



Mammoth finds Saber-toothed tigers, dire wolf remains uncovered over years in Los Angeles subway digs A6

Shooting suspect to have bond hearing in January

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

The 22-year-old who was arrested Monday in the shooting death of a 39-year-old man will go before a circuit court judge for a bond hearing regarding charges of murder and possession of a weapon during a violent crime on Jan. 12.

Kentwon Savon Thames-Daniels, of Meadowbrook Road, turned himself in at the Sumter Law Enforcement Center on Monday for his al-

leged connection to the reported shooting death of David Green Bratton on Sunday afternoon.

Magistrate Judge Larry Blanding set a \$65,000 surety bond for Thames-Daniels for a parole violation charge and set a probation and parole hearing for Dec. 20 during a first appearance hearing at the Sumter-Lee Regional Detention Center on Tuesday.

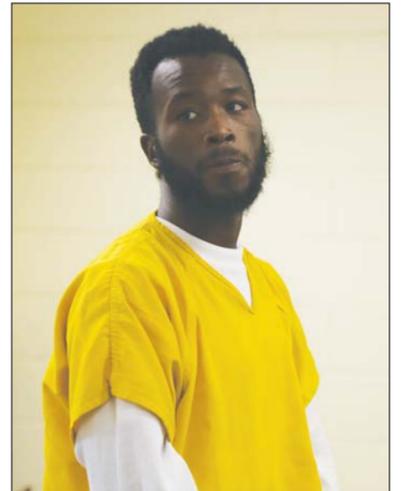
Blanding said a circuit court judge will consider setting bond for Thames-Daniels' more serious charges: murder and possession of a weap-

on during a violent crime.

According to previously released information from the Sumter Police Department, Thames-Daniels and Bratton were seen arguing outside of a Flamingo Road residence before at least one gunshot was fired before 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Bratton was transported to Palmetto Health Tuomey where he died a few hours later.

Thames-Daniels continues to be held at Sumter-Lee Regional Detention Center.



ADRIENNE SARVIS / THE SUMTER ITEM
Kentwon Savon Thames-Daniels stands before Magistrate Judge Larry Blanding on Tuesday.

Collard queens, fatback and Santa

Boykin Christmas Parade returns Sunday for 24th year

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

The Boykin Christmas Parade is scheduled for Sunday at 2 p.m. in the village of Boykin. The 2017 edition will be the 24th-annual event.

The event — which is characterized by some as possibly "the best country Christmas parade in the South" — will feature its norm of fatback, grits and collard queens. Those individuals are obviously "cross-dressers," said parade organizer Wayne Belger. And Santa Claus will again make his surprise appearance this year. At times, he's parachuted in, according to Belger.

Sunday's event has about 70 parade entries, Belger said, which is about normal.

Weather permitting, this year's parade will also include skydivers. Belger is expecting good weather Sunday though — as opposed to the last couple years — with forecast temperatures expected to be in the upper 50's with sunshine.

SEE BOYKIN, PAGE A8



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO
You never know how Santa Claus will arrive at the Boykin Christmas Parade — it could be on an elephant, in a cast-iron tub or on a sleigh pulled by one tiny reindeer.



MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM
Pastor Stephanie Mathis serves as a bi-vocational pastor at Triumph Ministries in Sumter.

'A true woman of God' Sumter church pastor changed by overseas missions trip

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

One could say that Pastor Stephanie Mathis is a full-hearted woman — full of love for God.

A Bishopville native and Dalzell resident, Mathis is pastor of Triumph Ministries at 3632 Broad St. Extension. The non-denominational church is relatively small with 40 to 50 people each Sunday, but don't judge a church by its size — Mathis is making an impact.

She's a bi-vocational pastor, meaning she works another job as an occupation to supplement whatever income she earns from the church. During the week, the 42-year-old is a hairdresser at F&D Beauty Salon at 556 S. Pike W.

Mathis said she founded Triumph Ministries almost three years ago — in March 2015 — after completing her degree in Christian counseling.

As a messenger of God, she said, she has spoken at weekly revival services in all parts of the state, but, in the last

year, "God has expanded her territory" to include other states in the Southeast.

Her messages are mostly on faith and the basics of a new life in Jesus Christ, she said.

"I let people know that it's a different way of life — not being conformed to this world but being transformed by the renewing of their mind," Mathis said.

In late October and early November, she was invited overseas to speak and

SEE PASTOR, PAGE A8

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DEATHS, B5

Susan A. Henry
Glenn Ragin Sr.
Benjamin Peterson
Haulean T. Smith
Lee R. Pearson

Samuel Witherspoon
David G. Bratton
Margaree W. Whack
George A. Commander

WEATHER, A8

LET THE SUN SHINE

Get out and enjoy the slightly warmer weather today; temperature will drop again on Friday.

HIGH 59, LOW 36

INSIDE

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LOCAL & STATE BRIEFS

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Church showing free Christmas performance

Ring in the Christmas season with a Broadway-style musical production, "The Royal Gift: Born to Reign, Rule and Redeem!" presented by Trinity Missionary Baptist Church Drama Ministry.

The dramatization set for 4 p.m. Saturday begins with Old Testament prophecies and ends with the birth and worship of Jesus. Not only does the drama include the fulfillment of the prophecies of God's gift to the world, in blending the Old Testament prophecies with the New Testament revelations, but it also incorporates present-day faith walks with hymns, carols, Gospel songs and praise dances.

The event is free, and doors open at 3:30 p.m. The church is at 155 Wall St. For additional information, call (803) 775-4041.

Man arrested after guest finds camera

GREENVILLE — A South Carolina man has been arrested after a woman who rented an apartment from him using Airbnb found a hidden camera.

Media outlets reported that Greenville police arrested 35-year-old Cesar Adan Mendez Fuentes late last week and charged him with voyeurism.

A 26-year-old woman from Calhoun, Georgia, reported finding a hidden camera in an alarm clock in the bedroom. Police Sgt. Johnathan Bragg said the woman was trying to work on the alarm and realized there was not an on-off switch.

No attorney was listed for Fuentes in Greenville County records.

Airbnb issued a statement saying cameras are never allowed in the bathrooms and bedrooms that members of its community offer for rent.

4th person charged in death of 2 on island

BEAUFORT — A fourth person has been arrested in the shooting death of two men on a South Carolina island last month.

The Beaufort County Sheriff's Office said in a news release that 20-year-old Symone Jones of Lady's Island turned herself in to investigators Monday.

Jones is charged with two counts of murder in the deaths of Robert Blanding and his nephew Chaz Blanding. It was not known if Jones has an attorney.

The body of 25-year-old Robert Blanding of St. Helena Island was found in a drainage ditch on Lady's Island with several gunshot wounds Nov. 22.

The body of 18-year-old Chaz Blanding was found in some woods Dec. 2.

Sheriff's deputies said 18-year-old Channon Preston Jr. of Lady's Island now faces murder charges. He had been held as an accessory.

Family of 6 displaced by fire

Red Cross warns to check smoke alarms, develop an escape plan for emergencies

BY KAYLA ROBINS

kayla@theitem.com

The house of a family of six was damaged by fire Monday afternoon in Sumter.

Four adults and two children were displaced from the home on Brand Street off Fulton Street just south of downtown, according to the American Red Cross. Disaster-trained volunteers

from the agency are providing financial assistance to the residents for food, clothing, lodging and other essentials and comfort kits with personal hygiene items.

"Heavy smoke and fire" was showing when firefighters arrived to combat the blaze just after 12:30 p.m. Monday, according to a Sumter Fire Department incident report.

Where or how the fire started was not immediately known.

The 1,000-square-foot home sustained \$35,000 in structural loss, and the family sustained loss to their belongings worth \$5,000, according to

the report. Nothing was reported saved.

"Each year around the holidays, the Red Cross and partners see an uptick in the number of home fires," the Red Cross reported in a news release. "It's also been shown that Christmas tree fires are much more likely to be deadly than other fires, and candle fires are four times as likely to occur."

The agency encourages families to check existing smoke alarms, practice fire drills at home and develop a fire escape plan and practice it several times a year at different times of the day.

2 from Sumter receive awards

BY KAYLA ROBINS

kayla@theitem.com

Two people from Sumter were recognized by the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation at the organization's 74th-annual meeting held recently in Myrtle Beach.

Chris Sumpter, Sumter County Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee chairman, received a special achievement award at the Dec. 1 meeting on behalf of Sumter County from SCFB Young Farmers and Ranchers Leadership Committee Chairman Davis Peeler, and Joye Davis, Women's Committee chairwoman for the Sumter County Farm Bureau, received one from SCFB State Women's Leadership Committee Chairwoman Frances Price.

Sumter County was recognized at the event for having one of the top Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers and one of the top women's programs in the state during 2017.

"Nearly 1,000 Farm Bureau members from across the state gathered not just to prepare for the year ahead, but



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Nearly 1,000 members from across the state gathered for the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation's 74th Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach Nov. 30-Dec. 2. The meeting was held to prepare for the year ahead, celebrate accomplishments of members and progress made in the General Assembly and was highlighted by a State of Agriculture address from SCFB President Harry Ott and a visit from American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall.

also to celebrate accomplishments of volunteers and progress made in the General Assembly," the state agency said in a news release. "More than 100 individuals were recognized for their dedication for SCFB at this year's convention."

South Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weather's greeted attendees Thursday night at the Government Relations Awards Dinner, speaking about the importance of farmers and

agriculture in the state.

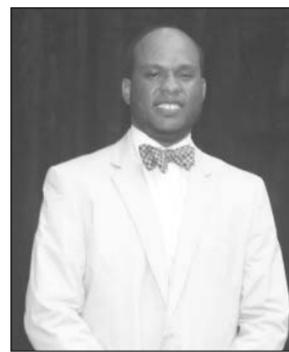
American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall, a Georgia farmer, updated members on Friday morning about issues Farm Bureau chapters across the nation will face in 2018, and Glen Ward, an inspirational speaker and professional, delivered the opening session keynote address Friday morning.

Other recognitions included Legislator of the Year, Government Relations All-



ABOVE: Joye Davis, Sumter County Farm Bureau Women's Committee chairwoman, received a special achievement award on behalf of Sumter County from SCFB State Women's Leadership Committee Chairwoman Frances Price.

BELOW: Chris Sumpter, Sumter County Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee chairman, received a special achievement award on behalf of Sumter County from SCFB Young Farmers and Ranchers Leadership Committee Chairman Davis Peeler.



Stars, the Distinguished Service Award, Young Farmer and Rancher Discussion Meet winners, Young Farmer and Rancher Excellence in Agriculture and the Outstanding Educator Award.

Society will host 'Show and Tell' meeting Monday

BY IVY MOORE

Special to The Sumter Item

The final 2017 meeting of the Sumter County Genealogical Society will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Swan Lake Presbyterian Church, 912 Haynsworth St. As is traditional, the December meeting is different from the society's other monthly gatherings in that there will be no invited guest speaker.

"It has long been the tradition for this last meeting of the year to infor-

mally ask members and guests to share interesting items from their genealogical research or to provide helpful hints that have been beneficial to them while on such quests," said Johnny Raffield, program chairman and first vice president of the society.

Instead, Monday's meeting will be a time of "Show and Tell." Also, members of the board of directors will be installed to serve for the 2018 year. The night will conclude with a Christmas party.

The society meets each month from September through May, encouraging visitors to attend. Admission is free, and those interested in local or related genealogy and history can join. Membership includes nine monthly newsletters and free use of the Sumter County Genealogical Research Center. Refreshments are served following each meeting.

Dues are \$30 for individuals and \$35 for family membership. Call the research center for more information at (803) 774-3901.

OSTEEN

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Prosecutors say suspect taunted Trump before subway bombing

BY COLLEEN LONG
and JENNIFER PELTZ
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A Bangladeshi immigrant arrested in a New York subway bombing mocked President Trump on social media while on his way to carry out the botched suicide mission, authorities said as they brought federal charges against him Tuesday.

Akayed Ullah posted a statement on his Facebook account just before the Monday morning attack, stating:



ULLAH

“Trump you failed to protect your nation,” the criminal complaint said. He also told law enforcement officers at the hospital

where he was taken with burn injuries to the body and hands: “I did it for the Islamic State,” according to the complaint.

His rush-hour attack fizzled in a long walkway used by commuters moving between trains in the city’s busiest subway station at Times Square. Three pedestrians complained of harmed hearing and headaches after the bomb went off.

Ullah, 27, was expected to appear before a magistrate judge, though it was not immediately clear if he was well enough to go to court.

During a search of his Brooklyn apartment, investigators recovered a passport with the words “O America, die in rage” scrawled in it, the complaint says.

He hoped to “terrorize as many people as possible” with a bomb filled with metal

screws that he thought would cause maximum damage, the complaint said.

The complaint charged Ullah with providing material support to a terrorist group, use of a weapon of mass destruction and three bomb-related counts.

It was not immediately clear who would represent Ullah in court.

According to the complaint, Ullah started to become radicalized in 2014 and began researching how to build a bomb after he had “viewed pro-ISIS materials online, including a video instructing, in substance, that if supporters of ISIS were unable to travel overseas to join ISIS, they should carry out attacks in their homelands.”

Overseas, Bangladesh counterterrorism officers were questioning Ullah’s wife and other relatives, officials there said Tuesday. Relatives and police said Ullah last visited Bangladesh in September to see his wife and newborn son before leaving them behind to return to the United States.

Hours after Monday’s explosion, Trump cited the background of the bomber in renewing his call for closer scrutiny of foreigners who come to the country and less immigration based on family ties.

Ullah — who told investigators he wanted to retaliate for American action against Islamic State extremists — came to the U.S. from Bangladesh in 2011 on a visa available to certain relatives of U.S. citizens.

“Today’s terror suspect entered our country through extended-family chain migra-



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police officers patrol the passageway connecting New York City’s Port Authority bus terminal and the Times Square subway station on Tuesday near the site of Monday’s explosion. Commuters returning to New York City’s subway system on Tuesday were met with heightened security a day after a would-be suicide bomber’s rush-hour blast failed to cause the bloodshed he intended.

tion, which is incompatible with national security,” Trump said in a statement that called for various changes to the immigration system. Earlier, White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Trump’s proposed policies “could have prevented this.”

On his last visit to Bangladesh, the suspect mostly remained inside a small apartment in Dhaka’s Hazribagh area, said his uncle, Abdul Ahad. His nephew arrived in Bangladesh on Sept. 8 and returned to New York on Oct. 22, he said.

“He went out of his residence to offer prayers at a nearby mosque,” Ahad told The Associated Press.

In a scenario New York had dreaded for years, Ullah strapped on a crude pipe bomb with Velcro and plastic ties, slipped unnoticed into the nation’s busiest subway system and set off the device, authorities said.

The bomb didn’t work as in-

tended; authorities said Ullah was the only person seriously wounded. But the attack sent frightened commuters fleeing through a smoky passageway.

Ullah’s low-tech bomb used explosive powder, a nine-volt battery, a Christmas light and matches, officials said. Investigators said the suspect was seen on surveillance footage igniting the bomb. In the end, it wasn’t powerful enough to turn the pipe into deadly shrapnel, the officials said.

Law enforcement officials said Ullah looked at IS propaganda online but is not known to have any direct contact with the militants and probably acted alone.

The attack came less than two months after eight people died near the World Trade Center in a truck attack that, authorities said, was carried out by an Uzbek immigrant who admired the Islamic State group.

Ullah lived with his father, mother and brother in a Brooklyn neighborhood with

a large Bangladeshi community, residents said. He was licensed to drive a livery cab between 2012 and 2015, but the license was allowed to lapse, according to law enforcement officials and New York City’s Taxi and Limousine Commission.

John Miller, NYPD’s Deputy Commissioner for Counterterrorism, said Tuesday on CBS “This Morning” that Ullah didn’t seem to have any obvious problems.

He “was living here, went through number of jobs, was not particularly struggling financially or had any known pressures,” Miller said, adding Ullah “was not on our radar at NYPD, not on the FBI radar.”

Security cameras captured the attacker walking casually through a crowded passageway when the bomb went off about 7:20 a.m. A plume of white smoke cleared to show the man sprawled on the ground and commuters scattering.

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Lend someone a helping hand this holiday season. The following are just a few of the needs in our community. If your nonprofit organization would like to be included on this list, email needs to pressrelease@theitem.com.

YOUTH EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Give the gift of music, dance and theater to students of Sumter County by donating to the YES Fund.

- \$10 provides the ticket for a student on the free and reduced-price meal program to see a matinee show at Sumter Opera House;
- \$50 allows five students to attend a show and learn about STEM principles through a theater production;
- \$100 provides for a classroom of 10 students to experience the wonder of a live performance at the opera house; and
- \$250 covers the busing costs for a class of 40 students to get to the opera house for a matinee show.

To donate, visit <http://bit.ly/2ABgf1k>.

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New Family and Children Visitation Center (formerly Cottage A) — Living room furniture (sofa, chairs, coffee table, end tables), floor lamps, table lamps, office furniture (desks and chairs), area rugs, decorative throw pillows, family board games, new books for all ages, flat-screen TV, decorative throws, non-slip kitchen and bathroom mats, DVDs, two welcome mats, twin boy and/or girl comforter sets and sheets, 4-by-6 area rugs for bedrooms, placemats and home decor gift cards

Cottage B (infant to 6-year-old girls and boys) — Laundry drying rack, twin boy and/or girl comforter sets and sheets, toddler bed comforter sets, two crib comforter sets, crib sheets, two queen comforter sets, twin bed skirts (white, pink or navy), five bean bag chairs, bedside lamps, nightlights, set of stainless steel pots and pans, preschool DVDs and 4-by-6 area rugs for bedrooms

Cottage C (7- to 16-year-old boys) — Charcoal grill, croquet set, deck storage box, corn hole, twin boy comforter sets



and sheets, twin bed skirts (navy, khaki or white), two queen-size comforter sets and sheets, welcome mat, throw pillows, new sports balls, two large area rugs, bedside lamps, nightlights, DVDs, Wii and PlayStation games for boys, board games, portable DVD players

Cottage D (10- to 16-year-old girls) — Heavy-duty vacuum cleaner, Crock Pot, Dust Buster, Wii games, Wii Just Dance 2017, twin girl comforter sets and sheets, twin bed skirts, two queen comforter sets, decorations for bedrooms, 4-by-6 area rugs for rooms, welcome mat, eight door mirrors, bedside lamps, nightlights, throw pillows, girl picture frames, DVDs, craft kits, board games, portable DVD players and Bluetooth speakers

Campus general needs — Duffle bags, batteries (AA, AAA, C, D and 9-volt), DVD players, DVDs (G and PG movies), towels and washcloths, new packs of underwear and socks (toddler, youth and adult), new pajamas (toddler, youth and adult), non-slip kitchen and bathroom mats, placemats, flatware, sets of dinnerware, coffee pot, CD player, digital camera, TV, small paper birthday plates, candles, vacuum cleaner and twin-size plastic mattress covers

Birthday closet gifts for teens — gift cards, earbuds, teen DVDs, Wii, Xbox and Playstation games, bath and body

wash and lotions, perfume, cologne, earrings, necklaces, bracelets, nail polish, Nike socks, pullovers and hoodies, MP3 players, Bluetooth speakers, portable DVD players, phone/iPod cases, etc.

Gift cards — Activity gift cards/passes/financial sponsorship for activities for the children to do during Christmas break: Santa Train, Trolley Lights Tour, movie passes, roller skating, bowling, McDonald's, Chick-Fil-A, Chuck E. Cheese, Monkey Joe's, Riverbanks Zoo Christmas Lights, EdVenture Kids Museum, etc., clothing and toy purchasing gift cards such as Walmart, JCPenney, Kmart, TJ Maxx, Belk, etc.

These items do not need to be wrapped. Gifts may be dropped off at the administrative building front desk from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, please call (803) 778-6441 or e-mail krowell@crosswellhome.org. Because of storage and staff constraints, we cannot accept unsolicited donations of used clothing, toys, etc.

SUMTER UNITED MINISTRIES

The Lord's Cupboard at Sumter United Ministries is accepting food donations. The pantry is in need of dried beans, macaroni and cheese, canned vegetables, canned fruit, boxed potatoes (scalloped, au gratin, etc.), rice mix (Lipton, Rice-A-Roni, etc.), pasta (spaghetti, noodles, etc.), peanut butter, jelly, shelf-life milk or canned meat and fish such as tuna, salmon, chicken or Vienna sausage. For more information on donating or volunteering, call (803) 775-0757, or email info@sumterunitedministries.org.

FOXWORTH HELPING HANDS FOOD DRIVE

The Senior Corporal Elizabeth Foxworth Helping Hands Food Drive will take place on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 9 a.m. In honor of the event's namesake and her "unconditional loyalty to the Sumter County Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Sumter County," the agency says this is its way of giving back to the community during the holidays.

Donated non-perishable items will be delivered to families in need by sheriff's office personnel and volunteers.

Pre-packaged food bags can be purchased for \$5 from Save-A-Lot at 674 W. Liberty St. The sheriff's office will also accept other non-perishable items.

All donations should be delivered to the sheriff's office by noon on Dec. 13.

Supplies may be limited, so it is advised to respond with the name of the family a bag will be donated to with their address, phone number and any special circumstances to include blindness, wheelchair assistance, etc.

For information, contact Lt. Petrina Wiley at (803) 436-2026 no later than Dec. 13.

CRAM-A-CRUISER TOY DRIVE

Sumter Police Department's Cram-a-Cruiser Toy Drive will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 9 and Dec. 16. All donations will benefit the Salvation Army's Christmas Toy Drive for distribution to children in the Sumter community. For information, call Sumter Police Department Community Services Unit, 107 E. Hampton Ave., at (803) 436-2723 or 436-2700.

FIRESIDE FUND

With the help of Sumter United Ministries, Fireside Fund provides financial support to local families that need assistance with heating utilities this fall and winter.

This year's Fireside Fund is dedicated to Thomas R. "Tommy" Mims Jr., former sheriff of Sumter County.

Fireside Fund — established by *The Sumter Item* in November 1969 — helps families and individuals pay heating bills and purchase heating supplies. Since its start 47 years ago, Fireside Fund has collected more than \$1 million in donations from the community.

Anyone in need of assistance with heating or utility costs can call Sumter United Ministries at (803) 775-0757.

Donations can be mailed to *The Sumter Item*, P.O. Box 1677, Sumter, SC 29151, or dropped off at the office, 36 W. Liberty St. The last day to send in donations is Monday, Jan. 22.

Names, including groups, should be spelled completely. When making a donation in someone's honor, the names will be printed as given.



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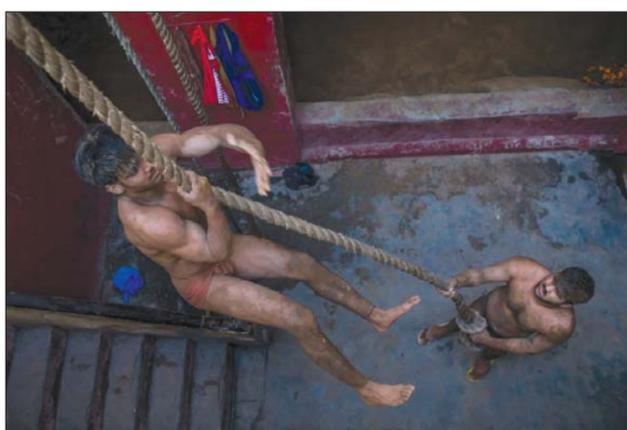
Ancient wrestling offers a future for some in modern India

BY NICK PERRY
The Associated Press

BAHADURGARH, India — Wearing nothing but loin-cloths, a group of boys warm up by climbing sturdy ropes that take them high into the trees. One teenager walks around the wrestling pit swirling incense, blessing the arena and preparing it for battle.

On this November evening, as the dusk thickens and the bugs venture out, a couple of dozen young devotees of kushti, the ancient Indian style of wrestling, have gathered to face off. They range in age from 10 to 16. The earth in the pit has been prepared as it has been for centuries, turned over and mixed with sawdust, turmeric and ghee, or clarified butter. It's mildly fragrant and soft to the touch, making it easier on the wrestlers' skin.

These devotees, or pehelwans, have made a commitment that extends beyond the hours they spend practicing each morning and evening. They live an ascetic lifestyle, eating specific foods like almond milkshakes and chapatis slathered with ghee. They don't eat meat and refrain from smoking, drinking and dating.



Indian Kushti wrestlers practice rope climbing during their daily training at an akhada, a kind of wrestling hostel at Sabzi Mandi, in New Delhi, India, on Nov. 20.

The sport, thought to be 2,000 years old, is mentioned in ancient Hindu texts and depicted in temple carvings. Although women wrestlers have made strides recently in India, the vast majority of participants are men. But like many traditions in a country that's rapidly modernizing, kushti wrestling faces the threat of being left behind. It remains popular in states like Haryana, where these pehelwans are training. For many poor fami-

lies, wrestling provides a glimmer of hope. Those who succeed can earn money, respect in their communities and even particular jobs. They're often employed by the police force or India's railways.

Fifteen-year-old Ankur Bharadwaj says it's his dream to win an Olympic medal, like his idol Sushil Kumar, who has won two Olympic medals for India in freestyle wrestling. Bharadwaj says he gets up at 4 a.m. and jogs to the wrestling

pit before going to school. "Hard work makes a man perfect," he says. "That's why we are practicing so regularly. There are no breaks if you want to be a wrestler."

Inside the pit, Bharadwaj and the other wrestlers rub their hands with the earth and toss it over their bodies. Under the watchful eye of their coach, they lock arms with their opponents, lunging for their legs as they try to flip them onto their backs and into submission.

The boys aspire to be accepted into an akhada, a kind of wrestling hostel where they're given a bed and can devote themselves to the sport full-time if they choose. Akhadas come with shrines to the Hindu god Hanuman, who is seen as a kind of patron saint to the sport.

At dawn at a small akhada in the suburbs of Delhi, a man circles the arena dragging a thick piece of wood to smooth the earth. Another crushes almonds with a large mortar and pestle. A poster on the gate advertises a local wrestling bout with a first-place prize of about \$3,000.

Coach Hemand Kumar, 35, says wrestling has always been

his passion. Even before he started at age 10, he would get up before dawn and watch his father wrestle. The boys who take it up are saved from "the nonsense" of the streets, he says. But he worries about the sport's future in a country with a rapidly rising middle class.

"The rich kids, they don't want to do it," he says. "Those people who don't have the money, they're interested. But they don't have the resources."

Jai Prakash, a former Olympic wrestler who is president of the Delhi Amateur Wrestling Association, says it's getting more difficult to find the land needed to set up new akhadas. And unlike the nation's most popular sport of cricket, he says, it's tough to find sponsors for kushti.

"Wrestling bouts in villages used to be like the festival season, with a joyous mood and crowds celebrating victories of their favorite wrestlers," he says.

Still, he's upbeat about the future of the sport, which is also known as pehlwani. He says wrestling authorities want to make kushti a part of some international wrestling competitions, something he hopes might begin next year.

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Los Angeles subway work uncovers array of Ice Age fossils

LOS ANGELES (AP) — As part of the crew digging a subway extension under the streets of Los Angeles, Ashley Leger always keeps her safety gear close by.

When her phone buzzes, she quickly dons a neon vest, hard hat and goggles before climbing deep down into a massive construction site beneath a boulevard east of downtown.

Earth-movers are diverted, and Leger gets on her hands and knees and gently brushes the dirt from a spot pointed out by a member of her team. Her heart beats faster because there's a chance she'll uncover what she calls "the big find."

Leger is a paleontologist who digs for fossils in the middle of a city rather than an open plain or desert. She works for a company contracted by Los Angeles transportation officials to keep paleontologists on hand as workers extend a subway line to the city's west side.

"They're making sure that they're recovering every single fossil that could possibly show up," Leger says of her team of monitors. "They call me anytime things are large and we need to lead an excavation."

Since work on the extension



A skull of a young Columbian mammoth found at the construction site of the Metro Purple Line extension in Los Angeles is placed on a cart at the La Brea Tar Pits and Museum.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

began in 2014, fossilized remains have routinely turned up from creatures that roamed the grasslands and forests that covered the region during the last Ice Age, about 10,000 years ago.

They include a partial rabbit jaw, mastodon tooth, camel foreleg, bison vertebrae and a tooth and ankle bone from a horse.

But the discovery that still makes Leger shake her head in disbelief came about a year ago, shortly after construction began on the project's second phase. She was at home getting ready for bed when a call came in from one of her monitors.

"It looks big," he told her.

The next morning, Leger knelt at the site and recognized what appeared to be a partial

elephant skull.

It turned out to be much more. After 15 hours of painstaking excavation, the team uncovered an intact skull of a juvenile mammoth.

"It's an absolute dream come true for me," said Leger, who spent the previous decade at a South Dakota mammoth site with no discoveries even close to the size of the one in Los Angeles. "It's the one fossil you always want to find in your career."

California's stringent environmental laws require scientists to be on hand at certain construction sites.

Paleontologists have staffed all L.A. subway digs beginning in the 1990s, when work started on the city's inaugural line, said Dave Sotero, spokesman

for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Paying for the paleontologist staff from Cogstone Resource Management is factored into the project's cost, he said. When scientists are brought in to see what crews might have unearthed, work on the project continues, albeit in a different location.

"Our crews try to be as mindful as possible to help them do their jobs. We get out of their way," Sotero said, adding that when the mammoth skull was uncovered, construction workers helped deliver it to the mouth of the site.

From there, the skull was hauled a mile or so to Los Angeles' La Brea Tar Pits and Museum, home to one of

America's most fossil-rich sites.

Assistant curator Dr. Emily Lindsey called it a "pretty remarkable find," noting that while thousands of dire wolf and saber-toothed cat remains have been uncovered in L.A., there have been only about 30 mammoths.

A few hundred pounds and the size of an easy chair, the skull is especially rare because both tusks were attached. It's being studied and is available for public viewing inside the museum's glass-walled Fossil Lab.

With a nod to Hollywood, the 8- to 12-year-old Columbian mammoth was named Hayden, for the actress Hayden Panetiere, featured in the TV series "Nashville" and "Heroes."

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SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

A past Boykin Christmas Parade float featured the movie "A Christmas Story."

BOYKIN FROM PAGE A1

Given the parade's popularity and a pleasant forecast, he's also expecting a large turnout. The parade route is about a half to three quarters of a mile along Old Boykin Mill Road in Kershaw County, just north of the Sumter County line on S.C. 261.

Given historically large crowds, a trolley will again be used this year to help shuttle spectators from an overflow parking

area to the parade site, according to Belger.

Belger advises parade-goers to get there early Sunday. He said some individuals begin getting to the annual parade at 8 or 9 a.m.

S.C. 261, Boykin Mill Road and Swift Creek Road will close at 1 p.m.

For more information about the parade, visit the parade's website at www.theboykinchristmasparade.com.

PASTOR FROM PAGE A1

do missions in Johannesburg, South Africa. She said it was her first missions trip and a life-changing experience, which has impacted her work back home in a good way.

She led revival services in churches for two days and also did missions work with native children for two days.

Mathis ministered in the Soweto township of the city of Johannesburg. Soweto has a population of about 1.3 million and has many tremendously poor areas, she said.

She said she was amazed that people with so little were still grateful. Homes lacked electricity and running water, people wore hand-me-down clothes that didn't fit properly, and food rations were small, but the people didn't complain, according to Mathis.

And she was struck by how receptive the people were to hearing God's word.

"It taught me how there is so much that we take for granted here," Mathis said. "It taught me that we should be grateful for what we do have."

On her trip, she said she vowed to make a deposit in the people and show the compassion of Christ. She took about 150 toys with her to distribute to children in a suitcase that weighed 48 pounds. Most of the toys were small and bought at Walmart, Dollar-Tree or Dollar General, she said.

She was warmed by the children's response in the township.

"Just seeing the bright smile on some of the kids' faces — it was like they had Christmas in October and November," Mathis said. "Even with a dollar toy, while some of our children are so unappreciative, some of the kids there were just so amazed."

She brought the lessons learned back



PHOTO PROVIDED

Mathis is shown with children in Soweto township in Johannesburg, South Africa, during her mission trip there recently.

home to Sumter and her church. She wants people to understand better the spirit of freely giving to others and meeting their needs, she said.

Her congregation has taken notice, but many have also always spoken highly of Mathis.

"She is a true woman of God," church member Melvin White said. "She truly labors for the Lord, and she teaches us and our children to do the same."

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To learn more about the comprehensive care Pastor Marlin Clemons received and watch a video about his story, visit PalmettoHealth.org/TuomeyCancer.

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COMMENTARY

Moral values and customs vs. laws

I'm approaching my 82nd birthday, and my daughter will occasionally suggest that modernity is perplexing to me because I'm from pre-historic times. As such, it points to one of the unavoidable problems of youth — namely, the temptation to think that today's behavioral standards have always been. Let's look at a few of the differences between yesteryear and today.

One of those differences is the treatment of women.

There are awesome physical strength differences between men and women. To create and maintain civil relationships between the sexes is to drum into boys, starting from very young ages, that they are not to use violence against a woman for any reason. Special respect is given women. Yesteryear even the lowest of lowdown men would not curse or use foul language to or in the presence of women. To see a man sitting on a crowded bus or trolley car while a woman is standing used to be unthinkable. It was deemed common decency for a man to give up his seat for a woman or elderly person.

Today young people use foul language in front of — and often to — adults and teachers. It's not just foul language. Many youngsters feel that it's acceptable to assault teachers. Just recently, 45 Pennsylvania teachers resigned because of student violence (<http://tinyurl.com/yacmn5dz>). Back in what my daughter calls prehistoric times, the use of foul language to an adult or teacher would have meant a smack across the face. Of course, today a parent taking such corrective action risks being reported to a local child protective service and even being arrested. The modern parental or teacher response to misbehavior is to call for "time out." In other words, what we've taught miscreants of all ages is that they can impose physical pain on others and not suffer physical pain themselves. That's an open invitation to bad behavior.

It has always been considered a good idea to refrain from sexual intercourse until marriage or at least adulthood. During the sexual revolution of the 1960s, lessons of abstinence were ridiculed, considered passe

and replaced with lessons about condoms, birth control pills and abortion. Out-of-wedlock childbirths are no longer seen as shameful and a disgrace. As a result, the rate of illegitimate births among whites is over 30 percent, and among blacks, it's over 70 percent.

For over a half-century, the nation's liberals — along with the education establishment, pseudo-intellectuals and the courts — have waged war on traditions, customs and moral values.

Many in today's generation have been counseled to believe that there are no moral absolutes. Instead, what's moral or immoral, right or wrong, is a matter of convenience, personal opinion or what is or is not criminal.

Society's first line of defense is not the law but customs, tra-

ditions and moral values. Customs, traditions and moral values are those important thou-shalt-nots, such as thou shalt not murder, shalt not steal, shalt not lie and shalt not cheat. They also include respect for parents, teachers and others in authority, plus those courtesies one might read in Emily Post's rules of etiquette. These behavioral norms — mostly transmitted by example, word of mouth and religious teachings — represent a body of wisdom distilled over the ages through experience, trial and error, and looking at what works and what doesn't.

The importance of customs, traditions and moral values as a means of regulating behavior is that people behave themselves even if nobody's watching. There are not enough cops. Laws can never replace these restraints on personal conduct in producing a civilized society. At best, the police and the criminal justice system are the last desperate lines of defense for a civilized society. Unfortunately, customs, traditions and moral values have been discarded without an appreciation for the role they played in creating a civilized society, and now we're paying the price — and that includes the recent revelations regarding the treatment of women.

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

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COMMENTARY

What should we fight for?

“We will never accept Russia's occupation and attempted annexation of Crimea,” declared Rex Tillerson last week in Vienna.

“Crimea-related sanctions will remain in place until Russia returns full control of the peninsula to Ukraine.”



Pat Buchanan

one day after President Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital and pledged to move our embassy there.

How did Israel gain title to East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Golan Heights? Invasion, occupation, colonization, annexation. Those lands are the spoils of victory from Israel's 1967 Six-Day War.

Is Israel being severely sanctioned like Russia? Not quite. Her yearly U.S. stipend is almost \$4 billion, as she builds settlement after settlement on occupied land despite America's feeble protests.

What Bibi Netanyahu just demonstrated is that, when dealing with the Americans and defending what is vital to Israel, perseverance pays off. Given time, the Americans will accept the new reality.

Like Bibi, Vladimir Putin is a nationalist. For him, the recapture of Crimea was the achievement of his presidency. Putin is not going to return Crimea to Kiev, and, eventually, we will accept this new reality as well.

For while whose flag flies over Crimea has never been crucial to us, it is to Putin. And like Israelis, Russians are resolute when it comes to

taking and holding what they see as rightly theirs.

Both these conflicts reveal underlying realities that help explain America's 21st-century-long retreat. We face allies and antagonists who are more willing than are we to take risks, endure pain, persevere and fight to prevail.

This month, just days after North Korea tested a new ICBM, national security adviser H. R. McMaster declared that Trump “is committed to the total denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.”

If so, we are committed to a goal we almost surely are not going to achieve. For, short of a war that could go nuclear, Kim Jong Un is not going to yield to our demands.

For Kim, nuclear weapons are not an option.

North Korea may enter talks, but Kim will never surrender the missiles and nukes that guarantee his survival. Look for the Americans to find a way to accommodate him.

Consider, too, China's proclaimed ownership of the South China Sea and her building on reefs and rocks in that sea, of artificial islands that are becoming air, missile and naval bases.

Hawkish voices are being raised that this is intolerable and U.S. air and naval power must be used if necessary to force a rollback of China's annexation and militarization of the South China Sea.

Why is this not going to happen?

While this area is regarded as vital to China, it is not to us. And while China, a littoral state that controls Hainan Island in that sea, is a legitimate claimant to many of its islets, we are claimants to none.

Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, the Philippines and Taiwan are the other claimants. But though their interests in the fishing grounds and seabed resour-

ces may be as great as China's, none has seen fit to challenge Beijing's hegemony.

Why should we risk war with China to validate the claims of Communist Vietnam or Rodrigo Duterte's ruthless regime in Manila? Why should their fight become our fight?

China's interests in the sea are as crucial to her as were U.S. interests in the Caribbean when, a rising power in 1823, we declared the Monroe Doctrine. Over time, the world's powers came to recognize and respect U.S. special interests in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico.

Given the steady rise of Chinese military power, the proximity of the islets to mainland China, the relative weakness and reluctance to confront of the other claimants, China will likely become the controlling power in the South China Sea, as we came to be the predominant power in the Western Hemisphere.

What we are witnessing in Crimea, across the Middle East, in the South China Sea, on the Korean peninsula, are nations more willing than we to sacrifice and take risks, because their interests there are far greater than ours.

What America needs is a new national consensus on what is vital to us and what is not, what we are willing to fight to defend and what we are not.

For this generation of Americans is not going to risk war, indefinitely, to sustain some Beltway elite's idea of a “rules-based new world order.” After the Cold War, we entered a new world — and we need new red lines to replace the old.

Patrick J. Buchanan is the author of a new book, “Nixon's White House Wars: The Battles That Made and Broke a President and Divided America Forever.”

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

WE NEED CANTY AS THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF MORRIS COLLEGE

This is an open letter to the State Baptist Education and Missionary Convention, the Morris College Board of Trustees, alumni, students and the Sumter community. I am writing this open letter to each of the above entities to insist Dr. Ralph W. Canty seeks the presidency of Morris College. I am encouraging him, with enthusiasm, to seek the position of president of Morris College, and I am asking the decision-makers to give him due consideration if he decides to pursue this endeavor.

Dr. Canty has a doctorate degree and understands the social and economic diversity of the students who attend

our great institution. He is a person that has excellent communication skills with people of all races, economic background and academic ability and he is open to listening to all ideas given to him. Dr. Canty will lead Morris College to a productive, professional and progressive second decade of the 21st century. In addition, he is a Morris College alumnus, and I feel strongly that it is time that we have a Morrisite to lead Morris College.

Dr. Canty is absolutely the best choice to lead our institution into a progressive and prosperous future. He is one of the most successful pastors in the state of South Carolina, a successful businessman, politician, school board member and a former educator. Dr. Canty is also known nationally as the former general secretary of the National Baptist Association in Wash-

ington, D.C.

As a former legislator, Dr. Canty possesses the political skills and contacts that would greatly enhance the college and its mission. He will be frugal, yet progressive with the funds of the college and he will be a prolific fundraiser for Morris College. As a man of his own personal means, Dr. Canty would not be a person that we would have to be concerned with as it relates to the college's funds.

Dr. Canty is also an avid sports fan who would enhance the quality and visibility of our athletics programs. He clearly understands the relationship between a good athletic program and student recruitment and retention. Dr. Canty understands and relates well with young people. He is also not afraid to have an understudy who will one day be able to take over the reins of the

college when his tenure is over.

For those who are concerned about Dr. Canty's age — We all know that in these modern times 70 is the new 50. Our last president, who by far was the greatest president in our college's history, was in his 80s when he retired. Plus, Dr. Canty appears to be in good physical health with excellent stamina.

My wife and I have committed ourselves to a monthly contribution to Morris College in support of the college and Dr. Canty. Sometimes what we need is staring us in the face — We just need to open our eyes and see the needed blessing. Please join me in encouraging Dr. Canty to seek the best job, at the best institution with unlimited potential — *Morris College.*

BENNY L. WEBB
B.S. Morris College
Class of 1980

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

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

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

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

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

AA Summerton Group — Wednesday, 8 p.m., town hall.

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

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

MONDAY MEETINGS:

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

TUESDAY MEETINGS:

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

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

Mothers of Angels (for mothers who have lost a child) — First Tuesday at noon and third Tuesday at 6 p.m., Wise Drive Baptist Church. Call (803) 469-6059, (803) 979-4498, (803) 469-4506 or (803) 938-8544.

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

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

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

Sumter Chapter Parents of Murdered Children (POMC) — Third Tuesday, 5:30-7 p.m., Birnie

HOPE Center, 210 S. Purdy St. Open to anyone who has lost a loved one to murder in a violent way.

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

WEDNESDAY MEETINGS:

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

Divorce Care — Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., Bethel Baptist Church, 2401 Bethel Church Road. Call (803) 481-2160.

Grief Share — Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., Bethel Baptist Church, 2401 Bethel Church Road. Call (803) 481-2160.

THURSDAY MEETINGS:

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

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

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

FRIDAY MEETINGS:

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

Wateree AIDS Task Force Support Group — Third Friday, 11:30 a.m., 508 W. Liberty St. Call (803) 778-0303.

SATURDAY MEETINGS:

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

SUNDAY MEETINGS:

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

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2017

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Plenty of sunshine	Clear	Warmer with plenty of sunshine	Times of clouds and sun	Plenty of sun	Partial sunshine
49°	35°	59° / 36°	56° / 31°	54° / 34°	59° / 44°
Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 5%	Chance of rain: 5%	Chance of rain: 20%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 10%
WSW 6-12 mph	SW 7-14 mph	W 7-14 mph	WSW 6-12 mph	SW 4-8 mph	S 4-8 mph

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

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

IN THE MOUNTAINS

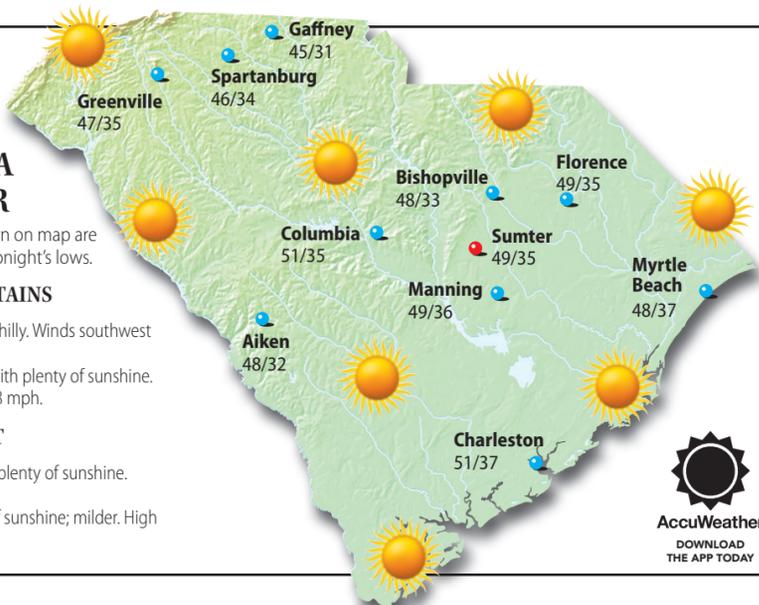
Today: Sunny and chilly. Winds southwest 6-12 mph. Clear.

Thursday: Milder with plenty of sunshine. Winds southwest 4-8 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: Cooler with plenty of sunshine. High 48 to 52.

Thursday: Plenty of sunshine; milder. High 58 to 62.



LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THROUGH 2 P.M. YESTERDAY

Temperature	High	Low
High	60°	
Low	42°	
Normal high	57°	
Normal low	35°	
Record high	81° in 2007	
Record low	9° in 1958	

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
24 hrs ending 2 p.m. yest.	0.00"	2.62"	1.21"	36.14"	46.57"	44.81"

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	354.73	-0.01
Marion	76.8	74.35	-0.01
Moultrie	75.5	74.31	+0.07
Wateree	100	96.55	+0.05

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	9.18	+0.61
Congaree River	19	1.30	+0.09
Lynches River	14	8.26	+0.51
Saluda River	14	2.50	-0.28
Up. Santee River	80	76.60	-0.24
Wateree River	24	5.41	+0.01

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	7:19 a.m.	Sunset	5:14 p.m.
Moonrise	2:56 a.m.	Moonset	2:39 p.m.

	New	First	Full	Last
	Dec. 18	Dec. 26	Jan. 1	Jan. 8

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH				
	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	5:25 a.m.	3.1	12:12 p.m.	0.3
	5:31 p.m.	2.8	---	---
Thu.	6:15 a.m.	3.2	12:27 a.m.	0.1
	6:19 p.m.	2.8	1:03 p.m.	0.2

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Thu.
Atlanta	49/37/s	54/34/s
Chicago	36/20/sn	31/20/c
Dallas	75/41/s	61/36/s
Detroit	25/12/sn	22/12/sf
Houston	63/41/pc	66/42/s
Los Angeles	81/53/s	78/52/s
New Orleans	62/45/s	67/45/pc
New York	32/27/pc	34/22/sf
Orlando	62/41/s	73/55/pc
Philadelphia	32/27/pc	38/22/sf
Phoenix	75/46/s	75/47/s
San Francisco	62/45/s	64/46/s
Wash., DC	36/31/pc	45/28/c

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Thu.	City	Today	Thu.
Asheville	43/33/s	46/23/s	Florence	49/35/s	59/35/s
Athens	49/35/s	55/32/s	Gainesville	58/37/s	70/48/pc
Augusta	52/33/s	60/35/s	Gastonia	47/33/s	54/31/s
Beaufort	52/38/s	62/40/s	Goldstboro	45/34/s	57/32/s
Cape Hatteras	43/38/pc	56/44/s	Goose Creek	49/36/s	60/38/s
Charleston	51/37/s	61/38/s	Greensboro	40/32/s	51/28/pc
Charlotte	47/34/s	55/31/s	Greenville	47/33/s	55/31/s
Clemson	47/36/s	54/33/s	Hickory	43/34/s	50/30/s
Columbia	51/35/s	60/38/s	Hilton Head	51/41/s	61/42/s
Darlington	47/34/s	58/35/s	Jacksonville, FL	58/39/s	70/47/pc
Elizabeth City	41/30/s	53/32/s	La Grange	52/36/s	58/33/s
Elizabethtown	46/34/s	56/35/pc	Macon	52/34/s	60/36/s
Fayetteville	47/34/s	57/33/s	Marietta	49/36/s	53/31/s
			Marion	44/28/s	48/27/pc
			Mt. Pleasant	50/39/s	61/41/s
			Myrtle Beach	48/37/s	59/41/s
			Orangeburg	49/35/s	59/37/s
			Port Royal	51/39/s	61/41/s
			Raleigh	42/33/s	53/29/s
			Rock Hill	47/34/s	54/32/s
			Rockingham	46/31/s	55/32/s
			Savannah	53/37/s	64/40/s
			Spartanburg	46/34/s	53/31/s
			Summerville	49/35/s	59/36/s
			Wilmington	47/35/s	59/38/s
			Winston-Salem	41/32/s	51/29/pc

PUBLIC AGENDA

SUMTER COUNTY VOTER REGISTRATION / ELECTION COMMISSION
Thursday, 5:30 p.m., registration / election office, 141 N. Main St.

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

The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep your goals in mind no matter

what else crops up. Knowing what you want to accomplish will help you avoid anyone trying to interfere with your success. Feeling good about personal changes you make should be your priority.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take advantage of any promising opportunities that encourage you to learn, gather valuable information or find a secure foothold in your career. Protect your ideas, possessions, money and personal information.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Err on the side of caution when dealing with others. You'll be misinterpreted or end up in a compromising position if you let someone speak on your behalf. Concentrate on making positive changes that help you avoid being misrepresented.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Expand your interests and share your thoughts and feelings. Nurture important relationships and extend your ideas to people who can help you get ahead. Networking functions or helping those in need of help will pay off.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A face-off will lead to dissatisfaction. Look for alternative ways to avoid an altercation. Focus on what you can do to help any situation you face instead of making it worse. Physical activities will help ease your stress.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put greater emphasis on your relationships with others, especially when dealing with peers, relatives or anyone who can affect your personal security. Knowing what you are up against and keeping a calm exterior will make a difference.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Make change count. If you want to do something, stop procrastinating and follow through. Talk to whomever you need approval from or find an expert to help you make the right choices. If you remain in control, you will reach your destination successfully.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Go over your personal finances, medical records and any documents, contracts or legal matters that may need updating before the year comes to a close. Staying on top of your affairs will bring you peace of mind.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It's your turn to put you and your plans first and foremost. Do whatever it takes to bring about the changes that will give you the freedom to be who and what you want to become. Live in the moment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Learn and hone your skills and apply what you know and do well in order to get ahead. An unexpected opportunity will give you an inside look at what you want to achieve. Focus on and pursue your goals.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotions will be difficult to control. Avoid getting into a spat over money matters. A settlement, legal concern or promise will escalate a situation. Take care of the paperwork and responsibilities. Be realistic about what you can and cannot do.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Wrap your head around ways that you can make your cash grow. Taking care of personal business will help pave the way to an easy turnaround when tax time comes along. Don't leave anything to chance.

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Sumter, SC

803-774-2100

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Comfort & Style

SUMTER ANIMAL CONTROL PETS OF THE WEEK



CAN'T ADOPT BUT WOULD STILL LIKE TO HELP IN SOME WAY?

Sumter Animal Control will gladly accept donations of the following:

Capstar flea control pills (available at Petco or Tractor Supply), bleach (gallons or spray bottle type), metal food and water bowls in all sizes, towels, waterless pet shampoo, dog cologne, kibble, puppy food, newspapers and leashes and collars. You can also make a tax-deductible donation via Paypal at sumterstrays@gmail.com. One hundred percent of your donation will be used for the animals at Sumter Animal Control.

TOP: Comet is one of those dogs who loves with her whole heart. Quiet and gentle, she is content to snuggle next to you on a couch and look at you adoringly. This young girl is smart. In just a few minutes, with the help of some treats, she got the hang of the "sit" command. People-friendly and dog-friendly in a small size, she is simply a perfect little lady.

BELOW: Dasher is movie star handsome. This medium-sized boy is about a year old with a lot of puppy energy. He would be great for a family with kids, as we think he has the potential to be a world class Frisbee catcher. If you're looking for a hiking buddy or just a family dog who can keep up with you, Dasher is your boy. We recommend a fenced yard so that he can safely run and play when you are at home.

Comet and Dasher are hoping for forever homes for the holidays. To inquire about Comet in kennel 28 or Dasher in kennel 22, call the volunteer coordinator at (803) 774-3232 or drop by 1240 Winkles Road. We have many other adoptable dogs as well as animals who were found and are waiting for their owners to claim them. Be sure to check Sumter Animal Control on Facebook.

PREP BASKETBALL

Lakewood girls fall 39-38, boys top Manning

BY EDDIE LITAKER
Special to The Sumter Item

In a back-and-forth contest, Manning High School controlled the first half, Lakewood led for much of the second half and the Lady Monarchs closed with a 7-0 run to pull out a 39-38 win over the Lady Gators on Tuesday in a varsity girls basketball game at The Swamp.

Manning led by as much as eight in the first half, with the last occurrence coming at 22-14 after a Mahogany Green 3-point basket with 4:35 left in the half.

Lakewood's largest lead was six, achieved on two occasions, with the last coming at 38-32 before the Lady Monarchs' decisive run.

Kiari Cain, who led the Lady Gators with 13 points, came away with what seemed to be a game-clinching steal on a long inbound pass attempt by Manning with 33 seconds left. With the Lady Gators clinging to a 38-37 lead, Ariyonia Busby committed her fourth foul, sending Cain to the line, where the junior guard missed the front end of a 1-and-1.



MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

SEE GATORS, PAGE B3 Lakewood's Lashala Harvin drives to the basket during the Lady Gators' 39-38 loss to Manning on Tuesday at The Swamp.

COMMENTARY

It's back!

Brunson Championship Series opens possibilities for what college football playoffs could really be

Clemson defensive end Clelin Ferrell (99) pressures Ohio State quarterback J.T. Barrett (16) during the second half of the 2016 Fiesta Bowl playoff semifinal in Glendale, Arizona last year. The defending national champion Tigers will be trying to get to their third straight national championship game.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Try as I might, it seems retiring the Brunson Championship Series is an impossibility.

For those who don't know what the real BCS is, it is only the best way to determine a college football national champion ever devised.

I thought when the College Football Playoff came into existence, all of the questions surrounding naming a national champion would go away. It hasn't happened that way.

The Pac-12 and Big Ten conferences have no representatives in the 4-team field this year, and one of the four that is in didn't even play in its conference championship game. Raise



Dennis Brunson

your hand Alabama.

That's not the first time this is happened, but in actuality, I think the committee got it right, especially since it kept Ohio State out.

Still, there is no doubt there is dissatisfaction in the world of college football. Yes, I again heard the chants, "Bring back the BCS!"

So here it is once again. For you longtime readers, just soak it all in. For those

SEE BCS, PAGE B4

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Pough gets another year at S.C. State

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Buddy Pough will have one more season to cement his legacy as the head football coach at South Carolina State University in Orangeburg.



POUGH

Pough, who is second on the all-time victories list at S.C. State, signed a 1-year extension, according to a statement released by the school on Monday.

Pough will be in charge on the sidelines for his 17th season and then he will be part of the process in finding his replacement.

Pough has a 120-64 record with the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference school for which he played as well. Pough guided the Bulldogs to six outright or shared MEAC titles and four trips to the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs.

"I believe this decision is best for the overall athletics program as we begin to focus on transitioning and move into rebuilding mode," S.C. State Athletic Director Stacy Danley said in the statement. "The nucleus of that rebuilding is our football program. Coach Pough holds the record as the second winningest coach in school history. His winning tradition, extensive relationships throughout the state as well as his familiarity of the program and the MEAC Conference all played a role in helping form the decision.

"Coach Pough has agreed to be part of the rebuilding process and the university is looking forward to his input and expertise in securing his replacement."

After having just one losing season in his first 14 seasons though, S.C. State has had losing records each of the past two seasons.

But after having just one losing season in his first 14 years, Pough and the Bulldogs have been under .500 each of the last two seasons. After going 5-6 in 2016, the Bulldogs were just 3-7 this season.

Pough is 10 victories shy of being the leader in victories. College Football Hall of Famer Willie Jeffries, the man for whom Pough played, has the most victories.

PRO FOOTBALL

Pats defense again looking vulnerable with Steelers up next

BY KYLE HIGHTOWER
The Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The Patriots have shown only glints of vulnerability under Bill Belichick.

That's why it was so unexpected this season to see New England putter to a 2-2 start and drop to the bottom of the NFL's defensive rankings after allowing 30 or more points in three of those games.

That changed during an eight-game win streak in which the Patriots' defense was the league's stingiest unit, allowing just 11.8 points per game.

The turnaround also came despite the Patriots losing linebacker Dont'a Hightower to a season-ending injury, and others for various periods of time along the way.

But that run of fortune was halted with Monday's 27-20 setback at Miami. It was the Patriots' first loss since Oct. 1 and their first on the road since a 20-10 defeat at Miami in the 2015 season finale.

Jay Cutler earned his first win against the Patriots, throwing for 263 yards and three touchdowns. Kenyan Drake had 114 yards rushing, becoming just the third running back to reach 100 yards against New England's defense this season.

The defeat also came with a physical



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New England free safety Devin McCourty (32) attempts to stop Miami running back Kenyan Drake (32), during the second half of the Dolphins' 27-20 victory in Miami Gardens, Florida, on Monday. After getting roughed up in the loss, the Patriots defensive unit will have to turn the page quickly before its pivotal matchup with Pittsburgh on Sunday.

price. Defensive lineman Alan Branch left the game with a knee injury, and safety Patrick Chung limped off in the final minute.

It's poor timing for a group that was already without sack leader Trey Flowers (ribs) and linebacker Kyle

Van Noy (calf).

It could make for an even more depleted defense for Sunday's pivotal road matchup against Pittsburgh.

The Steelers (11-2) lead New England

SEE PATRIOTS, PAGE B5

SCOREBOARD

TV, RADIO

TODAY
6:30 a.m. — Professional Boxing: Jeff Horn vs. Gary Corcoran for the WBO Welterweight Title from Brisbane, Australia (ESPN).
12:20 p.m. — International Soccer: Bundesliga League Match — Stuttgart vs. Hoffenheim (FOX SPORTS 2).
1 p.m. — College Football: NCAA Division II Playoffs Semifinal Game — West Florida at Indiana (Pa.) (ESPN).
1 p.m. — Women's College Basketball: McNeese State at Baylor (FOX SPORTS SOUTHEAST).
2:30 p.m. — International Soccer: Bundesliga League Match — Cologne vs. Bayern Munich (FOX SPORTS 1).
2:30 p.m. — International Soccer: Bundesliga League Match — Augsburg vs. Schalke 04 (FOX SPORTS 2).
2:55 p.m. — International Soccer: English Premier League Match — Arsenal vs. West Ham (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
6:05 p.m. — Talk Show: Sports Talk (WDXY-FM 105.9, WDXV-AM 1240).
7 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Oklahoma City at Indiana (ESPN).
7 p.m. — College Basketball: Villanova at Temple (ESPN2).
7 p.m. — Women's College Basketball: Oregon at Mississippi State (SEC NETWORK).
8 p.m. — College Basketball: Western Kentucky at Wisconsin (FOX SPORTS 1).
8 p.m. — NHL Hockey: Boston at Detroit (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
9 p.m. — College Basketball: Kennesaw State at Texas Tech (FOX SPORTS SOUTHEAST).
9 p.m. — College Basketball: Houston at Louisiana State (SEC NETWORK).
9:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Charlotte at Houston (ESPN).
Midnight — Professional Golf: Asian Tour Indonesian Masters First Round from Jakarta, Indonesia (GOLF).

NFL STANDINGS

By The Associated Press
 All Times EST

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	3	0	.769	368	250
Buffalo	7	6	0	.538	240	290
Miami	6	7	0	.462	236	311
N.Y. Jets	5	8	0	.385	266	318

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Jacksonville	9	4	0	.692	329	202
Tennessee	8	5	0	.615	273	294
Houston	4	9	0	.308	312	335
Indianapolis	3	10	0	.231	212	343

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Pittsburgh	11	2	0	.846	320	251
Baltimore	7	6	0	.538	318	246
Cincinnati	5	8	0	.385	226	271
Cleveland	0	13	0	.000	197	335

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	7	6	0	.538	329	289
L.A. Chargers	7	6	0	.538	298	225
Oakland	6	7	0	.462	264	304
Denver	4	9	0	.308	229	315

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Philadelphia	11	2	0	.846	404	250
Dallas	7	6	0	.538	316	294
Washington	5	8	0	.385	285	344
N.Y. Giants	2	11	0	.154	199	321

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	9	4	0	.692	370	263
Carolina	9	4	0	.692	300	262
Atlanta	8	5	0	.615	294	261
Tampa Bay	4	9	0	.308	264	312

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	10	3	0	.769	309	235
Detroit	7	6	0	.538	338	329
Green Bay	7	6	0	.538	285	302
Chicago	4	9	0	.308	224	274

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
L.A. Rams	9	4	0	.692	396	265
Seattle	8	5	0	.615	314	252
Arizona	6	7	0	.462	231	317
San Francisco	3	10	0	.231	228	314

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Atlanta 20, New Orleans 17

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Dallas 30, N.Y. Giants 10
 Carolina 31, Minnesota 24
 Chicago 33, Cincinnati 7
 Kansas City 26, Oakland 15
 Detroit 24, Tampa Bay 21
 Buffalo 13, Indianapolis 7, OT
 Green Bay 27, Cleveland 21, OT
 San Francisco 26, Houston 16
 Denver 23, N.Y. Jets 0
 Arizona 12, Tennessee 7
 L.A. Chargers 30, Washington 13
 Jacksonville 30, Seattle 24
 Philadelphia 43, L.A. Rams 35
 Pittsburgh 39, Baltimore 38

MONDAY'S GAMES

Miami 27, New England 20

THURSDAY, DEC. 14

Denver at Indianapolis, 8:25 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 16

Chicago at Detroit, 4:30 p.m.
 L.A. Chargers at Kansas City, 8:25 p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 17

Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
 Cincinnati at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
 Houston at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
 Arizona at Washington, 1 p.m.
 N.Y. Jets at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
 Miami at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
 Green Bay at Carolina, 1 p.m.
 Baltimore at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
 L.A. Rams at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.
 New England at Pittsburgh, 4:25 p.m.
 Tennessee at San Francisco, 4:25 p.m.
 Dallas at Oakland, 8:30 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 18

Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 8:30 p.m.

NBA STANDINGS

By The Associated Press
 All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	23	6	.793	—
Toronto	17	8	.680	4
New York	13	13	.500	8½
Philadelphia	13	13	.500	8½
Brooklyn	10	15	.400	11

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	14	12	.538	—
Miami	13	13	.500	1
Orlando	11	17	.393	4
Charlotte	10	16	.385	4
Atlanta	6	20	.231	8

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	19	8	.704	—
Milwaukee	15	10	.600	3
Indiana	16	11	.593	3
Detroit	14	12	.538	4½
Chicago	6	20	.231	12½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	21	4	.840	—
San Antonio	19	8	.704	3
New Orleans	14	14	.500	8½
Memphis	8	19	.296	14
Dallas	7	20	.259	15

Northwest Division

MINNESOTA

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	16	11	.593	—
Denver	14	12	.538	1½
Portland	13	13	.500	2½
Utah	13	14	.481	3
Oklahoma City	12	14	.462	3½

PACIFIC DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	22	6	.786	—
L.A. Clippers	10	15	.400	10½
L.A. Lakers	10	15	.400	10½
Phoenix	9	19	.321	13
Sacramento	8	18	.308	13

MONDAY'S GAMES

Charlotte 116, Oklahoma City 103
 Chicago 108, Boston 85
 Houston 130, New Orleans 123
 Miami 107, Memphis 82
 Golden State 111, Portland 104
 L.A. Clippers 96, Toronto 91

TUESDAY'S GAMES

Atlanta at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
 Denver at Detroit, 7 p.m.
 L.A. Lakers at New York, 7 p.m.
 Washington at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
 San Antonio at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
 Philadelphia at Minnesota, 9:30 p.m.
 Phoenix at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

TODAY'S GAMES

L.A. Clippers at Orlando, 7 p.m.
 Memphis at Washington, 7 p.m.
 Oklahoma City at Indiana, 7 p.m.
 Denver at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
 Portland at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
 Milwaukee at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
 Utah at Chicago, 8 p.m.
 Toronto at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
 Charlotte at Houston, 9:30 p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Detroit at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
 New York at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
 L.A. Lakers at Cleveland, 8 p.m.
 Sacramento at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
 Dallas at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Detroit at Indiana, 7 p.m.
 L.A. Clippers at Washington, 7 p.m.
 Miami at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
 Oklahoma City at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
 Portland at Orlando, 7 p.m.
 Brooklyn at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
 Utah at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
 Atlanta at Memphis, 8 p.m.
 Chicago at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
 New Orleans at Denver, 9 p.m.
 San Antonio at Houston, 9:30 p.m.

NHL STANDINGS

By The Associated Press
 All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	29	21	6	2	44	110	74
Toronto	31	20	10	1	41	106	88
Boston	27	14	9	4	32	78	75
Montreal	31	13	14	4	30	85	99
Florida	30	12	14	4	28	90	105
Detroit	30	11	13	6	28	81	99
Ottawa	28	9	12	7	25	77	98
Buffalo	30	7	17	6	20	64	102

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Columbus	30	19	10	1	39	86	73
N.Y. Islanders	30	17	10	3	37	108	100
Washington	31	18	12	1	37	95	91
New Jersey	29	16	9	4	36	89	91
N.Y. Rangers	30	16	11	3	35	99	89
Pittsburgh	32	16	13	3	35	94	104
Carolina	29	11	11	7	29	80	91
Philadelphia	29	11	11	7	29	83	86

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	31	21	8	2	44	104	78
Winnipeg	31	18	8	5	41	107	87
Nashville	29	18	7	4	40	95	84
Dallas	31	17	13	1	35	91	90
Minnesota	29	15	11	3	33	87	87
Chicago	30	14	11	5	33	90	82
Colorado	29	14	13	2	30	92	95

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles	31	20	8	3	43	97	68
Vegas	29	19	9	1	39	103	91
San Jose	29	16	10	3	35	79	69
Calgary	30	16	12	2	34	88	94
Anaheim	31	13	11	7	33	83	91
Vancouver	31	14	13	4	32	82	90
Edmonton	30	12	16	2	26	86	99
Arizona	33	7	21	5	19	75	114

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

MONDAY'S GAMES

Colorado 2, Pittsburgh 1
 Dallas 2, N.Y. Rangers 1, SO
 N.Y. Islanders 3, Washington 1
 Florida 2, Detroit 1, OT
 Winnipeg 5, Vancouver 1
 Anaheim 3, Carolina 2

TUESDAY'S GAMES

Edmonton at Columbus, 7 p.m.
 Ottawa at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
 Toronto at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
 Colorado at Washington, 7 p.m.
 Los Angeles at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
 Calgary at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
 Tampa Bay at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
 Florida at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
 Carolina at Vegas, 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

Dallas at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
 N.Y. Rangers at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
 Boston at Detroit, 8 p.m.
 Nashville at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Buffalo at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
 Washington at Boston, 7 p.m.
 N.Y. Islanders at Columbus, 7 p.m.
 New Jersey at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
 Chicago at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
 Anaheim at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
 Toronto at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
 Florida at Colorado, 9 p.m.
 Tampa Bay at Arizona, 9 p.m.
 Nashville at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
 San Jose at Calgary, 9 p.m.
 Pittsburgh at Vegas, 10 p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Dallas at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
 Carolina at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
 Los Angeles at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
 Toronto at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
 San Jose at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

TUESDAY

By The Associated Press

MLB AMERICAN LEAGUE

NEW YORK YANKEES — Traded 3B Chase Headley, RHP Bryan Mitchell and cash to San Diego for OF Jabari Blash.
 National League
 SAN DIEGO PADRES — Traded INF Ryan Schimpf to Tampa Bay for INF Deion Tansel.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NFL — KR Devin Hester announced his retirement.
 DENVER BRONCOS — Placed G Ron Leary on injured reserve.
 MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Released S Jack Tocho from the practice squad. Signed OT Storm Norton to the practice squad.
 PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Placed LB Ryan Shazier on injured reserve.

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

SEATTLE SOUNDERS — Exercised options on Gs Stefan Frei and Tyler Miller; Ds Tony Alfaro, Oniel Fisher, Chad Marshall and Roman Torres; Ms Jordy Delem, Aaron Kovar, Zach Math



Lakewood's Juwan Perdue throws down a dunk during the Gators' 56-37 victory over Manning on Tuesday at The Swamp.

MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

GATORS FROM PAGE B1

Green then gave the Lady Monarchs the lead with a fast-break reverse layup with 24 seconds left. Lakewood head coach Demetress Adams-Ludd called a timeout with 22 seconds to go, then Rahteshia Burgess had to call another as she struggled to inbound the ball. After a turnover, Lakewood got the ball back following a miss by Green on a 1-and-1 opportunity. The final shot went to Cain, who came up short on a 3 from the left corner.

"I think that was a learning curve for our team and a lesson for us, to take care of the ball, No. 1," said Adams-Ludd, whose team fell to 3-2 on the season. "I think we had a few turnovers in certain possessions that I would rather us not have. Also, making our free throws at the end and some execution things that we've got to get better at. Again, this is a learning experience for us, and if we were ever in this position again, the feeling that the girls felt (after the loss), I think it will change our perspective and our mentality and we'll actually grow from this. So I definitely know in the future it will be a better outcome for us."

Manning head coach Darren Mazyck, whose team moved to 5-1, had a scare in the final minute as top scorer Measha Jones, who finished with 13 points, went down hard and was on the floor for a few anxious moments before walking off under her own power.

"She's going to be fine. I think she just fell, she took a hard foul before, before she got back on the defensive end, and two hard hits to the floor like that can sometimes take a toll on your body," Mazyck said. "She was very responsive, she knew we played in a game, she knew what the score was and she knew we won. She's a team leader, both in scoring and emotionally. Green comes along and helps out, along with (Myisha) Smiling, and we just do it as a team. Right now, those are my big three, with just a defensive effort."

Green closed with nine and Smiling added eight for the Lady Monarchs, who saw the Lady Gators reel off a 13-0 run after the 22-14 Manning lead. The Lady Monarchs led 22-18 at the break, with Lashayla Harvin and Valencia Croom scoring four apiece of the nine points that Lakewood scored to open the second half before a Niyah Brand bucket on the right low post broke Manning's almost 9-minute dry spell.

Before going down with 45 seconds to go, Jones scored the first five of the final seven points for Manning, with the last point coming on a free throw after the aforementioned hard foul following a steal. That back-end make on a 2-shot foul pulled the Lady Monarchs within one, setting the stage for Green's game-winning basket.

Nine of Jones' 13 points came in the second half.

Mazyck said his team struggled at times to match the Lady Gators' speed in the 4-guard lineups that Adams-Ludd put out on the floor.

"Their guards were a little quicker than us, except for like two positions," Mazyck said. "We were trying to combat that (by) keeping the ball out of Cain's hands. But, even with two people on her at times, she still got it and she got some easy shots. Any good shooter, they want layups and free throws to stay in the game. We got back defensively. There was an outstanding play by Measha Jones up top that triggered one (fast break), and Mahogany came back and triggered another. We missed a few free throws down the stretch but we were able to (take advantage of) their misses in coming back."

Harvin scored eight of her 12 points in the second half to provide a 1-2 offensive punch with Cain, who hit two threes among her 13 points.

"They've put in a lot of work over the summer and preseason to get their individual games better, and it's just showing up on the court," Adams-Ludd said of her pair of junior guards. "We're proud of them and we're continuing to lean on them, but there's still growth there, still aspects of the game that they have to understand. But they're doing a wonderful job for us and we just want to continue to push them and create a platform to where they can get better."

In the boys game, Lakewood defeated Manning 56-37. Grant Singleton scored 17 points to lead the Gators, who improved to 4-1. Juwan Perdue added 11 points and Terrell Houston and Quinten Hodge both had seven points.



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GIRLS AREA ROUNDUP

Lee Central opens region with win

LANCASTER — Lee Central High School's varsity girls basketball team opened its Region IV-2A schedule with a 31-20 victory over Buford on Tuesday at the BHS gymnasium.

Robinine Myers led the Lady Stallions with 12 points and five steals. Tashanna Harris added seven points and eight rebounds, Kendra Lesane had six points and Keionyah Davis grabbed nine rebounds.

**WILSON HALL 52
PALMETTO CHRISTIAN 30**

Wilson Hall improved to 7-2 on the season with a 52-30 victory over Palmetto Christian on Tuesday at Nash Student Center.

Natalie Jackson led the Lady Barons with 14 points and six rebounds. Susanna Hutson added 10 and Courtney Clark had eight.

**PATRICK HENRY 53
CLARENDON HALL 22**

ESTILL — Clarendon Hall lost to Patrick Henry 53-22 on Monday at the PHA gymnasium.

Whitney Avins led the Lady Saints with eight

points. Mallory McIntosh added six.

**PEE DEE 41
THOMAS SUMTER 35**

MULLINS — Thomas Sumter Academy lost to Pee Dee Academy 41-35 on Monday at the PDA gymnasium.

Aubrey Stoddard led the Lady Generals with 11 points. Sydney Daniel added eight and Taja Hunley had six.

Lindsay Martin had 12 for Pee Dee and Anna Grace Johnson added 10.

JV BASKETBALL

**WILSON HALL 38
PALMETTO CHRISTIAN 24**

Wilson Hall improved to 8-0 with a 38-24 victory over Palmetto Christian on Tuesday at Nash Student Center.

Andi Grae Wingate had 13 points to lead the Lady Barons. Lucy Matthews added 11 and Gracyn Coker had eight.

**CRESTWOOD 32
LOWER RICHLAND 16**

HOPKINS — Crestwood defeated Lower Richland 32-16 on Monday at the Diamond Mine.

Shinyah Davis led the

Lady Knights with 10 points.

**LAURENCE MANNING 32
THE KING'S ACADEMY 24**

MANNING — Laurence Manning Academy won its fourth straight game with a 32-24 victory over The King's Academy at Bubba Davis Gymnasium.

The 4-1 Lady Swampcats were led by Breanna Boykin and Audrey Bennett with 10 points apiece.

**CLARENDON HALL 26
PATRICK HENRY 23**

ESTILL — Bailey Corbett scored 10 points to lead Clarendon Hall to a 26-23 victory over Patrick Henry on Monday at the PHA gymnasium.

Amberly Way added five for the Lady Saints.

MIDDLE SCHOOL HOOPS

**BATES 36
MAYEWOOD 19**

Alicia Spann had a double-double to lead Bates to a 36-19 victory over Mayewood on Monday at the MMS gymnasium.

Spann had 13 points and 13 rebounds. Alyssa Johnson added seven.

BOYS AREA ROUNDUP

Saints move to 3-0 with 85-49 victory

ESTILL — Clarendon Hall's varsity boys basketball team improved to 3-0 in region play with an 85-49 victory over Patrick Henry Academy on Monday at the PHA gymnasium.

Zyan Gilmore led the Saints with 34 points. Kylic Horton added 21 points, while Kade Elliott had nine, Tyrese Mitchum had eight points and eight rebounds and Dylan Way had seven.

**WILSON HALL 38
CAROLINA 35**

LAKE CITY — Wilson Hall evened its record at 4-4 with a 38-35 victory over Carolina Academy on Monday at the CA field.

Chandler Scott led the Barons with 10 points. Landon VanPatten had nine points and nine rebounds, while Greyson Sonntag snagged 12 rebounds to go with three points.

**LAURENCE MANNING 76
THE KING'S ACADEMY 67**

MANNING — Laurence Manning Academy improved to 6-2 with a 76-67 victory over The King's Academy on Monday at Bubba Davis Gymnasium.

Dawson Hatfield led LMA with 19 points. Jerrell Kelly had 18 points and Taylor Lee and Grayson Dennis both had 12 points. Jake Jordan added eight.

Tyrek Epps led The King's with 33 points.

JV BASKETBALL

**PALMETTO CHRISTIAN 52
WILSON HALL 31**

Wilson Hall fell to 5-3 with a 52-31 loss to Palmetto Christian on Tuesday at Nash Student Center.

Evan Hoffman led the Barons with 13 points.

**PATRICK HENRY 25
CLARENDON HALL 17**

ESTILL — Clarendon Hall lost to Patrick Henry Academy 25-17 on Monday at the PHA gymnasium.

Josh Black and Jonathan McIntosh both had seven points for the 1-4 Saints.

B TEAM BASKETBALL

**CARDINAL NEWMAN 51
WILSON HALL 33**

Wilson Hall fell to 5-2 with a 51-33 loss to Cardinal Newman on Tuesday at Nash Student Center.

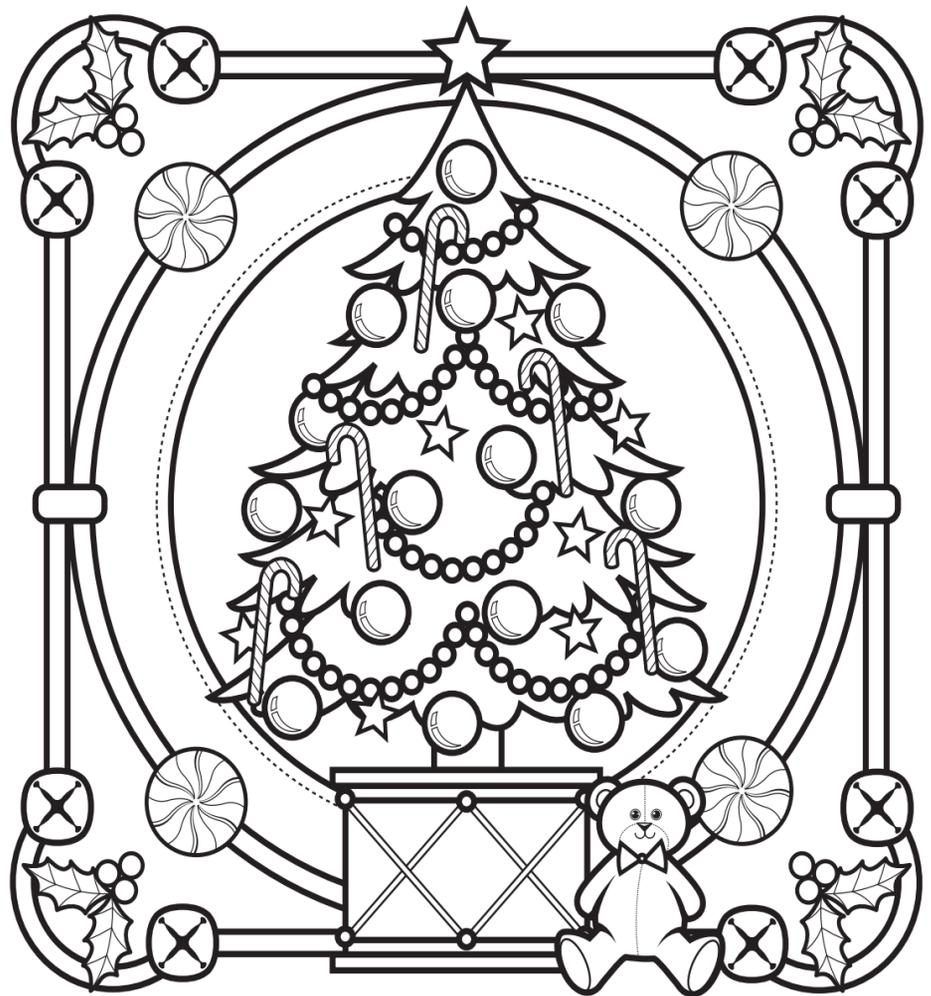
Jackson Duvall led the Barons with 12 points. Tate Sistare had six.

MIDDLE SCHOOL HOOPS

**MAYEWOOD 49
BATES 48**

Mayewood defeated Bates 49-48 on Monday at the MMS gymnasium.

Christmas Coloring Contest



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To enter, just color the picture and submit it, along with the entry form, to the newspaper no later than 12:00 Noon, Monday, December 18, 2017. A panel of judges will choose one winner from each age group. Ages 5-7, 8-10 and 11-12. Winners will be contacted by phone and announced in the newspaper on Friday, December 22, 2017. Each winner will receive a prize. No Photocopies Accepted Please.

RECRUITING CORNER

Tigers, Gamecocks get key commitments

The University of South Carolina and Clemson football programs scored key commitments minutes apart on Saturday, defensive back **Israel Mukuamu** going with USC and offensive lineman **Jordan McFadden** to the Tigers.

Mukuamu (6-foot-4-inches, 180 pounds) is the former standout at Berkeley High School in Moncks Corner who played this season in Bossier City, La. He had been committed to Florida State before the coaching change there, and continued recruiting love from USC head coach **Will Muschamp** convinced him to join USC.

"Just being comfortable with the staff and coming back to the state of South Carolina to play football," Mukuamu stated as reasons for his decision. "It was God's plans. I guess he had to take me out of the state for me to realize that South Carolina is the place for me to be."

Mukuamu said Muschamp recruited him as a cornerback and laid out for him plans to early snaps on the defense and the special teams his freshman season.

"I see a very bright future; I believe I'm going to be a standout player there," he said. "I believe that we can win a SEC (Southeastern Conference) championship as well as a national championship there. I just have to go in, work hard and trust in God. I know I'm going to fit in very well."

"The SEC has a lot of big (wide) receivers, and they like to throw the ball downfield. With my length and speed, I think I match up very well. I just have to put in the work."

Mukuamu also considered Indiana, Purdue and Georgia along with USC and FSU. He will visit USC this weekend to watch bowl practice for the upcoming Outback Bowl. He will be an early signee and will enroll in January.

Mukuamu is USC's 19th commitment for the 2018 class and the fourth for the secondary.

McFadden (6-4, 285) had been committed to Virginia Tech since July 4 and made his flip to the Tigers official after several weeks of strong speculation he would do just that. Clemson had to make up ground on the competition for McFadden because it offered later than others. However, the Tigers had the advantages of McFadden growing up as a fan and the proximity to his home.

"It feels really good. I'm really happy, just to finally make up my mind that this is where I'm going," said McFadden, who played for Dorman High in Roebuck. "It was pretty hard (to tell the Hokies) but I think they understand."

McFadden gives Clemson 12 commitments for the '18 class and the first for the OL. The Tigers lose starting guards **Tyron Crowder** and **Taylor Hearn**, center **Justin Falcinelli** and backup **G Maverick Morris** after this season, and it's possible starting left tackle **Mitch Hyatt** leaves a year early for the National Football League.

"Just the opportunity to play early," he said was a major reason for switching. "They were doing everything to try to convince me to come and join them, recruiting me real hard and showing a lot of love. I just think it was the place I want to be."

Given the chance to play early, McFadden said he feels he can handle his own with the Tigers because of his set of his skills. "I think I can come in and work hard and get better each and every day," McFadden said. "Whenever my number is called I think I'll be ready to play. I'll bring some athleticism to the table. I think I do well in space and move my feet well."

McFadden was chosen for the Shrine Bowl, but will not be able to play due to a knee injury suffered in the 5A state championship game. He will sign on Dec. 20 but won't enroll until the summer.

USC

OL **Jaylen Nichols** (6-5, 290) of Charlotte confirmed on Monday he had committed to USC for the '19 class, giving USC three juniors in that pledge class. Nichols was offered by



Phil Kornblut

USC in the summer after attending a camp in Columbia.

Nichols also has an offer from Indiana, plus he has drawn interest from North Carolina, Arkansas

and VT. He attended games this past season at USC, VT and UNC.

He said OL coach **Eric Wolford** along with Muschamp made him feel very comfortable.

"I like the coaches because they are consistent, honest and straightforward," Nichols said. "Coach Wolford said I need improvement, of course, but where I am now he sees a bright future."

Nichols said he primarily plays OT. Right now, he's planning to sign in December of '18. He said he won't shut down his recruiting because he wants to draw in recruiters to see some of his teammates next season.

Nichols joins linebacker **Ah-darrius Gee** of Cordele, Ga., and defensive end **Rodricus Fittens** of Atlanta as commitments for USC's '19 class.

DB **Jaycee Horn** of Alpharetta, Ga., made his official visit to USC over the weekend with his father, former NFL star **Joe Horn**. Horn had visited USC several times for games, but this visit gave him a chance to spend more time with the players and Muschamp.

"They are a real cool group of guys," Horn said. "It felt good being around them and I can see myself being around them a lot."

Horn also got more of an education from Muschamp and defensive coordinator **Travis Robinson** on how he would be used in their defense. He said he spent a lot of time with the coaches at the USC football banquet on Saturday.

"They were talking about how they need me on the outside so they'll be able to play more of the scheme they want to play," Horn said. "They were already high in consideration, and the visit didn't do anything but help that at the end of the day."

Horn said he will visit either Ohio State or Alabama this coming weekend. He's also still in touch with Clemson, and the Tigers remain under consideration at this point.

Horn, a former Tennessee commitment, also has heard from new Volunteers head coach **Jeremy Pruitt** a couple of times, and he will be talking to the secondary coach. However, he said USC, Clemson, Ohio State and Alabama are the four primary schools on his mind with no leader at this point.

Horn said Muschamp and Robinson plan to make an in-home visit with him this week. He does not plan to sign early.

Athlete **Bryce Thompson**, a Shrine Bowl selection from Dutch Fork High in Irmo, also visited USC over the weekend. He's had USC as one of his favorites along with Virginia Tech, NC State and Marshall. He would like to sign early if he can.

"I'm about to commit pretty soon." That's what LB **Channing Tindall** of Spring Valley High in Columbia told **Lou Bejjak** of *TheState.com* on Thursday after receiving the inaugural Mr. Richland County Football Player of the Year. Last week Tindall had visits from Muschamp and USC assistant **Coleman Hutzler**, Auburn LB coach and Spring Valley graduate **Travis Williams** and Georgia inside linebackers coach **Glenn Schumann**.

He did not say when he will decide or if he has a favorite. His only official visit thus far was to Auburn for the Iron

Bowl. Tindall was selected for the Shrine Bowl but will sit out the game while resting a bruised shoulder. He plans to play in the U.S. Army All-American Game in January of '18.

DB **Trey Dean** of Hampton, Ga., decommitted from Tennessee on Thursday, the day after in-home visits with USC's Robinson and with Kentucky. He visited UK over the weekend and will visit Florida this weekend.

With him signing on Dec. 20, Dean said he likely won't visit USC officially though he's been there twice before. He said UK and UF are in the best position with him, and he's also looking at Alabama. He said Alabama coaches probably will visit this week.

USC DB target **Asante Samuel** told *Rivals* Miami is making a strong push for him now. He has taken an official to USC and plans to visit FSU, Miami and Ohio State in January. He has been an FSU commitment. USC coaches were in to see him last week.

OL **Jovaughn Gwyn** of Charlotte told *Rivals* after his team's championship win on Saturday he will take an official visit to USC on Saturday after the Shrine Bowl. He's been to NCSU and is also talking to Duke.

USC's Robinson made an in-home visit last week with LB **Rosendo Louis** of Deerfield Beach, Fla., who has been an FSU commit.

USC recruiter **Lance Thompson** was out last week to see DE **Dorian Gerald** of College of the Canyons Junior College in California. Tennessee also went out to see him. He also was offered by Mississippi and was contacted by new UF head coach **Dan Mullen**. Gerald committed to the Vols' previous staff but has been actively looking at other schools. He took an official visit to Louisville over the weekend.

DE **Dennis Briggs** of Kissimmee, Fla., said last week he will take an official visit to USC. The date has not been set.

USC offered '19 DE **Colby Wooden** of Lawrenceville, Ga., '19 OL **Jakai Moore** of Nokesville, Va., '19 WR **Jameson Williams** of St. Louis, '20 WR **James Franchie** of St. Louis, '19 defensive lineman **Tymon Mitchell** of Nashville, Tenn., '20 DE **Fadil Diggs** of Camden, N.J., and '20 running back **Mookie Cooper** of St. Louis.

CLEMSON

Clemson hosted OL **Jackson Carman** of Fairfield, Ohio, for an official visit over the weekend. Carman also has taken an official visit to Ohio State and will visit Southern California this coming weekend. He will announce on Dec. 20. Ohio State and Southern Cal have had their in-home visits and Clemson head coach **Dabo Swinney** is scheduled to visit this week.

Clemson is looking for one RB for the '18 class and two on the board right now are **Lyn-J Dixon** of Butler, Ga., and **Jashaun Corbin** of Rockledge, Ga.

Dixon, a former Tennessee commitment, made his official visit to Clemson on Nov. 17. He went to Louisville over the weekend and will visit Oklahoma State this weekend and Alabama in January.

Corbin, who decommitted from FSU on Dec. 3, and before that Tennessee in May, has taken an official visit to Oregon and also plans to visit Clemson.

"They are only taking one running back in the class," Corbin said. "Just to know that I'm one of those guys that they are looking out really says a lot."

Corbin said he will also visit Southern Cal and FSU in January. Texas Christian and Nebraska are two other schools that have been in to see him this month and he was offered by VT last week. He won't sign until February.

Clemson DB target **Brendan Radley-Hiles** of IMG Academy in Florida, in his latest diary update for Land of 10, said he will take his final official visit to UF this weekend. He visited

Clemson officially in November. He's a former Nebraska commitment. He's also been considering Oklahoma, Texas and UCLA and was offered on Sunday by FSU. Swinney made his in-home visit over the weekend.

Ohio State beat out Clemson for DB **Tyreke Johnson** of Jacksonville.

DB **Leon O'Neal Jr.** of Cypress Springs, Texas, decommitted from Texas A&M. Clemson was one of the schools he considered before committing to A&M.

Litchfield Ajavon, a '19 ATH from Alexandria, Va., has a final seven of Clemson, Notre Dame, Michigan, Penn State, UGA, VT and Wisconsin.

Clemson offered '19 WR **Frank Ladson Jr.** of Miami. He recently decommitted from UF. The Tigers also offered '19 DB **Tyrique Stevenson** of Homestead, Fla., a UF commitment, '19 WR **Lance Wilhoite** of Nashville, '19 OL **Caedan Wallace** of Princeton, N.J., and '20 OL **Paris Johnson Jr.** of Cincinnati.

CLEMSON AND USC

Heavy speculation has DE **KJ Henry** of Clemmons, N.C., picking Clemson when he announces on ESPNU at 4:20 PM on Dec. 20. However, according to his head coach, the speculators have a creative imagination because to his knowledge Henry has yet to make a decision.

"I'm not sure who those people are. I'm not saying he won't, but I wouldn't call it a slam dunk," said Henry's

head coach **Adrian Snow**. "I have been privy to a lot of it in listening to him and talking to him. There are still factors he is weighing. It's going to be a tough decision for him because he has ties to each school. He'll have to put his big boy pants on and make a decision."

USC, Clemson, UGA and VT are the primary four at this point. Henry canceled a visit to Alabama for this past weekend and Snow believes that eliminates the Crimson Tide.

USC, Clemson, UGA and VT each had in-home visits last week. Muschamp and assistants met with Henry and his mother at the school on Thursday morning, a meeting Snow attended.

"He (Muschamp) talked about opportunities and the opportunity he'd have at South Carolina would be pretty quick," Snow said. "The others, you never know because they've got some real good players, not saying South Carolina doesn't."

Swinney and assistants made their visit with Henry in the home on Wednesday night and Snow said that gathering also went well.

"It was not a lot about football, it was more about family," he said. "They were exchanging stories and having a good time, that's about what it was."

Henry, throughout the recruiting process, has never publicly identified a favorite. He is at the Shrine Bowl this week.

Keeping Sumter Beautiful

Amanda McNulty, County Extension Agent

Spots, Spots, Spots!

Now I've found that my favorite plant for holiday decorations is suffering from spots! Our evergreen southern magnolia, *Magnolia grandiflora*, is a staple of southern landscapes, and breeders have developed smaller cultivars for more moderately-sized yards. Now this plant, once thought to be practically disease free, is being plagued all over the south by a parasitic alga which is most noticeable as greyish spots on leaves, although it also causes lesions on stems as well. Reports from Extension agencies track this disease from Virginia down the eastern coast and over into Texas; places with rainy, humid summers that favor the growth and spread of this disease. It is referred to as magnolia leaf spot or green scurf as the progress of the disease can result in raised lesions that give a rough overall appearance to the leaves.

As the algae mature, they develop sporangia - their reproductive structures. These minute structures are moved by water to other parts of the host plant and also by rainfall and wind to nearby susceptible individuals. Many of our traditional landscape plants including camellias and hawthorns are also susceptible to this disease.

The infestation first begins as these sporangia develop into individual alga. Sometimes the algae are superficial and wash off, but eventually can invade the leaf surface to access nutrients. A secondary stage of the disease occurs

when a fungus associated with this alga become established; the only parasitic lichen we encounter here. As they mature, the infestations may spread to twigs and branches, allowing the disease to persist during dry, cold periods and serving as a source of infestation when spring and summer bring the warm, wet conditions that support new algal outbreaks. Even fallen leaves can serve as an overwinter haven and need to be removed and destroyed, not composted.

A homeowner can try to remove any infested leaves, cut out branches that have visible lesions, and perform the burdensome chore of removing all fallen leaves. If possible, improve air circulation by thinning out branches and avoid installing new plants too close in an effort to achieve an instant mature appearance. Repeated sprays of products containing copper are effective at controlling this disease but they must cover the entire tree.

For more information on this spreading landscape problem, please see the detailed document, *Algal Leaf Spot*, Circular 2060, at Clemson HGIC.

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BCS FROM PAGE B1

seeing this for the first time, be enthralled in the genius, yet the simplicity, of it all:

- Take the champion from each of the 10 football-playing Football Bowl Subdivision conferences - the Power 5 conference champions going automatically and the champions from the American Athletic, Mid-American, Sun Belt and Mountain West conferences and Conference USA with at least 10 victories entering their respective conference championship games qualifying as well.

The 10 champions are Clemson (Atlantic Coast) Central Florida (American Athletic), Ohio State (Big 10), Oklahoma (Big 12), Toledo (MAC), Boise State (Mountain West), Southern California (Pacific 12), Georgia (Southeastern), Appalachian State and Troy (Sun Belt) and Florida Atlantic (Conference USA). With Boise State and Florida Atlantic 9-3 before their respective conference championship games and 10-2 Troy not winning its conference title outright, those teams would not make the field.

- With seven champions eligible, each of the runners-up from the Power 5 conferences would be eligible to make the field; the second-place team would be either the title game loser or the second-place team in the standings for the conferences that don't have title games. Also, to make the Brunson Championship Series, the runner-up needs to be above .500 in overall record entering the conference title game.

However, if all 10 conferences are represented and Notre Dame - through a stipulation which says if it wins nine games while playing at least eight games against Power 5 conference schools - makes the field, the runner-up with the worst record among the six would not get in.

The five runners-up are Stanford (Pac-10), Wisconsin (Big 10), Auburn (SEC), Miami (ACC) and Texas Christiani (Big 12). Each of the runners-up are in because all five were easily above .500. Notre Dame, which is 9-3, is also in.

- With seven conference champions, five runners-up and Notre Dame, you have 13 teams. Since you're short

three teams, go with the highest-ranked remaining teams in The Associated Press poll from the Power 5 conferences. The three teams would be No. 4 Alabama, No. 9 Penn State and No. 11 Washington.

- Seed the teams, making sure that no conference runner-up is seeded above its conference champion and that teams from the same conference do not face each other in the first round. That would give you eight first-round games with those games played on the second Saturday in December at the site of the higher-seeded team.

That would lead to eight nice little paydays. There might be a clunker or two, but you could have some great games.

Here would be the first-round games with the above-mentioned teams: Toledo (16) at Clemson (1); undefeated Central Florida (15) at Oklahoma (2); TCU (14) at Georgia (3); Notre Dame (13) at Alabama (4); Washington (12) at Ohio State (5); Miami (11) at Southern Cal (6); Stanford (10) at Wisconsin (7) and Penn State (9) at Auburn (8).

- Starting with the four quarterfinal games, the four BCS bowls — Sugar, Fiesta, Orange and Rose — along with the longstanding Cotton Bowl, could be worked into the mix where these sites still could get the big games and the big-dollar fans into their cities.

Rotate the current bowl sites with two quarterfinal cities, two semifinal cities and a championship game city. Also, two major cities, preferably in the Northeast and Midwest because of the lack of bowl sites, could host a quarterfinal game each year.

And, assuming the higher seeds all win their first-round games, here would be the quarterfinal matchups: Clemson vs. Auburn, Oklahoma vs. Wisconsin, Georgia vs. Southern Cal and Alabama vs. Ohio State. Again, packed houses should rule, just as there would be for two semifinal games and the national championship game on New Year's Day.

Of course, the television networks would be standing in line with gobs of money so the country could see the games.

You could still have the smaller bowls for the teams that didn't make the top 16. Everyone needs to be happy.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BOWL SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, DEC. 16		TUESDAY, DEC. 26	
CELEBRATION BOWL At Atlanta NC A&T (11-0) vs. Grambling State (11-1), Noon (ABC)	FRESNO STATE (9-4) vs. HOUSTON (7-4), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)	HEART OF DALLAS BOWL West Virginia (7-5) vs. Utah (6-6), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)	ARIZONA BOWL Tucson, Ariz. New Mexico State (5-6) vs. Utah State (6-6), 5:30 p.m. (CBSSN)
NEW ORLEANS BOWL North Texas (9-4) vs. Troy (10-2), 1 p.m. (ESPN)	QUICK LANE BOWL Detroit Northern Illinois (8-4) vs. Duke (6-6), 5:15 p.m. (ESPN)	CACTUS BOWL Phoenix Kansas State (7-5) vs. UCLA (6-6), 9 p.m. (ESPN)	COTTON BOWL CLASSIC Arlington, Texas Southern Cal (11-2) vs. Ohio State (11-2), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)
CURE BOWL Orlando, Fla. Georgia State (6-5) vs. Western Kentucky (6-6), 2:30 p.m. (CBSSN)	WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27	INDEPENDENCE BOWL Shreveport, La. Southern Mississippi (8-4) vs. Florida State (6-6), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)	SATURDAY, DEC. 30
LAS VEGAS BOWL Boise State (10-3) vs. Oregon (7-5), 3:30 p.m. (ABC)	NEW MEXICO BOWL Albuquerque Colorado State (7-5) vs. Marshall (7-5), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)	PINSTRIPE BOWL Bronx, N.Y. Boston College (7-5) vs. Iowa (7-5), 5:15 p.m. (ESPN)	TAXSLAYER BOWL Jacksonville, Fla. Louisville (8-4) vs. Mississippi State (8-4), Noon (ESPN)
CAMELLIA BOWL Montgomery, Ala. Arkansas State (7-3) vs. Middle Tennessee (6-6), 8 p.m. (ESPN)	TUESDAY, DEC. 19	FOSTER FARMS BOWL Santa Clara, Calif. Arizona (7-5) vs. Purdue (6-6), 8:30 p.m. (FOX)	LIBERTY BOWL Memphis, Tenn. Iowa State (7-5) vs. Memphis (10-2), 12:30 p.m. (ABC)
BOCA RATON (FLA.) BOWL Akron (7-6) vs. FAU (10-3), 7 p.m. (ESPN)	FRISCO (TEXAS) BOWL Louisiana Tech (6-6) vs. SMU (7-5), 8 p.m. (ESPN)	TEXAS BOWL Houston Texas (6-6) vs. Missouri (7-5), 9 p.m. (ESPN)	FIESTA BOWL Glendale, Ariz. Washington (10-2) vs. Penn State (10-2), 4 p.m. (ESPN)
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20	THURSDAY, DEC. 21	MILITARY BOWL Annapolis, Md. Virginia (6-6) vs. Navy (6-6), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)	ORANGE BOWL Miami Gardens, Fla. Wisconsin (12-1) vs. Miami (10-2), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
GASPARILLA BOWL At St. Petersburg, Fla. Temple (6-6) vs. FIU (8-4), 8 p.m. (ESPN)	FRIDAY, DEC. 22	CAMPING WORLD BOWL Orlando, Fla. Oklahoma State (9-3) vs. Virginia Tech (9-3), 5:15 p.m. (ESPN)	MONDAY, JAN. 1
BAHAMAS BOWL Nassau Ohio (8-4) vs. UAB (8-4), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)	BIRMINGHAM (ALA.) BOWL South Florida (9-2) vs. Texas Tech (6-6), Noon (ESPN)	ALAMO BOWL San Antonio Stanford (9-4) vs. TCU (10-3), 9 p.m. (ESPN)	OUTBACK BOWL Tampa, Fla. Michigan (8-4) vs. South Carolina (8-4), Noon (ESPN2)
FAMOUS IDAHO POTATO BOWL Boise Central Michigan (7-5) vs. Wyoming (7-5), 4 p.m. (ESPN)	ARMED FORCES BOWL Fort Worth, Texas San Diego State (10-2) vs. Army (9-3), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)	HOLIDAY BOWL San Diego Washington State (9-3) vs. Michigan State (9-3), 9 p.m. (FOX)	PEACH BOWL Atlanta UCF (12-0) vs. Auburn (10-3), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)
SATURDAY, DEC. 23	DOLLAR GENERAL BOWL Mobile, Ala. Appalachian State (8-4) vs. Toledo (11-2), 7 p.m. (ESPN)	MUSIC CITY BOWL Nashville, Tenn. Kentucky (7-5) vs. Northwestern (9-3), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)	CITRUS BOWL Orlando, Fla. Notre Dame (9-3) vs. LSU (9-3), 1 p.m. (ABC)
HAWAII BOWL Honolulu	SUNDAY, DEC. 24	SUN BOWL El Paso, Texas NC State (8-4) vs. Arizona State (7-5), 3 p.m. (CBS)	ROSE BOWL (CFP SEMIFINAL) Pasadena, Calif. Oklahoma (12-1) vs. Georgia (12-1), 5:10 p.m. (ESPN)
		SUGAR BOWL (CFP SEMIFINAL) New Orleans Clemson (12-1) vs. Alabama (11-1), 8:45 p.m. (ESPN)	MONDAY, JAN. 8
		SENIOR BOWL At Mobile, Ala. North vs. South, 2:30 p.m. (NFLN)	CFP CHAMPIONSHIP Atlanta Rose Bowl winner vs. Sugar Bowl winner, 8 p.m. (ESPN)
			SATURDAY, JAN. 20
			EAST-WEST SHRINE CLASSIC At St. Petersburg, Fla. East vs. West, 3 p.m. (NFLN)
			NFLPA COLLEGIATE BOWL At Carson, Calif. American vs. National, TBA (FS1)
			SATURDAY, JAN. 27

PATRIOTS FROM PAGE B1

(10-3) in the race for the AFC's best record. A win by Pittsburgh and a Jacksonville loss would give the Steelers home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs.

Even though the Patriots knew going into the Miami game that the stakes would be high the following week, safety Devin McCourty scoffed at the idea of their shortcomings being the result of looking ahead to Pittsburgh.

"You've got a championship on the line. That's not a trap game. We didn't execute as well as we needed to against another team that's fighting for their playoff

berth, too," he said.

"It's just that point in the season where if you don't play at your highest level you'll lose. Everyone's out here playing for something."

McCourty was one of the few bright spots against Miami, earning his third career sack, and first since 2015.

Patriots defensive coordinator Matt Patricia has excelled this season at getting the best out of a young group that has been forced to integrate several new contributors.

Defensive end Eric Lee has earned his first career starts in back-to-back weeks. Linebacker Jonathan Freeny also played in his first game for the Patriots this season on Sunday after re-signing with the team earlier in the week.

OBITUARIES

SUSAN A. HENRY

SUMMERTON — Susan Anderson Henry, 78, widow of Joe Henry, died on Thursday,



HENRY

Dec. 7, 2017. She was a daughter of the late Hampton and Tommie Lee Jones Anderson. Funeral services for Mrs. Henry will be held at

noon on Thursday at Clarendon School District One Resource Center, 1154 Fourth St., Summerton, with the Rev. Benjamin Dwight presiding, the Rev. Dr. Leroy Green, eulogist, and the Rev. Albert Thompson and the Rev. Nathaniel Bookhardt assisting. Burial will follow at the St. Matthew AME Church Cemetery.

The family is receiving friends at her residence, 1204 Olin Road, Summerton.

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

GLENN RAGIN SR.

PHILADELPHIA — Glenn Ragin Sr., husband of Ruth Guest Ragin, died on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017, at his residence, 5459 Diamond St., Philadelphia.

He was born on May 29, 1944, in Summerton, a son of the late William "Bill" Ragin and Lillian "Lil" Johnson.

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

BENJAMIN PETERSON

Benjamin Peterson, husband of Sharyn D. Peterson, died on Monday, Dec. 4, 2017, at his residence, 51 Pocatoligo Court, Sumter.

He was born on April 17, 1939, in Sumter County, a son of the late Moses Peters and

Grace Hodge Butler. He was educated in the public schools of Sumter County and was a graduate of Lincoln High School.

Benjamin was a veteran of the United States Air Force. He later moved to New York, where he was employed by A&P Super Market as a meat manager for many years, until his retirement. After retirement, he relocated to Sumter.

His survivors include his wife, Sharyn D. Peterson of Fishgill, New York; one son, Darin (Gwen) Peterson of Sumter; one daughter, Sherce Peterson of Fishgill; three grandchildren; and a host of great-grandchildren, other relatives and friends.

Funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. today in the chapel of Sumter Funeral Service Inc. with Dr. Lewis Walker Jr. officiating. Interment will follow at Bradford Cemetery.

The family will receive friends at the home of his son, Darin (Gwen) Peterson, 104 E. Patricia Drive, Sumter.

Sumter Funeral Service Inc. is in charge of arrangements.

HAULEAN T. SMITH

Haulean Tindal Smith, 85, of Summerton, died on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017, at McLeod Regional Medical Center, Florence.

She was born in Clarendon County to the late Willie Bennett Green and Maureen Tindal Barnett.

The family is receiving friends at the home, 12 Hill St., Summerton, SC 29148.

Services have been entrusted in the professional care of King-Fields Mortuary, Summerton, (803) 485-5039.

LEE R. PEARSON

DALZELL — Lee Richard Pearson, age 78, beloved hus-

band of 52 years to Apolonia "Polly" Manago Pearson, died on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017, at Palmetto Health Tuomey.

Plans will be announced by Bullock Funeral Home.



SAMUEL WITHERSPOON

Samuel Witherspoon, 68, died on Monday, Dec. 11, 2017, at his residence in Sumter.

Born in Sumter County, he was a son of the late Isell Weldon Witherspoon and Mamie Davis Witherspoon.

The family will receive friends at the home of his sister, Lucille Witherspoon Cummings, 215 Spoonville Lane, Sumter.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Palmer Memorial Chapel Inc.

DAVID G. BRATTON

David Green Bratton, age 39, departed this life on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017, in Sumter.

He was born on May 15, 1978, in Sumter, to Mary McDowell Bratton and Holly Ford.

The family is receiving friends at 650 Flamingo Road, Sumter.

Services are incomplete and will be announced later by Whites Mortuary LLC of Sumter.

MARGAREE W. WHACK

On Monday, Dec. 11, 2017, Margaree Wilson Whack, widow of Myer Whack Jr., heard her master's call at Sumter Health & Rehabilitation Center.

Born on March 22, 1952, in Manning, she was a daughter of the late Pinkney "PJ" Sr. and Ellen White Wilson Sr.

The family is receiving rela-

tives and friends at the residence of her sister and brother-in-law, Sarah Ann (John Wesley) Whack, 2482 Little Star Road, Alcolu.

Funeral services are incomplete and will be announced by Fleming & DeLaine Funeral Home & Chapel.

GEORGE A. COMMANDER

Georgia Addison Commander, age 91, departed this earthly life on Dec. 9, 2017, at the National Health Care Facility in Sumter.

She was born on April 30, 1926, in Lynchburg, to the late Sampson and Lela Addison. Georgia was educated in the public school system of Lee County and was active in the community — mostly notably her involvement with the church. At an early age, she joined Unionville AME

Church, where her family had been active and served in several capacities, including Stewardess Board 2 (vice chairwoman), the usher board and the senior choir. Listening to and singing gospel songs and hymns was an activity she greatly enjoyed, both inside and outside of the church.

She met, fell in love and was married to fellow Lee County resident, the late Robert "Skelly" Commander on Sept. 22, 1946. From that union, they had four children who they raised and educated in the nearby community / school system. They both enjoyed the Sunday afternoon family dinners, where she and Robert were known for their richly cooked food. Despite her fear of worms and frogs, Georgia and Robert could often be found at one of the nearby rivers or lakes fishing — an activity they both enjoyed. Family, friends and fashion were Georgia's passion. In addition to fishing, she enjoyed planting flowers for her garden, sew-

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Ads



The Sumter Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina wishes to express our humble gratitude for your (2017) donations, volunteered hours, transportation, attending our gala last evening as; we raised expectations of people who are blind and most of all your sincere prayers. From our Federation Family to yours, "Merry Christmas" and "Happy New Year!"
Debra Canty, President

Announcements



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Summons & Notice

SUMMONS AND NOTICES (Non-Jury) FORECLOSURE OF MORTGAGE

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS CIVIL ACTION NO.: 2017-CP-43-01839

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF SUMTER

Pingora Loan Servicing, LLC, Plaintiff,
v.
Brian D. Bean, Defendant(s).

TO THE DEFENDANT(S) ABOVE NAMED:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend by answering the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is hereby served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer on the subscribers at their offices at 1201 Main Street, Suite 1450, Columbia, SC 29201, 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 MINORS OVER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE, AND/OR TO MINORS UNDER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND THE PERSON WITH WHOM THE MINOR RESIDES, AND/OR TO PERSONS UNDER SOME LEGAL DISABILITY:

Summons & Notice

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

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

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

NOTICE

TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED:

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 October 10, 2017.

William S. Koehler
Attorney, SC Bar No.: 74935
Albertelli Law
1201 Main St, Suite 1450
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: (803) 828-0880
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Mayesville Presbyterian Church tells Christmas story with lessons, carols

BY IVY MOORE
Special to The Sumter Item

Mayesville Presbyterian Church continues its tradition of presenting A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6:30 p.m. Sunday. The special service tells the Christmas story with Scripture readings — the lessons — and carols sung by the congregation and choral music.

Organist and choir director Tammy Williams said the festival is the church's gift to the community in anticipation and celebration of Christmas. The public is invited to attend.

The Mayesville Presbyterian Church Choir under Williams' direction will lead the music, and the Rev. Brian Peake, pastor, will officiate. Flutist Barbara Rearden, violinist Brandi Sloan and organist/pianist Linda Coyne will be featured instrumentalists, and the church's handbell choir will perform.

Church and civic leaders will read the Scripture passages. They are Dr. Gordon Reed, pastor of New Harmony Presbyterian Church, preacher and author; Hampton Watson representing the youth of Mayesville Presbyterian Church; Kell Compton, Mayesville Town Council and Mayesville Presbyterian Church member; Ashleigh Compton, vice president, Women's Ministries of Mayesville Presbyterian Church; Nancy Williams, Mayesville Town Council; Angie Bland, financial secretary, Mayesville Presbyterian Church; Selena Smith, Mayesville firefighter; and Heath Watson, clerk of session, Mayesville Presbyterian Church.

Advent music will begin the program "to take participants through the progression of Christian salvation history as dictated by the service," Williams said.

Among the Advent carols are Jacques Berthier's "Prepare the Way" and the 9th-century chant "O Come, O

Come, Emmanuel," both of which express longing for the birth of the Savior after centuries of gloom. Christmas music will follow with joyful carols celebrating the arrival of the Messiah. Among these songs are "Away in a Manger" and the 17th-century "Comfort, Comfort, O My People."

The congregation will be invited to sing the familiar standards "Joy to the World," "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "Angels, We Have Heard on High" and many other carols.

Williams noted the history of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, associated mainly with King's College in Cambridge, England, since 1918, actually began in 1880 in Truro, England, possibly created by the local bishop as a service to keep the local men out of the pubs on Christmas Eve.

The service has become an annual tradition in many churches, and King's College's performance has been broadcast on radio since the early 1930s. For almost 40 years, it has been aired on public radio in the U.S.

Still in the same basic format, A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols follows each reading with a "congregational carol or choral anthem that reflects upon the message of the lesson," Williams said. Since 1919, the service has begun with "Once in Royal David's City," she added.

Williams noted that the service begun in the Anglican church "has been adopted by every mainstream Christian denomination, and its celebration is happily anticipated every year." Mayesville Presbyterian Church invites the public to attend A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17. An informal reception will follow the service. Those who attend are asked to bring a canned good or staple item to donate to Sumter United Ministries.

Mayesville Presbyterian Church is located off U.S. 76 at 109 W. Sumter St. in Mayesville.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Mayesville Presbyterian Church invites the public to attend its Festival of Lessons and Carols at 6:30 p.m. Sunday. Scriptural readings by church and civic leaders will alternate with choral anthems and congregational carols to reflect on the Christmas story. Pictured here is the church choir. Front row from left are Marsha Nelson, Angie Bland, Cyndi Eckley, Jane Watson, Cathy Peake and Tammy Williams; second row from left are Don DuBose, Jimmy Bland, Gordon Eckley, Jo Ellen Miller and Jane Hammond.

'Stranger Things'? No, just thoughtful gifts for TV addicts

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Give the binge watching a rest, please, and play thoughtful Santa for the fellow TV addicts in your life.

Here's a selection to consider.

THE BOOKS:

"The Complete America's Test Kitchen TV Show Cookbook 2001-2018" (\$20 and up, America's Test Kitchen). Searching online for reliable recipes is tricky, while this compendium is anything but with more than 1,000 chef-proven ones for the Test Kitchen's "best" version of a given dish.

"Everything I Need to Know I Learned in the Twilight Zone" by

Mark Dawidziak (\$26.99, Thomas Dunne Books). Veteran TV critic Dawidziak pays tribute to Rod Serling's 1959-64 series by mining self-help lessons from such memorable episodes as "The Monsters are Due on Maple Street," in which neighbors suspect each other of being invading aliens, and "To Serve Man," a reminder that judging a book by its cover is risky.

For those who like to read a story before seeing it adapted, consider these works (available digitally or in paperback for \$10 or less each): "The Haunting of Hill House" by Shirley Jackson, already the basis of two movies

and now due on Netflix; Nnedi Okorafor's "Who Fears Death," a post-apocalyptic novel set in Africa and optioned for a HBO series; and Sarai Walker's "Dietland," a blast against society's weight and beauty expectations coming to AMC.

THE MERCH AND MORE:

"Stranger Things" is hot and has the show-inspired tchotchkes to prove it. Collectible figures include Eleven in a hospital gown or clutching the Eggo waffles she so loves, and Mike as a ghostbuster (Pop! Television by Funko, around \$10). There's also the Eggo Card Game (\$15 and up) in which

players attempt to escape from the Upside Down. Or maybe something more useful, say "Stranger Things" mugs in more than a dozen designs and all with the familiar quote, "Mornings are for coffee and contemplation" (\$10 and up, Etsy.com).

PBS Kids Plug & Play TV streaming stick, (\$49.99), gives children ages 3 and up their own bright-green remote control and the promise of entertainment with education. The device is pre-loaded with 100-plus hours of sing-alongs, games and other content that's available without wifi; when connected, it includes free ac-

cess to PBS Kids' round-the-clock channel and on-demand videos. When new content is released there's no additional cost.

Feeling really generous? Through Dec. 6, you can bid on such top-drawer Hollywood events as next season's premiere of "The Handmaid's Tale" (two tickets, at last check up to \$2,350) or a pair of orchestra seats at the Emmy Awards (at \$10,000-plus so far). If you miss out, go the more modest, readily available route with streaming service gift cards for Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime and HBO Now, at retailers or online and around \$25 and up.

BIZARRO



SOUP TO NUTZ



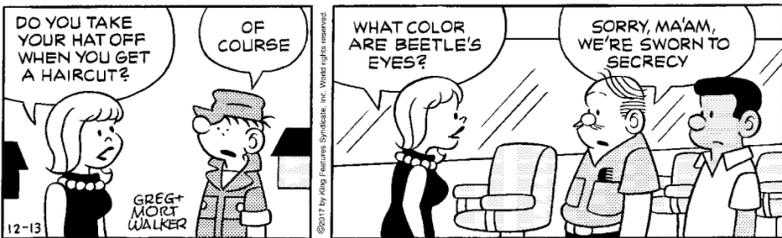
ANDY CAPP



GARFIELD



BEEBLE BAILEY



BORN LOSER



BLONDIE



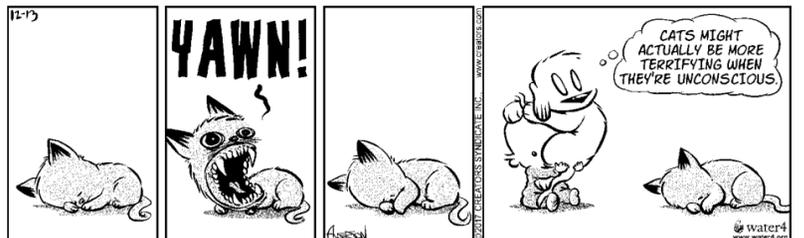
ZITS



MOTHER GOOSE



DOG EAT DOUG



DILBERT



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE



Man keeps wife in the dark about 'business partner'



Dear Abby
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY — My husband met a gal 33 years younger than he is at a doctor's office. It seems they "became close," so they went off and bought real estate together in another state. They spend weeks at a time together there alone.

When they are both here in town, they have "business" meetings several times a week. I am not allowed to attend, know when they take place or even ask what was discussed. They never have phone conversations while I'm near and their texts to each other are "none of my business."

My husband's words: "I don't know why you're so mad; you're just jealous." Your thoughts, please?
Peeved in California

DEAR PEEVED — You live in a community property state. Half of your husband's share of whatever property he and this woman bought together belongs to you.

My first thought is your husband's having a fling and lying about not knowing why you're angry. He's right that you're jealous. You have every right to be.

My second thought is that you should consult an attorney ASAP. I don't know how much you know about your husband's finances but a forensic accountant can help you unearth any assets he may be hiding or has already buried. After that, it will be up to you to decide whether you want to continue in a marriage with someone who would treat you so shabbily.

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

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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.

YAOLR

UHNBC

NASOSE

SLUDOH



THE WOODWIND PLAYER WENT FISHING WITH HIS BUDDY AND HOPED TO CATCH A —

Print your answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MONEY DIGIT GRITTY QUENCH
Answer: With each tentacle holding food, the octopus — "EIGHT" HIS DINNER

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

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						67		68		
69								70				
71					72			73				

Brian Gubin 12/13/17

- ACROSS**
- 1 Brainiac
 - 8 Campus eatery, for short
 - 11 Flying Solo?
 - 14 Brewpub brew
 - 15 Auburn University home
 - 17 #2 on Rolling Stone's 100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time
 - 18 Burger bun flavorings
 - 19 Out-of-date
 - 20 Usual people in a roundup?
 - 22 Small dogs
 - 24 Trafficking org.
 - 25 Insisted on it
 - 29 Gaming rookie, in slang
 - 31 "Treasure Island" author's initials
 - 33 Cape
 - 34 Six-sided state
 - 36 Steinbeck's "___ of Eden"
 - 38 Simple card game
 - 39 Pal of Sleepy
 - 41 "Taras Bulba" novelist
 - 43 Org. with Thunder and Heat
 - 44 Eggs in a lab
 - 45 Amino ___
 - 46 Chew (on)
 - 48 Male bodybuilder
 - 50 Uncle, in Mexico
 - 52 Homecoming figure
 - 54 Rock show venues
 - 56 U.K. country
 - 58 Palm smartphone
 - 60 Welcomers at the church door
 - 63 Car seller's employer: Abbr.
 - 64 Like some celebrity memoirs
 - 67 Desperate
 - 69 Salaries
 - 70 Composer Puccini
 - 71 28-Down, essentially
 - 72 Solid ___ rock
 - 73 Steams up
 - 10 *Like medicine that works quickly
 - 11 Smoked meat
 - 12 Zion Church letters
 - 13 "One Mic" rapper
 - 16 Pasta sauce herb
 - 21 *Extremely retro food regimen?
 - 23 Junkyard
 - 26 Common yoga pose ... and a hint to hidden names in the answers to starred clues
 - 27 Former Swedish automaker
 - 28 Southern veggie
 - 30 **Cruel Summer" band
 - 32 Mineo of movies
 - 35 Hyphenated fruit drink brand
 - 37 Droop
 - 39 Qatar's capital
 - 40 Done
 - 42 Young fox
 - 47 Hotel lobby hangings
 - 49 Prefix with Saxon
 - 51 Nervous
 - 53 Remove calcium deposits from
 - 55 Tennis great
 - 57 Area below the abdomen
 - 59 Cookie bits in some Milka chocolate bars
 - 61 "Born Free" lioness
 - 62 Fly high
 - 64 Gratitude
 - 65 Rock producer Brian
 - 66 HDTV choice
 - 68 HDTV brand

Previous Puzzle Solved

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

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 Wall "Deck the Wall: A Holiday Spectacular" Holiday-themed trivia questions.	Golden Globes 75th Anniversary Special: Best moments from the Golden Globes.			WIS News 10 at 11 (N)	(:34) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon Michael Shannon; Alison Brie. (N)			
WLTX	19	9	9	News 19 at 7pm (N)	Inside Edition (N)	Survivor (N)	SEAL Team "Collapse" The team must protect an ambassador.	Criminal Minds "Wheels Up" A race to take down Mr. Scratch. (DVS)	News 19 at 11pm (N)	(:35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert "Nick Jonas; Dennis Rodman" Nick Jonas; Dennis Rodman. (N)				
WOLO	25	5	12	Wheel of Fortune "Secret Santa" (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	The Goldbergs A battle for the best Hanukkah party.	Speechless Dylan tries to get a family dog. (N)	Modern Family Claire lands a business opportunity.	(:31) American Housewife "Blue Christmas" (N)	Designated Survivor "Line of Fire" A group is threatened by a forest fire. (N)	ABC Columbia News at 11 (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live		
WRJA	27	11	14	Weekends With Yankee Horse-drawn sleigh ride.	Expeditions With Patrick McMillan	Nature "Soul of the Elephant" Hearts, minds and souls of elephants.	NOVA "Secret Tunnel Warfare" World War I Allies plant explosives. (DVS)	SuperNature - Wild Flyers "Defying Gravity" The basic principles of flight.	Tavis Smiley (N)	BBC World News	NHK Newsline			
WACH	57	6	6	The Big Bang Theory A famous female physicist.	The Big Bang Theory	Empire "Slave to Memory" Cookie and Lucious devise a plan. (N) (DVS)	Star "Climax" The showcase is finally here. (N) (DVS)	WACH FOX News at 10 (N)	Sports Zone	DailyMailTV (N)	TMZ (N)			
WKTC	63	4	22	Last Man Standing "Good Cop, Bad Cop"	Last Man Standing "Home Security"	Riverdale "Chapter Twenty-Two: Silent Night, Deadly Night" A showdown with the Black Hood. (N)	Dynasty "Rotten Things" The Carringtons' holiday gets spoiled. (N)	Dateline "The House on Sidney's Cove" A wife and mother's disappearance.	Dateline "House of Secrets" An investigation shocks a community.	The Game Jason tries to win Kelly back.				
CABLE CHANNELS														
A&E	46	130	Storage Wars "Locktoberfest!"	Storage Wars "My Little Brony"	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars (N)	Storage Wars "Buyerina" (N)	(:01) Ozzy and Jack's World Detour Camping trip; rock star Billy Idol. (N)	(:03) Storage Wars	(:33) Storage Wars	(12:03) Storage Wars		
AMC	48	180	(5:00) ** "The Notebook" (2004) Ryan Gosling, Rachel McAdams.	** "This Christmas" (2007, Comedy-Drama) Delroy Lindo, Idris Elba, Loretta Devine. at the holidays tests family ties.			Premiere. A reunion			** "A Christmas Carol" (1984, Children's) George C. Scott, Angela Pleasence. Christmas Eve spiritual visitations enlighten an old miser.				
ANPL	41	100	Big Fat Follow Ups	Big Fat Follow Ups	Big Fat Follow Ups	Big Fat Follow Ups	Big Fat Follow Ups	Big Fat Follow Ups	Big Fat Follow Ups	My Big Fat Pet Makeover	My Big Fat Pet			
BET	61	162	(:03) ** "Madera's Witness Protection" Wall Street banker and his family.	** "Peeples" (2013, Romance-Comedy) Craig Robinson, Kerry Washington, David Alan Grier. A man's plan to propose to his girlfriend goes awry.										
BRAVO	47	181	The Real Housewives of New Jersey Melissa and Margaret plan a surprise.	The Real Housewives of New Jersey "When Chairs Fly"	The Real Housewives of New Jersey The women take a trip to Milan. (N)	The Real Housewives of New Jersey The women take a trip to Milan.	The Real Housewives of New Jersey The women take a trip to Milan.	The Real Housewives of New Jersey The women take a trip to Milan.	Watch What Happens Live	The Real Housewives of New Jersey The women take a trip to Milan.				
CNBC	35	84	Shark Tank	Shark Tank Aromatherapy sprays.	Shark Tank (DVS)	Shark Tank (DVS)	Shark Tank (DVS)	Shark Tank (DVS)	Shark Tank (Part 1 of 2)	Shark Tank				
CNN	3	80	Erin Burnett OutFront (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)	Anderson Cooper			
COM	57	136	(6:55) South Park "Margantaville"	** "The Hangover Part III" (2013, Comedy) Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms, Zach Galifianakis. All bets are off when the Wolfpack hits the road.										
DISN	18	200	Bunk'd	Raven's Home "Dancing Tween"	Andi Mack	Stuck in the Middle	Bizaardvark	Raven's Home	K.C. Undercover	Liv and Maddie Liv tries to help Andie.	Bizaardvark	The Daily Show With Trevor Noah	The Opposition w/ Jordan Klepper (N)	The Fake News With Ted Nelms
DSC	42	103	Homestead Rescue "The Hill of Death"	Homestead Rescue	Homestead Rescue	Homestead Rescue (N)	Homestead Rescue (N)	Homestead Rescue (N)	(:06) Moonshiners	(:06) Homestead Rescue	Homestead Res			
ESPN	26	35	NBA Basketball Oklahoma City Thunder at Indiana Pacers. (N) (Live)	NBA Basketball Charlotte Hornets at Houston Rockets. From the Toyota Center in Houston. (N) (Live)			SportsCenter							
ESPN2	27	39	College Basketball Villanova at Temple. (N) (Live)	The Fantasy Show			Boxing Gary Corcoran vs. Jeff Horn.	SC Featured (N)	SportsCenter (N) (Live)	Baseball Tonight				
FOOD	40	109	Iron Chef America	Iron Chef Showdown	Iron Chef Showdown (N)	Iron Chef: Behind the Battle (N)	Iron Chef: Behind the Battle (N)	Iron Chef: Behind the Battle (N)	Iron Chef America "Winter Ice Battle"	Iron Chef				
FOXN	37	90	The Story With Martha MacCallum (N)	Tucker Carlson Tonight (N)	Hannity (N)	The Ingraham Angle (N)	FOX News at Night (N)	The 700 Club	Tucker Carlson	The Year Without a Santa Claus				
FREE	20	131	(6:40) *** "The Santa Clause" (1994, Children's) Tim Allen, Judge Reinhold, Wendy Crewson. An adman takes over for fallen Santa.	College Basketball Kennesaw State at Texas Tech. (N) (Live)			Women's College Basketball McNeese State at Baylor.							
FSS	21	47	Women's College Basketball South Florida at Oklahoma.	"Switched for Christmas" (2017, Drama) Candace Cameron Bure. Estranged identical twins decide to swap lives up until Christmas Day.			"Christmas at Holly Lodge" (2017, Drama) Alison Sweeney, Jordan Bridges, Sheryl Lee Ralph. Sophie tries to save her Holly Lodge from a developer.			"Crown for Christmas" (2015)				
HGTV	39	112	Property Brothers: Buying & Selling	Property Brothers	Property Brothers at Home: Drew's	House Hunters	Hunters Int'l	Property Brothers	Property Brothers	Property Brothers				
HIST	45	110	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Vikings "Homeland"	Vikings "The Plan" (N) (DVS)	(:01) Knightfall "Find Us the Grail" (N)	(:03) Knightfall "Find Us the Grail" (N)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit A girl with leukemia is kidnapped.	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit			
ION	13	18	Law & Order "Fame" Shield laws and celebrity journalism.	Law & Order "Avatar" An Internet photo of a murdered woman.	Little Women: Atlanta "Rumor Has It" Monie's marriage is threatened.	Little Women: Atlanta "Rumor Has It" Monie's marriage is threatened.	(:02) Little Women: LA Terra and Joe's home renovation. (N)	(:02) Little Women: LA "A Little Festive" Memorable fights and experiences.	(:12:01) Little Women: Atlanta					
LIFE	50	145	Little Women: Atlanta Andrea makes a shocking decision.	Little Women: LA "A Little Festive" Memorable fights and experiences. (N)	The Rachel Maddow Show (N)	The Last Word	The Last Word	The 11th Hour With Brian Williams (N)	Rachel Maddow					
MSNBC	36	92	Hardball With Chris Matthews (N)	All In With Chris Hayes (N)	Full House	Full House	Full House	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Friends	Friends			
NICK	16	210	The Thundermans	Friends	Friends	Friends	** "The Day After Tomorrow" (2004) Dennis Quaid. Global warming leads to worldwide natural disasters.	X-Men: Last						
SPIKE	64	153	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends			
SYFY	58	152	(:15) ** "Shooter" (2007, Suspense) Mark Wahlberg, Michael Peña, Danny Glover. A wounded sniper plots revenge against those who betrayed him.	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory			
TBS	24	156	(6:00) *** "Yours, Mine and Ours" (1968) Lucille Ball, Henry Fonda.	Movie										
TCM	49	186	My 600-Lb. Life "Erica's Story" Erica regrets not keeping a promise.	My 600-Lb. Life "Ashley R's Story" Ashley makes changes to save her life.			My 600-Lb. Life Erica regrets not keeping a promise.							
TLC	43	157	My 600-Lb. Life "Erica's Story" Erica regrets not keeping a promise.	The Librarians "And the Dark Secret" A secret sect unearths an ancient map.			** "A Christmas Carol" (1999, Fantasy) Patrick Stewart, Richard E. Grant. Crotchety Ebenezer Scrooge experiences a holiday epiphany. (DVS)			(:01) The Librarians A secret sect unearths an ancient map.				
TNT	23	158	(5:30) *** "The Blind Side" (2009, Drama) Sandra Bullock. (DVS)	ImpRACTical Jokers	ImpRACTical Jokers	ImpRACTical Jokers	ImpRACTical Jokers	ImpRACTical Jokers	ImpRACTical Jokers	ImpRACTical Jokers	ImpRACTical Jokers			
TRUTV	38	129	ImpRACTical Jokers	ImpRACTical Jokers	ImpRACTical Jokers	ImpRACTical Jokers	ImpRACTical Jokers	ImpRACTical Jokers	ImpRACTical Jokers	ImpRACTical Jokers	ImpRACTical Jokers			
TV LAND	55	161	M*A*S*H	(:36) M*A*S*H	(:12) Everybody Loves Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Mom	Mom	King of Queens	King of Queens			
USA	25	132	WWE NXT	(7:55) *** "Thor" (2011, Action) Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman, Anthony Hopkins. Premiere. Cast out of Asgard, the Norse god lands on Earth. (DVS)	Mr. Robot "Shutdown -" Elliot tries to save Darlene. (N) (DVS)	Mr. Robot "Shutdown -" Elliot tries to save Darlene. (N) (DVS)	Mr. Robot "Shutdown -" Elliot tries to save Darlene. (N) (DVS)	Mr. Robot "Shutdown -" Elliot tries to save Darlene. (N) (DVS)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit A pregnant woman is found murdered.	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit				
WE	68	166	(5:30) *** "Dirty Dancing" (1987)	*** "Dirty Dancing" (1987) Jennifer Grey. A sheltered teen falls for a street-wise dance instructor.	*** "Dirty Dancing" (1987, Romance) Jennifer Grey, Patrick Swayze.	*** "Dirty Dancing" (1987, Romance) Jennifer Grey, Patrick Swayze.	*** "Dirty Dancing" (1987, Romance) Jennifer Grey, Patrick Swayze.	*** "Dirty Dancing" (1987, Romance) Jennifer Grey, Patrick Swayze.	*** "Batman Returns" (1992) Michael Keaton.					
WGNA	8	172	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops			

'Fake News With Ted Nelms' fails to entertain

BY KEVIN McDONOUGH

Sometimes it takes a terrible thing to demonstrate that an entertainment trend is dead. And has been for a while.

Comedian Ed Helms ("The Daily Show With Jon Stewart," "The Office") stars in the cable news send-up "The Fake News With Ted Nelms" (10 p.m., Comedy Central, TV-14). Rather than discuss real events with a satirist's edge, or use a wealth of existing video clips to disprove the absurd and dishonest utterances of the day, "Fake News" trades in made-up, silly reports. Helms does his deadpan best to milk laughs from a story that presents a hurricane named Randy as a sleazy hairband rocker, but much falls flat.

And is a continuing report about the president stuck in the bottom of a well any stranger than the "real" news coming out of Washington, D.C.?

Helms' former colleagues at "The Daily Show" have used news send-ups to channel anger and offer insights on "Full Frontal With Samantha Bee" and "Last Week Tonight With John Oliver," but "Fake News" seems like a throwaway. Worse, it asks us to sit around and watch it for a solid hour, when "The Daily Show" and "The Colbert Report" strained to fill 30 minutes.

For a more contemporary look at how current talent on "The Daily Show" has branched out, catch the repeat airing of the stand-up special "Michelle Wolf: Nice Lady" (9:55 p.m., HBO, TV-MA).

Speaking of mixing topicality with entertainment as well as trends and shows that have outlived their expiration dates, "Will & Grace" stars Eric McCormack and Debra Messing host the "Golden Globes 75th Anniversary Special" (9 p.m., NBC, TV-14).

This will be a weird year for awards season. The ugly reports about Harvey Weinstein have convulsed the entertainment business, particularly the part of it that concentrates on prestige projects, the kinds of films that win awards and that

Weinstein used to champion.

And if that weren't an acrid enough atmosphere, much of the geography around Hollywood has been consumed in flames over recent days.

Clearly, it's not the best time for Tinseltown to party.

- The gang faces a Vatican conspiracy on the fourth season opener of "The Librarians" (8 p.m., TNT, TV-14). Not to be confused with "The Da Vinci Code" (9 p.m., Starz Encore).

TONIGHT'S OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Cookie and Lucious conspire against DuBois on "Empire" (8 p.m., Fox, TV-14).
- The Saxons base their strategy on a religious vision on "The Vikings" (9 p.m., History, TV-14).
- While grieving, Fossey collaborates on an acclaimed film on "Dian Fossey: Secrets in the Mist" (9 p.m., National Geographic, TV-14).
- The Kirkmans receive a Christmas surprise on "Designated Survivor" (10 p.m., ABC, TV-14).
- The pope's arrival in Paris complicates matters on "Knightfall" (10 p.m., History, TV-14).
- Happy informs Sax that he's a dad on "Happy!" (10 p.m., Syfy, TV-MA).
- Elliot tries to rescue Darlene on "Mr. Robot" (10 p.m., USA, TV-MA).

CULT CHOICE

Patrick Stewart brings a certain muscularity to his portrayal of Ebenezer Scrooge in the 1999 adaptation of "A Christmas Carol" (9 p.m., TNT).

SERIES NOTES

Fighting for the last five spots on "Survivor" (8 p.m., CBS) * A Christmas-themed episode of "The Wall" (8 p.m., NBC, r, TV-PG) * A festival of lights on "The Goldbergs" (8 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) * While Christmas shopping, Veronica ferrets out a secret on "Riverdale" (8 p.m., CW, TV-14) * Dylan wants a dog

on "Speechless" (8:30 p.m., ABC) * Diplomats need protection on "SEAL Team" (9 p.m., CBS, r, TV-14) * The showcase announces its winner on "Star" (9 p.m., Fox, TV-14) * James Van Der Beek guest-stars on "Modern Family" (9 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) * Scandals darken the holiday mood on "Dynasty" (9 p.m., CW, TV-14) * A trip to the hospital puts a Christmas tradition on hold on "American Housewife" (9:30 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) * Itching to take on Scratch on "Criminal Minds" (10 p.m., CBS, r, TV-14).

LATE NIGHT

Expect Satya Nadella on "The Daily Show With Trevor Noah" (11 p.m., Comedy Central) * Owen Wilson and Noah Gardenswartz appear on "Conan" (11 p.m., TBS) * Nick Jonas and Dennis Rodman are booked on "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" (11:35 p.m., CBS) * Jimmy Fallon welcomes Michael Shannon, Alison Brie, Jaboukie Young-White and Jamaaladeen Tacuma on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC) * Sarah Paulson, Judd Apatow and Mark Guiliana visit "Late Night



Eric McCormack and Debra Messing host the "Golden Globes 75th Anniversary Special," airing at 9 p.m. today on NBC.

(11:35 p.m., CBS) * Jimmy Fallon welcomes Michael Shannon, Alison Brie, Jaboukie Young-White and Jamaaladeen Tacuma on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC) * Sarah Paulson, Judd Apatow and Mark Guiliana visit "Late Night

With Seth Meyers" (12:35 a.m., NBC) * Dwayne Johnson, Jack Black and Tim Minchin appear on "The Late Show With James Cordean" (12:35 a.m., CBS).

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Orange, Raspberry Tart in under an hour

BY MELISSA D'ARABIAN
Associated Press

During the holidays, we could all use a fantastic tart recipe in our hip pockets. Tarts are a perfect festive end to any dinner party, and they make a lovely gift for a neighbor. If the thought of making homemade crust intimidates you, or if you just prefer not to take in so many fat calories densely packed into a sheet of pastry, stick with me.

The tart I'm talking about today uses a simple olive-oil cake as the base, which is then topped with fresh berries. I took inspiration from a fruit-topped sponge cake, and turned the idea into a recipe that could be made start to finish in about an hour, and much of that time is baking or cooling. I

whipped up a speedy orange-olive oil cake (and it's technically speaking a quickbread, but our secret!) and made that the base, which works well with either regular flour or most gluten-free flours I have tried.

I used a pie pan with a raised center, a worthy minimal investment if you do any amount of baking. Buy one and you'll find a thousand uses for it. But if you don't have the special pie mold, use a regular tart or pie pan, and your results will be equally delicious. To create the pretty filling, I tossed a couple of cups of berries in a little orange marmalade thinned with hot water. Place the syrupy berries on the cake — maybe take an extra minute or two to arrange them nicely for a bakery-made look — and sprinkle on some powdered sugar to serve.

The cake itself has a mere 1/3 cup of sugar in the recipe, letting the raspberry topping offer most of the sweetness. The result is a gorgeous dessert or afternoon tea accompaniment that feels more indulgent than it actually is.

ORANGE AND RASBERRY TART

Servings: 8

Start to finish: 1 hour, including baking and cooling time

Base:

1 cup all-purpose flour
3/4 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
Pinch cinnamon
1 egg
1/3 cup granulated sugar
1/3 cup olive oil
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
Zest of one orange, about 2 teaspoons
Juice of one orange, plus enough water to make 1/3 cup

Topping:

About 2 cups fresh raspberries, or other berries or sliced fruit
2 tablespoons orange marmalade
2 tablespoons boiling water
Powdered sugar for dusting, optional
Preheat the oven to 350 F.

In a medium bowl, sift the flour, baking powder and soda, salt and cinnamon. Whisk dry ingredients together and set aside. In another medium bowl, whisk together the egg and sugar vigorously

until mixture is pale yellow, about 1 minute. Whisk in the oil, extract, zest and juice mixture and mix until well blended. Scrape the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients with a rubber spatula and stir gently until combined, but do not overmix.

Line the bottom of an 8-inch pie pan with raised center with parchment paper (cut round to fit), and spray liberally with nonstick spray. (If raised center pie pan is unavailable, use a regular 8-inch tart or pie pan.) Pour the batter into the prepared pan, and bake until the center springs back when gently pressed, about 25-30 minutes. Let the cake cool for 15 minutes before gently unmolding and chilling in the freezer for 15 minutes to cool completely. (Or, allow cake to cool at room temperature for another 30 minutes.) Meanwhile, place the orange marmalade and boiling water into a medium bowl and whisk until jam is loosened. Add the berries and stir to coat. Add an extra tablespoon of water if mixture is dry. Flip the cake over so the concave side is up. Use a toothpick, skewer or fork to poke holes into the bottom of the cake. Spoon the raspberry mixture onto the cake and arrange the berries so they are pretty. Just before serving, garnish with a dusting of powdered sugar, if desired.

Nutrition information per serving: 215 calories; 88 calories from fat; 10 g fat (1 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 27 mg cholesterol; 163 mg sodium; 29 g carbohydrate; 3 g fiber; 14 g sugar; 3 g protein.

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