

**In Business:** New restaurants add to fare on Columbia's Main Street, **B6**

The State  
COLUMBIA • SOUTH CAROLINA

**METRO**

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**Vendors sign on at farmers market**

By **JEFF WILKINSON**  
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Three more major tenants have closed on land and are ready to begin construction at the South Carolina State Farmers Market in Lexington County.

That brings to six the number of large wholesalers transferring their operations from the cramped

Columbia State Farmers Market on Bluff Road to new buildings on the Charleston Highway site south of Cayce.

It's an important milestone for the new market, which has seen its share of controversy. But it came as no surprise to the market's private developer.

"They've been with us all the way," George Lee, a partner with

**Three major tenants to build at massive new Lexington County facility**

321 Lexington Associates, said of wholesalers L&N Produce, Ayer & Price Fruit Co. and Raybon Tomato. "But you never know until everything is signed."

Lee noted that eight mid-size vendors also have agreed to lease

space in a warehouse the firm is building, bringing its occupancy to about 70 percent.

The three major vendors join V.B. Hook & Co., Severt & Sons Produce Co., and Senn Brothers at the sprawling 175-acre site.

Efforts to reach the vendors were unsuccessful.

But S.C. Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers said the big vendors represent 70 percent of the total volume of the new market and often buy and sell from smaller vendors.

"They are the lifeblood of the economic impact of the new market," he said. "It's unique to have

large wholesalers next to farmers and smaller vendors. It's a symbiotic relationship."

Lee said the project is "relatively" on schedule for an April 17 opening — six weeks after vendors will be forced to leave the aging Bluff Road market Feb. 28.

The property, across the street

SEE **FARMERS PAGE B5**

**Service, giving honored**



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Six Midlands-area corporations, service groups and individuals were honored Thursday for their charitable giving and community service.

The recognition came during the S.C. Central Carolina Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals awards program as part of National Philanthropy Day.

**Love Collins III** was named this year's outstanding fundraising executive. Collins, the executive vice president for institutional advancement at Benedict College, was noted for his fundraising in higher education.

**Steve Morrison** and **Mary Kennemur** received the volunteer

SEE **RANTIN PAGE B2**



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**PRESTO! THE HOLIDAYS ARE HERE!**

Magician John Tudor performs a card trick with Taylor Henderson, 6, center, and Sarah Loyd, 9, left, on Gervais Street during Vista Lights on Thursday night. The 24th annual celebration in Columbia's Congaree Vista included a tree-lighting ceremony plus a merry mix of food, art and entertainment.

**ONLINE**

For more photos of the Vista Lights event, visit the gallery at [thestate.com](http://thestate.com)

**Word of the Year has S.C. ties**

The Associated Press

When the U.S. House admonished Rep. Joe Wilson, the S.C. Republican, for shouting "You lie!" at President Barack Obama during a health care speech to Congress, it sent many people scurrying to the Internet in search of a definition.

Admonish, a verb dating to the 14th century meaning "to express warning or disapproval in a gentle, earnest, or solicitous manner," generated enough curiosity to crown it Merriam-Webster's Word of the Year for 2009.

It beat out several other finalists that emerged from what the dictionary publisher's editor at large, Peter Sokolowski, called the "intersection of news and vocabulary." Runners-up included inaugurate,

SEE **WORD PAGE B5**

**Andrea Person answers questions during cross-examination Thursday in her murder trial in the death of a 1-year-old boy who died at her day care.**



RICH GLICKSTEIN/RGLICKSTEIN@THESTATE.COM

**Woman says she didn't kill boy**

By **JOHN MONK**  
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Andrea Person took the witness stand Thursday and told the jury that Richland County sheriff's deputies bullied her into falsely confessing she killed 1-year-old Zachary Ulenchong at her day-care center.

"I answered that question over and over again — I did not hurt Zachary," Person said about the

first part of a three-hour session with sheriff's investigators.

As time went on, detectives wore her down, she testified, making threatening moves and insisting she agree with them that she killed little Zachary — even providing her with a step-by-step description of how she supposedly smothered the baby to death.

"He (the detective) wouldn't accept no for an answer," said Person, 40. "He would run his hands

on his head. . . he was making a fist (and said), 'Something had to have happened, something had to have happened, this is not making sense.'"

Person's lawyer, Fielding Pringle asked her: "How are you feeling at that point?"

"I'm scared. I'm intimidated. I'm crying," Person said. "I want to go home."

SEE **WOMAN PAGE B2**

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEATHS**

**Emma Asmer**, Columbia  
**Eva Boan**, Columbia  
**Barbara Butler**, Trenton  
**Bryce Caison**, Anderson  
**Douglas Collins**, Columbia  
**Todd Collins**, Batesburg-Leesville  
**Margaret Corley**, Lexington

**Harris Craddock**, Cordova  
**Virginia Davis**, Orangeburg  
**Callie Furtick**, Springfield  
**James Ginn**, Grays  
**Evelyn Guyton**, Winnsboro  
**Robert Hamilton Jr.**, North Charleston

**Donna Huntley**, Chesterfield  
**William Johnson**, Columbia  
**Joel "Joe" Lane**, Fork  
**Louise Livingston**, Chapin  
**Larry Long**, Chapin  
**Dr. Ann Mack**, Kinards  
**James "Moody" Mayrant**, Rembert

**Lucy Merriman**, Cheraw  
**Catherine "Jean" Mumford**, Orangeburg  
**Sandra Nichols**, Greenville  
**Julian "Junebug" Oswald**, Batesburg  
**Mary Parker**, Jefferson

**Mildred Pou**, Livingston  
**Molly Rice**, Columbia  
**Nettie Rogers**, Cayce  
**Linda Rushton**, Pelion  
**George Sawyer Sr.**, Lexington  
**Lewis Shealy**, Cayce  
**Louise Shirley**, Columbia

**Kathleen Ward**, Manning  
**Geneva "Lumpy" Wells**, Mayesville  
**John Wise**, Elko

DETAILS, B4

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