

the Sumter ITEM

STATE

Staged car wrecks are a problem, officials say

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2018 | Serving South Carolina since October 15, 1894

A3

Children discover skeleton in woods

Autopsy could show link to missing persons case

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

An autopsy to identify skeletal remains discovered in a wooded area off a dirt road near Dillon Park and Crystal Lakes Golf Course on Sunday could turn out to be related to a local missing persons case.

Sumter Police Department officers were notified of the remains about 6:30 p.m. after they were discovered by children who were playing in the wooded area off Gaines Road, said Tonyia McGirt, public information officer for the department.

It does not appear that the remains were buried, she said.

"We don't have any idea of the race, gender or approximate age," Sumter County Coroner Robbie Baker said Monday afternoon.

For the body to have become

SEE REMAINS, PAGE A7

Students could be disciplined for walking out of their classes

Schools are planning for National Walkout Day

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

Sumter School District students planning to participate in National Walkout Day on Wednesday to advocate for gun control could face disciplinary action according to the district's code of conduct if they leave class.

The 17-minute walkout, expected to be practiced at high schools throughout the country, is in response to the Feb. 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, where 17 students and school staff members were shot and killed.

Demonstrations have sprung up on school campuses across the country since the mass shooting last month, but Wednesday will be the first coordinated national effort to honor the victims and advocate for gun control. Each minute of the walkout is dedicated to one of the 17 victims.

In response to interest in the walkout, school administrators in the country are trying to figure out how to let students exercise their First Amendment rights while not disrupting school or pulling themselves into the raging debate about gun control.

Shelly Galloway, spokeswoman for Sumter School District, wrote in a statement that district administration

SEE WALKOUT, PAGE A7



Annual contest will be held on Saturday

BY IVY MOORE
Special to The Sumter Item

Chances are you won't need to go to the beach to get your kite into the air on Saturday. March has come in like a lion, as the saying goes, and local winds are certainly conducive to launching all kinds of kites into the air.

Latrell Chambers of Sumter County Recreation Department said the weather fore-

cast "looks perfect for our annual kite-flying contest" set for 10 a.m. to about noon at Patriot Park's Soccer Complex-Field 6.

"It's a fun event we love having each year," she said. "The rules and categories are the same as past contests, but this year we're moving to Patriot Park."

Contestants can register at the park beginning at 10 a.m. and can then participate in as many of the individual competitions as they're eligible for, Chambers said.

"We love to see homemade kites," Chambers said, "but store-bought kites are eligible. There are requirements

that all of the participants must meet."

These rules are that each kite must be registered; each kite must stay in the air for at least one minute; and each participant can enter only one kite per event.

Winners in each contest will receive ribbons, Chambers said, and winners of best homemade kite, youngest participant and best in show will receive trophies.

If you'd like to try your hand at making a simple paper kite, visit <http://bit.ly/2HrVkgC>.

There is no charge to enter, and refreshments will be served.

SEE CONTEST, PAGE A7

Categories are:

- Best homemade kite;
- Kite with shortest tail;
- Largest kite;
- Most colorful kite;
- Most unusual kite;
- Oldest participant;
- Smallest kite; and
- Youngest participant.

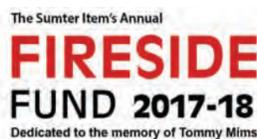
Fireside Fund ends its donation season

Ministries' director says thanks for helping community

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

Sumter United Ministries Executive Director Mark Champagne said having the additional resources made available through *The Sumter Item's* annual Fireside Fund this winter has helped the ministry make a big difference in the Sumter community.

The fund, which was established in 1969 by the newspaper and finished collecting donations for the season, gives all monies to Sumter United Ministries to help needy families and individuals pay heating bills or buy heating fuels to stay warm during the win-



ter months.

This year, Fireside Fund raised \$39,824.01 through Monday.

"Obviously, we're very grateful," Champagne said. "It's a lot of money that comes in to help people in Sumter with their heating utility. Especially this year, we've had a pretty cold winter, and now it seems we're back into it again. So, it's been extremely helpful to give us a little more latitude to do some

things that are very beneficial to some of our neighbors in Sumter."

Champagne said he was appreciative to *The Sumter Item* for using its platform to share information and reach many people by establishing and carrying on the fund.

He said it's a great example of a business being creative to give and help others. Champagne said United Ministries has several other businesses that contribute in some way to help the ministry.

"I really love it," Champagne said. "It's very indicative of this community. So

SEE FIRESIDE, PAGE A7

BY THE NUMBERS

\$39,824.01
Total this year

\$48,601.18
Total last year

\$1,580,412.25
Total since 1969

\$10,000
Largest single donation this Fireside season, from The Glenmore & May Sharp Trust

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DEATHS, B4

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William C. Bradham Jr.
Bobby J. Pack
Shirley Ann T. Bryant
Linda P. Amerson
Lorraine S. Gordon
JC Andrews

James E. Wilson
B.J. Grant
Elijah Harvin
Vern F. Amick
Lucille Burgess
Carolyn D. Delay
Otis C. Daniels Sr.

Joseph T. Abram
Corine Reames
Juanita R. Hardy
Thomas J. Lee
Bessie W. Guinn
Ben E. James

WEATHER, A10

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INSIDE

2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES
VOL. 123, NO. 103

Classifieds B6 Sports B1
Comics A8 Television B5
Opinion A9

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SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Underwater explorer and furniture maker Alec Blalock will speak at Sumter Genealogical Society meeting on March 19.

'Sinker log' recovery topic at Sumter Genealogical Society

BY IVY MOORE
Special to The Sumter Item

Underwater explorer and furniture maker Alec Blalock will be the speaker at the Monday, March 19, meeting of the Sumter County Genealogical Society. He has discovered — and recovered — numerous fossils and artifacts and makes custom-designed furniture from “sinker” logs recovered from South Carolina waters.

His furniture and smaller items made from the cypress sunk more than a century ago can be seen at his gallery, The Swamp Log Artisans Gallery in Bishopville, along with items made by more than three dozen artists and craftsmen.

Blalock's presentation will cover his own diving discoveries with his Virgin Heart Sinker Cypress log recovery business, products made from

the sinker logs and other items in his gallery. Collectibles include rare fossils, shark and dinosaur teeth and centuries-old hand wood-working tools.

Blalock has described the Swamp Log Artisans Gallery as having “walls ... covered with paintings, photography and several unique forms of art, such as pyrography and picture frames. ... ‘Old Growth’ lumber cut from logs we have recovered from the dark, muddy bottom of South Carolina rivers and swamps — logs that produced some of the finest lumber ever seen, that men risked their lives and limbs to harvest over 125 years ago and then lost to black, forbidding waters.”

Blalock's presentation will cover his diving discoveries, the sinker log recovery process, historical information and descriptions of items in his artisans gallery. He will speak at 7:30 p.m. at Swan

Lake Presbyterian Church, 912 Haynsworth St. Admission is free.

The Swamp Log Artisans Gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday at 229 N. Main St., Bishopville. More information can be found at www.swamplogartisans.com.

The Sumter County Genealogical Society meets monthly from September through May. Visitors are welcome and encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served following the presentation. Those interested can join the society following presentations. Membership includes nine monthly newsletters during the year and free use of the Sumter County Genealogical Society Research Center. Annual dues are \$30 for an individual membership and \$35 for a family. For more information, call the Society's Research Center at (803) 774-3901.

LOCAL BRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Sumter to perform water hydrant tests this week

The City of Sumter will perform fire hydrant flow tests on Moseley Drive between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday. Water customers in the surrounding area may experience temporary discolored water.

Please direct any questions or concerns to the City of Sumter Public Services Department at (803) 436-2558.

Council to consider final vote for special tax district

Sumter County Council will meet at 6 p.m. on Tuesday in County Council Chambers, third floor of Sumter County Administration Building, 13 E. Canal St., to consider third and final reading of an ordinance to create a special tax district where money will be collected to repair the dam at Boyles Pond, off South St. Paul's Church Road.

A public hearing will be held prior to council's vote.

In other news, council will hear a presentation by Chris McKinney, executive director of Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments, and consider passing a proclamation to name April as Fair Housing Month in the county.

Brookdale to host luncheon for veterans

Brookdale Sumter Senior Living, 1180 Wilson Hall Road, is hosting a Veterans Appreciation Lunch at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday.

The luncheon is free to the public, but seating is limited. For more information, call (803) 274-2500.



“Mach,” 77th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter pilot, signals from his aircraft prior to taking off Feb. 28 at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Reaching the 1,000-hour mark as a fighter pilot represents a significant career accomplishment. Even more so for “Mach” because all of his combat hours were flown with the 77th EFS, and no other pilot has ever done that.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO / STAFF SGT. DIVINE COX

'Double Down' pilot passes 1,000 combat hours

BY STAFF SGT. DIVINE COX
455th Air Expeditionary Wing public affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — “Mach” received a “Double Down” congratulations from members of the 77th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, Shaw Air Force Base, as he surpassed the 1,000 combat-hour milestone in the F-16 Fighting Falcon on Feb. 28 at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

He achieved the milestone during a mission in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

“I believe there are roughly six F-16 pilots under the rank of colonel that have 1,000 combat hours,” said Lt. Col. James Buessing, 77th EFS commander. “The average F-16 pilot doesn't even reach the 1,000-hour

milestone let alone 1,000 combat hours, so yes it's a huge deal that ‘Mach’ has reached this milestone.”

Most F-16 pilots do not go on three to four six-month deployments, so reaching the 1,000-hour mark as a fighter pilot represents a significant career accomplishment. Even more so for “Mach” because all of his combat hours were flown with the 77th EFS, and no other pilot has ever done that.

“It is a true testament to the support my family gives me while at home and abroad,” said “Mach.” “Without the love and support of my wife and kids, I wouldn't be able to reach this achievement. I am forever grateful to my wife for all her support and everything she does back home

to allow me to serve my country.”

“Mach” logged his first combat sortie in 2011 in support of Operation Unified Protector, protecting NATO allied partners in Libya. Since then, he has “double downed” on two tours in Afghanistan and has compiled 177 combat sorties during his career.

“Mach” has been flying F-16s for more than 10 years.

“This specific tour has been especially challenging because my kids are getting older, and it becomes harder and harder to leave them for extended periods of time,” said “Mach.” “They have been incredibly supportive, but they are facing their own struggles, and I am excited to return home to mentor and support them.”

OSTEEN

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Jobless rate inches up across S.C.

COLUMBIA (AP) — South Carolina's jobless rate inched up slightly in January, even as the state's employment continued to rise.

The Department of Employment and Workforce said in a news release Monday that the unemployment rate in January was 4.3 percent. That's up from a revised 4.2 percent in December.

Nationally, unemployment was unchanged at 4.1 percent.

The state reported that the number of people working in South Carolina in January was again above 2.2 million. The number of unemployed people was up more than 2,000, to over 100,000.

Manufacturing jobs were up by more than 3,100 in January.

Clarendon County's jobless rate is the highest in the tri-county area, up from 5.7 in December to 6.9 in January. Sumter moved to 5.9 percent, from 5.2; and Lee is at 6.3, up from 5.7 in December.

Fairfield County continued to have the highest unemployment rate at 10.1 percent. Charleston County had the lowest unemployment rate at 4.0 percent.

Effects of regular or seasonal patterns have not been removed from data.

Officials: Staged car crashes a problem in state

CHARLESTON (AP) — Officials in South Carolina say a rising number of staged automobile crashes are becoming a problem in the state.

The Post and Courier of Charleston cited authorities who said faked crashes were part of a scam that resulted in charges filed in November against 10 Pee Dee-area residents for insurance fraud involving nearly \$300,000 in altered medical bills.

The newspaper also cited a report in which perpetrators of fake car accidents in Dillon and Florence counties struck each other with boards and threw each other into trees to create injuries they said happened in wrecks which authorities determined were staged. Two men in Allendale County parked their car on railroad tracks so a train would hit it and then returned to the scene feigning injuries. Scammers in Anderson County underestimated the impact of crashing their vehicles into each other and unexpectedly wound up in the emergency room, according to news reports.

"This is a dangerous problem that not only puts innocent drivers at risk, but also requires emergency crews to respond to these staged crime scenes, which wastes taxpayers' dollars," said Alan Wilson, state attorney general, in the Insurance Fraud Division's most recent annual report released in 2016.

South Carolina had 223 insurance claims in 2014 suspected of being staged accidents, which was nearly triple the number of that type of claim from four years earlier. The problem continued at the same pace in 2015 when some 118 questionable claims thought to be staged wrecks were recorded in the first six months of the year, according to the National Insurance Crime Bureau.

The state ranks in the Top 10 for suspected fraud per 100,000 population for all types of insurance. Wilson's office received 1,915 insurance fraud complaints in 2016, which was more than triple the number of complaints in 2010. In the past two years, investigators have seen a troubling rise in organized crime rings involved in

insurance scams, including staged accidents, arson and forged prescriptions for medications sold on the black market.

"Of particular concern, despite being in the Top 10 nationally for insurance fraud, our state ranks near the bottom in funding to fight this problem," said David Fernandez, the assistant attorney general who directs insurance fraud prosecutions.

Last year, four full-time State Law Enforcement Division agents were assigned to investigate insurance fraud, which was double the number from the previous year. But the South Carolina insurance fraud unit budget of \$354,000 pales in comparison to North Carolina and Virginia with budgets of \$2.8 million and \$5.3 million, respectively. The Tar Heel State has 20 insurance fraud investigators, according to the 2016 S.C. Insurance Fraud Division report.

"Like water, fraud and crime travel the path of least resistance," Wilson said in the report. "South Carolina can no longer be a place where these criminals are able to thrive."

S.C. BRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Officials identify 4 beaten to death

MOUNT PLEASANT — Officials in South Carolina have released the names of four people who investigators think were beaten to death by a relative at a home over the weekend.

The Charleston County Coroner's Office told local news outlets Sunday that the victims were 72-year-old Joseph Manigault, 69-year-old Rose Manigault, 42-year-old Kenya Manigault and 15-year-old Faith

Manigault. The official cause of death is pending for all four victims. They were found dead in a home in Mount Pleasant on Saturday morning.

Twenty-two-year-old Lovequawn Matthew Shaire Scott is charged with four counts of murder.

Relatives said the victims were the grandparents who raised Scott, an aunt and a cousin.

Body found by officers checking car in woods

FLORENCE — Authorities investigating why a car was in the woods behind a South Carolina restaurant say

they found a dead man.

Florence Police told media outlets that officers were called to check on the car behind the Zaxby's on U.S. Highway 52 around 3:30 a.m. Sunday.

Florence County Coroner

Keith von Lutcken says the officers found the body of 31-year-old Kevin Parker.

Lutcken says it appears Parker was killed by someone else, and he ordered an autopsy to determine the cause of death.

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Gun background check system riddled with flaws

SEATTLE (AP) — Recent mass shootings have spurred Congress to try to improve the nation's gun background check system that has failed on numerous occasions to keep weapons out of the hands of dangerous people.

The problem with the legislation, experts say, is that it only works if federal agencies, the military, states, courts and local law enforcement do a better job of sharing information with the background check system — and they have a poor track record in doing so. Some of the nation's most horrific mass shootings have revealed major holes in the database reporting system, including massacres at Virginia Tech in 2007 and at a Texas church last year.

Despite the failures, many states still aren't meeting key benchmarks with their background check reporting that enable them to receive federal grants similar to what's being proposed in the current legislation.

"It's a completely haphazard system — sometimes it works; sometimes it doesn't," said Georgetown University law professor Larry Gostin. "When you're talking about school children's lives, rolling the dice isn't good enough."

In theory, the FBI's background check database, tapped by gun dealers during a sale, should have a definitive list of people who are prohibited from having guns — people who have been convicted of crimes, committed to mental institutions, received dishonorable discharges or are addicted to drugs.

But in practice, the database is incomplete.

It's up to local police, sheriff's offices, the military, federal and state courts, Indian tribes and in some places, hospitals and treatment providers, to send criminal or mental health records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, or NICS, but some don't always do so, or they may not send them in a timely fashion.

Some agencies don't know



Assault-style weapons and handguns are seen for sale at Capitol City Arms Supply in Springfield, Illinois. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

what to send; states often lack funds needed to ensure someone handles the data; no system of audits exists to find out who's not reporting; and some states lack the political will to set up a functioning and efficient reporting process, experts said.

"The system is riddled with opportunities for human error," said Kristin Brown, co-president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

A proposal in Congress seeks to establish a structured system for federal agencies to send records to the NICS database. Sen. John Cornyn of Texas says the legislation — often referred to as "Fix NICS" — will save lives.

"We should start with what's achievable and what will actually save lives, and that describes the 'Fix NICS' bill. It will help prevent dangerous individuals with criminal convictions and a history of mental illness from buying firearms,"

the Republican said.

Often left out of the debate in Washington is the fact that similar legislation passed after the 2007 Virginia Tech massacre, but many records are still not being sent to the database.

The Justice Department even set up a new grant program that offered states help with their reporting system, but many didn't even bother to apply. In 2016, only 19 states and one tribe received funds totaling \$15 million. The number of states currently participating is 31.

Several states aren't eligible for the grant because they haven't set up a system that allows a person who was prohibited from having a gun due to mental health issues to get his or her rights restored. The National Rifle Association has long pushed for those types of restoration requirements, Brown said.

Important mental health records that would have kept

by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Experts say many agencies don't know what type of mental health information to send to NICS. Brown said many agencies, hospitals and treatment providers are under the mistaken impression that federal medical privacy laws prevent them from sharing information with the system.

Carson City Sheriff Ken Furlong, who handled the IHOP mass shooting, said the biggest roadblock to creating a comprehensive NICS system is privacy concerns. Some are afraid that if they report their family members, they'll be arrested, he said, and agencies feel stifled by privacy laws.

"When someone is in crisis, why are we waiting to respond?" Furlong asked. "We have a public safety responsibility to prevent something from happening before we have to use force."

The federal legislation being considered in Congress might help ensure more criminal records reach the background check database, but it has limitations because Congress can't force states to enact laws. And it doesn't address gaps in mental health commitment reporting, said Gostin.

"Because mental health records are critical to the integrity of the system," he said, "the bill leaves a significant gap."

Some states have passed their own laws requiring agencies to report to NICS, but few keep track of whether that's happening, and most don't have penalties for failing to submit records.

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Officials: North Korea will face no more conditions for talks

BY MARK SHERMAN and ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

Trump administration officials said there will be no more conditions imposed on North Korea before a first-ever meeting of the two nation's leaders beyond the North's promise not to resume nuclear testing and missile flights or publicly criticize U.S.-South Korean military exercises.

The officials' comments Sunday followed the surprise announcement last week that President Donald Trump has agreed to meet the North's Kim Jong Un by May.

"This potential meeting has been agreed to, there are no additional conditions being stipulated, but, again they — they cannot engage in missile testing, they cannot engage in nuclear testing, and they can't publicly object to the U.S.-South Korea planned military exercises," deputy White House spokesman Raj Shah said.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the summit would give Trump a chance "to sit down and see if he can cut a deal" with Kim over the North's nuclear program. "The president has been very clear in what the objective is here. And that is to get rid of nuclear weapons on the (Korean) peninsula," Mnuchin said.

The administration officials credited toughened economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations, and pushed by the United States, with helping bring Kim to the brink of negotiations.

"Our policy is pressure, is pressure from our partners and allies around the world, pressure to the United Nations, pressure through China, these have had an impact. It's impacted Kim Jong Un's behavior. It's impacted his conduct," Shah said.

But some members of Congress said they worry that Trump acted impulsively in agreeing to meet with Kim, before negotiators for both countries had a chance to set some goals the leaders could agree to.

"But the important thing is the diplomatic work that has to go in before such a meeting. A meeting like that would be kind of an afterthought after things are negotiated. Here it looks as if, you know, that's kind of the opening gambit. And that's a little worrisome," said Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., a frequent Trump critic.

The U.S. and South Korea hold military maneuvers every year. They were postponed during the recent Win-



People watch a TV screen showing North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump, left, at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, on Friday. After months of trading insults and threats of nuclear annihilation, Trump agreed to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un by the end of May to negotiate an end to Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program, South Korean and U.S. officials said Thursday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ter Olympics in South Korea. They are expected to be held in April, but no official announcement has been made about when they will take place. In an interview en route to the Middle East, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis declined to discuss the timing and scale of the exercises.

Mattis wouldn't talk at all about the diplomatic push over North Korea's nuclear program. "When you get in a

position like this, the potential for misunderstanding remains very high," he said.

Mattis was among the advisers in the White House on Thursday when Trump decided to accept Kim's offer to meet. The offer was relayed to Trump by a South Korean government delegation that briefed the president on their meeting with Kim last week in North Korea's capital.

Trump said Saturday that

he thinks North Korea will abide by its pledge to suspend missile tests while he prepares for the summit. He noted in a tweet that North Korea has refrained from such tests since November and said Kim "has promised

not to do so through our meetings."

"I believe they will honor that commitment," the president said.

Later, at a political rally in Pennsylvania, when Trump mentioned Kim's name, the crowd booed. But Trump responded: "No, it's very positive ... no, after the meeting you may do that, but now we have to be very nice because let's see what happens, let's see what happens."

Flake and Mnuchin spoke on NBC's "Meet the Press." Shah was on ABC's "This Week."

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Bids to curb health costs devolve into bickering

WASHINGTON (AP) — It started as a bipartisan attempt to curb soaring health care premiums.

But Congress' effort to stabilize the nation's insurance markets is faltering amid escalating demands by each party and erratic positions by President Donald Trump. Democrats want bigger federal subsidies for consumers under President Barack Obama's health care law while Republicans, still fighting that statute, aim to relax its coverage requirements and win abortion restrictions.

The bickering could collapse the whole effort, with each side blaming the other when next year's expected higher insurance rates are announced — just weeks before Election Day, on Nov. 6.

Last week, Sen. Patty Murray of



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dawn breaks over the Capitol in Washington on Feb. 6. The once-bipartisan drive to curb increases in health care premiums has devolved into a partisan struggle with escalating demands by each side.

Washington, a lead Democratic negotiator, called GOP demands on abortion limitations "a complete nonstarter." A spokeswoman for Rep. Ryan Costello, R-Pa., sponsor of the House GOP package, said if Democrats want to oppose the effort "by playing abortion politics, then shame on them."

Some Democrats think they'd reap political gains if the talks collapse be-

cause polls show the health care statute is widely popular and the public would largely fault Republicans if consumer costs spiral skyward.

"Either Republicans help stabilize the market or they own these premium and deductible increases," said Rep. Kurt Schrader, D-Ore. "And I'd be glad to help crucify them if they don't want to do something very reasonable."

The effort forces Republicans to choose between trying to avert bad news about premiums shortly before elections or standing by their opposition to anything that could be viewed as propping up "Obamacare."

Trump hasn't clarified things for his party. In a single day last October, he bounced from praising one bipartisan plan as "a very good solution" to labeling it "bailouts to insurance companies."

Signs indicate insurance prices will likely continue upward. Without federal action, premiums are expected to rise in every state by up to 32 percent next year and by a cumulative 90 percent or more through 2021, according to a report released last week by Covered California, the state agency overseeing California's health care exchange.

Ominously for the GOP, the study found that 14 of the 17 states that risk potentially "catastrophic" three-year rate increases of 90 percent or more backed Trump in the 2016 elections.

To try containing those increases, lawmakers crafted two bipartisan bills last year.

One by Sens. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Bill Nelson, D-Fla., would provide billions to states for reinsurance. The funds would help insurers afford covering some of the sickest, costliest customers.

Pilot in NYC crash called 'mayday,' cited engine failure

NEW YORK (AP) — A pilot who survived when his helicopter went down in New York City's East River, killing five passengers, said in an emergency radio transmission that the aircraft's engine had failed.

"Mayday, mayday, mayday," the pilot is heard saying during the crash Sunday night. "East River — engine failure."

The pilot freed himself and was rescued by a tugboat, but emergency divers had to remove the passengers on the charter helicopter being used for a photo shoot from tight safety harnesses while they were upside down, Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro said.

"It took a while for the divers to get these people out.

They worked very quickly, as fast as they could," Nigro said. "It was a great tragedy that we had here."

The National Transportation Safety Board dispatched investigators on Monday.

Video taken by a bystander and posted on Twitter shows the red helicopter land hard

in the water and then capsize, its rotors slapping at the water.

Witnesses on a nearby waterfront esplanade said the helicopter was flying noisily, then suddenly dropped and quickly submerged. But the pilot appeared on the surface, holding onto a flotation device

as a tugboat and then police boats approached.

"It was sinking really fast," Mary Lee, 66, told the *New York Post*. "By the time we got out here, we couldn't see it. It was under water."

A Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman said the Eurocopter AS350 went

down just after 7 p.m. The aircraft was owned by Liberty Helicopters, a company that offers both private charters and sightseeing tours popular with tourists.

The company referred inquiries to authorities, saying it was focused on the victims' families and the investigation.

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CONTEST

FROM PAGE A1

BIKE SAFETY COURSE

An important part of the day's events is the SAFE KIDS Bike Safety program.

Cheryl Jackson of SAFE KIDS Sumter County said the purpose of the program is to teach kids how to stay safe when riding their bikes, especially in public areas.

For their bike rodeo, "We set up a special 'obstacle' course with (street) signs, like stop signs and turn signs," she said, "and we teach the kids how to give proper hand turn signals, general safety rules and the importance of helmet safety."

Jackson said "a lot of kids don't use helmets like they should. Some people don't think they need helmets when riding a bike."

No registration for the SAFE KIDS Bike Safety is required, she said.

"Just bring your bike and helmet" to the 11 a.m. event at Patriot Park on General Drive, located off Patriot Parkway.

The kite-flying competition and the Bike Safety program are sponsored by Sumter County, the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Clubs, SAFE KIDS and the Tuomey Foundation.

There is no charge for either. For more information, call Sumter County Recreation Department at (803) 436-2248 or SAFE KIDS Sumter County at (803) 774-8822.



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO
Trust Lewis, then 5, flies his kite during a previous kite-flying contest at Dillon Park. This year's event will be held at Patriot Park on Saturday at 10 a.m.

FIRESIDE

FROM PAGE A1

many people want to help others. When I look around and talk with other agencies like ours, it's not a normal thing to have such a caring community like ours."

Champagne said United Ministries will interview people who need assistance with heating utilities through March 31. Anyone in need of assistance with heating costs may call Sumter United Ministries at (803) 775-0757.

Since its founding, Fireside Fund has brought in nearly \$1.6 million in donations from generous readers.

This winter's Fireside Fund was dedicated to the memory of former Sumter County Sheriff Tommy Mims, who died in December 2016.

Mims joined the sheriff's office as a deputy in 1965, and, after 23 years of service, he was elected

sheriff in 1988. Mims served as sheriff for 16 years until his retirement in 2004.

Throughout his tenure in law enforcement, Mims was seen as a mentor and father figure to the men and women he led. He was also considered a dedicated public servant by many Sumterites.

Donations for the week ending Monday March 12, 2018:

Evelyn Mitchell, \$50; St. John Friendship Circle, \$75; in honor of Dianne Tidwell from Charlie Pitts, \$25; in memory of Dr. Otis Hill from Julian Hill, \$100; in memory of John Brabham Sr. and Elliott LeNoir from Bubba and Dianne LeNoir, \$100; and the Stateburg Literacy Society, \$50.

Total combined anonymous: \$1,150

Total this week: \$1,550

Total this year: \$39,824.01

Total last year: \$48,601.18

Total since 1969: \$1,580,412.25

REMAINS

FROM PAGE A1

skeletal remains, it could have been exposed to the elements and animals for at least a couple of months, he said.

He said the coroner's office will have a better idea of what happened after the autopsy.

Baker said the coroner's office is also working with

the police department and Sumter County Sheriff's Office investigators, who are going through missing person cases to try to find a possible match.

Three missing person cases reported last year in the city and county, combined, are still unresolved.

WALKOUT

FROM PAGE A1

is aware that National Walkout Day is planned for Wednesday and that supporting students' academic and social emotional needs is a top priority.

She stated the district also prioritizes maintaining a safe and orderly learning environment for all.

When asked if students would face disciplinary action for leaving class on Wednesday, Galloway responded, "The students will have to follow the parameters that are established by the student government and approved by administration. If students do not follow the parameters, they could face disciplinary action in accordance with the Sumter School District Code of Conduct."

According to the district's code of conduct, cutting activities, cutting class, cutting school, leaving class and tardiness could result in removal from class, in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension if the behavior continues.

Generally, the ACLU has

been advising students that because they are required to go to school by law, administrators can discipline them for unexcused absences. But the ACLU also told students in an online training video that administrators can't punish them more harshly because of the political nature of their demonstrations.

"We encourage all South Carolina educators and administrators to respect our students' constitutional rights and celebrate their activism," said Shaundra Young Scott, executive direc-

tor of the ACLU of South Carolina, in a statement. "And not only are these young people's actions admirable, they are protected by the First Amendment."

"The Supreme Court ruled long ago that civil rights do not end at the schoolhouse gate. Therefore, schools have no legal basis to punish students for protest differently than they do for other reasons.

"We don't only send our children to school to learn math and writing or to get into college. We send them to school to prepare to become

engaged public citizens."

High school principals in Sumter have met with their student government leaders to talk about ways students can express themselves in a peaceful and positive manner and still adhere to the code of conduct, Galloway wrote.

"We respect and support the right of our students to advocate for causes that are

important to them," Galloway wrote, "and welcome the opportunity to work with any student or student group to discuss appropriate and creative ways to do so while at school."

She added that anything the students plan is not mandatory for all students.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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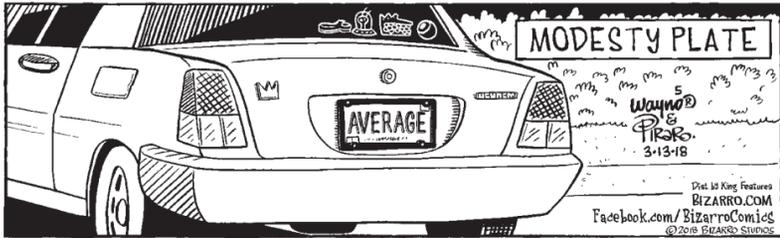
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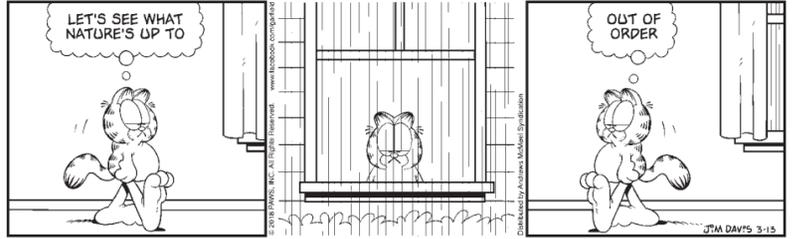
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Woman irked when co-worker mimics her style



Dear Abby
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY — I've been trying to get healthy for years and recently lost a lot of weight. Every job I have, I work with grossly obese women. At my present job, one of them keeps coming to work dressed like me. It's happened before and I'm sick of it. You have no idea how insulting it is to come to work, ready to do my job and find myself in this embarrassing situation. To me, this is a form of harassment, and I don't understand where she's coming from. It's not my problem if she is unhappy with her self-image. I

like myself, I mind my own business and do my work. Also, I worked in fashion for years. If she wants my fashion expertise, she should pay me for it. Copying the way I dress is not a compliment. It's identity theft. I do not appreciate her imitating me. Please help!

One of a kind in Illinois

DEAR ONE OF A KIND — I'll try, but it may not be the kind of help you're asking for. Have you never heard the saying, "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery"? It's a principle the fashion industry is based upon. Instead of being offended and angry, why not help the woman by offering to assist her in making distinctive fashion choices of her own? I'm sure she'd welcome it, and I'm also sure it would lighten and brighten the atmosphere in your workplace.

DEAR ABBY — We love to open our windows and enjoy the fresh air during the winter-time in Florida. One neighbor sits out back and smokes and the other one smokes on his front porch, which makes it impossible to open our windows without smoke drifting in. I realize they have rights, but why can't we enjoy our home too? What would you do?

Fresh air in Florida

DEAR FRESH AIR — I'd consult an air conditioning company and describe the problem. Some restaurants that have smoking patios keep the cigarette smoke from annoying patrons inside by installing a fan above the entrance. The forced air blows straight down and serves as a barrier not only to smoke, but also to flying insects.

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.



Print answer here: _____



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

Yesterday's Jumbles: ONION ROUND GATHER RUFFLE
Answer: As she tried out for the cheerleading squad, her friends were — ROOTING FOR HER

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

THE DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
17				18					19				
20								21					
22								23					
			24		25	26	27	28			29	30	
31	32	33		34				35					
36			37		38			39		40			
41				42		43			44		45		
46					47					48			
			49						50		51	52	53
			54					55	56	57	58		
59						60							
61						62					63		
64						65					66		

Rich Proulx 3/13/18

- ACROSS**
 1 Kind of guitar
 5 Foul-smelling
 10 Bouillabaisse, e.g.
 14 Where the Jazz play
 15 Dodge
 16 Weighty book
 17 Signed up, as to vote
 19 Military group
 20 113-gram sandwich, more or less
 22 Sleeping woe
 23 Like Oberlin College since it opened in 1833
 24 About 1.8 meters deep
 31 Watch pocket
 34 Approaches
 35 Mail unit
 36 Word after New or teen
 38 Hidden drug supply
 40 Big gulp
 41 Insurance case
 43 TV ex-military group led by Hannibal Smith
 45 Mario Bros. console
 46 37.9-liter topper, roughly
 49 Fatty liver spread
 50 Hybrid pack animals
 54 Proceed another 1.6 kilometers or so
 59 Christmas tree topper's topper
 60 Double-checked before cutting
 61 Congregation's "I agree!"
 62 Geometry calculations
 63 Track assignment
 64 Arnaz with two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame
 65 Toy truck brand
 66 Old Russian leader
- DOWN**
 1 Traditional Islamic garment
 2 Thoroughly delighted in
 3 Cosmologist Carl
 4 Counties across the pond
 5 Lavish party
 6 At any time
 7 Firewood protector
 8 Logical beginning?
 9 Subtract
- 10 They often have class
 11 Softened, as rhetoric
 12 Kuwaiti leader
 13 Rainy
 18 Wood finish
 21 We, to one who says "oui"
 25 Ballot markings
 26 Deadly
 27 Muse for Shelley
 28 German industrial city
 29 Cleveland's lake
 30 Govt. agency rules
 31 Something known to be true
 32 Eye rudely
 33 Tall, skinny sorts
 37 Tubular pasta
 39 "So there!"
- 42 Course with squares and cubes
 44 What babies create, and vice versa?
 47 Eye rudely
 48 Ruckus
 51 Turkish coins
 52 Kagan of the Supreme Court
 53 Meal where the 10 Plagues of Egypt are recalled
 54 Mario Bros., for one
 55 Architect
 56 Magneto's enemies
 57 Hardwood prized for outdoor furniture
 58 Tabula
 59 Owned

Previous Puzzle Solved

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

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COMMENTARY

A war without an objective, 6,000 days in

“The war is over.”
— Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld in Afghanistan (April 2002)
“I believe victory is closer than ever before.”
— Vice President Mike Pence in Afghanistan (December 2017)

WASHINGTON — With metronomic regularity, every thousand days or so, Americans should give some thought to the longest war in their nation’s history. The war in Afghanistan, which is becoming one of the longest in world history, reached its 6,000th day on Monday, when it had ground on for substantially more than four times longer than U.S. involvement in World War II from Pearl Harbor to V-J Day (1,346 days).

America went to war in Afghanistan because that not-really-governed nation was the safe haven from which al-Qaeda planned the 9/11 attacks. It was not mission creep but mission gallop that turned the intervention into a war against the Taliban who had provided, or at least not prevented, the safe haven. So, the United States was on a mission opposed by a supposed ally next door — Pakistan, which through Directorate S of its intelligence service has supported the Taliban.

This fascinating, if dispiriting, story

is told in Steve Coll’s new book “Directorate S: The CIA and America’s Secret Wars in Afghanistan and Pakistan.” There cannot be many secrets about this subject that are not in Coll’s almost 700 pages.

He reports when Gen. Stanley McChrystal went to Afghanistan in May 2002, “A senior Army officer in Washington told him, ‘Don’t build [Bondsteels],’ referring to the NATO base in [Kosovo] that Rumsfeld saw as a symbol of peacekeeping mission creep. The officer warned McChrystal against ‘anything here that looks permanent. ... We are not staying long.’ As McChrystal took the lay of the



George Will

land, ‘I felt like we were high-school students who had wandered into a Mafia-owned bar.’” It has been a learning experience. After blowing up tunnels, some almost as long as a football field, that were thought to be created by and for terrorists, U.S. officials learned that they were an ancient irrigation system.

A decade ago, seven years after the war began on Oct. 7, 2001, then-Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said the U.S. objective was the creation of a

strong central government. When he was asked if Afghanistan had ever had one, he answered without hesitation: “No.” Which is still true.

Years have passed since the time when, years into the war, U.S. military and civilian officials heatedly debated “counterinsurgency” as contrasted with “counterterrorism,” distinctions that now seem less than crucial. Coll says of military commanders rotating in and out of Afghanistan annually, “The commanders starting a rotation would say, ‘This is going to be difficult.’ Six months later, they’d say, ‘We might be turning a corner.’ At the end of their rotation, they would say, ‘We have achieved irreversible momentum.’ Then the next command group coming in would pronounce, ‘This is going to be difficult. ...’” The earnestness and valor that Americans have brought to Afghanistan are as heart-breaking as they are admirable.

For 73 years, U.S. troops have been on the Rhine, where their presence helped win the Cold War and now serves vital U.S. interests as Vladimir Putin ignites Cold War 2.0. Significant numbers of U.S. troops have been in South Korea for 68 years, and few people are foolish enough to doubt the usefulness of this deployment or to think that it will or should end soon. It is conceivable, and conceiv-

ably desirable, that U.S. forces will be in Afghanistan, lending intelligence, logistical and even lethal support to that nation’s military and security forces, for another 1,000, perhaps 6,000, days.

It would, however, be helpful to have an explanation of U.S. interests and objectives beyond vice presidential boilerplate about how “We will see it through to the end.” And (to U.S. troops) how “the road before you is promising.” And how the president has “unleashed the full range of American military might.” And how “reality and facts and a relentless pursuit of victory will guide us.” And how U.S. forces have “crushed the enemy in the field” (or at least “put the Taliban on the defensive”) in “this fight for freedom in Afghanistan,” where Bagram Airfield is “a beacon of freedom.” If the U.S. objective is freedom there rather than security here, or if the theory is that the latter somehow depends on the former, the administration should clearly say so, and defend those propositions, or liquidate this undertaking that has, so far, cost about \$1 trillion and 2,200 American lives.

George Will’s email address is georgewill@washpost.com.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

CHILDREN WANT TO WALK OUT TO GET OUT OF CLASS

Has the Sumter School District decided on how to handle the student walkout scheduled for Wednesday?

If you are in support of this, that somehow the majority of these children really are that invested in this cause, try to think back to when you were a 15-year-old.

I guarantee that the vast majority of these children want to do this for the sole reason that they will not be in school ... Period.

You can pretend that these children are different, more mature ... they are not. I talk to these children every day ... they are the same kids we were at that age ...

JOHN SELLAR
Sumter



COMMENTARY

The bad business decisions that brought down Santee Cooper

Editor’s note: This column originally ran in the March 9 edition of The Post and Courier.

BY FRANK KNAPP JR.

When Santee Cooper was created 84 years ago to generate electricity for rural South Carolina, making good business decisions was a priority.

Over the years, the public utility facilitated economic development in the state. Santee Cooper earned a very good reputation with the help of the 20 electric cooperatives that purchase most of their energy needs from the utility.

All of this good reputation is now gone due to bad business decisions Santee Cooper began making over a decade ago and is still making today.

In 2007, the utility proposed building a coal-fired power plant at a cost of well over a billion dollars. Santee Cooper insisted that it absolutely needed the additional capacity while it waited on the completion of the nuclear plants it intended to build with SCE&G.

My organization and others objected strongly to the new coal plant, arguing that there were less expensive and less polluting alternatives such as buying excess power from other private utilities when it was needed. In this way, no long-term capital costs would be incurred.

But Santee Cooper would not be swayed and began purchasing equipment and doing the engineering work for about two years while opponents kept up the pressure. It was this experience that alerted many to the fact that Santee Cooper answered to no oversight authority. Bad business decisions could be made without the need to justify them.

So, in 2008 I and others began calling for the utility to be regulated by the S.C. Public Service Commission just as private utilities. The idea generated no legislative interest until today.

Finally, in 2009 the utility admitted that the critics of the new coal plant were correct. Santee Cooper allowed the electric cooperatives to purchase some power from other sources and scrapped the coal plant but not until spending about \$250 million. The equipment it bought for the project is still warehoused to the tune of \$13 million a year paid for by its customers.

Then there was Santee Cooper’s decision to own 45 percent of the now abandoned nuclear plants in Fairfield County. This bad business decision committed the utility to investing billions of dollars into a construction project it did not control. So, every time SCE&G got approval from the Public Service Commission for additional costs, Santee Cooper customers added more to their debt with no say in the decision.

But this wasn’t the most egregious business decision concerning the nuclear project.

Thanks to great investigative reporting by *The Post and Courier*, we now know that Santee Cooper was complicit in hiding information about construction problems with the nuclear project.

As early as 2013, just one year after construction on the nuclear plants started, Santee Cooper and SCE&G knew about cost overruns and schedule delays. Three years later the utilities kept hidden from regulators the now infamous Bechtel Report that documented the serious construction problems they faced in completing the project.

Had the Public Service Commission known what Santee Cooper knew in 2013 and in 2016, the utility’s customers might not have had their rates increased and be on the hook for a \$4 billion debt.

There have been other bad business decisions along the way. One goes back to possibly the 1970s and involved the creation of a golden parachute retirement program for Santee Cooper’s executives. That is why today Santee Cooper’s recently retired CEO, a state employee, will be paid about \$800,000 a year in total compensation.

Obviously, Santee Cooper can’t correct all the bad business decisions it made over the years, but there is one that it can correct and

needs to do so quickly.

The Mount Holly aluminum plant in Goose Creek employs 300 well-paid workers. The company was forced to lay off 300 employees two years ago and says the plant will not be viable going forward because of a crisis that only Santee Cooper can solve.

Currently the plant gets 25 percent of its electricity needs from Santee Cooper, is allowed to purchase the rest of its power needs from the open market at half the cost of Santee’s power and pays the utility \$16 million a year toward fixed costs.

The company says it has made an offer that would make the utility whole without having to raise rates on other customers. It also promised to return its workforce to 600. Santee Cooper has rejected the offer.

This is an easy bad business decision to correct and by doing so would enable up to \$1 billion to continue to go into the local economy as well as not require Santee Cooper customers to replace the extra \$16 million Mount Holly now pays.

State legislation has been introduced to remove all the Santee Cooper board members. Whether they go or stay, the board should make at least one good business decision.

Frank Knapp Jr. is the president and CEO of the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce.

AROUND TOWN

Color for a Cause will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. today at the Sumter Mall. This live mural coloring contest and shopping event will raise funds and awareness for various causes: KAT's Special Kneads, Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club of Sumter, Sumter Disabilities and Special Needs Board, Sumter County Library and the United Way of Sumter, Clarendon and Lee Counties. You can join in and help complete a mural. Judges will select the winning design to win a prize donation. Visit www.wecolorforacause.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 Shep-

herd's Center), 26 Council St. On Saturday, March 24, assistance will be available on an appointments only basis. Call Lula King at (803) 316-0772.

The Sumter Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina will meet at 7 p.m. today at Shiloh-Randolph Manor, 125 W. Bartlette St., Sumter, SC 29150. Danielle Driscoll, M.A., CRC, Region III Director, S.C. Commission for the Blind, will speak. If you know a blind person, contact Debra Canty, chapter president, at (803) 775-5792 or debra.canty@frontier.com.

The General George L. Mabry Jr. Chapter 817 Military Order of the Purple Heart will meet at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 15, at the Sumter Combat Veterans Group building, 529 N. Wise Drive. All Purple Heart recipients and those interested in association membership are invited. Life membership is available for only \$25. Call (803) 773-0658.

The 8th Annual Daffodil Arts & Craft Show will be held 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, March 17, and noon-5 p.m. Sunday, March 18, at the Fair Memorial & American Legion Building, 30 Artillery Drive. Vendors include: A Country Girl's Crafts; Crafty Maibrutt/Grapevine Wreaths; Damsel in Defense; Embellished Art Decor; Jessie's Jewels with Premier; Lip Sense with Victoria; River Tree Woodworks; and many, many more. Please bring a nonperishable food item. If you bring three non-perishable food items, your name will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift card. Call Debra at (803) 983-3235.

The National Council of Negro Women Annual Harambee Luncheon will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 17, at the North HOPE Center, 904 N. Main St. This year's theme is "Education is the Key to Success-Embracing Our Children."

A prayer vigil for missing Lee County resident Tommy L. Brailey will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 17, at 160 E. Wesmark Blvd.

PUBLIC AGENDA

LEE COUNTY COUNCIL
Tuesday, 9 a.m., council chambers

SUMTER HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
Tuesday, noon, Sunset Country Club

LYNCHBURG TOWN COUNCIL
Thursday, 6 p.m., Teen Center on Magnolia Street, Lynchburg

SUMTER COUNTY COUNCIL
Tuesday, 6 p.m., Sumter County Council Chambers

PINEWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., town hall

TURBEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., town hall

SUMMERTON TOWN COUNCIL
Tuesday, 6 p.m., town hall

MAYESVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
Tuesday, 7 p.m., town hall

CENTRAL CAROLINA TECHNICAL COLLEGE AREA COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, 5:30 p.m., in building M500, second floor, President's Conference Room, Main Campus, 506 N. Guignard Drive

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

The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Chitchat will bring you one step closer to

what you want. Be open to suggestions and willing to offer advice. Working alongside people who share your beliefs and motives will help you avoid criticism.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Think big, but be cautious. Inch your way forward, making sure every move is detailed and precise. Recognize your competition and be prepared to counter opposition. A new partnership will make a difference to the outcome.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Share what you know. You'll make a good impression on people you work for or with. Your enthusiasm and energetic approach to whatever you do will indicate what you have to offer. Romance is featured.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put your creative energy to good use. Find a way to overcome a problem using the power of positive thought. Compliments and incentives will encourage favorable responses. Take measures to please, but make it clear what you want in return.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll feel more optimistic once you have done your research on something you want to pursue. Knowing exactly how much something costs will help. Try to get the support of someone you love before you proceed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Anger will not help you avert the changes heading your way. Concentrate on what you can control and make the best of whatever situation you face. Connect with someone you've been able to rely on in the past for

sound advice and support.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Interact with people who have something to offer in return. An interesting proposition will give you something new to consider. Find out more and you'll discover how you can improve your life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): An emotional incident will leave you wondering how you really feel about someone. Take a trip down memory lane and you'll discover what draws you to this person. Consider the ups and downs before you share your thoughts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Refuse to let anyone stand in your way. Pour your energy into getting things done. The changes you make will lead to greater satisfaction. A commitment can be made, but before you sign up, find out what's expected of you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Revisit an old interest and you will feel revitalized. Don't fight change, but don't give in to anyone who tries to coerce you into something that won't benefit you. Take a unique approach to a job you are handed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look at your options and find different ways to handle your cash or boost your income by incorporating new skills and services. Invest in yourself and find out what you have to offer.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let others know what you are up to. Make personal changes that give you a trendy look or that bring you up to date with the latest gadgets, technology or knowledge. Being well-informed and looking the part will pay off.

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2018

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Cool with sunshine	Clear and cold	Partly sunny and cool	Sunny; breezy in the afternoon	Mostly sunny and nice	An afternoon shower possible
57°	34°	52° / 30°	66° / 44°	71° / 43°	64° / 46°
Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 10%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 5%	Chance of rain: 30%
WNW 7-14 mph	WNW 4-8 mph	NW 8-16 mph	WSW 10-20 mph	W 7-14 mph	SE 4-8 mph

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

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

IN THE MOUNTAINS

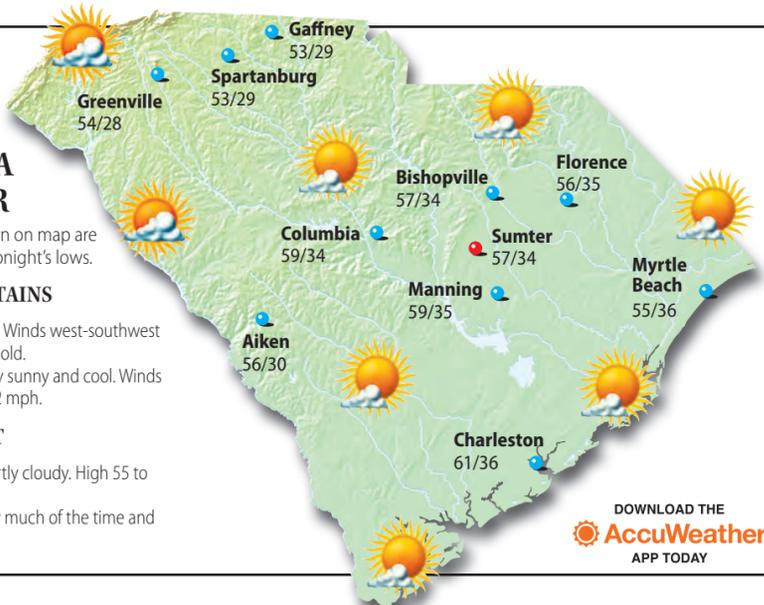
Today: Partly sunny. Winds west-southwest 4-8 mph. Clear and cold.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny and cool. Winds west-northwest 6-12 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: Sunny to partly cloudy. High 55 to 61.

Wednesday: Sunny much of the time and cool. High 50 to 57.



DOWNLOAD THE AccuWeather APP TODAY

LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THROUGH 2 P.M. YESTERDAY

Temperature	High	Low	Normal high	Normal low	Record high	Record low
48°	48°	44°	65°	40°	89° in 1955	23° in 1969

Precipitation	24 hrs ending 2 p.m. yest.	Month to date	Normal month to date	Year to date	Last year to date	Normal year to date
0.65"	1.36"	1.57"	4.45"	6.07"	8.99"	

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	358.14	+0.02
Marion	76.8	75.03	+0.11
Moultrie	75.5	75.02	+0.33
Wateree	100	97.66	-0.12

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	7.01	-0.05
Congaree River	19	4.43	+0.37
Lynches River	14	5.87	+0.23
Saluda River	14	4.41	+0.91
Up. Santee River	80	78.31	-0.37
Wateree River	24	9.81	+1.60

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	7:35 a.m.	Sunset	7:28 p.m.
Moonrise	5:19 a.m.	Moonsset	4:00 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
Mar. 17	Mar. 24	Mar. 31	Apr. 8

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH				
	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	7:11 a.m.	2.8	1:20 a.m.	0.5
	7:19 p.m.	2.6	2:01 p.m.	0.4
Wed.	7:59 a.m.	2.9	2:10 a.m.	0.3
	8:06 p.m.	2.8	2:45 p.m.	0.2

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	53/31/pc	50/34/s
Chicago	36/24/pc	46/28/pc
Dallas	65/40/pc	68/50/s
Detroit	36/22/sf	39/29/pc
Houston	70/46/s	70/51/pc
Los Angeles	68/55/sh	64/52/c
New Orleans	64/46/s	64/45/s
New York	42/32/sn	41/30/pc
Oriando	70/43/pc	69/38/s
Philadelphia	44/29/pc	41/29/pc
Phoenix	84/63/pc	82/59/pc
San Francisco	59/48/r	58/47/sh
Wash., DC	48/31/pc	44/30/pc

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Asheville	46/25/c	39/28/pc
Athens	55/29/pc	52/31/s
Augusta	59/31/s	55/30/s
Beaufort	61/37/s	57/34/s
Cape Hatteras	50/37/s	45/36/pc
Charleston	61/36/s	56/33/s
Charlotte	53/28/pc	46/28/pc
Clemson	55/31/pc	51/32/s
Columbia	59/34/s	53/34/pc
Darlington	56/34/s	50/28/pc
Elizabeth City	52/32/s	46/30/pc
Elizabethtown	54/34/s	48/27/pc
Fayetteville	53/31/s	48/29/s

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Florence	56/35/s	51/30/s
Gainesville	65/35/s	64/31/s
Gastonia	53/29/pc	47/28/pc
Goldsboro	52/31/s	46/28/s
Goose Creek	60/36/s	55/31/s
Greensboro	46/27/pc	42/26/pc
Greenville	54/28/pc	49/30/s
Hickory	48/27/pc	43/29/pc
Hilton Head	60/39/s	55/36/s
Jacksonville, FL	64/36/s	62/32/s
La Grange	58/32/pc	54/30/s
Macon	59/31/pc	56/29/s
Marietta	52/30/pc	49/32/s

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Marion	48/26/pc	43/27/pc
Mt. Pleasant	60/38/s	55/33/s
Myrtle Beach	55/36/s	50/33/s
Orangeburg	58/34/s	53/30/pc
Port Royal	60/39/s	56/37/s
Raleigh	47/28/s	44/27/pc
Rock Hill	53/29/pc	48/27/pc
Rockingham	53/30/s	48/25/pc
Savannah	62/35/s	58/31/s
Spartanburg	53/29/pc	48/28/s
Summerville	59/36/s	54/29/s
Wilmington	56/33/s	50/29/pc
Winston-Salem	47/28/pc	42/26/pc

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PICTURES FROM THE PUBLIC



Marilyn Sears 2018

Marilyn Sears took this picture southeast of Sumter in the country on the evening of Jan. 31 as the blood moon was rising through the trees.

HAVE YOU TAKEN PICTURES OF INTERESTING, EXCITING, BEAUTIFUL OR HISTORICAL PLACES? Would you like to share those images with your fellow *Sumter Item* readers? E-mail your hi-resolution jpegs to sandra@theitem.com, or mail to Sandra Holbert c/o *The Sumter Item*, P.O. Box 1677, Sumter, SC 29150. Include clearly printed or typed name of photographer and photo details. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of your photo. Amateur photographers only please. Photos of poor reproduction quality may not publish. With the exception of pictures that are of a timely nature, submitted photos will publish in the order in which they are received.

USC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Carolina No. 2 seed in UConn regional

BY DENNIS BRUNSON
dennis@theitem.com

If defending national champion South Carolina is to make it back to the Final Four for a second straight season, it will most likely have to do so by taking down No. 1 Connecticut in the Elite Eight.

The Gamecocks are the No. 2 seed in the Albany Regional in which the undefeated Huskies are the No. 1 seed.

USC, which is 26-6 on the season, will take on No. 15 seed North Carolina A&T at 7:30 p.m. on Friday at Colonial Life Arena. The Aggies are 23-8.

The other teams that will be playing in Columbia are No. 7 California against No. 10 Virginia. California is 21-10 while UVa, the alma mater of Carolina head coach Dawn Staley, is 18-13. They will play at 5 p.m.

UConn, which is 32-0, will play No. 16 St. Francis (Pa.) (24-9) on Saturday in Storrs, Conn. The other game will have No. 8 Miami (21-10) against No. 9 Quinnipiac (37-5).

The other first-round matchups in the Albany Regional will have No. 4 Georgia (25-6) meeting No. 13 Mercer (30-2) and No. 5 Duke (22-8) taking on No. 12 Belmont (31-3) in Athens, Ga., and No. 3 Florida State (25-6) facing No. 14 Little Rock (23-9) and No. 6 South Florida (26-7) meeting No. 11 Buffalo (27-5) in Tallahassee, Fla.

UConn, Notre Dame, Mississippi State and Louisville are the No. 1 seeds.

The Huskies enter as the lone unbeaten team and will be vying for their 12th national championship. Last season, UConn came into the NCAAs as the overwhelming favorite before losing to Mississippi State in the Final Four that ended their 111-game winning streak.

South Carolina beat Mississippi State in the championship game.

This year's Final Four is in Columbus, Ohio, and will take place on March 30. The national championship game is on Sunday, April 1.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Clemson, Cougars, Murray State to play in San Diego

BY DENNIS BRUNSON
dennis@theitem.com

The Clemson and College of Charleston men's basketball teams will get to travel across the country for the opportunity to perhaps play each other in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

The two Palmetto State teams will play at Viejas Arena in San Diego on Friday in the first round of the Midwest Regional. The fifth-seeded Tigers, who are 23-9 on the season, will take on No. 12 seed New Mexico State (28-5) at approximately 10 p.m. Eastern. The 26-7 Cougars, the No. 13 seed, will play the game prior to that against 25-7 and No. 4 Auburn.

The winners will face off on Sunday in a second-round contest.

Another game with local interest will be played in San Diego on Friday, but it will be another regional. Former Crestwood High School standout Ja Morant, a first team All-Ohio Valley Conference performer as a true freshman point guard, and his 12th-seeded Murray State squad will meet No. 5 West Virginia in the West Regional. The Racers are 26-5, while West Virginia is 24-10.

This marks the first time since head coach Brad Brownell's inaugural season in 2011 that the Tigers have advanced to the NCAAs. The Tigers will be making their 12th tournament appearance overall, all coming since 1980.

Clemson finished fourth in the Atlantic Coast

PREP BASEBALL

New look; same old

Transfer-heavy Lakewood baseball team opens region play today with perennial power Hartsville

BY DENNIS BRUNSON
dennis@theitem.com

The Lakewood High School baseball team has a new look this season, with several transfers joining the team. However, when the Gators begin Region VI-4A play today, they will be going up against a team that is a perennial power year in and year out.

Hartsville. LHS will travel to Kelleytown today for a 6:30 p.m. contest. The Red Foxes, ranked fifth among 4A schools in the South Carolina Baseball Coaches Association preseason poll, will come to Sumter on Friday. "They're always good," Lakewood head coach Bill DeLavan said of HHS. "They've won the region the last couple of years. They lost a lot of experienced players from last year, so this team is younger, but I think it might be more talented.

"Plus, we've got to go to Kelleytown to begin with. That's always a tough place to win."

The Gators are off to a 4-2 start with seven transfers joining the team. DeLavan said bringing the newcomers together with the returnees has been a work in progress since the beginning of the school year.

"That's probably been our biggest challenge to get the cohesion together," said DeLavan, who guided LHS to an 11-11 season last year in which it made the state playoffs. "We've done a lot of team building, doing things off the field beyond baseball.

"The returning players we have have been really good with the transfers," he added. "When it comes down to it, the kids want to win."

Lakewood won its first four games before falling to 5A Stratford 4-3 and 4A Brookland-Cayce 4-2 last week.

The leader of the pitch-



THE SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO
Lathan Todd, shown pitching for the Sumter P-15's during the 2017 season, will be on the mound for the Lakewood Gators today when they travel to Kelleytown to face Hartsville in their Region VI-4A opener.

ing staff is right-hander Lathan Todd. Todd, who transferred from Sumter High for his senior season and has signed to play collegiately with The Citadel, will start today.

"Lathan is the bell cow," DeLavan said. "When he's on the mound we have a chance to win, no matter who we play."

Left-handers Chandler Hunter, a transfer from Thomas Sumter Academy, and returnee David Frey, who missed all of last season with a broken collarbone, are vying for Friday's

start against Hartsville.

Returnees Dalton Browder and Tommy Pillsbury along with Laurence Manning Academy transfers Trent Frye and Bobby Crisp, all righthys, give the Gators depth.

SHS transfer Cory Blackley has been handling most of the catching duties with holdover Ross Connor spelling him on occasion.

DeLavan is using 3-man rotations on the infield. Holdover Hunter Day, Frye and Pillsbury are sharing time at first base and third base. Browder, Todd and

TSA transfer Chris Parrish are sharing time up the middle with Browder seeing most of the time are short-stop.

Sumter transfer Tucker Chapman is starting in center field with Hunter seeing most of the time in left and Crisp most of the time in right. Frey and returnee Javonte Jones will see some action as well.

Chapman is batting lead-off with Hunter behind him and Todd in the 3 hole. Frye

SEE LAKEWOOD, PAGE B2

USC MEN'S BASKETBALL

South Carolina goes from Final Four to missing postseason

BY PETE IACOBELLI
AP Sports Writer

COLUMBIA — In a year's time, South Carolina has gone from Final Four to finishing earlier than expected.

The Gamecocks (17-16) season came to a close Sunday night when the team was not picked for the NIT after an up-and-down season with too many key players to replace from their stunning run to the national semifinals in 2017 and too few big moments this season to qualify them for a second straight NCAA Tournament.

"My guys and our staff gave it everything we had and unfortunately, the Arkansas game was our last opportunity to represent that Gamecock uniform,"

Martin said Sunday night in a Twitter post.

Martin had said following the loss to the Razorbacks at the Southeastern Conference Tournament the Gamecocks would not play in any non-NCAA postseason event other than the NIT.

Still, Martin focused on the positives and potential of his program after he became the first South Carolina coach since the late Frank McGuire to lead the Gamecocks to four consecutive winning seasons.

McGuire had 14 straight winning seasons from 1967-80.

"That's 4 consecutive winning seasons for the first time in a long long time," Martin's Tweet continued. "We're still building."

It's a project that stalled some after last season. The surge to the Final Four was led by All-SEC

SEE USC, PAGE B3



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Clemson forward Elijah Thomas (14) and the rest of the Tigers are the No. 5 seed in the Midwest Regional and will take on No. 12 New Mexico State on Friday in the first round of the NCAA tournament. The game will be played in San Diego.

Conference with an 11-7 record. That's the most ever in an ACC season for the Tigers.

The Tigers are led in scoring by Marquise Reed with a 15.9 per-game average. He is one of just 14 players in the country that is currently averaging at least 15.5 points, 4.5 rebounds, 3.0

SEE CLEMSON, PAGE B3

SCOREBOARD

TV, RADIO

TODAY

9 a.m. - Major League Exhibition Baseball: Baltimore vs. Pittsburgh from Bradenton, Fla. (MLB NETWORK).
1 p.m. - Major League Exhibition Baseball: Tampa Bay vs. Philadelphia from Clearwater, Fla. (MLB NETWORK).
2 p.m. - Professional Tennis: BNP Paribas Open Women's Round-of-16 Matches and Men's Third-Round Matches from Indian Wells, Calif. (TENNIS).
3 p.m. - Women's College Lacrosse: Richmond at Holy Cross (SPECTRUM 1250).
3:30 p.m. - International Soccer: UEFA Champions League Round-of-16 Second Leg Match - Sevilla vs. Manchester United (FOX SPORTS 1).
4 p.m. - Major League Exhibition Baseball: Chicago Cubs vs. San Diego from Peoria, Ariz. (MLB NETWORK).
6 p.m. - College Softball: Texas at South Carolina (SEC NETWORK).
6:05 p.m. - Talk Show: Sports Talk (WDXY-FM 105.9, WDXY-AM 1240).
6:30 p.m. - College Baseball: Charleston Southern at Clemson (WJMZ-FM 93.1).
7 p.m. - NHL Hockey: Boston at Carolina (FOX SPORTSOUTH).
7 p.m. - Major League Exhibition Baseball: New York Mets vs. Washington (MLB NETWORK).
7 p.m. - NBA Basketball: Minnesota at Washington (NBA TV).
8 p.m. - College Baseball: Utah Valley at Brigham Young (BYUTV).
8 p.m. - NBA Basketball: Charlotte at New Orleans (FOX SPORTS SOUTHEAST).
8 p.m. - College Baseball: Texas at Arkansas (SEC NETWORK).
8 p.m. - Professional Tennis: BNP Paribas Open Women's Round-of-16 Matches and Men's Third-Round Matches from Indian Wells, Calif. (TENNIS).
8:30 p.m. - NHL Hockey: Colorado at Minnesota (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
10:30 p.m. - NBA Basketball: Denver at Los Angeles Lakers (NBA TV).
11 p.m. - Major League Exhibition Baseball: Detroit vs. New York Yankees from Tampa, Fla. (MLB NETWORK).
2 a.m. - Major League Exhibition Baseball: Seattle vs. Colorado (MLB NETWORK).

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

TV SCHEDULE

TODAY

NCAA TRUTV
First Four
 6:30 p.m. - LIU Brooklyn vs. Radford
 9 p.m. - St. Bonaventure vs. UCLA
NIT
First Round
ESPN
 7 p.m. - Northern Kentucky at Louisville
 9 p.m. - Hampton at Notre Dame
ESPN2
 7 p.m. - Wagner at Baylor
 9 p.m. - Florida Gulf Coast at Oklahoma State
 11 p.m. - North Carolina Asheville at Southern California
ESPNU
 8 p.m. - Vermont at Middle Tennessee State
 10 p.m. - Southeastern Louisiana at Saint Mary's

PREP SCHEDULE

TODAY

Varsity Baseball
 Carolina Forest at Sumter, 6:30 p.m.
 Camden Military at Crestwood, 6 p.m.
 Lakewood at Hartsville, 6:30 p.m.
 Lake Marion at Manning, 6 p.m.
 East Clarendon at Latta, 6 p.m.
 Augusta Christian at Wilson Hall, 6 p.m.
 Thomas Sumter at Robert E. Lee, 6:30 p.m.
Varsity and JV Baseball
 St. John's Christian at Clarendon Hall, 4 p.m.
 Junior Varsity Baseball
 Providence Athletic Club at Laurence Manning, 6 p.m.
B Team Baseball
 Thomas Sumter at Robert E. Lee, 4 p.m.
Varsity Boys Golf
 Sumter, Wilson Hall in Magnolia Invitational (at Beech Creek Golf Club), TBA
 Laurence Manning at Orangeburg Prep, 3:30 p.m.
Varsity Boys Soccer

Crestwood at Darlington, 7:30 p.m.
 Pinewood Prep at Laurence Manning, 5 p.m.
Varsity and JV Boys Soccer
 Sumter at Carolina Forest, 6 p.m.
 Lakewood at Lugoff-Elgin, 5:30 p.m.
Varsity Girls Soccer
 Crestwood at Darlington, 6 p.m.
Varsity and JV Girls Soccer
 Carolina Forest at Sumter, 6 p.m.
 Lugoff-Elgin at Lakewood, 5:30 p.m.
 Lake Marion at Manning, 5:30 p.m.
Varsity Softball
 Carolina Forest at Sumter, 6 p.m.
 Thomas Sumter at Robert E. Lee, 5 p.m.
Varsity and JV Softball
 Darlington at Lakewood, 5:30 p.m.
 St. John's Christian at Clarendon Hall, 4 p.m.
Varsity Boys Tennis
 Sumter at Carolina Forest, 5 p.m.
 Manning at Bishop England, 5 p.m.

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Str	Home	Away	Conf
x-Toronto	49	17	.742	—	9-1	W-8	28-5	21-12	32-8
x-Boston	46	21	.687	3½	6-4	L-1	23-12	23-9	29-14
Philadelphia	36	29	.554	12½	6-4	W-1	20-10	16-19	22-17
New York	24	43	.358	25½	1-9	L-7	16-15	8-28	12-27
Brooklyn	21	46	.313	28½	2-8	L-1	12-22	9-24	14-25

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Str	Home	Away	Conf
Washington	38	29	.567	—	5-5	L-1	19-14	19-15	24-18
Miami	36	31	.537	2	6-4	W-2	20-13	16-18	25-18
Charlotte	29	38	.433	9	5-5	W-1	19-17	10-21	17-23
Orlando	20	47	.299	18	2-8	L-4	13-18	7-29	12-28
Atlanta	20	47	.299	18	2-8	L-3	15-20	5-27	9-34

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Str	Home	Away	Conf
Indiana	39	28	.582	—	7-3	W-2	23-12	16-16	29-16
Cleveland	38	28	.576	½	4-6	L-2	22-11	16-17	27-14
Milwaukee	35	31	.530	3½	3-7	W-1	21-14	14-17	22-21
Detroit	30	36	.455	8½	3-7	W-1	21-14	9-22	19-26
Chicago	23	43	.348	15½	3-7	W-1	15-18	8-25	18-22

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Str	Home	Away	Conf
Houston	52	14	.788	—	9-1	W-1	25-6	27-8	32-8
New Orleans	38	28	.576	14	8-2	L-2	17-14	21-14	20-20
San Antonio	37	29	.561	15	2-8	L-2	23-8	14-21	21-19
Dallas	21	46	.313	31½	3-7	L-1	14-22	7-24	12-33
Memphis	18	48	.273	34	0-10	L-17	13-21	5-27	15-27

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Str	Home	Away	Conf
Portland	40	26	.606	—	9-1	W-9	22-11	18-15	25-15
Minnesota	39	29	.574	2	5-5	W-1	26-8	13-21	29-13
Oklahoma City	39	29	.574	2	7-3	W-2	23-11	16-17	23-11
16-18	23-20								
Denver	37	30	.552	3½	6-4	W-2	26-10	11-20	24-21
Utah	37	30	.552	3½	8-2	W-6	21-11	16-19	24-16

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Str	Home	Away	Conf
Golden State	51	16	.761	—	7-3	L-2	26-7	25-9	28-13
L.A. Clippers	36	29	.554	14	7-3	W-2	20-14	16-15	22-19
L.A. Lakers	30	36	.455	20½	7-3	W-1	17-15	13-21	14-26
Sacramento	21	46	.313	30	3-7	L-1	11-22	10-24	10-32
Phoenix	19	49	.279	32½	1-9	L-5	9-24	10-25	13-30

x-clinched playoff spot

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Toronto 132, New York 106
 Chicago 129, Atlanta 122
 Minnesota 109, Golden State 103
 Utah 116, New Orleans 99
 Denver 130, Sacramento 104
 Houston 105, Dallas 82
 Indiana 99, Boston 97
 Philadelphia 120, Brooklyn 97
 L.A. Lakers 127, Cleveland 113

TODAY'S GAMES

Indiana at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
 Minnesota at Washington, 7 p.m.
 Dallas at New York, 7:30 p.m.
 Oklahoma City at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
 Toronto at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
 Charlotte at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
 L.A. Clippers at Chicago, 8 p.m.
 Orlando at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
 Detroit at Utah, 9 p.m.
 Cleveland at Phoenix, 10 p.m.
 Denver at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

Milwaukee at Orlando, 7 p.m.
 Washington at Boston, 8 p.m.
 Miami at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
 L.A. Lakers at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Toronto at Indiana, 7 p.m.
 Charlotte at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
 Philadelphia at New York, 7:30 p.m.
 Chicago at Memphis, 8 p.m.
 L.A. Clippers at Houston, 8 p.m.
 New Orleans at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
 Detroit at Denver, 9 p.m.
 Phoenix at Utah, 9 p.m.
 Cleveland at Portland, 10 p.m.

MLB SPRING TRAINING

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct.
Houston	12	5	0.706
New York	11	5	0.688
Cleveland	10	7	0.588
Oakland	8	6	0.571
Minnesota	8	6	0.571
Baltimore	10	8	0.556
Boston	9	8	0.529
Chicago	8	8	0.500
Kansas City	8	8	0.500
Toronto	8	10	0.444
Tampa Bay	7	9	0.438
Los Angeles	8	11	0.421
Detroit	7	10	0.412
Seattle	6	10	0.375
Texas	5	10	0.333

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct.
Chicago	11	4	0.733
Miami	10	5	0.667
Milwaukee	10	6	0.625
Los Angeles	10	7	0.588
San Francisco	9	7	0.563
Arizona	9	8	0.529
San Diego	8	8	0.500
Washington	8	8	0.500
Atlanta	8	8	0.500
St. Louis	7	8	0.467
Pittsburgh	6	10	0.375
Colorado	6	10	0.375
Philadelphia	6	11	0.353
Cincinnati	6	12	0.333
New York	5	11	0.313

TODAY'S GAMES

Baltimore vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
 Detroit vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
 St. Louis vs. Miami at Jupiter, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
 Tampa Bay vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
 Toronto vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
 Houston vs. N.Y. Mets (ss) at Port St. Lucie, Fla., 1:10 p.m.
 Oakland vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
 Texas vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix, 4:05 p.m.
 Chicago Cubs (ss) vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz., 4:10 p.m.
 Seattle vs. Colorado at Scottsdale, Ariz., 4:10 p.m.
 N.Y. Mets (ss) vs. Washington at West Palm Beach, Fla., 7:05 p.m.
 San Francisco vs. Chicago Cubs (ss) at Mesa, Ariz., 10:05 p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

Boston vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
 N.Y. Mets vs. Miami at Jupiter, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
 N.Y. Yankees vs. Baltimore at Sarasota, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
 Philadelphia vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
 St. Louis vs. Houston at West Palm Beach, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
 Tampa Bay vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
 Chicago Cubs vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
 Chicago White Sox vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix, 4:05 p.m.
 L.A. Angels vs. Cleveland at Goodyear, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
 Cincinnati vs. Arizona at Scottsdale, Ariz., 4:10 p.m.
 San Francisco vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz., 9:40 p.m.
 Colorado vs. L.A. Dodgers at Glendale, Ariz., 10:05 p.m.

PGA SCORES

Sunday
At innisbrook Resort (Copperhead Course)
Palm Harbor, Fla.
Purse: \$6.5 million
Yardage: 7,340; Par: 71
Final
 Paul Casey (500), \$1,170,000 70-68-71-65-274 -10
 Patrick Reed (245), \$572,000 71-69-67-68-275 -9
 Tiger Woods (245), \$572,000 70-68-67-70-275 -9
 Sergio Garcia (135), \$312,000 70-72-69-65-276 -8
 Justin Rose (105), \$247,000 70-69-66-72-277 -7

Rory Sabbatini (105), \$247,000	70-71-67-69-277	-7
Jim Furyk (90), \$217,750	70-73-69-66-278	-6
Branden Grace (78), \$182,000	73-68-69-70-279	-5
Jason Kokrak (78), \$182,000	72-67-72-68-279	-5
Trey Mullinax (78), \$182,000	72-68-69-70-279	-5
Webb Simpson (78), \$182,000	71-68-70-70-279	-5
Sam Burns, \$131,625	71-69-67-73-280	-4
Adam Hadwin (59), \$131,625	71-70-71-68-280	-4
Sean O'Hair (59), \$131,625	71-68-71-70-280	-4
Steve Stricker (59), \$131,625	70-71-70-69-280	-4
Abraham Ancer (42), \$77,296	72-73-67-69-281	-3
Ryan Blaum (42), \$77,296	73-69-70-69-281	-3
Jamie Lovemark (42), \$77,296	72-73-68-68-281	-3
T.J. Vogel, \$77,296	73-70-69-69-281	-3
Blayne Barber (42), \$77,296	70-70-70-71-281	-3
Corey Connors (42), \$77,296	67-69-68-77-281	-3
Zach Johnson (42), \$77,296	73-68-69-71-281	-3
Russell Knox (42), \$77,296	69-74-66-72-281	-3
Luke List (42), \$77,296	70-71-69-71-281	-3

MEN'S TOP 25 POLL

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' final 2017-18 college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through March 11, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Virginia (65)	31-2	1625	1
2. Villanova	30-4	1554	2
3. Xavier	28-5	1383	3
4. Kansas	27-7	1379	9
5. Michigan St.	29-4	1304	4
6. Cincinnati	30-4	1230	8
7. Michigan	28-7	1213	7
8. Gonzaga	30-4	1199	6
9. Duke	26-7	1179	5
10. North Carolina	25-10	1100	12
11. Purdue	28-6	1047	10
12. Arizona	27-7	918	15
13. Tennessee	25-8	771	13
14. Texas Tech	24-9	716	14
15. West Virginia	24-10	663	18
16. Wichita St.	25-7	604	11
17. Ohio St.	24-8	600	17
18. Kentucky	24-10	528	—
19. Auburn	25-7	501	16
20. Clemson	23-9	439	19
21. Houston	26-7	430	21
22. Miami	22-9	134	24
23. Florida	20-12	102	23
24. Nevada	27-7	93	22
25. Saint Mary's (Cal)	28-5	71	20

Others receiving votes: Arkansas 69, Loyola of Chicago 68, Rhode Island 66, TCU 40, Providence 22, New Mexico St. 15, Butler 9, St. Bonaventure 8, Southern Cal 7, Kansas St 6, Buffalo 5, Seton Hall 5, UCLA 5, Creighton 4, South Dakota St. 3, Middle Tennessee 2, Murray St. 2, San Diego St. 2, Virginia Tech 2, Davidson 1, Missouri 1.

WOMEN'S TOP 25 POLL

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through March 11, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. UConn (32)	32-0	800	1
2. Baylor	31-1	743	2
3. Louisville	32-2	736	3
4. Mississippi St.	32-1	720	4
5. Notre Dame	29		

2018 **NCAA TOURNAMENT**

FINAL FOUR
San Antonio
March 31

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
April 2

All times EDT

First Round March 15-16

Second Round March 17-18

Sweet 16 March 22-23

Elite 8 March 24-25

SOUTH
Atlanta
Mar. 24

WEST
Los Angeles
Mar. 24

First Round March 15-16

Second Round March 17-18

Sweet 16 March 22-23

Elite 8 March 24-25

EAST
Boston
Mar. 25

MIDWEST
Omaha, Neb.
Mar. 25

First Four March 13-14
Dayton, Ohio

First Round March 15-16

Second Round March 17-18

Sweet 16 March 22-23

Elite 8 March 24-25

Final Four March 31
San Antonio

National Championship April 2

Locations: Charlotte, N.C.; Boise, Idaho; Dallas; Nashville, Tenn.; Nashville, Tenn.; Boise, Idaho; Wichita, Kan.; Charlotte, N.C.; Pittsburgh; San Diego; Dallas; Detroit; Wichita, Kan.; San Diego; Detroit; Pittsburgh; AP

USC FROM PAGE B1

player Sindarius Thornwell and two other seniors in Duane Notice and Justin McKie. Former McDonald's All-American point guard P.J. Dozier, a two-year starter, left school for the NBA while heir apparent at the spot, Rakym Felder, was suspended for the year after his second arrest in less than a year.

The departures continued during the season as Delaware transfer Kory Holden, expected to provide scoring punch to pick up for Thornwell in the backcourt, left the team in February with continuing knee problems.

The result left Martin mixing-and-matching players, many of them new, to find winning combinations.

South Carolina had three ranked victories this year over Kentucky, Florida and Auburn. It also had a six-game losing streak (it's longest in six years) over January and February which knocked them off the bubble and out of the NCAAs.

MOVING FORWARD

The Gamecocks expect to take a step forward next year with the return of Felder and additional experience from freshmen David Beatty, Justin Minaya and Felipe Haase. South Carolina's plan also includes having one-time Louisville prospect Brian Bowen Jr. eligible at midseason. Bowen joined the Gamecocks in January after being held out by Louisville

because of the college basketball corruption case. He has practiced with South Carolina the past two months, but must still be reinstated by the NCAA.

SILVA TIME

South Carolina's 6-foot-9 junior Chris Silva was named to the all-SEC team and was co-defensive player of the year. If history is any guide, Silva should be more of a handful next season. Martin has excelled at getting seniors to play their best in their final years. Michael Carrera was an all-SEC forward his final year in 2016 while Thornwell was voted SEC player of the year by league coaches in 2017. Silva led South Carolina with 14.3 points and eight rebounds a game this year.

QUICK GOODBYES

South Carolina lone roster losses weren't around long. Graduate transfers Frank Booker and Wesley Myers, who combined to make 30 starts this season, played their only years with the Gamecocks this season.

YOUNG MINAYA

Count on the Gamecocks to find a bigger role for Justin Minaya next year. The son of baseball executive, Omar, the 6-5 Justin Minaya started 30 games and became one of South Carolina's best defenders.

CORRUPTION CASE

South Carolina was part of

the FBI's probe into college basketball, both with Martin's former assistant Lamont Evans getting arrested at Oklahoma State and former player Dozier's receiving \$6,135 from an agent according to documents reviewed by Yahoo Sports. Martin has strongly denied any wrongdoing and doubled-down on that by adding Bowen. The federal complaint stated that \$100,000 was planned to be funneled to a recruit's family to gain his commitment to play for Louisville. Bowen was not named in documents, but details made clear that investigators were referring to the freshman.

CLEMSON FROM PAGE B1

assists and 1.5 steals per game.

Five Tigers are averaging in double figures.

Clemson's most successful NCAA run came in 1980, the first year Clemson was selected. The Tigers won three tournament games under head coach Bill Foster and reached the Elite Eight of

the tournament before losing to UCLA. Clemson also made the Sweet 16 in 1990 under Cliff Ellis and 1997 under Rick Barnes.

New Mexico State won the Western Athletic Conference tournament to earn a berth. Zach Lofton leads the Aggies in scoring with 19.8 points per game, while Jemerrio Jones joins him in double figures with 11.1 per contest. Jones leads the team with 13.1 rebounds per game.

OBITUARIES

THOMAS J. LEE

MANNING — Thomas Johnnie Lee, 64, died on Saturday, March 10, 2018, at his residence, 201 E. Hospital St., Manning.

He was born on June 6, 1953, in Alcolu, a son of Rosa Jane Gadson Pearson and the late Alexander Lee.

These services have been entrusted to Samuels Funeral Home, Manning.

BESSIE W. GUINN

EASTOVER, N.C. — Bessie Williams Guinn, 90, died on Saturday, March 10, 2018, at Bethesda Healthcare Facility, Eastover.

She was born on July 8, 1927, in Sumter, a daughter of the late Jimmie and Ulease Bethune Williams.

These services have been entrusted to Samuels Funeral Home LLC, Manning.

BEN E. JAMES

Ben E. James, 63, departed this life on Monday, March 12, 2018, in Sumter.

He was born on March 24, 1954, in Sumter, to the late Hazel and Clara James.

The family is receiving friends at the home of his son and daughter-in-law, Ricardo and Patoshia James, 655 Bautsch Ave., Sumter, SC 29154.

Services entrusted to Whites Mortuary LLC.

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REGINA L. HERZOG

SAVANNAH, Ga. — Regina Lederman Herzog, 71, of Savannah, wife of Richard Henry Herzog, died on Saturday morning, March 10, 2018, at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Born in Poland, she was a daughter of the late Morris and Bessie Slotin Lederman. Regina was of the Jewish faith. She was a realtor with ERA Southeast Coastal Real Estate and had won many awards. Regina loved her family and especially time with her grandchildren.

Surviving are her husband of almost 34 years, Richard Henry Herzog; one daughter, Bari Perales and her husband, Robert, of Sumter; one son, Ken Schwartz of Frisco, Texas; five grandchildren, Alexander Perales, Nicholas Perales, Abbie Schwartz, Gabriella Perales and Evan Schwartz; and her rescue dog, Bo.

The family will receive friends from 2 until 4 p.m. today at Gamble Funeral Service, 410 Stephenson Ave.

The funeral service will be held at 4 p.m. today in the chapel of Gamble Funeral Service, conducted by Rabbi Robert W. Haas. Interment will be at 3 p.m. on Wednesday at Temple Sinai Cemetery in Sumter, conducted by Rabbi Leah Doberne-Schor.

Remembrances: American Cancer Society – Suite 102, 4849 Paulsen St., Savannah, GA 31405-4424.

Please share your thoughts about Regina and her life at www.gamblefuneralservice.com.

Gamble Funeral Service of Savannah is in charge of arrangements.

WILLIAM C. BRADHAM JR.

William C. Bradham Jr., known by family and friends as Bill, died on Thursday, March 8, 2018.

Bill was the oldest of the three children of Cecil and Dorcas Rhame Bradham of Sumter, having been born on Sept. 14, 1928. Always industrious, Bill worked many odd jobs prior to and during his teen years and excelled at projects to support the war effort during World War II. Bill enlisted in the Army shortly after graduation from Edmunds High School in Sumter and immediately after boot camp was sent to Korea, where he served until his discharge.

Back in Sumter, Bill married the love of his life, Ruth Mixon. They were the parents of Glenn and Brenda. In the 1960's, Bill moved his young family to Florence when he took a job at a service station on Irby Street doing work he had gained six years of experience while still in Sumter. On June 23, 1969, Bill opened his own business, Bill's Gulf Service on Second Loop Road.

When Gulf was purchased by BP, the name changed to Bill's BP, but the personal attention to his customers remained the same. Shortly before his retirement, Bill was elected to serve with the Florence City Council, where he put his heart and soul into trying to make Florence the very best city anywhere. In addition to his responsibilities as a councilman, Bill was very involved in civic and charity work, for which he received many plaques and letters of thanks and appreciation.

Bill was predeceased by his beloved wife, Ruth Bradham; a son, Dr. Glenn Bradham; a daughter, Brenda Bradham; his parents, Cecil and Dorcas Bradham; and a brother, Edwin "Snooky" Bradham.

Surviving are his sister and her husband, Doris and Hub Norris and their three sons, Stephen, David and William Norris, and their families; and a number of cousins.

A Celebration of Bill's life will take place at 2 p.m. on Wednesday in the chapel of Cain Calcutt-Stephens Funeral Home.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the services.

A private burial will take place at the Florence Memorial Gardens with military honors.

Please sign the online guest registry at www.cainfuneralhome.com.



HERZOG

BOBBY J. PACK

MANNING — Bobby Julius Pack, 79, died on Sunday, March 11, 2018, at Lake Marion Nursing Facility.

Born on March 11, 1939, in Sumter, he was a son of the late Julius Carl and Reba Cornelia Hodge Pack. He was a retired floral designer for Flowers de Linda in Manning and he was a member of Pine Grove Baptist Church in Sumter.

He is survived by his brother, Ronnie Carl Pack (Judy) of Williamston; two sisters, Susie Evelyn Griffith of Cheraw and Reba Diane Johnson of Pinewood; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday in the chapel of Stephens Funeral Home with the Rev. Paul Goff and the Rev. Bennie Barwick officiating.

The family will receive friends immediately following the service.

Stephens Funeral Home & Crematory, 304 N. Church St., Manning, is in charge of arrangements, (803) 435-2179. www.stephensfuneralhome.org

SHIRLEY ANN T. BRYANT

MANNING — Shirley Ann Tucker Bryant, 75, widow of Cecil William "Billy" Bryant Sr., died on Sunday, March 11, 2018, at her residence.

Born on Sept. 26, 1942, in Foreston, she was a daughter of the late William James and Rotha Mae Richburg Tucker. She was a retired parts clerk for Manning Tractor Co.

She is survived by three sons, Cecil William Bryant Jr. (Karen) and James Ellison Bryant (Angie), both of Manning, and Robert Arnold Bryant (Tanya) of Greeleyville; two brothers, Tommy Tucker and Mike Tucker (Laura), both of Sumter; two sisters, Laura Sims of Sumter and Emma Jean Joyner (Jerry) of Alcolu; five grandchildren, Pam, William, Donnie (Kristina), Dusty and Boone; four great-grandchildren, Hayden, Liam, Tucker and Braelynn; and a number of nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Dan Raymond Richburg and James Luther Tucker; and a sister, Gracie Geraldine Tucker.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday in the chapel of Stephens Funeral Home with the Rev. Mark Evans officiating. Burial will follow at the Bryant Family Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Donnie Bryant, William Bryant, Dusty Bryant, Wayne Bryant, Legree Sims and Tim Richburg.

Honorary pallbearers will be cousins and nephews.

Visitation will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. today at Stephens Funeral Home and other times at the residence, 4214 Juneburn Road, Manning.

Stephens Funeral Home & Crematory, 304 N. Church St., Manning, is in charge of arrangements, (803) 435-2179. www.stephensfuneralhome.org

LINDA P. AMERSON

MANNING — Linda Faye Parsons Amerson, 56, widow of Carl Victor Amerson, died on Saturday, March 10, 2018, at McLeod Health Clarendon.

Born on Dec. 28, 1961, in Sumter, she was a daughter of Clyde Jackson Parsons Jr. and Betty Lucille Barkley Parsons.

She is survived by her parents of Sumter; three sons, Phillip Ryan Parsons (Donna) of Sumter, Matthew Scott Amerson of Crestview, Florida, and Joey Lynn Amerson of Sumter; three brothers, Michael Blane Parsons (Patricia) and Jerry Wayne Parsons, both of Sumter; and David Dwayne Parsons (Lisa) of Manning; a grandson, Nathan Amerson; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday in the chapel of Stephens Funeral Home with the Rev. Sammy Thompson officiating. Burial will follow at Green Acres As-

sembly of God Cemetery in Sumter.

Pallbearers will be Michael Parsons, Jerry Parsons, David Parsons, Ryan Parsons, Joey Amerson and Matthew Amerson.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the service from 10 to 11 a.m. at Stephens Funeral Home.

Stephens Funeral Home & Crematory, 304 N. Church St., Manning, is in charge of arrangements, (803) 435-2179. www.stephensfuneralhome.org

LORRAINE S. GORDON

Lorraine Staggs Gordon, age 82, returned to her heavenly home on Saturday, March 10, 2018, after a battle with cancer. Her devotion to her family and her belief in God supported her in her struggle and ultimately gave her peace.

The family will receive friends from noon until 1:45 p.m. on Wednesday at Higher Ground Church in Indian Land. The funeral will follow at 2 p.m. with Pastor Steve Jacks and the Rev. Chuck Staggs officiating. She will be laid to rest at the church cemetery.

Lorraine was born in Bemidji, Minnesota, to the late Roy and Doris Staggs. She grew up in Pineville, North Carolina. Lorraine was a former member of Southview Baptist Church, where she taught Sunday school and served as choir director. She later joined Higher Ground Church in Indian Land, where she also taught Sunday school. For many years, Lorraine led a Bible study group every Monday night in her home. She was formerly employed with Ivey's Department Store.

Lorraine is survived by three sons and their wives, Charles "Chip" and Karen Gordon of Richburg, Greg and Rae Gordon of Rock Hill and Roger and Debbie Gordon of Clover. She is also survived by her brother, Chuck Staggs; her sister, Carroll Hammett; five grandchildren, Casey Westberry, Christopher Gordon, Shanie Ramirez, Ricky Gordon and Haley White; and 14 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Roy L. Gordon Jr. (1998); and an infant daughter.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Providence Care LLC, P.O. Box 10984, Rock Hill, SC 29731.

Condolences: www.wolfefuneralhome.com

JC ANDREWS

JC Andrews, age 83, widow of Cester Moore Andrews, departed this life on Sunday, March 11, 2018, in Sumter.

He was born on March 10, 1935, in Sumter, a son of the late Clifton and Frances Williams Andrews.

The family is receiving friends at the home of his granddaughter and her husband, Melissa and Rodney Anderson, 613 S. Lafayette Drive.

Services are incomplete and will be announced later by Whites Mortuary LLC, 517 N. Guignard Drive, Sumter.

JAMES E. WILSON

BISHOPVILLE — James E. Wilson entered eternal rest on March 11, 2018, at McCoy Memorial Nursing Center, Bishopville.

The family is receiving friends at the home of his sister, Dorothy McDonald, 313 Lynchburg Highway, Bishopville.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Wilson Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St., Bishopville.

B.J. GRANT

B.J. Grant, 80, departed this life on Saturday, March 10, 2018, at his residence.

He was born on Jan. 4, 1938, in Bishopville, a son of the late James Grant Sr. and Daisy Bell Charles.

The family will be receiving friends at the home of his daughter, 1020 Nottingham Drive, Sumter, SC 29153.

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

ELIJAH HARVIN

Elijah Harvin, 71, widower of Eva Nola Miller Harvin, departed this life on Sunday, March 11, 2018, in Augusta, Georgia.

He was born on May 16, 1946, in Sumter, a son of the late Moses and Sarah Ann Brunson Harvin.

The family is receiving friends at the home of his sister, Sarah Harvin, 47 Harry Ave.

Services entrusted to Whites Mortuary LLC, 517 N. Guignard Drive, Sumter.

VERN F. AMICK

WINNSBORO — Vern F. Amick, 83, of Winnsboro, passed away on Sunday, March 11, 2018.

Born in Prosperity, he was a son of the late Seber Ray and Minnie Amick.

Vern is survived by his wife of 58 years, Patricia O. Amick; two sons, Brian F. Amick (Tammie) of Sumter and James V. Amick (JoEllen) of Irmo; one daughter, Lisa Amick Cathcart (Thomas) of Blythewood; brother, Seber Ray Amick of Prosperity; and eight grandchildren, Brian Amick Jr., LeAnne Amick, Margaret Cathcart, Carter Cathcart, Samuel Cathcart, Christian J. Amick, Colin Amick and Caelyn Amick.

In addition to his parents, Vern is predeceased by three brothers and three sisters.

Vern was a 1962 University of South Carolina graduate, veteran of the Korean War, a Shriner and a Mason. His career included service as state director of the U.S. Small Business Administration from 1975 to 1982, followed by 32 years with the Business Development Corp. as president, chairman and chairman emeritus. He also helped found the Certified Development Corp. as executive director. Vern was awarded the Order of the Palmetto in 2004, the state's highest civilian honor, in recognition of his dedicated service to South Carolina. He will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday at First United Methodist Church, 109 W. College St., Winnsboro, conducted by the Rev. Julie Belman and Pastor Thomas W. Corbell. Burial will follow at the church cemetery.

The family will receive friends after the committal in the church fellowship hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church, 109 W. College St., Winnsboro, SC 29180.

Pope Funeral Home of Winnsboro is assisting the Amick family.

LUCILLE BURGESS

Lucille Burgess, 90, widow of Ellus Burgess, died on Saturday, March 10, 2018, at her home in Sumter.

Born on Aug. 23, 1928, in Lee County, she was a daughter of Beck and Bessie Shinker Porcher.

The family will be receiving relatives and friends at the home, 109 Vining St.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Williams Funeral Home Inc.

CAROLYN D. DELAY

Carolyn Denise Delay, 55, died on Friday, March 9, 2018,

at Palmetto Health Richland, Columbia.

Born on Jan. 21, 1963, in Sumter County, she was a daughter of Moise Delay and Dorothy Delay Furman.

The family will be receiving relatives and friends at the home, 943 Reaves St.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Williams Funeral Home Inc.

OTIS C. DANIELS SR.

COLUMBIA — Otis Charles Daniels Sr., of Columbia, died on March 10, 2018.

Plans will be announced by JP Holley Funeral Home.

JOSEPH T. ABRAM

Joseph Thomas Abram, 71, died on Wednesday, March 7, 2018, at his home in Elgin.

Born on July 9, 1946, in Sumter County, he was a son of Johnny and Rosa Lee Cook Abram.

The family will be receiving relatives and friends at the home, 868 Club Lane.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Williams Funeral Home Inc.

CORINE REAMES

BISHOPVILLE — Corine Reames entered eternal rest on March 12, 2018, at her residence, 85 Lizard Man Lane, Bishopville.

The family is receiving friends at the residence.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Wilson Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St., Bishopville.

JUANITA R. HARDY

TURBEVILLE — Juanita Robinson Hardy, age 89, passed away peacefully on Friday, March 9, 2018, at McLeod Hospice House, after a brief illness.

Funeral services will be held at 4 p.m. on Wednesday at First Baptist Church of Turbeville with burial at Pine Dale Pentecostal Holiness Church Cemetery, directed by Floyd Funeral Home of Olanata.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Born in Clarendon County, she was a daughter of the late Robert Kenny and Minnie Ann Coker Robinson. She served as the chairwoman of the EC Senior Citizens Organization, and was a member of Turbeville First Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Mack Dilworth Hardy, and three brothers.

Surviving are two daughters, Daphne H. (Ryan) Moore of Olanata and Donna Ann (Barry Crocker) McClary of Coward; a son, Robert Donald (Jeannie) Hardy of Manning; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to E.C. District 3 Renovations of Dressing Rooms, P.O. Drawer 70, Turbeville, SC 29162.

Please visit www.floydfuneralhome.com for online condolences.



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SP	FT	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM		
LOCAL CHANNELS														
WIS	10	3	10	WIS News 10 at 7 (N)	Entertainment Tonight (N)	The Voice "The Blind Auditions, Part 6" Vocalists compete to be selected. (N)	This Is Us "The Wedding" (Season Finale) (N)	(-01) Rise "Pilot" (Series Premiere) Lou tries to become theater director. (N) (DVS)	WIS News 10 at 11 (N)	(-34) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon Ricky Gervais; Chris Sullivan. (N)				
WLTX	19	9	9	News 19 at 7pm (N)	Inside Edition (N)	NCIS "One Man's Trash" An antique weapon is seen on TV. (N) (DVS)	Bull "Gag Order" Bull agrees to help Chunk's daughter. (N)	NCIS: New Orleans "Treasure Hunt" A Navy captain is murdered. (N) (DVS)	News 19 at 11pm (N)	(-35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert				
WOLO	25	5	12	Wheel of Fortune "America's Game" (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	The Middle Mike is offered a new position at work. (N)	Fresh Off the Boat Louis starts to doubt his instincts.	blackish Dre and Bow deal with their own biases. (N)	blackish Jack and Diane get in trouble at school. (N)	For the People "Pilot" (Series Premiere) Six young lawyers are put to the test. (N)	ABC Columbia News at 11 (N)	(-35) Jimmy Kimmel Live		
WRJA	27	11	14	Favorites			Favorites			Favorites				
WACH	57	6	6	The Big Bang Theory "The Monster Isolation"	The Big Bang Theory Understanding football.	Lethal Weapon "Funny Money" Teens get involved with forged money. (DVS)	LA to Vegas Artem tracks down Dave. (N) (DVS)	The Mick Chaos ensues when Alba goes on vacation.	WACH FOX News at 10 (N) (Live)		Sports Zone	DailyMailTV (N)	TMZ (N)	
WKTC	63	4	22	Last Man Standing Kristin goes back to school.	Last Man Standing "Animal Wrongs"	The Flash "Run, Iris, Run" Iris accidentally gets Barry's speed. (N)	Black Lightning "Revelations" Black Lightning must clear his name. (N)	The X-Files "Gethsemane" Mulder finds proof of aliens. (Part 1 of 3)		The X-Files "Redux" FBI may be linked to Scully's cancer. (Part 2 of 3)		The Game Derwin starts dating a new woman.		
CABLE CHANNELS														
A&E	46	130	The First 48 A local criminal is fatally stabbed.			The First 48 "Fatal Mistake" A night out leaves an innocent man dead.		The First 48 "A Fighting Chance" A social activist is killed at a bar.		Undercover High Helping students prepare for prom. (N)		(-03) The First 48 A Somali girl is executed in bed.	(12:03) The First 48 "Fatal Mistake"	
AMC	48	180	(5:00) *** "A Few Good Men" (1992, Drama) Tom Cruise.			** "Young Guns" (1988, Western) Emilio Estevez, Kiefer Sutherland, Lou Diamond Phillips. Six deputized regulators become the objects of a manhunt.		** "Young Guns II" (1990, Western) Emilio Estevez, Kiefer Sutherland, Lou Diamond Phillips. Billy the Kid and gang gallop to Mexico.						
ANPL	41	100	Mystery of the Monsoon: Life throughout Asia shaped by monsoons.			Wild Africa: Rivers of Life Bringing salvation to desert elephants.			Life After Chernobyl		Mysterious			
BET	61	162	** "Tyler Perry's Good Deeds" (2012, Drama) Tyler Perry, Thandie Newton, Gabrielle Union. A wealthy businessman falls in love with a struggling single mother.			The Quad "Middle Passage" (N)			The Quad "Middle Passage"		(12:05) Martin			
BRAVO	47	181	The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills Kyle wants an apology from Lisa.			The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills "Social Edition" (N)		The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills (N)		Bethenny & Fredrik Bethenny & Fredrik (N)		Watch What Happens Live		
CNBC	35	84	Shark Tank A dance fitness program.			Shark Tank		Shark Tank (DVS)		Back in the Game		Shark Tank		
CNN	3	80	Erin Burnett OutFront (N)			Anderson Cooper 360 (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (N)		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)		
COM	57	136	(6:50) The Office "Happy Hour"	(-25) The Office "Secretary's Day"	The Office "Body Language"	The Office "The Cover-Up"	The Office "The Chump"	The Office "Whistleblower"	Another Period "Lucky Chang's"	Another Period (N)	The Daily Show With Trevor Noah	The Opposition w/ Jordan Klepper (N)	(12:01) South Park "Towelie"	
DISN	18	200	Bunk'd			Bunk'd Emma and Zuri butt heads.		Bunk'd Jorge is homesick.		Stuck in the Middle		Stuck in the Middle		
DSC	42	103	Moonshiners "High and Dry"			Moonshiners: Outlaw Cuts (N)		Moonshiners "Not a Crook" (N)		(-02) Moonshiners "Whiskey Business"		(-03) Moonshiners "Not a Crook"		
ESPN	26	35	College Basketball NIT Tournament, First Round: Teams TBA. (N) (Live)			College Basketball NIT Tournament, First Round: Teams TBA. (N) (Live)			College Basketball NIT Tournament, First Round: Teams TBA. (N) (Live)		College Basketball		SportsCenter	
ESPN2	27	39	College Basketball NIT Tournament, First Round: Teams TBA. (N) (Live)			College Basketball NIT Tournament, First Round: Teams TBA. (N) (Live)			College Basketball NIT Tournament, First Round: Teams TBA. (N) (Live)		College Basketball		SportsCenter	
FOOD	40	109	Chopped			Chopped Pickles in every dish.		Chopped "Pie Jinks"		Chopped "Luck of the Irish" (N)		Chopped "Espresso Express"		
FOXN	37	90	The Story With Martha MacCallum (N)			Tucker Carlson Tonight (N)		Hannity (N)		The Ingraham Angle (N)		Fox News at Night with Shannon		
FREE	20	131	(5:30) *** "Hitch" (2005, Romance-Comedy) Will Smith, Eva Mendes.			The Fosters "Just Say Yes" Brandon and Grace go on a road trip. (N)		(01) The Fosters "Many Roads" Graduation day for Callie and Brandon.		(-02) grown-ish		(-31) grown-ish		
FSS	21	47	Hawks Pregame			NBA Basketball Oklahoma City Thunder at Atlanta Hawks. From		Philips Arena in Atlanta. (N) (Live)		Hawks Postgame		J. Schuerholz		
HALL	52	183	Full House "Pal Joey"			Full House "Baby Love"		Full House		Full House "Goodbye, Mr. Bear"		The Middle "Find My Hecks"		
HGTV	39	112	Fixer Upper			Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper (N)		House Hunters (N)		Hunters Int'l		
HIST	45	110	Oak Island: Digging Deeper			The Curse of Oak Island: Drilling Down		Forged in Fire "Rookies Edition"		(-03) The Curse of Civil War Gold (N)		(-03) Forged in Fire "Rookies Edition"		
ION	13	18	Criminal Minds "To Hell ..." Border-crossing serial killer.			Criminal Minds "... And Back" Border-crossing serial killer.		Criminal Minds Killer targets an emergency room doctor.		Criminal Minds "Haunted" Murders at a pharmacy.		Private Eyes "The Six" A 14-year-old witness must be protected.		
LIFE	50	145	Married at First Sight The couples explore their fantasies.			Married at First Sight The couples reach the halfway point. (N)		Married at First Sight "Communication" Trust and honesty are tested. (N)		(-02) Married at First Sight (N)		(-34) Married at First Sight "Communication" Trust and honesty are tested.		
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)		
NICK	16	210	Henry Danger			SpongeBob		*** "Shaun the Sheep Movie" (2015) Voices of Justin Fletcher.		Full House		Full House		
PARMT	64	153	Friends			Friends		Friends		Ink Master "Some Assembly Required"		** "Clash of the Titans" (2010) Sam Worthington.		
SYFY	58	152	(5:45) ** "Predators" (2010) Adrien Brody, Tophir Grace, Alice Braga.			Futurama "Bender Gets Made"		Futurama "Mother's Day"		Futurama "Anthology of Interest I"		Futurama "The Honking"		
TBS	24	156	The Big Bang Theory			The Big Bang Theory		The Big Bang Theory		The Big Bang Theory		The Big Bang Theory		
TCM	49	186	(6:30) ** "The Big Hangover" (1950) Elizabeth Taylor.			*** "Father of the Bride" (1950) Spencer Tracy. A family agonizes over a bride-to-be's immense wedding.		(-45) *** "Father's Little Dividend" (1951) Spencer Tracy. A rattled father learns he will soon be a grandparent.		(-15) ** "The Hangover Part II" (2011, Comedy) Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms, Zach Galifianakis. Phil, Stu, Alan and Doug head to Thailand for Stu's wedding. (DVS)		(-15) ** "Love Is Better Than Ever" (1952, Romance-Comedy) Elizabeth Taylor, Larry Parks, Tom Tully.		
TLC	43	157	My Big Fat Fabulous Life (N)			My Big Fat Fabulous Life (N)		(-02) Counting On		(-02) Seeking Sister Wife		(-02) My Big Fat Fabulous Life		
TNT	23	158	(6:00) ** "Vacation" (2015) Ed Helms, Christina Applegate. (DVS)			** "Get Hard" (2015, Comedy) Will Ferrell, Kevin Hart, Craig T. Nelson. A prison-bound millionaire asks a black man for advice. (DVS)								
TRUTV	38	129	2018 NCAA Basketball Tournament First Four: Teams TBA. (N)			2018 NCAA Basketball Tournament First Four: Teams TBA. (N)			2018 NCAA Basketball Tournament First Four: Teams TBA. (N) (Live)		2018 NCAA Basketball Tournament First Four: Teams TBA. (N) (Live)		Inside March Madness (N)	
TV LAND	55	161	M*A*S*H			(-36) M*A*S*H		(-12) Everybody Loves Raymond		Love-Raymond		Love-Raymond		
USA	25	132	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Competence" Alleged sexual assault.			WWE SmackDown! Fastlane PPV results. WWE Championship will appear. (N) (Live)		The winner of the six-pack challenge for the		Unsolved: The Murders of Tupac and The Notorious B.I.G. "The Mack" (N)		(-03) Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Savant" (DVS)		
WE	68	166	Law & Order "White Rabbit"			Law & Order "Competence"		Law & Order "Precious"		Law & Order "Virtue"		Law & Order "Scoundrels"		
WGNA	8	172	Cops			Cops		Cops		Cops		Bellevue (Season Finale) (N)		

NBC launches bleak musical melodrama 'Rise'

BY KEVIN McDONOUGH

NBC heralds its new prestige musical melodrama "Rise" (10 p.m., NBC, TV-14).

Josh Radnor stars as Lou Mazzuchelli, an English teacher overwhelmed by his class's apathy and the bureaucratic grind of teaching in a sports-obsessed high school. Lou tries to break out of his personal spiritual funk by taking over the drama club and inspiring the kids to put "Grease" behind them and embrace the challenge of "Spring Awakening."

Don't expect the high-strung tone of "Glee" or the Disneyfied phoniness of "High School Musical." This high school appears to be located in Bummertown, USA, a riverside Pennsylvania burg right out of a Bruce Springsteen ballad.

In addition to shots of bleak shoreline ruins and shuttered factories, its realistic documentary-style camerawork suggests influences of "Friday Night Lights." That acclaimed series allowed Connie Britton to emerge as a strong character, playing the football coach's wife. In the "Rise" pilot, Lou's ever-sacrificing spouse, Gail (Marley Shelton), barely utters two sentences in a row.

To be fair, the pilot is too busy introducing one troubled teenage character after another. Singers become rivals because their parents are having a sloppy and not-so-secret affair. A closeted tenor's devout parents dislike Lou's choice of a "controversial" play. The lighting guy is homeless, and the best singer of the bunch is undergoing gender reassignment.

Lou's snarling son, Gordy (Casey Johnson), never leaves his room, and the golden boy quarterback-turned-musical star must visit his ailing mother in some grim facility.

The series does a nice job of blending audition performances as montage moments and allowing untrained high school singers to sound like real human beings and not studio musicians.

But ultimately, "Rise" sinks under its own weight, an earnest self-importance that's so resolutely humorless it's almost funny.

On the other hand, I'm no fan of "This Is Us" (9 p.m., NBC,



PETER KRAMER / NBC

Marley Shelton, left, stars as Gail Mazzuchelli and Josh Radnor as Lou Mazzuchelli in "Rise," premiering at 10 p.m. today on NBC.

TV-14), wrapping up its second season tonight. So, if you like that hanky-soiler, "Rise" might be for you.

• Debuting tonight, "For the People" (10 p.m., ABC, TV-14) trots out the "Grey's Anatomy" formula for the legal profession. Six very, very young type-A lawyers begin their practice at an esteemed federal court, but spend much of the time sniping at each other or sleeping together. If you can imagine the cast of "90210" conducting a trial of al-Qaida terrorists, "People" has your number.

TONIGHT'S OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2018 NCAA Basketball Tournament action (8 p.m., Tru).
- Plagiarism charges seem familiar on "Bull" (9 p.m., CBS, TV-14).
- Our hero pursues exoneration on "Black Lightning" (9 p.m., CW, TV-14).

• Playing pirate can be murder on "NCIS: New Orleans" (10 p.m., CBS, TV-14).

• Part history and part treasure hunt, "The Curse of Civil War Gold" (10 p.m., History) has the feel of a "Hardy Boys" adventure, right down to the deathbed confession of the old lighthouse keeper.

• Chip makes a discovery in the library on "Baskets" (10 p.m. FX, TV-MA).

• The case concludes on the "Bellevue" (10 p.m., WGN) season finale.

• Athletes who have squandered their paydays get financial advice from their peers on the new series "Back in the Game" (10 p.m., CNBC).

CULT CHOICE

Spencer Tracy and Elizabeth Taylor star in "Father of

the Bride" (8 p.m., TCM) and "Father's Little Dividend" (9:45 p.m.), from 1950 and 1951, directed by Vincente Minnelli. Both served as templates for '50s TV comedies like "Father Knows Best."

SERIES NOTES

A TV antiques dealer showcases potential murder evidence on "NCIS" (8 p.m., CBS, TV-14) * Blind audi-

tions conclude on "The Voice" (8 p.m., NBC, TV-PG) * Phony tender on "Lethal Weapon" (8 p.m., Fox, r, TV-14) * Mike's big promotion on "The Middle" (8 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) * Melting Pot simmers on "The Flash" (8 p.m., CW, TV-PG) * Franchising on "Fresh Off the Boat" (8:30 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) * Ronnie faces eviction on "LA to Vegas" (9 p.m., Fox, TV-14) * On two helpings of "black-ish" (ABC), gender bias (9 p.m., TV-14), sparing the rod (9:30 p.m., TV-PG) * A troubled time off on "The Mick" (9:30 p.m., Fox, TV-14).

LATE NIGHT

David Byrne is booked on "The Daily Show With Trevor Noah" (11 p.m., Comedy Central) * Terry Crews, Robert Reich and Mark Normand appear on "Conan" (11 p.m., TBS) * Jimmy Fallon welcomes Ricky Gervais, Chris Sullivan and Amy Shark on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC) * Alan Cumming, Christiane Amanpour, Beth Ditto and Brendan Canty visit "Late Night With Seth Meyers" (12:35 a.m., NBC) * Adam Scott, Patton Oswalt, Darren Criss and ZZ Ward featuring Fitz appear on "The Late Late Show With James Cordeiro" (12:35 a.m., CBS).

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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

In Memory

In Loving Memory



Ta'Kenya Demetress Smith
3/11/2005 - 3/14/2006
Gone but not forgotten.
Love, Delmedtris (mom) & Ta'Kella (sister)

BUSINESS SERVICES

Business Services

KNOPSNIDER HAULING & LAWN SERVICES, LLC
Call Larry at 803-869-4570
20% off first mowing

Home Improvements

H.L. Boone, Contractor: Remodel paint roofs gutters drywall blown ceilings ect. 773-9904

Lawn Service

Jan's Lawn Service
Cut grass, shrubs, planting, pine straw. Call 803-491-5375

Legal Service

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

Painting

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

Tree Service

STATE TREE SERVICE
Free Estimates
Tree Service, Stump Grinding and Land Clearing
803-773-1320

Ricky's Tree Service Tree removal, stump grinding, Lic & ins, free quote, 803-435-2223 or cell 803-460-8747.

A Notch Above Tree Care Full quality service low rates, lic./ins., free est BBB accredited 983-9721

MERCHANDISE

Firewood

Split Oak Firewood \$55 for truck load, 2 truck loads for \$100 (8ft Bed) Delivered stacked. 843-536-6050

For Sale or Trade

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

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted Full-Time

Cashier needed full time. Must have some computer knowledge, be self-motivated, dependable & energetic. Apply at Wally's Hardware 1291 Broad St.

Fulltime/Part time experienced employees preferred. Apply in person at SureStay Hotel, 2816 Paxville Hwy, Manning
No Phone Calls!

Counter Sales position available. Must have some heating and air background along with computer skills. Fork-lift experience a must. Apply in person at 1155 S. Guignard Dr. No phone calls!

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 with experience.

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church is seeking a Full time Musician. Please call 803-481-4501 to obtain an application or email your contact information to salvation@ftc-i.net and an application will be mailed to you. A background check will be required.

Work Wanted

I'm Available to clean your home. Affordable, reliable, 20 yrs exp refs. Call Melissa 803-305-7965

RENTALS

Unfurnished Apartments

HUNTINGTON PLACE APARTMENTS
RENTS FROM \$625 PER MO.

LEASING OFFICE LOCATED AT ASHTON MILL APARTMENT HOMES 595 ASHTON MILL DRIVE 803-773-3600
OFFICE HOURS: MON-FRI 9-5

Unfurnished Homes

3BR/1BA DW Remodeled kitchen, new carpet and fireplace, asking \$25,000 OBO. Serious inquiries only! Call 803-446-9074

Mobile Home Rentals

Scenic Lake 2BR/1BA No pets, Section 8 accepted (1 child), 499-1500 or 469-6978 btwn 9am-5pm

Office Rentals

Office space for rent, 1500 Sq Ft. Ready to move in. Bultman Dr 803-775-8371



Mobile Home Lots

For Sale. Lots approved for Mobile homes. City water/sewer. Owner financing. Zero down payment. \$15,995 Call Century 21 Hawkins & Kolb 803-773-1477

TRANSPORTATION

Miscellaneous



Refurbished batteries as low as \$45. **New batteries** as low as \$65. 6v golf cart battery as low as \$65. **Lawnmower batteries,** \$38.95. Auto Electric Co. 102 Blvd Rd. 803-773-4381

LEGAL NOTICES

Bid Notices

SECTION 00020 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

SUMTER COUNTY
13 EAST CANAL STREET
SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA 29150

CITY OF SUMTER
POST OFFICE BOX 1449
SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA 29150
PROJECT NO. 17055

Separate sealed Bids, for furnishing all materials, labor, tools, equipment and appurtenances necessary for the construction of Sidewalk Additions along Highland Avenue will be received by the Owner in the City Public Services Complex located at 303 East Liberty Street, Sumter, SC until 2:00 pm on March 21, 2018 and then at said place be publicly opened and read aloud.

The Project consists of the following major elements:
Installation of approximately 2,000 LF of 5' wide pedestrian sidewalk, detectable warning surfaces, painted crosswalks, fine grading, sediment and erosion control, grassing of disturbed areas, and other miscellaneous and related items.

Copies of Contract Documents and plans may be obtained from the office of HPG and Company, Consulting Engineers, Inc., 1432 Sunset Boulevard, West Columbia, SC 29169 upon a non-refundable payment of \$35.00 for each set. Mailing address must be provided to ensure prompt delivery.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond, prepared on the form of Bid Bond attached to the Contract Documents or a Surety Company's Standard Bid Bond, duly executed by the Bidder as principal and having as surety thereon a surety company licensed to do business in the State of South Carolina. The Bid Bond shall be in the amount of 5 percent of the Bid.

WE WILL BUY YOUR CAR OUTRIGHT!
Regardless of year, make or model, we will pay you good money for your current vehicle. We can give you a fair price appraisal in 15 minutes.
Call Dealer For An Appointment
855.223.5023

Bid Notices

Sumter County Ordinance No. 08-675 which allows for local preference in the award of contracts shall apply to this Bid.

No Bid will be considered unless the Bidder is legally qualified under the provisions of the South Carolina Contractor's Licensing Law.

Summons & Notice

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS DOCKET NO. 2017CP4301442

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF SUMTER

Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae"), Plaintiff,

v.

South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles; Bank of America Corporation as successor for Guaranty Residential Lending; Linda Ann Pack; Melissa Rodgers; Rebecca Boykin; Malcolm Pack, Jr.; Any Heirs-At-Law or Devises of Malcolm E. Pack, 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; Defendant(s). (016477-01729)

SUMMONS Deficiency Judgment Waived

TO THE DEFENDANT(S): Any Heirs-At-Law or Devises of Malcolm E. Pack, 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

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend by answering the Complaint in this foreclosure action on property located at 3350 Pinewood Road, Sumter, SC 29154, being designated in the County tax records as TMS# 16300-01-098, of which a copy is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer on the subscribers at their offices, 100 Executive Center Drive, Suite 201, Post Office Box 100200, Columbia, South Carolina, 29202-3200, within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; except that the United States of America, if named, shall have sixty (60) days to answer after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to do so, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

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

YOU ARE FURTHER SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to apply for the appointment of a Guardian Ad Litem within thirty (30) days after the service of this Summons upon you. If you fail to do so, Plaintiff will apply to have the appointment of the Guardian Ad Litem Nisi, Anne Bell Fant, PO Box 796, Simpsonville, SC 29681, made absolute. Columbia, South Carolina 223/18

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS DOCKET NO. 2017CP4301442

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF SUMTER

Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae"), Plaintiff,

v.

Malcom E. Pack; South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicle Defendant(s). (016477-01729)

LIS PENDENS Deficiency Judgment Waived

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT an action has been or will be commenced in this Court upon complaint of the above-named Plaintiff against the above-named Defendant(s) for a declaratory judgment that the mobile/manufactured home is an improvement to the real property which is the subject of this action and that it is subject to the lien of, and Plaintiff is entitled to have a Certificate of Title for the subject mobile/manufactured home issued with the Plaintiff being identified as the true owner of the subject mobile/manufactured home. The premises covered and affected by said declaratory judgment and replevin at the time of the filing of this notice, is described as follows: All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land, together with any improvements thereon, situate, lying and being in the County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, being shown and designated as Lot 4 of Pond Acres, Section No. 6 on that certain plat by Joseph R. Edwards, R.L.S., dated September 4, 1990 and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County in Plat Book 90 at page 1181. This being the same subject property conveyed to Malcom E. Pack from J.D. Grubb and Arline Grubb by deed dated February 11, 2002 and recorded February 20, 2002 in Deed Book 833 at Page 138 in the Office of Register Deeds for Sumter County; Subsequently, Malcom E. Pack, Sr. died on May 21, 2015, leaving the subject property to his heirs, Linda Ann Pack, Melissa Rodgers, Rebecca Boykin, and Malcom Pack, Jr.; subsequently, Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae") obtained the property by Foreclosure Master In Equity Deed from Richard L. Booth, Master In

Summons & Notice

Equity for Sumter County, dated April 26, 2017 and recorded May 3, 2017 in Book 1232 at Page 3319. This also includes a mobile/manufactured home: 2000 Fleetwood VIN#: NCFLY41A/B52778-GB13

Property Address: 3350 Pinewood Road Sumter, SC 29154 TMS: 16300-01-098
Columbia, South Carolina 7/28/17

NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANTS: Any Heirs-At-Law or Devises of Malcolm E. Pack, 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.

YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Summons and Complaint, of which the foregoing is a copy of the Summons, were filed with the Clerk of Court for Sumter County, South Carolina on November 21, 2017. Columbia, South Carolina 2/23/18

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE INTERVENTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the South Carolina Supreme Court Administrative Order 2011-05-02-01, you may have a right to Foreclosure Intervention. To be considered for any available Foreclosure Intervention, you may communicate with and otherwise deal with the Plaintiff through its law firm, Rogers Townsend and Thomas, PC, Rogers Townsend and Thomas, PC represents the Plaintiff in this action. Our law firm does not represent you. Under our ethical rules, we are prohibited from giving you any legal advice. You must submit any requests for Foreclosure Intervention consideration within 30 days from the date you are served with this Notice.

IF YOU FAIL, REFUSE, OR VOLUNTARILY ELECT NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN FORECLOSURE INTERVENTION, THE FORECLOSURE ACTION MAY PROCEED. Columbia, South Carolina 2/23/18

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS DOCKET NO. 2017CP4301442

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF SUMTER

Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae"), Plaintiff,

v.

South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles; Bank of America Corporation as successor for Guaranty Residential Lending; Linda Ann Pack; Melissa Rodgers; Rebecca Boykin; Malcolm Pack, Jr.; Any Heirs-At-Law or Devises of Malcolm E. Pack, 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; Defendant(s). (016477-01729)

ORDER APPOINTING GUARDIAN AD LITEM NISI Deficiency Judgment Waived

It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court, upon reading the Motion for the appointment of Anne Bell Fant as Guardian Ad Litem Nisi for any unknown minors and persons who may be under a disability, it is

ORDERED, that pursuant to Rule 17, SCRPC, Anne Bell Fant, be and hereby is appointed Guardian Ad Litem Nisi on behalf of all unknown minors and all unknown persons

Summons & Notice

under a disability, all of whom may have or may claim to have some interest in or claim to the real property commonly known as 3350 Pinewood Road, Sumter, SC 29154; that Anne Bell Fant is empowered and directed to appear on behalf of and represent said Defendant(s), unless the said Defendant(s), or someone on their behalf, shall within thirty (30) days after service of a copy hereof as directed, procure the appointment of a Guardian or Guardians Ad Litem for the said Defendant(s), and it is

FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this Order shall forthwith be served upon the said Defendant(s) Any Heirs-At-Law or Devises of Malcolm E. Pack, 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, by publication thereof in the The Item, a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, together with the Summons in the above entitled action.

Robert P. Davis Rogers Townsend and Thomas, PC ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

Robert P. Davis (SC Bar #74030), Robert.Davis@rtt-law.com Andrew W. Montgomery (SC Bar #79893), Andrew.Montgomery@rtt-law.com John J. Hearn (SC Bar # 6635), John.Hearn@rtt-law.com Kevin T. Brown (SC Bar # 064236), Kevin.Brown@rtt-law.com Jason D. Wyman (SC Bar # 100271), Jason.Wyman@rtt-law.com John P. Fetner (SC Bar # 77460), John.Fetner@rtt-law.com Clark Dawson (SC Bar# 101714), Clark.Dawson@rtt-law.com 100 Executive Center Drive, Suite 201 Post Office Box 100200(29202) Columbia, SC 29210 (803) 744-4444

James C. Campbell, Sumter County Clerk of Court for Sumter County Sumter, South Carolina 016477-01729 03/01/2018 A-4649677 03/13/2018, 03/20/2018, 03/27/2018

SUMMONS

IN THE FAMILY COURT SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT Docket No. 17-DR-02-1879

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF AIKEN

RACHEL E. MADDEN Plaintiff,

vs.

JERMAINE GIBSON & TRACEY MURRAY Defendant.

TO THE DEFENDANT ABOVE-NAMED: TRACEY MURRAY YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified that, an action has been filed against you in this court. Within thirty (30) days of the day you receive this Summons, you must respond in writing to this Complaint by filing an Answer with this court. You must also serve a copy of your Answer to this Complaint upon the Plaintiff or the Plaintiff's Attorney at the address shown below. If you fail to answer the Complaint, judgment by default could be rendered against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.

Rachel Madden
101 Fairway Ridge, Aiken, SC



Estate Notice Sumter County

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

Persons having claim against the following estates are required to deliver or mail their claims to the indicated Personal Representatives, appointed to administer these estates, and to file their claims on Form #371PC with the Probate Court of Sumter County Courthouse, N. Main Street, Sumter, SC, 29150, on or before the date that is eight months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors, (unless previously barred by operation of Section 62-3-803), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements, indicating the name and the 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 amount claimed and the date when due, and a description of any security as to the claim.

Estate:/Elma Belser #2018ES4300115
Personal Representative
Kiyana Belser
9715 Stukes Road
Pinewood, SC 29125

Estate:/Carl Edward Pack #2018ES4300146
Personal Representative
Debra Osteen
3950 Blackberry Ln.
Sumter, SC 29150

Estate:/Alvin C. Neal #2018ES4300112
Personal Representative
Kay Neal Fort
719 Reynolds Road
Sumter, SC 29150

Estate:/James A. Precott #2018ES4300114
Personal Representative
Helen H. Prescott
3269 E. Brewington Road
Sumter, SC 29153

Estate:/Ellen Whaley Stevens #2018ES4300134
Personal Representative
W. Thomas Rutledge, Jr.
800 C. Wappoo Rd.
Charleston, SC 29407

Estate:/Agnes O. Greene #2018ES4300144
Personal Representative
Mary A. Finkbeiner
120 E. Foxworth Mill Rd.
Sumter, SC 29153

Estate:/Timothy W. Moylan #2018ES4300125
Personal Representative
Tamara Arnold
1880 Currituck Drive
Sumter, SC 29153

Estate:/Sidney Richard Morris Jr. #2018ES4300135
Personal Representative
Randall Welch
14 Lakeshore Drive
Sumter, SC 29154

Estate:/Mary Scott Chavis #2018ES4300143
Personal Representative
Tondalaya Scott
7405 Feathers Pl.
Charlotte, NC 28213

Estate:/Rosetta B. Cousar #2018ES4300124
Personal Representative
Chelsea A. Jamison - Hart
1 Robbins Ave.
Sumter, SC 29150

Estate:/Charles Edward Holland Sr. #2018ES4300138
Personal Representative
Robin Wells
1022 Belle Drive
N. Myrtle Beach, SC 29582

Estate:/Benjamin A. Knox, Sr. #2018ES4300121
Personal Representative
Benjamin A. Knox, Jr.
2866 September Drive
Sumter, SC 29154

Estate:/Katherine Price Shirer #2018ES4300123
Personal Representative
Kathleen Palinski
1230 Richland Street
Columbia, SC 29201



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