

From: Taillon, Jeff  
To: Taillon, Jeff <JeffTaillon@gov.sc.gov>  
Date: 12/10/2012 9:29:00 AM  
Subject: S.C. Front Pages - Monday, December 10, 2012

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**BUSINESS: Trading firm co-founder pursues math-learning 'courseware'**



# The Post and Courier

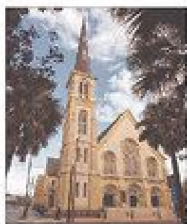
THE SOUTH'S OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER • FOUNDED 1803

MONDAY, December 10, 2012

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

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

Deer causes a stir after jumping into the ocean at Folly Beach  
Local & State, B3



It survived the Civil War, an earthquake and hurricanes, but something very small is doing some major damage.  
Local & State, B1



R3 Inc. keeping African-American males off the streets.  
Shirley Greene, B1



Preservation Society has a new revolving fund for old buildings  
Local & State, B1



Coleman Public House  
\$10 for \$20 of food  
See A2



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## Are abuse allegations true?

Audit Council to investigate concerns about homes for the disabled

BY PRENTISS FINDLAY  
pfindlay@postandcourier.com

Allegations that some residents at state homes for the mentally and physically disabled have been abused will be investigated by the Legislative Audit Council. "Allegations are just allegations but that's why we have the audit council," said former state Sen. David L. Thomas. The concerns were raised by people including family members and facility workers, he said.

"There have been a lot of questions about that agency. We were dealing with allegations and we want to get them off the table," Thomas said.

The audit request, signed by five lawmakers, is dated May 23. In a follow-up request dated June 7, Thomas, who subsequently lost a bid for re-election, and two other lawmakers submitted a list of 20 questions asking the LAC to address allegations of abuse at Department of Disabilities and Special Needs residential facilities.

"In DDSN residential facilities and county DDSN group homes, how severe and widespread are client abuse and neglect?" states question No. 4.

Other questions seek a response to allegations of improper use of physical restraints and theft of client funds and personal property.

The LAC approved the audit request in a meeting last week in Charleston. State Reps. Jim Harrison and Rita

Please see **ABUSE**, Page A4

### The issue

The Legislative Audit Council last week approved a requested audit of the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs that will address allegations of client abuse raised in 20 questions submitted June 7 by three lawmakers.

## HELLO, SANTA



Children and parents wave as Santa Claus approaches during the Summerville Christmas parade on Sunday.



Krewes of Charleston duchesses Paige Pollock and Phyllis Sheffer wait for the start of the Town of Mount Pleasant Christmas parade on Sunday.

The holiday season was in full swing Sunday as Summerville and Mount Pleasant both hosted their annual holiday parades. The events drew big crowds and even bigger smiles from those in attendance. See more photos from the events on **Page B2**.

Chanukah in the Square also took place Sunday. Holocaust survivor Diny Adkins was one of about 1,000 people at the event. Read her story on **Page B1**.



**POLL**  
Have you finished your holiday shopping yet?  
Go to [postandcourier.com](http://postandcourier.com) to vote.

## Hyperlocal publishing a flourishing S.C. niche

BY ADAM PARKER  
aparker@postandcourier.com

In early 2010, attorney and Charleston native Tom Tisdale called author-editor Stephen Hoffus to figure out how to get a couple of important books back in print.

"The Shadensbury Papers," a volume first published in 1897 by the South Carolina Historical Society, contained documents concerning the settlement of Carolina in 1670 and the early character of the Lowcountry. "Led Out Step by Step," the autobiography of the Rev. Anthony Toomer Porter, was

first published in 1898 and contained a fascinating account of an essential figure: an Episcopal priest and planter who became an abolitionist and worked during and after the Civil War for reconciliation. He established the Porter Military Academy to educate children orphaned by the war. (It merged in 1964 with the Gaud School for Boys and the Watt School to become the Porter-Gaud School.) Both titles no longer were sold commercially, so Tisdale and Hoffus searched for a publisher that would reprint them. They

Please see **BOOKS**, Page A4



Tom Tisdale (left) and Stephen Hoffus launched Home House Press in 2010.





## GAMECOCK WATCH

Souvenir posters of Jadeveon Clowney and Ace Sanders, **C1**

# The State

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2012 | THESTATE.COM

# Events focus on health care changes

Advocacy groups to start pressuring Haley to accept expansion of Medicaid rolls

By JOEY HOLLEMAN  
jholleman@thestate.com

Health care advocates at events in Columbia on Tuesday will begin putting public pressure on state legislators to buck Gov. Nikki Haley and accept the Medicaid expansion under the

Affordable Care Act.

The advocacy groups will stage a news conference at 10 a.m. the State House, a coalition-building and training meeting from noon-3 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel Downtown and a public forum at 6 p.m. at the USC School of Law. Robert Green-

wald, director of the Harvard Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation, will be the featured speaker at the training session.

Bambi Gaddist, executive director of the S.C. HIV/AIDS Council, helped put together the events designed to spread the word about what the ACA means to state residents. She also hopes to turn up the volume in the discussion about Medicaid expansion before the state Leg-

islature convenes in January.

"South Carolina leadership must take steps to educate citizens about the new federal law because it will change how we gain access to health care for years to come," Gaddist said. "This community forum is needed to make sure South Carolinians get information first hand from the leading health authorities in the state and nation."

"Simply stated, no South Carolinian can afford to just stay

home. Whether young or old, insured or uninsured, everyone should come out and learn how health care reform will impact them and their families."

Haley and Tony Keck, her appointed director of the S.C. Department of Health and Human Services, have expressed their opinions often since the U.S. Supreme Court last summer gave states the option to decline the

SEE HEALTH PAGE A6

## U.S. doctor rescued from Taliban captors

American serviceman killed; Afghan troops aided in raid

By SHARIFULLAH SAHAK and AZAM AHMED  
The New York Times

**KABUL, Afghanistan** — An American doctor kidnapped by the Taliban was rescued Sunday by Afghan and coalition forces in eastern Afghanistan, officials said. At least six people were killed, including a U.S. service member, and two Taliban leaders were arrested during the rescue.

The American, Dr. Dilip Joseph, and two Afghan doctors were abducted Wednesday as they traveled to a clinic in the Sorobi District of eastern Afghanistan.

SEE RESCUE PAGE A6

## LEAD, ARSENIC CONTAMINATION



GERRY MCELROE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER FOR THE STATE

Cleanup work continues in the Edisto Court neighborhood. Contaminated soil has been dug up and replaced by new ground cover. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is cleaning up the polluted yards after discovering the contamination.

## Rosewood cleanup nearing end

Most of dangerous pollutants in soil have been removed, EPA says

By SAMMY FRETWELL  
sfretwell@thestate.com

Rick Jardine trudged across the excavated yards of Easy Street last week, surveying the work federal contractors had undertaken to remove industrial poisons.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had nearly finished digging up soil contaminated with lead and arsenic, and was

now that the soil has been dug up and removed, Jardine said after examining the EPA's work along the quiet lane not far from Rosewood Drive, near the Hamilton-Owens downtown airport.

Mop-up work will be going on for several more weeks, but Jardine said he expects it to be substantially complete by Christmas. The EPA will then close its temporary Columbia office and move to the next site in the Southeast that needs cleanup.

Easy Street residents,

est, said they hope Jardine's crews have gotten the contamination. Some remain skeptical that all of the pollution can be located and dug up.

Still, they say it's been an eventful year and many want their neighborhood to return to the peaceful community many grew up in.

"I don't know if they can get rid of all of this" contamination, 51-year-old Howard Eargle said, standing near his freshly restored front yard last week. "Time will tell. But I think it

## YOUR WEEK

### Devine Night Out



Shop in the midst of a festive atmosphere as more than 50 stores and restaurants will participate in "A Devine Night Out" from 5-8 p.m. Thursday. There will be live entertainment and, of course, shopping discounts and deals. From 8-10 p.m., there will be an after party at Burger Tavern 77. Details: visit [www.devinestreetcolumbiasc.com](http://www.devinestreetcolumbiasc.com).

### Crafty Feast

The juried, independent craft fair has its first winter date: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. More than 100 vendors from across the Southeast will be selling handcrafted wares.





## CLEMSON FOOTBALL TIGERS LOSE COACH



LIFESTYLE  
Fresh ideas  
for holiday  
giving

# The Greenville News

A GANNETT COMPANY

MONDAY,  
DECEMBER 10, 2012  
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

INSIDE

Blaze destroys abandoned textile mill in Spartanburg County, 3A

FINAL EDITION

## Troops praised after rescue

Special operator killed while  
on mission in Afghanistan

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A member of a U.S. special operations team was killed during a weekend rescue mission in Afghanistan that freed an American doctor abducted by the Taliban outside of Kabul five days ago.

President Barack Obama praised the special forces Sunday, saying the mission was characteristic of U.S. troops' "extraordinary courage, skill and patriotism."

A spokesman for U.S. forces in Afghanistan said Dr. Dilip Joseph of Colorado Springs, Colo., was rescued early Sunday in eastern Afghanistan.

Joseph, a medical adviser for Colorado Springs-based Morning Star Development, was rescued after intelligence showed he was in imminent danger of injury or possible death, according to the U.S. military.

The U.S. did not immediately identify the special operator killed in the mission.

"He gave his life for his fellow Americans, and he and his teammates remind us once more of the selfless service that allows our nation to stay strong, safe and free," Obama said in a statement.

In a separate statement Sunday, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said: "In this fallen hero, and all of our special operators, Americans see the highest ideals of citizenship, sacrifice and service upheld."

Morning Star, a relief group that helps rebuild communities in Afghanistan, said in a statement that Joseph was uninjured and would probably return home in a few days. The group also said two of his co-workers were freed by their captors about 11 hours before the rescue, after hours of negotiations were conducted over the course of three days.

Morning Star said the three workers were abducted by a group of armed men while returning from a visit to one of the organization's rural medical clinics in eastern Kabul province. The three workers were taken into mountains about 50 miles from the Pakistan border. The relief group said it would not reveal the identity of the other two men because they live and work in the region. It did not pay ransom to obtain their release.

Morning Star praised those who helped get their workers back unharmed, singling out "courageous members of the U.S. military who successfully rescued Mr. Joseph as they risked their own lives doing so."

The group also offered thanks to local Afghan elders and leaders "who made visits and appeals to the captors advocating for the release of the hostages."

## FISCAL CLIFF

# OBAMA, BOEHNER WORK ON IMPASSE



President Barack Obama acknowledges House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio while speaking to reporters in the Roosevelt Room of the White House on Nov. 16. The pair met again Sunday to discuss the ongoing negotiations on the impending "fiscal cliff." AP

By Anne Flaherty and Julie Pace  
Associated Press

## SENATOR: REPUBLICANS MIGHT OK HIGHER TAX RATES FOR OVERHAUL OF MEDICARE, SOCIAL SECURITY

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner met Sunday at the White House to discuss the ongoing negotiations about the impending fiscal cliff in the first meeting between just the two leaders since Election Day.

Spokesmen for both Obama and Boehner said they agreed not to release details of the conversation but emphasized that the lines of communication remain open.

The meeting comes as the White House and Congress try to break an impasse on finding a way to stop a combination of automatic tax increases and spending cuts scheduled

to kick in at the beginning of next year.

Obama met in November with Boehner, as well as Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi. The president spoke by telephone with Reid and in person with Pelosi on Friday.

Obama has been pushing higher tax rates on the wealthiest Americans as one way to reduce the deficit — a position Boehner and other House Republicans have been steadfastly against. Republicans are demanding steeper cuts in costly government entitlement programs like Medicare and Social Security.

One GOP senator said Sunday that Senate Republicans would probably agree to higher tax rates on the wealthiest Americans if it meant getting a chance to overhaul entitlement programs.

The comments by Bob Corker of Tennessee — a fiscal conservative who has been gaining stature in the Senate as a pragmatic deal broker — puts new pressure on Boehner and other Republican leaders to rethink their long-held assertion that even the very rich shouldn't see their rates go up next year. GOP leaders have argued that the revenue gained by hik-

See CLIFF, Page 5A

INSIDE

## SUV linked to Clemson







## Newton, Panthers stun Falcons, 1B

# Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

MONDAY, December 10, 2012

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 146, No. 345 Aiken, S.C. ★★ 75¢



Students get up-close  
look at fox hunting

Local News, 3A



Hammond Hill dedicates  
courtyard in celebration  
of 60th anniversary

Local News, 2A



At-home caregivers face  
many challenges,  
sacrifices in their work

Living on the Go, 1C

### AREA DEATHS

**Brittney Morgan Ashleigh  
Sweat, Snelling  
Marie Carol Weiss, Aiken**

Deaths and Funerals, 6A

## Aiken shows off in Christmas parade



The Aiken Tigers football team and its cheerleaders filled a parade float on Sunday.

BY HALEY HUGHES  
hhughes@aikenstandard.com

Floors, holiday music and festive greetings filled downtown Aiken Sunday during the 2012 Aiken Jaycees Christmas Parade.

Seen as an Aiken tradition, the parade featured local school bands, churches, nonprofit organizations, elected officials, athletic teams and local businesses. Many rode on colorful floats or in decorated cars in honor of the holiday season.

"I come just about every year to see kinfolk that's in it," said Frances Kennedy.

Kennedy, among many others, commented on the day's weather. The skies were mostly overcast, but the highs hovered in the mid-70s.

"It's not too hot, not too cold," she said. The parade's theme was Cartoon Christmas, and several well-known cartoon characters were spotted



Terri Spragg holds Teak, a vizsla, for Sarish McKinney and Ethan McKinney to pet while waiting for the Christmas parade to start.

along the parade route, including Dr. Seuss's The Grinch and the Whos from Whoville, Raggedy Ann, Snow White, the Flintstones,

the Pink Panther, Buzz Lightyear and Mickey Mouse.

Please see PARADE, Page 12A

## Two vying for empty City seat

BY AMY BANTON  
abanton@aikenstandard.com

As of Friday afternoon, two people have filed for the vacant Aiken City Council seat.



Gaines

Most recently, Randy Ra Shad Gaines filed as a Democrat last week. Philip Merry, who announced his intent to run in November, filed as a Republican.

The seat was vacated by Don Wells, who is now serving as the District 81 Representative for the State House. Filing for Wells' old seat opened on Nov. 30.



Merry

The seat is at-large but will expire in November, and the position will become a single-member district when the city's new 6-1 district map is implemented.

Gaines, 27, is a native of Aiken who said he doesn't live in what will soon be District 6, but he wants to take advantage of the opportunity to give back to his community as well as learn more about the political process.

"I love Aiken. I was born and raised here," Gaines said. "It's only six months, but it's the least I could do."

Gaines went to South Aiken High School where he was very involved in student activities. He was part of the academic team, concert choir, the step team and the drama club. He was also the FBIA president, an athletic manager for men's and women's basketball as well as other sports and the school mascot.

Gaines later went to Voorhees College and transferred to USC in Columbia, where he studied sports and

Please see COUNCIL, Page 12A

## ADPS offers tips to avoid Christmas tree fires

BY TEDDY KULMALA  
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

Christmas trees and decorations are a beautiful and festive tradition of the holiday season; however, they can increase your chances of a fire.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, fire departments nationwide respond to about 340 home structure fires each year that started with Christmas trees. The Aiken Department of Public Safety has a few tips to keep in mind while you deck your halls this holiday.

According to Sgt. Jake Mahoney, a fire that starts with a Christmas tree can get out of hand in a matter

of minutes, and you'll have a tree on fire and a room and contents well under way.

If you're purchasing an artificial tree, Mahoney said to look for a "Fire resistant" label. That doesn't mean the tree won't catch fire, but it indicates the tree will resist burning and should extinguish quickly.

If you plan to get a live tree, make sure you check for freshness. A fresh tree will be green, the needles are hard to pull from branches, and when bent between your fingers, the needles won't break, Mahoney said. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose any needles.





# A day to celebrate

Panthers defeat Falcons, 30-20 B1

# Herald-Journal

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DECEMBER 10, 2012  
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**HJ**  
IN A HURRY  
5 Things to read today



## Industrial fire

Spartanburg County firefighters were called out to the scene of a fire at Platronics Seals on College Drive early this morning. Westview-Fairforest, North Spartanburg, Duncan and Una fire departments responded to the fire. **PAGE A7**

## Trading the FBI

FBI headquarters is in an ugly, crumbling building, sitting on some of the most valuable real estate in the country. So to get a new FBI building, officials are offering the city block on which it sits as an incentive to builders. **PAGE A3**

## Investigation

The Pickens County Sheriff's Office is looking for a white male and two black males possibly connected to a home invasion that left a Clemson University junior dead Saturday night. **PAGE A7**

## Ala.'s dry county

Alabama's Clay County is the final holdout for selling alcohol in the state. It has nearly 14,000 residents, about 100 churches, no federal highway and a way of life that is reminiscent of Prohibition. **PAGE A4**

## Egypt in turmoil

Egypt's constitution is going to a referendum on Saturday, but many secular Egyptians object because it gives religion a major role in the affairs of state. **PAGE A9**

Weather

## Obama, Boehner meet to negotiate

Discussion about fiscal cliff kept under wraps for now

By JULIE PAGE  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner met Sunday at the White House to discuss the ongoing negotiations over the impending "fiscal cliff," the first meeting between just the two leaders since they both won re-election.

Spokesmen for both Obama and Boehner

said they agreed to not release details of the conversation, but emphasized that the lines of communication remain open.

The meeting comes as the White House and Congress try to break an impasse over finding a way to stop a combination of automatic tax increases and spending cuts scheduled to kick in at the beginning of next year.

Obama met in November with Boehner, as well as with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi. The president spoke by telephone with Reid and in person with Pelosi on Friday. The presi-

dent is traveling to Redford, Mich., today to promote his agenda in a speech to workers at an engine factory; auto workers helped Obama win Michigan in last month's election.

Obama has been pushing higher tax rates on the wealthiest Americans as one way to reduce the deficit — a position Boehner and other House Republicans have been steadfastly against. Republicans are demanding steeper cuts in costly government entitlement programs such as Medicare and Social Security.

◆ SEE CLIFF PAGE A7

## Saxon Mill fire 'suspicious'



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL JUSTUS-MICHAEL.JUSTUS@SHU.COM



MICHAEL JUSTUS-MICHAEL.JUSTUS@SHU.COM  
Korin Wiggins of the N.C. Shrine Bowl Team interacts with Cade Coleman, 3, of Greenville on Sunday during a tour of the Shriners Hospitals for Children in Greenville. See a gallery of photos from the visit at GoUpstate.com.

## Shrine Bowlers lift up patients

Courage of children makes an impact on their gridiron heroes

By BRIAN PEAKHUFF  
For the Herald-Journal

GREENVILLE — Callie Coleman and her husband, Pat, wanted to wait until their son was old enough to enjoy the experience before bringing him to the Shriners Hospital to meet the Shrine Bowl teams. He took it all in on Sunday morning.

Cade Coleman, who is 3 years old and lives in Greenville, chatted, played games and high-fived players from North and South Carolina



# INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 84, NO. 222



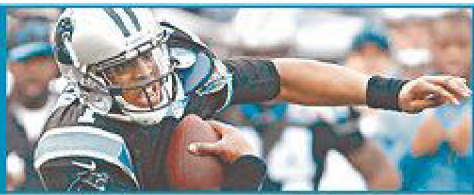
**Battle  
at the  
box office**

PAGE 5A



**Panthers  
take on  
Falcons**

PAGE 1B



## The \$20 million question



BILLY  
O'DELL



MIKE  
PITTS

Legislators examine how state will pay for response to records hacking incident

By CHRIS TRAINOR  
ctrainor@indexjournal.com

Many South Carolina residents were upset this fall when they learned an international hacker gained access to the tax records of nearly four million individual filers and nearly

700,000 businesses in the state.

Now, the state must decide how it will pay for the response to the attack.

According to Associated Press reports, the cost of the state's response will likely be about \$20 million. A large portion of that — \$12 million — will be paid to credit monitoring

service Experian, which contracted with the state to provide a year of free credit monitoring for state residents who sign up by Jan. 31.

The tax records, logged with the state Department of Revenue, were breached, allegedly by an international hacker, in mid-September. The

Secret Service reportedly notified the state about the breach Oct. 10.

District 4 state Sen. Billy O'Dell, who has been in the state legislature for more than 20 years, said finding an appropriate way to pay for the

See HACKING, page 4A

### LEARNING, SERVING AND LEADING



PHOTOS BY MATT WALSH | INDEX-JOURNAL

Cyndee Crawford teaches her seventh-grade health class at Ware Shoals Junior High School.

## HER UNEXPECTED NICHE

Crawford goes the extra mile

By MICHELLE LAXER • mlaxer@indexjournal.com



MATT BRUCE | INDEX-JOURNAL

Recently retired State Rep. Paul Agnew (D-11th District) speaks during the dedication ceremony of the new Abbeville County Administration Complex on Sunday afternoon.

■ ABBEVILLE

## Open for business

Dedication hosted for county complex

By MATT BRUCE  
mbruce@indexjournal.com

Abbeville County's new Administration Complex is open for business.

A crowd of residents gathered outside the county's new digs for a dedication ceremony Sunday afternoon outside the more than 46,000 square-foot facility.

"This is a great day for Abbeville County," Abbeville County Council chairman Bryan McClain said. "God had a plan for this building. And it was in His time, not ours."

The new hub will be at the site of the old Abbeville Memorial Hospital, 901 W. Greenwood St., which was recently retrofitted to house most of the county's administrative offices.

Several councilmen and state lawmakers were on hand Sunday to share off the momentous day.



BRYAN  
McCLAIN





**LIKE A ROLLING STONE** Rocking Brooklyn and still going. **Page 2A**

# Morning News

MONDAY DECEMBER 10, 2012

**TODAY'S  
WEATHER**

Morning fog,  
shower possible.  
high 79, low 58

DETAILS 2A

www.foxnews.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

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## Coming Events

**Senior Shows by Graduation FMU Visual Arts Majors:** Through Saturday at FMU's Hyman Fine Arts Center Gallery in Florence. Senior shows are required of all students majoring in Visual Arts. These shows give students hands-on experience in selection and installation of artworks, publicity of exhibition, and external review by the University community and the general public. Exhibit hours are Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. For more information, call 843-661-1385 or email jsallenger@fmarion.com.

**Works by Ceramic Sculpture & 3D Design Classes:** Through Friday at FMU's Hyman Fine Arts Center Gallery in Florence. The exhibit showcases new works created during the current semester by students learning skill in visual arts classes. Exhibit hours are Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. For more information, call 843-661-1385 or email jsallenger@fmarion.com.

**Holly & the Christmas Kerfuffle:** Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. at the Theatre on the Green located at 200 Market Street in Cheraw. The show is performed by Parkshop Productions Theatre Group. Admission is \$3 for student and free for accompanying adults. For more information, please call 843-537-8420, ext. 12.

**Advent-ages:** A Mid-Week Organ Series: Wednesday at 12:10 p.m. at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church located at 103 Campus Drive in Hartsville. Joyce Farrow will be performing this week. Admission is free and everyone is invited. Coffee and tea will be available in the parish hall for those who wish to bring a bag lunch. For more information, please call (843) 332-8765.

**Slow Food Pee Dee Market:** Wednesday in from 3 until 7 p.m. in downtown Florence. The market will be held in the parking lot behind Harrington vision center near the corner of Irbly and Cheves.

**Farmers' market in downtown Florence:** Wednesday from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the breezeway on the 100 block of West Evans Street and public parking lot nearby. Market features an array of local produce and products. Patrons can peruse through a variety of items, including locally grown produce, various meats, cheeses and dairy products, artisan craft items and more. Brandon Golf will be performing this week. Vendors will be accepting EBT. For more information, visit the group's Facebook page by searching "Downtown Farmers Market." Information is expected to be placed on the city's website, www.cityofflorence.com.

**Live@Central:** Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at Central United Methodist Church located in downtown Florence. Nick Townsend and friends promise an evening of holiday joy and cheer. The event is open to the public and is free of charge. Nurseries will be available. For more information, please visit www.centralmethodist.net or call 843-662-3218.

**Ovis Hill Farmers' Market:**

## Masterworks Choir and Orchestra performs

BY CHRISTOPHER MCKAGEN  
Morning News  
cmckagen@foxnews.com

FLORENCE — Hundreds gathered at Central United Methodist Church Sunday evening to hear the Masterworks Choir and Orchestra's booming performance of George Frideric Handel's famous oratorio "Messiah."

The Masterworks Choir and Orchestra was conducted by new music director Dr. William Carswell, who was installed after the passing of the choir's founder and longtime conductor William B. Mills last year.

The choir opened the two-hour concert with a resonating rendition of John Rutter's "Gloria."

After Beverly Hazelwood's elaborate "Silent Night" organ solo, Carswell led the orchestra into Handel's evocative overture before the 63-member choir united in thunderous harmony.

Carswell brought the concert to a close with a coupling of crowd and choir in a singing of the famous Christmas carol "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."

"You can't leave until you sing with us," he told the audience.

Florence-native Thomas Duncan, who aspires to sing with the choir, said his first time seeing the concert could be described in just a word.

"Gorgeous," he said. "I enjoyed it very much so."



CHRIS MCKAGEN/MORNING NEWS

The Masterworks Choir and Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. William Carswell, performs John Rutter's "Gloria" and portions of the oratorio "Messiah" by George Frideric Handel at Central United Methodist Church in Florence Sunday.

See **PERFORM**, Page 4A

## THE COLOR OF CHRISTMAS



PHOTO BY GAVIN JACKSON/MORNING NEWS

Sara Nopaltecatl bags up poinsettias in one of Forest Lake Greenhouses in Florence on Wednesday. According to Tim King, who has owned the business with his wife for 23 years, they've grown 13,000 poinsettias this year, with 70 percent of those being red, the plant's signature color. King says it's tough work. "It's not something you walk away from, it's a very labor intensive process," King said.

Seeing white in a sea of red. The greenhouse is located off of Alligator Road and features several new varieties of poinsettias from the traditional red and white.



## Council to consider housing

BY JOHN SWEENEY  
Morning News  
jsweeney@foxnews.com

FLORENCE — Concerns over fair housing and the possible discrimination against minorities within the city of Florence will be the topic, and maybe a hot one, at Monday's Florence City Council meeting.

Scotty Davis, director of the department of community services, is set to present council members with three possible impediments for minorities when it comes to local housing.

According to an agenda for the presentation provided by Davis, city staff identified the potential impediments during a review of the city's consolidated plan, which takes a look at various elements of city operations and services.

Those possible impediments to fair housing include unequal access to mortgage financing from some Florence lending institutions, as well as a low number of loans available to minorities, and a disparity in property insurance coverage.

Davis said the city has identified means of addressing each impediment and that those solutions would be presented to council at Monday's meeting.

See **COUNCIL**, Page 4A

### Want to go?

» **What:** Florence City Council  
» **When:** Monday, Dec. 10 — 1 p.m.  
» **Where:** City-County Complex, Room 604  
The public is invited.

## Spoletto lineup announced

The Associated Press

CHARLESTON — The new season of the Spoletto Festival USA will feature one of its largest and most varied program lineups in

the schedule for its 37th season. For 17 days each spring, the festival created by the late composer Gian Carlo Menotti lights up stages across Charleston.

Next year's festival runs from

## Empty Stocking Fund

Out of work after husband's stroke, couple seeks Salvation Army's Toy Shop

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## GETTING GREENER

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## Owners upbeat about mall's future

Wine Reports

By GENE ZALESKI  
T&D Staff Writer

### ■ Twinkie surprise

A suburban Chicago restaurant gave away nearly 10,000 Twinkies and 2,200 chocolate cupcakes last week at two of its locations. The restaurant got the idea as a promotion after Hostess announced it was closing last month. Workers used two mini-vans to make two trips to a Hostess outlet and buy the Twinkies and cupcakes. The restaurant even offered a Twinkie milkshake.

### ■ Eau de Pizza Hut

Select Canadians will find, in their mail boxes, a bottle of pizza-scented perfume before Christmas, courtesy of Pizza Hut Canada. The Canadian subsidiary of the Dallas-based pizza chain selected 110 individuals from more than 1,000 responses to a social media-based promotional campaign. The promotion was to mark Pizza Hut Canada reaching 100,000 fans on its Facebook page.

### ■ Bad Santa

A mall in Maine has sacked Santa Claus after children and parents complained he wasn't very jolly. One mother and her 6-year-old daughter went to see Santa last week. They said he was rude and wouldn't let the girl sit on his lap when they said they didn't want to buy a \$20 photo. When the little girl asked Santa for an American Girl doll, he replied she'd get an "American football." When the mom posted her story online, others shared similar experiences. Santa declined to comment.

### ■ Change of heart

A thief who made off with cash from a Salvation Army red kettle at a northern Ohio mall last week had a change of heart. Two days after the kettle was emptied out, someone left \$130 and an apology at the Salvation Army. A note found at the Salvation Army read: "Here is the money I took plus money for a new kettle and bell. The note also said 'please forgive me.' A Salvation Army official says it's unclear how much money had been in the kettle.

### ■ It's the thought that counts

New York State Police are trying to find the woman who handed an on-duty trooper a holiday card with \$1,000 cash inside. Under New York law, members of the state police can't accept such gifts. So state police officials are seeking the public's help in finding the woman so she can tell them where she would like the donation to go. Police say the woman told the trooper that she had seen him doing a good job, and wanted to say Merry Christmas and thank you. It wasn't until after his shift ended that the trooper opened the card and saw the money.

### ■ In the hot seat

The warden of North Carolina's Sampson Correctional Institution has been suspended pending the outcome of an investigation into allegations that inmates were forced

The company that owns the Prince of Orange Mall is still bullish on the mall's future, even if one of its anchors is planning to close.

"We still believe in the Orangeburg market and we believe the mall has better days ahead," said Ky Widener, Hull Storey Gibson Companies LLC senior vice president of leasing.

He said Sears is closing stores all over the country and replacing them with Sears Hometown stores. He hopes the Prince of Orange will get one as well.

"We will be trying to bring a Sears Hometown Store to the mall," he said. "Those have been very successful."

Widener says Sears Hometown stores are generally about 10,000 square feet and sell appliances, consumer electronics and lawn and garden equipment.

Sears announced Oct. 24 that it would close in the fourth quarter of 2013. But Widener hopes this may be extended into 2014.

The store opened Oct. 24, 1998. There are about 50 employees at the store.

### PRINCE OF ORANGE



CHRISTOPHER HURT/T&amp;D

While the Sears at the Prince of Orange Mall is slated to close in 2013, mall officials say they still believe in the Orangeburg market.

He also says there are other reasons to be optimistic.

"There are retailers that are interested in the market and may be very attractive candidates," he said. "That building may be a very attractive offering for them."

Widener declined comment on what specific retailers may be interested in the mall.

"Hull Storey has had a lot of success of retaining and redeveloping some of our properties," he said.

About 75 percent of the 340,000-square-foot mall is rented and retailers, such as mall anchor Belk, are planning improvements to the interior of the store in the near future, he said.

"The Orangeburg market continues to get better," Widener said, citing the arrival of TJ Maxx in the fall of 2010. "The community in fact is improving. Once one retailer comes, other retailers will often follow."

Sears Holdings, which is also the parent company of Kmart, announced in January that it was closing underperforming stores nationwide. About 120 stores have been targeted over the next year, including stores in Sumter and Mount Pleasant.

Sears Holdings has more than 2,600 full-line and specialty retail stores in the United States and Canada.

The store specializes in appliances, tools, lawn and garden equipment, consumer electronics and automotive repair and maintenance.

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## All-seeing eyes

### Police add security cameras downtown

By RICHARD WALKER  
T&D Staff Writer

LARRY HARDY/T&amp;D

Two surveillance cameras have been operational in the Russell Street area for about three months in a move by the Orangeburg Department of Public Safety to deter crime.

When a Columbia-area teenager was assaulted in June 2011 by several people, the assault and images of the assailants were captured on security video.

The Orangeburg Department of Public Safety now has two surveillance cameras operational in the Russell Street area, an addition officials say is not in response to a problem but a move to prevent one.

"These are the same cameras that have been used in the Columbia Five Points area," DPS Chief Wendell Davis said. "We got them on a trial basis to see what their effectiveness is. They're unique in that they cover a 360-degree area."

The cameras have been up and running for about three months. While they haven't captured a car chase or an assault such as that against the Columbia teen, police say they're doing their job.

The hopes are that the extra eyes will serve as a deterrent to crime and as a sort of security blanket for pedestrians and shoppers in that area.

"These things are very obvious, and we want people to know they're there," Davis said. "So they do have a deterrent factor associated with them."

But the cameras also serve as a security measure for pedestrians after dark. Many systems are not effective in the dark, but Davis says these cameras still produce good video even in low light. That works well for pedestrians and the after-goers who are out in the area late at night. The video is as clear as a daytime shot.

"We thought the installation of cameras would make people feel more secure," Davis said.

Remote cameras have been in use since World War II when German scientists monitored progress on the V-series rockets. Their usage to monitor the public sector went into larger European cities and New York in the 1960s.

Critics of the camera systems object to government watching a citizen's every move.

Several organizations keep tabs on the use of surveillance cameras, including Big Brother Watch, a British-based civil liberties group. The group published a report in 2011 of the abuses by



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