the Sumter ITEM

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NATION

Are you confused or worried about taxes?

Many Americans surprised by impact of new federal law **A5**

Man's body found with gunshot

City, county officials trying to ID victim discovered near railroad tracks Saturday

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

City and county authorities are working to identify a man whose body was found near railroad tracks in the city Saturday morning and determine what led to his death.

Railway workers spotted the body of a black male down an embankment from railroad tracks near Cooks and South streets, Tonyia McGirt, Sumter Police Department public information officer, said. The railroad tracks where the body was found run under the bridge on South Guignard Drive. Officers responded at about 1:15 p.m., she said.

McGirt said the man was wearing a white T-shirt with a gray jacket, red shorts, black slippers and light-colored ankle socks.

An autopsy — performed at the Medical University of South Carolina on Tuesday morning — showed the deceased died from a gunshot wound, Robbie Baker, Sumter County coroner, said.

The man is described as between the ages of 25 to 35, 329 pounds and 6 feet 2 inches tall, he said.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Sumter Police Department at (803) 436-2700 or Sumter County Coroner's Office at (803) 436-2111.

The Sumter Item's annual
Fireside Fund
providing heating assistance for those in need since 1969
Dedicated to the memory of Roger Ackerman

Donations help others find joy and relief

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

Donations given to Sumter United Ministries through *The Sumter Item*'s annual Fireside Fund are earmarked strictly for heating requests, and the fund recently helped a 53-year-old disabled woman with her final notice bill.

Kevin Howell, Crisis Relief Ministry director at the emergency services nonprofit, said the donations from the community allow the ministry to assist clients in multiple ways, such as helping with bills for propane, kerosene and natural gas. The ministry will also evaluate a partial amount on an electric bill when a family heats with electric only — floor heaters or central heat and air.

Because the donations are additional funds to the ministry, Howell said, staff and volunteers still assist in a variety

SEE **FIRESIDE,** PAGE A7

YOUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

$495
Total this week

$36,517
Total this year

$48,601.18
Total last year

$1,619,864.25
Total since 1969

Nearly one of a kind at Hot Pursuit yearly event

PHOTOS BY BRUCE MILLS / THE SUMTER ITEM





ABOVE: Owen Pack, 68, of Greeleyville stands next to his 1966 Aztec Bronze-colored Chevrolet Chevelle on Saturday at the 2nd-Annual Hot Pursuit BBQ Cookoff and Car Show at the Sumter Fairgrounds. The car's interior is also Aztec Bronze, and he said it's one of only 200 Chevelles made that year that had the Aztec color scheme on the inside and out. The car is now 53 years old, and Pack has had it for 49 years since he was 19 in 1970. Pack said the Chevelle has won about 20 "best of show" awards since 2000.

LEFT: Chase Durney of Smokin' Ray's Custom Bar-BQ of Columbia dishes out some of the company's favorites on Saturday at the cookoff and car show. All proceeds from the event went to the Sumter County Sheriff's Office for deputies' training and recruiting programs.

Lakewood student charged after false active shooter call

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

A Lakewood High School student is facing charges and disciplinary action for allegedly making a prank 911 call about an active shooter Tuesday afternoon.

The 15-year-old student reportedly made the call from another student's phone and told dispatch there was an active shooter on the premises and that she could hear shots being fired, according to Sumter School District and Sumter County Sheriff's Office spokespeople.

SEE **LAKEWOOD,** PAGE A5

Data leads committee to ask school board to reconsider Mayewood Middle reopening

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

With a look at more detailed factors playing into a complex $130 million budget, the Sumter school board's advisory Finance Committee wants the board to reconsider its vote last week to reopen Mayewood Middle School.

District Chief Financial Officer Jennifer Miller shared upcoming budget variables and "unknowns" that show next year's — and ensuring years' — operating funds will likely be tight and lean, even without considering the costs to reopen the school.

Continued decreasing district enrollment trends in recent years translate into less state and federal funds on the revenue side of the balance sheet.

With a 45th-day district-wide student count in November of 15,957 students, Sumter's enrollment is down 194 students from last school year's 45-day count of 16,151 students.

Miller shared with the committee, that — in itself — has now caused her to lower the district's

SEE **MAYEWOOD,** PAGE A7

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DEATHS, B6

Jeanette Brown
Barbara Kaye Smith
Merritt Junior Swinney
Willie Walker Jr.
Belton O'Neal Compton Jr.
Leon Thames

WEATHER, A10

STILL RAINY
Occasional rain and drizzle; cloudy tonight
HIGH 52, LOW 47

INSIDE

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VOL. 124, NO. 88

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Sports B1
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SECOND FRONT

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PHOTOS PROVIDED

LEFT: Elliott Hitchcock and the Bull Shark is among paintings in Stephen Chesley: Field, Trees, Sky, which opens with a reception Thursday at the Sumter County Gallery of Art, 200 Hasell St.

ABOVE: Chesley's painting titled Trees, Night, Sky reflects his passion for the beauty of the wildness of Earth's natural landscape. It is one of many large-scale paintings that will be on exhibit.

Major exhibit by Chesley will fill entire gallery

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Works by Southern regional artist Stephen Chesley will fill both galleries at the Sumter County Gallery of Art from Thursday through April 19. The exhibition opens with a reception from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

Primarily a painter of landscapes, Chesley is a passionate environmentalist in the spirit of Thomas Cole, the 19th-century painter and founder of the Hudson River School art movement, according to SCGA curator Cole Miller. The exhibition, titled "Stephen Chesley: Field, Trees, Sky," reflects this.

Mostly self-taught, in his painting, the artist's influence by George Inness, Albert Pinkham Ryder, J.M.W. Turner and Edward Hopper can be discerned.

Chesley is a New York native, who grew up in Virginia, and received degrees in Urban Studies and Urban Planning from Clemson University. After working in city planning for some time, he became dissatisfied with the lack of creativity in the job, threw his wristwatch away and spent five years painting mostly sea islands, swamps and rivers without any consideration of time.

"I lived by my natural biorhythms," he said. "I wanted to paint and still be free."

It was this time, while painting in solitude with nature, that shaped Chesley's perspective on overpopulation and the fragility of the planet as it exists today. He found it increasingly difficult to achieve a sense of solitude in modern times, and he was gripped by a sense of urgency to paint landscapes, to record their unspoiled beauty for posterity.

Recognized in 1981 by the Columbia Museum of Art as an emerging talent, he went on to win a top 100 in the first National Parks competition of 1987, exhibiting at the Smithsonian, and in 1996 a National Endowment for the Arts, Southeast Regional Fellowship, Southeast Center for Contemporary Art. Chesley has continued his work, which he characterizes as poetic realism, along with welded and carved sculptural pieces in addition to book illustration, including W.S. Merwin's poem "Palm" for the Thomas Cooper Society. Chesley is a fierce conservationist and naturalist. He continues his creative journey at the new Stormwater Studios in Columbia.

Critics have described Chesley's landscapes as "dark and moody," and the artist acknowledges he uses a darker, earthy palette of natural umbers and ochres: "You need to stay true to the art."

While Chesley's paintings are realistic and representative, they often have an abstract quality. He combines colors of similar values and avoids sharp lines, forcing the viewer to study the soft-edged planes to discover what they represent. Though he primarily paints landscapes, he seldom paints via plein air any more. One reason is the increasingly crowded planet. He said, "I used to paint early in the morning when there was nobody around."

These days, he often does field sketches or takes photographs and later paints at home or in the studio. Over the years, however, Chesley has discovered painting from memory to be the best method because, "when you remember, you remember why the place was important — not how it looked but how it felt."

In many scenes, the flames of a distant nighttime fire or the dramatic backlighting of the sun behind dark clouds seize the canvas, making it seem to glow from an inner light. He uses the technique to create a sense of "temporal ambiguity" that can leave the viewer unsure whether it's morning or evening, coming or going. Chesley often titles his paintings using a straightforward descriptive — "twilight" or "trees, field" — a one-line haiku. He states, "You don't know whether the day is starting or ending. You see the tree, but when you get up close to it, you see it's an abstraction. That is something I strive for. I really don't want to paint the tree, per se, I am after a narrative."

Like the serpentine wanderings of the fluvial swamps depicted in Chesley's well-known paintings of the American South, so too does his approach to color, form and composition seem to meander through the history of American painting while striving to "keep that earlier, wilder image" at the heart of his artistic purpose.

SCGA Executive Director Karen Watson has known Chesley for more than 25 years. She said, "We have been talking with Stephen for two years about an exhibition in Sumter, and we are thrilled that it is finally happening. This is going to be a major exhibition and will occupy the entire gallery space. Chesley paints on a massive scale in keeping with the style of the old masters, so the exhibition will be visually appealing to our audience.

"He will be at the opening and will give an artist talk TBA in March. We could not present such an important exhibition without our community partners. Special thanks to Century 21 Hawkins and Kolb, The Glenmore and May Sharp Trust and The Mouse House Framery and Gallery (in Columbia). Flowers are courtesy of the Azalea Garden Club and the Council of Garden Clubs of Sumter."

Stephen Chesley: Fields, Trees, Sky opens with a reception Thursday. The public is invited to attend from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Members are admitted at no charge, nonmembers for a donation of $5.

For more information, contact Watson or Miller at (803) 775-0543, or visit the website, *www.sumtergallery.org*.

Business news

Payless files for bankruptcy, Sumter's Broad Street store among closings

NEW YORK (AP) — Payless ShoeSource has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection and is shuttering its remaining stores in North America including the Sumter store at 1021 Broad St.

The filing on Monday came a day after the shoe chain began holding going-out-of-business sales at its North American stores.

The company, based in Topeka, Kansas, updated the number of stores it is closing to 2,500, up from the 2,100 it cited on Friday when it confirmed it was planning to liquidate its business. It reiterated that stores will remain open until at least the end of March and the majority will remain open until May.

The liquidation doesn't affect its franchise operations or its Latin American stores, which remain open for business as usual, it said.

The debt-burdened chain filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection a first time in April 2017, closing hundreds of stores as part of its reorganization.

"The challenges facing retailers today are well documented, and unfortunately, Payless emerged from its prior reorganization ill-equipped to survive in today's retail environment," said Stephen Marotta, Payless ShoeSource's chief restructuring officer.

He noted that the prior Chapter 11 proceedings left the company with too much debt and with too many stores.

Supreme Court to hear arguments at Patriot Hall, open to public

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Supreme Court of South Carolina will hear oral arguments at Patriot Hall on Thursday. Arguments will be heard at 9:30 a.m., 10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Case information is available at *https://bit.ly/2GMprlM*. The event is open to the public.

SNAP benefits issued on March 5 to estimated 231,000 households

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The South Carolina Department of Social Services will be issuing March Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits early in order to reduce the time between payments for recipients who received their February benefits early because of the federal government shutdown.

Only those SNAP recipients who received their February benefits in January will receive benefits on March 5. This will affect an estimated 231,000 households.

Eligible SNAP recipients who received their February benefits on their monthly issuance date will receive March benefits on their normal schedule.

DSS typically staggers the date SNAP benefits are issued between the first and 19th day of each month. S.C. issued February benefits Jan. 17 because of the federal government shutdown. Issuing March benefits on the normal schedule would have left some South Carolinians with up to 59 days between monthly SNAP payments. The release on March 5 will reduce the length of time between SNAP payments to no more than 45 days.

South Carolina will return to its normal issuance schedule in April.

If SNAP participants have questions they can contact their local office or call DSS Connect at 1-800-616-1309.

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Thomas Sumter Quiz Bowl team takes second at SCISA regionals



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Thomas Sumter Academy middle school Quiz Bowl Team recently competed at SCISA regionals. The trivia-based competition was held at Wilson Hall. During competition, students were quizzed on the following topics: geography, math, science, history, English and literature. The TSA team, led by sixth-grader Clara Ann McCaskill, performed well and came in second place. The team members were Jake Marshall, Austin Foddrill, Clara Ann McCaskill, Trenton Spilker, Christian Razor and Thomas Parrish.

North Carolina poll workers: County's results counted early

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Disarray in the administration of the country's last undecided congressional election was illustrated Tuesday when three poll workers testified some votes were counted days ahead of Election Day.

North Carolina's State Board of Elections heard the testimony as part of a hearing that could result in a new election being called for the 9th District or the Republican candidate declared the winner.

The testimony came a day after the board heard evidence the election was also marred by falsified signatures, disappearing documents and blank ballots that were filled in by people hired by the Republican candidate.

The board heard Tuesday from Bladen County poll workers who admitted tallying results on the Saturday before Election Day when early, in-person voting ended.

That's contrary to proper practice. The poll workers, Agnes Willis and Coy Mitchell Edwards, said that while they and others could see who had the early lead in Bladen County sheriff's race, they didn't tell anyone.

That testimony contradicted the account of another poll worker, Michele Maultsby, who said earlier Tuesday that she never saw anyone view the tape listing the voting results that Saturday. Agnes Willis must have made an honest mistake when she said people saw the early voting totals, Maultsby said.

State elections director Kim Strach said investigators didn't find evidence that anyone else was tipped off early about the vote totals. But the practice of early counting raises questions about the vulnerability of the county's voting results.

After the hearing ends, the state board will have to decide whether ballot fraud was unfortunate but tolerable or whether to order a new election in the congressional district that runs from Charlotte through several counties to the east.

Strach testified Monday that a political operative hired by Republican Mark Harris led "a coordinated, unlawful and substantially resourced absentee ballot scheme" in last year's general election in rural Bladen and Robeson counties, which are part of the congressional district.

The operative, Leslie McCrae Dowless Jr., was called to testify Monday, but his attorney refused to put him on the stand without legal protection against prosecution for events he described. The board refused.

The first of what could be a days-long hearing produced Dowless' workers testifying that they sometimes filled in votes on unfinished, unsealed mail-in ballots. But there was scant evidence that Harris knew about it or even benefited.

Harris narrowly leads Democrat Dan McCready in unofficial results.

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Memorial speaks to North Korea's ties to summit host Vietnam



War veteran Duong Van Dau walks between a row of headstones at a memorial for North Korean fallen pilots in Bac Giang province, Vietnam. The 14 headstones of the pilots who died while fighting American bombers alongside the Vietnamese army during the Vietnam war remain as a symbol of Vietnam-North Korea friendship.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAC GIANG, Vietnam (AP) — In a rice field in northern Vietnam, 14 headstones are an enduring symbol of the wartime friendship of Vietnam and North Korea. They mark the original burial ground of North Korean pilots who died while secretly fighting alongside Vietnamese comrades against U.S. Air Force and Navy planes during the Vietnam War.

The role of North Korea is a footnote in the sweeping history of that conflict, one that speaks mostly of the fraternal relations of two nations that separately fought bruising armed conflicts against the United States in the context of the Cold War. Decades later, the communist nations' friendship is apparent as Vietnam gets ready to host the second summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un next week.

"When they died, Vietnamese people treated them the same as Vietnamese martyrs who sacrificed for the country," Duong Van Dau, the caretaker of the memorial, said last week. On the high ground where the fallen pilots were interred, their tombs all face northeast, toward their homeland.

South Korea's role in the war is much better known. From 1964 to 1973, Seoul deployed more than 300,000 military personnel to help the U.S. effort in South Vietnam against the communists.

By contrast, the North Korean air force contingent deployed near Hanoi in what was then called North Vietnam — the communist half of the war-torn Southeast Asian nation — had 200-400 personnel, including about 90 pilots over more than two years, according to postwar Vietnamese accounts.

In September 1966, according to Vietnamese historical documents obtained and translated by CIA analyst turned scholar Merle Pribbenow, Hanoi accepted an offer by Pyongyang to send three companies of pilots who would form a regiment equipped with 30 aircraft in total. They were to wear North Vietnamese uniforms and Vietnam would provide the aircraft, facilities and equipment.

It was timely assistance. Vietnam's fleet of aging Russian-made MiG-17 fighters was taking heavy losses defending against the U.S. bombing campaign against North Vietnam, Operation Rolling Thunder. China and Russia provided material assistance, but the number of trained Vietnamese pilots was shrinking by attrition.

The first North Korean contingent, also destined to fly MiG-17s, were sent before the end of 1966 to Kep air base in Bac Giang province, 40 miles northeast of Hanoi, to aid in training and to carry out combat missions.

"The agreement was signed by the two governments, but we didn't know anything about it. I did know that North Korea wanted to send pilots to Vietnam so that they could practice and gain experience with the aim of building its air force," Vu Ngoc Dinh, one of the Vietnamese pilots who served alongside the Koreans, recalled in an interview with Istvan Toperczer, a Hungarian air force officer turned historian.

"The pilots were their best ones whose parents or relatives were working for the Politburo of the North Korean Central Party Committee," Dinh is quoted saying in Toperczer's book "MiG Aces of the Vietnam War."

"They sent their pilots and commanders to Vietnam, and we provided the hardware they required during their service," Dinh said. "They kept everything secret, so we didn't know their loss ratio, but the North Korean pilots claimed 26 American aircraft destroyed."

"Although they fought very bravely in the aerial battles, they were generally too slow and too mechanical in their reactions when engaged, which is why so many of them were shot down by the Americans," Dinh said. "They never followed flight instructions and regulations either."

Dau, the cemetery caretaker, is also a war veteran. He joined the army and marched south in 1966 to fight for the communist side in South Vietnam. He was discharged three years later after getting shot in the knee in fighting just outside of Saigon, now called Ho Chi Minh City.

"For the North Korean pilots who fought to protect our country and died for our country, I salute them. Being a soldier myself, I have great compassion for them. I see them as my comrades, regardless of the nationality," Dau said.


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I owe how much? Americans shocked by impact of tax law

BY SARAH SKIDMORE SELL
AP Personal Finance Writer



Husband and wife Andy Kraft and Amy Elias, of Portland, Oregon, talk during an interview about their 2018 tax paperwork in their home on Monday. The couple got a small refund last year but this year owe more than $10,000 in taxes under the new tax law.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wait, I owe the IRS?

The first tax filing season under the new federal tax law is proving to be surprising, confusing — and occasionally frightening — for some Americans, especially those accustomed to getting money back from the government.

Take Andy Kraft and Amy Elias of Portland, Oregon. The couple had grown comfortable getting a small refund each year, a few hundred dollars or more. Then they found out they owe $10,160 this year.

"I will never forget the moment, I thought 'We look good' and then we added in the next W-2, and my jaw hit the floor," Kraft said. "There was no way I wanted to believe that what I was looking at was accurate."

President Trump promised a reduction in taxes with the new law. And by most measures, the majority of Americans will see one. The nonpartisan Tax Policy Center projected the tax law would reduce individual income taxes by about $1,260 on average, although it benefits higher earners more.

So not everyone will see a massive tax bill or a drop in their refund. Some people already saw the benefit in the form of bigger paychecks. That's because the law forced employers to change what they withheld. But the system is far from perfect, and many workers didn't have enough in taxes set aside. Now, the IRS wants that money.

In addition, the law also eliminated personal exemptions, increased child credits, limited popular deductions and generally upended many familiar practices that determine what happens at tax time. That has taxpayers feeling a bit unmoored.

"We were very comfortable with our tax law; it had basically been there since 1986. Suddenly all these things that were very important to people changed ... it's all different," said Howard Gleckman, a senior fellow at the Tax Policy Center.

Kraft and Elias are able to pay their tax bill, but he's still stunned. He even tried to reverse-engineer things to figure out where they went wrong, diving into page after page of IRS rules. He painstakingly put together all the numbers. The couple ultimately asked a CPA to verify the figures they were seeing on TurboTax. Crushingly, they were correct.

Their total tax was up slightly — by about $300 because of changes to their financial picture. Their effective tax rate was lower, but they still owed the government.

"I feel like I have reached a stage of grief of acceptance," he said. "In a twisted way, I should have been paying this all year, and now I just have to pay it in one lump sum."

A number of experts such as Gleckman are urging taxpayers to obsess less about their refund or what they owe when measuring the effect of the new tax law. These are just a sliver of your tax picture.

But the truth is, many Americans have come to rely on refunds. About three-quarters of U.S. taxpayers typically get one, and they had averaged about $2,800. For some low-income households, it is the biggest cash infusion of the year.

The IRS reported Thursday that the average tax refund as of the second week of filing season was $1,949, down 8.7 percent from the year earlier. The total number of refunds is down 16 percent.

Experts caution it is too early to draw conclusions about a tax season that ends in April. Plus, the number of returns — 27 million as of Feb. 8 — is down 10 percent from a year ago, due in part to the partial government shutdown. The picture will become much clearer as more filings are processed, refunds are issued and the IRS gets back up to full speed.

All the same, the initial results have surprised early filers and worried those who haven't yet tackled their taxes.

Part of the problem centers around how employees and employers adjusted (or didn't adjust) withholdings from paychecks to account for the law's changes. The government issued updated withholding guidelines to help employers determine how much to set aside from an employee's paycheck to cover taxes. Withhold too much and you get a refund at tax time; too little and you owe.

It is at best an estimate. But it's an estimate that grew drastically more difficult to make under the new law.

LAKEWOOD

FROM PAGE A1

The student, who was charged with misuse of 911 and filing a false police report involving a felony, was released to her parents.

Students and staff were placed on lockdown for approximately 15 minutes, Sheriff Anthony Dennis said, and it was determined the call was a false report.

The student in question was transported to the sheriff's office for further investigation.

"The Sumter County Sheriff's Office takes all potential threats very seriously," Dennis said, "and we will continue to work with the Sumter School District to ensure the safety of all students and staff."

According to Shelly Galloway, Sumter School District executive director of communication and community engagement, the student will face disciplinary action in accordance with the district Code of Conduct.

"We take all potential threats very seriously," Galloway said, "and we are thankful to the Sumter County Sheriff's Office for their quick response."

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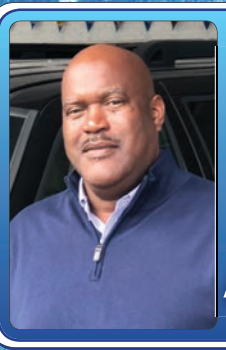
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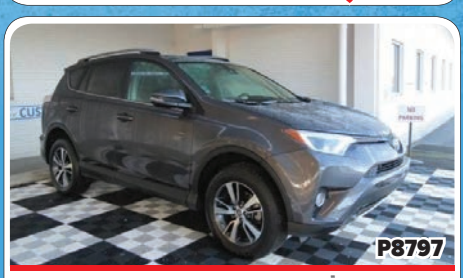
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Sanders is running for president



AP FILE PHOTO

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., says his campaign for president in 2020 is about "transforming our country."

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, whose insurgent 2016 presidential campaign reshaped Democratic politics, announced Tuesday that he is running for president in 2020.

"Our campaign is not only about defeating Donald Trump," the 77-year-old self-described democratic socialist said in an email to supporters. "Our campaign is about transforming our country and creating a government based on the principles of economic, social, racial and environmental justice."

An enthusiastic progressive who embraces proposals ranging from Medicare for All to free college tuition, Sanders stunned the Democratic establishment in 2016 with his spirited challenge to Hillary Clinton. While she ultimately became the party's nominee, his campaign helped lay the groundwork for the leftward lurch that has dominated Democratic politics in the Trump era.

The question now for Sanders is whether he can stand out in a crowded field of Democratic presidential candidates who also embrace many of his policy ideas and are newer to the national political stage. That's far different from 2016, when he was Clinton's lone progressive adversary.

Still, there is no question that Sanders will be a formidable contender for the Democratic nomination. He won more than 13 million votes in 2016 and dozens of primaries and caucuses. He opens his campaign with a nationwide organization and a proven small-dollar fundraising effort.

"We're gonna win," Sanders told CBS.

He said he was going to launch "what I think is unprecedented in modern American history": a grassroots movement "to lay the groundwork for transforming the economic and political life of this country."

Sanders described his new White House bid as a "continuation of what we did in 2016," noting that policies he advocated for then are now embraced by the Democratic Party.

"You know what's happened in over three years?" he said. "All of these ideas and many more are now part of the political mainstream."

Sanders' campaign raised $1 million in 3 1/2 hours on Tuesday morning, according to a person familiar with the campaign, who wasn't authorized to publicly disclose the early numbers and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Sanders could be well positioned to compete in the nation's first primary in neighboring New Hampshire, which he won by 22 points in 2016. But he won't have the state to himself.

Sen. Kamala Harris of California, another Democratic presidential contender, was in New Hampshire on Monday and said she'd compete for the state.

Walmart beats all expectations

NEW YORK (AP) — Walmart defied a gloomy government retail sales report for December, delivering fiscal fourth-quarter profits and sales that beat Wall Street expectations.

The world's largest retailer also enjoyed another quarter of surging e-commerce sales during the critical holiday period as it expanded its online assortment and services. Shares moved higher in morning trading Tuesday.

The report provides more evidence that Walmart's efforts to expand online grocery services, including curbside pickup and home delivery, are widening the gap between itself and traditional rivals while at the same time holding its own against online leader Amazon.

The strong performance from the world's largest retailer is especially encouraging after a very weak December retail sales report last week from the U.S. Commerce Department led many to fear that consumers had gone into hiding. Some analysts even questioned the reliability of the government report.

The data, delayed by a government shutdown, hinted that a volatile stock market, a government impasse and a trade war with China had taken their toll on the American psyche. That, at least in Walmart's case, appears to be untrue.

Walmart executives said Tuesday that its customers are benefiting from a stronger economy. The company also said that its business got a boost from the government issuing February checks to Supplementary Nutrition Assistance Program recipients early in the wake of the government impasse.

"The consumer still feels pretty good," Brett Biggs, Walmart's chief financial officer, told analysts on an earnings call Tuesday, ticking off economic tail winds like lower gas prices and rising wages. "A number of things are still working. We are watching, making sure that we are in the right place with the customer. No matter the environment, we are able to react."

Walmart and other retailers are also benefiting from the woes of others. Toys R Us and Bon-Ton Stores have gone out of business, and the list of casualties keeps getting longer. This week, Payless ShoeSource began liquidation sales at more than 2,100 stores in the U.S. and the Puerto Rico. Sears is shrinking, and JCPenney is floundering.

A diverse roster of retailers including Macy's, Target and Home Depot are slated to report fiscal fourth-quarter results in the next few weeks.

Walmart posted strong sales across a wide range of products from toys to groceries and electronics. That helped sales at stores open at least a year rise 4.2 percent at its U.S. namesake stores, following a 3.4 percent pace in the fiscal third quarter. The figure excludes sales from fuel.

Since buying *Jet.com* more than two years ago, Walmart has been expanding online by acquiring brands and adding thousands of items. Walmart now offers grocery delivery service at 800 stores and grocery pickup at 2,100 stores. Walmart has revamped its website with a focus on fashion and home furnishings. That all helped to drive a 43 percent increase in e-commerce sales in the quarter, matching the pace from the previous period.

Walmart's online U.S. sales are still a fraction of Amazon's online global merchandise empire, which reached $122.98 billion last year. Walmart's U.S. online sales for the first nine months of its latest fiscal year reached $10.2 billion. The discounter hasn't yet disclosed the year-end figures. But it has rapidly expanded its services online.

"Pleasingly, Walmart is successfully broadening its online base of customers and is now attracting both younger and more affluent demographics," wrote Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData Retail, a retail research firm, in a published report.



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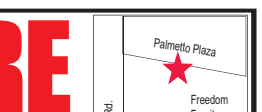
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FIRESIDE

FROM PAGE A1

of other ways.

"At times," he said, "we can even combine forms of assistance."

When a 53-year-old disabled woman recently got her electric bill final notice last week, he said, she could barely walk to the offices. She was unable to move without the aid of a walker.

She has less than $800 a month for income and does not own a house, Howell said, so rent takes the majority of that money.

He said the woman heats her home with a natural gas furnace but requested help with an electric bill.

Typically, Howell said, electric usage is much lower in the winter when a house is heated with an alternate source such as her options.

"We were confused as to what happened," he said.

Upon questioning, the client revealed that a water heater leak caused her electric bill to increase by more than double the normal amount, he said.

The landlord repaired the leak, Howell said, but the client could no longer afford to pay the electric bill.

"She was truly a lady living in simplicity with very little means to get by month to month," he said.

After assisting with her electric bill, he said, the crisis relief ministry went one step further.

"We evaluated her natural gas final notice for heat and assisted her with this need, as well," he said. "I wish I could describe the joy and relief she felt as we shared the various ways that the crisis relief ministry would assist."

The Fireside Fund makes it possible, Howell said.

"Thank you for doing so much," he said, "for those who have so little."

Donations received by Feb. 18:

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Beta Pi Zeta Chapter, $270; in memory of Anne Bell, $50; St. Mark's UMC Euzelian Sunday School class, $100; Louise Smith, in memory of Roy Neal N. Carraway, $25; Charlie Pitts, in honor of Jennett Mickens, $25; and Crosspoint Baptist Church WMU, $25.

MAYEWOOD

FROM PAGE A1

net income projection total for this fiscal year from $2.1 million to $1.8 million.

About $2 million of this year's revenue is from a tax swap mechanism that deferred borrowing money for maintenance/repairs to immediately inject it into the general fund balance. Miller said the district may not be able to do that tax swap next year; so, it's an unknown at this point.

Take out that $2 million, and it looks as if the district will be operating flat next year. Then, if the district reopens Mayewood at a cost range of $963,000 to $1.2 million, it appears the district would lose money next year and not reach a state mandate to have one month's operating expenditures in its general fund balance, as was shared in the committee meeting.

The threshold of having one month's operating expenses in the district's bank account is required by a new state law. By June 30, 2020, the district is supposed to have $12 million in its fund balance.

The district remains under watch from the state department of education as it continues to rebuild its fund balance from $106,449, the level it fell to as revealed in an official audit for fiscal 2016 that revealed $6.2 million in overspending. As of June 30, 2018, that balance had risen to $8.6 million, and Miller has projected it to reach $10.7 by this June.

ESTIMATED COSTS TO REOPEN MAYEWOOD

First-year costs in 2019-20:
$963,000 to $1.2 million

Recurring annual costs:
$360,000 to $471,000

Source: Sumter School District administration

This year, former Mayewood students have been moved 1.3 miles away to the former R.E. Davis Elementary School. The school has been renamed R.E. Davis K-8 College Preparatory Academy and operates as a K-8 magnet curriculum. Mayewood's closing, and that of F.J. DeLaine Elementary School, which consolidated into Cherryvale Elementary School, were reasoned by the board at the time as a way to save money due to low enrollment.

Miller said budget cuts could be implemented to operate in the black next year, but they would most likely have to come from staff reductions. That would mean less teachers and more students per classroom.

Data obtained by *The Sumter Item* show not a single middle school classroom at R.E. Davis is over capacity this year.

Committee Chairman Johnny Hilton, who represents Area 4 on the full school board, summarized Miller's points in the form of a question to her.

"So, I hear our budget is very lean and tight," Hilton said. "And we may not be able to do the tax swap next year, which has been used to build our fund balance. So that means the fund balance is not going to go up at the same rate that it has been going up. Then, secondly, and perhaps more importantly, is if we incur additional expenses — like reopening schools — then over the next two, three or four years, our fund balance may actually decrease as opposed to increase. Is that what I heard you say a few minutes ago?"

Miller confirmed.

Local private-business owner and committee member Greg Thompson said he thinks those measures "will decrease the fund balance by millions of dollars each fiscal year."

After the full board voted 6-3 to reopen Mayewood on Feb. 11, the board's plan is to discuss reopening F.J. DeLaine Elementary in Wedgefield at its next scheduled meeting on March 11.

OTHER BUDGET UNKNOWNS

Other budget unknowns moving forward, according to Miller, include legislative mandates that may force the district to pay for additional services with no extra funding from the state and the state department of education's response to a new financial recovery plan that has to be submitted today by Miller and Interim Superintendent Debbie Hamm. That new plan is necessary because, in its last plan update last summer, the district didn't plan to reopen the two consolidated schools.

Five of the nine members on the board were elected in November, changing the majority and reversing the vote made in April 2018 to close the schools.

Board member and Finance Committee member Sherril Ray, who voted earlier this month in favor of reopening Mayewood, said all of Miller's data is new and was unknown to board members when they voted last week.

She said most board members made their decision to reopen Mayewood based on district consolidation cost savings estimates this year of $505,821, according to the district's budget, and that $600,000 had already been spent on renovating R.E. Davis with more work to be done at the school.

She also said the full board is slated to discuss reopening F.J. DeLaine Elementary at its next meeting but, as of this point, has made no decisions.

At the end of Monday's meeting, Ray voted with other committee members for the full board to reconsider its decision of reopening Mayewood.

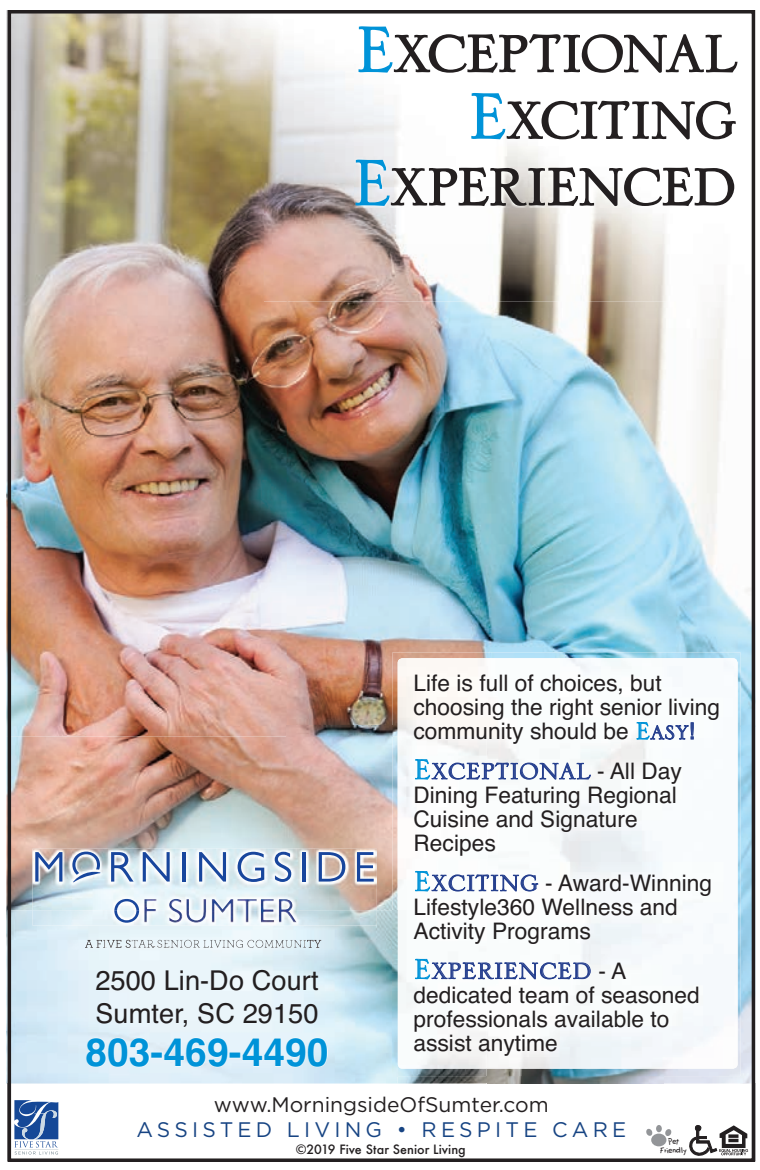


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Report: Flynn pushed to share nuclear tech with Saudis

BY CHAD DAY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senior White House officials pushed a project to share nuclear power technology with Saudi Arabia despite the objections of ethics and national security officials, according to a new congressional report citing whistleblowers within the administration.

Lawmakers from both parties have expressed concerns that Saudi Arabia could develop nuclear weapons if the U.S. technology were transferred without proper safeguards.

The Democratic-led House oversight committee opened an investigation Tuesday into the claims by several unidentified whistleblowers who said they witnessed "abnormal acts" in the White House regarding the proposal to build dozens of nuclear reactors across the Middle Eastern kingdom.

The report raises concerns about whether some in a White House marked by "chaos, dysfunction and backbiting" sought to circumvent established national security procedures regarding nuclear power technology. It also comes as Trump son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner is developing a Middle East peace plan that could include economic proposals for Saudi Arabia.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

According to the report, the effort was pushed by former national security adviser Michael Flynn, who was fired in early 2017. Derek Harvey, a National Security Council official brought in by Flynn, continued work on the proposal, which has remained under consideration by the Trump administration.

Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, the chairman of the House Oversight and Reform Committee, announced the investigation Tuesday.


FLYNN

Relying on the whistleblower accounts, email and other documents, the committee's report details how NSC and ethics officials repeatedly warned that the actions of Flynn and one of his senior aides could run afoul of federal conflicts of interest law and statutes governing the transfer of nuclear technology to foreign powers.

The probe puts new scrutiny on Flynn's early days in the administration as he awaits sentencing for lying to the FBI in the Russia investigation. Congressional investigators are also probing the role of Tom Barrack, a proponent of the nuclear proposal who ran Trump's presidential inaugural committee, which is separately under investigation by federal prosecutors in New York. Rick Gates, a former Barrack employee and cooperator in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, was also involved in advocating for the nuclear proposal.

An attorney for Flynn declined to comment. Harvey and representatives for Barrack did not immediately return requests for comment.

According to the report, the whistleblowers came forward to the committee because they had concerns "about efforts inside the White House to rush the transfer of highly sensitive U.S. nuclear technology to Saudi Arabia in potential violation of the Atomic Energy Act and without review by Congress as required by law — efforts that may be ongoing to this day."

The report tracks closely with public reporting, including a 2017 article by the nonprofit news outlet ProPublica, which detailed some of the concerns raised inside the National Security Council about the nuclear proposal — known as the "Marshall Plan for the Middle East" — advocated by a company called IP3 International.

IP3 is led by a group of retired U.S. military officers and national security officials, including retired Rear Adm. Michael Hewitt, retired Army Gen. Jack Keane and former Reagan national security adviser Bud McFarlane. IP3 and other proponents of nuclear power in the Middle East argue that the U.S. needs to be involved because otherwise it will lose out to Russia, China and others on billions of dollars in business. They also say that the U.S. involvement — and the limits on nuclear fuel that come with it — are essential to stem an arms race in the region.

IP3 did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Up until the month before he joined the Trump administration, Flynn listed himself as a consultant to a previous iteration of Hewitt's company advocating a similar nuclear power proposal, though the company told *The Washington Post* that Flynn was offered a role as an adviser but never formally came aboard.

Still, according to the report, Flynn served as a conduit for IP3 inside the White House.

Just days after Trump's inauguration, the company sent Flynn a draft memo for the president's signature that would have appointed Barrack as a "special representative" in charge of carrying out the nuclear power proposal and called on the director of the CIA and the secretaries of State, Energy, Treasury and Defense to lend him support. The report also quotes former deputy national security adviser K.T. McFarland as saying Trump personally told Barrack he could lead the plan's implementation.

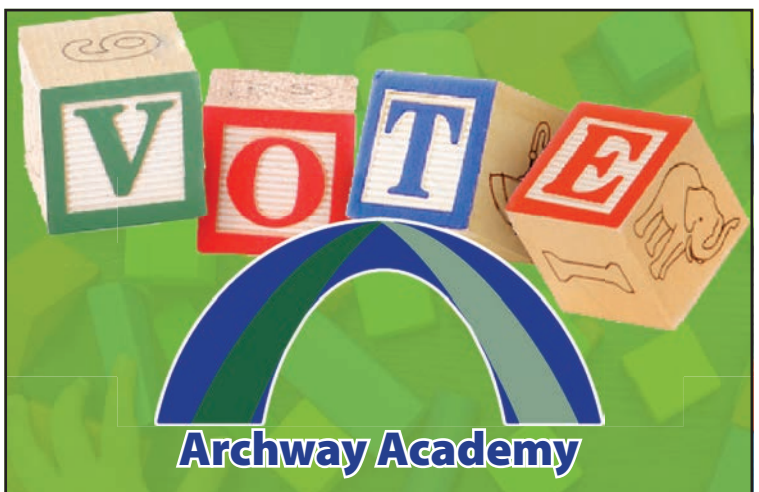
The report also catalogs the actions of Harvey, the Flynn confidant who was put in charge of the NSC's Middle East and North African affairs.

According to the report, upon entering the White House in January 2017, Harvey saw his mission as getting Trump to adopt the nuclear proposal despite the objections of ethics and national security officials. Even when H.R. McMaster, who replaced Flynn as national security adviser, and NSC lawyer John Eisenberg directed for work to stop on the proposal because of concerns about its legality, Harvey ignored them and continued pursuing the proposal, according to the report.

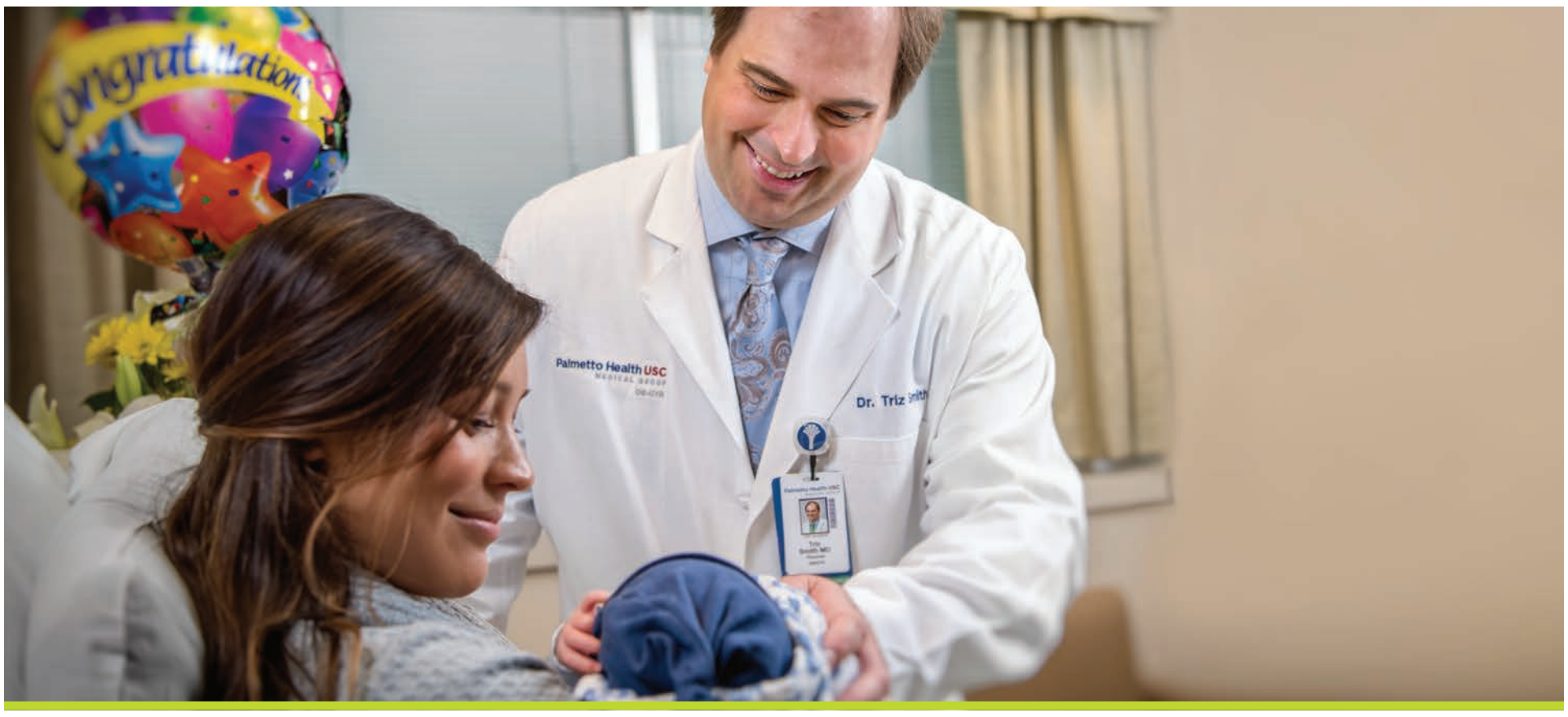
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Why are presidential candidates endorsing 'Green Dream'?

There's an old joke about an egotistical politician whose disgruntled speechwriter, just before quitting, prepares a draft that promises the moon, and specifics for how to pay for it, on the first two pages and leaves the third page blank except for the words, "You're on your own now."

That's the position that freshman Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Green New Deal package, co-introduced by Sen. Edward Markey, has left the several Democratic presidential candidates who rushed to endorse it. AOC (as she's often called) herself has tried to repudiate some of it, as an early draft or a Republican prank. *New York Times* and *Washington Post* reporters have indulged her alibis.



Michael Barone

But someone wrote it, someone whose goal is to "achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and" — incidentally — "create economic prosperity for all" in just 10 years.

One representative plank: "build out high-speed rail at a scale where air travel stops becoming necessary." Another: "create affordable public transit available to all, with goal to replace every combustion-engine vehicle." A third: "Work with farmers and ranchers to create a sustainable, pollution and greenhouse gas free, food system that ensures universal access to healthy food."

Sounds kinda drastic, especially if you sometimes fly several hours to vacation or visit relatives, or if you drive an SUV or a pickup truck, or eat meat from methane-emitting cattle or hogs.

But in their FAQs, which they maintain was sent out by mistake or something, AOC's folks assure voters that their goal is "net-zero, rather than zero emissions, in 10 years because we aren't sure that we'll be able to fully get rid of farting cows and airplanes that fast." These people who say they couldn't put out the right press release assure us they "can ramp up renewable manufacturing and power production, retrofit every building in America, build the smart grid, overhaul transportation and agriculture" in 10 years.

By this point, it should be apparent that the Green New Deal — "the green dream, or whatever they call it," in House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's words — is never going to happen. If you had any doubt, this week, California's new Democratic governor, Gavin Newsom, announced he was ditching his predecessor Jerry Brown's state high-speed rail line, which he said "would cost too much and take too long." It was sold to voters in 2008 as costing $40 billion. Current estimates are it will take $77 billion until completion in 2033.

But it's worth reflecting on what the GND tells us about American leftists. Far from encouraging 21st-century technology, they want to abandon 20th-century tech (planes, non-electric autos) and go back to 19th (trains). Far from accommodating individual choices, they want to boss everyone around. Those family farmers they extol will have to wait to get to town if their electric vehicle is out of juice because the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining and they're still waiting for the "affordable public transit" to reach their farm. Maybe they can use bike lanes.

And it's not at all clear that coastal sophisticates will be content to be stuck on slow-moving trains and stuck off on sidings for 20 or so hours out in what they like to call flyover country until someone cleverer than Gavin Newsom can gin up the federal printing press to pay for high-speed rail tracks between Manhattan and Hollywood.

Those on the political left — whether struggling Generation Z bartenders from Queens or rich homeowners in Brentwood, California — share a withering contempt for and thinly veiled hostility toward ordinary middle-income people, raising families and shopping at malls and navigating enormous SUVs into the fast-food carryout lanes.

Leftists love to confine vulgar people to rail lines — high-speed rail or urban subways — and force them into high-rise apartments, which they design. They hate single-family-home suburbs and the automobile that let ordinary people go where they want to go, when they want to and with as many stops as they like.

Voters feel differently. In France, where most people live beyond walking distance of the Paris Metro, the gilets jaunes have led a successful rebellion against a carbon tax, i.e. a tax on driving. In Washington state last November, voters, even in the county that includes Seattle, soundly rejected a carbon tax.

Now Markey says it's unfair to bring the Green New Deal to the Senate floor. The label polls well. But, he suspects, the substance won't. So why have presidential candidates Cory Booker, Kirsten Gillibrand, Kamala Harris, Amy Klobuchar and Elizabeth Warren endorsed this foolishness?

Michael Barone is a senior political analyst for the Washington Examiner, resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and longtime co-author of The Almanac of American Politics.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

DESCRIPTIVE WRITING CAPTURES READER OF COLUMNS; WHY IS DISTRICT BUYING LAND?

I'm writing to comment on two different articles from last Sunday's paper (Feb. 10).

The first is for columnist Dan Geddings.

I am a female, and I neither hunt nor fish, but I am an avid lover of nature. I read one of your columns about a year ago and haven't stopped. Your descriptive writing style captured me from the start. I spent untold childhood weekends on railroad trestles, exploring Manchester Forest, as well as walking many a creek bed and plowed fields with my Dad looking for arrowheads and other Native American artifacts.

Dad, an Iowa farm boy, always taught us to respect and appreciate wildlife and woodlands, so I can relate to your writings. If you ever doubt your writing abilities, think of me because I am one of your more unusual but dedicated readers.

My second comment is on the commentary by Joe McElveen and James T. McCain Jr. Even though I am a product of Sumter public schools (Shaw Elementary, Shaw Jr. High and Hillcrest High), I have never had children so therefore no one to attend public or private schools in the area. However, I am a property owner and a taxpayer.

The one thing that stood out in that article was the "already" purchased land for an Applied Educational Technology Campus.

Can someone please explain to me why we are purchasing land when we have two presently shuttered properties and structures? Why couldn't one of these locations be renovated or new structures built on one of these properties in the future.

If neither location is adequate or too remote, why not sell those properties to have purchased an appropriate location rather than buying additional land? I'm not surprised finances are in a mess if this is how things are managed.

KATHLEEN KREKLAU
Sumter



COMMENTARY

Plunder: An American way of life

Frederic Bastiat, a French economist and member of the French National Assembly, lived from 1801 to 1850. He had great admiration for our country, except for our two faults — slavery and tariffs. He said: "Look at the United States. There is no country in the world where the law is kept more within its proper domain: the protection of every person's liberty and property." If Bastiat were alive today, he would not have that same level of admiration. The U.S. has become what he fought against for most of his short life.



Walter Williams

Bastiat observed that "when plunder becomes a way of life for a group of men in a society, over the course of time they create for themselves a legal system that authorizes it and a moral code that glorifies it." You might ask, "What did Bastiat mean by 'plunder'?" Plunder is when someone forcibly takes the property of another. That's private plunder. What he truly railed against was legalized plunder, and he told us how to identify it. He said: "See if the law takes from some persons what belongs to them, and gives it to other persons to whom it does not belong. See if the law benefits one citizen at the expense of another by doing what the citizen himself cannot do without committing a crime."

That could describe today's American laws. We enthusiastically demand that the U.S. Congress forcibly use one American to serve the purposes of another American. You say: "Williams, that's insulting. It's no less than saying that we Americans support a form of slavery!" What then should we call it when two-thirds to three-quarters of a $4 trillion-plus federal budget can be described as Congress taking the property of one American and giving it to another to whom it does not belong? Where do you think Congress gets the billions upon billions of dollars for business and farmer handouts? What about the billions handed out for Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, housing allowances and thousands of other handouts? There's no Santa Claus or tooth fairy giving Congress the money, and members of Congress are not spending their own money. The only way Congress can give one American $1 is to first take it from another American.

What if I privately took the property of one American to give to another American to help him out? I'm guessing and hoping you'd call it theft and seek to jail me. When Congress does the same thing, it's still theft. The only difference is that it's legalized theft. However, legality alone does not establish morality. Slavery was legal; was it moral? Nazi, Stalinist and Maoist purges were legal, but were they moral?

Some argue that Congress gets its authority to bypass its enumerated powers from the general welfare clause. There are a host of proofs that the Framers had no such intention. James Madison, the "Father of the Constitution," wrote, "If Congress can do whatever in their discretion can be done by money, and will promote the general welfare, the Government is no longer a limited one possessing enumerated powers, but an indefinite one." Thomas Jefferson wrote, "Our tenet ever was ... that Congress had not unlimited powers to provide for the general welfare, but were restrained to those specifically enumerated." Rep. William Drayton of South Carolina asked in 1828, "If Congress can determine what constitutes the general welfare and can appropriate money for its advancement, where is the limitation to carrying into execution whatever can be effected by money?"

What about our nation's future? Alexis de Tocqueville is said to have predicted, "The American republic will endure until the day Congress discovers that it can bribe the public with the public's money." We long ago began ignoring Bastiat's warning when the federal government was just a tiny fraction of gross domestic product — 3 percent, as opposed to today's 20 percent: "If you don't take care, what begins by being an exception tends to become general, to multiply itself, and to develop into a veritable system."

Moral Americans are increasingly confronted with Bastiat's dilemma: "When law and morality contradict each other, the citizen has the cruel alternative of either losing his moral sense or losing his respect for the law."

Walter E. Williams is a professor of economics at George Mason University.

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SUPPORT GROUPS

AA, AL-ANON, ALATEEN:

AA — Monday-Friday, noon and 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., 1 Warren St., (803) 775-1852.

AA Women's Meeting — Wednesdays, 7 p.m., 1 Warren St., (803) 775-1852.

AA Spanish Speaking — Sundays, 4:30 p.m., 1 Warren St., (803) 775-1852.

AA "How it Works" Group — Mondays and Fridays, 8 p.m., 1154 Ronda St., (803) 494-5180.

441 AA Support Group — Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, 8 p.m., Hair Force, 2090-D S.C. 441.

Manning Al-Anon Family Group — Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Behavioral Health Building, 14 Church St., Manning, (803) 435-8085.

C/A "Drop the Rock" Group — Thursdays, 9:30 p.m., 1154 Ronda St., (803) 607-4543.

Al-Anon "Seekers of Serenity" — Mondays, 7 p.m., 1 Warren St., (803) 720-1747

MONDAY MEETINGS:

Sumter Vitiligo Support Group — Second Monday, 5:45-6:45 p.m., North HOPE Center, 904 N. Main St., (803) 316-6763. The group is also on Facebook.

TUESDAY MEETINGS:

Celebrate Recovery — Tuesdays, 6:45 p.m. coffee / snacks, 7 p.m. meeting, Alice Drive Baptist Church, Studio 4.3 (youth building), 1305 Loring Mill Road. For help with struggles of alcohol, drugs, family problems, addictions, pornography, smoking, anxiety, etc.

Heroin Anonymous — Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30 p.m., 4742 Broad St., (803) 494-5180.

Sumter Connective Tissue Support Group — First Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November, 7 p.m., 180 Tiller Circle, (803) 773-0869.

Sumter Combat Veterans Group Peer to Peer — Tuesdays, 11 a.m., South HOPE Center, 1125 S. Lafayette Drive. Veterans helping veterans with PTSD, coping skills, claims and benefits.

"The Gathering" — Second Tuesday, 5:30-6:30 p.m., North HOPE Center, 904 N. Main St. For teens and adults with special needs. Call (803) 972-0051 or (803) 468-5745. Email *thegathering23@aol.com*.

Sumter Amputee Support Group — Second Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Sumter Prosthetics & Orthotics, 259 Broad St., (803) 883-4356.

Sumter Chapter Parents of Murdered Children (POMC) — Third Tuesday, 5:30-7 p.m., Birnie HOPE Center, 210 S. Purdy St. Open to anyone who has lost a loved one to murder in a violent way.

Mothers of Angels (for mothers who have lost a child) — Third Tuesday at 6 p.m., Wise Drive Baptist Church, (803) 469-6059, (803) 979-4498 or (803) 316-4506.

EFMP Parent Exchange Group — Last Tuesday, 11 a.m.-noon, Airman and Family Readiness Center. Support to service members who have a dependent with a disability or illness. Call (803) 895-1252/1253 or (803) 847-2377.

WEDNESDAY MEETINGS:

Sickle Cell Support Group — Last Wednesday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., South Sumter Resource Center, 337 Manning Ave., (803) 774-6181.

Divorce Care and Grief Share — Two separate groups that meet Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., Bethel Baptist Church, 2401 Bethel Church Road, (803) 481-2160.

THURSDAY MEETINGS:

TOPS S.C. No. 236 (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) — Thursdays, 9 a.m., Spectrum Senior Center, 1989 Durant Lane, (803) 775-3926 or (803) 469-4789.

Alzheimer's Support Group through S.C. Alzheimer's Association — First Thursday, 6-8 p.m., National Health Care, 1018 N. Guignard Drive, (803) 905-7720 or the Alzheimer's Association at (800) 636-3346.

Journey of Hope (for family members of the mentally ill), Journey to Recovery (for the mentally ill) and Survivors of Suicide Support Group — Each group meets every first Thursday, 7 p.m., St. John United Methodist Church, 136 Poinsett Drive, (803) 905-5620.

Women (Only) Support Group "Moving from Bitter to Better" — Third Thursday, 7-8:30 p.m., Next Generation Church, 741 Bultman Drive, Unit 8. For ages 18 and older. Call (843) 327-0393 or email *joeannaiken@yahoo.com*.

FRIDAY MEETINGS:

Celebrate Recovery — Fridays, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. program, Salt & Light Church, 360 Miller Road. For help with struggles of alcohol, drugs, family problems, smoking, etc.

SATURDAY MEETINGS:

Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy/ Complex Regional Pain Syndrome Support Group — Third Saturday, 1:30 p.m., 3785 Blackberry Lane, Lot 7, (803) 481-7521.

SUNDAY MEETINGS:

Sumter MS Support Group — First Sunday, 3 p.m., Wise Drive Baptist Church fellowship hall, 2751 S. Wise Drive, (803) 481-5344 or (803) 464-6440. Email *I.am.me.not.ms.@gmail.com* or *ms-miles013@gmail.com*.

PUBLIC AGENDA

CLARENDON SCHOOL DISTRICT 3
Thursday, 7:30 p.m., district office, Turbeville

The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Learn something new. If you don't like what you're doing, find something you do enjoy and add it to your daily routine. Life is about living and striving to make the most of it. Don't give up; get moving.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put more energy into your pursuits. You've got what it takes to make a difference, so don't fall short when others are counting on you to lead the way. Engage in talks and offer suggestions. Personal improvements can be made.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Truth matters. Situations will spin out of control quickly. Relationships will be damaged if you aren't honest or if you surround yourself with false allies. Get to the bottom of what's going on, and clear up any misunderstanding quickly.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Share your feelings and collaborate with someone you love to come up with viable solutions that will make your life and your relationship better. Look at every option, and choose the one that offers you the freedom to express your creativity.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It's up to you to bring about change. Don't let anger be your vehicle when desire should be what motivates you to move forward. An opportunity is only as good as what you do with it. Make your actions count.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Share your thoughts, feelings and emotions with the people who mean the most to you. Forming an alliance with those who want to stand by your side and strive to reach similar goals will encourage you to finish what you start.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't lose sight of what you want. Giving in to someone who is critical or demanding will not help you reach your goals. Make changes that will result in greater opportunities as well as personal and financial freedom to grow and excel.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Learn through observation and experience. Put more time and effort into the pursuits that bring you the most joy. Be honest with yourself and others about what makes you tick and encourages you to live life your way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll face uncertainty and confusion if you reveal your plans. If you want to pursue something, take action instead of talking about what you want to do. Change happens when you mark your path and follow through.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Consider what you have, what you need and what to do next. Simplify your life by letting go of what you no longer need. Trust in your judgment, abilities and needs. Moderation is rewarding and will bring positive results.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Stick to your plan, and don't stop until you reach your destination. Trust in your ability and get the facts straight. If you rely on someone else, you'll be disappointed. Don't let what others say or do sidetrack you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Choose wisely. Don't base your decisions on what someone tells you. Problems with a friend or relative should be dealt with carefully. Disillusionment will set in if someone you trust doesn't live up to his or her promises.

WEATHER

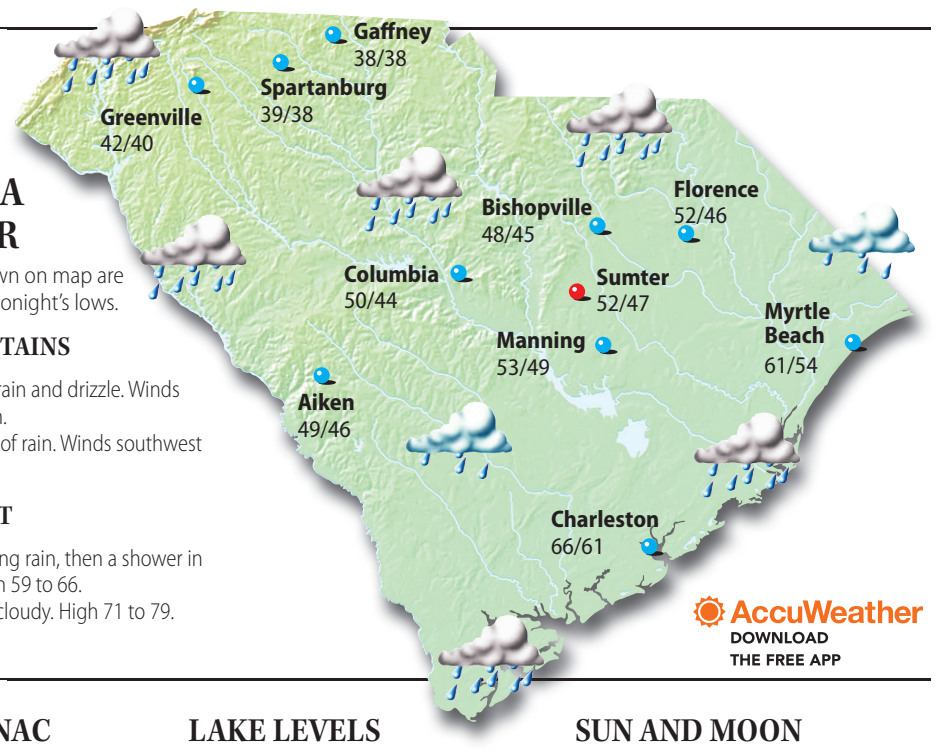
Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2019

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Occasional rain and drizzle	Low clouds	Spotty afternoon showers	Cloudy, a little rain; cooler	Low clouds	Warmer with rain and a t-storm
52°	47°	73° / 56°	61° / 45°	60° / 53°	76° / 44°
Chance of rain: 70%	Chance of rain: 25%	Chance of rain: 80%	Chance of rain: 65%	Chance of rain: 25%	Chance of rain: 65%
NE 6-12 mph	SSE 3-6 mph	SW 6-12 mph	ENE 8-16 mph	SE 6-12 mph	SW 10-20 mph

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

Temperatures shown on map are today's highs and tonight's lows.



IN THE MOUNTAINS

Today: Chilly with rain and drizzle. Winds northeast 6-12 mph.
Thursday: Periods of rain. Winds southwest 4-8 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: Rain; morning rain, then a shower in southern parts. High 59 to 66.
Thursday: Mostly cloudy. High 71 to 79.

LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THROUGH 2 P.M. YESTERDAY

Temperature	
High	54°
Low	41°
Normal high	59°
Normal low	36°
Record high	81° in 1951
Record low	14° in 1958

Precipitation	
24 hrs ending 2 p.m. yest.	0.02"
Month to date	0.69"
Normal month to date	2.30"
Year to date	3.46"
Last year to date	2.64"
Normal year to date	6.24"

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	351.61	+0.14
Marion	76.8	75.56	-0.04
Moultrie	75.5	74.73	-0.06
Wateree	100	94.90	-0.19

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	8.50	none
Congaree River	19	4.93	-0.98
Lynches River	14	7.76	+0.25
Saluda River	14	6.53	+0.67
Up. Santee River	80	79.60	+0.30
Wateree River	24	16.61	+1.35

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	7:02 a.m.	Sunset	6:10 p.m.
Moonrise	7:37 p.m.	Moonset	7:55 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Feb. 26	Mar. 6	Mar. 14	Mar. 20

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH

	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	9:32 a.m.	3.7	3:53 a.m.	-1.2
	9:58 p.m.	3.3	4:27 p.m.	-0.9
Thu.	10:22 a.m.	3.6	4:45 a.m.	-1.2
	10:50 p.m.	3.3	5:15 p.m.	-0.9

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	53/51/r	63/55/r
Chicago	36/23/sn	34/18/pc
Dallas	57/35/pc	56/45/c
Detroit	37/31/sn	39/24/c
Houston	65/46/pc	58/53/sh
Los Angeles	57/45/pc	56/39/c
New Orleans	75/62/r	76/69/pc
New York	32/31/sn	56/35/pc
Orlando	86/66/pc	86/67/pc
Philadelphia	33/32/sn	55/33/pc
Phoenix	58/45/pc	55/42/r
San Francisco	55/40/r	57/40/pc
Wash., DC	34/33/sn	54/36/pc

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W
Asheville	44/42/r	65/46/r
Athens	49/44/r	66/54/r
Augusta	56/51/sh	77/60/sh
Beaufort	66/63/r	79/63/c
Cape Hatteras	61/59/r	67/50/sh
Charleston	66/61/r	80/60/c
Charlotte	40/39/r	63/50/r
Clemson	44/41/r	64/54/r
Columbia	50/44/r	72/56/sh
Darlington	48/45/r	71/54/sh
Elizabeth City	54/52/r	66/42/r
Elizabethtown	52/49/r	73/54/c
Fayetteville	50/44/r	69/51/sh

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W
Florence	52/46/r	73/55/sh
Gainesville	86/65/pc	88/65/pc
Gastonia	37/37/r	64/50/r
Goldsboro	51/49/r	68/49/sh
Goose Creek	65/58/r	80/62/c
Greensboro	33/32/i	61/45/r
Greenville	42/40/r	62/52/r
Hickory	34/34/i	62/48/r
Hilton Head	66/60/r	75/62/c
Jacksonville, FL	79/65/pc	84/63/pc
La Grange	64/62/sh	72/57/c
Macon	60/58/sh	76/61/sh
Marietta	51/49/r	61/51/r

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W
Marion	37/37/r	67/48/r
Mt. Pleasant	66/60/r	77/61/c
Myrtle Beach	61/54/r	75/58/c
Orangeburg	54/49/sh	76/61/c
Port Royal	67/61/r	76/62/c
Raleigh	40/40/r	63/46/r
Rock Hill	40/39/r	64/51/r
Rockingham	43/41/r	67/52/sh
Savannah	70/64/r	81/64/c
Spartanburg	39/38/r	64/52/r
Summerville	63/57/r	79/61/c
Wilmington	61/57/r	76/55/c
Winston-Salem	35/35/r	61/44/r



SUMTER ANIMAL CONTROL PETS OF THE WEEK



SUMTER ANIMAL CONTROL NEEDS YOUR HELP. The animal control volunteers are looking for people to help walk dogs, foster or help with transport. We desperately need 9 a.m. Monday – Friday walkers. Message us if interested. Must be at least 18 years old. Don't have extra time to be a volunteer? We gladly accept donations of the following: newspapers, puppy pads, canned and dry puppy food, paper towels, Clorox wipes and heavy duty slip leashes. You can also donate from our Amazon Wishlist under Saving Sumter's Strays at *https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/10Q422KA0MI19*. All donations go toward helping Sumter County dogs. Our all-volunteer organization is making a big difference in the lives of so many homeless pets. Please help us continue to save animals.

TOP: Precious Starr has been at animal control since the first week of December. She weighs 32 pounds and is approximately 4 years old. Starr seems to have had a rough life and was allowed to have several litters of puppies. She needs a new family to show her the love and attention she has probably never known. Starr is a baby doll who craves attention and affection from the volunteers. She walks very well on a leash and gets along with other dogs. Starr is the perfect companion pup. Just look at her adorable face.

BELOW: This fluffy fellow is Buster. He weighs 45 pounds and is approximately 3 years old. He was found wandering wearing a nice red collar but, sadly, no one has come to claim him. Buster is full of energy and is looking for an active family of his own. He would also enjoy a big fenced-in backyard where he would have room to exercise all day. Buster is a super friendly guy who gets along well with other dogs. This sweet boy has adjusted well to the shelter and always has a smile on his face.

If you are interested in meeting Starr in kennel 42 or Buster in kennel 22 at Sumter Animal Control, 1240 Winkles Road, call the adoption coordinator at (803) 774-3232 or email *rescuesumtersc@gmail.com*. As with all of our adoptable dogs, a spay or neuter agreement is required, and it is strictly enforced. Proof of spay / neuter after adoption will be required. We have many other adoptable dogs as well as animals who were found and are waiting for their owners to claim them. Check Sumter Animal Control on Facebook.

the Sumter ITEM SPORTS

Call: (803) 774-1241 | E-mail: sports@theitem.com

SECTION B

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2019

PREP BASKETBALL

Coming up a little short



TY CORNETT / THE SUMTER ITEM

Wilson Hall's Sydney Jarecki (25) eyes a path to the basket during the Lady Barons' 62-58 loss to Porter-Gaud on Tuesday in the SCISA 3A state playoffs at Sumter County Civic Center.

Lady Barons fall 62-58 to Porter Gaud in SCISA 3A quarterfinals

BY DENNIS BRUNSON
dennis@theitem.com

The Wilson Hall varsity girls basketball team saw its season come to an end on Tuesday, falling to Porter-Gaud 62-58 in the quarterfinals of the SCISA 3A state tournament at Sumter County Civic Center.

The Lady Barons, who finished the year with a 19-5 record, were in control of the game in the early going. They led 20-13 after the first quarter, and when Cameron Duffy converted a 3-point play to start the second stanza, they were up 23-13.

However, starting guard Madison Elmore suffered a knee injury just over 30 seconds later and was lost for the remainder of the game. That ended up switching the momentum of the game in favor of the Lady Cyclones.

SEE **HALL,** PAGE B3

PREP BASKETBALL

Unbeaten Saints advance in 1A playoffs

BY DANNY KELLY
danny@theitem.com

The Clarendon Hall boys varsity basketball team may have defeated Newberry Academy in the quarterfinals of the SCISA 1A state playoffs on Tuesday afternoon at Wilson Hall's Nash Student Center, but it was not a typical performance from a Saints team that has been blowing the brakes off teams all year.

The score, a 61-35 win for the Saints, doesn't represent how well the Eagles hung with undefeated Clarendon Hall for the first three quarters of the game.

"We were slow getting us going," Saints head coach Anthony Reitenour said. "It was not our best shooting

SEE **SAINTS,** PAGE B



DANNY KELLY / THE SUMTER ITEM

Clarendon Hall's Traveon Davis, left, puts up a shot during the Saints' 61-35 victory over Newberry Academy on Tuesday in the SCISA 1A state playoffs at Wilson Hall's Nash Student Center.

PREP BASKETBALL

Lady Cavaliers fall to Spartanburg Day 60-37 in 2A quarterfinals

BY DANNY KELLY
danny@theitem.com

The Robert E. Lee Academy varsity girls basketball team's turnaround season came to an end on Monday when it fell to Spartanburg Day 60-37 in the quarterfinals of the SCISA 2A state playoffs at Sumter County Civic Center.

"Spartanburg Day was hitting their shots and we were missing ours," Lady Cavaliers head coach Kim Langston said. "It seems like a lid was on the basket. That's the way it goes in the playoffs sometimes."

Rebecca Dinkins led REL in scoring with 12 points, Caleigh Barrett had eight and Emme McCutchen and MJ Logan both added six.

SEE **REL,** PAGE B5



TY CORNETT / THE SUMTER ITEM

Robert E. Lee's Rebecca Dinkins (13) looks to shoot over Spartanburg Day's Madeline Becker during REL's 60-37 loss in the quarterfinals of the SCISA 2A state playoffs on Monday at Sumter County Civic Center.

PREP BASKETBALL

Lady Gamecocks move on in 5A state playoffs with 57-54 win over Woodmont

BY SCOTT KEELER
Special to The Sumter Item

PIEDMONT — The Sumter High School girls basketball team made a long trek to Greenville County for the third round of 5A state playoffs on Monday. In a few days, the Lady Gamecocks will gladly return.

Senior Ki'Ari Cain scored nine of her game-high 17 points in the fourth quarter as fourth-ranked Sumter rallied past second-ranked Woodmont 57-54.

The victory advances the Lady Gamecocks, who improved to 24-3 on the season, to the Upper State championship game on Saturday at approximately 5 p.m. Saturday at Greenville's Bon Secours Wellness Arena.

Sumter will face Region IV foe and champion Spring Valley, which was a 76-45 winner at Nation Ford on Monday. Spring Valley has handed Sumter two of its three losses

"That was an exciting game right there. That was two good teams just battling each other," Sumter head coach Jeff Schaffer said. "There's a reason why Gardner-Webb recruited (Cain). That's what I expect my seniors to do, and she's my only one on the court. She came through big."



SCHAFFER

For the second consecutive game, Sumter — which has typically started slow this season, according to Schaffer — got off to a hot start. All five starters got in the scoring column in the first quarter to stake the Lady Gamecocks to a 14-7 lead after one.

When CeCe Wells knocked down a 3-point basket midway through the second, Sumter had its biggest lead of the night at 20-11. The Lady Gamecocks took a 25-19 lead into halftime.

It was a different story in the third quarter. Sparked by the return of Sydney Wyatt, the Lady Wildcats, who finished with a 26-2 record, roared back. Wyatt had five of Woodmont's seven points in the first quarter, but also picked up two early fouls and watched the rest of the half from the bench.

Wyatt's putback gave Woodmont its first lead of the game at 31-30 before Wells' jumper put Sumter back in front. Wyatt answered on the other end with a layup that started a 12-2 run as the Lady Wildcats took their biggest lead at 43-34. Woodmont hit just 1 of 5 free throws over the final 55 seconds of the third quarter to take a 44-37 lead through three.

Down by seven on the road and eight minutes away from elimination, Schaffer had a simple message for his team.

"I told them, 'We're fine; we've just got to make some stops,' " Schaffer said. "Defensively, they were kind of getting into some gaps and we lost sight of some shooters (in the third quarter). We just had to settle in and start playing some defense."

SEE **SHS,** PAGE B5

PRO BASEBALL

AP source: Machado, Padres agrees to $300M, 10-year deal

BY BERNIE WILSON
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — With their city's long-suffering fans desperate for a winner, the rebuilding San Diego Padres delivered their splashiest free agent signing ever by agreeing with All-Star infielder Manny Machado on a $300 million, 10-year deal.

A person familiar with the negotiations confirmed the deal to The Associated Press on Tuesday, speaking on condition of anonymity because the agreement was subject to a successful physical and had not been announced. Machado can opt out after five years and become a free agent again, the person said.

Machado's agreement would be the second-largest in baseball history behind Giancarlo Stanton's $325 million, 13-year deal signed with the Miami Marlins ahead of the 2015 season. It would be the highest deal for a free agent, topping Alex Rodriguez's $275 million, 10-year contract with the New York Yankees from 2008-17.

More records may be broken soon. Free agent outfielder Bryce Harper could top Stanton's deal in coming days or weeks.

That won't matter a bit to Padres fans, who have never celebrated a World Series title and were keeping their fingers crossed in recent days as it became apparent that their team, with a mostly sad-sack history stretching back a half-century, actually had a chance at landing Machado, who is only 26.



AP FILE PHOTO

Then-Los Angeles Dodgers star Manny Machado (8) hits a single during the fourth inning of Game 7 of the 2018 National League Championship Series game against the Milwaukee Brewers in Milwaukee. A person familiar with the negotiations tells The Associated Press that infielder Manny Machado has agreed to a $300 million, 10-year deal with the rebuilding San Diego Padres, the biggest contract ever for a free agent.

Some fans seemed braced for yet another disappointment. But news of the deal was greeted with euphoria on social media.

Speaking at spring training in Peoria, Arizona, Padres executive chairman Ron Fowler said: "We do not have a deal with any free agent player. We are continuing discussions, and that's all we have to say."

Teams draw a distinction between an agreement subject to a physical and a finalized deal.

While Fowler looked serious, general partner Peter Seidler couldn't help but smile while waiting for his turn to speak.

Without confirming the deal, Seidler — a nephew of former Los Angeles Dodgers owner Peter O'Malley — spoke of what his ownership group wants to bring to San Diego, where the Padres play in a gem of a ballpark just off the bay.

"Ron and I, we love the city of San Diego, we love sports in San Diego, but we're also well aware of the history. There's never been a championship from a major sports franchise in San Diego. ... We as an organization want to completely change that. We want our franchise to win year after year after year. And we're going to do whatever we can rationally do to help make that happen."

The Padres lost 96 games last year, haven't had a winning season since 2010 and haven't been to the playoffs since 2006. They haven't won a playoff series since the 1998 NL Championship against Atlanta. They were routed in their two World Series appearances, by Detroit in 1984 and the New York Yankees in 1998.

And they've had the city's big league sports scene to themselves since the NFL's Chargers moved to the Los Angeles area two seasons ago. The Chargers did win the AFL title in 1963 but were blown out by San Francisco in their only Super Bowl appearance, after the 1994 season.

Other than the AFL title, the biggest championships won around here were probably Little League World Series titles in 2009 by Park View of Chula Vista and in 1961 by El Cajon-La Mesa Northern, which included Brian Sipe, who won the NFL's MVP Award in 1980.

Padres players were ecstatic, even though the signing was not yet official.

Catcher Austin Hedges was headed toward bunting drills when he heard the news. He pumped his fists and said, "I'm just that excited about bunting."

"You see me smiling right here," said first baseman Eric Hosmer, who exactly a year ago earlier finalized a $144 million, eight-year deal with San Diego. "We've all been practicing today, obviously. We've all kind heard what's been going on, and all we can say is he's a guy we'd love to have, and I think it changes things pretty quickly if we do have him here.

"He's one of the top guys in the league," Hosmer added. "Obviously extremely young free agent that's got a lot of amazing baseball left in him and he's already had a lot of amazing baseball in his career. We're all just glad he'll hopefully be here with us in San Diego."

MORE TO THE STORY

Read on at *www.theitem.com*.

SCOREBOARD

TV, RADIO

TODAY

3 p.m. — International Soccer: UEFA Champions League Match — Juventus vs. Atletico Madrid (TNT).
6:30 p.m. — College Basketball: Villanova at Georgetown (FOX SPORTS 1).
6:30 p.m. — College Basketball: Mississippi State at Georgia (SEC NETWORK).
7 p.m. — College Basketball: Xavier at Seton Hall (CBS SPORTS NETWORK).
7 p.m. — College Basketball: Louisville at Syracuse (ESPN).
7 p.m. — College Basketball: Florida at Louisiana State (ESPN2).
7 p.m. — College Basketball: Tulane at Memphis (ESPNU).
7 p.m. — Women's College Basketball: West Virginia at Oklahoma State (FOX SPORTS SOUTHEAST).
7 p.m. — College Basketball: Boston College at North Carolina State (FOX SPORTSOUTH).
7 p.m. — College Basketball: Navy at Loyola (Md.) (STADIUM).
7:30 p.m. — NHL Hockey: Chicago at Detroit (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
8:30 p.m. — College Basketball: St. John's at Providence (FOX SPORTS 1).
8:30 p.m. — College Basketball: Arkansas at Auburn (SEC NETWORK).
9 p.m. — College Basketball: Butler at Marquette (CBS SPORTS NETWORK).
9 p.m. — College Basketball: North Carolina at Duke (ESPN).
9 p.m. — College Basketball: Stanford at Arizona State (ESPN2).
9 p.m. — College Basketball: Wichita State at Tulsa (ESPNU).
9 p.m. — College Basketball: Creighton at DePaul (FOX SPORTS SOUTHEAST).
9 p.m. — College Basketball: Pittsburgh at Georgia Tech (FOX SPORTSOUTH).
10 p.m. — NHL Hockey: Boston at Vegas (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
11 p.m. — College Basketball: Nevada at San Diego State (CBS SPORTS NETWORK).
11 p.m. — College Basketball: New Mexico at Utah State (ESPNU).
11 p.m. — LPGA Golf: Honda LPGA Thailand First Round (GOLF).

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	43	16	.729	—
Boston	37	21	.638	5½
Philadelphia	37	21	.638	5½
Brooklyn	30	29	.508	13
New York	11	47	.190	31½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Charlotte	27	30	.474	—
Miami	26	30	.464	½
Orlando	27	32	.458	1
Washington	24	34	.414	3½
Atlanta	19	39	.328	8½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	43	14	.754	—
Indiana	38	20	.655	5½
Detroit	26	30	.464	16½
Chicago	14	44	.241	29½
Cleveland	12	46	.207	31½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	33	24	.579	—
San Antonio	33	26	.559	1
Dallas	26	31	.456	7
New Orleans	26	33	.441	8
Memphis	23	36	.390	11

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	39	18	.684	—
Oklahoma City	37	20	.649	2
Portland	34	23	.596	5
Utah	32	25	.561	7
Minnesota	27	30	.474	12

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	41	16	.719	—
L.A. Clippers	32	27	.542	10
Sacramento	30	27	.526	11
L.A. Lakers	28	29	.491	13
Phoenix	11	48	.186	31

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Miami at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Portland at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Houston at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Chicago at Orlando, 7 p.m.
New Orleans at Indiana, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Washington at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at New York, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Denver at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Utah at Oklahoma City, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Portland at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Brooklyn at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Washington, 7 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at New Orleans, 7 p.m.
Memphis at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Houston at Golden State, 8:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Dallas at Utah, 10 p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES
Orlando at Toronto, 3:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Denver, 5 p.m.
San Antonio at New York, 7:30 p.m.

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	60	45	11	4	94	237	160
Boston	60	35	17	8	78	181	155
Toronto	58	36	19	3	75	206	164
Montreal	59	31	21	7	69	176	174
Buffalo	58	28	23	7	63	168	181
Florida	57	25	24	8	58	177	197
Detroit	60	23	29	8	54	168	199
Ottawa	59	22	32	5	49	186	219

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
N.Y. Islanders	58	35	17	6	76	169	138
Washington	60	33	20	7	73	202	191
Columbus	58	33	22	3	69	186	177
Pittsburgh	59	31	21	7	69	206	184
Carolina	59	31	22	6	68	173	165
Philadelphia	59	28	24	7	63	176	196
N.Y. Rangers	58	25	25	8	58	170	194
New Jersey	59	23	28	8	54	173	204

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Winnipeg	59	36	19	4	76	202	171
Nashville	61	34	22	5	73	186	160
St. Louis	58	31	22	5	67	174	162
Dallas	58	29	24	5	63	145	149
Minnesota	59	27	26	6	60	164	176
Colorado	59	24	24	11	59	189	192
Chicago	60	25	26	9	59	200	223

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Calgary	59	36	16	7	79	217	176
San Jose	60	35	17	8	78	219	190
Vegas	61	32	25	4	68	180	172
Vancouver	60	26	27	7	59	170	188
Arizona	59	26	28	5	57	154	172
Anaheim	59	23	27	9	55	133	187
Edmonton	58	24	29	5	53	163	195
Los Angeles	59	23	30	6	52	143	182

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

MONDAY'S GAMES
Calgary 5, Arizona 2
Tampa Bay 5, Columbus 1
Chicago 8, Ottawa 7
Colorado 3, Vegas 0
Boston 6, San Jose 5, OT
Washington 3, Los Angeles 2

TUESDAY'S GAMES
Buffalo at Florida, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Columbus at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Anaheim at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Nashville at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Arizona at Edmonton, 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Chicago at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Winnipeg at Colorado, 8:30 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Calgary, 9:30 p.m.
Boston at Vegas, 10 p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Washington at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Carolina at Florida, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at Nashville, 8 p.m.
St. Louis at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Arizona at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Columbus at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Colorado at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Winnipeg at Vegas, 10 p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE

	Conference W	L	PCT	All Games W	L	PCT
Duke	11	1	.917	23	2	.920
Virginia	11	2	.846	23	2	.920
North Carolina	10	2	.833	20	5	.800
Louisville	9	4	.692	18	8	.692
Florida St.	8	4	.667	20	5	.800
Syracuse	8	4	.667	17	8	.680
Virginia Tech	9	5	.643	20	6	.769
NC State	6	7	.462	18	8	.692
Clemson	5	7	.417	15	10	.600
Boston College	4	8	.333	13	11	.542
Notre Dame	3	9	.250	13	12	.520
Miami	3	10	.231	11	14	.440
Georgia Tech	3	10	.231	11	15	.423
Wake Forest	2	10	.167	9	15	.375
Pittsburgh	2	11	.154	12	14	.462

Monday's Games
Virginia 64, Virginia Tech 58
Tuesday's Games
Wake Forest at Notre Dame, 7 p.m.
Florida St. at Clemson, 9 p.m.
Wednesday's Games
Boston College at NC State, 7 p.m.
Louisville at Syracuse, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Georgia Tech, 9 p.m.
North Carolina at Duke, 9 p.m.

BIG SOUTH CONFERENCE

	Conference W	L	PCT	All Games W	L	PCT
Radford	10	2	.833	18	8	.692
Winthrop	9	4	.692	17	9	.654
Campbell	8	4	.667	15	11	.577
Presbyterian	8	5	.615	16	12	.571
Gardner-Webb	7	5	.583	17	10	.630
High Point	7	5	.583	14	12	.538
Charleston Southern	6	6	.500	12	13	.480
Hampton	5	7	.417	10	15	.400
Longwood	5	8	.385	15	13	.536
UNC-Asheville	2	10	.167	4	22	.154
SC-Upstate	1	12	.077	6	22	.214

Thursday's Games
Winthrop at Radford, 7 p.m.
Longwood at Hampton, 7 p.m.
Gardner-Webb at UNC-Asheville, 7 p.m.
SC-Upstate at Charleston Southern, 7:30 p.m.
High Point at Campbell, 9 p.m.

COLONIAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

	Conference W	L	PCT	All Games W	L	PCT
Hofstra	12	2	.857	22	5	.815
Northeastern	10	4	.714	16	10	.615
Coll. of Charleston	10	5	.667	21	7	.750
Delaware	8	7	.533	16	12	.571
William & Mary	6	8	.429	10	16	.385
Towson	6	8	.429	10	17	.370
Drexel	6	9	.400	12	16	.429
James Madison	5	9	.357	12	15	.444
UNC-Wilmington	5	10	.333	9	19	.321
Elon	4	10	.286	8	19	.296

Thursday's Games
Coll. of Charleston at William & Mary, 7 p.m.
James Madison at Northeastern, 7 p.m.
UNC-Wilmington at Elon, 7 p.m.
Towson at Hofstra, 7 p.m.

MID-EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

	Conference W	L	PCT	All Games W	L	PCT
Norfolk St.	11	1	.917	16	11	.593
NC A&T	9	3	.750	14	12	.538
NC Central	8	5	.615	13	14	.481
Florida A&M	8	5	.615	11	17	.393
Savannah St.	7	5	.583	10	16	.385
Bethune-Cookman	7	6	.538	12	15	.444
Howard	6	6	.500	12	15	.444
Coppin St.	6	6	.500	6	21	.222
SC State	5	7	.417	7	21	.250
Morgan St.	3	8	.273	8	16	.333
Md.-Eastern Shore	2	11	.154	4	24	.143
Delaware St.	1	10	.091	4	20	.167

Monday's Games
NC Central 98, Howard 90
Savannah St. 79, Bethune-Cookman 70
SC State 57, Florida A&M 54
Norfolk St. 76, NC A&T 58

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE

	Conference W	L	PCT	All Games W	L	PCT
Tennessee	11	1	.917	23	2	.920
LSU	11	1	.917	21	4	.840
Kentucky	10	2	.833	21	4	.840
Mississippi	8	4	.667	18	7	.720
South Carolina	8	4	.667	13	12	.520
Mississippi St.	6	6	.500	18	7	.720
Auburn	6	6	.500	17	8	.680
Alabama	6	6	.500	15	10	.600
Florida	6	6	.500	14	11	.560
Arkansas	5	7	.417	14	11	.560
Missouri	3	9	.250	12	12	.500
Texas A&M	3	9	.250	10	14	.417
Georgia	1	11	.083	10	15	.400
Vanderbilt	0	12	.000	9	16	.360

Tuesday's Games
Mississippi at South Carolina, 7 p.m.
Vanderbilt at Tennessee, 7 p.m.
Kentucky at Missouri, 9 p.m.
Alabama at Texas A&M, 9 p.m.
Wednesday's Games
Mississippi St. at Georgia, 6:30 p.m.
Florida at LSU, 7 p.m.
Arkansas at Auburn, 8:30 p.m.

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

	Conference W	L	PCT	All Games W	L	PCT
Wofford	15	0	1.000	23	4	.852
UNC-Greensboro	11	3	.786	22	5	.815
Furman	11	4	.733	22	5	.815
ETSU	11	4	.733	21	7	.750
Samford	6	8	.429	16	11	.593
Chattanooga	6	8	.429	11	16	.407
Mercer	4	10	.286	9	17	.346
W. Carolina	4	11	.267	7	21	.250
The Citadel	3	11	.214	11	14	.440
VMI	1	13	.071	7	19	.269

Thursday's Games
Samford at Mercer, 7 p.m.
W. Carolina at UNC-Greensboro, 7 p.m.
Chattanooga at The Citadel, 7 p.m.
ETSU at VMI, 7 p.m.

SUN BELT CONFERENCE

	Conference W	L	PCT	All Games W	L	PCT
Texas State	10	3	.769	21	5	.808
Georgia St.	9	4	.692	18	8	.692
Georgia Southern	8	5	.615	16	10	.615
Texas-Arlington	8	5	.615	12	14	.462
Louisiana-Lafayette	6	6	.500	15	10	.600
Louisiana-Monroe	6	6	.500	13	11	.542
Coastal Carolina	6	6	.500	12	12	.500
South Alabama	5	8	.385	12	14	.462
Arkansas St.	5	8	.385	11	15	.423
UALR	5	8	.385	10	16	.385
Appalachian St.	4	8	.333	9	16	.360
Troy	4	9	.308	11	14	.440

Thursday's Games
Georgia St. at Appalachian St., 7 p.m.
Georgia Southern at Coastal Carolina, 7 p.m.
Louisiana-Monroe at Texas State, 8 p.m.
Louisiana-Lafayette at Texas-Arlington, 8 p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

No. 1 Duke and No. 8 North Carolina renew rivalry this week

BY JOHN MARSHALL
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Carolina coach Roy Williams set his sights on landing Zion Williamson out of high school, only to see him end up down the road at the Tar Heels' biggest rival.

Williams and the rest of the eight-ranked Tar Heels will get an up-close look at top-ranked Duke's rim-wrecking freshman Wednesday in what's sure to be a foundation-shaking atmosphere at Cameron Indoor Stadium.

"Zion's a different bird, there's no question about that," Williams said on Monday. "We tried to recruit him very hard. He's got a combination of skill set that I've never seen before and there is a lot of attention, but he deserves it. He's backed it up."

Williamson arrived at Duke with plenty of hype, a 6-foot-8, 285-pound force who created a massive following with his head-above-the-rim dunks.

He's exceeded even those lofty expectations by doing the same things he did to high schoolers against college players. Williamson is right behind fellow freshman R.J. Barrett with 22.4 points per game, grabs 9.2 rebounds and often has more highlights in one game than most players have all season.

He's also helped lead the Blue Devils (23-2, 13-1 ACC) to No. 1 in the AP Top 25 for the third time this season.

Since losing to Syracuse on Jan. 14, Duke has reeled off nine straight wins, including a 23-point comeback victory over No. 18 Louisville. The Blue Devils moved up a spot to No. 1 this week after Tennessee lost to No. 4 Kentucky.

"It's hard to kind of miss the hype they get, just because it's all over the place, but we try not to pay attention to it," North Carolina senior guard Cameron Johnson said. "We go about our own business and we're really confident in the group that we have. But it'll definitely be a big opportunity for us."

The Tar Heels (20-5, 10-2) had a seven-game winning streak ended by No. 3 Virginia last Monday, but bounced back with a rout over Wake Forest.

North Carolina won two of three against their biggest rival a year ago, including the semifinals of the ACC Tournament in New York.

AREA ROUNDUP

East Clarendon, Lee Central, Scott's Branh girls all victorious

COLUMBIA — East Clarendon High School's varsity girls basketball team outscored Gray Collegiate 19-4 in the third quarter to break open the game and roll to a 57-28 victory in the third round of the 2A state playoffs on Monday at Allen University's gymnasium.

The Lady Wolverines advanced to a lower state final for the third straight season. The first two were in 1A, with them winning the state title last season.

EC will play Mullins for the 2A lower state title at Florence Center on Friday at 4 p.m. The winner will advance to the state championship contest next week.

East Clarendon led 10-4 after one quarter and 22-13 at halftime. The big third quarter left it with a 41-17 lead.

Talaysia Cooper led the Lady Wolverines, who improved to 21-2 on the season, with a double-double of 24 points and 12 rebounds. Rhamey Floyd had a double-double with 12 points and 11 rebounds.

LEE CENTRAL 50
SALUDA 40

SALUDA — Lee Central High School's varsity girls basketball team advanced to the 2A upper state championship game with a 50-40 win in the third round of the state playoffs over Saluda on Monday at the Saluda gymnasium.

The Lady Stallions will take on Christ Church on Friday at 4 p.m. at Bons Secour Wellness Arena in Greenville for the chance to earn a spot in the next week's state championship game.

Kendra Lesane led LC, which improved to 20-7, with 12 points. A'Yanah Lucas and Robionne Myers had 10 points apiece, and Jada Rogers chipped in 10.

SCOTT'S BRANCH 64
CREEK BRIDGE 33

SUMMERTON — The Scott's Branch High School girls basketball team advanced to the 1A lower state championship game with a 64-33 win over Creek Bridge in the third round of the state playoffs on Monday at the SBHS gymnasium.

The Lady Eagles, who improved to 20-3, will meet Lake View on Saturday at 11 a.m. at Florence Center. The winner will advance to next week's state championship game.

Cambria Parker led Scott's Branch with 19 points. Mary Wimberly had eight points and 12 rebounds, while Teja Madison had eight points, and Chaniya Monroe had six points and 11 rebounds.

Tonia Lawson added six steals.

From staff reports



PHOTO PROVIDED BY TAMMY VAUGHT

East Clarendon's Talaysia Cooper makes a move to the basket during the Lady Wolverines victory over Gray Collegiate on Monday in the 2A state playoffs.

SAINTS FROM PAGE B1

night. We were frustrated a little bit, but we got recomposed and made a hard push at the end."

Reitenour was impressed with Newberry's ability to throw his team off its game.

"They're a giant killer with their 'hold the ball' tactic," he said. "They tried to slow the pace down and we're a fast-paced team."

Junior shooting guard Traveon Davis led the Saints with 20 points, freshman guard/forward Kylic Horton had 14, junior guard Zyan Gilmore had nine and junior guard/forward Tyrese Mitchum added eight.

For Newberry, Payton Gardner scored 17 and Anthony McLean added 13.

Clarendon Hall led 15-10 at the end of the first and outscored the Eagles 10-6 in the second quarter to take a 25-16 lead at the half.

The Saints pulled away a little more in the third by outscoring Newberry 14-9 to take a 39-25 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

Clarendon Hall took over in the fourth, outscoring Newberry 22-10 in the final frame en route to a 61-35 victory that would send the Saints marching on to the quarterfinal round.

"In the fourth quarter, we accepted the fact that the calls were not going our way," Reitenour said. "I told the kids in the huddle, 'just play basketball'. We got momentum, it just took us three quarters to get rolling."

Clarendon Hall will take its perfect 27-0 record to the quarterfinal round of the playoffs when it takes on Richard Winn on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. right back at Nash Student Center.



DANNY KELLY / THE SUMTER ITEM

Clarendon Hall's Zyan Gilmore looks to drive to the basket during the Saints' 61-35 victory over Newberry Academy on Tuesday in the SCISA 1A state playoffs at Wilson Hall's Nash Student Center.

HALL FROM PAGE B1

Wilson Hall went scoreless for almost six minutes as P-G ran off 14 straight points to go up 27-23 with two minutes left in the first half. WH's Liza Segars hit three of four free throws and converted a 3-point play to put the Lady Barons up 29-27 with 48 seconds left.

The teams went to halftime tied at 29-29.

Wilson Hall took its final lead of the game on a layup by Natalie Jackson to start the second half. Porter-Gaud then went on a 14-2 run to go up 44-33 with 3:27 left in the third quarter.

WH responded by running off the final seven points of the third quarter. A Kayla Porter jumper and a basket by Jackson helped cut the lead to 46-44 with 6:22 to go and the Lady Barons pulled within one on two different occasions. However, the Lady Cyclones were able to fend off Wilson Hall down the stretch.

Jackson led the Lady Barons with 23 points. Segars finished with 15 and Duffy added seven.

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IN THE PITS



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Multiple cars, including Austin Dillon (3), Daniel Suarez (41), David Ragan (38), Paul Menard (21), Ryan Newman (6), Aric Almirola (10), Matt DiBenedetto (95), and Ryan Blaney (12) crash during the Daytona 500 race on Sunday at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Daytona 500 was action-packed opener NASCAR needed

BY JENNA FRYER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Jim France told 'em to race and NASCAR's next generation didn't disappoint.

The Daytona 500 packed an unforeseen punch that, if nothing else, entertained Sunday's sun-drenched, sold-out crowd at the famed "World Center of Racing." There were a ton of wrecks, especially during the final 20 laps of regulation, which Kyle Busch described as the portion of the race in which "brains come unglued."

The crashes led to nearly 40 minutes of stoppage for cleanup — breaks so long race-winner Denny Hamlin claimed he twice fell asleep in his Toyota. Hamlin led a clean sweep for Joe Gibbs Racing, which went 1-2-3 in an overtime finish that honored team co-founder J.D. Gibbs following his death last month from a long battle with a degenerative neurological disease.

It was an emotional weekend at Daytona International Speedway for Joe Gibbs, who leaned on his eldest son to run their NASCAR operation while he coached the Washington Redskins. J.D. Gibbs was a driver, a tire changer, team executive, talent scout and the guy who discovered a struggling Virginia short track racer who is now a two-time Daytona 500 winner.

Gibbs has three Super Bowl victories and three wins in NASCAR's version of the Super Bowl, and he ranked Hamlin's win "the most emotional and biggest win I've ever had in my life, in anything."

These are the moments when NASCAR shines bright, with a feel-good victory that honored a man who loved racing. The shared moment for Gibbs, his family and his race team dwarfed the rest of the 500.

There had been concern the main event might disappoint after three ho-hum exhibition races, but NASCAR got the event it needed to start its rebuilding season. France, the NASCAR chairman since August, used the prerace driver meeting to urge the full 40-car field to get up on the wheel and race. Drivers had spent the week in single-file lines, and only Hamlin and Chase Elliott had frequented the second, bottom lane, leading into the 500.

"I hope a few of you drivers out there will get down on the bottom with Denny and Chase and put on a good show today," France said.

Who knows if France's request — it actually sounded as if he was asking for a favor — was the kick in the seat the drivers needed? They raced hard from the very start, tore up a couple million dollars' worth of cars, and put on a rather memorable show. The overnight rating on Fox was up 8 percent from last year's record low — up against the Winter Olympics — and early numbers indicated the Daytona 500 was trending toward the top-rated sports event of weekend.

Some takeaways:

• Matt DiBenedetto led a race-high 49 laps in his debut for mid-pack Leavine Family Racing. The team now has crew chief Mike Wheeler, who won Hamlin's first Daytona 500 four years ago, and a Toyota partnership that gave DiBenedetto a chance to win "The Great American Race."

• Paul Menard was ensnared in both the big wrecks at Speedweeks. Jimmie Johnson crashed him to deny Menard a win a week earlier in an exhibition race, then Menard triggered a 21-car accident on Sunday. It ended DiBenedetto's day and gave the race the indelible demolition derby moment that will surely be used in marketing campaigns to come.

• Hendrick Motorsports had the front row at the start of the race but it was Johnson, in a battered Chevrolet, who led the camp with a ninth-place finish. Only 14 cars finished on the lead lap, which helped Johnson and others salvage otherwise difficult races. Same for Kyle Larson, who was involved in three different incidents and still finished seventh. "What a gnarly night," said Johnson.

• Ford was heavily favored to win the race in its debut of the Mustang and Logano was fantastic in trying to chase down Hamlin in overtime. Logano wound up fourth — annoyed fellow Ford driver Michael McDowell did not push him at the end — in the lone bright spot for the manufacturer. It was a rough race for Stewart-Haas Racing, which had three drivers in contention for the victory until the late wrecks, and wound up with four crashed race cars.

• Small teams had big days , led by McDowell in fifth for Front Row Motorsports. Eight of the 40 drivers were making their Daytona 500 debut and Ryan Preece, a short-track star from New England, impressed with an eighth-place finish for JTG Daugherty Racing. Watermelon farmer Ross Chastain, in one of the slowest cars in the field, finished 10th.

The race, which clocked in at 3 hours, 45 minutes not including the stoppage time, was not the cleanest or the prettiest but it certainly was not dull.

"Anybody who thought they were going to line up and ride around the top for the Daytona 500 for 490 miles doesn't know the competitive nature of these guys," said crew chief Chris Gabehart, a winner in his debut with Hamlin. "The Daytona 500 with everybody out there trying to get after it, it's not going to be boring."

SPORTS ITEMS

Former Dodgers great Don Newcombe dies at 92

LOS ANGELES — Don Newcombe, the hard-throwing Brooklyn Dodgers pitcher who was one of the first black players in the major leagues and who went on to win the Rookie of the Year, Most Valuable Player and Cy Young awards, has died. He was 92.

The team confirmed that Newcombe died Tuesday morning after a lengthy illness.

"Don Newcombe's presence and life established him as a role model for Major Leaguers across the country," Dodgers President Stan Kasten said. "He was a constant presence at Dodger Stadium, and players always gravitated to him for his endless advice and leadership. The Dodgers meant everything to him, and we are all fortunate he was a part of our lives."

Newcombe, like Dodgers teammate Jackie Robinson, was signed by Branch Rickey from the Negro Leagues and went on to make a huge mark in the major leagues.

"Newk" was a fierce presence on the mound, a 6-foot-4 and 225-pound bear of a man who stared down hitters and backed up anyone foolish enough to crowd the plate.

He was a four-time All-Star and won 20 games three different times.

JAGUARS HIRE DOM CAPERS AS SENIOR DEFENSIVE ASSISTANT

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Former NFL head coach Dom Capers has joined Jacksonville's coaching staff as senior defensive assistant, returning to the Jaguars two decades after his first stint with the team.

Keeping Sumter Beautiful

Amanda McNulty, Extension Agent

High-climbing Showoff

Terasa Lott reported recently that she'd seen Yellow Jessamine flowers showing their faces in a few places. While riding to Charleston last week, as we got closer to the coast (and its warmer temperatures) we saw more and more of it starting its display of brilliant yellow blossoms. Roadsides are perfect places to see our state flower in bloom as it is a vigorous plant (in yards it can be downright rampant and thuggish it is so healthy and persistent) and easily clamors to the tops of trees. It is particularly beautiful, to me, when it is using pines as support as the dark bark and green needles of those conifers provide a contrasting background for the flowers, which occur early in the spring, along with flowering dogwood blooms and our native pinxterbloom azalea.

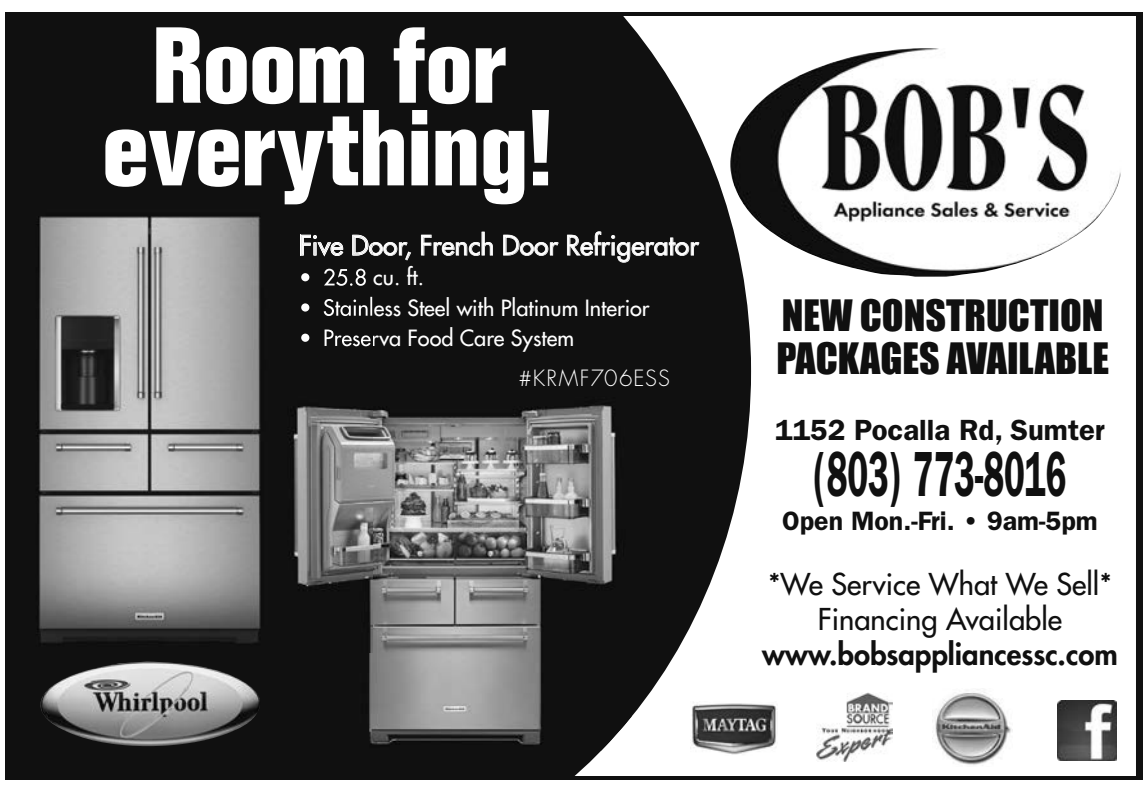
Gelsemium sempervirens is the scientific name for our state flower. Sempervirens means ever living, an appropriate specific epithet (that's what you call the species designation for an individual) as yellow jessamine is evergreen. North Carolina's Extension Service tells us that it is wind tolerant, drought tolerant, and even has some ability to put up with salt water exposure. The two-inch long opposite leaves provide a handsome foil for the masses of deep yellow trumpet-shaped flowers.

Here's what the flowery orators in the South Carolina Legislature wrote when, in 1924, they designated this plant as our state flower. "It is indigenous to every nook and corner of the State. It is the first premonitor of coming spring. Its fragrance greets us first in the woodland and its delicate flower suggests the pureness of gold. Its perpetual return out of the dead winter suggests the lesson of constancy in, loyalty to, and patriotism in the service of the State."

As a grazer who samples plants I know are safe to munch on, let me give a strong warning about this plant. It is filled with toxic alkaloids and can be fatal if eaten. Pollination is attributed to a variety of insects. Butterflies, native bees, and moths all move from blossom to blossom, transferring pollen. The carpenter bee gives us another reason to set our mouth in a hard line against it for besides burrowing into wood on our houses it bypasses the traditional way of gathering nectar by sipping from the tubular flowers and simply drills a hole at the base of the inflorescence.

York County's Bill Hilton, author of the remarkably informative and timely "This Week at Hilton Pond," is one of the premiere hummingbird banders in the world. He reports that he has never seen our ruby-throated hummingbirds take nectar from this poisonous flower but that a fellow hummer enthusiast says he has seen rufous hummingbirds feed from these plants. Also, there is confusion as to whether or not the European honey bee, which did not co-evolve with our state flower, is immune to the toxic compounds or not. Please remember that there is no confusion as to its danger to humans.

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REL FROM PAGE B1

"I hate it for the three seniors that it ends now; Carson (Shannon), Emme and A(my)B(eth McCutchen)," Langston said. "I can't say enough. They're great kids, they work hard and have shown a lot of leadership."

Brittany Mock led the Lady Griffins with 22 points and Lauren Lee had 13.

Spartanburg Day led REL 16-6 at the end of the first quarter and outscored the Lady Cavaliers 14-13 in the second to take a 30-19 lead at the half.

The Lady Griffins took over in the third quarter, outscoring REL 20-9 to take a 50-28 lead heading into the fourth.

REL finished its season with a 16-7 record. Langston is impressed with what her team has accomplished based on where it was a year ago.

"It was an unbelievable turnaround," she said. "We won five games last year. We never quit at all. This year it was a little different."

Langston couldn't be more proud of her team and her school.

"We have a great bunch of girls; they try their best to please," she said. "The Lord's blessed me with a great place to work. We have great fans; we're on holiday, and you see the turnout tonight."

SHS FROM PAGE B1

Sumter's comeback started on a layup by Tamerah Brown. Woodmont then went to a four-corners offense. While it shaved one minute off the clock, it ended on a turnover with a five-second call. On the Lady Gamecocks' ensuing possession, Cain soared to the basket for a layup, got fouled and sank the free throw to complete the 3-point play.

That was followed by back-to-back jumpers by Sumter's Layken Cox. Wells made a steal and converted it into a layup and just like that the Lady Gamecocks had an 11-0 run and a 48-44 lead.

Woodmont's JaRae Smith hit a jumper, then made a steal. Off the steal, she dribbled down and popped another 15-foot jumper to tie the game with 2:50 left.

It took all of six seconds for Cain to draw a foul and sink two free throws to start a 7-0 run that gave Sumter a 55-48 lead with 1:18 left. The Lady Wildcats put together one last rally. After Wyatt hit a pair of free throws, she made a steal and laid it in to cut Sumter's lead to 55-54 with 35.9 seconds left. The Lady Gamecocks then took a chance with a long baseball pass to Cain, who couldn't quite haul it in before it landed out of bounds, but she did draw Smith's fifth foul. Cain calmly hit both foul shots and went 7-for-7 from the line in the quarter.

"There was a lot of noise (on the final free throws). Coach just told me to relax and zone everything out, so that's what I did," Cain said. "I have the same routine at the free throw line and I just hit them."

After Woodmont turned it over with 15.7 seconds left, the Lady Gamecocks played keep-away before the Lady Wildcats finally fouled with 1.7 seconds left. While Wells missed both free throws, Woodmont couldn't get off a long desperation 3-pointer before the final horn sounded.

Wells finished with 14 points for Sumter while Brown had 12 points and eight rebounds and Cox had 10 points and eight rebounds.

Wyatt and Smith led the Lady Wildcats with 15 points apiece.

The loss snapped a 23-game winning streak for Woodmont, which was under its third head coach in the past three seasons this year. Its former coach left for Legacy Charter School, and four Woodmont players also transferred there prior to this season.

"It was two very good basketball teams out there tonight, and it's a shame somebody had to lose," Woodmont coach Jimmy Towe said. "A lot of things happened to these girls before the season. We were picked third in our region … and everybody was telling them they wouldn't be any good. They proved them wrong. They're just a resilient group and I'm very proud of them."



Robert E. Lee's Rebecca Dinkins tries to maintain possession of the ball as Spartanburg Day's Marianne Conroe goes for the steal during the Lady Cavaliers 60-37 loss to the Lady Griffins in the quarterfinals of the SCISA 2A state playoffs.

TY CORNETT / THE SUMTER ITEM

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Katherine G. Johnson: The Human Computer



Photo: NASA

As a child, Katherine Johnson loved to count. She counted the dishes. She counted the steps. She even counted stones. She simply counted everything!

Count the stars on this page. Then have a friend try. Who found the most?

Let Me Go to School!

Katherine was born in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. She was the youngest of four children and she couldn't wait to join her siblings at school! She used to follow them as they walked to school.

Find the path to school.

Hard Work

Katherine said it was hard work to be good at math and her other subjects. And work hard she did. She skipped two grades in elementary school, and went on to get degrees in mathematics and French.

Determination

Katherine's community was **segregated**. That meant there were many places African-American people couldn't go, including the local high school. Katherine's parents were so determined that she have a good education that they moved the family 120 miles so Katherine and her siblings could attend high school.

Patience

After graduating from college in 1937, Katherine became a teacher.

In 1953 she was hired by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) and was finally able to use her math skills!

Circle every other letter to discover where the family moved.

KIDNUSWTVIBTCUZTNEMWQEFSRTEVWIGRCGNICNJISA

I N _____, _____ _____

▲=A ◢=D ★=E ✖=H ◤=L ●=N ◣=P ◥=R ✔=S

Curiosity

Because of her intelligence, curiosity, and positive attitude, Katherine was asked to work on many different projects. When NACA turned its attention to space flight, it changed its name to NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration).

Katherine was asked to work on the complicated math problems that would establish the flight path for the spacecraft that would take the first American into space and back in 1961. Use the code to discover his name.

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

▲◢▲● ✔✖★◣▲◥◢

The Human Computer

In 1953, computers were not as good as they are today and mathematicians, who were called "computers," did the math needed for flight research.



Photo: NASA

Persistence

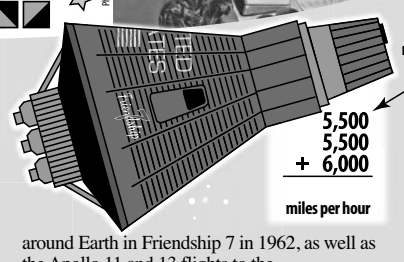
Replace the missing words.

COMPUTERS LAW MOON ASKING MEETINGS HOME WORKING

When Katherine was _____ at NASA, women were not allowed in the spaceflight meetings. She kept _____ if she could go, even asking if there was a _____ against it. Her persistence paid off and she was finally invited to attend all _____.

Over time, even though electronic _____ took on more work at NASA, Johnson remained highly valued for her accuracy. She performed calculations for John Glenn's successful orbits around Earth in Friendship 7 in 1962, as well as the Apollo 11 and 13 flights to the _____.

Working on these manned flight paths was stressful. Katherine knew that if her calculations were off by even a few feet or seconds, the astronauts might not make it _____!



How fast did *Friendship 7* travel in its 4 hour and 56 minute flight? Do the math!

5,500
5,500
+ 6,000
miles per hour

Extra! Extra!

Count the Numbers

Take one page of the newspaper and circle all of the numbers you can find. Then, count the number of numbers! What do the different numbers show?

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Standards Link: Students use strategies to understand literary passages

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Humility

Katherine won many awards and made history for the space program, for women's rights and for racial equality. But she always remained humble. She quoted her father. Replace the vowels to find out what her father would tell her.

"Y_ _ AR_ AS G_ _D AS _NYB_DY. B_T Y_ _'RE N_ B_TT_R."

Standards Link: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

KATHERINE
CURIOSITY
POSITIVE
ACCURACY
COMPUTER
COUNTED
DISHES
ORBIT
SPACE
STEPS
WHITE
MATH
PATH
FOUR

D K S P A C E W E A
E W H I T E V N R C
T Y T I S O I R U C
N M B A D R T T O U
U R P H E I I E F R
O M A H A T S I E A
C H T A M I O H A C
N A H S T E P S E Y
K R E T U P M O C S

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recongized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Find a Story of Character

Katherine Johnson had many character traits that led to her successes. Look through the newspaper for an article about a successful person and make a list of character traits that help to make that person so successful.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

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PREP BASKETBALL

Lady Generals shut down Dillon Christian to advance

BY DENNIS BRUNSON
dennis@theitem.com

Dillon Christian School scored 76 points in its 44-point win over Greenwood Christian in the first round of the SCISA 2A girls basketball state tournament on Friday. Thomas Sumter Academy, on the other hand, scored but 39 in its first-round win over Hilton Head Prep. However, the Lady General held HHP to just 27 points.

And that turned out being the more important number when TSA took on the Lady Warriors in the quarterfinals on Monday at Sumter County Civic Center. Thomas Sumter limited DCS to 35 points in its 48-35 victory.

The Lady Generals advance to the semifinals where they will face Spartanburg Day on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the civic center.

"We just played a great game defensively," said Thomas Sumter head coach B.J. Reed. "We did a great job of playing on-ball defense. That was definitely the key to the game."

Anna Thompson drained a 3-point basket on the game's first shot to give Dillon Christian, which finished 20-7 on the season, the early lead. Baskets would be very, very hard to come by for the Lady Warriors through the third quarter.

TSA played tenacious man-to-man defense, making it hard for DCS to get off uncontested shots. The Lady Warriors connected on just six of their 40 field goal attempts through three quarters.

Reed was particularly pleased with the defensive play of Lizzie Silvester on DCS point guard Karen Dubose. "Lizzie did a phenomenal job on No. 15 (Dubose)," Reed said. "She (Dubose) finished with 15 points, but she only had four through the first three quarters. She just did phenomenal."

Still, Thomas Sumter, which improved to 12-9, only led 30-22 entering the fourth quarter. However, the Lady Generals scored the first 11 points of the quarter to open a 41-22 advantage.

TSA was solid at the free throw line, hitting on 20 of 30 attempts, including going 8-for-10 in the final quarter.

Karleigh Young led Thomas Sumter with a double-double of 16 points and 16 rebounds. Aubrey Stoddard also had a double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds. Sydney Daniel had 10 points, seven steals and four assists. "It was really a great team effort by our girls," Reed said. "We had everyone contributing in different ways. When we got into some foul trouble, the girls who came in off the bench did a great job defensively."



TY CORNETT / THE SUMTER ITEM

Thomas Sumter's Aubrey Stoddard works against a Dillon Christian defender during the Lady Generals' 48-35 victory on Monday in the SCISA 2A state playoffs at the Sumter Civic Center.

OBITUARIES

JEANETTE BROWN

Funeral services for Jeanette "Net" Brown will be held at 1 p.m. today at Berea Seventh Day Adventist Church, 675 S. Lafayette Drive, Sumter, with Michael Miller, pastor, officiating. Interment will follow at Cain Cemetery.



BROWN

Jeanette Holliday Brown, also known as "Net," was born on Oct. 1, 1946, to the late Charlie Sr. and Janie Winn Holliday.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Brown Jr.; son, Marcus Brown; grandson, Tamarcus Brown; and brothers, Robert Holliday and Charlie Holliday Jr.

Sister Brown fought a long and hard battle with cutaneous t-cell lymphoma but succumbed to the disease on Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2019, at her home, where she desired to be with her family.

Sister Brown leaves to cherish her memory: four daughters, Denise (Louise) Deschamps, Valerie Brown, Diana Brown and Pamela (Murray) Blanding; son, Kenyatte Brown Sr.; 24 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; two sisters, Eartha Hopkins and Shirley Warren; three sisters-in-law, Victoria Gallashaw, Virginia Kind and Martha Gregg; brother-in-law, Robert Brown; two special friends whom she cherished and loved, Annie McGainey and Cassie Willoughby; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

The family is receiving friends at 24 S. Walker Ave., Sumter.

Services entrusted to Whites Mortuary LLC of Sumter.

BARBARA KAYE SMITH

GOOSE CREEK — Barbara Kaye Smith, 68, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019, at the home of her sister in Sumter, surrounded by family and friends.

Born on March 16, 1950, in Augusta, Georgia, she was a daughter of the late Eual Perry Hall and Johnnie Mae Buck Morris. Ms. Smith was a faithful member of Carnes Crossroads Church of God in Summerville. She worked as a beautician for 22 years and was an associate at Catherine's for 20 years. She was a loving, caring person and always wore a smile.



SMITH

Survivors include a son, William Travis Smith of Charleston; four siblings, Robert Hall of Manning, Richard Hall (Lisa) of Bacliff, Texas, and Renee Garcia (Arthur) and James Morris (Sandra), both of Sumter; a number of beloved nieces and nephews; and two dear friends, Pat Clevenger and Ronnie Mixon.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her stepfather, James M. Morris.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday in the Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home Chapel.

Burial will be at 3:30 p.m. on Friday at Westover Memorial Park in Augusta.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home and other times at the home of her sister in Sumter.

Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home and Crematorium of Sumter is in charge of the arrangements.

WILLIE WALKER JR.

Willie Walker Jr., 55, husband of Essie Mae Workman, departed this life on Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019, in Sumter.

He was born on May 17, 1963, in Boston, Massachusetts, a son of Fannie Gathers Walker and the late Willie Walker Sr.

The family will receive friends at the home, 2781 Browning Ridge Drive, Sumter, SC 29154 and the home of his mother, 685 W. Emerald Lake Drive, Sumter, SC 29153.

Job's Mortuary Inc., 312 S. Main St., Sumter, is in charge of arrangements.

BELTON O'NEAL COMPTON JR.

Belton O'Neal Compton Jr., well-known actor and director, died on Monday, Feb. 18, 2019, at the Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia.

Born on Feb. 5, 1951, in Sumter, he was a son of the late Belton O. Compton Sr. and Dorothy Brunson Compton.

A celebration of life service is incomplete and will be announced later.

LEON THAMES

Leon "God Did It" Thames, 77, died on Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019, at Lake Marion Nursing Center in Summerton.

Born in Clarendon County, he was a son of the late Janie Levy Thames and Johnnie Thames Jr.

Friends and family will be received at the home of Williene Jwright, 1238 Luke Godwin Road, Summerton.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time and will be announced by Summerton Funeral Home LLC.

MERRITT SWINNEY

LEXINGTON — Merritt Junior Swinney, age 88, beloved husband of 43 years to the late Marlene Ann Pelletier Swinney, died on Monday, Feb. 18, 2019, at Oak Leaf Assisted Living Home.

Born in Nebraska City, Nebraska, he was a son of the late Merritt and Hazel Swinney. Mr. Swinney served in the U.S. Air Force and retired as a lieutenant colonel after 20 years of service. While on active duty, he served in Vietnam. Following his retirement from the Air Force, he went on to work as a revenue officer with the Internal Revenue Service and retired again after 20 years of service. Mr. Swinney enjoyed playing golf, working in his yard and was an avid runner for most of his life.

Surviving are one son, Matthew A. Swinney and his wife, Melinda, of Columbia; one daughter, Midge A. Swinney of Chattanooga, Tennessee; two grandchildren, Virginia Hayley Keever and Samantha Jane Keever; and one great-grandchild, Tucker Jameson Sykes.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by four brothers and one sister.

A private graveside service will be held at Evergreen Memorial Park cemetery with full military honors.

You may go to *www.bullockfuneralhome.com* and sign the family's guest book.

The family has chosen Bullock Funeral Home for the arrangements.

Bullock Funeral Home & Crematorium

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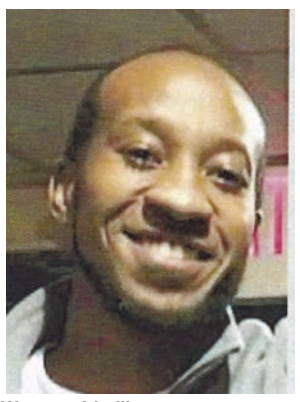
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11:30 a.m. Friday for Sunday's edition.

We will be happy to change your ad if an error is made; however we are not responsible for errors after the first run day. We shall not be liable for any loss or expense that results from the printing or omission of an advertisement. We reserve the right to edit, refuse or cancel any ad at any time.



Card of Thanks



We would like to express our sincere gratitude for the outpouring love, deeds of thoughtfulness, words of sympathy expressed during our time of bereavement. Perhaps you were not there at all, but thought of us that day. Near and far we thank you. To Rev. Jeanette Collins Murray and the La Gree AME Church family, We thank you! William C. White, Director and staff at Whites Mortuary LLC, We thank you! May God bless you all in double measures! *The Family of the lat William James Killian Saddler*

Lost & Found

FOUND. Young male black puppy with collar, found on Broad St. Sumter, SC. 29150. 309-696-3371



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Taxes made simple! Bring your last check stub and get your free estimate. Bring your W2 form and you will be ready to go. Please **call** for an **appointment** with the tax man, Wayne Greene. You have tried the rest, now come to the best for less!
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Garage, Yard & Estate Sales

Sat. 7am - noon at 3821 McCrays Mill Rd. Outside unless it rains, then inside.

For Sale or Trade

For Sale: BRAND NEW Companion full size 3 wheel scooter, with battery charger, protected cover, basket, and assembly lock seat. $1500. 803-397-5242



Help Wanted Full-Time

EXPERIENCED ROOFERS NEEDED. Must have flat roof experience. DL a must. Serious inquires ONLY. 803-478-2950.

Wanted laborer with CDL license, welding experience is a plus. Salary negotiable. For more info. call 803-494-9590.

Nesbitt Transportation is now hiring Class A CDL Drivers. Must be 23 yrs old and have 2 yrs experience. Home nights and weekends. Also hiring diesel mechanics. Call 843-621-0943 or 843-659-8254

Full time or part time Sales person needed. Apply at Wally's Hardware 1291 Broad St.

Trucking Opportunities

T&N is looking for Class A and Class B CDL and Heavy Equipment Drivers Hazmat is a plus. Must have a clean driving record. Home every day and night. Please call T&N at (803) 481-2428 or (803) 481-2421

Work Wanted

I'm looking for work and have the following skills: Accounting, teaching, industrial technology, professional driving, and communications. For a copy of my resume and a short description of my credentials, e-mail me at *friskylane@yahoo.com* Thank you and have a nice day!



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Unfurnished Homes

Brick House for Rent: 2BR/1BA. Occupant must be at least 40 years old, One single occupant or married couple. Absolutely no pets. Call 803-983-8904 Mon.-Thurs. 9am-11am only.

Mobile Home Rentals

2 & 3BR/2 ba, No pets, section 8 accepted.
803-469-6978/803-499-1500 betw. 9am-5pm

Mobile Home Lot Rentals

1 Acre lot for rent. 1015 island drive. Sep. tank & well & fenced in. 803-968-7669

Office Rentals

Office Rentals
$300 space-utilities included. 1150 Broad St. Call Sam at 803-983-7330

Commercial Rentals

The Ebony is available for rent. Parties, meetings, receptions, outdoor events, ect.. Call 443-756-1860 leave message.



Homes for Sale

For Sale by Owner: 4020 DuBose Siding Rd. 1BR/1BA house on one acre, with wired workshop. $75,000 firm. Priced to sell quickly. Call for an appointment 704-207-6101



Miscellaneous



Refurbished batteries as low as $45. Golf cart batteries $65. Auto Electric Co. 102 Blvd Rd. 803-773-4381



Legal Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart to satisfy a lien on **March 7th, 2019** at www.storagetreasures.com Online Bids start approximately 14 days prior to the final sale date listed above at the store listed below at the approximate time listed below:

Online bids END at approximately **10:00AM**
CubeSmart #6910,
4194 Broad Street,
Sumter, SC 29154
(843)-494-9089:

Cube 154 Dennis Wells, **Cube 69** Wesley Hicks, **Cube 100** Malcom Smith

Beer & Wine License

Notice Of Application

Notice is hereby given that **Thompson Golf Holdings, LLC** intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license permit that will allow the sale and **ON** premises consumption of **Beer, Wine and Liquor at 1005 Golfcrest Road, Sumter, SC 29154.** To object to the issuance of this permit / license, written protest must be postmarked no later than **March 7, 2019.** For a protest to be valid, it must be in writing, and should include the following information: (1) the name, address and telephone number of the person filing the protest; (2) the specific reasons why the application should be denied; (3) that the person protesting is willing to attend a hearing (if one is requested by the applicant); (4) that the person protesting resides in the same county where the proposed place of business is located or within five miles of the business; and (5) the name of the applicant and the address of the premises to be licensed. Protests must be mailed to: S.C. Department of Revenue, ABL, P.O. Box 125, Columbia, South Carolina 29214-0907; or Faxed to: (803) 896-0110.

Bid Notices

BID NOTICE
Bethel Baptist Church Is currently accepting bids for Lawn Maintenance. You may stop by the church office at 2401 Bethel Church Road, Sumter, and pick up an application. Deadline for bids is March 8, 2019.

Summons & Notice

SUMMONS AND NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
C/A NO: 2019CP1400035
(NON-JURY MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE)

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CLARENDON

CitiMortgage, Inc.,
PLAINTIFF,
vs.
Clifton Smith, Jr.; Frank A. Richburg, Jr.; and any unknown heirs or devisees of Lillian W. Richbourg, deceased; or Altomease R. Williams, deceased; including any other Personal Representatives, Successors, Assigns, Spouses, Creditors, and all others claiming any right, title or interest in the property known as 1560 & 1572 JR and FA Richburg Road, Summerton, SC 29148; any adults or persons in the Military Service of the United States of America, being a class designated as John Doe; and any minors or persons under legal disability, being a class designated as Richard Roe,
DEFENDANT(S).

TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint herein, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, or to otherwise appear and defend, and to serve a copy of your Answer to said Complaint upon the subscribers at their office, P.O. Box 71727, North Charleston, South Carolina, 29415, within thirty (30) days after service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; except that the United States of America, if named, shall have sixty (60) days to answer after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, or otherwise appear and defend, the Plaintiff in this action will apply to the Court for relief demanded therein, and judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

TO THE MINOR(S) OVER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE, AND/OR TO MINOR(S) UNDER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND THE PERSON WITH WHOM THE MINOR(S) RESIDES AND/OR TO PERSONS UNDER SOME LEGAL DISABILITY:

YOU ARE FURTHER SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to apply for the appointment of a guardian ad litem within thirty (30) days after the service of this Summons and Notice upon you. If you fail to do so, application for such appointment will be made by the Plaintiff.

YOU WILL ALSO TAKE NOTICE that should you fail to answer the foregoing Summons, the Plaintiff will move for a general Order of Reference to the Master in Equity for Clarendon, which Order shall, pursuant to Rule 53(b) of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure, specifically provide that the said Master in Equity is authorized and empowered to enter a final judgment in this action.

NOTICE OF FILING COMPLAINT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the original Complaint in the above entitled action, together with the Summons, was filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Clarendon County on January 17, 2019 at 4:26 p.m.

ORDER APPOINTING GUARDIAN AD LITEM NISI

It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court, upon reading and filing of the Petition of the Plaintiff for the appointment of Kelley Y Woody, attorney in Columbia, South Carolina, as Guardian ad Litem Nisi for all unknown minors, and for all persons who may be under a legal disability, it is

ORDERED that Kelley Y Woody, Attorney at Law, be and she is hereby appointed Guardian ad Litem Nisi on behalf of unknown minors or persons under a legal disability, all of whom may have an interest in or claim to have some interest in the real property known as 1560 & 1572 J R & F A Richburg Road, Summerton, SC 29148; that she is empowered and directed to appear on behalf of and represent said Defendants, unless the said Defendants, or someone on their behalf, shall within thirty (30) days after service of a copy hereof as directed, procure the appointment of a Guardian ad Litem for the said Defendants;

AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this Order shall forthwith be served upon the said Defendants by publication thereof in the The Item, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Clarendon, State of South Carolina, once a week for three consecutive weeks, together with the Summons in the above entitled action.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Supreme Court of South Carolina Administrative Order 2011-05-02-01, you may be eligible for foreclosure intervention programs for the purpose of resolving the above-referenced foreclosure action. If you wish to be considered for a foreclosure intervention program, you must contact Finkel Law Firm LLC, 4000 Faber Place Drive, Suite 450 (29405), P.O. Box 71727 (29415), North Charleston, SC 29405, or call (843) 577-5460 within thirty (30) days from the date of this notice. Finkel Law Firm LLC represents the Plaintiff in this action. Our law firm does not represent you and is not authorized to provide you any legal advice.

IF YOU FAIL, REFUSE, OR VOLUNTARILY ELECT NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS FORECLOSURE INTERVENTION PROCESS, THE FORECLOSURE MAY PROCEED.

NOTICE PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT (15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq.): This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information you provide will be used for that purpose. However, if you have previously received a discharge from bankruptcy, this message is not and should be construed as an attempt to collect a debt, but only as a requirement pursuant to the administrative order.

Beulah G. Roberts
Clerk of Court
for Clarendon County
Manning, South Carolina
January 25, 2019

FINKEL LAW FIRM LLC
Thomas A. Shook
P.O. Box 71727
North Charleston, SC 29415
(843) 577-5460
Attorney for Plaintiff

SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF FILING COMPLAINT

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
Case No.:
2018-CP-43-02237

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF SUMTER

U.S. Bank, N.A., as Trustee, successor in interest to Wachovia Bank, National Association, as Trustee, successor by merger to First Union National Bank as Trustee, for Mid-State Trust XI,
Plaintiff,
v.
Lue Frances Walker a/k/a Lou Frances Walker a/k/a Lue F. Walker, Deceased, Carolyn W. Fullard, John Doe (a fictitious party representing all persons unknown claiming by or through the decedent, Lue Frances Walker); Also all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, estate, interest in or lien upon the real estate described in the complaint herein; and Richard Roe (a fictitious party representing all unknown persons be they minors, incompetents, or persons in the United States military services and subject to the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act of 2003, as amended, as heirs at law of Lue Frances Walker, deceased, if any), and Ford Motor Credit Company, LLC f/k/a Ford Motor Credit Company,
Defendants.

TO THE DEFENDANTS CAROLYN W. FULLARD AND UNKNOWN DEFENDANTS DESIGNATED BY THE CLASS AS JOHN DOE:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in the above entitled action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer upon the undersigned at their offices, Robinson Gray Stepp & Laffitte, LLC, P.O. Box 11449, Columbia, SC 29211, within thirty (30) days after service thereof upon you, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in said Complaint.

YOU WILL ALSO TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned attorney on behalf of the Plaintiff herein, will seek the agreement and stipulation of all parties not in default for an Order of Reference to the Master in Equity for Sumter stipulating that said Master in Equity may enter a final judgment in this case.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the original Complaint and Notice of Foreclosure Intervention in the above entitled action were filed in the office of the Clerk of Court for Sumter County on December 19, 2018.

PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN AD LITEM NISI AND CONSENT.

The Plaintiff would respectfully show unto the court: This is an action to foreclose a mortgage of certain real estate located within Sumter County, South Carolina. Petitioner has been informed Lue Frances Walker a/k/a Lou Frances Walker a/k/a Lue F. Walker is deceased. In order that all persons who may have some interest in the property by and through Lue Frances Walker a/k/a Lou Frances Walker a/k/a Lue F. Walker may be brought before this court, all such unknown persons have been named party defendants, of which all unknown minors and persons under disability are constituted as a class designated as "Richard Roe"; and it is necessary that some discreet, competent person be appointed to represent such unknown minors and persons under disability, unless such persons, or someone on their behalf, should apply to the court for such an appointment. Plaintiff is informed and believes that Kelley Y. Woody is a competent and discreet person to so act.







Summons & Notice

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff moves that Kelley Y. Woody be appointed Guardian ad Litem Nisi to represent the unknown minors and persons under disability who have, or may claim to have, some interest in or claim to the subject real property, and should so serve unless and until any of these persons shall secure, by appropriate proceedings, the appointment of another to so act. Plaintiff also moves that the appointment should automatically be made absolute should the defendants so represented fail to move before the court to secure the appointment of a representative of their choice.

CONSENT TO APPOINTMENT.

I consent to act as Guardian ad Litem Nisi for all the unknown minors and persons who may be under a disability and who have, or may claim to have, an interest in or claim to the real property described herein, until and unless the court shall subsequently appoint others to serve as Guardian ad Litem.

Order for Appointment of Guardian Ad Litem NISI.

IT APPEARING to the Court from the foregoing petition and consent that Kelley Y. Woody has consented to act and represent Defendants representing such unknown minors and persons under disability who may have some interest in the subject property, and it appearing that Kelley Y. Woody is fully competent to represent the interests of said Defendants.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that Kelley Y. Woody be, and she hereby is appointed to act as guardian ad litem nisi to represent the unknown minors and persons under disability who have, or may claim to have, some interest in or claim to the subject real property and shall so serve unless and until any of these persons shall secure by appropriate proceedings the appointment of another to so act. The appointment shall automatically be made absolute should the Defendants so represented fail to move before the court to secure the appointment of a representative of their choice.

PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF ATTORNEY FOR PERSONS IN MILITARY SERVICE AND CONSENT

The plaintiff would respectfully show unto the court: This is an action for the foreclosure of a real estate mortgage. Petitioner has been informed Lue Frances Walker a/k/a Lou Frances Walker a/k/a Lue F. Walker is deceased. Plaintiff is without sufficient knowledge or information to determine whether any defendants, known or unknown, are in the military service of the United States of America, thereby being entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act of 2003, as amended. Kelley Y. Woody, a member of the South Carolina Bar, is fully competent to protect the interests and rights of any defendant, known or unknown, who may be in the military service and that she has no interest in the real estate being foreclosed nor any interest adverse to that of the defendants.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff moves that Kelley Y. Woody be appointed as attorney for any defendant, known or unknown, who may be in the military service and therefore entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act of 2003, as amended.

CONSENT TO APPOINTMENT

I consent to act as attorney for any defendant, known or unknown, who may be in the military service of the United States of America and thereby entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act of 2003, as amended. I have no interest in the real estate being foreclosed and have no interest adverse to that of the defendants.

Order for Appointment of Attorney for Persons in Military Service.

It appearing to the court from the foregoing Petition and Consent that Kelley Y. Woody has consented to act and represent defendants, known and unknown, who may be in the military service of the United States of America, and it appearing that Kelley Y. Woody is fully competent to represent the interests of said defendants,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Kelley Y. Woody be, and she hereby is, appointed to represent the defendant who may be in the military service of the United States of America and who may thereby be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act of 2003, as amended, and to protect their interests.

LIS PENDENS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an action has been commenced by the Plaintiff above named against the Defendants above named for the foreclosure of a certain mortgage given by Carolyn W. Fullard and Lue F. Walker to Jim Walter Homes, Inc. dated the 3rd day of September, 2002 and recorded the 3rd day of October, 2002 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County, in Book 859 at Page 115, and subsequently assigned to the Plaintiff. The description of the premises as contained in said mortgage is as follows: All those two lots or parcels of land in School District 2, County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, together containing two acres, shown as Lots 2 and 3 on plat of H.S. Wilson, RLS, dated August 27, 1960, recorded in Plat Book Z-17, page 66, Sumter County RMC records, together being bounded now or formerly on the North by lands of Clifton Nelson, 549.8 feet; East by county road known as the Nero Road, 157.4 feet; South by Parcel 1, said plat, 549.9 feet; and West by property now or formerly of Estelle Nelson Dunlap, 157.4 feet; be all said measurements a little more or less and according to said plat. This being the same property conveyed to Lue Frances Walker by deed of George R. Walker, as Trustee dated September 22, 1997 and recored in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County in Deed Book 734 at page 584 on March 12, 1999. TMS#: 367-05-02-012.

J. Kershaw Spong
[SC Bar # 5289]
ROBINSON GRAY STEPP & LAFFITTE, LLC
P.O. Box 11449
Columbia, SC 29211
(803) 929-1400
Email: kspong@robinsongray.com
Attorney for Plaintiff

Kelley Y. Woody
[SC Bar # 7307]
PO Box 6432
Columbia, SC 29260
(803) 787-9678
Email: kwoody@sc.rr.com

James C. Campbell
Sumter County Clerk of Court
January 22, 2019

George M. McFaddin, Jr.
January 29, 2019

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF FILING OF COMPLAINT AND NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE INTERVENTION
(NON-JURY MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE)
C/A NO: 2018-CP-43-01607
DEFICIENCY WAIVED

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF SUMTER

Freedom Mortgage Corporation,
PLAINTIFF,
vs.
Kenneth C. Maness,
DEFENDANT(S)

TO THE DEFENDANTS, ABOVE NAMED:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint herein, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, or otherwise appear and defend, and to serve a copy of your Answer to said Complaint upon the subscriber at his office, Hutchens Law Firm P.O. Box 8237, Columbia, SC 29202, within thirty (30) days after service hereof, except as to the United States of America, which shall have sixty (60) days, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, or otherwise appear and defend, the Plaintiff in this action will apply to the Court for the relief demanded therein, and judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

YOU WILL ALSO TAKE NOTICE that should you fail to Answer the foregoing Summons, the Plaintiff will move for an Order of Reference of this case to the Master in Equity for Sumter County, which Order shall, pursuant to Rule 53 of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure, specifically provide that the said Master in Equity is authorized and empowered to enter a final judgment in this case with appeal only to the South Carolina Court of Appeals pursuant to Rule 203(d)(1) of the SCAR, effective June 1, 1999.

TO MINOR(S) OVER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE, AND/OR TO MINOR(S) UNDER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND THE PERSON WITH WHOM THE MINOR(S) RESIDES, AND/OR TO PERSONS UNDER SOME LEGAL DISABILITY:

YOU ARE FURTHER SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to apply for the appointment of a guardian ad litem within thirty (30) days after the service of this Summons and Notice upon you. If you fail to do so, application for such appointment will be made by the Plaintiff immediately and separately and such application will be deemed absolute and total in the absence of your application for such an appointment within thirty (30) days after the service of the Summons and Complaint upon you.

YOU WILL ALSO TAKE NOTICE that should you fail to Answer the foregoing Summons, the Plaintiff will move for an Order of Reference of this case to the Master in Equity in/for this County, which Order shall, pursuant to Rule 53 of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure, specifically provide that the said Master in Equity is authorized and empowered to enter a final judgment in this case with appeal only to the South Carolina Court of Appeals pursuant to Rule 203(d)(1) of the SCAR, effective June 1, 1999.

NOTICE OF FILING OF SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT

TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED:

YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the foregoing Summons, along with the Complaint, was filed with the Clerk of Court for Sumter County, South Carolina, on September 6, 2018.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE INTERVENTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the South Carolina Supreme Court Administrative Order 2011-05-02-01, (hereinafter "Order"), you may have a right to Foreclosure Intervention.

To be considered for any available Foreclosure Intervention, you may communicate with and otherwise deal with the Plaintiff through its law firm, Hutchens Law Firm, P.O. Box 8237, Columbia, SC 29202 or call 803-726-2700. Hutchens Law Firm, represents the Plaintiff in this action and does not represent you. Under our ethical rules, we are prohibited from giving you any legal advice.

You must submit any requests for Foreclosure Intervention consideration within 30 days from the date of this Notice.

IF YOU FAIL, REFUSE, OR VOLUNTARILY ELECT NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN FORECLOSURE INTERVENTION, YOUR MORTGAGE COMPANY/AGENT MAY PROCEED WITH A FORECLOSURE ACTION.

If you have already pursued loss mitigation with the Plaintiff, this Notice does not guarantee the availability of loss mitigation options or further review of your qualifications.

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THE PURPOSE OF THIS COMMUNICATION IS TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE, except as stated below in the instance of bankruptcy protection.

IF YOU ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE BANKRUPTCY COURT OR HAVE BEEN DISCHARGED AS A RESULT OF A BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDING, THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU PURSUANT TO STATUTORY REQUIREMENT AND FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES AND IS NOT INTENDED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT OR AS AN ACT TO COLLECT, ASSESS, OR RECOVER ALL OR ANY PORTION OF THE DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY.

SUMMONS AND NOTICES (Non-Jury) FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
C/A NO.:
2019-CP-43-00034

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF SUMTER

PennyMac Loan Services, LLC,
Plaintiff,
v.
Charles D. Baxter; Lou B. McDowell; South Carolina Department of Revenue; SC Housing Corp.; 1st Franklin Financial Corporation a/k/a 1st Franklin Financial; Midland Funding LLC,
Defendant(s).

TO THE DEFENDANT(S) ABOVE NAMED:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend by answering the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is hereby served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer on the subscribers at their offices at 3800 Fernandina Road, Suite 110, Columbia, SC 29210, within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; except that the United States of America, if named, shall have sixty (60) days to answer after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to do so, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

TO MINOR(S) OVER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE, AND/OR TO MINOR(S) UNDER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND THE PERSON WITH WHOM THE MINOR(S) RESIDES, AND/OR TO PERSONS UNDER SOME LEGAL DISABILITY:

YOU ARE FURTHER SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to apply for the appointment of a guardian ad litem within thirty (30) days after the service of this Summons and Notice upon you. If you fail to do so, application for such appointment will be made by Attorney for Plaintiff.

YOU WILL ALSO TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff will move for an Order of Reference or the Court may issue a general Order of Reference of this action to a Master-in-Equity/Special Referee, pursuant to Rule 53 of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure.

YOU WILL ALSO TAKE NOTICE that under the provisions of S.C. Code Ann. § 29-3-100, effective June 16, 1993, any collateral assignment of rents contained in the referenced Mortgage is perfected and Attorney for Plaintiff hereby gives notice that all rents shall be payable directly to it by delivery to its undersigned attorneys from the date of default. In the alternative, Plaintiff will move before a judge of this Circuit on the 10th day after service hereof, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, for an Order enforcing the assignment of rents, if any, and compelling payment of all rents covered by such assignment directly to the Plaintiff, which motion is to be based upon the original Note and Mortgage herein and the Complaint attached hereto.

NOTICE OF FILING COMPLAINT

TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED:

YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the original Complaint, Cover Sheet for Civil Actions and Certificate of Exemption from ADR in the above entitled action was filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Sumter County on January 10, 2019. A Notice of Foreclosure Intervention was also filed in the Clerk of Court's Office.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
3800 Fernandina Road, Suite 110
Columbia, SC 29210
Phone 844-856-6646
Fax 803-454-3451
Attorneys for Plaintiff

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, TENNESSEE AT CLARKSVILLE

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE
CASE NUMBER 16-CV-1086

You are ordered to appear and defend a civil action filed against you entitled

Shurrander Youngblood
v.
Walter Edward Youngblood, Jr.

Which has been filed in Circuit Court, Montgomery County, Tennessee, and your defense must be made within thirty (30) days from the date of the last publication of this notice, which shall be published for four consecutive weeks in the The Item. You are further directed to file your defense with the Clerk of the Court and send a copy to the Plaintiff's attorney at the address listed below. In case of your failure to defend this action by the above date, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Plaintiff's Attorney:
Daniel P. Bryant
318 Franklin Street
Clarksville, Tennessee 37040
(931) 896-2400





the Sumter ITEM FOOD

Call Rhonda Barrick at: (803) 774-1264 | **E-mail:** rhondab@theitem.com

Rosemary Focaccia straight from your oven

BY AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN



Centuries ago, focaccia began as a by-product: When bakers needed to gauge the heat of the wood-fired oven — focaccia stems from focolare and means "fireplace"— they would tear off a swatch of dough, flatten it, drizzle it with olive oil and pop it into the hearth to bake as an edible oven thermometer.

From there evolved countless variations on the theme — the stuffed pizza-like focaccia in Puglia and Calabria, the ring-shaped focaccia in Naples, focaccia made from rich or lean doughs, and even sweet versions. That said, it's the dimpled, chewy, herb-topped deep-dish focaccia alla genovese that's most fundamental.

As is traditional, our recipe starts with a sponge — a mixture of flour, yeast, and water that ferments for at least 6 hours before it's added to the bulk dough. The sponge helped develop gluten (which gives breads structure and chew), depth of flavor and a hint of tang.

Rather than knead the dough, we simply used a series of gentle folds, which developed the gluten structure further while also incorporating air for a tender interior crumb. (This method was also helpful because our dough was quite wet and therefore difficult to knead; the more hydrated a bread dough, the more open and bubbly its crumb — a characteristic we were looking for in focaccia — because steam bubbles form and expand more readily.)

Fruity olive oil is a requisite ingredient, but when we added it straight to the dough, it turned the bread dense and cakelike. Instead, we baked the bread in cake pans coated with a couple tablespoons of oil. Be sure to reduce the temperature immediately after putting the loaves in the oven.

ROSEMARY FOCACCIA

Servings: 12-16 (Makes two 9-inch round loaves)
Start to finish: 4 1/2 hours plus 6 hours fermenting time
Sponge:
1/2 cup (2 1/2 ounces) all-purpose flour
1/3 cup water, room temperature
1/4 teaspoon instant or rapid-rise yeast
Dough:
2 1/2 cups (12 1/2 ounces) all-purpose flour
1 1/4 cups water, room temperature
1 teaspoon instant or rapid-rise yeast
Kosher salt
1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons chopped fresh rosemary

For the sponge: Stir all ingredients in large bowl with wooden spoon until well combined. Cover tightly with plastic wrap, and let sit at room temperature until sponge has risen and begins to collapse, about 6 hours (sponge can sit at room temperature for up to 24 hours).

For the dough: Stir flour, water and yeast into sponge with wooden spoon until well combined. Cover bowl tightly with plastic, and let dough rest for 15 minutes.

Stir 2 teaspoons salt into dough with wooden spoon until thoroughly incorporated, about 1 minute. Cover bowl tightly with plastic, and let dough rest for 30 minutes.

Using greased bowl scraper (or rubber spatula), fold dough over itself by gently lifting and folding edge of dough toward middle. Turn bowl 45 degrees, and fold dough again; repeat turning bowl and folding dough 6 more times (total of 8 folds). Cover tightly with plastic, and let rise for 30 minutes. Repeat folding and rising. Fold dough again, then cover bowl tightly with plastic, and let dough rise until nearly doubled in size, 30 minutes to 1 hour.

One hour before baking, adjust oven rack to upper-middle position, place baking stone on rack, and heat oven to 500 F. Coat two 9-inch round cake pans with 2 tablespoons oil each. Sprinkle each pan with 1/2 teaspoon salt. Transfer dough to lightly floured counter, and dust top with flour. Divide dough in half and cover loosely with greased plastic. Working with 1 piece of dough at a time (keep remaining piece covered), shape into 5-inch round by gently tucking under edges.

Place dough rounds seam side up in prepared pans, coat bottoms and sides with oil, then flip rounds over. Cover loosely with greased plastic, and let dough rest for 5 minutes.

Using your fingertips, gently press each dough round into corners of pan, taking care not to tear dough. (If dough resists stretching, let it relax for 5 to 10 minutes before trying to stretch it again.) Using fork, poke surface of dough 25 to 30 times, popping any large bubbles. Sprinkle 1 tablespoon rosemary evenly over top of each loaf, cover loosely with greased plastic, and let dough rest until slightly bubbly, about 10 minutes.

Place pans on baking stone, and reduce oven temperature to 450 F. Bake until tops are golden brown, 25 to 30 minutes, rotating pans halfway through baking. Let loaves cool in pans for 5 minutes. Remove loaves from pans, and transfer to wire rack. Brush tops with any oil remaining in pans, and let cool for 30 minutes. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Nutrition information per serving: 158 calories; 45 calories from fat; 5 g fat (1 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 0 mg cholesterol; 81 mg sodium; 24 g carbohydrate; 1 g fiber; 0 g sugar; 3 g protein.

For more recipes, cooking tips and ingredient and product reviews, visit *https://www.americastestkitchen.com*. Find more recipes like Rosemary Focaccia in "Tasting Italy ."

Retool the classic pound cake to make it ultra-chocolatey

BY AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN

We love pound cake and we love chocolate, but the combination is often a disappointment. That's because most recipes simply add chocolate to a standard pound cake recipe, which mars its finely tuned texture and usually produces lackluster chocolate flavor.

We wanted to retool classic pound cake to make it ultra-chocolatey without compromising its hallmark velvety-soft crumb. For deep chocolate flavor we used mostly Dutch-processed cocoa powder, which incorporated seamlessly into the batter; a couple ounces of milk chocolate added richness without interfering with the cake's texture.

We bloomed both the cocoa and the bar chocolate in hot water to maximize their impact. For an accurate measurement of boiling water, bring a full kettle of water to a boil and then measure out the desired amount. The test kitchen's preferred loaf pan measures 8 1/2-by-4 1/2 inches; if you use a 9-by 5-inch loaf pan, start checking for doneness 5 minutes early.

CHOCOLATE POUND CAKE

Servings: 8
Start to finish: 1 hour, 45 minutes
1 cup (5 ounces) all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup (2 1/4 ounces) Dutch-processed cocoa powder
2 ounces milk chocolate, chopped fine
1/3 cup boiling water
16 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut into 16 pieces and softened
1 cup (7 ounces) granulated sugar
1/4 cup packed (1 3/4 ounces) light brown sugar
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
5 large eggs, room temperature

Adjust oven rack to lower-middle position, and heat oven to 325 F. Grease and flour 8 1/2-by-4 1/2-inch loaf pan. Whisk flour and salt together in bowl.

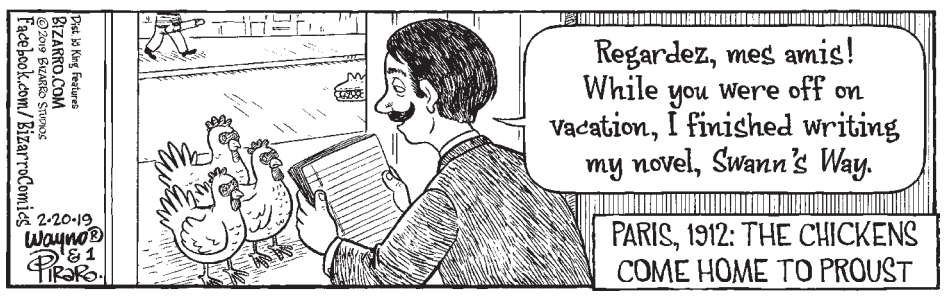
Place cocoa and chocolate in bowl. Pour boiling water over cocoa mixture, and stir until chocolate is melted and no dry streaks of cocoa remain. Let mixture cool for 5 minutes.

Using stand mixer fitted with paddle, beat butter, granulated sugar, brown sugar, vanilla and cocoa mixture on medium-high speed until fluffy, 2 to 3 minutes. Add eggs, one at a time, and beat until combined. Reduce speed to low, and add flour mixture in 3 additions, scraping down bowl as needed, until just combined (batter may look slightly curdled). Give batter final stir by hand.



Transfer batter to prepared pan, and gently tap pan on counter to release air bubbles. Bake until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, 1 hour to 1 hour 10 minutes, rotating pan halfway through baking. Let cake cool in pan on wire rack for 10 minutes. Remove cake from pan, and let cool completely on rack, about 2 hours. Serve. (Cake can be stored at room temperature for up to 3 days or frozen for up to 1 month; defrost cake at room temperature.)

BIZARRO



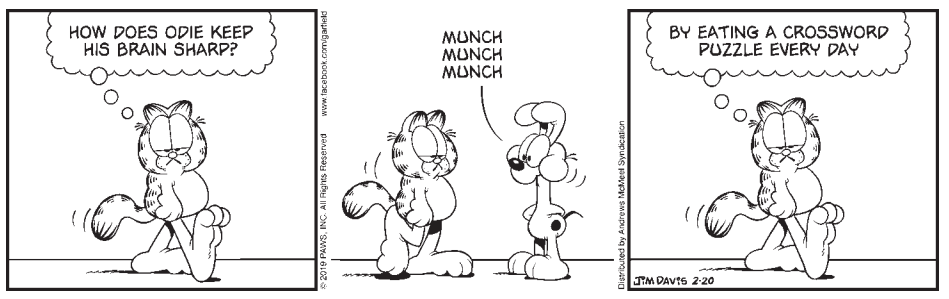
WALLACE THE BRAVE



ANDY CAPP



GARFIELD



BEETLE BAILEY



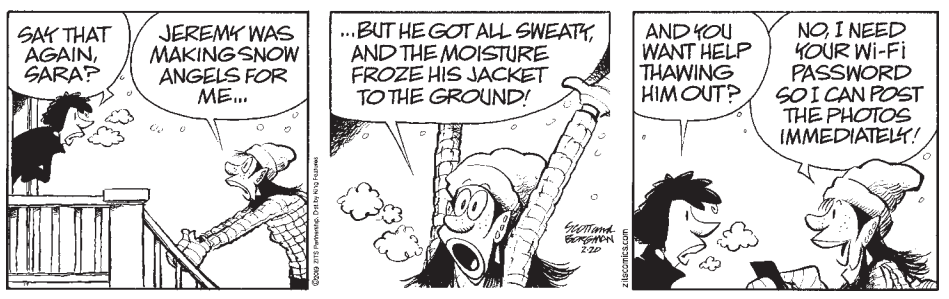
BORN LOSER



BLONDIE



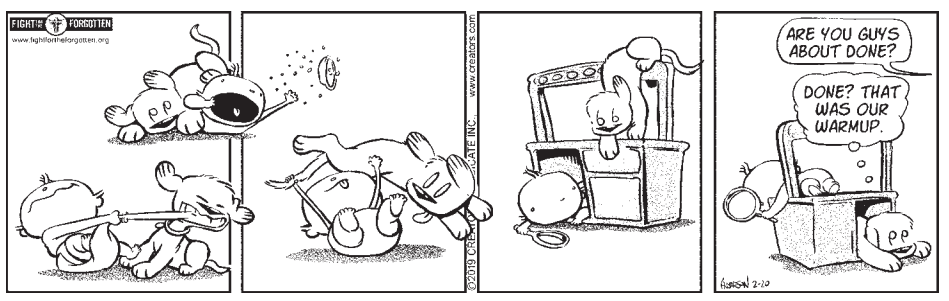
ZITS



MOTHER GOOSE



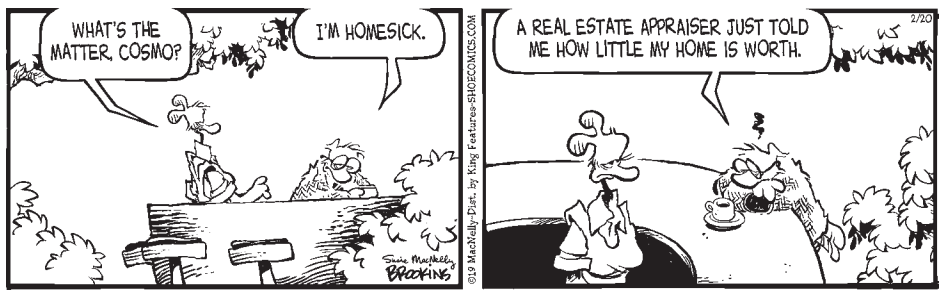
DOG EAT DOUG



DILBERT



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE



Grandma's heart is broken in man's war with mom



Dear Abby
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY — I'm close to 70 and have three grown children. I've been a widow for 15 years. My oldest son, age 45, has pretty much cut himself off from our fairly close family. His reason: Two years ago, after I had surgery for lung cancer, he claims I told him I wished I had never had children. This couldn't be further from the truth. All three of mine were planned.

My other children decided the hospital was overmedicating me and that most of what I was babbling was nonsense. I only remember bits and pieces and have no idea whether my recollections are accurate.

I have no problem dealing with my son's attitude; I'm a realist. The problem is the way it's affecting my 90-year-old mother, who lives with me. She feels he has cut her out of his life, too, because of me, and it appears she's right.

How can we convince him he's ripping his grandmother's heart out when he won't talk to either of us? She doesn't deserve such treatment, and he has no right to hurt her this way.

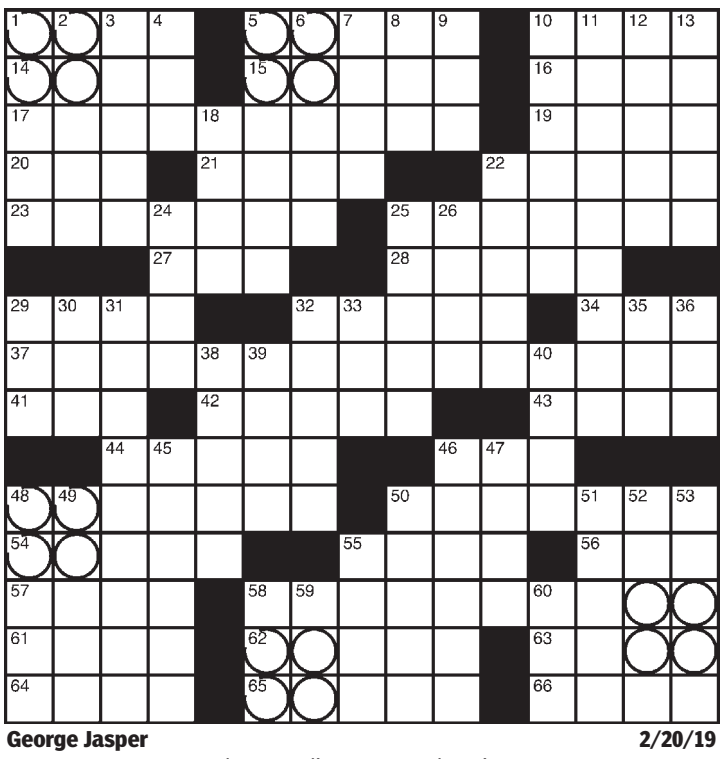
Bewildered in Florida

DEAR BEWILDERED — If this is the ONLY reason for the estrangement from your son — which I doubt — have his siblings talk to him and point out that: (1) You were so drugged up after your surgery you were not in your right mind, therefore you shouldn't be punished or held responsible for any gibberish that came out of your mouth during that period, and (2) it is wrong to punish Granny in such a heartless fashion for something that has nothing to do with her. Perhaps they will be able to get through to him where you cannot.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at *www.DearAbby.com* or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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THE DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



George Jasper **2/20/19**

ACROSS
1 Gaping mouths
5 "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" composer
10 States in an outdated atlas: Abbr.
14 Nobelist Wiesel
15 Official mandate
16 Analogous (to)
17 One way to ride a horse
19 Stereotypical pooch
20 D.C.'s Pennsylvania, e.g.
21 Named, briefly
22 Shop talk
23 One in a hundred?
25 Cafeteria worker's cover
27 Affleck of "Gone Girl"
28 "Downton __": PBS show
29 Dramatic opening?
32 Many an emailer
34 '50s political monogram
37 Typical MLB pitching alignment, and a hint to this puzzle's circles
41 Train stopping at every sta.
42 They turn litmus paper red
43 Does impressions of
44 Grazing groups
46 "Gimme a __"
48 Large goblet
50 "Haven't the foggiest"
54 Bamboo lover
55 Alternative to fries
56 Korean automaker
57 Script fraction
58 Military expert, say
61 Sun Devils' rival
62 Canadian fliers
63 Language of Pakistan
64 Riverbank residue
65 Govt.-backed bond
66 "Freeze!"

DOWN
1 Small plateaus
2 Still in contention
3 Alleviate traffic on, perhaps
4 "Told you"
5 Exactly right
6 Milk source
7 10-time NBA All-Star Jason
8 Commonly injured knee part, briefly
9 Sault __ Marie
10 "On Language" columnist
11 Barely enjoy the pool?
12 First Homeland Security secretary
13 Condescending one
18 Place
22 First sign of fall
24 Rose's Broadway beau
25 Saintly glows
26 Drive the getaway car, say
29 Partner of 30-Down
30 Partner of 29-Down
31 Remote choice
32 Ouzo flavoring
33 MDW : Midway :: __ : O'Hare
35 Anonymous Jane
36 Peyton Manning's four?
38 Educator Montessori
39 Adapter letters
40 Delicate handling
45 Firstborn
46 Parlor piece
47 Let up
48 Just above average
49 One side of Hispaniola
50 Talk oneself up
51 School uniform part, perhaps
52 Foul up
53 Thoroughly enjoy
55 Early smartphone
58 Rank above cpl.
59 Coffee break time
60 Mercury astronaut Grissom

Previous Puzzle Solved

B	A	S	S	I			T	H	O	U		A	B	A
A	G	A	I	N			E	A	R	S		R	I	L
S	O	U	R	G	R	A	P	E	S			I	T	U
I	N	T	E	R	I	M		O	R	E	S	T	E	S
L	Y	E		A	L	O	T			S	T	E	R	
			U	T	E		O	R	A	T	O	R	I	O
M	A	S	S	E			S	T	A	L	E		E	N
I	M	A	C		U	M	A	M	I		I	N	S	P
N	I	L		P	R	E	S	S		T	I	D	E	S
I	N	T	R	A	N	E	T		P	O	I			
	O	N	A	N			E	T	S	Y		A	K	A
W	A	P	I	T	I	S		E	A	S	T	M	A	N
A	C	E	S		S	W	E	E	T	H	E	A	R	T
R	I	P	E		N	A	N	U		O	A	T	E	S
P	D	A	S		T	B	S	P		P	L	I	N	Y

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ATBEA

SEMYS

CNECTA

KMIYSP



Get the free JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: " " " "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: VISOR TRACT WIGGLE FEWEST
Answer: Many people saw "Star Wars" multiple times and gave it — GREAT "RE-VIEWS"

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SUDOKU

HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

9	2	5	7	3	8	1	4	6
6	8	3	5	1	4	7	2	9
1	4	7	9	2	6	5	8	3
5	7	8	4	9	3	6	1	2
2	9	1	8	6	7	4	3	5
3	6	4	1	5	2	8	9	7
4	1	2	3	7	5	9	6	8
7	3	9	6	8	1	2	5	4
8	5	6	2	4	9	3	7	1

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

		1	4	3				6
				2		4		
9		3				2		1
					8	5	9	
	2	8		7		1	4	
	5	9	2					
4		7				3		8
		5		6				
3				8	4	7		

2/20

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	SP	FT	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM
LOCAL CHANNELS													
WIS 10	3	10	**WIS News 10 at 7** (N)	**Entertainment Tonight** (N)	**Chicago Med** "We Hold These Truths" Dr. Charles' ex-wife comes to town. (N) (DVS)		**Chicago Fire** "What I Saw" Voight recruits Cruz to go under cover. (N) (DVS)		**Chicago P.D.** "Good Men" Intelligence works with the CFD. (N) (DVS)		**WIS News 10 at 11** (N)	**(:34) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon** (N)	
WLTX 19	9	9	**News 19 at 7pm** (N)	**Inside Edition** (N)	**Survivor** "It Smells Like Success" (Season Premiere) Castaways tackle a giant puzzle. (N)		**(:01) The World's Best** "The Battle Round, Part 1" (N)				**News 19 at 11pm** (N)	**(:35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert**	
WOLO 25	5	12	**Wheel of Fortune** "GAC Nashville" (N)	**Jeopardy!** "Jeopardy! All-Star Games" (N)	**The Goldbergs** Barry tries to keep the JTP together.	**Schooled** Lainey teaches an easy course for jocks.	**Modern Family** Jay hosts a Super Bowl party. (N)	**(:31) Single Parents** "John Freakin' Stamos"	**Match Game** Mario Cantone; Raven-Symoné. (N) (DVS)		**ABC Columbia News at 11** (N)	**(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live**	
WRJA 27	11	14	**Beyond Your Backyard**	**Expeditions With Patrick McMillan**	**Nature** "Living Volcanoes" Active volcanoes. (N) (DVS)		**NOVA** "The Next Pompeii" Ancient supervolcano in Naples, Italy. (N) (DVS)		**Secrets of the Dead** "The Nero Files" The life of the Roman emperor Nero. (N)		**Amanpour and Company** (N)		**Nature** "Living Volcanoes" Active volcanoes.
WACH 57	6	6	**The Big Bang Theory** A friendship is tested.	**The Big Bang Theory** "The Hot Troll Deviation"	**Gordon Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell and Back** "Los Toros Mexican Restaurant" An attempt to revamp Los Toros. (N)		**The Masked Singer** "Semi Finals: Double Unmasking" Two celebrities are unmasked. (N) (DVS)		**WACH FOX News at 10** (N) (Live)		**Sports Zone**	**DailyMailTV** (N)	**TMZ** (N)
WKTC 63	4	22	**Last Man Standing** Mike takes Boyd trick-or-treating.	**Last Man Standing** Kristin thinks about her future.	**Riverdale** "Chapter Forty-Two: The Man in Black" Archie meets Laurie Lake.		**All American** "m.A.A.d. city" Coop becomes more involved in gang life.		**Dateline** "Good & Evil" A body turns up at a trash facility.		**Dateline** "Deadly Trust" Suspects are arrested after 15 years.		**The Game** Melanie feels uncomfortable.
CABLE CHANNELS													
A&E	46	130	**Storage Wars**	**Storage Wars** "The Drone Wars"	**Storage Wars**	**Storage Wars** "Dial C for Chupacabra"	**Storage Wars** "Tour de Chance"	**Storage Wars**	**(:01) Storage Wars** (N)	**(:32) Storage Wars** (N)	**(:04) Storage Wars**	**(:34) Storage Wars** "Rene Abides"	**(12:03) Storage Wars**
AMC	48	180	**(6:00) ★★ "Rocky IV"** (1985, Drama) Sylvester Stallone, Talia Shire.		★★ **"I, Robot"** (2004, Science Fiction) Will Smith, Bridget Moynahan, Bruce Greenwood. A homicide detective tracks a dangerous robot in 2035.					**(:35) ★★★ "Die Hard"** (1988, Action) Bruce Willis, Alan Rickman. A New York policeman outwits foreign thugs in an L.A. high-rise.			
ANPL	41	100	**North Woods Law** "Turkey Trouble"		**North Woods Law: Uncuffed** "Shooting Season" Bad deer hunters in Maine. (N)				**North Woods Law** "Bait and Switch"		**North Woods Law** "Under the Radar"		**North Woods Law**
BET	61	162	**(5:55) The New Edition Story** Legendary R&B group New Edition. (Part 1 of 3)		**The New Edition Story** "Part Two" New Edition puts business first. (Part 2 of 3)				**(:03) The New Edition Story** "Part Three" New Edition reaches heights of success. (Part 3 of 3)				**(12:03) Martin**
BRAVO	47	181	**The Real Housewives of New Jersey** Margaret's Hospital Heroes event.		**The Real Housewives of New Jersey** Dolores makes a decision about Frank.		**The Real Housewives of New Jersey** "Reunion Part 1" (N)		**The Real Housewives of New Jersey** "Reunion Part 1" (Part 1 of 3)		**Watch What Happens Live**	**The Real Housewives of New Jersey** "Reunion Part 1" (Part 1 of 3)	
CNBC	35	84	**Deal or No Deal** "Father Knows Best"		**Deal or No Deal**		**Deal or No Deal** "Cowboy Up" (N)		**Deal or No Deal** "Ice Cream Dreams"		**Deal or No Deal**		**Deal or No Deal**
CNN	3	80	**Erin Burnett OutFront** (N)		**Anderson Cooper 360** (N)		**Cuomo Prime Time** (N)		**CNN Tonight With Don Lemon** (N)		**CNN Tonight With Don Lemon** (N)		**Anderson Cooper**
COM	57	136	**(6:55) South Park** "The Damned"	**South Park** "Wieners Out"	**South Park** "Let Go, Let Gov"	**South Park** "Gluten Free Ebola"	**South Park** "Stunning and Brave"	**South Park**	**South Park**	**South Park** "Goobacks"	**The Daily Show With Trevor Noah**	**(:36) Corporate**	**(12:06) South Park**
DISN	18	200	**Raven's Home**	**Raven's Home**	**Sydney to the Max**	**Coop & Cami Ask the World**	**Raven's Home**	**Raven's Home**	**Sydney to the Max**	**Coop & Cami Ask the World**	**Andi Mack**	**Raven's Home**	**Raven's Home**
DSC	42	103	**Moonshiners: Outlaw Cuts** (N)		**Moonshiners** Moonshine recipes. (N)		**(:01) Moonshiners** "Hillbilly Ingenuity"		**(:02) Homestead Rescue** "Fury & Fire"		**(:03) Homestead Rescue**		**Moonshiners**
ESPN	26	35	**College Basketball** Louisville at Syracuse. (N) (Live)				**College Basketball** North Carolina at Duke. (N) (Live)				**SportsCenter** (N) (Live)		**SportsCenter**
ESPN2	27	39	**College Basketball** Teams TBA. (N) (Live)				**College Basketball** Teams TBA. (N) (Live)				**Basketball**	**UFC Flashback**	**UFC Unleashed**
FOOD	40	109	**Guy's Grocery Games** "Rising Stars"		**Guy's Grocery Games**		**Guy's Grocery Games** (N)		**Guy's Grocery Games**		**Guy's Grocery Games**		**Guy's Games**
FOXN	37	90	**The Story With Martha MacCallum** (N)		**Tucker Carlson Tonight** (N)		**Hannity** (N)		**The Ingraham Angle** (N)		**Fox News at Night With Shannon**		**Tucker Carlson**
FREE	20	131	**(6:00) ★★ "Maleficent"** (2014) Angelina Jolie, Elle Fanning.		**grown-ish** "Body Count" (N)	**(:31) ★★★ "The Incredibles"** (2004, Children's) Voices of Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter, Samuel L. Jackson. Animated. A former superhero gets back into action.					**The 700 Club**		★★ **"Pocahontas"** (1995)
FSS	21	47	**Women's College Basketball** West Virginia at Oklahoma State. (N) (Live)				**College Basketball** Creighton at DePaul. From Wintrust Arena in Chicago. (N)				**Women's College Basketball:** Mountaineers at Cowboys		
HALL	52	183	**(6:00) "All of My Heart"** (2015) Lacey Chabert, Brennan Elliott, Ed Asner.		**"Love by Chance"** (2016, Romance) Ben Ayers, Beau Garrett, Brenda Strong. Claire has no idea that her new relationship wasn't fate.				**"Lucky in Love"** (2014, Romance-Comedy) Jessica Szohr, Benjamin Hollingsworth, Deidre Hall. Pranks on April Fools' Day change the life of a woman.				**The Golden Girls** "Love for Sale"
HGTV	39	112	**Property Brothers: Buying & Selling**		**Property Brothers**		**Property Brothers** (N)		**House Hunters** (N)	**Hunters Int'l**	**Property Brothers**		**Property Brothers**
HIST	45	110	**Forged in Fire** (DVS)		**Forged in Fire: Cutting Deeper** (N)		**Forged in Fire** (N) (DVS)		**(:03) Knight Fight** "Knights Templar"		**(:05) Forged in Fire** (DVS)		**Forged in Fire**
ION	13	18	**Blue Bloods** "Flags of Our Fathers" Danny's ex-partner faces an accusation.		**Blue Bloods** "Back in the Day" Jamie and Eddie face important choices.		**Blue Bloods** "Cursed" A mobster is found shot in his car. (DVS)		**Blue Bloods** "Stomping Grounds" A retired lieutenant accused of a crime.		**Blue Bloods** "The Road to Hell" Multiple women take credit for a murder.		**Blue Bloods** "Fresh Start"
LIFE	50	145	**Grey's Anatomy** A leak causes a flood at Seattle Grace.		**(:10) Project Runway All Stars** Willy Wonka provides inspiration. (N)		**Project Runway All Stars** Daytime separates get a nighttime look. (N)		**(:03) American Beauty Star** Creating "hero" and "villain" looks. (N)		**(:03) Project Runway All Stars** Daytime separates get a nighttime look.		**(12:11) Project Runway All Stars**
MSNBC	36	92	**Hardball With Chris Matthews** (N)		**All In With Chris Hayes** (N)		**The Rachel Maddow Show** (N)		**The Last Word**		**The 11th Hour With Brian Williams**		**Rachel Maddow**
NICK	16	210	**The Loud House**	**Henry Danger**	**SpongeBob**	**SpongeBob**	**SpongeBob**	**SpongeBob**	**The Office**	**The Office**	**Friends**	**Friends**	**Friends**
PARMT	64	153	**Mom**	**Mom**	★★ **"Bruce Almighty"** (2003) Jim Carrey, Morgan Freeman.				**(:15) ★★ "Bruce Almighty"** (2003, Comedy) Jim Carrey, Morgan Freeman.				
SYFY	58	152	**(6:28) ★★ "Blade II"** (2002, Horror) Wesley Snipes, Kris Kristofferson, Ron Perlman. A vampire hunter unites with his prey against a new threat.				**(8:59) The Magicians** Alice and Quentin confront a dog. (N)		**Deadly Class** "Stigmata Martyr" (N)		**Futurama** "Decision 3012"	**(:32) Futurama**	**(12:02) Futurama** "Zapp Dingbat"
TBS	24	156	**Miracle Workers** "13 Days"	**The Big Bang Theory**	**The Big Bang Theory**	**The Big Bang Theory**	**The Big Bang Theory**	**The Big Bang Theory**	**The Big Bang Theory**	**Full Frontal With Samantha Bee**	**Conan** Comic Tig Notaro.	**Full Frontal With Samantha Bee**	**New Girl** "Bad in Bed"
TCM	49	186	**(6:15) ★★★★ "12 Angry Men"** (1957, Drama) Henry Fonda, Lee J. Cobb.		★★★ **"The Private Life of Henry VIII"** (1933) Charles Laughton, Elsa Lanchester. A portrait of the 16th-century monarch and his many wives.				★★★★ **"A Man for All Seasons"** (1966, Historical Drama) Paul Scofield, Robert Shaw. Sir Thomas More has a fatal conflict with King Henry VIII.				**(12:15) "The High and the Mighty"**
TLC	43	157	**(6:00) My 600-Lb. Life**		**My 600-Lb. Life** "Maja's Story" Maja counts on herself. (N)				**Family by the Ton** (N)		**My 600-Lb. Life** "Chay's Story"		**My 600-Lb. Life**
TNT	23	158	**(5:30) ★★ "Shooter"** (2007) Mark Wahlberg, Michael Peña. (DVS)		★★ **"Red"** (2010, Action) Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman, John Malkovich. The CIA targets a team of former agents for assassination. (DVS)				**Drop the Mic** (N)	**Snoop Dogg: Joker's Wild**	★★ **"Focus"** (2015) Will Smith. A con man's former protege/lover throws him off his game. (DVS)		
TRUTV	38	129	**Impractical Jokers**	**Impractical Jokers**	**Impractical Jokers**	**Impractical Jokers**	**Impractical Jokers**	**Impractical Jokers**	**I'm Sorry** (N)	**Impractical Jokers**	**Impractical Jokers**	**Impractical Jokers**	**Impractical Jokers**
TV LAND	55	161	**(6:55) M*A*S*H**	**M*A*S*H**	**Love-Raymond**	**Love-Raymond**	**(:15) Everybody Loves Raymond**		**Two and Half Men**	**Two and Half Men**	**King of Queens**	**King of Queens**	**King of Queens**
USA	25	132	**Law & Order: Special Victims Unit** "Lead" A pediatrician is murdered.		**Law & Order: Special Victims Unit** A pundit is assaulted during a protest.		**Law & Order: Special Victims Unit** An infant goes missing. (DVS)		**Suits** "Stalking Horse" Samantha helps Louis get justice. (N) (DVS)		**Law & Order: Special Victims Unit** "Futility" A man handles his own defense.		**Law & Order: Special Victims Unit**
WE	68	166	**(:15) ★★★ "Crazy, Stupid, Love."** (2011, Romance-Comedy) Steve Carell, Ryan Gosling.					**(:45) ★★ "Sex and the City"** (2008, Romance-Comedy) Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall, Chris Noth.					
WGNA	8	172	**Last Man Standing**	★★ **"XXX"** (2002) Vin Diesel, Asia Argento. A spy tries to stop an anarchist with weapons.					**Pure** "Communion" (N) (DVS)		★★ **"XXX"** (2002) Vin Diesel, Asia Argento.		

CBS launches the 38th incarnation of 'Survivor'

BY KEVIN McDONOUGH

"Survivor" (8 p.m., CBS, TV-PG) returns for a 38th season. The title of this new helping is "Survivor: Edge of Extinction." One can only hope.

Look for 14 new contestants as well as four from "Survivor" seasons past. Like six other contests, this one was filmed in Fiji. For those keeping score, contestants are divided into tribes named Kama and Manu.

Anything that's lasted 38 seasons must have some appeal. But what exactly is "Survivor" worth? We've entered an age of streaming and binging and of people watching and re-watching content on demand. "Survivor" and similar shows are more like sporting events. Once you've seen them, do you ever want to watch them again?

The key to a hit scripted TV series is the hope you'll last long enough to go into syndication and make money off of reruns. That's called residual value. Netflix has paid a fortune to stream episodes of "Friends" from the 1990s. Heck, "The Honeymooners" retains some residual value after more than 60 years.

Do old "Survivor" episodes have such value? Does anybody watch them twice? Or are they the equivalent of a Happy Meal, as forgettable as yesterday's "Wheel of Fortune"? Asking for a friend.

• The sketch comedy showcase **"Documentary Now!"** (11 p.m., IFC, TV-14) returns for a third season. Co-created by Fred Armisen, Bill Hader, Seth Meyers and Rhys Thomas, and executive produced by Lorne Michaels, "Now" offers elaborate send-ups of documentaries famous and obscure.

Tonight's helping, "Batsh*t Valley: Part 1/Part 2" is based on recent films "Wild Wild Country" and "The Source Family," both tales of counterculture communes and secretive cults. Look for performances by Michael Keaton and Owen Wilson.

Humor often breaks down to smart or clever — or "I'm so clever." "Documentary Now!" falls into the last category.

• **"Secrets of the Dead"** (10 p.m., PBS, TV-PG, check local listings) returns to look at the legends surrounding Roman Emperor Nero. One of history's great heavies, he's been accused of killing his stepbrother, wife and mother; persecuting Christians and setting Rome ablaze.



TIMOTHY KURATEK / CBS

The Kama and Mana Tribes appear on the "It Smells Like Success" premiere episode of "Survivor: Edge of Extinction," airing at 8 p.m. today on CBS.

He's been the toga-wearing villain of epic movies including "Sign of the Cross" (Charles Laughton, 1932) and "Quo Vadis" (Peter Ustinov, 1951). Some contend that Nero was the inspiration for the notion of an Antichrist cited in the New Testament and popularized in the "Left Behind" series of end times novels. Some contend that the number 666 is code for Nero.

"The Nero Files" takes a hard, "cold case" approach to the charges leveled against the emperor and wonders if some haven't been embroidered over the centuries.

TONIGHT'S OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

• A pickup truck loses control on **"Chicago Med"** (8 p.m., NBC, TV-14).

• **"Gordon Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell and Back"** (8 p.m., Fox, TV-14) spends one day in the Valley.

• A string of robberies on **"Chicago Fire"** (9 p.m., NBC, TV-14) leads to interdepartmental tensions on **"Chicago P.D."** (10 p.m., NBC, TV-14).

• After tonight's elimination on **"The Masked Singer"** (9 p.m., Fox, TV-PG), only three will remain.

• **"NOVA"** (8 p.m., PBS, TV-PG, check local listings) looks at volcanos threatening Naples.

• Alec Baldwin hosts **"Match Game"** (10 p.m., ABC, TV-14).

CULT CHOICE

The 2008 musical history **"Cadillac Records"** (9 p.m., TV One) recalls the Chess label that both popularized and exploited R&B talent. Adrien Brody, Jeffrey Wright and Beyonce headline an impressive cast.

SERIES NOTES

Adam and Johnny bicker on **"The Goldbergs"** (8 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) * Archie meets Laurie Lake on **"Riverdale"** (8 p.m., CW, r, TV-14) * Lainey teaches an easy course for jocks on **"Schooled"** (8:30 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) * Amateurs compete on **"The World's Best"** (9 p.m., CBS, TV-PG) * A party for the big game on **"Modern Family"** (9 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) * Coop sinks deeper into the gang life on **"All American"** (9 p.m., CW, r, TV-14) * Poppy freaks about her ex's new relationship on **"Single Parents"** (9:30 p.m., ABC, TV-PG).

LATE NIGHT

Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) sits down on **"The Daily Show With Trevor Noah"** (11 p.m., Comedy Central) * Tig Notaro appears on **"Conan"** (11 p.m., TBS, r) * Reba McEntire, Margaret Brennan and Colin Quinn are booked on **"The Late Show With Stephen Colbert"** (11:35 p.m., CBS) * Jimmy Fallon welcomes Savannah Guthrie, Hoda Kotb, Daveed Diggs and Mo Amer on **"The Tonight Show"** (11:35 p.m., NBC) * Viggo Mortensen, Rita Moreno and Summer Walker appear on **"Jimmy Kimmel Live"** (11:35 p.m., ABC, r) * Natasha Lyonne, Donny Deutsch, Drew Tarver, Helene Yorke and Jeff Friedl visit **"Late Night With Seth Meyers"** (12:35 a.m., NBC) * Kate Walsh, Stephen Merchant and Natalie Prass appear on **"The Late Late Show With James Corden"** (12:35 a.m., CBS).

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ELIZABETH KARMEL VIA AP

Chicken Enchiladas are easier with a slow cooker

BY AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN

Chicken enchiladas offer a rich and complex combination of flavors and textures, but traditional cooking methods can be tedious.

We wanted a more streamlined recipe for chicken enchiladas — one that utilized our slow cooker to make the filling and that enabled the enchiladas to be quickly assembled and finished in the oven.

First we created a simple but flavorful red chile sauce with onion, garlic, spices and tomato sauce, then braised chicken thighs directly in the sauce, which both enhanced the flavor of the sauce and ensured moist, flavorful meat for our enchilada filling.

Monterey Jack cheese complemented the rich filling nicely, while canned jalapenos and fresh cilantro rounded out the flavors and provided tang and brightness. When it came time for assembly, we brushed the tortillas with oil and microwaved them to make them pliable.

After experimenting with oven temperatures and times, we found that baking the assembled enchiladas covered for 15 minutes in a 450 F oven resulted in perfectly melted cheese, and the edges of the tortillas did not dry out in the process.

Serve with sour cream, diced avocado, sliced radishes, shredded romaine lettuce and lime wedges.

CHICKEN ENCHILADAS

Servings: 4-6
Cooking time: 4 to 5 hours on low
Slow cooker size: 4 to 7 quarts
1 onion, chopped fine
1/4 cup vegetable oil
3 tablespoons chili powder
3 garlic cloves, minced
2 teaspoons ground coriander
2 teaspoons ground cumin
1 (15-ounce) can tomato sauce
2 teaspoons sugar
1 pound boneless, skinless chicken thighs, trimmed
Salt and pepper
8 ounces Monterey Jack cheese, shredded (2 cups)
1/2 cup minced fresh cilantro
1/4 cup jarred jalapenos, chopped
1 tablespoon lime juice
12 (6-inch) corn tortillas

Microwave onion, 2 tablespoons oil, chili powder, garlic, coriander, and cumin in bowl, stirring occasionally, until onions are softened, about 5 minutes; transfer to slow cooker. Stir in tomato sauce and sugar. Season chicken with pepper and nestle into slow cooker. Cover and cook until chicken is tender, 4 to 5 hours on low.

Transfer chicken to cutting board, let cool slightly, then shred into bite-size pieces using 2 forks. Combine chicken, 3/4 cup sauce, 1 1/2 cups Monterey Jack, cilantro, jalapenos, and lime juice in bowl. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Adjust oven rack to middle position and heat oven to 450 F. Spread 3/4 cup sauce over bottom of 13-by-9-inch baking dish. Brush both sides of tortillas with remaining 2 tablespoons oil. Stack tortillas, wrap in damp dish towel, and place on plate; microwave until warm and pliable, about 1 minute.

Working with 1 warm tortilla at a time, spread 1/3 cup chicken filling across center of tortilla. Roll tortilla tightly around filling and place seam side down in baking dish; arrange enchiladas in 2 columns across width of dish.

Pour remaining sauce over enchiladas to cover completely and sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup Monterey Jack. Cover dish tightly with greased aluminum foil. Bake until enchiladas are heated through and cheese is melted, 15 to 20 minutes. Let cool for 5 minutes before serving.

Nutrition information per serving: 460 calories; 227 calories from fat; 25 g fat (9 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 105 mg cholesterol; 1014 mg sodium; 30 g carbohydrate; 5 g fiber; 5 g sugar; 28 g protein.

For more recipes, cooking tips and ingredient and product reviews, visit https://www.americastestkitchen.com. Find more recipes like Chicken Enchiladas in "The Complete Slow Cooker ."

America's Test Kitchen provided this article to The Associated Press.

To cook a center-cut roast beef tenderloin, use a reverse-sear

BY AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN

The center-cut tenderloin — often called chateaubriand — comes from the middle of the whole tenderloin, which sits beneath the spine of the cow and gets no exercise at all, making it the most tender piece of beef you can buy. We knew that a simple preparation would let the exceptional texture shine.

Tying the roast at intervals with kitchen twine made it more compact and helped give it an even shape, which promoted even cooking. To up the tenderloin's mild flavor and help it hold on to its juices, we salted the roast before cooking. A smear of softened butter added before cooking also helped counteract the leanness and mildness of this cut with a minimum of fuss.

We then used a reverse-sear method, roasting the meat first and then finishing it by searing it in a skillet. Starting the roast in a fairly cool 300 F oven minimized the temperature differential between the exterior and interior, allowing for gentle, even cooking. This approach also dried out the surface of the meat so it then seared very quickly in the skillet — leaving no chance for it to overcook. We finished by slathering the roast with a flavored butter as it rested. As the savory butter melted it became an instant sauce.

ROAST BEEF TENDERLOIN

Servings: 4
Start to finish: 1 hour, 20 minutes (plus 30 minutes resting time)
Beef:
1 (2-pound) center-cut beef tenderloin roast, trimmed, tail end tucked, and tied at 1 1/2-inch intervals
2 teaspoons kosher salt
1 teaspoon pepper
2 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
Shallot and Parsley Butter:
4 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
1/2 shallot, minced
1 tablespoon minced fresh parsley
1 garlic clove, minced
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper

For the beef: Sprinkle roast evenly with salt, cover loosely with plastic wrap, and let stand at room temperature for 1 hour. Adjust oven rack to middle position and heat oven to 300 F.

For the shallot and parsley butter: Meanwhile, combine all ingredients in bowl and let rest to blend flavors, about 10 minutes. Wrap in plastic wrap, roll into log, and refrigerate until serving.

Pat roast dry with paper towels. Sprinkle roast evenly with pepper and spread softened butter evenly over surface. Transfer roast to wire rack set in rimmed baking sheet. Roast until beef registers 120 F to 125 F (for medium-rare), 40 to 55 minutes, flipping roast halfway through roasting.

Heat oil in 12-inch skillet over medium-high heat until just smoking. Brown roast well on all sides, about 8 minutes. Transfer roast to carving board and spread 2 tablespoons flavored butter evenly over top of roast; let rest for 30 minutes. Remove twine and slice into 1/2-inch-thick slices. Serve, passing remaining flavored butter separately.

Nutrition information per serving: 470 calories; 289 calories from fat; 32 g fat (10 g saturated; 1 g trans fats); 136 mg cholesterol; 835 mg sodium; 2 g carbohydrate; 1 g fiber; 1 g sugar; 43 g protein.



The perfect rich, meaty ragu achieved with baby back ribs

BY AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN

Ragu can be made from any meat or combination of meats, but the earthiness of a pure pork ragu is undeniably attractive — and great comfort food.

Most recipes for traditional pork ragu use pork shoulder and a hard-to-find, bony cut like neck, shank or feet to give the sauce great body. We were determined to use just one: Quick-cooking pork sausage or lean pork loin were parched after braising.

Baby back ribs fit the bill perfectly. We tried using all baby back ribs and found the resulting ragu rich and meaty with perfect silkiness.

For a classic Italian flavor profile, fennel took the place of celery in the ragu's base, and ground fennel rubbed into the ribs echoed the anise flavor. Simmering the garlic head whole right in the sauce yielded sweeter softened cloves that we squeezed back into the sauce when tender.

With fresh herbs and red wine, our ragu tasted balanced and far more complex than its simple preparation would suggest. This recipe makes enough sauce to coat 2 pounds of pasta. Serve with grated Parmesan cheese.

PORK RAGU

Servings: 8
Start to finish: 3 hours
2 (2 1/4-to-2 1/2 pound) racks baby back ribs, trimmed and each rack cut into quarters
2 teaspoons ground fennel
Kosher salt and pepper
3 tablespoons olive oil
1 large onion, chopped fine
1 large fennel bulb, stalks discarded, bulb halved, cored and chopped fine
2 large carrots, peeled and chopped fine
1/4 cup minced fresh sage
1 1/2 teaspoons minced fresh rosemary
1 cup plus 2 tablespoons dry red wine
1 (28 ounce) can whole peeled tomatoes, drained and crushed coarse
3 cups chicken broth
1 garlic head, outer papery skins removed and top quarter of head cut off and discarded

Adjust oven rack to middle position and heat oven to 300 F. Sprinkle ribs with ground fennel and generously season with salt and pepper, pressing on spices to adhere. Heat oil in Dutch oven over medium-high heat until just smoking. Add half of ribs, meat side down, and cook, without moving them, until meat is well browned, 6 to 8 minutes; transfer to plate. Repeat with remaining ribs; set aside.



Reduce heat to medium, and add onion, fennel, carrots, 2 tablespoons sage, rosemary and 1/2 teaspoon salt to now-empty pot. Cook, stirring occasionally and scraping up any browned bits, until vegetables are well browned and beginning to stick to pot bottom, 12 to 15 minutes.

Add 1 cup wine and cook until evaporated, about 5 minutes. Stir in tomatoes and broth, and bring to simmer. Submerge garlic and ribs, meat side down, in liquid; add any accumulated juices from plate. Cover and transfer to oven. Cook until ribs are fork-tender, about 2 hours.

Remove pot from oven, and transfer ribs and garlic to rimmed baking sheet. Using large spoon, skim any fat from surface of sauce. Once cool enough to handle, shred meat from bones; discard bones and gristle. Return meat to pot. Squeeze garlic from its skin into pot. Stir in remaining 2 tablespoons sage and remaining 2 tablespoons wine. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Nutrition information per serving: 559 calories; 273 calories from fat; 30 g fat (10 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 168 mg cholesterol; 628 mg sodium; 11 g carbohydrate; 3 g fiber; 5 g sugar; 56 g protein.

America's Test Kitchen provided this article to The Associated Press.