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FOOD

Beef, beer and barbecue

Do we need to say more? C4



PHOTOS BY MELANIE SMITH / THE SUMTER ITEM

Litter is seen across Sumter in Swan Lake-Iris Gardens, at Dillon Park, on roadsides and in a church parking lot.

Canning Sumter's litter problem

Group discusses concerns, ideas to solving trash, dumping in county

BY KAYLA ROBINS
kayla@theitem.com

Seeing all the litter — everything from cigarette butts and discarded plastic bottles to shoes, tires and mattresses — in Sumter County makes Erika Williams want to cuss.

Williams, the communications and strategic initiatives manager for Sumter Economic Development, told a group of about 40 in Swan Lake Visitors Center on Monday night she is a member of the Sumter Litter Alliance because she wants to "clean up Sumter's streets." Cuss.

"Trash sucks," she said after the alliance's first public meeting after forming last fall to solve the issue of Sumter's litter and illegal dumping problem. "And it really impacts the quality of life for everyone here."

SEE LITTER, PAGE A10



'TRASH TALK' FROM MONDAY'S MEETING

"We can't get that Target or that Publix without getting higher-paying jobs, and we can't get higher-paying jobs if no one wants to come here because the streets are covered in trash."

"We all have to be taking responsibility."

"One day a year isn't going to solve the problem."

"Aren't you tired of there being a negative connotation about your community? Let's be known for something positive."

"An aggressive educational program is what we need."

"It's an education thing. It's a caring thing."

"If we don't try nothing, nothing will get done."

Students from Canada skip spring break to help others

Habitat volunteers build homes for Sumter families

BY IVY MOORE
Special to The Sumter Item

Twelve university students and two staff members rode a bus for 800 miles

— much of it through snow, rain and fog — last week to spend their spring break working construction in Sumter. The Brock University students seemed to revel in helping to build the 122nd home for Sumter Habitat for Humanity.

And the warm, spring-like weather made the work even better for the

crew from St. Catharines in Ontario, Canada, they agreed.

Staff lead Desirae Stack said Brock University has been participating in Collegiate Challenge for seven years. This is her second.

The program is "opened up to the whole university," Stack said. "We've got students studying in a lot of differ-

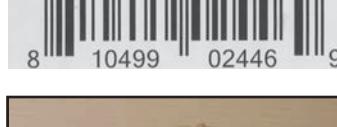
ent areas — sports management, medical, education, business."

Each student also must pay \$850 for what has become known as a "winter retreat" and an "alternative spring break," according to Sumter Habitat Development Coordinator Geneva

SEE CHALLENGE, PAGE A9

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DEATHS, B5

William Lee Morris
Richard A. Nunnery Jr.
Mary Lee James
Paul L. Jenkins Sr.
Cantfield Davis
Thomas W. Bellinger Sr.

Nathan Choice
William Lee Webb Sr.
Lakeisha Isaac
Katherine B. Powell
Leroy Washington

WEATHER, A12

STORM POSSIBLE
Cloudy with a storm possible in the afternoon; mild and cloudy tonight
HIGH 63, LOW 58

INSIDE

3 SECTIONS, 22 PAGES
VOL. 123, NO. 94

Classifieds B6
Comics C2
Food C4
Opinion A11
Panorama C1
Sports B1
Television C3



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Sumter police chief speaks to school board

Says nurturing kids is vital in preventing school shootings, threats

BY BRUCE MILLS

bruce@theitem.com

Sumter's police chief says the issue of school safety related to potential shootings is an emerging issue that must be dealt with proactively by local law enforcement working in association with schools.

Chief Russell Roark spoke to the Sumter School District Board of Trustees on Monday at its regularly scheduled work session after a mass shooting at a Florida high school Feb. 14 that killed 17 and a rash of "copy cat" threats at schools, including a few in the area.

"This is not a problem that can be eradicated by placing one person in jail for the rest of their life," Roark said. "It's an ongoing, recurring issue that we've got to deal with."

Roark discussed various activities

Sumter Police Department has conducted in the last two weeks in schools and with district administrators to ensure student safety and

fully investigate all threats or pranks of impending violence. He said his department takes every threat seriously, and the safety of children is everyone's top priority.

He also discussed a longer-term approach toward solving the problem that his department has implemented in the last several years by trying to build positive relationships inside the district's elementary schools.

Roark said many children may have a negative perception of the police from a young age, especially if they come from a difficult home environ-

ment and have seen police officers perform some of the harder aspects of their job, such as when the Department of Social Services gets involved.

"They see this uniform and connect this uniform with something bad," Roark said. "We took them out of their home. As bad as it may be, that's still home, and that's still Mama and still Dad. So, what we try to do is to develop a dialogue and at the earliest age start to build a relationship and nurture some of these kids."

School board member the Rev. Ralph Canty told Roark in various news reports he's been saddened to see the bad home environments that many of these shooters come from. He also said he hoped some of those children could be nurtured.

Roark said that stresses the importance of the department's interaction with children at a young age.

"Most children just want to be loved and taken care of," Roark said. "You can see that as you interact with children. So, it's very important that we continue to do that."

On the topic of school safety, Interim Superintendent Debbie Hamm reviewed various safety drills that all schools in the district perform and said school safety is an ongoing process and will be continuously upgraded.

Sumter School District Intervention Services Coordinator Kathy Morrison also discussed the district's new school safety threat online reporting system, known as Sprigeo, that students and parents can use from each school's website. The district implemented the reporting system in January primarily for bullying, but officials are seeing its benefits with larger school safety issues.

A circle of friends



MELANIE SMITH / THE SUMTER ITEM

The circular swing at Swan Lake-Iris Gardens' playground seemed to be the most popular attraction on Sunday afternoon.

LOCAL BRIEF

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Lee School District to hold Teacher Recruitment Fair

Lee County School District will hold its Teacher Recruitment Fair from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 10, at Lee County

School District, 310 Roland St., Bishopville.

The district will be recruiting for all teacher positions and will conduct interviews onsite. Candidates may register online at <http://bit.ly/2F0468M> to schedule an interview in advance. Walk-ins will be accepted.

For additional information, call (803) 484-5327.

Anticipated road projects getting closer to starting

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS

adrienne@theitem.com

Lafayette Diamond and other highly anticipated road improvement projects are getting closer to the starting line, according to Sumter City-County Planning Department Director George McGregor.

The Lafayette Diamond project is a lot closer to getting started than it has ever been, McGregor said during the Sumter Urban Area Transportation Study Policy Committee meeting on Monday.

He said the county is still working with a few property owners in the area to acquire right-of-way property for the road project.

The \$6 million project to reconstruct the intersection of North Main Street, the U.S. 76/378 bypass and other connecting roads is the only remaining 2008 Capital Penny Sales Tax penny project.

WILSON HALL ROAD AND WISE DRIVE

The \$600,000 penny project to relieve congestion during peak traffic hours will include installing traffic lights, though the original idea was to construct a traffic circle.

McGregor said there is not enough right-of-way property in the area for a traffic circle.

BROAD STREET IMPROVEMENTS

Plans to add safety improvements to the intersections of Broad Street and Wesmark Boulevard, and Broad Street and Bultman Drive, are expected to begin in early March, McGregor said.

Improvements will include

moving medians, updating curbs and sidewalks, and resurfacing Broad Street from Bultman Drive to Wesmark Boulevard.

INTERSECTION OF PINEWOOD, MCCRAYS MILL

This intersection project is in the design phase now, McGregor said.

Improvements will include closing or moving access points to stores at the intersection and extending medians to prevent drivers from making left turns across multiple lanes.

The highly traveled intersection on the southwest side of Sumter is the fourth-highest vehicle wreck location, according to a study conducted by the planning department.

MANNING AVENUE BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION

South Carolina Department of Transportation is anticipated to schedule the project — also a 2016 penny project — for sometime this year.

The county will allocate \$2.5 million collected through the 2016 penny sales tax to assist SC DOT in costs for the state-mandated reconstruction project.

McGregor said the county hopes that providing local funds will move the project near the top of the SC DOT's list of statewide bridge replacements.

\$4 MILLION SHOT POUCH GREENWAY PROJECT

Construction for the \$4 million project — to provide pedestrian access from Dillon Park to Swan Lake — is expected to begin later this year or in early 2019.

McGregor said about 75 percent of the design phase has been completed.

OSTEEN

PUBLISHING COMPANY
Established 189436 W. LIBERTY ST., SUMTER, S.C. 29150
(803) 774-1200Vince Johnson
PUBLISHER
vince@theitem.com
(803) 774-1201Kayla Robins
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
kayla@theitem.com
(803) 774-1235Kathy Stafford
CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER
CLASSIFIEDS, SUBSCRIPTIONS AND
DELIVERY
kathy@theitem.com
(803) 774-1212Rhonda Barrick
NEWSROOM MANAGER
rhonda@theitem.com
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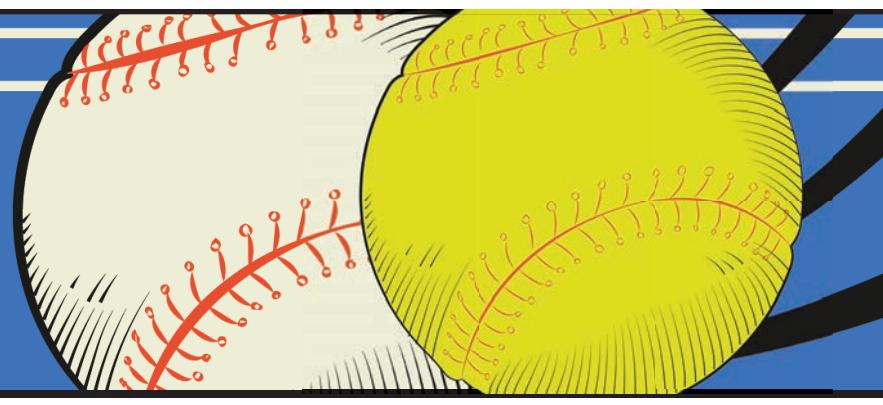
The Sumter Item is published five days a week except for July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day (unless those fall on a Sunday) by Osteen Publishing Co., 36 W. Liberty St., Sumter, SC 29150.

Periodical postage paid at Sumter, SC 29150.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Osteen Publishing Co., 36 W. Liberty St., Sumter, SC 29150

Publication No. USPS 525-900

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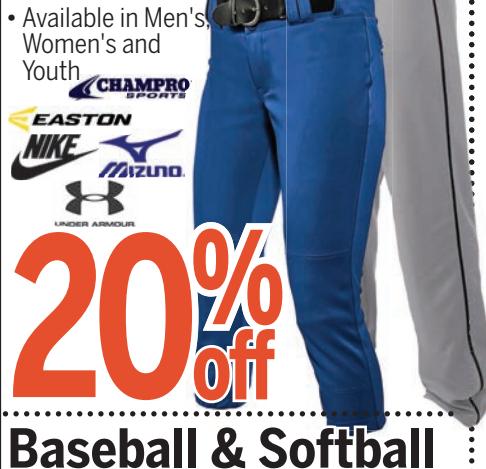
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Early warning sign? More states consider animal abuser lists

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Son of Sam, Ted Bundy, Jeffrey Dahmer and the Columbine High School shooters are among the infamous criminals who had a history of hurting animals before they went on to target humans, a tendency that's part of what's behind a movement to create public online registries of known animal abusers.

New York is among 11 states with animal abuse registry bills pending in their legislatures, following Tennessee, which started its in 2016 along with a growing number of municipalities in recent years, including New York City, and the counties that include Chicago and Tampa, Florida.

"Animal abuse is a bridge crime," said the sponsor of New York's bill, Republican state Sen. Jim Tedisco, who noted that Nikolas Cruz, accused of killing 17 people in the Parkland, Florida, high school shooting on Feb. 14, reportedly also had a history of shooting small animals.

While the main goal of collecting names of convicted animal abusers is to prevent them from being able to adopt or purchase other animals, registry backers say such lists could also be a way to raise red flags about people who may commit other violent crimes ranging



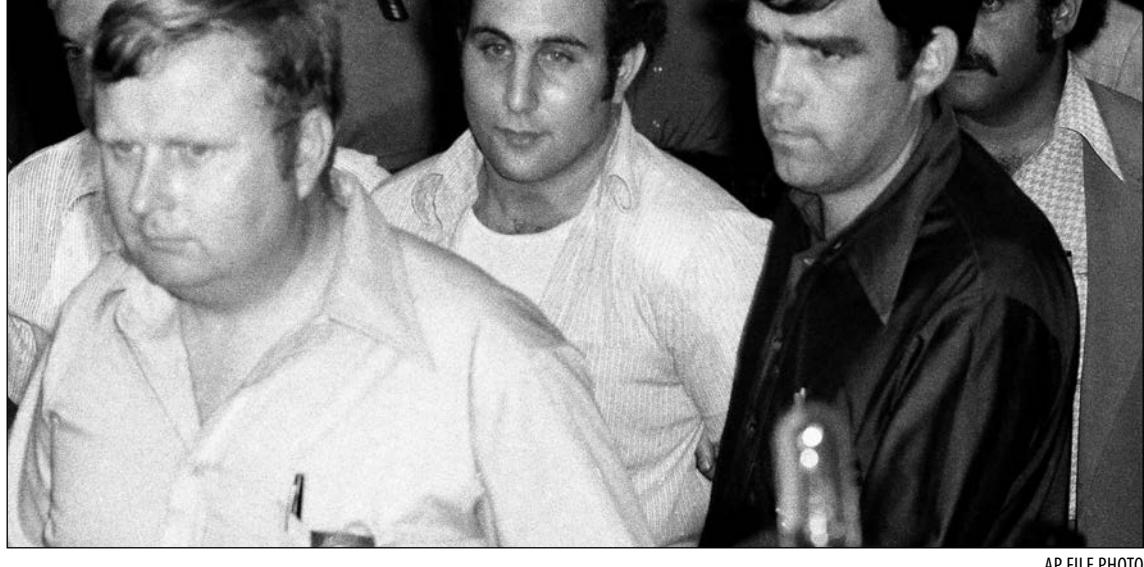
CRUZ

from domestic violence to mass shootings. But some animal welfare advocates, mostly notably the ASPCA, question how effective they can really be.

Under registry laws, people convicted of felony animal cruelty are required to submit information to the registry and pay a maintenance fee. Failing to do so brings fines and jail time. Shelters and pet dealers in a county with a registry are required to check it and risk stiff fines for providing an animal to anyone listed. It's not difficult, since most registries have only a handful of names and mug shots of cruelty crimes ranging from dog fighting to beating or starving a pet to death.

A high-profile animal cruelty case is often the impetus for passing a registry law. In Nassau County on New York's Long Island, it was the case of Miss Harper, a fawn-colored 7-month-old pit bull left earless and badly infected after the couple who bred her paid a friend to perform surgery he wasn't licensed to do.

The couple had previously been charged with cruelty for putting bleach on another puppy. Since their convictions predated the registry, they're free to buy and breed more dogs. Another loophole is the scattershot nature of such registries. While neighboring Suffolk County on Long Island has a registry, along with 11 counties in upstate New York, many



AP FILE PHOTO

This Aug. 11, 1977, photo shows David Berkowitz, who called himself "Son of Sam," arriving at Brooklyn Courthouse in New York after a summer killing spree.

do not.

"There really needs to be a statewide law," said Gary Rogers of the Nassau County Humane Society, which manages that county's registry established in 2014. "Otherwise, someone on our registry can just go to another county to get an animal."

Tedisco, who pushed through New York's felony animal cruelty law in 1999, said the Miss Harper case underscores the need for passage of his statewide registry law, which would also require convicted offenders to get psychological evaluation and treatment.

Stephanie Bell, director of cruelty casework for People

for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, said PETA is strongly in favor of animal abuser registries. But not all animal welfare groups agree.

"Given the limited scope, reach and utilization of animal abuse registries, it is unlikely they would have any significant impact on the incidence of animal cruelty," said Randall Lockwood, senior vice president of anti-cruelty projects for the ASPCA. The number of people who end up on registries is negligible, he said. Tennessee's has just 12.

Leighann Lassiter, of the Humane Society of the United States, said that while her organization agrees with the motivation behind registries, it's

already possible to do a nationwide criminal background check on a potential pet adopter, which would reveal not only cruelty convictions, but also other violent crimes.

Instead, Lockwood said, communities should focus on strengthening anti-cruelty laws, using no-contact orders to prevent offenders from having contact with pets, livestock and wildlife, and expanding protective orders in domestic violence situations to include animals.

The other states considering registries are Hawaii, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Virginia and Washington.

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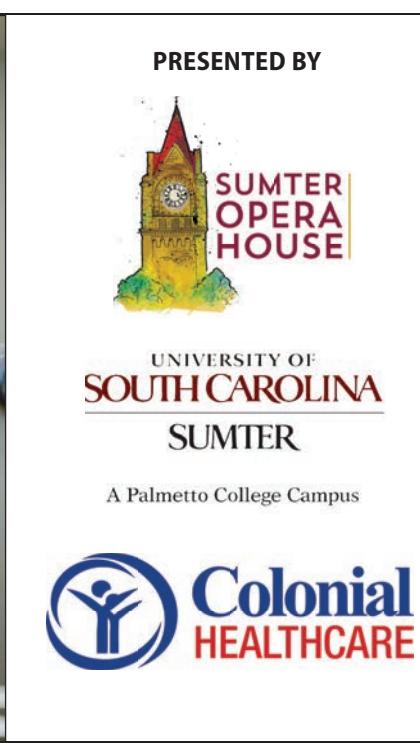
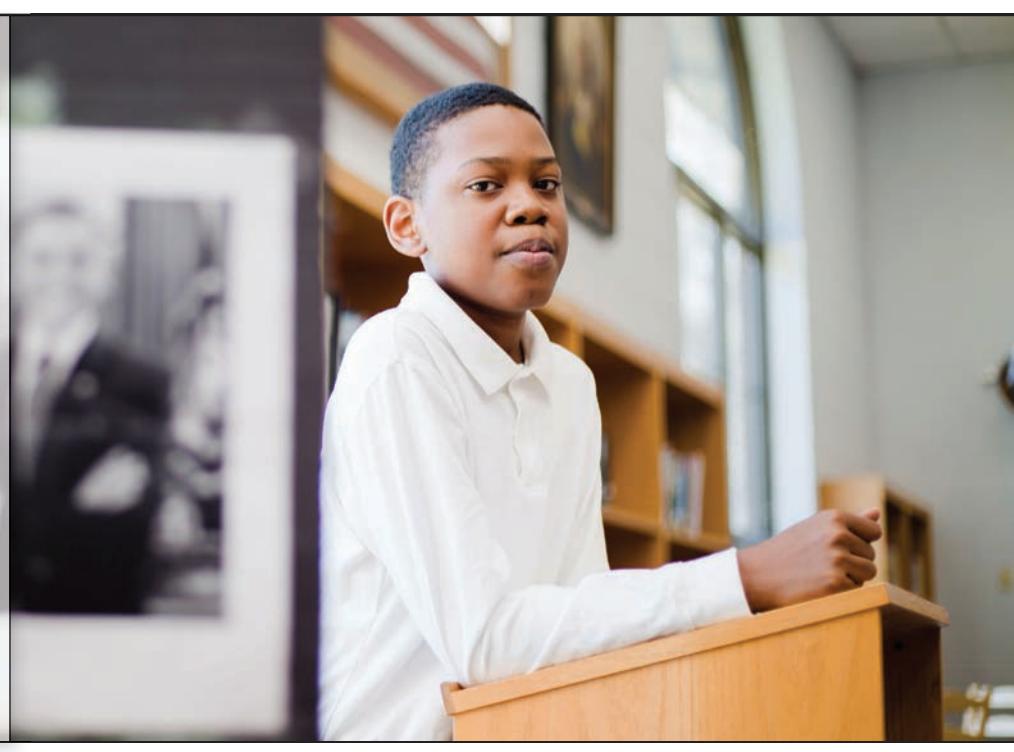
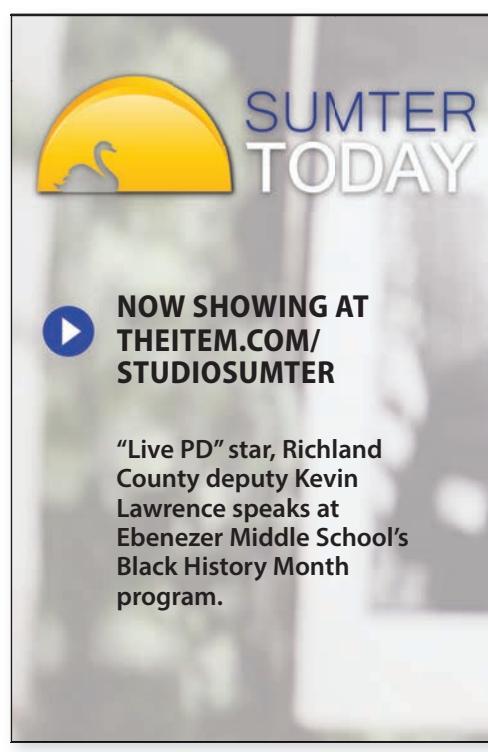
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S.C. State Guard to help fight prison cellphones

BY MEG KINNARD

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Still unable to use jamming technology to stop smuggled cellphones, South Carolina's corrections officials are enlisting State Guardsmen to help them combat the devices they call the top security threat behind bars.

On Tuesday, Gov. Henry McMaster signed an executive order allowing South Carolina State Guardsmen to help patrol the perimeters of the state's prisons, watching for people trying to smuggle in contraband including cellphones.

The program is starting at Broad River, a maximum-security prison in Columbia, with the goal of expanding to other facilities. Bryan Stirling, the state's Corrections director, said the program will allow him to move his officers back inside the prison, keeping institutions safer.

The partnership is the latest anti-cellphone step taken by Stirling, who has long argued that being able to jam signals from the smug-

gled phones — used by inmates to plan crimes and acts of violence — would be the best way to keep his employees and the public safer. Each year, Stirling's agency seizes thousands of cellphones, smuggled inside prison by visitors, errant employees and even delivered by drone. Capt. Robert Johnson of Sumter, a veteran of 15 years as a corrections officer at Lee Correctional Institution, was shot six times at his home and left for dead after a hit was ordered from an inmate's cellphone.

Wireless service providers have said that, while they support efforts to cut out inmates' illegal calls, they worry signal-blocking technologies could thwart legal calls.

The Federal Communications Commission, which regulates the nation's airwaves, has said it can't permit jamming in state prisons, citing a decades-old law that prohibits interruption of the airwaves at state-level institutions. But the agency has been softening on the issue, thanks to persistent pleas from officials including Stirling and McMaster, as well as members of Congress including Tennessee Rep. David Kustoff.

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Lose weight or build muscle — why choose?

It's an all-too-common belief that you have to lose weight first before building muscle. When specifically talking about losing weight, many programs restrict strength training or even any type of exercise altogether. The reason for this is that when you do exercise, your blood volume increases by up to 800 percent. This extra fluid in the body can cause the number on the scale to go up, which is definitely not something anyone on a weight-loss program wants to see.

More specifically, with weight training, the goal is to build and strengthen muscles. This again drives up blood volume, but as mus-



Missy Corrigan

cles grow, so does the amount of water in the muscles. Muscles are made up of two-thirds water; muscles become more dense, thus driving the number up on the scale. Again, this is not a favorable result for that weight-loss program.

So why not just forget about the number on the scale and focus on building muscle? The more muscle you have, the more metabolically active you are. Muscle requires more energy, or calories, to survive than fat cells do. In fact, muscle requires an additional 35 calories compared to just 4 calories for fat cells.

Pound for pound, muscle and fat weigh the same. Think of muscle as a one-pound brick and fat as a one-pound bag of feathers. They both weigh the same, but it takes about the size of a large trash bag filled with feathers to weigh one pound. So while they weigh the same, it is the

fat that takes up a lot more room. When you focus on increasing muscle but losing fat, the scale may not change, but you are losing inches, and you are getting smaller. It is difficult to grasp this because the positive changes are not reflected on the scale.

Furthermore, muscle and fat are two completely different tissues in the body. Fat cannot turn into muscle, and muscle cannot turn into fat. Both are directly affected by the food we choose to eat, but only muscle is directly stimulated by exercise. You can spot strengthen certain muscles, but you cannot spot reduce any area of your body's fat cells. While many use exercise to burn calories, it is primarily used for building muscular strength and endurance.

It is much more efficient to focus on building muscle while trying to lose weight. When the body becomes

stronger, the bones and joints are better protected, and the body overall is more dense. On a weight-loss program where strength training is prohibited, lean body tissue is lost, which includes muscle, bone density and the proteins and water inside of your muscle cells. When you do start strength training you will see the scale go up because you are rebuilding these major components of a healthy body that have been lost.

With more than 600 muscles in the human body we need to strength train to build muscle. Losing weight is important, but losing lean body tissue is not the type of weight you want to lose. Be sure your approach is a healthy one that doesn't eliminate strengthening your muscles. In addition to gaining muscle, you boost your potential for changing your body faster than if you were to lose weight first before building muscle.

Trump urges lawmakers to buck NRA sometimes

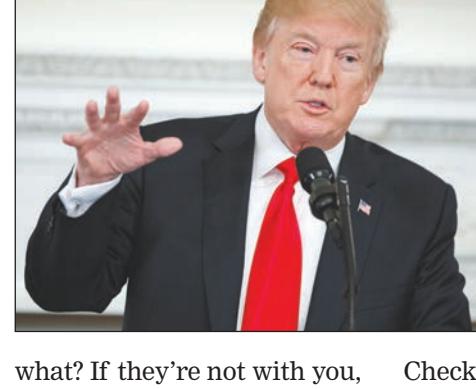
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump declared he's willing to take on the National Rifle Association regarding gun legislation, but Republicans who control Congress aren't so sure. They prefer to consider only modest changes to firearms limits in response to the mass shooting at a Florida high school.

Congress returned to work Monday without following Trump's lead on any of the major initiatives he has tossed into the debate since the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Despite public calls for stricter gun laws, Republican leaders have largely kept quiet after the shooting which left 17 dead and ushered in another phase in the gun debate, prompted in large part by the activism of the young survivors. Some students visited with lawmakers Monday.

During the weekend, Trump spent time talking to Republi-

can House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, and the White House is inviting lawmakers from both parties for meetings this week. But Trump's ideas to arm many teachers, lift the minimum age for purchasing assault rifles to 21 and impose stricter background checks were falling flat.

"You guys, half of you are so afraid of the NRA," the president said Monday at a meeting with the nation's governors. "There's nothing to be afraid of. And you know



President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with the members of the National Governors Association in the State Dining Room of the White House, Monday in Washington.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

what? If they're not with you, we have to fight them every once in a while. That's OK."

Instead, Senate Republicans are hoping to consider more modest legislation from Sens. John Cornyn, R-Texas, and Chris Murphy, D-Conn., to strengthen the National Instant Criminal Background

Check System, or NICS. The "Fix NICS" bill, similar to one approved last year in the House, would penalize federal agencies that don't properly report required records used to determine whether someone can legally buy a gun.

Cornyn, the Senate's No. 2 Republican, questioned

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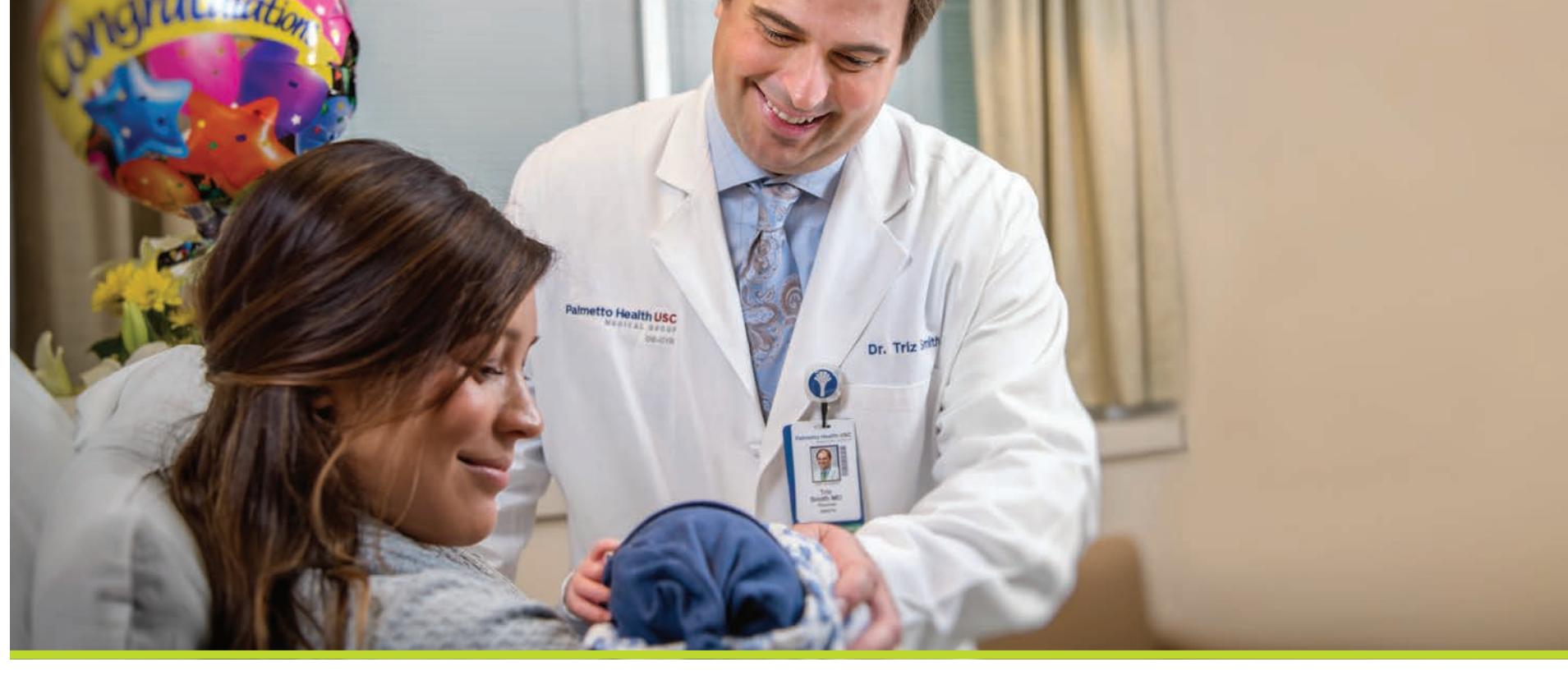
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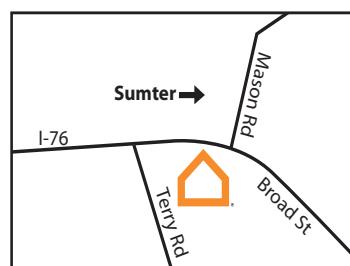
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Report: Inequality remains 50 years after Kerner Report

BY RUSSELL CONTRERAS

The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Barriers to equality are posing threats to democracy in the U.S. as the country remains segregated along racial lines and child poverty worsens, says a study examining the nation 50 years after the release of the landmark 1968 Kerner Report.

The new report released Tuesday blames U.S. policy-makers and elected officials, saying they're not doing enough to heed the warning on deepening poverty and inequality as highlighted by the Kerner Commission a half-century ago, and it lists a number of areas where the country has seen "a lack of or reversal of progress."

"Racial and ethnic inequality is growing worse. We're resegregating our housing and schools again," said former U.S. Sen. Fred Harris of Oklahoma, a co-editor of the new report and last surviving member of the original Kerner Commission created by President Lyndon Johnson in 1967. "There are far more people who are poor now than was true 50 years ago. Inequality of income is worse."

The new study titled "Healing Our Divided Society: Investing in America Fifty Years After the Kerner Report" says the percentage of people living in deep poverty — less than half of the federal poverty level — has increased since 1975. About 46 percent of peo-



ple living in poverty in 2016 were classified as living in deep poverty — 16 percentage points higher than in 1975.

And although there has been progress for Hispanic homeownership since the Kerner Commission, the homeownership gap has widened for blacks, the report found. Three decades after the Fair Housing Act of 1968 passed, black homeownership rose by almost 6 percentage points. But those gains were wiped out from 2000 to 2015 when black homeownership fell 6 percentage points, the report says.

The report blames the black homeownership declines on the disproportionate effect the subprime crisis had on black families.

In addition, gains to end school segregation were reversed because of a lack of court oversight and housing discrimination. The court oversight allowed school districts to move away from desegregation plans, and housing discrimination forced black and Latino families to

move into largely minority neighborhoods.

In 1988, for example, about 44 percent of black students went to majority-white schools nationally. Only 20 percent of black students do so today, the report says.

The result of these gaps means that people of color and those struggling with poverty are confined to poor areas with inadequate housing, underfunded schools and law enforcement that views those residents with suspicion, the report said.

Those facts are bad for the whole country, and communities have a moral responsibility to address them now, said Harris, who now lives in Corrales, New Mexico.

The new report calls on the federal government and states to push for more spending on early childhood education and a \$15 minimum wage by 2024. It also demands more regulatory oversight over mortgage leaders to prevent predatory lending, community policing that works with nonprofits in minority neighborhoods and

A National Guard officer passes the smashed window of a black-owned flower shop in riot-torn Newark, New Jersey, on July 15, 1967, after a night of looting and violence. The small sign in window reads, "Please!! Negro-Owned Business." Former U.S. Sen. Fred Harris, the last surviving member of the Kerner Commission, says he remains haunted that the panel's recommendations on U.S. race relations and poverty were never adopted, but he is hopeful they will be one day.

AP FILE PHOTO

more job training programs in an era of automation and emerging technologies.

The late President Johnson formed the original 11-member Kerner Commission as Detroit was engulfed in a raging riot

in 1967. Five days of violence over racial tensions and police violence would leave 33 blacks and 10 whites dead and more than 1,400 buildings burned. More than 7,000 were arrested.

That summer, more than 150 cases of civil unrest erupted across the United States. Harris and other commission members toured riot-torn cities and interviewed black and Latino residents and white police officers.

The commission recommended that the federal government spend billions to attack structural racism in housing, education and employment. But Johnson, angry that the commission members didn't praise his anti-poverty programs, shelved the report and refused to meet with members.

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Midlands Stormwater Pond Conference

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Stormwater Pond Management Conference on March 13, in Columbia, SC is a great resource for learning how to manage these and other common stormwater pond concerns! This conference is specially designed for a diverse audience of people who manage stormwater ponds including stormwater pond owners, HOA representatives, property management professionals, and pond management professionals. The conference format is divided into two specialized tracks, one for the pond owner and one for the professional manager.

Participants will gain a wealth of knowledge about stormwater ponds through presentations and advice from local and regional pond management experts. You will also have the opportunity to interact with organizations and businesses in the pond management industry, regulatory agencies, and pond owners. A resource package with information and reference materials will be provided, as well

as lunch and refreshments.

Conference topics will include:

- Integrated weed management
- Upland best management practices
- Pond inspections and maintenance
- Funding and budgeting
- Fish stocking
- Wildlife management
- Hands-on problem solving and more

The 2018 Stormwater Pond Management Conference will be held March 13, 2018 from 8AM-4:00PM at the Northeast campus of Midlands Technical College. Registration costs \$40 per participant and must be received by March 7th.

If you have questions, you can contact Katie Altman in the Sumter Clemson Extension office at 803-773-5561 or klaltma@clemson.edu

If you're looking for a more extensive course on stormwater ponds and/or recreational ponds, the next Master Pond Manager course also starts in March!

Registration is due by March 14. For more information or to register for Master Pond Manager, visit clemson.edu/public/water/watershed/training/mpm

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LITTER FROM PAGE A1

Her acronym and associated pep talk made the entire room laugh. About trash. That's a feat by itself.

Other members in the group represent Sumter School District, Sumter County Sheriff's Office, South Carolina Department of Transportation, Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce, Sumter City Council and Sumter County Council, and Williams said economic development, like the rest of the stakeholders, is impacted negatively when trash is all over the county.

"When we're doing industrial recruitment and we're bringing in companies to the area, it is unfortunate that we lose the interest of some of those companies that could be very lucrative and could raise our per-capita income because they see all the debris in the roadways and also near the industrial parks," she said. "Litter actually impacts morale. It impacts the environment. And it's all of our responsibility. All of our social responsibility."

"We want to not have to have dedicated routes where we show possible businesses where to come. We want to show them the entire county."



After Williams and Nicole Bailey, vice president of operations for the Chamber of Commerce, led a presentation about the alliance's goals and approach to solving the problem, residents and other stakeholders were given a chance to voice concerns and ideas.

"My daughters visited ... they said, 'Mom, this is disgusting. We weren't raised like this,'" one woman said.

Another resident said she sees piles of full trash bags dumped in the tree line near her house, which is in the rural part of the county. You can't see them all the time, but when it rains, the bags roll to the front of the tree line.

A veterinarian in Sumter said she had two people turn down job offers because they didn't want to move to the area after noticing all the trash.

Ideas aired focused on education, community cleanups, making stricter penalties — which the city and county are beginning to work on — and spreading awareness so residents don't become "immune to it because they see it every day."

"Nobody wants to pick up trash. It's not fun. There's nothing fun about it. But it is good fellowship if you're out there talking with your group," said Scott Burkett, a Realtor for ERA Wilder Real-

ty Inc. in Sumter and the brainchild of the alliance. "I recognized [the problem] last year when they cut the grass on [U.S.] 378 coming in from Columbia that it looked like a paper mill, and there was no one cleaning it up. There were no prisoners, no Adopt-

A-Highway."

Burkett visited the various groups now involved and began discussions on where the holes were in the county's ability to clean itself up and how to plug them.

Burkett drives around the county a lot through his job in selling property, and he said the trash is "embarrassing."

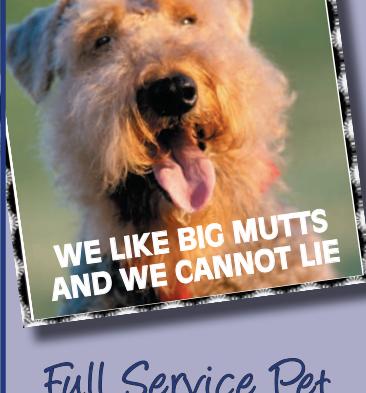
He said now the group has a three-pronged process — education, litter ordinances and community campaigns.

A Garbage Crawl community cleanup challenge is scheduled for March 24, and Sumter County Sheriff Anthony Dennis is now allowing certain probationers to pick up trash. The local SCOTD is trying to get more groups to commit to Adopt-A-Highway, a program that asks for quarterly cleanups.

"I can't do this on my own," Burkett said. "This is a big project."

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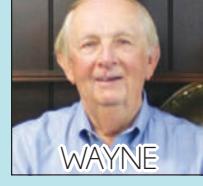
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OPINION

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COMMENTARY

Don't take The Onion's pessimism too seriously

Study: 90 Percent Of Americans Strongly Opposed To Each Other." That's the headline on a story in what, on some days, seems to be America's most reliable news outlet, The Onion.

We laugh (or at least I did) because it strikes a chord. Americans of many different political outlooks today seem united in believing that we are experiencing the worst times in the nation's history. President Donald Trump's detractors talk about how he's a neurotic neo-Nazi establishing a dictatorship. Trump's fans talk about the existence of a deep state that uses secret protocols to undermine voters' choices.

Both sides have some cause for complaint. But their claims are overheated. Anyone familiar with the long course of American history — perhaps a smaller category than in times past — knows that, whatever our problems, things have been worse, far worse, before.

Many of us look back to a time when Americans shared a consensus on cultural values and when we are told that high school graduates or even drop-outs could easily snag well-paying blue-collar jobs. That's a reasonably accurate description of America in the 1950s on cultural values and of parts of America — the unionized industrial areas — on those jobs.

Trump's unspecific slogan, "Make America Great Again," probably strikes most listeners as a promise to restore the seemingly culturally unified America of the two decades after World War II. Democrats' calls for strengthening labor unions and job protections evoke the 1950s, the time of peak union membership.

But this was a short period — I call it the Midcentury Moment — and the exception rather than the rule in American history.

That tends to get overlooked by those lamenting polls showing low confidence in institutions. The benchmarks against which they are measured are inevitably when pollsters first asked those questions in the 1950s.

But that was a time when big institutions — big government, big corporations, big unions — had just finished leading Americans to victory in a world war and to unanticipated prosperity in the years that followed. They had arguably earned the confidence they enjoyed.

If you had been able to ask Americans those questions in the years before George Gallup conducted his first poll in 1935, it's likely that they would often have expressed low confidence, as they did starting in the late 1960s.

The years of rapid industrialization and high immigration and farmer rebellion, the period after World War I, the



Michael Barone

Great Depression — all of which brought lots of discord and disillusion — would have made for negative marks. Not to mention the arguments over slavery that led to the Civil War — or the bitter Adams-Jefferson debates. Talk about 90 percent of Americans being opposed to each other!

Against these events, today's woes seem less fearsome. We are told that Russian internet trolling is the worst foreign attack since 9/11. But it's nothing like what we faced with the Soviet-controlled Communist Party, which, with many well-placed advocates, opposed Franklin Roosevelt in 1940 (during the Hitler-Stalin pact), supported him in 1944 (when the Soviets were U.S. allies) and opposed Harry Truman in 1948. Anti-Communist liberals — such as Eleanor Roosevelt, Hubert Humphrey and Arthur Schlesinger — as well as conservatives, weighed in against this genuinely dangerous foreign interference.

What about the peculiarities of Donald Trump? I can remember other presidents who, despite impressive credentials, behaved very oddly, to say the least. Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon, for example, smart men with 30 and 20 years of high-level experience, respectively. And don't forget Franklin Pierce and James Buchanan, whose misbegotten policies and ineptness led to civil war.

Then there's the notion that the almost universally unexpected result of the 2016 presidential election represents a giant popular upheaval. Not so much, when you look at the numbers. Trump got 46 percent of the vote, 1 point less than Mitt Romney did in 2012, and Hillary Clinton got 48 percent, the same as John Kerry in 2004.

What did happen is that Trump, in effect, traded off votes from some highly educated whites in return for about the same number from non-college-educated whites, in a way that netted him 100 extra electoral votes. Russian trolls had no more to do with that than a bunch of kids sporting MAGA hats at a rally.

It would be nice to get some aspects of the Midcentury Moment back (more two-parent families), but no one wants some others (racial segregation laws). In the meantime, read Steven Pinker's "Enlightenment Now," on human progress in reducing violence, improving health and increasing prosperity. Many important things are getting better.

And remember that The Onion is parody.

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

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COMMENTARY

Protecting our state's forests

Editor's note: This column originally ran in the Monday edition of The Post and Courier.

BY GENE KODAMA

Throughout my 40-plus-year professional forester career serving in both the public and private spheres, I've come to view forestry as an "ideal" business sector. That's because good forestry conserves the whole range of environmental, social and economic forest values.

Sustainable forest management ensures that a forest's soil, air and water quality, wildlife habitat and recreational values are protected over the long term. Sustainable forest management also provides well-paying jobs that strengthen communities through the sustainable production of timber and other forest products.

In South Carolina, forestry is one of the largest and most important business sectors, generating roughly \$21 billion of economic impact annually and employing some 85,000 South Carolina citizens.

In addition, the South Carolina Forestry Commission has taken a lead role in demonstrating sustainable forest management.

Since 2013, the agency's five state forests, comprising 94,000 acres of publicly owned forest land, have been certified to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard and the American Tree Farm System.

SFI is a rigorous forest certification standard that ensures, through an independent, third-party certification process, that forests are well managed and that the environmental, social and economic values of a forest are maintained or enhanced.

I believe independent certification of publicly owned state forest lands is critical in demonstrating to South Carolinians that the state government is properly managing and caring for its citizens' forest land owner-

ship and values.

SFI certification, like an audit conducted by an independent assessor, allows the agency to retain and strengthen its "social license" to own and manage publicly owned lands and provides verification that the state's forests are being well managed for present and future generations.

South Carolina's certification of state forest lands to the SFI and ATFS standards shows leadership by setting a good example of sustainable forest management for others to follow.

The state has 13 million acres of forest land, and 88 percent of this forest land is owned by private entities — some 200,000 of these consisting of family forest landowners whose acreages average roughly 70-80 acres each.

Many of these small forest landowners don't realize that by actively managing their forest land, they can protect biodiversity and enjoy recreational activities, while enhancing economic returns from their lands.

Under active forest management, such lands can become consistent generators of income and wealth while still providing non-financial values.

In certifying its publicly

owned state forests to a rigorous certification standard like SFI, South Carolina is not only setting an example of sustainable forestry, but also increasing awareness throughout the state about how to conduct good forest management.

Forest certification also provides assurance to expanding international markets that forest products purchased from South Carolina come from sustainably managed forests.

Certification is an independent seal of approval that demonstrates to forest product buyers worldwide that South Carolina landowners and businesses are leaders in forest sustainability and are playing a positive role in building a green economy.

Gene Kodama was the state forester of South Carolina from 2008 to 2018.

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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 Angie Johnson at (803) 435-8085.

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

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TUESDAY MEETINGS:

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

Heroin Anonymous — Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30 p.m., 4742 Broad St. 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. Support group 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 fellowship hall, 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.

PUBLIC AGENDA

GREATER SUMTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Today, noon, chamber office

SUMTER CITY-COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Today, 3 p.m., fourth floor, Sumter Opera House, Council Chambers

The last word in astrology

ARIES (March 21-April 19):

Short trips, exercise and learning are all favored. The more you do, the greater the overall change will be to the way you live life and the people you choose to share your thoughts and ideas with.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Try to do what you can to help others. The satisfaction you get and the difference you make will give you greater incentive to do more and complain less.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The simpler, the better. If matters become too convoluted, you'll end up confused and trying to compensate for something you shouldn't. Stick close to home and concentrate on making personal improvements.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Watch what your peers do and consider how to best make use of your skills to complement what others are offering. Doing your best to fit in will lead to greater popularity and the chance to move into a key position.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Change can be good if you think matters through before you lay your money on the table. Don't trust anyone to look out for you. Negotiate on your own behalf and be prepared to walk away from unfair situations.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep costs in mind. Downsizing or making your living arrangements more efficient and affordable is a good place to begin. Don't get angry or keep secrets that will need to be revealed to bring about change.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll have a change of heart. Look at the pros and cons before you disrupt your home and personal life. Try to find ways to combine others' talents rather than being divisive in the way you handle situations.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put in the hours and don't stop until you've taken care of business. The changes you implement will be helpful when dealing with people you want to incorporate into your plans. Embrace change and don't be afraid to be unique.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can make personal changes that will improve your life and health. Get into a fitness routine and start paying more attention to what you eat. Being the best you can be will translate into success.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll be pulled in two different directions. Common sense will take you one way and desire and impulse will take you another. If you find that you're drifting into uncomfortable territory, stop, regroup and rethink your options.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Try your hand at helping others or giving back to your community. You'll be pleasantly surprised by the way it makes you feel and the friendships you develop. Exercise, proper diet and a positive attitude should be a priority.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take time to fine-tune whatever job you're given. Your attention to detail will make a difference when presenting what you've accomplished. Engage in events that are conducive to working with people you can learn from.

DAILY PLANNER

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2018

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
63°	58°	77° / 47°	65° / 37°	60° / 35°	61° / 36°
Chance of rain: 45%	Chance of rain: 25%	Chance of rain: 65%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 0%
SSE 4-8 mph	SSW 4-8 mph	WSW 10-20 mph	NW 10-20 mph	N 8-16 mph	N 7-14 mph

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

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

IN THE MOUNTAINS

Today: Cooler with occasional rain. Winds southwest 3-6 mph.

Thursday: Periods of rain. Winds southwest 8-16 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: Cloudy; an afternoon shower in spots in northern parts. High 65 to 73.

Thursday: Variable clouds; a shower. High 75 to 83.

LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THROUGH 2 P.M. YESTERDAY

Temperature

High 64°

Low 41°

Normal high 61°

Normal low 37°

Record high 84° in 1996

Record low 13° in 1967

Precipitation

24 hrs ending 2 p.m. yest. 0.01"

Month to date 0.70"

Normal month to date 3.35"

Year to date 2.74"

Last year to date 5.58"

Normal year to date 7.29"

LAKE LEVELS

Lake Full pool 7 a.m. 24-hr

Murray 360 357.55 +0.05

Marion 76.8 74.99 +0.04

Moultrie 75.5 75.00 +0.15

Wateree 100 97.11 +0.16

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise 6:52 a.m. Sunset 6:17 p.m.

Moonrise 5:01 p.m. Moonset 5:56 a.m.

Full Mar. 1 Last Mar. 9 New Mar. 17 First Mar. 24

RIVER STAGES

River Flood stage 7 a.m. 24-hr

Black River 12 6.79 -0.14

Congaree River 19 3.90 -0.10

Lynches River 14 4.94 -0.08

Saluda River 14 4.57 none

Up. Santee River 80 77.38 -0.26

Wateree River 24 9.84 -0.03

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH

High Ht. Low Ht.

Today 7:34 a.m. 3.5 1:50 a.m. -0.8

8:00 p.m. 3.1 2:32 p.m. -0.6

Thu. 8:26 a.m. 3.5 2:45 a.m. -1.0

8:52 p.m. 3.3 3:21 p.m. -0.7

NATIONAL CITIES

City Today Hi/Lo/W Thu

PREP BASKETBALL

North-South bound



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTOS

Crestwood High School's Jah'Che Whitfield (15) and Destinee Jamison (3) and Lakewood's Grant Singleton (5) have been selected to play in the North-South All-Star Games on March 17 at Lexington High School.

Crestwood's Whitfield, Jamison, Lakewood's Singleton selected for all-star games March 17

BY DENNIS BRUNSON

dennis@theitem.com

Crestwood High School's Jah'Che Whitfield and Destinee Jamison and Grant Singleton of Lakewood have been selected to play in the North-South All-Star Basketball Games.

The games will be played on Saturday, March 17, at the Lexington High School gymnasium.

Whitfield and Jamison will play for the South squad in the girls contest, while Singleton will be playing for the boys South team.

Whitfield and Jamison helped lead the Lady Knights to a 20-4 record, a share of the program's eighth straight region title and the third round of the 4A state playoffs. They lost to Wilson, which is playing for the state title this weekend in Columbia.

Whitfield, who was selected to the South Carolina Basketball Coaches Association 4A All-State team, averaged 15.4 points a game, second on the team to Jamison. She led the squad in rebounding at 7.4 and assists at 4.1. She was second to Jamison in steals at 2.8.

She was 65-for-98 from the free throw line and led CHS in blocked shots with 18.

SEE ALL STAR, PAGE B4

SEE SIGNS, PAGE B4

USC FOOTBALL



South Carolina quarterback Jake Bentley (19) will begin preparation for his third season when the Gamecocks begin spring practice today.

South Carolina's Muschamp seeks more with start of spring practice

BY PETE IACOBELLI

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA — South Carolina coach Will Muschamp continues to rebuild the Gamecocks despite the football team's best season since Steve Spurrier's departure.

And Muschamp has made sure his players know that headed into spring drills.

"I told our team, 'We've made progress. We haven't accomplished anything,'" Muschamp said Tuesday, the day before South Carolina takes the field for spring workouts.

The Gamecocks were among the biggest surprises in the Southeastern Confer-

ence last season, going 9-4 and finishing second in the Eastern Division behind national runner-up Georgia. The victories were the most by the Gamecocks since Spurrier led them to three consecutive 11-2 seasons from 2011-2013.

Muschamp feels good about the improvements — South Carolina was 3-9 in 2015 before he took over — but believes this team is capable of bigger things. The work resumed with offseason workouts and meetings, and continues on the field over the next month.

Muschamp said the players have brushed off the good feelings around campus and around town to get back to

work and not let themselves believe they've already arrived.

"I think they've handled the little success we've had very well," Muschamp said. "And it's been very little."

Muschamp made major changes on his offensive staff. He jettisoned former coordinator Kurt Roper after two seasons and elevated receivers coach Bryan McLendon to lead the attack. Muschamp brought in longtime Ole Miss assistant Dan Werner as Gamecocks quarterback coach to help speed up an offense that was 12th in the SEC in scoring, rushing and total offense.

SEE USC, PAGE B4

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Lee Central's McCabe signs with Livingstone

BY DENNIS BRUNSON

dennis@theitem.com

BISHOPVILLE — Cullen McCabe is hard to miss at 6-feet-3-inches and 340 pounds. Lee Central High School football head coach Justin Danner

had no problem picking McCabe out when he showed up at the Stallions' spring practice after his family moved from Deltona, Fla., to Lee County.

"He came in and did a really good job for us," Danner said of McCabe, who would eventually end up starting at left tackle. "He got in there and did what we asked him to do."

McCabe's performance, mixed with the one thing that you can't coach -- size -- has led to him getting the opportunity to play college football.

McCabe recently signed with Livingstone College, an NCAA Division II school located in Salisbury, N.C.

"It's great to finally know that I'm going to get the chance to play college football," McCabe said. "This is something I've always hoped I would get the opportunity to do."

McCabe was part of an LCHS offensive line that cleared the way for the running backs to have a huge season in the run-heavy Wing-T offense. Lee Central, which went 11-2 on the season, won the Region IV-2A title and

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Gamecocks' Wilson SEC player of year for third straight time

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP)

— South Carolina's A'ja Wilson is the Associated Press' Southeastern Conference women's basketball player of the year for a third consecutive season.

Mississippi State teammates Teaira McCowan and Victoria Vivians joined Wilson as unanimous first-team selections on the all-SEC team announced Tuesday. The other first-team picks were Missouri's Sophie Cunningham and Texas A&M's Chennedy Carter.

Carter, a freshman guard, also was a unanimous selection as SEC

newcomer of the year.

Wilson led South Carolina to the 2017 national title and has followed that up with a sensational senior season. The 6-foot-5 forward averages 22.9 points and also averages 12 rebounds to rank third in the conference.

Mississippi State's Vic Schaefer is the coach of the year after leading the second-ranked Bulldogs to the first unbeaten regular season by an SEC team since Tennessee's 1997-98 national championship squad.

SEE ALL SEC, PAGE B4



South Carolina's A'ja Wilson was named The Associated Press Southeastern Conference women's basketball player of the year for the third consecutive season on Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN THE PITS

NASCAR veterans aren't pulling over

BY JENNA FRYER

The Associated press

CHARLOTTE — Kevin Harvick put the brakes on the “New NASCAR!” movement with a dominating victory on a weathered old race-track.

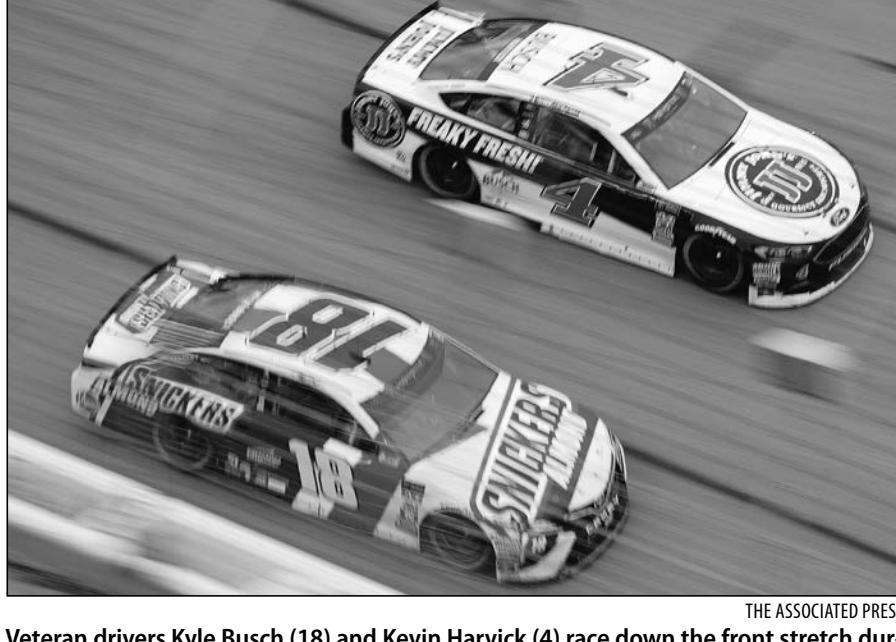
Away from Daytona, the veterans showed the young new drivers how to race on the dogged surface at Atlanta Motor Speedway. Harvick put on a clinic, and the top eight finishers were the familiar faces that seem to compete for wins every week.

All the new kids who sparked in the Daytona 500 had their hands full at Atlanta, a track that requires an entirely different skill-set. In the season-opening showcase, the idea is to go as fast as you can while avoiding the mishaps of others.

But the style of racing at Daytona, as well as Talladega, comes just four times a year. The rest of the NASCAR schedule is where the true talent rises. So at Atlanta, where experience matters, the finishing order showed five former series champions — four Daytona 500 winners — cross the finish line in order.

“This is a racetrack that takes a lot of experience, and there’s a lot of things that you have to know about your car and know about the race-track to get the car around,” Harvick said. “This is where experience pays off.”

That doesn’t fit the fresh narrative



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Veteran drivers Kyle Busch (18) and Kevin Harvick (4) race down the front stretch during the Monster Energy Cup Series at Atlanta Motor Speedway in Hampton, Georgia, on Sunday. Harvick won the race to stem the tide of the young drivers.

that came out of Daytona, where the new crop of NASCAR drivers ruled. Alex Bowman won the pole, Chase Elliott and Ryan Blaney won qualifying races, Blaney led the most laps in the Daytona 500, Austin Dillon won the race and Bubba Wallace finished second in his debut. At 27, Dillon is the oldest driver in that bunch.

Harvick, meanwhile, is 42.

The shift in focus to the new generation is not lost on anyone who follows NASCAR, particularly the veteran drivers. Some have nit-

picked about the marketing push behind this “New NASCAR!” and they had to have felt the change in dynamic at Daytona.

Denny Hamlin, a former Daytona 500 winner who finished third in the 500 and fourth at Atlanta, shared his thoughts on Twitter on Monday night by posting a video of pro bowler Pete Weber screaming “Who do you think you are? I am!” after winning his fifth U.S. Open title in 2012. Hamlin added his own message: “All the old drivers after Sunday.”

SCOREBOARD

TV, RADIO

TODAY

5 a.m. — Professional Tennis: Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships Early-Round Matches from Dubai, United Arab Emirates (TENNIS).

6 a.m. — Major League Exhibition Baseball: Cincinnati vs. Milwaukee from Phoenix (MLB NETWORK).

10 a.m. — Professional Tennis: Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships Early-Round Matches from Dubai, United Arab Emirates (TENNIS).

11 a.m. — Women’s Amateur Golf: Asia Pacific Women’s Amateur Championship Final Round from Singapore (GOLF).

1 p.m. — Major League Exhibition Baseball: St. Louis vs. Baltimore from Sarasota, Fla. (MLB NETWORK).

1 p.m. — NFL Football: NFL Scouting Combine Press Conferences (NFL NETWORK).

2:30 p.m. — International Soccer: FA Cup Fifth-Round Replay Match from London — Rochdale vs. Tottenham (FOX SPORTS 1).

4 p.m. — Major League Exhibition Baseball: Los Angeles Dodgers vs. San Diego from Peoria, Ariz. (MLB NETWORK).

5 p.m. — Professional Tennis: Abierto Mexican Telcel Early-Round Matches from Acapulco, Mexico (TENNIS).

6:30 p.m. — College Basketball: Providence at Xavier (FOX SPORTS 1).

6:30 p.m. — College Basketball: Louisiana State at South Carolina (SEC NETWORK, WDXY-FM 105.9, WNKI-FM 107.5, WDXY-AM 1240).

7 p.m. — College Basketball: Temple at Connecticut (CBS SPORTS NETWORK).

7 p.m. — College Basketball: Mississippi at Kentucky (ESPN).

7 p.m. — College Basketball: Pittsburgh at Notre Dame (ESPN).

7 p.m. — College Basketball: St. Louis at Duquesne (SPECTRUM 1250).

7:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Charlotte at Boston (FOX SPORTS SOUTHEAST).

8 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Golden State at Washington (ESPN).

8 p.m. — Major League Exhibition Baseball: Detroit vs. New York Yankees from Tampa, Fla. (MLB NETWORK).

8 p.m. — NHL Hockey: Detroit at St. Louis (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).

8:30 p.m. — College Basketball: Villanova at Seton Hall (FOX SPORTS 1).

8:30 p.m. — College Basketball: Texas A&M at Georgia (SEC NETWORK).

9 p.m. — College Basketball: Butler at St. John’s (CBS SPORTS NETWORK).

9 p.m. — College Basketball: Houston at Southern Methodist (ESPN2).

9 p.m. — College Basketball: Florida State at Clemson (ESPN, WWBD-FM 94.7, WPUB-FM 102.7).

9 p.m. — College Basketball: Syracuse at Boston College (FOX SPORTSOUTH).

9 p.m. — Professional Tennis: Abierto Mexican Telcel Early-Round Matches from Acapulco, Mexico (TENNIS).

10:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Houston at Los Angeles Clippers (ESPN).

10:30 p.m. — LPGA Golf: HSBC Women’s World Championship First Round from Sentosa, Singapore (GOLF).

11 p.m. — College Basketball: Nevada at Nevada-Las Vegas (CBS SPORTS NETWORK).

Midnight — Major League Exhibition Baseball: Cleveland vs. Los Angeles Angels (MLB NETWORK).

1:30 a.m. — Professional Tennis: São Paulo Open Early-Round Matches from São Paulo (TENNIS).

3 a.m. — Major League Exhibition Baseball: Minnesota vs. Houston (MLB NETWORK).

ON THE FRINGE

Woods playing dual role of player, mentor in return

BY DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Tiger Woods flew to California with Justin Thomas on his plane and had reason to feel older when they landed.

Thomas, the reigning PGA Tour player of the year, is among several players who were getting seriously hooked on golf about the time Woods was winning tournaments at a rate never seen. He had vague recollections of Woods making his PGA Tour debut at Riviera as an amateur and asked for details.

It was 1992. Woods was 16. That was a full year before Thomas was even born.

"I'm sorry, but that really put things in perspective really fast," Woods said Tuesday at the Genesis Open.

This is the new world for Woods even as he tries to bring back his old brand of golf.

In his first PGA Tour event after recovering from his fourth back surgery, Woods tied for 23rd on a tough test at Torrey Pines. His play has improved. The bigger difference is Woods appears more content with his place in life. And with golf getting younger and better by the year, the biggest change might be how Woods is perceived.

Is he more of a mentor? Elder statesman?

"Idol?" Thomas suggested. "I still look at him as what I looked at growing up. It's just now I can beat him," Thomas said with a laugh, surely a leftover barb from their flight to Los Angeles. "Now I'm playing against him and trying to beat him, instead of watching on TV and rooting for him."

Woods has not won since his five-victory season in 2013, and it was probably longer than that since he had an aura of being unbeatable. He has played only 21 times since the first of his four back surgeries a week before the 2014 Masters.

He was here, and he was gone, and then back again, but never for very long.

During that time away, when even Woods wasn't sure about his future in golf, he became more accessible to players. He was texting them at the Presidents Cup in South Korea in 2015. He was in their ears as an assistant captain the last two years at the Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup.

Jason Day, during his rise to No. 1 in the world, could barely make it through a press conference without mentioning a phone call or a text message with Woods to seek out advice. In the weeks leading up to his most recent return in the Bahamas, Woods played with Thomas, Rickie Fowler, Daniel Berger and Dustin Johnson.

This is not the same guy

who once didn't even acknowledge his mother walking to the first tee at the Masters.

Maybe that will change.

Perhaps it will take winning, though Woods clearly has tempered his expectations this early in his comeback.

"I think now they're starting to see me as a competitor because I'm starting to come back again," he said. "For a while there, that wasn't the case. I'm just a person that they could bounce ideas off of — what did I used to do and how do I feel these things, what do I do in certain situations, certain shots. And they would pick my brain. But now it's more of a playing competitor now. Yeah, we still give the needful and we still have a whole bunch of fun. But they know I'm playing in a tournament, and so are they."

Thomas and Woods have the same management at Excel Sports. Thomas recalls being nervous the first time he met Woods on the back of the practice range at TPC Sawgrass in his rookie season. Three years later, they were on his private jet flying out to California.

Thomas has a short history of soaking up information from the best to ever play the game.

It was two years ago, when he got off to a slow start his second year on tour, that he cashed in on an offer from Jack Nicklaus to call if he ever needed anything. So he called him. He remembers sitting with Nicklaus for more than two hours the first time they talked.

"I listened," Thomas said. "What else am I going to do with someone like him? But I think Tiger can relate a little bit more. We're closer in time in terms of golf courses, the age, stuff like that. He's played against people I play with."

Then again, Thomas only



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tiger Woods lines up a putt on the fourth hole during the final round of the Honda Classic on Sunday in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. Woods has not only returned as a player this year, but is being seen as a mentor.

knows the guy he grew up watching on TV.

"It is different," he said. "I've never played against Tiger when he's been the unbeatable Tiger. Until you experience it, it's hard to really understand."

Stories abound in golf about players helping one another, suggesting tips, offering views on what they see if a player is struggling.

But it usually only goes so far.

Thomas recalls a practice round at the Masters last year

with Phil Mickelson, when the three-time Masters champion left him hanging.

"Phil says, 'When I'm done playing, I have a couple of things with your game that will take you to the next level. They're going to be so helpful for you that you're going to be

borderline unbeatable,'" Thomas said. "I'm like, 'OK, what are they?' He says, 'I'm not telling you now.' It's the competitor."

Thomas paused and smiled.

"I don't know," he said, "if Tiger is holding back some stuff with me."

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WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

No. 2 Mississippi State aims to stay unbeaten in SEC tourney

Mississippi State wants to follow the same postseason path as the last Southeastern Conference women's basketball team to finish a regular season unbeaten.

The second-ranked Bulldogs (30-0, 16-0 SEC) are the first SEC team to go undefeated in the regular season since the 1997-98 Tennessee squad went 39-0 and won the national title. The next step for Mississippi State is to make it unscathed through the Southeastern Conference Tournament that begins Wednesday in Nashville, Tennessee.

"We know what's in front of us," Mississippi State coach Vic Schaefer said. "We're not afraid of it. We've not shied away from talking about winning championships. We've talked about that since Day One, and we're not going to shy away from it now."

Mississippi State hasn't lost since falling to SEC rival South Carolina in last year's NCAA championship game. South Carolina (23-6, 12-4) enters this tournament as the No. 2 seed behind Mississippi State, but the eighth-ranked Gamecocks' chances could depend on the health of three-time SEC player of the year A'ja Wilson.

A case of vertigo prevented Wilson from accompanying her teammates to their regular-season finale Sunday at Tennessee (23-6, 11-5). Without the 6-foot-5 forward in the lineup, the Gamecocks posted their highest turnover total and lowest point total of the season in a 65-46 loss to the Lady Vols.

South Carolina coach Dawn Staley said after the game that Wilson's status for this week was up in the air.

"I'll be on bended knee, hoping that she'll be back Friday," Staley said at the time. "I don't know. I think first and foremost is her health and making sure that she's healthy. We're just



Tennessee's Rennia Davis (0) tries to intercept a pass intended for South Carolina's LaDazhia Williams during the Lady Volunteers' victory over the Gamecocks on Sunday in Knoxville, Tennessee. The SEC tournament begins today in Nashville, Tennessee.

going to take it day by day obviously because vertigo isn't anything you play around with."

Because they're among the top four seeds in the tournament, Mississippi State and South Carolina earned byes into Friday's quarterfinals. No. 19 Georgia (24-5, 12-4) and No. 24 LSU (19-8, 11-5) also aren't opening tournament competition until Friday.

Wednesday's first-round games have 11th-seeded Florida (11-18, 3-13) facing 14th-seeded Mississippi (11-18, 1-15) and 12th-seeded Vanderbilt (7-23, 3-13) meeting 13th-seeded Arkansas (12-17, 3-13).

This conference features seven Top 25 teams and boasts enough depth that

Tennessee heads into the postseason as the No. 12 team in the country and the No. 7 seed in this tournament.

"The SEC's the best league in the country for women's basketball," Tennessee forward Rennia Davis said. "We get reminded of that every night by every team we play."

But there's no doubt that Mississippi State is the team to beat. The Bulldogs welcome that challenge.

"I think they've got a hunger and a real desire now to continue on this special trip that we're on," Schaefer said.

Some other things to watch in the SEC Tournament.

SELECT COMPANY: Mississippi State is one of three women's basketball teams ever to enter an SEC Tournament unbeaten. The others are Tennessee's 1997-98 national champions and the 1988-89 Auburn squad that finished 32-2. That Auburn team lost to Tennessee in the SEC Tournament final and the NCAA championship game.

RANKED TEAMS: SEC teams in the Top 25 include Mississippi State, South Carolina, Tennessee, No. 14 Missouri (23-6, 11-5), No. 15 Texas A&M (22-8, 11-5), Georgia and LSU. Texas A&M is seeded fifth and Missouri is seeded sixth this week.

NOT MUCH OF A BUBBLE: There won't be much bubble talk in Nashville this week. The SEC's seven ranked teams have pretty much locked up NCAA bids. Auburn (14-14, 5-11), Kentucky (14-16, 6-10), Florida, Vanderbilt, Arkansas and Ole Miss won't earn NCAA berths unless they win the SEC Tournament. The only SEC team remotely on the bubble is eighth-seeded Alabama (17-12, 7-9), which severely damaged its at-large hopes by ending the regular season with overtime losses to Georgia and LSU.

COLOSSAL QUARTERFINAL: Consider it a testament to this conference's strength that it could feature a quarterfinal between two top-12 teams in South Carolina and Tennessee. The Lady Vols first must beat Auburn on Thursday. Tennessee won both of its regular-season matchups with South Carolina by double digits, though Wilson didn't play in either game.

CROWDED AT THE BOTTOM: If Auburn loses to Tennessee and Kentucky doesn't reach the championship game, the SEC likely will have a league-record six teams finish the season below .500.

USC FROM PAGE B1

Werner will work closely with Jake Bentley, a rising junior who threw every pass for the Gamecocks last season.

Muschamp said he was confident in McClendon's attacking style, something borne out in South Carolina's rally to beat Michigan 26-19 in the Outback Bowl last month. The Gamecocks trailed 19-3 with 20 minutes left when Bentley threw two touchdowns and led four scoring drives to top the Wolverines 26-19.

Bentley threw for 2,794 yards, sixth in the SEC. His 18 touchdowns tied for third in the league.

McClendon's one game in charge is a small sample size, but one Muschamp believes is telling about his team's direction.

"We did some good things" on offense last season, the coach said. "But at the end of the day, we've got to score more points."

Something else that will surely help is the return of dynamic receiver Deebo Samuel, who broke a bone in his leg in South Carolina's third game and was lost for the year. Before the injury, Samuel had accounted for a six touchdowns, two of them on kickoff returns.

Samuel has been cleared for all football activity this spring. Muschamp will use caution to keep the 6-foot speedster prepped for the season.

Samuel pushed hard during rehab to come back as quickly as possible, Muschamp said.

"I saw him attack the offseason like I felt he would," Muschamp said. "The injuries were obviously very frustrating for him, but he's a great young man and understands the situation. Control what you can control is what we talk about all the time."

A healthy Samuel will add to a receivers position chock full of playmakers. Bryan Edwards caught 64 passes for 793 yards while two freshman pass-catchers in OrTre Smith and Shi Smith combined for six touchdowns after filling in for Samuel.

One of Muschamp's biggest challenges this spring will be finding depth on the offensive line where the Gamecocks lost starters in guard Cory Helms, center Alan Knott and tight end Hayden Hurst.

"We lost some really good football players and that depth on the offensive line after that first five," Muschamp said, "we've got to have some guys come along."

ALL SEC FROM PAGE B1

Wilson, a unanimous pick as player of the year the last two seasons, got seven of the 11 votes this time. Three voters selected Vivians and one chose McCowan.

Wilson's status for this week's SEC tournament in Nashville, Tennessee, is uncertain after a case of vertigo prevented her from playing in the eight-ranked Gamecocks' regular-season finale at No. 12 Tennessee. South Carolina lost 65-46.

South Carolina coach Dawn Staley said after the Tennessee game that she'd be "on bended knee" hoping Wilson could return in time for the SEC tournament.

Mississippi State hasn't lost since falling to South Carolina in last year's NCAA championship game.

"We've had that target all year, starting with the first game for what we did a year ago," Schaefer said Sunday after the team capped a perfect regular season with a win over Kentucky. "As we started winning games and the streak has continued, now you've got two big targets. It's stopping the streak and it's the team that was in the national champion-

ship game a year ago, so these kids have taken everybody's best shot."

Second-team all-SEC picks include Tennessee teammates Jaime Nared and Mercedes Russell, South Caroli-

WOMEN'S ALL SEC SELECTIONS

FIRST TEAM (LISTED ALPHABETICALLY)

Chennedy Carter, Texas A&M, G, 5-7, Mansfield, Texas

Sophie Cunningham, Missouri, G, 6-1, Jr., Columbia, Missouri

u-Tearia McCowan, Mississippi State, C, 6-7, Jr., Brenham, Texas

u-Victoria Vivians, Mississippi State, G, 6-1, Sr., Carthage, Mississippi

u-A'ja Wilson, South Carolina, F, 6-5, Sr., Hopkins, South Carolina

SECOND TEAM

Tyasha Harris, South Carolina, G, 5-10, Soph., Noblesville, Indiana

Chloe Jackson, LSU, G, 5-9, Jr., Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Jaime Nared, Tennessee, G/F, 6-2, Sr., Portland, Oregon

Caluya Robinson, Georgia, F, 6-3, Jr., Marietta, Georgia

Mercedes Russell, Tennessee, C, 6-6, Sr., Springfield, Oregon

Player of the year - A'ja Wilson, South Carolina

Coach of the year - Vic Schaefer, Mississippi State

Newcomer of the year - u-Chennedy Carter, Texas A&M
u-unanimous

AP ALL-SEC VOTING PANEL

Robert Cessna, The Eagle (Bryan-College Station, Texas); David Cloninger, The Post and Courier (Charleston, South Carolina); Damien Dennis, Opelika-Auburn (Alabama) News; Dan Fleser, Knoxville (Tennessee) News-Sentinel; Greg Hadley, The State (Columbia, South Carolina); Dave Matter, St. Louis Post-Dispatch; Adam Minichino, The Commercial Dispatch (Columbus, Mississippi); Lauren Moore, The Daily Times (Maryville, Tennessee); Scott Rabalais, The Advocate (Baton Rouge, Louisiana); Will Sammon, The Clarion-Ledger (Jackson, Mississippi); Jen Smith, Lexington (Kentucky) Herald-Leader

WOMEN'S COLLEGE TOURNAMENTS TV SCHEDULE

TODAY

SEC

SEC NETWORK

Noon – Vanderbilt vs. Arkansas

2:30 p.m. – Florida vs. Mississippi

ACC

FOX SPORTSOUTH

1 p.m. – North Carolina vs. Boston College

3:30 p.m. – Georgia Tech vs. Clemson

6:30 p.m. – Wake Forest vs. Pittsburgh

SIGNS FROM PAGE B1

reached the third round of the state playoffs, rushed for 4,375 yards and 51 touchdowns on 499 carries. That's an average of 8.8 yards per carry.

McCabe said he was also getting interest from St. Augustine's Coastal Carolina, South Carolina State and North Greenville. However, Livingstone suited him perfectly.

"I just fell in love with it when I

went there for a visit," McCabe said. "I loved the coaches, the campus. I knew pretty quickly that this is where I wanted to be."

Livingstone is a member of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association. The Blue Bears are coming off a tough season, going 0-10 overall and 0-7 in the CIAA.

Lee Central won the first region title in school history just two

years after going 1-9 in Danner's first season as head coach. The Stallions made a drastic improvement in 2016, going 7-4 before putting together the outstanding '17 campaign.

Even though he wasn't there for the transformation, McCabe still enjoyed the end result.

"They had done a good job of building the team, and you knew it was going to be a great season," McCabe said. "It was fun to be a part of such a great year."

ALL STAR FROM PAGE B1

Jamison averaged 19.0 points and 3.2 steals to lead the team. She also grabbed 3.9 rebounds and was second in assists at 2.0. She was 57-for-89 from the free throw line and led the team in 3-point baskets with 27.

Singleton was selected to SCBCA 4A boys All-State team. He was a guiding force in the Gators winning their second straight Region VI-4A title, finishing 7-1 in region play and 18-10 overall. LHS also made the deepest postseason run in school history, reaching the third round, where it lost to A.C. Flora 57-47.

Singleton led Lakewood in scoring at 15.8 points and assists at 4.0. He also grabbed five rebounds a contest and averaged 1.5 steals. He was also 74-for-89 from the free throw line, 83.2 percent.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS

SCHSL

CHAMPIONSHIPS

LOWER STATE

At Florence Center

Friday

1A Girls

East Clarendon

60, Scott's

Branch

47

1A Boys

Hemingway

59, C.E. Murray

48

4A Girls

Wilson

42, Myrtle Beach

33

4A Boys

Wilson

42, A.C. Flora

40

Saturday

2A Girls

Mullins

54, Marion

43

2A Boys

Carvers Bay

69, Marion

52

3A Girls

Ridgeland-Hardeeville

46,

Swansea

40

3A Boys

Ridgeland-Hardeeville

46,

Wade Hampton

(H) 40

5A Girls

Spring Valley

55, Goose Creek

53

5A Boys

PRO BASEBALL

Sign me: Free agents play Japanese amateurs in exhibition

East Japan Railway Company second baseman Komuro forces Major League Baseball free agent Chris Johnson at second base and turns a double play on Omar Infante during a scrimmage game Tuesday in Bradenton, Florida. Read the full story at www.theitem.com.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM LEE MORRIS

MANNING — William Lee "Billy" Morris, 84, husband of Margie Elizabeth Lyles Morris, died on Monday, Feb. 26, 2018, at his home.

Born on Jan. 12, 1934, in Alcolu, he was a son of the late Andrew Franklin Morris and Mamie Cutter Morris. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War and he was the owner and operator of Morris & Sons Electrical Corp. He was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Alcolu.

He is survived by his wife of Manning; three sons, William Anthony "Tony" Morris of Manning, Rocky Morris of Alcolu and Cleve Scott Morris (Christina) of Manning; two daughters, Ava Maria Morris Rose and Debra Morris Perkins, both of Manning; a sister, Ava Rea Justice of Manning; 10 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday at Trinity United Methodist Church with the Rev. Carol Holladay officiating. Burial will follow at the church cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Terry Lyles, Rob Morris, Bruce Kemmerlin, Jody James, Darrell Newman and Ricky Morris.

Honorary pallbearers will be Ray Morris, Joey Morris, David Morris and Kenneth Justice.

Visitation will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday at Stephens Funeral Home and other times at the residence, 1370 Plummer Circle, Manning.

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

RICHARD A. NUNNERY JR.

BLYTHEWOOD — Richard Allen Nunnery Jr., 74, husband of Mary Jones Nunnery, died on Monday, Feb. 26, 2018, at his home in Blythewood.

Born in Sumter, he was a son of the late Richard Allen Nunnery Sr. and Tressie Windham Nunnery. Mr. Nunnery was a retired supervisor with Santee Print Works.

Surviving are his wife of 45 years of Blythewood; a daughter, Leanne Gallo of Blythewood; two sisters, Ruby Lilze and Dianne Griffin, both of Sumter; a grandson, Hampton Gallo; and a special niece, Paige Jones Bennett.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Julia Horton.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Thursday in the chapel of Elmore Hill McCreight Funeral Home with the Rev. Smoke Kaniipe officiating. Burial will follow at Evergreen Memorial Park cemetery.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday at Elmore Hill McCreight Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Online condolences may be sent to www.sumterfunerals.com.

Elmore Hill McCreight Fu-



MORRIS

neral Home & Crematory, 221 Broad St., Sumter, is in charge of the arrangements, (803) 775-9386.



Elmore Hill McCreight
FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY

MARY LEE JAMES

It is with great sadness that the family of Mary Lee James announces her passing on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2018, at the age of 80 years, at Palmetto Health Tuomey.

Mary Lee James will be lovingly remembered by her children, family and her friends. Mary Lee

James was born on Aug. 2, 1937, in Clarendon County, a daughter of the late Henry and Agnes Plowden Williams. She was married to the late Henry Thomas James. Mary Lee James was educated in the Sumter County public school system. During the early years of her life, she was a committed Christian and member of New Jerusalem Church in Sumter, where she served as a Sunday school teacher and choir member. Her favorite Bible verses were John 3:16 and Psalm 23. Mary Lee was a very passionate and lovable woman, who was no stranger to anyone and was willing to help anyone who was in need. She also lived many of her adult years in Elizabeth, New Jersey, where she was employed by Union County Chemical Works.

Mary was a devoted wife and mother to eight children (three that have gone before her), five which live to cherish her memories: Henrietta James Brunson (Louis), Catherine Bracey, Daisy Rebecca James and Sarah Elizabeth James, all of Sumter, and Henry Lee James of Richmond, Virginia; two sisters and two brothers, Girleen Jackson, Betty McDonald and Shadrack Williams of Sumter, and Ferdinand and Earleen Williams of Philadelphia; 14 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; two sisters-in-law, Juanita (Thomas) Joyner and Mary Burgess; one son-in-law, Earl English; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Henry T.

James; her daughter, Janette Montgomery English; her sons, Thomas James and Harry Lee James; three brothers, Mashack Williams, Thomas Williams and John Henry Williams; and one son-in-law, Marion Bracey.

Mary Lee enjoyed spending her time with family, talking and laughing. She had a radiant personality that shined on everyone that she encountered and she embraced every moment of life. She also enjoyed spending her pastime with her friends, Minnie Lee, Naomi, Sarah, Betty and Hattie at the city local bingo facility.

The family is receiving relatives and friends at the home, 48 Dunway Drive, Sumter.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday at Berea Seventh Day Adventist Church, 675 S. Lafayette Drive, Sumter, with pastor Michael Miller, eulogist.

The remains will be placed in the church at 1 p.m.

Elmore Hill McCreight Fu-

neral Home & Crematory, 221 Broad St., Sumter, is in charge of the arrangements, (803) 775-9386.



JAMES

The procession will leave at 1:15 p.m. from the home.

Burial will be at Bradford Cemetery.

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

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

PAUL L. JENKINS SR.

Paul L. Jenkins Sr., 61, died on Sunday, Feb. 26, 2018, in Asheville, North Carolina.

Born on Dec. 25, 1956, in Sumter County, he was a son of John Henry and Anna Margaret Boone Jenkins.

The family is receiving relatives and friends at the home of Minister Barbara Davis, 4400 Cotton Acres Road.

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

CANTFIELD DAVIS

Cantfield Davis, 87, died on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2018, at Sumter Health and Rehabilitation East.

Born in Lee County, he was a son of the late Charlie Davis Sr. and Georgianna Colclough Davis.

The family will receive friends at the home address, 73 Cowboy Lane, Lynchburg, SC 29080.

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

THOMAS W. BELLINGER SR.

Thomas Wesley Bellinger Sr. was born on July 12, 1940, in Columbia, a son of the late Eugene and Edna Harrell Bellinger. He transitioned from this life into eternal rest on Friday, Feb. 23, 2018.

He was a graduate of the Booker T. Washington High School Class of 1958. He went on to complete a one year course in medical technology at Good Samaritan-Waverly Hospital. After graduation, he was employed at Community Hospital in Sumter, where he met the love of his life, Gladys Vaughn. They were united in marriage for 57 years and to this loving union two children were born: Thomas Wesley Bellinger Jr. and Regina Bellinger Tucker. Thomas and Gladys relocated to Queens, New York. While there, he was employed at Bulova Watch Co. for many years.

After leaving there, he was employed at Con Edison Electric Co. After retirement, Thomas and Gladys relocated back to Sumter.

Thomas leaves to cherish his memory: a loving and devoted wife, Gladys; son, Thomas Wesley Bellinger Jr. of Brooklyn, New York; a daughter, Regina (Quinn) Tucker of Sumter; four brothers, Leon Bellinger of Queens, John (Phyllis) Bellinger of Deer Park, New York, Larry (Lydia) Bellinger of Oakland, California, and Aaron Bellinger of Columbia; four sisters, Ethel Collins of Columbia, Beverly (Howard) Gottlieb of Kingston, New York, Constance McCarthy of Columbia and Cynthia (Chris) Fleming of San Leando, California; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; a host of nieces, nephews, other loving relatives and friends; and a special friend, Kizer Sumpter.

Mary Lee enjoyed spending her time with family, talking and laughing. She had a radiant personality that shined on everyone that she encountered and she embraced every moment of life. She also enjoyed spending her pastime with her friends, Minnie Lee, Naomi, Sarah, Betty and Hattie at the city local bingo facility.

The family is receiving relatives and friends at the home, 48 Dunway Drive, Sumter.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday at Berea Seventh Day Adventist Church, 675 S. Lafayette Drive, Sumter, with pastor Michael Miller, eulogist.

The remains will be placed in the church at 1 p.m.

Elmore Hill McCreight Fu-

BRADENTON, Fla. — Tyler Clippard wore a black jersey with a white players' union logo and pitched hitless ball for two innings against amateurs in the green shirts of the East Japan Railway Company.

He had the poorest personal results of his nine major league seasons, yet ended the year with a celebration in the clubhouse of the World Series champion Houston Astros. This is not how the 33-year-old right-hander envisioned spring training.

"We know that my year last year was a bad year, but at the end of the day how bad was it? And it wasn't as bad as some that got significant contracts," he said

Tuesday after appearing in the first of two exhibition games for free agents scheduled for this week at the IMG Academy.

Thirty-eight players have attended the camp since workouts started Feb. 14. They wonder why they are on the outside while several teams have jettisoned veterans to fill a higher percentage of their roster spots with lower-salaried youth.

The players' association filed a grievance Friday against the Miami Marlins, Oakland Athletics, Pittsburgh Pirates and Tampa Bay Rays, accusing the teams of failing to appropriately spend revenue-sharing money.

chapel services and other duties. He loved his volunteering job serving veterans and always showing his appreciation for their service to our country. He was a member of Northside Memorial Baptist Church of Sumter.

Bill is survived by his wife of 59 years; three children, William Lee Webb Jr. of Columbia, and Bonnie Kaye Wallace and Loyd Allen Webb, both of Sumter; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; a brother, Arthur T. Webb of Cordon, Indiana; and sisters, Barbara, Violet and Mary, all of Indiana.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Robert L. Webb; and a sister, Maurice.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday at Salem Chapel & Heritage Center, 101 S. Salem Ave., Sumter, with the Rev. Robert Thomas officiating. Interment will follow at Evergreen Memorial Park, Sumter.

NATHAN CHOICE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements

Mr. Wayne Greene
has opened a new finance office. He would like to have his customers to call or come by.
Gates Finance & Tax, 561 Unit #7 Bultman Dr. Phone 803-774-7600. Hope to hear from you soon!

BUSINESS SERVICES

Home Improvements

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

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

Lawn Service

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

Legal Service

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

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

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All Types of Roofing & Repairs All work guaranteed. 30 yrs exp. SC lic. Virgil Bickley 803-316-4734.

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MERCHANDISE

For Sale or Trade

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

2 cemetery plots in Evergreen. \$2600/ for both. Call 803-481-4038

Shaw Spouses' Club Spring Bazaar
Saturday, March 3 • 10am to 2pm
First Assembly of God Church
1151 Alice Drive in Sumter
Shop a variety of local vendors!
www.shawsousesclub.com
www.facebook.com/shawsc

For Sale or Trade

Antique Stuff BIG week long trash to treasure sale. Up to 75% off most items. Furniture, Collectibles, lots of Variety. Mar. 1st-10th 10:30-4:30 Tues-Sat 2726 Cleveland St Elloree SC Your treasure is waiting!

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted Full-Time

PT & FT Housekeepers needed. Some experience helpful. Apply in person 9 am - 3 pm. Mon.-Fri. at Mt. Vernon Inn, 2 Broad St. Sumter.

Position:

Full-time Case Management

Supervisor to work with persons with intellectual disabilities and special needs. Provides supervision to one Case Manager while maintaining own caseload. Work to be performed in an office setting and private homes of persons served.

Hours: M-F, 8:00-5:00, with flexibility as needed.

Qualifications: Must possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited college/university or licensure from SC Labor Licensing and Regulation Board as a Registered Nurse; Must have two years supervisory experience and two years case management experience; Must be computer literate and have good written and verbal communication skills; Must have a valid SC driver's license.

Benefits: State insurance and retirement; vacation and sick leave; paid holidays.

Salary: Negotiable

If Interested: Send resume/cover letter to Lee County Disabilities & Special Needs Board, POB 468, Bishopville, SC 29010 or email to dillroy@lcdsn.org through 3/1/2018.

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

Trucking Opportunities

Truck / Trailer Service Technician / Welder

Immediate opening for a general service technician to perform general maintenance and PM services. Experience with general repair, brakes, lights along with welding/fabricating experience preferred. Benefit package includes medical, dental life, prescription and 401K plan available. Company supplied uniforms and accrued PTO time. Applicants can apply in person at Freehold Cartage 132 Myrtle Beach Hwy Sumter, SC 29153 or call 803-773-2611 ext. 25. Resumes can be mailed to tkrgbaum@freeholdcartage.com. Hourly rate commensurate with experience.

Help Wanted Part-Time

Camp Bob Cooper (Clemson University Youth Learning Institute), Summerton, SC is now hiring for Part-Time Food Service Workers, no more than 28 hours per week, shifts vary, some weekends. Must have a valid ID, reliable transportation, and be able to pass a background check. Please Call: 803-478-2105 Clemson University is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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

ROOMS FOR RENT

RENTALS

Rooms for Rent

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

Unfurnished Apartments

HUNTINGTON PLACE APARTMENTS RENTS FROM \$625 PER MO.

LEASING OFFICE LOCATED AT ASHTON MILL APARTMENT HOMES 595 ASHTON MILL DRIVE 803-773-3600

OFFICE HOURS: MON-FRI 9-5

Senior Living Apartments for those 62+ (Rent based on income)

Shiloh-Randolph Manor 125 W. Bartlette.

775-0575 Studio/1 Bedroom apartments available EHO

Unfurnished Homes

Beautiful 3BR 2BA Home, Large lot with fenced yard, Carport attached, 4246 Whitney St. \$650 + Dep. Call 843-645-9400

Mobile Home Rentals

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

Office Rentals

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

REAL ESTATE

Homes for Sale

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

Mobile Home Lots

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

Land & Lots for Sale

78 acres: cut over hunting land Hwy 378. On 1 mile road. Sumter, SC \$1500 per acre. Call Bobby Sisson 803-464-2730

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TRANSPORTATION

Autos For Sale

1989 Lincoln Town car, signature series, white, blue interior, mileage 166,000. \$1800 CASH. Call for more info 803-478-2622 leave message.

Miscellaneous



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

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

LEGAL NOTICE

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

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

AUCTION

All property now stored is being sold pursuant to the assertion of a lien for rent. If the tenant does not respond by **12:00 P.M., March 2, 2018**, their property will be sold at Storage Plus on **March 10, 2018 at 830 South Pike West at 9:00 A.M. CASH ONLY!** All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of the sale. Storage Plus reserves the right to refuse any and all bids.

Unit# 017 Latoya Jefferson
Unit# 041 Antwaine Brand
Unit# 067 Robert Edwards
Unit# 076 Robert Temonay
Unit# 089 Michael Moore
Unit#111 Kahila Lundy
Unit# 112 Shayna Bethea
Unit# 118 Joyce Richardson

Park it in the **CLASSIFIEDS** and watch it go fast!

Summons & Notice

SUMMONS

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT DOCKET NO: 2016-CP-43-01146

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF SUMTER

Martha Stewart Tillman, PLAINTIFF,

vs.

Eugene Stewart, Luke Stewart (deceased), Luke Stewart, Jr., Preston Stewart (deceased), Joice Stewart Tomlin, Linda S. Green, Matthew Stewart (deceased), Minnie J. Stewart, Naomi S. Amos (deceased), Mary Amos, Duerod, Jackie O. Amos, Levy Amos, Virginia Amos, Estelle S. Phillips, Edward Stewart (deceased), Ruth Adams, and Elagah Stewart, and the unknown heirs of any named Defendant herein who is deceased, and John Doe, a fictitious person representing as a class all persons suffering under legal disability and claiming an interest in the property described, DEFENDANTS.

TO: THE DEFENDANTS HEREIN NAMED:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer to the said Complaint on Kenneth R. Young, Esquire, at his office located at 23 West Calhoun Street, Sumter, South Carolina, within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to Answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated at Sumter, South Carolina, on the 26th day of February, 2018.

YOUNG & ASSOCIATES, P.A.

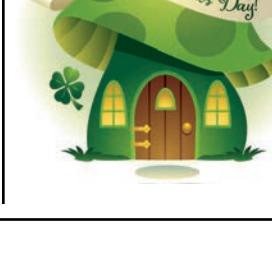
Kenneth R. Young, Jr.

Attorney for Plaintiff

23 West Calhoun Street

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A REVIEW

Dreams, possibility shown in 3 exhibits

BY JANE COLLINS

Special to The Sumter Item

In 1960, choreographer Alvin Ailey and the American Dance Theater presented his now signature "Revelations." Ailey acknowledged that his desire was to use dance and music to explain to white Americans the plight of blacks in America and their devotion to religion. Ailey develops his first scene "I've Been 'Buked" with dark lighting, dancers in a V-formation, arms outspread like on a cross. They move in unison, break away to face personal challenges and then back to the unity of the conflict for all blacks. In their pursuit for the promise of religion, they ask "Fix Me, Jesus, Fix Me," wade in the water to be baptized, bow to God's promise in "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel," admit their susceptibility to God's justice in "Sinner Man," and find redemption and hope in the colorful final number "Rock-a My Soul," so that if not in this life but in the next, they will be able to "Put on My Long White Robe."

The three artists featured at Sumter Gallery of Art use pictures to explore conditions, particularly in the South, and often attitudes of blacks — past, present and future.

In "Saturday Night, Sunday Morning," the title taken from a book of short stories titled "Burning Bright," Andrew Blanchard visualizes the dichotomy of changing landscapes, especially as they relate to human behavior. "Grey is one of my favorite colors, for nothing is really black or white these days," confesses Blanchard. Although these are no people in his exhibit, they are represented by the changing nature of the surroundings and evolving landscapes that "create an almost 'hybridization' of culture — urban overlapping rural — resulting in encroachment and forced change. Blanchard admits that he has not "drawn" anything since 2004 but uses digitalization and silk screening to bring reality, form and focus to the issues of forced duality of life style. "Station of the Cross II" clearly emphasizes the dual nature: Saturday night revelry and Sunday dedication to church going. The Ice House, complete with graffiti and blinking neon "Beer" sign, is also the home of "The House of Prayer," the sign over the entrance emphasizing "Pray." "Genesis, Goodyear, Revelation" establishes the "strange bedfellow" syndrome with varying degrees of life almost in conflict with one another for attention: the half-finished construction of the church next to the commercial Good-year store complete with its used tires, and the tennis shoes wrapped around the wire — a symbol of drug trade or abandonment of a goal?

Two semi-sculptures or "totems" address the complexity of the carnal versus the religious. "Sex Pit Help Me Jesus" comes with a vamp's legs, liquor bottle and a disconnected, decrepit altar formation. In another work, Blanchard contrasts "Sunday Morning: Repent, Prepare to Meet Thy God" — all emphasized by nail marks — an upside down sign reading "Have Gun Will Shoot," again combining those images with another wooden altar shape.

There are certain commonalities to Blanchard's style. He



Cedric Umoja's work *Lost* is part of his exhibit titled "That Old Black Gospel."



Dogon Krigga's *Gracias Abuelita*

combines vast spaces of almost impressionist matter (often sky), large blocks of color and areas of intense realism, establishing the influence of artists like Robert Rauschenberg. The composition "It Ain't Fit to Eat" combines five whitewashed churches in the background with the body of an abandoned deer in the foreground, surrounded with a deliberately executed halo like circle of grass. His two largest pictures "Country Line/Urban Limit" and "Southlands" continue the technique, again reflecting on human existence and focus. "Country Line..." presents the sometimes reality of Southern lifestyle: mobile homes with recliners and sofas left outside against the almost subtle inclusion of signs of work — a tractor and truck discarded tires, the result of change. In "Southlands," Blanchard focuses on concreteness of the vines growing on the pole at the top of steps, the background a profusion of muted objects and colors.

"Scuttle Life" repeats the "totems" adding the deserted alley with its upturned stool, deer head by the exit and dropped liquor bottle, accentuating the dual focus of behavior, not as a condemnation but as an attitude to ponder.

The current movie blockbuster "Black Panther" (not to be confused with the movement), starring Chadwick Boseman as Marvel Comics' first black hero, serves as a graphic example of Afrofuturism, a genre begun as early as the 1990s. Loosely defined, the genre uses a well-defined hero in situations reflecting reality, magic and fantasy. It enables people to see the futuristic society as a simile for what might be and projects the hero as a metaphor. He is not like a hero; he is a hero, acting not for power but for his ability to

control his destiny and to provide potential for good. The film is an appropriate introduction to artistic influences of Afrofuturism on both Cedric Umoja and Dogon Krigga.

Much like Ailey's "Revelations," Umoja seeks to explain the correlation of "That Old Black Gospel" as it reflects the past, present and future. He does not wish to "hit the viewer over the head with issues but to reinforce the progress of black Americans and the contribution of their religious attitude . . . It is an attempt to use Afrofuturism to show the progress of black life from what was, what it is and what it can be." Influenced early in life by sci-fi, his exhibit reflects "the particular truths expressed and experienced by black diaspora around the world (those separated from natural heritage) . . . and give birth to ritual . . . and present moments in the lives of people who have endured immeasurable moments of trauma." His recurring use of warrior-style face paint adds the aura of past tribal greatness and the need to redefine black opportunity.

"With arms opened wide" Umoja confronts the viewer with the concept of suffering and strength. Arms outstretched there is only a body, no face — a sense of common tribulation and possibility. "Indigo Gene — US (Version 2)" celebrates African futurism. Fists surround the head; they are clenched not against a person or thing but toward the potential of accomplishment. A crown and smile-shaped form accentuate the positive nature. "The Offering (Tears II)" addresses the suffering Umoja sees as a major statement about blacks and history. Multiple tiers of faces lead from the bottom figure, dressed in military or governing like uniform with gold epaulettes, his face partially cov-



Encroachment by printmaker Andrew Blanchard

ered by a helmet. The history of his black brothers seems clarified by each other's face. They appear regal, emphasized by gold, a contrast of worthiness versus treatment. At the top, a female — Mother Africa — looks down and out over the others. All are crying.

The video "Come Forth," created by his partner, addresses the force of the Matriarch, his dedication "To Live, To Thrive and To Exist in Boldness" and his artistic process. Pieces like "She like hair that defies gravity," the two wall murals and three-dimensional assembled "face," and the table of assorted "artifacts" — "Al-Quar'an, the Bible, feathers, flowers, photograph, paint can and liquor bottle (representing black and white) — reinforce the theme of black lifestyle and the powerful possibility of success in the future. Umoja's face mask, "Melanin Villian/ Lost Innocence" serves as a caution.

Krigga also uses Afrofuturism in his collage series "Afroglyph," the word "glyph" reinforcing the hierarchy of character and symbol. His collages combine myriad images, not like a melting pot but as individual patterns woven into a unified quilt. Self taught, his work attempts to "liberate people mentally by reminding them who they are outside of what society tells them they are." Humor is an important component, not the bigoted concept of Archie Bunker or the reversed discrimination of George Jefferson but more like Steve Harvey, "Family Feud" host, and his ability to take even the most inane comment or struggling contestant and use humor to diffuse embarrassment. Krigga combines wildly creative images, stressing the complexity and possibility of the event.

Krigga's work uses multitudes of potential symbols. The assemblages are colorful, intricate and evocative. Many of his pieces use recurring visions of dark star-lit backgrounds, creating a supernatural atmosphere. "Love and Vital Action" combines a star studded universe and central orb with a volcano-like explosion, lava oozing down a path to the front and face, eyes sockets piercing forward. "I Got Africa In My Family" captures two females in native

costumes, their seemingly simple task of fixing hair suggesting its relevance to a more important meaning as evidenced by the bright yellow beam that rises upward.

In "First Medicine" his exquisitely combined forms add drama to the liquid falling from her mouth with an almost embossed layer of depth. The collage "Autometagram" presents the strong warrior figure, both gold bars and pink ooze infiltrating the composition backed with African fabric — mixed opportunities and dilemma. "Blessings Come Down" again establishes the aura of power and contradiction: skull and head, feathers, arm band, dancers.

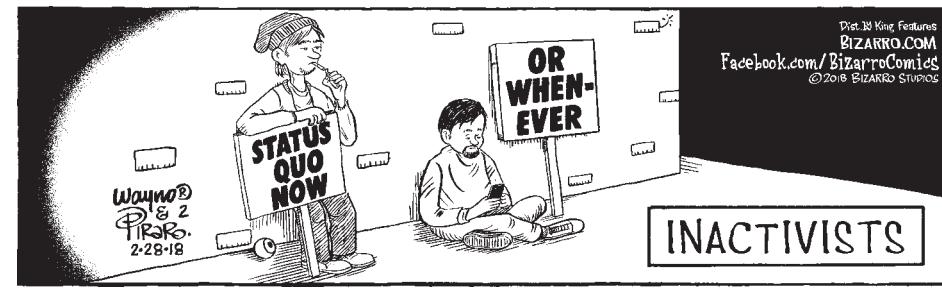
"She's One with the Universe" combines Krigga's work with a fellow collaborator Arich. It is a complex arrangement of shapes and two figures as they progress through time and space. One figure moves independently, dressed in native print. Above her as she ascends arms reach out holding orbs of what — maybe potential enlightenment.

At the top, she looks to the space across from her, a beam of vision projecting across the space. Eventually wearing shorts and an African-inspired print top, the female on the other side is guided by strong black hands until she faces the other woman, her focus intersecting in strength and communication.

"Gracias Abuelita" seems a signature work for his ability to use collage, subtle humor and recognition of Afrofuturism's focus on black potential. The warrior springs from the universe with a headdress of feathers, flowers and horns, themselves a mixture of symbols. Below are earthly forests and mountains. His hands are both human, cleanly clipped, and fantasy like, intertwined with pointed orange and blue fingernails. The object he holds is like a flashlight and a seer's ball, projecting a blue column of movement. In addition, the many eyes change and move as they survey the world, and the gold teeth are both kingly and savage.

The three exhibits are an invitation to reflect and project the power of dreams and possibility. All three exhibits will remain at Sumter County Gallery of Art, 200 Hasell St., through April 20.

BIZARRO



ANDY CAPP



BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



MOTHER GOOSE



DILBERT



Off-and-on relationship may be off after confession



Dear Abby

ABIGAIL
VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY — My boyfriend, "Al," and I have been together for two years off and on. We dated casually for six months before we decided to be exclusive.

Unbeknownst to him, I was also sleeping with someone else, "Brandon."

Al and I had a fight and broke up for a few months, and during that time I slept with another good friend of mine, "Marc." When Marc and I decided it wasn't serious and moved on, Al and I got back together.

I didn't feel obligated to tell Al about it at the time, since "technically" I did nothing wrong. But as we became more and more serious, it occurred to me that it was a lie of omission, since we interact with both men on a social level. I told Al, and he isn't handling it well, so now I'm at a loss about what to do.

Honesty and time are key, I know, but he is distancing himself from me. Do I let him go? I am fighting hard right now, but I'm feeling beaten down at every turn.

Wrong in the East

DEAR WRONG — Not all relationships last forever. It's possible that this one has run its course.

If you and Al had agreed you would both be abstinent

after the separation, he has reason to be upset. If you had promised each other there would be an accounting of who each of you had been with and you didn't live up to it, I can see why he would be distancing. However, if an understanding wasn't in place, then you were free to be with others and you did nothing wrong.

If Al no longer wants to be with you — for whatever reason — you have no choice but to let him go. For your sake, quit allowing yourself to be beaten down and make it as painless for yourself as possible.

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.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME
By David L Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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

CONKK

SMURT

GIROIN

FBETUF



Ans. "here: [] - [] - [] - []"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BLAND PRONG LIMBER ACCUSE
Answer: The four-star military commanders retired and became part of the — GENERAL PUBLIC

SUDOKU

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

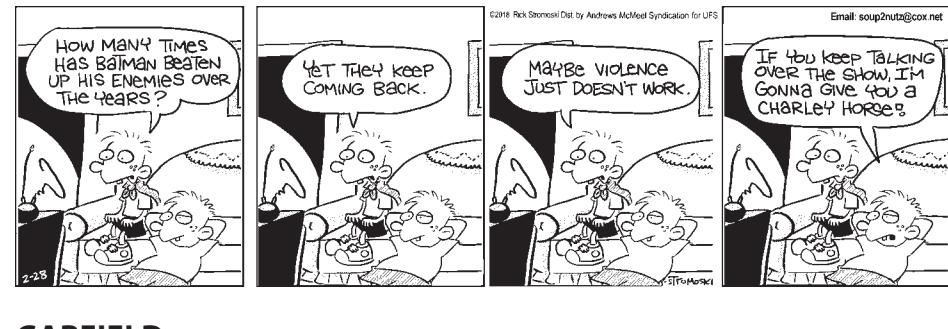
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

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

2/28

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SOUP TO NUTZ



GARFIELD



BORN LOSER



ZITS



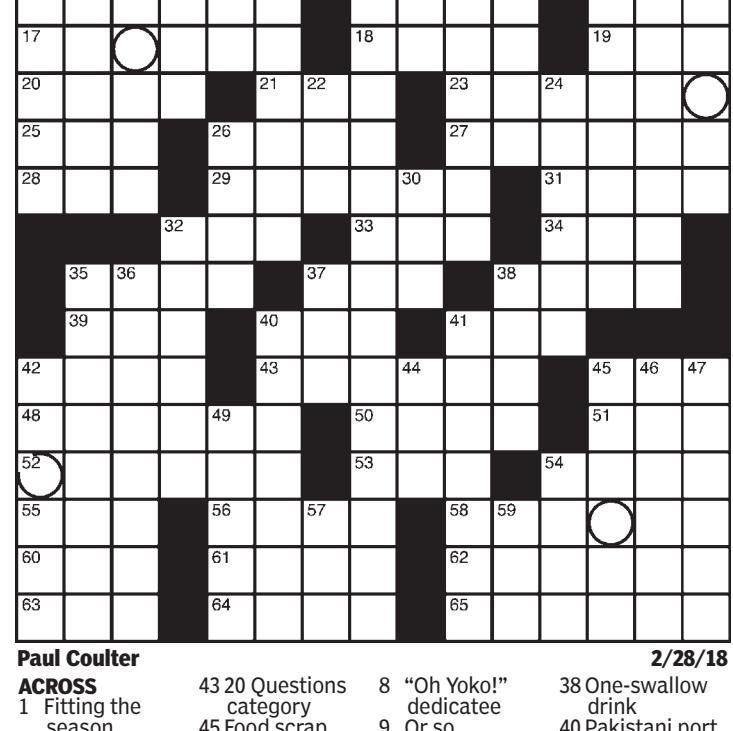
DOG EAT DOUG



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE



THE DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Paul Coulter

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|---|
| ACROSS | 43 20 Questions category | 8 "Oh Yoko!" dedicate | 38 One-swallow drink |
| 1 Fitting the season | 45 Food scrap | 9 Or so hours | 40 Pakistani port |
| 7 Innermost part | 48 More unsightly | 10 nos | 41 Railroad maintenance vehicle |
| 11 Gp. known for travelers' checks? | 50 Minor body-shop job | 11 Stand | 42 With 52-Across, where the Assembleia Nacional sits |
| 14 Ancient markets | 51 Lipton product | 12 Long key | 43 Bumped into 45 With 58-Across, where Parliament sits |
| 15 Erelong | 52 See 42-Down | 13 With 23-Across, where the Hellenic Parliament sits | 44 With 52-Across, where the Assembleia Nacional sits |
| 16 Bow (out) | 53 Inc., in London | 22 Bit of butter | 45 With 58-Across, where Parliament sits |
| 17 See 3-Down | 54 Wild guess | 24 Enter cautiously | 46 Library patron |
| 18 Sullen look | 55 Class-conscious org.? | 26 Confessor | 47 The Canterbury Tales' inn |
| 19 "Well, —di-dah!" | 56 Bouncing effect | 30 Platform for Siri | 48 Campaign poster word |
| 20 Nutmeg spice | 58 See 45-Down | 32 "Cookin' With ___": rapper/ chef's web show | 49 White flakes |
| 21 engineering sch. near Albany | 60 "Spring forward" letters | 35 Overconfidence | 50 Hawaiian Punch alternative |
| 22 See 13-Down | 61 A la mode | 36 Bridge entrance structure | 51 Hail, to Caesar |
| 25 Enero to enero | 62 Confessor | 37 ATM code | |
| 26 Charcuterie fare | 63 Enzyme suffix | | |
| 27 Tippi of "The Birds" | 64 Watch word? | | |
| 28 Black bird's call | 65 Word on a lost-dog poster | | |
| 29 Necessitate | | | |
| 30 Goes on and on | | | |
| 31 Fish often fried | | | |
| 32 The Thin Man" actress | | | |
| 33 Zeta follower | | | |
| 34 Pack away | | | |
| 35 Ratings for family-friendly films | | | |
| 36 Rathskeller draft | | | |
| 37 "go gai pan | | | |
| 38 Wine-and-cassis drink | | | |
| 39 Cooped-up female | | | |
| 40 Break in the action | | | |

Previous Puzzle Solved



	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 Blacklist "Mr. Raleigh Sinclair III" Liz undergoes a psych evaluation. (N)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Chasing Demons" Cassidy's testimony causes a mistrial. (N) (DVS)	Chicago P.D. "Sisterhood" Tracking a vigilante targeting rapists. (N) (DVS)	WIS News 10 at 11 (N)	(:34) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon Chadwick Boseman; Marlon Wayans. (N)				
WLTX 19	9	9	News 19 at 7pm (N)	Inside Edition (N)	Survivor "Can You Reverse the Curse?" (Season Premiere) Contestants try to avoid bad decisions. (N)	(:01) SEAL Team "Call Out" The team settles into deployment life. (N)	News 19 at 11pm (N)	(:35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert Donald Glover; Sebastian Maniscalco. (N)					
WOLO 25	5	12	Wheel of Fortune "Winter Hideaway" (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	The Goldbergs Barry joins the football team. (N) Speechless J.J. learns a lesson on his birthday. (N)	Modern Family Mitchell and Cam throw a party. (N) (:31) American Housewife "Field Day" (N)	Designated Survivor "Grief" President Kirkman sees a therapist. (N)	ABC Columbia News at 11 (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live				
WRJA 27	11	14	Carolina Class-rooms	Expeditions With Patrick McMillan	Nature "Snowbound: Animals of Winter" Animals adapt and survive during winter. (DVS)	NOVA "Prediction by the Numbers" Why some predictions fail. (N)	Frontline "Abacus: Small Enough to Jail" A family is accused of mortgage fraud.	BBC World News	NHK Newsline				
WACH 57	6	6	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory Penny has a rival.	The X-Files "Rm9sbG9zXjZ" Mulder and Scully become targets. (N)	9-1-1 "Full Moon (Creepy AF)" A full moon keeps the crew busy. (N) (DVS)	WACH FOX News at 10 (N) (Live)	Sports Zone	DailyMailTV (N)	TMZ (N)			
WKTC 63	4	22	Last Man Standing "Pilot"	Last Man Standing The family baby-proofs the house.	Riverdale "Chapter Twenty-Four: The Wrestler" Archie tries out for the wrestling team.	Penn & Teller: Fool Us "Penn & Teller Are Full of Hot Air" Liberty; Jorge Blass; Paul Gertner.	Dateline "Queen of the County" A death tears a prominent family apart.	Dateline "Someone Was Out There" Two women are targets of crime.	The Game Derwin's playoff performance.				
CABLE CHANNELS													
A&E	46	130	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars "Kumba-YUUUP!"	Storage Wars "Ve-gas Shrugged"	Storage Wars "Mary's RE-finds"	(:01) Rooster & Butch A live action role-playing enthusiast. (N)	(:03) Storage Wars	(:33) Storage Wars	(12:03) Storage Wars		
AMC	48	180	(4:30) *** "Armageddon" (1998) Bruce Willis, Billy Bob Thornton.	*** "The Green Mile" (1999, Drama) Tom Hanks, David Morse, Michael Clarke Duncan. A condemned prisoner possesses a miraculous healing power.							*** "A Few Good Men" (1992)		
ANPL	41	100	Treehouse Masters	Treehouse Masters	Treehouse Masters: Branched Out	Builds With Friends" Pete builds for friends.	Treehouse Masters	TM: Branched Out					
BET	61	162	(5:05) * "The Cookout" (2004)	** "The Players Club" (1998, Comedy-Drama) LisaRaye, Bernie Mac, Monica Calhoun. A woman works as a stripper to pay her tuition.		* "The Cookout" (2004, Comedy) Ja Rule, Tim Meadows, Jenifer Lewis. An athlete's mother has a wild barbecue at his mansion.							
BRAVO	47	181	Vanderpump Rules "Wishful Sinking" Stassi interviews Lisa for her podcast.	The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills Kyle wants an apology from Lisa.	The Real Housewives of Atlanta Cynthia gets over her man problems.	Married to Medicine "D.N.A. D-Day" Heavenly throws a DNA reveal party.	Watch What Happens Live	The Real Housewives of Atlanta Cynthia gets over her man problems.					
CNBC	35	84	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Billion Dollar Buyer "After the Deal"	Shark Tank	Shark Tank					
CNN	3	80	Erin Burnett OutFront (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)	Anderson Cooper					
COM	57	136	South Park "Royal Pudding"	South Park "Canada on Strike!"	South Park "Taming Strange"	South Park "Eat, Pray, Queef"	Corporate Society "South Park" You Tomorrow" (N)	The Daily Show With Trevor Noah	The Opposition w/ Jordan Klepper (N)	(12:01) South Park "Going Native"			
DISN	18	200	Bunk'd A ghost haunts the camp.	Bunk'd	"Zombies" (2018) Milo Manheim, Meg Donnelly. Suburban high schoolers learn to coexist with zombies.	(:45) Raven's Home	(:10) Gravity Falls	(:35) Gravity Falls	Andi Mack Andi takes a stand.	Stuck in the Middle	Bizarvark		
DSC	42	103	Street Outlaws vs. Fast N' Loud	Street Outlaws vs. Fast N' Loud (N)	Street Outlaws (N)	(:02) Twin Turbos "Building a Future"	(:04) Street Outlaws	Twin Turbos					
ESPN	26	35	NBA Countdown (N) (Live)	NBA Basketball Golden State Warriors at Washington Wizards. (N) (Live)		NBA Basketball Houston Rockets at Los Angeles Clippers. (N) (Live)							
ESPN2	27	39	College Basketball Mississippi at Kentucky. From Rupp Arena in Lexington, Ky.	College Basketball Houston at Southern Methodist. (N) (Live)		SportsCenter (N) (Live)	SportsCenter (N)						
FOOD	40	109	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games "Funny Food"	Guy's Grocery Games (N)	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Games					
FOXN	37	90	The Story With Martha MacCallum (N)	Tucker Carlson Tonight (N)	Hannity (N)	The Ingraham Angle (N)	Fox News at Night (N)	Tucker Carlson					
FREE	20	131	(6:00) *** "Despicable Me" (2010, Children's) Voices of Steve Carell, (N)	(31) Alone Together Gon Stop Me" (N)	(31) Alone Together Gon Stop Me" (N)	(02) * "Big Daddy" (1999, Comedy) Adam Sandler, Joey Lauren Adams, Jon Stewart A goofy ne'er-do-well adopts an impressionable youngster.	The 700 Club	* "When in Rome" (2010)					
FSS	21	47	Hawks Pregame	NBA Basketball Indiana Pacers at Atlanta Hawks. From Philips Arena in Atlanta. (N) (Live)	Hawks Postgame	Hawks Build	NBA Basketball Indiana Pacers at Atlanta Hawks.						
HALL	52	183	Full House	Full House	The Middle	The Middle	The Middle Sue is sent to detention.	The Golden Girls	The Golden Girls	The Golden Girls			
HGTV	39	112	Property Brothers	Property Brothers	Property Brothers "Mad About Plaid"	House Hunters (N)	Hunters Int'l	Dream Home	Dream Home	Property Brothers			
HIST	45	110	American Pickers "Pedal Pushers"	*** "The Outlaw Josey Wales" (1976) Clint Eastwood. A Confederate soldier vows to avenge his family's murderer.			(05) American Pickers "Picker's Code"	Outlaw Josey					
ION	13	18	Law & Order "Positive" Gunman seeks revenge for baby's death.	Law & Order "Kingmaker" An undercover cop is killed.	Law & Order "Hindsight" A woman's body is in Falco's bathroom.	Law & Order "Invaders" McCoy uses a corrupt DEA agent.	Law & Order "Fame" Shield laws and celebrity journalism.	Law & Order "Avatar"					
LIFE	50	145	Little Women: Atlanta Tanya ponders her future with Devon.	Little Women: Atlanta Juicy lands a magazine cover shoot. (N)	Little Women: Atlanta "Girl Power" Juicy gets an unexpected health scare.	(02) Glam Masters "Made You Look" Four beauty competitors compete.	(02) Glam Masters "Made You Look" Four beauty competitors compete.	(12:01) Little Women: Atlanta					
MSNBC	36	92	Hardball With Chris Matthews (N)	All In With Chris Hayes (N)	The Rachel Maddow Show (N)	The Last Word	The 11th Hour With Brian Williams (N)	Rachel Maddow					
NICK	16	210	Henry Danger Lip Sync Battle	* "The Nut Job" (2014) Voices of Will Arnett, Brendan Fraser.		Full House	Friends	Friends					
PARMT	64	153	** "Shooter" (2007) Mark Wahlberg. A wounded sniper plots revenge against those who betrayed him.			Waco (Part 6 of 6)	(08) Cops	(34) Cops	Cops				
SYFY	58	152	(6:30) ** "G.I. Joe: Retaliation" (2013, Action) Dwayne Johnson, Bruce Willis. Threats from within the government jeopardize the G.I. Joes. (DVS)	The Magicians Eliot and Margo's reign is challenged. (N)	(01) Channel Zero: Butcher's Block Zoë eats with the Peaches. (N)	(01) ** "G.I. Joe: Retaliation" (2013) Dwayne Johnson. Threats from within the government jeopardize the G.I. Joes.	**** "Patton" (1970, Biography) George C. Scott, Karl Malden. Gen. George S. Patton fights World War II.						
TBS	24	156	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	Conan (N)	Full Frontal With Samantha Bee					
TCM	49	186	(6:00) **** "Father of the Bride" (1950) Spencer Tracy. (DVS)	**** "The Bridge on the River Kwai" (1957, War) William Holden, Alec Guinness, Sessue Hayakawa. A British colonel builds a bridge for his Japanese captor.									
TLC	43	157	My 600-Lb. Life "Lisa's Story, Part 2"	My 600-Lb. Life "Robert's Story" Robert must try to save his own life. (N)	The 685-Lb. Teen		(08) My 600-Lb. Life Robert must try to save his own life.						
TNT	23	158	Bones "The Bones That Foam" Corpse at the bottom of a gorge.	** "We're the Millers" (2013, Comedy) Jennifer Aniston, Jason Sudeikis, Will Poulter. A dealer goes to Mexico with a fake family to score drugs. (DVS)									
TRUTV	38	129	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers Laff Mobb Laff	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers				
TV LAND	55	161	M*A*S*H	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond Mom	King of Queens	King of Queens	King of Queens				
USA	25	132	*** "Mad Max: Fury Road" (2015, Action) Tom Hardy, Charlize Theron, Nicholas Hoult. Mad Max must outrun a warlord and his men in a desert chase. (DVS)	*** "Remember the Titans" (2000, Drama) Denzel Washington, Will Patton, Donald Adeosun Faison. A black man coaches high-school football after integration. (DVS)				Unsolved: Murders of Tupac and BIG					
WE	68	166	(6:00) ** "The Notebook" (2004) Ryan Gosling, Rachel McAdams.	** "The Notebook" (2004) Ryan Gosling, Rachel McAdams. A man tells a story to a woman about two lovers.				Marriage- Stars					
WGNA	8	172	*** "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" (2008, Romance-Comedy) Jason Segel, Kristen Bell.		Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops				

Daniels shines as complicated hero in 'Looming Tower'

BY KEVIN McDONOUGH

Fact is greater than fiction. And recent history has provided the stuff of some of the best scripted drama of recent years. Today, Hulu will begin streaming *"The Looming Tower."* Based on a Pulitzer Prize-winning book by Lawrence Wright, the 10-episode miniseries follows efforts by the CIA and FBI in the late 1990s to counter the emergence of al-Qaida. It also offers endless detail about the infighting and rivalry between the agencies and a subsequent lack of trust and communication that may have thwarted efforts to prevent the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

"Tower" throws viewers right into the mix, with agents spouting names of terror suspects and cells at raucous staff meetings.

Fortunately, the producers, including Alex Gibney ("Going Clear"), emphasize character development over the blizzard of facts.

And there are few richer protagonists than John O'Neill. O'Neill, assistant deputy director of investigation for the FBI. He's played with real gusto by Jeff Daniels. Readers may already know that O'Neill was not only the federal official most single-mindedly focused on Osama bin Laden in the years between 1998 and 2001, but he was also killed during the attacks on the World Trade Center.

So it would be easy for "Tower" to get caught up in maudlin foreshadowing and offer a two-dimensional "hero" characterization of O'Neill. Instead, Daniels sinks his teeth into a meaty role, portraying a deeply flawed and complicated man.

"Tower" quickly sets up the CIA-FBI rivalry as a clash of cultures. O'Neill's FBI team is portrayed as very New York, deeply accented, hard-drinking and profane, sharing drinks and intel with sources over cocktails at Elaine's. The CIA team is helmed by Martin Schmidt (Peter Sarsgaard), who projects an effete, condescending academic impatience with anyone outside his team. Look for Michael Stuhlbarg as intelligence director Richard Clarke. He brings an icy detachment to the portrayal that may remind viewers of his turn as Arnold Rothstein on



Jeff Daniels stars as John O'Neill, the chief of the FBI's counter-terrorism unit, in "The Looming Tower," premiering today on Hulu.

Boardwalk Empire."

So, in addition to being torn from the pages of tragic American history, "Tower" evokes classic television characters. O'Neill curses like Tony Soprano and has the wandering ways of Don Draper from "Mad Men." He also happens to be a dedicated agent pursuing the most dangerous man in the world, not unlike any number of characters on "Homeland."

"Tower" marks the latest thoughtful miniseries set in the 1990s. The six-episode "Waco" (10 p.m., Paramount, TV-14) concludes tonight. *"The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story"* (10 p.m., FX, TV-MA) continues to chronicle Andrew Cunanan's descent. USA just launched "Unsolved" about the murders of Tupac Shakur and Biggie Smalls. Discovery recently aired "Manhunt: Unabomber."

And Ryan Murphy, behind the ultimate '90s flashback, "The People v. O.J. Simpson," has announced a forthcoming season of "American Crime Story" about the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

CULT CHOICE

Flocks besiege a bayside town in director Alfred Hitchcock's 1963 shocker *"The Birds"* (9 p.m., Starz Encore), starring

Tippi Hedren and Rod Taylor.

TONIGHT'S OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

• *"Survivor"* (8 p.m., CBS, TV-14) returns for the 36th time. • Mulder and Scully find themselves targeted on *"The X-Files"* (8 p.m., Fox, TV-14). • A vigilante strikes on *"Chicago P.D."* (10 p.m., NBC, TV-14). • A Christmas crisis erupts

as *"Designated Survivor"* (10 p.m., ABC, TV-14) returns.

• A father-and-son team builds cars and pursues NASCAR glory on the new series *"Twin Turbos"* (10 p.m., Discovery).

SERIES NOTES

Airtight alibis on *"The Blacklist"* (8 p.m., NBC, TV-14) * Bench-warming on *"The Goldbergs"* (8 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) *

Jughead uncovers dark history on *"Riverdale"* (8 p.m., CW, r, TV-14) * J.J. feels belittled on *"Speechless"* (8:30 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) * A mistrial frees a predator on *"Law & Order: Special Victims Unit"* (9 p.m., NBC, TV-14) * Lunacy on *"9-1-1"* (9 p.m., Fox, TV-14) * Jay eavesdrops on *"Modern Family"* (9 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) * Aspiring illusionists audition on *"Penn & Teller: Fool Us"* (9 p.m., CW, r, TV-PG) * Wrapped too tight on *"American Housewife"* (9:30 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) * New evidence emerges on *"SEAL Team"* (10 p.m., CBS, TV-14).

LATE NIGHT

Zach Galifianakis and They Might Be Giants are booked on *"Conan"* (11 p.m., TBS) * Donald Glover, Sebastian Maniscalco

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Beef, beer & barbecue

BY KATIE WORKMAN

Associated Press

Le's just start by saying that the words beef, beer and barbecue in a recipe title don't make my husband sad.

When browning beef for a stew (whether you're making it in a slow cooker, or a regular old pot or Dutch oven), it's less important to get all the sides of the cubes of beef barely browned than it is to get a couple of sides nicely caramelized. Getting all six sides of a cube-ish piece of meat is a bit painstaking, and I'm absolving you from the task.

I actually read about a cool browning technique recently that helps if you are making a large amount of stew. Instead of browning all of the beef that's been cut into small pieces, just buy the stew meat in a whole piece and cut it into steaks, or buy the meat in steak form. Heat a little oil in a pan until it's quite hot and then sear the steaks on both sides, until nicely browned. Then cut the meat into 1 1/2-inch pieces. A nice deep browning on a couple of sides trumps barely browning on multiple sides.

If you didn't have time to brown the beef at all, you would still end up with a flavorful beef stew, but it's really worth it.

Parsnips look like pale carrots, beige in color, with a wider bottom near the root. They have a wonderful nutty sweetness. Look for smooth, hard parsnips with no sprouting. You could also use all carrots, or mix in potatoes or other root vegetables instead.

SLOW COOKER BARBECUE BEER BEEF STEW

Serves 4 to 6

Start to finish: 6 1/2 hours (includes six hours in the slow cooker)

3 pounds beef stew meat, cut into 1 1/2-inch cubes

Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

1 teaspoon garlic powder

2 teaspoons olive or vegetable oil

1 1/2 cups chopped onion

1 cup barbecue sauce, homemade or store-bought

1 cup beef broth

3/4 cup beer

2 tablespoons honey

1 tablespoon Dijon mustard

1 cup 1/2-inch pieces peeled parsnips

1 cup 1/2 inch pieces peeled carrots

1 pound egg noodles

Season the beef evenly with salt, pepper and the garlic powder.

Heat the oil in a large pan over medium high heat. Working in batches, brown the meat until it is browned, about 8 minutes for each batch. Don't crowd the beef cubes in the pan. Set the meat aside.

Pour off all but 2 teaspoons of fat from the pan, and add the onions. Sauté them for 3 minutes, until lightly browned, and add them to the slow cooker. In the slow cooker, mix together the barbecue sauce, beef broth, beer, honey and mustard. Add the parsnips, carrots and browned beef to the slow cooker, and stir to combine.

Cook on low for six to eight hours, until the meat is tender. When the stew is ready, prepare the egg noodles according to package directions. Serve the stew hot with noodles.



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