

Floodwaters rise to rooflines in Houston



Alexandre Jorge evacuates Ethan Colman, 4, from a neighborhood inundated by floodwaters from Tropical Storm Harvey on Monday in Houston, Texas. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More rain expected as storm stalls over Texas

BY MICHAEL GRACZYK and DAVID PHILLIP
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Floodwaters reached the rooflines of single-story homes Monday, and people could be heard pleading for help from inside as Harvey poured rain on the Houston area for a fourth-consecutive day after a chaotic weekend of rising water and rescues.

The nation's fourth-largest city was still largely para-

lyzed by one of the largest downpours in U.S. history. And there was no relief in sight from the storm that spun into Texas as a Category 4 hurricane, then parked itself over the Gulf Coast. With nearly 2 more feet of rain expected on top of the 30-plus inches in some places, authorities worried about whether the worst was yet to come.

Harvey has been blamed

SEE STORM, PAGE A4

Gas prices could spike in Carolinas

FROM STAFF REPORTS

According to a news release from AAA Carolinas, an affiliate of the American Automobile Association, it is likely that Hurricane Harvey will affect gas prices in the coming weeks in the Carolinas.

Several oil and gas refineries along the Texas Gulf Coast have temporarily shut

SEE GAS, PAGE A4

Board OKs decreasing borrowing by \$3M this year

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

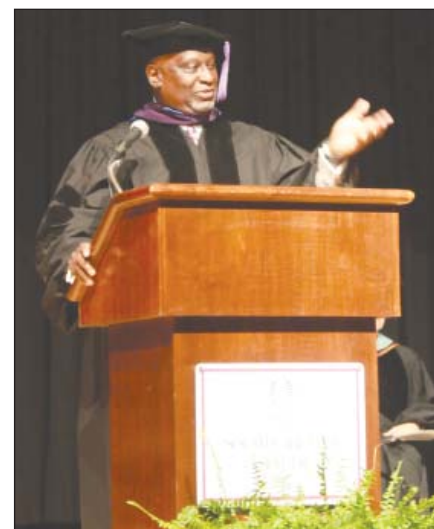
To be as financially prudent as possible now, Sumter School District's Board of Trustees unanimously approved a motion Monday night to direct its interim superintendent to decrease capital borrowing by \$3 million for this school year.

Instead, the district will utilize about \$2.7 million in leftover capital projects money it has on hand from previous years and also

tighten its projected capital projects list a little to make the numbers match. About \$2.1 million in capital projects money remains from last fiscal year — after the district froze various budget line items in January — according to district Chief Financial Officer Chris Griner.

The result is the district will borrow less in its short-term borrowing via a bond resolution and in the

SEE BOARD, PAGE A6



State Rep. David Weeks, D-Sumter, addresses students at University of South Carolina Sumter's Opening Convocation on Monday at Nettles Auditorium.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Rep. Weeks wants Sumter students to find their passions

USC Sumter holds new year kickoff

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

Emphasizing the transformative power of education and knowledge, state Rep. David Weeks, D-Sumter, offered various words of wisdom to encourage University of South Carolina Sumter students gathered Monday for the college's opening convocation.

Weeks, a Sumter native and member of the state Legislature since 2000, gave the convocation address before about 300 students, faculty, staff and others assembled at Nettles Auditorium for the annual celebratory kick-off event.

Weeks said the start of a new academic year offers students new possibilities.

"As Ella Fitzgerald put it: 'It isn't where you came from, it's where you're going that counts,'" Weeks said, quoting from the famous American jazz singer to illustrate the students' vast potential.

He said with hard work, courage and self-determination students can overcome other people's assumptions of them and live

SEE STUDENTS, PAGE A6

Your donations to ministry can make a difference for families

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

"Does my donation make a difference?"

This may be a question you ask yourself when you think about Sumter United Ministries, the charity's Crisis Relief Ministry Director Kevin



able, making an online donation or sending a check in a

Howell said. As the ministry has grown and more support and resources have become available,

modest amount might seem fruitless, he said.

But nothing could be further from the truth in the day-to-day decisions being made at the crisis relief ministry, he said.

Howell said in just this past week, at least eight families with children who have spe-

cial needs were interviewed.

"Rewinding to 10 years ago, we would have had very little choice but to only offer very modest amounts and hope for a miracle to occur," he said.

However, with the outpour of generous support from the community, we have the ability to go above and beyond

when the situation calls for it, Howell said.

For example, the crisis relief ministry would be able to step forward and pay a large balance for a single mother of three young children if their water were disconnected, he

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DEATHS, B5

Paul A. Graham
Betty C. Leali
Alan M. Wooten Sr.
Marilyn Leneau
Thomas O. Brunson Jr.
Raymond J. Balls

Brenda Figueroa
Lila May T. Cobb
Florine D. Hastie
Johnny Thomas Jr.
Eloise M. Maple

WEATHER, A8

A LITTLE SUN

Clouds giving way to some sun; mostly cloudy tonight

HIGH 82, LOW 64

INSIDE

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SECOND FRONT

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Roadway fatalities up slightly in Sumter, Clarendon

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
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South Carolina Department of Public Safety's report on roadway fatalities so far this year in comparison to previous years shows that roadway deaths have slightly increased in Sumter and Clarendon counties and decreased in Lee County during the past three years.

Information included in the report is compiled from collision reports collected between Jan. 1 and Aug. 27 of

this year, according to a news release.

As of Aug. 27, 629 people have died on South Carolina highways compared to 661 highway deaths that were reported during the same time period in 2016, according to the release.

Five deaths were reported between Friday at 6 p.m. and midnight on Sunday, according to the state department. Three of the victims were operating vehicles that do not have seat belts — a motorcycle, a bicycle and a mo-ped.

The public safety department reported that 209 of the 438 motor vehicle occupants who have died so far this year were not wearing seat belts.

According to the release, between Jan. 1 and midnight on Aug. 27, 84 pedestrians have died statewide compared to 92 in 2016; 76 motorcyclists have died compared to 98 in 2016; and 13 bicyclists have died compared to 16 in 2016.

In Sumter County, 14 people have died in vehicle wrecks between Jan. 1 and Aug. 27 this year compared to 11

people during the same time in 2016 and eight deaths in 2015.

Clarendon County has seen an increase in vehicular fatalities in recent years. Fifteen vehicle fatalities were reported this year while 12 and 11 deaths were reported in 2016 and 2015, respectively. Only six deaths were reported in 2014.

There has been a decrease in roadway fatalities in Lee County with six deaths reported in 2015, four reported in 2016 and three deaths reported in 2017.



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

James H. "Jimmy" Mills conducts the Sumter Community Concert Band during a recent performance at Patriot Hall. Rehearsals for the 2017-18 season begins Thursday at Patriot Hall.

Community band begins new season, seeks new members

BY IVY MOORE
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The Sumter Community Concert Band begins practice for its 2017-18 season Thursday night, and the organization is looking for new members. The band's schedule runs from late August through the middle of May each year, with four concerts on the schedule.

Spokesman Rick Mitchum said the band normally meets for practice from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday nights, but members and prospective members are requested to arrive at 6:30 p.m. this week for registration. Practice is held in the Pat Veltre Rehearsal Hall in Patriot Hall, 135 Haynsworth St. Musicians should use the Mood Avenue entrance, which will be marked.

New members are always welcome, Mitchum said.

"We need musicians in all sections,"

he said. "There is no audition, we just require that new members have prior experience with a middle or high school band and be able to read music. We have some of the large instruments, including a tuba, that we can provide."

Annual dues are \$15.

The band's director since 2004 is James H. "Jimmy" Mills, a graduate of Edmunds (Sumter) High School, where he played baritone horn under band director Robert Simmons. At McLaurin Junior High School, Ed Litaker was his director. Since high school and college, Mills has had a distinguished career in music, most of it as a school band director.

Mills' record during his 25-year career as band director at Chapin Middle and Chapin High schools is quite impressive. His marching bands consistently received Superior — the highest — ratings, finished among the

top five in the state 22 times and were state champions twice. While at Chapin, Mills took the marching band to perform twice at Disney World in Orlando, in the Hermes and Endymion parades during Mardi Gras in New Orleans, and Chapin High School was one of only 12 American bands in the Lord Mayor of Westminster's New Year's Day Parade in London in 1991 and again in 1997. Mills' symphonic band traveled to festivals in Atlanta, Nashville, St. Louis, Philadelphia, the Festival of Champions in Panama City and numerous other competitions. In 1995, Mills' band took Best-in-Class honors at the Toronto Music Festival and also took the Festival Grand Championship Award.

He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in music education and took additional courses at USC, East Carolina University and the University of Miami. His professional affiliations

include the Music Educators National Conference, the S.C. Band Directors Association, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, the S.C. Music Educators Association and several others. Mills is listed in Who's Who Among American Educators and Who's Who in America. He has received numerous other honors, as well.

He commutes to Sumter for rehearsals and concerts from his home in Chapin. He will be on the podium for the band's four concerts, the first at 3 p.m. on Oct. 8, for the upcoming season. Other concert dates are:

- 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 3 — Christmas concert;
- 3 p.m., Sunday, March 4, 2018; and
- 3 p.m., Sunday, May 13, 2018 — Spring concert.

All concerts will be presented in Patriot Hall.

For more information, call Mitchum at (803) 775-9265 or Barbara Rearden at (803) 469-0508.

LOCAL BRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Santee woman dies in wreck on Interstate 95

A Santee woman died during a wreck involving a tractor-trailer on Interstate 95 in Clarendon County on Saturday night.

South Carolina Highway Patrol Lance Cpl. Matt Southern said the wreck happened about 11:30 p.m. near mile marker 189 on I-95.

The deceased, 25-year-old Adrian Lambright, who was driving a 2009 Chevrolet passenger vehicle was struck from the rear by a 1998 Freightliner tractor-trailer while her vehicle was stopped in the right lane of

the roadway.

Southern said Lambright's vehicle went off the left side of the road and struck the cable barrier. She was not wearing a seatbelt and sustained fatal injuries at the scene, he said.

The wreck is under investigation by South Carolina Highway Patrol.

Fire hydrant tests set for Wednesday

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

52-year-old man, car missing since Friday

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

Family members and Sumter police officers are concerned about the well-being of a 52-year-old man who was last seen on Friday.



BRAILEY

Family members and co-workers said it is highly unusual for Tommy Brailey to not report to work or call, according to a news release from Sumter Police Department.

Brailey was last seen leav-



Brailey drives a silver 2004 325i BMW similar to this one with S.C. license tag LYB406.

ing Brewer's Bar & Grill, 160 E. Wesmark Blvd., at 2 a.m. on Friday. He was seen wearing jeans and a Continental Tire polo shirt, according to the release.

His vehicle, a silver 2004 four-door 325i BMW with S.C. license tag LYB406, also

has not been seen.

Anyone with information about Tommy Brailey's whereabouts is asked to call Sumter Police Department at (803) 436-2700. Information can also be given anonymously by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-888-CRIME-SC.

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3 Carolina artists exhibit at Sumter gallery

BY IVY MOORE
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Work by three artists, all fellows of the South Carolina Arts Commission, will be featured in a joint exhibition at the Sumter County Gallery of Art beginning Thursday with a 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. reception. The commission celebrates its 50th anniversary this year by recognizing its fellows, selected annually for ranking "among the most artistically accomplished ... in the state."

Fellows whose work will be featured at SCGA Thursday through Oct. 27 are Jonathan Brilliant, Edward Rice and Clifton Peacock.

Art lovers who attended the 2007 Accessibility art project may remember Brilliant's installation in the lobby of Patriot Hall. On his website, Brilliant describes his process during that two-week residency: "For 14 days I wove a structure which moved from a second floor balcony through a rotunda around a chandelier and to the first floor. No adhesive was used, and the entire structure (held) itself in place because of the tensile strength of 7-inch rounded-end, wooden coffee stirrers. After nearly six months the piece eventually separated and the materials were donated to a local school."

The 2007 piece was the second site-specific installation Brilliant had created. Now, 10 years later and for the 50th anniversary of the South Carolina Arts Commission, he's returning to create a new installation in Sumter. Brilliant further explains his work at jonathanbrilliant.com, writing "Central to all my work is an interest in patterning and mark-making fused with the use of pre- and post-consumer manufactured materials and the use of rhythm and repetition to create installations, objects and works on paper. Running through my work is a real enthusiasm for the inherent qualities of a material and the extent to which I can exploit it for making art. Rather than relying solely on intuitive approaches I have a set of systems I apply to the materials at hand. These systems include, but are not limited to: weaving, welding, stacking, arranging, drumming, beating, rusting, drawing, photographing, looking at and thinking about."

In addition to creating the installation titled "Compression, Tension, Suspension," Brilliant will give an artist talk at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, during the opening reception at SCGA.

Edward Rice lives and maintains his studio in North Augusta, where he grew up. His series of architectural works, painted on site, are generally of the vernacular architecture along the Georgia and South Carolina border. Several will be included in his SCGA exhibition titled "Modern Relics."

The protégé of Freeman Schoolcraft from 1972-79, Rice was director / artist in residence at the Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art in Augusta from 1979-82. In addition to his South Carolina Arts Commission Artist Fellowship, he has also received a National Endowment for the Arts / Southern Arts Federation Regional Fellowship and the Elizabeth O'Neil Verner Governor's Award. His paintings have been included in exhibitions in London, New York, Santa Fe, Atlanta and many other locations. His work can also be found in the State Art Col-



LEFT: Jonathan Brilliant works on his installation for the Sumter County Gallery of Art's exhibition opening Thursday at 5:30 p.m., when he will also give an artist talk. RIGHT: Edward Rice's "Doll II" is among his paintings in "Modern Relics," his exhibition also opening Thursday at the gallery.

lection and in the collections of the Gibbes Museum of Art, the Columbia Museum of Art, the South Carolina State Museum, the Greenville County Museum of Art, the Georgia Museum of Art, the Morris Museum of Art and the Ogden Museum of Southern Art.

His paintings have been exhibited at Babcock Galleries, New York; Gerald Peters Gallery, Santa Fe; and Heath Gallery, Atlanta, among numerous others. His work is also in the permanent collections of the Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston; the Columbia Museum of Art; the South Carolina State Museum; the Greenville County Museum of Art; the Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, Georgia; the Morris Museum of Art, Augusta; and the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans, as well as numerous corporate collections.

Rice said his goal "has always been simple enough: to

take ideas rooted in the past and make them relevant to our own time."

Clifton Peacock received his Individual Artist Fellowship from the S.C. Arts Commission in 1999. He was recently described by Mark Sloan, director and chief curator of the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston, as "a gifted painter with a fresh approach to figuration. His paintings infer rather than describe their subjects."

Peacock's exhibition is titled "What Then I Was."

A professor of art at CofC since 1993, Peacock received his Master of Fine Arts degree from Boston University and has since received many prestigious awards, among them three National Endowment for the Arts grants, three Massachusetts Artist Fellowship awards, an Englehard Foundation grant, a Louis Comfort Tiffany Fellowship, and Awards in the Visu-



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Peacock says, "I paint without reference to photographs or models. My reason for working this way is because of what I find unavailable in painted images that rework traditional means of representation. There is something inextricable in great painting that defies explanation. So, in a way, to find the image I have to forget about it. Otherwise, the image I paint is a disappointment of familiarity."

"The physician and author Siddhartha Mukherjee observed that we learn to dream to see the world. To paint the world, I can't lose my capacity to dream if I'm to re-imagine it."

The Brilliant, Rice and Peacock exhibitions open Thursday with a 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. reception at the Sumter County Gallery of Art, 200 Hasell St. Admission is free to gallery members, \$5 for non-members. There is no charge for admission during regular gallery hours, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

Sumter County Gallery of Art Director Karen Watson noted that, "As with all that we do, these exhibitions would not be possible without the support of our community and business partners: EMS-CHEMIE (North America) Inc., The Glenmore and May Sharp Trust, Sub Station II, South Carolina Arts Commission and the Sumter County Cultural Commission. Flowers are courtesy of Gail Turnmeyer, Azalea Garden Club and The Council of Garden Clubs of Sumter."

For more information, call the SCGA at (803) 775-0543.

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STORM

FROM PAGE A1

for at least three confirmed deaths, including a woman killed Monday in the town of Porter, northeast of Houston, when a large oak tree dislodged by heavy rains toppled onto her trailer home.

A Houston TV station reported Monday that six family members were thought to have drowned when their van was swept away by floodwaters. The KHOU report was attributed to three family members the station did not identify. No bodies have been recovered.

Police Chief Art Acevedo said he had no information about the report but said that he's "really worried about how many bodies we're going to find."

According to the station, four children and their grandparents were feared dead after the van hit high water Sunday when crossing a bridge in the Greens Bayou area.

The driver of the vehicle, the children's great-uncle, reportedly escaped before the van sank by grabbing a tree limb. He told the children to try to escape through the back door, but they were unable to get out.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Volunteer rescue boats make their way into a flooded subdivision to rescue stranded residents as floodwaters from Tropical Storm Harvey rise Monday in Spring, Texas.

The disaster unfolded on an epic scale in one of America's most sprawling metropolitan centers. The Houston metro area covers about 10,000 square miles, an area slightly bigger than New Jersey. It's crisscrossed by about 1,700 miles of channels, creeks and bayous that drain into the Gulf of Mexico, about 50 miles to the southeast from downtown.

The flooding was so widespread that the levels of city waterways have either equaled or surpassed those of Tropical Storm Allison from 2001, and no major highway has been spared some overflow.

The city's normally bus-

ing business district was virtually deserted Monday, with emergency vehicles making up most of the traffic. Most businesses were closed.

Elsewhere, water gushed from two reservoirs as officials sought to release pressure on a pair of 70-year-old dams that protect downtown. Water was at risk of spilling around the sides of the barriers, which have a long history of seepage. The move was supposed to help shield the business district from floodwaters, but it could also flood thousands more homes.

Meanwhile, rescuers continued plucking people from the floodwaters — at least

2,000 so far, according to Acevedo. At least 185 critical rescue requests were still pending on Monday morning, he said.

Rescuers were giving priority to life-and-death situations, leaving many people to fend for themselves.

Chris Thorn was among the many volunteers still helping with the mass evacuation that began Sunday. He drove with a buddy from the Dallas area with their flat-bottom hunting boat to pull strangers out of the water.

"I couldn't sit at home and watch it on TV and do nothing since I have a boat and all the tools to help," he said.

They got to Spring, Texas, where Cypress Creek had breached Interstate 45 and went to work, helping people out of a gated community near the creek.

"It's never flooded here," resident Lane Cross said from the front of Thorn's boat, holding his brown dog, Max. "I don't even have flood insurance."

A mandatory evacuation was ordered for the low-lying Houston suburb of Dickinson, home to 20,000. Police cited the city's fragile infrastructure in the floods, limited working utilities and concern about the weather forecast.

GAS

FROM PAGE A1

down operations and production as the area recovers. How quickly the refineries reopen will depend on the severity of the flooding and the restoration of power to the areas.

The statewide average for a gallon of regular unleaded gas currently in South Carolina is \$2.10. Gas prices could increase from 5 to 25 cents per gallon or more overnight or in the next several days.

"While gas prices have the potential to increase following the devastation from Hurricane Harvey, it's important we stress to motorists to avoid panicking at the pump," said AAA Carolinas spokeswoman Tiffany Wright. "Don't over-consume or change spending habits at the gas station. These behaviors could lead to gas shortages across the Carolinas."

The possible gas price increase comes at a time when many Carolinians are making plans to take a final summer vacation with a road trip for the Labor Day holiday.

"The busy summer driving season is wrapping up, and right now gas prices in the Carolinas appear only slightly higher than they were last week," Wright added. "That doesn't mean that prices won't spike overnight."

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Trump rolls back limits on military gear for police

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Trump has signed an executive order reviving a program that provided local police departments with surplus military equipment such as high-caliber weapons and grenade launchers, despite past concerns that armored vehicles and other gear were inflaming confrontations with protesters.

The directive Trump signed Monday repeals Obama-era limitations on police agencies' access to camouflage uniforms, bullet-proof vests, riot shields, firearms, ammunition and other items. The policy change is another way in which Trump and Attorney General Jeff Sessions are enacting a law-and-order agenda that sees federal support of local police as key to driving down violent crime.

Sessions announced Trump's decision to roaring applause Monday at a national convention of the Fraternal Order of Police, one of the groups that had urged Trump to restore the military program.

Restrictions put in place by former President Obama "went too far," Sessions said. "We will not put superficial concerns above public safety."

The new plan will "ensure that you can get the lifesaving gear that you need to do your job and send a strong message that we will not allow criminal activity, violence and lawlessness to become a new normal," Sessions said.

Groups across the political spectrum have expressed concern about the militarization of police, arguing that the equipment encourages and escalates confrontations with officers. But many law enforcement agencies and policing organizations see it as needed to ensure officers aren't put in danger when responding to active shooter calls and terrorist attacks. An armored vehicle played a key role in the police response to the December 2015 mass shooting in San Bernardino, California.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Attorney General Jeff Sessions acknowledges applause at the Fraternal Order of Police convention on Monday in Nashville, Tenn. Sessions said President Trump will revive a program that provides local police departments with surplus military equipment.

Congress authorized the Pentagon program in 1990, allowing police to receive surplus equipment to help fight drugs, which then gave way to the fight against terrorism.

In 2014, Sumter County Sheriff's Office Emergency Response Team received an MRAP Caiman, a 54,000-pound armored vehicle.

Obama issued an executive order in 2015 that severely limited the program, partly triggered by public outrage over

the use of military gear during protests in Ferguson, Missouri, following the shooting death of 18-year-old Michael Brown. Police responded in riot gear and deployed tear gas, dogs and armored vehicles. At times they also pointed assault rifles at protesters.

Obama's order prohibited the federal government from providing grenade launchers, bayonets, tracked armored vehicles, weaponized aircraft and vehicles and firearms and am-

munition of .50 caliber or greater to police.

As of December, the agency overseeing the program had recalled at least 100 grenade launchers, more than 1,600 bayonets and 126 tracked vehicles — those that run on continuous, tank-like tracks instead of wheels — that were provided through the program.

Trump vowed to rescind the executive order in a written response to a Fraternal Order of Police questionnaire that helped him win an endorsement from the organization of rank-and-file officers. He reiterated his promise during a gathering of police officers in July, saying the equipment still on the streets is being put to good use.

"In fact, that stuff is disappearing so fast we have none left," Trump said.

The NAACP Legal Defense Fund said in a statement Sunday night it is "exceptionally dangerous and irresponsible" for the administration to lift the ban.

"Just a few summers ago, our nation watched as Ferguson raised the specter of increased police militarization. The law enforcement response

there and in too many places across the country demonstrated how perilous, especially for Black and Brown communities, a militarized police force can be," the group said.

"The president's decision to make this change in the wake of the tragedy in Charlottesville and against a backdrop of frayed relations between police and communities of color further reflects this administration's now open effort to escalate racial tensions in our country," the organization said.

Justice Department documents summarizing the order describe much of the gear as "defensive in nature," intended to protect officers from danger.

Most police agencies rarely require military equipment for daily use but see a need to have it available, said Chuck Wexler, executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum.

"It is hard to imagine any situation where a grenade launcher or bayonet would be something that a major police department would need, but defensive shields and armored vehicles kept on reserve will be welcome," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify you that on September 1, 2017, Palmetto Adult Medicine, L.L.C. will sell/transfer certain assets owned by Palmetto Adult Medicine, L.L.C., including medical records, to McLeod Physician Associates II, and that Ansel R. McFaddin, III, M.D., Harry A. Jordan, Jr., M.D., Andrew J. Reynolds, M.D., and Hugh T. Stoddard, Jr., M.D. will become employees of McLeod Physician Associates II as of that date. After that date, Ansel R. McFaddin, III, M.D., Harry A. Jordan, Jr., M.D., Andrew J. Reynolds, M.D., and Hugh T. Stoddard, Jr., M.D. WILL CONTINUE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL SERVICES TO THEIR PATIENTS, WITHOUT INTERRUPTION IN THEIR CURRENT OFFICE LOCATION AT 1295 WILSON HALL ROAD, SUMTER, SC 29150. If you do not want your medical records included in the sale, you have the right to retrieve your medical records. You may contact Palmetto Adult Medicine, L.L.C. during normal business hours to coordinate the retrieval of your medical records from their current office location on or before Thursday, August 31, 2017.

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STUDENTS FROM PAGE A1

out their lives bravely. Weeks challenged students to discover their interests and passions through education in order to chart their life's course. "I certainly hope your education is exposing you to the things that interest you in this world — the things that inspire you and fire your curiosity," Weeks said. "That's the sort of education that helps you to figure out who you are and to

determine exactly which direction your life should take." Fall semester classes at the college began last week. According to the college's enrollment data, estimated fall enrollment at USC Sumter is 950 students, and full-time freshmen enrollment is 280. Originally founded in 1966 as Clemson University at Sumter, USC Sumter is in its 51st academic year.

BOARD FROM PAGE A1

end pay a little less in interest, even though interest rates are very low at this time, Griner said. Because of the action, the board tabled any action on the proposed capital projects list, which previously amounted to \$11.4 million. The adjusted capital projects list will be for about \$10.7 million, Griner said. The capital projects are for classroom instructional technology and school maintenance/operations' needs in the district for this school year. The board was in executive

session behind closed doors for more than three hours before it returned to open session about 9:30 p.m. For a portion of that time, the school board's attorney — William "Bick" Halligan of Halligan, Mahoney and Williams of Columbia — gave the trustees legal advice concerning the district's financial position. Primarily due to overspending its budget by \$6.2 million in fiscal year 2016, the district enters fiscal 2018 with an estimated ending fund balance as of June 30, 2017, of about \$500,000. That general fund balance total is far below one month's

operating expenses — or about \$10.9 million — which is now advised for South Carolina school districts based on a new state law passed in May. In part because of its low fund balance, the state Department of Education placed the district under a cautionary "fiscal watch" in July. According to Halligan, the new law formally develops a structure, through the state Department of Education, where over a period school districts develop sound financial practices to improve their financial position. Monday's meeting was the trustees' monthly work session at the district office.

CARING FROM PAGE A1

said. And, if her youngest child were to later be diagnosed with a severe bowel issue, providing that financial assistance would allow the mother to bring a sense of comfort back into her home. If a young single father loses his job, the ministry would be able to provide an extra boost of assistance beyond what is usually offered to give him peace of mind while his 2-year-old son, who has cerebral palsy, is hospitalized. If a single mom of four children has a severely ill child and lives in a house with a malfunctioning HVAC system, the ministry would be able to pay the large electricity bill to avoid disconnection, Howell said. The crisis relief ministry

would be able to provide assistance that would have never been possible in other years, he said. Each of those situations happened in just this past week, Howell said. "The crisis relief ministry did not spend money frivolously simply because it was available, but when God put urgent needs with challenging balances in front of us, your donations made it possible," he said. Every piece of the puzzle is equally valuable to the beauty and completion of the image, Howell said. "Whatever part you play in giving your donation, it does make a difference." Summer of Caring is a way for the community to give in order to help support the ministries of Sumter United Ministries. The money will be used by the organization's many ministries to assist families that are experiencing a variety

of issues. Sumter United Ministries' services include an emergency shelter, financial aid for bills, construction and home repair, primary health care and education assistance. Donations will be used to keep power and water services connected, to repair roofs or build wheelchair ramps, provide food for families, provide financial assistance to someone who needs specialty health care or needs help paying for medication and offset costs for the organization's emergency shelter. Donations for Summer of Caring will be collected through the week before Labor Day. Those who wish to contribute can send financial donations to: *The Sumter Item*, P.O. Box 1677, Sumter SC 29151. Contributions can also be

dropped off at *The Sumter Item* office, 36 W. Liberty St. If donating in someone's name, provide that individual's full name. Groups and acronyms should also be spelled out in full. For more information about Sumter United Ministries and other ways to get involved with the organization, go to sumterunitedministries.org or call (803) 775-0757 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Donations last week through Monday include: Sarah A. Hale-Hill, \$100; in memory of Rembert Page by Mary Ellen Blanding, \$50; and Mr. and Mrs. William Noonan, \$50. Donations received this week: \$200. Total donations received this year to date: \$3,555. Total donations received last year: \$3,480. Total donations since 2014: \$21,172.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The City of Sumter is an Entitlement Community. This Entitlement status affords the City the opportunity of receiving Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds on an annual basis. The purpose of the funds is to improve the neighborhoods and make life more livable for residents; especially those whose income falls within the HUD Income Limits and are considered low-moderate-income citizens. Citizens' participation is a requirement. The City of Sumter will satisfy this requirement by holding public meetings prior to preparing the upcoming Annual Action Plan. The schedule for these meetings follows:

- o Tuesday, September 12, 2017, 6:00pm Birnie Hope Center, 210 S. Purdy St.
- o Thursday, September 14, 2017, 6:00pm, South Hope Center, 1125 S. Lafayette Dr.
- o Tuesday, September 19, 2017, 6:00pm, South Sumter Resource Center, 337 Manning Ave.
- o Thursday, September 21, 2017, 6:00pm, North Hope Center, 904 S. Main St..
- o Public Hearing, Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 6:00pm, Council Chambers 4th floor, Opera House, 21 North Main Street

Citizens are invited to come out and participate in these community meetings in preparation of the City of Sumter, Community Development Department fiscal year budget process for the period April 1, 2018-March 31, 2019. Entry to all meeting places is handicapped accessible. Hearing impaired or deaf persons may call 774-1649 for assistance. Persons needing an interpreter may call the same number for assistance.

Joseph T. McElveen, Jr.
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ITEM**

OPINION

Hubert D. Osteen Jr. CHAIRMAN & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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Jack Osteen EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

36 W. LIBERTY ST., SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA 29150 • Founded October 15, 1894

COMMENTARY

Our state's 'Sunshine Law' is really your law

A letter that appeared in the Thursday, Aug. 24, edition of *The Sumter Item* got my attention and appreciation to the writer for speaking out about the Sumter School District Board of Trustees holding so many secret meetings. It was written by Robert Johnson. He got it right.

He wrote: "Do they (the school board) hope us dumb taxpayers will not ask questions concerning their top-se-



Hubert D. Osteen Jr.

Good advice from Mr. Johnson. Elected officials are also

cret meetings?"

He went on to say, "We did not vote kings or queens to this office. You are public servants when spending our tax dollars."

employees — of the people, the voters and the taxpayers. They are temporary employees who don't own the offices they were elected to, and at the next election their employers, the voters, via the ballot box, could easily fire them.

Back in the day, when I was a reporter covering public bodies, secrecy was rampant, with city and county councils scurrying behind closed doors where "executive sessions"

and "off-the-record" comments took place and the public had no way of knowing what was going on or what was being discussed or enacted behind those closed doors.

That was before the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act first became law in 1976 and is also known as the "Sunshine Law."

Its latest revision came on May 19 of this year, signed into law by Gov. Henry McMaster.

It's a good law, and it's not just a "newspaper law." It belongs to the people in South Carolina who believe in and demand transparency from all public bodies.

It's easy reading. And it's free. Contact *The Sumter Item*, and we'll give you a copy. It'll add a lot of "sunshine" to your life. After all, it is your law.

Reach Hubert D. Osteen Jr. at hubert@theitem.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IF YOU CAN'T RESPECT OTHER OPINIONS, YOU CAN LEAVE

Two comments:

First to the gentleman who thinks Dr. Baker is milking the county for money; you need to understand that he had a multi-year contract that was re-negotiated with his agreement to resign. He probably could have asked for more.

The cute PR statement that the board put out about calling him in for consulting was just for public benefit. I doubt the district or interim superintendent will call Dr. Baker for anything.

Secondly, the writer who wants liberals to leave the country may need to do that himself and take the monuments honoring racists with him.

After all, it was his ancestors and "heroes" who sought to secede from the United States and fought a losing war to do so. It was their disregard for humanity, freedom and desire of free labor that drove them to fight fellow countrymen and family members to sustain their "peculiar institution."

No Sir, if you can't live with the opinions of others, respect other beliefs, religious or otherwise, and can't accept the fact that you lost that unnecessary war then you leave!

This is my country, and I'm not going anywhere.

LEE ROY CAMPBELL JR.
Kingstree

WE CAN'T TURN OFF THIS BAD NATIONAL SOAP OPERA

Most of us have watched soap operas for their entertainment value, outrageous plots and intentional distraction from reality. While the antics of Donald Trump were initially somewhat entertaining, I no longer find him amusing.

His proclivity for disregarding truth, his affinity for stroking his ego, his inability to maintain focus, his apologetic tone to Nazis, his wink of acceptance to the KKK, his bromance with Putin, his disloyalty to anyone who challenges his agenda of the moment, his moral deficiency and his unwillingness to be the president of all of us are but a few of the reasons why Trump's tenure in the White House is dangerous.

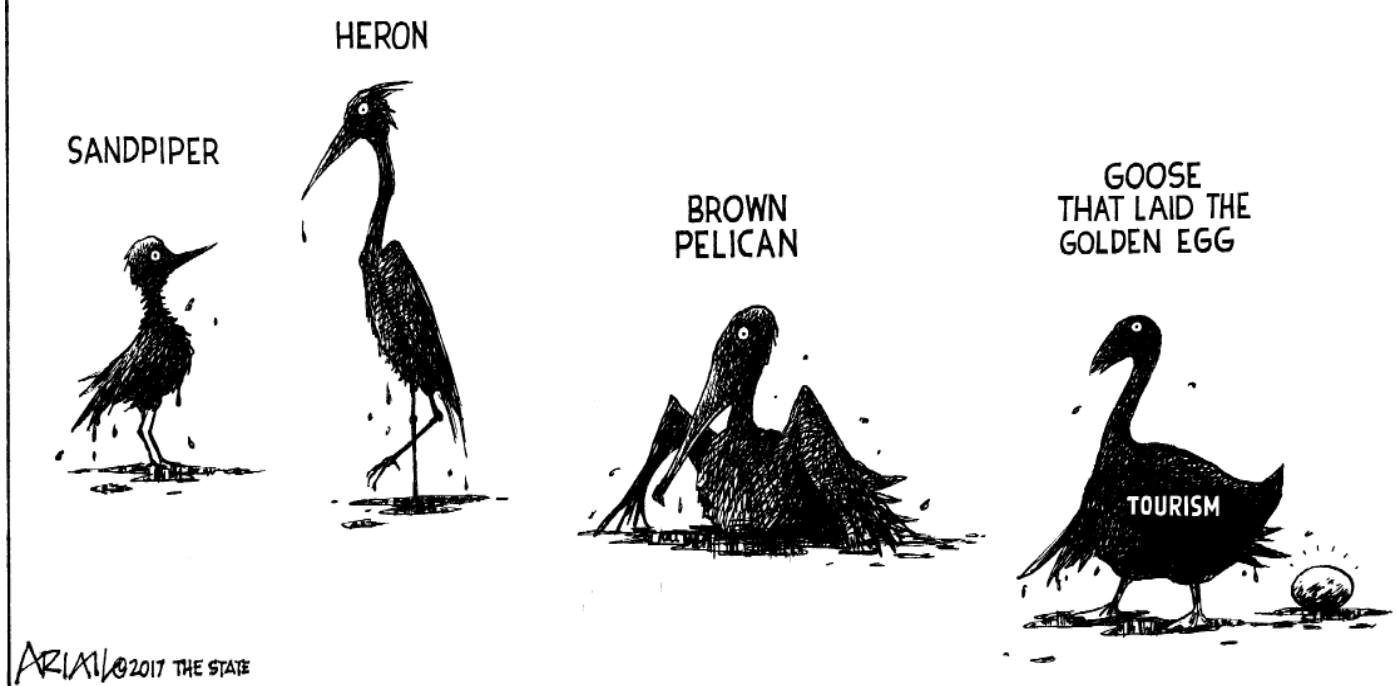
He is eroding the dignity that was once a hallmark of the office of president. He is deepening the divide among people with diverse views. Further, his impetuous and frequently thoughtless tweets and his unwillingness to work cooperatively with members of his own party contribute to his ineffectiveness as commander in chief.

Even though Trump's tenure in the White House is temporary, and it may be shortened by his impeachment or electoral defeat, every day he occupies 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. is a day that he damages our country.

We can easily turn off a bad soap opera; erasing the damage Trump is inflicting on our nation won't be as easy.

BEVERLY DIANE FRIERSON
Columbia

Birds that could be harmed by offshore drilling :



COMMENTARY

Robert Lee, no E., deserves a raise from ESPN

WASHINGTON — You know we've reached a point of — something — when a sports announcer named Robert Lee is resigned from calling a University of Virginia college football game because of his contemporaneously unfortunate name.

Lee reportedly agreed with ESPN that he should go elsewhere rather than risk heckling, distraction or potentially worse given the recent horror in Charlottesville, where white supremacists, neo-Nazis and other vermin violently protested the taking down of a Robert E. Lee statue. The ensuing mayhem left one counter-protester dead and many others injured.

One could hardly blame Lee, assuming ESPN's version of events is accurate. Internally, the decision was no big deal, according to the network. Nevertheless, it provided the spark needed to freshly inflame passions in the wake of controversies over whether to remove Confederate monuments that many find offensive.

Why, after all, should we glorify the South's Lost Cause or the institution of slavery the Confederacy sought to protect? Why should public lands play host to marble, granite and bronze images of men who tried to destroy our relatively new nation?

By now, surely, we can drop the ruse of states' rights as the overarching rationale for the Civil War. The South needed slaves to support its economy, period.

This doesn't mean that the South

has nothing of which to be proud. The valor of those who died protecting their homes and families can't be denied. The fact that the vast majority of those killed and maimed held no slaves suggests there was more to the Southern soldiers' fervor than a burning desire to secure human bondage.

In the end, it was a matter of pride — and, later, injured pride.

Once the Confederate states were conquered (or liberated, depending on one's perspective), there was nothing left but ashes and anguish from which to salvage a memory of lost glory and a culture at once beautiful and beastly. Amnesia was essential to this task. This meant minimizing or blocking the facts of slavery and inventing a more palatable explanation for the war. Thus, "states' rights" for the foreseeable future will be presumed to be first a dog whistle for racism and only second an argument for decentralizing the federal government.

For most Southerners, however, Gen. Lee wasn't a hero because he supported human bondage but because he was viewed as noble, brave and true to the mission of defending the South against "Northern aggression." That he lost the war is no less reason to admire the traits of courage, loyalty and sacrifice that we attribute to heroes.

The irony, of course, is that Lee himself probably would applaud the removal of all monuments related to a war he viewed as a national horror. As mentioned here before, Lee warned his fellow Southerners against glorifying the war and specifically requested that no monuments be built in its honor. He thought it best to leave the past behind and to move forward as a united nation.

I present these observations not as endorsements or condemnations but as a Southern-born, Yankee-bred agnostic on statuary. As a hybrid American — the product of a World War II Yankee pilot and a Southern belle — my ancestors fought on both sides of the Civil War. My basement houses Confederate money from my maternal grandmother as well as a record album of Union songs favored by my father.

This family collection, though interesting as historical artifact, is nonetheless personal and irrelevant to a sane nation. In other words, who cares?

The terrible violence of the Civil War and the enormous loss of life can never be reconciled, nor the scars of slavery completely erased. But we are well past a time when we should allow ourselves to be divided over a long-ago war. As a nation, we abhor that slavery ever existed, as we also recoil from the fact that for most of our history women were considered less human than men.

We also respect history, but we move on. The monuments in question may remind us of who and what came before, but they also reflect a half-truth. Perhaps the better solution is to build more memorials, as the city of Richmond has done, to honor the heroic slaves, their forebears and descendants, whose skills, knowledge and labor made both the Old South and modern America possible.

In the meantime, ESPN ought to give Robert Lee a raise.

Kathleen Parker's email address is kathleenparker@washpost.com.

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EDITORIAL PAGE POLICIES

EDITORIALS represent the views of the owners of this newspaper.

COLUMNS AND COMMENTARY are the personal opinion of the writer whose byline

appears. Columns from readers should be typed, double-spaced and no more than 850 words. Send them to *The Sumter Item*, Opinion Pages, P.O. Box 1677, Sumter, S.C. 29151, or email to letters@theitem.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are written by

readers of the newspaper. They should be no more than 350 words and sent via e-mail to letters@theitem.com, dropped off at *The Sumter Item* office, 36 W. Liberty St. or mailed to *The Sumter Item*, P.O. Box 1677, Sumter, S.C. 29151, along with the full name of the

writer, plus an address and telephone number for verification purposes only. Letters that exceed 350 words will be cut accordingly in the print edition, but available in their entirety at www.theitem.com.

AROUND TOWN

A “Celebrate Life Social” honoring cancer survivors will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 31, at Manning United Methodist Church in the fellowship hall. Event is free to survivor plus one guest/caregiver. RSVP to Relay-ForLifeClarendon@gmail.com or call/text (803) 460-1725.

Blood and platelet donors of all blood types, especially types O negative and O positive, are urgently needed. Schedule your donation appointment by using the free Blood Donor App, by visiting www.redcrossblood.org or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Those who donate blood or platelets Sept. 1-30 will receive a coupon via email for a free haircut from Sport Clips. Help save a life by participating in one of the following American Red Cross blood donation opportunities: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 2, Union Baptist Church, 5840 Springhill Road, Rembert; 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 5, YMCA of Sumter, 510 Miller Road; 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 13, Morris College, Neal Jones Auditorium, 100 W. College St.; and 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday, Sept. 15, Boots & Badges Sumter Police / Fire Departments, 111 N. Harvin St.

Carter-Sullivan American Legion Post 204 will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 623 Headstart St., Manning.

The Sumter Branch NAACP will sponsor a health fair from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9, at Marion H. Newton Family Life Center, 415

Manning Ave.

The Sumter Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 12, at Shiloh-Randolph Manor, 125 W. Bartlette St. The spotlight is shining on Sarah Bracey and the associate member is Willie Ruth Pressley. Make your gala ticket reservations for Dec. 12. Contact Debra Canty, chapter president, at (803) 775-5792 or debra.canty@frontier.com.

The Sumter County Library's Forrest Ray 5K will be held on Saturday, Sept. 16, beginning at 8 a.m. at the library. Visit www.sumter-countylibrary.org

The Sumter Combat Veterans Group will hold its annual golf tournament on Saturday, Sept. 16, at Crystal Lakes Golf Course, 1305 Clara Louise Kellogg Drive. There will be a 9 a.m. shotgun start. Registration fee is \$50 per golfer limited to the first 20 teams. Fee includes continental breakfast, lunch, souvenirs, cart, green fees, refreshments during play and door prizes. Team format will be Captain's Choice Four-Person Team. There will be first and second place prizes for men's and women's teams. Call Earnest Roland at (803) 840-0935 or Dutch Holland at (910) 973-3223.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 11078 of Summerton will meet at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 19, at the VFW Post on Cantey Street, directly behind First Citizens Bank. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. Call Carl A. Farley at (803) 478-7593 or (803) 460-8910.

a.m.-4 p.m. at 8455 Camden Highway, U.S. 521, Rembert, in front of the car wash. Call Dr. Juanita Britton at (803) 432-2001.

The Single Parent Institute meets 5:45-6:45 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at Birnie HOPE Center. Meetings are open to teenage single parents, custodial and non-custodial single parents. You are welcome to bring your children as the Single Parent Institute is for the entire family. Contact Dr. L. Quaneck Walkes at (803) 223-9408 or lquawalkes@sctechthisout.com.

The Rembert Area Community Coalition (RACC) offers a senior citizens program 10 a.m.-noon each Monday and Wednesday at 6785 Bradley St. (behind community car wash), Rembert, SC 29128. Transportation is available. For details, call (803) 432-2001.

FYI

The Sumter County Recreation Department offers free after school programs during the 2017-2018 academic school year at the following locations: Catchall-Shaw Community Center, Cherryvale Community Center, DeLaine Community Center, Eastern Community Center, Ebenezer Community Center, Pine-wood Community Center, Rembert-Rafting Creek Community Center and Salterston Community Center. To register or for more details, call (803) 436-2248.

The Rembert Area Community Coalition offers an after school program for students from kindergarten to sixth grade at the youth center in Rembert. Children receive assistance with homework, school projects, etc. A nutritious snack is served daily. There is a small monthly fee. Registrations are accepted 9

The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Working with others can be helpful, but

also undermining. Don't trust anyone with your personal information. Share only what's necessary and focus on taking care of your responsibilities. Self-improvement projects will give you a revived energy and added confidence.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Making time for friends, parents or children will be a good investment. The time spent will bring you closer together. Communication will help you understand how you can work as a team to improve your standard of living.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Physical activity will do you good and help you accomplish some of the chores you've been ignoring. Catching up with others will encourage you to begin something new. A positive change will take place if you nurture important relationships.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get along with your peers even if someone aggravates you. Keeping emotions in check and your thoughts to yourself will help you avoid a showdown with someone who is looking for a fight. Personal growth will result in greater stability.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make your relationships and interactions with friends and relatives a priority. Share your feelings and plan gatherings that will promote sharing and helping one another through thick and thin. Put your best foot forward.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Handle domestic situations carefully. Refuse to let emotions swell up and lead to a no-win situation. Disillusion regarding a relationship

you have with someone will keep you from doing what's best for you. Search for the truth.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your appeal will help you get ahead. Back it up with intelligence and you will be in the running for a unique position. Your performance will be your best calling card, so don't feel the urge to brag.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Personal matters are best handled with thoughtfulness, but not at the expense of neglecting your responsibilities. Be a good listener and friend, and in return ask for a helping hand to ensure that you achieve what's essential to you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Reevaluate your relationships with some of your friends. Refuse to let anyone manipulate you. Consider what you want and back away from bad influences. A healthy lifestyle should be your first choice.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep your personal finances, health concerns and legal dealings a secret. The less other people know about your feelings or plans, the easier it will be for you to get things done your way. Back away from wasteful or erratic individuals.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Not everyone you meet will be as honest as you. Listen carefully and follow through to make sure you are being given authentic information. Form alliances with those willing to match your standard of perfection.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be contradicted if you stretch the truth. Take notes or have someone else serve as a witness to the negotiations you undertake. Getting all the facts straight and only offering what is feasible will be more difficult than anticipated.

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2017

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Clouds giving way to some sun	Mostly cloudy	Times of clouds and sun	An afternoon t-storm or two	Cloudy with a t-storm or two	Cloudy, humid; a p.m. t-storm
82°	64°	86° / 69°	87° / 70°	85° / 69°	84° / 69°
Chance of rain: 25%	Chance of rain: 10%	Chance of rain: 25%	Chance of rain: 60%	Chance of rain: 60%	Chance of rain: 60%
NW 10-20 mph	NNE 4-8 mph	ESE 4-8 mph	SSW 4-8 mph	E 4-8 mph	S 6-12 mph

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

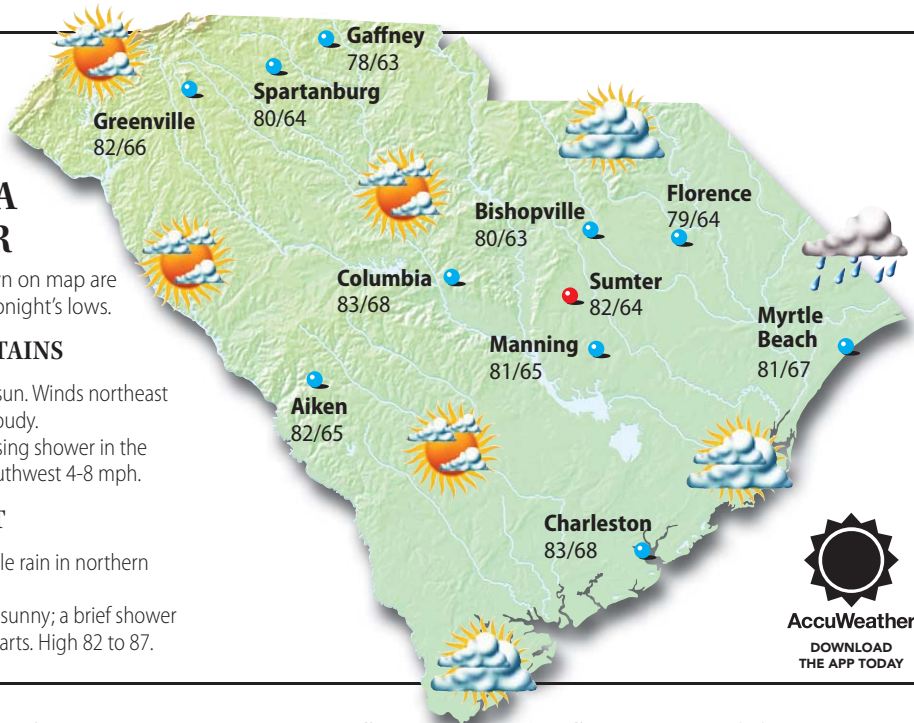
Temperatures shown on map are today's highs and tonight's lows.

IN THE MOUNTAINS

Today: Clouds and sun. Winds northeast 6-12 mph. Mostly cloudy.
Wednesday: A passing shower in the afternoon. Winds southwest 4-8 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: Cloudy; a little rain in northern parts. High 79 to 85.
Wednesday: Partly sunny; a brief shower or two in southern parts. High 82 to 87.



LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THROUGH 2 P.M. YESTERDAY

Temperature	High	Low	Normal high	Normal low	Record high	Record low
	82°	65°	88°	67°	98° in 1948	54° in 1981

Precipitation	24 hrs ending 2 p.m. yest.	Month to date	Normal month to date	Year to date	Last year to date	Normal year to date
	0.00"	0.99"	4.64"	27.53"	31.60"	32.98"

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	356.73	-0.05
Marion	76.8	75.29	-0.04
Moultrie	75.5	75.12	-0.13
Wateree	100	97.78	+0.01

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	4.45	-0.38
Congaree River	19	2.80	-0.08
Lynches River	14	3.62	-0.28
Saluda River	14	2.22	none
Up. Santee River	80	75.93	-0.02
Wateree River	24	7.73	+0.37

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	6:53 a.m.	Sunset	7:52 p.m.
Moonrise	2:19 p.m.	Moonset	12:20 a.m.

Phase	First	Full	Last	New
	Aug. 29	Sep. 6	Sep. 13	Sep. 20

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH				
	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	3:05 a.m.	2.7	9:57 a.m.	0.8
	3:56 p.m.	3.0	10:49 p.m.	1.1
Wed.	3:56 a.m.	2.7	10:48 a.m.	0.9
	4:50 p.m.	3.0	11:43 p.m.	1.1

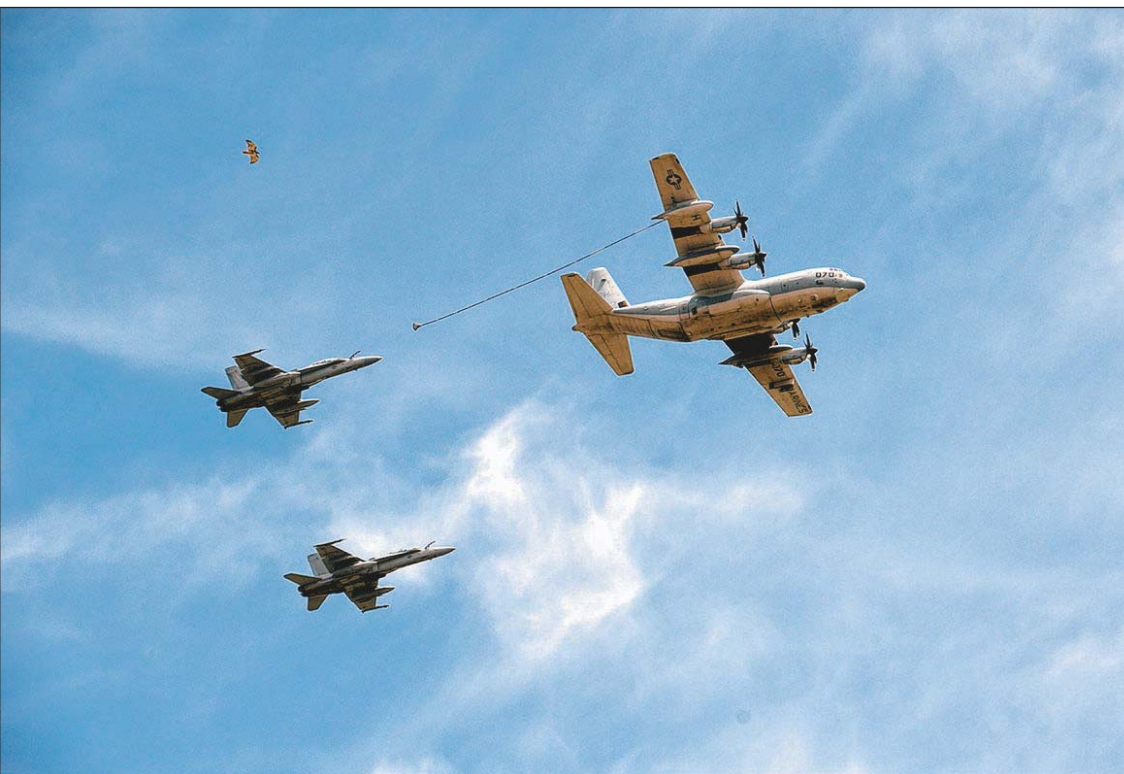
NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	86/70/pc	77/69/sh
Chicago	77/61/sh	80/63/pc
Dallas	86/71/pc	85/70/c
Detroit	73/60/r	79/61/pc
Houston	77/73/r	79/71/r
Los Angeles	102/75/s	100/75/s
New Orleans	83/75/r	85/76/r
New York	70/61/c	77/66/pc
Oriando	88/74/t	93/75/t
Philadelphia	70/62/r	80/65/pc
Phoenix	109/86/s	109/86/s
San Francisco	71/58/s	71/56/s
Wash., DC	71/65/r	79/67/pc

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Asheville	79/62/pc	78/64/sh	Florence	79/64/pc	85/69/pc
Athens	86/67/pc	79/67/r	Gainesville	88/72/t	89/72/sh
Augusta	86/70/pc	88/72/pc	Gastonia	78/63/c	83/68/pc
Beaufort	85/71/pc	87/74/c	Goldsboro	77/64/r	85/70/pc
Cape Hatteras	79/71/r	81/73/c	Goose Creek	81/67/pc	84/71/pc
Charleston	83/68/pc	86/73/pc	Greensboro	71/60/r	83/67/pc
Charlotte	77/63/c	84/69/pc	Greenville	82/66/pc	82/69/pc
Clemson	86/68/pc	81/69/sh	Hickory	76/61/sh	82/66/pc
Columbia	83/68/pc	87/72/pc	Hilton Head	83/70/pc	84/73/pc
Darlington	79/63/pc	84/69/pc	Jacksonville, FL	90/73/pc	88/73/t
Elizabeth City	80/67/r	81/70/c	La Grange	87/71/c	79/69/sh
Elizabethtown	76/64/r	84/70/pc	Macon	86/70/pc	82/70/c
Fayetteville	77/63/r	85/70/pc	Marietta	86/69/pc	76/68/r
			Marion	78/61/pc	79/65/c
			Mt. Pleasant	82/69/pc	84/73/pc
			Myrtle Beach	81/67/r	83/74/pc
			Orangeburg	83/66/pc	85/70/pc
			Port Royal	83/71/pc	84/73/sh
			Raleigh	73/62/r	84/69/pc
			Rock Hill	78/63/c	83/68/pc
			Rockingham	77/62/sh	85/69/pc
			Savannah	86/72/pc	86/73/sh
			Spartanburg	80/64/pc	81/67/pc
			Summerville	80/66/pc	84/70/pc
			Wilmington	79/65/r	83/70/pc
			Winston-Salem	72/60/r	82/66/pc

PICTURES FROM THE PUBLIC



Glen Clinch took these photos at the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort Air Show in April.

CLEMSON FOOTBALL

'Windshield mentality'



Clemson head coach Dabo Swinney, center, talks to players after a red zone drill during 2016's spring practice in Clemson. Swinney has spent months drilling the good feelings of a national title out of the fifth-ranked Tigers heading into the season. This group starts making its own title run on Saturday against Kent State.

No. 5 Clemson focused on winning games, not defending title

BY PETE IACOBELLI
AP Sports Writer

CLEMSON — Clemson coach Dabo Swinney and his staff have been working for months to drill the good feelings from a national title out of the fifth-ranked Tigers.

"We aren't defending anything," Swinney says flatly. "If we were like an NFL team had (New England quarterback) Tom Brady back for his 15th year, that would be one thing. But in college football, it is a new team."

And one that sounds hungry to make

its own mark, though many of the returning players only played a supporting role during the national championship run.

"We've got a windshield mentality," said safety Tanner Muse, one of 11 new starters when the fifth-ranked Tigers take on Kent State on Saturday. "All we look forward to is the next game."

That could be tested early in the opener. Much of the crowd will be in full-blown celebration mode as the school has a pre-game program remembering last year's title run. Center Justin Falcinelli, another new starter,

was asked what it will be like to run down the hill before the game.

"Oh, wow, I hadn't thought about that," he said, smiling.

Once the game begins, fans will see a vastly different group than the one that left Tampa, Florida after a 35-31 victory over top-ranked Alabama to win the crown last January. Gone are some of the best playmakers in the game last year, including first-round draft picks in quarterback Deshaun Watson and receiver Mike Williams.

SEE **TIGERS**, PAGE B3

USC FOOTBALL

Gamecocks a hard team to read

What an intriguing season awaits the University of South Carolina football program. For better or worse, it's hard to read where this team is going to end up come late November.



Dennis Brunson

You have quarterback Jake Bentley back with seven collegiate games under his belt, two very good wide receivers — when healthy — returning in Deebo Samuel and Bryan Edwards, an all-Southeastern Conference tight end in Hayden Hurst and three solid running backs in Rico Dowdle, AJ Turner and former Crestwood High School standout Ty'Son Williams.

SEE **BRUNSON**, PAGE B3



South Carolina quarterback Jake Bentley (4) returns for his first full season leading the Gamecocks. His development will be critical in USC taking a step forward in head coach Will Muschamp's second season.

PRO BOXING

Smiles all around as Mayweather, McGregor savor fight



Floyd Mayweather Jr., left, and Conor McGregor pose during a news conference after their super welterweight match on Saturday in Las Vegas.

BY TIM DAHLBERG
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Conor McGregor was drinking Irish whiskey and acting like he had won. Floyd Mayweather Jr. was reminiscing about his early days as a fighter and looking forward to a different kind of business at his strip club.

There were smiles all around, and with good reason. They pulled off an audacious gamble Saturday night, and all that was left to do was to count the money rolling in.

Mayweather estimated his take at \$300-350 million. McGregor said he likely would clear \$100 million, and said he had his accountants on speed dial to make sure it was all collected.

Fans of both boxing and mixed martial arts had to be happy, too. They got a reasonably entertaining fight that settled nothing about the two sports but embarrassed neither fighter.

"I enjoyed it very, very much," McGregor said. "It was an honor for me to showcase my skills."

They go their separate ways now, after a fight that had a little something for everyone. Mayweather won by battering McGregor around late until it was stopped in the 10th round, but in reality McGregor was a big winner too.

He was reasonably competent as a boxer in his first pro fight. He actually controlled the first few rounds, and was never off his feet despite taking a beating in the late rounds.

SEE **FIGHT**, PAGE B5

PRO BASEBALL

Stanton hitting more than home runs

BY STEVEN WINE
The Associated Press

MIAMI — During his home run binge, Giancarlo Stanton is also content to settle for singles. Stanton went 8 for 10 to lead the Miami Marlins to a three-game weekend sweep of San Diego, raising his average to a career high .296.



STANTON

He hit three homers, increasing his season total to 50, along with three singles and two doubles.

"A lot of people from the outside are probably thinking he's just going up there trying to hit a homer every at-bat, but that's not the case," teammate Christian Yelich said.

The series raised Stanton's average in 23 games since Aug. 4 to .402. That includes 13 singles, five doubles and 17 homers for an OPS of 1.531.

"It's unbelievable," Yelich said. "You feel everything he hits is an absolute rocket, and if it gets up in the air, it's a homer."

A recent tweak in Stanton's stance has helped him lay off outside breaking pitches, long his biggest weakness. Swinging mostly at strikes, he's willing to hit the ball the other way or on the ground or both, depending on the situation.

The goal, he said, is to make the most of every trip to the plate.

"That is the biggest key," Stanton said. "You never know which at-bat is going to give you a chance. If you don't give in, you're set up for something good."

The home runs make the headlines, but the surprising Marlins have surged into the NL wild-card race because Stanton seems to do damage almost every time he bats.

It's no fluke he's flirting with .300, manager Don Mattingly said.

"You're seeing a more disciplined hitter in the sense of covering zones and laying off bad stuff," Mattingly said. "He's taking what they give, and for him, taking what they give can go all over the ballpark."

Opponents continue to pitch to Stanton. He had 66 bases on balls through Sunday, which tied for ninth in the majors, and may fall short of his career high of 94. His walk rate hasn't risen lately even though he has hit 17 homers in August, one shy of the major league record for the month.

When Dee Gordon singled to start the eighth inning Sunday in a tie game, Padres manager Andy Green decided to pitch to Stanton. The result: his 50th homer and a Marlins win.

SEE **BINGE**, PAGE B5

BRUNSON FROM PAGE B1

The Gamecocks have an “old” new offensive line coach in Eric Wolford. Whether you liked Shawn Elliott as a person or not, the development of the O line had become stagnant under him, even though it was only a part of the problem on offense in head coach Will Muschamp’s first season.

If the offensive line takes a step forward, it could be the key to an explosive offense — as long as Bentley takes that step with it.

The promotion of Bentley to the starting role after six games when the plan was to redshirt the true freshman who was actually supposed to be in his senior year of high school is the reason USC played in a bowl last year. Carolina certainly doesn’t beat Tennessee without him, and it’s frankly hard to see it beating Massachusetts, Missouri and Western Carolina without him behind center considering the way the defense played in those games.

Bentley’s naysayers will point out that he did little good in the two games against the toughest opponents he faced — Florida and Clemson. There’s no denying that, but let’s add a little perspective.

He had no spring practice under his belt and really little fall practice or in-season practice. Again, he was supposed to be redshirted and the vast majority of the repetitions were going to Brandon McLwain — remember him? — and Perry Orth.

Now he has seven collegiate starts under his belt and a full offseason to develop chemistry with his receiving corps. If he progresses as one would think he should, the offense could be dynamic.

Of course, question marks surround the defense. The oddity with last season was when USC finally got its offense in gear, the defense began to

struggle. That, in all honesty, was a bit surprising, what with the pedigree of Muschamp and defensive coordinator Travaris Robinson.

Linebacker Skai Moore returns after missing all of last season with an injury, and that should be reason for excitement. If he comes back as the same player, that would be tremendous, and even if he’s not quite at the same level as a defender his leadership will be helpful to a young defense.

As long as South Carolina doesn’t get too beat up it has a chance to be a pretty good defense. There is likely going to be more pressure on Robinson and Muschamp than any of the players though because of their reputation as defensive wizards.

While a victory over North Carolina State on Saturday would be tremendous, the games that will set the stage for the season for USC will be the next two in SEC foes Missouri and Kentucky. Carolina needs wins in those contests for conference — and confidence — purposes.

Mizzou is someone USC beat last season, but this one is on the road, and a conference road win in the opener would be huge for South Carolina. Kentucky has beaten USC three straight times, and you can’t even think about working your way back up the SEC ladder until you start beating the Wildcats.

The Gamecocks are better in their second season under Muschamp, but the schedule is tougher. A 7-5 regular-season mark is certainly attainable while going 6-6 again would have to be deemed a bit of a disappointment and five or fewer triumphs a major disappointment. Eight wins or more would be a heel-clicking season considering the team’s youth. My prediction? A 7-5 mark.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Carolina State’s Jaylen Samuels runs the ball during the team’s first practice of the season in Raleigh, N.C. The senior is one of four running backs expected to share carries during the Wolfpack’s season opener against South Carolina on Saturday in Charlotte.

Wolfpack RBs set to share the load in opener vs. Gamecocks

BY AARON BEARD
The Associated Press

RALEIGH — North Carolina State’s offense leaned heavily on a single running back last year. Things will look different for Saturday’s opener against South Carolina in Charlotte.

The Wolfpack lost top rusher Matt Dayes from last year’s team, and now has a depth chart indicating a committee approach with juniors Nyheim Hines and Reggie Gallaspy II, and fifth-year graduate Dakwa Nichols.

Throw in versatile all-purpose threat Jaylen Samuels, and Dave Doeren’s team has no shortage of options.

“I think it’s in our best interest — and I think most football teams will tell you that — to make sure those guys are all getting work,” Doeren said Monday of N.C. State’s three full-time running backs. “And they will.”

The team released its depth chart Monday, listing an “or” between Hines, Gallaspy and Nichols instead of settling on one a starter. Samuels — named last week to The Associated Press preseason all-America team as a second-team all-purpose back — is listed as an H-back but has lined up at

running back, receiver and tight end during his career.

The question is how the coaches will distribute the workload, both against the Gamecocks and beyond for a team considered to be a dark horse in the Atlantic Coast Conference’s powerhouse Atlantic Division.

“Every offense — no-huddle spread, even pro-style teams — it’s the hot hand,” Hines said during preseason camp. “If you’re making plays, you’re going to get the ball.”

Dayes had a workhorse role last year, running for 1,166 yards and 10 touchdowns. He also had six games with at least 25 offensive touches, including big performances against eventual national champion Clemson (133 offensive yards and a touchdown) and division power Florida State (131 yards).

No other running back managed even 50 carries.

Don’t expect a repeat in 2017.

“As the season gets longer and longer, you worry less and less about the number of hits they’ve taken,” Doeren said, “because if you prepare the right way on the front end where you’re rotating those guys, you can get to the back end of the season and soak somebody

(with carries) that’s really playing well.

“But if we would give any of those guys 30 carries in the first game, they may love that but that would be difficult for 12 straight weeks for anyone.”

The 5-foot-11, 225-pound Gallaspy has the most reps with 115 career carries and provides the most backfield bulk.

Hines and Nichols have similar size (5-9 and about 195 pounds), though Hines boasts speed that earned him All-America track honors on a relay team that won an ACC championship. He had played mostly at receiver last season after carrying the ball 48 times his freshman year.

As for Samuels, the 5-foot-11 senior from Charlotte has scored a combined 29 rushing or receiving touchdowns over the past two seasons while creating matchup problems with his ability to line up just about anywhere.

“When Reggie is in there, I feel like he knows his job,” Samuels said. “When Nyheim is in there, he’ll get his job done. I hope they trust me, that I’ll get my job done when I get in there. So we just work off each other and go from there.”



AP FILE PHOTO

South Carolina linebacker Skai Moore (10) returns this year after missing all of last season due to an injury. Moore will be trying to lead the Gamecock defense in tackles for a fourth straight season.

TIGERS FROM PAGE B1

Kelly Bryant, a reserve the last two seasons, steps into Watson’s cleats against Kent State. Swinney has said that every spot on field is under regular scrutiny to make sure players earn time on the field and Bryant understands he’ll have to keep the offense moving forward to remain “QB1.”

“A lot of eyes are on us,” Bryant said. “We accept the challenge and are ready to get it going.”

Co-offensive coordinator Jeff Scott said most of the new faces have done the right things as backups to get ready for bigger roles.

“We’ve seen these guys prepare. We think these guys are ready,” Scott said. “Now that doesn’t mean they aren’t going

to go out there and make mistakes, that’s part of it especially in these early games. But they’ve put in the work.”

The questions will largely come on offense, which will see seven new starters including at tailback, tight end and two of the three receiving spots where Deon Cain and Ray-Ray McCloud will take over for Williams and all-time receptions leader Artavis Scott.

The third starter is reliable Hunter Renfrow, a national championship hero whose 2-yard TD catch with a second left proved the winning points against the Crimson Tide.

Milan Richard will start at tight end for last year’s senior Jordan Leggett. C.J.

Fuller takes over for two-time 1,000-yard rusher Wayne Gallman and Falcinelli replaces senior leader Jay Guillermo at center.

The losses on defense are fewer, yet significant. The Tigers will be without defensive tackle Carlos Watkins, who led the team with 10.5 sacks, and linebacker Ben Boulware, the fiery, emotional leader of last year’s defense.

Scott said with so many new starters, the Tigers did not get caught up in last year’s glory.

“These guys have been waiting for their time,” he said.

Defensive end Clelin Ferrell is happy to get back on the field after a long, exciting offseason. “The fans, they love telling us how great last year was,” he said laughing. “We’re focused on this year.” That’s just how Swinney

wants it. His catchphrase, “New team, same dream,” has been on practice T-shirts and ingrained in the psyche of his players.

“We’re a little anxious to get out there,” said Bryant, the new starting quarterback. “A lot of guys are trying to prove themselves.”

Kent State’s Haynes takes leave

KENT, Ohio (AP) — Kent State head coach Paul Haynes is taking a medical leave of absence from the football program. The school says he is expected to return to the team in two to three weeks.

The school made the announcement Sunday night in a news release, but did not give details about

Haynes’ condition. The Golden Flashes open the season at No. 5 Clemson on Saturday.

Offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Don Treadwell will serve as interim head coach.

The 48-year-old Haynes is 12-35 in four seasons at Kent State.

The Flashes play Howard

at home on Sept. 9 and are at Marshall on Sept 16.

Haynes, the former Ohio State assistant, may be fighting for his coaching life this season as his window of opportunity could be closing. While defense has been a strong point for the Golden Flashes, the offense has consistently been among the worst in the conference.

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NFL DIVISION PREVIEWS

New England will remain power of weak new-look AFC East

BY DENNIS WASZAK JR.
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The only real question in the AFC East is how early in the season the New England Patriots will clinch the division.

Bill Belichick's bunch is again the clear choice, even with Tom Brady losing favorite receiver Julian Edelman for the season with a knee injury.

New England has won the AFC East eight straight years, and 13 of the last 14 — with the only stumble coming in 2008, when Brady tore knee ligaments in the season opener.

But don't think for a second the defending Super Bowl champions are taking anything for granted, even with the Miami Dolphins, Buffalo Bills and New York Jets entering the season with major flaws.

"We start off every year kind of the same and Bill will put us through the wringer and have all different things that we need to do as a team and build upon," safety Devin McCourty said. "Since I've been here, I would say that's one thing we've never really had to struggle with coming from him."

The loss of Edelman, who has caught 356 passes over the last four years, will certainly hurt the Patriots' high-powered offense. But New England has enough talented pass catchers to replace him with tight end Rob Gronkowski healthy again and newcomer Brandin Cooks joining Danny Amendola, Chris Hogan, and Malcolm Mitchell in the receiving corps.

"The team will have to move on and we'll have to compete in this season without him," Belichick said of Edelman. "It's unfortunate, but that's the way it is, so we'll have to figure that out."

Here are a few things to know about the AFC East:

THIS IS 40: Brady remains the constant for the Patriots, and he has thrived despite an always-changing cast of characters on the roster.

But he's now a year older, having turned 40 earlier this month. And it will be intriguing to see if Brady can keep up his prolific production — and do so without Edelman. He's feeling good, though, and that's a good sign for New England. And a bad one for opponents, who have to wonder if he'll ever slow down.

"I feel like my routine is better than it's ever been," Brady said. "When you're younger, you don't know what to do. After 17 years, going into my 18th year, I know what to do. I know how to prepare. I'm never sore. I could practice every day. I could practice twice a day if they'd let us do that, but that's not the way it goes anymore. It's just fun being out here competing."

CUTLER'S COMEBACK

Jay Cutler retired after last season and was set to be an analyst for Fox's NFL broadcasts. But Ryan Tannehill was lost for the season and Cutler stepped out of the booth and back into the huddle to be Miami's quarterback.

The move made lots of sense for the Dolphins, who are hoping Cutler will have the same kind of success as in 2015 when Miami coach Adam Gase was Chicago's offensive coordinator. Cutler's familiarity with Gase and the Dolphins' playbook, along with a budding star in wide receiver DeVante Parker, could make for a seamless transition.

"He's excited to get back in the building with Gase," guard Jermon Bushrod said. "He wasn't ready to fully hang it up yet and I feel him. I understand where he's coming from. The broadcasting thing would have been a cool gig for him, but he still has some football left."

BUFFALO STANCE

The Bills overhauled their roster this offseason with new general manager Brandon Beane and coach Sean McDermott beginning a process they

hope ends the franchise's 17-year playoff drought. That likely won't happen this year with the trades of top receiver Sammy Watkins (to the Rams) and starting cornerback Ronald Darby (to the Eagles) on the same day earlier this month a sure sign the focus is on the future.

Quarterback Tyrod Taylor is back, but his status beyond this season is uncertain, and he sustained a concussion last weekend. The Bills added Jordan Matthews in the Darby trade, but of the eight players who caught a TD pass last year, only two return: tight end Charles Clay, with four, and running back LeSean McCoy, with one.

"We have to put a positive line," Taylor said. "It's a win-now league. And as a team, we have to refocus, do whatever it takes to win games."

WHO ARE THESE GUYS?

Much like the Bills, the Jets are in full rebuilding mode after general manager Mike Maccagnan cleared out several big names with big contracts: Brandon Marshall, Eric Decker, Darrelle Revis, Nick Mangold and David Harris.

What's left for coach Todd Bowles' team is a roster filled with fresh faces and inexperience — and that has some wondering if the Jets will even win a game this season.

Their dismal quarterback situation, with 38-year-old Josh McCown expected to start over youngsters Christian Hackenberg and Bryce Petty, has only added to the



New England quarterback Tom Brady (12) will be trying to lead the Patriots to the AFC East title for the 14th time in 15 years as well as defending their Super Bowl crown.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

grim projections.

"One thing I've been sticking to and saying to a lot of people here and a lot of people who ask me about it, you

know, I'm trusting the process," said Pro Bowl defensive end Leonard Williams. "I'm trying to focus on the guys that we have here and

not the guys that we don't."

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

Patriots, Dolphins, Bills, Jets.

20th Anniversary

The Sumter Sports Hall of Fame Sponsored by The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club of Sumter

The Sumter Sports Hall of Fame recognizes athletes and coaches who have demonstrated throughout their careers in sports those qualities which clearly identify them as champions. This recognition will be permanent and will be located in a place open to public viewing. This year's ceremony will be held on November 6, 2017.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for induction into the Sumter Sports Hall of Fame, the athlete must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a native of Sumter County, or
2. Have attended four years of school in Sumter County, three of which were at the senior high level, or
3. Be a resident of the Sumter area for a sufficient period of time to be considered a permanent resident, or
4. Meet one of the above requirements or have been a coach for a minimum of 10 years.

NOMINATION FORM

Nominations must be postmarked by September 6, 2017. Please send to:
The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club of Sumter
630 South Sumter Street • Sumter, SC 29151

**Note: There is no need to nominate someone who has been nominated in the past. The prior form will be considered along with the new ones.*

Nominee's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address _____

Is nominee: Male () Female (), If deceased please check ()

Give a brief narration about nominee. (Attach to entry): _____

Nominated by: _____ Phone: _____

(This will be kept confidential)

Mailing address: _____



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miami's Giancarlo Stanton watches his 50th home run leave the park during the Marlins' 6-2 victory over San Diego on Sunday.

BINGE FROM PAGE B1

"Every time he comes to the plate, you contemplate walking him," Green said. He decided not to because of the hitters behind Stanton.

In May, Mattingly moved Stanton up to the No. 2 spot in the order, and he has hit .317 since. With Christian Yelich (15 homers, .283) and Marcell Ozuna (31 homers, .309) batting behind Stanton, he has been tough to pitch around, Green said.

"It's a byproduct of how Donnie has put that lineup together," Green said. "If he is deeper in the order, it's much easier to get around him."

Stanton began the week on

pace to finish with 63 homers. By continuing his pace since Aug. 4, he would finish with 74, one more than Barry Bonds' 2001 record.

Meanwhile, he's leading a remarkable turnaround by the Marlins, who started 14-27 but have a shot at their first post-season berth since 2003. For Stanton, who is in his eighth season, that means playoff-race pressure for the first time.

"There's no pressure for me," he said. "I have to be prepared as anybody, but that's standard. That's not pressure."

He'll continue stepping to the plate prepared to hit homers — or singles.

FIGHT FROM PAGE B1

Mayweather eventually figured him out, and exposed him for the boxing novice he was. McGregor didn't become king of boxing like he predicted before the fight, but he won millions of new fans and will now likely return to the UFC as its unquestioned star.

And Mayweather?

Well, 50-0 has a nice ring to it, passing the 49-0 record of Rocky Marciano that serves as a benchmark in the sport. He got a knockout that helped erase the stain from his fight with Manny Pacquiao two years earlier. And, after earning nearly \$1 billion in his 21-year career, he can get on with his varied businesses and maybe even train a few fighters himself.

"You won't see me in the ring anymore," Mayweather said. "Any guy calling me out, forget it. I'm OK. I had a great career."

Indeed, he did, winning every time he got into the ring and building his brand wisely so he could make a fortune off of it. No boxer has ever marketed himself like the man who calls himself Money, and he can now relax and enjoy his private jets, mansions and courtside seats to NBA games around the nation.

The criticism of the Pacquiao fight will now fade away, and the last image of

the best defensive fighter of his generation will be of him coming forward boldly and going for one final knockout.

"I felt like I owed the fans a last hurrah," Mayweather said. "I told you guys I'd come straight ahead and I told you the fight would not go the distance."

The fight itself played out much like many in boxing expected. McGregor got off to a good start, Mayweather figured him out after a few rounds, and after that the only question was whether Mayweather would stop a fighter legitimately for the first time in nearly a decade.

He did, battering McGregor around the ring in the 10th round until the referee moved in to stop it. McGregor didn't protest, though afterward he said he wished he would have been allowed to continue.

But that was a minor quibble. McGregor may have lost but in just a few short months he did what few could have anticipated and made himself into a decent boxer who carried one of the best ever into the later rounds while remaining upright the whole time.

He may have been new to boxing, but he proved to the disbelievers in the sport that he was a true fighter.

"I was a little taken aback by the disrespect and disre-

gard I was shown," McGregor said.

At the age of 29, McGregor is a rare superstar with a quick wit and mouth to go along with his combat skills. The price for his UFC fights will cause UFC chief Dana White some sleepless nights because in a way he is almost bigger now than the organization.

And, who knows. He may venture back into the boxing ring someday if the price is right.

"I'm young, I'm fresh and I'm ready," McGregor said. "Right now I'm a free agent. I love a good fight and tonight was a good fight. I can't tell you exactly what's next but something will be next."

That's the one thing that seemed assured as Saturday night blended into Sunday morning on the Las Vegas Strip. McGregor was sipping a whiskey he plans to market, and on his way to an appearance at a hotel nightclub.

Mayweather had an appearance of his own to make at his new strip club, where he held meet-and-greets the entire week of the fight.

First, though, the two fighters posed for final pictures, an arm around each other. They hugged, seemingly reluctant to let it all go.

The carnival was leaving town, but not before putting on a pretty good show.

OBITUARIES

PAUL A. GRAHAM

MANNING — Paul Alexander Graham, 75, husband of Daisy Conyers Graham, died on Friday, Aug. 25, 2017, a son of Pauline Graham Blackwell



GRAHAM

and the late Earnest Blackwell Sr.

Celebratory services for Mr. Graham will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday at Green Hill Missionary Baptist Church, 1260 Green Hill Church Road, Alcolu, with the Rev. Delbert H. Singleton Jr., pastor, officiating. Burial will follow in the churchyard cemetery.

The family is receiving friends at his residence, 131 Richburg Drive, Manning.

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

BETTY C. LEALI

Betty Campbell Leali, age 70, beloved wife of Richard James Leali, died on Sunday, Aug. 27, 2017, at Palmetto Health Tuomey.



LEALI

Born in Columbia, she was a daughter of the late Alvin Campbell and Maudie Lee Martin and stepdaughter of Nez Martin. Betty enjoyed garden-

ing, cooking, crossword puzzles and watching hummingbirds. She was a lifelong member and volunteer of VFW Post 3034. She was a friend to all and was the first to help if anyone ever needed her. She will be remembered as a very loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and friend. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by four children, Lisa Riles Scurry and her husband, Steve, of Manning, Betsy Riles Elmore and her husband, Johnnie, of Sumter and Shawna Leali Erwin and her husband, Gabe, of St. Augustine, Florida, and Dominic James Leali and Carly of Raleigh, North Carolina; four sisters, Irene Coleman of Columbia, Shirley Douglas and her husband, Jack, of Columbia, Kathy Williams and her husband, Sam, of Asheville, North Carolina, and Bernice Leali Hathaway and her husband, John, of Saco, Maine; one brother, Alvin Wayne Campbell and his wife, Debra, of Columbia; nine grandchildren, Matthew Riles, Heather Marino and her husband, Anthony, Blake Elmore, Robbie Scurry, Erin Scurry, Mya Erwin, Tyce Erwin, Myles Erwin and Tori

Eron; two great-grandchildren, Grayson Elmore and Alexandra Marino; one soon-to-be great-grandchild, Jonathon Elmore; and her two special dogs, Princess and Tina.

A funeral service will be held at 3 p.m. on Thursday at Bullock Funeral Home Chapel. Entombment will follow at Evergreen Memorial Park mausoleum.

Pallbearers will be Blake Elmore, Johnnie Elmore, Anthony Marino, Matthew Riles, Robbie Scurry and Steve Scurry.

Honorary pallbearers will be members of VFW Post 3034 and Elks Lodge 855.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service from 2 to 3 p.m. on Thursday at Bullock Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to the VFW Post 3034, 925 Gion St., Sumter, SC 29150.

You may go to www.bullock-funeralhome.com and sign the family's guest book.

The family has chosen Bullock Funeral Home for the arrangements.



ALAN M. WOOTEN SR.

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Alan Mustard Wooten Sr., of Boykin, will be held at 11 a.m. today at Deer Hope Lodge, 338 Red Bank Road, Boykin, casual attire. The Very Rev. Chuck Owens will conduct the service.

Alan died on Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017. He was a son of Elizabeth "Ridie" Mustard Wooten and the late Thomas Jones Wooten. He was a member of Church of the Ascension in Hagood.

Besides his mother, Alan is survived by his wife, Phyllis Russell Wooten; children, Sandy Wooten Cullen (J.P.), Alan M. Wooten Jr. (Shannon), Justin M. Wooten (Michelle), Caroline Wooten Shaw (Troy), Tae Russell Laney (Michael) and Thomas W. Russell III (Christin); grandchildren, Walker Cullen, Madi Judy, Hayley Russell, Porter Laney, Mac Wooten, Blake Wooten, Noah Cullen, Lucy Cullen, Julian Wooten, Hudson Laney, Lane Russell and Izzie Wooten; and siblings, Tommy Wooten (Pam), Pud'n Wooten Cantey (Pete), Caroline Wooten Lindler (Bill) and Frankie Wooten (Daphne).

Besides his father, Alan was predeceased by his first wife, Frances MacDaniel Sanders Wooten.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Church of

the Ascension, 5190 N. Kings Highway, Rembert, SC 29128 or to Camp Kemo, 7 Richland Medical Park Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

Kornegay Funeral Home, Camden Chapel, is in charge of arrangements.

MARILYN LENEAU

Marilyn Leneau, of Sumter, passed on Aug. 26, 2017.

Plans will be announced by JP Holley Funeral Home, Columbia Chapel.

THOMAS O. BRUNSON JR.

Thomas Oliver "T.O." Brunson Jr., 91, died on Thursday, Aug. 24, 2017, at Palmetto Health Tuomey.

Born on May 2, 1926, in Sumter, he was a son of the late Thomas Oliver Brunson Sr. and Ola Epps Brunson. Mr. Brunson was a charter member of Lemira Presbyterian Church ARP. He was a certified public accountant and was the superintendent of financial affairs for Sumter School District 2, until his retirement. He was a U.S. Army veteran.

Survivors include a niece, Elizabeth Ann White (Jim); great-niece, Christina White; sister-in-law, Sylvia M. Brunson, all of Sumter; and several special cousins.

He was preceded in death by a brother, James L. "Boots" Brunson.

A graveside service was held at 11 a.m. on Saturday at Sumter Cemetery with the Rev. Dan Rowton officiating.

Memorials may be made to Lemira Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 1333, Sumter, SC 29154-1333.

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

RAYMOND J. BALLS

On Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017, God called his servant, Raymond Jermaine Balls, 35, to rest from his labor at Medical University of South Carolina hospital, Charleston.

Born on Sept. 1, 1981, in Sumter, he was a son of Raymond and Sarah Amos Balls.

"Maine," as he was affectionately called, graduated from Sumter High School in 1999 and continued his education at Central Carolina Technical College, earning an engineering graphics and design degree. He was employed with various companies but his fondest memories and lasting friendships were developed during his time at Federal Mogul of Summerton. After the closing of Federal Mogul, he continued his career with Pure Power Technologies in Columbia, until his health started to fail.

His fond memories will be cherished by his wife, Yolonda White Balls; son, Cameron Balls; parents, Sarah and Ray-

mond Balls; four sisters, Shirley (Mike) Amos Drayton, Felicia Balls and Shawndrika (Gerard) Amos, all of Sumter, and Kathleen (Ricky) Montgomery of Columbia; brother-in-law, Herman White of Holly Hill; sister-in-law, Cassandra Young of Holly Hill; four nieces; two nephews; one grandniece; three grandnephews; a host of aunts, other relatives and friends.

Homegoing services will be held at 2 p.m. today at John Wesley Williams Sr. Memorial Chapel, Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter, with the Rev. Retha Nelson officiating, eulogist.

The family is receiving relatives and friends at the family home, 931 Gaines Road, Sumter.

The procession will leave at 1:30 p.m. from the home.

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

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

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

BRENDA FIGUEROA

Brenda Figueroa, age 31, died on Monday, Aug. 28, 2017.

Arrangements are incomplete at this time and will be announced by Bullock Funeral Home.



LILA MAY T. COBB

Lila May Taylor Cobb, age 84, died on Monday, Aug. 28, 2017, at her residence.

Arrangements are incomplete at this time and will be announced by Bullock Funeral Home.



FLORINE D. HASTIE

On Friday, Aug. 25, 2017, Florine Dubose Hastie, 92, widow of David Hastie, entered eternal rest at her home, where she was affectionately cared for by Gloria Jean Hilton and staff.

Mrs. Hastie was born on Nov. 11, 1924, in Sumter County, and attended the public schools of Sumter County. Mrs. Hastie was a graduate of Garner's School of Beauty of Culture.

She is survived by a sister-in-law, Lucille B. Hastie, and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday at Job's Mortuary parlor, 312

S. Main St., Sumter.

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

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

JOHNNY THOMAS JR.

Johnny Thomas Jr. departed this life on Friday, Aug. 25, 2017, at Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia.

He was born on Aug. 14, 1940, in Bishopville, to the late Johnny and Dolly Thomas. He received his education in the public schools of Sumter County. He graduated from Lincoln High School Class of 1958. Thomas was in the United States Army and he was also employed by Exide Battery for many years. Johnny enjoyed fishing.

He leaves to cherish his memories: his wife, Bertha Kelly Thomas; son, John "Edward" (Sherry) Thomas of Hartford, Connecticut; daughter, Jacqueline Thomas of Rockville, Maryland; son, Christopher Thomas Sr.; three grandsons, Devin A.O. Thomas, Christopher Thomas Jr. and Jacquez Thomas; one niece, Carolyn Thomas; three sisters-in-law, Rosalee Parker of Columbia, Lula Young of Sumter and Delores McKnight of Sumter; and three brothers-in-law, Sammy Wright, Timothy Wright and Woodrow McKnight, all of Sumter.

Public viewing will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. today at Job's Mortuary.

Mr. Thomas will be placed in the church at 10 a.m. on Wednesday for viewing until the hour of service.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday at Salem Chapel & Heritage Center, 101 S. Salem Ave., Sumter, SC 29150.

Interment will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday at Fort Jackson National Cemetery, Columbia.

The family will receive friends at the home, 418 Love St., Sumter.

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

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

ELOISE M. MAPLE

Eloise M. Maple, 79, died on Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017, at her home.

Born on Dec. 8, 1937, in Sumter County, she was a daughter of George and Eloise Frierson McQuillia.

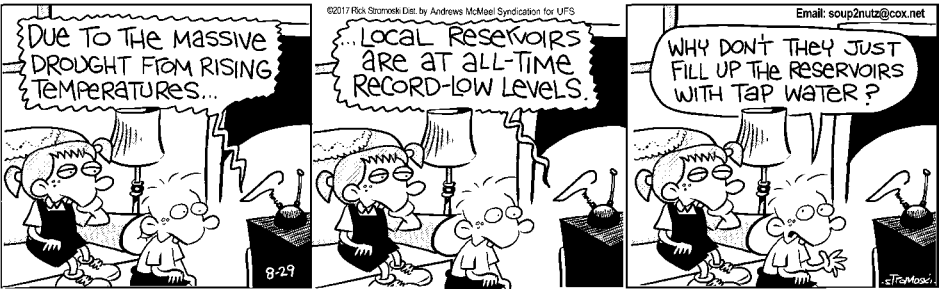
The family is receiving relatives and friends at the home, 905 Jensen Road.

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

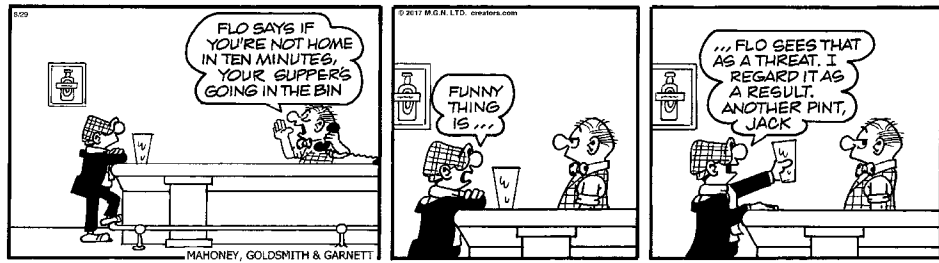
BIZARRO



SOUP TO NUTZ



ANDY CAPP



GARFIELD



BEETLE BAILEY



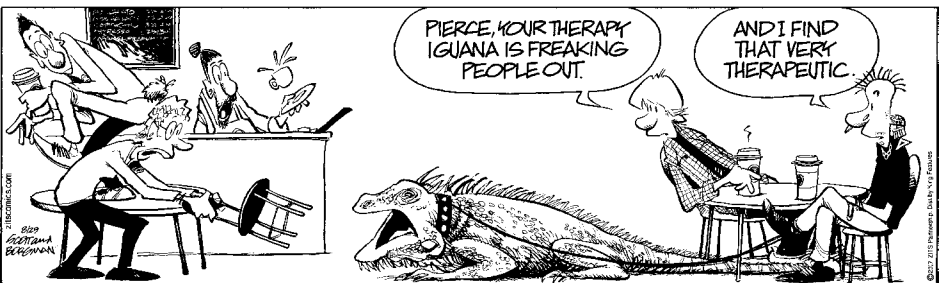
BORN LOSER



BLONDIE



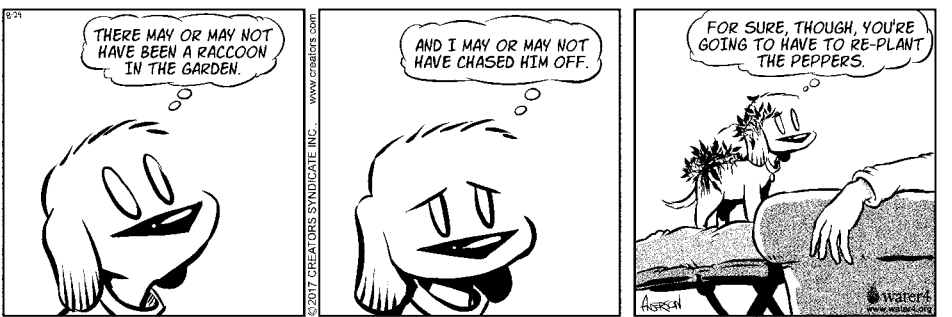
ZITS



MOTHER GOOSE



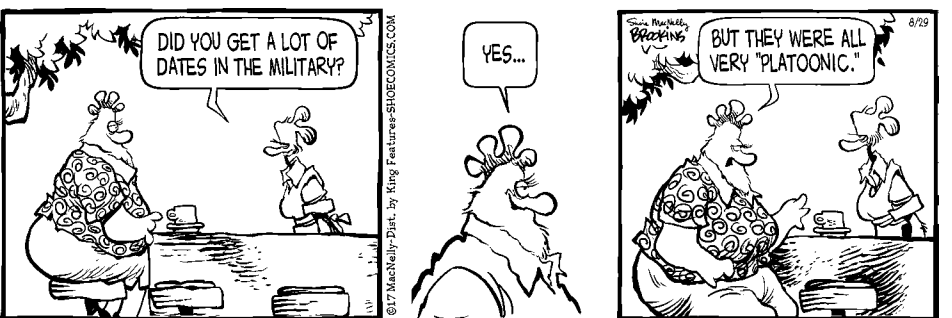
DOG EAT DOUG



DILBERT



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE



Elderly usher's 'proposals' draw reader reactions



Dear Abby
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY — Regarding the letter from “Dumbstruck in the East” (April 22), whose 9-year-old daughter has been getting “proposals of marriage” from a church usher in his 70s. An old man at church said things like that to me when I was about her age. He also was always trying to hug me. It made me uncomfortable and I disliked it. My mother never thought twice about him hugging me. Years later, when I was an adult, I learned he was a pedophile.

Her parents should go to the minister and let him know what's going on. If the parents decide to tell the usher his comment is not appreciated, they should say it's uncalled for and please stop making that type of remark.

On the side of caution in the Midwest

DEAR CAUTION — Readers had various reactions to that letter. Read on:

DEAR ABBY — I am from the same generation as the church usher. I was the little sister who was not as attractive as my older sibling. I remember several elderly men complimenting me in a similar fashion, and although I realized I could never date or marry someone so much older, it lifted my self-esteem.

I believe the usher was just being kind. It would be horrible if he were reported to the pastor or embarrassed by a flip re-

mark. If the parents want to stop his comments, they should gently suggest that “in today's world his kindness might be misinterpreted.”

Joan in Kentucky

DEAR ABBY — I had a different reply in mind for “Dumbstruck.” Her mom could look at him and say, “I didn't realize you were ORDAINED, but how kind of you to offer to officiate!”

Anonymous in Michigan

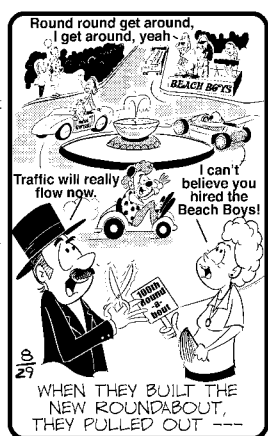
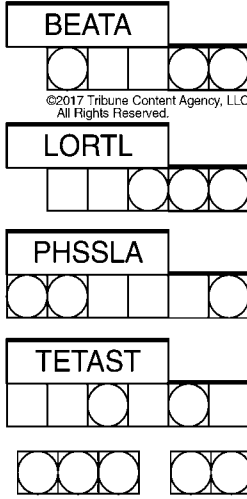
DEAR ABBY — That man needs to be reported. When I was 8, a friend of my dad used to tell me all the time he wanted to marry me. One day, when my parents weren't home, he molested me. That little girl should be kept away from the usher, even if it means not going to that church.

Lynne in California

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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



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

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FLOOD LUCKY SLOWLY KITTEN
Answer: To get more customers, the locksmith set up a — “KEY-OSK”

SUDOKU

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

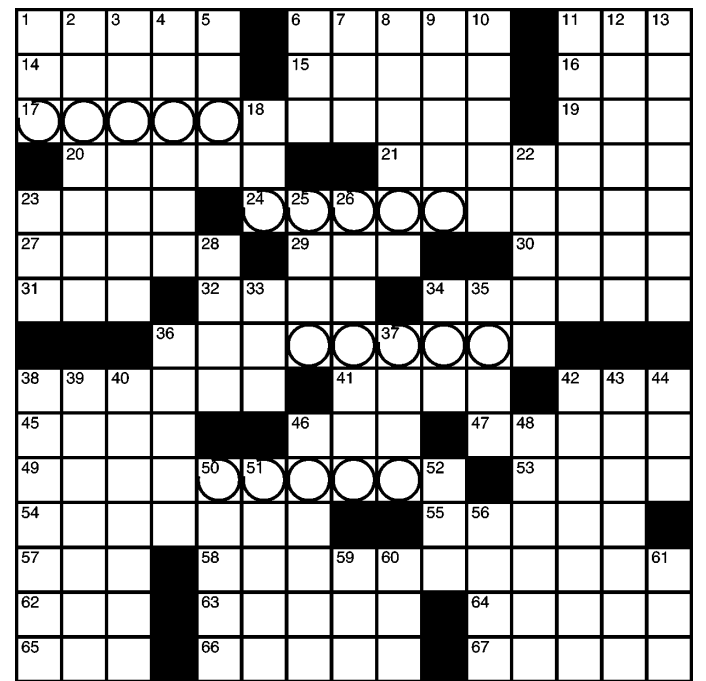
PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

THE DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



By Lonnie Burton and Nadine Anderton

8/29/17

ACROSS

- 1 Ruin
- 6 Pesto herb
- 11 NYC financial newspaper
- 14 Dodgers and Giants
- 15 Spanish girl
- 16 Boo follower
- 17 Microsoft Excel tool
- 19 It's found in lodes
- 20 Disc in the dishwasher
- 21 Parish residence
- 23 Mount sacred to Judaism
- 24 Like lutes and mandolins
- 27 Splinter groups
- 29 Beer drinker's option, briefly
- 30 River from Lake Victoria
- 31 First animal rescue vessel?
- 32 Ex-Yankee Martinez
- 34 John of Monty Python
- 36 Gentle hose setting
- 38 Shoot for, with "to"
- 41 New Mexico art hub
- 42 Chicken ___
- 43 itchy malady
- 45 Paper mishap
- 46 Building wing

- 47 Yankee manager Joe with four World Series wins
- 49 Stain remover for wrinkle-resistant fabric
- 53 Close by
- 54 Gets away
- 55 When many take coffee breaks
- 57 ___ you listening?
- 58 Pocket coins, or what can literally be seen in each set of puzzle circles
- 62 Animation frame
- 63 Prohibit, legally
- 64 Fencing swords
- 65 Masthead VIPs
- 66 Small and large
- 67 Actress Streep

- 10 Fasting device
- 11 ___ pie:
- 12 Cream-filled chocolate cake
- 12 Reddish-brown horses
- 13 "Peppermint Twist" lead singer
- 18 ATM transaction: Abbr.
- 22 Dred Scott decision Chief Justice
- 23 When doubled, a Gabor
- 25 German article
- 26 Biblical disciple
- 28 Verb in a recipe
- 33 Suffix with chlor-
- 34 Zagreb's country, to the IOC
- 35 Bringing up the rear

- 36 Terra ___
- 37 Friends
- 38 Content (with)
- 39 Becomes incensed
- 40 FedEx deliveries
- 42 Feather-fixing bird, e.g.
- 43 Like a bad fake tan
- 44 Gen-___: millennial predecessor
- 46 Fake
- 48 Already recorded
- 50 Church recesses
- 51 Cola choice
- 52 Anatomical pouch
- 56 Those folks
- 59 Fish eggs
- 60 Mini-albums, for short
- 61 Subj. for immigrants

