

From: Taillon, Jeff
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Date: 12/13/2012 10:11:59 AM
Subject: S.C. Front Pages - Thursday, December 13, 2012

'The Hobbit'

How does latest Tolkien film stack up? E6-8



Holiday spirit on Meeting St. B1



The Post and Courier

THE SOUTH'S OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER • FOUNDED 1803

THURSDAY, December 13, 2012

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Charleston, North Charleston, S.C. ★ \$1.00



Marcus Lattimore on injury, rehabilitation and going pro
Sports, C1



Former Burger King will be transformed into Black Bean Co.
Retail column, B7

Revenue Department gets \$20 million for cost of cyberattack
Local & State, B1



Addlestone academy celebrates Hanukkah in a special way
Your Lowcountry, Inside



Tailored Massage
30 minutes for \$15
60 minutes for \$30
90 minutes for \$45
See A2



Showers, High 56, Low 36. Complete 5-day forecast, B10

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INDEX

Bridge 128
Business B7
Classified B1
Comics B10-15
Crossword B6-13
Editorial A10
Setting the record straight A3



City won't get I-526 extension

County Council instead could vote on project

BY DIANE KNICH
dknich@postandcourier.com

Charleston County Council tonight could vote to build the controversial extension of Interstate 526, edging out Charleston Mayor Joe Riley, who stood ready to take on the job.

County Council Chairman Teddie Pryor said Wednesday that a majority of council members do not support funding over the \$558 million project to the city of Charleston. Council was expected to vote tonight on whether to hand over the project, but it's clear that a majority of council members are opposed to such a move, so a vote isn't necessary, Pryor said.

Instead, Pryor said, council members could vote on whether the county should build the extension of I-526 across Johns and James islands. Pryor, a strong supporter of the project, said he hopes a council member will make a motion to take a vote

Please see I-526, Page A5.



VIDEO
To see Colleen Condon listen to residents' concerns about the completion project, go to postandcourier.com/videos.



Assistant County Administrator Jim Armstrong (left) and County Council members Herb Sais and Colleen Condon took a tour Tuesday of properties that would be affected by the I-526 project.

If you go

WHAT: Charleston County Council meeting on Interstate 526

WHEN: 5 p.m. today

WHERE: Second floor, Lonnie Hamilton II Public Services Building, 4045 Bridge View Drive, North Charleston

SCHEDULE: Committee meetings begin at 5 p.m. I-526 will be discussed at the Finance Committee meeting, which is the third committee to meet. Committee meetings will be followed by a public comment session and full council meeting. Those who wish to speak during the public comment session must sign up between 4 and 5:30 p.m. outside Council chambers.

If the I-526 extension is built, a highway will cut across the marsh and the Stono River, marling the view for residents of the Waterway South condominiums in West Ashley.



Tonight, enjoy a shower with the stars

BY BO PETERSEN
bpeters@postandcourier.com

Think of it as Christmas lights from the heavens — or an omen of Mayan doom.

But you might want to step outside tonight to watch the Gemini meteor shower.

Dozens, if not hundreds, of shooting stars per hour will dart across the sky from any direction. Clear skies are expected, and because this year there's a new moon, the skies will be darker than usual for the annual shower.

"People are expecting

(to see) a meteor a minute, maybe more," said Terry Richardson, a College of Charleston astronomy professor.

The show will peak in intensity about 2 a.m. Friday, when the Gemini constellation is directly overhead. But meteorites will begin to blaze at 9 p.m. or earlier, soon enough for the kids to get a look. The shower Friday night into Saturday morning should be just about as good. Year to year, the Gemini

Please see METEOR, Page A5.

Viewing tips

- As with any celestial display, the darker the better: move away from lights. The beach is better than downtown, astronomer Terry Richardson suggests.
- No point in facing any one direction: Gemini shooting stars can come from anywhere in the sky.
- If out at 2 a.m., lie down. The best show will be directly overhead.

If shooting digital photographs

- Set the exposure to 1 minute if possible, but at least 30 seconds, and keep extra batteries at hand.
- Use as wide an angle as possible, and set the lens wide open.

Ex-cop: Crawford hated women

Records reveal stabbing details

BY GLENN SMITH
gsmith@postandcourier.com

After plunging his knife into the leg of a stranger, Lucius Crawford climbed into his bed and pondered the reasons why he kept lashing out at random women on the street.

"I said to myself, 'Are you doing this for fun or you crazy?'" Crawford said. "I said to myself, 'If they catch up with you, you going to get time.' I guess if I had been with somebody, I would not do it, but I always be by myself."

Crawford expressed these thoughts in a written statement to detectives after Charleston County police hauled him in for a stabbing spree that wounded five women in May 1973.

Records from the case had been stored for years in a county warehouse until obtained by The Post and Courier this week. They shed fresh light on the mind-set of a lonely and violent 21-year-old who would go on to hurt several more women in the decades that followed.

Please see CRAWFORD, Page A7.



Psychiatrists found no evidence of mental illness when they examined Lucius Crawford in 1973.

County loses schools ruling

Court says magnets must be more open

BY DIETTE COURREGE CASEY
dcourreg@postandcourier.com

Academic Magnet High and other Charleston County magnet schools will have to open their doors to non-county students who own property in the county, according to a state Supreme Court ruling issued Wednesday.

Three of the court's five justices agreed that the school district can't "monopolize" its magnet schools for county residents when state law gives student property owners who live elsewhere the right to attend Charleston schools.

"The Board can most certainly set admissions requirements for its magnet schools and even set geographic priority for available seats," according to the opinion. "What it cannot do is exclude an entire segment of students recognized under the statute as qualified to attend its schools."

That means students who don't live in Charleston County still have to go through magnet schools' admissions processes and meet acceptance criteria. And to be eligible as a non-county

Please see SCHOOLS, Page A5.

'THE HOBBIT' REVIEW: A long, long journey, **Life&Style**

Lattimore leaves lasting legacy

'I wouldn't change anything' from last 3 years, says USC superstar who will go pro

By JOSH KENDALL
jkendall@thestate.com

Marcus Lattimore made it official Wednesday afternoon, announcing his plan to skip his final year at South Carolina to enter the NFL Draft and thus ending one of the most impactful careers in Gamecocks football history.

"What he has done for us is the reason the University of South Carolina is not only a football program of significance but our university is talked

INSIDE
THE PROGNOSIS for Lattimore's knee injury, **C1**
A TIMELINE of Lattimore's career at USC, **C1**

ONLINE
VIDEO: Lattimore's news conference, **GoGamecocks.com**

about around the country," coach Steve Spurrier said. "People know we have had some success, and it really all happened three years ago. It hap-

SEE LATTIMORE PAGE A6



TIM DOMANIK/TODMANIK@THESTATE.COM

USC running back Marcus Lattimore announces his intention to enter the NFL Draft in a Wednesday news conference. 'I will always be a Gamecock. God Bless Gamecock Nation,' he said.

The State

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2012 | THESTATE.COM

S.C. FORECAST ROSY IF CLIFF AVOIDED

1.2%

Projected job growth in S.C. in 2013; growth was 1.8 percent this year and 1 percent in 2011

8.6%

Unemployment rate in S.C. in October, down from 10% a year earlier; expected to drop more in 2013

27%

Growth in permits for new homes in Columbia area through Oct. 2012; projected to grow more next year

Economists: More jobs, higher incomes expected

By RODDIE BURRIS
rburris@thestate.com

South Carolina nearly doubled job growth this year over 2011, and a group of economists Wednesday said stable growth should continue in 2013 if lawmakers can avoid the fiscal cliff.

If Congress fails to solve the impending round of government spending cuts and higher taxes, another recession threatens to sucker punch the economic recovery percolating in the Palmetto State and across the country.

If the cliff is averted, South Carolinians can expect more jobs and higher incomes in 2013 in South Carolina, three noted economists told more than 200 business and government leaders gathered at the University of South Carolina for an annual economic outlook conference Wednesday.

A more diversified industrial base, a strengthening housing market and South Carolina's position as a top destination for business activity in the Southeast helped form the basis for the economists' predictions, they said.

"We look the best of all states go-

ing into 2013," for both domestic and foreign sources of business investment, said Doug Woodward, USC Moore School of Business research director.

Employment is predicted to grow at 1.2 percent in 2013, the panel forecasts. Last year, they projected 2 percent job growth and the rate came in at 1.8 percent.

"There is a (large) amount of good news" to report, Woodward said. "Everything is on track for a robust expansion of the economy next year."

SEE ECONOMY PAGE A7

PELION TRAGEDY

Father charged with killing infant

By R. DARREN PRICE
dprice@thestate.com

A Pelion man has been charged with the death of his 2-month-old daughter.

Lexington County deputies charged Jordan Ray Hodson, 33, with homicide by child abuse after Makenna Hodson died at a Columbia hospital about 9 p.m. Tuesday. Hodson and his 32-year-old wife, Elizabeth Hodson, were each also charged with unlawful conduct toward a child.

The parents took the unresponsive child to Pelion Family Practice before she died, deputies said. From there, Makenna was taken to Lexington Medical Center and then to Palmetto Health Children's Hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

An examination at the hospital revealed that the child might have been the victim of blunt force trauma to her head and body, Lexington County Sheriff James Metts said.

The parents were both arrested at Lexington Medical Center after they gave investigators explanations for the child's injuries that weren't consistent with the findings of the hospital's medical staff.

An autopsy performed by the Lexington County Coroner's Office determined that Makenna died from gastric perforation and

SEE PELION PAGE A6

Haley: We won't find another DeMint

By ANDREW SHAIN

successor, and two of the governor's five reported wrong way of looking at government," said Haley.

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TODAY'S DEAL

CLEMSON FOOTBALL MORRIS TO STAY PUT

The Greenville News

A GANNETT COMPANY

METRO
Woman
sentenced in
baby case

METRO Erwins give Clemson \$1 million gift for advertising center, 1B

FINAL EDITION

THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 13, 2012
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

LATTIMORE MAKES A CAREER DECISION



Marcus Lattimore announced Wednesday that he will forgo his senior season and enter the NFL draft. BART BOATWRIGHT/STAFF

'A GAMECOCK FOREVER'

COLUMBIA — He's on his own now, but if you know anything about Marcus Lattimore, that's really been the case all along. You might have thought you knew about him when you heard of his record-breaking high school career and the fact that he was one of a small handful of the most highly recruited players in the nation.

Big head, right? A guy who would come in with expectations, like maybe cutting a little slack on class attendance, maybe a promise of how many carries he would get in a game, stuff like that.

Common assumptions about players who have come down the path Lattimore traveled may have merit in some cases, but in this instance, they have been mistaken if not completely wrong.

This guy is not much like anyone you have known, on and

See LATTIMORE, Page 3A



Bart Wright
bwright@
greenvilleonline.com
Sports Editor

GreenvilleOnline.com A REAL PRO

Watch Marcus Lattimore share his reasons for entering the draft, see photos from his press conference and take a look back in pictures at his collegiate career.

INSIDE

Lattimore to enter NFL draft in 2013, 1C

DATA SECURITY DOUBTS REMAIN

Revenue Department
gets \$20M loan to deal
with hacking response



MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD

By Tim Smith

Staff writer
tsmith@greenvilleonline.com

COLUMBIA — Nearly two months after publicly disclosing a massive data breach at the Department of Revenue, state officials are unsure just what kind of weaknesses exist in state agencies' cyber security.

The State Budget and Control Board — the five-member board that oversees the state's administrative agency as well as state financial decisions — took the first step to find out Wednesday when it authorized hiring a consultant to craft a bid for a firm to assess the state's security and develop a statewide cyber security firm.

The board also approved a \$20.1 million loan to the Revenue Department to handle some of the state's response to the hacking.

"Us moving fast after this crisis was very, very important," Gov. Nikki Haley told the board. "Every other agency is still getting pinged at this point. We are not exempt from this. Waiting on the legislative session to decide on an RFP (request for proposal) is allowing more risk."

Marcia Adams, executive director of the State Budget and Control Board, said the vendor selected to help create a statewide cyber security plan first will look at each agency to assess its security.

"We really don't know what we have in the state," Adams said of cyber security at each agency.

State Inspector General Patrick Maley told the panel about his report on the status of cyber security among agencies, which relied on opinions by 18 chief information officers, offi-

See LOAN, Page 3A

Fed to buy bonds, keep rates low

FISCAL CLIFF

The meeting was held against the backdrop of the looming "fiscal cliff."

Central bank's policies shift toward goal of reducing unemployment

By Martin Gutsinger
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve will

released Wednesday at the conclusion of its final meeting of the year.

In the statement, the Fed said it will direct the money into long-term Treasuries to replace an ex-

INSIDE

Abby.....2D	Lifestyle.....1D
Area news.....1B	Obituaries.....6B
Business.....3B	Sports.....1C
Classifieds.....5C	Television.....2D
Comics.....3D	Things to do.....4D
Crossword.....2D	U.S.A. World.....2A
Horoscope.....2D	Voices.....6A
Jumble.....2D	Weather.....8B



High 57
Low 37



Lattimore leaving USC for NFL draft, 1B

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

THURSDAY, December 13, 2012

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 146, No. 349 Aiken, S.C. ★★ 75¢

Nominate the Aiken Standard's person of the year

BY MELISSA HANNA
mhanna@aikenstandard.com

Is there a person in Aiken County that deserves recognition for his or her accomplishments over the past year? Is there a local story that stands out to you from 2012?

The Aiken Standard is preparing to compile its list of the Top 10 Stories of the Year and select our Person of the Year, and we need your help.

We are seeking your ideas on who the Aiken Standard should name Person of the Year, as well as what the top 10 stories were in 2012.

Last year, with the public's help, we named "The Officer" as the Person of the Year, honoring those who put their lives on the line each day to serve and protect the community. Last year's choice came on the heels of the shooting death of Aiken Public Safety officer Scotty Richardson, causing the community to reflect and appreciate the local officers who help protect and serve the community.

The 2012 Top Stories of the Year included the Bridgestone expansion, Savannah River Site layoffs and property reassessments.

Your input is important to us as we choose our Person of the Year and Top 10 stories.

Please see **NOMINATE**, Page 16A

INSIDE TODAY



Christmas at Hopelands opens today
Local News, 2A

AREA DEATHS

Betty Eubanks Bishop, Warrentonville
Geraldine "Geri" Mahoney, McGill, New Ellenton
Scott Gavin, Williston
Patricia "Pat" C. Buckalew, Aiken

Sharing the Christmas spirit



STAFF PHOTO BY HALEY HUGHES

Belinda Johnson, left, helps her son Calvin Shealy, right, go through his presents.

Volunteers, community help to make Operation Santa possible

BY HALEY HUGHES
ahughes@aikenstandard.com

More than 100 people got an early visit from Santa on Wednesday thanks to Mental Health America Aiken County and its partner agencies.

The yearly tradition, which has gone on now for nearly 26 years, provides mentally disabled adults in the community with a special Christmas event to remember.

"For the majority of people in this room, this is their only Christmas party," said Liz Neal, board chair of Mental Health America Aiken County. "For the board and

the volunteers, it brings us great joy to do this. It makes you realize how lucky you are."

The guests were served Christmas dinner by Aiken High School culinary arts students, board members and volunteers, and the jolly old elf himself made a surprise visit to deliver each guest a bag full of Christmas presents.

The presents were made possible by donations from the community.

Two weeks ago, the organization was short on the funding it needed to give each guest a bag of presents. Then, Neal wrote a letter to the editor, which was published in the Aiken Standard, request-

ing assistance. Citizens answered the call, and the funding came through.

"The Aiken community, as usual, came to rescue," she said. "This was the first year Orrin Hicks attended."

"I wanted to experience a large festivity. The holidays haven't been much since my mother passed away. I wanted to see others happy because it's contagious," he said.

Calvin Shealy proudly showed off the PlayStation 2 game he received in his bag.

Please see **SANTA**, Page 16A

Local legislators at work in Columbia

BY CHRIS WALSH
cwalsh@aikenstandard.com

Before the South Carolina House of Representatives broke for the winter holiday, a handful of local representatives were appointed to committees and a couple have been busy in turning in pre-filed bills.

Rep. Bill Taylor, R-Aiken, and Rep. William Clyburn, D-Aiken, each turned in pre-filed legislation by Tuesday's deadline.

Taylor, recently named the 1st Vice Chairman of the Education & Public Works Committee, assigned two pieces of legislation. The committee is responsible for all

education legislation in the state as well as legislation for highways, aviation and railroads.

"My election as 1st Vice Chairman of the House education committee was a complete surprise, since I did not seek the position. I am truly humbled by the confidence shown in me by my fellow legislators," Taylor said. "We face many educational challenges in South Carolina. Our schools are the largest expense to state government and citizens should demand a better return on their investment in tax dollars. Working with legislators, school administrators and teachers who are closest to the classroom challenges, I will help lead reforms aimed at transforming the lives of our children to give them every advantage of a solid education that will result in successful lives."

On the first bill, he joined with nearly 30 other representatives, including locals Rep. Bill Hixon, R-North Augusta, and Rep. Don Wells, to amend the law on unlawfully carrying a pistol or

Please see **WORK**, Page 16A

Census: Whites no longer a majority in U.S. by 2043

BY HOPE YEN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — White people will no longer make up a majority of Americans by 2043, according to new census projections. That's part of a historic shift that already is reshaping the nation's schools, workforce and electorate, and is redefining long-held notions of race.

The official projection, released Wednesday by the Census Bureau, now places the tipping point for the white majority a year later than previous estimates, which were made

become more diverse due to higher birth rates among minorities, particularly for Hispanics who entered the U.S. at the height of the immigration boom in the 1990s and early 2000s. Since the mid-2000 housing bust, however, the arrival of millions of new immigrants from Mexico and other nations has slowed from its once-torrid pace.

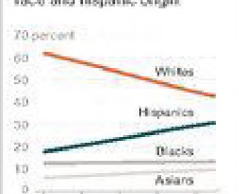
The country's changing demographic mosaic has stark political implications, shown clearly in last month's election that gave President Barack Obama a second term — in no small part due to his support from 78 percent of non-white voters.

equality are going in new directions, promising to reshape race relations and common notions of being a "minority." White plaintiffs now before the Supreme Court argue that special protections for racial and ethnic minorities dating back to the 1960s may no longer be needed, from affirmative action in college admissions to the Voting Rights Act, designed for states with a history of disenfranchising blacks.

Residential segregation has eased and intermarriage for first- and second-generation Hispanics and Asians is on the rise, blurring racial and ethnic lines and lifting the numbers of

Projections

White people will no longer make up a majority of Americans by 2043. Projected population by race and Hispanic origin.





The Beaufort Gazette

THURSDAY, December 13, 2012

beaufortgazette.com

Established in 1897 50 cents

Ex-Ridgeland clerk sentenced to 5 years



Drew
Ex-clerk in Ridgeland's water and sewer dept.

Former water, sewer department employee guilty of embezzling \$118K

By **TOM BARTON**
tbarton@beaufortgazette.com
843-706-8109

A former clerk in Ridgeland's water and sewer department was sentenced to five years in prison and five years probation after a Jas-

per County jury found her guilty Wednesday of embezzling \$118,000 in public funds.

Mandy Drew, 36, must also pay \$118,036 in restitution to the town. Drew's attorney, Hilton Head Island lawyer Don Colongeli, asked

for leniency from 14th Circuit Court Judge Carmen Mullen following the verdict.

Colongeli said Drew made a poor decision, but should be shown mercy because of her sincerity and love for her family, particularly her

4- and 13-year-old children.

Assistant 14th Circuit Court Solicitor Francine Norz asked that Drew receive the maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, arguing that she refused to cooperate with auditors and investigators

from the S.C. Law Enforcement Division.

Mullen said she sympathized with Drew, saying it will be nearly impossible for the mother of two to find another job, but noted Drew embezzled "a great deal of money" for almost two years.

Please see **CLERK** on 11A

New facilities ... STAT

Beaufort Memorial set to open state-of-the-art ER facility



Beaufort Memorial Hospital employees look in the new rooms at the Pratt Emergency Center on Tuesday afternoon.

By **ERIN MOODY** • emoody@beaufortgazette.com • 843-706-8184

Beaufort residents can get a sneak peek at the emergency center at Beaufort Memorial Hospital this weekend, before it opens in early 2013.

The George N. Pratt and Sarah Meyer Pratt Emergency Center's expansion is part of a \$14.5-million renovation that more than doubled the size of the hospital's ER facilities. Because of construction, the ER was temporarily relocated in April to what once was the transitional-care unit attached to the Cochrane Heart Center.

"What the hospital is really excited about is the staff will be able to provide a better experience for the patients and family members and friends," hospital president and CEO Rick Toomey said. "... All of our design elements try to keep the focus on the patient."

Please see **FACILITIES** on 11A



An employee looks into one of the state-of-the-art trauma rooms at Beaufort Memorial Hospital on Tuesday afternoon.

APPROACHING
THE 'FISCAL CLIFF'

Talks stalled; holiday on hold?

Lawmakers have been advised they might need to cancel Christmas plans to work to reach a budgetary solution.

By **LISA MASCARO**
and **MICHAEL A. MEMOLI**
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — House Republicans are fired up to prevent President Barack Obama from raising tax rates for the wealthiest Americans, even if that means dashing their Christmas holiday plans and working through New Year's Eve.

That commitment was particularly apparent at a gathering of conservatives Wednesday.

"A bad deal is worse than no deal at all," said Rep. Cynthia Lummis, R-Wyo. "I would rather see us go into next year if the president and the speaker cannot come to a deal."

The House GOP's resistance to compromise comes as influential Republicans elsewhere — including some in the Senate — have indicated now might be the time to fold the cards on taxes.

The split within the GOP has dogged House Speaker John Boehner since becoming the GOP leader almost two years ago. But the outbursts from his right flank also provide the Ohio Republican with the political cover he needs to angle for the best deal.

"The president and I had a pretty frank conversation about just how far apart we are," Boehner said Wednesday, after a private morning meeting with the House GOP caucus. Majority Leader Eric Cantor of Virginia was at

Please see **CLIFF** on 11A

Lattimore takes his chances in NFL draft, **1B**

Inside today's edition

State: Agency to receive \$20M loan for tax breach, **2A**

Nation: Census: White people the minority by 2043, **5A**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2012

2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

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INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 94, NO. 229

Expert talks Bixby mindset

Doctor: Killer believes government implanted device; thinks Obama is bin Laden

By CHRIS TRAINOR
ctrainor@indexjournal.com

ABBEVILLE — Lawyers and a mental health expert continued to delve into the mind of convicted murderer Steven Bixby on Wednesday.

A post-conviction relief hearing for the convicted cop killer continued Wednesday at Abbeville County Courthouse. Post-conviction relief actions are typically made in an

attempt to get a new trial for convicted criminals, particularly those who have received the death penalty.

Bixby, who is in Abbeville for the hearing, was sentenced to death for the Dec. 8, 2003 shooting deaths of Abbeville County Sheriff's Office Deputy Danny "Danny Boy" Wilson and Constable Donnie Ouzts.

Wednesday's proceedings included testimony from noted forensic psychiatrist Dr. Shawn Agharkar

and a brutally long testimony from former longtime public defender Charles Grose, who was on Bixby's defense team during his criminal trial in 2007.

Agharkar, who is in private practice in Atlanta and is on faculty at the Emory School of Medicine, said he had a chance to evaluate Bixby during a pair of meetings this year.

See **BIXBY**, page 4A

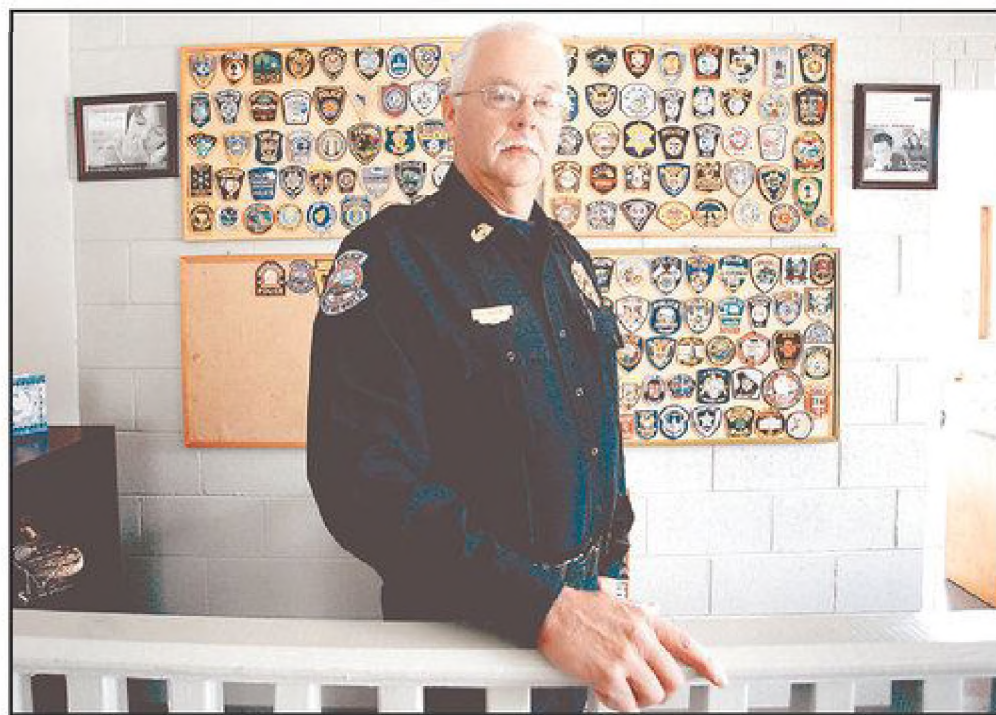


Don Zelenka, right, of the state Attorney General's office, shows attorney Charles Grose a document on a computer Wednesday at Abbeville County Courthouse.

CHRIS TRAINOR | INDEX JOURNAL

DUE WEST

NEW CHIEF IN TOWN



MATT WALSH | INDEX JOURNAL

David Maxwell stands in the Due West Police station. Maxwell took his permanent post as Due West police chief on Nov. 12.

David Maxwell happy to be police chief in close-knit community

By MATT BRUCE
mbruce@indexjournal.com

This wasn't in the plans for David Maxwell. When the longtime probation officer retired from the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services in 2005, he thought

his next move would be a lucrative position outside of law enforcement.

But when a position opened up to police at Dixie High School, where his two children attended, Maxwell found himself back behind a badge 11 months later.

And the 51-year-old Abbeville County native couldn't be happier.

"This wasn't a job that was on my agenda," Maxwell said. "It's nothing I was looking for. But the opportunity came open, and I'm thoroughly enjoying it."

Maxwell was named Due West's permanent police chief Nov. 12, approved for the post by the town's council. His appointment came after a monthslong search for Due

West's top cop. He was selected as an interim in August 2011, after former chief James Smith retired. Smith served in the position for 12 years before stepping down after a 37-year law-enforcement career.

Due West Mayor Lee Logan pointed to Maxwell's experience,

See **CHIEF**, page 5A

DEVELOPMENT

Company could add up to 70 positions

New manufacturer to relocate to Saluda

By FRANK BUMB
fbumb@indexjournal.com

After years of negotiations, Saluda succeeded in bringing Tomberlin Automotive to the town. The relocation of the electric vehicle manufacturer from Augusta, Ga. to Saluda will diversify the town and county's economy and bring an expected 40-70 jobs through a 2-3 year process.

"This is huge for Saluda," Mayor Frank Addy said. "Saluda hasn't had manufacturing for years and years."

Tomberlin Automotive, founded in 1995, specializes in smaller, "slow speed" electric vehicles. The plant in Saluda will manufacture the E-Merge and Vanish UTV. The vehicles are billed as fuel-efficient models for short commutes with the Vanish being able to go off-road. CEO and founder of Tomberlin Automotive, Mike Tomberlin, said the decision to relocate to Saluda was made Wednesday morning after roughly two years of consideration.

"Unlike so many we've been at this a little while, and we've got a good distribution channel. We distribute to 44 states and internationally," Tomberlin said. "We're still a small company."

Tom Brooks, community and economic development director for Saluda, said Tomberlin was "being modest."

See **JOBS**, page 3A



FRANK ADDY



THE ISLAND PACKET

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2012

islandpacket.com

SERVING THE LOWCOUNTRY • 50¢

57° 46°

Here comes
the sun — finally. 4B



SCHSL proposes reclassification that could move teams 1B

\$35 for BYOB paint and party for 2 at IDEA Studio
dealsaver.com/HiltonHead

EMBEZZLEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS

Ex-Ridgeland clerk sentenced to 5 years

Mandy Drew also must pay \$118,036 in restitution

By TOM BARTON
tbarton@beaufortgazette.com
843-706-8169

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probation after a Jasper County jury found her guilty Wednesday of embezzling \$118,000 in public funds.

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Drew

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with auditors and investigators from the S.C. Law Enforcement Division.

Mullen said she sympathized with Drew, saying it would be nearly impossible for the woman to find another job, but noted Drew embezzled "a great deal of money" for almost two years.

Please see SENTENCED on 11A

Blessing of the site



DELAYNA EARLEY • Staff photo

Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone stands with altar servers from St. Peter's Catholic Church in Beaufort and blesses the site of the future John Paul II Catholic School on Wednesday afternoon in Okatie.

Council tables aquatics center

Hilton Head Island Recreation Association officials say they feel snubbed by the decision.

By BRIAN HEFFERNAN
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843-706-8142

Supporters of a proposed aquatics center near the beach expressed frustration Wednesday after Hilton Head Island Town Council tabled the project.

Despite investing about \$115,000 in studies, plans and proposals, council members said the town probably can't afford to proceed with the \$76 million project now because of other higher-priority projects.

"It ... seems unfair that we've been working on this project for a half dozen

Please see COUNCIL on 11A

'FISCAL CLIFF' TALKS

GOP isn't budging on tax stance

By LISA MASCARO
and MICHAEL A. MEMOLI
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — House Republicans are fired up to prevent President

Santa makes some noise

By ALLISON STICE
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843-706-8138

When Marybeth Schnurr and her fellow "60-plus-ers" heard sirens for 20 minutes Tuesday night, they wondered what the sound meant: Fire? Heart attack? Armageddon?

INSIDE

For Santa's Bluffton route, go to page 11A. "We're a very warm community, so we kind of watch out for each other," Schnurr said of her neighbors at The Crescent. "Everyone was



Deep Well helps mom after fire

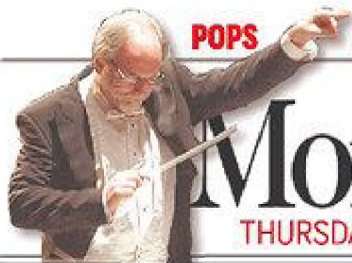
Olivia is a single mother of two children, and her apartment burned.

She lost most of her possessions. While she waited for an apartment to open up at a public-housing complex, The Deep Well Project paid for a motel room for the family.

After Olivia moved into her apartment, Deep Well provided furniture.

Deep Well provides a range of social services for poor working families, the disabled, the sick and the elderly.

TO CONTRIBUTE



POPS

FOR THE HOLIDAY

Royal Ladies of Country to sing honky tonk Christmas. **Page 1D**

Morning News

THURSDAY DECEMBER 13, 2012

TODAY'S
WEATHERBreezy a.m., cold at night
with 56 high, 34 low.

DETAILS 2A

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Police policy: Chase OK

Chase that ended in six-car crash last week did not get dangerous, according to Florence police chief

BY TRACI BRIDGES

Morning News
tbridges@foxnews.com

FLORENCE — Despite some public criticism, Florence police officers involved in a pursuit that led to a six-vehicle collision last

week at one of Florence's busiest intersections acted according to department policy, Florence Police Chief Anson Shells said this week.

The incident started Dec. 6 when a suspect tried to take a

deposit from a person in the parking lot at Bank of America at Palmetto and Irby streets. Unsuccessful, the suspect fled down Edisto Drive and onto Second Loop Road, where he was followed by police.

The chase ended in a six-vehicle crash on Second Loop at

See CHASE, Page 9A



This Dec. 6 collision was the result of a suspect fleeing a brief pursuit from Florence police officers.

Whites to lose majority by 2043

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — White people will no longer make up a majority of Americans by 2043, according to new census projections. That's part of a historic shift that already is reshaping the nation's schools, workforce and electorate, and is redefining long-held notions of race.

The official projection, released Wednesday by the Census Bureau, now places the tipping point for the white majority a year later than previous estimates, which were made before the impact of the recent economic downturn was fully known.

America continues to grow and become more diverse due to higher birth rates among minorities, particularly for Hispanics who entered the U.S. at the height of the immigration boom in the 1990s and early 2000s. Since the mid-2000 housing bust, however, the arrival of millions of new immigrants from Mexico and other nations has slowed from its once-terrific pace.

The country's changing demographic mosaic has stark political implications, shown clearly in last month's election that gave President Barack Obama a second term — in no small part due to his support from 78 percent of non-white voters.

There are social and economic ramifications, as well. Longstanding fights over civil rights and racial equality are going in new directions, promising to reshape race relations and common notions of being a "minority." White plaintiffs now before the Supreme Court argue that special protections for racial and ethnic minorities dating back to the 1960s may no longer be needed.

BLAZING A PATH



Three buildings on South Dargan Street in downtown Florence are being demolished to build a new plaza for pedestrian traffic.

Downtown walkway taking shape

Hotel, eateries to get pedestrian connection

BY JOHN D. RUSSELL

Morning News
jrussel@foxnews.com

FLORENCE — Progress is following demolition downtown near the corner of West Evans and South Dargan streets in downtown Florence.

Crews are currently demolishing three small adjoining buildings to construct a new plaza that Florence Downtown Director Ray Reich said will provide a pedestrian thoroughfare from the new hotel to the restaurants on South Dargan Street.

The plaza will also have public art installations chosen by an art committee. The art will be bought and be permanently installed. Reich said the pieces will likely be made of bronze.

Two of the three buildings were bought by Florence Downtown Development Corporation (FDDC). An agreement with the McLeod/Ervin family will let the city use the third space, adjoining the other two, for free for 30 years. Reich said there was no historic architecture in the buildings, but bricks and other materials would be recycled for construction.

After demolition, city crews will pitch in to help put down pavers and landscape the new plaza. "Normally during the winter months the crews have less upkeep with the parks, so we thought it would be a good opportunity to take advantage of a slow time of year for them to help with the plaza," Reich said.

By the end of the year, demolition is expected to be complete with the entire project finishing up by mid-April to coincide with the hotel's opening.



John Quenneville, an employee of DJM Enterprises, uses an air chisel to pry old bricks from the side of the building.



Big hopes for med school in Florence

Study to look at students' impact

BY JOHN SWEENEY

Morning News
jsweeney@foxnews.com

FLORENCE — Local officials are eagerly awaiting the results of a study that could be the first step in what ultimately results in a Florence-based medical school.

On Monday, the Florence City Council unanimously approved the spending of \$25,000 toward a feasibility study examining the possibility of establishing an extensive medical program partnership between the Medical University of South Carolina, Francis Marion University and the Florence's two major medical providers, McLeod Regional Medical Center and Carolinas Hospital System.

The study will examine the impact of having third- and fourth-year medical students training alongside physicians at the two Florence hospitals, and leaders say it could lead to a full-fledged medical program complete with a campus located in downtown Florence.

It's a possibility that Florence Mayor Stephen J. Wukela said would fundamentally change the area in ways that cannot be underestimated.

"This project, if it came to fruition, would without doubt be the largest thing I've been involved in since being mayor," Wukela said. "And would likely rival anything that the city has done in decades."

The study, which costs a total of \$55,000, was commissioned

See MED, Page 9A

Is Chris Christie too fat for the Oval Office?

The Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie says he is

Walters told the governor some people say he is too heavy to be president one day. "That's ridiculous," Christie said.

praised handling of Superstorm Sandy, which has sent his popularity soaring. "I've done this job pretty well,

making a bid for the White House in 2016, he isn't saying.

"I don't know what I'll feel like in 2016," he said. "First things



CMYK



Odd

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2012

THE LEGEND MOVES ON

Carolina's Marcus Lattimore taking talents to the NFL

SPORTS, B1

The Times and Democrat

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Victim's blood found on shoes, hoodie



Cleopius Edwards in court

By RICHARD WALKER
T&D Staff Writer

DNA evidence was the focus Wednesday in the ongoing trial of a man accused of murdering an Orangeburg babysitter.

Cleopius Edwards, who is charged with murder in the 2011 death of Carolynne Hanton, sat quietly as prosecutors wove their case against him. "It's money. It's what Cleopius Edwards was looking for on the morning of Feb. 3," prosecutor Harrison Bell told jurors.

Jurors are expected to hear closing

arguments on Thursday and could possibly reach a verdict in the case against the 22-year-old Edwards, a former South Carolina State University student and Florida native.

Circuit Court Judge Jack Early informed Edwards of his right to put up no defense and to refrain from testifying.

"I don't need any more time," Edwards said.

"And your decision is?" Early said.

"I don't want to testify."

Edwards is charged with murder, first-degree burglary and possession

of a weapon during the commission of a crime.

Prosecutors say Edwards used a steak knife to stab Hanton inside her Golf Avenue residence. He was arrested on Feb. 10, 2011, at his Campus Drive residence.

A forensic pathologist testified Tuesday that Hanton was stabbed at least 43 times and also suffered multiple smaller cuts.

Prosecutors rested their case late Wednesday. After discussions with Edwards' defense counselors, Early told the jury panel that the defense planned to introduce no witnesses

when court resumes on Thursday.

On Tuesday, prosecutors introduced what they say is a confession captured on video.

Wednesday was the supporting evidence centered on the forensics, mainly blood found on a jacket, a large kitchen knife and shoe impressions.

Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office forensic investigator William Ketcherside testified he found blood starting just inside a door leading into a living room. Hanton was found face

See TRIAL, A3

TWO TIMES LUCKY



PHOTOS BY LARRY HADY/160
Martha Jones, top right photo, holds Ayden Jones, who arrived at 12:57 p.m. Wednesday — a little late for hitting 12:12 p.m. on 12-12-12. Tierra Johnson, in the photo above, holds her son Zimir Milburn, who was born at the Regional Medical Center on 12-12-12. She said, "He's my lucky baby."

Woman gets 15 years in child's death

T&D Staff Report

A woman has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for her part in the death of a child whose body was found encased in concrete near Bowman.

Circuit Judge Markley Dennis sentenced 27-year-old Grace Trotman on Tuesday in the death of 2-year-old Rodricus Williams.

A Berkeley County jury earlier found Trotman's former boyfriend, Roger Anthony Williams, guilty of homicide by child abuse. He admitted putting his son into a barrel after he died in June 2010, filling it with concrete and taking it from Summerville to Orangeburg County.

But Williams denied killing the boy, blaming Trotman for the death. Trotman pleaded guilty earlier this year to homicide by child abuse and desecration of human remains and agreed to testify for prosecutors.

Before he was located, the child was reported to have fallen in the water off Charleston's Battery. Crews searched the waters for hours but found nothing.

Berkeley County Sheriff's investigators were led to Orangeburg County a day later after interviews with Roger Williams.

Law enforcement officers from Berkeley and Orangeburg counties searched a vacant manufactured home and the surrounding overgrown property on Landsdowne Road, a remote rural road about seven miles east of Bowman.

At the back of the property in a wooded area, Berkeley County authorities located a galvanized trash can filled with hardened concrete about 20 minutes after their arrival.

Within a week, investigators had chipped away the concrete where they found the remains of a child. DNA tests confirmed it was the missing toddler.

■ The Associated Press contributed to this report.



Grace Trotman



Rodricus Williams

Babies arrive at RMC on 12-12-12

Halcyon DeMint replacement

Jeff Taillon

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