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Subject: SC Front Pages - Sunday, December 15, 2013

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MORE ABUSE CALLS INVESTIGATED

DSS says child safety improving, but some raise questions

By Tim Smith

Staff writer
tsmith@greenvilleonline.com

COLUMBIA — Some calls are triggered by a bystander who believes a parent they are watching is handling a child too roughly.

Other calls to the state's child abuse

hotline can come from teachers who say they are concerned about a student who seems to be malnourished or not wearing proper clothing.

Until about two years ago, most of those calls went unanswered, officials with the state's Department of Social Services say.

They didn't rise to the level of immi-

nent harm for child abuse investigators, and so the agency did nothing.

But now most of those cases are being acted upon, with face-to-face visits, assessments and either an investigation or referral for community services that can help families avoid a crisis, according to the agency.

It has become a beacon of light for DSS officials who are being scrutinized by legislators for their handling of child

cases and questioned about cases in which children are harmed or killed.

"Obviously that is an improvement for child safety because we are responding with things rather than ignoring it until it gets worse and gets called back to us," DSS Director Lillian Koller told a panel of senators recently.

According to DSS, the number of child

See CALLS, Page 3A



A man looks at documents at the U.S. consulate after an attack that killed four Americans in Benghazi, Libya. CIA officers who testified privately to Congress about the 2012 attack revealed a disagreement about how quickly they could help the besieged U.S. ambassador and others.

BRAHIM ALAGURWAP

CIA team clash led to report of 'stand down'

Benghazi hearing: Officers disagreed on response time

By Kimberly Dozier

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — CIA officers who testified privately to Congress about the 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic outpost in Benghazi, Libya, revealed a disagreement among them about how quickly they could go help the besieged U.S. ambassador and others as well as a standing order for them to avoid violent encounters, according to a congressman and others who heard or were briefed on the testimony.

Complaints that the White House, Pentagon and State Department may not have done enough before and during the attack to save U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other men, along with accusations that it engaged in a cover-up after the attack, have

See BENGHAZI, Page 3A

Students get job track down to a SCIENCE



Clemson College of Science and Engineering graduate student Roland Stone distills ethylene oxide into a reactor at the Clemson University Advanced Materials Research Laboratory as part of research into creating advanced cancer fighting materials. BART BOATWRIGHT/STAFF

BY RON BARNETT | STAFF WRITER

Between 2007 and 2012, enrollment in computer and information sciences and support, engineering and engineering

WHEN ROLAND STONE finished his bachelor's degree in polymer and fiber chemistry at Clemson University in 2008, he looked around at the job market and didn't see much.

It was the beginning of the Great Recession, and the future seemed uncertain for anybody starting a career.

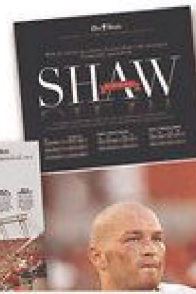
So he went back to school, and on Thursday, he will pick up his doctorate. It's a whole different world out there now, he says.

INSIDE

USC RECORD BREAKERS

3 KEEPSAKE POSTERS INSIDE

The Gamecocks' 18 straight wins at Williams-Brice, Connor Shaw's 26 wins as a starter and USC's 5 wins in a row against Clemson make this a season for the record books.



GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

On a rainy day, families and volunteers place bright holiday wreaths as part of nationwide event to honor military veterans

ONLINE

See a photo gallery and scan this code to watch a short video. At thestate.com



By CASSIE COPE
ccope@thestate.com

A Columbia woman placed a wreath with a red bow in front of her husband's white headstone on Saturday at Fort Jackson National Cemetery.

Judy Emmons removed her gloves and embellished the wreath with gold leaves, a pine cone and silver ornaments.

"We miss him," she said, and shed some tears after she had

finished.

Despite the cold and rain, hundreds of local patriots helped place wreaths on the headstones at the cemetery as part of the nationwide Wreaths Across America event.

The event honors the veterans who no longer can be with their loved ones during the holidays, like Emmons' husband, Hermann P. Emmons, who was in both the

SEE WREATHS PAGE A8



© MICHAEL BERGEN/BERGEN@THESTATE.COM

Allie Smith, 8, whose father is stationed at Fort Jackson, places a wreath Saturday at the grave of Vietnam veteran Arthur Stephens Jr.

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The State

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WHAT'S AT STAKE

Locals say pristine river and area's wildlife will suffer



KIM KIM FOSTER TODAY/WKFO@THESTATE.COM

Doug Busbee of Wagener has spent years traveling up and down the Edisto River and is upset because of the possible effects of a mega potato farm being set up in Aiken County.

Huge potato farm sparks tensions on the Edisto

CITY OF COLUMBIA

Council struggles to mend

Divided members pledge to do better after strong-mayor vote

By CLIF LeBLANC
clifblanc@thestate.com

The meeting began at 2:17 p.m. in the dog days of August as City Council tackled agendas that were packed with controversial, important issues that would unfold in front of jammed meeting rooms in North Columbia.

By the time the workday ended at 3:30 a.m. Aug. 14, members had repeatedly exchanged cross words. Citizens waiting to address council complained aloud: "Bicker on your own time. This is our time."

Public policy on home-

lessness emerged muddled after that 13-hour meeting drew to a close. Strong-mayor forces went into overdrive. Tens of millions in public debt were committed with only a few city staffers and paid advocates in the room.

Council is trying to work toward a new accord after two bruising elections in recent weeks: a citywide election and a strong-mayor referendum. But even now, council's deep divisions remain as members work with their city manager, who will continue to run the city instead of Mayor Steve Benjamin, since the Dec. 3 referendum failed.

There is no consensus on how to mend themselves. Opposing views of

SEE COUNCIL PAGE A12

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Winston wins Heisman

Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston wins the 2013 Heisman Trophy | Sports, 1B

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

SUNDAY, December 15, 2013

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Everyday superheroes

A day in the life of a 911 dispatcher for ADPS



Syneta Valentine has been a dispatcher with the Aiken Department of Public Safety for 14 years. She is one of nine dispatchers for the city who handle police, fire and first responder calls for Public Safety.

BY TEDDY KULMALA
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

An 11-year-old girl saw a man outside her home and thought he was trying to break in, so she hid in the bathroom and called 911.

Jessi George, a dispatcher with the Aiken Department of Public Safety, took the call on Friday afternoon.

"Stay on the line, sweetie," George said to the girl. George told officers there was a possible burglary in progress but stayed on the line with the girl, asking her if she heard anything or if there was a window in the bathroom. The officers radioed back and told George they arrived at the home.

"They're gonna check the outside of the house and check for the man," George said to the girl on the phone. "Just hang tight."

It turned out the suspicious man was part of a lawn maintenance crew.

George told the girl to go open the door for the officers, and they both hung up. A few feet away, senior dispatcher Syneta Valentine took calls as well. During an average 10-hour shift in the dispatch room, a dispatcher may pick up the phone 200 times, including emergency and non-emergency calls, wrong numbers, hangups and "butt dials."

'They keep us busy in here'

A dispatcher's day starts with the 6 a.m. roll call with officers, according to Valentine, who's been a dispatcher with Aiken Public Safety for 14 years. There, the officers and dispatchers go over what's going on that day, updates on stolen cars, BOLOs—be on the lookout—sheets and house checks. "After that, we come in, sign on and start taking phone calls," Valen-



Syneta Valentine has been a dispatcher with the Aiken Department of Public Safety for 14 years. She is one of nine dispatchers for the city who dispatch police, fire and first responder calls for Public Safety.

time said. During the 2012-2013 fiscal year, Aiken Public Safety took nearly 42,000 911 calls. They took more

than 140,000 calls on non-emergency lines.

Please see 911, Page 5A



Exercise rider Jake Nelson rides Kentucky Derby hopeful Palace Malice for a workout at Churchill Downs on Wednesday, May 1, in Louisville, Ky.

Palace Malice: What's in a name?

BY BEN BAUGH
bbaugh@aikenstandard.com

Palace Malice became Thoroughbred racing royalty in 2013 by capturing the third jewel of the sport's Triple Crown, the 145th running of the Belmont Stakes.

But how did the Dogwood Stable campaigner colt get his name? The multiple graded-stakes-winning millionaire received his name

like the preponderance of the other horses in the stable: It was suggested by someone in the Dogwood Stable office, said W. Cot Campbell, Dogwood Stable president.

"We have a contest, and everybody enters the contest who wants to and will submit names," said Campbell.

"We give everybody a week to come up with names. We look at them and process them. One of the girls in the office (Jon Eisenmann, accounting assistant to Dogwood Stable/Eclipse Thoroughbred's treasurer Bill Victor) came up with the name."

There were eight to 10 name submissions, and Campbell looked them over, selecting three to send to The Jockey Club.

"Some of the names are invariably taken, so we end up with our third choice, but in this case, it was our first choice," said Campbell.

Please see NAME, Page 5A

AREA DEATHS

Albert Eugene "Jack" White, Ridge Spring

Flora Jane Miller, WaGENER

Jane Hixon Kaney, Beech Island

Mae Etta Corbett, Williston

Willie Marion Johnson, Aiken

Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER

Cotillion of Aiken still swingin' at 60

BY TEDDY KULMALA
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

Sherry Williamson has been attending Cotillion of Aiken events since the 1980s, but she found out on Saturday that her ties to the club go back even farther.

The Cotillion of Aiken held its 60th anniversary Saturday at Howard's

enaders, played at the very first cotillion ball in 1954, as well as several consecutive balls. He played trumpet and was the band leader.

"I did not realize he played for cotillion," she said. "When I was growing up, he was playing and swing."

"He liked a lot of Stan Kenton. That was his favorite," she said.

On Saturday, Aiken's own Palmetto Groove Band kept the dance floor filled with a variety of hits including "Proud Mary," "Power of Love" and "Carolina Girl."

Pete Peters, co-vice president, called the Cotillion of Aiken a formal, social dance club.

type of dance back in the 1700s, but in the last 100 years, it means a formal dance or sometimes a debutant dance."

A cotillion club existed in Aiken in the early 1900s, but Peters said World War II killed it off. The wives of several prominent Aiken men got together and in 1954 established a new club. The first ball was held that year at The Willcocks. The club also holds a formal dance each



PULLING AWAY

Gaffney running back Hyleck Foster sparks 38-21 victory for North squad in all-star showdown

PAGE D1

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IN A HURRY

5 Things
to read
today



Heisman winner

Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston became the second straight freshman to earn college football's most prestigious individual award, winning the Heisman on Saturday night. **PAGE D1**

'CamperForce'

A bustling campground is among the signs of the holiday season in Campbellville, Ky., where an Amazon.com distribution center recruits an armada of RV owners as seasonal workers to help fill holiday orders. **PAGE A3**

Final journey

A hearse carrying Nelson Mandela's body drove into his hometown in rural South Africa ahead of burial today, returning the country's peacemaker to the place where he had always wanted to die. **PAGE A9**

Double standard?

A Spartanburg lawmaker has pre-filed a bill to eliminate what he believes is a double standard for biological and foster parents. **PAGE C1**

GED changes

Starting in January, anyone taking the GED (General Educational Development) test in South Carolina will use a new computerized exam, which will also cost more. **PAGE C1**

Weather

Sunny,

Snow piles up as storm socks Northeast

12-14 inches forecast in New England

By MARK SCOLFORD
The Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — A winter storm blanketed a wide swath of the Northeast with a picturesque white layer on Saturday and gave ski resorts a boost, but it also caused dangerous travel conditions and complicated shopping plans less than two weeks before Christmas.

Multiple accidents were reported on roadways throughout the Midwest and Northeast, while airports reported hundreds of cancellations.

Airlines canceled nearly 1,200 flights because of the storm, including almost 375 flights into and out

of Newark, N.J., and 189 at Chicago's O'Hare airport.

"It's a pretty bad day for Newark," said Mark Duell, a spokesman for FlightAware, a website that tracks commercial airlines. More than 40 percent of Newark's 900 flights were cut, he said.

The weather contributed to four deadly crashes on Missouri roads on Friday and Saturday and drivers in states throughout the path of the storm were warned of slick road conditions from snow and ice.

Parts of New England could see up to a foot by the time the front pulls out early today and ushers in high winds that could be a hazard of their own. Up to 14 inches could fall in coastal towns in Maine.

◆ SEE STORM PAGE A4



People use umbrellas to protect themselves from the snow during a visit to Times Square on Saturday in New York. **JULIO CORTÉZ/AP**

Two determined spirits get ready for Clemson life

Program opens door wider to the college experience

By FELICIA KITZMILLER
felicia.kitzmiller@shj.com

Like many soon-to-be college freshmen, Rion Holcombe and Megan Pehling can't wait for next football season.

When the Clemson University Tigers take the field in Death Valley, there will be two new faces in the sea of orange and two new voices screaming cheers from the student section.

Holcombe and Pehling are looking forward to the simple revelry of college life because it represents a normal part of young adulthood they never thought they'd achieve.

"I was just crazy," Holcombe said about receiving his acceptance letter. "I've been thinking about (going to Clemson) for forever."

Pehling was excited to be accepted, but it was her mother, Penney Pehling, who was overwhelmed with emotion at the news.

"I think when I was reading her the letter, I got choked up a little bit," Penney Pehling said. "I just never thought this opportunity would come."

Holcombe, 20, has Down syn-



SANDY HOOK ANNIVERSARY

Nation reflects on school tragedy

Newtown marks year since 26 died

By JOHN CHRISTOFFERSEN
The Associated Press

NEWTOWN, Conn. — Bells tolled 26 times to honor the children and educators killed one year ago in a shooting rampage at Sandy Hook Elementary School as local churches held memorial services and the country marked the anniversary with events including a White House moment of silence.

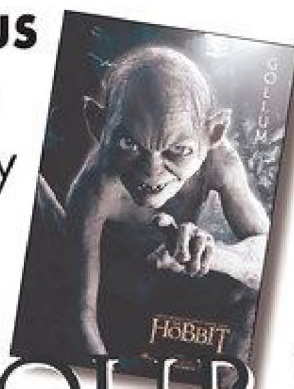
With snow falling and homes decorated with Christmas lights, Newtown looked every bit the classic New England town, with a coffee shop and general store doing steady business. But reminders of the private grief were everywhere. "God bless the families," read a sign posted at one house in the green and white colors of the Sandy Hook school, and a church posted that it was "open for prayer."

Ryan Kravins, a chef who lives

Jameis is even more famous

Meet the 2013
Heisman Trophy
winner, **1B**

A look
at holiday
films, **1C**



INDEX-JOURNAL

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5 SECTIONS, 38 PAGES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2013

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

Blaze guts home Family of 7 escapes residence

From staff reports

Multiple fire departments responded Saturday night to a raging fire at a mobile home on Shaun Road.

According to Greenwood County Fire Coordinator Joe Kennedy, the fire occurred at a

double-wide mobile home at 218 Shaun Road. Emergency personnel were dispatched to the home just after 7 p.m. Saturday.

Kennedy said the fire started while the family was cooking.

"The family was cooking supper and walked away from the stove while cooking with grease,"

Kennedy said. (A member of the family) came back and the kitchen was fully involved."

The fire coordinator said the family got out of the house safely, though he said a dog died in the blaze.

See **BLAZE**, page 4A



SUBMITTED

Firefighters work to extinguish a fire at a Shaun Road home. The seven family members escaped the home uninjured.



Graduates file off the stage Saturday morning at Lander University's 148th commencement ceremony at Finis Home Arena.

Bettie Rose Horne, center, received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters Saturday morning during Lander University's 148th commencement.



228 graduate during Lander commencement

By **CHRIS TRAINOR**
ctrainor@indexjournal.com

Never stop learning.
That was the message Saturday morning at Finis Home Arena, as

Lander University hosted its 148th commencement ceremony. The arena was filled to near capacity with the friends and relatives of 228 summer

See **LANDER**, page 12A

FIGHTING BACK

Stopping the cycle of abuse

Task force aims
to end cases of
domestic violence

By **MATT BRUCE**
mbruce@indexjournal.com

An emotional scene unfolded Friday morning inside the Greenwood County Courthouse. A defendant stood shackled in front of a judge's bench wearing a jail uniform, flanked by his public defender and nearly a dozen members of his family. The man was being sentenced for a brutal attack during which he choked his girlfriend until she lost consciousness.



DAVID STUMBO

At the other end of the dais, the defendant's former lover stood stone-faced with her arms folded amid prosecutors, her grandmother and her sister, who wiped tears away from their faces. Moments prior, the young woman had recounted the night her abuser choked and threatened to kill her in front of their 2-year-old daughter.

It is a scenario that plays out similarly every day in courtrooms across the state. The 40-minute hearing ended with an explanation from the circuit

A much-welcomed By **CHRIS TRAINOR**

USA — was donated to four local agencies.



LOCAL HOOPS

Lakewood, Sumter High battle on the court in cross-town rivalry

B1

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2013 | SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

FOUNDED OCTOBER 15, 1894 \$1.50

City council to consider penny tax projects

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT

bmarchant@theitem.com

One week after Sumter County Council met to discuss how to spend a proposed new penny sales tax, it's now city council's turn.

Sumter City Council will hold a specially called meeting this week on potential projects to be funded over the next seven years by an extended capital sales tax. Council members will

meet at 12:30 p.m. Monday on the first floor of the Sumter Opera House, 21 N. Main St.



McELVEEN

Before that discussion, council is scheduled to go into an executive session closed to the public to talk about "contractual matters," according to the agenda released to the media

last week.

City personnel have been studying projects that could be funded by the penny tax if voters approve the measure



in next year's election. Mayor Joe McElveen said he wants money to go toward projects the city wouldn't be able to tackle on its own.

"Our staff is looking for projects that are bigger than we can handle through general revenue," McElveen said.



McCORMICK

City Manager

Deron McCormick led city staff in identifying eligible projects but stressed any final decision on how the tax money will be spent rests with the members of council.

"As far as staff goes, we looked for projects that will have a good and positive effect on the community," said McCormick. "It's not that we were linking 'here's this money, how do we spend it?'"

SEE PENNY TAX, PAGE A4

Break-ins on Miller Road spark more patrolling

BY RAYTEVIA EVANS

revans@theitem.com

A rash of recent break-ins on Miller Road and North and South Pike West areas off U.S. 76/378 has Sumter Police Department stepping up patrols, hoping to decrease criminal activity in the area.

According to police, from Oct. 28 to Dec. 9, there were 26 break-ins or attempted break-ins in the area.

Law enforcement is also asking the community to help prevent these incidents from happening by reporting suspicious activity.

"Chances are, if you see a pedestrian carrying and trying to sell an electronic item like a television or laptop computer, that item could be stolen," said the police department.

SEE BREAK-INS, PAGE A4

Wreaths Across America



PHOTOS BY MATT WALSH / THE ITEM

ABOVE: Wreaths are prepared by Civil Air Patrol at Sumter Cemetery on Saturday for Wreaths Across America, a national tribute to men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces.

Cadets, troops lay tributes to veterans

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT

bmarchant@theitem.com

Wreaths are ubiquitous this time of year. They seem to hang from every home, business or light post. But the wreaths that decorated cemeteries this Saturday weren't there to celebrate Christmas. They were placed there to honor America's veterans as part of Wreaths Across America.

Cadets with the Sumter Civil Air Patrol hung 47 wreaths along the wrought-iron fence outside Sumter Cemetery

to the thousands of veterans estimated to be buried there. The wreath-hangings and the ceremonies around them mirrored similar services at graveyards across the country on a Saturday in December, including at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

Saturday's event at Sumter Cemetery was the seventh annual wreath-laying by the Civil

RIGHT: Janelle Buniel of the Civil Air Patrol salutes a wreath that was laid out on Saturday.



A WARNING FOR SHOPPERS

Sumter Police Department is advising shoppers to lock up their vehicles while purchasing gifts in the area to avoid break-ins. As you get your last-minute shopping out of the way, protect your belongings by following these tips:

- Park in well-lit areas and keep packages out of sight.
- Hold your purse close to your body or place wallet in front or inside pocket.
- Stay alert and have keys in hand when heading to your car.
- Make multiple trips home to unload purchases from your vehicle that could attract a thief.
- Protect your home during the holidays by doing the following:
 - Keep all windows and doors closed and locked.
 - Use exterior lighting and motion sensors to light up the house at night to make it more difficult for burglars to enter the home without being seen.
 - Make sure your alarm system is operating properly.
 - Don't announce your new high-dollar purchases after the holidays. Break down the boxes of TVs, stereos, com-



NEW COLLEGE GRADUATES Almost 300 receive degrees from FMU on Saturday. **Page 1C**

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Common Core foes gear up for fight

BY ELLEN MEDER
Morning News
emed@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Crusaders against Common Core Standards came to Florence this week to rally support during their tour of the state, which will culminate in what is poised to be a drag-out fight at the Statehouse during the second half of the legislative session next year.

Grass-roots groups are hoping to overthrow the set of educational goals and standards adopted in 2010 by South Carolina and by 44 other states.

It will be a fight about what's best for thousands of schoolchildren.

It will be a fight about what

overarching principles and minute details must be imparted to the next generation.

But mostly, it will be a fight about control.

Sheri Few, president of South Carolina Parents Involved in Education, said local control is especially important in South Carolina, where "we've always prided ourselves in autonomy from the federal government."

On Thursday night, about 30 people crowded into an auto store serving as a meeting hall to hear what Few, along with state Sen. Larry Grooms, R-Berkeley, had to say.

Grooms has filed a Senate bill that will make it illegal for the state to use the Common Core Standards to guide the curriculum or test students by overturning the decision made by the state education board and department three years ago.

Grooms said Common Core is a huge problem because it doesn't allow the state and its families total control over what children learn.

"Don't use the power and influence of the federal government to come down here and dictate to my family how we're going to live, how we're going to learn, what we're going to learn, what we're going to be taught,"

See **CORE**, Page 3A



State Sen. Larry Grooms, R-Berkeley, speaks with a group in Florence about his bill that would ban the state from using Common Core Standards in public schools. In the front row, teacher Alliecy Stevens, who is against the standards because it forces "teaching to a test," listens.



Rob Bispo and son Nathan walk along a line of grave markers Saturday after the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Florence National Cemetery.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA marks the holiday for fallen troops

Ceremony at local national cemetery honors veterans

BY MATT ROBERTSON
Morning News
mrobertson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Several hundred people weathered the elements to turn out for Saturday's Wreaths Across America ceremony at Florence National Cemetery.

Florence's annual ceremony was one of 14 planned across the state at the national cemeteries and other cemeteries that participated.

Wreaths Across America is a program that tries to bridge the time gap between Veterans Day and Memorial Day and mark



Lisa Canon places wreaths on grave markers at Florence National Cemetery while husband Richard salutes. For more photos from the ceremony, visit scnw.com.

one who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Rolling Thunder SC4 former prisoners of war, provided an escort for and one wreath each was

Help is out there for those facing a foreclosure

SC Help program offers financial relief for qualified homeowners

BY GAVIN JACKSON
Morning News
gjackson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — More than half of the \$295 million in federal funds given to the state of South Carolina in 2010 by the U.S. Department of the Treasury for foreclosure mitigation are still available for homeowners facing hardships and to prevent foreclosure.

South Carolina is ranked fourth in the nation for home foreclosures, according to RealtyTrac. Though the foreclosure rates are falling, the non-profit S.C. Housing Corp., a division of the State Housing Finance and Development Authority, created SC HELP to receive federal funds and work to change that ranking, director Clayton Ingram said.

"This is not a handout. This is a bridge program ... for people who have suffered a setback. They have always been making their payments on time and always been reliable borrowers for their homes, and they're going to be able to come out of it at some point and make those payments again," Ingram said. "This is really something to tide people over and stop foreclosure and keep people in their homes, keep com-

TOP SC CITIES FOR FORECLOSURE

- » Myrtle Beach
- » Charleston
- » Columbia
- » Summerville
- » Greenville
- » Anderson
- » North Charleston
- » Rock Hill
- » Goose Creek
- » Conway

Source: RealtyTrac

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several of the three assistance programs, such as being a "responsible borrower" facing delinquency or foreclosure due to circumstances out of their control, have a qualifying hardship, having a fixed-term, fully amortizing mortgage with an original loan amount less than \$729,750. The property must be an owner-occupied, primary residence in the state, and the owner cannot be in active bankruptcy.

"When a crisis like this hits, and this is a crisis, I mean foreclosure, losing your home, most people's most valuable asset, certainly constitutes a crisis, a family crisis, a financial



10 DAYS TO CHRISTMAS

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SUNDAY

DECEMBER 15, 2013

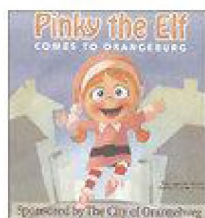
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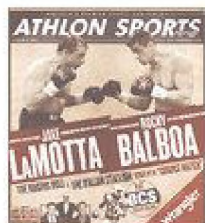
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20 sections, 348 pages
Vol. 132, No. 349

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INSIDE



‘GR8FL’

Brothers combine
rap, R&B to spread
gospel message

Sunday Magazine, C1

HERBS
FOR THE
HOLIDAYS‘MOLLIE POP’
EARNS PET IDOL CROWN

*Annabelle and ‘Teddy’
win Look-Alike Contest*

By DIONNE GLEATON
T&D Staff Writer

She is a rescue dog who loves a lot of attention, so this beagle mix is certain to bask in the admiration she's drawn from readers throughout The Times and Democrat Region as the ninth annual T&D Pet Idol.

Mollie, or “Mollie Pop” as she is affectionately known by her doting owners, is a sweet, bubbly canine who brings much life to the household of Jerry and Cynthia Hallman of Springfield.

“She’s a very smart dog. She’s a good dog, and is very sweet,” Cynthia said, noting that she and her husband have found that their nearly 6-year-old pooch also has a few quirks. For example, Mollie won’t go out and chase a squirrel unless they spell the word “squirrel.”

Mollie is not as stubborn, however, when it comes to eating at the home of Cynthia’s mother-in-law on Wednesday night.

“My mother-in-law lives right behind us and cooks for us every Wednesday night. We’ll ask her if she’s ready to go out to Grammy’s and she’ll go get her leash and sit and wait,” she said.

See MOLLIE, A8



Annabelle Bolen of North and her late Bichon Poodle, Teddy, who was a rescue dog, captured the T&D’s third annual Pet & Owner Look-Alike Contest. Teddy died before the contest ended.



SPECIAL TO THE T&D

Mollie, a 6-year-old beagle mix, may just get some extra treats from Santa Paws this year for being named The Times and Democrat’s ninth annual Pet Idol.

THE FINALISTS

- #2 Bella, owner Stephanie Gates
- #3 Rocky, owner Debbie Smoak Crosby
- #7 Allie, owners Dawne Knipple and Ken Lammers
- #12 Gizzie, owner Robert Wunderlich
- #13 Sammie, owner Jackie Edwards
- #26 Tigger, owner Ruth Bligh
- #31 Rosie Lee, owner Andrea Kay Hileman
- #51 Baby, owner Menika Briggman
- #55 Sometimes, Heather Smoak

THE WINNER

#29 Mollie, this year’s T&D Pet Idol, and the nine finalists will be included in a photo session with one of The T&D’s professional photographers. Contest winners will also receive a personalized pet calendar and a prize package full of treats and personalized items.

2014 Pet and Owner Look-Alike Winner
#5 Teddy and Annabelle, Tommy Bolen

Despite brain condition, SCSU grad made no excuses

By KIMBERLEI N. DAVIS

why you can't do well."

Brian Symmes

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