

# More snow?

Winter storm is heading to  
Upstate Monday morning C1

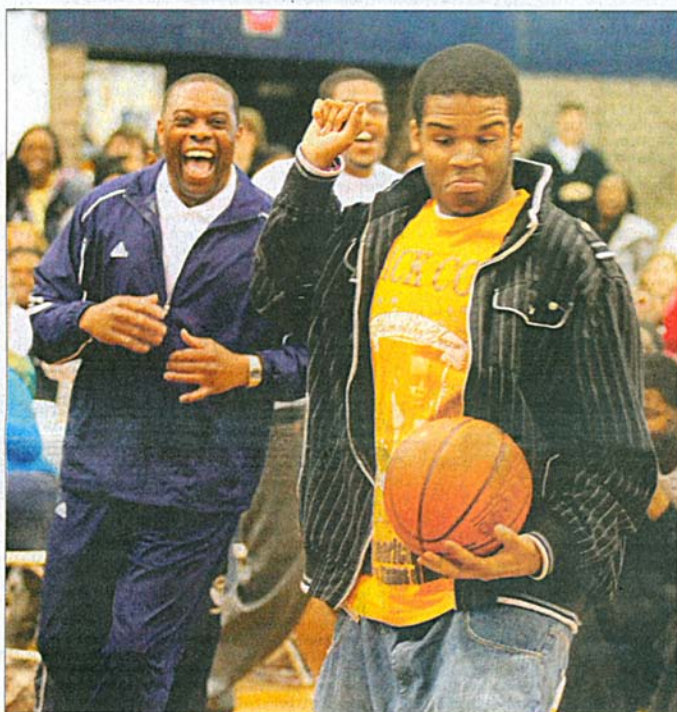
# Herald-Journal

**SATURDAY**

**JANUARY 8, 2011**  
SPARTANBURG, S.C.  
50 cents

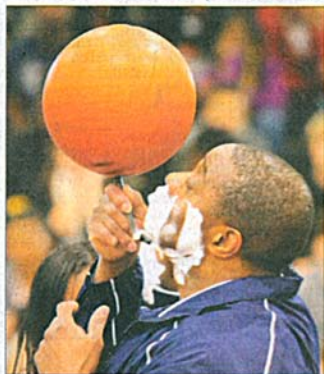
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## A BALANCING ACT

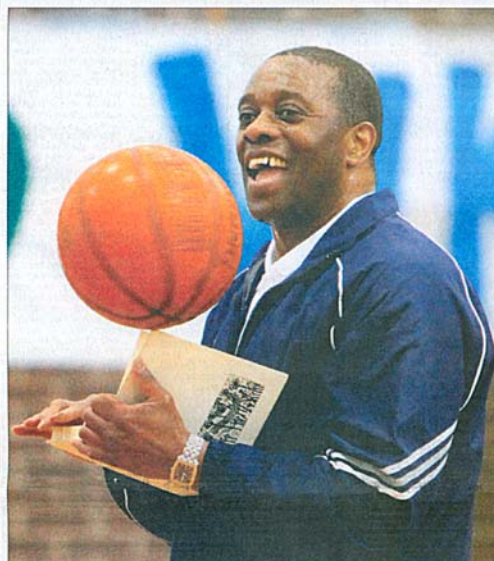


PHOTOS BY MIKE BONNER/MIKE.BONNER@SHU.COM

**M**otivational speaker and former Harlem Globetrotter Archie Talley spoke to students at Spartanburg High School on Friday morning. Above, Sedrick Smoot, front, hams it up as Talley laughs in the back. At right, Talley demonstrated several ball handling skills, including his ability to shave while balancing a basketball on top of the razor. See story, page C1.



## FUN SPIN ON READING



## Former Globetrotter gives kids a bounce

If the track suit, sneakers and spinning basketballs didn't tip them off, former Globetrotter Archie Talley told Spartanburg High School students right away he wasn't a typical motivational speaker. Talley's unique approach mixed humor and inspiration, with a few basketball tricks thrown in to grab students' attention during an assembly Friday morning. He was met with laughter, roaring applause and a standing ovation — not things most motivational speakers earn from a gymnasium full of teenagers.

"I am not here to point at you and tell you you're doing

this wrong or that wrong," Talley said. "I did not like those kind of speakers when I was your age." Talley played for the Harlem Globetrotters in 1976. He later went on to play for the New Jersey Nets and 10 professional basketball seasons in Europe. Since the mid-1980s, Talley has traveled the nation as a motivational speaker for schools, events, civic and

• SEE BOUNCE PAGE C3

STORY BY LEE G. HEALY  
PHOTOS BY MIKE BONNER



Motivational speaker and former Harlem Globetrotter Archie Talley spoke to the students at Spartanburg High School, left, Friday morning. At top, Talley puts a fun spin on reading, and above, even has a ball while taking a break.

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## BOUNCE

From page C1

professional organizations. "I got your back," Talley repeated to the student body. He pointed to school and district leaders, teachers and coaches. "We got your back," he said.

Talley told students about the things he sees as the keys to success: confidence, determination, hard work and sacrifice. He encouraged them to soak up their educational experience and to not let anything get in the way of their ambitions.

"My job is to come here and tell you what you already have that makes you rich," Talley said.

Then, with the familiar Globetrotters' music playing over the sound system, Talley grabbed students' attention with a few athletic antics. He balanced a spinning basketball on a toothbrush, comb, spoon and umbrella. He balanced it on a razor while shaving — asking a helpful student to hold a hand mirror. He interacted with the audience constantly, pulling students and teachers to the stage and tossing the ball back and forth as he made his way up and down the bleachers.

Daqwan Fuller, a senior at SHS, heard Talley's message loud and clear. The small forward on the Vikings' basketball team could relate to Talley's

journey, using athletics as a tool to get ahead.

"I really enjoyed this, just by him saying sports and athletics was his only way to get out of school," Fuller said. "I can really relate to that. Sports is my way out of Spartanburg, South Carolina."

Fuller is still deciding on colleges, but wants to major in criminal justice and become a probation officer. He said he internalized Talley's messages about having character and relying on family and a higher power.

"I could tell he really wanted to be here and really enjoyed every moment he spent with us," Fuller said.

Rodney Graves, director of secondary education for District 7, said the Upstate Regional Education Center secured a grant that made Talley's visit possible. Graves said Talley's enthusiasm and sincere message was a perfect fit for Spartanburg High School. He also visited Park Hills Elementary School Friday and will host an event at the city of Spartanburg's C.C. Woodson Center today at noon that is open to the public.

"I think so many times speakers come in that don't relate to students," Graves said. "I think he did a great job. His message, it makes an impact (on students) and they don't even realize it's making an impact."