janice Curtis told *The Greenville News* that crews will be collecting all debris placed curbside within city limits through Dec. 9. After that, city residents who need debris pickup can call to schedule an appointment with public works, Curtis said. The twister swept the

Roof both confident and unsure at trial

TONYA MAXWELL
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CHARLESTON - Long pauses sometimes separate his sentences as he reads notes written by his attorneys, then gathers his thoughts. From time to time, stutters punctuate his words.

At other moments, Dylann Roof sounds confident — as he did Thursday morning when he asked the judge to delay a planned Tuesday trial start for his capital case.

"I would like to ask you for two days' delay before the pretrial. I just, I need more time to prepare," Roof said, later adding, "When I chose to represent myself, I didn't ask for a delay before jury selection."

He would, however, like the process

See ROOF, Page 11A



Dylann Storm Roof

Kala Brown files lawsuit against Todd Kohlhepp

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The Anderson woman who Todd Kohlhepp is accused of kidnapping has filed a lawsuit against him.

Two Greenville law firms representing Kala Brown filed a personal injury suit against Kohlhepp in Spartanburg County on Wednesday.

"We are doing our best to support Miss Brown as she works to resolve this case," said one of the attorneys.

Civil suit

Fence company sues Kohlhepp for unpaid bill. 6A

A MATTER OF DEFENSE

Clemson and Virginia Tech have top offensive players in the ACC, so it's all up to the D-line. **1B**



Independent Mail

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2016

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

KOHLHEPP INVESTIGATION



Todd Kohlhepp is charged in the kidnapping of Kala Brown and in multiple homicides, officials said.

KEN RUINARD/INDEPENDENT MAIL FILE PHOTO

KALA BROWN FILES LAWSUIT

Says she was taken hostage, kidnapped

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The Anderson woman who Todd Kohlhepp is accused of kidnapping has filed a lawsuit against him.

Two Greenville law firms representing Kala Brown filed a personal injury suit against Kohlhepp in Spartanburg County on Wednesday.

"We are doing our best to support Miss Brown as she works to recover and turn this tragedy into a triumph," said a statement issued Thursday by the law firms Bannister, Wyatt & Stalvey and Gleton Wyatt. The statement also said that a website, kalabrown.com, has been created to accept donations for Brown.



Kala Brown

Brown's lawsuit says she was on Kohlhepp's property in Woodruff to clean it when Kohlhepp "presented a firearm" and took her hostage.

According to the suit, Kohlhepp "forcibly kidnapped and imprisoned" Brown.

"Miss Brown did not consent to such confinement," the suit says.

Brown was found chained in a storage container on Kohlhepp's property near Woodruff on Nov. 3. She, along with her boyfriend, Charles David Carver, had been missing since late August.

The suit says that Kohlhepp did "physically attack" Brown.

Brown is seeking money for medical expenses, punitive damages and attorneys' fees.

The website created for Brown has a link people can use to make donations online. The site was created after a bogus GoFundMe account was created, according to Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office spokesman Lt. Kevin Bobo.

Brown's website also says people can

State agency took no action on Kohlhepp

Complaints mentioned disturbing social media posts and status as registered sex offender

NIKIE MAYO
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Complaints made to a South Carolina regulatory agency against then-real estate agent Todd Kohlhepp reveal hints of a dark and troubled man, years before he ever faced charges of killing seven people in the Upstate and kidnapping another.

The complaints include Facebook posts that appear to have been made by Kohlhepp under the moniker "Todd Sells Realestate." In one, he shares the results of a quiz that asks "How far would you go for revenge?"

The result, as it appeared on the post: "You'll most likely go haywire on someone taking out your revenge on anybody who did something wrong. Most likely a fatal type of approach is taken. Whether its murder or gouging out the eyes its up to you, but its bound to leave your victim mortally scarred or mentally destroyed." Kohlhepp responded.

"Well, that part is true, I take payback a little too far," he wrote. "Easy solution, don't piss me off, everybody does just fine."

That post and others that appear to be made by Kohlhepp were included in a for-

Online

For more coverage of the Kohlhepp investigation, visit independentmail.com.

mal complaint that was filed with the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation in August 2009. The complainant attached other posts about sex and weaponry, all of which appear on the same social media account.

The complainant also included records that show Kohlhepp is a registered sex offender.

"As a respected member of the real estate community, I was just wondering if this is how we want our profession represented," the complainant wrote. "Also,

See KOHLHEPP, Page 7A

Alexander remembered as kind leader

District 1 school board chairman dies at 80



Williamston-based school district for 26 years. For 25 years, his elected colleagues repeatedly and unanimously



FOOTBALL RIVALS TO SQUARE OFF DURING PLAYOFFS

SPORTS, B1



HOPE REMAINS RANCH DELIVERS GIFTS ON FAMILY DAY

UPSTATE, C1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Friday, December 2, 2016



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TODAY SAT SUN



59°/35° 58°/41° 48°/43°

Complete forecast, B8

ONLINE EXTRA



Santa photos

Santa Claus took photos with children on Thursday evening at the Herald-Journal. You can view a photo gallery at GoUpstate.com. To download specific photos, please visit www.flickr.com/photos/goupstate_photos.

UPSTATE

Brown files lawsuit against accused killer

The woman found chained inside a storage container on accused serial killer Todd Kohlhepp's property has filed a lawsuit against him. **C1**

NEWS DIGEST

Jurors in Slager trial ask for transcripts

CHARLESTON — Jurors deliberating in the trial of a fired policeman charged with murder in the shooting death of a black motorist asked for transcripts Thursday of the testimony of the former officer and the lead state investigator in the case.

Michael Slager, 35, is charged in the death of 50-year-old Walter Scott, who was shot five times in the back on April 4, 2015 as he fled a traffic stop. A bystander's cellphone video of the shooting was shared widely on the internet and by media and shocked Americans.

By late afternoon, the jury of one black and 11 whites had deliberated more than seven hours over two days.

Judge Clifton Newman called

PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION

Mattis to lead Pentagon

Trump to nominate retired General James Mattis for defense secretary

By Lolita C. Baldor
The Associated Press

President-elect Donald Trump said Thursday he will nominate retired Gen. James Mattis to be his defense secretary, making the announcement during a post-election victory rally in Cincinnati.

Mattis, 66, is a Marine Corps

general who retired in 2013 after serving as the commander of the U.S. Central Command.

His selection raises questions about increased military influence in a job designed to insure civilian control of the armed forces. The concerns revolve around whether a recently retired service member would rely more on military solutions to international problems, rather than a broader, more diplomatic approach.

For Mattis to be confirmed, Congress would first have to



In this March 5, 2013 photo, then-Marine Gen. James Mattis, commander, U.S. Central Command, testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington. President-elect Donald Trump says he will nominate Mattis to lead the Defense Department.

SEE MATTIS, A8
ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

DICKENS OF A CHRISTMAS

Event spreads holiday cheer



DISTURBING SCHOOLS

Feds critical of SC law

DOJ: Law compounds 'school-to-prison pipeline' problem

By Meg Kinnard
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Federal authorities have weighed in on a lawsuit challenging South Carolina's "disturbing schools" law, arguing that the vague statute ends up disproportionately landing minority students and those with disabilities in juvenile jails.

The filing in federal court this week is connected to a controversial 2015 cellphone video of a South Carolina high school student being snatched from her desk by a sheriff's deputy, flipped backward and tossed across a classroom. The images prompted the deputy's firing, sparked national outrage over the use of force on students, and led to a debate on deputies' roles in the classroom.

Earlier this week, the U.S. Justice Department filed what's called a statement of interest in the American Civil Liberties Union's challenge of the law.

SPORTS

Rock Hill, York athletes announce their college plans 1B



SPORTS

Linebackers at the heart of South Pointe's success 1B



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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2016

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The Herald

LAKE WYLIE

Man killed for sexual assault, withholding pay

BY ANDREW DYS
ady@heraldonline.com

YORK

Kevin DeJesus admitted Thursday that he shot Jesse Campbell on Jan. 5 in Lake Wylie.

Campbell was, by all counts, beloved.

DeJesus now will spend 12 years in prison and then be

deported.

DeJesus' lawyer said Campbell's "secret double life," of extortion for sex led to the vicious death. There was a struggle for a gun after Campbell forced DeJesus to perform a sex act, and refused to pay DeJesus for work done at the home, according to



DeJesus



Campbell

testimony Thursday. Campbell was shot in the head, under the ear. Prosecutors and the defense attorney agreed the case was not murder. It was a voluntary manslaughter, "heat of passion" killing, they said. The two sides negotiated a plea bargain and

12-year sentence. Testimony showed Campbell had a pattern with other Hispanic workers of withholding pay for sex.

DeJesus admitted that he shot Campbell and did not flee when he could have left Campbell alive.

York County deputies found DeJesus when they matched point and a broken taillight from the getaway vehicle to DeJesus' truck. Campbell was a "beloved

member of the community," prosecutors said.

DeJesus ran Campbell's Greenhouse in the Dilworth neighborhood of Charlotte, near downtown, for decades. Campbell had a legion of loyal customers and his death stunned people in York County and Charlotte.

But why he died, based on Thursday's in-court revelations, seemed even more shocking.

After the hearing, two long-time employees of Campbell, Debbie Capps and Brad Miller, were on the verge of tears. Campbell was a wonderful, gentle man, they said, and he

SEE DEJESUS, 4A

VIDEO

For video from the court hearing, go to this story at heraldonline.com



Santa Claus greets a crowd at the opening ceremony of ChristmasVille at Fountain Park Thursday night.

Rock Hill turned into a magical wonderland Thursday at the opening of ChristmasVille. Santa greeted a crowd of children and holiday lights twinkled on trees as choruses sang carols.

The four-day festival features 75 events including the Rock Hill Christmas parade Friday night and downtown activities throughout the weekend.

Musical groups, jugglers and dancers will entertain crowds and children can ride a carousel, a Ferris wheel, ponies and a horse-drawn carriage.

Children can listen to a story with Santa at 11:30 a.m. Sat-

THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR



S.C. OFFICER SHOOTING

Jurors ask for witness transcripts

BY BRUCE SMITH AND
JERRY COLLINS
Associated Press

CHARLESTON

Jurors deliberating in the trial of a fired policeman charged with murder in the shooting death of a black motorist asked for transcripts Thursday of the testimony of the former officer and the lead state investigator in the case.

The jury will resume deliberations Friday. The panel of 11 whites and one black has deliberated for more than nine hours over two days in the case of the fired South Carolina patrolman charged in the shooting death of Walter Scott.

Michael Slager, 35, is charged in the death of 50-year-old Walter Scott, who was shot five times in the back on April 4, 2015 as he fled a traffic stop. A bystander's cellphone video of the shooting was shared widely on the internet and by media and shocked Americans.

Judge Clifton Newman called attorneys to the courtroom in the afternoon, saying the jurors had requested transcripts of the trial testimony of Slager as well as that of Angela Peterson, the lead State Law Enforcement Division agent who investigated the shooting.

Attorneys did not object to the request. Even though jurors were still deliberating, Slager's attorneys filed a motion asking that if he is convicted, sentencing be delayed until a probation report is compiled.

Jurors heard testimony from 55 witnesses during the month-



Slager



AP PHOTO BY CHUCK BURTON

Officers with the Department of Homeland Security patrol outside the federal courthouse in Charleston on Nov. 7. Jury selection in the trial of Dylann Roof will be completed next week.

Roof murder trial starting next week

Defendant representing himself, judge calls move 'unwise'

BY MEG KINNARD
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The long-awaited federal death penalty trial of the white man charged with the shooting deaths of nine black parishioners at a South Carolina church is scheduled to get underway next week with the final seating of a jury.

U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel ruled Thursday that he anticipates the jury of 12 members and six alternates who will hear the case against Dylann Roof will be selected next Wednesday in Charleston. After that process is completed, opening statements can begin. Roof, 22, faces dozens of federal

charges, including hate crimes and obstruction of the practice of religion, in connection with the June 2015 slayings at Emanuel AME Church. He is representing himself in his federal trial and has previously offered to plead guilty if prosecutors Please see **ROOF**, Page 10A.

Honor Capital acquiring Save-A-Lot

BY DEDE BILES
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Honor Capital, a company owned primarily by military veterans, is in the process of acquiring the Save-A-Lot grocery store at 522 York Street that recently closed. The company plans to reopen the supermarket by March 2017.

"We are definitely excited to be coming to Aiken," said Marcus Scarborough, Honor Capital's vice president for community engagement, during a telephone interview. "South Carolina has been a great market for us."

Scarborough is a native of Columbia, where Honor Capital operates a Save-A-Lot store on Harden Street.

"It's doing really well," Scarborough said. "It's our pride and joy, and it's the Save-A-Lot chain's pride and joy. It's what they call a 'show store,' which means they bring interested retailers or licensees to it when they want to show them what a Save-A-Lot is supposed to look like and how it is supposed to run when everything is executed superbly."

Honor Capital is based in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and has a Save-A-Lot supermarket there. The company also runs a Save-A-Lot in Winfield, Kansas, and is getting ready to open Save-A-Lots in Wichita, Kansas, and Mooresville, North Carolina.

According to Honor Capital's website, the company "particularly likes" to operate Save-A-Lot stores in underserved and distressed communities.

The Save-A-Lot discount supermarket chain has more than 1,300 locations. About 70 percent of Save-A-Lot stores are owned and operated by independent licensed retailers.

"We've spoken to the Save-A-Lot

Please see **SAVE-A-LOT**, Page 10A

Area deaths

Ron Cartledge, Summerville
Margaret Newman, Aiken
Catherine Harrison, Aiken
Ella Toole, Graniteville
Dr. Bruce Carey, Williston
Virginia Hutto, Salley
Linda Toomer, Aiken
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

Weather

It's time to light up Hopelands Gardens



STAFF PHOTO BY GINDY KUSOVIC

Mike and Barbara Lupfer place light bulbs along the pathways in Hopelands Gardens, an annual tradition where community members help with the final preparations of Christmas in Hopelands.

Volunteers string up Christmas lights at popular Aiken venue

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
ccleveland@aikenstandard.com

Dozens of community members arrived to Hopelands Gardens on Thursday morning, participating in an annual tradition that will help light up Christmas in Hopelands.

According to the City of Aiken's website, community members help put the "finishing touches" on the light display by volunteering to place light bulbs along the pathways in Hopelands Gardens. Samantha Radford, recreation pro-

vider, said more than two miles of strings of light bulbs were placed on the property. Hopelands boasts over 100,000 lights, though Radford added with a laugh, "I've never counted."

"I really think that people have made it a tradition, so while it is a tedious job, I think they take pride in it knowing that they had a hand in putting the finishing touches on Christmas in Hopelands," she said.

Christmas in Hopelands is in its 25th year, and the program started with a group known as the Pairs and



STAFF PHOTO BY GINDY KUSOVIC

A volunteer reaches into a bin containing dozens of light bulbs that



SPORTS Florence Athletic Hall of Fame to add six inductees next month. **Page 1D**

Morning News

FRIDAY DECEMBER 2, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER

Sunny much of the time.
High 63, low 33.
DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Alligator Road plan revealed at hearing



PHOTO: JOE PERRY/MORNING NEWS

Janice Crocco (center) and her friend Murray Jordan attend a Thursday night public hearing at South Florence High School as the S.C. Department of Transportation showed plans for widening a 7.5-mile stretch of Alligator Road. The DOT provided large maps spread out on tables for people to study.

BY JOE PERRY
Morning News
jperry@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — A Thursday night public hearing at South Florence High School drew a moderate crowd as officials from the S.C. Department of Transportation showed plans for the widening of Alligator Road.

The project is expected to be completed in the summer of 2021, with an expected cost between \$80 million and \$90 million. It is tentatively scheduled to start next spring as the department begins acquiring rights of way, Brian Dix told the audience. It's the last project that's part of the 1-cent sales tax passed Nov. 7, 2006, under the umbrella of Flor-

ence County Forward, which has already funded five other projects. The purpose is to improve operating efficiency, accommodate uses 30 years down the road and decrease the number of wrecks, said Dix, the Transportation Department's program manager for the Pee Dee.

"Some areas might not be heavily congested now," he said, but will likely be in the coming years as connectivity is enhanced around south Florence.

The 7.5-mile project will have three lanes from U.S. 76 (West Palmetto Street) to South Knollwood Road and five lanes from there to S.C. 52 (South Irby Street), he said. The design was altered from the original plan after public opinion

was heard a year ago. The improvements will alternate between curb and gutter with 4-foot-wide sidewalks and ditch sections in more rural areas, Dix said. A 14-foot, shared-use lane can be used by bicyclists and vehicles; medians will be paved and 15 feet wide, with standard 12-foot traffic lanes and a 4-foot paved shoulder.

One of the three residents who spoke at the hearing, Yolanda Walker-Williams, said she has lived in the 3000 block of Alligator Road for 23 years and would appreciate it if the Transportation Department "gets our drainage right." She also hopes her property values are the same as

See **ALLIGATOR**, Page 3A

Remains of missing teen found in Florence

From staff reports

FLORENCE — The remains of a Florence teen missing since April 2008 were discovered in a vacant house at 509 N. Wilson St. in Florence on Nov. 18, according to the Florence County Coroner's Office.



Powers

The remains were identified as those of Lakendra S. Powers, who was 16 when she went missing, said Florence County Coroner Keith von Lutken.

The remains were identified by forensic specialists at the Medical University of South Carolina through a comparison with dental records on file with the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, according to von Lutken.

She was last seen in the city of Florence.

The length of time she has been dead cannot be determined, but the manner and cause of death remain under investigation, according to the coroner.

"The Coroner's Office and Police Department are asking for the community's assistance with providing information that may be helpful to the investigation," the coroner wrote in a media advisory.

Anyone with information about the case is asked to call the Florence Police Department at 843-665-3191 or call Crime Stoppers of the Pee Dee at 1-888-CRIME-SC.

'A tender time'



MEGAN MAY/MORNING NEWS

Leroy Nettles Sr. talks about his son, E. Leroy "Toy" Nettles Jr., and his time at McLeod Hospice during the McLeod Hospice Tree Lighting Ceremony at McLeod Regional Medical Center on Thursday.

Tree-lighting ceremony honors Audrey Gilbert, late Toy Nettles

BY MEGAN MAY
Morning News
mmay@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Hundreds gathered at McLeod Regional Medical Center on Thursday night for the 31st annual McLeod Hospice Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Charles Bethea, chairman of the McLeod Health board of trustees, reminded visitors to acknowledge grief that comes with the passing of loved ones, but also focus on the good memories.

"We share with others as we do you tonight, the celebration of lives that have gone

on before us and rejoice in the remembrance of each of them and the special place they still hold in our hearts," said Bethea. "Tonight is a tender time for many of us and somewhat bittersweet in our memories, but with each passing year it's a little less sad and a little more sweet."

The night also marked the presentation of the Spirit of Hospice Award, which was given to Audrey Gilbert. Gilbert has volunteered at McLeod Hospice for over 10 years. Not only did she care for her father and husband at the hospice,

See **LIGHTS**, Page 6A

Ice skating returns Saturday to Florence Civic Center

Florence Civic Center operations manager Tony Rogers uses an



From Staff Reports

FLORENCE — Ice skating will return to the Pee Dee for a four-week run through December

len Snapp, marketing coordinator for the civic center.

In all, more than 70 sessions are scheduled from Dec. 3 through Jan. 2 — including two specific

Most skaters tend to separate themselves on the basis of ability, with the better skaters keeping toward the cleaner ice at the center of the rink and the less-

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Hartsville issues last call for storm debris pickup

From staff reports

The final date for storm debris pickup from Hurricane Matthew will begin on Monday, Dec. 5. All storm related debris should be brought to the edge of residents' properties prior to this date for pick-up. For questions, contact Environmental Services at 843.383.3019.

INFORMATION

WHAT: Storm Debris Announcement
WHERE: Hartsville, SC
WHEN: Currently - Dec. 5

Hartsville Annual Christmas Parade returns

From staff reports

One of the most well-kept holiday traditions in the Hartsville community is the Hartsville Christmas Parade. The 2016 parade, sponsored by Darlington Raceway, North Industrial Machine, Sonoco, and SPC Credit Union, will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10.

As a collaboration of the community, the Hartsville Christmas Parade will feature Hartsville's first responders, local businesses, marching bands, dance troops, and an appearance from the 2016 All-America City delegation as Grand Marshalls. The JROTC cadets of Hartsville High School will present our nation's colors. An appearance by jolly

WANT TO GO?

WHAT: 2016 Hartsville Christmas Parade, sponsored by Darlington Raceway, North Industrial Machine, Sonoco, and SPC Credit Union
WHERE: Hartsville, SC
WHEN: Saturday, December 10th, 2016, 10:30 a.m., rain or shine

Santa Claus will end this season's parade.

"The Hartsville Christmas Parade brings a significant and diverse crowd every year and reminds us that our community has much to be proud of," said Jordan Braddock, Marketing and Events Coordinator and planner of this event. "The city is proud

to continue this beloved tradition for the 2016 season. The parade is a grand way to end the Hartsville for the Holidays festivities."

The parade route will begin on South Fifth Street at the Newsome Warehouse parking lot and proceed north on South Fifth Street. The parade will turn right onto Laurens Avenue, just before Applebee's, and turn left on South Fourth Street past the Fairfield Inn. The parade will continue on Fourth Street, past the Hartsville Farmers Market on East Carolina Avenue, and will turn left onto East College Avenue. The parade will then turn left again onto North Fifth Street before turning right onto West Carolina Avenue. The parade will end at

Thornwell School for the Arts, 437 West Carolina Avenue.

The parking lot at Newsome Warehouse will be the "staging area" for vehicles and floats participating in the parade. This area will only be used for those purposes. At the close of the parade, participants will be dropped off at Thornwell School for the Arts where they can be picked up. All floats will then return to Newsome Warehouse for breakdown, helping prevent stoppages in the parade flow. Returning floats can make their way back to Newsome Warehouse by way of Marlboro Avenue and Sixth Street. Parade units are asked to make sure that

See **PARADE**, Page 3A

Millie Jackson's 50 years of service recognized



Millie Jackson is surrounded by family during the dedication of the Millie Jackson Cafeteria at Thornwell School for the Arts on Thursday morning.

ARDE ARVIDSON/HARTSVILLE MESSENGER

Thornwell School for the Arts dedicates plaque in honor of retired cafeteria operator

BY ARDIE ARVIDSON
 arvidson@hartsvillemessenger.com

Very few people achieve the longevity that Millie Jackson has at Thornwell School for the Arts. She joined the Darlington County School District in 1966. She was a cafeteria operator when she retired in May.

Millie Jackson was honored on Thursday with the dedication of the Millie Jackson Cafeteria at the school. Her 50 years of

service to the school was recognized with a plaque and her portrait, which will hang in the school cafeteria.

Family, friends, co-workers and others joined in the joyous occasion.

Jackson was praised for her service and positive impact she had on those she encountered on the job.

Dr. Likanya Jenkins, principal of Thornwell School for the Arts, said Jackson impacted Thorn-

well families with her generosity and kindness to all children.

"It is a privilege and an honor to give homage to a lady who has served this school district, and community for 50 years," said Charles Govan, a member of the Darlington County Board of Education.

"Any day you get to work with Millie is a special day," said Pam Vaughan, Darlington County School District Food Service director. Vaughan said she was

always a model employee and had impeccable character. She said Jackson was always willing to learn and to train others. Her contributions were many.

Mary Ellen Parker, cafeteria manager at Thornwell, said Jackson trained her "many, many years ago." She said Jackson may be leaving but she is not gone. She said they can never replace Millie Jackson.

Superintendent Dr. Eddie Ingram said he has known only

one other person who has worked at the same place for 50 years. He said that the relationships Jackson has formed over the past 50 years will never be forgotten.

Connell Delaine, chair of the Darlington County Board of Education, encouraged Jackson's family to see that she has a good retirement. He said she did a monumental job at Thornwell.

See **JACKSON**, Page 3A

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