

Manning plant will add 31 jobs

Meritor will also make \$5.2M investment in assembly line upgrades

BY BRUCE MILLS
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A top manufacturer in Clarendon County will soon be expanding.

Meritor, a global supplier of

drivetrain and braking systems for the commercial truck market, is investing \$5.2 million in machinery and equipment and adding 31 jobs at its Manning plant, according to the state Department of Commerce and the Clarendon County Economic Development Board.

Meritor's plant currently has about 140 employees, ac-



According to George Kosinski, executive director of the county's development board, ranking it as one of the top five manufacturers in Claren-

don by employee totals. With the job additions, Meritor will have about 170 employees, Kosinski said.

As far as the additional jobs, the company will mostly be looking for mainline workers (production assemblers and machine operators). Hiring is expected to begin in late June or early July, according to Kosinski, and he expects

Meritor to add all the jobs within the next 12 months.

Meritor's Manning plant, at 2398 Ram Bay Road in Clarendon County Industrial Park off Interstate 95, specializes in the production of braking system parts for the commercial truck market in the U.S.

Along with the jobs, Meritor

SEE MERITOR, PAGE A6

Suspect in man's killing curses, spits at hearing

Bond was denied because of being a flight risk, judge says

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

The first appearance hearing for Anthony Dustin Dill, who is accused of helping hide the body of a 31-year-old Sumter man, ended sooner than expected when he left the courtroom shouting obscenities at the judge on Wednesday.

"His performance speaks volumes," Magistrate Judge Larry Blanding said after Dill's outburst at Sumter-Lee Regional Detention Center.

SEE DILL, PAGE A6

Deadline to register to vote in primaries is this week

BY KAYLA ROBINS
kayla@theitem.com

Primary elections for South Carolina voters to choose which party representatives will be on the ballot in November for state, local and national seats are approaching, and the deadline to register to vote is looming even sooner.

The deadline to register to vote for the June 12 statewide primaries is on Friday by 5 p.m. to register in person, on Sunday by 11:59 p.m. to register online or by fax or email and on Monday to register by mail, according to the South Carolina Election Commission.

South Carolina residents wanting to register must have their driver's license or DMV ID, must be a U.S. citizen and at least 18 years old on or before the election, cannot be under a court order declaring you mentally incompetent, must not be confined in

SEE VOTE, PAGE A6

USC Sumter students celebrate graduation



A USC Sumter student accepts her diploma during the school's ceremony on Wednesday at Patriot Hall. See more photos from the graduation ceremony on page A6.



USC Sumter students Kayla Brown and Ashlee Holloman help Lauren Coughlin with her cap before graduating at Patriot Hall on Wednesday.

USC Sumter saw a record 114 students walk across the stage Wednesday morning at Patriot Hall during its 2018 commencement ceremony. Chris McKinney, executive director of Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments, addressed the graduates, their families and friends in a nearly packed house, urging them not to accept average and to continue to develop their internal character. Dean Michael Sonntag said the high number of graduates is just a signal that the school is headed in the right direction.

PHOTOS BY MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

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DEATHS, B3

Marie Montieth
German Felder Jr.
Inez Bullard
Ruby B. Morris

Dorothy Lee Perkins
Louise M. Vaughn
Rubin C. Gathers
Bobby Lee Garner

WEATHER, A8

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LOCAL BRIEF

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Crown Laundry hiring for various positions

A new industrial-type laundry processing facility that opened in November in Bishopville is still seeking to fill positions at its warehouse/plant.

Tamiko Singleton, human resources manager at Crown Healthcare Laundry in the Interstate 20 Industrial Park in Lee County, said Crown is still trying to fill positions for front-line laundry employees (averaging \$8.75 per hour), Class A CDL drivers (\$16-\$18 per hour), maintenance mechanics (\$16-\$23 per hour) and other administrative support roles.

All positions will work up to 40 hours per week, she said.

Those interested can pick up applications and apply at Sumter County SC Works, 31 E. Calhoun St. in Sumter.

CORRECTION

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

Letter carriers hope to Stamp Out Hunger with your help

Postal customers asked to leave food in blue bags at mailboxes Saturday

BY IVY MOORE
Special to The Sumter Item

By now, most area postal customers have received the blue plastic grocery bags designated for contributions to the National Association of Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger drive. Even if you didn't get one, you can still contribute nonperishable foods to the hungry in any plastic or paper grocery bag you may have, knowing that your contribution will benefit those in your own community.

On Saturday, letter carriers will pick up the bags of food left near mailboxes and take them to the main U.S. Post Office for delivery to Sumter United Ministries, which will stock its own food bank and share with others, such as Christian Charities. It's the 26th year letter carriers have participated in the nation's largest one-day food drive.

All of the area's active letter carriers and several retirees are participating in Stamp Out Hunger, even though not all are members of NALC, said letter carrier Crystal Prater, who is leading the food drive for her third year.

"That includes city and rural carriers in Sumter and surrounding areas, such as Summerton, Manning, Rembert, Pinewood, Shaw (Air Force and Army Base) and others," she said.

Prater said area residents have contributed between 11,000 and 15,000 pounds of food each year.

"We get good participation from our postal customers," she said. "We've already had several fill their bags and leave them for us. We've probably got around 100 pounds of food already."

Prater said Wednesday that letter carriers sometimes see families who have "food insecurity," meaning they often don't know where their next meal is coming from.

Sumter United Ministries Executive Director Mark Champagne said Stamp Out Hunger is "very important to our ministry. The need is very great. (The Lord's Cupboard) has been going through food faster than we ever have. A lot of people need food."

Fortunately, because of the generosity of area residents, "a lot of food is donated," he said. Hodge Trucking, which provides a tractor-trailer truck for the food collected, "delivers it to us,

and we divide it among ourselves, Christian Charities, Emmanuel Food Kitchen, Mt. Pisgah (AME Church) and Salvation Army."

Prater said food donations should be non-perishable. Suggested items include canned foods such as soup, beans, tuna, chicken and turkey, as well as pasta and pasta sauce, rice, peanut butter, beans, oatmeal, whole grains, juice, cooking oil and more. Pet and baby foods are also accepted.

Non-glass containers are preferred. Unacceptable items include homemade and used items, frozen foods, unlabeled or damaged packages, carbonated beverages and expired foods.

The filled bags should be left by mailboxes well before the usual delivery time on Saturday, Prater said. The bags may also be taken to the main post office on Main Street in Sumter.

She said postal customers can make a huge difference in the lives of the area's food insecure population by participating in Saturday's Stamp Out Hunger campaign.

"They're overwhelmed," Prater said, "very appreciative of the assistance."



Friends of Swan Lake to discuss arboretum accreditation at meeting

Group helps maintain, improve the gardens

BY IVY MOORE
Special to The Sumter Item

The Friends of Swan Lake invite the public to attend their annual spring meeting at 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 15, at the Swan Lake Visitors Center.

The nonprofit has been working with the Swan Lake-Iris Gardens staff since 2001 to support the "continued beautification and improvement of the gardens," considered by many to be "Sumter's showplace."

Friends' president Ruth Ann Bigger said guest speakers Austin Jenkins, an instructor at USC Sumter in environmental biology and South Carolina natural history, and Brock McDaniel, the city's arborist, horticulturist and licensed landscape architect, "will present a program on their efforts to attain Level I accredited arboretum status for Swan Lake."

With the addition of Swan Lake-Iris Gardens, there are only five accredited arboretums in the state, Bigger said. The four others are Bishop Gadsden Arboretum in Charleston, George G. Willis Jr. Arboretum in Greenville, Level 2; Brookgreen Gardens, Level 3; and Moore Farms Botanical Gardens in Lake City.

Bigger said Swan Lake has not achieved Level 3 status because of "a



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

The Friends of Swan Lake recently provided a lighted display case for souvenirs and other items offered in the Swan Lake Visitors Center. Since its formation in 2001, the Friends have provided support to maintain and improve the gardens. Kathleen Head, tourism specialist at Swan Lake, shown here, said sales and visitor interest have grown greatly since the installation of the cases.

lack of tree identification." Attaining the higher level will "put Swan Lake into a much larger network and hopefully create excitement among our local population as we show our continued efforts at improvement."

Jenkins' students have been performing a tree survey in both the Heath (south) gardens and the Bland (north) gardens, which will increase the probability of the gardens' achieving higher accreditation. At Tuesday's meeting, attendees will learn more about the progress and projections for "this fascinating project," Bigger said.

The Friends of Swan Lake, formed in 2001 through the efforts of Sister

Wimberly, Beverly Gullede, Mary Katherine Williams and Connie Britton, funds projects at the gardens to fulfill its purpose "to create awareness and interest ... and work with the city and garden staff to maintain and improve Swan Lake."

Some of the group's past projects include:

- Purchasing Zan Wells sculptures;
- Buying a five-seat golf cart so those who can't navigate the gardens on foot may tour;
- Paying for part of Grainger McKoy's Recovery Wing sculpture;
- Producing an information pamphlet about the gardens and the Friends;

- Financing a pamphlet by Austin Jenkins on the dragonflies and birds in the gardens;
- Overseeing and partially financing the restoration of a 1924 firetruck for the children's playground;
- Continuing to fund the Chocolate, Braille and Butterfly specialty gardens maintained by Sumter Master Gardeners;
- Refurbishing hydrangea and shade gardens; and
- Funding "Talking Trees," an audible trail through the gardens that narrates information on specific trees at the push of a button.

Most recently, the Friends of Swan Lake have provided two large display cases for the foyer of the Swan Lake Visitors Center. Bigger said they are "... beautiful wooden, halogen-lighted, glass-shelved, lockable display cases. Two 48-inch-wide sections flanking a 46-inch-wide central section contain various items to make a visit to Swan Lake more memorable."

Kathleen Head, tourism specialist, said sales have increased dramatically since the installation of the cases.

"One unit is devoted to items made in Sumter, including carved duck calls and oyster shucking knives. Several other vendors are in the application process to be identified soon," Bigger said. "Another unit contains the brass ornaments offered annually by Sumter Volunteers, along with Swan Lake T-shirts and glassware, and the Friends-produced activity and coloring book for kids. Post cards and license plates continue to be good sellers."

Those interested in helping to maintain and improve Swan Lake-Iris Gardens can join the Friends of Swan Lake at <https://bit.ly/2IpfjZa> or call (803) 775-9700.

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Mayewood Middle School holds spring art showcase and concert.



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Board receives update on Sumter sheriff's office

Agency still offers parent Responsibility Day, shares its plan for accreditation

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

Sumter County Sheriff's Office Community Relations Citizen's Advisory Board heard a presentation regarding a local child support payment initiative and future plans for the agency during its meeting on April 30 at North HOPE Center. Lt. Nina Waiters, who works in family court, explained the opera-

tions of Responsibility Day, formerly called Amnesty Day, where people who owe child support can avoid arrest by going to court and providing some amount of payment. Sometimes a person finds himself or herself in a situation where it is not possible to make consistent payments because he or she was fired or has some other issue, Waiters said. Sumter County Sheriff's Office has been partnering with Sumter County's court system since 2011 to offer Responsibility Day, which helps individuals who are unable to pay child support.

Family court collected a little more than \$21,000 in child support from 62 people during Responsibility Day last year, she said. That means 62 people walked out of family court after making a payment, she said. Waiters said the sheriff's office has been recognized as the No. 1 civil process agency in the state since 2001 for its work in issuing family court bench warrants and other civil process papers. Later, Sheriff Anthony Dennis informed the board about the programs at the detention center — GED, WorkKeys and carpentry — that provide inmates with skills

that can be useful when they are released. He also said the sheriff's office will soon apply for state accreditation as well as update its website to include information about Sumter-Lee Regional Detention Center now that both agencies are connected. The board also received an update on 2016 Capital Penny Sales Tax projects and other local projects from Sumter County Communication Coordinator Joe Perry. The board's next meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on July 30 at Mary McLeod Bethune Learning Center and Art Gallery, 35 N. Main St. E., Mayesville.

Diverging values lead to Mormon retreat from Boy Scouts

BY BRADY MCCOMBS
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — For more than a century, the Boy Scouts of America and the Mormon church formed an ideal pair as they helped each other expand their organizations and build their brands while molding countless young men through bow knots, pine-wood derby races and campouts.

But as the calendar flipped to the 21st Century, the longtime partners originally drawn to each other by shared values began drifting apart. The Mormon church continued expanding into far-off countries where Boy Scouts wasn't offered and began eyeing its own program. Amid declining membership, Boy Scouts of America recently opened its arms to openly gay youth members and adult volunteers, transgender boys and girls while the Mormon religion clung to its opposition of homosexuality and stuck to its traditional gender roles.

On Tuesday, the two sides announced what had become inevitable: They will split permanently starting in 2020. The memories will live on in Norman Rockwell paintings, the Boy Scouts training complex named after a former Mormon church president and in the pictures from the church's 2013 extravagant theatrical production commemorating their 100th anniversary together. But, their futures are now headed in divergent directions. The Boy Scouts will try to make up for the loss of its largest sponsor through the addition of girls and a welcoming



message that all are invited. Last week, the organization said it will change the name of its flagship program next year to Scouts BSA to account for the inclusion of girls. The organization says its current youth participation is about 2.3 million, down from 2.6 million in 2013 and more than 4 million in peak years of the past. So far, nearly 4,000 girls have joined roughly 170 Cub Scout packs participating in the first phase of the new policy, and the pace is expected to intensify this summer under a nationwide multimedia recruitment campaign. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will bank on nurturing its youth in a still-to-be-developed program set to launch in 2020 that will likely include outdoor activities and character building similar to Boy Scouts but be tailored for the church's doctrine and designed to roll out around the globe. Unhitching from Boy Scouts will trigger nostalgia for Amer-

ican Mormons who grew up aiming for the important life milestone of Eagle Scout, said Mormon scholar Patrick Mason, professor of religion at Claremont Graduate University in California. Mason, who is Mormon, said his mother told him and his three brothers they couldn't get their driver's license until they earned Eagle Scout. Joining the Boy Scouts is practically automatic among Mormon boys, and the religion has long been the biggest sponsor of Boy Scout troops in the United States. The 425,000 Mormon boys who will be leaving represent about 18.5 percent of youth in the Boy Scouts. Another 185,000 Mormon boys ages of 14 and 18 already left the Boy Scouts this year to focus on church-related activities and community service. Mason said the time had clearly come for a split — with the Boy Scouts following shifting American culture that no longer matched the church's core principles. The Mormon

Andrew Garrison, 11, of Salt Lake City, looks over the Rockwell exhibition in 2013 at the Mormon Church History Museum in Salt Lake City, Utah. Twenty-three original, Boy Scout-themed Norman Rockwell paintings were on display in Salt Lake City to celebrate the 100-year relationship between Scouting and the Mormon church.

AP FILE PHOTO

church, which opposes gay marriage and considers homosexual relationships a sin, initially said it was "deeply troubled" by the Boy Scouts' 2015 policy change on gays but stayed after receiving assurances it could appoint troop leaders according to its own religious values. "The church remains concerned about cultural drift. The church doesn't want to move with the culture. So actually this is kind of a counter-cultural move," Mason said.

The move also shows the Utah-based religion's efforts to solidify its global footprint. More than half of the church's 16 million members live outside the U.S. "The great challenge that Mormonism is facing right now is if it can make that leap from being simply a religion that is present all around the world and become a religion that is rooted all around the world," said Matthew Bowman, a Mormon scholar and associate professor of history at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. The church's announcement also revealed that its existing program for girls will be shuttered and replaced by the new youth program, leading Mason and Bowman to predict that more parity could be in store for girls and boys even while the church stops short of allowing women in the lay priesthood.

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Americans were freed 1 hour before flight out

BY MATTHEW LEE
Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea — After months of anticipation and drama, the release of three American detainees by North Korea played out amid high-stakes diplomacy and was only sealed about an hour before the top U.S. diplomat was wheeled-up from Pyongyang.

The three men, Kim Dong Chul, Kim Hak Song and Tony Kim, walked on their own from a van and onto the plane of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. It was the culmination of Pompeo's 12-and-a-half-hour visit to the North Korean capital, which included a 90-minute meeting with leader Kim Jong Un.

Returning to his hotel from that meeting, Pompeo had given reporters a fingers-crossed sign when asked if there was good news about the detainees. A North Korean official came to the hotel shortly after to inform Pompeo that Kim had granted amnesties to

the three and that they would be released at 7 p.m. local time, according to a senior U.S. official present for the exchange. Carl Risch, the assistant secretary of state for consular affairs, and a doctor went to another hotel to pick up the men and bring them to the airport, the official said.

They finally left custody at 7:45 p.m., and by 8:42 p.m. they were flying home.

As soon as the plane cleared North Korean airspace, Pompeo called President Donald Trump to inform him of the releases with the men all apparently in good health; then other officials notified their families.

Even before Pompeo's plane had touched down for a stop-over at Yokota Air Base in neighboring Japan, the president announced to the world by Twitter that the "3 wonderful gentlemen" were free.

They are the latest in a series of Americans to be held in North Korea for alleged anti-state activities in recent years, only to be freed during the visit



In this May 3 photo, people watch a TV news report at Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, showing portraits of three Americans, Kim Dong Chul, Tony Kim and Kim Hak Song, who were detained in North Korea but were released Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

of a high-level U.S. official or statesman. Their releases draw a line under an issue that had weighed on plans for a historic summit between Kim and Trump that will focus on North Korea's nuclear weapons.

"We're granting amnesty to the three detained Americans," the North Korean emissary told Pompeo at Pyongyang's Koryo Hotel, according to the senior U.S. official who requested anonymity to discuss the exchange. "We issued the order to grant immediate amnesty to the detainees."

"That's great," the secretary of state replied.

The North Korean official then advised that the releases would follow a "very brief ceremony" — which he described as more like a legal process.

The official closed with a gentle warning for the U.S. to prevent a repeat: "You should make care that they do not make the

same mistakes again," the official said. "This was a hard decision."

The Trump administration has made clear it regarded the arrests as politically motivated, and had been bitterly critical of North Korea's refusal to grant consular access to the three, other than a brief visit by a U.S. envoy last June. The envoy had repatriated college student Otto Warmbier, who was sentenced to 15 years in prison with hard labor for stealing a propaganda poster. Warmbier died in June 2017, days after he arrived back in the U.S. with severe brain damage.

Since then, pressure to win the releases of the other three men, whom the administration has referred to as "hostages," has intensified.

Relatively little is known about the men, all Korean-Americans, and the circumstances in which they ended up

in North Korean custody.

Kim Dong Chul, a former Virginia resident who had reportedly run a company on North Korea's border with Russia, had been sentenced in April 2016 to 10 years in prison with hard labor after being convicted of espionage. Kim Hak Song and Tony Kim, who had both taught at a university in Pyongyang that was founded with donations from Christian groups, had been held for about one year and apparently had not been tried.

Tony Kim's son Sol Kim, a graduate student in California, is the only relative of the detainees to have appealed in public for their freedom. On learning of the release of Tony, who also uses the name Kim Sang-duk, his family expressed gratitude and credited Trump for engaging directly with North Korea.

China cuts U.S. soybean purchases in face of tariffs threat

BY CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AND DAKA KANG
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON — With the threat of tariffs and counter-tariffs between Washington and Beijing looming, Chinese buyers are canceling orders for U.S. soybeans, a trend that could deal a blow to American farmers if it continues.

At the same time, farmers in China are being encouraged to plant more soy, apparently to help offset any shortfall from the United States.

Beijing has included soybeans on a list of \$50 billion of U.S. exports on which it has said it would impose 25 percent tariffs if the United States follows through on its threats to impose the same level of tariffs on the same value of Chinese goods. The U.S. tariffs could kick in later this month; China would likely retaliate soon after.

It can take a month or more for soybean shipments to travel from the U.S. to China. Any soybeans on their way to China now could be hit by the tariff by the time they arrive.

"The Chinese aren't willing to buy U.S. soybeans with a 25 percent tax hanging over their head," said Dan Basse, president of AgResource, an agricultural research and advisory firm. "You just don't want the risk."

China typically buys most of its soybeans from South American nations such as Brazil and Argentina during spring and early summer. It shifts to U.S. soybeans in the fall. As a result,

for now, the cutbacks from the United States are relatively small.

But should they persist, it could cause real pain to U.S. farmers. Roughly 60 percent of U.S. soybeans are shipped to China.

There might also be a political impact: Three of the top five soybean-exporting states — Iowa, Indiana and Nebraska — voted for President Donald Trump in 2016.

Illinois, the top soybean exporter, and Minnesota, the third-largest, backed Hillary Clinton.

Basse said that it has been roughly three weeks since China has made any major soybean purchases, an unusually long delay.

Some Chinese buyers might be showing support for their government in the trade dispute by turning away U.S. soybeans, Basse said. The dispute may also make it seem too risky to buy from the United States over the long run.

"The United States could lose the reliable supplier label that we've had these many years," Basse said.

Data from the U.S. government show that sales of soybeans have fallen from about 255,000 metric tons in the first week of April, when the trade dispute began, to just 7,900 in the week that ended April 26.

Cancellations have also jumped, to more than 140,000 metric tons in the week ending April 26. In the same week last year, there were no canceled sales at all.

Some analysts argue that the shifts aren't yet particularly significant. China buys most of its soybeans from

the United States in the late summer and fall, and then switches to South American sources, mainly Brazil and Argentina, in the spring. So the current market activity doesn't necessarily reflect the pattern that would occur during the main buying season.

"These numbers we're talking about are pretty minor," said John Baize, an economist for the U.S. Soybean Export Council.

The U.S. ships about 35 million metric tons of soybeans to China a year, Baize said. China usually imports about 100 million tons a year and can't import enough from other countries, he said, to abandon the United States as a source.

"Where's China going to buy its beans?" Baize asked.

That may be true in the short run. But Basse suggests that Brazil has enough land that could be used for soybean cultivation that it could soon mostly replace the United States as a supplier to China.

And if the Chinese market were to be closed to U.S. farmers, they might be able to sell some portion of their soybeans to other markets. Baize said that huge multinational companies, such as Cargill and ADM, might, for example, sell more U.S. soybeans to Europe, where they wouldn't face any tariffs, though this likely wouldn't make up for the loss of the Chinese market.

At the same time, China is looking more to its own farmers. Since China announced its potential tariffs on U.S. soy in April, the government has encouraged farmers to cultivate more

soybeans. Beginning this month, Chinese farmers say, Beijing reduced corn subsidies and raised annual soybean subsidies from 2550 yuan (\$400) per hectare to 3000 yuan (\$470) or more per hectare in major soybean-producing provinces in northeast China.

An adjustment had already been planned to help draw down China's substantial corn stockpiles, so the change wasn't necessarily aimed at U.S. soy growers, analysts say.

But the subsidy adjustment did come with political undertones. Officials in major soybean-producing provinces were describing the promotion of local soybeans as "the most important political task in agricultural production at present." Heilongjiang in northeast China announced a pilot project to plant soybeans on over 100,000 new hectares, with an extra 2,250 yuan (\$353) subsidy per hectare.

The moves are prompting farmers like Liu Cong to focus more on growing soy. Liu says he used most of his land to grow corn last year but this year is planting more soybeans.

"This is encouraging for farmers," he said in a phone interview. "We're more motivated."

Zhang Xiaoping, China director for the U.S. Soybean Export Council, says that Chinese buyers have been canceling soybean purchases of last year's U.S. soybean harvest because of the threat of tariffs.

"The buyers literally stopped buying from the U.S.," Zhang said. "Exporters cannot find any buyers in China."

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Drug epidemic ensnares 25-year-old pill for nerve pain

BY MATTHEW PERRONE
AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON — The storyline sounds familiar: a popular pain drug becomes a new way to get high as prescribing by doctors soars.

But the latest drug raising red flags is not part of the opioid family at the center of the nation's drug epidemic. It's a 25-year-old generic pill long seen as a low-risk way to treat seizures, nerve pain and other ailments.

The drug, called gabapentin, is one of the most prescribed medications in the U.S., ranking ninth over the last year, according to prescription tracker GoodRx. Researchers attribute the recent surge to tighter restrictions on opioid painkillers, which have left doctors searching for alternatives for their patients.

Those same forces are changing the drugs that Americans abuse, according to experts.

"We're basically squeezing people into other drugs because the prescription opioids are becoming a lot harder to get," said Dr. Richard Dart, who tracks drug abuse through a national data network owned by the state of Colorado.

While prescriptions for opioids like Vicodin and Oxycontin have been falling since 2012, health regulators have seen increased overdoses with unexpected medications, including the over-the-counter diarrhea drug Imodium.

The Food and Drug Administration is now studying patterns of prescribing and illicit use of gabapentin and will soon share its findings, said Commissioner Scott Gottlieb.

"One of the lessons from this whole opioid crisis is that we probably were too slow to act where we saw problems emerging, and we waited for more definitive conclusions," Gottlieb said. "I don't want to be sitting here five or 10 years from now lamenting that we didn't take more aggressive action."

Many doctors aren't aware of gabapentin's potential for abuse, particularly among those with a history of misusing drugs, said Rachel Vickers Smith of the University of Louisville.

People tracked in her research describe gabapentin as a "cheap high" that is almost "always available." They report mixing the drug with opioids, marijuana and cocaine to enhance the high, with effects ranging from "increased energy" to a "mellow" numbness.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dr. Michael Polydefkis, a neurologist at Johns Hopkins University, poses for a photograph in a lab in Baltimore. Polydefkis primarily treats elderly people with nerve pain and says he has never seen patients deliberately misuse gabapentin, a generic pill long seen as a low-risk way to treat seizures, nerve pain and other ailments.

Medical journal articles estimate that between 15 and 25 percent of opioid abusers also use gabapentin. And emerging research suggests combining gabapentin and opioids heightens the overdose risks.

Gabapentin, on the market since 1993, has long been considered nonaddictive and is not tracked as closely as riskier drugs like opioids.

But calls to U.S. poison control centers show a stark rise in abuse and overdoses.

The abuse rate increased nearly 400 percent between 2006 and 2015, according to poison center data analyzed by the RADARS research group within the Denver Health and Hospital Authority, a state-owned health system. The group's work is funded by drugmakers and government agencies, though they don't participate in the analysis or publication of the data.

In some parts of the U.S., the rise in gabapentin abuse has led to new restrictions and surveillance.

Last year, Kentucky became the first state to classify the drug as a "scheduled

substance," placing it among other high-risk medicines subject to extra restrictions and tracking. Gabapentin was detected in a third of fatal overdose cases analyzed by Kentucky medical examiners in 2016. Now, only health professionals registered with the federal government can prescribe the drug, and patients are limited to five refills.

Ohio, Minnesota, West Virginia and several other states have begun tracking gabapentin through their prescription databases. Ohio took that step after gabapentin became the most dispensed drug in the state. State surveys of drug users also indicated it was "extremely easy to get" with a street price around \$1.50 per capsule.

Alyssa Peckham, a researcher at Midwestern University in Arizona, thinks a more comprehensive federal response is needed, including possibly reclassifying it nationwide. Like others, Peckham says gabapentin is not dangerous on its own but can be when combined with opioids and other drugs that

suppress breathing.

Still, there is little consensus about the next steps, or even the scope of the problem.

Michael Polydefkis, a neurologist at Johns Hopkins University who primarily treats seniors with nerve pain, says he has never seen patients deliberately misuse gabapentin.

And given recent restrictions on opioids by hospitals, insurers and government authorities, many physicians are wary of limiting any other medicines that can help treat pain. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's prescribing guidelines endorse gabapentin as a good choice for nerve pain.

But there are questions about how much is being prescribed for proven uses — and to what extent patients are benefiting. A recent review of research by the Cochrane Group confirmed gabapentin's benefits for several forms of nerve pain but found little evidence of its effectiveness for more common muscle and joint pain.

Historically, the vast majority of prescriptions have

been for uses not OK'd by the FDA as safe or effective.

"This drug was kind of unusual in that it was prescribed as a kind of miracle pill that could be used for anything," said Dr. Joseph Ross, a researcher at Yale University's school of medicine.

In a recent Journal of the American Medical Association, he called for new studies of gabapentin's real-world use.

The freewheeling prescribing dates to years of aggressive marketing by the drug's original manufacturer, Warner-Lambert. The company pleaded guilty and agreed to pay more than \$430 million in 2004 to settle charges that it promoted gabapentin for a slew of unapproved uses, including migraines, attention deficit disorder, bipolar disorder and Lou Gehrig's disease. While doctors are free to prescribe drugs for any use, drugmakers can only market their products for those uses approved by the FDA.

Warner-Lambert was bought in 2000 by Pfizer, which continues to sell gabapentin under its original brand name Neurontin. Pfizer also sells a similar drug named Lyrica, a blockbuster medication approved for fibromyalgia, diabetic nerve pain and several other uses. Unlike gabapentin, Lyrica is a scheduled substance under federal law, in part due to reports of euphoria and other side effects suggesting "abuse potential."

With tighter restrictions and a lone manufacturer, Lyrica has not seen the same problems as gabapentin.

"Pfizer recognizes the importance of preventing the misuse and abuse of our medicines and will continue working with regulatory authorities and health officials to monitor the safety of these medicines," the company said in a statement.

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MERITOR FROM PAGE A1

will invest \$5.2 million in assembly line upgrades and automated processes at the plant, Kosinski said.

Headquartered in Troy, Michigan, Meritor has been in business for more than 100 years and is a leading supplier in the commercial vehicle market, serving truck, trailer, defense, specialty and aftermarket customers, he said.

“Meritor has been around for a long time and knows how to do this manufacturing process well,” Kosinski said. “The company has adapted and changed with the market and automation, and it really is a world leader and ahead of the market in many places, so I think that has a lot to do with its reason to expand here.”

He expects Meritor’s wage offerings for the jobs to be very competitive among manufacturers in the region,

which also includes Sumter, Lee and Kershaw counties.

Kosinski estimated the industrial expansion to be one of the largest in Clarendon in the last five years.

Meritor is one of the longest-serving manufacturers in the county, and he said the county is happy for the expansion.

“As a county, we’re super excited that we can help an industry like this sustain and grow and provide jobs for

our citizens,” Kosinski said.

Clarendon County Council Chairman Dwight Stewart echoed his sentiments.

“We have always felt like Clarendon County was a great place to live, work and play,” Stewart said. “Today’s announcement solidifies those thoughts, as one of our longest-standing industries chooses to expand right here in the place we call home. We wish them much success.”

Anthony Dustin Dill’s bond was denied on Wednesday afternoon. Dill cursed at the judge during the hearing and could be heard spitting in the hallway after he left the room.



ADRIENNE SARVIS / THE SUMTER ITEM

DILL FROM PAGE A1

The incident started when Dill, 32, of Bell Road in Mayesville, began talking during the hearing about how he ended up in law enforcement’s custody.

Blanding told him he would have his day in court to explain himself and that he could not speak unless prompted to do so on Wednesday.

Dill then asked if his appearance in court was just to make a mockery of him before proceeding to yell and curse at Blanding. He could also be heard spitting in the hallway on the way back to his cell.

Blanding continued the hearing after Dill left the room and denied bond — charged with accessory after the fact — saying he is a potential flight risk for already attempting to avoid law enforcement. Dill will have a bond hearing at Sumter County Judicial Center on June 8.

“That’s not the smartest thing to do in front of a judge,” said Ken Bell, public information officer for Sumter County Sheriff’s Office, who was present during the hearing.

Dill let his temper get the best of him, and that’s going

to make it harder for him down the road when it comes time for another hearing, he said, because other officers and judges could see him as a risk.

Three other co-defendants — Kimberly McFaddin McLeod, 36, of Bay Blossom Avenue in Sumter; Andrew Thomas Scurry, 36, of U.S. 15 South in Sumter; and Lisa Avins, 57, of Pinewood Road in Sumter — are also charged with accessory after the fact for concealing and twice moving the body of Jerry Lamars Johnson, which was found in Lake Marion on April 25 after he was reported missing the day before.

Sumter County Sheriff Anthony Dennis said Johnson had been shot multiple times and that his body had been buried at two locations in Sumter before it was put in the lake. A fisherman found the body in Orangeburg County.

A fifth suspect, 31-year-old Stephen Wayne Stinnette, of Pinewood Road in Sumter, has been charged with murder.

Bond was also denied for Dill’s four co-defendants, who were all arrested last week. Dill had been on the run since and turned himself in after a news conference and social media circulated his photo.

114 students collect diplomas



Chris McKinney, executive director of Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments, speaks to USC Sumter students during the commencement Wednesday at Patriot Hall.

PHOTOS BY MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM



VOTE FROM PAGE A1

a public prison from a conviction of a crime and must have never been convicted of a felony or offense against the elections laws (or must have served the entire sentence including probation or parole or have been pardoned if previously convicted.)

Voters do not have to specify a party when registering. During the upcoming primary election, each voter can choose which party’s ballot to participate in. Each voter can only vote in one party’s primary for each election.

Sumter County Democrats will see primaries for governor (Marguerite Willis, James Smith and Phil Noble), South Carolina Congressional 5th District in the U.S. House (Archie Parnell, Steve Lough, Mark Ali and Sidney Moore), District 64 in the state House (Robert Ridgeway, incumbent, and Mitch Ellerby) and District 6 on Sumter County Council (Jim McCain, incumbent, and Charlie Jones).

Sumter County Republicans will be able to choose their representative for governor (Henry McMaster, incumbent, Catherine Templeton, Kevin Bryant, John Warren and John Yancey McGill), secretary of state (Mark Hammond, incumbent, Joshua Putnam, Nelson Faerber and Kerry Wood), attorney general (Alan Wilson, incumbent, Todd Atwater and William Herlong) and District 2 on Sumter County Council (Artie Baker, incumbent, Bubba Rabon and Hazel Evenich).

Of the races on the primary ballot, the governor, secretary of state, attorney general and U.S. Rep. District 5 selections will face opposition from an-

other party in November. Whoever is chosen in the primary for state Rep. District 64, Sumter County Council District 2 and Sumter County Council District 6 will not face another name on the general

election ballot. In Lee County, voters will see the same statewide races, and Democrats will also be able to choose their representative for Lee County School Board Districts 5 (Regitt James and

Donna W. Scott) and 6 (Nathaniel Brunson, incumbent, and Frank Brent Millican Jr.)

To register in person, go to the Sumter County Board of Voter Registration and Elections at 141 N. Main St., Room

111. To register online and to find your voting precinct and district, visit www.scvotes.org. To register by mail, fax or email, go to that website to download a voter registration form and send it in.

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COMMENTARY

Haspel is too qualified to pass up

WASHINGTON — It was one of the Clinton administration's biggest counterterrorism successes. Just weeks after al-Qaida terrorists trained by Iran blew up U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998, Gina Haspel's phone rang in the middle of the night. She was in her final weeks as station chief in what the CIA describes as an "exotic and tumultuous capital" in central Eurasia, and intelligence had just emerged that two senior al-Qaida associates linked to the embassy bombings were on their way to the country where she was stationed.

Haspel swung into action, devising an operation to capture the terrorists. She worked around the clock, sleeping on the floor of her office, as agents tracked the terrorists to a local hotel, where the men were apprehended after a fire-fight. According to the CIA, "The successful operation not only led to the terrorists' arrest and subsequent imprisonment, but to the seizure of computers that contained details of a terrorist plot." For her efforts during the operation, which ultimately disrupted a terrorist cell, Haspel in 1999 received the George H.W. Bush Award for Excellence in Counterterrorism.

This is as much as the CIA has revealed, but according to press accounts, several senior al-Qaida associates were captured in Baku, Azerbaijan, just weeks after the embassy bombings. They included Ihab Saqr, a top lieutenant of al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri, and Essam Marzouk, who also worked for Zawahiri and had trained two of the embassy bombers. Mossad, Israel's national intelligence agency, had reportedly intercepted signals indicating that Saqr was headed to Baku to meet an Iranian intelligence operative.

We should be thrilled that the woman behind this major counterterrorism success has been nominated to become the first female director of the CIA — and only the second person ever to rise to the agency's top post after spending her entire career in clandestine operations. But instead of being grateful that a seasoned, experienced intelligence operative has been chosen, Senate Democrats are threatening to kill her nomination.

This is insane. Gina Haspel is quite possibly the most qualified person ever nominated to lead the CIA. She has experience in virtually every agency discipline, from counterterrorism to counterintelligence and offensive intelligence operations — including personally recruiting spies and directing covert operations.

"She has served in some really tough places, high-risk hardship posts, and has performed some extraordinary operations," said former CIA

official Henry "Hank" Crumpton, who was Haspel's boss in the agency's National Resources Division. According to a source familiar with her career, Haspel was once deployed in a conflict zone, when military officials from a hostile nation arrived without warning at an event she was attending. As she left, they fired at her vehicle, blowing out a tire. She still keeps the bullet as a reminder of the risks CIA officers take each day to protect the country. She knows their sacrifices firsthand. For her, some of the stars on the CIA's Memorial Wall represent the names and faces of friends she has lost in the line of duty.

"She's truly a spy-master," said one retired senior intelligence official who knows Haspel well. "She's managed intelligence operations against the hardest targets, Russia in particular. She has earned great respect from intelligence leaders around the world; even people like [Russian President Vladimir] Putin would have to respect her operational savvy." Yet despite her many accomplishments, colleagues say, she is a paragon of humility with zero political ambition. "She's never lobbied for a job," one of her former CIA bosses told me. "The jobs searched for her."

Little wonder that so many senior Obama-era intelligence officials — including Leon Panetta, John Brennan, Michael Morell, James R. Clapper Jr. and Jeremy Bash — have urged the Senate to confirm her. To vote down someone so obviously qualified as political retribution for the CIA's now-defunct interrogation program would be a travesty. President Barack Obama's Justice Department concluded that no crimes had been committed. Moreover, as CIA veterans point out, Brennan was himself deeply involved in the interrogation program and was confirmed 63-34 as Obama's CIA director, with only two Democrats and one independent voting against him. Why the double standard for the first woman nominated to lead the agency?

Democrats complain that President Trump has repeatedly attacked our intelligence community. But derailing Haspel's nomination would be a greater attack on our intelligence professionals than anything Trump has done. Haspel is beloved by the CIA's rank and file because she is one of them. Were the Senate to reject her, the nominee's former colleague said, "it would send a really chilling, devastating message."

Haspel, and the men and women of the CIA, deserve better.

Follow Marc A. Thiessen on Twitter, @marcthiessen.

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Marc Thiessen



COMMENTARY

How USC is working to keep the campus safe and mitigate risks

COLUMBIA — The safety and security of the University of South Carolina's students and campus community is paramount. A recent story within these pages highlighted that



Harris Pastides

USC was the safest campus in South Carolina and the sixth-safest among 6,284 nationwide. This ranking, from an affiliate of the ADT security company, is a testament to the innovative and strategic work of our public-safety professionals.

However, preparedness is a job that's never finished. Recent school shooting tragedies serve as a stark reminder of the challenges we all face. In fact, school shootings have been a tragic part of America's story for more than 250 years — from the Enoch Brown school massacre in 1764 to this generation's string of unthinkable events.

Higher education is no stranger to this violence.

The tragedy at Virginia Tech, which occurred 11 years ago this spring, challenged college leaders to rethink campus security, leading to the overhaul of campus safety regula-

tions and protocols — from installing safety locks to ensuring mental health services to establishing multi-modal emergency notification systems.

At USC, our public-safety professionals work tirelessly to seek best practices and policies to diffuse threats, anticipate others and enhance preparedness at an institutional level. From trainings for students, administrators, faculty and staff to establishing command systems and emergency response units to strengthening how our campus community communicates in an emergency — through text, email, apps, social media and campus infrastructure, such as sirens — our public-safety professionals are taking the necessary steps to meet the magnitude of this moment.

To this end, we're working toward the mandatory training for our nearly 10,000 administrators, faculty and staff, which is in addition to the thousands of similar trainings already conducted. We're also continuing to evaluate building-security plans down to the individual room level to provide our community with even more information in the event of an emergency situation.

Ultimately, however, keeping our community safe is not just a public-

safety responsibility, but a community responsibility. Our faculty, staff and students support public safety by reporting suspicious activity and adhering to the "See Something, Say Something" campaign launched across USC's campus and across the country. Concerned community members are also encouraged to report suspicious behavior by calling public safety directly or using the RAVE Guardian Safety App that is provided free to the university community and provides a mechanism for anonymous reporting.

Across our campuses and cities and throughout our state, public-safety professionals are doing incredible work day in and day out to ensure the safety of the communities they serve. We cannot always prevent violent crimes from occurring, but we can mitigate the risks. It's an enormous undertaking in a job that's never finished and is often not recognized enough. But in light of our recent ranking, and in the spirit of Public Service Recognition Week, which began Sunday, I would like to take a moment to thank all those who serve us so well.

Dr. Pastides is president of the University of South Carolina; contact him at pastides@mailbox.sc.edu.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

CHURCH HAS ASKED FOR PAVED ROAD TOO LONG

For the past 25+ years we the members of Triumph Church at 1285 Pearson Road have been pleading with Clarendon County to pave this muddy road. The county always has given many excuses why they were not going to pave our road.

Some of the excuses from Clarendon County are "Do buses travel on this road?" or "you must be added to the list of

those making a request to have your road paved" and "it may be next year before we can get to you." There were given one reason/excuse after another while other roads were being paved.

Wyboo Golf Club Community has always had its roads paved and repaved. We as a church feel we are being slighted and our concerns are not being addressed with true satisfaction due to the length of how long our request has been on the books.

The county has made us feel that they are not working a just and fair way about our request for paving our roads.

Our church has been in the community approximately 100 years, and for the church members and the church guests to have to continue to drive through mud to get to the church when it rains is unfair.

PASTOR SAMPSON
PEARSON AND
MEMBERS OF TCKOGIC
Clarendon

AROUND TOWN

Santee Wateree RTA will hold public meetings to obtain community input in determining how the current Lee County Trans Route may be modified to provide passengers additional opportunities to access various recreational, social, employment, medical and educational venues that the cities of Bishopville and Sumter have to offer. Meetings will be as follows: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 15, Franklin Store, 2831 Woodrow Road, Woodrow; 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 22, Lynchburg Police Department, 106 Main St., Lynchburg; and 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 29, Franklin Store, 2831 Woodrow Road, Woodrow.

Rembert Area Community Coalition will hold summer camp for ages 3 1/2 to 12 years old from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, June 11-July 20, at the Rembert Youth Center (behind Rembert Car Wash), 20 Horatio-Hagood Road, Rembert. Breakfast will be served at 8 a.m. each day and lunch will be served at noon each day. Reduced rate for multiple children. First 35 students signed up by May 15 will get a free week. Apply online at www.raccinc.org

The WWW (Wise Wonderful Women and men) will sponsor a Mother's Day celebration beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 12, at 130 Epperson St., Pinewood. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 5 and under. Proceeds will benefit the senior lunch. This will be a day of family fun with a luncheon, musical groups and motivational speakers. Call Queen Winslow at (803) 452-7016.

The Mayesville Institute School Reunion Committee will sponsor a Mother's Day banquet from 4 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 12, at the Mayesville Institute School. Tickets are \$15 each. The Rev. Dr. Tiawanna Mayo will speak. Call Katherina Carolina at (803) 406-0490 or Mary Miller at (803) 983-5027.

The Crosswell Neighborhood Association will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, May 14, at the North HOPE Center, 904 N. Main St. Call (803) 468-0478.

Lake Marion VFW Post 11078, Summerton, will meet on Tuesday, May 15, at 1 Duke St., Summerton (behind First Citizens Bank). The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. with dinner. Call Carl A. Foley, post commander, at (803) 460-8910 for information.

An Ebenezer community meet-

ing will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 15, at the Ebenezer Community Center, 4850 Queen Chapel Road, Dalzell. Call (803) 236-7672.

A Friends of the NRA event will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 17, at 31 Artillery Drive. Continue the legacy of fighting for the future of the Second Amendment while enjoying a night of auctions, drawings, firearms and fun. Friends of NRA is a grassroots fundraising program that fosters community involvement, raises money and gives 100 percent of the net proceeds to qualified local, state and national programs. Ticket prices are \$20 for children, \$45 for singles, \$80 for couples and \$320 for a table. Call Debbie Brown at (803) 340-0025. Visit www.friendsofnra.org.

Free diabetes, cholesterol and prostate screenings will be available from 8 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 19, at Union Missionary Baptist Church, 300 Odom Lane, Wedgefield. Call Palmetto Health CareCall at (803) 774-CARE (2273) to register. Diabetes screenings available for anyone between the ages of 18-44 and are considered to be at high risk and all adults age 45 or older. Cholesterol screenings available for anyone age 18 or older and 12 hour fasting is required. Prostate screenings available for African American men ages 40-69 and all other men ages 50-69.

Because of God We Can Outreach Ministry will hold a giveaway beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 19, at the home of Viola Shaw, 186 Green Lane, Bishopville. Food will be served at noon. Tickets will be drawn for door prizes as well as cash prizes. Entertainment will be provided by the Goodman Family of Lynchburg and Lisa Bradley of Bishopville. Donated items include: clothes (men, women and children), treadmill, toys, shoes (men, women and children), televisions, chest freezer, dryer and more. Call (803) 428-3488 for information.

The One Sumter Community group will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 20, at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 315 W. Fulton St. The meeting will serve as a "meet and greet" the candidates running in the June primary. For information, call Joshua Dupree at (803) 795-3600.

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2018

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly sunny and very warm	Mainly clear	Mostly sunny	Sunny to partly cloudy	Sunny to partly cloudy	Clouds and sun
91°	64°	93° / 66°	95° / 67°	95° / 68°	95° / 68°
Chance of rain: 10%	Chance of rain: 10%	Chance of rain: 5%	Chance of rain: 10%	Chance of rain: 25%	Chance of rain: 15%
SW 7-14 mph	SSW 4-8 mph	NE 4-8 mph	S 4-8 mph	SW 4-8 mph	SSW 6-12 mph

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

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

IN THE MOUNTAINS

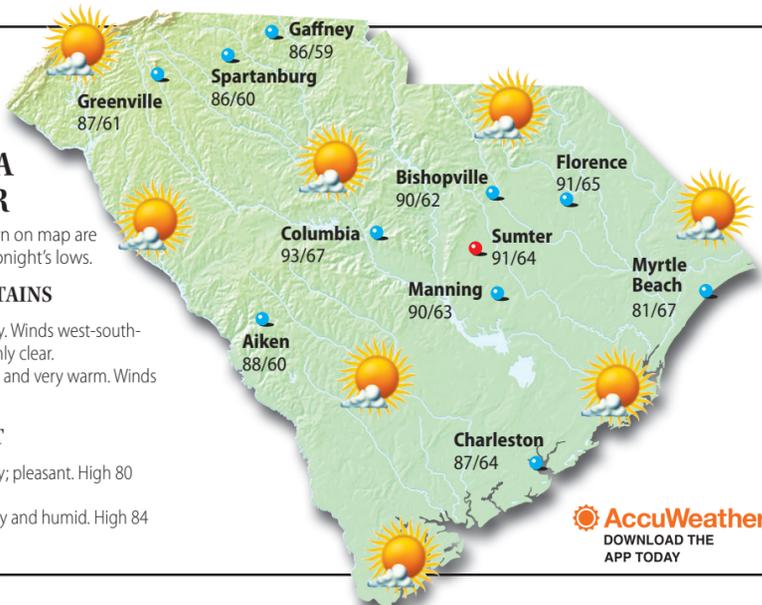
Today: Mostly sunny. Winds west-southwest 7-14 mph. Mainly clear.

Friday: Partly sunny and very warm. Winds south 4-8 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: Mostly sunny; pleasant. High 80 to 88.

Friday: Mostly sunny and humid. High 84 to 93.



AccuWeather
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LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THROUGH 2 P.M. YESTERDAY

Temperature	High	Low
High	80°	
Low	55°	
Normal high	80°	
Normal low	55°	
Record high	94° in 1962	
Record low	38° in 1989	

Precipitation	24 hrs ending 2 p.m. yest.
24 hrs ending 2 p.m. yest.	0.00"
Month to date	trace
Normal month to date	0.88"
Year to date	9.47"
Last year to date	15.24"
Normal year to date	15.23"

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	7.40	-0.52
Murray	360	358.06	-0.01
Marion	76.8	75.81	-0.05
Moultrie	75.5	75.20	none
Wateree	100	97.74	none

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	7.40	-0.52
Congaree River	19	4.64	+0.86
Lynches River	14	3.62	-0.23
Saluda River	14	3.24	+0.55
Up. Santee River	80	78.01	-0.27
Wateree River	24	10.77	+0.16

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	6:25 a.m.	Sunset	8:12 p.m.
Moonrise	3:42 a.m.	Moonsset	3:21 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
May 15	May 21	May 29	June 6

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH				
	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	5:34 a.m.	2.8	12:28 p.m.	0.4
	5:59 p.m.	2.8	---	---
Fri.	6:26 a.m.	2.8	12:53 a.m.	0.6
	6:50 p.m.	3.0	1:17 p.m.	0.2

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	87/66/s	89/69/pc
Chicago	73/46/pc	61/48/r
Dallas	87/68/s	90/70/pc
Detroit	74/45/pc	57/46/r
Houston	88/70/pc	88/72/pc
Los Angeles	77/59/pc	69/58/sh
New Orleans	90/66/s	89/70/s
New York	72/58/pc	74/59/pc
Orlando	89/64/pc	91/66/pc
Philadelphia	81/60/c	77/60/s
Phoenix	105/75/s	100/71/s
San Francisco	67/53/pc	72/60/pc
Wash., DC	83/64/c	83/66/s

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Asheville	82/55/pc	83/57/pc	Florence	91/65/s	93/66/s
Athens	90/62/s	91/63/pc	Gainesville	91/61/s	95/63/pc
Augusta	92/61/s	95/63/pc	Gastonia	86/59/s	88/61/s
Beaufort	88/66/s	93/68/pc	Greensboro	85/62/t	87/66/s
Cape Hatteras	77/66/s	75/67/s	Greenville	87/61/s	89/64/pc
Charleston	87/64/s	93/66/s	Hickory	84/59/pc	87/60/s
Charlotte	87/61/s	91/63/s	Hilton Head	83/68/s	88/68/pc
Clemson	86/62/s	87/63/pc	Jacksonville, FL	90/63/s	93/63/pc
Columbia	93/67/s	95/69/s	La Grange	89/64/s	89/63/pc
Darlington	89/62/s	92/63/s	Macon	91/62/s	93/64/pc
Elizabeth City	82/65/s	80/64/s	Marietta	87/64/s	89/66/pc
Elizabethtown	88/63/s	90/64/pc			
Fayetteville	90/65/s	91/65/pc			
			Marion	83/57/pc	85/58/s
			Mt. Pleasant	84/67/s	89/67/s
			Myrtle Beach	81/67/s	85/67/s
			Orangeburg	89/62/s	90/62/pc
			Port Royal	85/67/s	89/68/pc
			Raleigh	87/62/s	88/65/s
			Rock Hill	87/59/s	89/61/s
			Rockingham	89/60/s	90/62/s
			Savannah	90/66/s	94/66/pc
			Spartanburg	86/60/s	88/61/pc
			Summerville	88/62/s	91/64/s
			Wilmington	84/67/s	88/66/s
			Winston-Salem	86/60/pc	87/64/s

PUBLIC AGENDA

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

The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll be disillusioned by what

someone does or the signals you think someone is sending you. Be careful how you handle a peer or someone you are doing business with to avoid damaging your reputation, status or position.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be taken advantage of if you aren't careful. An offer you receive will not be realistic. Take a practical approach when dealing with someone who tends to brag or makes promises that are too good to be true.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Clarity will be required when dealing with others. If something doesn't sound right, question the one offering the information. A personal problem will grow due to poor communication or emotional evasiveness. Don't settle for less than you deserve.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Embrace your dreams. Make the effort to do something you've always wanted to do. Use your imagination to incorporate something unique into your plans. Express your feelings and make your intentions clear. A partnership will enhance your life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may want to make a change, but you are better off sitting tight for now. The less you spend or get involved in ventures that are costly or risky, the better. Someone will offer you false information to lead you astray.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A serious attitude regarding educational pursuits, children or networking events will help you keep anyone trying to take advantage of you at a distance. Don't let a personal matter interfere with taking care of your responsibilities. Know when

to say no.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Personal growth should be your goal. Make adjustments to a relationship that has left you feeling like you are heading in opposite directions. Listen, compromise and make amends so you can move forward in a positive manner.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Short trips, planning an adventure or taking on a new creative project will give you something to look forward to. A chance to form a partnership with someone you find unique and intriguing will inspire you to try harder.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone you thought you could trust will disappoint you. Discuss your concern and offer solutions you think are necessary if you want to move forward. Don't give in or neglect to be truthful about the way you feel.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll be given an opportunity to try something different. Your ability to pick up skills and knowledge effortlessly will put you in a good position. Clear a space at home to explore new possibilities. Someone from your past will surprise you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't feel you are in a competition. Do your own thing so you can avoid getting involved in a costly venture that will benefit others more than yourself. Personal improvements and a healthy lifestyle should be your intent.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Let your creativity take over. You'll come up with a great idea that can help you bring in more cash. A unique opportunity will come from someone you least expect. Refuse to let someone from your past disrupt your life.

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the Sumter ITEM



PICTURES FROM THE PUBLIC

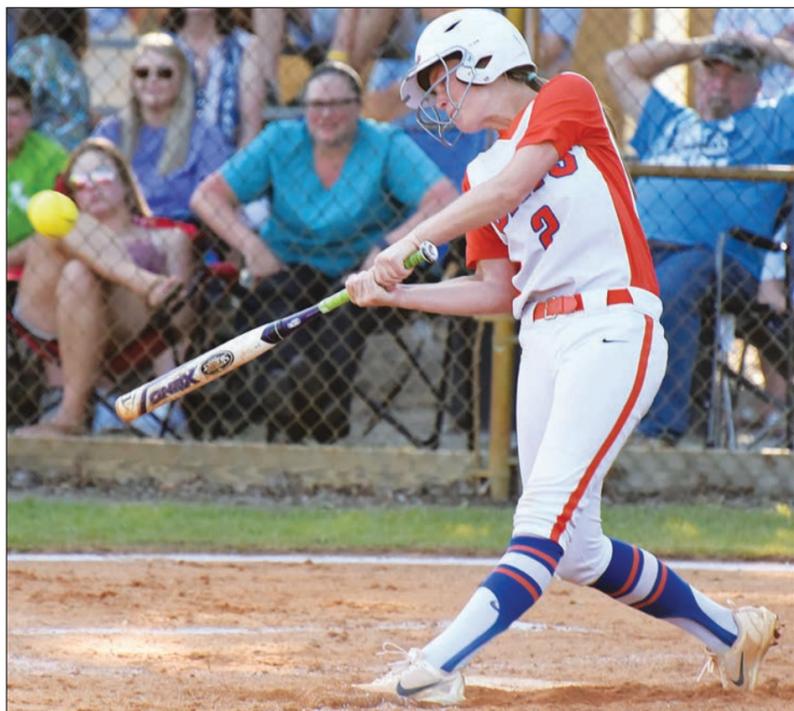


Edith Jolly shares a photo she took while visiting Swan Lake-Iris Gardens.

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

PREP SOFTBALL

After another run



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTOS

LEFT: Laurence Manning Academy will be counting on Trinity Harrington's bat when LMA begins play in the SCISA 3A state tournament on Friday at Patriot Park SportPlex. The Lady Swampcats will take on Northwood Academy in their opening game at 5:30 p.m. RIGHT: Wilson Hall pitcher Drake Ives has been a force in the circle and at the plate as the Lady Barons begin play in the SCISA 3A state tournament on Friday. WH will meet Ben Lippen in its opening game at 3:45 p.m.

Wilson Hall, Laurence Manning looking to get back to SCISA 3A softball title series

BY DENNIS BRUNSON
dennis@theitem.com

When the Laurence Manning Academy and Wilson Hall softball teams prepare for the SCISA 3A state tournament, both expect to be playing for a while. History bears it out. LMA is the 2-time defending state champion and have played for the state

title three of the last four years. The Lady Barons have played for the title four of the past five years, winning consecutive crowns in 2013-14. Both teams will try to extend their impressive streaks when the 3A state tournament begins on Friday and continues on Saturday at Patriot Park SportPlex. Thomas Sumter Academy and Rob-

ert E. Lee Academy will be playing in the 2A state tournament and Clarendon Hall will be competing in the 1A tournament. Those tournaments will be played at Friday and Saturday with some of the Friday games being played at Palmetto Park. All of the Saturday games will be played at Patriot Park.

SEE SCISA, PAGE B3

USC MEN'S BASKETBALL

Martin confident in Gamecocks' future

BY PETE IACOBELLI
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Frank Martin is confident South Carolina will take a step forward next season, no matter who is on court for the Gamecocks. The seventh-year coach understands he's got a couple of high profile dominoes left to fall in all-Southeastern Conference forward Chris Silva and highly regarded Louisville transfer Brian Bowen Jr., both who've declared for the NBA draft without hiring agents. Whatever decision they make by the NCAA's withdrawal deadline of May 30, Martin believes his team is poised to improve next fall. "I'm in a good place with our roster," Martin said Wednesday. It hasn't always appeared that way since the Gamecocks, a Final Four team in 2017, ended up 17-16 and out



AP FILE PHOTO

South Carolina men's basketball head coach Frank Martin, seen here in 2017, believes he's got the pieces in place to return the Gamecocks to contention in the Southeastern Conference and the NCAA Tournament — and sooner rather than later.

of the postseason. Martin dismissed expected point guard starter Rakym Felder, arrested twice for fighting in less than a year, for not following through on

the coach's expectations upon his return to the program last January. Three reserves in guard David Beatty and forwards Khadim Gueye and Ibrahim Famouke

Doumbia all transferred. Then Silva and Bowen, who must be reinstated by the NCAA for his role in a federal investigation into college basketball corruption, opted for the NBA. Martin stands by his player development skills, highlighted by four-year starter Sindarius Thornwell, the star of the Final Four run and now on the Los Angeles Clippers. "The ones that stay here get better, Martin said. "And the guys who played the most minutes are all coming back." That group is led by forward Mike Kotsar and guards Justin Minaya and Hassani Gravett, who combined for 85 starts last season. Kotsar, at 6-foot-10, was South Carolina's third-leading scorer at eight points a game last season. Minaya, a freshman last year, was the

SEE USC, PAGE B3

PREP BASEBALL

Ben Lippen brings end to LMA's title reign

BY WORTHY EVANS
Special to The Sumter Item

COLUMBIA — The Laurence Manning Academy baseball team had been in this position before: at Ben Lippen Stadium, holding a lead going into the bottom of the seventh inning, in the second game of a best-of-3 SCISA 3A state playoffs semifinal series. Last year, the Swampcats closed out a gut-check victory and went on to win their second straight state championship. On Tuesday, with LMA up 4-3, the Falcons dealt a blow to the 2-time defending state champions. Will Taylor scored the game-tying

run on Madison Matthew's RBI single, then walked off with a 5-4 victory when Garrett Summers scored on Lee Metts' infield grounder. The victory closed out a 2-game sweep of the Swampcats and moves Ben Lippen to play Cardinal Newman in the state championship series beginning on Monday. "We had some good chances, some we took advantage of and some we didn't," said LMA coach Barry Hatfield, whose team ends the 2018 run with a 17-6 record. "That's just playoff baseball. These seniors, this is the first time in



HATFIELD

their careers, from middle school on, that they didn't win the last game that they played in the season." Swampcats closer Jake Jordan, coming on to start the seventh in relief of starter Braydon Osteen, walked Taylor on four pitches, but rallied and struck out Nat Turner. Taylor moved to second in Turner's at-bat, but could only reach third when Summers' long double fell just short of the fence in leftfield. LMA still held a lead, but when Hatfield called an intentional walk to Tripp Williams to load the bases with one out, Ben Lippen was itching to pull the trigger.

SEE LMA, PAGE B2

PREP BASEBALL

Barons' season ends with 8-2 loss to Cardinal Newman

BY EDDIE LITAKER
Special to The Sumter Item

Any time a team suffers a stunning defeat in a playoff series, there's always the danger of the dreaded carryover affect heading into the next game. Wilson Hall's varsity baseball team was obviously still feeling the effects of a stunning 4-3 loss at Cardinal Newman on Monday when it took Baron Field for Tuesday's second game in the best-of-3 SCISA 3A state semifinal series.

The malaise of the Cardinals' 4-run final-inning rally against Wilson Hall ace pitcher Charlton Commander was evident early in Game 2 as three errors led to three Cardinal runs. Another error, in the fifth, led to a fourth CN run as the Cardinals pulled away for a series-clinching 8-2 win.



JARECKI

"No doubt there was a carryover from that (Game 1 loss)," said Barons head coach Adam Jarecki. "The wind kind of went right out of our sails right there at the end (of Monday's game). We played as well as we've played all year, made nice defensive plays, we got key hits at the right times and we go into the seventh inning and lose a 3-run lead. Commander, he's our best and he's gonna be the man that we wanted the ball in his hands. It just got away from us, and I think it carried over to tonight."

Commander was one of those struggling in the field early, but he said afterwards that tough losses are just something you have to endure and get past, in baseball or in any sport.

"As a starting pitcher, you just want to give your team an opportunity to win," Commander said. "Going into the seventh like that and giving your team a chance to win is where you want to be. But being in a position like that, sometimes it just doesn't work out for you. That's the game of baseball, but every day we came out and worked hard and tried to get there. That we can say that we got there (to the semifinals) is an achievement in itself."

Game 2 starter Tanner Epps scattered eight hits over 4 2/3 innings with one strikeout, but the Barons' fielding struggles led to Epps' early departure from the hill.

Daniel Reynolds pitched the final 2 2/3 innings for Wilson Hall, allowing just one hit but walking two batters and hitting three more.

"Tanner Epps pitched well tonight. We didn't make plays behind him," Jarecki said. "We made some costly errors early that allowed them to put runners in scoring position and punch them in, and we just never got going. That's disappointing, because you hate to see it end."

CN got its first two batters, Tillman Geddings and Tanner Garrison, on after errors, with Geddings coming home as a 2-base throwing error sent Garrison to third. Garrison scored on an A.J. DePalma single to left, giving the Cardinals a 2-0 lead after one inning.

DePalma would be the beneficiary of another infield error in the third, following a lead-off single to left from Garrison. Both would come home on a Simon Penso single up the middle.

Trailing 4-0, the Barons scratched out their first run off side-arming righty Myles

SEE BARONS, PAGE B2

MLB ROUNDUP

Mets bat out of turn, Reds rally for 2-1 win in 10th

CINCINNATI — The New York Mets wasted a first-inning rally by batting out of turn, and Adam Duvall led off the 10th inning with a homer that sent the Cincinnati Reds to a 2-1 victory Wednesday and concluded a series that will be remembered for an unexpected trade between the teams.

Duvall connected for his first career game-ending homer, a drive off A.J. Ramos (1-2).

Catcher Devin Mesoraco started for the Mets and went 0 for 4, a day after the Reds dealt him to New York for pitcher Matt Harvey.

The Reds won a pitching-dominated game and took two of three from the Mets, only their second series win of the season. They're 10-27, their worst start since the Great Depression.

Raisel Iglesias (1-0) retired six straight batters, faced, fanning three.

The Mets lost for the eighth time in nine games. They've been blanked three times during the slump and held to two runs or less four other times. New York has dropped 16 of 23 following an 11-1 start, falling into fourth place in the NL East.

New York got off to a rough start in the first inning, when Wilmer Flores fanned for the second out and Asdrubal Cabrera doubled, following the announced batting order. However, the lineup card the Mets turned into the umpires had those two switched in the order.

Plate umpire Gabe Morales called an out, nullifying the double and ending the threat. The out was credited

to Jay Bruce, who was due up next.

Following their correct order the next time through, the Mets got a run in the third when Brandon Nimmo tripled off Sal Romano and scored on Cabrera's ground-out.

Zack Wheeler had retired 12 straight before the Reds rallied in the sixth to tie it on Joey Votto's single.

The Reds were on the other end of a batting snafu 10 years earlier at Shea Stadium. They batted out of turn in the ninth inning after a double switch during an 8-3 loss to the Mets on May 11, 2008.

CUBS 13 MARLINS 4

CHICAGO — Kris Bryant hit his 100th career homer, Anthony Rizzo and Addison

Russell connected in an eight-run third inning, and the Chicago Cubs pounded the Miami Marlins 13-4 on Wednesday.

Rizzo also had a pair of doubles and finished with five RBIs as the Cubs outscored the Marlins 31-9 in a three-game sweep after dropping a season-high five in a row. It was quite a turnaround for a team that finished with three runs or less in 10 of 11 games prior to this series.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

ASTROS 4 ATHLETICS 1

OAKLAND, Calif. — Gerrit Cole struck out nine to raise his major league-leading total to 86, and the Houston Astros beat the Oakland Athletics 4-1 Wednesday to complete a three-game sweep.

Max Stassi and Derek Fisher hit consecutive home runs with two outs in the seventh off Daniel Mengden (2-4) for a 2-1 lead, and Yuli Gurriel added a two-run double against Yusmiero Petit that extended his hitting streak to 11 games.

Houston has won 10 of its last 12 road games. Oakland was outscored 25-5 in the series and outhit 42-18.

RANGERS 5 TIGERS 4

ARLINGTON, Texas — Nomar Mazara led off the 10th inning with his second homer of the game, giving the Texas Rangers a 5-4 victory over Detroit on Wednesday and their first winning home series this season.

From wire reports

SCOREBOARD

TV, RADIO

TODAY

6 a.m. — Professional Tennis: Madrid Open Round-of-16 Matches from Madrid (TENNIS).

11 a.m. — College Softball: Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament Quarterfinal Game from Atlanta — Florida State vs. Louisville or Syracuse (FOX SPORTSOUTH).

11 a.m. — Professional Tennis: Madrid Open Round-of-16 Matches from Madrid (TENNIS).

Noon — College Softball: Southeastern Conference Tournament Second-Round Game from Columbia, Mo. — South Carolina vs. Texas A&M or Mississippi State (SEC NETWORK).

1 p.m. — PGA Golf: The Players Championship First Round from Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. (GOLF).

1:30 p.m. — College Softball: Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament Quarterfinal Game from Atlanta — Notre Dame vs. Boston College (FOX SPORTSOUTH).

2 p.m. — College Softball: Southeastern Conference Tournament Second-Round Game from Columbia, Mo. — Georgia vs. Arkansas or Kentucky (SEC NETWORK).

2:45 p.m. — International Soccer: English Premier League Match — Manchester United vs. West Ham (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).

5 p.m. — College Softball: Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament Quarterfinal Game from Atlanta — Pittsburgh vs. Virginia Tech or Duke (FOX SPORTSOUTH).

5 p.m. — College Softball: Southeastern Conference Tournament Second-Round Game from Columbia, Mo. — Tennessee vs. Louisiana State or Mississippi (SEC NETWORK).

6:05 p.m. — Talk Show: Sports Talk (WDXY-FM 105.9, WDXY-AM 1240).

7 p.m. — College Baseball: Auburn at Mississippi (ESPN).

7 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Atlanta at Miami (FOX SPORTS SOUTHEAST, WFFN-FM 100.1, WPUB-FM 102.7).

7 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Boston at New York Yankees or Seattle at Toronto (MLB NETWORK).

7 p.m. — College Softball: Southeastern Conference Tournament Second-Round Game from Columbia, Mo. — Florida vs. Alabama or Auburn (SEC NETWORK).

7:30 p.m. — College Softball: Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament Quarterfinal Game from Atlanta — Georgia Tech vs. North Carolina (FOX SPORTSOUTH).

8 p.m. — NHL Hockey: Stanley Cup Playoff Western Conference Semifinal Series Game 7 — Winnipeg at Nashville (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).

10 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Minnesota at Los Angeles Angels (MLB NETWORK).

4 a.m. — Professional Golf: European PGA Tour Rocco Forte Open First Round from Sicily, Italy (GOLF).

4:55 a.m. — Formula One Racing: Grand Prix of Spain Practice (ESPN).

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	25	10	.714	—
New York	25	10	.714	—
Toronto	19	17	.528	6½
Tampa Bay	15	18	.455	9
Baltimore	8	27	.229	17

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	18	18	.500	—
Minnesota	15	17	.469	1
Detroit	15	21	.417	3

Kansas City	12	23	.343	5½
Chicago	9	25	.265	8

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	24	15	.615	—
Los Angeles	22	14	.611	½
Seattle	20	14	.588	1½
Oakland	18	19	.486	5
Texas	15	24	.385	9

TUESDAY

Minnesota 7, St. Louis 1

Kansas City 15, Baltimore 7

N.Y. Yankees 3, Boston 2

Seattle 5, Toronto 0

Atlanta 1, Tampa Bay 0

Milwaukee 3, Cleveland 2

Detroit 7, Texas 4

Pittsburgh 10, Chicago White Sox 6

Colorado 4, L.A. Angels 2

Houston 4, Oakland 2

WEDNESDAY

Cleveland 6, Milwaukee 2

Texas 5, Detroit 4, 10 innings

Pittsburgh 6, Chicago White Sox 5

L.A. Angels 8, Colorado 0

Houston 4, Oakland 1

Boston at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.

Kansas City at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.

Seattle at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.

Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 7:10 p.m.

TODAY

Boston (Rodriguez 3-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Sabathia 2-0), 7:05 p.m.

Kansas City (Kennedy 1-3) at Baltimore (Tillman 1-5), 7:05 p.m.

Seattle (Leake 3-3) at Toronto (Happ 4-2), 7:07 p.m.

Minnesota (Berrios 3-3) at L.A. Angels (TBD), 10:07 p.m.

FRIDAY

Chicago White Sox at Chicago Cubs, 2:20 p.m.

Oakland at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.

Tampa Bay at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.

Boston at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.

Kansas City at Cleveland, 7:10 p.m.

Seattle at Detroit, 7:10 p.m.

Texas at Houston, 8:10 p.m.

Minnesota at L.A. Angels, 10:07 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	20	14	.588	—
Philadelphia	20	15	.571	½
Washington	20	17	.541	1½
New York	18	17	.514	2½
Miami	13	23	.361	8

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	20	14	.588	—
Milwaukee	21	16	.568	½
Pittsburgh	21	16	.568	½
Chicago	19	15	.559	1
Cincinnati	10	27	.270	11½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	24	11	.686	—
Colorado	21	16	.568	4
San Francisco	19	17	.528	5½
Los Angeles	15	20	.429	9
San Diego	13	24	.351	12

TUESDAY

Minnesota 7, St. Louis 1

BARONS

FROM PAGE B1

Hedgecock in the bottom of the third as Reynolds singled, took second on a 6-3 grounder from Daulton Dabbs and scored as Commander singled to left to make it 4-1.

CN stretched its lead to 7-1 with a single run in the fourth and two in the fifth before Wilson Hall scored its second run in the bottom of the sixth. Commander drew a base on balls to open the frame, took second on an Epps single to right and crossed home as Trent Elmore smashed a double into the right-centerfield gap.

CN's final run came in the top of the seventh, leaving the Barons with a 6-run deficit, but the top of the lineup at the plate in its half of the final inning. Charlie Patten came on in relief of Hedgecock and had a 1-2-3 inning.

"I'm just so proud of these guys," Jarecki said of his team, which finished with a 10-10 record. "I didn't know if we could be in this spot when it started. Our numbers are not great and we didn't have a lot of depth, so I'm awful proud of the way they competed all year. We lost a lot of close games. We had four games where we lost in the bottom of the seventh when we were ahead. We finished 10-10, a .500 year, and

that's not great, but we lost some close games."

It's easier to talk about who Jarecki has coming back than who he's losing as eight of the Barons' 11 core players from this year's team will be leaving due to graduation. Epps and outfielders Chandler Scott and Wise Segars will be joined by a bevy of this year's junior varsity players next season while starters Reynolds, Dabbs, Commander, Corbin Bruce, Elmore and Bryce Lyles and reserves William Kimbrell and Jackson Lemay make up the team's 2018 senior class.

"They've been here the whole time that I've been here, and they've seen a whole lot of success," Jarecki said. "They've been a part of state championships and they've been in semifinals every year, and a couple of them were on the (2015) state championship team. As sophomores they lost the state championship and then last year they got beat in the semifinals by this same club, and they made it to the semifinals again (this year)."

"They've been kind of the anchor. As kids have come and gone, those guys have always been there. It's going to be different playing baseball around here and you don't see Daniel Reynolds out here, and Daulton Dabbs, my catcher since the time I walked on to

this campus, and Charlton, who's always been there and works hard. It's just going to be different. I hate to see them go, because they've been here with me the whole time I've been here."

Dabbs said hard work was a key to the Barons' unexpected run to the semifinal round this season.

"We worked hard. We had a lot of young kids move up that worked hard," the Barons catcher, and sometimes pitcher, said. "We lacked pitching, so that hurt us a good bit, but other than that we did a lot better than I expected with what we had."

Bruce played first base and batted cleanup for his senior season, accounting for many clutch hits along the way.

"We worked harder than anybody out there," Bruce said. "We came out here on days when we didn't have assigned practice to get extra swings in to try to better ourselves and put us right there with everybody else. It paid off because we got to the semifinals. Everybody doubted us, but we hung in there and fought."

"I wouldn't want to be with anyone else. They're my best friends," Dabbs said of playing with this group of seniors. "Good luck to the young guys, because there's a lot of us and we did all that we could."

NBA PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Cleveland 4, Toronto 0

Tuesday, May 1: Cleveland 113, Toronto 112, OT

Thursday, May 3: Cleveland 128, Toronto 110

Saturday, May 5: Cleveland 105, Toronto 103

Monday, May 7: Cleveland 128, Toronto 93

Boston 3, Philadelphia 1

Monday, April 30: Boston 117, Philadelphia 101

Thursday, May 3: Boston 108, Philadelphia 103

Saturday, May 5: Boston 101, Philadelphia 98, OT

Monday, May 7: Philadelphia 103, Boston 92

Wednesday, May 9: Philadelphia at Boston, 8 p.m.

x-Friday, May 11: Boston at Philadelphia, 8 p.m.

x-Sunday, May 13: Philadelphia at Boston, TBA

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Houston 4, Utah 1

Sunday, April 29: Houston 110, Utah 96

Wednesday, May 2: Utah 116, Houston 108

Friday, May 4: Houston 113, Utah 92

Sunday, May 6: Houston 100, Utah 87

Tuesday, May 8: Houston 112, Utah 102

Golden State 4, New Orleans 1

Saturday, April 28: Golden State 123, New Orleans 101

Tuesday, May 8: Golden State 121, New Orleans 116

Friday, May 4: New Orleans 119, Golden State 100

Sunday, May 6: Golden State 118, New Orleans 92

Tuesday, May 8: Golden State 113, New Orleans 104

CONFERENCE FINALS

(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)

Western Conference

Houston vs. Golden State

Monday, May 14: Golden State at Houston, 9 p.m.

Wednesday, May 16: Golden State at Houston, 9 p.m.

Sunday, May 20: Houston at Golden State, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, May 22: Houston at Golden State, 9 p.m.

x-Thursday, May 24: Golden State at Houston, 9 p.m.

x-Saturday, May 26: Houston at Golden State, 9 p.m.

x-Monday, May 28: Golden State at Houston, 9 p.m.

NHL PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

(Best-of-7)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Washington 4, Pittsburgh 2

Thursday, April 26: Pittsburgh 3, Washington 2

Sunday, April 29: Washington 4, Pittsburgh 1

Tuesday, May 1: Washington 4, Pittsburgh 3

Thursday, May 3: Pittsburgh 3, Washington 1

Saturday, May 5: Washington 6, Pittsburgh 3

Monday, May 7: Washington 2, Pittsburgh 1, OT

Tampa Bay 4, Boston 1

Saturday, April 28: Boston 6, Tampa Bay 2

Monday, April 30: Tampa Bay 4, Boston 2

Wednesday, May 2: Tampa Bay 4, Boston 1

Friday, May 4: Tampa Bay 4, Boston 3, OT

Sunday, May 6: Vegas 3, San Jose 0

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Winnipeg 3, Nashville 3

Friday, April 27: Winnipeg 4, Nashville 1

Sunday, April 29: Nashville 5, Winnipeg 4, 2OT

Tuesday, May 1: Winnipeg 7, Nashville 4

Thursday, May 3: Nashville 2, Winnipeg 1

Saturday, May 5: Winnipeg 6, Nashville 2

Monday, May 7: Nashville 4, Winnipeg 0

Thursday, May 10: Winnipeg at Nashville, 8 p.m.

Vegas 4, San Jose 2

Thursday, April 26: Vegas 7, San Jose 0

Saturday, April 28: San Jose 4, Vegas 3, 2OT

Monday, April 30: Vegas 4, San Jose 3, OT

Wednesday, May 2: San Jose 4, Vegas 0

Friday, May 4: Vegas 5, San Jose 3

Sunday, May 6: Vegas 3, San Jose 0

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SCISA

FROM PAGE B1

WH will carry a 22-9 record into Friday's first-round game against Ben Lippen which is set for a 3:45 p.m. start. Wilson Hall is the No. 1 seed in the 4-team lower bracket. The other game will have No. 2 Augusta Christian facing No. 3 Orangeburg Prep.

The Lady Swampcats are the No. 2 seed in the upper bracket with a 14-9-1 record. They will face No. 3 Northwood Academy in their opening game at 5:30 p.m. The other game in the upper bracket will have No. 4 Florence Christian School meeting No. 1 Cardinal Newman.

Lady Barons head coach Teresa Alexander feels good about her team's chances with Drake Ives in the circle and the team's bats getting hot.

"I think our offense has really started to pick up the last few games after we had a low point," Alexander said. "I believe any of our batters are capable of getting a big hit. I feel like we're very strong 1-9 in the order, not just in the top half."

Though they are starting off in different brackets, WH and Laurence Manning could end up playing each other on Saturday. If both win their opening games on Friday and then one loses the second game and the other wins, the loser will move into the winner's bracket with the crossover rule.

If both win their brackets, they will play for the state

SCISA SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS

3A

UPPER BRACKET

Friday

At Palmetto Park

Game 1 – Florence Christian vs. Cardinal Newman, 5:30 p.m. (Field 4)
Game 2 – Northwood vs. Laurence Manning, 5:30 p.m. (Field 3)
Game 3 – Game 1 Loser vs. Game 2 Loser, 7:45 p.m. (Field 2)
Game 4 – Game 1 Winner vs. Game 2 Winner, 7:45 p.m. (Field 1)

Saturday

At Patriot Park

Game 5 – Game 3 Winner vs. Lower Game 4 Loser, 9:30 a.m. (Field 1)
Game 6 – Game 4 Winner vs. Game 5 Winner, 11:45 a.m. (Field 1)
Game 7 – If Necessary (will be played after 1:45 p.m. games in 2A and 1A tournaments are completed)

LOWER BRACKET

Friday

At Palmetto Park

Game 1 – Ben Lippen vs. Wilson Hall, 3:45 p.m. (Field 4)
Game 2 – Orangeburg Prep vs. Augusta Christian, 3:45 p.m. (Field 3)
Game 3 – Game 1 Loser vs. Game 2 Loser, 7:15 p.m. (Field 4)
Game 4 – Game 1 Winner vs. Game 2 Winner, 7:15 p.m. (Field 3)

Saturday

At Patriot Park

Game 5 – Game 3 Winner vs. Upper Game 4 Loser, 9:30 a.m. (Field 2)
Game 6 – Game 4 Winner vs. Game 5 Winner, 11:45 a.m. (Field 2)
Game 7 – If Necessary (will be played after 1:45 p.m. games in 2A and 1A tournaments are completed)

2A

UPPER BRACKET

Friday

At Palmetto Park

Game 1 – Thomas Sumter vs. Pee Dee, 5 p.m. (Field 6)
Game 2 – Thomas Heyward vs. Williamsburg, 5 p.m. (Field 5)
Game 3 – Game 1 Loser vs. Game 2 Loser, 7:15 p.m. (Field 5)
Game 4 – Game 1 Winner vs. Game 2 Winner, 7:15 p.m. (Field 6)

Saturday

At Patriot Park

Game 5 – Game 3 Winner vs. Lower Game 4 Loser, 9:30 a.m. (Field 3)
Game 6 – Game 4 Winner vs. Game 5 Winner, 1:45 p.m. (Field 2)
Game 7 – If Necessary (will be played after 1:45 p.m. games in 2A and 1A tournaments are completed)

LOWER BRACKET

Friday

At Patriot Park

Game 1 – Robert E. Lee at Marlboro, 3:45 p.m. (Field 1)
Game 2 – Colleton Prep at Carolina, 3:45 p.m. (Field 2)
Game 3 – Game 1 Loser vs. Game 2 Loser, 6 p.m. (Field 2)
Game 4 – Game 1 Winner vs. Game 2 Winner, 6 p.m. (Field 1)

Saturday

At Patriot Park

Game 5 – Game 3 Winner vs. Upper Game 4 Loser, 9:30 a.m. (Field 4)
Game 6 – Game 4 Winner vs. Game 5 Winner, 1:45 p.m. (Field 1)
Game 7 – If Necessary (will be played after 1:45 p.m. games in 2A and 1A tournaments are completed)

1A

UPPER BRACKET

Friday

At Palmetto Park

Game 1 – W.W. King vs. Dorchester, 5 p.m. (Field 1)
Game 2 – Jefferson Davis vs. Clarendon Hall, 5 p.m. (Field 2)
Game 3 – Game 1 Loser vs. Game 2 Loser, 7:15 p.m. (Field 4)
Game 4 – Game 1 Winner vs. Game 2 Winner, 7:15 p.m. (Field 1)

Saturday

At Patriot Park

Game 5 – Game 3 Winner vs. Lower Game 4 Loser, 11:30 a.m. (Field 3)
Game 6 – Game 4 Winner vs. Game 5 Winner, 1:45 p.m. (Field 3)
Game 7 – If Necessary (will be played after 1:45 p.m. games in 2A and 1A tournaments are completed)

LOWER BRACKET

Friday

At Palmetto Park

Game 1 – Richard Winn vs. St. John's Christian, 5 p.m. (Field 3)
Game 2 – Holly Hill vs. Wardlaw, 5 p.m. (Field 2)
Game 3 – Game 1 Loser vs. Game 2 Loser, 7:15 p.m. (Field 2)
Game 4 – Game 1 Winner vs. Game 2 Winner, 7:15 p.m. (Field 3)

Saturday

At Patriot Park

Game 5 – Game 3 Winner vs. Upper Game 4 Loser, 11:30 a.m. (Field 4)
Game 6 – Game 4 Winner vs. Game 5 Winner, 1:45 p.m. (Field 4)
Game 7 – If Necessary (will be played after 1:45 p.m. games in 2A and 1A tournaments are completed)

title for the second straight year in a best-of-3 series. The upper bracket win would host the first game on Monday with the lower bracket winner hosting Game 2 on Tuesday. If a third game is needed it will be played at a neutral site on Wednesday.

Alexander hopes the fact she has a team loaded with experience in big games will give it an advantage.

Experience is one of the greatest assets you can have," Alexander said. "Playing in big games in big situations, you can't replicate that in any way."

In the 2A tournament, TSA and REL will both have tall orders as No. 4 seeds. The Lady Cavaliers, who are 8-9, will meet defending state champion Marlboro Academy at 3:45 p.m. at Patriot Park. The 4-10 Lady Generals will take on de-

fending runner-up Pee Dee Academy at 5 p.m. at Palmetto Park.

Clarendon Hall enters the 1A tournament with a 12-10 record. The Lady Saints are the No. 2 seed in the upper bracket and will play Jefferson Davis Academy at 5 p.m. at Palmetto Park. The other game in CH's bracket will have W.W. King facing defending state champion Dorchester Academy.

OBITUARIES

MARIE MONTIETH

SPARTANBURG — Marie Elizabeth Montieth, 74, of Spartanburg, passed away on Sunday, May 6, 2018, at Windsor House.

Ms. Montieth was a native of Boiling Springs and a daughter of the late Frank Sherman Sr. and Elsie Petty Montieth. She was a retired high

school teacher and a member of Boiling Springs First Baptist Church. She was a graduate of Boiling Springs High School and held degrees from North Greenville Junior College, Furman University and the University of South Carolina.

She is survived by daughters, Lisa Henderson Stewart of Black Mountain, North Carolina, Deana Henderson Jowers of Lucas, Texas, and Marla Henderson Ross of Boiling Springs; brother, Frank Montieth; sisters, Kay Scruggs, Peggy Montieth and Lynn Wall; and 10 grandchildren.

A memorial service will be conducted at 2 p.m. on Friday at Boiling Springs First Baptist Church, officiated by the Rev. Bobby Lindsey and the Rev. Allen Dean Blanton.

The family will meet friends in the atrium following the service.

Memorials may be made to North Greenville University, 7801 N. Tigerville Road, Travelers Rest, SC 29690.

The family will be at 245 N. Hill Drive, Boiling Springs.

Condolences may be sent online at www.eggersonfuneralhome.com.

Eggers Funeral Home of Boiling Spring is in charge of arrangements.

GERMAN FELDER JR.

German Felder Jr., 71, husband of Mary Ella Billups Felder, died on Monday, April 30, 2018.

He was a son of the late German Felder Sr. and Viola Hammett Felder.

Funeral services for Mr. Felder will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday at

Hayes F. Samuels Sr. Memorial Chapel, 114 N. Church St., Manning, with the Rev. William J. Frierson Sr. officiating. Burial will follow at the Manning Cemetery.

The family is receiving friends at the home of his sister, Hester Way, 1975 Hotel St., Alcolu.

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

INEZ BULLARD

Inez Bullard, 96, wife of Edward Bullard, died on Thursday, May 3, 2018, in Lions, Georgia.

Born on July 7, 1921, in Sumter County, she was a daughter of Nettie Hunter.

The family is receiving relatives and friends at the home of her sister, Argie Gathers, 1585 N. Kings Highway.

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

RUBY B. MORRIS

Ruby Boykin Morris, 97, widow of Algie C. Morris, passed away on Monday, May 7, 2018, at a local nursing facility.

Born on July 19, 1920, in Lee County, she was a daughter of the late Willie Daniel and Mabel Mathis Boykin. She retired from Ventu-Lite Products Inc. and was a volunteer at Tuomey Hospital for 13 years. She was a charter member of Bethesda Church of God, where she served as a secretary of the Sunday school for a number of years, until her health declined.

Surviving are her children, Wayne Morris (Gertrude), Carolyn Green (Donald) and Johnny Morris (Patsy), all of Sumter; grandchildren, Tami Bitsky (Ken), Robert Morris (Vikki), Donna Geddings (Marty), J.R. Green (Donna), Michelle Lowder and Danny Morris; great-grandchildren, Tara, Sarah, Robbie, Mandy, Rhiannon, Crystal and Wesley; and a great-great-grandchild, Madelyn.

She was preceded in death by a grandson, Keith; and seven siblings.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday at the Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home chapel with the Rev. Al Sims officiating. Burial will be at Evergreen Memorial Park cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Robert Morris, Robbie Morris, Danny Morris, Wesley Lowder, J.R. Green and Donnie Green.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday at Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home and other times at their respec-

tive homes.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Bethel Baptist Church, 2401 Bethel Church Road, Sumter, SC 29154; Calvary Bible Church, 770 N. Wise Drive, Sumter, SC 29153; or Alice Drive Baptist Church, 1305 Loring Mill Road, Sumter, SC 29150.

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

DOROTHY LEE PERKINS

Dorothy Lee Perkins, age 82, widow of Horace V. Perkins, died on Monday, May 7, 2018, at Palmetto Health Tuomey.

Born in South Dakota, she was a daughter of the late Elston and Signe Shamburger. Dorothy loved her family and was mom and grandma to everyone she met. To know her was to love her. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Dorothy is survived by one son, Rickey Lee Perkins and wife, Meg Robinson, of Columbia; one daughter, Sharen Denise Perkins of Sumter; one grandson, Bradley Clark Baker of Sumter; and one sister, Linda Shamburger of Edmondton, Canada.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Karen "Bibbi" Baker; and a brother, Rodney Shamburger.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday at the Bullock Funeral Home Chapel.

You may go to www.bullockfuneralhome.com and sign the family's guest book.

The family has chosen Bullock Funeral Home for the arrangements.



LOUISE M. VAUGHN

Louise McDuffie Vaughn, 88, entered her eternal rest on Friday, May 4, 2018, at Palmetto Health Tuomey.

Born on Feb. 10, 1930, in Sumter County, she was a daughter of the late Hatzel McDuffie and Sara Wright McDuffie Johnson. Mrs. Vaughn attended Clarks United Methodist Church, until her passing.

She leaves to cherish her memories: six children, Sarah Vaughn of the home, Jannie (Leroy) Myers and William (Ella) Vaughn II, both of Sumter, James Vaughn, Marion

Vaughn of the home and Rosa (John) Myers of Sumter; 10 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; two brothers, John McDuffie and Leroy Johnson (Mildred); one sister, Maybell Willis; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The family is receiving relatives and friends at the home, 3775 Oswego Highway, Sumter.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday at Clarks United Methodist Church, 2980 U.S. 401 North (Oswego Highway), Sumter, with the Rev. Franklin Garrett, pastor, and the Rev. Willie Lawson, eulogist.

The remains will be placed in the church at 1 p.m. for viewing until time of services.

The procession will leave at 1:20 p.m. from the home.

Burial will be at Clarks United Methodist Churchyard Cemetery.

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

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

RUBIN C. GATHERS

Rubin C. Gathers, 65, answered his master's call on Saturday, May 5, 2018, at Lexington Medical Center, West Columbia.

Born on July 6, 1952, in Sumter County, he was the eldest son of the late Carolina and Pearl Thompson Gathers. Rubin received his education in the public schools of Sumter County and was a 1971 graduate of Hillcrest High School. Rubin worked many jobs during his lifetime: bus driver, Put 'N' Take Cleaners and Georgia-Pacific. Most recently, until his health failed, he worked at Mungo Housing.

Rubin joined Wayman Chapel AME Church at a very young age and accepted Christ as his Savior there. He was very active there in his youth as a member of the youth choir and Kings Men of Wayman Chapel. He was also a member of the Wayside Singers of Sumter.

Rubin's memories will be cherished by his wife, Betty Smoot Gathers of Columbia; one son, Ruben Carnel Gathers Sr. of Sumter; three grandchildren; one stepson, John Simmons of Columbia; two brothers, Willie Charles (Diana) Gathers Sr. and Claudia (Deloris) Gathers, both of

USC FROM PAGE B1

Gamecocks' best defender in Martin's eyes and is ready to take a big jump as a sophomore. Gravett got most of the time at point guard last year and despite some reckless play — "Hassani drove me nuts last year," Martin said — should develop as a decision maker this offseason.

Add Silva, the SEC's co-defensive player of the year, and Bowen to the mix and "we're pretty close," Martin said.

Martin likes that Silva and Bowen are taking the opportunity to find out their status among NBA teams. Silva has worked out with Brooklyn, Milwaukee and Oklahoma City, although he was not among the initial invites to the NBA draft combine in Chicago starting May 16.

Martin said he talks with Silva almost every day.

Bowen's situation is different in that he has not yet played college basketball. He signed with Louisville, then was suspended when it came to light he was part of the FBI's probe into the sport.

Bowen was suspended by Louisville, then enrolled at South Carolina in January. The 6-foot-7 Bowen of Saginaw, Michigan, was part of practices for the Gamecocks this year.

Martin said Bowen declared for the draft to keep his options open should the NCAA not reinstate him. If were up to Bowen and his family, Martin said, Bowen would be a Gamecock next season.

Martin said Bowen's mother told the coach that joining South Carolina has made the player "the happiest she's seen him in a long, long time."

SP	FT	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	
LOCAL CHANNELS													
WIS	10	3	10	WIS News 10 at 7 (N)	Entertainment Tonight (N)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Send in the Clowns" A student disappears during a trip. (DVS)	Chicago Fire "One for the Ages; The Grand Gesture" Boden takes a big step toward a career. (N) (DVS)	WIS News 10 at 11 (N)	(:34) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon Alex Rodriguez; Jamie Parker. (N)				
WLTX	19	9	9	News 19 at 7pm (N)	Inside Edition (N)	The Big Bang Theory "The Bow Tie Asymmetry" (:31) Young Sheldon (Season Finale) (N)	(:01) Mom (Season Finale) A spa trip ends with Bonnie in jail. (N)	S.W.A.T. "Hunted" Hondo and Deacon must evade mercenaries. (N)	News 19 at 11pm (N)	(:35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert Annette Bening; Wyatt Cenac. (N)			
WOLO	25	5	12	Wheel of Fortune "Spa Getaway" (N)	Jeopardy! "Teachers Tournament Quarterfinals" (N)	Grey's Anatomy "Cold as Ice" One of Grey Sloan's own is injured. (N)	Station 19 "Hot Box" The team responds to a house fire. (N)	Quantico "Hell's Gate" The team must protect an ex-CIA agent. (N) (DVS)	ABC Columbia News at 11 (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live "Donald Glover; Molly Gordon; Angelique Kidjo" Donald Glover; Molly Gordon. (N)			
WRJA	27	11	14	Rick Steves' Europe	Palmetto Scene	The This Old House Hour "Smithies; Paint Stripping; Fridge Hookup" Column restoration; iron gate. (N)	Last Tango in Halifax Alan lets Celia in on a secret.	Call the Midwife (Season Finale) Sister Monica Joan's birthday. (N)	Amanpour on PBS (N)	BBC World News	NHK Newsline		
WACH	57	6	6	The Big Bang Theory "The Troll Manifestation"	The Big Bang Theory	Gotham "A Dark Knight: One Bad Day" A team of unlikely heroes helps Gotham. (N) (DVS)	Showtime at the Apollo "Week 10" Performers with various talents compete. (N) (DVS)	WACH FOX News at 10 (N) (Live)	Sports Zone	DailyMailTV (N)	TMZ (N)		
WKTC	63	4	22	Last Man Standing Mike starts a miniature tank collection.	Last Man Standing Mike builds a shed for Vanessa.	Supernatural "Exodus" The duo devises a plan to save lives. (N)	Arrow "The Ties That Bind" Felicity gets a chance to stop Diaz. (N)	Law & Order: Criminal Intent "The Good Child" Witness protection.	Law & Order: Criminal Intent "Beast" A woman dies from dioxin poisoning.	The Game Malik invites Blue to a party.			
CABLE CHANNELS													
A&E	46	130	The First 48 "The Invitation" A young man shot to death at a party.	The First 48 "The Invitation" A young man shot to death at a party.	The First 48 "The Invitation" A young man shot to death at a party.	Marcia Clark Investigates "Billionaire Boys Club" (Season Finale) Billionaire Boys Club leader Joe Hunt. (N)	(:03) The First 48 "Fatal Mistake" A night out leaves an innocent man dead.	(12:03) The First 48					
AMC	48	180	(4:55) *** "Open Range" (2003) Robert Duvall, Kevin Costner.	*** "Escape Plan" (2013, Action) Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jim Caviezel. A security expert must break out of a formidable prison.	*** "Escape Plan" (2013, Action) Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jim Caviezel. A security expert must break out of a formidable prison.	(:35) *** "Escape Plan" (2013, Action) Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger. A security expert must break out of a formidable prison.							
ANPL	41	100	North Woods Law: Uncuffed "Speed Kills" An injured deer; reckless drivers. (N)	Lone Star Law: Bigger and Better (N)	Lone Star Law "Danger at Dawn" (N)	Lone Star Law "Are We Done Yet?" (2007, Children's) Ice Cube, Nia Long, John C. McGinley. A bizarre contractor complicates a family's move to the suburbs.							
BET	61	162	(4:38) *** "Sparkle" (2012) Tormont a man on a road trip.	Southern Charm "Pulp Friction" Patricia encourages Thomas to propose.	Southern Charm Naomie prepares to open the restaurant. (N)	Imposters "That's Enough. Off You Go." (N)	Watch What Happens Live	Southern Charm Naomie prepares to open the restaurant.					
BRAVO	47	181	Southern Charm "All Talk No Action" Cameron's due date approaches.	Southern Charm "Pulp Friction" Patricia encourages Thomas to propose.	Southern Charm Naomie prepares to open the restaurant. (N)	Imposters "That's Enough. Off You Go." (N)	Watch What Happens Live	Southern Charm Naomie prepares to open the restaurant.					
CNBC	35	84	Shark Tank	Shark Tank A darts-like card game.	Shark Tank (DVS)	Jay Leno's Garage "Down and Dirty" (N)	Jay Leno's Garage "The Motor City" (N)	Jay Leno's Garage "The Motor City" (N)	Jay Leno's Garage "The Motor City" (N)	Jay Leno's Garage "The Motor City" (N)	Jay Leno's Garage "The Motor City" (N)	Jay Leno's Garage "The Motor City" (N)	
CNN	3	80	Erin Burnett OutFront (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)	
COM	57	136	The Office "Work Bus"	The Office "Here Comes Trouble"	The Office "The Boat"	The Office "The Whale"	Drunk History "Cleveland"	Drunk History "S... Shows"	Drunk History "San Francisco"	Drunk History "Wild West"	The Daily Show With Trevor Noah	The Opposition w/ Jordan Klepper (N)	
DISN	18	200	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	DuckTales	Gravity Falls	Bunk'd Emma spies on Xander.	Bunk'd Jorge is homesick.	Stuck in the Middle	Stuck in the Middle	Raven's Home	Bunk'd	DuckTales
DSC	42	103	Naked and Afraid "Double Jeopardy" Strangers must work together to survive.	Naked and Afraid "Double Jeopardy" Strangers must work together to survive.	Naked and Afraid "Double Jeopardy" Strangers must work together to survive.	Naked and Afraid "Double Jeopardy" Strangers must work together to survive.	Naked and Afraid "Double Jeopardy" Strangers must work together to survive.	Naked and Afraid "Double Jeopardy" Strangers must work together to survive.	Naked and Afraid "Double Jeopardy" Strangers must work together to survive.	Naked and Afraid "Double Jeopardy" Strangers must work together to survive.	Naked and Afraid "Double Jeopardy" Strangers must work together to survive.	Naked and Afraid "Double Jeopardy" Strangers must work together to survive.	
ESPN	26	35	NBA Countdown (N) (Live)	NBA Countdown (N) (Live)	NBA Countdown (N) (Live)	NBA Countdown (N) (Live)	NBA Countdown (N) (Live)	NBA Countdown (N) (Live)	NBA Countdown (N) (Live)	NBA Countdown (N) (Live)	NBA Countdown (N) (Live)	NBA Countdown (N) (Live)	
ESPN2	27	39	NFL Live	NFL Live	NFL Live	NFL Live	NFL Live	NFL Live	NFL Live	NFL Live	NFL Live	NFL Live	
FOOD	40	109	Chopped "Grandma Vs. Grandma"	Chopped "Mother's Day"	Chopped "Mother's Day"	Chopped "Thanks, Mom!" (N)	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Chopped	
FOXN	37	90	The Story With Martha MacCallum (N)	Tucker Carlson Tonight (N)	Tucker Carlson Tonight (N)	Hannity (N)	The Ingraham Angle (N)	The Ingraham Angle (N)	The Ingraham Angle (N)	The Ingraham Angle (N)	The Ingraham Angle (N)	Tucker Carlson	
FREE	20	131	(6:00) *** "Puss in Boots" (2011) Voices of Antonio Banderas.	Siren "Being Human" Bristol Cove mourns a loss. (N)	Siren "Being Human" Bristol Cove mourns a loss. (N)	(:01) *** "Casper" (1995, Children's) Christina Ricci, Bill Pullman, Cathy Moriarty. Teen befriends Casper, the friendly ghost.							
FSS	21	47	MLB Baseball Atlanta Braves at Miami Marlins. From Marlins Park in Miami. (N) (Live)	MLB Baseball Atlanta Braves at Miami Marlins. From Marlins Park in Miami. (N) (Live)	MLB Baseball Atlanta Braves at Miami Marlins. From Marlins Park in Miami. (N) (Live)	Braves Live! Post.	ACC All-Access	MLB Baseball Atlanta Braves at Miami Marlins.					
HALL	52	183	Last Man Standing "Help Wanted"	Last Man Standing "Help Wanted"	Last Man Standing "Help Wanted"	The Middle "The Smile"	The Middle "Valentine's Day IV"	The Middle "Winners and Losers"	The Middle "Wheel of Pain"	The Golden Girls	The Golden Girls	The Golden Girls "Triple Play"	
HGTV	39	112	Fixer Upper "Space in the Suburbs"	House Hunters	House Hunters	Flip or Flop Vegas	Flip or Flop Vegas	House Hunters (N)	Hunters Int'l	House Hunters	House Hunters	Flip or Flop Vegas	
HIST	45	110	Swamp People "Savage Showdown"	Swamp People: Blood and Guts (N)	Swamp People: Blood and Guts (N)	Swamp People "Lone Hunter" (N)	(:03) Truck Night in America (N)	(:03) Truck Night in America (N)	(:03) Truck Night in America (N)	The Tesla Files "Without a Trace"	Swamp People	Swamp People	
ION	13	18	Blue Bloods "Parenthood" A man's family is beaten and robbed.	Blue Bloods "The Life We Chose" An undercover detective is murdered.	Blue Bloods "The Life We Chose" An undercover detective is murdered.	Blue Bloods "Women With Guns" A friend of Frank's is almost attacked.	Blue Bloods "Reagan V. Reagan" Erin and Danny face each other in court.	Blue Bloods "Reagan V. Reagan" Erin and Danny face each other in court.	Blue Bloods "No Questions Asked" Danny faces a dilemma over a gun.	(:04) Little Women: LA Terra throws an old-fashioned sleepover.	(12:01) ** "We Are Marshall"	(12:01) ** "We Are Marshall"	
LIFE	50	145	Grey's Anatomy "Six Days" George's father has surgery.	** "We Are Marshall" (2006, Drama) Matthew McConaughey, Matthew Fox, Ian McShane. A new coach struggles to rebuild a college football team.	** "We Are Marshall" (2006, Drama) Matthew McConaughey, Matthew Fox, Ian McShane. A new coach struggles to rebuild a college football team.	The Rachel Maddow Show (N)	The Last Word	The Last Word	The Last Word	The 11th Hour With Brian Williams (N)	Rachel Maddow	Rachel Maddow	
MSNBC	36	92	Hardball With Chris Matthews (N)	All In With Chris Hayes (N)	All In With Chris Hayes (N)	The Rachel Maddow Show (N)	The Last Word	The Last Word	The Last Word	The 11th Hour With Brian Williams (N)	Rachel Maddow	Rachel Maddow	
NICK	16	210	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	** "Alvin and the Chipmunks" (2007) Jason Lee, David Cross.	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Friends	Friends	Friends	
PARMT	64	153	Friends	Friends	Friends	** "Miss Congeniality" (2000, Comedy) Sandra Bullock, Michael Caine, Benjamin Bratt.	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	
SYFY	58	152	(6:30) *** "Con Air" (1997, Action) Nicolas Cage, John Cusack, John Malkovich. Vicious convicts hijack their flight.	*** "Shaun of the Dead" (2004, Comedy) Simon Pegg, Kate Ashfield, Lucy Davis. Premiere. An aimless TV salesman and his friend battle zombies.	*** "Shaun of the Dead" (2004, Comedy) Simon Pegg, Kate Ashfield, Lucy Davis. Premiere. An aimless TV salesman and his friend battle zombies.	Krypton "Savage Night" A resistance movement begins to form.	The Expanse "Triple Point"						
TBS	24	156	Seinfeld "The Invitations"	Seinfeld "The Foundation"	Seinfeld "The Foundation"	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	Conan "Tracee Ellis Ross; Bush" Actress Tracee Ellis Ross. (N)	Brooklyn Nine-Nine	Brooklyn Nine-Nine	
TCM	49	186	(6:45) *** "Lord of the Jungle" (1955) Johnny Sheffield, Wayne Morris.	*** "The Blue Angel" (1930, Drama) Emil Jannings, Marlene Dietrich, Hans Albers. A prudish professor's lust for a German cabaret singer ruins him.	*** "The Blue Angel" (1930, Drama) Emil Jannings, Marlene Dietrich, Hans Albers. A prudish professor's lust for a German cabaret singer ruins him.	** "The Scarlet Empress" (1934, Biography) Marlene Dietrich, John Lodge. A young German peasant is transformed into Russian royalty.	** "The Scarlet Empress" (1934, Biography) Marlene Dietrich, John Lodge. A young German peasant is transformed into Russian royalty.	** "The Scarlet Empress" (1934, Biography) Marlene Dietrich, John Lodge. A young German peasant is transformed into Russian royalty.	** "The Scarlet Empress" (1934, Biography) Marlene Dietrich, John Lodge. A young German peasant is transformed into Russian royalty.	*** "Shanghai Express" (1932)	*** "Shanghai Express" (1932)	*** "Shanghai Express" (1932)	
TLC	43	157	My 600-Lb. Life "Milla's Story"	My 600-Lb. Life Siblings struggle at different stages. (N) (Part 2 of 2)	My 600-Lb. Life Siblings struggle at different stages. (N) (Part 2 of 2)	Skin Tight (N)	(:01) My 600-Lb. Life Siblings struggle at different stages.	(:01) My 600-Lb. Life Siblings struggle at different stages.	(:01) My 600-Lb. Life Siblings struggle at different stages.	(:01) My 600-Lb. Life Siblings struggle at different stages.	(:01) My 600-Lb. Life Siblings struggle at different stages.	(:01) My 600-Lb. Life Siblings struggle at different stages.	
TNT	23	158	NCIS: New Orleans "Pride tracks one of Hamilton's allies. (DVS)	** "London Has Fallen" (2016, Action) Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart. A Secret Service agent must save the captive U.S. president. (DVS)	** "London Has Fallen" (2016, Action) Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart. A Secret Service agent must save the captive U.S. president. (DVS)	** "Olympus Has Fallen" (2013, Action) Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart, Morgan Freeman. A disgraced agent must rescue the president. (DVS)	** "Olympus Has Fallen" (2013, Action) Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart, Morgan Freeman. A disgraced agent must rescue the president. (DVS)	** "Olympus Has Fallen" (2013, Action) Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart, Morgan Freeman. A disgraced agent must rescue the president. (DVS)	** "Olympus Has Fallen" (2013, Action) Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart, Morgan Freeman. A disgraced agent must rescue the president. (DVS)	Animal Kingdom "Betrayal"	Animal Kingdom "Betrayal"	Animal Kingdom "Betrayal"	
TRUTV	38	129	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Game Show	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	
TV LAND	55	161	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Nobodies (N)	(:32) Mom	King of Queens	
USA	25	132	** "The Lost World: Jurassic Park" (1997, Adventure) Jeff Goldblum, Julianne Moore, Pete Postlethwaite. An expedition returns to monitor dinosaurs' progress.	** "Jurassic Park III" (2001, Adventure) Sam Neill, William H. Macy, Tea Leoni. A search party encounters new breeds of prehistoric terror.	** "Jurassic Park III" (2001, Adventure) Sam Neill, William H. Macy, Tea Leoni. A search party encounters new breeds of prehistoric terror.	(:01) Hustle & Soul (Season Finale) (N)	(:15) Braxton Family Values	(:15) Braxton Family Values	(:15) Braxton Family Values	Hustle & Soul	Hustle & Soul	Hustle & Soul	
WE	68	166	Braxton Family Values	Braxton Family Values	Braxton Family Values	Braxton Family Values	Braxton Family Values	Braxton Family Values	Braxton Family Values	Braxton Family Values	Braxton Family Values	Braxton Family Values	
WGNA	8	172	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	

Are some TV comedies becoming too serious?

BY KEVIN McDONOUGH

"The Big Bang Theory" (8 p.m., CBS, TV-PG) wraps up its 11th season in a traditional fashion: a wedding episode. Look for guest stars Kathy Bates, Mark Hamill and the magician Teller to arrive on Sheldon and Amy's big day.

Meanwhile, "Young Sheldon" (8:30 p.m., CBS, TV-PG) concludes with a glance back at a precocious Sheldon getting on his grandmother's nerves when he fails to respect her privacy or her new beau's.

Also created by Chuck Lorre, the recovery comedy "Mom" (9 p.m., CBS, TV-14) airs back-to-back episodes tonight and wraps up its fifth season with Christy (Anna Farris) consumed with fear that she may succumb to old demons.

An hourlong season ender about addiction may not be everybody's idea of May sweeps fodder, but this has been a season for uncomfortable narratives.

ABC's 'black-ish' has been hurtling toward its May 15 season finale with its main characters, Bow (Tracee Ellis Ross) and Dre (Anthony Anderson), arguing and clearly facing marital difficulties, "making space" for each other and trying to put on a brave face for their kids while sorting things out.

Some critics have hailed "black-ish" for facing up to the fact that many couples do not live happily ever after. In fact, a recent episode titled "53 Percent" referred to the number of marriages that end up on the rocks.

Of course, what might be good for critics and a sense of realism may not bode well for the life and health of a television comedy. More than 40 years ago, "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" spin-off "Rhoda" debuted to strong ratings and attracted a huge audience when its title character (Valerie Harper) married construction supervisor Joe (David Groh).

Suddenly a show about a sassy New York single girl became a comedy about a married couple. To shake things up, the "Rhoda" writers decided to sabotage their relationship in the third season.

Critics then, and pop culture historians since, have praised that season as challenging, smart, daring and realistic. Viewers, however, were enraged. Groh received hate mail

and letters insisting he and Rhoda patch things up. Ratings plummeted, and after stumbling through a fourth season, Rhoda was yanked midway through its fifth.

That's something for 'black-ish' fans to think about while we watch Bow and Dre bicker and fight.

- Best known for period costume dramas ("Bleak House," "South Riding" "The Bletchley Circle"), Anna Maxwell Martin stars as an overly organized mother of two in the British comedy "Motherland," streaming on Sundance Now, AMC's premium subscription service.

TONIGHT'S OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Anarchy descends on "Gotham" (8 p.m., Fox, TV-14).
- Doctors care for one of their own on "Grey's Anatomy" (8 p.m. ABC, TV-14).
- A sudden loss evokes new feelings in Ryn on "Siren" (8 p.m., Freeform, TV-14).
- The first season of "Marcia Clark Investigates the First 48" (9 p.m., A&E, TV-14) wraps up with a glance back at the so-called "Billionaire Boys Club" murder mystery.
- Boden makes a major career move on a two-hour "Chicago Fire" (9 p.m., NBC, TV-14).
- Pruitt tries to lower Andy's expectations on "Station 19" (9 p.m., ABC, TV-14).
- Armed mercenaries head for the hills on "S.W.A.T." (10 p.m., CBS, TV-14).
- The team targets a cartel on "Quantico" (10 p.m., ABC, TV-PG).
- Money and motivation don't always mix on the season finale of "Atlanta" (10 p.m., FX, TV-MA).

CULT CHOICE

A professor (Emil Jannings) loses his dignity in pursuit of a cabaret singer (Marlene Dietrich) in director Josef von Sternberg's 1930 drama "The Blue Angel" (8 p.m., TCM).



DARREN MICHAELS / WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT INC.

Allison Janney stars as Bonnie and Anna Farris as Christy in the "Diamond Earrings and a Pumpkin Head" fifth season finale of "Mom," airing at 9:30 p.m. today on CBS.

ch) in director Josef von Sternberg's 1930 drama "The Blue Angel" (8 p.m., TCM).

SERIES NOTES

A child vanishes during a class trip on "Law & Order: SVU" (8 p.m., NBC, r, TV-14) * A life-saving scheme on "Supernatural" (8 p.m., CW, TV-14) * Diaz takes aim on "Arrow" (9 p.m., CW, TV-14).

LATE NIGHT

Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-Texas) is booked on "The Daily Show With Trevor Noah" (11 p.m., Comedy Central) * Tracee Ellis Ross and Bush appear on "Conan" (11 p.m., TBS) * Annette Bening, Wyatt Cenac and Daniel Boulud are booked on "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" (11:35 p.m., CBS) * Jimmy Fallon welcomes Alex Rodriguez, Jamie Parker and Arctic Mon-

keys on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC) * Donald Glover, Molly Gordon and Angelique Kidjo appear on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" (11:35 p.m., ABC) * Michael Shannon, August Greene and Aaron Spears visit "Late Night With Seth Meyers"

(12:35 a.m., NBC) * Bill Hader, Gabrielle Union and X Ambassadors appear on "The Late Late Show With James Corden" (12:35 a.m., CBS).

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



In Loving Memory of Rev. Emma W. Thompson
3/9/20-5/10/17
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Liquor License

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Liquor License

and telephone number of the person filing the protest; (2) the specific reasons why the application should be denied; (3) that the person protesting is willing to attend a hearing (if one is requested by the applicant); (4) that the person protesting resides in the same county where the proposed place of business is located or within five miles of the business; and (5) the name of the applicant and the address of the premises to be licensed. Protests must be mailed to: S.C. Department of Revenue, ATTN: ABL, P.O. Box 125, Columbia, South Carolina 29214; or Faxed to: (803) 896-0110.

Summons & Notice

SUMMONS

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS CIVIL ACTION NO: 2018-CP-43-00442

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF SUMTER

Victoria Cox, **PLAINTIFF,**
vs.
Roger Dale Anderson and Joseph Vernon Cooper, Jr., **DEFENDANTS.**

TO THE DEFENDANT, JOSEPH VERNON COOPER, JR., HEREIN NAMED:

You are hereby summoned and required to answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your answer to the said Complaint on the subscribers at their offices at 17 East Calhoun Street, Sumter, South Carolina, within thirty (30) days of such service; and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

NOTICE OF FILING COMPLAINT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Complaint was filed in the above entitled action in the Sumter County Clerk of Court's Office on March 13, 2018, for the purpose of instituting an action against the Defendant as a result of an auto accident which occurred April 6, 2015.

BRYAN LAW FIRM OF SC, L.L.P.
John R. Moorman
Attorney for the Plaintiff
17 East Calhoun Street
P. O. Box 2038
Sumter, SC 29151
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