

Trump strikes affirmative action policy

Administration says schools don't have to consider race as part of admission decisions

BY ERIC TUCKER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration said the government would no longer encourage schools to use race as a factor in the admissions

process, rescinding Obama-era guidance meant to promote diversity among students.

The shift announced Tuesday gives colleges the federal government's blessing to leave race out of admissions and enrollment decisions and underscores the contentious politics that for decades have surrounded affirmative action policies, which have repeatedly been challenged before the Supreme Court.

The Obama administration memos encouraging schools to take race into account were among 24 policy documents revoked by the Justice Department for being "unnecessary, outdated, inconsistent with existing law, or otherwise improper." Attorney General Jeff Sessions called the changes an effort to restore the "rule of law," though civil rights groups decried the move and some universities said they intended to continue their diversity ef-

forts as before.

The action comes amid a high-profile court fight over Harvard University admissions that has attracted the government's attention, as well as Supreme Court turnover expected to produce a more critical eye toward schools' race-conscious admissions policies.

The court's most recent significant

SEE **ADMISSIONS**, PAGE A6

'Welcome to my sunflower, y'all!'



A bee collects pollen from a sunflower in a sunflower field in Pinewood on Sunday evening.

MELANIE SMITH / THE SUMTER ITEM

Horticulture expert wants to help local gardeners

Smoak joins Sumter's Clemson Extension branch as an agent

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

With yard work in full bloom this summer and local gardeners putting in extra work because of the heat, at least one local man is excited to share

his knowledge of gardening after joining Sumter County Clemson Extension Office as consumer horticulture agent.

SMOAK

Chase Smoak, 30, son of Joey

Smoak, founder and co-owner of Smoak Irrigation, grew up around gardening and is ready to help others with their yard work.

Smoak gained interest in gardening while working with nursery plants alongside his father and developed an interest in plant propagation — creating new plants from cuttings, seeds and other plant parts — while attending Clemson University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture.

Before attending Clemson, Smoak spent four years in the Marine Corps infantry and deployed to Afghanistan.

He now specializes in plant propagation, ornamental plants, native plants and arboriculture and is looking forward to interacting with the community regarding those subjects.

"I enjoy working with plants," he said.

Since he started working with Clemson Extension on June 11, Smoak's responsibilities include assisting homeowners with horticultural questions and coordinating the county's Master Gardener program.

He works exclusively in Sumter County but accepts calls from residents of neighboring counties.

Smoak has also been on "Making it Grow," a gardening show produced by South Carolina ETV and Clemson University, as a panel member.

"I look forward to serving Sumter county and the great people who call it home," he said.

Chase Smoak can be reached by phone at the Sumter County Clemson Extension Office at (803) 773-5561 or by email, Jsmoakj@clemson.edu.

SEE **GUIDE**, PAGE A6

Sumter Item to premiere schools welcome guide

Comprehensive magazine to be distributed to every student, staff member

BY KAYLA ROBINS
kayla@theitem.com

With summer in full swing and the return of school fast approaching, *The Sumter Item* is full-steam ahead on a new magazine that will come out this fall.

The 2018-19 Sumter School District Welcome Guide will be the public schools' official back-to-school magazine and will include need-to-know information such as school calendars, hours and individual school contact information as well as spotlight stories on specific programs, both brand new and ongoing, and other student achievement success stories.

"It will shine a bright light on the great work happening by our local students and teachers and feature the progress being made by the district as a whole," *Sumter Item* Publisher Vince

Johnson said.

In partnership with Sumter School District and Thompson Construction Group, a copy of the comprehensive guide will be distributed starting Aug. 13 to each of the approximately 17,000 students and 3,000 staff members by district staff on orientation days. Additional copies will be available to incoming residents, at Shaw Air Force Base, at high-traffic community events and on racks throughout the year.

"We are thrilled about the opportunity to partner with *The Sumter Item* in order to provide a glimpse into Sumter School District through the Welcome Guide," Interim Superintendent Debbie Hamm said. "The upcoming school year will be filled with innovation and excitement. We plan to build upon the programs we currently have in place while embarking on a number of new initiatives, which include the R.E. Davis College Preparatory Academy and Cherryvale Elementary STEAM program in addition to the expansion of AVID, NMSI, Leader in Me, Core Knowledge and National STEM Accreditation throughout

many of our schools."

Whether you or your student are joining the district for the first year or have gone through K-12 and are looking ahead to next steps, this magazine will provide information on programs and paths that public school students have at their disposal. A highlight will include more information about the two new schools that were formed out of the consolidation of the former F.J. DeLaine Elementary School into a combined K-5 elementary school at Cherryvale with a specialized STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) curriculum and the former Mayewood Middle School into R.E. Davis for a combined K-8 college prep academy.

Hamm said support from community partners has been "invaluable."

Thompson Construction Group has been one of those community partners working to increase opportunities within the public school system.

"The children who attend these schools are the future of our community, not just intellectually, but socially

SEE **GUIDE**, PAGE A6

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Marion Samuel McEwan
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Annette Canty
Maggie McFadden McMillian

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HUMID AND STORMY
A stray afternoon thunderstorm is possible; partly cloudy and humid tonight
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SECOND FRONT

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Summerton officer to be laid to rest Friday

BY SHARRON HALEY
Special to The Sumter Item

SUMMERTON — Hundreds of law enforcement officers will lay one of their own to rest Friday morning after an early Monday morning accident on Interstate 95 claimed the life of a Summerton police officer.

Carl Winford Wiggins, 63, was killed around 6:30 a.m. Monday when his Chevrolet Blazer was struck by an 18-wheel tractor trailer near mile marker 100 in the outside, southbound lane of I-95.

According to Summerton Police Chief Ray Perdue, Wiggins was on his

way home from work when he ran out of gas near the crest of the bridge as it crosses Lake Marion. Perdue said another officer was on his way to assist Wiggins when the accident occurred.

The active north-south interstate was closed for more than three hours while emergency personnel worked at the scene.

Clarendon County Coroner Bucky Mock said Wiggins died immediately upon impact with the truck. While no autopsy has been planned, Mock said toxicology results are pending.

Lt. Bob Beres with the South Carolina Highway Patrol said no charges have been filed against the driver of the

truck and that the SCHP's Multi-disciplinary Accident Investigation Team was investigating the accident.

Services for the 35-year law enforcement veteran will be held at 10 a.m. Friday at Avinger Funeral Home Chapel, 2274 Eutaw Road, Holly Hill, with interment following in Holly Hill Cemetery.

"Our officers will be escorting the family from the home to the funeral and then to the cemetery," Perdue said Tuesday afternoon. "I've been in contact with the Holly Hill police, and they're planning on being there too. I believe the Charleston Honor Guard will also take part in the ceremony."

Perdue said that motorcycle officers

from across the state will also be on hand offering their respects to a fellow rider and a fallen peer.

"He loved riding his motorcycle," Perdue added. "He'd ride it to work. He loved taking trips on it."

Perdue described Wiggins as a "good man" and a good law enforcement officer.

"He'd do anything I asked him to do," Perdue added. "That was the kind of man and person he was. He loved his job."

Perdue said officers and supporters were looking into the possibility of setting up a GoFundMe page to help defray funeral costs.

Fireworks show left some asking 'what happened?'

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

At least some Sumterites who took in Saturday's Fireworks in the Park at Dillon Park said they left a little disappointed by the length of the show.

By some spectators' estimates, the fireworks lasted all of 10 or 11 minutes on Saturday night.

On Monday, Sumter resident Shannon Loveday shared some his views on the City of Sumter's Facebook page:

"Worse fireworks display ever," Loveday said. "What happened? Cut backs? Family disappointed."

Fireworks in the Park was sponsored by the City of Sumter and Sumter County to commemorate Independence Day.

On the city and county's behalf, it did not seem that a lot of Sumterites took to social media to air their disappointment with the show — at least to a few casual Facebook and social media observers.

When Sumter County Recreation and Parks Director Phil Parnell was contacted Tuesday for his explanation on the show's short length, he said the show wasn't short at all.

"It was 13 and a half minutes," Parnell said. "I didn't see anything wrong with it. It was a pretty show."

He said his department had not received any phone calls as of Tuesday morning from the public complaining about the show.

Parnell said last year's Fireworks in the Park show was 18.5 minutes.



Fireworks explode over Dillon Park on Saturday night, part of Fireworks in the Park sponsored by the City of Sumter and Sumter County.

MELANIE SMITH / THE SUMTER ITEM

WWJD? Alleged thief dons Jesus cap

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

A man wearing an "I love Jesus" hat is accused of straying from the path of righteousness for allegedly stealing \$60 worth of undergarments from a store on Monday afternoon.

The store cashier told responding officers she saw about six packs of white undershirts hanging out of the man's khaki shorts pockets when he intentionally walked out of the store in the 500 block of North Lafayette Drive without paying, states an incident report from Sumter Police Department.

Officers were unable to locate the Jesus-loving bandit at the time the report was submitted on Monday.

Columbia requests federal help to investigate 14 fires

COLUMBIA (AP) — Federal authorities have been asked to help investigate after 14 fires have been reported within a few miles of each other in less than three months in South Carolina's capital city.

Columbia Police Chief Skip Holbrook said a house fire around 2 p.m. Tuesday was the latest blaze in neighborhoods just north and northeast of downtown Columbia.

Holbrook says authorities have determined five of the 14 fires reported since April 21 were intentionally set and are still investigating the others. The chief says investigators have found similar evidence at many of the fires.

Holbrook said in a statement he has asked state agents and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to join the investigation.

Authorities say many of the fires have burned vacant homes.

Teen selling sweetgrass roses arrested at market

CHARLESTON (AP) — A 16-year-old arrested and sent to a juvenile jail after police said he was selling sweetgrass roses without a permit at a popular South Carolina market would have just been taken home if he hadn't fought with an officer, Charleston's police chief said.

The officer had noted the teen selling the art, called Palmetto Roses, for several weeks as he walked in traffic near Charleston's City Market, according to a police report.

The 16-year-old fought with the officer Monday, and it took several wit-

nesses to get the teen in custody, Charleston Police Chief Luther Reynolds said.

The teen was charged with breaking a city ordinance requiring a license to sell Palmetto Roses. Charleston created the Palmetto Artisan Program a decade ago to regulate selling the art.

Video of parts of the struggle between the officer and the teen were posted to social media sites, some praising the officer and other posts suggesting he was using excessive force.

"This isn't the outcome that we want, but from what I have learned thus far I

think the officer handled this situation appropriately considering the difficult circumstances," Reynolds said in a statement.

The teen's lawyer, Marvin Pendarvis, told *The Post and Courier* of Charleston the teen was released from juvenile jail Tuesday, and there are conflicting stories about what happened.

"We are continuing to investigate the matter," Pendarvis said. "It's my understanding that there's some conflicting testimony or statements. As we proceed further, I want to make sure we do our best to represent this man."

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Why they fight: U.S., China brawl over high technology

WASHINGTON (AP) — To understand why the United States and China stand on the brink of a trade war, consider the near-death experience of American Superconductor Corp.

The company, known as AMSC and based in Massachusetts, was reeling after a Chinese partner stole its technology — the electronic brains that run wind turbines. The loss was devastating: AMSC's stock shed \$1 billion in value, and the company cut 700 jobs, more than half its workforce.

"Attempted corporate homicide" is what CEO Daniel McGahn called it. In January, its Chinese partner, Sinovel Wind Group, was convicted in a U.S. court of stealing AMSC's trade secrets.

To the Trump administration, Sinovel's predatory practices are hardly isolated. Beijing, it charges, is orchestrating a brass-knuckles campaign to supplant U.S. technological dominance and over the next few decades make Chinese companies global leaders in such fields as robotics and electric vehicles.

According to a report by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Beijing's tactics include coercing American companies to hand over trade secrets in return for access to the Chinese market; forcing U.S. businesses to license technology in China on unfavorable terms; using state funds to buy up American technology; and sometimes outright theft.

Critics have long asserted that China runs roughshod over intellectual property rights. But President Donald Trump, who ran for the White House on a vow to force China to reform its trade policies, is the first U.S. leader to risk a trade war between the world's two biggest economies.

"We've been in a trade war for a long time, but we weren't participating," said Richard Ellings, president of the National Bureau of Asian Research. "We've awakened. ... This is a fundamental change. It's a historic moment."

Critics argue, though, that while Trump has picked the right fight, he has chosen the wrong weapon. They predict China will defy an array of U.S. tariffs set to take effect Friday and will retaliate immediately. And they warn that the escalating trade war will slow global growth and jeopardize the second-longest economic expan-



Container ships wait to be unloaded at the Port of Oakland on Monday in Oakland, California. The Trump administration on Friday will start imposing tariffs on \$34 billion in Chinese imports.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

sion in U.S. history.

Many analysts say the United States should have enlisted key allies like Japan and the European Union — which share U.S. complaints about Chinese trade policies — to impose unified pressure on Beijing. Instead, the U.S. is engaging in trade disputes with its friends over imported steel, aluminum and autos.

"There is no way to meaningfully influence Chinese behavior on intellectual property without coordination among like-minded advanced nations, and presently there is almost none," said Daniel Rosen of the economic research firm Rhodium Group.

Barring a last-minute breakthrough, the Trump administration will impose tariffs this week on \$34 billion in Chinese products that have benefited from China's strong-arm policies.

Once Beijing responds with retaliatory tariffs, as it has said it will, the combat could escalate. Trump has said he is prepared to slap taxes on up to \$450 billion in Chinese imports, or nearly 90 percent of the goods China shipped to the United States last year.

Peter Navarro, the White House trade adviser, has said the United States needs to protect its high-tech "crown jewels" from predatory Chinese practices.

The stakes go beyond the

economy. Many of today's advanced technologies — the ability to collect and analyze vast amounts of data, for instance — have military uses.

"Today, the acquisition of a Silicon Valley startup or even a health care provider may raise just as serious concerns from a national security perspective as the acquisition of a defense or aerospace company," Assistant U.S. Treasury Secretary Heath Tarbert told Congress in April.

That's why the United States in January effectively blocked the acquisition of the money transfer service MoneyGram by China's Ant Financial. Concerns were raised that the deal would give China access to the financial records of millions of Americans, including members of the military.

The U.S. says the Chinese government blurs the lines between state and private companies by bankrolling deals like Geely's 2010 purchase of Volvo Cars and appliance manufacturer Media's 2016 acquisition of German robotics maker Kuka.

In 2017, Trump vetoed the sale of a U.S. semiconductor manufacturer to a Chinese investor as a threat to national security after Washington concluded the financing came from China's government.

U.S. officials see a threat in Beijing's long-range development plan, called Made in China 2025. The plan calls for

creating powerful Chinese players in such areas as information technology, robotics, aerospace equipment, electric vehicles and biopharmaceuticals. Foreign business groups argue that Made in China 2025 is unfairly forcing them to the sidelines in those industries.

Whatever the reasons, China has been gaining traction. Stephen Ezell, director of global innovation policy at the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation think tank, said China has raised its share of global output in 18 high-tech manufacturing industries from 8 percent in 2003 to 27 percent now. It is now the world's largest exporter of high-tech products.

Tim Tangredi, CEO of Dais

Analytic in Odessa, Florida, supports Trump's aggressive moves, likening the U.S. tariff threat to America's "shock and awe" military campaign against Iraq in 2003.

About four years ago, Dais had lined up a Chinese company to help develop its business in nanotechnology that helps produce clean water. But the partnership imploded. Tangredi said the Chinese company persuaded a long-time Dais employee to defect with trade secrets.

"They just stole it, and they are using it against us," he said.

Tangredi said he hopes the threat of a trade war will force China to rethink its practices: "You've got to do something to get their attention."

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UK anti-terror police join 'unknown substance' probe

BY MATT DUNHAM AND DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

AMESBURY, England — British counterterrorism police were investigating Wednesday after two people were left in critical condition, exposed to an unknown substance a few miles from where a former Russian spy and his daughter were poisoned with a nerve agent.

The Wiltshire Police force declared a "major incident" after a man and a woman in their 40s were hospitalized after being found unconscious Saturday at a residential building in Amesbury, eight miles from Salisbury, where Sergei and Yulia Skripal were poisoned on March 4.

London's Metropolitan Police force said "given the recent events in Salisbury," counterterrorism officers were working with local police on the investigation. British media reported that samples of the mystery substance had been sent to the Porton Down defense research laboratory for testing.

Police cordoned off a home and other places the two people visited before falling ill, including a nearby church and a pharmacy, but health officials said there was not thought to be a wider risk to the public.

A major incident is a designation allowing British authorities to mobilize more than one emergency agency.

The emergency services' response echoes that in the case of the Skripals, whose illness initially baffled doctors after they were found unconscious on a park bench in Salisbury. Scientists at Porton Down concluded they had been poisoned with Novichok, a type of nerve agent developed by the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

Britain accuses Russia of poisoning the Skripals, a claim Moscow strongly denies. The poisoning sparked a Cold War-style diplomatic crisis between Russia and the West, including the expulsion of hundreds of diplomats from both sides.

The two Amesbury victims were being treated at Salisbury District Hospital, where the Skripals spent weeks in critical condition.

Police said authorities initially thought the latest victims might have taken a contaminated batch of



British police officers stand outside a residential property in Amesbury, England, on Wednesday. British police have declared a "major incident" after two people were exposed to an unknown substance in the town and are cordoning off various places the people are known to have visited in the area before falling ill.

heroin or crack cocaine.

"However, further testing is now ongoing to establish the substance which led to these patients becoming ill, and we are keeping an open mind as to the circumstances surrounding this incident," police said in a statement. "At this stage, it is not yet clear if a crime has been committed."

Sergei Skripal, 67, is a former Russian intelligence officer who was convicted of spying for Britain before coming to the U.K. as part of a 2010 prisoner swap. He had been living quietly in Salisbury, a cathedral city 90 miles southwest of London, when he was struck down along with his 33-year-old daughter Yulia, who was visiting him.

Residents of the street at the center of the Amesbury investigation — in a quiet neighborhood of newly

built houses and apartments — said they had received little information about the unknown substance from authorities.

"Amesbury's a lovely place — it's very quiet, uneventful," said Rosemary Northing, who lives a couple of hundred yards away from the cordoned-off building. "So for this to happen, and the media response and the uncertainty, it's unsettling."

Neighbors said police cars and fire engines descended on the home late Saturday. Student Chloe Edwards said she saw people in "green suits" — like those worn by forensics officers — and her family was told to stay inside their home for several hours.

"We wanted to know what happened. And with the Russian attack happening not long ago, we just assumed the worst," Edwards said.

Among the sites cordoned off was a Baptist church where the victims attended a community event on Saturday. Church secretary Roy Collins said about 200 people were at the neighborhood event, but "nobody else has suffered any ill effects."

Police from 40 departments in England and Wales had just returned home in June after months of working on the Skripals' poisoning. Wiltshire Police spent about \$10 million dealing with the aftermath of the Skripals' poisoning and think that his front door was contaminated with the nerve agent.

Doctors who treated the Skripals say they have made a remarkable recovery but they still don't know what the long-term prognosis is.

The Skripals have been taken to an undisclosed location for their protection.

What's a retired justice to do? Former justices show the way

BY JESSICA GRESKO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For more than 30 years, Justice Anthony Kennedy has lived by the Supreme Court's predictable calendar: hearing new cases beginning on the first Monday in October, arguments starting at 10 a.m. and near-weekly conferences with colleagues until the court adjourns in June. Soon, he'll have no fixed schedule.

Kennedy, 81, hasn't said what he'll do with all his upcoming free time. The three most recent retirees from the court — John Paul Stevens, David Souter and Sandra Day O'Connor — each charted somewhat different paths.

In announcing last week that he is stepping down, Kennedy said he wanted to spend more time with his family. Former clerks say Kennedy, a father of three and "Papa" to nine grandchildren, is an enthusiastic grandparent, one who has attended grandkids' T-ball games and ballet performances. He spoke at the high school graduations of two of his grandchildren this year and has talked about seeing "Hamilton" with his grandchildren on Broadway.

This summer, Kennedy is teaching at the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law's program in Austria, a practice of his for decades. He's taught in

some capacity for the California school since 1965, and the school's dean has already offered him any teaching gig he wants after he leaves the court, though Kennedy hasn't made any commitments.

Former clerks also noted Kennedy's longtime interest in China and said they could see him continuing to be an ambassador for the law and for civility in the legal profession.

How the three most recent retirees from the court have been spending their time:

JOHN PAUL STEVENS

Stevens, 98, hasn't stopped writing since he left the court in 2010 and became a permanent resident of a state with its share of retirees: Florida. A year after leaving the court, Stevens published a memoir, "Five Chiefs," about the five chief justices he served under. A second book, "Six Amendments: How and Why We Should Change the Constitution," followed in 2014. One of the amendments the liberal justice proposed revising was the Second Amendment.

Stevens returned to the topic again this year. After marches following the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, in which 17 people died, Stevens wrote an essay for *The New York Times* calling not only for significant gun control legislation, but also the Second

Amendment's repeal.

What issues, if any, Kennedy might speak out on are an open question, though he's spoken harshly in the past about solitary confinement.

DAVID SOUTER

Souter, 78, never really liked Washington and quickly returned to his home state of New Hampshire after leaving the court in 2009. He was just shy of 70 when he retired, more than a decade younger than Kennedy.

Before joining the Supreme Court, Souter had been a judge on the federal appeals court based in Boston, and he's served on the court regularly in retirement, hearing more than 400 cases. Kennedy could also sit as a visiting judge on other courts. He was a judge on the San Francisco-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit before joining the Supreme Court.

Not all retired justices are interested in wearing judicial robes again. Stevens, who served on the federal appeals court based in Chicago before joining the Supreme Court, told an interviewer in 2011 that serving as a judge again in retirement wasn't for him.

"I kind of like not having to read a lot of briefs and get reversed by my former colleagues," Stevens said. After Kennedy's retirement announcement, Stevens issued a statement that said

in part that Kennedy had "earned the right to enjoy a more leisurely life without the constant burden of reading briefs."

SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

O'Connor, 88, left the court in 2006 under unhappy circumstances. Her husband was suffering from Alzheimer's disease and O'Connor, then 75, retired in part to care for him. He died in 2009.

Like Souter, the Arizona native returned to her home state and served as a visiting appeals court judge, hearing more than 175 cases and serving with all but two of the nation's 13 federal ap-

peals courts. She also founded iCivics, an organization that promotes civic education in schools.

In 2009, O'Connor expressed regret that some of her decisions were being "dismantled" following her departure, with Kennedy generally taking her place as the court's crucial vote in cases where the justices split 5-4.

In 2010, shortly after Kennedy authored the court's 5-4 decision in the Citizens United campaign finance case, O'Connor told an audience: "Gosh, I step away for a couple of years, and there's no telling what's going to happen."

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Watchdog: Group uncovering IS mass graves needs help

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrians working to uncover mass graves in an area once ruled by the Islamic State group need help to preserve evidence, identify human remains and shed more light on the horrors perpetrated by the militants, an international watchdog said Tuesday.

Human Rights Watch said thousands of bodies — of civilians slain by the extremists, residents killed in airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition and of IS fighters — remain to be recovered in several mass graves in and around the city of Raqqa. The appeal came in a new report released Tuesday by the New York-based group.

Local members of the Raqqa Civil Council, a governing body set up by U.S.-backed and Kurdish-led forces, are "struggling to cope with the logistical challenges of collecting and organizing information" on the bodies uncovered and providing it to families searching for missing or dead relatives, HRW said.

Raqqa was the extremists' de facto capital and the seat of their self-proclaimed caliphate, which at the height of their power in 2014 stretched across a third of both Syria and Iraq. Since then an array of Syrian and Iraqi forces have driven IS from virtually all the territory it once held, but the group is still present in remote areas along the border.

The extremist group, which attracted fighters from around the world, carried out mass killings and other atrocities, including public beheadings. Women and men accused of adultery were stoned to death, while men thought to be gay were thrown from the tops of buildings and then pelted with stones.

Human Rights Watch said identifying missing people and preserving evidence for possible prosecutions is critical for Syria's future.

"Raqqa city has at least nine mass graves, each one estimated to have dozens, if not hundreds, of bodies, making exhumations a monumental task," said Priyanka Motaparthi, acting emergencies director at HRW.

"Without the right technical assistance, these exhumations may not provide families with the answers they have been waiting for and could damage or destroy evidence crucial to future justice efforts," she added.

HRW quoted Yasser al-Khames, head of first responders in Raqqa, as saying that land mines further complicate exhumations.

Recovery and analysis of remains from mass graves is a complex process that requires a high level of expertise. Exhu-

mations carried out without forensic experts can destroy critical evidence and complicate the identification of bodies, the report said.

The team in Raqqa, for instance, didn't take photographs of bodies in accordance with international forensic standards, which is important in documentation, HRW said.

Ibrahim al-Hassan, the head of the U.S.-backed Raqqa Reconstruction Committee, said the enormity of the task only became clear after the team of first responders began its work.

"We didn't expect to have that many graves, and there could be even more," he said by telephone from Raqqa.

The first responders prioritize emergency and rescue work but have expanded their ranks in order to deploy forensics teams to excavate mass graves. Al-Hassan said his committee has asked the U.S. to provide labs and DNA testing facilities but has yet to receive them.

"Our work currently is primitive," he said.

Hammoud Shawakh, who coordinates between the U.S. and the Raqqa Reconstruction Committee, said the U.S.-led coalition has provided \$500,000 to the first responders so far this year. But he said DNA testing facilities are not widely available on the local market and would need to be provided by the U.S.

HRW's report said the first responders uncovered a mass grave at the city's al-Rashid playing field last month containing 553 bodies and had begun work on a second one. A video released last month by the Raqqa Civil Council showed members of the team removing the bodies of men, women and children and placing them in blue bags.

In 2016, The Associated Press documented and mapped 72 mass graves in Iraq and Syria, with many more expected to be uncovered. In Syria, the AP obtained locations for 17 mass graves, including one with the bodies of hundreds of members of a single tribe all but exterminated when IS extremists took over their region.

At the time, between 5,200 and more than 15,000 people were thought buried in the graves.

How much all-seeing AI surveillance is too much?

BOSTON (AP) — When a CIA-backed venture capital fund took an interest in Rana el Kaliouby's face-scanning technology for detecting emotions, the computer scientist and her colleagues did some soul-searching — and then turned down the money.

"We're not interested in applications where you're spying on people," said el Kaliouby, the CEO and co-founder of the Boston startup Affectiva. The company has trained its artificial intelligence systems to recognize if individuals are happy or sad, tired or angry, using a photographic repository of more than 6 million faces.

Recent advances in AI-powered computer vision have accelerated the race for self-driving cars and powered the increasingly sophisticated photo-tagging features found on Facebook and Google. But as these prying AI "eyes" find new applications in store checkout lines, police body cameras and war zones, the tech companies developing them are struggling to balance business opportunities with difficult moral decisions that could turn off customers or their own workers.

El Kaliouby said it's not hard to imagine using real-time face recognition to pick up on dishonesty — or, in the hands of an authoritarian regime, to monitor reaction to political speech in order to root out dissent. But the small firm, which spun off from an MIT research lab, has set limits on what it will do.

The company has shunned "any security, airport, even lie detection stuff," el Kaliouby said. Instead, Affectiva has partnered with automakers trying to help tired-looking drivers stay awake, and with consumer brands that want to know if people respond to a product with joy or disgust.

Such queasiness reflects new qualms about the capabilities and possible abuses of all-seeing, always-watching AI camera systems — even as authorities are growing more eager to use them.

In the immediate aftermath of Thursday's deadly shooting at a newspaper in Annapolis, Maryland, police said they turned to face rec-



Rana el Kaliouby, CEO of the Boston-based artificial intelligence firm Affectiva demonstrates its facial recognition technology in Boston.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ognition to identify the uncooperative suspect. They did so by tapping a state database that includes mug shots of past arrestees and, more controversially, everyone who registered for a Maryland driver's license.

Initial information given to law enforcement authorities said that police had turned to facial recognition because the suspect had damaged his fingerprints in an apparent attempt to avoid identification. That report turned out to be incorrect and police said they used facial recognition because of delays in getting fingerprint identification.

In June, Orlando International Airport announced plans to require face-identification scans of passengers on all arriving and departing international flights by the end of this year. Several other U.S. airports have already been using such scans for some, but not all, departing international flights.

Chinese firms and municipalities are already using intelligent cameras to shame jaywalkers in real time and to surveil ethnic minorities, subjecting some to detention and political indoctrination. Closer to home, the overhead cameras and sensors in Amazon's new cashier-less store in Seattle aim to make shoplifting obsolete by tracking every item shoppers pick up and put back down.

Concerns over the technology can shake even the largest tech firms. Google, for instance, recently said it will exit a defense contract after employees protested the military application of the com-

pany's AI technology. The work involved computer analysis of drone video footage from Iraq and other conflict zones.

Similar concerns about government contracts have stirred up internal discord at Amazon and Microsoft. Google has since published AI guidelines emphasizing uses that are "socially beneficial" and that avoid "unfair bias."

Amazon, however, has so far deflected growing pressure from employees and privacy advocates to halt Rekognition, a powerful face-recognition tool it sells to police departments and other government agencies.

Saying no to some work, of course, usually means someone else will do it. The drone-footage project involving Google, dubbed Project Maven, aimed to speed the job of looking for "patterns of life, things that are suspicious, indications of potential attacks," said Robert Work, a former top Pentagon official who launched the project in 2017.

While it hurts to lose Google because they are "very, very good at it," Work said, other companies will continue those efforts.

Commercial and government interest in computer vision has exploded since breakthroughs earlier in this decade using a brain-like "neural network" to recognize objects in images. Training computers to identify cats in YouTube videos was an early challenge in 2012. Now, Google has a smartphone app that can tell you which breed.

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ADMISSIONS

FROM PAGE A1

ruling on the subject bolstered colleges' use of race among many factors in the admission process. But the opinion's author, Anthony Kennedy, announced his retirement last week, giving President Donald Trump a chance to replace him with a justice who may be more reliably skeptical of admissions programs that take race and ethnicity into account.

The new policy dramatically departs from the stance of the Obama administration, which said schools could consider race in admissions decisions. In one 2011 policy document, the administration said courts had recognized schools' "compelling interest" in ensuring racially diverse populations on campuses.

"Institutions are not required to implement race-neutral approaches if, in their judgment, the approaches would be unworkable," the guidance said. "In some cases, race-neutral approaches will be unworkable because they will be ineffective to achieve the diversity the institution seeks."

That guidance has now been rescinded, as have about a half-dozen similar documents, including some that sought to explain court rulings affirming the use of race to make admissions decisions.

In one such document, the Obama administration stated, "As the Supreme Court has recognized, diversity has benefits for all students, and today's students must be prepared to succeed in a diverse society and an increasingly global workforce."

The Trump administration's announcement is more in line with Bush-era policy that discouraged affir-



President Donald Trump speaks during a "Salute to Service" dinner Tuesday in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

mative action and instead encouraged the use of race-neutral alternatives, like percentage plans and economic diversity programs.

Though such guidance doesn't have the force of law, schools could presumably use it to defend themselves against lawsuits over admission policies.

The Trump administration's Justice Department had already signaled concern about the use of race in admissions decisions.

The department, for instance, sided this year with Asian-American plain-

tiffs who contend in a lawsuit against Harvard that the school unlawfully limits how many Asian students are admitted.

Students for Fair Admissions, the group suing Harvard, is led by Ed Blum, a legal strategist who also helped white student Abigail Fisher sue the University of Texas for alleged discrimination in a case that reached the Supreme Court.

Blum said Tuesday the organization "welcomes any governmental actions that will eliminate racial classifications and preferences in college ad-

missions." Harvard, meanwhile, said it would continue considering race as an admissions factor to create a "diverse campus community where students from all walks of life have the opportunity to learn with and from each other."

Civil rights groups criticized the Trump administration's announcement, saying it went against decades of court precedent permitting colleges to take race into account.

"We condemn the Department of Education's politically motivated attack on affirmative action and deliberate attempt to discourage colleges and universities from pursuing racial diversity at our nation's colleges and universities," Kristen Clarke, president and executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, said in a statement.

Lily Eskelsen García, president of the National Education Association, said "affirmative action has proven to be one of the most effective ways to create diverse and inclusive classrooms." She said the announcement underscored the stakes surrounding the upcoming Supreme Court appointment.

The high court has been generally accepting of considering race in admissions decisions to achieve diversity. In a 2016 opinion written by Kennedy, the court granted affirmative action policies a victory by permitting race to be among the factors considered in the college admission process.

The ruling bitterly disappointed conservatives who thought Kennedy would be part of a Supreme Court majority to outlaw affirmative action in education. Justice Antonin Scalia died after the court heard arguments in the case but before the decision was handed down.

FAA says it won't regulate amount of airline legroom

BY DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer

Federal regulators have rejected the idea of setting minimum standards for airline seats and legroom as a safety measure.

The Federal Aviation Administration said Tuesday that it saw no immediate safety issue that requires new regulations. It cited seven recent accidents in which passengers were able to evacuate.

The FAA was responding to a group called FlyersRights, which had gone to court to prod the agency to act.

FlyersRights said cramped planes combined with the larger size of today's passengers means that planes can't be evacuated in 90 seconds, as required.

"In the real world, people are taking a lot longer than 90 seconds to get out," Paul Hudson, a lawyer for the group, said in an interview. He said the FAA relied on tests from the 1990s using people who "don't resemble the profile of American passengers today."

The FAA turned down FlyersRights once before, but last year a federal appeals court or-

dered the agency to take another look at the issue, saying the FAA had relied on outdated or irrelevant tests and studies. Hudson said the group may go back to the appeals court to force the FAA to act.

A couple of decades ago, the distance between one seatback and the seatback in the next row — what airlines call "pitch" — measured about 35 inches in economy class. Today on some planes it is as tight as 28 inches, although thinner seat cushions offset some of the shrinkage. Seat width has changed far less, if at all.

Airplane manufacturers submitted videos of evacuation tests to argue that new rules are not needed. Boeing said that in 1996 it tested planes with 351 passengers and 28 inches of pitch, and the results met FAA evacuation standards.

Jeffrey Gardlin, a safety engineer who has worked for FAA for 36 years, said large passengers can take longer to escape exits, so the agency sets minimum sizes for overwing exits. But, he said, size doesn't make much difference in the time it takes to get from a seat to the aisle.

In an affidavit, Gardlin cited seven accidents since 2015 in which passengers were able to escape planes designed to meet current standards. Some passengers were hurt during evacuations, but none died in fires, even those that destroyed the plane. He said there were no reports that seat size or row pitch slowed any of the evacuations.

Tuesday's decision is not necessarily the final word on aircraft seats.

A House-passed bill would direct the FAA to set minimum seat sizes, although it leaves the decision on the exact measures to the agency. The bill is pending in the Senate.

Last month, the Transportation Department's inspector general announced a review of the FAA's evacuation standards, noting that today's planes have more seats, passengers are larger, and they have more carry-on bags.

GUIDE FROM PAGE A1

and economically, as well. They are the ones who will be responsible for carrying on the work we are doing now: economic development, improving the school system, creating a community others want to come to and live in," said Greg Thompson, owner of the company.

Thompson said he was critical of public schools in Sumter for years — so unhappy that he sent his own children to private schools.

"Now, I realize I can no longer be critical without trying to help," he said. "It is my duty to do all I can to become part of the solution. The public school system is not designed to be efficient on its own. It needs the support of the community to do what's best for the children."

This magazine is aiming to show the work that is being done to make those solutions a reality.

"I want Sumter public schools to be ranked in

the top 10 in the state of South Carolina for educational performance. When we achieve this, then the school system will be a key economic driver for our community," Thompson said. "I want to help create a community people want to move to and live in — to make it home."

Johnson said the magazine is a great opportunity for both the community and those who will be inside the pages.

"For our local businesses, it gives them a way to directly reach every family with students and staff in the district, as well as incoming families to the community," he said. "It's a distribution dream for advertisers that want to reach families."

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COMMENTARY

We've spent decades vilifying teachers. We're surprised we can't recruit more?

The State's recent series documented that South Carolina is facing thousands of vacant teaching jobs and very few young people willing to fill them. Statewide, there's been a 30 percent drop in college students seeking an education degree.

No surprise, considering South Carolina has the lowest average beginning teacher salary in the Southeast and fifth lowest nationally. Why enter a profession that might require a second job to make ends meet?

Besides low pay, our current generation grew up during 20 years of non-stop teacher bashing. As state Education Superintendent Molly Spearman observed, "We've had 20 years of blame it on the teacher." Why seek a job that is the constant target of blame?



Sally Huguley

South Carolina has never considered public education a valuable commodity. Its state Constitution promises only a "minimally adequate education," and the old Sunbelt strategy of "cheap land, cheap labor" is the foundation of its economic development.

There have been some progressive years. The 1984 Education Improvement Act increased teacher salaries to the Southeastern average. Since then, however, education funding has remained a low priority.

For two decades, public schools and teachers have faced legislative cheapness and bullying by politicians, out-of-state ideologues, gambling interests and businessmen. The devaluation of public education is all our current 20-somethings have known.

Three years before No Child Left Behind, South Carolina was among the first states to use standardized test scores to judge students, teachers and schools. The 1998 Education Accountability Act required yearly testing beginning in third grade and school report cards based on student scores.

Soon after, researchers at Clemson University pronounced the report card system as "inherently unjust." Why? They found the new school grading system focused solely on student test scores without factoring in poverty, long considered the foremost predictor of academic performance. Without acknowledging student poverty, the mandated report cards were not only "unjust," but a foregone conclusion.

That same year, "We be gots de wurstest skools in de United State" billboards appeared along South Carolina highways. Sponsored by the burgeoning video poker industry, gambling promoters cynically suggested video poker might be a way to better fund state education.

Eventually, video poker was struck down as illegal, but by then, thousands had seen billboards proclaiming "the wurstest skools."

About the time our current young people entered kindergarten, the state began 14 years of libertarian governors, whose approach to public school funding was private school vouchers. Starting with former Gov. Mark Sanford, national school voucher organizations flocked to South Carolina with the sole purpose of diverting public tax dollars to private schools.

Funded by deep pocket out-of-state ideologues, Statehouse lobbyists quickly scared legislators into enacting a private school voucher law. Although public money was appropriated to fund school vouchers, the law required no standardized testing, no school report cards and no teacher credentials to educate special-needs children using the voucher system.

With libertarian politicians in power, similar-thinking businessmen were appointed to state education and accountability boards. They pushed the "business model of education" with student test scores as the bottom line. Dismissing education degrees and teacher experience as worthless, they recommended using test scores to determine teacher pay raises with bonuses for top scorers.

Our current generation was choosing college majors when former state School Superintendent Mick Zais vigorously promoted teacher salaries based on student test scores and recommended using student scores to grade individual teachers. He denied teacher grades would be publicized, but his obvious contempt for educators hardly made him trustworthy.

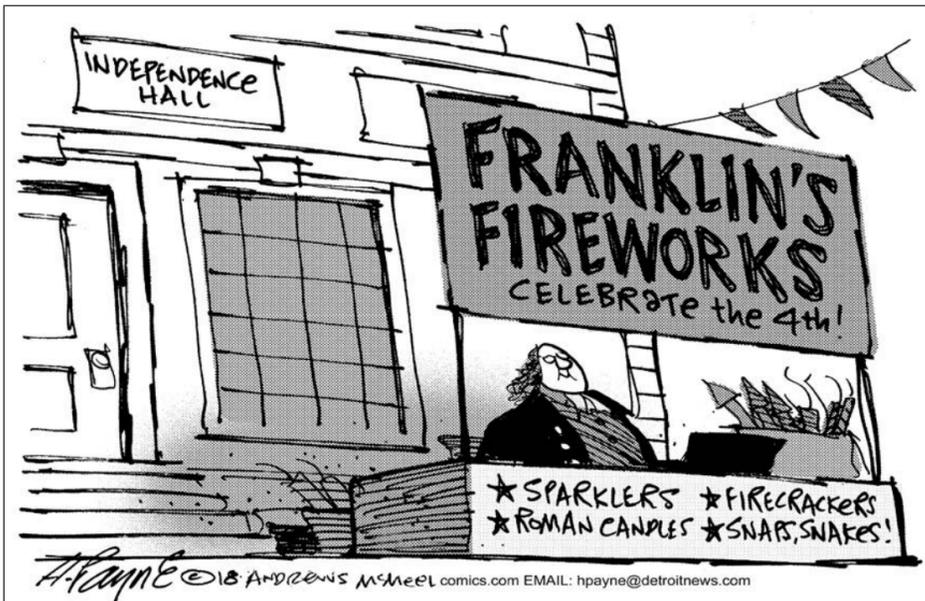
Bracketing these two decades was the 1993 Abbeville v. South Carolina lawsuit brought on behalf of 39 poor rural districts. The suit sought equitable school funding over the constitutional "minimally adequate" standard.

For 21 years, state attorneys fought the Abbeville lawsuit until in 2014, the S.C. Supreme Court decided in favor of the plaintiff districts. The victory was short-lived. Last year, a legislatively stacked state Supreme Court overturned the Abbeville decision.

With this history, why would any 20-something think teaching a promising career? Plus, current gubernatorial and legislative candidates either ignore the issue of better beginning teacher pay or offer no specifics.

To attract new prison guards, salaries were raised. To attract beginning teachers, perhaps we should pay them better than prison guards.

Sally Huguley is a retired teacher and former legislative researcher and gubernatorial speechwriter. She can be reached at shuguley@sc.rr.com.



COMMENTARY

College destruction of black students

Ammy Wax, a University of Pennsylvania law professor, has come under attack and scathing criticism because she dared criticize the school's racial preferences program. In an interview with Brown University economist Glenn Loury, discussing affirmative action, Wax mentioned how racial preferences hinder the ability of blacks to succeed academically by admitting them into schools at which they are in over their heads academically. At Penn's seventh-ranked law school, Wax said, she doesn't



Walter Williams

think that she has ever seen a black law student graduate in the top quarter of his class, and "rarely" is a black student in the top half.

That got her into deep trouble. Penn students and faculty members charged her with racism. Penn Law School Dean Ted Ruger stripped Wax of her duty of teaching her mandatory first-year class on civil procedures. I'm guessing that Penn's law faculty members know Wax's statement is true but think it was something best left unsaid in today's racially charged climate. Ruger might have refuted Wax's claim. He surely has access to student records. He might have listed the number of black law students who were valedictorians and graduated in the top 10 percent of their class. He rightfully chose not to — so as to not provide evidence for Wax's claim.

One study suggests that Wax is absolutely right about academic mismatch. In the early 1990s, the Law School Admission Council collected 27,000 law student records, representing nearly 90 percent of accredited law schools. The study found that after the first year, 51 percent of black law students ranked in the bottom tenth of their class, compared with 5 percent of white students. Two-thirds of black students were in the bottom fifth of their class. Only 10 percent of blacks were in the top half of their class. Twenty-two percent of black students in the LSAC database hadn't passed the bar exam after five attempts, compared with 3 percent of white test takers.

The University of Pennsylvania controversy highlights something very important to black people and the nation. The K-12 education that most blacks receive is grossly fraudulent. Most predominately black schools are costly yet grossly inferior to predominately white schools and are in cities where blacks hold considerable political power, such as Baltimore, Detroit, Chicago and Philadelphia. In these and other cities, it's not uncommon for there to be high schools where less than 17 percent of the students test proficient in reading, and often not a single student in such schools tests proficient in math. Nonetheless, many receive high school diplomas.

It's inconceivable that college administrators are unaware that they are admitting students who are ill prepared and have difficulty performing at the college level. There's no way that four or five years of college

can repair the academic damage done to black students throughout their 13 years of primary and secondary education. Partial proof is black student performance at the postgraduate level, such as in law school. Their disadvantage is exaggerated when they are admitted to prestigious Ivy League law schools. It's as if you asked a trainer to teach you how to box, and the first fight he got you was with Anthony Joshua or Floyd Mayweather. You might have the potential to ultimately be a good boxer, but you're going to get your brains beaten out before you learn how to bob and weave.

The fact that black students have low class rankings at such high-powered law schools as Penn doesn't mean that they are stupid or uneducable. It means that they've been admitted to schools where they are in over their heads. To admit these students makes white liberals feel better about themselves. It also helps support the jobs of black and white university personnel in charge of diversity and inclusion. The question for black people is whether we can afford to have the best of our youngsters demeaned, degraded and possibly destroyed to make white liberals feel better about themselves. You might ask, "Williams, without affirmative action, what would the University of Pennsylvania Law School do about diversity and inclusion?" I'd say that's Penn's problem.

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

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HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY? Send your letter to letters@theitem.com, drop it off at The Sumter Item office, 36 W. Liberty St., or mail it to The Sumter Item, P.O. Box 1677, Sumter, SC 29151, along with the writer's full name, address and telephone number (for verification purposes only). Letters that exceed 350 words will be cut accordingly in the print edition, but available in their entirety at www.theitem.com/opinion/letters_to_editor.

AROUND TOWN

Lincoln High School Class of 1968 will meet at 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 8, at 22 Council St. Plans will be made for the 50th class reunion to be held Aug. 3-5. Call James Green at (803) 968-4173 for information.

Diamond Rio will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 8, at the Sumter Opera House, 21 N. Main St. Tickets are \$50 and \$55. Contact the Sumter Opera House for ticket purchasing information.

The Sumter Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 10, at Shiloh-Randolph Manor, 125 W. Bartlette St. Contact Debra Canty, chapter president, at (803) 775-5792 or debra.canty@frontier.com.

The Lincoln High School Preservation Alumni Association will meet at 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 15, at 22 Council St. Call James Green at (803) 968-4173 for information.

A Red, White and Blue Ball, presented by American Legion Post 202 Women's Auxiliary, will be held from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Saturday, July 28, at 310 Palmetto St. Event will feature DJ Smoove as well as free food. Tickets are \$20 each. Semi formal attire. Call Janetta at (803) 406-8038.

The Fourth Annual Unity Prayer Breakfast, hosted by One Sumter Community, will be held at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 4, at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church Enrichment Center, 315 W. Fulton St. Tickets are \$10 each. Call Joshua Dupree at (803) 795-3600 or Calvin Hastie at (803) 774-7776 for tickets.

The 12th Annual Art in the Park will be held 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 22, at Memorial Park. Art and craft, community corner and children's craft center vendor applications can be downloaded at HSNASumtersc.com.

FYI

Palmetto Health Tuomey Hospice is in need of volunteers. A volunteer application can be found online at www.palmettohealth.org/giving/volunteer-programs/homecare-and-hospicevolunteers. Volunteers are needed for both direct patient care and administrative duties. If you can provide support, respite, companionship, friendship, acts of kindness, file, answer the phone, do data entry, or mailings to families, please consider caring for one patient by giving your time, talents, or gifts of kindness. Call Karen Johnson at (803) 773-4663.

Make-A-Wish South Carolina is seeking volunteers to help make wishes come true for children across the state. Bilingual volunteers are especially needed. Interest webinars are offered at 6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. Preregistration is required. Contact Brennan Brown at bbrown@sc.wish.org or (864) 250-0702 extension 112 to register or begin the application process.

Hospice Care of Sumter LLC is in need of volunteers in Sumter and surrounding counties. Opportunities available for you to use your time and talents to be of assistance include reading, musical talents, companionship, light housekeeping, etc. Call (803) 883-5606 or hospicecareof-sumter@yahoo.com.

Agape Hospice is in need of volunteers. Whether your passion is baking, knitting, reading, singing, etc., Agape Hospice can find a place for

you. Contact Thandi Blanding at (803) 774-1075, (803) 260-3876 or tblanding@agapsenior.com.

Hospice Care of South Carolina is in need of volunteers in Sumter County. Do you have one extra hour a week? Opportunities are available for patient/family companionship, administrative support, meal preparation, light household projects, student education and various other tasks. Contact Whitney Rogers at (843) 409-7991 or whitney.rogers@hospicecare.net.

Amedisys Hospice is in need of volunteers. Volunteer opportunities include: 1) special projects of baking, sewing, knitting, crafts, carpentry and yard work; 2) administrative/office duties of copying, light filing and answering phones; and 3) patient companionship — develop one-on-one relationships with hospice patients (training provided free of charge). Contact Rhoda Keefe at (803) 469-3047 or rhonda.keefe@amedisys.com.

Hospice Care of Tri-County is in need of volunteers. Volunteers offer support, companionship and care to the caregiver by running errands, reading to patients, listening and just being there for patients who need companionship. All you need is a willing heart and some time to give to others. No medical background is required. Hospice Care of Tri-County will provide you with the tools you need to become a hospice volunteer. Call Carol Tindal at (803) 905-7720.

The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take a critical look at your physical and

emotional state, and prepare to make some positive changes. Research the possibilities and stick to the budget you set, and you will be happy with the results you get. Romance will promote happiness.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Erratic behavior will be difficult to control. Your actions will cause bigger problems than you expect. Stop and think before you do something you'll regret. Patience is required, and time is on your side. Slow down and contemplate your next move.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Own whatever you do. Wrap your head around the different scenarios you face and the probable outcomes that depend on how you react or the decisions you make. Gains can be made, and extravagance will be tempting. Look before you leap.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get out and gain experience. Listen more and talk less. The information you are offered will help to shape the way you move forward regarding a situation that has caused confusion and concern. Don't disappoint someone who is counting on you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't leave anything to chance. A good plan needs to be initiated with precision and detail. If you are unprepared, you can expect to lose out to someone who has done his or her homework and is ready to compete with confidence.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't lose sight of what you are trying to accomplish. Your ability to bring about change that will make a difference is essential to those counting on you. Don't sit back when you should be taking over

and making things happen. **LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't let anyone stand in your way. Size up whatever situation you face and take action. Let your intuition and your emotions lead the way. Now is not the time to procrastinate or let someone put demands on you. Speak up.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't get angry; get moving. Don't worry about taking a different path from those around you. Being true to yourself and what you want to achieve will give you a strong sense of fulfillment and satisfaction. Don't cave under pressure.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Look for love, happiness and a lifestyle that brings you greater joy. Rely on yourself; you alone will bring about the change you desire. Improve your home, and alter your current situation if it is causing stress.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let bad behavior cause you to miss out on the finer things in life or the joy that love, family, travel and learning can bring you. Change things up if you feel as if you are missing something.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look back, size up your situation and proceed to move forward with caution. Taking on too much will lead to disappointment. Listen to creative ideas, but don't fall for unrealistic offers that could potentially put you in debt.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Check out an opportunity and take action. Don't feel you need someone else's involvement in order to advance. Believe in your capabilities and put your strengths to work for you. Joint ventures will be costly and disappointing.

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2018

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
A stray afternoon thunderstorm	Partly cloudy and humid	Partly sunny	A shower and t-storm around	Mostly cloudy with a t-storm	Nice with some sun
89°	71°	91° / 71°	85° / 69°	85° / 69°	88° / 70°
Chance of rain: 50%	Chance of rain: 15%	Chance of rain: 25%	Chance of rain: 70%	Chance of rain: 55%	Chance of rain: 25%
ENE 6-12 mph	ESE 3-6 mph	ESE 3-6 mph	NE 6-12 mph	NE 8-16 mph	NE 4-8 mph

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

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

IN THE MOUNTAINS

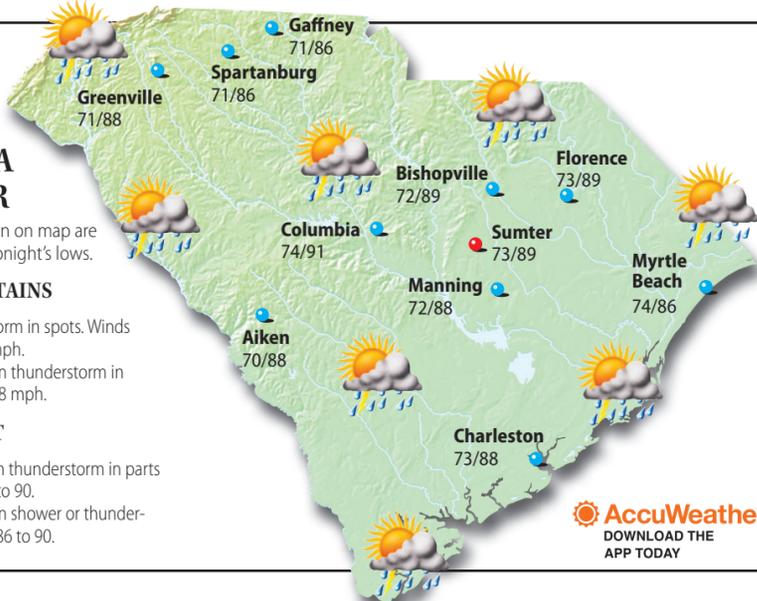
Today: A thunderstorm in spots. Winds east-northeast 4-8 mph.

Friday: An afternoon thunderstorm in spots. Winds west 4-8 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: An afternoon thunderstorm in parts of the area. High 85 to 90.

Friday: An afternoon shower or thunderstorm around. High 86 to 90.



LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER YESTERDAY

Temperature	High	Low	Normal high	Normal low	Record high	Record low
	95°	74°	90°	69°	100° in 1970	58° in 1988

Precipitation	Yesterday	Month to date	Normal month to date	Year to date	Last year to date	Normal year to date
	trace	trace	0.47"	17.61"	21.88"	23.26"

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	357.80	+0.03
Marion	76.8	75.72	+0.02
Moultrie	75.5	75.37	+0.01
Wateree	100	97.76	+0.05

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	7.27	+0.33
Congaree River	19	3.48	+0.07
Lynches River	14	2.82	-0.27
Saluda River	14	2.37	-1.08
Up. Santee River	80	77.83	-0.30
Wateree River	24	8.39	-1.12

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	6:16 a.m.	Sunset	8:37 p.m.
Moonrise	12:47 a.m.	Moonsset	12:52 p.m.

Last	New	First	Full
July 6	July 12	July 19	July 27

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH				
	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	2:15 a.m.	2.8	9:19 a.m.	0.3
	2:46 p.m.	2.7	9:34 p.m.	0.8
Fri.	3:03 a.m.	2.8	10:07 a.m.	0.2
	3:39 p.m.	2.8	10:35 p.m.	0.7

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Thu.	Fri.
Atlanta	88/70/t	88/70/t
Chicago	91/65/t	79/58/s
Dallas	96/77/pc	96/77/pc
Detroit	90/65/t	80/58/pc
Houston	90/74/t	91/74/t
Los Angeles	89/70/pc	104/77/s
New Orleans	89/77/t	88/77/t
New York	88/75/pc	82/66/t
Oriando	88/74/t	88/73/t
Philadelphia	90/74/pc	83/67/t
Phoenix	114/94/s	113/93/s
San Francisco	74/62/pc	76/59/pc
Wash., DC	90/78/pc	87/69/t

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Thu.	Fri.	City	Thu.	Fri.
Asheville	85/68/t	83/68/t	Florence	89/72/t	91/74/pc
Athens	89/68/t	88/69/t	Gastonia	88/71/t	89/69/t
Augusta	90/69/t	92/70/t	Goldsboro	90/72/t	92/72/pc
Beaufort	90/74/t	90/74/t	Goose Creek	87/73/t	88/73/t
Cape Hatteras	90/78/t	89/77/t	Greensboro	89/72/t	88/68/t
Charleston	88/73/t	90/74/t	Greenville	88/71/t	88/68/t
Charlotte	90/70/t	89/67/t	Hickory	88/70/t	86/67/t
Clemson	87/72/t	88/71/t	Hilton Head	87/74/t	88/75/t
Columbia	91/71/t	93/71/t	Jacksonville, FL	87/73/sh	89/72/pc
Darlington	89/71/t	91/72/pc	La Grange	89/72/t	90/70/pc
Elizabeth City	88/73/t	90/72/t	Macon	89/69/t	91/70/t
Elizabethtown	88/72/t	90/72/sh	Marietta	87/70/t	87/69/t
Fayetteville	91/72/t	91/72/pc	Marion	85/68/t	85/68/t
			Mt. Pleasant	87/74/t	88/74/t
			Myrtle Beach	86/75/t	87/75/t
			Orangeburg	88/71/t	90/73/pc
			Port Royal	87/74/t	87/75/t
			Raleigh	89/72/t	90/67/t
			Rock Hill	88/71/t	89/69/t
			Rockingham	89/71/t	91/72/t
			Savannah	88/72/t	89/72/t
			Spartanburg	86/70/t	88/69/t
			Summerville	87/72/t	88/72/t
			Wilmington	87/74/t	89/74/t
			Winston-Salem	89/73/t	88/69/t

We have a NOSE for NEWS

Call us at (803) 774-1200 or visit us at 36 W. Liberty St.

the Sumter ITEM

PICTURES FROM THE PUBLIC



Christine Gonzales comments on her photo submission, "Celebrating the 4th of July watching fireworks burst overhead in Sumter."

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

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL



Second effort

DENNIS BRUNSON / THE SUMTER ITEM

Sumter catcher Daulton Dabbs blocks a pitch in the dirt during the P-15's 7-1 victory over Lexington on Monday at Riley Park. With the win, the P-15's clinched the No. 2 seed from League III in the upcoming state playoffs.

Williamson pitches P-15's past Lexington to earn No. 2 seed for state playoffs

BY DENNIS BRUNSON
dennis@theitem.com

The Sumter P-15's had themselves backed up against the wall in regards to whether they would be able to host a

first-round series in the American Legion baseball state playoffs next week after a 5-4 loss to Lexington Post 7 on Monday. A loss to Lexington on Tuesday at Riley Park would end any hopes of that

and would more than likely have Sumter as the No. 4 seed from League III.

Starting pitcher Rylan Williamson made sure that didn't happen though.

The right-hander allowed

just three hits and one un-earned run in 6½ innings as the P-15's won 7-1. After a long discussion with Lexington head coach Drew Towery following the contest, Sumter head coach Curtis Johnson

believes that win gave his team the No. 2 seed behind League III champion Camden. "We talked, and he (Towery) agreed with me that we would

SEE P-15'S, PAGE B3

WIMBLEDON



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caroline Wozniacki shakes her head to avoid the flying insects on court during her second-round singles match against Ekaterina Makarova in the Wimbledon Championships on Wednesday in London. Makarova won 6-4, 1-6, 7-5.

Bugs, 'lucky' foe send No. 2 seed Wozniacki out of Wimbledon

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — Caroline Wozniacki complained about the flying insects at Wimbledon, demanding that bug spray be brought to the court.

She wondered aloud whether play should be halted because of a brief drizzle.

And the No. 2-seeded Wozniacki was not exactly gracious in defeat after staving off five match points, but not the sixth, in what became a 6-4, 1-6, 7-5 loss to 35th-ranked Ekaterina Makarova of Russia in the second round at the All

England Club on Wednesday.

The reigning Australian Open champion's latest lackluster showing at Wimbledon made her the fifth top-eight seeded woman to exit by the end of Day 3.

Wozniacki said Makarova "got a little lucky" and added, "I would be very surprised if you saw her go far."

Asked what she thought of those remarks, Makarova laughed and replied: "Well, I don't know what to say. Yeah, maybe I was lucky today. Good for me. Thanks, God."

SEE TENNIS, PAGE B3

PRO BASEBALL

Stanton, Sabathia propel Yanks to 6-2 win over Braves

BY ADRY TORRES
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

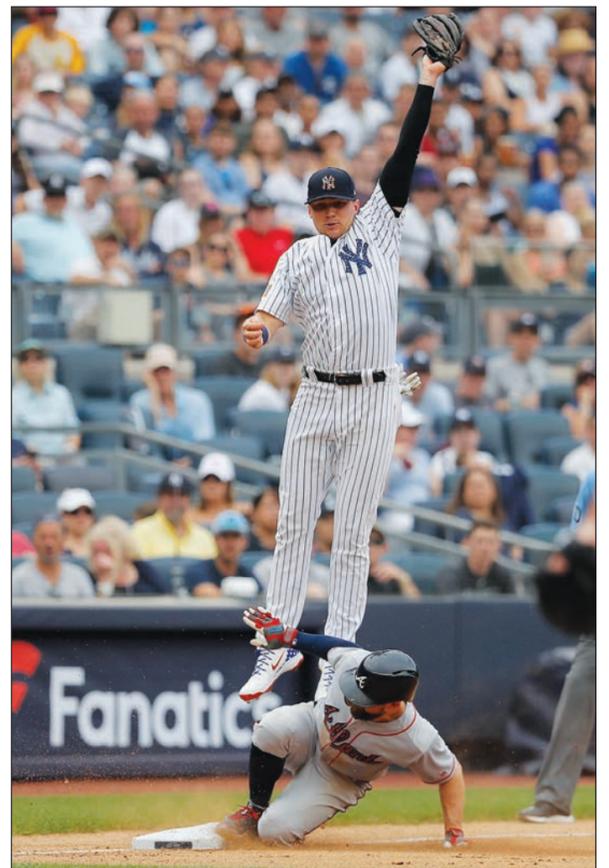
NEW YORK — Giancarlo Stanton hit a three-run homer, CC Sabathia pitched six effective innings, and the New York Yankees beat the Atlanta Braves 6-2 on Wednesday.

Aaron Judge added his 24th homer of the season in the seventh inning. He's now homered in three of his past four games.

Rookie second baseman Gleyber Torres left the game in the top of the fifth inning because of tightness in his right hip and will be placed on the 10-day disabled list with a right hip strain.

Catcher Kyle Higashioka also homered for the Yankees, becoming the ninth player since 1920 whose first three hits were home runs. Colorado's Trevor Story homered for his first four big league hits on April 4-6, 2016.

Sabathia (6-3) worked out of a couple of jams for the Yankees, who have won six of their past eight after getting swept in three games at Tampa last weekend.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Atlanta's Ender Inciarte steals third base safely as New York Yankee third baseman Brandon Drury leaps for a high throw during the seventh inning of the Yankees' 6-4 victory on Wednesday in New York.

SEE BRAVES, PAGE B3

NCAA prepares minority coordinators for head coaching jobs

BY STEPHEN WHYNO
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OXON HILL, Md. — Camera lighting made beads of sweat emerge from Tony Elliott's forehead as he fielded questions ranging from football philosophy to something he could share about his private life.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

The Clemson co-offensive coordinator paused, smiled and couldn't hide his joy about riding an all-terrain vehicle through the woods. The walls broke down as Elliott made a human connection with mock interviewer Jon Oliver in the

best possible preparation he can get for a head coaching job.

Despite helping the Tigers win a national title, Elliott has never interviewed for a head coaching job.

"Two phone calls," Elliott said.



ELLIOTT

candidates for head coaching jobs. So instead of focusing all

College football as a public entity can't institute a Rooney Rule like the NFL, which compels teams to interview minority

its efforts on the schools, the NCAA is putting some of its rising coaching candidates through its Champion Forum to better prepare them for the interview process.

It is an effort to increase the diversity in the Power Five

SEE NCAA, PAGE B2

P-15'S FROM PAGE B1

be No. 2, Hartsville would be No. 3 (assuming it defeats Dalzell-Shaw on Thursday) and Lexington is No. 4, according to what is in the American Legion state rule book," Johnson said. The state rule says if there is a tie, and it can't be determined by head to head then you take the number of runs allowed in the games between the teams in the tie-breaker and divide it by the number of games played. Whoever has the lowest average is seeded first and so on.

Sumter improved to 14-8 overall and finished 8-4 in league play, while Post 7 dropped to 14-6 overall and also finished 8-4 in League III. Hartsville improved to 7-4 in league play with a 5-4 win over Orangeburg on Tuesday. If it beats Dalzell, Post 53 will also be 8-4 in the league and would take the No. 3 spot. Should Hartsville lose to Dalzell, Lexington would finish third and Hartsville fourth.

Sumter will play the No. 3 seed in a best-of-5 first-round series beginning on Monday. Games 1 and 3 will be played in Sumter on Monday and Wednesday, respectively. Sumter will travel for Game 2 and Game 4, if necessary. If a deciding game is needed, it will be played in Sumter.

The No. 4 seed will take on Camden in another first-round series beginning on Monday in Camden.

Williamson, the former Sumter High School standout who didn't play college baseball this past season, was outstanding. Besides allowing just the three hits, he walked just two batters. Williamson walked the first batter of the game, Dalton Landdowne, and the last batter he faced. He walked David Jacobs after re-

tiring the first two batters in the seventh and had to leave the game because he had reached the 105-pitch limit.

"I just wanted to go out there tonight and fill the strike zone," said Williamson, who attended the University of South Carolina Sumter as a freshman. "I was just wanting to get ground balls; I wasn't worried about getting strikeouts. I just wanted to make it where we put up more runs than them."

Williamson only had three strikeouts, and he didn't have a 1-2-3 inning through any of the first four innings. However, he had retired nine batters in a row before walking Jacobs in the seventh.

"Ryan was good all night for us," Johnson said. "We gave him that lead, and he just settled in and battled. We couldn't have asked for any more from him."

Sumter took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the second. Daulton Dabbs led off with a double, but was still standing there after Joey Pereira and Lathan Todd made outs. However, Trent Frye drew a walk from Lexington starter Will Lott, and Chandler Hunter delivered an RBI single to make it 1-0.

After Trey Yates was hit by a pitch to load the bases, Jacob Holladay singled home Frye to make it 2-0. The P-15's left the bases loaded.

Post 7 got its run in fourth when Walker McDowell reached on an error to start the frame. He scored on a 2-out base hit by Ryan Derienzo to make it 2-1.

Sumter loaded the bases again in the fourth, this time with one out and knocking the right-handed Lott out of the game in the process. Cam-



DENNIS BRUNSON / THE SUMTER ITEM

Sumter's Dalton Browder dives back into first base ahead of the tag of Lexington first baseman Chase Crouch during the P-15's 7-1 victory on Tuesday at Riley Park. Sumter secured the No. 2 seed from League III with the victory.

eron Cribb came on though and retired the first two batters he faced to get out of the jam with no runs scoring.

Williamson said he had confidence his teammates would give him a cushion.

"No, I knew they would get us some runs eventually," he said. "It would have been a lot easier pitching with a 6-run cushion."

Which is what P-15's gave him in the bottom of the

sixth. Hunter singled with one out and went to second on a wild pitch. Yates put down a beautiful bunt, and Cribb threw the ball away trying to get Hunter at third. He came in to score and make it 3-1.

After Yates stole second, he went to third on a Holladay base hit. Moore followed with a chopper over the third baseman's head for an RBI double. Bobby Crisp followed with an

RBI single, and Dabbs was credited for a sacrifice fly when his fly ball to right was dropped.

Sumter finished with 11 hits, five of them coming in the seventh. Holladay was 2-for-3 with a walk, a run scored and a run batted in, Dabbs was 2-for-3 with a run and an RBI, Hunter was 2-for-2 with a run and an RBI, and Yates was 2-for-2, was hit by a pitch and scored a run.

BRAVES FROM PAGE B1

National League East-leading Atlanta loaded the bases with two outs in the first, but the 37-year-old struck out 20-year-old phenom Ronald Acuna Jr. on an 88 mph cutter.

The Braves have lost their past two games.

New York took a 1-0 lead in the second inning on Greg Bird's RBI single off Atlanta starter Julio Teheran (6-6), who lasted just five innings, allowing five hits and five runs. He walked four and struck out 10.

The Yankees got to Teheran again in the third.

With a runner on first and two outs, Aaron Hicks walked. Stanton then fell behind 0-2 before hitting a line drive to the right field bleachers for his 21st homer of the season to make it 4-0.

After retiring the first two batters in the fourth, Teheran fell behind 2-0 against Higashioka before the 30-year-old rookie connected to the left field stands, extending the lead to 5-0.

The Braves cut the deficit to 5-1 on an RBI grounder from Danny Santana with one out in the fifth. Johan Camargo hit his ninth home run of the season with two outs in the sixth that made it 5-2. But Sabathia limited the damage by retiring Dansby Swanson on a grounder to second with a runner aboard.

Atlanta failed to take advantage in the seventh inning against reliever Chad Green when its first two batters reached on a pair of singles. Green then got three fly outs to end the threat.

PUT ME IN COACH

With New York set to play 11 games in 10 days, beginning Friday at Toronto, Yankees manager Aaron Boone said he wanted to be "greedy" with Thursday being their only day off, and held Austin Romine out of the starting lineup for the fourth consecutive day. Higashioka started for the fourth straight time behind the plate.

The Yankees have been short-handed at catcher since Romine left the game on June 29 against Boston in the seventh inning because of a tight left hamstring. Gary Sanchez has been on the 10-day disabled list since June 25 because of a strained right groin.

GET OUT AND VOTE

New York has one of the best records in baseball but it only has one player, Aaron Judge, among the eight leading vote getters on the American League squad for the All-Star Game that will be played July 17 at Washington. The starters for the Midsummer Classic will be revealed on Sunday.

Boone believes that Judge, the 2017 Home Run Derby champion, will have company to make the trip to the nation's capital.

"I mean you look around the league — and I haven't looked at the voting lately — but we were actually talking about guys that might make off our team or guys that are certainly on that conversation and we have a number of those players," Boone said. "Hopefully we'll be well represented. We certainly have deserving guys."

TENNIS FROM PAGE B1

While both Williams sisters moved into the third round, as did past U.S. Open runners-up Madison Keys and Karolina Pliskova, among the women, and Roger Federer won 35 consecutive points on his serve while extending his Wimbledon set streak to 26 in a row, it was Wozniacki's departure that counted as the closest thing to big news on Wednesday.

She is a former No. 1 who recently claimed her first Grand Slam title. She won a grass-court tuneup tournament last weekend.

She had managed to convince herself this was going to be her year to shine at the All England Club, the only major where she's never been past the fourth round. In addition to her title on the hard courts in Australia, she's twice been the runner-up on that surface at the U.S. Open, and she's been a quarterfinalist twice on the French Open's red clay.

But a game that is principally predicated on defense can be harder to make work on the speedy grass, where Makarova produced twice as many winners Wednesday, 46-23.

"It's frustrating," Wozniacki said, "because I feel like I could have gone and done something really great here."

Instead, it's the fourth time in the past seven years that she's out in the first or second round.

She almost put together quite a comeback, though.

After trailing 5-1 in the third set, Wozniacki broke twice when Makarova served for the match. The second time, at 5-3, Makarova was within a point of victory four times, but was unable to convert, wasting one of those opportunities with a double-fault. Once Wozniacki pulled even in the last set by holding at love, Makarova gave herself a bit of a talking-to.

"At 5-all, I said to myself: 'OK, calm down. Start over,'" recounted Makarova, a former top-10 player who twice has been a major semifinalist and got to the Wimbledon quarterfinals in 2014.

From deuce in that game, she picked up six of the last seven points.

Earlier in the match, Wozniacki was buggin' out about the bugs that also showed up last year at the tournament. She insisted that something needed to be done about them.

Makarova, too, called the scene "a little bit strange and different" and "a little bit uncomfortable."

That word also described how Makarova's left-handed game made Wozniacki feel.

"I had a chance today. I fought all I had. I'm out. That's it," said Wozniacki, who actually won more total points, 94-91. "It's life sometimes. You just have to keep working and come back. And hopefully next time, luck will be on my side."

All that really matters, of course, is who wins the last point, something five-time champion Venus Williams did after a poor start for the second round in a row.

OBITUARIES

MARION S. MCCAW

Funeral services for Marion Samuel McCaw will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church, 3285 Peach Orchard Road in Dalzell, with the Rev. Richard Addison officiating.

Interment will follow in Hopewell Baptist Church Cemetery.

The public may view on Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m. at Palmer Memorial Chapel, 304 S. Main St., Sumter.

Mr. McCaw will be placed in the church at 10 a.m. until the hour of service.

Mr. McCaw, 67, transitioned on Sunday, July 1, 2018, at W. B. Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia.

Born in Sumter County, he

was a son of the late Herman and Hestina Jackson.

Marion was a graduate of Ebenezer High School, Class of 1970. Afterward, he served in the United States Army and was honorably discharged.

As a civilian, he was employed by Bosch Braking Co. of Sumter.

Mr. McCaw was a faithful lifelong member of Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church in Dalzell.

Survivors include: his wife of 37 years, Eva Clea McCaw; a daughter, Quanisha S. McCaw; three sons, Trevor R. McCaw, Zycer R. McCaw and Zaiden T. McCaw, all of the home; six siblings, Clara Champ of Suitland, Maryland, Katie (March) Spencer of Ft. Washington, Maryland, Anne (Vincent) Meredith of Dalzell, Hestina McCaw, of Columbia, Ruth McCaw and

Herman (Lottie) McCaw, all of Dalzell; and a host of other relatives.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two sisters.

LINDA B. WHITAKER

Linda B. Whitaker, 65, died on Tuesday, July 3, 2018, at her home. Born on Jan. 25, 1953, in Lancaster County, she was a daughter of the late Paskell W. Boykin and the late Bernice Elizabeth Lowery Boykin.

She was employed by Tuomey Hospital, and later she worked with Moore Enterprises until her retirement.

Survivors include a daughter, Elizabeth Doney (Thomas) of Sumter; two grandchildren, Rahn Doney and Anthony Doney; two brothers, Avery Boykin and Edward Eugene "Gene" Boykin, both of Sumter; and two sisters, Darlene Timmons and Debra Anderson, both of Sumter.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday at Grace Baptist Church with the Rev. Dr. Steve Williams officiating.

The family will receive friends following the service in the church fellowship hall and other times at the home.

Memorials may be made to Grace Baptist Church, 219 W. Calhoun St., Sumter, SC 29150.

The family would like to express their appreciation to her caregivers, Dell and Brenda, as well as Candace Doney for all of their care and compassion.

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

ANNETTE CANTY

Ms. Annette Canty, age 61, was born on Jan. 7, 1957, in Sumter, to Thomasina McLeod and Theodore Portee.

She departed this life on Tuesday, July 3, 2018, at Pal-

metto Health Tuomey.

The family is receiving friends at 969 Cherryvale Drive, Sumter.

Services are incomplete at this time and will be announced at a later date by Whites Mortuary LLC in Sumter.

MAGGIE MCMILLIAN

Mrs. Maggie McFadden McMillian, age 91, was born on March 22, 1927, in Sumter County.

She was the wife of Hampton McMillian and the daughter of the late Philmon and Pauline Wyndham McFadden.

She departed this life on Tuesday, July 3, 2018, in Sumter.

The family is receiving friends at 570 and 590 Brown-town roads in Sumter.

Services are incomplete at this time and will be announced at a later date by Whites Mortuary LLC in Sumter.

BIZARRO



WALLACE THE BRAVE



ANDY CAPP



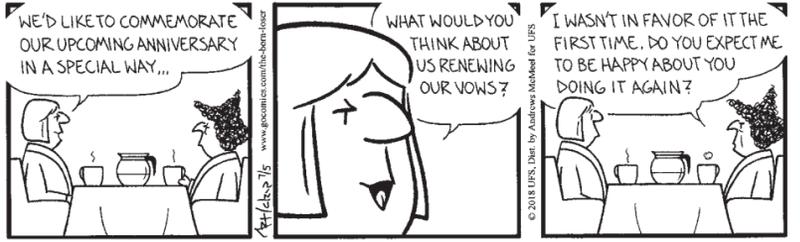
GARFIELD



BEETLE BAILEY



BORN LOSER



BLONDIE



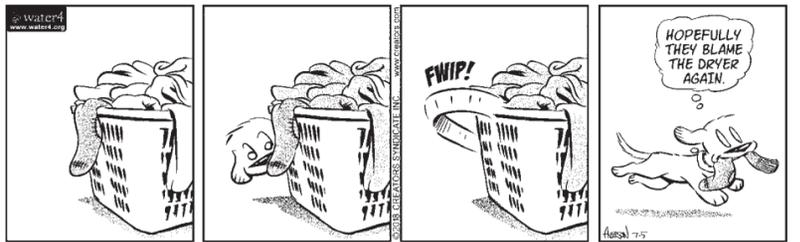
ZITS



MOTHER GOOSE



DOG EAT DOUG



DILBERT



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE



Late bloomer worries he is being labeled a playboy



Dear Abby
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY — I have never been married. I've been perceived as a "playboy" for many years now. I don't mean to be, but when I sense the potential for a passionate romantic encounter with flowers, candy, champagne, pot (and an occasional Quaalude), the urge takes over.

about the comments about my age. I look about 38.

Max in the Midwest

DEAR MAX — If you're wooing adult women with flowers and candy, that's the traditional way of going about it. However, if you're using alcohol, pot and Quaaludes to render them so dizzy they can't refuse your advances, it is considered rape — a prosecutable offense no matter how good you look for your age. If you doubt me, just look at the news.

However, I later learned she threw a grand cookout on Memorial Day, complete with boat rides, jet skis, fireworks and tons of food — the food I picked up for her. The kicker? I wasn't invited! Am I immature for feeling angry and left out?

Trying to be an adult about this

DEAR TRYING — I don't think you are immature. You called this woman a good friend. Unless an important fact was omitted from your letter, your feelings are normal. The only "good friend" in this relationship appears to be you.

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

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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

SSLAA

GNMINI

RIFDOB

Answer here:



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

Yesterday's Jumbles: CHAIR BROOM (Answers tomorrow)
Answer: When asked to help with his Independence Day cookout, his friends — CAME "FOURTH"

SUDOKU

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

THE DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13			14				15		16		
17			18					19			
20			21				22		23		
	24			25	26			27			
	28						29		30	31	32
33				34			35		36		
37				38			39	40		41	
42				43			44	45		46	
47					48		49		50		
				51			52				
53	54	55			56			57		58	59
60				61			62	63		64	
65							66			67	
68							69			70	

Agnes Davidson and C.C. Burnikel

7/5/18

- ACROSS**
- 1 Cristal maker
 - 4 Challenging
 - 8 English town worth its salt?
 - 13 "Queen of the South" TV network
 - 14 Moon of Uranus
 - 16 Goat sound?
 - 17 Got together
 - 18 Target, for one
 - 20 "Goodfellas" Oscar winner
 - 22 What a muff may protect
 - 23 Has debts
 - 24 Dairy producer
 - 28 "Cheers" spin-off
 - 29 Hungers
 - 33 Campus official
 - 34 Returning GI's diagnosis
 - 36 Crush a test
 - 37 A bit off
 - 38 Ad Council ad
 - 39 18-time MLB All-Star Carew
 - 41 Crime scene letters
 - 42 Bowen of "Modern Family"
 - 44 Bunny slope lift
 - 46 After that
 - 47 Act that warms up the crowd
 - 49 Baby bodysuits
 - 51 Instant Pot function
 - 53 Player on three FIFA World Cup champion teams
 - 56 Ballet shoe part
 - 57 "Molly's Game" actor
 - 60 Typical annual meeting attendee ... or what 18-, 24- and 51-Across each can be, in a way
 - 64 Words of assent
 - 65 Nation
 - 66 Cluster of small stars?
 - 67 Fresh
 - 68 Aster family member
 - 69 Scalawags
 - 70 Pump output
 - 9 Foggy Bottom river
 - 10 Winter coat
 - 11 Tyrant
 - 12 Springfield hangout
 - 15 Sit around
 - 19 Body image, perhaps
 - 21 Scott of "Hawaii Five-0"
 - 25 What waiters wait for
 - 26 Set on
 - 27 Audition (for)
 - 28 Out of
 - 30 Distracting literary device
 - 31 Best-dressed goal?
 - 32 "American Dad!" dad
 - 33 Karate studio
 - 35 Pipe cleaner
 - 38 Rind
 - 40 Nabisco nibble
 - 43 About 80% of the world's species, according to the Smithsonian
 - 45 Italian tenor
 - 46 Like games needing extra innings
 - 48 Type of IRA
 - 50 Goes around
 - 52 Mahogany or oak
 - 53 Covert "Over here!"
 - 54 Vocalist
 - 55 Balance sheet liability
 - 58 Creative thought
 - 59 Scatters, as seed
 - 61 Major
 - 62 Low-lit
 - 63 Paranormal claim
- DOWN**
- 1 Road warning sign
 - 2 "It's clear now"
 - 3 String game
 - 4 Patterns that repeat
 - 5 "Entourage" agent Gold
 - 6 Fix
 - 7 "A diamond is forever" sloganer
 - 8 Golfer known as "The Big Easy"
- Previous Puzzle Solved**
- | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | L | I | P | D | A | I | S | A | C | I | D | S |
| T | O | M | E | E | M | M | A | F | O | L | I | O |
| O | W | E | N | M | E | A | L | T | R | E | E | S |
| I | W | A | S | S | O | S | C | A | R | E | D | |
| C | A | N | I | S | A | P | R | O | P | O | S | |
| G | I | V | E | T | H | E | M | M | O | B | E | S |
| E | T | E | S | E | M | O | A | T | E | S | | |
| | | | | C | A | R | I | B | O | U | | |
| A | S | P | C | A | L | I | S | T | S | E | | |
| G | O | O | T | O | N | Y | O | U | R | O | W | N |
| O | P | E | R | A | T | E | A | T | I | D | E | |
| | | | | A | C | T | I | N | G | A | W | A |
| T | E | L | C | O | G | O | A | T | S | L | A | T |
| A | T | E | A | M | H | U | G | O | T | E | T | E |
| N | A | B | O | B | S | N | A | P | E | D | E | R |

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 Comic Jerry Seinfeld. (N)	Little Big Shots "Brotherly Love" A pianist; a space expert; an aerialist. (N)	Marlon Homecoming weekend at Howell University. (DVS)	Marlon Marlon tries to help Marley. (N) (DVS)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "The Undiscovered Country" An infant goes missing. (DVS)	WIS News 10 at 11 (N)	(:34) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon Jim Parsons; Marlon Wayans.		
WLTX	19	9	9	News 19 at 7pm (N)	Inside Edition (N)	The Big Bang Theory "The Bitcoin Entanglement"	(:31) Young Sheldon (DVS)	Big Brother Eviction; head of household competition. (N) (Live)	S.W.A.T. "Homecoming" A childhood friend asks Hondo for help.	News 19 at 11pm (N)	(:35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert "Bill Clinton; James Patterson; Tig Notaro" Bill Clinton; James Patterson.		
WOLO	25	5	12	Wheel of Fortune "California Coast"	Jeopardy! (N)	The Gong Show "Jason Sudeikis; Sharon Osbourne; Brad Paisley" Jason Sudeikis; Sharon Osbourne. (N)	Match Game Joel McHale; Constance Zimmer. (N)	Take Two "Taken" Eddie and Sam look for a missing DJ. (N)	ABC Columbia News at 11 (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live "Jamie Foxx; Glen Powell; Gallant; A\$AP Ferg" Jamie Foxx; Glen Powell; Gallant.			
WRJA	27	11	14	Rick Steves' Europe Belgian chocolate.	Palmetto Scene	Secrets of the Six Wives: Katherine of Aragon. (Part 1 of 3)	Endeavour on Masterpiece "Cartouche" Mysterious death.	The Tunnel: Vengeance A burning fishing boat.	BBC World News	The This Old House Hour			
WACH	57	6	6	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory "The Proton Resurgence"	The Four: Battle for Stardom "Week Four" A new set of challengers face the Four. (DVS)	WACH FOX News at 10 (N) (Live)	Sports Zone	DailyMailTV	TMZ (N)			
WKTC	63	4	22	Last Man Standing Mandy arranges a holiday surprise.	Last Man Standing The Baxters have a run-in with the law.	Supernatural "War of the Worlds" Sam and Dean search for Jack.	Black Lightning "Equinox: The Book of Fate" Black Lightning pursues Tobias.	Law & Order: Criminal Intent "Dramma Giocoso" A young violinist is killed.	Law & Order: Criminal Intent "Vacancy" A bridesmaid is found dead.	The Game Derwin goes with Janay to her doctor.			
CABLE CHANNELS													
A&E	46	130	Live PD: Police Patrol	Live PD: Police Patrol	Live PD: Police Patrol	Live PD: Police Patrol	Live PD: Police Patrol (N)	Live PD: Police Patrol (N)	(:01) Live PD: Police Patrol	(:32) Live PD: Police Patrol	(:04) Live PD: Police Patrol	(:34) Live PD: Police Patrol	(12:03) Live PD: Police Patrol
AMC	48	180	(5:00) *** "Lethal Weapon"	*** "Lethal Weapon 2" (1989, Action) Mel Gibson, Danny Glover, Joe Pesci. Detectives nail a South African diplomat who is a drug-runner.	Lone Star Law: Uncuffed (Series Premiere) Too much of a good time. (N)	Northwest Law "Bear Baiter Bust" (N)	2018 Best of Genius Talks 1: Celebrities share their wisdom on life.	Lone Star Law: Uncuffed Too much of a good time.	My BET Experience	2018 Best of Genius Talks 1: Celebrities share their wisdom on life.			
ANPL	41	100	Lone Star Law "Moving Target"	Lone Star Law: Uncuffed (Series Premiere) Too much of a good time. (N)	Northwest Law "Bear Baiter Bust" (N)	2018 Best of Genius Talks 1: Celebrities share their wisdom on life.	Lone Star Law: Uncuffed Too much of a good time.	My BET Experience	2018 Best of Genius Talks 1: Celebrities share their wisdom on life.				
BET	61	162	(:05) *** "House Party"	(1990, Musical Comedy) Robin Harris, Full Force, Kid 'N Play. Two teenage rappers try to throw a party.	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	Cuomo Prime Time (N)	The Seventies "What's Goin' On"	Shark Tank	Shark Tank A mobile wedding service.	Shark Tank			
BRAVO	47	181	Southern Charm "Beer and Trembling" Austen prepares to debut his beer.	Southern Charm "Gone Girl" Austen is hit with romantic reality.	Southern Charm "Game Changer" Thomas plays in a polo match.	Girlfriends' Guide to Divorce Delia receives some discouraging news. (N)	Watch What Happens Live	Kandi Koated Nights	The Real Housewives of Atlanta				
CNBC	35	84	Shark Tank (DVS)	Shark Tank A juice and smoothie cart.	Shark Tank	Cuomo Prime Time (N)	The Seventies "What's Goin' On"	Shark Tank	Shark Tank A mobile wedding service.	Shark Tank			
CNN	3	80	Erin Burnett OutFront (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	Cuomo Prime Time (N)	The Seventies "What's Goin' On"	Shark Tank	Shark Tank A mobile wedding service.	Shark Tank				
COM	57	136	The Office "Hal-loween"	The Office "The Fight"	The Office Michael surprises his boss.	The Office "Performance Review"	The Office "E-Mail Surveillance"	The Office Secret Santa gifts.	The Office "Booze Cruise"	Detroiters "Trevor" (N)	The Daily Show With Trevor Noah	(:31) The Office "Health Care"	(12:01) South Park
DISN	18	200	Bunk'd Finn fears public speaking.	Bunk'd	Andi Mack	Raven's Home	Stuck in the Middle	Big City Greens	Bizaardvark	Raven's Home	Andi Mack	Bunk'd Finn fears public speaking.	DuckTales
DSC	42	103	Naked and Afraid "The Lost World"	Naked and Afraid XL "Hunt to Kill" Survivalists embark on dangerous hunts. (N)	2018 World Series of Poker Main Event. From Las Vegas. (N) (Live)	NBA: The Jump	NFL Live	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Chopped	
ESPN	26	35	Body 10: A Decade of Body Issue	2018 World Series of Poker Main Event. From Las Vegas. (N) (Live)	NBA: The Jump	NFL Live	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Chopped	
ESPN2	27	39	NFL Live	WNBA Basketball Los Angeles Sparks at Minnesota Lynx. (N) (Live)	NBA: The Jump	NFL Live	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Chopped	
FOOD	40	109	Chopped "Whiskey and Wings"	Chopped "Amped For Ramps"	Chopped "Think Small!"	Beat Bobby Flay	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)	Hannity (N)	The Ingraham Angle (N)	Fox News at Night with Shannon	Tucker Carlson					
FREE	20	131	(4:30) *** "Armageddon" (1998, Science Fiction) Bruce Willis.	Marvel's Cloak & Dagger Tandy pretends to be a Roxxon intern. (N)	(:01) Marvel's Cloak & Dagger Tandy pretends to be a Roxxon intern.	(:01) Marvel's Cloak & Dagger Tandy pretends to be a Roxxon intern.	The 700 Club A 12-year-old baseball player loses arm.	How I Met Your Mother					
FSS	21	47	(6:30) Driven	Braves Live!	MLB Baseball Atlanta Braves at Milwaukee Brewers. From Miller Park in Milwaukee. (N) (Live)	Braves Live! Post.	MLB Baseball: Braves at Brewers						
HALL	52	183	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing "Buffalo Bill Day"	Last Man Standing "Breaking Curfew"	Last Man Standing "Private Coach"	The Middle "The Big Chill"	The Middle Brick studies football.	The Middle "Valentine's Day II"	The Middle	The Golden Girls	The Golden Girls "High Anxiety"	The Golden Girls "Little Sister"
HGTV	39	112	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop (N)	Flip or Flop	House Hunters (N)	Hunters Int'l	Music City Fix (N)	Music City Fix (N)	Flip or Flop
HIST	45	110	American Pickers "Frank's Birthday"	Swamp Mysteries With Troy Landry (N)	Swamp Mysteries With Troy Landry (N)	Blue Bloods "Power Players" Erin needs a mob informant's help.	Blue Bloods "In the Box" A distraught man holds Baez at gunpoint.	(:03) "Twist of Faith" (2013, Drama) Toni Braxton, David Julian Hirsch. A gospel community helps a man whose family was murdered.	Conan Actor Tracy Morgan.	Brooklyn Nine-Nine "Undercover"			
ION	13	18	Blue Bloods "Love Stories" A homeowner shoots an intruder.	"Faith Under Fire: The Antoinette Tuff Story" (2018) Toni Braxton, Trevor Morgan. A woman confronts a deranged gunman in an elementary school.	The Rachel Maddow Show (N)	The Last Word	The 11th Hour With Brian Williams (N)	Rachel Maddow					
LIFE	50	145	(6:00) "The Simone Biles Story: Courage to Soar" (2018) Jeané Godlock.	All In With Chris Hayes (N)	Double Dare (N)	Double Dare	*** "The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie" (2004) Voices of Tom Kenny.	Friends	(:36) Friends	(12:11) Friends			
MSNBC	36	92	Hardball With Chris Matthews (N)	All In With Chris Hayes (N)	Double Dare (N)	Double Dare	*** "The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie" (2004) Voices of Tom Kenny.	Friends	(:36) Friends	(12:11) Friends			
NICK	16	210	The Loud House	Double Dare (N)	Double Dare	*** "The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie" (2004) Voices of Tom Kenny.	Friends	(:36) Friends	(12:11) Friends				
PARMT	64	153	Friends	Friends	Friends	(:05) *** "Men in Black" (1997, Action) Tommy Lee Jones, Will Smith, Linda Fiorentino.	*** "Men in Black II" (2002)						
SYFY	58	152	(5:45) *** "National Treasure: Book of Secrets" (2007) Nicolas Cage.	(:15) *** "Gods of Egypt" (2016, Fantasy) Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Brenton Thwaites, Chadwick Boseman. A mortal forms an alliance with the god Horus to save Egypt.	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	Conan Actor Tracy Morgan.	Brooklyn Nine-Nine "Undercover"			
TBS	24	156	Seinfeld "The Postponement"	Seinfeld "The Maestro"	Seinfeld "The Wink"	Seinfeld "The Hot Tub"	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	Conan Actor Tracy Morgan.	Brooklyn Nine-Nine "Undercover"	
TCM	49	186	(6:00) *** "The Gumball Rally" (1976) Michael Sarrazin, Tim McIntire.	** "The Blob" (1958) Steven McQueen. A man-eating mass of space slime terrorizes a small town.	My 600-Lb. Life "One Ton Family, Part 2" A past tragedy is revealed.	My 600-Lb. Life "One Ton Family, Part 2" A past tragedy is revealed.	My 600-Lb. Life "One Ton Family, Part 2" A past tragedy is revealed.	My 600-Lb. Life "One Ton Family, Part 2" A past tragedy is revealed.	My 600-Lb. Life "One Ton Family, Part 2" A past tragedy is revealed.	My 600-Lb. Life "One Ton Family, Part 2" A past tragedy is revealed.			
TLC	43	157	My 600-Lb. Life "One Ton Family, Part 1"	The Perrio siblings travel to Houston.	My 600-Lb. Life "One Ton Family, Part 2" A past tragedy is revealed.	My 600-Lb. Life "One Ton Family, Part 2" A past tragedy is revealed.	My 600-Lb. Life "One Ton Family, Part 2" A past tragedy is revealed.	My 600-Lb. Life "One Ton Family, Part 2" A past tragedy is revealed.	My 600-Lb. Life "One Ton Family, Part 2" A past tragedy is revealed.	My 600-Lb. Life "One Ton Family, Part 2" A past tragedy is revealed.			
TRNT	23	158	NCIS: New Orleans "Poetic Justice" The team gets help to stop the mayor.	*** "Captain America: Civil War" (2016, Action) Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr., Scarlett Johansson. Premiere. Captain America clashes with Iron Man. (DVS)	*** "Sky High" (2005) Michael Angarano. Two superheroes send their reluctant son to a training school.								
TRUTV	38	129	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Carbonaro Eff.	Carbonaro Eff.	Carbonaro Eff.	Inside Carbonaro	Carbonaro Eff.	Carbonaro Eff.	Carbonaro Eff.	
TV LAND	55	161	M*A*S*H	(:36) M*A*S*H	(:12) Everybody Loves Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Two and Half Men	Two and Half Men	King of Queens	King of Queens	King of Queens	
USA	25	132	(6:55) *** "Rush Hour" (1998, Action) Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker, Tom Wilkinson. Premiere. Mismatched police partners seek a kidnapped girl. (DVS)	Growing Up Hip Hop (N)	Growing Up Hip Hop (N)	Growing Up Hip Hop (N)	Growing Up Hip Hop (N)	Growing Up Hip Hop (N)	Growing Up Hip Hop (N)	Growing Up Hip Hop (N)	Growing Up Hip Hop (N)	Growing Up Hip Hop (N)	
WE	68	166	Growing Up Hip Hop	Growing Up Hip Hop (N)	Growing Up Hip Hop (N)	Growing Up Hip Hop (N)	Growing Up Hip Hop (N)	Growing Up Hip Hop (N)	Growing Up Hip Hop (N)	Growing Up Hip Hop (N)	Growing Up Hip Hop (N)	Growing Up Hip Hop (N)	
WGNA	8	172	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	** "XXX: State of the Union" (2005, Action) Ice Cube, Willem Dafoe.	** "XXX: State of the Union" (2005, Action) Ice Cube, Willem Dafoe.	** "XXX: State of the Union" (2005, Action) Ice Cube, Willem Dafoe.	** "XXX: State of the Union" (2005, Action) Ice Cube, Willem Dafoe.	** "XXX: State of the Union" (2005, Action) Ice Cube, Willem Dafoe.	** "XXX: State of the Union" (2005, Action) Ice Cube, Willem Dafoe.	** "XXX: State of the Union" (2005, Action) Ice Cube, Willem Dafoe.	Cops	

'Faith Under Fire' not your ordinary Lifetime movie

BY KEVIN McDONOUGH

Whatever happened to made-for-TV movies? Long a staple of network and cable television, they have been reduced to predictable genre movies so associated with their particular networks that you really don't have to describe them. You know what you're getting with a Hallmark movie or a Lifetime movie.

In January, Lifetime broke out of its thriller mode to present a "woman in peril" movie that didn't involve psycho boyfriends or bridesmaids with evil agendas.

"Faith Under Fire: The Antoinette Tuff Story" (8 p.m., r, TV-14) starred seven-time Grammy-winner Toni Braxton in the title role of this true-life tale. In 2013, Tuff — a school book-keeper and single mother — found herself alone in the front office of the Ronald E. McNair Discovery Learning Academy in Decatur, Georgia, when Michael Hill (Trevor Morgan, "Abducted"), a mentally unstable man armed with an AK-47, took her hostage.

Loud and threatening yet vulnerable, the young man struck Tuff as troubled, very possibly off his medications and not entirely in control of his impulses.

As the school went on lockdown, Tuff maintained a steady, if largely one-sided, dialogue with the gunman, reassuring herself with scripture, then engaging Hill with long monologues about her own dreams and personal tribulations.

While Tuff's religious faith helped her maintain her inner composure, her dialogue with the would-be killer avoids overt preachiness and emphasizes human connection and shared suffering.

These painful moments between hostage and would-be shooter unfold like an intimate stage drama. They alternate scenes of authorities assembling SWAT teams with scenes of a police operator remaining on the line with Tuff and her captor. This contrast makes for nail-biting drama while also underscoring the film's central premise, that sometimes one compassionate person is more powerful than a small army.



RICHARD CARTWRIGHT / ABC

From left, celebrity judges Jason Sudeikis, Sharon Osbourne and Brad Paisley are set to praise, critique and gong performers on "The Gong Show," airing at 8 p.m. today on ABC.

- John Cusack fans are in luck. He stars as a hit man who attends his high school reunion in the 1997 comedy "Grosse Pointe Blank" (7:10 p.m., MoMax). He also stars in "Being John Malkovich" (9 p.m., HBO Signature) from 1999, a surreal romp about put-upon office workers who find a mystical portal to the famous actor's inner world.

TONIGHT'S OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Jason Sudeikis, Sharon Osbourne and Brad Paisley guest-judge "The Gong Show" (8 p.m. ABC, TV-PG).
- Tyrone and Tandy strike poses to find answers on "Marvel's Cloak and Dagger" (8 p.m., Freeform, TV-14).
- Scarlett's kind gesture toward Sean raises suspicions on "Nashville" (9 p.m., CMT, TV-PG).
- A nightclub owner needs help finding a missing DJ on "Take Two" (10 p.m., ABC, TV-PG).

CULT CHOICE

A shapeless menace engulfs all it encounters in the 1958 shocker "The Blob" (8 p.m., TCM), an early role for Steve McQueen, celebrated by TCM on Thursday nights all through July.

SERIES NOTES

An 8-year-old piano player shines on "Little Big Shots" (8

p.m., NBC, TV-G) * Jack proves elusive on "Supernatural" (8 p.m., CW, r, TV-14) * Georgie's grades slip on "Young Sheldon" (8:30 p.m., CBS, r, TV-PG) * On two helpings of "Marlon" (NBC), tradition (9 p.m., TV-14), a license to drive (9:30 p.m., TV-PG) * Tobias remains in hiding on "Black Lightning" (9 p.m., CW, r, TV-14) * An old friend needs help on "S.W.A.T." (10 p.m., CBS, r, TV-14) * An ethical dilemma on "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" (10 p.m., NBC, r, TV-14).

LATE NIGHT

Janet Mock is on "The Daily Show With Trevor Noah" (11 p.m., Comedy Central, r) * Tracy Morgan, Kristen Schaal and Ocean Park Standoff appear on "Conan" (11 p.m., TBS, r) * Bill Clinton, James Patterson and Tig Notaro are on "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" (11:35 p.m., CBS, r) * Jimmy Fallon welcomes Jim Parsons, Marlon Wayans and The Smashing Pumpkins on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC, r) * Jamie Foxx, Glen Powell, Gallant featuring A\$AP Ferg are on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" (11:35 p.m., ABC, r) * Benicio del Toro, Michael Ian Black and Hayley Kiyoko visit "Late Night With Seth Meyers" (12:35 a.m., NBC, r) * Jeff Daniels, Tracee Ellis Ross and Cam on "The Late Late Show With James Corden" (12:35 a.m., CBS, r).

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Florence + the Machine looks ahead with hope

BY JILL LAWLESS
The Associated Press

"High as Hope" (Republic Records) could be seen as Florence Welch's quarter-life crisis album. The Florence + the Machine frontwoman has had some ups and downs in the decade since breaking out in 2009 with the debut album "Lungs." There have been three U.K. chart-topping albums and an acclaimed headlining set at Glastonbury, but also detours into drink and self-doubt.

On "High as Hope," Welch picks over the traces of her sometimes misspent youth and looks ahead with tentative hope. Lyrically, it's a delight: reflective, wry and rueful. Musically, it retains the extravagance Welch's fans love: big hooks embedded in a wall of sound.

Produced chiefly by Welch and Emile Haynie, with contributions from musicians including Sampha, Jamie xx and Tobias Jesso Jr., "High as Hope" cushions Welch's raw and soaring vocals on a lush bed sound — keyboards, strings, drums, hand-claps, the works.

There's oodles of operatic drama, but the album's biggest pleasures often come in subtle moments.

Opening track "June" begins with a sigh, before swelling in a swirl of strings to an exhortation: "Hold on to each other."

"Sky Full of Song," released as a single, pares back the musical shrubbery and lets Welch's voice convey regret and elation, as she sings "Grab me by the ankles, I've been flying for too long."

The quest for connection with others is a recurring theme. On "Hunger," another single, Welch alludes to an eating disorder — "At 17, I started to starve myself" — and recounts attempts to banish loneliness with drugs, art and love. The angst is offset by an anthemic chorus.

"South London Forever" is similarly acute, a bittersweet trip down a pub-filled memory lane.

The album ends on a gentle, ambivalent note with "No Choir," which suggests Welch has found a measure of peace — for better or worse. "It's hard to write about being happy," she sings. "Happiness is an extremely uneventful subject."

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

In Memory



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Love Always, Jennings, Johnson, Fields family

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MERCHANDISE

Garage, Yard & Estate Sales

Yard Sale! Sat. 7-12 at 2713 Powhatan Dr. Household items, clothing and some furniture.

Sat. July 7th 6:30-10:30 at 2601 Hilldale Dr. 230 Bolt Air compressor, antique coffee table, airless paint sprayer.

Estate Yard Sale: Sat. June 30th-July 7th 10-6 at 1940 Dr Mary McLeod Bethune Rd. & Hwy 154 803-453-5014

For Sale or Trade

3 Plots at Evergreen Memorial in Sumter, Iris Garden section. \$2400 each. Call Pat 803-491-7338 Leave mess.

For Sale: John Deer L110 riding lawn mower, like new. \$800 Call 803-397-5242

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted Full-Time

Barnette's Auto Parts is seeking a **Parts Puller** at our **Salvage Yard**. Must have mechanical experience and basic tools. Apply in person, 1370 N. St. Paul's Church Rd.

WANTED
Anyone that has had issues dealing with the Sumter Planning Department. Please send your contact info to americanauto_s@yahoo.com. I would like to get a group together to make some changes.

Help Wanted Full-Time

Ashley Furniture HomeStore of Sumter is searching highly motivated individuals to join our Sales team. Must be goal-oriented and have exceptional interpersonal skills; basic computer skills and a passion for building strong client relationships. **Ashley Furniture Industries is the #1 selling brand of furniture in the World.** Join our team today. Send resumes to 2850 Broad Street, Sumter, SC 29150 or email to sp Perkins@ashleysumter.com No Phone Calls, Please.

Bethlehem MBC, Summerton, SC is seeking a Holy Spirit Filled Minister of Music. Must be able to play a New Millennium Hammond Organ and Piano. Salary negotiable Pastor David Lawson at (803) 478-7833

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Spring Hill Suites 2645 Broad St. Seeking breakfast bar hostess. Work hours 5 am - 12 pm. Apply in person at Springhill Suites, 2645 Broad St. Sumter or email at springhill2012@gmail.com.

PT MAINTENANCE personnel needed at local apt. complex. Must have drivers license & own tools. HVAC exp. a plus. Apply in person at 625 S. Mill St. Manning or call 803-435-2751.

Hiring Instrument Assemblers, Warehouse Personnel, & more in Sumter. Please contact Arlette Johnson at (214) 779-7769, or email arlette@obhealthcare.com

Help Wanted Part-Time

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

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LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO CITIZENS OF SUMTER COUNTY:
Pursuant to the South Carolina Eminent Domain Procedure Act, Section 28-2-70(c), Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, notice is hereby given that entry by personnel of the South Carolina Department of Transportation will be made in the area of the road described below for such purposes as topographic surveys, subsurface exploration, environmental related studies and for the gathering of any other data necessary for the planning, development of location alternatives, design, property acquisition, and construction of road and bridge replacement projects.

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other data necessary for the planning, development of location alternatives, design, property acquisition, and construction of road and bridge replacement projects.

This project will consist of replacing the US 76 Bypass Bridge over US 15 in Sumter County. This bridge is located on US 76 Bypass on the northern edge of the Sumter city limits. The project may also include improvements to the existing roadway in close proximity to the bridge. It is anticipated that additional right of way will be needed to construct this project due to new design standards.

More specific information about the project may be obtained by contacting Program Manager Joe Sturm (803) 737-0137 in Columbia, South Carolina.

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More specific information about the project may be obtained by contacting Program Manager Joe Sturm (803) 737-0137 in Columbia, South Carolina.

Summons & Notice

SUMMONS

IN THE FAMILY COURT CA #2017-DR-42-2562

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG

Johnnie M. Fulwood, Plaintiff,
vs
Angela J. Fullwood and Elroy Conyers, Defendants

TO THE DEFENDANT ABOVE-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 Plaintiff or his/her attorney at Post Office Box 5866, 819 John B. White, Sr. Blvd., Spartanburg, South Carolina 29303, within thirty (30) days after the date of service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, the Plaintiff in this action will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Albert V. Smith
Attorney for Plaintiff
819 John B. White, Sr. Blvd.
PO Box 5866
Spartanburg, SC 29304
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