

Thursday

December 16, 1993

Sports

Lady Bulldogs top Lady Tigers by 13, 74-61, 10A

The Times and Democrat

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State/Local

C-17 aircraft put on probation by Pentagon, 1B

Christmas

Santa's helpers continue to help less fortunate, 8B

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British, Irish leaders spell out peace plan

By MAUREEN JOHNSON
Associated Press Writer

LONDON - Offering the IRA a chance that "might never come their way again," British and Irish leaders agreed Wednesday to a framework for peace that leaves the people of Northern Ireland free to choose their own political destiny.

Prime Minister John Major and Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds pledged support for any arrangement, including Irish unification, that was agreeable to a majority of Northern Ireland's people.

They hoped offering Northern Ireland's right to self-determination would

Related story, 9A



Major (left), Reynolds (right) Catholic in Northern Ireland.

Please see Peace, 6A

Aspin resigns from Cabinet

By RON FOURNIER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON - Defense Secretary Les Aspin resigned Wednesday after a turbulent tenure marked by controversy over humanitarian aid to the military, American deaths in Somalia and the Pentagon budget. He was the first member of the Clinton Cabinet to quit.

Aspin cited unspecified personal reasons for his



Secretary Aspin

Please see Aspin, 6A

Santa in the gardens



In its first year, "Children's Garden Christmas" has brought thousands of visitors to Edisto Memorial Gardens. In all, there are 50 lighted trees, a welcome display plus silhouette figures of bears, deer, ice skaters and carolers. Besides the lanterns with names and roving torches,

other animated displays include a jack-in-the-box and a snowman. Santa Claus and his reindeer are set for take-off on the tall beside the water treatment plant. The display will be lit and open for public touring from 6 to 10 p.m. each night through Jan. 2. (T&D photo by Amy Tapp)

Gardens' display may include Nativity next year

By TUCKER LYON
T&D Government Writer

The lighted Christmas display in Edisto Memorial Gardens has attracted thousands of visitors and received enthusiastic praise, but some are still questioning why a Nativity scene was not included.

Orangeburg Mayor Martin Cheatham said Thursday that he hopes a Nativity scene

will be added to the gardens display next year, if funds are available.

"This is the first year for the display in the gardens. A committee made the selection of those items that go in. We will review it each year and add to it. My personal opinion is it's appropriate to have a Nativity scene," Cheatham said. "This is our initial year and we wanted to decorate and make it attractive for the citizens."

The mayor, who said he's received somewhere between seven and 10 calls, plus a couple of letters, mentioned that concern over potential civil liberties lawsuits, if a Nativity scene were included, isn't really a factor.

"You can't ever run afraid of being sued. It's something you can't worry about," he said.

Please see Lights, 4A

Suspect pleads guilty, gets time in man's death

By SHELJA ANTLEY
T&D Staff Writer

A 23-year-old Orangeburg man pleaded guilty Wednesday to voluntary manslaughter and was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

On the day that the jury would have heard closing arguments from the prosecution and the defense, Wilbur Kett Jr., of Route 1, Box 117, pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter in the Jan. 19 shooting death of Alan Bowman, 22, of 813-B Roosevelt Gardens Apartments.

River's body was found in the back yard of a house on Lind Street. He had been shot once in the chest and died in the back.

Orangeburg County Public Defender Michael Cullen, who represented Kett, said Wednesday that he went to Assistant State Attorney Solicitor Rodrick Bowman with a plea negotiation, and that Bowman agreed to it after discussing it with the victim's family.

Cullen said Kett could have received 30 years in prison for voluntary manslaughter, but that Judge William H. Ballenger sentenced him to 24 years in prison, suspended upon the service of 10 years, with five years probation.

Kett's plea before Ballenger was put on record in the Orangeburg County Courthouse, but it was done in the absence of the jury, "because if the defendant decided to change his mind about his plea, as he had the right to do, then we would have gone ahead and finished the trial," Bowman said Wednesday.

He said that before he accepted Cullen's offer of a plea negotiation, "I had to talk to the judge and get an idea of what the sentence would be if he pleaded guilty to that voluntary manslaughter," he said.

Bowman said he wanted to make sure that Kett was going to prison and that it would be a substantial sentence. "Going into this trial, I had two goals, to get a conviction and to see that the defendant went to prison. I met both of those goals," he said.

Bowman said he met with the victim's mother, father and two sisters, and discussed their opinions, telling them that Kett could either be found not guilty, guilty of murder or of voluntary manslaughter, or the jury would be unable to decide any way or the other, which would cause a mistrial.

"We discussed it and I told them what I was inclined to do. They didn't have any strong objections," Bowman said.

"I told them that although I thought he was guilty of murder, you never know what a jury is thinking. They may have been inclined to believe that the shooting was committed in self-defense, in which case Kett would go free," Bowman said.

Bowman said Kett would be taken to the Repton and Edisto prisons.

Please see Court, 6A

Today...

Five sections

Home-delivery subscribers of The Times and Democrat should receive five sections today: the A and B news and sports sections; a four-page Sears supplement; a two-page Life Center's supplement; and a 16-page JC-Henry supplement. Subscribers not receiving all sections should call 536-1812.

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Christmas deadlines

Due the Christmas holidays, some deadlines for The Times and Democrat will be changed.

Also, since Christmas falls on a Saturday, there will be no Sunday edition of The Times and Democrat. The T&D will print a combined weekend edition for delivery on Saturday.

Church news and Community

Looking for a car? T&D Classified, 536-4607

Sunny

Weather

Thursday, mostly sunny. High in the mid 50s. Northwesterly winds 10 to 15 mph. Thursday night. Clear. Low in the lower 30s.

database items for the Friday, Dec. 24, newspaper must be submitted by noon Wednesday, Dec. 22. Database items to appear in the weekend edition of the Monday, Dec. 27, newspaper must be in by noon Wednesday.

Obituaries for the Dec. 25 edition must be received no later than 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 24.

Wedding and engagement announcements for the Dec. 25 weekend edition must be submitted by 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20.

Garden City events and birth announcements must be in by noon Tuesday, Dec. 21.

Hollings draws fire for remark on 'cannibals'

By GARY KARR
Associated Press Writer

COLUMBIA - For Sen. Ernest "Fritz" Hollings, comparing African leaders to cannibals was just the latest remark that angered minorities and made even his supporters cringe.

Hollings, known for his quick tongue, was criticizing the international trade agreement Tuesday when the South Carolina Democrat, who is white, sounded off on why he thought African diplomats traveled to Switzerland for the talks.

"Everybody likes to go to Geneva. I used to do it for the Law of the Sea conference and you'd find these potentates from down in Africa, you know, rather than eating down here, they'd just come up and get a good square meal in Geneva," Hollings said.

The remark set off howls of protest from black leaders and deep sighs among some white



Sen. Hollings

Please see Hollings, 4A

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