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SC Front Pages – Wednes day, November 23, 2016

The Post and Courier

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Wednesday, November 23, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Haley is Trump's choice for ambassador to U.N.

Sources: S.C. governor selected for president-elect's Cabinet



Nikki Haley's chief foreign work centers on negotiating with international companies seeking economic development deals in the state and leading seven overseas trade missions as governor.

BY ANDY SHAIN
The Post and Courier

COLUMBIA — South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley will be nominated as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations by President-elect Donald Trump on Wednesday. The Post and Courier has learned.

The move continues the steep political rise of the daughter of Indian immigrants that started six years ago when the Bamberg native was elected as South Carolina's first female and minority governor.

The planned nomination to the Cabinet-level post, confirmed by multiple sources with knowledge of the decision, also is expected to raise questions about Haley's qualifications for a major foreign policy role since she has little diplomatic experience as state lawmaker and governor.

The 44-year-old's chief foreign work centers on negotiating with international companies seeking economic development deals in the state and leading seven overseas trade missions as governor. Her husband, Michael, was deployed for nearly a year in Af-

ghanistan with the S.C. National Guard in 2013.

Recent UN ambassadors typically have experience in presidential administrations, usually with the State Department or National Security Council. The post would be Haley's first in the federal government.

The Trump administration is likely banking on Haley's strong communication and problem-solving skills in being the U.S. representative at the 193-member United Nations in New York.

The governor won praise for her calm handling of the racially-charged Charleston church shoot-

ing and historic flood that took place just less than four months apart last year.

After the shooting, she persuaded lawmakers to remove the Confederate battle flag that had flown on the Statehouse grounds for more than 50 years.

Haley would need to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate. She would succeed Samantha Power, who worked on the National Security Council under President Barack Obama before becoming UN ambassador in 2013.

Please see **HALEY**, Page A8

Judge bars key Slager defense testimony

Mention of Scott drug use, Slager's words to supervisor off limits

BY ANDREW KNAPP
and BRENDA RINDGE
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Frustration among lawyers representing former North Charleston patrolman Michael Slager was apparent Tuesday as a judge barred testimony considered key to the defense in his murder trial.

A doctor was not allowed to explain how Walter Scott's cocaine use might have thrust him into a "fight or flight" situation, a possible alternative reason for why Scott ran from a traffic stop and resisted arrest. Prosecutors have said Scott was simply scared of going to jail.

Defense attorneys also could not ask the officer's former supervisor what Slager said that day about a struggle with Scott and his ensuing decision to open fire.



Slager

Lead attorney Andy Savage argued that other officers had already testified for the prosecution about Slager's accounts. At one point, he turned to prosecutors, exasperated over their reasons for blocking the supervisor's testimony.

"Is it too much trouble to ask what the problem is?" he asked while jurors were not in the courtroom. "I don't have ESP."

Three of five defense witnesses who took the stand Tuesday were not permitted to give certain testimony. Only one expert, who talked about the yellow paint on Scott's cellphone and Slager's Taser, went unchallenged altogether.

Twelve defense witnesses in all, including Police Chief Eddie Driggers, have testified over four days, but objections and the resulting orders from Circuit Judge Clifton Newman have scuttled elements that the defense saw as crucial. Slager's family members often watched and nodded their heads at the rulings. The trend is expected to continue as prosecutors plan challenges of future witnesses.

When Newman excluded Slager's statements to a supervisor, Savage twice asked the judge to reconsider. Newman rejected the lawyers' arguments and, a few times, refused to listen altogether.

Please see **SLAGER**, Page A6

Group urges outside review of Charleston Police Dept.

Justice Ministry wants

position in Washington Square, just minutes before City Council's Tues-

Inside



Decision to shutter Bob Ellis Shoes 'bittersweet' after 66 years on King

Owner Kalinsky cites changing retail



the building is under contract and he could not disclose



SPORTS, 1C
**RIVALRY IN
THE VALLEY**



LIFESTYLE, 1D
**Hard to go
wrong with
chocolate**

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WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 23, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY AS PRESIDENT, TRUMP WON'T PURSUE E-MAIL CASE AGAINST CLINTON **PAGE 1B**

SC mental health study seeks changes

LIV OSBY
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South Carolina's mental health care system is slowly making progress but has a long way to go before it can meet the needs of those who suffer with mental illness in this state, a new report concludes.

The analysis from the South Carolina Institute of Medicine & Public Health comes about a year since the group took stock of the state of mental health care in South Carolina and made 20 recommendations for improving it.

It outlines areas of forward momen-

tum as well as those where little progress has been made, said Maya Pack, associate director for research and strategic initiatives with the institute.

"Like with any effort, we know that not everything can happen at once," she said. "But we're encouraged by some recent investments of new dollars and a collective feeling of an elevation of the topic of behavioral health and the patients who need those services."

"It boils down to financial and human resources constraints."

About 43.8 million Americans have a mental illness — 10 million of them a serious condition such as schizophrenia or

bipolar disorder, according to the institute.

And Mental Health America ranks South Carolina 43rd nationally for access to mental health services.

Last year, the institute said what's needed most to help these residents are 24/7 crisis stabilization services, better care for chronic conditions, accessible outpatient services with expanded hours, more health-care providers and psychiatric hospital beds, and support to live in the community.

Recognizing that not all its recommendations could be undertaken at once without a large investment, the institute

prioritized three areas related to crisis intervention for people in distress — crisis stabilization units, or CSUs, mobile crisis response services, and expanded hours at community mental health centers, Pack said.

Working together

One recent development hailed by advocates came Nov. 15, when Greenville Health System announced it is building a new psychiatric hospital with Acadia Healthcare.

The \$64 million, 120-bed hospital will

See **MENTAL, Page 11A**

State's largest turkey fry to feed thousands



About 500 turkeys will be fried in one day at Miracle Hill in Spartanburg. The food will help provide Thanksgiving meals for thousands of people in need in the Upstate.

ELIZABETH LAFLAUR/STAFF

Legislators, others respond to story of quadriplegic

TIM SMITH
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COLUMBIA — Lawmakers say they are considering legislation in the wake of a story in *The Greenville News* concerning an Upstate quadriplegic who has battled state agencies for nine years in an attempt to get the nursing services ordered by her doctors.

The legislators say they were saddened and disturbed by Sunday's story in *The News* that detailed the plight of Brook Waddle, a 28-year-old quadriplegic living in her mother's home in Landrum that is at risk of foreclosure.

Waddle is a former homecoming queen, athlete and cheerleader who was paralyzed in 2005 in an auto accident. She was treated at various hospitals for two years before being moved to her mother's home.

Though a doctor in 2007 ordered at least 108 hours of skilled care per week for Waddle, including 24 hours of care by a registered nurse and attendant care whenever a nurse was not available, the state departments of Disabilities and Special Needs and Health and Human Services have never approved that amount.

In fact, records show, the amount of approved nursing care has been steadily cut over the years and Waddle has never had the regular care of a registered nurse, despite a complex medical condition.

An HHS hearing officer in 2013 found the agency improperly reduced Waddle's hours, said the state had violated her due process rights and said the state should have provided RN care at least weekly since she was home. In addition, the officer concluded that Waddle should have received the care her doctor ordered until the end of her administrative appeal. She ordered the state to pay \$140,148 to Waddle's mother for her years as a caretaker.

The hearing officer's directives have yet to be followed by the state, according to Waddle's lawyer, Patricia Logan Harrison.

US judge weighing Roof's competency

TIM SMITH
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COLUMBIA — U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel has begun the process of deciding whether Dylann Roof is



competent to stand trial. Gergel said last week that he anticipated he and his staff would work through Thanksgiving to prepare an order on

ing that holding it in open court could threaten Roof's right to a fair trial.

Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty for Roof, 22, who faces 33 federal charges in connection with the murders of nine African-Americans at

QUICK FIXES

Fast starts have allowed Clemson to put teams away early. 1B

Independent Mail

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2016

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PHOTOS BY KATIE MCLEAZM/INDEPENDENT MAIL

Scott Peters, right, cuts cornbread stuffing with others on Tuesday in Belton in preparation for the annual Haven of Rest Thanksgiving meal.

Haven of Rest to feed thousands in Anderson

NIKIE MAYO

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Workers and volunteers at Haven of Rest were busy Tuesday making preparations for the ministry's annual Thanksgiving meal, which is expected to feed thousands in Anderson and beyond.

Phil Minnie, who oversees the meal, said the organization is preparing nearly two tons of turkey, 85 gallons of green beans and more than 400 pounds of stuffing. The ministry plans to make at least 3,000 free meals for people who are homeless, needy or alone for the holiday.

The Thanksgiving meal has been one of the ministry's most successful outreach efforts for nearly 30 years.

"If we can provide a hot meal to people who are hungry, hurting or alone on Thanksgiving, we want to do that," said Stu Butler, executive director of Haven of Rest. "For us, that is a tangible way to show others what the love of Jesus looks like."

The meal will be served Thanksgiving Day in the gym of First Presbyterian Church, 302 W. Whitner St., Anderson. The church is near Haven of Rest.

"We are so grateful to the folks at the church who are providing space for people to sit down and eat," Butler said. "It



Jesse McDonald, above, cleans dishes Tuesday. Left, Erik Wilkinson gets the macaroni and cheese ready. At least 3,000 meals will be provided in the gymnasium at

Suspect ID'd in shooting of witness

MIKE ELLIS

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AND KIRK BROWN

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A suspect has been named in Friday's fatal shooting of an Anderson man who testified during a recent drug trial in federal court.

The Anderson County Sheriff's Office is looking for 38-year-old Bruce L. Bell. Sheriff's spokeswoman Lt. Sheila Cole issued a statement Tuesday evening saying that a warrant has been issued charging Bell with murder.

Bell, of Williamston, is considered armed and dangerous, according to Cole.

Bell is accused of shooting Walter "Reno" Lee multiple times with a handgun. The shooting happened about 1:30 p.m. Friday at Lee's car-detailing shop at 406 Lance Road, which is near Southwood Academy of the



Bruce L. Bell

See SUSPECT, Page 5A

Rodeos focus of project at New Prospect

FRANCES PARRISH

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New Prospect Elementary School students sat on the edge of the track, cheering for 15-year-old Riley Sutherland of Starr, as she navigated her horse Copper through the barrel racing pattern Tuesday afternoon.

Then, Sutherland who rides in the South Carolina High School Rodeo Association, showed off her horse's tricks, such as rearing on command to the delight of the children. The students' eyes were glued to Copper as he reared over and over again.

Earlier Tuesday, the wide-eyed students had a chance to ride a horse, thanks to four brought by Welcome Ranch in Anderson.

"I've never been on a horse, so I wanted to ride one," said third-grader Marissa Burns. "It was fun and so exciting."

See PROJECT, Page 5A



USC GAINING MOMENTUM IN PAST MONTH

SPORTS, B1



STUFFED TURKEY GOOD OPTION FOR SMALLER MEALS

FOOD & HEALTH, D1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Wednesday, November 23, 2016



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TODAY THU FRI



58°/43° 66°/41° 68°/38°

Complete forecast, B6

HOLIDAY HOURS

Closed Thursday

The Herald-Journal offices will be closed on Thanksgiving Day. Customer service will take calls from 7-9 a.m. for questions or concerns regarding your account.

NEWS DIGEST



Report: Haley 'leading candidate' for UN ambassador position

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley is President-Elect Donald Trump's "leading candidate" for the next ambassador to the United Nations, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Haley was rumored last week to be a contender for Secretary of State. However, the Wall Street Journal article said Trump is leaning toward Mitt Romney.

Haley met last week with Trump in New York, but details of the meeting were scarce. Haley also was elected vice chair of the Republican Governors Association last week.

— The State

SPORTS



Vaughn among Terriers recognized by SoCon

Once buried on the depth chart, Tyler Vaughn not only rose to become a Wofford starter at defencion and this season but on

ELECTION 2016

Trump: She's 'suffered greatly'

Backs off vows on Clinton, climate change

By Jonathan Lemire
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Two weeks after his election victory, President-elect Donald Trump began backing off campaign promises Tuesday, including his hard line on climate change and his

vow to jail "Crooked Hillary" Clinton that had brought thunderous "Lock her up" chants at his rallies.

A top adviser said Trump is now focused on matters that are essential in setting up his administration, not on comments he made during the heat of the campaign.

After a year blasting The New York Times, Trump submitted to an interview with reporters and editors at their Manhattan office. Among the topics

covered, he:

■ Pushed back against questions about conflicts that could arise due to a lack of separation between his government post and his many businesses, declaring that "the law's totally on my side, the president can't have a conflict of interest."

■ Took his strongest stance yet against the "alt-right," a term often used as code for the white supremacist movement. Though members are celebrating his victory, he said, "It's not

a group I want to energize. And if they are energized, I want to look into it and find out why."

■ Spoke positively not only of fellow Republicans in Congress — "Right now they are in love with me" — but also of President Barack Obama, who he said is "looking to do absolutely the right thing for the country in terms of transition."

Trump, who left late Tuesday to spend Thanksgiving at his

SEE TRUMP, A7

GREAT POSSIBLE TURKEY FRY

FIT TO BE FRIED



Rusty Daniels checks the temperature of a turkey to make sure it's been cooked all the way through during the 10th annual Ellis & Bradley Great Possible Turkey Fry Tuesday. PHOTOS BY JOHN BYRUM/JOHN.BYRUM@SHJ.COM

Food sent to those in need at Miracle Hill shelters, Upstate communities

By Alyssa Mulliger
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Dressed in a turkey hat and "Straight Outta the Fryer" shirt, Rusty Daniels walked



TENURE BEGINS MARCH 1

Kelly named new USC Upstate chancellor

New leader comes from University of West Florida

By Zach Fox
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Brendan Kelly has been named the new chancellor of the University of South Carolina Upstate.

Kelly, vice president for university advancement at the University of West Florida, will become the sixth leader in USC Upstate's 50-year history. His tenure as chancellor officially starts March 1.

"We're excited about the Upstate as a region, and we're honored to come into this university," Kelly said. "We get a chance to honor the 50th anniversary and all the foundation that has been built over the last five decades, but our job is to focus in on the next five decades."

He will take over for Mary Anne Fitzpatrick, who has served as interim chancellor of

SPORTS

Keon Johnson's 38-point game at Illinois one for the record books 1B



SPORTS

Gamecocks rolling just in time for rivalry game at Clemson 1B



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Partly sunny 63°/43° See 2C

The Herald



PHOTOS BY GERRY MCLENDON 2 gmcleendon@herald.com
Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Columbia held a prayer service, one of several across the state being held at the request of Gov. Nikki Haley after Hurricane Matthew, and in the midst of two racially-charged murder trials in Charleston.

South Carolina prays through tough times

“THERE'S A NEED TO COME TOGETHER. NO MATTER HOW BAD THINGS ARE, WE'RE BIGGER THAN THAT.”

Dan Rogers

and now we can just relax and pray,” said 12-year-old Abby Suber, a sixth-grader at Saint Joseph Catholic School.

Dan Rogers led an intercessory prayer at the noon service for the victims of the Emanuel Church shooting and the family of Walter Scott. “There’s a need to come together,” Rogers said. “No matter how bad things are, we’re bigger than that.”

The Rev. Richard C. Wilson often leads midday services at the church, but he noted the governor’s call for the state to come together, and referenced the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday with a call to “give thanks for the blessings we have today.”

The younger attendees at the service appreciated that Tues-

SEE PRAYER SERVICE, 6A



Johanna Killoy prays inside Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Columbia.

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT
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It’s been a rough year for South Carolina.

Last month, the state was struck by hurricane-induced flooding, forcing waters to rise across the Palmetto State for the second year in a row. The trials in two racially charged shootings also are underway in Charleston.

In response to those tribulations, worshippers prayed across the state Tuesday, at the request of Gov. Nikki Haley, including at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Columbia.

“There’s so much going on,



SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL NOTES

Injuries catch up with Northwestern. NFL Network features South Pointe. 1B



LOCAL

YORK STUDENTS PORTRAY IMMIGRANTS

Fifth-graders dress in period clothing, experience Ellis Island. 3A



BUSINESS

FLYING FROM CHARLOTTE?

If you’re flying from Charlotte this week, get ready for long security lines, crowded parking lots and traffic. 8B

For Thanksgiving meal, churches say all are welcome



thanks is more than what they have – it is all about giving food away to anyone who needs it.

for the Thanksgiving meal at Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen, where volunteers feed the

Baptist Church, the annual Thanksgiving Day sit-down meal served to hundreds of

hundreds from around the city. “Our words have always been that everyone is welcome, and



Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

75¢

WEDNESDAY, November 23, 2016

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

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Details released in teen's death

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER
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Dixon

Warrants for four of the five Aiken County men charged in the shooting death of a North Augusta teenager were released Tuesday by the Aiken County Sheriff's Office, describing in more detail what transpired the early morning of Nov. 18.

All five men — Ronquavis James Howard, 17; Raheim Faison Mc-



Harrison

Corkle, 17, of New Ellenton; Undraize Antonio Dixon, 17, of Warrenville; Deonte Raequan Schultz, 17, of Beech Island; and Aikel Leetrez Harrison, 19, of Aiken — were arrested between Friday and Monday and charged with the murder of local high school student Jordan Shores.

Shores, 15, was killed Friday morning after police say several men, including a 15-year-old juvenile, broke into a Clearwa-

ter home and fatally shot the teenager, pistol-whipping another 16-year-old boy, before fleeing the scene with a PlayStation 4.

All five defendants were being held at the Aiken County detention center as of Tuesday.

A 15-year-old juvenile, though not named by police, has also been charged in Shores' murder. He remains jailed at the Department of Juvenile Justice in Columbia.



McCorkle

For murder, warrants for all defendants state they entered the 1034 Fairview Ave. apartment around 1:15 a.m. Friday armed with a handgun and "did discharge the firearm striking the victim (Shores) in the head causing his death."

All five are also charged with attempted murder. McCorkle and Howard are charged with two counts of attempted murder. On one count for both, warrants state

the defendants "did beat" the second teenage victim "inside of the home "about the face and head, discharging the pistol" in an attempt "to kill him."

On the second count for Howard, the warrant states he did "discharge his weapon in an attempt to shoot" the female homeowner. On the second count for McCorkle, the warrant

Please see SHOOTING, Page 12A.

Heavy traffic expected as drivers hit the roads

BY TRIPP GIRARDEAU
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Nearly one million South Carolinians will be on the roadways for the Thanksgiving holiday, with the heaviest traffic starting tonight and continuing into the rest of the weekend.

AAA Carolinas released a travel forecast projecting that 2 million Carolinians will travel 50 miles or more from home this Thanksgiving, with just under 1.4 million North Carolinians and 670,000 South Carolinians traveling. This is a 1.9 percent increase over 2015.

Lance Cpl. Judd Jones, with the South Carolina Highway Patrol, said safety is the most important issue drivers need to worry about if they are going to be on the roads for the holidays.

Highway Patrol will hold events at rest areas and welcome centers around the state over the holiday to remind motorists to buckle up and drive safely during one of the busiest travel holidays of the year, according to the South Carolina Department of Public Safety.

The official travel period will last 102 hours, kicking off at 6 p.m. today, and continuing through midnight Sunday.

There were nine fatalities on South Carolina roadways during the Thanksgiving weekend last year. So far this year, there have been 877 traffic-related fatalities year-to-date compared to 889 fatalities at this time in 2015.

Please see TRAFFIC, Page 12A

Area deaths

- Willie Gomillion, Aiken
- Jane Goss, Trenton
- Mary Mason, Aiken
- Melvin Mathis, Aiken
- Benjamin Sanders, Ridge Spring

Deaths and Funerals, 6A

Weather

Aiken joins rest of the state in prayer

Residents give thanks for blessings, celebrate diversity

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
ccleveland@aikenstandard.com

At noon Tuesday, church bells rang across South Carolina in observance of a day of prayer requested by Gov. Nikki Haley.

Haley attended a prayer vigil at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, a place where a year ago nine black parishioners were shot and killed during a Bible study. A trial is underway for the man accused of the shooting and a competency hearing also was reportedly being held for him Tuesday.

A separate case involving a former North Charleston police officer charged in the 2015 killing of an unarmed motorist is also underway in the Charleston area, prompting the governor to ask South Carolinians to pray for both, as well as a region in the state still recovering from Hurricane Matthew.

She also asked those praying for the state to give thanks for its blessings.

Hours before in Aiken, a prayer group of roughly a dozen people that represented around eight or nine churches of all denominations met for its weekly prayer meeting at a local restaurant, where they prayed for government leaders, the community and nation.

Roger Rollins, executive director of the Family and Marriage Coal-



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND

Pastor Almeta Nichols, of River of Life Church, prays Tuesday morning during a weekly prayer meeting in Aiken. This week's meeting fell on a day when Gov. Nikki Haley called for statewide prayer.

is designed to bring people together, to get over the disunity and to work around everybody's differences.

"This is what brings us here," he said.

The Concerned Ministers Fellowship joined the group and each person around the table prayed — some

offering prayers for local and state leaders and the nation's newest leaders.

Rollins also passed out a devotional guide to use during reflection at noon.

Both he and the Rev. Paul Bush, of the Concerned Ministers Fellow-

with Rollins calling it "No. 1" and the means in which people communicate with God.

"Prayer is the key. You can't get into anything without a key. Prayer is the key that opens opportunity," Bush said.



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Morning News

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 23, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER

Partial sunshine.
High 66, low 46.
DETAILS 2A

www.9cnow.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

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Florence

Mayor, city council members sworn in

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Now that election season has come to a close, Florence City Council has some familiar faces returning to city leadership positions.

On Tuesday evening Mayor Stephen J. Wukela, Councilwoman Octavia Williams-Blake and Glynn Willis — a former city councilman — were sworn in to serve a term on the city council.

Both Wukela and Blake were

re-elected to their seats for a third term, while Willis takes an at-large seat formerly held by Robby Hill.

Willis said during his swearing-in ceremony that serving the city has changed his life and he's eager to return to a council that truly works for its residents.

"You see so much bitterness and anger in state or federal politics but that's not the case here," he said. "I see a council who's diverse. We use our diversity to build on success and instead of letting politics pull

us back, we push forward together. I'm honored the citizens have chosen me to serve on this council."

Willis previously served on the council from 2010 to 2014 but lost his re-election bid. He also served 14 years on the city's planning commission prior to his first term and was appointed to the city's tax Committee in 2015.

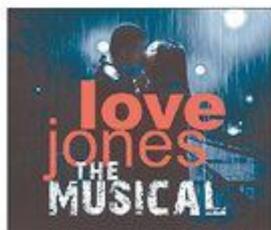
Blake commented on the rapid progress Florence has

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3A



Glynn Willis recites his oath with his hand on a 100-year-old family Bible on Tuesday in council chambers at the Florence City Center.

JOSHUA LLOYD/MORNING NEWS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/FLORENCE CIVIC CENTER

Production is based on 1990s film.

'Love Jones the Musical' takes stage at Florence Civic Center

From staff reports.

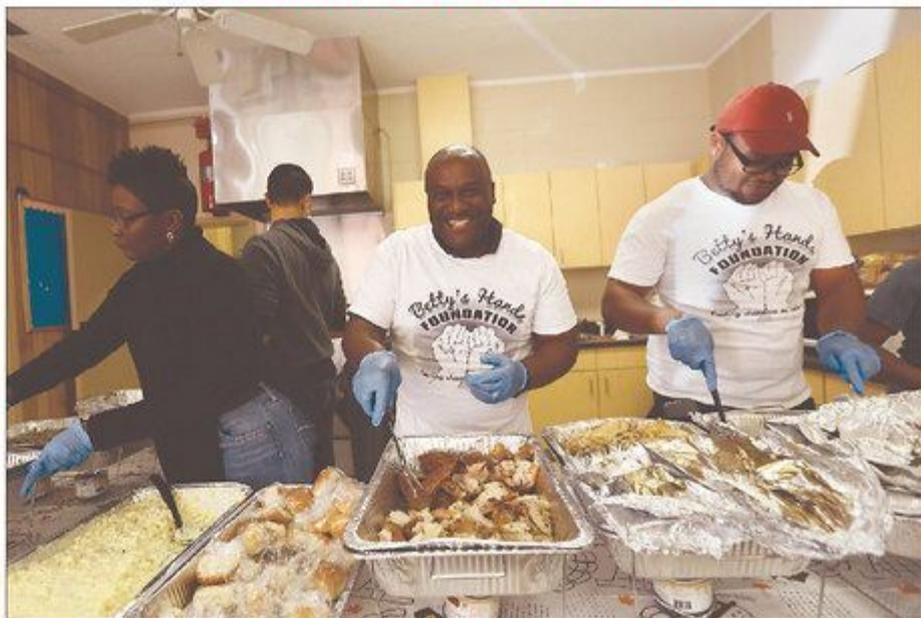
FLORENCE — The on-screen 1990s cult classic "Love Jones" will come to life on the Florence Civic Center stage today as the award-winning drama is transformed into a musical production.

"Love Jones the Musical" will begin at 8 p.m. at the Florence Civic Center with the doors opening to the public at 7 p.m. Ticket prices for reserved seating start at \$29 and are available at the Civic Center Box Office, Ticketmaster.com, or by phone at 800-745-3000.

The musical is based on the 1997 film that tells the captivating love story of a professional photographer named Nina, and Darius, a poetic novelist, set in the world of Chicago's middle-class black artists and professionals.

"Produced with the size and scale of a concert, this show has been given all of the elements to make it a magical, transformative experience for the audience," according to a media advisory from the Flo-

THANKSGIVING FEAST



Volunteers with Betty's Hands Foundation fed hundreds of people Thanksgiving dinner Tuesday at Levy Park in East Florence.

PHOTOS BY JOSHUA LLOYD/MORNING NEWS

Over 250 people got a Thanksgiving meal at Levy Park.



FLORENCE

Volunteers with the Betty's Hands Foundation served the homeless and less fortunate of the East Florence community with a full-course Thanksgiving dinner on Tuesday. Organizers say more than 250 people stopped by Levy Park for a warm meal.



After daughter's death, mother starts organization to help others

\$200M project coming to Clarendon

Company will create 2 solar farms, jobs in largest such project in central S.C.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A new industry will invest \$200 million in two separate solar farm projects in Clarendon County in the next few years, making it the largest solar

energy project to date in central South Carolina.

South Carolina Department of Commerce made the announcement Tuesday that Adger Solar, a clean-energy development company, will make the

multi-million dollar investment and create jobs in the process in the county.

Together, these projects will generate enough electricity to supply approximately 25,000 homes on an annu-

al average basis, giving several major local utility providers the option to use the generated power, according to a news release.

SEE SOLAR PROJECT, PAGE A6

THANKSGIVING BY THE NUMBERS

In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims — early settlers of Plymouth Colony — held a three-day feast to celebrate a bountiful harvest. Many regard this event as the nation's first Thanksgiving. The Wampanoag Indians in attendance played a key role. Historians have recorded ceremonies of thanks among other groups of European settlers in North America. These include the British colonists in Virginia as early as 1619. The legacy of thanks and the feast have survived the centuries, as the event became a national holiday 153 years ago (Oct. 3, 1863) when President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday of November as a national day of thanksgiving.

Participants in the First Feast

24 million

The number of U.S. residents of English ancestry as of 2015. Some could very well be descendants of the Plymouth colonists who participated in the autumn feast that is widely thought to be one of the first Thanksgivings, especially the 650,000 living in Massachusetts.

6,500

The number of members of the Wampanoag American Indian tribal grouping as of 2010, roughly half of whom resided in Massachusetts. The Wampanoag were in attendance at the first Thanksgiving, playing a lead role in the historic event, and were essential to the survival of the colonists during the newcomers' first year.

Culinary Delights

65,975

The number of supermarkets and other grocery (except convenience) stores in the United States in 2014.

3,109

The number of baked goods stores in the United States in 2014 — a potential place to visit to purchase tasty desserts.

2,798

The number of fruit and vegetable markets in the United States in 2014 — a great place to find holiday side dishes.

243 million

The forecasted number of turkeys raised in the United States in 2016. That is up 4 percent from the number raised during 2015.

44 million

The forecasted number of turkeys raised in Minnesota in 2016. Minnesota topped in turkey production, followed by North Carolina (33 million), Arkansas (26 million), Indiana (20 million), Missouri (19.7 million) and Virginia (17 million).

\$19.3 million

The value of U.S. imports of live turkeys in 2015, with 99.9 percent of them coming from Canada and the remaining from the United Kingdom. When it comes to sweet potatoes, the Dominican Republic was the source of 37.9 percent (\$5.5 million) of total imports (\$14.5 million). The United States ran a \$10.6 million trade deficit in live turkeys during the period but had a surplus of \$126.2 million in sweet potatoes.

859 million pounds

The forecasted weight of cranberries produced in the United States in 2016. Wisconsin was estimated to lead all states in the production of cranberries, with 731.6 million pounds.

Happy Thanksgiving

from all of us at the Sumter Item

We asked children across the tri-county area what they're thankful for during this holiday season and want to share some of their answers with our readers.

'I am thankful for having grandparents that are 63 and 56 years old and are still with me.'

TAYLOR
Third grade, Bishopville Primary School

'I am thankful for family, cake, my dog, turkey and grapes.'

HARASHIEO, 7

'I am thankful for the men and women who fight for us.'

TYASIA
Bishopville Primary School, third grade

'I am thankful for my family and friends. They always provide me with the things I want and need. I am especially thankful for my mom because she loves me, shares things with me and cares for me when nobody else does.'

MELQUAN
Lee Central Middle School, 6th grade

'America, sister, parents, banana pudding, apple pie.'

NYREN
Second grade, Summerton Early Childhood Center

'The Lord, church, home, family, brother and sister, my life, friends, TV, my puppy.'

GIO, 10

'Saying my blessing.'

SAM
Four-Year-Old Child Development, Bishopville Primary School

'I am thankful for my whole family, making the basketball team, mom, dad, Christ Community, my life.'

ZAE, 14

5th-grader begins 'Cover Sumter with Love' drive

BY IVY MOORE
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When 11-year-old Hailey Collins learned about the many homeless people in Sumter, she was touched and wanted to do something to help them.

help people, especially at Christmas and when the weather started turning colder."

Hailey said she got the idea to help people after watching a Nickelodeon TV show "about kids giving back to other people who didn't have anything, and I

Sumter who had no shelter from the cold. Hailey started the "Cover Sumter with Love Blanket Drive," and soon others were reaching out as well. During the past couple of months, with the help of her mother, Shannon Murray, and El-lisor, Hailey saw donations come in

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