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One charged, one sought in shooting

BY TEDDY KULMALA
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Police have arrested one person and are seeking a second suspect in a Wednesday night shooting during which a man was shot in the head, according to the Aiken Department of Public Safety.

Latoya Denise Edwards, 28, of Belton,

was charged with attempted murder and placed in the Aiken County detention center.

Aiken Public Safety has issued an arrest warrant for Devontay Kaseem Gordon, 22, for attempted murder. His last known address was Williamsburg Street in Aiken.

Officers responded to a call of shots fired on the 1600 block of Colleton Av-

enue about 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday, according to Aiken Public Safety Lt. Karl Odenthal.

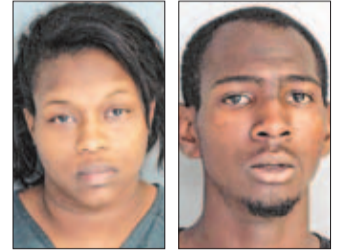
There, they found 35-year-old Anthony Oakman lying face down on the curb in front of the apartments with multiple gunshot wounds.

Oakman appeared to have a gunshot wound to the head, according to the police report. He was taken to Georgia

Regents Medical Center in Augusta for "advanced medical treatment" of his injuries.

His status was unknown Friday at press time. Police have said there was an altercation between two individuals, during which Oakman was reportedly shot.

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Edwards

Gordon

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Restoration a family affair



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

Lyanne Haislip, left, and her husband, Det, enjoy the downtown view from a balcony at their True Value Hardware & Appliances store.

BY DEDE BILES
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Editor's note: This is the first in a series of stories about Historic Aiken Foundation award winners.

When Det and Lyanne Haislip decided to renovate the downtown Aiken building where their family business, True Value Hardware & Appliances, is located, they didn't set out to win a prize.

Their goal was to prepare the top floor of the two-story brick structure, which was a storage area, for commercial/residential use.

The results turned out better than they expected, Lyanne said, and the Haislips' efforts didn't go unnoticed.

Last month, the Historic Aiken Foundation recognized the couple with a Preservation Award for the downtown building's façade, which includes two distinctive wrought iron balconies with kiln-dried hardwood floors.

"We are grateful and honored," Lyanne said. "We had no idea we would qualify for such a thing."

The Haislips made sure the names of their children, Wylie Haislip and Kaminer Haislip Quinn, were included on the plaque that they received.

Also listed on the award are the names of Kaminer's husband, Matt, and Lyanne's late parents, JW "Bill" and Theodocia "Dody" Franklin.

"It's a family business, and everyone has contributed to its success," Lyanne said.

It's a family business, and everyone has contributed to its success.

Lyanne Franklin Haislip,
True Value Hardware & Appliances

Other Historic Aiken Foundation winners, **14A**

The Franklins started the business in 1959. Known then as Economy Auto, it was located in Mitchell Shopping Center on Whiskey Road.

"It had a home and auto type of format," Det said. "There were automobile parts and bicycles, and then they brought durable goods and appliances on board at some point."

The Franklins moved their store downtown in the early 1960s. It became part of a retail chain called

Otasco (Oklahoma Tire and Supply Company) for a while and operated in several locations.

The Franklins purchased the business' current building in 1974. The store became affiliated with True Value in the 1990s, according to Det. "The front of the building has been here in its present form since 1888," he said.

Please see **PRESERVATION**, Page 14A

City adds paint, plants to help beautify Laurens Street bridge

BY AMY BANTON
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A little bit of work has been happening at the Laurens Street bridge to beautify the area around the newly-built structure.

City of Aiken Public Service crews worked this week to paint the silver, chain-link fence black to match the fencing that was installed at the end of Colleton Avenue.

At the corners of the bridge, the ground has

been mulched, and Brodie junipers and Royal Raindrops crabapple trees have been planted.

The City is continuing to look at "other beautification opportunities" for the bridge and surrounding area, according to City Manager Richard Pearce's "Issues and Updates" letter.

Pearce said the City saw opportunities to use funds from its plant bank to replace greenery that was lost during construction.

Please see **BRIDGE**, Page 14A



STAFF PHOTO BY AMY BANTON

City of Aiken Crew Leader Cheryl Rich and Santonio Flowers paint the silver, chain-link fence black at the Laurens Street bridge on Wednesday.

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PRESERVATION

CONTINUED from 1A

The structure has 7,500 square feet of space on each of its two floors.

"We knew what we wanted downstairs, which is what we've got, a hardware and appliance store," Det said. "But we needed to make use of the space upstairs and we had numerous conversations over the years with family members, including my mother-in-law and father-in-law."

According to Lyanne, her parents were visionaries, who believed that increasing the population density in downtown Aiken would strengthen the area's appeal. They were involved in developing residential lofts in some of the buildings.

The True Value structure's facelift was "a way for the family to move on in a positive and constructive fashion after my father died in March 2010," Lyanne said. "It also was a way to fulfill the dream he had about renovating the front of the building and doing something upstairs that would be income-producing for 7,500 square feet of downtown property."

Work began on the project in December 2011 after the Aiken Design Review Board approved the Haislips' plan. The building's façade was completed last fall.

"The truth is, I don't know how much we spent; it was a lot of money," Lyanne said. "But a (City of Aiken) Façade Grant (of \$10,000) gave us a start."

The Haislips also had help in turning their vision for the building into reality from architects Martin Buckley and McDonald Lawrence, contractor J.D. Cooper, designer Helen Kelley, engineer Josh Stewart and others.

"We had shelving and different metal fixtures that had accumulated upstairs for many years, so during the demolition part of the process, we were moving tons of recyclable metals," Det said. "We had five or six pickup loads just from the tiles we removed from what turned out to be ash and pine floors."

Other work involved opening back up the six windows that had been filled in with bricks following a fire in 1952 and turning two of the windows into doors that would provide access

Historic Aiken Foundation winners

Wilds-Lipe Treasured Home

Berrie Patch
Linda Knox McLean

Claudia Phelps Award

Thistle Cottage Garden
Joanne and Charles Leopold

Preservation Award

True Value Facade
The Haislips

Adaptive Use Award

Betsy's on the Corner
Betsy Simons

President's Award

Kershaw Square
William and Simmie Moore

Leadership Award

The Garden House
Robert and Marylee McQuinn

Stewardship Award

Facade Grant Program
City of Aiken

to the balconies.

Chuck Graham of New Ellenton made the balconies, which each weigh 700 pounds and measure 12 feet across by 5 feet deep.

"They were installed one at a time, of course, and they had to block off the street," Det said. "There was a crowd downtown watching; we had everything but the organ grinder and the dancing monkey."

The Haislips sought customer input when they were selecting the façade's Georgian green paint. Lyanne gave Kelley credit for the decision to decorate the building's metal canopy with black and white stripes.

Further work is scheduled for the second floor.

"Next, we're going to create some office space and possibly some residential space for people," Det said. "We have plans right now for a total of four units."

True Value Hardware & Appliances is located at 121 Laurens St. S.W.

BRIDGE

CONTINUED from 1A

Pearce said he has gotten a few anecdotal comments about the bridge. Some people expressed their distaste with the look of the bridge through the *Aiken Standard* "TalkBack" while others said it was the functionality, not the aesthetics, that mattered.

Pearce said that, since the bridge was within public right-of-way, it didn't fall under the jurisdiction of the Design Review Board, which works towards preserving

the character of the historic district.

It was an emergency repair in which federal money was used, and it was a project that only had a short time to be completed, he said.

The bridge was an emergency repair prompted by the S.C. Department of Transportation when a corner of the structure began to fail after heavy rains in April.

The project was mostly covered with Federal Relief funds, which meant it had to be completed within 180 days. The bridge was demolished in mid-June.

The project went just a few

days over deadline, which meant SCDOT had to pay 20 percent of the remaining cost – that was about \$6,000 out of the approximately \$2.5 million the new bridge cost.

The bridge reopened in October.

The bridge, which was flat before, was designed differently with a small arch to meet new requirements established by Norfolk Southern, which has a railroad track running underneath.

This increased elevation meant that the portion of Colleton Avenue that intersects with Laurens Street had to be permanently closed.

ARREST

CONTINUED from 1A

Public Safety detectives are still investigating the incident, and additional arrests may be made, according to Odenthal.

Anyone with information about this crime is asked to contact CrimeStoppers of the Midlands at 888-CRIME-SC. Callers will remain anonymous and could be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$1,000.

Teddy Kulmala is a graduate of Clemson University and hails from Williston.



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