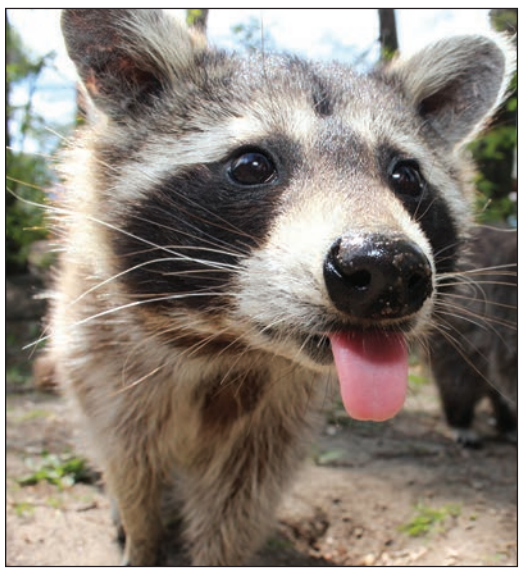
the Sumter ITEM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2018 75 CENTS

SERVING SOUTH CAROLINA SINCE OCTOBER 15, 1894

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Chicken plant employees strike over reported slur

Pilgrim's Pride workers protest outside Thursday

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

Employees of Pilgrim's Pride Corp. Sumter ended their shifts early after hearing that the plant manager allegedly made a derogatory remark referring to employees.

The employees, who were protesting in front of the chicken production plant on U.S. 15 South on Thursday morning, said the plant manager spoke over the radio at an earlier shift that "there are too many roaches walking in the hallway."



ROSE



STEWART

Word was spread to the incoming shift employees Thursday morning, some of whom refused to work.

Some employees said they think the alleged comment was meant to be a racial slur toward black people.

"I got here this morning and saw my people standing out here," said Mykelle Rose, an employee in the

SEE **SLUR,** PAGE A9

Cops and kids and valentines



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Police Be My Valentine cards were shared by officers on Wednesday with youngsters at Crosswell, Lemira and Wilder elementary schools. There were a lot of hugs, high fives and fist bumps in return. Participating were Officers Michael Austin and Gloria Prescott, Sgt. Gary Atkinson and Staff Sgt. James Sinkler.







Annual memorial scholarship fundraiser is set for March 15

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

In the spirit of carrying on the torch for future educators, current and former Sumter School District teachers of the year will host an annual scholarship fundraiser next month.

Interim Superintendent Debbie Hamm provided details on the district's annual Hailey Bordeaux Memorial Scholarship dinner set for March 15 on Monday at the district's board of trustees meeting at Alice Drive Middle School.

Bordeaux, a 2011 Sumter High School graduate who was a junior early childhood education major at the University of South Carolina, died in a boating accident on July 4, 2014. She was a South Carolina Teaching Fellow and was on the President's List at USC. She also worked

SEE **FUNDRAISER,** PAGE A9

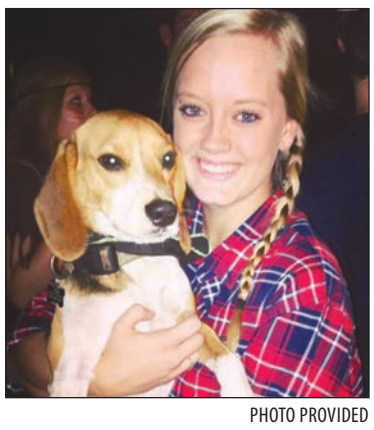


PHOTO PROVIDED

The Hailey Bordeaux Memorial Scholarship dinner is scheduled for March 15 at Kingsbury Elementary School, according to district staff.



Howard Conyers speaks during Morris College's honors fall 2017 semester convocation on Thursday. Conyers is a NASA engineer and is known for his BBQ pit master skills.

MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Clarendon native, NASA scientist, BBQ master inspires Morris College students

Howard Conyers gave keynote speech at honors convocation

BY KAYLA ROBINS
kayla@theitem.com

Not many people are actual rocket scientists. Not many people are nationally renowned barbecue masters. Howard Conyers is both.

A connection between the two may not be immediately clear, but Conyers, a Manning native who has been a NASA Stennis Space Center engineer for nine years, linked that job to his pit-mastery in traditional South Carolina whole hog barbecue in a keynote address on Thursday to Morris College honors students at their fall 2017 semester convocation.

"You never know where you'll find your passion," Conyers said.

The Paxville native and Manning High School graduate said food has served two benefits to his life and career. He asked the students to remember their heritage and their ancestors who grew the best rice in Africa before being sold into slavery.

Food, in that sense, can be a link to the past, but Conyers also said it can propel you onward.

As he became more and more well-known for his whole hog barbecue, he said, other people were forced to notice him.

"Food transcends race," he said. "Barbecue was therapeutic also for me for helping me deal with work and people who may not have believed an African American should be in those rooms."

Conyers, who cooked his first whole hog when he was 11 by following a recipe handed down through his family

SEE **CONYERS,** PAGE A9

the Sumter ITEM

SECOND FRONT

Call: (803) 774-1226 | **E-mail:** pressrelease@theitem.com

Sumter PD seeks public comment for accreditation

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

Sumter residents will have the opportunity to voice opinions of Sumter Police Department's performance during a public information session at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27, in Sumter City Council Chambers, fourth floor of Sumter Opera House, 21 N. Main St.

Since 1995, Sumter Police Department has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc. which requires agencies to be in compliance with state-of-the-art standards in four areas: policy and procedures, administration, operations and support services to the community.

The department is assessed every three years.

A copy of the compliance standards is available for review at Sumter Police Department, 107 E. Hampton Ave.

Anyone who is unable to attend the meeting can provide comments by phone or mail.

Residents can speak with a CALEA assessor by calling (803) 436-2737 between 2 and 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 28. Phone comments, as well as appearances at the public information session, are limited to 10 minutes and must address the police department's ability to comply with CALEA's standards.

Written comments should be mailed to Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc. (CALEA), 13575 Heathcote Blvd., Suite 320, Gainesville, VA 20155.

Lt. C.L. Johnson Sr., accreditation manager for the Sumter department, said the assessment team is composed of public safety practitioners from out-of-state law enforcement agencies of similar sizes who will review written materials, interview individuals and visit offices and other facilities where compliance to standards can be witnessed.

Johnson can be reached at (803) 436-2729 or (803) 795-2009 for more information.

Follow Sumter Police Department on social media for updates regarding the accreditation process.

CORRECTION

If you see a statement in error, contact the City Desk at 774-1226 or pressrelease@theitem.com.

County council approves costs for dam project, veterans park

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

Sumter County Council approved third and final reading to add expenses to the county's 2017 budget for two public projects during its meeting on Tuesday.

The council passed an amendment to add two purchases to the county's 2017 budget: $500,000 to construct a veterans memorial park on Broad Street Extension adjoining Shaw Air Force Base and $281,000 to purchase automated spillway gates for the dam at Second Mill Pond.

The $500,000 will be transferred from the county's hospitality fund.

The memorial park is a joint project between the county, the city of Sumter — which will also contribute $500,000 — and Shaw. The state has also expressed interest in providing $200,000 for the project, Sumter County Administrator Gary Mixon said.

A Tuskegee Airmen P-51 plane will also be featured in the park, he said.

Preparation for the reconstruction project at Second Mill Pond has started and is anticipated to be completed this spring.

NEW TAX DISTRICT REQUESTED TO FIX BOYLES DAM

The council approved first reading of an ordinance to establish the Boyles Pond Special Tax District and authorize a tax that would be collected for 22 lots in the area to rebuild and maintain the dam at the pond.

If approved, the tax district would be monitored by three people — a president, a vice president and a treasurer — who can be members of the Boyles Pond HOA Inc., according to the proposed ordinance.

Sumter County Attorney Johnathan Bryan said the county's role in the matter is to collect the tax money each year and deliver it to the Boyles Pond HOA, which will use the money as it sees fit.

The county will not be affected if residents of the district do not pay taxes because the county is only obligated to deliver the money that is collected, he said.

The proposal may be approved after two more readings and a public hearing.

OTHER MEETING NOTES

The Sumter County Council approved second reading of an ordinance to amend definitions regarding real estate, contractor, subdivision project and commercial project signs. The amendment will permit more square footage for the signs, mimicking the city's zoning and development ordinance for project signs, said George McGregor, director of Sumter City-County Planning Department.

Sumter County Council requires three approvals and a public hearing before a matter is passed.

THIS MONTH IN S.C. HISTORY



Friendship College students protest in front of McCrory's in Rock Hill in 1960.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY WWW.ZINNEDPROJECT.COM

February 1960: S.C. experiences its first 'sit-in'

FROM THE S.C. HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On Feb. 12, 1960, several black students from Friendship Junior College in Rock Hill asked to be served lunch at the local McCrory's and Woolworth's. As was typical in the South, blacks could shop in these stores but were forbidden to sit at lunch counters and eat. The first of several sit-ins to be held in Rock Hill, this one resulted in the lunch counters being closed for several days.

Sit-ins had been held in other states, including nearby Charlotte, but this marked the first in South Carolina. The stores stayed closed until Feb. 23, but the students did not give up. Led by Leroy Johnson and trained by the civil rights organization CORE (Congress of Racial Equality), Thurgood Marshall praised the students in his 1960 address to the NAACP convention. The protests in Rock Hill continued for more than a year.

In the fall of 1960, CORE encouraged a "Jail, No Bail" policy. The following January, 10 Friendship College students again attempted to lunch at the stores and were arrested and found guilty of trespass. Nine of the students refused to pay the $100 bail fee and were sentenced to 30 days of hard labor and sent to York County Prison Farm. This resulted in large-scale media attention, and the group became known as the "Friendship Nine." Fifty-four years after his arrest, David Williamson told NBC News "It was a frightening experience, but the part that got me is when they put me in the cell and closed that door. And that clang, you can still hear it."

Once at the prison farm, the nine were forced to move large piles of sand, cut weeds and carry cement blocks. If they refused to work, they were put on bread and water rations. Historians agree that the policy of "Jail, No Bail" helped rescue the civil rights movement from the costs of bail for protesters and gave new life to the movement.

In 2015, in a municipal courtroom in Rock Hill, the convictions of the "Friendship Nine" were overturned. The former students, now in their 70s, were represented by the same attorney who defended their case in 1961. Their story has been featured in books and documentaries of the civil rights movement.

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How best to treat opioids' youngest survivors?



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A week-old baby lies in one of the ICU bays at one of the Norton Children's Hospital neonatal intensive care units on Tuesday in Louisville, Kentucky. This particular NICU is dedicated to newborns of opioid-addicted mothers that are suffering with newborn abstinence syndrome. It is kept dark and quiet because of increased production of neurotransmitters in newborns of addicted mothers, which can disrupt the nervous system and overstimulate bodily functions.

Coping with the rising problem, no one has the same answer

BY LINDSEY TANNER
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO — Two babies, born 15 months apart to the same young woman overcoming opioid addiction. Two very different treatments.

Sarah Sherbert's first child was whisked away to a hospital special-care nursery for two weeks of treatment for withdrawal from doctor-prescribed methadone that her mother continued to use during her pregnancy. Nurses hesitated to let Sherbert hold the girl and hovered nervously when she visited to breastfeed.

Born just 15 months later and 30 miles away at a different South Carolina hospital, Sherbert's second child was started on medicine even before he showed any withdrawal symptoms, and she was allowed to keep him in her room to encourage breast-feeding and bonding. His hospital stay was just a week.

"It was like night and day," Sherbert said.

The different approaches highlight a sobering fact: The surge has outpaced the science, and no one knows the best way to treat the opioid epidemic's youngest patients.

Trying to cope with the rising numbers of affected infants, hospitals around the United States are taking a scattershot approach to treating the tremors, hard-to-soothe crying, diarrhea and other hallmark symptoms of newborn abstinence syndrome.

"It's a national problem," said Dr. Lori Devlin, a University of Louisville newborn specialist. "There's no gold-standard treatment."

With help from $1 million in National Institutes of Health funding, researchers are seeking to change that by identifying the practices that could lead to a national standard for evidence-based treatment. A rigorous multicenter study comparing treatments and outcomes in hard-hit areas could start by the end of this year, said Dr. Matthew Gillman, who is helping lead the effort.

"When there's so much variability in practice, not everyone can be doing the very best thing," Gillman said.

Once the umbilical cord is cut, babies born to opioid users are at risk for developing withdrawal symptoms. By some estimates, one infant is born with the condition in the U.S. every 25 minutes. The numbers have tripled since 2008 at a rate that has solid medical research comparing treatments and outcomes struggling to keep pace.

Not all opioid-exposed babies develop the syndrome, but drug use late in a pregnancy increases the chances and can cause dependence in fetuses and newborns. These infants are not born with addiction, which experts consider a disease involving compulsive, harmful drug-seeking behavior. But the sudden withdrawal of opioids from their mothers may cause increased production of neurotransmitters, which can disrupt the nervous system and overstimulate bodily functions. Symptoms can last for months.

The condition can result from a mother's use of illicit drugs, but it also can stem from mothers being prescribed methadone or other anti-addiction medicine. Doctors think the benefits of that treatment for the mothers outweigh any risks to their infants.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention doesn't routinely track the condition, but the agency's most recent data — from 2014 — indicates that the syndrome affects nearly 11 in every 1,000 U.S. births. The CDC said it is working with the March of Dimes and several states to get a better picture of the number of affected infants and how they fare developmentally and academically into childhood.

Some studies have suggested possible increased risks for developmental delays and behavior problems, but no research has been able to determine if that's because of the mothers' drug use during pregnancy, infants' treatment after birth or something completely unrelated. And there's no definitive evidence that these children fare worse than unexposed youngsters.

"It's very, very frustrating" not knowing those answers, Devlin said. "It's such a difficult population to go back and do research on. They're people who often don't trust the system, often people who have had lots of trauma in their lives."

Treatment aims to reduce or even prevent symptoms. Some hospitals use morphine drops, while others use methadone and sometimes sedatives. Some send the babies straight to newborn intensive care units and some focus on comfort care from moms, allowing them to room-in with their infants. A recently published Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center analysis linked rooming-in with less medication use and shorter hospital stays for infants, but it can be difficult if mothers are still in the throes of addiction.

A Florida hospital is even testing tiny acupuncture needles on affected infants.

Many hospitals use a 40-year-old scoring system to measure 21 symptoms and frame diagnosis and treatment length, but some have created their own scales.

The Government Accountability Office's health care team has called for federal action to address the issue, saying the current recommendations from the U.S. Health and Human Services Department amount to a half-baked strategy lacking priorities and a timeline for implementation.

The department's recommendations include education for doctors and nurses to teach them how to manage affected infants, along with an emphasis on non-drug treatment.

Katherine Iritani, director of the GAO's health care team, said government officials have since indicated that they are convening experts to develop and finalize a plan by March 15.

"We'll review it and make sure it's responsive to our recommendations," she said.

A separate GAO report released last week recommended beefed-up government guidance to help states implement programs that ensure safe care for opioid-affected infants and treatment for parents still struggling with drug use.

Medicaid pays for more than 80 percent of costs for treating affected babies, totaling about $1 billion in 2012, the GAO has found.

At Greenville Memorial Hospital, where Sarah Sherbert's son was delivered two years ago, babies born to methadone users are given that drug before symptoms start and are sent home with a supply to continue treatment.

Clemson University research has shown that approach could reduce hospital stays by nearly half, to an average of eight days costing $11,000 compared with the state average of 15 days at a cost of $45,000.

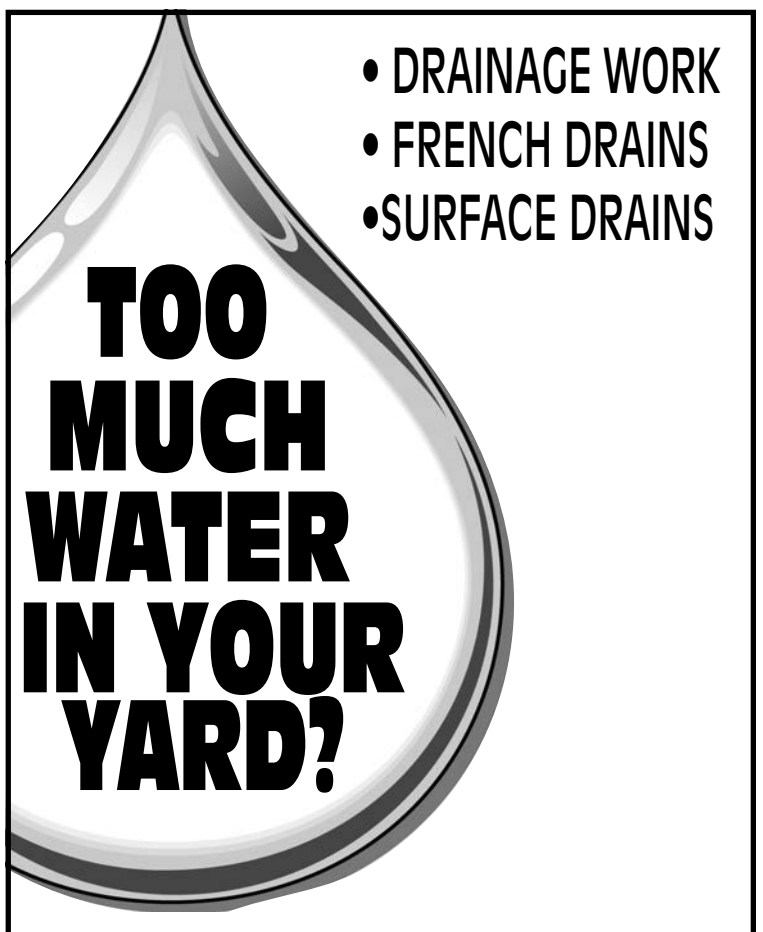
"The baby has already been exposed to methadone for nine months so adding four to five weeks and making weaning gentle instead of quitting cold turkey we think won't have any additional effect on babies' brain development," said Dr. Jennifer Hudson, who developed the treatment approach.

Sherbert, 31, said her drug use began eight years ago after she was prescribed opioid painkillers for injuries from a car accident. She was on methadone prescribed by her doctor when her daughter, now 3, was born.

She later lost custody after relapsing, and her parents are caring for the children. Sherbert said she has been sober for a year and recently was promoted to supervisor at her job. She said she's determined to get them back.

"I've worked so hard and come such a long way," she said. "Seeing their little faces — that's worth every bit of it."





We all use four-letter words — even God

There is nothing better than a tangerine.

When I grew up, down behind the barn, along the fence line of the lot, there were three big tangerine trees. There is no telling how old those trees were. When tangerines were in season, we'd take a break, pick a tangerine off the tree, peel back the rind and eat each slice. Refreshing.

Raccoons like tangerines, too. Each year, there was a struggle between the raccoons and Pop, my stepfather, over who got the most tangerines. Pop rarely got mad, but he hated to see tangerines wasted as raccoon food. Finally, he'd had enough.

"Clay," he said, "come on. We're going to pick the rest of those tangerines before the raccoons get them all."

We propped a ladder against the tree, and I put my foot on the first rung. Pop said, "No. You stay on the ground and catch 'em. I'll go up the tree and throw 'em down." I protested that I was younger and lighter. He was insistent. So up the ladder he went.


SMITH

Pop was pretty agile for a 65-year-old man. Before long, he stepped off the ladder and onto the branches of the tree. He had been a baseball player in high school and could pitch tangerines to me on the ground with deadly accuracy. I'm still not sure why he wanted to climb the tree himself. He did think if you wanted something done right, do it yourself. Or maybe, he just wanted to feel young again and climb a tree.

We had picked a bushel of tangerines, but there were still some high in the tree, where the ladder wouldn't reach. You've heard of a "bridge too far"? There is also such a thing as a "limb too far." Pop went one limb too far.

I heard a loud crack. Then I saw Pop, all 180 pounds of him, falling toward me. A good son would have caught his father, or at least broken his fall. I was not a good son. I ran.

There was an old metal gate under the tangerine tree. The grass had overgrown it, so it wasn't easy to see. As Pop plummeted to Earth, I waited for him to turn over and land on all fours, like a cat. He was agile, but not that agile. He landed flat on his back, on the metal gate, with the thud of metal resisting bone.

The fall didn't knock him out. Amazingly, he sprang right up off that metal gate and grabbed his head.

Pop was not the first person I'd seen get hurt on the ranch. Cowboys have colorful, four-letter words to deploy whenever they are run over by a bull, or kicked by horse, or put a nail through their hand. Those words were all appropriate for use when you fall out of a tangerine tree.

Pop was not a cussing man. In fact, I had never heard him cuss. Never. As he sprung up from the ground, I thought the moment would finally come. I would hear him swear. I would hear four-letter words.

Pop said, "Kiss my foot."

Not exactly the four-letter words I expected.

We all have four-letter words we use for emphasis. I'm sure you have some in your vocabulary. God uses four-letter words for emphasis, too. Whenever we fall out of life, God comes to us with four-letter words — Love. Hope. Rest. Heal. Calm. Gift.

God's four-letter words are the words your soul longs to hear. God's four-letter words are a lot better than "Kiss my foot." Or some of the other four-letter words I've heard.

Clay Smith is the lead pastor of Alice Drive Baptist Church in Sumter.

Native church's lawsuit spurs training for airport screeners


JOYCE MARSHALL/STAR-TELEGRAM VIA AP FILE

Members of the Native American Church prepare for a prayer meeting in Mirando City, Texas.

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — A wooden box carried an eagle feather and bone whistle, a gourd rattle and a feather fan — items that carry spiritual energy and are used in Native American religious ceremonies.

The man holding the box asked security agents at the San Antonio International Airport to allow him to display the items so their energy wouldn't be polluted. The agents declined, roughly handling the items and shoving them back in the box, according to Sandor Iron Rope, former president of the Native American Church of North America.

His lawsuit against the Transportation Security Administration was settled last month, with neither side acknowledging fault and the agency agreeing to better educate its employees about Native American religious items at more than a dozen airports nationwide.

"There was a policy in place designed to provide some protection for us, but they don't have training," Iron Rope said Wednesday. "Not everybody is familiar with the policies."

The TSA did not respond to messages seeking comment this week.

The Native American Church has multiple chapters around the country and an estimated 250,000 members. The church that formed in 1918 blends Native American beliefs and Christianity but doesn't have formal buildings. Instead, its members meet in teepees for lengthy ceremonies and use peyote as a sacrament.

Its most visible legal battles have been over peyote, a hallucinogenic that only grows naturally in the United States in southern Texas. States had varied laws on Native Americans' use of the cactus until the early 1990s, when a federal law allowed Native Americans who are part of the church to possess peyote.

For anyone else, it's illegal, in the same category as heroin and cocaine. Membership cards cite the federal law and another that allows Native Americans to possess migratory birds.

One of Iron Rope's attorneys, Forrest Tahdooahnippah, said church members have had enough bad experiences to discourage them from air travel. He said Iron Rope had no indication agents thought his ceremonial items were dangerous.

"That's part of the reason we felt there should have been a lawsuit in the first place," he said. "Screening of items should be reserved for things TSA has a legitimate suspicion are going to be a danger to traveler safety."

Passengers can do their part by alerting the TSA at least 72 hours in advance to carry-on items that need additional screening and by clearly communicating beliefs, said Richard Bloom, director of terrorism, intelligence and security studies at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona.

Security agents cannot be trained in all religions, but he said they can improve on dealing with the unknown.

"A little bit of sensitivity and respect and really being open to the unique needs of a religious individual can go a long way toward negotiating something that works for the individual and for the TSA," Bloom said.

Not all religious items would be allowed on planes with passengers, however.

The TSA prohibits religious knives like the kirpan. Sikhs who carry them do not view them as weapons or accessories but as extensions of their being and their belief that they are protectors of the weak.

The Sikh Coalition, a civil rights organization, has issued travel guidelines alerting the community that kirpans can be in checked baggage only, and the faithful generally adhere. But the coalition has represented at least one Sikh man who was charged for carrying kirpans through airport security. The case eventually was dropped.

As part of the settlement with the Native American Church of North America, the TSA and the plaintiffs will collaborate on a webinar that will be available to agents who work with passengers well ahead of their flights to move items through security.

CHURCH NEWS

Allen Chapel AME Church, 471 Lynam Road, announces:

* Sunday, Feb. 25 — Black history program at 3 p.m. James L. Felder will speak.

Bethel AME Church, 1605 S.C. 261, Wedgefield, announces:

* Sunday, Feb. 25 — Black history observance, fill a pew and soul food Sunday will be held beginning at 10:15 a.m.

Clark United Methodist Church, 2980 U.S. 401 N., Oswego Highway, announces:

* Saturday, Feb. 24 — Free NACA home ownership workshop from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

* Sunday, Feb. 25 — Black history program at 3 p.m.

Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, 105 Dinkins St., Manning, announces:

* Sunday, Feb. 25 — Black history program at 11 a.m. U.S. Marshal Kelvin Washington, District of South Carolina, will speak.

First Baptist Missionary Church, 219 S. Washington St., announces:

* Saturday — Black history community celebration at 11 a.m. Dr. Wes Bellamy, city councilman of Charlottesville, Virginia, will speak.

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, 182 S. Pike East, announces:

* Friday, Feb. 23 — Youth ministry worship service at 7 p.m.

Goodwill Presbyterian Church USA, 295 N. Brick Church Road, Mayesville, announces:

* Sunday, Feb. 25 — Black history worship celebration at 11 a.m. followed by a soul food meal. Jeannette Dozier, of Columbia, will speak.

High Hills AME Church, 6780 Meeting House Road, Dalzell, announces:

* Saturday, Feb. 24 — Blood drive beginning at 8 a.m.

High Hills Missionary Baptist Church, 6750 Meeting House Road, Dalzell, announces:

* Sunday — The YWA anniversary will be observed during the 10:15 a.m. worship.

* Sunday, Feb. 25 — Black history observance / male chorus anniversary will be celebrated during the 10:15 a.m. worship.

* Sunday, March 4 — Holy communion will follow the 10:15 a.m. worship.

* Sunday, March 25 — Palm Sunday will be observed during the 10:15 a.m. worship.

Hopewell Baptist Church, 3285 Peach Orchard Road, Dalzell, announces:

* Sunday — Black history program at 4 p.m. The Rev. Carnell Witherspoon, of Mount Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, will speak. Music will be provided by Mount Chapel MBC choir, Crestwood High School Choir and Gregory Jenkins. The youth department will perform black history skits. At old fashioned dinner will be served.

Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church, 803 S. Harvin St., announces:

* Saturday — "Eat to Educate" cultural extravaganza will be held at 1 p.m. at the M.H. Newton Family Life Center, 415 Manning Ave. This is an annual food event with local and international delicacies from Jamaica, Africa and the Philippines.

Mount Pisgah AME Church, 217 W. Bartlette St., announces:

* Sunday — Family and friends day at 4 p.m. The Rev. Alvin Webb, of Unionville AME Church, Mayesville, will speak.

Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 325 Fulton St., announces:

* Sunday — Trustee Ministry's black history anniversary worship celebration at 10:45 a.m.

* Sunday, Feb. 25 — Golden Age Fellowship Ministry's black history anniversary worship celebration at 10:45 a.m.

Nehemiah Kingdom Builder's Assembly, 845 Webb St., announces:

* Sunday, Feb. 25 — Official affirmation to the apostolic office of chief apostle at 4 p.m. at Westend Community Church, 101 S. Salem Ave. Prelate RC Ratliff, chief consecrator, and Apostle — Designate Sylvester Francis III will speak.

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, 3249 U.S. 15 S., announces:

* Saturday — Annual senior citizens ball at 3:30 p.m.

* Saturday, Feb. 24 — Annual Doris H. Fulwood Scholarship luncheon at noon.

* Sunday, Feb. 25 — Annual senior citizens program at 10 a.m.

New Testament Lighthouse Church, 1114 Boulevard Road, announces:

* Saturday — Gospel singing at 6 p.m. featuring Servant's Call and others.

Pine Grove AME Church, 41 Pine Grove Road, Rembert, announces:

* Sunday — The ACE League and black history observation at 11 a.m. Minister Jerell Wesley will speak.

Pinewood Baptist Church, 10 E. Fulton St., Pinewood, announces:

* Sunday, March 25 — The Jordan Family Band (*http://jordanfamilyband.com/*) will be in concert at 6:30 p.m. A love offering will be received. Nursery provided. Refreshments and the opportunity to meet the family will follow. Call (803) 452-5373 or visit *www.pinewoodbaptist.org*.

Reeseville AME Church, U.S. 521, Alcolu, announces:

* Sunday — The 24th anniversary of the male chorus will be celebrated at 3 p.m.

Refreshing Springs Kingdom Outreach, meets at Colony Square, 741 Bultman Drive, Suite 21, announces:

* Wednesday, Feb. 28 — Fresh fire healing and deliverance service at 7 p.m.

* Saturday, March 31 — Kingdom United prayer breakfast at 10 a.m.

Second Presbyterian Church, 1125 Old Pocalla Road, announces:

* Saturday — Black history celebration at 3 p.m. Dr. Maggie Glover, first black female ever elected to serve in the South Carolina Senate, will speak. Soul food refreshments will be served immediately after the celebration. The Payne Family will provide music. Theme: "Remembering the Past ... Preparing for the Future."

St. Anne - St. Jude Catholic Church, 611 W. Oakland Ave., announces:

* Sunday, Feb. 25 — Black history program at 2:30 p.m. presented by the St. Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary and Knights of St. Peter Claver. Carrie Sinkler Parker will speak. Music will be provided by St. Ann St. Jude School choir, Catholic youth of Sumter, St. Jude choir and the Benevolence Choir.

St. James United Methodist Church, 720 Broad St., announces:

* Sunday-Tuesday, Feb. 20 — Black history revival as follows: 6 p.m. Sunday, the Rev. Ryan Godfrey; 7 p.m. Monday, the Rev. Anthony Curbweb; and 7 p.m. Tuesday, the Rev. Annie H. Sisturnk.

St. John Baptist Church, 3944 Brewer Road, Manning, announces:

* Sunday, March 4 — Pastor's 11th anniversary celebration at 4 p.m. Pastor Jonathan Anderson, of Fellowship Baptist Church of Manning, will speak.

Sumter Free Will Baptist of the Pentecostal Faith Church, 971 Boulevard Road, announces:

* Monday-Friday, Feb. 19-23 — Revival at 7:30 nightly. The Rev. Clarence Sanderson, of Maxton, North Carolina, will speak.

Taw Caw Missionary Baptist Church, 1130 Granby Lane, Summerton, announces:

* Sunday, Feb. 25 — Black history program.

Triumph Ministries, 3632 Broad St. Ext., announces:

* Today — Pastor appreciation kicks off at 7 p.m. Prophetess Sarafina Thompson, of Brooklyn, New York, will speak.

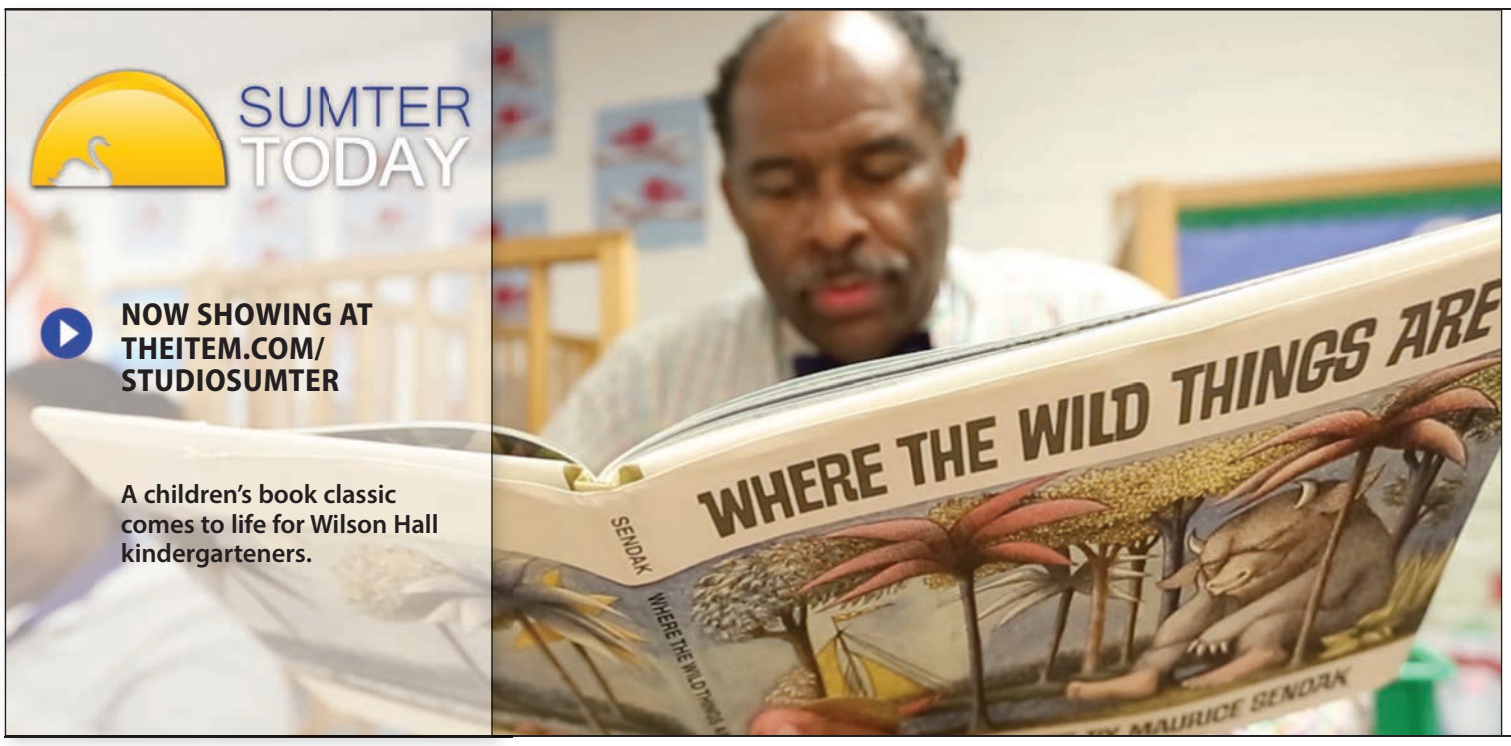
* Sunday — Pastor appreciation will continue with Prophet K. Ramsey, of Walterboro, speaking at 10 a.m. and Prophet Everett Roberson, of Ridgeland, speaking at 5 p.m.

Union Hall, 1171 Old Pocalla Road, announces:

* Sunday — The 5th anniversary of Resurrection will be celebrated at 4 p.m. Tickets are $5 in advance or $7 at the door for adults; $5 for children 11 years and older; $3 for children 5-10 year of age; and free for children under 5.

Walker Avenue Church of God, 100 Walker Ave., announces:

* Sunday — Youth day program at 11 a.m. Brother Earl Alexander Wilson, manager of Arby's restaurant, will speak.



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Health officials: 22 more die from flu in S.C.

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

State health officials say 22 more people have died from flu in South Carolina in the past week.

The Department of Health and Environmental Control said Wednesday that the latest report shows that 128 people have died from the flu in South Carolina since the season started in October.

DHEC said nearly 18,400 people tested positive for flu between Feb. 4 and Feb. 10. That's down a bit from the previous week.

But the agency said nearly 100,000 people in South Carolina have tested positive for flu since October.

The flu season normally runs October through May.

A spokeswoman for the American Red Cross says blood donations have dropped in South Carolina because of sickness among potential donors.

The Red Cross urges healthy blood and platelet donors to schedule an appointment to donate, but individuals who are not feeling well on the day of donation will be deferred from giving blood. Potential donors who have the flu should wait until they no longer have symptoms, have recovered completely and feel well before donating.

After receiving the influenza vaccine, people can give blood if they are symptom-free and meet all other eligibility requirements. Neither the flu shot nor the intranasal vaccine is cause for a blood donation deferral. There is no risk of transmitting influenza after receiving the vaccines.

Church Directory

Adventist

Sumter Seventh-Day Adventist
103 N Pike West 775-4455
Pastor Phil Roberts
Sat. Sch: 9:15 am, Worship: 11:00 am
Tues Bible Study 7 pm
www.sumter22.adventistchurchconnect.org

African Methodist Episcopal

Union Station AME Church
945 South Main Street, Sumter
unionstationame@gmail.com
(803) 775 8200
Rev. Dr. Phil Flowers announces:
Sun. Church School 9:00 am
Sun. Church Service 10:00 am
Tues. Bible Study 11:00 am
Wed. Bible Study 6:00 pm

Wayman Chapel AME Church
160 N Kings Hwy • 803-494-3686
www.waymanchapelame.com
Reverend Dr. Dennis W. Broughton, Jr.
Church School 9:00 am
Worship 10:15 am
Wed. Bible Study 12:00 pm & 6:30 pm

Assembly of God

First Assembly of God
1151 Alice Drive * 773-3817
www.sumterfirstag.org
Jason Banar, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30 am
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am

Baptist - Missionary

Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church
803 S Harvin St. * 775-4032
Marion H Newton, Pastor
Sunday Worship: 7:45 & 10:15 am
Sunday Youth Service: 10:45 am
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm

Salem Missionary Baptist Church
320 West Fulton Street
803-775-8054
Reverend Dr. Cartrell Woods, Jr. Pastor
Sun. School 9:00 am
Praise Worship 9:55 am
Worship 10:00 am

Baptist - Southern

Grace Baptist Church
219 W Calhoun St * 778-6417
Dr. Stephen Williams
drsteve@ftc-i.net
S.S. 9:45 am; Worship 11:00 am
Evening Worship/Bible Study 6:30 pm
Wed. Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm
Wed. Bible Study: 6:30 pm

Hickory Road Baptist Church
1245 Cherryvale Dr
803-494-8281
Dr. Ron Taylor Pastor
Sunday School 9:45 am
Worship 10:55 am
Evening Worship 6:00 pm

Shaw Heights Baptist Church
2030 Peach Orchard Rd. • 499-4997
Rev. Robert White, Pastor
Sunday School: 9:45 am
Sunday Worship:11 am & 6 pm
Bible School June 20th - 25th
6:00 - 8:30 PM
4 year old & up

Catholic - Roman

The Catholic Community of Sumter, St. Anne Site
216 E Liberty St • 803-773-3524
Parochial Pastor Rev. Frank Palmieri, CRM
Vicar Rev. Noly Berjuega, CRM
Weekend Masses: Sat. 4:30 pm
Sun. 8:00 and 12:00 Noon
Confession: Sat. 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

The Catholic Community of Sumter, St. Jude Site
611 W. Oakland Ave • 773-9244
www.stjudesumtersc.org
Pastor Rev. Frank Palmieri, CRM
Parochial Vicar Rev. Noly Berjuega, CRM
Saturday: 6:00 pm
Sun. 9:15 - 12:00 Noon, 5:00 pm
(in Spanish)
Confession: Sat. 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Church of Christ

Plaza Church of Christ
1402 Camden Hwy. • 905-3163
Sunday School: 10 am
Sunday Worship: 11 am & 6 pm
Wed. Bible Class: 7 pm

Interdenominational

Spiritual Life Christian Center
4672 Broad St. Ext • 968-5771
Pastors Randolph & Minerva Paige
Sunday Worship: 11:00 am
Wednesday Bible
Study: 7:00 pm

Victory Full Gospel
Interdenominational Church
601 Pitts Rd • 481-7003
Joann P. Murrill, Pastor
Sunday Worship: 11:00 am
Youth Bible Study 7:00 pm

Lutheran - ELCA

St James Lutheran Church
1137 Alice Dr, Sumter
773-2260 / www.stjamessumter.org
Pastor Keith Getz
Sunday School: 9:00 am
Sunday Worship: 10:00 am
Thur. Bible Study 10:30 am
Wednesday Holy Communion: 12:00 pm

Methodist - United

Bethel United Methodist Church
5575 Lodebar Rd • 469-2452
Rev. Jeremy Howell
Sunday Worship: 8:30 & 11 am
Sunday School: 10 am
www.yourbethel.org
BMethodist@ftc-i.net

Trinity United Methodist Church
226 W Liberty St • 773-9393
Rev. Joseph James, Jr.
Blended Worship 8:45 am
Sunday School 9:45 am
Traditional Service 11:00 am
office@trinityumcsumter.org

Non-Denominational

Calvary Bible Church
770 N. Wise Dr., Sumter
803-774-2341
Pastor Richard Harris
Sunday School 9:45 am
Worship 11:00 am & 6:00 PM

Christ Community Church (CCC)
320 Loring Mill Rd., Sumter
www.cccsumter.com
803-905-7850
Sunday Worship 9:00 & 10:45 am

First Church of God
1835 Camden Rd • 905-5234
www.sumterfcg.org
Ron Bower, Pastor
Sunday School: 9:30 am
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am

Greater St. Paul Church
200 Watkins Street • 803-778-1355
Founder Bishop W.T. English
Sunday School - 10:30 am
Sunday Morning Worship - 11:30 am
Wed. Mid Week Service - 7:30 pm

The Rock Church of Sumter
365 N. Saint Paul Church Rd
803-494-7625 (ROCK)
Pastor Gwendolyn Credle
Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship 11:00 am
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 pm

Sumter Bible Church
420 South Pike West, Sumter
803-773-8339 • Pastor Ron Davis
Sunday School 10:00 am
Worship 11:00 am & 6:30 pm
Wed. Bible Study & Prayer 7:00 pm

Pentecostal

First United Penecostal Church
14 Plowden Mill Rd • 775-9493
Pastor Theron Smith
Sunday Service: 10:00 am
& 6:30 pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30 pm

Sumter First Pentecostal Holiness Church
2609 McCrays Mill Rd • 481-8887
S. Paul Howell, Pastor
Sunday School: 10:00 am
Sunday Worship: 10:45 am
& 6:00 pm
Wed. Bible Study/Youth Group:
7:00 pm

Presbyterian - ARP

Lemira Presbyterian Church
514 Boulevard Rd • 473-5024
Pastor Dan Rowton
Sunday School 10:00 am
Worship 11:00 am

Presbyterian PCA

Westminster Presbyterian Church
230 Alice Dr., Sumter • 803-773-7235
Pastor Stuart Mizelle
Sunday School 9:15 am
Worship Service 10:30 am

Presbyterian USA

First Presbyterian Church of Sumter
9 W Calhoun St (at Main St.)
(803) 773-3814 • info@fpcsumter.org
Rev. Nick Cheek
"Classes for all ages" 9:30 am
Hospitality & Fellowship
(Fellowship Hall) 10:10 a.m.
Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30 a.m.



Photo credit: Lesia_Zaglebova

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Daily Devotional Reading

Ruth	Ruth	Ruth	Ruth	Psalm	Psalm	Ezra
1:1-22	2:1-23	3:1-18	4:1-22	79	82	7:1-28

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Museum OKs $350K plan for state Confederate flag

Plan pared down from initial $3.6 million proposal

BY MEG KINNARD
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A pared-down plan to display the final Confederate flag that flew at South Carolina's Statehouse is headed for legislative funding approval following a vote Thursday by a museum board.

The plan is to display it in the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum, although the museum's commission is suggesting lawmakers may want to modify that and move it to the nearby South Carolina State Museum.

Lawmakers must approve funding for the $350,000 plan. Museum Executive Director Allen Roberson said the plan approved Thursday satisfies lawmakers' mandate to create a display space. That requirement came as part of a July 2015 vote to remove the flag from Statehouse grounds after nine black Charleston churchgoers were killed by a gunman seen in photos with a rebel flag.

The removal of the flag from a 30-foot-high flagpole beside a Confederate soldier's monument prompted the removal of other Confederate memorials around the nation.

The plan approved Thursday is dramatically pared down from an initial $3.6 million display proposal, which was rejected by legislators. Those plans had incorporated the flag display as part of a larger expansion and conservation project.

South Carolina's law specifically sent the flag to the 122-year-old public museum, which has artifacts from every war in which South Carolinians have fought. A separate measure directed Roberson to estimate costs for the flag's "appropriate, permanent, and public display."

State law requires a two-thirds vote by the Legislature to change any historical monument. That requirement is part of a 2000 compromise that moved the Confederate flag from the Statehouse dome to its front lawn.

Legislative leaders have refused to reconsider requests by some lawmakers to change that law.

"I think the museum has exhausted enough of its time and resources on this issue," Roberson said. "It is a significant artifact in the history of South Carolina. It is. And it needs to be displayed like that."

NTSB: Human error likely main cause of S.C. train crash

COLUMBIA (AP) — Human error is likely the cause of a collision between an Amtrak train and a freight train in South Carolina that killed two people and injured dozens of others earlier this month, according to a preliminary report by federal investigators.

The National Transportation Safety Board report dated Tuesday said "the evidence indicates that human decision making and actions likely played key roles" in the Feb. 4 crash near the city of Cayce.

The report said a switch was in the wrong position, sending the passenger train onto a side track where a CSX freight train was parked.

Investigators said earlier that railway signals were not operating normally at the time of the crash while crews installed a safety system that could have prevented the exact type of wreck that killed engineer Michael Kempf, 54, of Savannah, Georgia, and conductor Michael Cella, 36, of Orange Park, Florida. More than 100 passengers were taken to hospitals for treatment.

The preliminary reports said "safe movement of the trains through the signal suspension depended on proper switch alignment, which, in turn, relied on error-free manual work."

The NTSB has recommended that the Federal Railroad Administration issue an emergency order to require railroads to take extra steps when the signal system is out of service and a switch has been repositioned, as in this case.

The report recommended that the next train or locomotive to pass through the location should do so at a low speed and should report to the dispatcher that the switch is in the correct position.

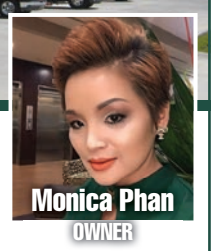
Only then should trains be allowed to use normal speeds in the area, the report recommended.

The final NTSB report is not expected for months.



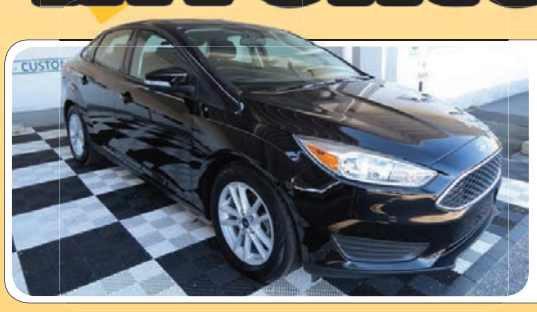
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Family wants Yates' name added to memorials

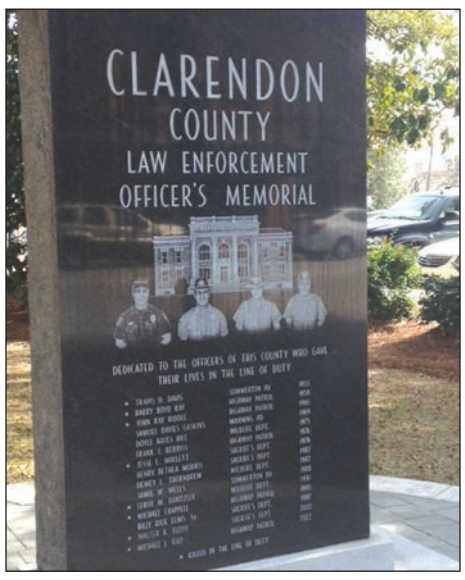
Former police chief died after breaking up a fight in 1961

BY SHARRON HALEY
Special to The Sumter Item

TURBEVILLE — It's been more than 57 years since Turbeville Police Chief Samuel Edward Yates Sr. died after breaking up a fight after a boys' basketball game between East Clarendon and a rival Columbia team.

Members of his family would like to see Yates' name added to the Clarendon County Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial on the Clarendon County Courthouse square. They said they'd also like to see their loved one recognized on the state and national levels with his name added to the Officer Down Memorial Page.

Since Jan. 24, 1961, when Yates died, his family thought the death of the then-58-year-old Yates resulted from a massive heart attack because he had been hospitalized before for a heart condition. It wasn't until August 2014 that the Yates' children discovered that their father had died not from a massive heart attack like they thought had happened but as the result of a stroke or cerebral vascular accident.



SHARRON HALEY / SPECIAL TO THE SUMTER ITEM

The family of former Turbeville Police Chief Samuel Edward Yates Sr. would like to see his name added to the memorial on the Clarendon County Courthouse square.

"I was just 16 when my daddy died," Kay Player, Yates' next-to-youngest child, said in 2014. "We all thought he had a heart attack. I don't remember ever seeing his death certificate."

At the time of his death, Yates and Bessie Joye Yates, now deceased, had eight children, including two grandchildren that the Yateses raised through a guardianship. The children were Player, Joyce Bryant, Jackie Yates, Sherian Matthews, Rosa Mae Kelly, Sandra Ann Gaskins, Sam Edward "SC" Yates Jr. and Norris Yates.

"I remember he died at a boys' basketball game," Player added. "He was talking and just dropped to the ground. He didn't die right then. People rushed him inside the school to revive him, but they couldn't."

According to folks in the Turbeville community, Yates attended the game to make sure the game ended without incident; however, that wasn't the case. As soon as the final buzzer sounded, a fight broke out between the two teams. After breaking up the fight, Yates escorted the Columbia team to their bus. As he was standing beside the bus talking with the Columbia team's coach, he collapsed. Yates was taken inside the school's teachers' lounge where he died at 10:50 p.m.

Player said her father had been Turbeville's police chief for maybe four or five years before his death.

"He served as a police officer long before becoming police chief," she added. "He didn't even have a uniform when he became the police chief."

Yates' nephew Pat Yates said he thinks it is time to have his uncle's name placed on the Officer Down Memorial Page as well as the Clarendon County Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial.

"He died working for the folks of Turbeville," his nephew added. "It's time he is recognized for his service and dedication. I know several of the officers whose names are engraved on the monument. They are all heroes in my book."



3 Manning High students attend band clinics

Michael Miller, Nastajia Hamilton and Logan Mack represented Manning High School recently at the 11th-Annual Limestone College High School Honor Band Clinic. The three also represented Manning High at the 40th-Annual USC Symphonic Band Clinic recently. They had an intensive four-day musical experience filled with rehearsal, Master classes and concert performances by some of the top high school, collegiate and professional groups in South Carolina and Georgia. All three had a stellar performance at the Koger Center.

PHOTO PROVIDED

PETS OF THE WEEK

Zeus is a 4-year-old male black-and-tan Labrador mix weighing approximately 61 pounds. He is current on all vaccinations, has been neutered and tested negative for heartworms. He loves snacks and walks well on a leash. He tends to get nervous with new people, but he warms up in no time. Zeus has lived his entire life here at the shelter, and he needs a nice family to welcome him in their home. His adoption fee has already been paid, and you can get preapproved by submitting your application online at *www.ASecondChanceAnimalShelter.com*.





River is a 2-year-old male Labrador/shepherd mix. He is current on all vaccinations, has been neutered and tested negative for heartworms. River is a sweet baby and needs some attention. He has lived a rough life, and it's time for him to find a home. He loves for his belly to be rubbed and his head scratched. Get preapproved by submitting an adoption application online at *www.ASecondChanceAnimalShelter.com*. Stop by Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at A Second Chance Animal Shelter, 5079 Alex Harvin Highway (U.S. 301).

PHOTOS PROVIDED

LOCAL BRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Parenting conference will be on March 3

Clarendon School District 2 and Clarendon County Adult Education invite parents and caregivers to the Parenting and Family Leadership Conference, Every Day Coaches, from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 3, at F.E. Dubose Career Center, 3351 Sumter Highway, Manning.

Dr. Kimberly P. Johnson, children's author, storyteller and motivational speaker, will be the keynote speaker. Choose from a variety of workshops from local professionals as they address the joys and challenges of raising successful adults in the current culture.

There will be prizes, and breakfast will be provided.

Child care will not be provided. Register online at *https://goo.gl/7qLBVT* or call (803) 433-4959.

Scholarship Boot Camp will be held Saturday

Scholarship Boot Camp, sponsored by Manning High School JAG, MHS Guidance Department and Central Carolina Technical College, will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday at Manning High School, Lecture Hall.

The camp will include scholarship assistance, college essay assistance, tools on how to complete the application process and onsite assistance with a financial aid counselor from CCTC.

Reception will be held at gallery Saturday

An artists' reception for the current show at Lake Marion Artisans Gallery in Summerton will be held Saturday from 3 to 5 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to the event that celebrates those who have work included in Generations — An Exhibit of Local African-American Artists of All Ages.

There will be fiber arts by seniors in the Summerton Quilters group, fine art from Scott's Branch High School students and work from Tarleton Blackwell displayed at the show. Blackwell teaches at Scott's Branch and is a well-known artist in the Summerton area.

The exhibit runs through Feb. 28, and the gallery is at 108 Main St., Summerton.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Summons & Notice

ORDER APPOINTING GUARDIAN AD LITEM STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF Clarendon IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS C/A NO. 2017-CP-14-00487

First-Citizens Bank & Trust Company,

Plaintiff

vs.

Alexander D. Hickson, Individually and as Personal Representative of the Estate of Sheryl Anne Atkins Hickson; Charlene Fay Clarke, Individually and as Heir to the Estate of Sheryl Anne Atkins Hickson, Timothy William Childs, James W. Hodge, and any other Heirs-at-Law or Devisees of Sheryl Anne Atkins Hickson, Deceased, their heirs, Personal Representatives, Administrators, Successors and Assigns, and all other persons entitled to claim through them; all unknown persons with any right, title or interest in the real estate described herein; also any persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America, being a class designated as John Doe; and any unknown minors or persons under a disability being a class designated as Richard Roe, Discover Bank, South Carolina Department of Revenue, and Carmen A. Atkins,

Defendants.

It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court, upon reading the Motion for the Appointment of Kelley Y. Woody as Guardian ad Litem for all unknown persons and persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America (which are constituted as a class designated as "John Doe") and any unknown minors and persons who may be under a disability (which are constituted as a class designated as "Richard Roe"), it is **ORDERED** that, pursuant to Rule 17, SCRCP, Kelley Y. Woody is appointed Guardian ad Litem on behalf of all unknown persons and persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America (constituted as a class and designated as "John Doe"), all unknown minors or persons under a disability (constituted as a class and designated as "Richard Roe"), all of which have or may claim to have some interest in the property that is the subject of this action, commonly known as 235 E. Main Street, Summerton, that Kelley Y. Woody is empowered and directed to appear on behalf of and represent all unknown persons and persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America, constituted as a class and designated as "John Doe", all unknown minors and persons under a disability, constituted as a class and designated as "Richard Roe", unless the Defendants, or someone acting on their behalf, shall, within thirty (30) days after service of a copy of this Order as directed below, procure the appointment of a Guardian or Guardians ad Litem for the Defendants constituted as a class designated as "John Doe" or "Richard Roe".

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this Order shall be served upon the unknown Defendants by publication in the The Item, a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Anderson, State of South Carolina, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, together with the Summons in the above entitled action.

SUMMONS AND NOTICE

TO THE DEFENDANT(S) ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WITH ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE REAL ESTATE DESCRIBED HEREIN; ALSO ANY PERSONS WHO MAY BE IN THE MILITARY SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, BEING A CLASS DESIGNATED AS JOHN DOE; AND ANY UNKNOWN MINORS OR PERSONS UNDER A DISABILITY BEING A CLASS DESIGNATED AS RICHARD ROE;

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in the above action, a copy which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer upon the undersigned at their offices, PO Box 4216, Columbia, South Carolina 29240, within thirty (30) days after service 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 relief demanded in the Complaint.

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the original Complaint in this action was filed in the office of the Clerk of Court for Clarendon County on 12/13/2017.

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT an action has been commenced and is now pending or is about to be commenced in the Circuit Court upon the complaint of the above named Plaintiff against the above named Defendant for the purpose of foreclosing a certain mortgage of real estate heretofore given by to Sheryl Ann Atkins bearing date of March 26, 2010 and recorded March 26, 2010 in Mortgage Book in Book 875 at Page 7 in the Register of Mesne Conveyances/Register of Deeds/Clerk of Court for Clarendon County, in the original principal sum of $61875.37 that , and that the premises effected by said mortgage and by the foreclosure thereof are situated in the County of Clarendon, State of South Carolina, and is described as follows:

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land, with improvements thereon, if any, situate, lying and being on the north side of Main Street, in the Town of Summerton, in County of Clarendon, State of South Carolina, and being bounded now or formerly as follows: On the South by Main Street; on the West by lands of Mildred R. DuBose; on the North by lands of Annie G. Grayson; on the East by lands of Mesdlin. This property is shown on the maps for Clarendon County as tax map parcel #078-15-03-017-00.

This property was conveyed to Sheryl Anne Atkins by deed of Madeline D. Brooks dated March 26, 2010 and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Clarendon County in Deed Book 760 at Page 200 on March 26, 2010..

TMS # 078-15-03-017-00

Physical Address: 235 E. Main Street, Summerton

Crawford & von Keller, LLC.
PO Box 4216
1640 St. Julian Place (29204)
Columbia, SC 29204
Phone: 803-790-2626
Attorneys for Plaintiff

Notice of Sale

SPECIAL REFEREE NOTICE OF SALE 2017-CP-14-00335

BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of: **Caliber Home Loans, Inc. vs. Mary Lowe-Murphy**, as Personal Representative of the Estate of **Richard Matthew Keenum** a/k/a Richard M. Keenum, Deceased; Katherine E. Garcia, individually, as Heir or Devisee of the Estate of Richard Matthew Keenum a/k/a Richard M. Keenum, Deceased; David Keenum, individually, as Heir or Devisee of the Estate of Richard Matthew Keenum a/k/a Richard M. Keenum, Deceased; and Any other Heirs-at-Law or Devisees of the Estate of Richard Matthew Keenum a/k/a Richard M. Keenum, Deceased, their heirs, Personal Representatives, Administrators, Successors and Assigns, and all other persons entitled to claim through them; all unknown persons with any right, title or interest in the real estate described herein; also any persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America, being a class designated as John Doe; and any unknown minors or persons under a disability being a class designated as Richard Roe; et.al., I, the undersigned William T. Geddings, Special Referee for Clarendon County, will sell on **Monday, March 5, 2018 at 11:00 AM,** at the County Courthouse, 3 West Kiett Street, Manning, SC 29102, to the highest bidder:

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land, together with any improvements thereon, lying, being and situate in the County of Clarendon, State of South Carolina, containing 0.233 acre, more or less, and being more particularly shown and delineated as Lot No. 4 of Island Park Subdivision on that certain plat prepared by Du Valle W. Elliott, PLS, dated August 29, 1996, and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Clarendon County in Plat Book S-48, Page 415. Aforesaid plat is incorporated herein by reference pursuant to Section 30-5-250 of The Code of Laws of South Carolina (1976), as amended.

This being the same property conveyed to Richard M. Keenum by Deed of Karen S. Hobbs a/k/a Karen H. Vause dated September 13, 2016 and recorded September 14, 2016 in Book 961 at Page 114 in the ROD Office for Clarendon County. Subsequently, Richard M. Keenum a/k/a Richard Matthew Keenum died intestate on or about March 11, 2017, leaving the subject property to his heirs, namely David Keenum and Katherine E. Garcia, as shown in Probate Estate Matter Number 2017-ES-14-00117.

TMS No. 114-02-02-074-00

Property address: 1189 Ralph Bell Road, Summerton, SC 29148

The Court in its Decree has further made its finding that this mortgage was intended to and specifically secures and collateralizes that certain Mobile Home permanently affixed to the above described real estate in the mortgage being foreclosed and is further provided under the laws of the State of South Carolina, the same being more particularly described as follows:

1997 BELL PALME Manufactured Home, Serial No. GBHMK19845AB, with any fixtures.

TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the Plaintiff, will deposit with the Special Referee, at conclusion of the bidding, five percent (5%) of said bid is due and payable immediately upon closing of the bidding, in cash or equivalent, as evidence of good faith, same to be applied to purchase price in case of compliance, but to be forfeited and applied first to costs and then to Plaintiff's debt in the case of non-compliance. In the event of a third party bidder and that any third party bidder fails to deliver the required deposit in certified (immediately collectible) funds with the Office of the Special Referee, said deposit being due and payable immediately upon closing of the bidding on the day of sale, the Special Referee will re-sell the subject property at the most convenient time thereafter (including the day of sale) upon notification to counsel for Plaintiff. Should the last and highest bidder fail or refuse to comply with the balance due of the bid within 20 days, then the Special Referee may re-sell the property on the same terms and conditions on some subsequent Sales Day (at the risk of the said highest bidder).

No personal or deficiency judgment being demanded, the bidding will not remain open after the date of sale, but compliance with the bid may be made immediately.

Purchaser to pay for documentary stamps on Special Referee's Deed. The successful bidder will be required to pay interest on the balance of the bid from the date of sale to date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 4.200% per annum.

The Plaintiff may waive any of its rights, including its right to a deficiency judgment, prior to sale.

The sale shall be subject to taxes and assessments, existing easements and restrictions of record.

This sale is subject to all title matters of record and any interested party should consider performing an independent title examination of the subject property as no warranty is given.

Neither the Plaintiff nor its counsel make representations as to the integrity of the title or the fair market value of the property offered for sale. Prior to bidding you may wish to review the current state law or seek the advice of any attorney licensed in South Carolina.

William T. Geddings
Special Referee
for Clarendon County

Scott and Corley, P.A.
Attorney for Plaintiff

SPECIAL REFEREE'S SALE

BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of: **CYPRESS POINTE** HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION OF CLARENDON, INC. **vs. CHRISTOPHER CHAD MORRIS,** C/A No. 2016-CP-14-00448, The following property will be sold on **03/05/2018 at 11:00AM, Clarendon Courthouse,** to the highest bidder:

All of residence Unit Number D-304 of Cypress Pointe Horizontal Property Regime as the same is laid out and is shown upon a Master Deed including accompanying exhibits thereto of cypress Pointe Horizontal Property Regime dated April 16, 1985 and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Clarendon County in Deed Book A-128 at Page 385. Together with a 1.6062% (rounded) undivided interest, as joint tenants in and to the common elements, which are assigned to said residence unit and described in the aforementioned Master Deed pursuant to SC Code 27-31-10 through 27-31-300 (both inclusive) of Chapter 31 entitled "Horizontal Property Act of the 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina", as amended.

Said premises having been conveyed to Christopher Chad Morris by deed of William Cecil Hopper and Annie Sue Hopper, dated February 28, 2006, recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Clarendon County in Deed Book A-605 at Page 276.

Property Address: 5304 Cypress Pointe TMS# 197-07-14-304-00

TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the plaintiff, will deposit with the Master in Equity, at conclusion of the bidding, five per cent (5%) of his bid, in certified funds, as evidence of good faith, same to be applied to purchase price if compliance is made, but in the event compliance is not made, the deposit shall be forfeited and applied first to costs of the action and then to plaintiff's debt. Should the successful bidder at the regularly conducted sale fail or refuse to make the required deposit at time of bid or comply with the other terms of the bid within twenty (20) days, then the Master in Equity may re-sell the property on the same terms and conditions on some subsequent Sales Day, but at the risk of the defaulting bidder(s)

NOTICE: The foreclosure deed is not a warranty deed. Interested bidders should satisfy themselves as to the quality of title to be conveyed by obtaining an independent title search prior to the foreclosure sale date.

No personal or deficiency judgment being demanded, the bidding will not remain open after the date of sale, but compliance with the bid may be made immediately.

Purchaser to pay for documentary stamps on Master in EquityDeed. The successful bidder will be required to pay interest on the balance of the bid from date of sale to date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 10.00 % per annum.

SUBJECT TO ASSESSMENTS, CLARENDON COUNTY TAXES, EXISTING EASEMENTS, EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD, AND OTHER SENIOR ENCUMBRANCES.

SPECIFICALLY, THIS SALE IS SUBJECT TO A SENIOR MORTGAGE HELD BY BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. RECORDED IN BOOK 00674 AT PAGE 00127.

W. T. Geddings, Jr.
Special Referee for
Clarendon County

Stephanie C. Trotter
Attorney for Plaintiff
P.O. Box 212069
Columbia, SC 29221
(803) 724-5002



Estate Notice Clarendon County

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Clarendon County, the address of which is 411 Sunset Dr. Manning, SC 29102, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim.

Estate: **Haulean T. Smith**
#2018ES1400010
Personal Representative:
Ella Smith Jenkins
105 Bella Court
Columbia, SC 29210
William H. Johnson
PO Box 137
Manning, SC 29102
02/02/18 - 02/16/18

Estate: **John William Welch**
#2018ES1400008
Personal Representative:
Juanita Claudia Welch
1491 Pope St.
Turbeville, SC 29162
Elbert K. Turbeville
PO Box 699
Lake City, SC 29560
02/02/18 - 02/16/18

Estate: **Wesley Milton Foster**
#2018ES1400017
Personal Representative:
Ernest P. Foster
971 Dayton Court
San Jacinto, CA 92583
William Ceth Land
PO Box 138
Manning, SC 29102
02/02/18 - 02/16/18

Estate: **Lila Mae Samuels Charles**
#2018ES1400022
Personal Representative:
Lila Mabel Charles
1080 Twin Lakes Drive
Sumter, SC 29154
02/09/18 - 02/23/18

Estate: **Peter Morris Marcotte**
#2018ES1400009
Personal Representative:
Patricia M. Marcotte
61 Homefield Avenue
Providence, RI 02908
Peter J. Marcotte
48 King Arthur Dr.
Richmond, RI 02892
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PHOTO PROVIDED

Howard Conyers, keynote speaker, sits for a photo with the Morris College honors students recognized on Thursday with Interim President Leroy Staggers to his left.

CONYERS

FROM PAGE A1

for 200 years, now lives in New Orleans and hosts a variety of culturally specific dinner delicacies from Creole, Gullah and Senegalese cuisines. He has been featured many times on TV and in publications, including on the Cooking Channel.

At Stennis — NASA's largest rocket engine test facility, located on the banks of the Pearl River at the Mississippi-Louisiana border — Conyers is the A1 Test Stand Mechanical Design Lead where the RS-25, or space shuttle main engine, is tested. In June 2016, serving as principal investigator and project manager for the High Dynamic Range Stereo-X project, he led the team in demonstrating technology capabilities in recording high-speed, high-dynamic range video during the Space Launch System Qualification Motor QM-2 Testing in Utah.

Also in 2016, he was one of 40 young leaders under the age of 40 recognized as a NextCity Vanguard. He serves on boards for the GrowDat Youth Farm and the Dillard University Ray Charles Program in African-American Material Culture.

He said on Thursday he — and, in turn, the students he addressed at Morris — as a black American has had to actively work to keep his name associated with his work and to get credit for his accomplishments. Sometimes, he said, others get the credit. But the key is to keep going.

"We are the best of the best and the strongest of the strong," he said.

He said education makes anything possible.

"Education helps open doors to elevate a conversation to give credit to what we fundamentally created," he said.

By becoming nationally known for his Palmetto State whole hog barbecue, by studying and working his way through North Carolina A&T State University for undergrad and Duke University for a master's and doctorate in mechanical engineering, by finding his place at NASA, he said he put himself in a position where people listen to him and that he feels a responsibility to use that platform and inspire a younger generation to do the same.

"All I liked was math and science," he said. "My family was classically trained as tradesmen or on the farm. Everyone has a gift.

"And, look, I'm only 20 years removed from the fields they work in."

Morris College Interim President Leroy Staggers said he wanted to bring Conyers to the school to inspire students and show them a role model.

"It's not just saying the words," Staggers said, "but being the example."

SLUR

FROM PAGE A1

packing department.

Though he did not hear the comment himself, Rose said he has heard the plant manager make similar comments in the past.

"You don't say things like that," Rose said. "He's still in the plant after making a comment like that."

Rose and two other employees, who were scheduled to be working while they peacefully protested, said they would stay outside the plant until they felt comfortable to return inside.

Rose said he would return to work if the plant manager showed more respect toward his employees.

"It's not just him," Demetrius Stewart said about the plant manager. "He was just the icing on the cake."

Stewart and some of her co-workers said the alleged comment was just one more thing that made the working situation undesirable. Employees are also not given sufficient break times and do not have enough time to take care of personal issues outside of work such as taking care of sick children, she said.

Stewart said she would like to do a good job at the processing plant, but that is difficult to do when supervisors make degrading comments.

"I'm still going to work because I have to eat, but something needs to be done," she said. "Without us, they can't get that place running."

"They don't treat us like a No. 1 priority," she said.

When asked if she would consider leaving, Stewart said her job at Pilgrim's Pride works well for her family's schedule.

You have to go to a place where you know they will accommodate your family, and this job accommodates a lot of people's families, she said.

Though she said the job does not leave a lot of time for parents to spend with their children during the day, Stewart is able to take her children to school and have someone watch her children for part of the night instead of the entire night while she's working.

It is not known how many employees walked out, left early or did not report to work because of the situation, nor what actions the plant administration will take in response. About 50 people were protesting outside when *The Sumter Item* was on scene Thursday morning.

The plant has more than 2,000 full-time positions.

Multiple efforts to contact a spokesperson at Pilgrim's Pride, and to confirm the name of the plant manager and his status, have not yet been returned.

FUNDRAISER

FROM PAGE A1

at the Children's Center at USC while in school. The district's Teacher Forum, composed of current and former teachers of the year, established the memorial scholarship in her honor later that same year.

The scholarship is awarded each year to a district high school senior who is planning to major in education and attend a state college or university to become a teacher. The first scholarship, awarded in April 2015 to senior Rebecca Twitty, was for $3,000.

This year's Hailey Bordeaux Memorial Scholarship dinner fundraiser will be at Kingsbury Elementary School on Thursday, March 15, from 3:45 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. Turkey tetrazzini dinners will be available for take-out only with drive-through and carryout service, according to district staff.

Tickets are $7 and are on sale now through March 7. To purchase tickets or for more information, contact a Teacher Forum representative or Kingsbury Elementary at (803) 775-6244, or email Denice Merrick at *denice.merrick@sumterschools.net*. Checks should be made payable to Sumter School District with "Hailey Bordeaux Memorial Scholarship Fund" on the memo line. All proceeds will benefit the Sumter School District Teacher Forum Hailey Bordeaux Memorial Scholarship for Future Educators. No tickets will be sold at the door on the day of the event, according to staff.

"Hailey's gift for inspiring children was enhanced by her warm and loving aura, her creativity and intelligence and her joyful personality," said Shelly Galloway, spokeswoman for Sumter School District. "It's the Teacher Forum's desire to honor Hailey's love for children and the public school classroom by naming the top scholarship in her memory."

This year's scholarship will be awarded at the Teacher Forum Celebration of Excellence, which will be held on May 1 at Crestwood High School, according to Galloway.

District high school seniors who are planning to major in education and attend a South Carolina college or university to become a teacher are welcome to apply for the scholarship, she said.

MORE FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

• Also at Monday's board meeting, students from Alice Drive Middle School presented various Science, Technology, Engineering and Math projects highlighting work done from the school's STEM elective classes and after-school clubs.

• District administrators Arpad Jonas and David Laws also provided a technology update to the trustees. Since 2015, the district has purchased 20,000 Google Chromebooks to equip every student in grades kindergarten through 12th.

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OPINION

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COMMENTARY

A love letter to journalism

BY JENNIFER PETERS

Editor's note: This column originally ran in the Wednesday edition of News Media Alliance.

When I traveled with my family as a child, I would drag my parents to gift shops in every new city, looking for postcards and tchotchkes to commemorate our travels, but my father only ever wanted one particular souvenir for himself: a local newspaper. Wherever we went, that was the first thing my dad would buy. It didn't matter if we were visiting for a day or a week; my father would buy every uniquely local paper at the first newsstand we encountered, and he would read them cover to cover, even if they were out of date by the time he got through them all. It was a habit I found quirky as a child but now feel grateful for because it helped teach me the value of journalism.

These days, with fake news and junk news clogging our media pipelines, it seems quaint to imagine a time when all our news came from trusted sources, like our local newspapers and evening news broadcasts. But all hope is not lost!

Every day, thanks to the work of incredible journalists across the country and around the globe, we learn more about the world in which we live. The 2017 Pulitzer Prize winners were a mix of big-name journalists from the likes of *The New York Times* and *ProPublica*, as well as outstanding local reporters like Eric Eyre of the *Charleston* (West Virginia) *Gazette-Mail*, the staff of Oakland, California's *East Bay Times* and the local news team from *The Salt Lake* (Utah) *Tribune*, to name just a few.

The world has gotten smaller, thanks to the seemingly simple acts of journalists just doing their jobs. There's Hadeel al-Yamani, the first woman to become an *Al-Jazeera Arabic* television correspondent in Yemen.

There's Audrey Jiajia Li, a freelance journalist and independent filmmaker based in Guangzhou, China, who reports on human rights issues in the region. In New Hampshire, there's librarian-turned-newspaper-editor Mike Sullivan, keeping his community informed in the face of a news desert. In Hawaii, Honolulu Civil Beat is delivering the news and teaching its community important media literacy lessons.

Most of us can't name the reporters in our local papers, and online it's impossible to be familiar with every journalist we rely on when there is so much news to consume. But regardless of recognition or reward, these tireless teams of talented reporters continue to deliver the essential information of the day.

Unfortunately, the press isn't exactly celebrated in most parts of the world. The idea of a free press is an unknown concept in some countries whose governments seek to control the flow of information. Reporters from every country in the world put their safety, and sometimes even their lives, at risk every time they go out to report a story. They are harassed, assaulted and even jailed simply for doing their jobs, and often without any other cause. In extreme circumstances, journalists have died for their work.

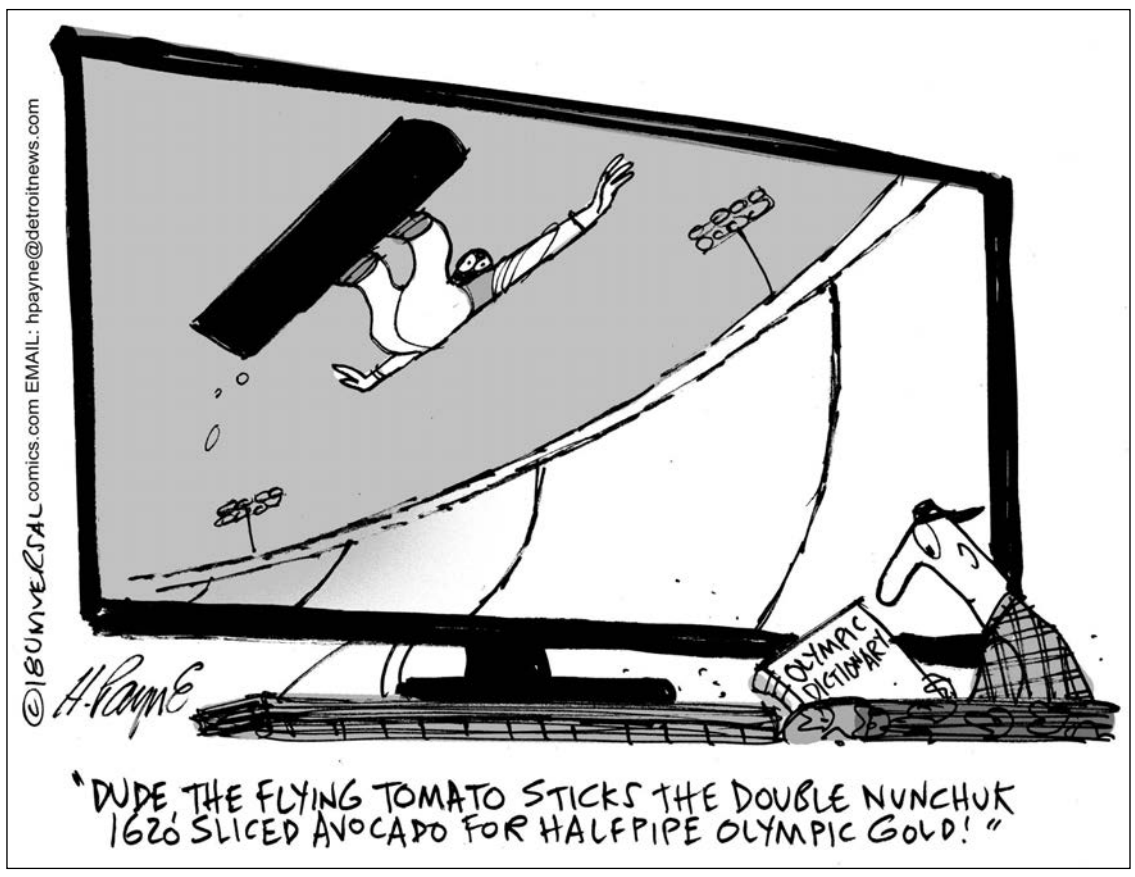
And yet, every day, we can open a newspaper, tune in to a local radio program, watch the evening news on TV or scroll through headlines on our phones without ever worrying that we won't be given the information we seek. We lose not a moment's sleep from concern about the future of the news media.

But we should not take quality journalism for granted. The explosion of digital communication formats means that anyone with an Internet connection can publish information, and they are not all necessarily committed to reporting the truth like quality journalists from trusted, respected news organizations. Because many sites offer their "information" for free, news organizations have faced incredible challenges when it comes to monetizing their content. But we must demand truthful and accurate news to hold our public officials accountable and preserve the checks and balances necessary for a sound democracy.

The Washington Post's tagline is "Democracy dies in darkness," but it's not only democracy that's under attack when the press is curtailed. Society as a whole suffers when we don't have access to information. So today, as we celebrate all the people we love, the News Media Alliance wants to share our love of journalism and the people who keep it alive.

These days, whenever I find myself in a new city, I stop to buy the local newspaper, just like my dad. I don't know where we'd be without the newspapers and journalists who help shape my views of the world, and I hope to never find out.





EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

Recent editorials from South Carolina newspapers:

THE INDEX-JOURNAL
Feb. 14

Punishment for crimes should be a deterrent

If you don't wanna do the time, don't do the crime.

Most readers are probably familiar with that sentiment. Many, however, are likely thinking it really doesn't matter so much after all. There's plenty of evidence to support that thinking.

Here in the Lakelands alone there have been several cases in which white-collar crimes have been committed and the punishment comes nowhere near to addressing the severity of the crime.

The message many have taken from these cases is that stealing money from universities and publicly funded law enforcement agencies is worth the risk. And private citizens who have entrusted their life savings to a professional investor are worthwhile targets, as the punishment when caught pales in comparison to what one might get away with.

We have also seen that law enforcement officers and lawmakers alike very nearly walk away from crimes they have committed. All across the state of South Carolina, for example, one sheriff after another has been found guilty of committing crimes. Their punishment? Little more than a slap on the wrist, payment of a small fine perhaps.

Another case in point that would indicate crime isn't as risky surfaced this week when a judge sentenced former state Rep. Rick Quinn Jr. to two years on probation, 500 hours of community service and a $1,000 fine when Quinn pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor corruption charge.

The former House majority leader was caught up in a Statehouse corruption investigation in which Quinn was accused of taking $4 million in unreported lobbyist dollars and doing their bidding on behalf of his father's political consulting company. Quinn's father, Richard Sr., has had a list of high-profile clients. In exchange for his son's plea deal, and by cooperating with investigators, the elder Quinn avoided corruption charges himself.

One might argue that it's not the penalty that comes from the commission of such crimes that acts as a deterrent at all, that those who commit these crimes get so full of themselves and think themselves too smart and too powerful to fail.

That, to a large degree, makes perfect sense. Still, we'd like to see stiffer penalties and real time served behind bars, if not to test the theory, then to at least mete out more just punishment and give victims a little more satisfaction.

THE TIMES AND DEMOCRAT
Feb. 14

Law against uncovered loads must be enforced

Litter is expensive, both in terms of cleanup and community impact. If getting rid of it is as big a priority as so many say, volunteer efforts must be supported by a state willing to be tough on offenders and a citizenry that refuses to accept life amid the debris.

Uncovered vehicles are the No. 1 source of roadside litter in South Carolina, according to research conducted by Keep America Beautiful.

Although South Carolina state law says no vehicle shall be driven on any public highway unless it is loaded or covered to prevent its load from dropping, escaping or shifting, unsecured loads still contribute to more than 20 percent of roadside debris. Uncovered pickups, commercial trucks and trailers will usually have materials blowing or bouncing out.

In enforcing the law, special attention should be given to roadways and highways around county landfills and sites for solid waste collection and recycling. Vehicle operators transporting uncovered loads are responsible and can be charged with littering for any trash or debris that blows out of their vehicle onto the road or along the highway.

Carrying uncovered debris should be dealt with on the roads and at the dump site, where such loads could be reported. An initial warning for educational purposes would be followed by a citation. Call that the stick.

Meanwhile, PalmettoPride, the state's anti-litter organization, is addressing the issue of uncovered loads with a carrot.

PalmettoPride has announced a plan to distribute 5,000 tarps to nine counties. Orangeburg and Bamberg counties are on the list to receive some of the available tarps.

"Tarp campaigns bring awareness to drivers on state litter laws and puts the power of prevention in the citizens' hands," PalmettoPride Executive Director Sarah Lyles said in a press release. "Our goal is to change the behavior that creates litter."

If positive results are noted, PalmettoPride plans to make the tarp campaign an ongoing effort with counties across the state interested in participating.

Tourism and economic development are adversely affected when litter is unchecked. And public funds must be spent to clean up after litterers.

The solution to South Carolina's litter problem is proper handling of solid waste by people. Everyone is encouraged to be careful with trash and to help make our state cleaner. Citizens must understand the problem and how it can be remedied. Curbing the number of uncovered loads could make a noticeable difference.

EDITORIAL PAGE POLICIES

EDITORIALS represent the views of the owners of this newspaper.

COLUMNS AND COMMENTARY are the personal opinion of the writer whose byline appears. Columns from readers should be typed, double-spaced and no more than 850 words. Send them to *The Sumter Item*, Opinion Pages, P.O. Box 1677, Sumter, S.C. 29151, or email to *letters@theitem.com*.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are written by readers of the newspaper. They should be no more than 350 words and sent via e-mail to *letters@theitem.com*, dropped off at *The Sumter Item* office, 36 W. Liberty St. or mailed to *The Sumter Item*, P.O. Box 1677, Sumter, S.C. 29151, along with the full name of the writer, plus an address and telephone number for verification purposes only. Letters that exceed 350 words will be cut accordingly in the print edition, but available in their entirety at *www.theitem.com*.

Sessions wants mental health, gun violence studied

PARKLAND, Fla. (AP) — An orphaned 19-year-old with a troubled past and his own AR-15 rifle was charged with 17 counts of premeditated murder Thursday morning following the deadliest school shooting in the U.S. in five years.

Law enforcement officials told The Associated Press that Nikolas Cruz legally purchased the assault weapon used in the attack.

As reactions poured in Thursday, President Donald Trump focused on the young man's mental health, and Attorney General Jeff Sessions said he wants the Justice Department to study how mental illness and gun violence intersect, and figure out how law enforcement can better use existing gun laws to intervene before these school shootings happen.

"It cannot be denied that something dangerous and unhealthy is happening in our country," Sessions told a group of sheriffs in Washington. In "every one of these cases, we've had advance indications, and perhaps we haven't been effective enough in intervening."

Fourteen wounded survivors remained hospitalized as bodies were recovered from inside and around Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Cruz, still wearing a hospital gown early Thursday after being treated for labored breathing, and weighing in at 5-foot-7 and 131 pounds, was ordered held without bond and booked into jail.

His former classmates thought they were having another drill when a fire alarm sounded, requiring them to leave their classrooms Wednesday.

That's when police say



This photo posted on the Instagram account of Nikolas Cruz shows a weapon being held. Cruz was charged with 17 counts of premeditated murder on Thursday, the day after opening fire with a semi-automatic weapon in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Cruz, equipped with a gas mask, smoke grenades and magazines of ammunition, opened fire with a semi-automatic weapon, killing 17 people and sending hundreds of students fleeing into the streets.

It was the nation's deadliest school shooting since a gunman attacked an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, more than five years ago. The overall death toll differs by how such shootings are defined, but Everytown For Gun Safety has tallied 290 school shootings in America since 2013, and this attack makes 18 so far this year.

Trump lamented in a tweet that there were "So many signs that the Florida shooter was mentally disturbed, even expelled from school for bad and erratic behavior. Neighbors and classmates knew he was a big problem. Must always report such instances to authorities, again and again!"

Trump also issued a proclamation saying, in part, "Our Nation grieves with those who have lost loved ones," and planned to address the nation about the shooting. Pope Francis sent a telegram of prayer and condolences, and the New York Stock Exchange held a minute of silence after its opening bell.

Cruz legally purchased the AR-15 used in the attack about a year ago, law enforcement officials told The Associated Press. The officials, not authorized to discuss this publicly, spoke on condition of anonymity. Federal law allows people 18 and older to legally purchase long guns, including this kind of assault weapon.

Authorities offered no immediate details about a possible motive, except to say that Cruz had been kicked out of the high school, which has about 3,000 students. Students who knew him described a volatile teenager whose strange behavior had caused others to end friendships with him.

Cruz's mother Lynda Cruz died of pneumonia on Nov. 1 neighbors, friends and family members said, according to the *Sun Sentinel*. Cruz and her husband, who died of a heart attack several years ago, adopted Nikolas and his biological brother, Zachary, after the couple moved from Long Island in New York to Broward County.

The boys were left in the care of a family friend after their mother died, said family member Barbara Kumbatovich, of Long Island.

Unhappy there, Nikolas Cruz asked to move in with a friend's family in northwest Broward. That family agreed and Cruz moved in around Thanksgiving. According to the family's lawyer, who did not identify them, they knew that Cruz owned the AR-15 but made him keep it locked up in a cabinet. He did have the key, however.

Attorney Jim Lewis told the AP that the family is cooperating with authorities and had no idea he was planning the shooting.

He seemed like "just a mildly troubled kid who'd lost his mom" during the three months they lived together; respectful and quiet, but also sad because his mother had died, Lewis said.

They had "no indication that anything severe like this was wrong," Lewis said. "He totally kept this from everybody."

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AROUND TOWN

Sumter High School Class of 1978 will hold a 40th class reunion planning meeting at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 18, at the Sumter County Library, 111 N. Harvin St. All classmates are encouraged to attend. For additional information regarding the meeting or the Oct. 12 class reunion, visit Sumter High Class of 1978 on Facebook or email *sumterhigh1978@gmail.com*.

Do you need a divorce but can't afford an attorney? South Carolina Legal Services will offer free do-it-yourself divorce clinics for those who meet the following criteria: separated for at least one year; no minor children; and no marital property or debts that have to be divided. During the two hour class, a S.C. Legal Services attorney will provide you with all the forms you need to file for divorce and give you instructions on how to get your spouse served. You will be provided with the knowledge you need to start and finish your divorce without hiring an attorney. Seating is limited. Call (803) 799-9668 to reserve your space for one of the following clinics: 2-4 p.m. Wednesday, March 21, Sumter County; 2-4 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, Clarendon County; or 2-4 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, Lee County.

Free income tax filing services and FAFSA application assistance will be provided on a walk-in basis from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Saturdays at 640 Broad St. (the Anything Paper building). Services include e-file and direct deposit 2017 tax year and processing taxes from three years back (2016, 2015 and 2014). Call (803) 883-5483.

The Sumter AARP Tax-Aide Foundation will offer free tax assistance and preparation on a first come, first served basis on Mondays and Wednesdays through April 17 at the Lincoln Historical Center (former home of the Shepherd's Center), 26 Council St. On Saturday, Feb. 17, assistance will be available on an appointment basis only. Call Lula King at (803) 316-0772.

The Sumter Coin Club will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at the Parks and Recreation Department building, 155 Haynsworth St. The group meets on the third Tuesday of each month and visitors are always welcome. Call (803) 775-8840 for information.

The Sumter Branch NAACP will hold a community meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 22, at Rafting Creek Community Center, 4050 N. Kings Highway, Rembert, regarding the potential permanent closing of Rafting Creek Elementary School.

Wateree Head Start Program's annual "Check Your Heart" event will be held from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 23, at the North HOPE Center. This annual health fair stresses the need for good health, oral hygiene, healthy eating habits and exercise.

A OnePalmetto Scholarship and College Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Sumter High School gymnasium, 2580 McCrays Mill Road. This event is an opportunity for high school and college students to meet with college admissions counselors and scholarship foundations for advice about obtaining scholarships and what they look for in potential recipients. Email *onepalmetto@gmail.com* for information.

The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Secrecy will lead to anger and potential financial problems. Don't engage in anything that could lead to injury or damage your reputation. If you want to pursue change, do so intelligently and openly. Avoid dealing with bureaucracy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Snuggle up to someone you love. Don't let anger or dissatisfaction ruin a perfectly good day with someone you truly care about. Let down your guard and show patience, understanding and the willingness to work toward a mutual goal.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make a difference instead of creating a problem. How you handle unfinished business and matters that can affect your reputation will determine where you end up personally and professionally. Don't give in to emotional manipulation or self-deception.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Pull all your resources together and do your own thing. You'll come up with some interesting ideas that will help you combat some of the obstacles you've faced in the past. A partnership will motivate you to pursue your dreams.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Uncertainty will arise if you mix money and friendship. Don't get involved in joint ventures or pay for someone else's mistake. Invest only in the projects that are certain to benefit you. Avoid indulgent behavior and excessive spending.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put more effort into your personal relationships. If you love someone, let him or her know. If you feel your relationships with others could use some work, be forthright and find out where you stand.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Get involved in projects that allow you to use your skills and experience in new ways. What you learn will help you make better choices. Don't let a past connection or mistake hold you back.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take a deep breath and get ready to take on whatever comes your way. Push back if someone is overstepping his or her bounds, and make your point heard without showing anger. Your guidance, not your criticism, is required.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't skirt issues or try to make excuses for someone else's behavior. Be realistic in your appraisals and honest about your concerns. Anger will only make matters worse. Remain calm and do whatever is in your best interest.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Rely on yourself and your ability to get things done. Refuse to let anyone sidetrack you or take advantage of your knowledge, skills and experience. Do what works for you and don't worry about what others do.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Baby steps will help you build your future on solid ground. Taking on too much or overdoing it in any way will end up holding you back. Plan out every move you make and you will reach your destination.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Being sensitive will help you establish what others want. Know when to decline a joint venture. Look out for your best interests. Feeling sorry for someone who is trying to take advantage of you will lead to loss.

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2018

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy	Cloudy and mild	Low clouds and cooler	Warmer with some sun	Mostly cloudy with a shower	Low clouds
81°	53°	63° / 51°	70° / 54°	78° / 60°	82° / 61°
Chance of rain: 25%	Chance of rain: 25%	Chance of rain: 25%	Chance of rain: 10%	Chance of rain: 40%	Chance of rain: 25%
WSW 10-20 mph	NE 7-14 mph	ESE 6-12 mph	ENE 7-14 mph	S 6-12 mph	S 6-12 mph

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

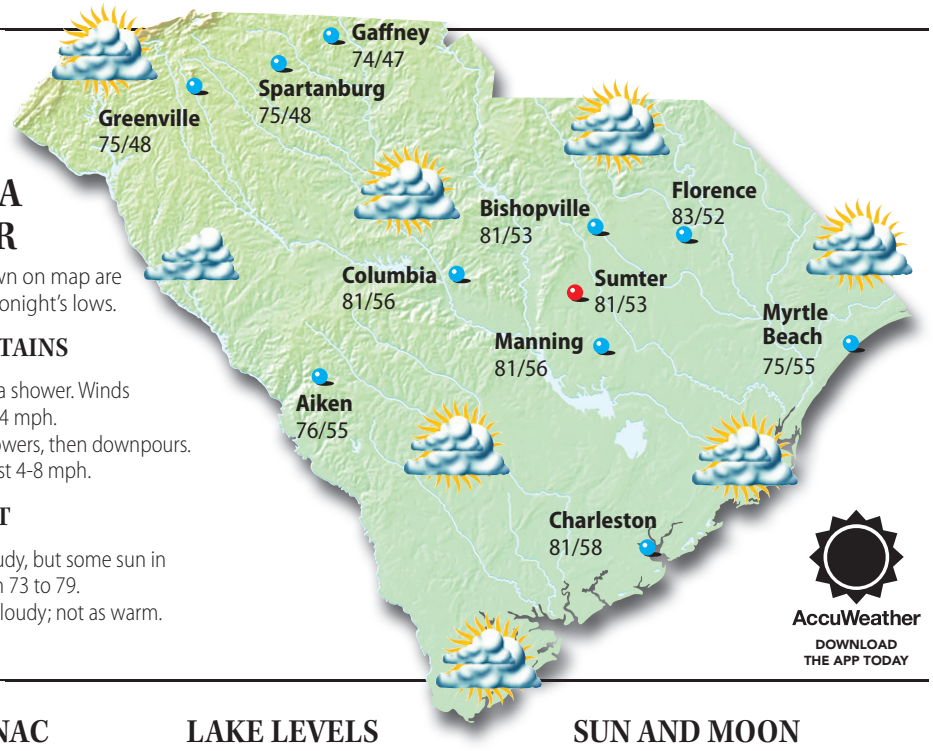
Temperatures shown on map are today's highs and tonight's lows.

IN THE MOUNTAINS

Today: Warm with a shower. Winds west-southwest 7-14 mph.
Saturday: A.M. showers, then downpours. Winds east-northeast 4-8 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: Turning cloudy, but some sun in southern parts. High 73 to 79.
Saturday: Mostly cloudy; not as warm. High 60 to 74.



LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THROUGH 2 P.M. YESTERDAY

Temperature

High	77°
Low	60°
Normal high	58°
Normal low	35°
Record high	82° in 1976
Record low	17° in 1968

Precipitation

24 hrs ending 2 p.m. yest.	0.00"
Month to date	0.60"
Normal month to date	1.78"
Year to date	2.64"
Last year to date	5.58"
Normal year to date	5.72"

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	356.73	+0.13
Marion	76.8	75.11	+0.03
Moultrie	75.5	74.17	+0.12
Wateree	100	97.10	-0.22

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	8.61	-0.09
Congaree River	19	5.50	-0.98
Lynches River	14	9.36	-0.04
Saluda River	14	7.11	-0.02
Up. Santee River	80	80.49	-0.10
Wateree River	24	15.85	+0.01

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	7:06 a.m.	Sunset	6:07 p.m.
Moonrise	7:38 a.m.	Moonset	7:02 p.m.

First	Full	Last	New
Feb. 23	Mar. 1	Mar. 9	Mar. 17

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH

	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	9:29 a.m.	3.1	3:42 a.m.	-0.2
	9:33 p.m.	2.8	4:14 p.m.	-0.2
Sat.	10:03 a.m.	3.0	4:20 a.m.	-0.2
	10:08 p.m.	2.8	4:50 p.m.	-0.2

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	72/53/c	70/48/sh
Chicago	28/12/pc	35/20/sn
Dallas	57/40/r	60/44/r
Detroit	32/16/pc	36/28/pc
Houston	76/57/sh	70/58/sh
Los Angeles	75/51/s	74/48/s
New Orleans	80/60/pc	78/60/c
New York	58/26/sh	38/30/pc
Orlando	85/59/s	85/60/pc
Philadelphia	62/27/sh	40/31/pc
Phoenix	70/50/s	74/54/s
San Francisco	64/46/s	64/49/s
Wash., DC	61/30/c	43/32/r

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Asheville	67/41/sh	48/40/sh
Athens	76/52/c	65/45/sh
Augusta	81/58/c	75/52/c
Beaufort	79/60/c	74/57/pc
Cape Hatteras	65/44/pc	56/48/c
Charleston	81/58/pc	73/57/pc
Charlotte	76/49/sh	54/45/r
Columbia	81/56/c	67/52/c
Darlington	80/53/pc	56/47/r
Elizabeth City	75/39/sh	50/44/r
Elizabethtown	81/50/pc	53/47/c
Fayetteville	82/50/pc	53/44/r

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Florence	83/52/pc	60/49/r
Gainesville	79/55/pc	78/54/c
Gastonia	76/48/sh	53/44/r
Goldsboro	80/47/r	51/43/r
Goose Creek	81/59/c	72/58/pc
Greensboro	72/40/sh	44/38/r
Greenville	75/48/sh	55/45/sh
Hickory	72/40/sh	47/40/r
Hilton Head	75/60/c	71/59/pc
Jacksonville, FL	79/58/pc	81/57/c
La Grange	76/53/c	75/55/sh
Macon	79/55/c	76/54/c
Marietta	71/50/sh	66/45/sh

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Marion	70/43/c	46/39/r
Mt. Pleasant	78/59/c	71/59/c
Myrtle Beach	75/55/pc	60/55/c
Orangeburg	79/57/c	67/55/sh
Port Royal	77/60/pc	72/60/c
Raleigh	78/44/sh	47/39/r
Rock Hill	77/49/sh	54/44/r
Rockingham	80/49/pc	51/43/r
Savannah	81/58/pc	80/59/pc
Spartanburg	75/48/sh	51/44/sh
Summerville	80/59/c	71/58/pc
Wilmington	79/52/pc	58/52/c
Winston-Salem	70/41/sh	44/38/r



ANSWERS TO TODAY'S PUZZLES

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

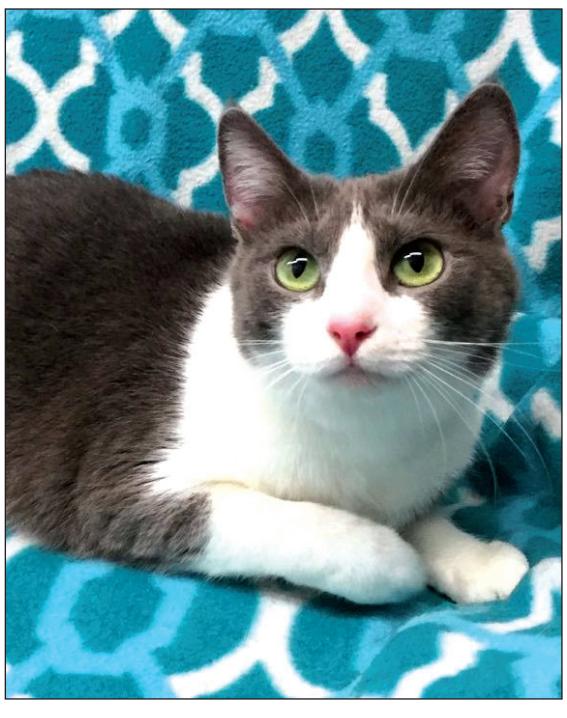
JUMBLE

TITLE SLANT VASTLY AVENGE

They knew the time of the author's reading because of the — TELL-TALE SIGNS

SUMTER SPCA PETS OF THE WEEK





FAR LEFT: River is a housebroken 2-year-old male Labrador retriever mix. He is great with other dogs and older children. River is an active, friendly and affectionate boy, but needs a home without cats. He would make a great new family buddy.

LEFT: Rain is a housebroken and spayed 2-year-old American short hair. She is great with other cats, children and even dogs. Rain is sweet, friendly and affectionate. She loves to lounge around and be lazy.

The Sumter SPCA is located at 1140 S. Guignard Drive, (803) 773-9292, and is open 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. every day except Wednesday and Sunday. Visit the website at *www.sumterscspca.com*.

The SPCA relies heavily on community support and donations. Currently, the biggest needs are for dry puppy and kitten food, wet cat food, cat litter and cleaning supplies. The following are also appreciated:
Newspapers, stuffed animals, heavy duty trash bags (30 gallon or larger), dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, bleach, paper towels, sheets and comforters, baby blankets, canned dog and cat food, dry dog food, treats, leashes and collars, disinfectant spray, all-purpose cleaner, air freshener, no scratch scrubbers, two-sided sponges for dishes, litter freshener and, of course, monetary donations are also gratefully accepted.

the Sumter ITEM SPORTS

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

SECTION B

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2018

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Play ball!

USC, Clemson open today; USC's Holladay, Tigers' Hawkins could see some action

BY DENNIS BRUNSON
dennis@theitem.com

The college baseball season begins for both the University of South Carolina and Clemson today, and both teams have local players who could end up playing big roles in the upcoming season.

Freshman Jordan Holladay, a 4-time all-region performer at Sumter High School, is listed as one of four players vying

SEE **BALL,** PAGE B3



Former Sumter High School standout Jordan Holladay (19) is listed among a group of four as a possible starter at first base for the University of South Carolina. The Gamecocks open their season today against Virginia Military Institute

SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

PREP BASKETBALL

Gamecocks survive

Sumter's Isaih Moore hits 2 clutch free throws to preserve 53-52 victory over Goose Creek to advance to 2nd round

BY EDDIE LITAKER
Special to The Sumter Item

Well, that didn't go quite as planned.

Isaih Moore scored 21 points in the Sumter varsity boys basketball team's 5A first-round state playoff game against Goose Creek Wednesday at the SHS gymnasium and the Gamecocks literally needed every single one of them.

Moore hit two free throws with 5.4 seconds left, with the second coming after a Gators timeout, to give the Gamecocks a 53-49 lead. With the Sumter defense pulled back to avoid committing any fouls, Jamel McGowan hit a three at the buzzer, fittingly giving Sumter a 1-point, 53-52, win in a game that saw the Gamecocks overcome a 16-point deficit and not take their first lead until the final two minutes.

Even though Sumter came in as the Region VI champion, it was Goose Creek, the fifth-place team out of Region VII, that looked like a region champion with crisp passing, precision long-range shooting and an answer to dash every glimmer of hope for the Gamecocks until Sumter's late rally.

SHS head coach Shawn Jones commended the play of the Gator guards as a big factor in putting the Gamecocks in such unexpected first-round peril.

SEE **SHS,** PAGE B4



MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Sumter's Isaih Moore (11) watches a free throw find the net during the Gamecocks' 53-52 victory over Goose Creek on Wednesday in the opening round of the 5A state playoffs at the Sumter High gymnasium. Moore's two free throws in the closing seconds gave Sumter the winning margin in the contest.

PREP BASKETBALL

Strong defense lifts Lakewood past Dreher 60-45 in 4A playoffs

BY DENNIS BRUNSON
dennis@theitem.com

Through the first three minutes of Lakewood High School's first-round 4A boys basketball state playoff game against Dreher, LHS raced out to an 8-2 advantage.

The Blue Devils then got hot, pulling into a 14-14 tie early in the second quarter. After that though, the Gators threw the hammer down defensively.

Dreher didn't score another point in the first and still had just 26 entering the final quarter. Lakewood went on to a 60-45 at The Swamp to advance to the second round for the second straight season.

LHS, which improved to 17-9 on the season, will play host to Colleton County on Saturday at 7 p.m. Colleton County defeated North Myrtle Beach at home on Wednesday to up its record to 18-7.



BROWN

"We had to adjust what we were doing defensively," said Gators head coach Bryan Brown. "We were slow giving backside help and they were getting to the basket. We also played a little bit of zone, and we weren't doing a good job with that."

The Gators hit their first four shots to get out to the 8-2 advantage. The Blue Devils, who finished 9-14, pulled even when Jalen Darby scored with 6:55 left in the first half.

SEE **GATORS,** PAGE B4

PREP BASKETBALL

Stallions wallop Eau Claire 82-43

BY PATRICK ENZOR
Special to The Sumter Item

BISHOPVILLE — Believe it or not, Lee Central trailed for the first three-minutes, six-seconds of their game against Eau Claire in the first round of the 2A Upper State Boys State Playoffs.

The Stallions then massacred the Shamrocks over the remainder of the game to cruise to a 82-43 victory on Valentines Day at the Lee Central High School gymnasium.

Lee Central, now 21-3, moves on to the second round where it will host Abbeville on Saturday. Abbeville was a 72-70 winner over Christ Church.

"I like those kind of games," said LC head coach LaVerne Knox, who recently won his 500th game.

Eau Claire started strong with an alley-oop finish from Anthony Flager just seconds into the game, but turnovers and fouls piled up for the Shamrocks. Lee Central took a commanding 19-7 lead after the first quarter and the Shamrocks had as many points as turnovers.



KNOX

The second quarter was no different as the Stallions led 38-15 at the break behind 14 points from Daquan Thomas, who finished with 18. Eau Claire committed 16 turnovers in the first half.

"That was probably his (Thomas) best game all year," said Knox. "We need him to continue to play like this. He can take it to the basket and hit high-percentage shots."

SEE **STALLIONS,** PAGE B4

LOCAL PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

SCHSL

TODAY
GIRLS
5A
Sumter at Fort Dorchester, 7 p.m.
4A
North Myrtle Beach at Crestwood, 7 p.m.
BOYS
3A
Manning at Loris, 7 p.m.
1A
East Clarendon at C.E. Murray, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY
BOYS
5A
Irmo at Sumter, 7 p.m.
4A
Colleton County at Lakewood, 7 p.m.
2A
Abbeville at Lee Central, 7 p.m.

SCISA

TODAY
GIRLS
3A
at Wilson Hall B gymnasium
Wilson Hall vs. Orangeburg Prep, 8 p.m.
at Porter-Gaud (Charleston)
Laurence Manning vs. Porter-Gaud, 5:30 p.m.
2A
at Wilson Hall A gymnasium
Thomas Sumter vs. Christian Academy, 8 p.m.
at Sumter County Civic Center
Robert E. Lee vs. Pee Dee, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY
BOYS
3A
at Sumter County Civic Center
Laurence Manning vs. Northwood, 4:30 p.m.
at Heathwood Hall (Columbia)
Wilson Hall vs. Heathwood Hall, 3 p.m.
2A
at Pinewood Prep (Summerville)
Thomas Sumter vs. Hilton Head Prep, 4:30 p.m.
1A
at Wilson Hall A gymnasium
Clarendon Hall vs. Laurens Academy, 3 p.m.

PRO BASKETBALL

Young NBA phenoms set for Rising Stars

BY BRIAN MAHONEY
The Associated Press

Ben Simmons thought he should be an All-Star by now.

Yet each time Commissioner Adam Silver needed to tab an injury replacement from the Eastern Conference, he looked in another direction, to Simmons' disappointment.

Simmons expressed disappointment he didn't get the call.

Be patient, rookie. Simmons will likely get his chance someday. Maybe a bunch of them.

"He's a young player that has a bright future that is going to have a long and steady All-Star career," Hall of Famer and TNT analyst Reggie Miller said.

Same with Donovan Mitchell and a few other first-year phenoms.



DONOVAN MITCHELL

Those two guards head up a deep rookie class and might be neck-and-neck in this year's NBA rookie of the year race in which both are worthy of winning.

"I'm going to throw it out there, I like the whole Grant Hill and Jason Kidd co-rookie of the years," Miller said. "I'll throw that out there now because I think both are well-deserving of it."

Mitchell and Simmons will be together Friday night when the NBA's best first- and second-year players compete in the Rising Stars in Los Angeles to kick off All-Star weekend.

Simmons, the versatile 6-foot-10 point guard from the Philadelphia 76ers with six triple-doubles and size and statistics that call to mind a young Magic Johnson, and the high-flying Mitchell from the surging Utah Jazz will garner much of the attention. But the rosters for the game, which pits a U.S. team against the World, show just how deep the league is with young talent.

There's Simmons' teammate Joel Embiid, who joins him on the World squad, while the U.S. has Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown, who helped Boston lead the East most of the season. Brandon Ingram and Kyle Kuzma will play for the U.S., though the hometown Lakers lost out on a third player when Lonzo Ball had to pull out because of injury.

Dennis Smith Jr. of Dallas, who like Mitchell will compete in the Slam Dunk contest, also will suit up for the Americans.

The rest of the rosters:

— U.S.: Kris Dunn (Chicago), John Collins and Taurean Prince (Atlanta) and De'Aaron Fox (Sacramento). Rookie of the Year Malcolm Brogdon of Milwaukee was picked for the game but is injured.

— World: Lauri Markkanen (Chicago), Dario Saric (Philadelphia), Buddy Hield and Bogdan Bogdanovic (Sacramento), Jamal Murray (Denver), Domantas Sabonis (Indiana), Frank Ntilikina (New York) and Dillon Brooks (Memphis).

SCOREBOARD

TV, RADIO

TODAY

5 a.m. — Professional Golf: European PGA Tour Oman Golf Classic Second Round from Muscat, Oman (GOLF).
6:30 a.m. — Professional Tennis: ABN Amro World Tennis Tournament Quarterfinal Matches (TENNIS).
Noon -- NASCAR Racing: XFINITY Series Practice from Daytona Beach, Fla. (FOX SPORTS 1).
Noon — Senior PGA Golf: PGA Tour Champions Chubb Classic First Round from Naples, Fla. (GOLF).
12:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: NBA All-Star Rising Stars Practice from Los Angeles (NBA TV).
1 p.m. — NASCAR Racing: Monster Energy Cup Series Daytona 500 Practice from Daytona Beach, Fla. (FOX SPORTS 1).
1 p.m. — Professional Tennis: ABN Amro World Tennis Tournament Quarterfinal Matches and New York Open Quarterfinal Match (TENNIS).
2 p.m. — NASCAR Racing: XFINITY Series Practice from Daytona Beach, Fla. (FOX SPORTS 1).
2:50 p.m. — International Soccer: FA Cup Fifth-Round Match -- Hull City vs. Chelsea (FOX SPORTS 2).
3 p.m. — NASCAR Racing: Monster Energy Cup Series Daytona 500 Practice from Daytona Beach, Fla. (FOX SPORTS 1).
4 p.m. — PGA Golf: Genesis Open Second Round from Pacific Palisades, Calif. (GOLF).
4 p.m. — College Baseball: William & Mary at Clemson (WJMZ-FM 93.1).
4 p.m. — College Baseball: Virginia Military Institute at South Carolina (WNKT-FM 107.5).
4:30 p.m. — NASCAR Racing: Camping World Truck Series Pole Qualifying from Daytona Beach, Fla. (FOX SPORTS 1).
5 p.m. — College Lacrosse: Denver at Duke (ESPNU).
6 p.m. — Professional Tennis: ABN Amro World Tennis Tournament Quarterfinal Matches and New York Open Quarterfinal Match (TENNIS).
6:05 p.m. — Talk Show: Sports Talk (WDXY-FM 105.9, WDY-AM 1240).
7 p.m. — Exhibition Basketball: NBA All-Star Celebrity Game from Los Angeles (ESPN).
7 p.m. — College Basketball: Rhode Island at St. Bonaventure (ESPN2).
7 p.m. — College Basketball: Bowling Green at Buffalo (ESPNU).
7 p.m. — Women's College Basketball: Seton Hall at St. John's (FOX SPORTS 2).
7 p.m. — Women's College Gymnastics: Georgia at Florida (SEC NETWORK).
7:30 p.m. — College Hockey: North Dakota at Nebraska (Omaha) (CBS SPORTS NETWORK).
7:30 p.m. — NASCAR Racing: Camping World Truck Series NextEra Energy Resources 250 from Daytona Beach, Fla. (FOX SPORTS 1, WEGX-FM 92.9).
7:30 p.m. — NHL Hockey: New York Islanders at Carollina (FOX SPORTSOUTH).
8 p.m. — Women's College Basketball: Georgetown at DePaul (FOX SPORTS SOUTHEAST).
8:30 p.m. — Women's College Gymnastics: Kentucky at Alabama (SEC NETWORK).
9 p.m. — Women's College Basketball: Denver, Southern Utah at Brigham Young (BYUTV).
9 p.m. — Professional Boxing: Raymundo Beltran vs. Paulus Moses in a Lightweight Bout from Reno, Nev. (ESPN).
9 p.m. — College Basketball: Georgia State at Georgia Southern (ESPN2).
9 p.m. — College Basketball: Northern Kentucky at Wright State (ESPNU).
9 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Rising Stars Challenge from Los Angeles (TNT).
9 p.m. — College Hockey: Canisius at Air Force (SPECTRUM 1250).
10 p.m. — College Hockey: Denver at Colorado College (CBS SPORTS NETWORK).
10 p.m. — LPGA Golf: Women's Australian Open Third Round from Adelaide, Australia (GOLF).
4 a.m.—Professional Golf: European PGA Tour NBO Oman Golf Classic Third Round from Muscat, Oman (GOLF).

SATURDAY

7:20 a.m. — International Soccer: FA Cup Fifth-Round Match — Swansea vs. Sheffield Wednesday (FOX SPORTS 1).
9 a.m. — Professional Tennis: ABN Amro World Tennis Tournament Semifinal Match (TENNIS).
9:20 a.m. — International Soccer: Bundesliga League Match — Bayern Munich vs. Wolfsburg (FOX SPORTS 2, UNIVISION).
9:30 a.m. — NASCAR Racing: XFINITY Series Pole Qualifying from Daytona Beach, Fla. (FOX SPORTS 1).
11 a.m. — College Basketball: Southern Methodist at Central (ESPNU).
Noon — College Basketball: Syracuse at Miami (WLTX 19).
Noon — College Basketball: Providence at Butler (WACH 57).
Noon — College Basketball: Navy at Boston University (CBS SPORTS NETWORK).
Noon — College Basketball: Texas at Oklahoma (ESPN).
Noon — College Basketball: Virginia Tech at Georgia Tech (ESPN2).
Noon — NASCAR Racing: Monster Energy Cup Series Daytona 500 Practice from Daytona Beach, Fla. (FOX SPORTS 1).
Noon — College Basketball: Bucknell at Holy Cross (SPECTRUM 1250).
Noon — College Baseball: Virginia Military Institute at South Carolina (WNKT-FM 107.5).
12:25 p.m. — International Soccer: Bundesliga League Match — 1899 Hoffenheim vs. Schalke 04 (UNIVISION).
12:30 p.m. — International Soccer: FA Cup Fifth-Round Match — Huddersfield vs. Manchester United (FOX SPORTS 2).
1 p.m. — College Basketball: Iowa State at Kansas State (ESPNU).
1 p.m. — Professional Tennis: ABN Amro World Tennis Tournament Semifinal Match and New York Open Semifinal Match (TENNIS).
2 p.m. — College Basketball: Michigan State at Northwestern (WACH 57).
2 p.m. — Women's College Basketball: San Diego at Brigham Young (BYUTV).
2 p.m. — College Basketball: Akron at Kent State (CBS SPORTS NETWORK).
2 p.m. — College Basketball: Kentucky at Alabama (ESPN).
2 p.m. — College Basketball: Indiana at Iowa (ESPN2).
2 p.m. — College Basketball: Missouri at Louisiana State (ESPNU).
2 p.m. — PGA Golf: Genesis Open Third Round from Pacific Palisades, Calif. (GOLF).
2 p.m. — NBA Basketball: NBA All-Star Practice and Media Day from Los Angeles (NBA TV).
2 p.m. — College Baseball: William & Mary at Clemson (WJMZ-FM 93.1).
2:30 p.m. — NASCAR Racing: XFINITY Series PowerShares QQQ 300 from Daytona Beach, Fla. (FOX SPORTS 1, WEGX-FM 92.9).
3 p.m. — College Basketball: Memphis at Tulane (ESPNU).
3 p.m. — Women's College Basketball: Texas at Oklahoma State (FOX SPORTS SOUTHEAST).
3 p.m. — College Baseball: MLB Andre Dawson Classic from New Orleans — Prairie View A&M vs. Alcorn State (MLB NETWORK).
3:30 p.m. — Senior PGA Golf: PGA Tour Champions Chubb Classic Second Round from Naples, Fla. (GOLF).
3:30 p.m. — College Basketball: Auburn at South Carolina (SEC NETWORK, WDXY-FM 105.9, WNKT-FM 107.5, WDXY-AM 1240).
4 p.m. — PGA Golf: Genesis Open Third Round from Pacific Palisades, Calif. (WTLX 19).
4 p.m. — College Basketball: North Carolina State at Wake Forest (WKTC 63).
4 p.m. — College Basketball: Winston-Salem State at Fayetteville State (ASPIRE).
4 p.m. — College Basketball: Brigham Young at San Diego (BYUTV).
4 p.m. — College Basketball: Nevada-Las Vegas at San Diego State (CBS SPORTS NETWORK).
4 p.m. — College Basketball: Texas A&M at Arkansas (ESPN).
4 p.m. — College Basketball: Florida at Vanderbilt (ESPN2).
4 p.m. — College Basketball: Virginia Commonwealth at George Washington (SPECTRUM 1250).
4:30 p.m. — College Basketball: Villanova at Xavier (WACH 57).
5 p.m. — College Hockey: Ohio State at Minnesota (ESPNU).
5:30 p.m. — Track and Field: U.S. Indoor Championships from Albuquerque (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
6 p.m. — College Basketball: Nevada at Utah State (CBS SPORTS NETWORK).
6 p.m. — College Basketball: Northern Iowa at Illinois State (ESPN2).
6 p.m. — College Basketball: Tennessee at Georgia (SEC NETWORK).
6:15 p.m. — College Basketball: West Virginia at Kansas (ESPN).
7 p.m. — College Baseball: MLB Andre Dawson Classic from New Orleans — Alabama State vs. New Orleans (MLB NETWORK).
7:30 p.m. — College Basketball: Texas Tech at Baylor (ESPNU).
7:30 p.m. — Professional Tennis: New York Open Semifinal Match (TENNIS).
8 p.m. — Professional Boxing: Devon Alexander vs. Victor Ortiz in a Welterweight Bout from El Paso, Texas (WACH 57).
8 p.m. — College Basketball: Morehead State at Belmont (CBS SPORTS NETWORK).
8 p.m. — College Basketball: Oklahoma State at Texas Christian (ESPN2).
8 p.m. — NBA Basketball: NBA All-Star Saturday Night from Los Angeles — Slam Dunk Contest, 3-Point Contest and Skills Challenge (TNT).
8:15 p.m. — College Basketball: North Carolina at Louisville (ESPN).
8:30 p.m. — College Basketball: Mississippi at Mississippi State (SEC NETWORK).
9 p.m. — LPGA Golf: Women's Australian Open Final Round from Adelaide, Australia (GOLF).
9:30 p.m. — College Basketball: Yale at Harvard (ESPNU).
10 p.m. — College Basketball: Utah at Washington State (ESPN2).
10 p.m. — College Basketball: Marquette at Creighton (FOX SPORTS SOUTHEAST).
10 p.m. — Professional Boxing: Danny Garcia vs. Brandon Rios in a Welterweight Bout from Las Vegas (SHOWTIME).
10:15 p.m. — College Basketball: Oregon at UCLA (ESPN).
11 p.m. — College Basketball: Oregon State at Southern California (FOX SPORTS 1).
4 a.m.—Professional Golf: European PGA Tour NBO Oman Golf Classic Final Round from Muscat, Oman (GOLF).

WINTER OLYMPICS ON TV

5 a.m.
NBCSN — Women's Curling: Sweden vs. Olympic Athletes from Russia
OLY CHANNEL - Medal Ceremonies (LIVE)
7 a.m.
USA — Men's Hockey: Finland vs. Norway (LIVE)
7:10 a.m.
NBCSN — Men's Hockey: Sweden vs. Germany (LIVE); Skeleton: Women's Competition
10:45 a.m.
NBCSN — Speed Skating: Women's 5000m Gold Medal Final; Ski Jumping: Men's Individual Large Hill Competition; Medal Ceremonies
2 p.m.
NBCSN — Women's Curling: South Korea vs. Switzerland
3 p.m.
NBC — Speed Skating: Women's 5000m Gold Medal Final; Cross-Country Skiing: Men's 15km Gold Medal Final; Ski Jumping: Men's Individual Large Hill
5 p.m.
CNBC — Men's Curling: United States vs. Denmark
NBCSN — Hockey Game of the Day (replay)
7 p.m.
NBCSN — Olympic Ice; Figure Skating: Men's Gold Medal Final (LIVE)
8 p.m.
NBC — Figure Skating: Men's Gold Medal Final (LIVE); Alpine Skiing: Women's Super-G Gold Medal Final (LIVE); Freestyle Skiing: Women's Aerials Gold Medal Final; Skeleton: Women's Competition
10 p.m.
CNBC — Women's Hockey: Quarterfinal (LIVE)
10:10 p.m.
NBCSN — Men's Hockey: Canada vs. Czech Republic (LIVE)
12:30 a.m. (Saturday)
NBCSN — Women's Curling: United States vs. Olympic Athletes from Russia
12:35 a.m. (Saturday)
NBC — Freestyle Skiing: Women's Slopestyle Gold Medal Final; Figure Skating: Men's Postgame
2:30 a.m. (Saturday)
USA — Ice Hockey: Women's Quarterfinal (LIVE)
2:40 a.m. (Saturday)
NBCSN — Men's Ice Hockey: Switzerland vs. South Korea (LIVE)

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	41	16	.719	—
Boston	40	19	.678	2
Philadelphia	30	25	.545	10
New York	23	36	.390	19
Brooklyn	19	40	.322	23

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	33	24	.579	—
Miami	30	28	.517	3½
Charlotte	24	33	.421	9
Orlando	18	39	.316	15
Atlanta	18	41	.305	16

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	34	22	.607	—
Milwaukee	32	24	.571	2
Indiana	33	25	.569	2
Detroit	28	29	.491	6½
Chicago	20	37	.351	14½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	44	13	.772	—
San Antonio	35	24	.593	10
New Orleans	31	26	.544	13
Memphis	18	38	.321	25½
Dallas	18	40	.310	26½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	35	25	.583	—
Oklahoma City	33	26	.559	1½
Portland	32	26	.552	2
Denver	31	26	.544	2½
Utah	30	28	.517	4

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	44	14	.759	—
L.A. Clippers	30	26	.536	13
L.A. Lakers	23	33	.411	20
Sacramento	18	39	.316	25½
Phoenix	18	41	.305	26½

WEDNESDAY
Charlotte 104, Orlando 102
Detroit 104, Atlanta 98
Philadelphia 104, Miami 102
Indiana 108, Brooklyn 103
Washington 118, New York 113
Houston 100, Sacramento 91
L.A. Clippers 129, Boston 119
New Orleans 139, L.A. Lakers 117
Oklahoma City 121, Memphis 114
Toronto 122, Chicago 98
Utah 107, Phoenix 97
Portland 123, Golden State 117

THURSDAY
Denver at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Minnesota, 9 p.m.

TODAY
Team World vs. Team USA at Los Angeles, Calif., 9 p.m.

SATURDAY
No games scheduled.

SUNDAY
2018 All-Star Game
Team LeBron vs. Team Stephen at Los Angeles, Calif., 8 p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S TOP 25 RESULTS

WEDNESDAY
1. Virginia (24-2) did not play. Next: vs. Georgia Tech, Wednesday, Feb. 21.
2. Michigan State (25-3) did not play. Next: at Northwestern, Saturday.
3. Villanova (23-3) lost to Providence 76-71. Next: at No. 4 Xavier, Saturday.
4. Xavier (24-3) beat Seton Hall 102-90. Next: vs. No. 3 Villanova, Saturday.
5. Cincinnati (23-2) did not play. Next: at Houston, Thursday.
6. Purdue (23-4) did not play. Next: at Wisconsin, Thursday.
7. Texas Tech (22-4) did not play. Next: at Baylor, Saturday.
8. Ohio State (22-5) did not play. Next: at Penn State, Thursday.
9. Gonzaga (23-4) did not play. Next: vs. Loyola Marymount, Thursday.
10. Auburn (23-3) beat Kentucky 76-66. Next: at South Carolina, Sunday.
11. Clemson (20-5) lost to Florida State 81-79, OT. Next: vs. No. 12 Duke, Sunday.
12. Duke (21-5) beat Virginia Tech 74-52. Next: at No. 11 Clemson, Sunday.
13. Kansas (20-6) did not play. Next: vs. No. 20 West Virginia, Saturday.
14. North Carolina (20-7) did not play. Next: at Louisville, Saturday.
15. Saint Mary's (24-3) did not play. Next: at San Francisco, Thursday.
16. Rhode Island (21-3) did not play. Next: at St. Bonaventure, Friday.
17. Arizona (20-6) did not play. Next: at No. 25 Arizona State, Thursday.
18. Tennessee (19-6) did not play. Next: at Georgia, Saturday.
19. Wichita State (19-5) did not play. Next: vs. Temple, Thursday.
20. West Virginia (19-7) did not play. Next: at No. 13 Kansas, Saturday.
21. Texas A&M (17-9) did not play. Next: at Arkansas, Saturday.
22. Michigan (21-7) beat Iowa 74-59. Next: vs. No. 8 Ohio State, Sunday.
23. Oklahoma (16-9) did not play. Next: vs. Texas, Saturday.
24. Nevada (22-5) beat Boise State 77-72. Next: at Utah State, Saturday.
25. Arizona State (19-6) did not play. Next: vs. No. 17 Arizona, Thursday.

WOMEN'S TOP 25 RESULTS

WEDNESDAY
1. UConn (25-0) did not play. Next: vs. Temple, Sunday.
2. Mississippi State (26-0) did not play. Next: at Vanderbilt, Thursday.
3. Baylor (24-1) did not play. Next: vs. Kansas, Saturday.
4. Louisville (25-2) did not play. Next: at Boston College, Thursday.
5. Notre Dame (23-2) did not play. Next: at Virginia, Thursday.
6. Texas (21-4) beat Texas Tech 87-72. Next: at No. 21 Oklahoma State, Saturday.
7. UCLA (21-4) did not play. Next: at No. 15 Oregon State, Friday.
8. South Carolina (20-5) did not play. Next: at No. 20 Georgia, Thursday.
9. Oregon (23-4) did not play. Next: vs. Southern Cal, Friday.
10. Maryland (22-3) did not play. Next: vs. Purdue, Thursday.
11. Tennessee (21-4) did not play. Next: vs. Alabama, Thursday.
12. Florida State (21-4) did not play. Next: vs. Clemson, Thursday.
13. Missouri (20-5) did not play. Next: at Auburn, Thursday.
14. Stanford (18-8) did not play. Next: vs. California, Thursday.
15. Oregon State (19-6) did not play. Next: vs. No. 7 UCLA, Friday.
16. Ohio State (21-6) did not play. Next: vs. Purdue, Sunday.
17. Duke (20-6) did not play. Next: at Syracuse, Thursday.
17. Texas A&M (19-7) did not play. Next: vs. Florida, Thursday.
19. Green Bay (22-2) did not play. Next: at Cleveland State, Thursday.
20. Georgia (21-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 8 South Carolina, Thursday.
21. Oklahoma State (18-7) did not play. Next: vs. No. 6 Texas, Saturday.
22. South Florida (21-5) beat SMU 64-54. Next: at UCF, Sunday.
23. Michigan (20-8) lost to Minnesota 93-87. Next: vs. No. 10 Maryland, Thursday.
24. Belmont (24-3) did not play. Next: vs. Eastern Kentucky, Thursday.
25. N.C. State (20-6) did not play. Next: vs. Wake Forest, Sunday.

SPORTS ITEMS

Fire Ants open home season with twinbill against Harford

The University of South Carolina Sumter baseball team will open its home schedule on Saturday at Riley Park with a doubleheader against Harford Community College.

The Fire Ants and Harford will start the first game on Saturday at 1 p.m. The teams will play a doubleheader on Sunday as well with the opener starting at 10 a.m.

USCS is 1-1 on the season. It split a doubleheader on the road against Pitt Community College last weekend before having another one rained out.

BOYS LACROSSE INFO MEETING TODAY AT LMA

Sumter and Clarendon counties in grades 3-10 interested in playing lacrosse will be held today in the new Laurence Manning Academy Student Arts Room beginning at 6:15 p.m. Practice for the teams will begin on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at Laurence Manning.

Teams will be formed based on registration numbers, ages and grades. Initial registration costs will be a $35 membership to US Lacrosse. Players will be required to purchase their own equipment. Some equipment may be available to players though.

To sign up or for more information, email Dan Tamburello at *AlphaLaxSC@gmail.com* with the child's name, age, grade, telephone number and email address.

JANIKOWSKI DONE WITH RAIDERS AFTER 18 SEASONS

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Kicker Sebastian Janikowski's career with the Oakland Raiders has ended after 18 seasons.

Owner Mark Davis released a statement Thursday thanking Janikowski for his contributions to the franchise. Janikowski is eligible to become an unrestricted free agent next month and the Raiders told him this week they don't plan to retain him.

Janikowski is the Raiders all-time leader in games played (268) and points scored (1,799) and his 55 field goals from at least 50 yards are the most in NFL history. Janikowski joined Oakland as a first-round pick in 2000 by late owner Al Davis.

Janikowski spent all of last season on injured reserve with a back injury. Agent Paul Healy, says in an email that Janikowski is too young to retire. He turns 40 on March 2.

FITZGERALD SAYS HE'LL BE BACK WITH CARDS FOR 2018

PHOENIX — New Arizona coach Steve Wilks says Cardinals standout wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald has told him he'll return for a 15th NFL season.

Wilks made the comment Thursday in an interview on the "Doug &Wolf" sports talk radio show. Wilks says Fitzgerald told him of his decision in a conversation on Wednesday night.

The 34-year-old Fitzgerald is one of the most prolific receivers in the game's history, ranking third on the NFL career lists for receptions and yards receiving. He finished second in the NFL with 109 catches last season.

FORMER DALLAS MAVERICKS OWNER CARTER DEAD AT 84

DALLAS — Don Carter, the owner who was instrumental in bringing the NBA to Dallas with the expansion Mavericks in 1980, has died. He was 84.

Carter co-founded the franchise with Norm Sonju, the club's first president. Carter sold majority interest to Ross Perot Jr. in 1996 but kept a minority stake.

Current owner Mark Cuban bought the team in 2000. He said of Carter: "To say he will be missed does not do justice to just how important Mr. C has been to the Dallas Mavericks and the city of Dallas."

Cuban invited Carter to celebrate with the team on the court in Miami after the Mavericks won their only championship in 2011.

From staff and wire reports

USC MEN'S BASKETBALL

Gamecocks gone from Final Four to most likely outside NCAAs

BY PETE IACOBELLI
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A year ago, surging South Carolina was building for a run to the Final Four. These days, the Gamecocks are struggling to keep their heads above .500 on their longest losing streak in four years that threatens to keep them out of the NCAA Tournament altogether.

South Carolina (13-13, 4-9 Southeastern Conference) has lost six straight , its most consecutive defeats since Frank Martin's second year as coach in 2013-14. And the losing is likely to continue with the SEC's first-place team in No. 10 Auburn headed to town Saturday.

That game will be another celebration of last year's success with three key members of the Final Four team in guards Sindarius Thornwell, Duane Notice and P.J. Dozier returning to receive their Final Four rings. That all three starters moved on — Thornwell and Notice were seniors, Dozier was a rising sophomore who entered and went unpicked in last June's NBA Draft — is a big part of South Carolina's change of fortune.

Martin has liked his players, but has said his team is beset with a lack of leadership.

"That's kind of where we floundered," Martin said.

With so many key pieces gone, Martin has filled his roster with freshmen and first-year graduate transfers like guards Frank Booker and Wesley Myers. South Carolina has had its moments of success — it defeated ranked opponents in Kentucky and Florida in a three-game stretch last month — but more often lately has found itself struggling to keep up. Three of last four losses have come by 14 points or more.



AP FILE PHOTO

South Carolina guard Frank Booker (5) goes up for a shot in the Gamecocks' 70-67 loss to Tennessee on Tuesday in Knoxville, Tennessee. A year after playing in the Final Four, USC is 13-13, on a 6-game losing streak and in a precarious position for making post-season play.

Returning starters from last year in junior Chris Silva and sophomore Maik Kotsar and Booker, who played previously at Oklahoma and Florida Atlantic, have attempted to fill the biggest leaders voids left by Thornwell and Notice. Martin said it has not been a natural process for players unaccustomed to those roles.

"When you're in the locker room with your peers, it's not comfortable being a leader because you're going to rub some people the wrong way," Martin said.

The losing streak has taken its toll on the Gamecocks. Martin won't change his approach to practice or his message that South Carolina must compete hard at practice and do the right things on the court.

"I don't judge them based on the scores of game, I judge them on them doing stuff the right way," he said. "And unfortunately, right now, we're not as connected as we need to be. The scores of the game are irrelevant to me from that standpoint. It's a matter of getting our guys to practice with a greater sense of urgency. To be more connected as teammates, to be more understanding of what we're trying to do."

It doesn't help, Martin said, when the SEC is considered as strong as its been in years with some projections having eight of its 14 teams make the NCAAs. That means any slipups by the Gamecocks have been costly. On Tuesday night, the Gamecocks wiped out most of a 14-point, second-half deficit to throw a scare into No. 18 Tennessee before losing 70-67.

"Six years ago, the SEC was a little more forgiving," Martin said. "Now, it's not forgiving."

And they'll be no let up for the Gamecocks after the Tigers: South Carolina's final four opponents in Georgia, Mississippi State, LSU and at Auburn all have winning records.

Booker believes if South Carolina stays strong in practice, good things can happen down the stretch.

"It just shows that we can be a good team if we just follow what Coach Frank talks about and preaches to us in practice," Booker said after the Tennessee loss. "That one, we let it slip away, but we got more games to play."

AREA ROUNDUP

Manning, East Clarendon boys play today in 2nd round of state tourneys

The boys basketball teams from Manning and East Clarendon high schools will play second-round games in their respective state tournaments today.

Manning will be on the road against Loris in the second round of the 3A state playoffs beginning at 7 p.m. The Monarchs advanced with a 61-54 home victory over Bluffton on Tuesday in the first round.

EC will travel to Greeleyville to take on C.E. Murray in the 1A playoffs, also starting at 7. The Wolverines advanced with a 54-49 home victory over St. John's on Tuesday.

The Monarchs, who improved to 18-6 on the season, outscored Bluffton 23-16 in the fourth quarter to secure the victory.

Israel Brown led MHS with 21 points. Darius Williams added 20.

East Clarendon had three players score in double figures. Tyjhai Calvin led the way with 15, while Jalen Bryant had 14 and Marquis Patterson 11.

EC is 10-11.

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

SALUDA 53
LEE CENTRAL 46

SALUDA — Lee Central High School saw its season come to an end with a 53-46 overtime loss to Saluda in the first round of the 2A state playoffs on Tuesday at the Saluda gymnasium.

A'Yannah Lucas had a double-double of 16 points and 12 rebounds for the Lady Stallions, who finished with an 8-12 record. Robionne Myers added 11 points and Tashanna Harris had eight points and seven rebounds.

LOWER RICHLAND 41
LAKEWOOD 21

HOPKINS — Lakewood was eliminated from the 4A state playoffs with a 41-21 first-round loss to Lower Richland on Tuesday at the Diamond Mine.

Lashala Harvin led the Lady Gators with six points.

LHS finished with a 9-11 record.

From staff reports

DAYTONA 500

Truex sets course for repeat of 1st NASCAR title

BY DAN GELSTON
The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Martin Truex Sr. had a familiar deckhand this week when he unhitched his boat for a fishing trip off South Florida. Truex first brought his son into the family business aboard a clamming boat as a teenager. The son would rise before dawn, sometimes sprung to life from the chilly bite at sea or the ruckus of choppy waves.

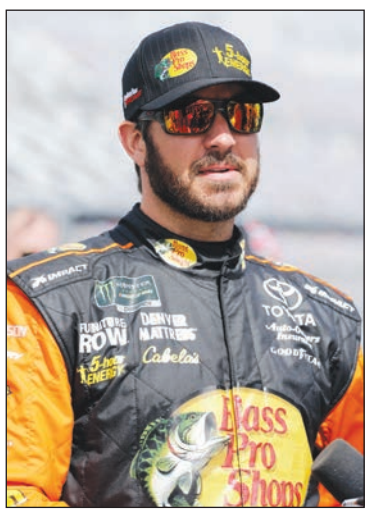
Martin Truex Jr. knew early he wouldn't anchor to a life at sea.

"I just remember trying to stay awake in between tows. This is so boring," he said, laughing. "Then you got to go outside and freeze your you-know-what off for 30 minutes at a time. I remember it being tough and thinking that I don't want to do this for the rest of my life."

On this recent trip, the Truex boys skipped the clams and cast a wider net. They caught three sailfish on their first day out and chatted about business, life, and, most of all, the father and son just focused on having a good time.

"We never even talked about racing," Truex Sr. said.

Oh yeah, his boy's weekend job. The kid who never developed a taste for clamming instead followed one of his dad's other passions: Racing.



TRUEX

Once a journeyman driver, Truex enters the 2018 NASCAR season as the class — and envy — of the field. He was a guest on the "Today" show, rooted on his beloved Philadelphia Eagles at the Super Bowl and had the honor of inducting a racing Hall of Famer last month.

He did it all as NASCAR champ .

"It's been a crazy, busy offseason," Truex said.

The 37-year-old Truex reaped the rewards of a start-to-finish dominant season that saw him reel off eight victories, 26 top-10 finishes and a victory at Homestead that clinched the crown with dad watching from atop the pit box.

Did someone say encore ?

"I feel like the last three seasons, we improved in every category every year," Truex said. "Obviously after last year, it's going to be tough to continue the trend. I think we're gearing up to do that. I felt like last year we could have won more races."

Yes, Truex enters Sunday's Daytona 500 feeling like his best is still ahead in the No. 78 Toyota.

Truex has undergone a career rebirth that is rare in NASCAR history.

Truex won two races over 333 career starts from his debut with Dale Earnhardt Inc. in 2004 through a tumultuous tenure at Michael Waltrip Racing and a head-scratching first season at Furniture Row Racing where he led one lap — one! — all year. He never finished better than 11th in the standings until 2015, and yet has now finished in NASCAR's version of the Final Four in two of the last three seasons.

"Every place that he's been prior to where he is now, there was some kind of disaster going on," Truex Sr. said. "He was never in a spot that was really stable until now. He needed the opportunity and the right people around you. It's all about the people, like any business."





MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Sumter's Tyree Smalls goes for a layup during the Gamecocks' 53-52 victory over Goose Creek in the first round of the 5A state playoffs on Wednesday at the Sumter High gymnasium.

SHS FROM PAGE B1

"Their guards, man, and our guards have got to do a better job of handling pressure and taking care of the basketball," said Jones, whose team carries a 17-6 record into a second-round home matchup Saturday at 7 p.m against Irmo, a 59-34 winner over Wando on Wednesday. "We had 11 turnovers in the first half, and they just sped us up and got us out of what we wanted to do. On film I was saying to myself, especially on offense, they run their stuff. They're really good at running their stuff. Our guys just kept fighting. They kept fighting and fighting. On to the next one."

Indeed, the Fighting Gamecocks had to live up to that nickname against the Gators, who led 18-9 after one quarter and 33-17 late in the first half before baskets from Eric Watts and Tyree Smalls cut the lead to 12, 33-21, heading into the break.

Sumter scored the first seven points of the second half to pull within five before Goose Creek scored the next five to push its lead back to 10, 38-28, with 3:18 to go in the quarter. The Gamecocks trailed by six, 40-34, heading into the fourth quarter.

Cody McCoy scored on a follow of a missed three by Moore at the 2:21 mark, forging Sumter's first tie of the night. McCoy could have given the Gamecocks their first lead but came up short in an and-1 opportunity.

That first lead would come moments later as Smalls, who closed with 10 points, scored on the low post with 1:41 on the clock. A Calvin Felder block on the defensive end, followed by Smalls hitting 3 of four free throws on two separate trips to the line put Sumter up 51-46, representing its largest lead of the night and closing a 15-4 run. The Gators got three shots from long range before Chris Fordham hit for three with eight seconds to go, setting up the finish.

Jones said surviving a game like this in the first round of the playoffs makes his team "battle tested."

"It was a good test," Jones said. "In some ways you're glad to get a game like this, so now we know what to expect. Our young guys know what to expect."

Moore appeared to tweak an ankle about midway through the fourth quarter but stayed in the game and shook off any discomfort he might have been experiencing to help lead his team to the hard-fought win.

"Yeah, he'll be fine," Jones said of Moore's status after the game. "He's a soldier. He's ready to go."

Fordham scored 15 and Erick Bennett added 13 for the Gators, who closed their season with a 12-11 record.

BASEBALL FROM PAGE B1

for playing time at first base when the Gamecocks open their first season under new head coach Mark Kingston. They open a 3-game series against Virginia Military Institute beginning at 4 p.m. at Founders Park.

Justin Hawkins, a junior college All-American at the University of South Carolina Sumter, will likely see his share of time this weekend in the Tigers' 3-game series against William & Mary at Doug Kingsmore Stadium. Today's contest also begins at 4 p.m.



HAWKINS

Holladay is listed at first base along with veterans LT Tolbert, Matt Williams and Riley Hogan. Each of those three saw significant playing time last year, but the position is in flux as Kingston tries to solidify his infield.



HOLLADAY

Holladay was part of Sumter's 2014 4A state champion as a freshman. As a senior for SHS, Holladay had a .388 batting average with 10 doubles, eight home runs and 30 runs batted in. On the mound, the right-hander went 4-2 with a pair of saves and 35 strikeouts in 35 2/3 innings pitched.

For Hawkins, this season will be his first of any real significance since leading the Fire Ants to the 2015 Junior College World Series as a freshman. In the second game of an opening-day doubleheader in 2016, Hawkins had a ball hit home plate and bounce up and hit him in the eye. It caused him to miss the rest of the season.

Last year he didn't get to play due to eligibility issues lingering from the previous season.

He is listed as infielder on the Clemson roster and head coach Monte Lee has said he could play second or third and shortstop if needed. Hawkins is listed as the No. 27 third baseman in the country by D1 Baseball.

Hawkins did play for the Fayetteville SwampDogs of the Coastal Plain League last season. He hit 10 home runs, drove in 27 runs and finished the season with a .556 slugging percentage.

Hawkins was also the 2015 American Legion National Player of the Year as he led Chapin/Newberry to the American Legion World Series title.

South Carolina will send junior right-hander Adam Hill to the mound against the Keydets today. He tossed 77 innings last season with 87 strikeouts and a 3.04 earned run average even though he had just a 3-6 win-loss record.

Sophomore righty Cody Morris (3-2, 3.66 in a midweek starting role) will start Saturday's noon contest and Spartanburg Methodist College transfer Ridge Chapman will start Sunday's 1 p.m. game.

Clemson doesn't have a pitcher on its roster who started a game in 2017. Lefty Jacob Hennessy will start today with right-hander Brooks Crawford slated to go in Saturday's 2 p.m. contest. Jake Higginbotham, another lefty, is supposed to start Sunday's 3 p.m. contest.



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Former University of South Carolina Sumter shortstop Justin Hawkins is expected to play a major role for Clemson this season. The Tigers open their schedule today at home against William & Mary.

GATORS FROM PAGE B1

After that, nothing for a very long time. They wouldn't score another point until 8 minutes, 40 seconds, later.

Lakewood had gone back to playing straight man-to-man defense with the guards being aggressive out top with the knowledge that the likes of 6-foot-6-inch post players Juwan Perdue and Ahkeem Lawson and 6-4 Quentin Hodge were next in line.

"It lets you be a little bit more aggressive because you know those guys will have your back," guard Grant Singleton said. Singleton had five steals while scoring 13 points and handing out five assists.

"We did play good defensively tonight," said Perdue, who had four blocked shots and a double-double of 13 points and 11 rebounds. "It's our job to be behind them and guard the basket."

Hodge finished with three blocked shots and Lawson had two. Also, there were numerous shots that were altered.

After Dreher tied the game, LHS scored the final 13 points of the first half for a 27-14 lead. Singleton had a 3-point basket and a tip-in to make it 19-14. Hodge later added a trey and Terrell Houston had a conventional 3-point play to close out the first half.

Perdue had a slam dunk to begin the second half, pushing the lead to 15. While the Gators were never able to completely put the game away, the Blue Devils were never able to make a run at them. Lakewood never led by more than 18 or fewer than 12.

Lakewood led 42-26 entering the final stanza. Dreher scored 11 of its 19 fourth-quarter points in the final 3:21.

"I thought we played a pretty good game," Brown said. "Dreher came out and played us tough, but we were able to adjust and take things away. I'm proud of everybody."

Hodge finished seven points, seven rebounds and seven assists, while Houston finished with nine points.

TJ Brown led Dreher with 12 points. Simon Grant and Trent Clarke both had 10.

STALLIONS FROM PAGE B1

As the fat lady was singing at halftime, the Stallions were out for blood as five players scored in double figures. Joining Thomas was Demarcus Smith with 15 points and 10 rebounds; Treson Pringle with 13; Daveon Thomas with 12; and Amadre Mixon with 10.

Javon Randolph led EC with 15 points and Flager had 11 blocks before fouling out in the third quarter. The Shamrocks had three players foul out in the game.

"We are battle-tested," said Knox. "We played Sumter High twice, we played Lakewood twice. Those are good ball clubs."

And with Lee Central being in the Upstate this year, it's Abbeville that has to hop on a bus for 150 miles from the northwest corridor of the state.

"We love playing at home, we play well here," Knox said with a smile.

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MAGGIE L. RAGIN

Maggie "Mae" Lawson Ragin, 80, died on Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday at Historic Liberty Hill AME Church, 2310 Liberty Hill Road, Summerton, where the Rev. Robert L. China Jr. serves as pastor.


RAGIN

Viewing will be held from 1 to 6 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Summerton Funeral Home LLC, 23 S. Duke St., Summerton, phone (803) 485-3755.

BESSIE MAE MYERS

Bessie Mae Myers, 90, transitioned to her heavenly home on Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2018.

Born on Jan. 28, 1928, in St. Charles, she was a daughter of the late Arthur and Alberta Moore and the widow of Thomas Myers. "Aunt Boy" or "Aunt Bessie," as she was affectionately called, spent some of her younger years in Baltimore. She later moved back south to Sumter, where she attended the public schools of Sumter County. This is where she met her husband of more than 50 years and reared their only child, Lillie "Lil" Myers. Mrs. Myers was a faithful and longtime member of Bethel AME Church, where she was an exceptional leader and ministered in various ways. Bessie was a member of the pastor's aide committee, helping hand club, president of the prayer band, Women Missionary Society, trustee board, usher board, Sunday school teacher, sang with the gospel choir, worked on the kitchen committee, was den mother of the flowers committee and, for some time, responsible for the lighting of the church. She often visited, fed and prayed with those that were sick and could not make it out to church. She was very instrumental in coordinating and chairing several programs / worship services held at the church. Through her actions, many were led to Christ.


MYERS

An employee of Sumter County School District 17 for more than 20 years, she had a true love for Sumter High School's football team. The team could always count on Mrs. Myers to feed them prior to their Friday night football games and to dedicate her time to work the concessions stand during home games.

Her true passion was cooking. She was known as the "Cinnamon Roll Lady" by many. She also enjoyed singing, traveling and serving the community as she and Thomas would go from home to home delivering home cooked meals and fresh vegetables grown from their garden.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Myers; grandson, Corey Maple; only sibling, a sister, Willie Mae Rogers; and two close friends, Susie Kenley and Dora Sinkler.

She leaves to cherish her memories: a daughter, Lillie M. McGee of Sumter; four grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; two special friends, Maggie Ragin and Sarah Dwyer; caretakers, Tonya Gregg and Flossie Edwards; two special nieces, Adrena Myers Moses and Daisy Mae Brunson; special nephew, Joe Louis Myers; special cousin, Patricia Smith of Tennessee; and a host of other nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

The family is receiving relatives and friends at the home, 511 Pitts Road, Sumter.

Funeral services will be held at noon on Saturday at Bethel AME, 219 E. Calhoun St., Sumter, with the Rev. Davie Brown, pastor, eulogist.

The remains will be placed in the church at 11 a.m.

The procession will leave at 11:20 a.m. from the home.

Burial will be at Mt. Sinai Presbyterian Church Cemetery, 97 Mt. Sinai Church Road, St. Charles.

Services directed by the management and staff of Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter.

Online memorial messages may be sent to the family at *williamsfuneralhome@sc.rr.com*. Visit us on the web at *www.WilliamsFuneralHomeInc.com*

BARBARA R. POWELL

COLUMBIA — Barbara R. Powell, 60, died on Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2018, at her home.

Born on Dec. 8, 1957, in Champagne, Illinois, she was a daughter of the late Alfonso and Lena Mae Sullivan Powell. Ms. Powell worked with Richland Memorial Hospital for several years and retired from Moncrief Army Hospital at Fort Jackson after 20 years of service. She also volunteered with the Rape Crisis Center in Columbia.


POWELL

She is survived by one brother, John A. Powell (Gloria) of Hope Mills, North Carolina; one sister, Colleen P. Stevens (Wayne) of Sumter; two nieces, Alexis Powell and Ashley Campbell; one nephew, Joseph Powell; and five great-nieces and great-nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a sister, Brenda Powell; and a brother, Marvin S. Powell.

A funeral service will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday at the Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home Chapel.

The family will receive friends from 2 to 3 p.m. on Saturday at Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home.

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

ALECIA LAWRENCE

Alecia "Lisa" Renee Nathaniel Lawrence was born on March 1, 1980, in Sumter, a daughter of Isadore Nathaniel III and Sarah Roach Nathaniel. She departed this life on Friday, Feb. 9, 2018, at her home in Durham, North Carolina, with her parents at her side.


LAWRENCE

She will be sorely missed by her fiancé, Desmond O. Nkansah of Durham.

At an early age, Lisa was converted and joined Orangehill AME Church, Wedgefield, where she served until leaving home to attend college. She was baptized at High Hills Baptist Church, Dalzell. Lisa graduated with honors from Lakewood High School, Sumter, in 1998. She earned her Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree from Columbia College, Columbia, in 2002 and Master of Business Administration from Webster University, Columbia, in 2005. Lisa did further studies in marketing at Strayer University, Columbia. After graduation from college, Lisa worked in the business education department at Benedict College, Columbia. She later worked as general business instructor at Williamsburg Technical College, Kingstree, where she also served as advisor to the Alpha Sigma Gamma Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. Lisa moved to Durham in 2012 and worked as director of business administration programs and Instructor in the School of Business at Durham Technical College, until her death. Lisa was full of energy and loved her job, which she continued even from home and the hospital at times when her health did not allow her to go to the work site. She was beloved by many of her co-workers and students. She had a desire to form a cancer support group to help women cope with and work through health issues similar to those she faced. Lisa loved her family and treasured her visits to Sumter to be with them, especially time spent with her parents and brother. She was an active member of the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc., Columbia.

Lisa was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Willie and Rosa Roach; and uncle, Eddie Gene Nathaniel.

Loving memories are cherished by her parents and brother, Damien; paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Isadore Nathaniel II, all of Sumter; uncles, James (Katie) Roach of Hopkins and the Rev. Earnest (Geraldine) Nathaniel of Florence; aunts, Susan Nathaniel Grant of Newport News, Virginia, and Jeannette (Walter) Roach Johnson of Sumter; three granduncles; six grandaunts; godmothers, Carol Singleton and Sadie Jennings; a host of cousins, other relatives and friends.

The family will be receiving relatives and friends at 4210 Wedgefield Road, Sumter.

Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday at Orangehill AME Church, 3005 S.C. 261 South, Wedgefield, with the Rev. Jerale Crummy, pastor, eulogist.

The remains will be placed in the church at 2 p.m.

The funeral procession will leave at 2:20 p.m. from the home.

Burial services will be at High Hills Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery, 6750 Meeting House Road, Dalzell.

These services have been entrusted to the management and staff of Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter.

Online memorial messages may be sent to the family at *williamsfuneralhome@sc.rr.com*. Visit us on the web at *www.williamsfuneralhomeinc.com*.

DEVIN D. DINKINS

Devin D. Dinkins, 41, entered into eternal rest on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2018, in Rembert.

Born on Nov. 24, 1976, in Sumter County, he was a son of Mamie Ella Sanders Dinkins and the late Joseph Parker. He attended Rafting Creek Baptist Church at an early age. He attended Sunday school faithfully and sang with the children's choir. He was educated in the public schools of Sumter County and graduated from Hillcrest High School Class of 1995. He played basketball and played well in the games. He was a former employee of Becton Dickinson Co. and Kendall Corp. Devin was a well-known barber. He worked at Custom Styles by "Boo Parker." He was also a handyman and a helper to family and friends.

He leaves to cherish his memories: his mother; two brothers, Joseph (Laura) Parker and Robert Byrd of Rembert; one sister, Pastor Margaret Parker of Atlanta; two uncles, Willie (Nancy) Sanders and Edgar (Emily) Sanders; five aunts, Louise (Sam) Graham, Alberta (Johnnie) Williams, Steral (John) Singleton, Sallie Sanders and Emma Sanders; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday at Rafting Creek Baptist Church, 3860 S.C. 261 North, Rembert, with the Rev. Melvin Mack, pastor, and the Rev. William Sanders, eulogist.

The family is receiving relatives and friends at the home, 5740 Stage Coach Road, Rembert.

The remains will be placed in the church at 9 a.m.

The funeral procession will leave at 9:20 a.m. from the home.

Burial will be at Rafting Creek Baptist Churchyard cemetery.

These services have been entrusted to the management and staff of Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter.

Online memorial messages may be sent to the family at *williamsfuneralhome@sc.rr.com*.

Visit us on the web at *www.williamsfuneralhomeinc.com*.

LEONA DOW

SUMMERTON — Leona Dow, 83, died on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2018, at Lexington Medical Center, Columbia.

She was born on March 4, 1934, in Summerton, a daughter of the late Leon and Sally Frierson Dow.

The family is receiving friends from 2 to 8 p.m. daily at her residence, 3904 Moses Dingle Road, Summerton.

These arrangements have been entrusted to Samuels Funeral Home LLC of Manning.

VINSON VAUGHN

Vinson Vaughn, 63, husband of Diane Harriott Vaughn, departed this life on Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018, in Sumter.

He was born on Feb. 6, 1955, in Sumter, to the late Alberta and Mamie Lee Ford Vaughn.

The family is receiving friends at the home, 236 Cedar Ave.

Services entrusted to Whites Mortuary LLC of Sumter.

ROSA LEE DICKEY

Rosa Lee Dickey was born on April 15, 1927, in the Shiloh community of Sumter County, the second daughter of the late Paul and Pearl Miller Dickey.

On Monday, Feb. 12, 2018, Rosa Lee took her spiritual flight and entered into her eternal home.

Early in life, she became actively involved in Asbury United Methodist Church. She was devoted and served faithfully and diligently in many ministries. She loved God and her church family. She represented her church at annual conferences as lay delegate, she was a lay leader, a church school teacher, president of the United Methodist Women on the local level, served on the district and conference level of the UMW, chairperson of finance, Sunday school superintendent, Vacation Bible School teacher, senior choir, trustee chairperson, chairperson of Pastor Parish Relations Committee and member of Church Women United. Rosa Lee Dickey was educated in Sumter County public schools, attending Asbury School and graduating from St. John High School. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Morris College and continuing graduate studies at South Carolina State University.

She was employed as a teacher at St. Mark Elementary School and as a teacher and assistant principal at St. John Elementary School. Through her love for humanity, she not only imparted knowledge but nurtured the development of her students with lifelong skills. In each student, she planted the seeds of hope, determination and achievement. She was a mentor and a community advocate for many students and families. She retired after 35 years of service. She was everybody's favorite aunt, teacher, friend and a caring neighbor. Throughout her career, she received many awards and accolades including having the St. John School Library named in her honor.

Rosa Lee Dickey was active in her community and civic affairs. She was an extraordinary example of Christian living and a loving spirit. She used her spiritual gifts and talents to serve her community. She was a charter member and past worthy matron of Skyway Chapter No. 351 Order of Eastern Star, Lynchburg, a member of the Household of Ruth No. 3728 Lodge, NAACP, One More Effort Club, Shiloh Community Center, Sumter County Voters Board of Registration and a Girl Scout Troop Leader. In her leisure time, she enjoyed visiting family and friends. She was a great conversationalist and an avid gardener. She was a florist and owner of Dickey's Florist for many years.

Cherishing fond and lasting memories are her two sisters, Maggie (Lawrence) Nelson of Lynchburg and Pearl Dickey Lawrence of Charlotte, North Carolina; one brother, Ralph W. Dickey of Lynchburg; two sisters-in-law, Lutisha Dickey of Lynchburg and Dorothy Dickey of Fayetteville, North Carolina; two loving nephews, Paul Derrick Dickey (Cinder) and Paul D. Dickey Jr. of Lynchburg; two uncles, Carl Miller of Philadelphia and Hallie B. Miller of Clearwater, Florida; nieces, Wilhelmenia (John) Presley, Beverly (Robert) Perry, Angela Slater, Roberta (Randy) Pritchept, Susan Benjamin, Claudette Harrison, Sonya (Eric) Travis, Valeska Nelson, Yvette Nelson and Jandi (James) Jefferson; nephews, Tyrone Harrison, Kimbal Harrison, Karl (Hazel) McLeod, Gerald McLeod, Donald Dickey, Levistan Dickey, Kenneth Dickey, Cedric (Rhonda) Nelson, Dennis Nelson, Ernest Dickey, Warren (Kimberly) Dickey, Maxsell (Monica) Dickey, Christopher (Latha) Dickey, Michael (LaChandra) Rapley, Thaddeus (Andrea) Dickey and Kevin Dickey; and a host of grandnieces, grandnephews, relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Vertell Harrison and Annie Mcleod; and five brothers, Robert, Paul, Ernest, Thaddeus and Arnold Dickey.

Rosa L. Dickey was a loving sister, aunt, friend, teacher and neighbor. She cherished her family and exhibited love, caring and friendship to her family and community.

Public viewing will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. today at Asbury United Methodist Church.

Ms. Dickey will be placed in the church at 10 a.m. on Saturday for viewing until the hour of service.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday at Asbury United Methodist Church, 355 Pudding Swamp Road, Lynchburg, with the Rev. Shirley McKnight and the Rev. Ellis White officiating. Interment will follow at Goodman Cemetery, Lynchburg.

The family will receive friends at her home, 1805 Caution Lane, Lynchburg, SC 29080.

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

Online memorials may be sent to the family at *jobsmortuary@sc.rr.com* or visit us on the web at *www.jobsmortuary.net*.

PEARLINE Y. STOKES

MARIETTA, Georgia — On Friday, Feb. 9, 2018, Pearline York Stokes, widow of Everett Stokes Sr., exchanged time for eternity at Wellstar Kennestone Hospital in Marietta.

Born on Oct. 19, 1941, in Fairmont, North Carolina, she was a daughter of the late Sallie Rhames. She was reared by the late Hugh and Essie York.

Service of remembrance will take place at 11 a.m. on Saturday at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, 2571 Joseph Lemon Dingle Road, Jordan community of Manning, where Evangelist Shirley Waiters will preside. Words of hope will be brought by the pastor, the Rev. Sam Livingston Sr. The service of committal will follow at the family plot, located in Union Cypress AME Church Cemetery.

Fleming & DeLaine Funeral Home & Chapel of Manning is in charge of the services.

Online condolences for the family may be sent to *www.flemingdelaine.com* or *flemingdelaine@aol.com*.

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

11:30 a.m. the day before for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday edition.
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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Card of Thanks



In Loving Memory of
Mrs. Willie Mae Mack-Himes
2/1/1926-2/16/2016

It's been two years today since our "Sweet Mother" passed away, we missed you so much, your beautiful smile, your laughter, your wisdom...You gave us the world and more, your beautiful spirit will live on in your children, we love you Momma, sleep in paradise.

Sharon, Lorenza, Denise, Andre, Himes & Family

BUSINESS SERVICES

Home Improvements

SBC Construction of Sumter
Metal /Shingle Roofs• Porches • Concrete & Windows
•Water Problems •Tree removal
Call **BURCH** 803-720-4129

Legal Service

Attorney Timothy L. Griffith
803-607-9087, 360 W. Wesmark. Criminal, Family, Accident, Injury

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Int/Ext Painting, Pressure washing. 30 yrs exp. References. Quality work/free est. Bennie 803-468-7592

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35 Yrs exp. 45 yr warranty. Financing avail. Expert installation. Long list of satisfied customers. **803-837-1549.**

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Want to Buy

Will buy furniture by piece or bulk, tools, trailers, lawn mowers, 4 wheelers, or almost anything of value. Also old signs & lawn furniture Call 803-983-5364

Auctions

AUCTION
February 17, 2018 at 9 am
RACCOON ROAD STORAGE
7875 Raccoon Rd & Hwy 260
Check out our web site for updates
www.raccoonroadstorage.com
The following units will be up for sale:
Symbolic Ent M-94, B Smith M-118, L Wellman M-270,V Hilton M-100, H Wilson M-117,S. Williams M-285, K Myers M-32, P Moore M-71, A Montgomery M-206, P Keith M-132, C Jones M-257, C Frank M-290, M Flood M-302, S Calhoun M-181.
Misc. household items, furniture, tools, lawn/garden items, etc.

Garage, Yard & Estate Sales

600 Chickasaw Dr Sat 8-12 furniture, books, clothes, household items

Fri 9-4 & Sat. 7-1 4920 John Franklin Rd. off Eagle Rd. Full br set, sofa, hshld, carpet, etc.

Huge Garage Sale **4190 Muriel St** Thurs. Fri & Sat 7-5pm Antiques, furniture & Collectibles

Huge Multi-Family Garage Sale: Fri. Feb. 16th & Sat. Feb. 17th 7-12 at 1905 Currituck Dr. Clothing, luggage, dishes, serving wear, Christmas, hardware, rocking chair, glass ware, wet/dry vacuum and much more.

American Legion Flea Mkt.
Vendors Wanted Mar 9 & 10 8-2
Liberty & Artillery Dr.
Call Ed: 803-464-7643

For Sale or Trade

4 Cemetery Plots in Evergreen Cemetery $6000 for all 4 OBO Call 803-775-4045

New & used Heat pumps & A/C. Will install/repair, Call 803-968-9549 or 843-992-2364

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted Full-Time

Hotel front desk position open at Super 8 in Manning. Evening shift. Hotel front desk experience required. Call for appt. 803-447-9614

Spring Hill Suites by Marriott, Broad St is seeking a front desk manager, clerk and housekeepers. Previous hotel exp. required. Please apply in person at:
2645 Broad St. Sumter, SC

Looking for a certified mechanic to work on Class A tractors and trailers. Certified in annual inspections, tires and brake work. If interested call 803-473-6553.

Parts Manager and Certified Technician
needed at Bilton Lincoln. Apply in person Mon.-Fri. between 3-6pm. 70 W. Wesmark Blvd., Sumter

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

Someone to do domestic work, mature, honest, dependable, dedicated, must work well with a hardworking team of ladies. Must pass drug test and background check. Full time. Paid vacation and holidays after 1 yr of employment. 803-495-8018

Sumter School District is accepting applications for a HVAC Technician, Electrician and Carpenter. You may send resume to Sumter School District Maintenance Department, 1345 Wilson Hall Rd. Sumter, S.C. 29151-2039 or apply online at www.sumterschools.net. Call 803-469-6900, ext. 600 for any questions.

Help Wanted Part-Time

Exp. Trailer switcher needed in Sumter to move trailers in yard. Do washouts & minor repairs. Thurs., Fri. & Sun. 7 am - 5 pm. Must have 2 yrs exp. CDL & clean driving record. 803-938-2708 M-F 9am-3pm lv msg.

Trucking Opportunities

Truck / Trailer Service Technician / Welder
Immediate opening for a general service technician to perform general maintenance and PM services. Experience with general repair, brakes, lights along with welding/fabricating experience preferred. Benefit package includes medical, dental, life, prescription and 401K plan available. Company supplied uniforms and accrued PTO time. Applicants can apply in person at Freehold Cartage 132 Myrtle Beach Hwy Sumter, SC 29153 or call803-773-2611ext 25. Resumes can bee-mailed to tkrigbaum @freeholdcartage.com. Hourly rate commensurate with experience.

RENTALS

Rooms for Rent

Men's Large room for rent No deposit, No lease. Call 803-565-7924.

Unfurnished Apartments

Senior Living Apartments
for those 62+
(Rent based on income)
Shiloh-Randolph Manor
125 W. Bartlette.
775-0575
Studio/1 Bedroom apartments available
EHO

2BR 2BA, Conv. to Sumter Mall. $580/mo + dep. 803-775-1281.

Huntington Place Apartments
Rents from $625 per month
1 Month free*
***13 Month lease required**
Leasing office located at
Ashton Mill Apartment Homes
595 Ashton Mill Drive
803-773-3600
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9-5

Unfurnished Homes

$1000 monthly, 3BR/2BA, Double garage, 5 minutes to Shaw or Wal-Mart. Available 3/1/18. Call 803-499-4207

Lg 3BR 2BA C/H/A, $750 mo. Call 803-394-2112 or 803-757-0083.

Mobile Home Rentals

American MHP, 2 & 3/BR, lot rentals, water/sewer/garbage pkup inc'd. Sec. 8 ok. 803-494-4300.

Office Rentals

Office space for rent. Available now, 2 private offices, shared conference room. Guignard/Bultman area. Utilities furnished, can be rented separately. For info call 803-773-7526 or 803-775-7800

REAL ESTATE

Homes for Sale

3BR/2BA DW mobile home on 4.38 acres, paved road, Wedgefield area, 5 minutes to Shaw. Call 803-481-8314

For Sale by Owner 3BR 2BA Site built, 1400 sq.ft. .68 Acre gr with fireplace/gas logs, kitchen, screened in back porch, deck w/pool & privacy fence 803-469-3884 or 968-5429

TRANSPORTATION

Antiques / Classic Cars

For Sale: 1948 Chevy 2 door, needs restoring $2000. 1948 Chevy restored 4 door $7000. 84' Camaro, good for parts, good motor, and good transmission $1000. Call 803-236-6426

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

LEGAL NOTICE
The State Regulation of Public Utilities Review Committee is beginning its screening process for Seats 2, 4, and 6 of the South Carolina Public Service Commission. The State Regulation of Public Utilities Review Committee will be accepting applications for Seats 2, 4, and 6 beginning **Thursday, February 22, 2018, until 12:00 p.m., Monday, March 5, 2018.** The Public Service Commission has jurisdiction over matters pertaining to investor-owned electric and gas utilities, water and wastewater companies, telecommunications companies, carriers of household goods and hazardous waste for disposal, taxicabs, and other motor vehicle passenger carriers. A commissioner must have at least a baccalaureate degree. It is preferred that a commissioner have a background of substantial duration in one of the following areas: (a) energy; (b) telecommunications; (c) consumer protection and advocacy; (d) water and wastewater; (e) finance, economics, and statistics; (f) accounting; (g) engineering; or (h) law.

The Commission is composed of seven commissioners, one from each of the seven Congressional districts.

Legal Notice

The Commissioner for the Second Public Service Commission District represents Aiken, Barnwell, and Lexington counties, as well as parts of Orangeburg and Richland counties. The Commissioner for the Fourth Public Service Commission District represents parts of Greenville and Spartanburg counties. The Commissioner for the Sixth Public Service Commission District represents Allendale, Bamberg, Calhoun, Clarendon, Hampton, Jasper, and Williamsburg counties, as well as parts of Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Florence, Orangeburg, Richland, and Sumter counties. The salary for these positions is approximately $107,822 annually.

Each candidate is required to submit a completed application form no later than the March 5th deadline. Applications will not be accepted after noon on March 5, 2018. Following the March 5th filing deadline, the Review Committee will begin its background investigation of candidates. Candidates and potential candidates are subject to certain restrictions with respect to contacting members of the General Assembly.

Application forms may be obtained from the State Regulation of Public Utilities Review Committee, 102 Gressette Building, Post Office Box 142, Columbia, South Carolina 29202, by contacting Heather Anderson, (803) 212-6208 or heatheranderson@scsenate.gov, or by contacting Michelle McGee, (803) 212-6634 or michellemcgee@scsenate.gov. For further information, contact Ms. Anderson or Ms. McGee, or visit the Public Utilities Review Committee's website at: www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/PublicUtilitiesReviewComm/2018PublicServiceCommissionScreeningInfo.php.

Beer & Wine License

Notice Of Application
Notice is hereby given that **Shree Som Nath. LLC** intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license permit that will allow the sale **OFF** premises consumption of **Beer & Wine** at **226 N.Washington St Sumter, SC 29150**. To object to the issuance of this permit / license, written protest must be postmarked no later than **February 17th, 2018**. 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, ATTN: ABL, P.O. Box 125, Columbia, South Carolina 29214; or Faxed to: (803) 896-0110.

Beer & Wine License

Notice Of Application
Notice is hereby given that **Sumter Hotel Venture, LLC** intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license permit that will allow the sale **ON** premises consumption of **Beer, Wine and Liquor by the drink** at **18 N Main Street, Sumter, SC 29150**. To object to the issuance of this permit / license, written protest must be postmarked no later than **February 17th, 2018**. 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, ATTN: ABL, P.O. Box 125, Columbia, South Carolina 29214; or Faxed to: (803) 896-0110.

Notice of Sale

NOTICE OF SALE

BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of: **Wells Fargo Bank, NA vs. Eric J.D. Smith;** Tiffany Smith; , C/A No. 2017CP4301618, The following property will be sold on **March 5, 2018, at 12:00 Noon** at the Sumter County Courthouse to the highest bidder
All that certain piece, parcel and lot of land with improvements thereon situate, lying and being in the County of Sumter, State of South Carolina identified as Lot No. 82 of Knights Village Subdivision Phase I Section II and being more fully shown on a plat prepared by Louis W. Tisdale, K.L.S. dated 1/5/05 and recorded in plat book 2005 at page 81, records of Sumter County. This property is known as 943 Mordred St and is further identified as Sumter County Tax Map Parcel No. 226-16-04-010.

Aforesaid Plat is specifically incorporated herein and reference is craved thereto for a more complete and accurate description of the metes, bounds, courses and distances of the property concerned herein. This description is in lieu of metes and bounds, as permitted by law under Section 30-5-250 of the 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina, As Amended. Be all measurements a little more or a little less and according to said plat.

Derivation: Book 1137 at Page 1072

943 Mordred Street,
Sumter, SC 29154-7407

226-16-04-010

SUBJECT TO ASSESSMENTS, SUMTER COUNTY AD VALOREM TAXES, EASEMENTS AND/OR, RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD, AND OTHER SENIOR ENCUMBRANCES.

TERMS OF SALE: A 5% deposit in certified funds is required. The deposit will be applied towards the purchase price unless the bidder defaults, in which case the deposit will be forfeited. If the successful bidder fails, or refuses, to make the required deposit, or comply with his bid within 20 days, then the property will be resold at his risk. No personal or deficiency judgment being demanded, the bidding will not remain open after the date of sale, but compliance with the bid may be made immediately. The successful bidder will be required to pay interest on the amount of the bid from date of sale to date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 3.25% per annum. For complete terms of sale, see Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale filed with the Sumter County Clerk of Court at C/A #2017CP4301618.

NOTICE: The foreclosure deed is not a warranty deed. Interested bidders should satisfy themselves as to the quality of title to be conveyed by obtaining an independent title search prior to the foreclosure sale date.

Richard L. Booth
Master In Equity for
Sumter County

FARM EQUIPMENT LIQUIDATION AUCTION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2018
9:00 A.M.
441 HWY 154 (ST. CHARLES ROAD)
BISHOPVILLE, SC

KING BROS FARMS,
JOE ATKINSON & OTHERS

CONSIGNMENTS ACCEPTED!!!!
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the Sumter ITEM
36 W. Liberty Street • Sumter, SC
www.theitem.com

Notice of Sale

John J. Hearn
Attorney for Plaintiff
P.O. Box 100200
Columbia, SC 29202-3200
(803) 744-4444
013263-10098
Website: www.rtt-law.com
(see link to Resources/Foreclosure Sales)

NOTICE OF SALE
CIVIL ACTION NO. 2017-CP-43-01398

BY VIRTUE of the decree heretofore granted in the case of: **Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. vs. Foxy R. Campbell;** The United States of America, acting by and through its agency, The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; United States of America, acting through its agency, Department of Treasury - Internal Revenue Service, the undersigned Master In Equity for Sumter County, South Carolina, will sell on **March 5, 2018 at 12:00PM**, at the Sumter County Courthouse, City of Sumter, State of South Carolina, to the highest bidder:

ALL THAT CERTAIN PIECE, PARCEL OR LOT OF LAND WITH THE IMPROVEMENT THEREON, IF ANY, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SUMTER, STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, SHOWN AS LOT NO. 27, DEERFIELD SUBDIVISION, ON A PLAT OF H.S. WILSON, DATED APRIL 8, 1969 AND RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS FOR SUMTER COUNTY IN PLAT BOOK Z-26 AT PAGE 93. THIS PROPERTY IS KNOWN AS 710 FAWN CIRCLE, SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA AND SHOWN ON THE SUMTER COUNTY TAX MAP AS PARCEL NO. 204-15-01-013.

AFORESAID PLAT IS SPECIFICALLY INCORPORATED HEREIN AND REFERENCE IS CRAVED THERETO FOR A MORE COMPLETE AND ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF THE METES, BOUNDS, COURSES AND DISTANCES OF THE PROPERTY DELINEATED HEREIN. THIS DESCRIPTION IS IN LIEU OF THE METES AND BOUNDS, AS PERMITTED BY LAW UNDER SECTION 30-5-250 OF THE 1976 CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA. AS AMENDED. BE ALL MEASUREMENT A LITTLE MORE OR A LITTLE LESS AND ACCORDING TO SAID PLAT.

THIS BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED TO FOXY R. CAMPBELL BY DEED OF THE ESTATE OF MARY J. CASOLI BY ROBERT CASOLI, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE DATED AUGUST 4, 2008 AND RECORDED AUGUST 8, 2008 IN BOOK 1110 AT PAGE 2460 IN THE RECORDS FOR SUMTER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA.

CURRENT ADDRESS OF PROPERTY:
710 Fawn Circle,
Sumter, SC 29150-3134
TMS: 204-15-01-013

TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the Plaintiff, will deposit with the Master In Equity, at conclusion of the bidding, five percent (5%) of his bid, in cash or equivalent, as evidence of good faith, same to be applied to the purchase price in case of compliance, but to be forfeited and applied first to costs and then to the Plaintiff's debt in the case of non-compliance. Should the last and highest bidder fail to comply with the other terms of the bid within thirty (30) days, then the Master In Equity may re-sell the property on the same terms and conditions on some subsequent Sales Day (at the risk of the said highest bidder). No personal or deficiency judgment being demanded, the bidding shall not remain open after the date of sale and shall be final on that date, and compliance with the bid may be made immediately. Purchaser to pay for documentary stamps on the Deed. The successful bidder will be required to pay interest on the amount of the balance of the bid from date of sale to date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 4.25% per annum. The sale shall be subject to taxes and assessments, existing easements and restrictions, easements and restrictions of record and any other senior encumbrances. Pursuant to Section 2410(c), Title 28, United States Code, the Defendant, the United States of America, acting through its agency, Department of Treasury - Internal Revenue Service, has a right of redemption on proper application to redeem the within property for 120 days from the date of sale of the subject property. Although they are entitled to a one 1 year right of redemption, since the mortgage lien of the Defendant United States of America derives from issuance of insurance under the National Housing Act, any federal right of redemption under 28 U.S.C Section 2410c is deemed waived by 12 U.S.C. Section 1701K.

In the event an agent of Plaintiff does not appear at the time of sale, the within property shall be withdrawn from sale and sold at the next available sales date upon the terms and conditions as set forth in the Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale or such terms as may be set forth in a supplemental order.

The Honorable Richard L. Booth
Master In Equity
for Sumter County

Brock & Scott, PLLC
3800 Fernandina Road, Suite 110
Columbia, SC 29210
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Phone 803-454-3540
Fax 803-454-3541

MASTER IN EQUITY'S SALE
CASE NO. 2017-CP-43-02090

BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of **Trustmark National Bank against Brittanie N. Monahan**, I, the Master in Equity for Sumter County, will sell on **Monday, March 5, 2018, at 12:00 o'clock p.m.**, at the Sumter County Courthouse, Sumter, South Carolina, to the highest bidder:

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land, containing 0.45 acre(s), more or less, together with any and all improvements thereon, lying, being and situate in Stateburg Township, the County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, being shown and delineated as Lot No. 11 of Wintergreen Subdivision, Phase II on that certain plat by Joseph R. Edwards, PLS dated February 17, 2003, recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County in Plat Book 2003 at Page 95.

Pursuant to Section 30-5-250 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina (1976), reference to said plat(s) is hereby craved for particulars of the boundaries, metes, courses, and/or distances of the property delineated thereon.

This property is represented as Tax Map Parcel No. 186-01-01-021 upon the records of the Sumter County Auditor, and is known as 3640 Oleander Drive, Sumter, SC.

This being the same property conveyed to Brittanie N. Monahan by deed of Anthony T. Lau dated May 8, 2013 and recorded May 15, 2013 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County, South Carolina in Book 1187 at Page 1669.

TMS#: 186-01-01-021

Property Address:
3640 Oleander Drive
Sumter, S.C. 29154

TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the plaintiff, will deposit with the Master in Equity for Sumter County at conclusion of the bidding, five percent (5%) of the bid, in cash or equivalent, as evidence of good faith, same to be applied to the purchase price in case of compliance, but to be forfeited and applied first to costs and then to plaintiff's debt in the case of non-compliance. If the Plaintiff's representative is not in attendance at the scheduled time of the sale, the sale shall be canceled and the property sold on some subsequent sales day after due advertisement. Should the last and highest bidder fail or refuse to make the required deposit at time of bid or comply with the other terms of the bid within thirty (30) days, the deposit shall be forfeited and the Master in Equity for Sumter County may re-sell the property on the same terms and conditions on some subsequent Sales Day (at the risk of the said highest bidder). As a deficiency judgment is being Waived, the bidding will not remain open thirty days after the date of sale. Purchaser shall pay for preparation of deed, documentary stamps on the deed, and recording of the deed. The successful bidder will be required to pay interest on the amount of the bid from date of sale to date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 3.375% per annum. The sale shall be subject to assessments, Sumter County taxes, easements, easements and restrictions of record, and other senior encumbrances.

Benjamin E. Grimsley
S.C. Bar No. 70335
Attorney for the Plaintiff
P.O. Box 11682
Columbia, S.C. 29211
(803) 233-1177
bgrimsley@grimsleylaw.com

NOTICE OF SALE

BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of: **JPMorgan Chase Bank,** National Association **vs. Kristin L. Geddings;** Safe Federal Credit Union;, C/A No. 2017CP4301952, The following property will be sold on **March 5, 2018, at 12:00 Noon** at the Sumter County Courthouse to the highest bidder

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land with the improvements thereon, if any, situate, lying and being in the Township of Providence, County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, being shown and designated as Lot #116, containing 0.53 acres, more or less, of Rolling Hills Subdivision, as shown on that certain plat prepared for Robert M Belk, Jr. and Denise Belk by William E. Lindler, Jr., RLS, dated August 28, 2001 and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County in Plat Book PB 2001 at page 604. This said lot has such metes, boundaries, courses and distances as are shown on said plat, which are incorporated herein in accordance with the provisions of Section 30-5-250 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976.
Derivation: Book 1211 at Page 291

4405 Camden Hwy,
Dalzell, SC 29040

151-14-02-007

SUBJECT TO ASSESSMENTS, SUMTER COUNTY AD VALOREM TAXES, EASEMENTS AND/OR, RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD, AND OTHER SENIOR ENCUMBRANCES.

TERMS OF SALE: A 5% deposit in certified funds is required. The deposit will be applied towards the purchase price unless the bidder defaults, in which case the deposit will be forfeited. If the successful bidder fails, or refuses, to make the required deposit, or comply with his bid within 20 days, then the property will be resold at his risk. Personal or deficiency judgment having been demanded or reserved, the sale will remain open for thirty (30) days pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §15-39-720 (1976). The successful bidder will be required to pay interest on the amount of the bid from date of sale to date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 4% per annum. For complete terms of sale, see Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale filed with the Sumter County Clerk of Court at C/A #2017CP4301952.

NOTICE: The foreclosure deed is not a warranty deed. Interested bidders should satisfy themselves as to the quality of title to be conveyed by obtaining an independent title search prior to the foreclosure sale date.

Richard L. Booth
Master In Equity for
Sumter County

John J. Hearn
Attorney for Plaintiff
P.O. Box 100200
Columbia, SC 29202-3200
(803) 744-4444
012507-02610
Website: www.rtt-law.com
(see link to Resources/Foreclosure Sales)

Notice of Sale
C/A No: 2017-CP-43-00616

BY VIRTUE OF A DECREE of the Court of Common Pleas for Sumter County, South Carolina, heretofore issued in the case of **RoundPoint Mortgage** Servicing Corporation **vs. Mary Lou B. Hardy;** Tiffany D. Barrett; Pocalla Springs Homeowners Association, Inc., I the undersigned as Master in Equity for Sumter County, will sell on **March 5, 2018 at 12:00 PM**, at the Sumter County Judicial Center, Sumter County, South Carolina, to the highest bidder:

Legal Description and Property Address:
ALL THAT CERTAIN piece, parcel, or lot of land, together with the improvements thereon, situate, lying, and being in the County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, and being shown as Lot 18E on a Subdivision Survey of Pocalla Springs Subdivision on a plat prepared for Great Southern Homes, Inc. by Black River Land Surveying, LLC dated March 6, 2015 and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County on April 9, 2015 in Plat Book 2015 at Page 0070; reference being made to the said plat which is incorporated herein by reference for a more complete and accurate description; all measurements being a little more or less.

THIS BEING the same property conveyed unto Mary Lou B. Hardy and Tiffany D. Barrett by virtue of a Deed from Great Southern Homes, Inc. dated August 26, 2015 and recorded September 2, 2015 in Book 1214 at Page 3820 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County, South Carolina.

1749 Nicholas Drive
Sumter, SC 29154
TMS# 225-10-05-019

TERMS OF SALE: For cash. Interest at the current rate of Four and 50/100 (4.50%) to be paid on balance of bid from date of sale to date of compliance. The purchaser to pay for papers and stamps, and that the successful bidder or bidders, other than the Plaintiff therein, will, upon the acceptance of his or her bid, deposit with the Master in Equity for Sumter County a certified check or cash in the amount equal to five percent (5%) of the amount of bid on said premises at the sale as evidence of good faith in bidding, and subject to any resale of said premises under Order of this Court; and in the event the said purchaser or purchasers fail to comply with the terms of sale within Twenty (20) days, the Master in Equity shall forthwith resell the said property, after the due notice and advertisement, and shall continue to sell the same each subsequent sales day until a purchaser, who shall comply with the terms of sale, shall be obtained, such sales to be made at the risk of the former purchaser. Since a personal or deficiency judgment is waived, the bidding will not remain open but compliance with the bid may be made immediately. If the Plaintiff or the Plaintiff's representative does not appear at the above-described sale, then the sale of the property will be null, void, and of no force and effect. In such event, the sale will be rescheduled for the next available sales day. Plaintiff may waive any of its rights, including its right to a deficiency judgment, prior to sale. Sold subject to taxes and assessments, existing easements and restrictions of record.

Hutchens Law Firm
P.O. Box 8237
Columbia, SC 29202
803-726-2700

MASTER IN EQUITY'S SALE
CASE NO. 2017-CP-43-01807

BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of United States of America acting through the Rural Housing Service or successor agency, **United States Department of Agriculture against Susan H. Barkley** a/k/a Susan Barkley, I, the Master in Equity for Sumter County, will sell on **Monday, March 5, 2018, at 12:00 o'clock p.m.**, at the Sumter County Courthouse, Sumter, South Carolina, to the highest bidder:

All that certain piece, parcel, or lot of land, together with the improvements thereon, if any, situate, lying, and being in the Township of Privateer, County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, being shown and designated as Lot #46 of Hideaway Village Subdivision, as shown on that certain plat prepared for Susan H. Barkley, by Michael C. Turbeville, RLS, dated February 9, 2005, and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County in Plat Book 2005 at Page 80, and having such metes and bounds as are shown on said plat, this description being in lieu of metes and bounds, as permitted under Section 30-5-250 of the 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina. This is the property known as 3075 Tuckaway Drive.

This being the same property conveyed to Susan Barkley by Deed of J.D. Gainey Construction Co., Inc. dated January 3, 2005 and recorded February 11, 2005 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County in Deed Book 969 at Page 611.

Property Address:
3075 Tuckaway Dr.,
Sumter, SC 29154

TMS # 180-13-02-026

TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the plaintiff, will deposit with the Master in Equity for Sumter County at conclusion of the bidding, five percent (5%) of the bid, in cash or equivalent, as evidence of good faith, same to be applied to the purchase price in case of compliance, but to be forfeited and applied first to costs and then to plaintiff's debt in the case of non-compliance. If the Plaintiff's representative is not in attendance at the scheduled time of the sale, the sale shall be canceled and the property sold on some subsequent sales day after due advertisement. Should the last and highest bidder fail or refuse to make the required deposit at time of bid or comply with the other terms of the bid within thirty (30) days, the deposit shall be forfeited and the Master in Equity for Sumter County may re-sell the property on the same terms and conditions on some subsequent Sales Day (at the risk of the said highest bidder). As a deficiency judgment is being Waived, the bidding will not remain open thirty days after the date of sale. Purchaser shall pay for preparation of deed, documentary stamps on the deed, and recording of the deed. The successful bidder will be required to pay interest on the amount of the bid from date of sale to date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 6.0% per annum. The sale shall be subject to assessments, Sumter County taxes, easements, easements and restrictions of record, and other senior encumbrances.

GRIMSLEY LAW FIRM, LLC
P. O. Box 11682
Columbia, South Carolina 29211
(803) 233-1177
Benjamin E. Grimsley
Edward L. Grimsley
S.C. Bar No. 2326
egrimsley@grimsleylaw.com
Benjamin E. Grimsley
S.C. Bar No. 70335
bgrimsley@grimsleylaw.com
Attorneys for the Plaintiff

NOTICE OF MASTER IN EQUITY SALE
CIVIL ACTION NO. 2017CP4301314

BY VIRTUE OF A DECREE of the Court of Common Pleas for Sumter County, South Carolina, heretofore issued in the case of **Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC**, a Delaware Limited Liability Company, **against Elizabeth S. Ramsey,** et al., the Master in Equity for Sumter County, or his agent, will sell on **March 5, 2018 at 12:00 P.M.** at the Sumter County Judicial Center, 215 North Harvin Street, Sumter, SC to the highest bidder:

All that piece, parcel or lot of land, with improvements thereon, located in the County of Sumter, Staatsburg Township, the said lot or parcel having been surveyed and divided from a 7.49 acre tract owned by Louis Ramsey, the said lot of land being more specifically described in that plat of H.S. Willson, RLS, dated July 26, 1982 and recorded in Plat Book Z-47 at Page 748 being bounded and measuring according to said plat.

TMS Number:
155-16-01-032
PROPERTY ADDRESS:
785 Mayfield Dr.,
Sumter, SC 29150

This being the same property conveyed to Terrill Ramsey and Yulanda Ramsey by deed of Elizabeth S. Ramsey dated October 13, 2011 and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County on October 13, 2011 in Deed Book 1161 at Page 1133.

TERMS OF SALE: FOR CASH. The Master in Equity will require a deposit of 5% of the bid amount in cash or certified funds, which is to be applied on the purchase price upon compliance with the bid. Interest on the balance of the bid at 9.23% shall be paid to the day of compliance. In case of noncompliance within 20 days, after the sale, the deposit of 5% is to be forfeited and applied to Plaintiff's judgment debt and the property re-advertised for sale upon the same terms at the risk of the former highest bidder. Purchaser to pay for deed recording fees and deed stamps.

Deficiency judgment not being demanded, the bidding will not remain open after the date of sale, but compliance with the bid may be made immediately.

Should Plaintiff, Plaintiff's attorney, or Plaintiff's agent fail to appear on the day of sale, the property shall not be sold, but shall be re-advertised and sold at some convenient sales day thereafter when Plaintiff, Plaintiff's attorney, or Plaintiff's agent, is present.

The sale shall be subject to taxes and assessments, existing easements and easements and restrictions of record.

Plaintiff does not warrant its title search to purchasers at foreclosure sale or other third parties, who should have their own title search performed on the subject property.

FINKEL LAW FIRM LLC
PO Box 71727
North Charleston, SC 29415
(843) 577-5460
Attorneys for Plaintiff

AMENDED NOTICE OF MASTER'S SALE IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT CASE NUMBER: 2016-CP-43-00955

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF SUMTER

Sumter Habitat for Humanity, Inc.
Plaintiff(s),
vs.
Constance A. Oliver and SC Housing Corp,
Defendant(s).

By virtue of a Decree of Foreclosure entered in an action entitled, **Sumter Habitat for Humanity, Inc. vs. Constance A. Oliver** and SC Housing Corp, Civil Action Case No. 2016-CP-43-00955, the undersigned Master In Equity will sell at public auction to be conducted in Room 1A of the Sumter County Judicial Center in Sumter, South Carolina, on **March 5, 2018 at 12:00 noon,** the following property will be sold to the highest bidder:

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land, together with any improvements thereon, situate, lying and being in Sumter County, State of South Carolina, delineated as Lot 46 of Fuller Garden Subdivision, Phase One, Section Two, on plat prepared by Louis White Tisdale, RLS, dated June 4, 2002 and recorded in Plat Book 2003 at Page 380 in the RMC Office for Sumter County and bounded and measuring as follows: On the North by Lot 45 measuring thereon 85.38 feet; on the East by Habitat Court and measuring thereon 73.55 feet; on the Southeast by the corners of Habitat Court and Habitat Drive and measuring thereon 35.36 feet; on the South by Habitat Drive and measuring thereon 60.52 feet; and on the West by Lot 47 and measuring thereon 104.00 feet, be the said measurements more or less. This is the property known as 1185 Habitat Drive, Sumter, South Carolina, 29153 and bears Sumter Tax Map Number: 251-06-02-076.

This being the property conveyed to Constance A. Oliver by deed of Sumter Habitat for Humanity, Inc. dated January 18, 2007 and recorded January 29, 2007, in Deed Book 1062 at Page 1579 in the ROD Office for Sumter County.

TERMS OF SALE:

At the conclusion of the bidding, the successful purchaser, other than the plaintiff, must deposit with the Master five (5%) per cent of the bid in cash or equivalent. Credit will be allowed for this against the purchase price.

Personal/deficiency judgment having been waived, the bidding will remain not open and compliance with the bid must be made within twenty (20) days thereafter.

Interest will accrue on the amount of the bid until date of compliance at the rate of five (5%) per annum.

If the successful bidder fails to comply, his deposit will be forfeited and applied in the manner prescribed by law; and the property will be re-advertised and sold on the same terms and conditions on some subsequent sales day at his risk.

The sale will be subject to all accrued and/or delinquent Sumter County ad valorem property taxes and all visible and recorded easements, covenants and rights of way and any senior liens.

The purchaser is to pay for preparation of deed, documentary stamps and recording.

Richard L. Booth
Master-In-Equity
Sumter, South Carolina

NOTICE OF MASTER IN EQUITY SALE CIVIL ACTION NO. 2017CP4301487

BY VIRTUE OF A DECREE of the Court of Common Pleas for Sumter County, South Carolina, heretofore issued in the case of **Wells Fargo Bank N.A.**, as Trustee, for Carrington Mortgage Loan Trust, Series 2006-NC3 Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, against **Betty M. Williams,** the Master in Equity for Sumter County, or his/her agent, will sell on **March 5, 2018, at 12:00 P.M.,** at Sumter Judicial Center, 215 North Harvin Street, Sumter, SC 29150, to the highest bidder:

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land, with the dwelling and improvements thereon, situate, lying and being in the City and County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, designated as Lot No. 22 in Block "A" on a plat recorded in Plat Book ZZ5 at Page 160 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County.

TMS Number:
228-09-01-017
PROPERTY ADDRESS:

19 Alice Dr.,
Sumter, SC 29150

This being the same property conveyed to Betty M. Williams by deed of Marie L. Ard n/k/a Marie L. Hansen, dated January 25, 2002, and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County on January 25, 2002, in Deed Book 830 at Page 1505.

TERMS OF SALE: FOR CASH. The Master in Equity will require a deposit of 5% of the bid amount in cash or certified funds, which is to be applied on the purchase price upon compliance with the bid. Interest on the balance of the bid at 3.875% shall be paid to the day of compliance. In case of noncompliance within 20 days, after the sale, the deposit of 5% is to be forfeited and applied to Plaintiff's judgment debt and the property re-advertised for sale upon the same terms at the risk of the former highest bidder. Purchaser to pay for deed recording fees and deed stamps.

Deficiency judgment not being demanded, the bidding will not remain open after the date of sale, but compliance with the bid may be made immediately.

Should Plaintiff, Plaintiff's attorney, or Plaintiff's agent fail to appear on the day of sale, the property shall not be sold, but shall be re-advertised and sold at some convenient sales day thereafter when Plaintiff, Plaintiff's attorney, or Plaintiff's agent, is present.

The sale shall be subject to taxes and assessments, existing easements and easements and restrictions of record.

Plaintiff does not warrant its title search to purchasers at foreclosure sale or other third parties, who should have their own title search performed on the subject property.

Richard L. Booth
Master in Equity
for Sumter County
Sumter, South Carolina

FINKEL LAW FIRM LLC
Post Office Box 71727
North Charleston, S.C. 29415
(843) 577-5460
Attorneys for Plaintiff

Notice of Sale
C/A No: 2017-CP-43-01653

BY VIRTUE OF A DECREE of the Court of Common Pleas for Sumter County, South Carolina, heretofore issued in the case of **U.S. Bank National Association vs. Tony A. Jacobs;** Angelika H. Jacobs;, I the undersigned as Master in Equity for Sumter County, will sell on **March 5, 2018 at 12:00 PM**, at the Sumter County Judicial Center, Sumter County, South Carolina, to the highest bidder:

Legal Description and Property Address:
ALL THAT CERTAIN piece, parcel or lot of land with the improvements thereon, if any, situate, lying and being in the County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, being shown and delineated as Lot No. 140 of Wintergreen Subdivision, Section No. 2, Phase I, as shown on that certain Plat of Louis W. Tisdale, PLS dated November 5, 2003 and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County in Plat Book 2004 at Page 47, and having such boundaries, metes, courses and distances as are shown on said plat, reference to which is hereby made pursuant to authority contained in § 30-50-250 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended. This property is known as 3775 Rhododendron Street, Sumter, SC.

THIS BEING the same property conveyed unto Tony A. Jacobs and Angelika H. Jacobs by virtue of a Deed from Davis & Ross Construction Company, Inc. dated September 6, 2005 and recorded September 7, 2005 in in Volume 996 at Page 652 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County, South Carolina.

3775 Rhododendron St.
Sumter, SC 29154
TMS# 187-16-06-007

TERMS OF SALE: For cash. Interest at the current rate of Five and 875/1000 (5.875%) to be paid on balance of bid from date of sale to date of compliance. The purchaser to pay for papers and stamps, and that the successful bidder or bidders, other than the Plaintiff therein, will, upon the acceptance of his or her bid, deposit with the Master in Equity for Sumter County a certified check or cash in the amount equal to five percent (5%) of the amount of bid on said premises at the sale as evidence of good faith in bidding, and subject to any resale of said premises under Order of this Court; and in the event the said purchaser or purchasers fail to comply with the terms of sale within Twenty (20) days, the Master in Equity shall forthwith resell the said property, after the due notice and advertisement, and shall continue to sell the same each subsequent sales day until a purchaser, who shall comply with the terms of sale, shall be obtained, such sales to be made at the risk of the former purchaser. As a personal or deficiency judgment is demanded, the bidding will remain open for a period of thirty (30) days pursuant to the S.C. Code Ann. Section 15-39-720 (1976). If the Plaintiff or the Plaintiff's representative does not appear at the above-described sale, then the sale of the property will be null, void, and of no force and effect. In such event, the sale will be rescheduled for the next available sales day. Plaintiff may waive any of its rights, including its right to a deficiency judgment, prior to sale. Sold subject to taxes and assessments, existing easements and restrictions of record.

Hutchens Law Firm
P.O. Box 8237
Columbia, SC 29202
803-726-2700

AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE 2017-CP-43-01657 BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of: Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company against Charles M. Seymore, I, the undersigned Master in Equity for Sumter County, will sell on March 5, 2018, at 12:00 p.m. at the Sumter County Courthouse in Sumter, South Carolina, to the highest bidder, the following described property, to-wit: All that lot of land, together with improvements thereon, known as 212 Brand Street, situate in the City of Sumter, Sumter County, South Carolina and designated as Lot # 100 on plat made December 4, 1907, by Lee & McLellan Surveyors, and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Sumter County in Plat Book 4-A at Page 12. Being the same property conveyed to Charles M. Seymore by deed of Robert Haynsworth, dated July 30, 1974 and recorded July 30, 1974 in Deed Book A-10 at Page 367. TMS No. 250-09-03-037 Property Address: 212 Brand Street, Sumter, SC 29150 TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the plaintiff, will deposit with the Master in Equity at conclusion of the bidding, five per cent (5%) of said bid, in cash or equivalent, as evidence of good faith, same to be applied to purchase price in case of compliance, but to be forfeited and applied first to costs and then to plaintiff's debt in the case of noncompliance. Should the successful bidder fail or refuse to make the required deposit at time of bid or comply with the other terms of the bid within twenty (20) days, then the Master in Equity may resell the property on the same terms and conditions (at the risk of the said defaulting bidder). Should the Plaintiff, or one of its representatives, fail to be present at the time of sale, the property is automatically withdrawn from said sale and sold at the next available sales day upon the terms and conditions as set forth in the Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale or any Supplemental Order. The successful bidder will be required to pay for documentary stamps on the Deed and interest on the balance of the bid from the date of sale to the date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 10.9400%. THIS SALE IS SUBJECT TO ASSESSMENTS, COUNTY TAXES, EXISTING EASEMENTS, EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD, AND OTHER SENIOR ENCUMBRANCES. No personal or deficiency judgment being demanded, the bidding will not remain open after the date of sale, but compliance with the bid may be made immediately. NOTICE: The foreclosure deed is not a warranty deed. Interested bidders should satisfy themselves as to the quality of title to be conveyed by obtaining an independent title search well before the foreclosure sale date. The Honorable Richard L. Booth Master in Equity Sumter County Riley Pope & Laney, LLC Post Office Box 11412 Columbia, SC 29211 (803) 799-9993 Attorneys for Plaintiff

Notice of Sale
C/A No: 2017-CP-43-00787

BY VIRTUE OF A DECREE of the Court of Common Pleas for Sumter County, South Carolina, heretofore issued in the case of **Ditech Financial, LLC vs. Michael Simon;** South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles; Lisa Simon; Bibco, Inc., I the undersigned as Master in Equity for Sumter County, will sell on **March 5, 2018 at 12:00 PM,** at the Sumter County Judicial Center, Sumter County, South Carolina, to the highest bidder:

Legal Description and Property Address:
THAT LOT OF LAND with the improvements thereon situate on Middletown Township School District No. 1, Sumter County, South Carolina represented as Lot 28 on plat of D .D. Edmunds, RLS dated March 8, 1996, recorded on the Sumter County RMC Office in Plat Book 96 at Page 560, which boundaries and measurements were reconfirmed by plat of D.D. Edmunds, RLS, dated March 30, 1998 recorded in Plat Book PB98 at Page 500. This property represented on the BIBCO, Inc. by deed of B&G Developer recorded on March 25, 1996 in Volume 643 at Page 1041.

TOGETHER WITH: One 1991 Clayton Mobile Home, Serial # WHC001668GAAB.

THIS BEING the same property conveyed to Michael Simon and Lisa Simon by virtue of a Deed from Bibco, Inc. dated May 6, 1998 and recorded May 6, 1998 in Volume 704 at Page 1748 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County, South Carolina.

THEREAFTER, Lisa Simon conveyed all her interest in subject property unto Michael Simon by virtue of a Deed dated April 28, 2000 and recorded May 15, 2000 in Volume 771 at Page 1825 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County, South Carolina.

6125 Waco Court
Wedgefield, SC 29168
TMS# 100-00-04-043
(land and mobile home)

TERMS OF SALE: For cash. Interest at the current rate of Four and 00/100 (4.00%) to be paid on balance of bid from date of sale to date of compliance. The purchaser to pay for papers and stamps, and that the successful bidder or bidders, other than the Plaintiff therein, will, upon the acceptance of his or her bid, deposit with the Master in Equity for Sumter County a certified check or cash in the amount equal to five percent (5%) of the amount of bid on said premises at the sale as evidence of good faith in bidding, and subject to any resale of said premises under Order of this Court; and in the event the said purchaser or purchasers fail to comply with the terms of sale within Twenty (20) days, the Master in Equity shall forthwith resell the said property, after the due notice and advertisement, and shall continue to sell the same each subsequent sales day until a purchaser, who shall comply with the terms of sale, shall be obtained, such sales to be made at the risk of the former purchaser. As a personal or deficiency judgment is demanded, the bidding will remain open for a period of thirty (30) days pursuant to the S.C. Code Ann. Section 15-39-720 (1976). If the Plaintiff or the Plaintiff's representative does not appear at the above-described sale, then the sale of the property will be null, void, and of no force and effect. In such event, the sale will be rescheduled for the next available sales day. Plaintiff may waive any of its rights, including its right to a deficiency judgment, prior to sale. Sold subject to taxes and assessments, existing easements and restrictions of record.

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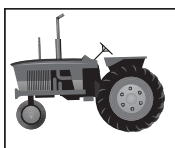
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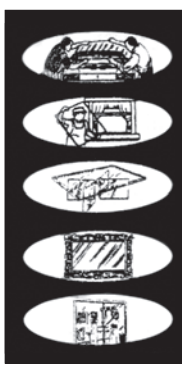
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IN BRIEF

Appeals court declares Trump travel ban unconstitutional

President Trump's latest travel ban on travelers from six largely Muslim countries is "unconstitutionally tainted with animus toward Islam," a federal appeals court ruled Thursday.

In a 9-4 vote, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond said it examined statements made by Trump and other administration officials, as well as the proclamation imposing the ban, and concluded that it "second-guesses our nation's dedication to religious freedom and tolerance."

The 4th Circuit is the second federal appeals court to rule against the ban. In December, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals found that Trump exceeded the scope of his authority with the latest ban.

NTSB: Human error likely cause of Amtrak, freight train crash

Human error is likely the cause of a collision between an Amtrak train and a freight train in South Carolina that killed two people and injured dozens of others this month, according to a preliminary report.

The National Transportation Safety Board report said "the evidence indicates that human decision making and actions likely played key roles" in the Feb. 4 crash near the city of Cayce.

Visitor logs for White House agencies to be made to public

The U.S. Secret Service has agreed to settle a lawsuit brought by the consumer advocacy group Public Citizen over visitor logs for four White House agencies. Public Citizen alleged that the Trump administration was violating the Freedom of Information Act by refusing to release information about visitors to these agencies.

South Africa's new president promises clean government

Cyril Ramaphosa became South Africa's president with a message of clean government and inclusiveness on Thursday. Many South Africans hope he can reverse a corrosive period of division under Jacob Zuma.

Ramaphosa, 65, a lead negotiator in the transition from apartheid to democracy in the early 1990s, was elected by ruling party legislators eager to shed political limbo and get the leadership of the country back on track.

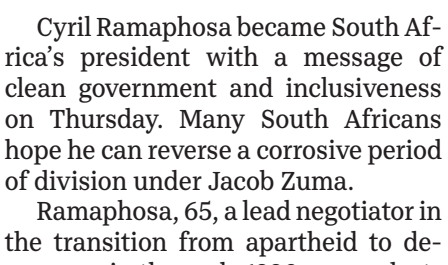
U.K. blames Russian military for 'malicious' cyberattack

Britain blamed the Russian government on Thursday for a cyberattack in Europe last year, accusing Moscow of "weaponizing information."

Foreign Minister Tariq Ahmad said "the U.K. government judges that the Russian government, specifically the Russian military, was responsible for the destructive NotPetya cyberattack of June 2017." Ahmad said the "reckless" attack cost organizations hundreds of millions of dollars.

From staff and wire reports

USA SNAPSHOTS©



1,135,679

Number of free smoke alarms the American Red Cross has installed across the USA in the last three years.

NOTE Volunteer to install smoke alarms at redcross.org/homefires

SOURCE American Red Cross

FLORIDA SCHOOL SHOOTING



Dustin Singh, left, and Jason Price hang flowers alongside a memorial where 17 crosses hang on a fence outside Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Singh and Price graduated from the high school. NICOLE RAUCHEISEN/USA TODAY NETWORK

Teen suspect's defenders describe a 'broken child'

His downward spiral began after mother's death, lawyer says

Doug Stanglin and Mike James
USA TODAY

The teenager accused of killing 17 at a Florida high school dropped his AR-15-style rifle and left the scene with terrified students, blending in to make his escape before casually walking into a nearby Walmart to get a drink, authorities said Thursday.

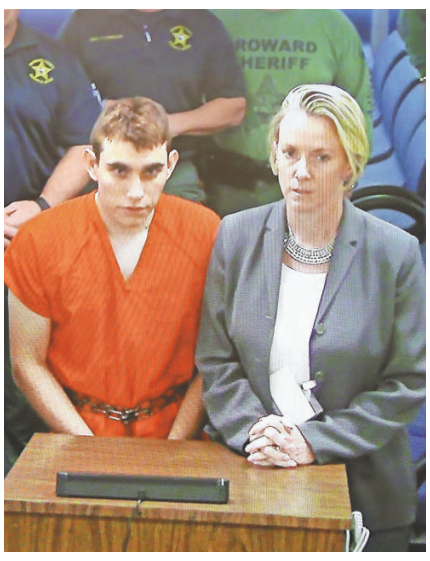
Nikolas Cruz used the cover of fleeing students to make his way to the Walmart, where he bought a drink at a Subway restaurant in the store, Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel said at a news conference Thursday. Then Cruz walked to a McDonald's, Israel said.

Israel says Cruz was confronted by a police officer and arrested about 40 minutes after leaving the McDonald's.

The moments leading up to Cruz's arrest were detailed shortly after the subdued, handcuffed 19-year-old made his first court appearance Thursday on charges of premeditated murder in the killing of 17 students and faculty at a Florida high school.

Head slightly lowered, Cruz said only "Yes, ma'am" when addressed on closed-circuit television by Judge Kim

see SHOOTING, page C2



Nikolas Cruz, 19, accused of killing 17 people, makes his first court appearance at a bond hearing on Thursday in Fort Lauderdale. POOL PHOTO BY SUSAN STOCKER

"This family did what they thought was right, which was to bring in a troubled kid and try to help him out."
Jim Lewis, lawyer

Suspect bought assault rifle legally, cleared background check

Bart Jansen
USA TODAY

The suspect in a Florida school shooting bought the AR-15-style rifle used in the attack legally a year ago, authorities said Thursday.

Nikolas Cruz, 19, is charged with murdering 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, where he had been expelled for fighting, according to authorities.

Cruz lawfully bought the semiautomatic rifle last February, according to Peter Forcelli, special agent in charge of the Miami office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The gun, a Smith & Wesson M&P 15 .223, was purchased at Sunrise Tactical Supply, according to the Associated Press.

Federal law allows people 18 and older to legally purchase long guns, including this kind of assault weapon. With no criminal record, Cruz cleared an instant background check via the FBI criminal database.

If somebody is adjudicated mentally defective or has been committed to a mental institution, he is prohibited from possessing a firearm under federal law.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott said at a news

see RIFLE, page C2

Flu vaccines 25% effective vs. worst strain

This year's model more effective on children

Kim Painter
USA TODAY

This year's flu vaccines reduce the chance of getting the flu by about one-third but are just 25% effective against the nasty strain causing the most misery, according to preliminary estimates released Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In a typical season, vaccines prevent 40% to 60% of flu cases serious enough to send people to doctors' offices. This year, vaccines are preventing 36% of those illnesses, the report said. But they are preventing just 25% of illnesses caused by a type of influenza A called H3N2. That strain, always a vaccine challenge, is behind three-quarters of verified flu cases this season, CDC said.

Flu experts were quick to say the vaccines remain worthwhile.

"We've got a good vaccine but not a great vaccine. It is modestly effective," said Arnold Monto, a University of Michigan professor of epidemiology and a co-author of the report, which is based on data from 4,562 patients.

Monto noted that the 25% effectiveness against H3N2 is higher than the 10% reported earlier from Australia. Canadian researchers estimated a 17% effectiveness rate. All of the numbers come with statistical hedging because they are based on fairly small groups.

The new data also contain a bright spot: among children ages 6 months to 8 years old, vaccine effectiveness was higher, 59% overall.

The worst recent year for vaccines was 2014-15, when the CDC reported a 19% flu prevention rate and blamed a mismatch between the strains in the vaccine and the ones causing illness.

Shooting

continued from page C1

Theresa Mollica.

Mollica ordered him held without bond on 17 counts of murder. His attorney, public defender Melissa McNeill, stood with her arm around Cruz during the brief appearance and did not contest the order.

Cruz, his hands shackled at his waist, was led out of the room by deputies.

The hearing was to formally present charges in the massacre Wednesday at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. Cruz was booked into Broward County Jail on Thursday morning.

Authorities said Cruz triggered a fire alarm in a school building that serves freshmen students, then roamed the corridors firing a semiautomatic rifle at students pouring into hallways.

The 17 dead include students and adults, Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel said. At least 15 were injured and taken to hospitals.

Among the dead was Aaron Feis, a coach and security guard.

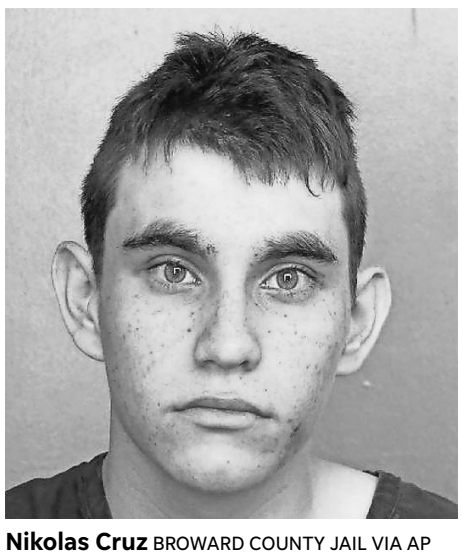
Counselors were available Thursday morning off-campus for the more than 3,000 students, teachers and staff at the school, which will remain closed.

Israel said Cruz had been expelled from the school for "disciplinary reasons."

Victoria Olvera, 17, said Cruz was kicked out last year after a fight with his ex-girlfriend's new boyfriend. She said Cruz had been abusive to his girlfriend.

Before Thursday's hearing, Chief Assistant Public Defender Gordon Weekes described Cruz as a "deeply troubled child who has endured a lot of emotional trauma in a short period of time." He said Cruz began spiraling downward after the death of his mother in November.

McNeill described Cruz, who was on suicide watch in jail, as a "broken child" who suffered brain developmental problems and depression. She said he was "sad, mournful and remorseful" over the killings.



Nikolas Cruz BROWARD COUNTY JAIL VIA AP

Cruz's mother, Lynda, died of pneumonia Nov. 1, according to the Broward County *Sun-Sentinel*. She and her husband, who died of a heart attack several years ago, adopted Nikolas and his biological brother, Zachary, after the couple moved from Long Island in New York to Broward County.

The boys were left in the care of a family friend after their mother died, said family member Barbara Kumbatovich. Unhappy there, Nikolas Cruz asked to move in with a friend's family in northwest Broward. The family agreed, and Cruz moved in around Thanksgiving. According to Jim Lewis, the family's lawyer, who did not identify the family, they knew Cruz owned the rifle but made him keep it locked up in a cabinet.

"This family did what they thought was right, which was to bring in a troubled kid and try to help him out," Lewis told CNN.

Broward County Mayor Beam Furr told CNN that Cruz was treated at a mental health clinic but that he hadn't been back for more than a year.

Contributing: Alexi Cardona, Naples Daily News; Emily Bohatch, The (Stuart, Fla.) News; the Associated Press

Corrections & Clarifications

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Rifle

continued from page C1

conference Thursday that he would discuss with the Legislature next week increasing funding for mental-health services and keeping guns out of the hands of the mentally ill.

"If somebody is mentally ill, they can't have access to a gun," Scott said.

Gun buyers are seldom turned down because of mental illness. From 1998 to 2014, the FBI rejected 16,669 potential gun buyers because a background check found a mental health adjudication, about 1.4% of the roughly 1.2 million background checks that resulted in a denial.

Mental health entered the debate after the 2007 Virginia Tech shooting. The gunman in that case had been treated at a Virginia hospital on the grounds that he might be a danger to himself or others. He was nonetheless able to pass a background check.

Rob Lasky, FBI special agent in charge of the Miami division, said his agency received a tip in September about a comment made on a YouTube video that said, "I'm going to be a professional school shooter."

The FBI reviewed databases and couldn't track down who made the statement, he said.

"There was no connection found to South Florida," Lasky said.

Cruz was equipped with a gas mask, smoke grenades and magazines of ammunition when he opened fire Wednesday, police said.

"An AR-15 is not for hunting, it's for killing," Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., said on the Senate floor Thursday.

After Cruz's mother died Nov. 1, he moved in with a friend's family, the family's lawyer, Jim Lewis, told AP.

Photos posted in an Instagram account linked to Cruz show a half-dozen weapons displayed on a mattress and a box of ammunition.

Lewis said the family wasn't aware of other weapons in the cabinet. The family is cooperating with authorities and had no idea he was planning the shooting, Lewis said. They had "no indication that anything severe like this was wrong," he said.

Cruz had been part of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps while attending the school as a freshman, and he wore one of the group's shirts Wednesday.

Gun control advocates are calling for tougher measures.

Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin, D-Ill., said the Florida shooting came on the 10th anniversary of a shooting at Northern Illinois University that killed five people and injured 17.

"A numbness is setting in," Durbin said on the Senate floor. "Schools and colleges are doing the best they can to prepare and protect their students. But is Congress doing all that it can to keep our nation's students safe from gun violence? Not even close."

Gabrielle Giffords, a former member of the House who survived a shooting, urged Congress to act after three of the deadliest mass shootings in U.S. history in the past five months.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., declined Thursday to support a proposal made by Democrats to create a special committee to study gun violence.

"This is not the time to jump to some conclusions," Ryan said.

Contributing: Brett Murphy, USA TODAY Network; Emily Bohatch, The (Stuart, Fla.) News; Alan Gomez, USA TODAY

VA chief regrets bad 'optics' of summer trip to Europe

Shulkin defends himself to House veterans panel

Donovan Slack
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin told lawmakers during a testy exchange Thursday that he took responsibility for the bad "optics" of a trip he took to Europe last year. The VA inspector general said Shulkin wrongly accepted Wimbledon tickets and airfare for his wife.

"I do recognize the optics of this are not good," Shulkin said at a House Veterans Affairs Committee hearing. "I accept responsibility for that."



Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin

Rep. Mike Coffman, R-Colo., who had already called for Shulkin's resignation when the inspector general report was released Wednesday, suggested Shulkin missed the point. "Its not the optics that are not good, it's the facts that are not good," he said.

VA Inspector General Michael Missal found that nearly half of the 10-day trip to London and Denmark last July was spent sightseeing and that Shulkin directed an aide to arrange the activities with his wife, an exercise that took an "extensive use of official time."

Shulkin said he regretted mistakes he and his aides made in planning the trip and securing ethics approvals, and he reiterated those sentiments at the hearing. Shulkin is the only holdover from the Obama administration in President Trump's Cabinet.

Previously undersecretary for health, he was sworn in as secretary one year ago Wednesday.

Four immigration proposals fail

Senate axes bipartisan bill, Trump-backed plan

Eliza Collins and Deirdre Shesgreen
USA TODAY



Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., leads a group of senators urging President Trump to support a bipartisan immigration deal Thursday in Washington. The president didn't, and the bill never got the required votes to pass. J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

WASHINGTON – The Senate on Thursday killed four immigration bills, including a Republican measure backed by President Trump and a competing bipartisan proposal, both of which would have offered legal protections to more than 1 million undocumented immigrants who came to the USA as children.

The measures' failure puts those immigrants, known as DREAMers, at risk of deportation starting March 5, when the White House plans to rescind legal protections granted under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

The House is also deeply divided on the issue of immigration, and GOP leaders in that chamber have not scheduled a vote on any legislation. The White House said it cannot extend the program that granted the DREAMers temporary legal status and work permits, leaving no clear path for a resolution to their status.

Federal judges ordered the administration to renew protections for people in the program, a dispute that will be resolved by the Supreme Court.

Senators said they would try to regroup and come up with a better compromise that could win the 60 votes needed to advance.

"The issue is not going to go away," said Sen. Mike Rounds, R-S.D., a lead sponsor of the bipartisan bill. "We've still got DACA kids that are going to have to be addressed. We've still got a border security system that the president says is a priority."

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., another supporter of the bipartisan bill, said he would keep working.

"This crisis isn't going away, and I will not rest until these young people and their families have the future in America that they deserve," Durbin said.

Trump weighed in via Twitter before the vote, saying the bipartisan plan would be a "total catastrophe."

The bill, unveiled Wednesday night by a group of 16 senators, would have provided a pathway to citizenship for more than 2 million DREAMers. It would have allocated $25 billion to strengthen security at the southern border with Mexico, limited family-based immigration and barred the parents of DREAMers from becoming citizens.

"This is the only bill that has a chance to get through the United States Senate," Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, a lead sponsor, said before Thursday's vote.

The GOP-controlled House can pass bills with just the support of the majority party, but most major legislation requires 60 votes in the Senate. Republicans hold only 51 seats there, so any of the four bills would have needed bipartisan support.

The White House had threatened a veto of the bipartisan bill. The Department of Homeland Security said the bill "would be the end of immigration enforcement in America."

Supporters of the measure disputed the White House's arguments and said the bill met Trump's demands in a fair and balanced way.

"Democrats made enormous concessions in order to reach not one but six separate, bipartisan agreements to pass the overwhelmingly popular DREAM Act in exchange for a dismally unpopular border wall," Durbin said. "The president and his enablers in Congress rejected them all, never once budging from their own partisan plan."

The final Senate vote on the bipartisan measure was 54-45, well short of the 60 needed to advance.

Trump backed a more restrictive Senate bill, which was also defeated Thursday.

That proposal, sponsored by Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee, would have granted eventual citizenship to 1.8 million of the DREAMers and given Trump his requested $25 billion for immigration enforcement, including funding for the wall.

It would have met Trump's demands for changes to family-based immigration, what Republicans call "chain migration," and ended a diversity visa lottery system. The bill would have cut legal immigration by at least 25%.

The Trump-backed bill garnered 39 "yes" votes, and 60 senators voted against it.

The Senate rejected two narrower bills: one to create a path to citizenship for the DREAMers and improve border security and a second to withhold funding from "sanctuary cities" that limit police officers' cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

Contributing: Herb Jackson, Alan Gomez

NEWS

Royal pain: Could homeless mar wedding?

Suggestion that they be removed sparks debate in Windsor

Kim Hjelmgaard
USA TODAY



A local Conservative Party official's suggestion to clear the homeless from the streets of Windsor has sparked a debate ahead of the royal wedding May 19 in Windsor Castle, reflected in a window on a town street. LEON NEAL/GETTY IMAGES

WINDSOR, England – It's a place fit for a prince, but not, it seems, for a pauper.

Ahead of Prince Harry and the American actress Meghan Markle's wedding here May 19, this picturesque riverside town is grappling with a problem affecting a growing number of communities across England: homelessness.

Windsor is host to the world's oldest and largest inhabited castle. Queen Elizabeth II uses it on weekends. It has a Gothic chapel that is the final resting place of 10 monarchs, including Henry VIII. The town, 25 miles west of London, has put on royal weddings for centuries.

But a rift in this otherwise serene place has opened up after Simon Dudley, a local Conservative Party official, suggested police should consider using legal powers to clear the destitute from Windsor's streets so that "aggressive begging and intimidation" and bags and debris do not spoil Harry and Markle's big day.

"It's not just because they are homeless and we don't want them here, although it doesn't look great for tourists when they are always being asked for money," said Kelly Carpenter, who runs a pub across from Windsor Castle, where the pair will wed.

"They are a security threat. Anyone could be hiding under those blankets."

For the royal wedding in April 2011 of Harry's older brother, Prince William, to Kate Middleton in Westminster Abbey in central London, about 350,000 overseas visitors showed up in Britain that month, according to the Office for National Statistics.

When USA TODAY visited Windsor in early February, about half a dozen people were bundled in sleeping bags amid cardboard boxes. Layers of warm clothing could be seen in prominent spots on the town's High Street, one of the main thoroughfares on which Harry and Markle will greet crowds as part of a carriage procession through the town.

Windsor is filled with upmarket restaurants, tea rooms, quaint pubs and fancy stores selling kitchen goods, antiques and pricey clothing. Businesses here are busy renting out rooms, hiring extra staff, concocting special menus, designing royal-wedding-themed souvenirs — and preparing to be besieged by thousands of tourists, well-wishers and media for the wedding.

But it is also a place caught up in the U.K.'s homelessness problem. Over the past year, homelessness in England is up 14% and has risen by 136% over the past five years, according to government statistics. Homeless charities such as Mungos, based in London,



"They will have to physically pick me up," says Stuart Thatcher, who shelters in a bus stop across from Windsor Castle. KIM HJELMGAARD/USA TODAY

blame cuts by Prime Minister Theresa May's administration to social welfare programs for the spike in numbers.

But in Windsor, with a population of 32,200, only 12 to 15 people routinely live on the streets, said Murphy James, who runs the Windsor Homelessness Project, an organization that provides food, health services and housing advice.

"Dudley called it an 'epidemic.' "It's not an epidemic," James said.

James added that Windsor was a "caring and compassionate" town. He believes most of the people disagree with Dudley's controversial suggestion.

Since making the comments in January, Dudley has survived a no-confidence vote in his position as the leader of Windsor and Maidenhead Council. He has also said his remarks were misinterpreted. The council, meanwhile, has moved forward with a separate proposal that forbids bedding, belongings and other personal items from being left unattended in Windsor.

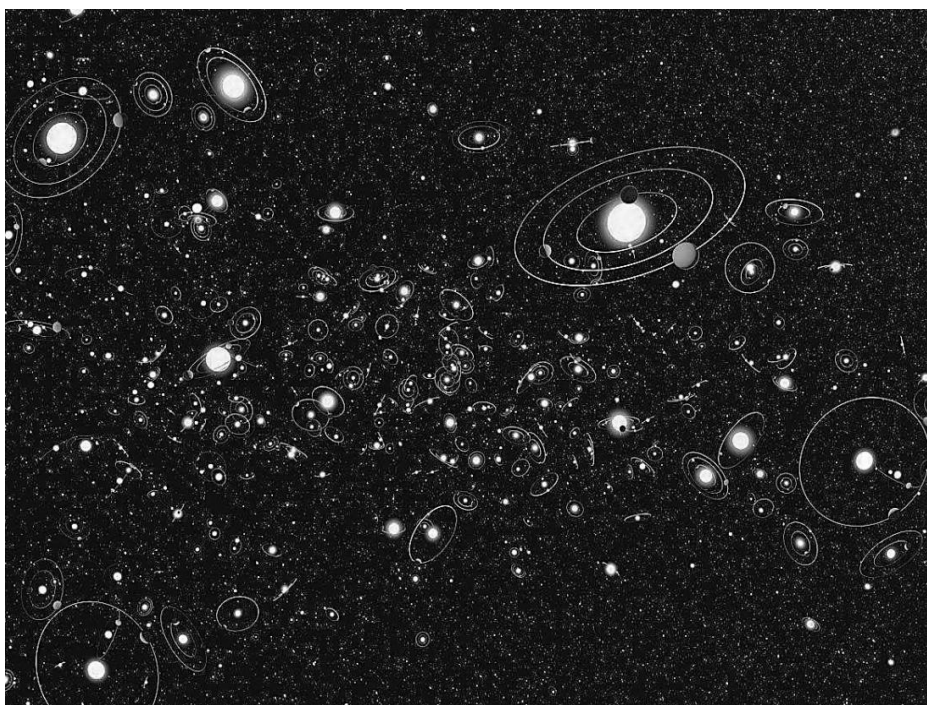
The proposal includes a fine of about $140 for those who fail to heed the law, although existing legislation already permits police to remove the homeless from public places.

"If we were living in the 1800s I could maybe understand it, but not now," said Kevin Dorian, 47, referring to the crackdown on vagrants in that time period. Dorian grew up in Windsor. He has spent time in prison for robbery, and he has been homeless here since 2003.

"This is a wealthy area, in a wealthy country. More should be done to help us," he said. "We're people. We're not just animals who can be shooed away."

And Stuart Thatcher, 40, a former heroin user who now occupies a coveted spot under a bus shelter directly across from Windsor Castle, said he would forcibly resist any attempts by the authorities to make him leave the town. "They will have to physically pick me up," Thatcher said.

When asked about the upcoming royal wedding, Thatcher said: "Is Harry marrying an American? I'm really happy for him. Of course, mate."



This artist's conception gives an impression of how common planets are around the stars in the Milky Way. The planets, their orbits and their host stars are all vastly magnified compared with their real separations. About 3,600 planets outside our solar system have been found so far. M. KORNMESSER/ESO

We're not alone: Nearly 100 more exoplanets seen

Doyle Rice
USA TODAY

The universe just got a little more crowded.

Nearly 100 new exoplanets — planets outside of our solar system — have been discovered, scientists announced in a new study published Thursday.

Using powerful telescopes, exoplanets can be detected as they orbit around their star, which causes a subtle dimming of starlight.

These most recent exoplanets were spotted using NASA's Kepler space telescope, now in orbit around the Earth. Though the spacecraft had a major mechanical failure in 2013, scientists were able to reconfigure it to enable it to keep watching for exoplanets.

"We started out analyzing 275 candidates of which 149 were validated as real exoplanets," said study lead author Andrew Mayo, a Ph.D. student at the Technical University of Denmark. "In turn, 95 of these planets have proved to be new discoveries."

Astronomers say there are likely hundreds of billions of exoplanets in our galaxy alone.

Since the first exoplanet was discovered in 1995, about 3,600 exoplanets have been found, ranging from rocky Earth-sized planets to large gas giants like Jupiter.

But this is only the tip of a very big iceberg: Astronomers say there are likely hundreds of billions of exoplanets in our galaxy alone.

"Exoplanets are a very exciting field of space science," Mayo said. "As more planets are discovered, astronomers will develop a much better picture of the nature of exoplanets which in turn will allow us to place our own solar system into a galactic context."

The research was published Thursday in the *Astronomical Journal*.

Diplomats' health woes in Cuba still a mystery

Havana denies any role in problems at embassy

Jessica Durando
USA TODAY

"Buzzing, grinding metal, piercing squeals and humming."

These are the words U.S. diplomats in Cuba used to described the hearing, vision, balance and brain symptoms suffered in 2016 in what the State Department has called "health attacks."

Doctors unveiled the first detailed medical reports late Wednesday, but a clear diagnosis of what happened to trigger their health problems is still a mystery.

The symptoms are similar to the brain dysfunction seen with concussions, specialists from the University of Pennsylvania found after testing 21 of the 24 embassy personnel believed to be affected.

An editorial in *JAMA*, the Journal of the American Medical Association, said a conclusion "remains elusive" and "many potential causes for the symptoms ... remain possibilities."

"Before reaching any definitive conclusions, additional evidence must be obtained and rigorously and objectively evaluated," the editorial said.

The situation began in late 2016 when a series of U.S. diplomats in Havana began suffering unexplained losses of hearing and the beginnings of neurological symptoms.

Several of the diplomats had recently arrived at the embassy, which reopened in 2015 as part of former president Obama's re-establishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba and relaxation of travel restrictions.

The U.S. government personnel in Cuba reported hearing these weird, loud sounds along with feelings of changes in air pressure in their homes owned and maintained by the Cuban government and hotel rooms. Although there had been no history of head trauma, the symptoms reported were consistent with brain injury.

The State Department created an expert panel in July 2017, which found that the initial findings were most likely related to "neurotrauma from a non-natural source" and the department recommended further investigation.

The University of Pennsylvania's Center for Brain Injury and Repair was selected to coordinate the evaluation, treatment and rehabilitation of the patients.

Whatever the cause, the Havana patients "experienced persisting disability of a significant nature," the University of Pennsylvania team found.

Cuba has said there were no attacks and strongly denied any allegations of wrongdoing.



Warming relations with Cuba under former president Obama sent more Americans to places such as the Hotel Capri in Havana. DESMOND BOYLAN/AP

	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)	**2018 Winter Olympics** Figure Skating, Alpine Skiing, Freestyle Skiing, Skeleton. Figure skating (men's final); alpine skiing (women's Super-G); freestyle skiing; skeleton. (N) (Live)								**WIS News 10 at 11** (N)
WLTX 19	9	9	**News 19 at 7pm** (N)	**Inside Edition** (N)	**Big Brother: Celebrity Edition** Houseguests vie for the power of veto. (N)				**Hawaii Five-0** "Hana Komo Pae" Terrorists seize a high school dance.		**News 19 at 11pm** (N)	**(:35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert** Kate Winslet; Laura Benanti; Wolf Alice.	
WOLO 25	5	12	**Wheel of Fortune** "Walt Disney World Orlando" (N)	**Jeopardy!** (N)	★★★ **"A Bug's Life"** (1998, Children's) Voices of Dave Foley, Kevin Spacey, Julia Louis-Dreyfus. Animated. Insects help an ant fend off grasshoppers. (DVS)				**20/20**		**ABC Columbia News at 11** (N)	**(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live**	
WRJA 27	11	14	**Samantha Brown's Places to Love** "Houston, Texas"	**This Week In South Carolina**	**Washington Week** (N)	**MeToo, Now What?** (N)	**American Masters** "Maya Angelou" Author and activist Maya Angelou.				**Amanpour on PBS** (N)	**BBC World News**	**NHK Newsline**
WACH 57	6	6	**The Big Bang Theory** "The Stag Convergence"	**The Big Bang Theory**	**The X-Files** "My Struggle III" Mulder and Scully search for their son. (DVS)		**The X-Files** "This" A friend contacts Mulder and Scully. (DVS)		**WACH FOX News at 10** (N) (Live)		**Sports Zone**	**DailyMailTV** (N)	**TMZ** (N)
WKTC 63	4	22	**Last Man Standing** Mike must act like a boss, not a dad.	**Last Man Standing** Eve's friend needs a place to stay.	**Crazy Ex-Girlfriend** "Nathaniel Is Irrelevant." (Season Finale) Rebecca decides to make amends. (N)		**Penn & Teller: Fool Us** "Something Fishy This Way Comes" Dan Sperry; Naathan Phan.		**American Ninja Warrior** "Pittsburgh Finals" Obstacles include Floating Monkey Bars. (Part 1 of 2)		**American Ninja Warrior** "Pittsburgh Finals" Obstacles include Floating Monkey Bars. (Part 2 of 2)		**The Game** Tasha's attempt falls short.
CABLE CHANNELS													
A&E	46	130	**(5:00) Live PD** "Live PD -- 12.08.17" Riding along with law enforcement.		**(:06) Live PD: Rewind** "Live PD: Rewind No. 86" (N)		**Live PD** "Live PD -- 02.16.18" Riding along with law enforcement. (N) (Live)						**Live PD** "Live PD -- 02.16.18"
AMC	48	180	★★ **"Armageddon"** (1998, Science Fiction) Bruce Willis, Billy Bob Thornton, Liv Tyler. A hero tries to save Earth from an asteroid.							★★ **"Armageddon"** (1998, Science Fiction) Bruce Willis, Billy Bob Thornton, Liv Tyler. A hero tries to save Earth from an asteroid.			
ANPL	41	100	**Treehouse Masters**		**Treehouse Masters: Out on a Limb** (N)		**Treehouse Masters** "Episode 6" (N)		**(:01) Treehouse Masters**		**(:01) Treehouse Masters** "Episode 6"		**Treehouse Mstr**
BET	61	162	**"Barbershop 2: Back in Business"**	★ **"Baggage Claim"** (2013, Romance-Comedy) Paula Patton, Derek Luke, Taye Diggs. A woman sets out on a cross-country quest to find a husband.					**The Quad** "I Am Not Your Negro" Eva's arrest video sets off a firestorm.		**(:04) Black Card Revoked**	**(:35) BET's Mancave**	**The Rundown With Robin Thede**
BRAVO	47	181	**(6:56) Married to Medicine** Curtis ambushes Jackie.		**(7:58) Married to Medicine** "Island Fever" Eugene gets a major health scare.		**Married to Medicine** "Circle of Truth" Mariah shares a shocking revelation. (N)		**The Real Housewives of Atlanta** Kenya begins shifting priorities.		**To Rome for Love** Ashley wants to know Leo's intentions.		**(12:02)** ★ **"Little Fockers"** (2010)
CNBC	35	84	**2018 Winter Olympics**		**Shark Tank**		**Shark Tank**		**2018 Winter Olympics** Women's Hockey, Quarterfinal: Teams TBA. (N) (Live)				
CNN	3	80	**Erin Burnett OutFront** (N)		**Anderson Cooper 360** (N)		**Anderson Cooper 360** (N)		**CNN Tonight With Don Lemon** (N)		**CNN Tonight With Don Lemon** (N)		**The Radical Story**
COM	57	136	**(6:50) The Office** "Lotto"	**(:25) The Office** "Garden Party"	**The Office** "Spooked"	**The Office** "Doomsday"	**The Office** "Pam's Replacement"	★ **"Tammy"** (2014, Comedy) Melissa McCarthy, Susan Sarandon, Kathy Bates. A woman hits the road with her feisty grandmother.					**This Is Not Happening** "Famous"
DISN	18	200	**Bunk'd**	**Andi Mack** (N)	**"Zombies"** (2018, Adventure) Milo Manheim. Premiere. Suburban high schoolers learn to coexist with zombies.		**(:45) Andi Mack**		**(:15) "Zombies"** (2018, Adventure) Milo Manheim, Meg Donnelly, Trevor Tordjman. Suburban high schoolers learn to coexist with zombies.				**Andi Mack**
DSC	42	103	**Gold Rush: Pay Dirt** (N)		**Gold Rush** "Gold Rush: Live" (N)		**Gold Rush** (N)		**(:01) Gold Rush: White Water** (N)		**(:02) Gold Rush**		**Gold Rush WW**
ESPN	26	35	**2018 NBA All-Star Celebrity Game** (N) (Live)				**Boxing** Raymundo Beltran vs. Paulus Moses. (N) (Live)					**SportsCenter** (N) (Live)	
ESPN2	27	39	**College Basketball** Rhode Island at St. Bonaventure. (N) (Live)				**College Basketball** Georgia State at Georgia Southern. (N) (Live)				**SportsCenter** (N)	**NFL Live**	
FOOD	40	109	**Diners, Drive**	**Diners, Drive**	**Diners, Drive**	**Diners, Drive**	**Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives**		**Diners, Drive**	**Diners, Drive**	**Diners, Drive**	**Diners, Drive**	**Diners, Drive**
FOXN	37	90	**The Story With Martha MacCallum** (N)		**Tucker Carlson Tonight** (N)		**Hannity** (N)		**The Ingraham Angle** (N)		**Fox News at Night** (N)		**Tucker Carlson**
FREE	20	131	**(6:40)** ★★★ **"Mulan"** (1998) Voices of Ming-Na Wen. Animated. A Chinese maiden disguises herself as a man.		**(:45)** ★★★ **"Up"** (2009, Children's) Voices of Ed Asner, Christopher Plummer, Jordan Nagai. Animated. An old man flies away in a balloon-powered house.						**The 700 Club**		★★★ **"ParaNorman"** (2012)
FSS	21	47	**Facing Waves**	**Facing Waves**	**Women's College Basketball** Georgetown at DePaul. (N) (Live)				**3 Wide Life** (N)	**Raceline** (N)	**Auburn Basketball**	**ACC All-Access**	**Wm. Basketball**
HALL	52	183	**(6:00) "The Wedding March"** (2016) Jack Wagner, Josie Bissett.		**"Wedding March 2: Resorting to Love"** (2017, Romance) Jack Wagner, Josie Bissett. Former sweethearts join forces to run a wedding resort.				**The Middle** "Office Hours"	**The Middle** "Heck on a Hard Body"	**The Golden Girls**	**The Golden Girls** "Brotherly Love"	**The Golden Girls**
HGTV	39	112	**House Hunters**	**House Hunters**	**Dream Home**	**Dream Home**	**Dream Home**	**Dream Home**	**House Hunters** (N)	**Hunters Int'l**	**House Hunters**	**Hunters Int'l**	**Dream Home**
HIST	45	110	**Ancient Aliens**		**Ancient Aliens: Declassified** "Angels, Gods and Heroes" The origins of myths and legends. (N)								**Ancient Aliens**
ION	13	18	**CSI: Crime Scene Investigation** "Better Off Dead" A gun-store shootout.		**CSI: Crime Scene Investigation** Two women murdered in a Las Vegas hotel.		**CSI: Crime Scene Investigation** Golfer is murdered at a tournament.		**CSI: Crime Scene Investigation** Investigating streetcar racing. (DVS)		**CSI: Crime Scene Investigation** Member of Rascal Flatts is electrocuted.		**CSI: Crime Scene Investigation**
LIFE	50	145	**(6:00)** ★★ **"Aaliyah: The Princess of R&B"** (2014) Alexandra Shipp.		★★ **"Daddy's Little Girls"** (2007, Romance) Gabrielle Union, Idris Elba. A poor mechanic and an attorney share an unexpected romance.				**(:02) The Rap Game** "The Press Got U Stressed" JD lines up a press tour. (N)		**(:12) The Rap Game** (N)	**To Be Announced**	**(12:01)** ★★ **"Daddy's Little Girls"**
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** (N)		**Rachel Maddow**
NICK	16	210	**Hunter Street** (N)	**SpongeBob**	★★★ **"The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water"** (2015)				**Full House**	**Full House**	**Friends**	**Friends**	**Friends**
PARMT	64	153	**(6:00)** ★★ **"Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull"** (2008)				**Bellator MMA Live** Matt Mitrione vs. Roy Nelson. (N) (Live)						★★ **Road House**
SYFY	58	152	**(5:30)** ★★ **"Conan the Barbarian"** (2011, Adventure) Jason Momoa.		**Futurama** "A Head in the Polls"	**Futurama** "Xmas Story"	**Futurama**	**Futurama**	**Futurama**	**Futurama** "Raging Bender"	**Futurama**	**Futurama**	**Futurama** "A Clone of My Own"
TBS	24	156	**Brooklyn Nine-Nine**	**Brooklyn Nine-Nine**	★★★ **"Ant-Man"** (2015, Action) Paul Rudd, Michael Douglas, Evangeline Lilly. Ant-Man uses his shrinking skills to battle Yellowjacket. (DVS)					**ELEAGUE** Road to the Boston Major- The Challengers. (N)		★★ **"Tron: Legacy"** (2010) Jeff Bridges, Garrett Hedlund. (DVS)	
TCM	49	186	**(5:45)** ★★★ **"Action in the North Atlantic"** (1943) Humphrey Bogart.		★★★★ **"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington"** (1939, Comedy-Drama) James Stewart, Jean Arthur, Claude Rains. An idealistic young man wades into hot political waters. (DVS)					★★★ **"The Champ"** (1931) Wallace Beery. A failed boxer makes a comeback to win his son's respect.			**(12:15)** ★★★★ **"A Star Is Born"**
TLC	43	157	**Untold Stories of the E.R.** "Oh, Deer!"		**Untold Stories of the E.R.** "Hooked"		**Untold Stories of the E.R.**		**Untold Stories of the E.R.** "Face Off"		**Untold Stories of the E.R.**		**Stories of the ER**
TNT	23	158	**Bones** "Player Under Pressure" A college-basketball player dies.		**Bones** "The Baby in the Bough" A woman's car is run off the road.		**2018 Rising Stars Challenge** Stars from the U.S. and the world participate in this exhibition of the NBA's finest young talent. (N) (Live)				**Inside the NBA** (N) (Live)	**The Alienist** "The Boy on the Bridge" Serial killings in 1896 New York City.	
TRUTV	38	129	**Carbonaro Eff.**	**Carbonaro Eff.**	**Carbonaro Eff.**	**Carbonaro Eff.**	**Carbonaro Eff.**	**Carbonaro Eff.**	**Impractical Jokers**	**Impractical Jokers**	**Impractical Jokers**	**Impractical Jokers**	**Impractical Jokers**
TV LAND	55	161	**M*A*S*H**	**M*A*S*H**	**Love-Raymond**	**Love-Raymond**	**Love-Raymond**	**Love-Raymond**	**Mom**	**Mom**	**King of Queens**	**King of Queens**	**King of Queens**
USA	25	132	**Modern Family** (DVS)	**Modern Family** "Grab It"	**Modern Family** "The Alliance"	**Modern Family** "Snow Ball"	**Modern Family** "Do It Yourself"	**Modern Family** (DVS)	**Modern Family** (DVS)	**Modern Family** (DVS)	**Chrisley Knows Best**	**Chrisley Knows Best**	**Chrisley Knows Best**
WE	68	166	**Love After Lockup**		**Mama June: From Not to Hot**		**Mama June: From Not to Hot** (N)		**Love After Lockup** "Race to the Altar"		**Mama June: From Not to Hot**		**Love After Lockup**
WGNA	8	172	**M*A*S*H**	**M*A*S*H**	**M*A*S*H**	**M*A*S*H**	**M*A*S*H**	**M*A*S*H**	**Bellevue** The case is near being solved.		**M*A*S*H**	**M*A*S*H**	**Rules/Engagement**

Disney creates cute, safe comedy from horror genre

BY KEVIN McDONOUGH

Netflix launches another coming of age dramedy aimed at the 30-ish somethings advertisers crave. Even though Netflix doesn't need advertisers.

Set in the nowhere town of Boring, Oregon, **"Everything Sucks!"** (TV-14) revolves around three geeky freshman guys (Quinn Liebling, Rio Mangini and Jahi Winston) who join the high school A.V. club.

This puts them in proximity of Kate Messner (Peyton Kennedy), an unattainable sophomore who not only deigns to talk to them, but seems to offer grudging respect. To its credit, "Everything" has cast young people who look their age, putting this in the great tradition of "Freaks & Geeks," "Dazed and Confused" and Netflix's standout cult series "Stranger Things."

At the same time, the evocation of its 1996 era seems a tad forced and maybe a little beside the point. Tori Amos references aside, this series really takes in the never-never land of late adolescence, a dream state where period touchstones are rather incidental, or worse, grafted on to please the marketing department.

Don't go looking for the goofy fantasy fun of "Stranger Things." It's as if Netflix commissioned a decidedly sadder version of that series. Kennedy may have a breakout role as Kate, but she's a deeply melancholy young woman who's confused and secretive. She's still mourning her mother, dead some 10 years, and increasingly alienated from her dad, the high school principal who tries too hard to be cool, relevant and "there," when Kate wishes he was a million miles away.

• **"Crazy Ex-Girlfriend"** (8 p.m., CW, TV-14) wraps up its third season. On other networks and in earlier times, a little-watched series that ended in February after 13 episodes would be considered a goner. But the Nielsen-obsessed gnomes at *tvbythenumbers.com* see this smart and wildly creative series as likely to be renewed.

"Crazy Ex" recently passed the milestone of presenting its 100th musical number, and the cast of the series will embark on a multicity music tour on March 31. That seems fun and entirely appropriate. An audacious and subversive send-up of musical theater, "Crazy Ex" was clearly conceived with a live audience in mind.



JOHN MEDLAND / DISNEY CHANNEL

Milo Manheim, left, stars as Zed and Meg Donnelly as Addison in the Disney Channel Original Movie "Zombies," premiering at 8 p.m. today on the Disney Channel.

• The 2018 comedy made-for-TV movie **"Zombies"** (8 p.m., Disney, TV-G) turns a horror genre into something cute, safe and Disney-fied. A cheerleader (Meg Donnelly) challenges the conventions of her conformist high school when she becomes smitten with Zed (Milo Manheim), a brash young zombie.

Don't go looking for rotting flesh and undeadly contagion. Here, zombies are green-tinted stand-ins for a different group or caste seeking acceptance and a little understanding. Zed even has a precocious little zombie sister.

• Also debuting on Netflix, the 2018 romantic comedy **"Irreplaceable You"** (TV-MA) stars Gugu Mbatha-Raw and Michiel Huisman as friends since childhood whose wedding plans are upended by a cancer diagnosis. The supporting cast includes Christopher Walken, Claire Holt, Steve Coogan and Kate McKinnon.

TONIGHT'S OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

• Coverage of the **2018 Winter Olympics** (8 p.m., NBC) includes figure skating, alpine skiing, freestyle skiing and skeleton.

• On two episodes of **"The X-Files"** (Fox, r, TV-14), secrets revealed (8 p.m.), double vision (9 p.m.).

• Ants contend with grasshoppers in the 1998 animated comedy **"A Bug's Life"** (8 p.m., ABC, TV-PG), featuring the voices of Kevin Spacey, Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Dave Foley.

• **"American Masters"** (9 p.m., PBS, TV-PG, check local listings) repeats a profile of Maya Angelou.

• Terrorists interrupt a high school dance on **"Hawaii Five-0"** (10 p.m., CBS, r, TV-14).

• Imelda Staunton, will.i.am and George Ezra appear on **"The Graham Norton Show"** (10 p.m., BBC America, TV-14).

• The 2017 documentary **"Word Is Bond"** (10 p.m., Showtime, TV-MA) explores the power of words and lyrics in hip-hop music and culture.

CULT CHOICE

Winners of Oscars for best original story, the film classics **"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington"** (8 p.m., TCM), **"The Champ"** (10:30 p.m.) and **"A Star Is Born"** (12:15 a.m.) have all been remade more than once. The third incarnation of "A Star Is Born" is scheduled for release on Oct. 5, featuring Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper.

SERIES NOTES

"Big Brother: Celebrity Edition" (8 p.m., CBS) * Illusionists audition on **"Penn & Teller: Fool Us"** (9 p.m., CW, r, TV-PG) * **"20/20"** (10 p.m., ABC).

LATE NIGHT

Kate Winslet, Laura Benanti and Wolf Alice are booked on **"The Late Show With Stephen Colbert"** (11:35 p.m., CBS, r) * Annette Bening, Rachel Brosnahan and Royal Blood appear on **"The Late Late Show With James Corden"** (12:35 a.m., CBS, r).

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SATURDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 17

	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	**Entertainment Tonight** (N)		**2018 Winter Olympics** Alpine Skiing, Short Track, Skeleton, Ski Jumping. Alpine skiing (men's giant slalom); short track; skeleton (women's gold medal final); ski jumping. (N) (Live)						**WIS News 10 at 11** (N)	**2018 Winter Olympics** Men's Alpine Skiing, Men's Freestyle Skiing. (N) (Live)	
WLTX 19	9	9	**News 19 at 7pm** (N)	**Inside Edition Weekend** (N)	**MacGyver** "DIY or DIE" MacGyver searches for a Navy SEAL.		**NCIS: New Orleans** "Down the Rabbit Hole" Pride tracks one of Hamilton's allies. (DVS)		**48 Hours**		**News 19 at 11pm** (N)	**Blue Bloods** "Shadow of a Doubt" Frank handles a PR crisis. (DVS)	
WOLO 25	5	12	**Wheel of Fortune** "America's Game"	**Jeopardy!**	**The Middle** Frankie's mom stays with her while ill.	**The Middle** Axl visits Hutch in Chicago.	**blackish** Dre's godbrother is let out of prison.	**blackish** "Charity Case" Junior fails his driving test.	**20/20**		**ABC Columbia News at 11** (N)	**American Ninja Warrior** "Baltimore Finals Part 1" Obstacles Rumbling Dice and Body Prop. (Part 1 of 2)	
WRJA 27	11	14	**Queen Elizabeth's Secret Agents** A plot to assassinate Queen Elizabeth I.		**Father Brown** "The Resurrectionists" A body is removed from the graveyard.		**Shetland** A young man disappears.		**Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries** "Marked for Murder" A Football captain is found hanging.		**Austin City Limits** "Chris Stapleton; Turnpike Troubadours" Country singer Chris Stapleton. (N)		**Bluegrass Underground** "Blues Traveler"
WACH 57	6	6	**The Big Bang Theory** "The Bozeman Reaction"	**The Big Bang Theory** Sheldon works with Penny.	**Boxing** Premier Boxing Champions. (N) (Live)				**WACH FOX News at 10**	**The Simpsons** (DVS)	**Hell's Kitchen** "All-Star Finale" The winner is revealed. (DVS)		**Ring of Honor Wrestling**
WKTC 63	4	22	**Last Man Standing** Eve wants to quit soccer.	**Last Man Standing** Ed wants to reunite with his ex.	**Rookie Blue** "Heart Breakers, Money Makers" Proceeds from crime must be seized.		**Saving Hope** "Wishbones" Joel and Charlie tend to Alex's brother. (DVS)		**Leverage** "The Wedding Job" The team poses as wedding planners.		**Impractical Jokers** A time sensitive challenge.	**Impractical Jokers** The Jokers make some tough calls.	**Impractical Jokers** "In Poor Taste Buds"
CABLE CHANNELS													
A&E	46	130	**(5:00) Live PD** "Live PD -- 11.18.17" Riding along with law enforcement.		**(:06) Live PD: Rewind** "Live PD: Rewind No. 87" (N)		**Live PD** "Live PD -- 02.17.18" Riding along with law enforcement. (N) (Live)						**Live PD** "Live PD -- 02.17.18"
AMC	48	180	**"Terminator 3: Machines"**	★★★ **"Independence Day"** (1996, Science Fiction) Will Smith, Bill Pullman, Jeff Goldblum. Earthlings vs. evil aliens in 15-mile-wide ships.						★★★ **"Independence Day"** (1996, Science Fiction) Will Smith, Bill Pullman, Jeff Goldblum. Earthlings vs. evil aliens in 15-mile-wide ships.			
ANPL	41	100	**Pit Bulls and Parolees**		**Pit Bulls and Parolees**		**Pit Bulls and Parolees** (N)		**(:03) The Vet Life** "Bait n' Switch" (N)		**(:04) Pit Bulls and Parolees**		**The Vet Life**
BET	61	162	**(5:00)** ★★ **"This Christmas"**	★ **"Big Momma's House 2"** (2006, Comedy) Martin Lawrence, Nia Long, Emily Procter. An FBI agent reprises his disguise, posing as a heavy nanny.					★ **"A Madea Christmas"** (2013, Comedy) Tyler Perry, Kathy Najimy, Chad Michael Murray. Madea dishes out her own brand of Christmas spirit.				
BRAVO	47	181	**(5:38)** ★ **"Little Fockers"** (2010)	**(:44)** ★★ **"Next Friday"** (2000, Comedy) Ice Cube, Mike Epps, Justin Pierce. A young man lives with kin who won the lottery.					**(9:52)** ★★ **"Next Friday"** (2000, Comedy) Ice Cube, Mike Epps, Justin Pierce. A young man lives with kin who won the lottery.				★★★ **"The Departed"** (2006)
CNBC	35	84	**2018 Winter Olympics** U.S. vs Canada.		**Oceans of Crime**		**American Greed** "Crash for Cash"		**American Greed** "Deadly Payout"		**Oceans of Crime**		**American Greed**
CNN	3	80	**CNN Newsroom With Ana Cabrera** (N)		**CNN Special Report** (N)		**The Radical Story of Patty Hearst**		**The Radical Story of Patty Hearst**		**The Eighties** "Greed Is Good"		**The Eighties**
COM	57	136	**(6:20)** ★★ **"Horrible Bosses"** (2011, Comedy) Jason Bateman, Charlie Day, Jason Sudeikis. Three oppressed workers plot against their employers.				**(8:50)** ★★ **"Horrible Bosses 2"** (2014, Comedy) Jason Bateman, Charlie Day, Jason Sudeikis. Nick, Dale and Kurt plot revenge on a thieving investor.					**(:35)** ★★ **"Horrible Bosses"** (2011) Jason Bateman, Charlie Day.	
DISN	18	200	**"Zombies"** (2018) Milo Manheim, Meg Donnelly. Suburban high schoolers learn to coexist with zombies.		**(:45) Andi Mack**		**(:15) Disney Channel Cast Party**	**(:45) Stuck in the Middle**	**(:10) Stuck in the Middle**	**(:35) Andi Mack**	**Bunk'd**	**Bunk'd**	**Liv and Maddie: Cali Style**
DSC	42	103	**Street Outlaws** New rules cause drama.		**Street Outlaws** "Racing in the Streets" Memphis stays in Vegas to race Cali. (N)						**Street Outlaws** "Gatekeeper Gate"		**Street Outlaws**
ESPN	26	35	**College Basketball**		**(:15) College Basketball** North Carolina at Louisville. (N) (Live)				**(:15) College Basketball** Oregon at UCLA. From Pauley Pavilion in Los Angeles.				**SportsCenter** (N)
ESPN2	27	39	**College Basketball**		**College Basketball** Oklahoma State at TCU. (N) (Live)				**College Basketball** Utah at Washington State. (N) (Live)				**Basketball**
FOOD	40	109	**Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives**		**Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives**		**Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives**		**Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives**		**Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives**		**Diners, Drive**
FOXN	37	90	**Fox Report** (N)		**Watters' World** (N)		**Justice With Judge Jeanine** (N)		**The Greg Gutfeld Show** (N)		**Watters' World**		**Justice Judge**
FREE	20	131	**(5:15)** ★★★ **"Up"** (2009)	**(:25)** ★★★ **"Despicable Me"** (2010) Voices of Steve Carell, Jason Segel. Animated. Three orphans challenge one of Earth's greatest villains.				★★★ **"The Goonies"** (1985, Children's) Sean Astin, Josh Brolin, Jeff Cohen. Young misfits find a 17th-century pirate's treasure map.					★★★ **"The Boxtrolls"** (2014)
FSS	21	47	**Women's College Basketball**		**Women's College Basketball** Texas at Oklahoma State.				**College Basketball** Marquette at Creighton. (N) (Live)				**3 Wide Life**
HALL	52	183	**"Cooking With Love"** (2018, Comedy) Ali Liebert, Brett Dalton. A producer and a chef are paired on a cooking show.				**"Wedding March 3: Here Comes the Bride"** (2018, Comedy) Jack Wagner, Josie Bissett. Premiere. Olivia and Mick host their families at the inn.				**The Golden Girls**	**The Golden Girls**	**The Golden Girls**
HGTV	39	112	**Fixer Upper**		**Fixer Upper** "The Flipper Upper"		**Fixer Upper**		**House Hunters Renovation** (N)		**We Bought**	**We Bought**	**Fixer Upper**
HIST	45	110	**The Curse of Oak Island** "Unhinged"		★★★ **"Black Mass"** (2015, Crime Drama) Johnny Depp, Joel Edgerton.					**(:33) Pawn Stars**	**(:03) Pawn Stars**	**(:33) Pawn Stars**	**(12:03) Black Mass**
ION	13	18	**Law & Order: Special Victims Unit** A revelation threatens Rollins' future.		**Law & Order: Special Victims Unit** The squad looks for a missing escort.		**Law & Order: Special Victims Unit** Olivia's brother asks for help.		**Law & Order: Special Victims Unit** One of Benson's old cases is reopened.		**Law & Order: Special Victims Unit** A kidnapping may be bogus.		**Law & Order: Special Victims Unit**
LIFE	50	145	**(6:00) "Girl Followed"** (2017, Suspense) Emma Fuhrmann, Joey Lawrence.		**"Stalked by My Ex"** (2017, Suspense) Yves Bright, Tamara Braun. Premiere. A woman flees her abusive ex-husband after he's released from prison.				**(:02) "Who Killed My Husband?"** (2016, Mystery) Andrea Bowen, Yasmeene Ball, Jim Thorburn. A cop goes under cover to investigate a currency business.				**(12:01) "Stalked by My Ex"** (2017)
MSNBC	36	92	**The Rachel Maddow Show**		**The Last Word**		**The 11th Hour With Brian Williams**		**Deadline: White House** (N)		**Hardball With Chris Matthews** (N)		**Dateline Extra**
NICK	16	210	**Henry Danger**	**Henry Danger**	**The Thundermans**	**Nicky, Ricky**	**Full House**	**Full House**	**Full House**	**Full House**	**Friends**	**Friends**	**Friends**
PARMT	64	153	**"Indiana Jones & the Temple"**		★★★ **"Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade"** (1989, Adventure) Harrison Ford, Sean Connery.						★★★★ **"Raiders of the Lost Ark"** (1981) Harrison Ford.		
SYFY	58	152	**(5:36)** ★★ **"Tomorrowland"** (2015) George Clooney. A scientist and a young woman explore a mysterious city.		★★ **"The Chronicles of Riddick"** (2004, Science Fiction) Vin Diesel, Colm Feore, Thandie Newton. A fugitive fights an invading ruler and his army.						**Futurama** "Mother's Day"	**Futurama** "Anthology of Interest I"	**Futurama** "The Honking"
TBS	24	156	**Seinfeld** "The Postponement"	**Seinfeld** "The Maestro"	**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**	**The Detour** "The Goal"	**Drop the Mic**
TCM	49	186	**(5:45)** ★★★★ **"East of Eden"** (1955, Drama) James Dean, Julie Harris.		★★★ **"For Whom the Bell Tolls"** (1943, Drama) Gary Cooper, Ingrid Bergman, Katina Paxinou. An American soldier of fortune fights in Spain's Civil War.						★★★ **"A Passage to India"** (1984) Judy Davis. A bored British woman finds self-discovery in 1920s India.		
TLC	43	157	**Say Yes to the Dress**		**Say Yes to the Dress** (N)		**Say Yes to the Dress**		**Say Yes to the Dress**		**Say Yes to the Dress**		**Say Yes, Dress**
TNT	23	158	**Players Only: Shaq and Kobe** (N) (Live)		**2018 NBA All-Star Saturday Night** NBA players participate in a skills challenge, a three-point contest and a slam dunk contest. (N) (Live)					**Final Space** "Sneak Peek" Animated. A preview of the animated space saga. (N)		★★★ **"American Gangster"** (2007) Denzel Washington. (DVS)	
TRUTV	38	129	**Hack My Life**	**Inside Hacks**	**Hack My Life**	**Hack My Life**	**Carbonaro Eff.**	**Carbonaro Eff.**	**Carbonaro Eff.**	**Carbonaro Eff.**	**Carbonaro Eff.**	**Carbonaro Eff.**	**Impractical Jokers**
TV LAND	55	161	**The Golden Girls**	**The Golden Girls**	**Love-Raymond**	**Love-Raymond**	**Love-Raymond**	**Love-Raymond**	**Mom**	**Mom**	**King of Queens**	**King of Queens**	**King of Queens**
USA	25	132	**NCIS** "Squall" A murder on a U.S. Navy ship. (DVS)		**NCIS** "Gut Check" The Secretary of Navy is bugged. (DVS)		**NCIS** "Rogue" The team investigates a car explosion. (DVS)		**Falling Water** "Love Is a Dreamer" Tess' sister starts to fall apart. (N)		**(:01) NCIS** "Enemy Combatant" Bishop heads to Gitmo on a murder case.		**(12:01) NCIS** "Keep Going"
WE	68	166	**Criminal Minds**		**Criminal Minds** "Plain Sight"		**Criminal Minds** "Broken Mirror"		**Criminal Minds** Broad daylight.		**Criminal Minds** "The Fox"		**Criminal Minds**
WGNA	8	172	**Blue Bloods** "Occupational Hazards"		**Blue Bloods**		**Blue Bloods** "Payback"		**Bellevue** The case is near being solved.		**Person of Interest** "Judgement"		**Person of Interest**

Seafood scandals explored on 'Oceans of Crime'

BY KEVIN McDONOUGH

Is there something fishy about the low price of seafood? **"Oceans of Crime"** (8 p.m. Saturday, CNBC) explores the frighteningly unregulated world of the international fishing industry, reporting that 90 percent of the seafood that Americans consume is imported and that nearly a quarter of that bounty is fished illegally. These pirate procurers are not only overfishing and putting whole species in danger, but they are also engaging in labor practices that amount to modern-day slavery.

"Crime" follows the work of activists who track criminal Chinese fishing vessels in the South Indian Ocean; a concerned individual in West Virginia who uses satellites to track ocean-going vessels in real time; an aid worker who rescues Thai fishing boat slaves; and retailers and restaurateurs who have gone out of their way to sell only fish bought from scrupulous sources.

• Amazon Prime has just begun streaming a fourth season of **"Mozart in the Jungle."**

I cannot praise this witty comedy highly enough.

For the uninitiated, it follows members of a fictional New York-based orchestra, including Rodrigo De Souza (Gael Garcia Bernal), a passionate conductor whose eccentricities include his hallucinated conversations with dead composers. Striving oboist Hailey Rutledge (Lola Kirke) has become Rodrigo's lover, and that situation is the central subject of a new season that takes the orchestra and its colorful members from Queens to Tokyo.

"Mozart" indulges in magical realism, but never becomes cute. It's set in a world of high culture, but accentuates the human over the elitist. Its characters are clearly adults, but the series is much more about love than sex. At its core, "Mozart" offers a show about smart, highly disciplined people who follow their dreams. It never condescends to its young protagonists and celebrates the fact that characters can follow their passions well into their seventh and eighth decades.

Look for Bernadette Peters as the frequently flustered orchestra president; Malcolm McDowell as a conductor emeritus not quite ready to hang up his baton; Saffron Burrows as a voluptuous cellist, and Hannah Dunne as Hailey's best friend and spunky confidante.

"Mozart" never sinks into procedural cliche and eschews violence for, well, violins. Nobody gets shot. The only explosions come from the horn section.

What's not to love? If you haven't started streaming it yet, I'm a little jealous because you get to discover it for the very first time.

• Sometimes your career takes you back to your beginnings, because maybe that's where you've always belonged. On Sunday, Netflix begins streaming **"The Joel McHale Show With Joel McHale"** (TV-MA). It will offer tongue-in-cheek takes on the past week's news and popular culture and include interviews with guests including Kevin Hart and appearances by Alison Brie, Mike Colter, Paul Reiser, Jodie Sweetin and Jim Rash.

If that sounds familiar, it's because it's not all that different than what McHale did during his stint as host on "The Soup" from 2004 to 2015. He also starred in "Community," an NBC sitcom that had some ardent fans but never a big audience. His second network comedy, CBS's "The Great Indoors," failed to catch fire.

• Another news roundup, **"Last Week Tonight With John Oliver"** (11 p.m. Sunday, HBO) returns for a fifth season. The Emmy award-winning series includes commentary on one or a few topics per show as well as pre-recorded segments. Oliver tapes his commentary on late Sunday afternoons to make it as up-to-the-minute as possible — or as up-to-the-minute as your average late Sunday night talk show.

Oliver's "Last Week" joins the Stephen Colbert-produced comedy **"Our Cartoon President"** (8 p.m., Showtime, TV-14) as two Sunday night political satires created by former "Daily Show" talent.

Just this week, Netflix announced a deal to produce a weekly talk show starring "Daily Show" writer and talent Michelle Wolf. Her comedy special "Nice Lady" was recently seen on HBO.

SATURDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

• Coverage of the **2018 Winter Olympics** (7 p.m., NBC) includes alpine skiing, short track, skeleton and ski jumping.

• After learning that her husband is about to leave prison, a woman escapes to her hometown with her teenage daughter in the 2017 shocker **"Stalked by My Ex"** (8 p.m., Lifetime, TV-14).

• The epic documentary series **"Planet Earth: Blue Planet II"** (9 p.m., BBC America, TV-G) puts the accent on green, demonstrating how the competition for sunlight deep beneath the waves results in kelp forests, mangroves, seagrass and algae blooms.

SUNDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

• Scheduled on **"60 Minutes"** (7 p.m., CBS): an interview with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson; voters in Grand Rapids, Michigan, agree to disagree.

• Coverage of the **2018 Winter Olympics** (7 p.m., NBC) includes figure skating, freestyle skiing, speed skating, bobsled and cross-country skiing.

• Howard discovers something new about Emily on **"Counterpart"** (8 p.m., Starz, TV-MA).

• Young advisers clash on **"Our Cartoon President"** (8 p.m., Showtime, TV-14).

• Tragedy tests character on **"Victoria"** on **"Masterpiece"** (9 p.m., PBS, TV-PG, check local listings).

• Ramon and his therapist explore a recurring numerical symbol and a photograph that links the two men on **"Here and Now"** (9 p.m., HBO, TV-MA).



ALI PAIGE GOLDSTEIN / HBO

Andy Bean, left, stars as Henry Bergen and Daniel Zovatto as Ramon Black in "Here and Now," airing at 9 p.m. Sunday on HBO.

• A kidnapped heiress becomes a symbol of fringe politics as the documentary miniseries **"The Radical Story of Patty Hearst"** (9 p.m. and 10 p.m., CNN) continues.

• O'Keefe continues his broadcasts deep underground on **"Homeland"** (9 p.m., Showtime, TV-MA).

• Ronnie uncovers evidence on **"The Chi"** (10 p.m., Showtime, TV-MA).

CULT CHOICE

Goldie Hawn won a best supporting actress Oscar for her performance in the 1969 comedy **"Cactus Flower"** (1 p.m. Saturday, TCM). Hawn also appears in the 1975 satire **"Shampoo"** (4 a.m. Sunday, TCM).

SATURDAY SERIES

A soccer ball comes in handy on **"MacGyver"** (8 p.m., CBS, r, TV-14) * **"Premier Boxing Champions"** (8 p.m., Fox) * On two episodes of **"The Middle"** (ABC, r, TV-PG), playing nurse (8 p.m.), Sue can't unsee a horror movie (8:30 p.m.) * The mayor's aide pulls the trigger on **"NCIS: New Orleans"** (9 p.m., CBS, r, TV-14) * On two episodes of **"black-ish"** (ABC, r, TV-14), brother's keeper (9 p.m.), charity events (9:30 p.m.) * **"48 Hours"** (10 p.m., CBS) * **"20/20"** (10 p.m., ABC).

SUNDAY SERIES

Halloween horror on **"The Simpsons"** (8 p.m., Fox, r, TV-PG) * Two helpings of **"Celebrity Family Feud"** (8 p.m. and 9 p.m., ABC, r, TV-PG) * **"Big Brother: Celebrity Edition"** (8 p.m., CBS) * A haunted country club on **"Ghosted"** (8:30 p.m., Fox, r, TV-14) * Total tactical toughness on **"S.W.A.T."** (9 p.m., CBS, r, TV-14) * Anything for an Emmy on **"Family Guy"** (9 p.m., Fox, r, TV-14) * Hassle-free Easter eggs on **"Shark Tank"** (10 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) * A dreadful smell on **"LA to Vegas"** (9:30 p.m., Fox, r, TV-14) * Innocents in the crossfire on **"SEAL Team"** (10 p.m., CBS, r, TV-14).

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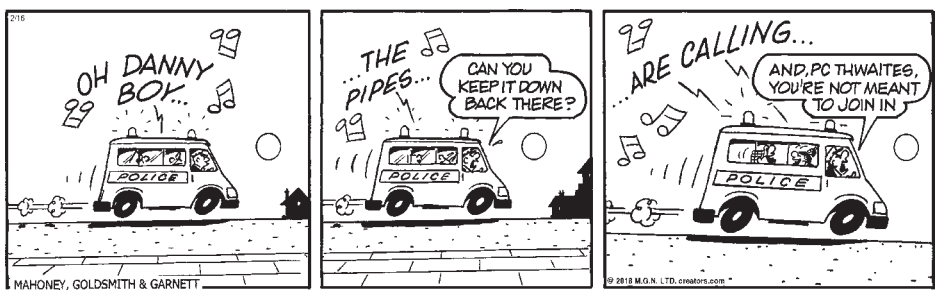
BIZARRO



SOUP TO NUTZ



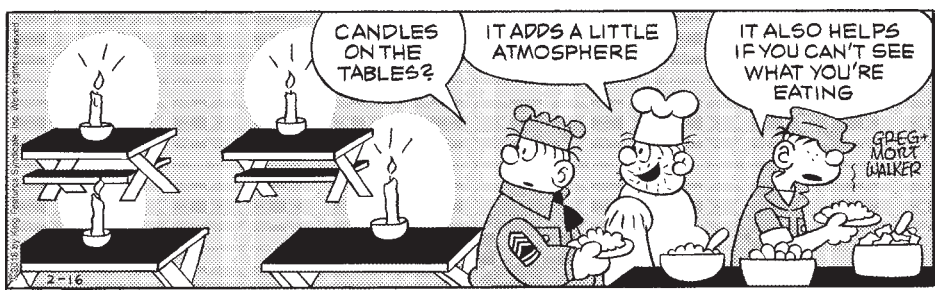
ANDY CAPP



GARFIELD



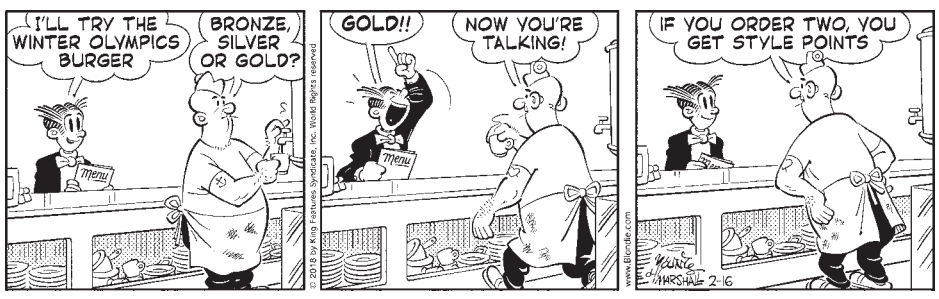
BEETLE BAILEY



BORN LOSER



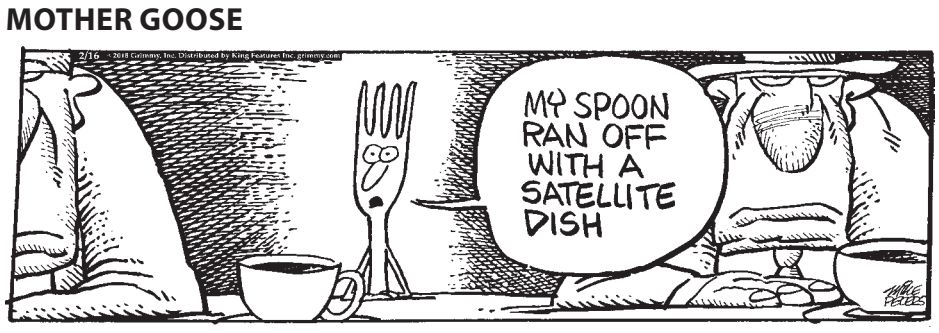
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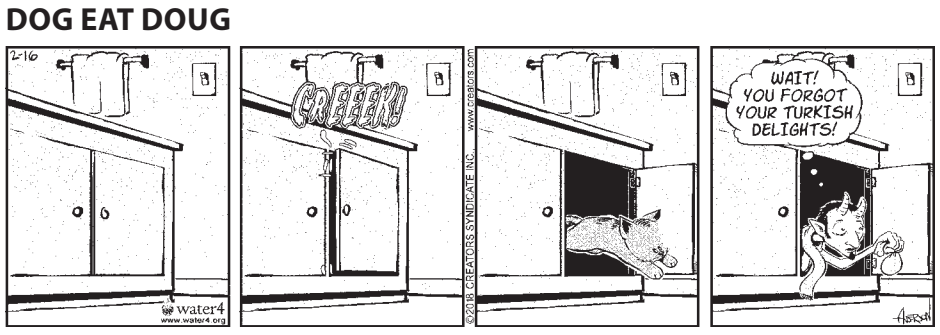
ZITS



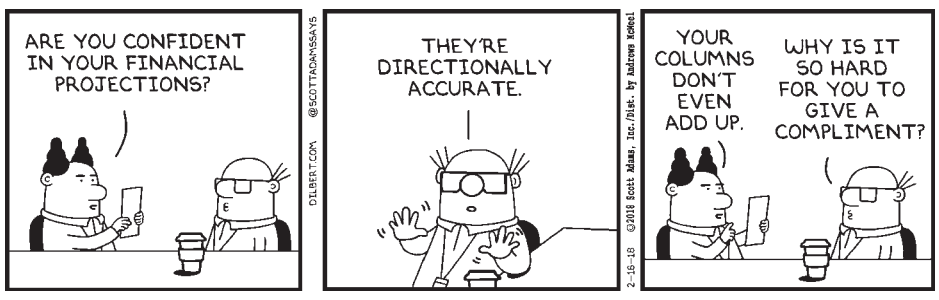
MOTHER GOOSE



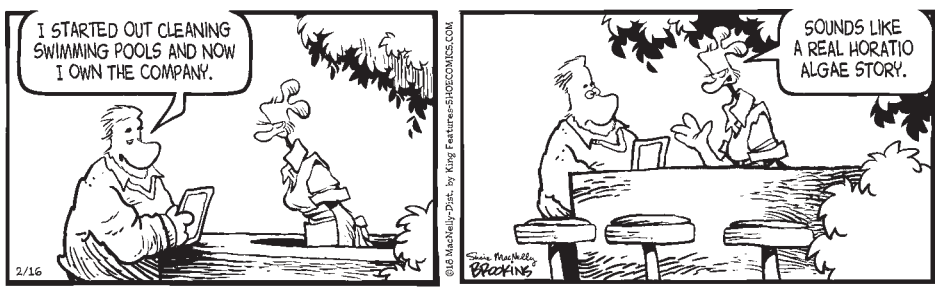
DOG EAT DOUG



DILBERT



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE



Woman's higher income may bruise boyfriend's ego



Dear Abby
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY — My boyfriend, "Hal," and I have been dating for a year and a half, living together for six months. I'm afraid he feels emasculated. Because I make more money than he does, a lot of the responsibility for paying the bills lands on me. We try to split things down the middle, but recent complications with his job have meant it doesn't always work out that way.

I love Hal. I know he's the one I want to spend the rest of my life with. I don't want money to be a dividing force, but I don't know what to say to make him feel better. This has been the elephant in the room for some time.

Hal helps out with cooking and housework, and because of that, I don't mind putting a little more into the bills. I do not want this to be an issue further down the road. Any advice is appreciated.

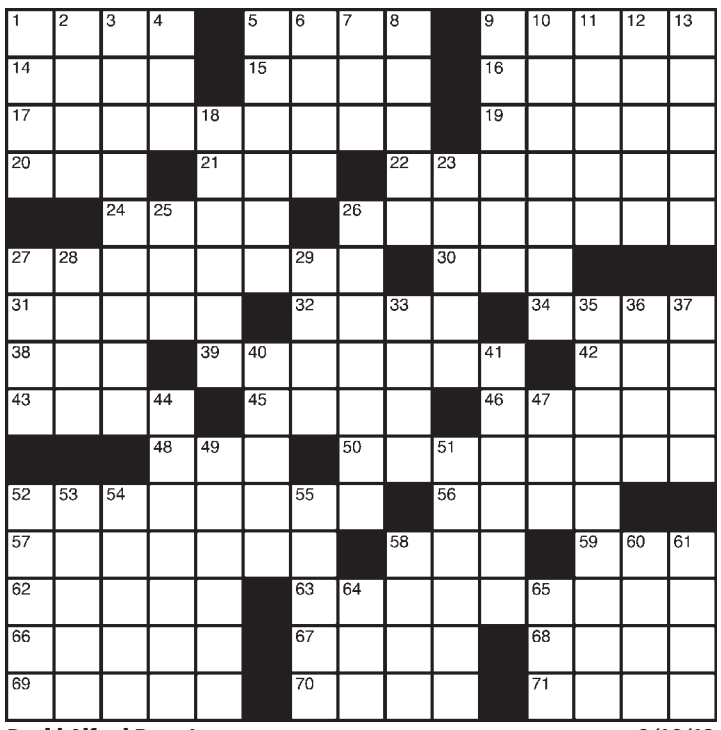
Stuck on this in Virginia

DEAR STUCK — The problem with elephants in the room is, the longer they are ignored, the larger the herd becomes. It's amazing that two important subjects — sex and finances — are such touchy ones to discuss.

Choose a time when you and Hal are relaxed, and then bring up your concerns. Tell him how much you appreciate him in your life and the efforts he makes to make life easier for you, and that you don't want money issues to cause problems between the two of you. He may need to hear you say it. Then encourage him to express his feelings the way you have.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO MY ASIAN READERS — The Year of the Dog begins today. People born in the Year of the Dog are independent, sincere, loyal and decisive. Undaunted by life's challenges, they enjoy harmonious relationships with those around them. Famous individuals who share this zodiac birthday are Winston Churchill, Mother Teresa, President Bill Clinton, Elvis Presley and Madonna. I wish a happy, healthy new year to all of you who celebrate this holiday.

THE DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



David Alfred Bywaters **2/16/18**

ACROSS
1 Scratch __: woodworking tools
5 Split wide open
9 Green "Sesame Street" character
14 Scallion relative
15 Sea predator
16 Asian city translating to "place of the gods"
17 *Protection for a press feeding frenzy?
19 Tight headgear
20 Masseur's workplace
21 Word with fly or about
22 Shining example
24 What a burglar hopes not to be
26 *Result of nodding off at an auction?
27 *Sandwich-centric extremists?
30 Fort Collins sch.
31 Merits
32 Italian capital
34 Dilute
38 Letters for John Smith?
39 Besmirch
42 Dudley the Dinosaur's org.
43 Books with test answers
45 Twitter's bird, e.g.
46 One with a title
48 Cry of discovery
50 *Where to read all the latest computer port news?
52 *Female employee of a tech giant?
56 Poems of praise
57 Lincoln output
58 "No seats" sign
59 Egg producer ... and product
62 Tuesday dish?
63 Rating reduction responsible for the answers to starred clues
66 Expect
67 Northern terminus of I-79
68 Lute family members
69 ATM features
70 Kind of lily
71 Tendency

DOWN
1 Help for the poor
2 Sob
3 Acting on bad advice
4 __ jump
5 Explode
6 Parched
7 Chem. pollutant banned in 1979
8 Canvas support
9 Elvis hits, e.g.
10 Decathlon event
11 Chocolate substitute
12 "Me too"
13 Lost it
18 Elder hostile?
23 River through New Mexico
25 Seaside eagle
26 Immobilizing law-enforcement tool
27 Nose, slangily
28 Camp sight, perhaps
29 Forrest Gump, for one
33 Some are tributarios
35 Cordial greeting
36 Notion
37 Not
40 Budget competitor
41 Cylindrical sandwich
44 Took care of things
47 Sorrow
49 Construction site apparatuses
51 World's third-largest island
52 Tiny bits
53 Serious fight
54 Former Portuguese territory in China
55 Aconcagua's range
58 Way more than a sip
60 Paradise
61 Animal home
64 Willamette Valley state: Abbr.
65 Obstacle

Previous Puzzle Solved

R	O	S	A	S	■	S	A	N	■	R	E	B	A	R
U	N	P	I	N	■	A	B	O	■	E	B	O	N	Y
S	H	A	R	I	■	F	E	Z	■	A	B	A	T	E
H	A	R	D	P	R	E	T	Z	E	L	S	■	■	■
E	N	T	R	E	E	■	■	L	E	M	■	A	S	U
D	D	A	Y	■	B	A	G	E	L	C	H	I	P	S
■	■	■	■	B	E	B	E	■	■	C	A	N	O	E
C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	D	O	N	U	T	S
R	O	M	E	O	■	■	O	K	A	Y	■	■	■	■
O	N	I	O	N	R	I	N	G	S	■	N	A	P	A
P	E	T	■	D	E	C	■	■	H	O	O	V	E	S
■	■	■	H	O	L	I	S	T	I	C	D	I	E	T
P	A	N	I	C	■	C	O	O	■	H	E	A	V	E
T	R	U	N	K	■	L	U	G	■	O	A	T	E	R
S	E	N	D	S	■	E	R	A	■	S	L	E	D	S

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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

LITET

TLASN

TAVLYS

EGNEVA

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Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app



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

_____ - _____ _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: STUNG HALVE EMBARK GYPSUM
Answer: When B.B. King passed away in 2015, his fans — SANG THE BLUES

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

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

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