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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2015



The Times and Democrat

2 DOLLARS ★ ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA
THETANDD.COM

7 SECTIONS, 92 PAGES ★ VOL. 134 ★ NO. 357



PREMIUM SECTION

2015 THE YEAR IN PHOTOS

Look Inside!

GOOD
MORNING!

**Santa Claus
COMES TO ORANGEBURG**
Sponsored by
Williams and Williams
Attorneys at Law

**Santa comes
to Orangeburg**
Christmas storybook
Inside today



**T&D Region
Volleyball**
Top teams, top
players of 2015
*Sports, **B1***



**‘My body
went numb’**
Clemson’s Williams
speaks out about
injury, year, future
*Sports, **B1***



Walt’s Top 10
Cartoonist picks his
favorites of 2015
*Local, **A2***

Vehicles vandalized at councilwoman’s home

MARTHA ROSE BROWN
T&D Staff Writer

The State Law Enforcement Division and Bamberg police are investigating the vandalism of vehicles belonging to a city councilwoman’s family.

Someone painted “City Coucil Rat” – yes, “council” was misspelled – on Bamberg City Councilwoman Cynthia

Summers McMillan’s vehicle. The vandal also set a fire inside of her husband’s truck, a police incident report states.

The incidents took place sometime between 8:45 p.m. on Sunday and 8 a.m. on Monday.

McMillan’s husband discovered the vandalism when he left the house to start the vehicles so they could warm

up on the chilly morning.

On the councilwoman’s vehicle, someone painted and keyed on the vehicle’s body and glass, “City Coucil Rat.”

Paint was also on her tire rims and license plate.

The vandals burned the glove compartment below the airbag of her husband’s truck.

“The dashboard and headliner were damaged” by the

fire, according to the incident report.

The interior of the truck also suffered some smoke damage.

McMillan told police that she doesn’t know who would’ve done this crime.

She said she isn’t aware of any recent problems with anyone personally or with anyone concerning issues of city council.

Bamberg Police Sgt. James Smoak said SLED responded to the scene Monday morning to investigate the arson that was committed inside the truck.

The Bamberg Police Department is continuing its probe into the vandalism, Smoak said, adding that SLED is looking into the arson portion of the case.

#10

T&D TOP
STORIES
of 2015

Several towns get new mayors

PRINCESS B. WILLIAMS
T&D Staff Writer

Voters made big changes in several towns in this year’s elections.

New mayors were elected in the towns of Springfield, Neeses, Branchville, St. Matthews and North.

In Springfield, incumbent Marilyn McCormick was defeated by Ed Furtick.

Neeses incumbent James Hoffmann lost his re-election bid to challenger Joseph Corbett.

H. Franklin Dickson won the mayoral election in Branchville, where the incumbent did not run for re-election.

In North, Patty Carson defeated her opponents, receiving 100 votes to replace the sitting mayor, who did not run for re-election.

**Today at
TheTandD.com**

These features and others can be found at TheTandD.com by clicking on THE SPOT or by scanning the QR code with your smartphone:

- Video: Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl defers entering a plea.
- T&D Region volleyball in review with photos from the season.
- Clemson’s Mike Williams speaks out about injury, season, future.
- More on Miss USA from Orangeburg incorrectly labeled Miss World winner in 1956.

In the town of St. Matthews, former county councilwoman Helen Carson Peterson defeated incumbent Joe Sikes to become mayor.

In the school board races,

THE SPOT
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JIMMY JONES
TOYOTA of Orangeburg

incumbent Linda Huggins of Orangeburg Consolidated School District 4’s Seat 4 lost to challenger Mike Ferris.

*See Elections, **A3***

Oar-deal over: Man facing row of charges

MARTHA ROSE BROWN
T&D Staff Writer

Santee police arrested a Manning man Monday for allegedly using a wooden oar to hold up a Santee gas station.

Michael Harold Brown, 42, of Williams Lane, is being held at the Orangeburg County Detention Center where he faces charges of first-degree assault and battery and armed robbery. He’s scheduled to appear in bond court this morning.

Police believe Brown robbed Rivers County Store at 8851 Old Number Six Highway on Friday morning.

Brown allegedly grabbed a wooden oar that was for sale inside the store, armed himself with it and demanded



Brown

the clerk give him money from the cash register.

The clerk managed to get away from him after a struggle, but the robber got away with cash and left in a gold Lincoln Town Car.

Santee Police Department Cpl. Curtis Mizell said that tips in the case came through almost immediately.

An Elloree volunteer firefighter heard a dispatcher relay a description of the vehicle over the emergency radio system.

That’s when the firefighter saw a gold Lincoln Town Car drive along Highway 267.

He noted the vehicle had a dealer tag from a Manning car dealership.

*See Brown, **A3***

Okonite expanding for future growth

GENE ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

A manufacturer of electric power cables is expanding its Orangeburg operations in an effort to meet customer demand.

The Okonite Company will invest \$19.5 million and create at least 12 new jobs as part of the expansion. The investment was originally reported at \$15 million.

“This expansion will give The Okonite Company additional capacity to allow for incremental increases in future business conditions,” Orangeburg Plant Manager Tom Sanchez said in a Tuesday press release.

“It will also posture us for

future growth in both manufacturing and equipment at our Orangeburg County facilities,” he said.

Along with adding one new insulating line and two new rewind packing lines, the company will be expanding its rewind building by 49,000 square feet.

The project is expected to be complete in October 2016.

The result will be increased capacity and higher efficiencies, the company said.

The company, which employs about 220, is situated

*See Okonite, **A3***

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The Times
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Home-delivery subscribers of The Times and Democrat should receive 7 sections today: the A and B news and sports sections; a 12-page Christmas Storybook insert; a 20-page Belk insert; a 12-page Bi-Lo insert; a 24-page Yes insert; and an 8-page Year In Photos insert. Subscribers not receiving all sections should call 536-1812.

GOOD MORNING! [12.23.15]

Classified	B6-7
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Comics	B5
Deaths	A4
Entertainment	B4
Lotteries	A3
Markets	A5
Opinion	A6
Sports	B1-3
Weather	B8

Today: Showers. High, 76. Tomorrow: Showers. High, 81.
Details, Page B8 or on
www.TheTandD.com

DEATHS

- Ruth W. Auerswald – Lincoln, Neb.
- Martha Betty Corbett Brown – Springfield
- Reginald O’Neal Reed – Aiken

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HUMILITY