

UNIVERSITY CRIME REPORT

Compiled by CHARLES PRASHAW

Thursday, October 19

• **Assisting other agency.** Main and College streets. Julian Allen was detained for the Columbia Police Department because of an outstanding bench warrant. Reporting officer: M. Moore.

• **Grand larceny of laptops.** National Advocacy Center. A NAC worker said someone removed two black Dell Inspiron laptops from the above location. Estimated value: \$6,200. Reporting officer: M. Moore.

• **Disorderly conduct.** Graduate Research Science Center. The reporting officer and others were summoned to the above location in regards to Lewis Waters, 25, being hostile toward other employees. Once officers arrived, the suspect was located by an officer within an office area in the basement. Ettenger stayed at the location until other officers surrounded the area. When other officers arrived, they arrested Waters. Employees told police Waters was had cursing and kicked the walls around the basement. Reporting officer: E.R. Staudemire.

Friday, October 20

• **Disorderly conduct.** Russell House (east patio). While on routine patrol, Officer A. Johnson observed Carl An-

thony Manning, 38, lying face down and sleeping on the concrete surface. After three times trying to wake Manning up, he became aware of his surroundings and began to respond to questions. Manning had a strong odor of alcohol on him and slurred speech. Manning became very loud and boisterous after being woken up. Manning was placed under arrest.

Davis was arrested and transported to Richland County Detention Center after he took bandages from the Food Lion without paying for them. The stolen items were recovered, and Davis' vehicle was towed from the incident location.

• **Stealing dogs.** 330 Floyd Drive, 1:30 a.m. Clivis Hamilton said someone entered his back yard and stole three adult canines and three pit-bull puppies. Hamilton only had ownership papers for one adult pit bull.

• **Attempted armed robbery.** 4401 Arlington Street, 8:20 p.m. Calvin Kennedy said that, as he walking north on Arlington Street, someone approached him with a small caliber revolver and commanded that he "give it up." Kennedy ran to the residence at 4401 Arlington Street and called for help. Kennedy said that he asked the subject "What's wrong?" and "What's the problem?" The subject than ran east on Muller Street without getting any money or property from Kennedy.

• **Malicious injury to city property.** 800 Calhoun Street, 12:15 a.m. Someone removed a parking meter from the ground and then dragged the meter behind 809 Calhoun Street, where the head of the meter was broken off. It is unknown whether any money was taken from the meter. The meter was tagged and placed into evidence. Estimated meter value: \$100.

COLUMBIA CRIME REPORT

Compiled by JOHN HUIETT

Saturday, October 21

• **Discharging a firearm within city limits, drunkenness.** 1918 Richland Street, 11:30 p.m. Officer Gates responded to incident location in reference to a civic disturbance with shots fired. Thomas Robbins said he fired the shots. Gates found one 9mm shell casing outside apartment E of the incident location. Robbins said the gun was inside the apartment, and he took Gates into the apartment and showed him where the weapon was located. One 9mm semi-automatic pistol was seized, as well as two revolvers. Robbins was arrested and transported to the Richland County Detention Center, and the weapons and shell casing were placed into evidence.

• **Shoplifting, under \$1,000.** 5118 Fairfield Road (Food Lion), 9:15 p.m. Officer Sumpter said Travis Murdock

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on Daniel Island. But the project has run into stiff opposition from local elected officials and conservationists, and even SPA officials have said the project may be doomed.

Morton Brilliant, a spokesman for Hodges, said the governor and his aides were reviewing the North Charleston's list.

"It's a big list," he said with a chuckle.

DEVELOPMENT

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Park would be more like Centennial Park in Raleigh, which is solely supported by N.C. State.

Along with details of its plan, Burroughs & Chapin revealed last week its business partners in the project.

The partners have come together to form what is called Columbia Venture Limited Liability Company. Burroughs

& Chapin is handling the management side of Columbia Venture.

Investors including Lockwood Greene, a Spartanburg engineering consulting firm, Regent Partners, an Atlanta real estate company; South Financial Group, formerly Carolina First Corp., Columbia resident Burwell Manning, and Wade Nichols, a Myrtle Beach dentist.

The university desk can be reached at gamecockdesk@hotmail.com.

Car-tax cut appears to be sure thing

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA — While no one is sure whether a lottery will pass or if Republicans or Democrats will pick up Statehouse seats in the Nov. 7 election, two things on the ballot appear to be sure things.

At the bottom of the ballot, two questions ask voters if they want to cut car taxes.

One question would roll back the car tax assessment from 10.5 percent to 6 percent during the next six years and the other would let counties ask voters if car taxes should be eliminated and replaced with higher sales taxes.

"I can't imagine anybody being against this," House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bobby Harrell said. "If you don't own a car, I guess you might not vote for it."

The measures cut revenue streams to local governments, but Harrell says local officials who object are in a minority.

"It's definitely going to have a major impact," said Millard Smith, executive secretary of the Anderson County Board of Education.

Oconee County Auditor Ken Williams says car taxes are one of the state's largest, growing revenue sources in the state. "Growth may offset the loss of revenue, but if growth does not keep the same pace as the reduction in taxes, we may have to add millage to make up the loss," he said.

While that may be bruising, the break could be a blessing for pocketbooks.

For example, an SUV owner pays \$800 to \$1,000 a year to driver their vehicle under the 10.5 percent tax cap now in effect. More modest cars cost about \$250 and the state average is around \$150.

If the tax cut is approved, the first .75 percent of assessment would come off in 2002 and by 2009 the property tax rate would hit 6 percent. That would knock about \$430 off that high-end SUV's tax bill.

If the referendum to replace personal property taxes with sales taxes passes, counties will face pressure to put that issue before voters.

Under that measure, the tax would come off cars, trucks and boats, as well as planes.

In Charleston County, taxes on that type of personal property bring in about \$14 million yearly, or about 10 percent of the county's budget.

Tim Scott, county council's vice chairman, says the sales tax is more fair than property tax. And, a sales tax would shift part of the tax burden to tourists, he said.

"I would think if the referenda pass, we would put the sales tax on the ballot," Scott said.

"I would consider it a mandate. For us, it's just about a no-brainer. If the av-

erage car tax bill is about \$150, then for a one-car family, this could be a wash."

A one-cent increase in the sales tax costs the average family about \$147 a year, according to state figures.

And some counties, including Charleston, wouldn't need that big a boost to make up for the car tax.

To make up for the lost revenue brought in by the automobile property tax, Charleston County's sales tax would have to be raised .83 cents on the dollar, or 8 cents on a \$10 purchase.

Some counties, 15 of the state's 46 won't be able to make enough money on higher sales taxes to cover the lost property tax revenue.

But the Legislature set aside \$20 million to make up the balance.

Howard Duvall, executive director of the Municipal Association of South Carolina, is opposed to replacing automobile property taxes with the sales tax. "We support the first referendum, but not the second one," Duvall said.

"We think the car tax is a legitimate tax base that should remain in place but 10.5 percent is one of the highest rates in the nation. It should be reduced."

But Duvall knows he's in the minority. "I expect both of them will pass very easily," he said.

SILVERCARD

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make a co-payment for each prescription after the deductible is met. The state Budget and Control Board's office of insurance services will determine the co-payments and deductibles based on how many people sign up.

The SilverCard is available to single seniors with an income up to \$12,525 and married senior with an income up to \$16,875. In December, the Budget and Control Board will decide whether the program will permit funding to singles with incomes up to \$14,612 and mar-

ried seniors up to \$19,678.

This amount of funding available is based on current poverty levels.

"The governor's original budget asked for \$26.7 million, but the General Assembly only gave \$20 million," Owings said. "The \$26.7 million would have covered those that are up to 200 percent of the poverty level, and the current plan covers less than 150 percent of the poverty level."

Seniors were able to apply for the card beginning Monday, Oct. 16, and Owings said there was a high response rate.

"The response was overwhelming," said Owings. "We opened at 8:00 in the morning and it was already packed."

Applications will be available at lo-

cal pharmacies, Councils on Aging, many doctors' offices, libraries and local legislative offices through Dec. 1.

After Dec. 1, seniors can apply within 21 days of a qualifying event: turning 65, drop in income levels or meeting the six-month residency requirement. If someone loses insurance involuntarily, he or she can also apply.

Eligible seniors will be able to start using the SilverCard at participating pharmacies beginning Jan. 1.

Applicants can request applications be sent to their homes by calling 1-877-239-5277.

The city/state desk can be reached at gamecockcitydesk@hotmail.com.

The Gamecock city and university desks want you! No experience required to write. Call Brandon or John at 777-7726.

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- MPA (Master of Public Administration)
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- Sigma Iota Rho
- Sigma Theta Tau
- Tau Beta Pi
- Mortar Board

- NRHH (National Residence Hall Honorary)
- NSCS (National Collegiate Scholars)
- Order of Omega

Order forms may be picked up at the Russell House Information Desk, the Student Government Office, the Student Activities Center, and the University Housing Office. The deadline is Friday, October 27. Any Questions? Call 777-4283.

**Sponsored by Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society



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