

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 12/6/2016 8:40:06 AM
Subject: SC Front Pages – Tuesday, December 6, 2016

SC Front Pages – Tues day, December 6, 2016



Q&A: YEAR ONE FOR MUSCHAMP

'We took a step forward'

BY JOAH KESNICK
jkesnick@thestate.com

On the verge of the one-year anniversary of his hiring, South Carolina head football coach Will Muschamp sat down with *The State* to reflect on his first season and the future of the program.

The Gamecocks were 6-6 in the regular season and Sunday learned they would play in the Birmingham Bowl against South Florida (10-2) on Dec. 29.

"Six-and-six is not acceptable," Muschamp told *The State*. "That's not what we want. That's not our goal, but considering the circumstances, I'm proud these guys to continue to push forward (when we were) at 3-4 and continue to play."

Muschamp also addressed his team's

MORE INSIDE

Five highs, five lows from Muschamp's first year, 1B

ONLINE

go.thestate.com: Video of Muschamp on bowl game

offensive youth, the decision to pull quarterback Jake Bentley's redshirt midway through the season and the improvement of his defense.

Q: Did the regular season go about like you thought?

A: When you come into a new situation, it's hard to really set your expectation and especially in our situation because of the unknowns. The unknowns offensively with the amount of inexperience and

SEE MUSCHAMP, 4A



CLEMSON FOOTBALL

Tigers QB Watson among Heisman Trophy finalists, 1B

TUESDAY DECEMBER 6, 2016

\$1.00

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TODAY: CLOUDY, RAIN 48-53 LO 43
YESTERDAY: 48-59 10:45 PM EDT (at 5 pm) 43°F
FORECAST: 2A

The State

SC SENATE

Bill-killing rules on chopping block

■ The S.C. Senate is poised to change some of its rules Tuesday, rules that in recent years have been used to stall important proposals.

BY GABRIEL GAO PR
ggao@thestate.com

The S.C. Senate is set to change some of its rules Tuesday in an effort to make it more difficult for a single senator to block legislation.

The move is important because the Senate's rules have been used to stall passage of important proposals in recent years — delaying ethics reform for years and, more recently, blocking passage of a gas-tax hike to pay to repair the state's crumbling roads and bridges.

The Senate's GOP majority is likely to:

- Eliminate "minority reports" — a mechanism that senators use to block bills even though they have won approval in committee, said Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey, R-Edgefield.
- Change its rules so that high-priority proposals — so-called "special order" bills — will be debated earlier in the legislative day.
- Make it easier to end filibusters, where senators opposed to a proposal take the podium and try to talk to death bills.

"What we're trying to do is make the Senate more efficient," said Massey.

In recent years, the Senate has become a graveyard for

SEE SC SENATE, 6A

MISTRIAL IN NORTH CHARLESTON SLAYING

'I know justice will be served'



Michael Slager



Judy Scott, center, Walter Scott's mother, is comforted by her son Rodney Scott, as the family attorneys, Chris Stewart, left, and Justin Bamberg, right, hold a news conference Monday after the mistrial was declared for the Michael Slager trial in Charleston.

Jurors unable to reach verdict in the murder trial of ex-officer

Former patrolman Michael Slager was charged with the killing of Walter Scott.

MORE INSIDE

Rock Hill Republican set to become S.C. House majority leader, also, a look at the new House Speaker, 1B

The Post and Courier

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DEADLOCKED

THE OUTCOME

Judge declares mistrial in Slager case

THE NEXT STEP

Solicitor vows new trial in Scott shooting

THE RESPONSE

Scott family, leaders call for peace

BY ANDREW KNAPP
aknapp@postandcourier.com

For a dozen times over the past month, jurors watched a video of a North Charleston police officer firing at Walter Scott as the black man ran away, but they could not agree Monday whether the lawman had committed a crime.

Declaring a hung jury, a judge ordered a mistrial for Michael Slager, the patrolman who fired eight gunshots in 2.7 seconds of video footage that became a lasting image amid a national inspection of police uses of force. It brought to a close a monthlong murder trial that laid bare alleged shortcomings in the training of law enforcement officers and in the way police-involved deaths are investigated in South Carolina.

The 12 jurors encountered a nother impasse on the fourth day of deliberations, a divide much deeper than a series of notes and letters indicated earlier in their talks. An inkling that only one member refused to vote for a conviction had buoyed hopes among prosecutors and Scott's family, but they were all but dashed Monday morning when the panel said a majority of its members remained undecided — a development that quickly shifted hope to the opposite side of the downtown Charleston courtroom.

It's a conclusion that solicitors in South Carolina and district attorneys around the country have seen often in prosecuting police, as juries continue to struggle with bringing judgment on the law enforcement officers who grapple with the life-or-death, split-second choices that their jobs require every day.

The jury had three options for Slager: convictions for murder or voluntary manslaughter, or an acquittal. It's a decision does not end the case: 9th Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson vowed to try Slager, 35, again, and coordinate with federal authorities, who had put their separate civil rights case against Slager on hold until the state trial's resolutions.

As the presiding judge told the jurors that the mistrial would put the case back to "Square 1, as if this trial never happened," some closed their eyes and bowed their heads. Others nodded. They did the same as Wilson and lead defense attorney Andy Savage bid them fare well. One woman sobbed and dabbed tears.

"I wish y'all could be the one," Wilson told the jury. "But there will be another day."

Please see SLAGER, Page A6



PHOTOGRAPHS BY GRACE BRANDES (A1)

Defense attorneys Andy Savage (from left), Don McCune, and Miller Shealy sit around former North Charleston police officer Michael Slager at the Charleston County courthouse Monday. Judge Clifton Newman declared a mistrial after the jury was unable to reach a verdict.



Online

For more photos and a video from the trial, go to postandcourier.com/multimedia.

Inside

Public officials react A6

The day's key points A7



Rodney Scott, his mother Judy Scott and brother Anthony Scott gather around attorney Chris Stearns (left) following Monday's proceedings.

Walter Scott's mom: 'Justice will prevail'

BY BRENDA RINDGE
brindge@postandcourier.com

Judy Scott stood in front of a bank of microphones and summoned up her strongest voice.

"I would like to say that, to all of you, today, I'm not sad," she said defiantly, moments after a hung jury was declared in the trial of the man who killed her middle son. "I know justice will prevail."

After listening to nearly five weeks of testimony and 22 hours of deliberating, the seven-man, five-woman jury on Monday told Judge Clifton Newman that it could not come to a consensus in the trial of former North

Please see FAMILY, Page A7

Tim Scott: 'I can do more good in Senate'

Indicates 2018 bid for second in the Senate than I think I can as

Inside



Roof allowed to have his defense team back

Still plans to represent himself in penalty phase



SPORTS, 1C

2ND RUN AT HEISMAN



METRO, 3A

Tornado victims' aid in limbo

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 6, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY AMAZON'S NO-LINE GROCERY PAGE 1B

Mistrial in man's shooting by officer

BRUCE SMITH AND SEANNA ADCOX
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON, S.C. — A South Carolina judge declared a mistrial Monday after a jury deadlocked in the murder trial of a white former police officer charged in the shooting death of an unarmed black motorist.

A panel of one black and 11 white jurors — who had seemed close to a verdict to convict Friday, with apparently only one holdout — said Monday they were unable to reach a unanimous decision after deliberating more than 22 hours over four days.

"We as a jury regret to inform the court that despite the best efforts of all parties we are unable to come to a unanimous decision," said Circuit Judge Clifton Newman, reading a note from the jury before declaring a mistrial.

Former patrolman Michael Slager was charged with murder in the April 4, 2015, shooting death of 50-year-old Walter Scott. The judge had said the jury could also consider a lesser charge of voluntary manslaughter.

Outside the courtroom, Scott's mother and brother said justice will eventually prevail.

"I'm not sad, because I know justice

will be served," Judy Scott said.

Asked whether he could forgive Slager, Anthony Scott said he could eventually "find the peace" to forgive the ex-officer but not before justice is served.

"He gets to spend Christmas with his family," he said of Slager.

Cellphone video taken by a bystander that showed Scott being shot in the back five times was shown widely in the media and on the Internet and shocked the country, inflaming the national debate about how blacks are treated by law enforcement officers.

After the video went public, Slager was fired by the police department and

charged with murder. Scott's family called for peace in the North Charleston community. Their calls for calm are believed to have helped prevent the kind of violence that erupted elsewhere when black men were killed in encounters with law enforcement.

It's the second time in recent weeks a jury has deadlocked in an officer-involved shooting. A mistrial was declared Nov. 12 when a jury in Cincinnati couldn't reach a verdict in the case of a former campus police officer who was also charged with shooting a black motorist.

See MISTRIAL, Page 5A



Clemson's house disc jockey DJ Sha performs during the game against Syracuse on Nov. 5 at Clemson's Memorial Stadium.

Carver's estate sues Kohlhepp, his mother
Suit seeks to tie up assetsKIRK BROWN
KIRK.BROWN@CJPTENTRIMAIL.COM
AND NIKIE MAYO
NIKIE.MAYO@CJPTENTRIMAIL.COM

Charles David Carver was held against his will by Todd Kohlhepp before he was killed, according to a wrongful-death lawsuit filed Monday by Carver's estate.

The suit, which names Kohlhepp and his mother Regina Tagore as defendants, was filed in Spartanburg County by Greenville attorney R. Mills Arriol Jr.

The suit claims Tagore is seeking to dispose of her son's property in anticipation of litigation. Tagore could not be reached Monday.

Joanne Shiflet, Carver's mother, said Monday afternoon she decided to file the suit to hold Kohlhepp accountable for what happened to her son.

"We did this so he couldn't get away with it," Shiflet said. "We don't want him to be able to use his money and his real estate and find some stupid loophole and walk away from this. ... We did this to tie up his assets so he can't just get rid of them."

Carver's body was discovered on Kohlhepp's property near Woodruff one day after authorities found Kohlhepp chained inside a metal storage container there on Nov. 3. Carver and Brown were in a relationship and shared an apartment in Anderson before they disappeared in late August.

Shiflet said she was not aware of the claim that her son was held against his will before he was killed, but said the family's attorney has been most connected with the details of the case. She previously said that she learned at a Nov. 4 court hearing Kohlhepp shot her son immediately after Brown knocked on the door of a two-story garage on Kohlhepp's property.

Arriol said there are indications Carver was physically assaulted by Kohlhepp before being killed. He would not be more specific. He said

CLEMSON'S STADIUM DJ
UPS DEATH VALLEY VIBE

Latest game-day tradition aims to enhance energy

MANIE ROBINSON
SPORTS COLUMNIST

Gamedays in Clemson University's Memorial Stadium are spectacles of fanfare underscored by tradition.

Fans in deep philosophical conversation will halt mid-sentence to join the cadence count chant. The band blares its lively fight song with the final notes accompanied by a choir of 82,000.

There is cannon fire. A sky full of hellions. Reverence to a rock. A run down a hill. An array of smartphone flashlights that give those grey stands a

With attendance figures declining and the television viewing experience improving, Clemson sought to entice fans with features a camera cannot capture. So, it put the needle to the groove.

Dorsha Butler has served as Clemson's house disc jockey for the last two seasons. Under the stage name D.J. Sha, he steers the stadium sounds during warmups, breaks in action and half-time.

The plays popular music, from legends like Run D.M.C. and Outkast to current chart-toppers like Kendrick Lamar, Justin Timberlake and Drake. He

After working a few shows in downtown Clemson two years ago, Butler earned an invitation from coach Dabo Swinney to spin at a recruiting event.

"He loved it. He said he was going to get me out at some of the practices," Butler recalled. "At that time, I thought it was just him caught up in the moment, enjoying himself. But a few weeks later, he kept his word."

Butler began appearing at Clemson's practice fields and a few months later he was in Memorial Stadium for the 2015 season opener.

Clemson cleared space for Butler in

OLDER & BETTER?



Experience, improving defense, strong finish leave Clemson confident. Inside Also visit orangeandwhite.com.



Independent Mail

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2016

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM



PHOTOS BY KEN RUIMARD, INDEPENDENT MAIL

The \$2.6 million Bleckley Station in downtown Anderson (above and below) plans to host its first event on Jan. 3.

BLECKLEY EVENT CENTER TO DEBUT

Ball to be first event of 2017 at venue

KIRK BROWN
kirk.brown@independentmail.com

The Bleckley Station in downtown Anderson is getting ready to host its first event early next year.

About 300 people are expected to attend a debutante ball Jan. 3, which will be the first event at the new \$2.6 million facility on the 300 block of South Main Street. Another ball is scheduled there in February.

Construction of the event center is essentially complete, and workers are add-

ing the finishing touches, developer Steve Kay said last week.

"It is all good," said Kay, who also owns The Bleckley Inn in downtown Anderson.

Four college sophomores will be introduced at the Anderson Debutante Club ball, said Kathryn Yon, the ball's chairwoman.

The club's ball has been held at the Poinsett Club in Greenville for at least the past several years.

See BLECKLEY, Page 5A



ONLINE

To see more photos of the Bleckley Station, go to Independentmail.com

Carver estate files lawsuit

Alleges wrongful death against Kohlhepp, mother

KIRK BROWN
kirk.brown@independentmail.com
AND NIKIE MAYO
nikie.mayo@independentmail.com

Charles David Carver was held against his will by Todd Kohlhepp before he was killed, according to a wrongful-death lawsuit filed Monday by Carver's estate.

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Charles David Carver

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See LAWSUIT, Page 5A

McBride: Threats made against officers

Facebook message after fatal shooting worries sheriff-elect



ing a deputy.

Sheriff John Skipper and the Anderson County Sheriff's Office have not responded to questions about the threat and Skipper has refused to release

cause of the post, he would not release the name of the deputy until the investigation had progressed.

McBride said he had not seen the post, but several people have read it to him. The Independent Mail was not able to find the post.

Online

For more coverage of the Kohlhepp case, visit Independentmail.com



WATSON IS HEISMAN FINALIST AGAIN

SPORTS, B1



NC GUNMAN ARRESTED IN 'PIZZAGATE'

NATION C4

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Tuesday, December 6, 2016



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TODAY WED THU



50°/40° 57°/44° 53°/26°

Complete forecast, B6

LOCAL

Town Hall tonight

The Herald-Journal will host a town hall panel discussion on affordable housing in the city of Spartanburg at 7 tonight at the newspaper's downtown office on West Main Street.

The panelists: Terrill Bates, Spartanburg Housing Authority executive director; Martin Livingston, neighborhood services director for the city of Spartanburg; Tammie Hoy Hawkins, project manager with the Northside Development Group; Hannah Jarrett, community impact associate with United Way of the Piedmont; and the Rev. Keith McDaniel, pastor of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church.

The event is free and open to everyone. It should last about 90 minutes.

STATE

Roof allowed to hire lawyers back, for now

CHARLESTON — A federal judge agreed Monday to let a white man accused of fatally shooting nine black parishioners rehire his attorneys until a verdict is reached, but to remain his own lawyer if he is found guilty and the trial moves into a penalty phase.

The decision by U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel ended a week of Roof acting as his own lawyer in his death penalty trial. Roof wrote the judge a handwritten note with his request over the weekend.

It is unclear why Roof is so determined to keep the lawyers out of the penalty part of his case. In their own motion Friday asking Gergel to order Roof to hire them back, they suggested there is something embarrassing Roof is afraid they might use to try to spare his life. They did not elaborate.

Trump, former SC labor chief meet

NORTH CHARLESTON POLICE SHOOTING

Judge declares mistrial

By Bruce Smith
and Seanna Adecox
The Associated Press

CHARLESTON — A South Carolina judge declared a mistrial Monday after a jury deadlocked in the murder trial of a white former police officer charged in the shooting death of an unarmed black motorist.

A panel of one black and 11 white jurors — who had seemed close to a verdict to convict Friday, with apparently only one holdout — said Monday they were unable to reach a unanimous decision after deliberating more than 22 hours over four days.



Slager

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Former patrolman Michael Slager was charged with murder in the April 4, 2015, shooting death of 50-year-old Walter Scott. The judge had said the jury could also consider a

SEE MISTRIAL, A5



Judy Scott, center, Walter Scott's mother, is comforted by her son Rodney Scott as the family attorneys, Chris Stewart, left, and Justin Bamberg, right, hold a news conference after a mistrial was declared in the case of former police officer Michael Slager Monday in Charleston. Slager was charged with murder in the shooting death of Walter Scott last year. MIC SMITH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'A WORK OF ART'

Leaders celebrate AC Hotel topping out



A topping-out ceremony at the 10-story AC Hotel by Marriott in downtown Spartanburg was held Monday. PHOTOS BY ALEX HICKS JR./SPARTANBURG HERALD-JOURNAL

Downtown hotel reaches construction

George "Geordy" Dean Johnson

PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION

Trump taps Carson for HUD secretary

By Jonathan Lemire
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Donald Trump chose retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson on Monday to be secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, raising fresh concerns about the lack of experience some of Trump's Cabinet picks have with agencies they're now being chosen to lead.

Carson, who opposed Trump in the Republican primaries, has no background in government or running a large bureaucracy.

In addition, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, Trump's choice to be ambassador to the United Nations, has no foreign policy experience. Steve Mnuchin, a former Goldman Sachs partner and Hollywood executive, is Trump's man to lead the Treasury Department but has never worked in government. And retired Gen. James Mattis, a widely praised battlefield commander, spent decades in the Marines but now is

SPORTS

Clemson QB Watson repeats as a Heisman finalist

1B



SPORTS

Trojans basketball is Martin's therapy after mom's death

1B

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AND LANCASTER COUNTIESYOU'RE MY 16th SON
I'VE COMBINED HERALD ONLINE.COMFACEBOOK.COM/THROCKHILLCHIEF
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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2015

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Chance of storm
89°/60° See 2A

The Herald

WALTER SCOTT SHOOTING

Deadlocked jury forces mistrial in ex-officer's case



Michael Slager, right, walks from the Charleston County Courthouse with a SWAT officer after a mistrial was declared for his trial Monday.

BY BRUCE SMITH
AND DELANNA ADEGO
Associated Press

CHARLESTON

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the court that despite the best efforts of all parties we are unable to come to a unanimous decision," said Circuit Judge Clifford Newman, reading a note from the jury before declaring a mistrial.

Former patrolman Michael Slager, 35, was charged with murder in the April 4, 2015, shooting death of 50-year-old Walter Scott. The judge had said the jury could also consider a lesser charge of voluntary manslaughter.

Outside the courtroom, Scott's mother and brother said justice will eventually prevail. "I am not sad, because I know justice will be served," Jody Scott said.

Asked whether he could forgive Slager, Anthony Scott said he could eventually "find the peace" to forgive the ex-officer but not before justice is served. "He gets to spend Christmas with his family," he said of Slager.

Cellphone video taken by a bystander that showed Scott being hit in the back five times was shown widely in the media and on the Internet and shocked the country, inflaming the national debate about how blacks are treated by law enforcement officers.

After the video went public, Slager was fired by the police department and charged with murder. Scott's family called for peace in the North Charleston community. Their calls for calm are believed to have helped prevent the kind of violence that erupted elsewhere when black men were killed in circumstances



Scott

SEE SLAGER, B4



State Rep. Gary Simrill, a Rock Hill Republican, is poised to be elected majority leader of the S.C. House when lawmakers return Tuesday.

S.C. LEGISLATURE

Rock Hill's Simrill set to lead S.C. House GOP

BY CARRIE DAVIS
c.davis@heraldonline.com

ROCK HILL

S.C. Rep. Gary Simrill did not tell his own mother or wife that

spending to repair the state's crumbling roads and bridges, and building consensus among fellow representatives.

Simrill, 50, who has been in the House for 25 years, will be elected majority leader Tues-

WINNING AS A PROVEN LOSER

Simrill was in awe of the Statehouse after an eighth-grade field trip to Columbia for a social studies class.

He said he was inspired by

Gary Simrill

Incoming S.C. House majority leader

Age: 50

Hometown: Rock Hill

Family: Married to Mary Beth Simrill, five children

Business: Owner of Carolina Motorworks

Education: Bachelor's degree.

YORK COUNTY SHERIFF

No new trial in case over malicious prosecution

BY ANDREW DYN
a.dyn@heraldonline.com

YORK

The judge who handled the trial where a York County jury awarded a man \$150,000 for malicious prosecution has upheld the verdict and refused a request by deputies for a new trial.

Russell Shane Carter won his civil suit in November after he had been charged with assault in a case where he said another man attacked him at his home. York County Sheriff's Office deputies arrested Carter. The assault charges against Carter were dropped by prosecutors weeks later, but Carter and his lawyers successfully argued that Carter was the victim of malicious prosecution.

The jury's \$150,000 verdict pushed lawyers for the sheriff's office to ask for a new trial, claiming in court documents that the amount was "grossly excessive" for what was only "emotional" injuries to Carter. The request for a new trial claimed the jury decided the damages based on "passion, prejudice, partiality, or other improper motives."

The trial judge, John C. Hayes III, issued an order Monday supporting the jury's decision and the amount awarded.

"The verdict is not grossly excessive and does not shock the conscience," Hayes wrote in the order.

Carter hit the other man with



LITTLE VOICES

Kinderchoir contributes to holiday concert calendar, 1B



Aiken Standard

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Mistrial declared in shooting by officer

BY BRUCE SMITH
AND SEANNA ADGON
Associated Press

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"He gets to spend Christmas with his family," he said of Slager.

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After the video went public, Slager was fired by the police department and charged with murder. Scott's family

Is winter weather headed to Aiken?

Prepare during Winter Weather week



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

Tiffany Dixon dressed to keep warm Monday as she rode her bicycle on Gayle Avenue.

BY DEDE BILES
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

Winter weather is on its way to Aiken County. The first winter blast of the season is scheduled to arrive later this week. A cold and northwestern Canada are the sources of the large mass of frigid air that will be causing the temperatures to plunge throughout much of the lower 48.

"The temperatures will be the coldest of the season so far," said Jeff Linton, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Columbia. Residents will start experiencing the chilly conditions on Thursday night, when the low will be near 30 degrees.

The highs Friday and Saturday will be only in the mid-40s.

On Friday evening, the low will be close to 22, and on Saturday night, it will be around 29.

"It's going to be breezy on Friday, so that's going to make it feel colder," Linton said.

"There will be northwest winds of 15 to 25 miles per hour. During the middle of the day, the wind chill values are going to be in the middle 30s. On Sunday, some moderation in temperatures will begin to occur, and the high will be in the mid-50s."

Please see WINTER, Page 10A.

Please see MISTRIAL, Page 10A.

Area deaths

Arthur Williams, Sr., Aiken
Glenn Baldridge, Ft. Augusta
Otto McCarthy, Aiken
Rudie Burkh, Aiken
Catherine Harrison, Aiken
Jimmy Simmons, Greenwood
Nancy Wells, Aiken
Rev. Everett Chandler, Valley
Marie Kurtz, Aiken
Virginia Dunkelberger, Aiken
Deaths and Funerals, 4A

Weather

Mostly Cloudy
High 51, Low 45



New gas station will use right-in, right-out entrance



Morning News

TUESDAY DECEMBER 6, 2016

The Voice of the Pee Dee

TODAY'S WEATHER
Heavy rain and a thunderstorm.
High 64, low 42.
DETAILS 2A

www.2snw.com

75 CENTS

North Charleston

Mistrial declared in Slager trial

Michael Slager (center) walks from the Charleston County Courthouse on Monday under the protection from the Charleston County Sheriff's Department in Charleston.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jury deadlocked in shooting of motorist by former officer

The Associated Press

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Asked whether he could forgive Slager, Anthony Scott said he could eventually "find the peace" to forgive the ex-officer but not

See **SLAGER**, Page 3A

Darlington County

Council hears more about solar power

Two departing members lauded

BY JIM FAILE

faile@hartsvilleme.com

DARLINGTON — Darlington County Council Chairman Bobby Fludson opened a regular monthly meeting Monday by recognizing two council members who are departing at the end of their terms.

Williamina P. Johnson has represented Darlington on the council for 28 years.

"It has been a wonderful experience," Johnson said. "I have truly enjoyed it, every minute of it."

Johnson said the county has made good progress during her seven terms in office, and she urged her colleagues and staff to "keep it up."

Robbin Brock of Hartsville is wrapping up his four-year term. Brock was the emergency services director for the county for a number of years before he retired and ran for a council seat.

They both lost their bids for reelection in their respective primaries in June.

During a short break in the meeting, Johnson and Brock were treated to a brief reception. They both received special presentations, and fellow council members heaped accolades on them and thanked them for their years of service.

In other business, members heard more about solar energy systems.

Two solar energy industry representatives appeared before the council to voice concerns over some proposed changes to the provision of the county's Development Standards Ordinance that deals with renewable energy systems such as solar facilities.

An out-of-state company that develops solar energy systems, also known as solar farms, wants to locate on 180 acres of land in the Byrdtown community. The facility would include approximately 100,000 solar panels for generating electricity. A number of residents of the com-

Corey Fowler, pictured with daughter Adelyn, started her business Convenient Crockpot Creations in September, and it has taken off, thanks to word-of-mouth and social media.



A crockin' good time



MISSISSIPPIAN PHOTOS

Courtney Driggers (left) and Katy Stroman empty cans of cream of chicken soup into each freezer bag that participants in the Convenient Crockpot Creations party took home at the end of the night.

Florence woman starts business to help other busy moms

BY MELISSA ROLLINS

rollins@2snw.com

FLORENCE — Corey Fowler knows that moms

stay busy. A former teacher turned stay-at-home mom to Adelyn, now 20 months old, Fowler is on the scene all day long. Come dinner time, she said, she didn't always have

time to put a home-cooked meal on the table.

Now through her part-time business, Convenient Crockpot Creations, she is helping other moms see it, forget it

and go about their day.

The business started unexpectedly, Fowler said.

"This all fell into my lap."

See **FOWLER**, Page 3A

Girls University hosts ribbon-cutting after joining chamber

Ashli Smart, national program director and co-owner of Girls University, talks about the after-school



BY JOE PERRY
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and workshops.

Located on Celebration Boulevard, the business opened its doors in August and hosted a Monday

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