

# the Sumter ITEM

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2017 | Serving South Carolina since October 15, 1894

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Mummy? Dracula? Learn to do your Halloween makeup at gallery Friday A2

## Irma takes aim at Florida



### PREPARE FOR THE STORM

Come by *The Sumter Item*, 36 W. Liberty St., to pick up a copy of this year's South Carolina Hurricane Guide, produced by the state's Emergency Management Division. In the guide, you'll find preparation tips, a supply checklist, information on returning home if you evacuate, getting pets ready for severe weather and everything you should know before and after the storm if it heads toward South Carolina.

PHOTOS BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Motorists head north on US 1 on Wednesday in Key Largo, Florida, in anticipation of Hurricane Irma. Keys officials announced a mandatory evacuation Wednesday for visitors, with residents being told to leave today.

## Tri-county area could see effects from storm early next week

MIAMI (AP) — Florida residents picked store shelves clean, and long lines formed at gas pumps Wednesday as Hurricane Irma, a Category 5 monster with potentially catastrophic winds of 185 mph, steamed toward the Sunshine State and a possible direct hit on the Miami metropolitan area of nearly 6 million people.

The most powerful hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic destroyed homes and flooded streets as it roared through a chain of small islands in the northern Caribbean some 1,000 miles from Florida. Forecasters said Irma could strike the Miami area by early Sunday, then rake the entire length of the state's east coast and push into Georgia and the Carolinas.

According to the National Weather Service in Columbia, there is a strong possibility of seeing significant effects from



Employees of a building supply store load sheets of plywood for a customer in the back of a truck during preparation for Hurricane Irma on Wednesday in Orlando.

Hurricane Irma locally beginning Monday night and into Tuesday. Improved conditions are expected in the area Wednesday, the NWS said.

"This thing is a buzz saw,"

SEE IRMA, PAGE A6

## S.C. DOT prepares for storm

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

South Carolina Department of Transportation has been monitoring Hurricane Irma since Labor Day weekend, and maintenance forces started the first steps in storm preparations on Tuesday as the storm moves closer to the United States.

SCDOT Deputy Secretary for Engineering Leland Colvin said all actions are preliminary.

SEE DOT, PAGE A6

## Police ask public to help find Lee man

Officers say 52-year-old left area bar Aug. 25 and hasn't contacted family

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS  
adrienne@theitem.com

Authorities asked for the public's help Wednesday morning during a news conference at Sumter Police Department in locating 52-year-old Tommy Brailey, who has been missing since Aug. 25.

According to a flier from the police department, Tommy Brailey, an employee of Continental Tire the Americas, left work early on Aug. 24 and went to Brewers Bar & Grill at 106 E. Wesmark Blvd.

A coworker saw Brailey leave the bar alone in his vehicle about 2 a.m. Brailey drives a silver 2004 BMW 325i with S.C. license tag LYB406 and a chrome Pittsburgh



BRAILEY

SEE BRAILEY, PAGE A5

## 3rd-graders could be held back if they don't meet reading standards this year

BY BRUCE MILLS  
bruce@theitem.com

Beginning this school year, third-graders in public schools who don't meet reading proficiency requirements or don't meet one of seven good-cause exemptions will be held back.

This is a part of the state's Read to Succeed Act that was passed in 2014. However, the law

is systemically revamping reading instruction positively in K-12 public education, according to a Sumter School District administrator.

Cynthia Graham, the district's director of literacy programs, spoke on the state law recently.

She said sections of the law have had staggered implementation in recent years to allow for a smooth transition and stronger student reading proficiency. As the district's Read to Succeed liaison to the state Department of Education, Graham has overseen local implementation of the law's standards.

In adherence to the law, the district hired 16 reading coaches, who are certified teachers — one for each of the district's 15 elementary schools and one primary school. During the last three years, the reading coaches have received intensive training from the state department and then instructed all district elementary school teachers on best practices to better



GRAHAM

SEE READING, PAGE A5

VISIT US ONLINE AT



### DEATHS, B3

Richard Brown Jr.  
Elliot Boler  
Leona R. Butler  
Robert Conner

Wendy H. Durant  
James Burgess Jr.  
Patricia McDonald  
Mariah M. Boyd

### WEATHER, A8

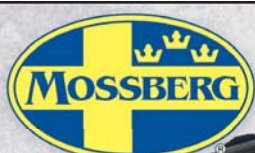
#### NOT SO HUMID FINALLY

Mostly sunny and less humid;  
clear sky tonight  
HIGH 82, LOW 57

### INSIDE

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# SECOND FRONT

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## Council approves sewer line contract, zoning changes

Highland Avenue residents reassured sidewalks are coming soon as part of penny tax projects

BY JIM HILLEY  
[jim@theitem.com](mailto:jim@theitem.com)

City Council Chambers were packed with residents from the Highland Avenue area urging Sumter City Council to install sidewalks on the street so children living in the area who attend Willow Drive Elementary School can more easily get to school.

Highland Avenue lacks side-

walks, and portions of the street get flooded even after short rains, said Randolph Black, a local contractor and a former city council candidate who lives on the street.

Black said area residents had tried numerous avenues to have the sidewalks built but haven't been successful.

Mayor Joe McElveen assured Black and the other attendees that the sidewalks had been funded through the

penny sales tax and are in the design stages. He assured the attendees that the order the penny tax projects were listed in the Penny Tax Election does not represent their priority, as some have suggested. The sidewalks were listed near the end of the projects during the election.

In old business, council passed the final reading of ordinances to change the zoning of 1.45 acres of land at 36 and 40 Artillery Drive from Residential-6 to Limited Commercial and to change zoning of 1.34 acres of land at 1750 U.S.

15 South from Agricultural Conservation to General Commercial.

In new business, council also approved a procurement resolution to accept a \$109,235 bid from B&B Construction to remove and replace 830 feet of sewer lines and pavement in the Crosswell Drive and Yeadon Street area.

Assistant City Manager Al Harris said the sewer project would include replacing lines under Lafayette Drive. Some of the sewer lines being replaced are 80 to 90 years old, he said.

With a visit from Hurricane

Irma a possibility, City Manager Deron McCormick said the city is doing all it can to be ready.

"As you know, anytime severe weather is in the news, all of the city departments are preparing and trying to stay prepared. These are things, unfortunately, we have experience with," he said. "We are in contact with other agencies, including the county's emergency management director, and we have been and will continue to be prepared for what comes the best we can," McCormick said.

## LOCAL BRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

### 2 Community Circles canceled ahead of storm

Sumter Volunteers Inc. has canceled its first two Community Circles because of concerns about Hurricane Irma.

The project will now begin on Tuesday, Sept. 19, at Millwood Elementary School cafeteria. Jo Anne Morris, executive director of Sumter Volunteers Inc., said she hopes to reschedule the Community Circles for Willow Drive and Alice Drive elementary schools after the danger of the hurricane is over. Meanwhile, she is still looking for volunteers for the remaining circles.

For more information, call Morris at (803) 775-7423.

### Become a pro with Halloween makeup

Halloween is still almost seven weeks away, and that might be a good thing, in that it allows plenty of time to work on and perfect your costume — especially your makeup — at 6 p.m. Friday, Kelly Melton, actor and Sumter High School's award-winning drama teacher, will conduct a one-night Special FX workshop at Sumter County Gallery of Art.

Whether you want to look like a member of KISS, a zombie or a vampire, a mummy, a witch or almost anything else, Melton can teach you how to do it effectively.

Fee for the class is \$30 for gallery members, \$35 for non-members, which includes makeup and light refreshments. Guests, who must be 21 or older, are invited to BYOB.

Call Sumter County Gallery of Art, 200 Hasell St., at (803) 775-0543 for more information or a reservation.

## CORRECTION

An article in the Friday, Sept. 4, *The Sumter Item* failed to list a scheduled public hearing for the Community Development Block Grant program. A meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21, at the North HOPE Center, 904 S. Main St.

## Hiring will begin mid-month for Sumter Easy Home facility



JOE PERRY / SUMTER COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Contractors work on the interior of the Sumter Easy Home LLC building on North Wise Drive. The company, a manufacturer and distributor of housewares, plans to be operational in mid-September.

### Company transforms spec building with its \$37M investment

BY JOE PERRY

Sumter County Communications Coordinator

During the course of the last few months, Sumter Easy Home LLC has been working hard to transform the former Sumter County Spec Building into a manufacturing and distribution hub.

In late June, the company announced plans to invest \$37 million and create 88 jobs in Sumter County to produce and distribute home organization items and

housewares for such clients as Walmart, Lowe's and Target.

Dennis Dotson, Sumter Easy Home's warehouse operations manager, said last week that after some delays the company plans to be operational in mid-September. In that same time frame, ReadySC — a division of the state technical college system that will be providing customized job training and screening for the company — is expected to begin taking training applications for mainline employment.

Any day now, the company's first injection-molding machine will be delivered to the North Wise Drive facility,

according to Andy Searles, a process engineer on site.

Everything is proceeding as it should in stages, he said, and by year's end, the goal is to have six machines up and running with close to 30 employees.

Plastic containers, coat hangers and laundry baskets had previously been imported from China, Searles said, and with manufacturing poised to shift to Sumter, they'll also produce adjustable shelving.

Eventually 16 machines will be at the facility, he said, and with 28 acres surrounding the site, it has room to grow.

"They're doing it right,"

Searles said. "Everything is state of the art."

Before the company is able to start manufacturing, it's had to do extensive work to the building, such as pouring concrete and installing electrical infrastructure. A new parking lot and landscaping are coming along, as are offices and the main lobby.

Sumter County Administrator Gary Mixon said the county constantly strives to grow its industrial base and bring in more investment.

"We're happy to see Sumter Easy Home LLC making steady progress," he said. "This building used to be a shell, so they've come a long way."

# OSTEEN

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# S.C. Disaster Recovery Office repairs, builds homes

## Sumter man has new house after 2015 flood

BY IVY MOORE  
ivy@theitem.com

A disabled Sumter man whose house was destroyed by the October 2015 flood has a new home, thanks to the South Carolina Disaster Recovery Office.

The man, who prefers to remain anonymous, lived in his severely water-damaged home for more than a year, then he moved into a motel, remaining until his new home was completed. Last Tuesday, as he watched, the house was completely furnished with donated items by the Palmetto Project Community Flood Hub.

J.R. Sanderson, project director for the office, said the Sumter home is just the second one “stick built from the ground up” by the office. He said it expects to complete repairs or build new homes for “about 2,100 homeowners, total,” and that about 20 percent have been done. Homeowners with very low income were the target clients for the project, which focused on the disabled, elderly and families with children under 5 years old.

The goal for the program, Sanderson said, is to ensure that the homeowners have “safe, sanitary and secure” homes in which to live. The new Sumter home, he said, is American Disabilities Act compatible. This particular house has a new ramp, handicap-accessible kitchen appliances and shower, among other special features.

Total cost was about \$97,000, Sanderson said.

Money for the recovery office, which



PHOTOS BY IVY MOORE / THE SUMTER ITEM



S.C. Disaster Recovery Office built this house from the ground up for a disabled homeowner whose home was damaged in the “1,000-year flood” of October 2015.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Staff from the Palmetto Project Community Flood Hub begin moving a house full of furniture into the home built through the S.C. Disaster Recovery Office for a disabled Sumter man who lost his home to the October 2015 flood. Above right, the house destroyed by the October 2015 flood is seen. It had to be demolished so that the South Carolina Disaster Recovery Office could build a new house on the site for the homeowner, who had remained in the house for a year.

is part of the S.C. Department of Commerce, is “part of the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development,” according to the office’s website. This money is used specifically to assist “tenants, landlords, developers and local government” in the most effective and cost-efficient manner and is managed by the office with the support of the Department of Commerce.

The house furnished for the Sumter

homeowner is a model that “takes 90 days to build from the ground up,” Sanderson said, adding, “That’s too long for me.”

He said the office repaired nine homes in Georgetown and “about 30 more” are still being made safe and livable there. In Sumter, 51 have been completed, and 14 are under construction.

“We’re turning about 32 houses per week,” Sanderson said. “Eight a day.”

The homeowner said he was overwhelmed by having a new home, com-

plete with appliances and furnished by the Palmetto Project Community Flood Hub, which moved furnishings into the two-bedroom home as he watched. Harvest Hope would bring groceries later.

“We are so proud of the philanthropic organizations that are doing so much,” Sanderson said. “It’s really South Carolinians helping South Carolinians.”

For more information about the project, visit [www.scdr.sc.gov](http://www.scdr.sc.gov).

## Shaw’s 20th FSS wins \$5,000 at workshop

BY STEPHEN WARNS  
U.S. AIR FORCE

Special to The Sumter Item

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — “Revitalizing the Squadron & YOU!” was the theme of this year’s Force Support Squadron Leadership Workshop held Aug. 21-24 in San Antonio.

The workshop, sponsored by the Air Force Services Activity, brought squadron commanders together to share best practices and how to keep their squadrons innovative and relevant while serving airmen and their families.

“The FSS is the human capital runway,” said Col. Donna Turner, AFSVA commander. “Our FSS personnel are truly that runway to deliver that core mission support, resiliency, quality of life and family support capabilities to our airmen and their families.”

“The jobs our FSS airmen bring to the fight every single day to take care of our airmen and their families are critical for mission success,” the colonel added. “That’s one of the reasons why we have workshops like this, so we can tie the Air Force chief of staff’s focus

of revitalizing the squadron and reinforce the fact the squadron is the heartbeat of the installation.”

Turner also emphasized how the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center and AFSVA help the squadron. The center is responsible for providing installation and mission support capabilities to 77 installations, nine major commands and six primary subordinate units, including AFSVA and the Air Force Civil Engineer Center.

“For example, AFIMSC’s support to AFSVA’s efforts to transform the food landscape across the entire installation is critical,” she said. “I think there’s a lot of goodness and synergy between AFCEC and AFSVA as we work together as part of AFIMSC to ensure

the APF companion projects are funded at the same time we do our Nonappropriated Fund projects to transform our food delivery.”

During the workshop, topics ranging from AF Central Programs to Club Member Portal transition, Air Force Sports, lodging essentials and child and youth programs were discussed. There also was a “Shark Tank” presentation where the squadron commanders and directors gave demonstrations of installation squadron programs that could be used to support readiness, resiliency and morale of airmen and their families.

The 20th FSS at Shaw Air Force Base won \$5,000 for its “SMILE” program. Customers won by patronizing a designated squadron facility



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY STEVE WARNS / SPECIAL TO THE SUMTER ITEM

The 20th Force Support Squadron at Shaw Air Force Base received a check for \$5,000 for winning a “Shark Tank” contest on how to better customer appreciation initiatives.

on a SMILE day, finding SMILE cards hidden in facilities to exchange for a \$10 gift card. They could also be randomly picked after taking a survey or be selected at random from the “prize patrols” that roamed Shaw. Customers posted selfies enjoying Shaw activities with the hashtag #FSSSmiles. The program contributed to

the morale of both internal and external squadron personnel.

“It created an internal excitement and boost to morale like no other program before it,” said Lisa Stevens, 20th FSS deputy director. “Team members wanted to go on prize patrols and loved cheering for winners — it was fun!”

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**New Fall Look**



# House passes \$7.9B aid bill after hurricane

BY ANDREW TAYLOR  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House on Wednesday overwhelmingly passed \$7.9 billion in Hurricane Harvey disaster relief as warring Republicans and Democrats united behind help for victims of that storm as an ever more powerful new hurricane bore down on Florida.

The 419-3 vote sent the aid package — likely the first of several — to the Senate in hopes of sending the bill to President Trump before dwindling federal disaster reserves run out at the end of this week.

“Help is on the way,” said Texas GOP Rep. John Culberson, whose Houston district was slammed by the storm. “The scale of the tragedy is unimaginable. But in the midst of all this, and all the suffering, it really reflects the American character, how people from all over the country stepped up to help Houstonians recover from this.”

The first installment in Harvey aid is to handle the immediate emergency needs and replenish Federal Emergency Management Agency reserves in advance of Hurricane Irma,

which is barreling through the Caribbean toward Florida.

“This is a chance to be your brother’s keeper,” said Houston Democratic Rep. Al Green.

Far more money will be needed once more complete estimates are in this fall, and Harvey could end up exceeding the \$110 billion government cost of Hurricane Katrina.

“My friends and neighbors’ homes were completely flattened by Hurricane Harvey’s winds. Businesses were destroyed,” said Rep. Blake Farenthold, R-Texas. “FEMA will be out of money in just two or three days if we don’t pass this.”

Politics quickly intruded as Democratic leaders insisted they would back the measure in the Senate only if it were linked to a short-term increase in the nation’s borrowing limit, not the longer-term hike that Republicans and the Trump administration want.

And some Democrats from the New York delegation reminded Texas Republicans that they opposed a larger aid bill for those harmed by Superstorm Sandy in the Northeast five years ago.

“What you did to us during Superstorm Sandy should not stand, should not be done to



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A worker walks past a pile of debris outside a business damaged by floodwaters in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in Spring, Texas, on Tuesday.

any other people, anyplace in the country,” said Rep. Eliot Engel, D-N.Y. “We’re one country, we’re Americans. We need to help those who need help.”

In the Senate, GOP leaders want to link a long-term in-

crease in the debt limit — until 2019 — to the Harvey aid, but that plan faces opposition from conservatives and thus will need Democratic votes.

“I think it’s a terrible idea,” said House Freedom Caucus

Chairman Mark Meadows, R-N.C., who conceded that conservatives were getting outnumbered.

“I think at this point there are bigger issues that we have to focus on,” Meadows said.

## ‘I will be vindicated,’ Menendez says before start of corruption trial

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez “sold his office for a lifestyle he couldn’t afford” by accepting luxury trips from a wealthy doctor seeking political influence in return, a government prosecutor told jurors Wednesday during opening statements of the Democrat’s corruption trial.

Menendez, New Jersey’s senior U.S. senator, later lied about the trips on Senate disclosure forms, Justice Department attorney Peter Koski said as he laid out the government’s case against Menendez and the doctor, Florida ophthalmologist Salomon Melgen.

The two were indicted in 2015 and face multiple fraud and bribery charges in a case that could threaten Menendez’s political career and potentially the makeup of a deeply divided U.S. Senate if he’s convicted.

Both men have pleaded not

guilty. Menendez said before entering the courthouse Wednesday: “Not once have I dishonored my public office.”

Defense attorneys were scheduled to give their opening statements later Wednesday.

Koski described Menendez pressuring government officials to help Melgen with securing visas for his foreign girlfriends, a lucrative port security contract in the Dominican Republic and a multimillion-dollar Medicare dispute. Individually and through his company, Melgen also contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to Menendez’s legal defense fund and entities that supported his re-election.

“He went to bat when Dr. Melgen asked, and Dr. Melgen asked frequently,” said Koski, who discounted defense lawyers’ contention in court filings that the trips were innocent gifts between friends.

### BREAKING NEWS...

# CoQ10’s Failure Leaves Millions Wanting

Use this pill to supercharge your brain and think better than ever.

**BREAKING NEWS:** Millions of Americans take the supplement CoQ10. It’s the “jet fuel” that supercharges your cells’ power generators, known as mitochondria.

As you age, your mitochondria begin to die. In fact, by age 67, you lose 80% of the mitochondria you had at age 25.1 But if you’re taking CoQ10, there’s something important you should know.

As powerful as CoQ10 is, there is a critical thing it fails to do. It can’t create new mitochondria in your cells.

#### Taking CoQ10 is not enough

“There’s a little-known NASA nutrient that multiplies the number of new power generators in your cells by up to 55%,” says Dr. Al Sears, owner of the Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine in Royal Palm Beach, Florida. “Science once thought this was impossible. But now you can make your heart, brain and body young again.”

“I tell my patients the most important thing I can do is increase their ‘health span.’ This is the length of time you can live free of disease and with all your youthful abilities and faculties intact.”

#### Medical first: Multiply the “power generators” in your cells

Al Sears, M.D., recently released an energy-boosting supplement based on this NASA nutrient that has become so popular, he’s having trouble keeping it in stock.

Dr. Sears is the author of over 500 scientific papers on anti-aging and recently spoke at the WPBF 25 Health & Wellness Festival featuring Dr. Oz and special guest Suzanne Somers. Thousands of people listened to Dr. Sears speak on his anti-aging breakthroughs and attended his book signing at the event.

Now, Dr. Sears has come up with what his peers consider his greatest contribution to anti-aging medicine yet — a newly discovered nutrient that multiplies the number of tiny, energy-producing “engines” located inside the body’s cells, shattering the limitations of traditional CoQ10 supplements.

#### Why mitochondria matter

A single cell in your body can contain between 200 to 2,000 mitochondria, with the largest number found in the most metabolically active cells, like those in your brain, heart and skeletal muscles.

But because of changes in cells, stress and poor diet, most people’s power generators begin to malfunction and die off as they age. In fact, the Mitochondria Research Society reports 50 million U.S. adults are suffering from health problems because of mitochondrial dysfunction.

Common ailments often associated with aging — such as memory problems, heart issues, blood sugar concerns and vision and hearing difficulties — can all be connected to a decrease in mitochondria.

#### Birth of new mitochondria

Dr. Sears and his researchers combined the most powerful form of CoQ10 available — called ubiquinol — with a unique, newly discovered natural compound called PQQ that has the remarkable ability to grow new mitochondria. Together, the two powerhouses are now available in a supplement called Ultra Accel II.

Discovered by a NASA probe in space dust, PQQ (Pyrroloquinoline quinone) stimulates something called “mitochondrial biogenesis” — a unique process that actually boosts the number of healthy mitochondria in your cells.

In a study published in the Journal of Nutrition, mice fed PQQ grew a staggering number of new mitochondria, showing an increase of more than 55% in just eight weeks.

The mice with the strongest mitochondria showed no signs of aging — even when they were the equivalent of 80 years old.

#### Science stands behind the power of PQQ

Biochemical Pharmacology reports that PQQ is up to 5,000 times more efficient in sustaining energy production than common antioxidants.



Dr. Al Sears with fellow physician Dr. Oz at the WPBF 25 Health & Wellness Festival held in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

“Imagine 5,000 times more efficient energy,” says Dr. Sears. “PQQ has been a game changer for my patients.”

“With the PQQ in Ultra Accel, I have energy I never thought possible,” says Colleen R., one of Dr. Sears’ patients. “I am in my 70s but feel 40 again. I think clearer, move with real energy and sleep like a baby.”

#### It works right away

Along with an abundance of newfound energy, users also report a sharper, more focused mind and memory, and even younger-looking skin and hair. Jerry M. from Wellington, Florida, used Ultra Accel and was amazed at the effect.

“I noticed a difference within a few days,” says Jerry. “My endurance almost doubled. But it’s not just in your body. You can feel it mentally, too,” says Jerry. “Not only do I feel a difference, but the way it protects my cells is great insurance against a health disaster as I get older.”

#### Increase your health span today

The demand for this supplement is so high, Dr. Sears is having trouble keeping it in stock. “My patients tell me they feel better than they have in years. This is ideal for people who are feeling or looking older than their age... or for those who are tired or growing more forgetful.”

“My favorite part of practicing anti-aging medicine is watching my patients get the joy back in their lives. Ultra Accel sends a wake-up call to every cell in their bodies... and they actually feel young again.”

#### Where to find Ultra Accel II

Right now, the only way to get this potent combination of PQQ and super-powered CoQ10 is with Dr. Sears’ breakthrough Ultra Accel II formula.

To secure bottles of this hot, new supplement, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at 1-877-353-0593 within the next 48 hours. “It takes time to get bottles shipped out to drug stores,” said Dr. Sears. “The Hotline allows us to ship the product directly to the customer.”

Dr. Sears feels so strongly about this product, he offers a 100%, money-back guarantee on every order. “Just send me back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days, and I’ll send you your money back,” said Dr. Sears.

The Hotline will be taking orders for the next 48 hours. After that, the phone number will be shut down to allow them to restock.

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# BRAILEY

FROM PAGE A1

Steelers front license plate. After leaving the bar, Brailey did not return home, nor did he show up for work later that evening on Aug. 25. Mildred Solomon-Brailey, Tommy Brailey's wife, said she last saw her husband about 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 24 when he left for work.

Usually, he will not go a few hours without checking in, she said. She described him as a devoted husband who spoiled his family.

However, since he has been missing, she said she and her two daughters have not been able to get a good night's rest.

She said her daughters ask about their father every day, but she does not have an an-



PHOTO PROVIDED

Tommy Brailey drives a silver 2004 BMW 325i like this one with S.C. license plate LYB406. His vehicle also has a chrome Pittsburgh Steelers front license plate.

swer for them. "This is really taking a toll on our family," she said. "I just want my husband home." "This is not Tommy," said

Sheila Brailey, Tommy Brailey's sister. He is always in contact with his family, she said.

Chief Russell Roark III said there is no reason to think

that foul play led to Tommy Brailey's disappearance. And he does not have any medical issues that would affect his ability to drive, he said.

There has also been no financial card activity since he has been missing, Roark said.

Since Brailey has been missing, officers and volunteers have searched the roadways leading from Brewers to the Braileys' home in Lee County but have not found any information that he had been there, he said. Roark said Brailey's home address on U.S. 401 is in the city but actually located in Lee County.

Officers are conducting the search as if they are looking for a wrecked vehicle, he said.

Roark said officers have searched the land around the

Braileys' home, surrounding roads and bodies of water. He said the search has also extended into the Pee Dee region.

Brailey was last seen wearing a pair of blue jeans and a polo shirt with the Continental Tire logo on it. He has brown eyes and black hair, is 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighs approximately 165 pounds.

Roark asked that the people who were at or near Brewers during the evening and early morning of Aug. 25 to try to remember if they saw anything suspicious. If so, call the police department's non-emergency number at (803) 436-2700, he said. Information can also be given anonymously by calling Crime Stoppers at (803) 436-2718 or 1-888-274-6372.

## Morning at the sculpture



MELANIE SMITH / THE SUMTER ITEM

A swan swims by the Recovery sculpture at Swan Lake-Iris Gardens on Tuesday morning. The sculpture was built by Grainger McKoy and installed in the gardens in 2010 and depicts a pintail duck's wing while it's in flight. For more information about the sculptor, visit [www.graingermckoy.com](http://www.graingermckoy.com).

## READING

FROM PAGE A1

engage students with reading and writing, Graham said.

These best practices include helping classroom teachers improve the physical environment in the classroom — from more books available in different genres to implementing different types of guided reading groups in a different room-seating format for students to participate in.

The reading coaches have also helped teachers with intervention efforts because classroom teachers are the first line of defense to struggling readers, according to Graham.

The more intensive efforts to help children read on grade level now begin as early as pre-kindergarten and kindergarten — as opposed to waiting until third grade to officially assess students' reading ability.

"It's a much more comprehensive look at kids as they approach the third grade and the reading test," Graham said. "We have been doing a lot to try to work with children prior to the third grade."

Determining a student's reading proficiency in third grade is based on state-mandated test scores, usually the SC READY assessment for English/language arts. Ac-

ording to the Read to Succeed Act, third-graders who score at the lowest achievement level of the test will now be held back.

However, if they meet a good-cause exemption, students will be promoted to fourth grade.

Good-cause exemptions include attending a Read to Succeed summer reading camp, demonstrating grade-level reading proficiency on another state-approved test and certain students with disabilities.

Graham said the district began implementing summer reading camps three years ago for elementary school students. Last summer, the district had about 260 pre-identified students in five camps across the county. Graham said current third-graders in the district who have reading deficiencies have likely had the opportunity to attend summer reading camps in both 2016 and 2017 as rising first- and second-graders. Camps consist of 96 instructional hours during a four- to five-week period, generally in June, Graham said.

Third-graders who attend a Read to Succeed summer reading camp at the end of this school year will be assessed on their progress to determine whether they are promoted to fourth grade, Graham said.

If a student is held back in the third grade, the law says

schools must have interventionists in place to serve them and provide even more concentration. Graham said the district's goal is to have an interventionist on staff at all the district's elementary schools.

From kindergarten forward, parents are now kept abreast if a child has a reading deficiency, and they are included in intervention strategies, according to Graham.

Through the Read to Succeed initiative, the district has increased English and language arts instructional time in the elementary schools to 120 minutes per day, Graham said. This includes integration of reading and writing in other subject areas, such as social studies and science. In the district's middle and high schools, the goal is 90 minutes of English and language arts instructional time.

Graham said she thinks the Read to Succeed Act is helping students, given the more comprehensive approach.

"I think it's an excellent benefit," Graham said. "Everybody is beginning to realize the importance of working together. The law that was put in place was to truly make a difference in how we educate our children and teach reading. The teaching of reading is everybody's business, not just the ELA teacher."

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# IRMA FROM PAGE A1

warned Colorado State University meteorology professor Phil Klotzbach. "I don't see any way out of it."

An estimated 25,000 people or more left the Florida Keys after all visitors were ordered to clear out, causing bumper-to-bumper traffic on the single highway that links the chain of low-lying islands to the mainland.

But because of the uncertainty in any forecast this far out, state and local authorities in Miami and Fort Lauderdale held off for the time being on ordering any widespread evacuations there.

Republican Gov. Rick Scott waived tolls on all Florida highways and told people if they were thinking about leaving to "get out now." But in the same breath, he acknowledged that "it's hard to tell people where to go until we know exactly where it will go."

Amid the dire forecasts and the devastating damage done by Hurricane Harvey less than two weeks ago in Houston, some people who usually ride out storms in Florida seemed unwilling to risk it this time.

"Should we leave? A lot of people that I wouldn't expect to leave are leaving. So, it's like, 'Oh, wow!'" said Martie McClain, 66, who lives in the South Florida town of Plantation. Still, she was undecided about going and worried about getting stuck in traffic and running out of gas.

The many construction cranes at sites across South Florida could pose a serious threat if they are toppled.

In Miami, the deputy director of the Building Department, Maurice Pons, said that there are about two dozen such cranes in the city alone and that they were built to withstand winds up to 145 mph but not a Category 5 hurricane.

He said he could "not advise staying in a building next to a construction crane during a major hurricane like Irma."

As people rushed to buy up water and other supplies, board up their homes with plywood and fill up their cars, Scott declared a state of emergency and asked the governors of Alabama and Georgia to waive trucking regulations so gasoline tankers



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man surveys the wreckage on his property after the passing of Hurricane Irma in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, on Wednesday. Heavy rain and 185 mph winds lashed the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico's northeast coast as Irma, the strongest Atlantic Ocean hurricane ever measured, roared through the Caribbean islands on its way to a possible hit on South Florida.

can get fuel into Florida quickly to ease shortages.

It has been almost 25 years since Florida took a hit from a Category 5 storm. Hurricane Andrew struck just south of Miami in 1992 with winds topping 165 mph, killing 65 people and inflicting \$26 billion in damage. It was at the time the most expensive natural disaster in U.S. history.

"We'll see what happens," President Trump said in Washington. "It looks like it could be something that could be not good, believe me, not good."

Trump's exclusive Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach — the unofficial Southern White House — sits in the path of the storm.

This is only the second time on Earth since satellites started tracking storms about 40 years ago that one maintained 185 mph winds for more

than 24 hours, Colorado State's Klotzbach said.

University of Miami hurricane researcher Brian McNoldy said Irma could easily prove the costliest storm in U.S. history.

Jeff Masters, director of the Weather Underground forecasting service, warned that high winds and large storm surges will damage expensive properties from Miami to Charleston, South Carolina.

"If it goes right up the Gold Coast like the current models are saying, then the Gold Coast is going to become the Mud Coast," Masters said. "That includes Mar-a-Lago."

While Florida building codes were tightened and enforced more stringently after Andrew, the population since then has grown, coastal development has continued, and climate

change has become more pronounced.

Under 2001 rules, housing in most parts of Florida must be built to withstand a Category 3 hurricane, meaning winds of up to 129 mph. Miami-Dade and Broward counties have more stringent building codes requiring some structures to withstand Category 4 winds of 146 mph and 140 mph respectively.

As Irma drew closer, Georgia and South Carolina declared a state of emergency. North Carolina declared a state of emergency taking effect this morning.

"It's just scary, you know? We want to get to higher ground. Never had a Cat 5, never experienced it," said Michelle Reynolds, who was leaving the Keys as people filled gas cans and workers covered fuel pumps with "out of service" sleeves.

# DOT FROM PAGE A1

"These are the normal processes we would begin should any emergency arise. SCDOT wants to be prepared as much as possible, particularly when conditions could change rapidly. We have to expect the unexpected," Colvin said in a news release from the department.

Crews are inspecting low-lying areas that are prone to flooding in all 46 counties as well as clearing drainage systems, inspecting equipment

and checking inventories of supplies such as barricades, cones and replacement traffic signals. And generators are in place to provide emergency power to critical facilities such as traffic management centers.

All counties have a 10-day fuel supply for equipment and vehicles, according to the release.

Also, SCDOT traffic engineers are monitoring interstate traffic as Florida and Georgia residents may travel north to avoid the path of the hurricane. Preparations are being

made to inform the public of road conditions via the web and SCDOT's Customer Service Call Center in the event that information is needed.

SCDOT encourages the public to monitor traffic conditions on the 511 Traveler Information System, [www.511sc.org](http://www.511sc.org).

The department also announced it has activated a Hurricane Irma page at [www.scdot.org](http://www.scdot.org), where motorists can find evacuation routes, road closings on an interactive map, the SCDOT 511 Traveler Information System, storm re-

ports, news releases, social media messaging and links to other state and federal agencies.

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## COMMENTARY

# Trump threatens war with North Korea. What kind?

**W**ASHINGTON — The U.S. Air Force “sniffer plane” was collecting air samples off Russia’s Kamchatka Peninsula on Sept. 3, 1949, when it gathered evidence of radioactivity, confirming that the war-shattered Soviet Union had tested a nuclear device. The Soviets’ Aug. 29, 1949, test had come faster than expected.



**George Will**

Dating from the detonation at Alamogordo, New Mexico, on July 16, 1945, the basic science of nuclear explosions is more than 72 years old — three years older than the North Korean nation. Ballistic missile technology is more than 60 years old. The problems of miniaturizing warheads for mounting on missiles, and of ensuring the warheads’ survival en route to targets, are not sufficient to stymie a nation — consider Pakistan, whose annual per-capita income is less than \$2,000 — that is determined to

have a nuclear arsenal.

North Korea has one and is developing ICBMs faster than expected and with ostentatious indifference to U.S. proclamations. On Jan. 2, President-elect Donald Trump scammed up the rhetorical escalation ladder, unlimbering his heavy artillery — an exclamation point — to tweet about North Korea’s promised ICBM test: “It won’t happen!” It did. North Korea’s most audacious act, firing a missile over Japan, came seven days after Secretary of State Rex Tillerson praised North Korea’s “restraint.”

Pyongyang’s “signaling” does not involve abstruse semantics: It wants a nuclear arsenal, and as *The Economist* magazine says, the world’s unpalatable options are the improbable (productive negotiations), the feeble (more sanctions) and the terrifying (military pre-emption). Concerning the latter, there is no bright line, but there is a distinction to be drawn, however imprecisely, between pre-emptive war and preventive war. The former constitutes self-defense in response to a clear and present danger — repelling an act of aggression pre-

sumed with reasonable certainty to be imminent. The latter is an act of anticipation — and, to be candid, of aggression — to forestall the emergence of a clear and present danger.

When Trump threatened North Korea with “fire and fury like the world has never seen,” was he threatening to cross the nuclear weapons threshold? This has been contemplated before regarding North Korea. Former Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who had been fired by President Harry Truman for insubordination, handed President-elect Dwight Eisenhower a memorandum on how “to clear North Korea of enemy forces”: “This could be accomplished through the atomic bombing of enemy military concentrations and installations in North Korea and the sowing of fields of suitable radio-active materials, the by-product of atomic manufacture, to close major lines of enemy supply and communication. ...”

MacArthur badly misjudged Eisenhower, whose biographer Jean Edward Smith says that during the Potsdam Conference (July 17-Aug. 2,

1945), when Eisenhower was told of the Alamogordo test — his first knowledge of the new weapon — “he was appalled” and “was the only one at Potsdam who opposed using the bomb.” Smith says:

“As president, Eisenhower would twice be presented with recommendations from his National Security Council and the Joint Chiefs of Staff that the bomb be used; first, in Vietnam to protect the French at Dien Bien Phu, then against China at the time of the Formosa Strait crisis. Both times Eisenhower rejected the recommendations. As a former supreme commander, Eisenhower had the confidence to do so, where other presidents might not have. And by rejecting the use of the bomb, there is no question that Eisenhower raised the threshold at which atomic weaponry could be employed — a legacy we continue to enjoy.”

But for how long? The non-proliferation regime has been remarkably successful. During the 1960 presidential campaign, John Kennedy cited “indications” that by 1964 there would be “10, 15 or 20” nuclear powers. As president,

he said that by 1975 there might be 20. Now, however, North Korea, the ninth, might be joined by Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, among others, unless U.S. leadership produces, regarding North Korea, conspicuously credible deterrence. The reservoir of presidential credibility is not brimful.

On Aug. 1, Sen. Lindsey Graham said that Trump had told him that “there will be a war with North Korea” if it continues to develop ICBMs capable of reaching the United States. “We’ll see,” said Trump on Sunday, responding to this shouted question: “Will you attack North Korea?” *You?*

Are Congress’ constitutional powers regarding war so atrophied that it supinely hopes for mere post facto notification? Ten months after Nov. 8, that day’s costs, until now largely aesthetic, are suddenly, although not altogether unpredictably, more serious than were perhaps contemplated by his 62,984,825 voters.

*George Will’s email address is georgewill@washpost.com.*

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## NOTABLE & QUOTABLE

The Charleston Post and Courier urges S.C. Gov. Henry McMaster to join opposition to coastal drilling.

Every single coastal South Carolina government has formally opposed offshore oil drilling. So have Reps. Mark Sanford, R-S.C., Tom Rice, R-S.C., and James Clyburn, D-S.C. So have thousands of residents and hundreds of businesses up and down the Atlantic coastline.

Adding to the list, 32 Republicans and Democrats in the state House and Senate sent a letter last month to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management opposing an effort by President Donald Trump’s administration to open Atlantic waters to drilling.

Even with the safest and most modern technology, oil drilling remains a dirty and dangerous business, with the potential for toxic spills arising along every step of the way from oil rig to gas pump.

For a region so dependent on tourism, fishing and marine recreation, the theoretical benefits of offshore drilling simply do not outweigh the very real risks.

The rosier estimates suggest that oil and gas could account for about \$2.7 billion in economic impact for South Carolina over two decades. But tourists in the state — the majority of whom visit coastal areas — spend more than \$20 billion each and every year.

It would be ludicrous to endanger that economic engine.

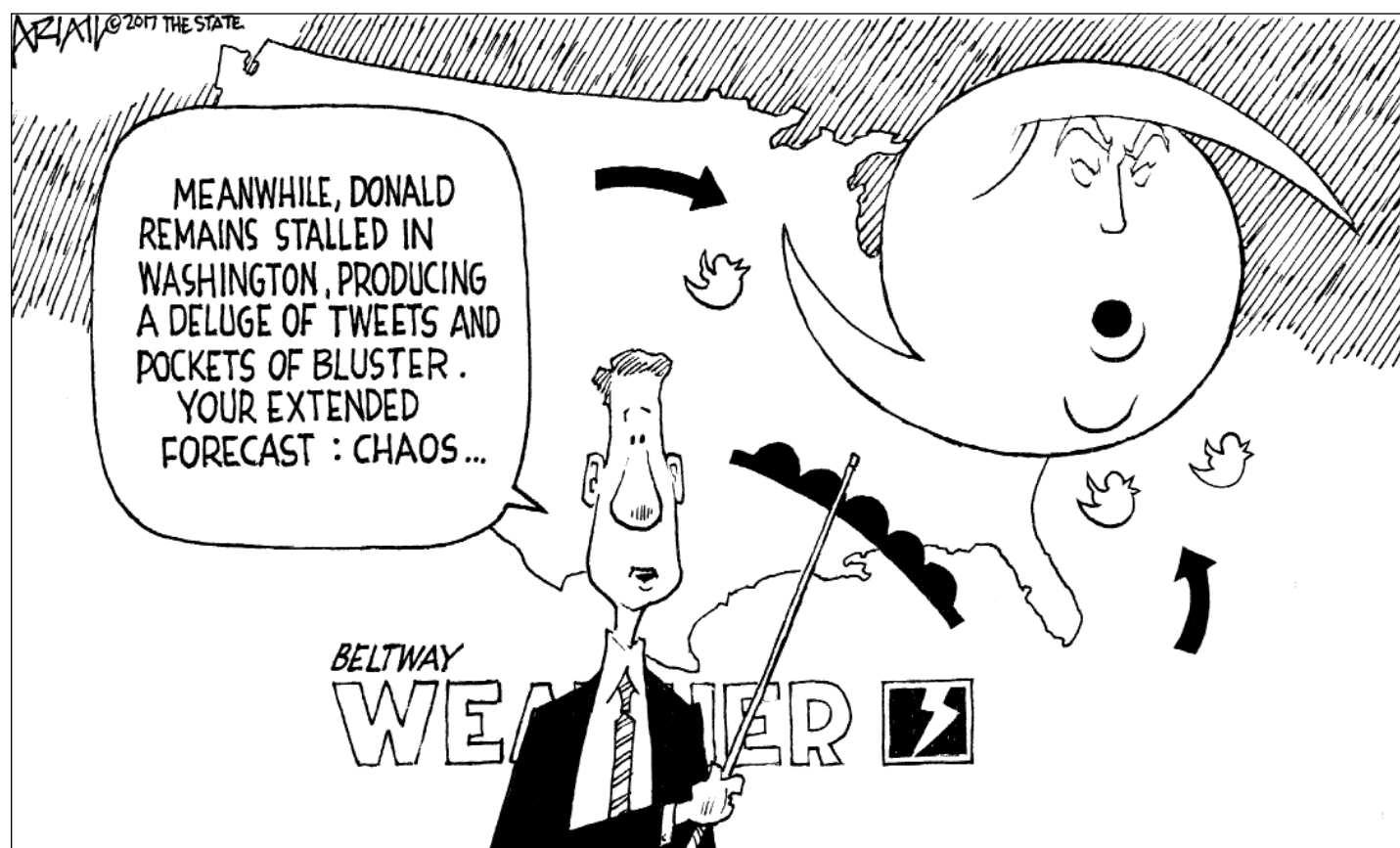
The legislators’ letter also states that Gov. Henry McMaster has “vocally opposed offshore drilling.” But that statement is misleading to say the least.

Mr. McMaster did indeed oppose offshore oil during his tenure as lieutenant governor and has made passing comments since that would suggest his opinion on the issue remains unchanged. But the governor has yet to formally state his disapproval of the plan.

The comment period to weigh in on the Trump administration’s plan has already passed. But there is still time for Mr. McMaster to make his voice heard, and he should not hesitate to do so. Given the governor’s early support for Mr. Trump’s presidential campaign and his ongoing relationship with the president, it’s entirely likely that Mr. McMaster’s opposition might actually make a difference.

Offshore oil is not right for South Carolina. It’s dirty. It’s unnecessary. It’s an economic risk. It’s an environmental threat. And it’s a menace to the quality of life of the state’s coastal communities.

That’s why so many of the state’s elected officials have spoken out



against drilling. It’s time for Mr. McMaster to strongly affirm his opposition and take leadership of the issue.

...

The Wall Street Journal discusses “The Dreamer Debacle,” noting that “Cynical politics by both parties puts thousands of young adults in jeopardy.”

President Trump is taking flak from all sides for ending his predecessor’s Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy, thus putting some 800,000 young immigrants — so-called Dreamers — in legal limbo. Though the President and Barack Obama share responsibility for instigating the crisis, Mr. Trump and Congress now have an obligation to fix it and spare these productive young adults from harm they don’t deserve.

The White House seems to understand the terrible political optics, which is why it has tossed the issue to Congress. It plans what it calls “an orderly wind-down of DACA” rather than wait for a potentially disruptive court injunction. Current Dreamers whose permits expire over the next six months will be allowed to apply for renewals by Oct. 5, though no new applications will be accepted.

This gives Congress at least some time to enact the current Dreamer legalization process in a statute that is the proper legal path under the Constitution’s separation of powers. Mr. Trump signaled his willingness to sign such a bill on Tuesday when he tweeted, “Congress, get ready to do your job

— DACA!” We hope he means it.

This will be a test of the sincerity of both Republicans and Democrats in Congress. Some Republicans like Iowa Rep. Steve King will oppose any DACA legalization as “amnesty” and will want to load up a bill with poison pills that moderates and Democrats can’t abide. Many Democrats may also be more than happy to block legislation and use the Dreamers as a cudgel against Republicans next year.

An obvious bipartisan solution would trade authorizing DACA in return for additional border enforcement. But Republicans should also be prepared to send Mr. Trump a clean authorization to make good on the government’s moral obligation to these young people.

...

The New York Times discusses “Donald Trump’s Cowardice on Dreamers.”

President Trump didn’t even have the guts to do the job himself. Instead, he hid in the shadows and sent his attorney general, Jeff Sessions, to do the dirty work of telling the country that the administration would no longer shield from deportation 800,000 young undocumented immigrants brought to this country as children.

Mr. Sessions, a longtime anti-immigrant hard-liner, was more than up to the task. In a short, disingenuous speech, he said a program set up by President Barack Obama in 2012 — known as DACA, for Deferred Action

for Childhood Arrivals — was a lawless policy that “yielded terrible humanitarian consequences” and denied jobs to hundreds of thousands of American citizens. (Mr. Trump echoed these claims in a statement released by the White House.) Mr. Sessions called DACA “an unconstitutional exercise of authority” and said “failure to enforce the laws in the past has put our nation at risk of crime, violence and terrorism.”

False, false, false and false. DACA recipients are not threats to public safety or national security; to the contrary, they must have a nearly spotless record to be eligible in the first place. They do not receive legal status in this country, only a two-year, renewable deferral of deportation along with a work permit and eligibility for other government benefits down the road. And they are not taking jobs from native-born Americans, whose declining levels of employment can be chalked up to other factors.

Mr. Trump has no good rejoinder. That’s partly because there isn’t one and partly because, as is so often the case, he doesn’t fully understand the scope of what he’s done. One would hope that the widespread outrage at Tuesday’s announcement, and the impending suffering of hundreds of thousands of people who’ve done nothing but try to become contributing members of society, might impress it upon him.

*Notable & Quotable is compiled by Graham Osteen. Contact him at graham@theitem.com.*



## AROUND TOWN

**Blood and platelet donors of all blood types, especially types O negative and O positive, are urgently needed.** Schedule your donation appointment by using the free Blood Donor App, by visiting [www.red-crossblood.org](http://www.red-crossblood.org) or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Those who donate during the month of September will receive a coupon via email for a free haircut from Sport Clips. Help save a life by participating in one of the following American Red Cross blood donation opportunities: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 13, Morris College, Neal Jones Auditorium, 100 W. College St.; and 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday, Sept. 15, Boots & Badges Sumter Police / Fire Departments, 111 N. Harvin St.

**A "Celebrating Grandparents!" walk** will be held 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9, at Patriot Park, located on General Drive, off of Patriot Parkway. This walk is free and open to anyone. You do not have to be a grandparent to participate. The walk is handicap accessible around the ponds. Maximum length of walk is one mile but may be done in shorter increments. Registration on site is required. There will be children's activities along the route. There will also be refreshments available for purchase. Call (803) 469-6509 and leave a message if you would like more information.

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

ning Ave.

**The Sumter Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind** of South Carolina will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 12, at Shiloh-Randolph Manor, 125 W. Bartlette St. The presenters are Danielle Driscoll, CRC Region III Director, S.C. Commission for the Blind, and Karma Marshall. Contact Debra Canty, chapter president, at (803) 775-5792 or [debra.canty@frontier.com](mailto:debra.canty@frontier.com).

**The Sumter County Library's Forrest Ray 5K** will be held on Saturday, Sept. 16, beginning at 8 a.m. at the library. Visit [www.sumtercountylibrary.org](http://www.sumtercountylibrary.org)

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

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

**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 email [hospicecareofsumter@yahoo.com](mailto:hospicecareofsumter@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](mailto: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, household projects, student education and more. Contact Whitney Rogers, regional volunteer coordinator, at (843) 409-7991 or [whitney.rogers@hospicecare.net](mailto:whitney.rogers@hospicecare.net).

## 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](http://www.palmettohealth.org/giving/volunteer-programs/homecare-and-hospicevolunteers). 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 a patient by giving your time, talents, or gifts of kindness. Call Karen Johnson, Palmetto Health Tuomey Hospice volunteer coordinator, 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](mailto:bbrown@sc.wish.org) or (864) 250-0702 extension 112.

**Hospice Care of Sumter LLC is**

### The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Make the most of your time.

Concentrate on being with people you love or planning a trip that encourages personal growth, revives old friendships or fosters educational pursuits. Romance is on the rise.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Observe what everyone is doing before you offer help. Picking up the slack will allow you to be the one who makes a difference in the outcome of a joint effort. Making personal changes will improve your outlook.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Make home and personal improvements and nurture important relationships. Stick to the basics and be straightforward about your plans and what you want to see happen. Strive for greater security and a stable home life. Personal gains will be apparent.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Pour your heart into something you really want to pursue. Your hard work will pay off even though you may not please everyone. As long as you are happy with the results you get, that's what truly matters.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Refuse to let your beliefs limit your chances to get ahead or to try something new. Sharing with people from different cultural backgrounds will be a learning experience you won't forget. Stay alert and ask plenty of questions.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Refuse to let uncertainty turn into a mistake. Go over the fine details and make sure to put a limit on what you spend. Preparation will be necessary if you want to ensure your financial security.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Emotions will be difficult to control. Look at the bright side of any situation you face. Give positive feedback and offer encouraging words to anyone who appears to be struggling. Personal changes will give you greater freedom to do as you please.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Mix business with pleasure and you will gain respect as well as favors from someone who can make a difference to your earning power. Getting along with colleagues and participating in industry events is advised.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Look for ways to brighten your day. A home improvement project will help relieve your stress. Investing in the way you look will boost your confidence. Meeting new people and making travel plans should be a priority. Don't let carelessness lead to injury.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stick close to home and avoid encounters with anyone who tries to entice you to get involved in something sketchy. You'll be misled by someone who tries to get you to change your way of thinking. Say no to temptation.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Personal changes will make you feel good about yourself. Updating your look or altering the way you dress will result in compliments. Put love high on your list and the gestures you make will lead to a romantic encounter.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): An opportunity will arise through someone you know. Don't dismiss the notion just because you have had problems with this person in the past. Be willing to discuss ideas and you will find a way to work together.

# WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2017

## AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly sunny and less humid	Clear	Sunny; pleasant, low humidity	Sunny, breezy and pleasant	Cloudy with a gusty breeze	Hurricane conditions
82°	57°	83° / 58°	81° / 59°	77° / 61°	72° / 61°
Chance of rain: 5%	Chance of rain: 5%	Chance of rain: 10%	Chance of rain: 10%	Chance of rain: 25%	Chance of rain: 85%
N 6-12 mph	E 2-4 mph	NE 6-12 mph	NE 10-20 mph	NE 12-25 mph	NE 60-100 mph

## TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

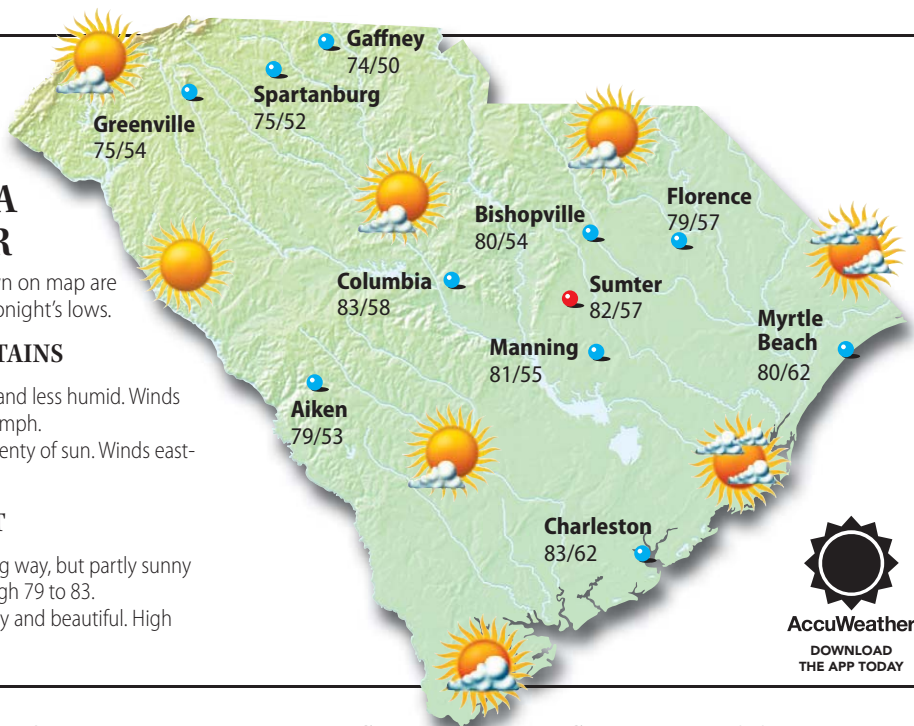
Temperatures shown on map are today's highs and tonight's lows.

### IN THE MOUNTAINS

**Today:** Sunny, nice and less humid. Winds west-southwest 4-8 mph.  
**Friday:** Nice with plenty of sun. Winds east-northeast 4-8 mph.

### ON THE COAST

**Today:** Clouds giving way, but partly sunny in southern parts. High 79 to 83.  
**Friday:** Mostly sunny and beautiful. High 80 to 84.



## LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THROUGH 2 P.M. YESTERDAY

Temperature	High	Low	Normal high	Normal low	Record high	Record low
High	85°		86°	65°	102° in 1954	50° in 1997
Low	67°		86°	65°		
Normal high	86°		86°	65°		
Normal low	65°		86°	65°		

Precipitation	24 hrs ending 2 p.m. yest.	Month to date	Normal month to date	Year to date	Last year to date	Normal year to date
24 hrs ending 2 p.m. yest.	0.22"	0.30"	0.79"	27.87"	38.42"	34.18"
Month to date	0.30"	0.79"	27.87"	38.42"	34.18"	
Normal month to date	0.79"	27.87"	38.42"	34.18"		
Year to date	27.87"	38.42"	34.18"			
Last year to date	38.42"	34.18"				
Normal year to date	34.18"					

## LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	356.40	-0.04
Marion	76.8	75.15	+0.04
Moultrie	75.5	74.95	none
Wateree	100	97.95	-0.06

## RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	2.78	-0.15
Congaree River	19	2.80	-0.37
Lynches River	14	3.51	+0.33
Saluda River	14	2.15	-0.07
Up. Santee River	80	76.29	+0.09
Wateree River	24	6.62	-1.19

## SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	7:00 a.m.	Sunset	7:39 p.m.
Moonrise	8:46 p.m.	Moonsset	8:11 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Sep. 13	Sep. 20	Sep. 27	Oct. 5

## TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH				
	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	10:21 a.m.	3.3	5:00 a.m.	0.0
	10:50 p.m.	3.5	5:15 p.m.	0.1
Fri.	11:04 a.m.	3.4	5:42 a.m.	-0.1
	11:31 p.m.	3.4	6:01 p.m.	0.1

## NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Fri.
Atlanta	76/56/s	79/60/s
Chicago	68/54/pc	67/49/pc
Dallas	85/64/s	87/65/s
Detroit	65/50/sh	65/46/c
Houston	85/62/s	86/63/s
Los Angeles	85/67/pc	82/66/pc
New Orleans	82/67/s	84/68/s
New York	74/58/pc	73/56/pc
Orlando	90/76/t	88/75/pc
Philadelphia	74/58/pc	73/56/pc
Phoenix	106/82/s	100/81/pc
San Francisco	74/62/pc	72/60/pc
Wash., DC	74/58/pc	75/57/pc

## REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Fri.	City	Today	Fri.
Asheville	70/49/s	72/49/s	Florence	79/57/s	81/58/s
Athens	78/54/s	80/57/s	Gainesville	86/70/t	87/72/pc
Augusta	84/57/s	85/60/s	Gastonia	75/52/s	77/55/s
Beaufort	83/65/pc	84/65/s	Greensboro	79/57/pc	79/57/s
Cape Hatteras	79/65/c	79/69/s	Goose Creek	81/60/pc	82/62/s
Charleston	83/62/pc	83/64/s	Greensboro	74/52/s	74/53/s
Charlotte	76/54/s	77/56/s	Greenville	75/54/s	77/57/s
Clemson	78/54/s	80/59/s	Hickory	74/51/s	76/54/s
Columbia	83/58/s	84/60/s	Hilton Head	81/65/pc	82/66/s
Darlington	79/54/s	80/56/s	Jacksonville, FL	84/70/pc	85/73/s
Elizabeth City	79/58/c	79/61/s	La Grange	78/53/s	81/58/s
Elizabethtown	79/56/pc	80/58/s	Macon	81/54/s	83/58/s
Fayetteville	80/56/s	80/56/s	Marietta	75/53/s	78/58/s
			Marion	73/48/s	75/52/s
			Mt. Pleasant	81/63/pc	82/65/s
			Myrtle Beach	80/62/pc	80/64/s
			Orangeburg	81/55/s	83/58/s
			Port Royal	82/65/pc	82/66/s
			Raleigh	76/54/s	78/55/s
			Rock Hill	75/52/s	77/55/s
			Rockingham	78/52/s	80/55/s
			Savannah	85/64/pc	86/65/s
			Spartanburg	75/52/s	77/56/s
			Summerville	80/59/pc	81/60/s
			Wilmington	81/59/pc	80/62/s
			Winston-Salem	73/51/s	75/52/s

Look no further than your local newspaper for

## The right advertising opportunity!

Call (803) 774-1200 and get started today.



## PICTURES FROM THE PUBLIC



Elaine Draper comments on her photo submission, "I looked out the window and here sat a small bunny and a squirrel sharing their evening meal. Time spent together and no negotiating. Cute!"

**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](mailto: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.



## PREP FOOTBALL



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Thomas Sumter's Richard Huntley (40) and the rest of the Generals open their SCISA Region II-2A schedule on Friday by playing host to Spartanburg Christian at General Field in Dalzell beginning at 7:30 p.m.

# Putting it all together

## Generals aiming for better execution in region opener

BY JUSTIN DRIGGERS  
justin@theitem.com

Troy Kessinger has seen Thomas Sumter Academy's improvement during the first three games of the season.

Now the Generals head coach is looking for better execution across the board.

TSA, 1-2 on the year, will look to put everything together this Friday at 7:30 p.m. when it begins SCISA Region II-2A play at home against Spartanburg Christian Academy, which is also 1-2.

The Generals biggest turnaround during the last three weeks has likely been on defense. Thomas Sumter allowed 38 points against Pee Dee Academy, 28 against The King's Academy and just 13 last week against 3A Orangeburg Prep.

"We struggled early on defense," Kessinger said. "But lately it's really just been everyone doing their jobs a little bit better. Better gap control, better tackling."

There were still several plays – both defensively and offensively – that TSA wasn't quite able to make last week against OP that cost it in the end. A

couple of tipped passes that were intercepted and a fumble at the goalline were just some of the issues that plagued the Generals.

"You just can't win close games like that turning the ball over," Kessinger said. "But the first two weeks we only had I think two maybe three turnovers, so that's manageable. I thought we blocked well and I thought we moved the ball well."

Quarterback Eli Kessinger threw a 12-yard touchdown pass to Richard Huntley for the Generals only score

SEE TSA, PAGE B2

## Lakewood to play today

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

Lakewood High School's varsity football game against Colleton County scheduled for Friday in Walterboro has been moved to today and will start at 7 p.m.

The game was moved because Colleton County High is an evacuation shelter, and because school buses might be needed to evacuate people in advance of Hurricane Irma.

## PREP FOOTBALL

# Unbeaten Stallions look for more balance vs. Columbia

BY JUSTIN DRIGGERS  
justin@theitem.com

It was important for the Lee Central High School football team to get off to a fast start, head coach Justin Danner said.

It doesn't get much better than 3-0.

The Stallions, ranked sixth in the latest S.C. Prep Media Football 2A Poll, host Columbia High School on Friday at 7:30 p.m. in their final tune-up before region play begins.

While things have gone well thus far, Danner still realizes LCHS has a long way to go.

"We've still got a lot of work to do," Danner said. "We're trying to get better each week, and through our first three games we've gotten better in some areas but we still have problems in others."

"If we can continue to work on those, then maybe late in the season we'll be somewhere where we want to be."

The Stallions have outscored opponents 122-24 through three contests and have scored at least 37 points in each one and the vaunted LC

SEE LCHS, PAGE B2



Deondraye Moses (22) and the rest of the Lee Central Stallions will be looking to stay undefeated as they play host to Columbia High on Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Stallion Field in Bishopville. LC is 3-0 and ranked No. 6 in the 2A poll of the SC Prep Media Football Poll.

SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Missouri quarterback Drew Lock scrambles on a passing play during the third quarter of the Tigers' win over Missouri State on Saturday in Columbia, Missouri.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

# Early returns look good for current crop of SEC QBs

BY PETE IACOBELLI  
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Missouri — More and more the Southeastern Conference is turning to the air to pile up points.

It makes sense for the league traditionally built on running the ball and stout defense — the SEC may have never been deeper at the quarterback position than it is now.

Two of the top three passers in the country after the first full week of games hail from the SEC in Missouri's Drew Lock and Mississippi's Shea Patterson.

"There's no doubt things are changing in the SEC," said Todd Ellis, South Carolina's quarterback

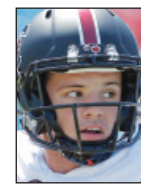
from 1986-89 and now its play-by-play announcer.

Lock led a torrid offense with seven touchdowns and 521 yards passing as the Tigers put up 72 points and 815 yards overall in a win over Missouri State. Patterson, a sophomore, passed for 429 yards in his fourth career start, leading Ole Miss to a 47-27 win over South Alabama last week.

And they weren't alone.

Vanderbilt's Kyle Shurmur finished with 296 yards and two touchdowns in the Commodores' 28-6 win over Middle Tennessee.

First-year starter Quinten Dormady helped rally Tennessee with two touchdowns in the drama-filled 42-41 win over Georgia Tech.



BENTLEY

• Jake Bentley threw for 215 yards and three touchdowns as South Carolina had perhaps the most surprising win in the conference, upsetting North Carolina State 35-28.

It's early, but the start is promising.

The SEC has produced its share of talented quarterbacks, including Heisman Trophy winners Tim Tebow, Cam Newton and Johnny Manziel. And let's not forget about the Manning family of father Archie and Super Bowl champions Peyton and Eli.

SEE SEC, PAGE B2



SCOREBOARD

TV SCHEDULE

**TODAY**  
**5:30 a.m.** — Professional Golf: European PGA Tour European Masters First Round from Crans Montana, Switzerland (GOLF).  
**9:30 a.m.** — Professional Golf: European PGA Tour European Masters First Round from Crans Montana, Switzerland (GOLF).  
**3 p.m.** — LPGA Golf: Indy Women In Tech Championship First Round from Indianapolis (GOLF).  
**6 p.m.** — NASCAR Racing: Whelen Modified Tour from Oswego, N.Y. (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).  
**6:05 p.m.** — Talk Show: Sports Talk (WDXY-FM 105.9, WDXY-AM 1240).  
**7 p.m.** — Professional Tennis: U.S. Open Women's Semifinal Matches from Flushing, N.Y. (ESPN).  
**7 p.m.** — Major League Baseball: Chicago Cubs at Pittsburgh or Philadelphia at Washington (MLB NETWORK).  
**7 p.m.** — NASCAR Racing: K&N Pro Series East from Hampton, Va. (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).  
**7:30 p.m.** — College Football: Sam Houston State at Prairie View A&M (ESPNU).  
**7:30 p.m.** — Major League Baseball: Miami at Atlanta (FOX SPORTS SOUTHEAST, WWFN-FM 100.1, WPUB-FM 102.7).  
**8:30 p.m.** — NFL Football: Kansas City at New England (WIS 10).  
**10 p.m.** — Senior PGA Golf: PGA Tour Champions Japan Airlines Championship First Round from Chiba, Japan (GOLF).  
**10 p.m.** — Major League Baseball: Colorado at Los Angeles Dodgers or St. Louis at San Diego (MLB NETWORK).

MLB STANDINGS

**AMERICAN LEAGUE**

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	78	61	.561	—
New York	74	64	.536	3½
Baltimore	71	68	.511	7
Tampa Bay	70	71	.496	9
Toronto	64	75	.460	14

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	82	56	.594	—
Minnesota	72	67	.518	10½
Kansas City	68	69	.496	13½
Detroit	59	79	.428	23
Chicago	54	83	.394	27½

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	85	53	.616	—
Los Angeles	72	68	.514	14
Texas	70	68	.507	15
Seattle	69	70	.496	16½
Oakland	59	80	.424	26½

**TUESDAY'S GAMES**  
 Texas at Atlanta, ppd.  
 Baltimore 7, N.Y. Yankees 6  
 Boston 3, Toronto 2, 19 innings  
 Detroit 13, Kansas City 2  
 Tampa Bay 2, Minnesota 1  
 Cleveland 9, Chicago White Sox 4  
 L.A. Angels 8, Oakland 7, 10 innings  
 Houston 3, Seattle 1

**WEDNESDAY'S GAMES**  
 N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore, ppd.  
 Minnesota 10, Tampa Bay 6  
 Texas 12, Atlanta 8, 1st game  
 Oakland 3, L.A. Angels 1  
 Kansas City at Detroit, 7:10 p.m.  
 Toronto at Boston, 7:10 p.m.  
 Texas at Atlanta, 7:35 p.m., 2nd game  
 Cleveland at Chicago White Sox, 8:10 p.m.  
 Houston at Seattle, 10:10 p.m.

**TODAY'S GAMES**  
 N.Y. Yankees (TBD) at Baltimore (TBD), 1:35 p.m.  
 Cleveland (Kluber 14-4) at Chicago White Sox (Rodon 2-5), 8:10 p.m.  
 Minnesota (Gibson 9-10) at Kansas City (Gaviglio 3-5), 8:15 p.m.

**FRIDAY'S GAMES**  
 Detroit at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.  
 Baltimore at Cleveland, 7:10 p.m.  
 Tampa Bay at Boston, 7:10 p.m.  
 N.Y. Yankees at Texas, 8:05 p.m.  
 San Francisco at Chicago White Sox, 8:10 p.m.  
 Minnesota at Kansas City, 8:15 p.m.  
 Houston at Oakland, 10:05 p.m.  
 L.A. Angels at Seattle, 10:10 p.m.

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	84	54	.609	—
Miami	67	71	.486	17
Atlanta	60	77	.438	23½
New York	59	79	.428	25
Philadelphia	53	85	.384	31

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	75	63	.543	—
Milwaukee	72	68	.514	4
St. Louis	71	67	.514	4
Pittsburgh	67	72	.482	8½
Cincinnati	61	79	.436	15

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	92	46	.667	—
Arizona	81	58	.583	11½
Colorado	74	64	.536	18
San Diego	62	77	.446	30½
San Francisco	54	87	.383	39½

**TUESDAY'S GAMES**  
 Texas at Atlanta, ppd.  
 Pittsburgh 4, Chicago Cubs 3  
 Cincinnati 9, Milwaukee 3  
 Philadelphia 9, N.Y. Mets 1  
 Washington 2, Miami 1  
 Colorado 9, San Francisco 6  
 Arizona 3, L.A. Dodgers 1, 10 innings  
 St. Louis 8, San Diego 4

**WEDNESDAY'S GAMES**  
 Cincinnati 7, Milwaukee 1  
 Texas 12, Atlanta 8, 1st game  
 Chicago Cubs at Pittsburgh, 7:05 p.m.  
 Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.  
 Washington at Miami, 7:10 p.m.  
 Texas at Atlanta, 7:35 p.m., 2nd game  
 San Francisco at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.  
 Arizona at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.  
 St. Louis at San Diego, 10:10 p.m.

**TODAY'S GAMES**  
 Chicago Cubs (Lester 9-7) at Pittsburgh (Taillon 7-5), 7:05 p.m.  
 Philadelphia (Nola 10-10) at Washington (Roark 11-9), 7:05 p.m.  
 Cincinnati (Mahle 0-1) at N.Y. Mets (Harvey 4-4), 7:10 p.m.  
 Miami (Straily 9-8) at Atlanta (Newcomb 2-8), 7:35

p.m.  
 St. Louis (Lynn 10-6) at San Diego (Richard 6-13), 9:10 p.m.  
 Colorado (Gray 6-4) at L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 16-2), 10:10 p.m.

**FRIDAY'S GAMES**  
 Philadelphia at Washington, 7:05 p.m.  
 Cincinnati at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.  
 Miami at Atlanta, 7:35 p.m.  
 Milwaukee at Chicago Cubs, 8:05 p.m.  
 San Francisco at Chicago White Sox, 8:10 p.m.  
 Pittsburgh at St. Louis, 8:15 p.m.  
 San Diego at Arizona, 9:40 p.m.  
 Colorado at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

NFL SCHEDULE

**THURSDAY**  
 Kansas City at New England, 8:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY'S GAMES**  
 Tampa Bay at Miami, ppd., hurricane  
 Oakland at Tennessee, 1 p.m.  
 Arizona at Detroit, 1 p.m.  
 Atlanta at Chicago, 1 p.m.  
 Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 1 p.m.  
 Jacksonville at Houston, 1 p.m.  
 N.Y. Jets at Buffalo, 1 p.m.  
 Baltimore at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.  
 Philadelphia at Washington, 1 p.m.  
 Indianapolis at L.A. Rams, 4:05 p.m.  
 Seattle at Green Bay, 4:25 p.m.  
 Carolina at San Francisco, 4:25 p.m.  
 N.Y. Giants at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

**MONDAY'S GAMES**  
 New Orleans at Minnesota, 7:10 p.m.  
 L.A. Chargers at Denver, 10:20 p.m.

**THURSDAY, SEP. 14**  
 Houston at Cincinnati, 8:25 p.m.

PREP SCHEDULE

**TODAY**

**JUNIOR VARSITY FOOTBALL**  
 Spring Valley at Sumter, 6 p.m.  
 Manning at Crestwood, 6 p.m.  
 Colleton County at Lakewood, 6:30 p.m.  
 Lee Central at Columbia, 6 p.m.  
 Orangeburg Prep at Wilson Hall, 7 p.m.  
 Porter-Gaud at Laurence Manning, 7 p.m.  
 Andrew Jackson Academy at Clarendon Hall, 6:30 p.m.

**B TEAM FOOTBALL**  
 Hemingway at East Clarendon, 6 p.m.  
 Orangeburg Prep at Wilson Hall, 5 p.m.  
 Porter-Gaud at Laurence Manning, 5 p.m.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL**  
 Thomas Sumter at Carolina, 6 p.m.

**VARSITY GIRLS GOLF**  
 Cardinal Newman at Wilson Hall (at Beech Creek Golf Club), 4 p.m.

**VARSITY GIRLS TENNIS**  
 Sumter at Socastee, 5 p.m.  
 East Clarendon at Mullins, 5 p.m.  
 Cardinal Newman at Wilson Hall, 4 p.m.  
 Laurence Manning at Thomas Sumter, 4 p.m.

**VARSITY VOLLEYBALL**  
 Crestwood at Lower Richland, 6 p.m.

**VARSITY AND JV VOLLEYBALL**  
 Sumter at Socastee, 5:30 p.m.  
 Cheraw at Lee Central, 5 p.m.  
 East Clarendon at Green Sea-Floyds, 5 p.m.  
 Thomas Sumter at Carolina, 4 p.m.  
 Pee Dee at Robert E. Lee, 4 p.m.  
 Andrew Jackson Academy at Clarendon Hall, 4 p.m.

**FRIDAY**

**VARSITY FOOTBALL**  
 Sumter at Spring Valley, 7:30 p.m.  
 Crestwood at Manning, 7:30 p.m.  
 Lakewood at Colleton County, 7:30 p.m.  
 Columbia at Lee Central, 7:30 p.m.  
 Latta at East Clarendon, 7:30 p.m.  
 Scott's Branch at Bamberg-Ehrhardt, 7:30 p.m.  
 Wilson Hall at Orangeburg Prep, 7:30 p.m.  
 Cardinal Newman at Laurence Manning, 7:30 p.m.  
 Spartanburg Christian at Thomas Sumter, 7:30 p.m.  
 Robert E. Lee at Trinity-Byrnes, 7:30 p.m.  
 Jefferson Davis at Clarendon Hall, 7:30 p.m.

**VARSITY BOYS SOCCER**  
 Emmanuel Christian at Sumter Christian, 5 p.m.

**VARSITY VOLLEYBALL**  
 Orangeburg Christian at Sumter Christian, 5 p.m.

**VARSITY AND JV VOLLEYBALL**  
 Lee Central at Lakewood, 5:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY**

**VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY**  
 Lakewood in Coaches Classic (at Sandhills Research Center in Columbia), TBA

**VARSITY SWIMMING**  
 Wilson Hall in Battle of The Midlands (Maxcy Gregg Pool in Columbia), TBA

**VARSITY VOLLEYBALL**  
 Sumter, Wilson Hall in Lady Gamecock Spike-Off, TBA

WNBA PLAYOFFS

**FIRST ROUND**  
 Winner advances  
 Wednesday, Sept. 6  
 Dallas at Washington, 8 p.m.  
 Seattle vs. Phoenix at Tempe, Ariz., 10 p.m.

**SECOND ROUND**  
 Winner advances  
 Sunday, Sept. 10  
 TBD at Connecticut, 3 p.m.  
 TBD at New York, 5 p.m.

**SEMIFINALS**  
 (Best-of-5)  
 (x-if necessary)  
 Minnesota vs. TBD  
 Tuesday, Sept. 12: TBD at Minnesota, 8 p.m.  
 Thursday, Sept. 14: TBD at Minnesota, 8 p.m.  
 Sunday, Sept. 17: Minnesota at TBD, TBD  
 x-Tuesday, Sept. 19: Minnesota at TBD, TBD  
 x-Thursday, Sept. 21: TBD at Minnesota, TBD  
 Los Angeles vs. TBD  
 Tuesday, Sept. 12: TBD at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.  
 Thursday, Sept. 14: TBD vs. Los Angeles at Long Beach, Calif., 10 p.m.  
 Sunday, Sept. 17: Los Angeles at TBD, TBD  
 x-Tuesday, Sept. 19: Los Angeles at TBD, TBD  
 x-Thursday, Sept. 21: TBD at Los Angeles, TBD

**FINALS**  
 (Best-of-5)  
 TBD

AREA ROUNDUP

**MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL**

**ALICE DRIVE 16 MAYEWOOD 8**

The Alice Drive Middle School football team defeated Mayewood 16-8 on Wednesday at the Vikings field.

The Hawks were led offensively by Tayvionne Ingram's 80 yards rushing and one touchdown. Ryan McCants had an 80-yard touchdown run and also ran a 2-point conversion. Terriro Burgess also added a 2-point conversion.

Defensively, ADMS was led by Davin Jackson with 12 tackles. Tajon Roach had five tackles and a sack and Malik McKinzie finished with three tackles and a forced fumble.

The Hawks play again on Tuesday at home against Manning.

**BATES 38 EBENEZER 0**

Zyeir Gamble threw for 20 yards and a touchdown and also returned an interception for a score to help lead Bates to a 38-0 victory over Ebenezer on Wednesday at the BMS field.

Donovan Nelson caught the 6-yard TD pass from Gamble and Jakarriez Sanders also had an interception return for a score as well.

Jamal Taylor led the way with 68 yards rushing while Keion Brown and Chris Ramirez rushed for 60 and 52 yards, respectively, while each scoring a touchdown.

On defense, K'Shawn Boyd led the way with six tackles while Jaylin White added five for the Bantams.

**VARSITY VOLLEYBALL**

**THOMAS SUMTER 3 CALHOUN ACADEMY 0**

ST. MATTHEWS — Thomas Sumter swept Calhoun Academy 3-0 on Wednesday at the CA gym by scores of 25-9, 25-9 and 25-8.

Josie Reed set 28 assists and Anita Cookey-Gam had 21 kills for the

TSA FROM PAGE B1

against OP a week after throwing for four TDs against The King's Academy.

Moving the ball hasn't been too much of an issue, coach Kessinger added, but TSA has to turn those opportunities into more points.

"You can go from the 20 to the 20 all night long and lose every game," he said. "We haven't been able to run the ball that well, so third-and-short situations have been a problem for us. We've also missed some open receivers, dropped a couple of passes and last week we had five holding penalties."

LCHS FROM PAGE B1

ground game has been the major factor. Deondraye Moses, Naquan Peebles and Demetrius Dubose have each been key rushers in the Stallions' ground attack that has produced 16 rushing TDs thus far.

Starting quarterback Ti'Juan Durant was injured for the Week 1 victory and Jaquaze Myers filled in. Both are back now and Danner is looking to production from them — and not only in the running game.

"We'd like to continue to try to work on throwing the football down the field," he said. "We felt like maybe (last week) at Timmonsville we could take some strides, but the weather held us back. We're still working on that.

"Even though we want to continue to establish a solid running game, if you're going to try to take that next step, I do believe you have to have that piece."

LCHS' defense has been solid

Lady Generals, who improved to 8-0 and will travel to Carolina Academy today.

VARSITY GIRLS TENNIS

**SUMTER 4-5 MANNING 2-1**

Sumter High School improved to 3-0 as it swept a pair of matches against Manning on Tuesday at the SHS courts.

SHS won the first match 4-2 and the second 5-1.

**FIRST MATCH**

**SINGLES**  
 1 – Whitney Crawford (S) defeated Marie Joyner 6-0, 6-0.  
 2 – Lindsey Smutz (S) defeated Madison Sexton 6-0, 6-2.  
 3 – Shaniya Gamble (M) defeated Jordan Shuping 6-1, 6-4.  
 4 – Rita Alan (S) defeated Lorena Sanchez 6-4, 6-7, 6-1.  
 5 – Windsor Pittman (S) defeated Katie Feagan 6-0, 6-2.

**DOUBLES**  
 1 – Did not play.  
 2 – Gracie Lemon/ Kailyn Vicente (M) defeated Carmen Carrigan/Madelyn Jordan 6-3, 2-6, 6-1.

**SECOND MATCH**

**SINGLES**  
 1 – Crawford (S) defeated Joyner 6-0, 6-0.  
 2 – Smutz (S) defeated Sexton 6-0, 6-2.  
 3 – Alan (S) defeated Gamble 7-0, withdraw.  
 4 – Shuping (S) defeated Sanchez 6-3, 3-3 (set called due to lightning)  
 5 – Pittman (S) defeated Feagan 7-5, 6-2.

**DOUBLES**  
 1 – Did not play.  
 2 – Lemon/Vicente (M) defeated Carrigan/Jordan 6-4, 6-3.

JV VOLLEYBALL

**THOMAS SUMTER 2 CALHOUN ACADEMY 0**

ST. MATTHEWS — Thomas Sumter swept Calhoun Academy 2-0 on Wednesday at the CA gym.

Logan Scruggs had 10 aces while Kaylee Rose, Hannah Guifrida and Aliyah Gibson recorded their first kills of the season.

Fifth-grader Reese Distelzweig and sixth-grader Savannah Byrd had two digs each for the Lady Generals, who are 6-2 on the season.

SEC FROM PAGE B1

Steve Spurrier tweaked the old SEC philosophy at Florida with his 'Fun-n-Gun' attack in the 1990s.

Now, Ellis sees a transformative shift in offensive philosophy among SEC attacks.

He believes it's a bottom up revolution with more high school prospects trained in the spread offense, giving SEC teams a bevy of quarterbacks well-skilled in the run-pass option and capable of throwing the ball all over the field.

And they only seem to get better.

Lock made his first start in 2015 and completed 21 of 28 passes and two touchdowns in a 24-10 win over South Carolina. He thought

he had a the game all figured out. Then Florida came in the next week and knocked him around — he was sacked three times and threw a pick six in the Gators' 21-3 win.

"Since then, I've learned a lot," Lock said.

His seven touchdowns last week tied an SEC record while his yardage was the fifth most by an SEC quarterback.

Scout.com had Ole Miss' Patterson rated as the No. 1 quarterback prospect when he signed two years ago. He started the last three games in 2016 when Rebels' starter Chad Kelly was hurt, averaging nearly 300 yards a game with eight TDs.

Vanderbilt's Shurmur, son of Minnesota Vikings offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur, also played some as a

freshman in 2015 before taking over the starting job last season.

Commodores coach Derek Mason said Shurmur improved his decision making, throwing the ball away instead of trying to make something out of nothing.

"That's a different Kyle Shurmur than we've seen the last couple years," Mason said.

South Carolina coach Will Muschamp believes it's more essential than ever to have a confident, skilled leader at the top of your quarterback depth chart.

It's one reason he inserted Bentley as the starter in the middle of last season with his offense struggling.

"He is the leader of your team because it affects everybody in your organization," he said. "Having a

natural leader in that position is certainly a benefit."

That's also true of Alabama's Jalen Hurts , who as a freshman led the Crimson Tide to an undefeated regular season, an SEC title and a spot in the national championship game.

Hurts was poised and efficient in leading top-ranked Alabama to a 24-7 over Florida State.

Crimson Tide coach Nick Saban said Hurts, who ended with 96 yards passing and a TD, had opportunities for more explosive plays that went awry against the Seminoles powerhouse defense, either due to missed assignments, poor throws or not letting a play develop.

Not everyone in the SEC is set at the quarterback position. There are a few QBs

who will have to prove themselves in the league sooner than later.

No. 22 Florida started freshman Feleipe Franks then switched to Notre Dame transfer Malik Zaire because of offensive problems in a loss to No. 8 Michigan.

No. 15 Georgia faces No. 22 Notre Dame without starter Jacob Eason, who sprained a knee ligament in beating Appalachian State. Freshman Jake Fromm will get his first start for the Bulldogs.

Whoever is behind center, Ellis believes the talent is there and teams will continue to attack downfield.

"It's not going to stop," the former Gamecocks signal-caller said, "when you have such talented players everywhere you look."



## RECRUITING CORNER

## Louisiana DB keeping commitment to FSU, will visit USC

The University of South Carolina football coaching staff continues to work Florida State defensive back commitment Israel Mukuamu of Bossier City, La., and he is looking at taking an official visit with USC this month.



Phil Kornblut

"I think I'm going to keep my commitment, but I'm still open to taking my official visits to South Carolina and others," Mukuamu said.

He's looking at the Kentucky weekend of Sept. 16 for his USC official visit. For his FSU official visit,

Mukuamu's planning the weekend of the Louisville game. He also plans to take officials to Georgia, Louisville and Indiana.

USC offered defensive end Joe Boletepeli (6-feet-4-inches, 244 pounds) of Wake Forest, N.C. He also has offers from North Carolina, UGA, North Carolina State, Wake Forest, Louisville, Michigan State, Tennessee, Miami and Arkansas.

"South Carolina is a big-time program," Boletepeli said. "A lot of big names have come out from that program. And it's an SEC (Southeastern Conference) school, so it's a pretty big deal."

He wants to take all of his official visits before making a decision, and he doesn't have a favorite. He said he hopes to make his decision in September or early October and he does plan to graduate early.

USC defensive lineman target Rick Sandidge of Concord, N.C., said one of his official visits will be to Michigan for the Ohio State game in late November. That's his only official with a date right now. He said three other official visits will be with Florida, Penn State and Louisville. He's undecided about his fifth visit with USC, Virginia Tech and UGA left on his short list.

"I don't know about taking an official to South Carolina because it's right there," Sandidge said. "That really won't affect my decision. Just because I don't choose South Carolina for an official, that doesn't affect their chances at all. I live less than two

hours away."

Sandidge said all of his final seven schools remain in the mix and no one stands out. Sandidge does not have a timetable on making his decision.

DB Saivion Smith of Mississippi Gulf Coast Junior College, who played at Louisiana State as a freshman in 2016, has USC and Alabama offers. Smith said USC is now a factor with him because of his past relationship with head coach Will Muschamp and defensive coordinator Travaris Robinson when they were at UF.

"I don't really know much about South Carolina, but I know about Coach Muschamp and Coach T-Rob. I've got a pretty good relationship with those two," Smith said. "T-Rob likes me a lot. He wants me to come in and play right away and fill up a spot."

Smith visited Alabama unofficially late last month. Smith said he's not rushing into this decision and he plans to take officials to USC and Alabama. He doesn't have a favorite between the two. He will be a December graduate with three years to play two.

Linebacker Channing Tindall of Spring Valley High School in Columbia told 247Sports he is down to USC, UGA, UF and FSU with no favorite. He plans to announce in two to three weeks.

USC DL target Antwan Jackson Jr. of Blinn JC in Texas was offered by Alabama and Ohio State.

USC offered '19 quarterback Ryan Hilinski (6-3, 203) of Orange, Calif., on Sunday. USC also recently offered '19 wide receiver DeMarcco Hellams of Hyattsville, Md., '19 WR Treyton Burke of Warren, Ark., and '20 QB Luke Doty of Myrtle Beach High.

## CLEMSON

Clemson QB commitment Trevor Lawrence attended the FSU-Alabama game in Atlanta on Saturday apparently as a guest of FSU, according to 247Sports.

DB Patrick Surtain Jr. of Plantation, Fla., named his top six as Clemson, LSU, Alabama, Ohio State, UF and FSU. Tyshiek Galloway, a '19 DL from Belton-Honea Path High and '19 DB Akele Pauling of Ben Lippen in Columbia were among the prospects at Clemson on Saturday.

Jalyn Phillips, a '19 DB from Lawrenceville, Ga., will visit Clemson on Saturday for the Auburn game. Paul Strelow of Tiger Illustrated reported DE KJ Henry of Clemmons, N.C., will be at Clemson on Saturday as well.

Clemson offered '19 tight end Keon Zipperer of Lakeland, Fla., and '19 LB Drake Thomas of Wake Forest, N.C.

## OTHERS

DB Khris Pam of Blythewood High and Georgia Military College is hearing now from FSU, Texas-San Antonio, Louisiana Lafayette, Tulane, Northern Illinois and Appalachian State.

## BASKETBALL

Jimmy Nichols, a 6-7 player from Conway High, committed to Providence on Tuesday. He visited Providence over the weekend and also has had USC and Miami high on his list.

Zion Williamson, the 6-6 player from Spartanburg Day considered to be the top recruit in the country, is now in the process of deciding on his official visits. He is working with his stepfather, Lee Anderson, formerly of Sumter, on deciding on those five. A key step in deciding on the schools to visit is determining which schools offer the playing style that fits Williamson's multiple skill set.

"I think he can fit almost any style, but he wants to be happy, let his hair down and play ball," Anderson said. "He doesn't want to be in a half-court set that's going to hold him down."

"Right now, is there a clear cut No. 1? I really don't think so. People talk about Kentucky and Kansas. All those are blue bloods and they're good and people would expect the top players to visit those schools or be interested in those schools, but Zion is totally different. He's so down to earth, even the smallest schools if they are recruiting him Zion will sit down and hear what they have to say. I read the material all the time and I say, 'Wow, these people are supposed to be the experts and they don't have a clue.' I think he's going to shock some folks when all that comes out."

Anderson said USC and Clemson continue to work Williamson very hard and are making a push for visits.

"We respect the state and South Carolina and Clemson are in pretty good shape," he said. "They have not been ruled out of the equation. They will be schools that he would actually sit down with an attentive ear and listen to. I'm sure of that."

Duke, UNC, Kansas, UCLA, Clemson and USC are among the schools, Anderson said, which have been in touch regarding in-home visits after Saturday.

Aaron Nesmith, the 6-5 player from Porter-Gaud in Charleston, is moving toward a decision possibly as early as the middle of September. He said that after taking official visits to UF and Vanderbilt, he might not take any more, and if he decides to take one more official visit, it would probably be to USC.

Nesmith visited Vandy in early August and he was at UF late last month. Nesmith also has USC, Georgetown, VT, Harvard and Yale on his short list. He said he's been to all of those schools so he's not feeling the need for official visits to them.

"I've been to South Carolina so many times unofficially so I know about it; I've been there a bunch," he said. "If I were to take one more (official visit) I probably would make it South Carolina. I would say that (head) Coach (Frank) Martin wants me. He wants to coach me and help develop me and help me be the best I can be."

Nesmith said he still does not have an idea where he wants to go and all seven schools on his short list are still in the mix.

Manny Bates, a 6-9 player from Fayetteville, N.C., has set four of his official visits, according to Elevatehoops.com. He went to Georgetown this past weekend and will visit NCSU this weekend. He is set for USC on Sept. 15 and Georgia Tech on Sept. 22.

Amanze Ngumezi, a 6-7 Clemson target from Savannah, Ga., committed to UGA over the weekend while on his official visit.

The USC women's program offered Brea Beal, a '19 6-0 prospect from Rock Island, Ill. She is ranked No. 4 nationally in her class by HoopGurlz. USC head coach Dawn Staley also offered 6-2 Rickea Jackson of Detroit, ranked 11th nationally by ESPN.

## OBITUARIES

## RICHARD BROWN JR.

Richard Brown Jr. was born on Sept. 9, 1942, in Miami, to the late Richard and Rosa Lee Brown.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a son, Ignatious Brown.

He departed this life on Sunday, Sept. 3, 2017, in Sumter.

He is survived by his longtime companion, Betty

Jean Richardson; five daughters, Kim Cuerton, Ivory Paschal, Iolanthe Brown, Ernestine Brown and Generia Becton; two sons, Richard (Christie) Brown III and Sylvester Kelly; sister, Trypheney Johnson; 24 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday in the chapel of Whites Mortuary, 517 N. Guignard Drive, Sumter. Interment will follow at 1 p.m. at Florence National Cemetery, Florence.

A public viewing will be held from 1 to 7 p.m. today at the mortuary.

Messages of hope can be left at [www.whitesmortuary.net](http://www.whitesmortuary.net).

The family is receiving friends at 265 E. Newberry Ave., Sumter.

Services entrusted to Whites Mortuary LLC.

## ELLIOT BOLER

Deacon Elliot "Big E" Boler, 45, was born on Jan. 15, 1972, in Manhattan, New York, to Clarice Boler and Joe A. James. He is the husband of Nakia Melson Boler.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, two uncles and a daughter.

He departed this life on Thursday, Aug. 31, 2017, in Columbia.

In addition to his wife and parents, he is survived by his children, Kiara Boler, Severtice Boler, Taliana Boler, Nasiah Boler and Elijah Boler; two children raised as his own, Destiny Ragin and Zach

ariah Roberson; sister, Jewel Dixon; brother, Everett (Vonetta) Dixon; and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday at Grace Cathedral Ministries, 60 Oswego Highway, Sumter, with Bishop Anthony Gibson, pastor.

A public viewing will be held from 1 to 7 p.m. today at the mortuary.

Online messages of hope can be left at [www.whitesmortuary.net](http://www.whitesmortuary.net).

The family is receiving friends at 204 Oswego Highway, Sumter.

Services entrusted to Whites Mortuary LLC.

## LEONA R. BUTLER

Leona Raysor Butler, 76, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, Aug. 27, 2017, at her home, after a bout with cancer.

Born on July 14, 1941, in Bamberg, she was the second of 14 children of the late Leon Raysor Sr. and Mamie Hay Raysor. "Lee," as she was affectionately called, migrated to New York City, where she attended and graduated from Pace University. She also received certification as a public school teacher. Eventually she changed her direction and became a housing assistant with New York City Housing Authority. She returned to Sumter after retiring from the New York City Housing Authority. Leona became involved in different activities, many of which were centered around Trinity Missionary Baptist Church, where she and her husband attended.

She is survived by her husband, Marrion Butler; two sons, Kenneth (Margaret) Butler of Jamaica, New York, and Terence Bernard Butler of Bronx, New York; three grandchildren; siblings, Annie R. Hutchinson, Leon Raysor Jr., Louis Raysor, Mary Seel, the Rev. Dr. Cecil Raysor, Josephine Raysor, Deacon Leo Raysor, the Rev. Inez Raysor, Thurmon Raysor, Douglas

Raysor, Reuben Raysor, Shelby Raysor and Carol Chatman; a host of nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday at Trinity Missionary Baptist Church, 155 Wall St., Sumter, with the Rev. Larry C. Weston, pastor, eulogist.

The family will receive relatives and friends at the home, 4070 Horatio Hagood Road, Horatio.

The procession will leave at 10:20 a.m. from the home.

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

Online memorial messages may be sent to the family at [williamsfuneralhome@sc.rr.com](mailto:williamsfuneralhome@sc.rr.com).

Visit us on the web at [www.WilliamsFuneralHomeInc.com](http://www.WilliamsFuneralHomeInc.com).

## ROBERT CONNER

Robert Conner, 71, husband of Elizabeth Pringle Conner, died on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017, at Palmetto Health Tuomey.

Born on Dec. 9, 1945, in Horry County, he was a son of David Conner Sr. and Lula Mae Stanly Conner.

The family is receiving relatives and friends at the home, 130 E. Moore St.

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

## WENDY H. DURANT

Wendy Hammett Durant was born on March 27, 1975, in Pinewood, to Joseph Hammett and the late Carrie Mae Hammett. She departed this life on Friday, Sept. 1, 2017, at Palmetto Health Tuomey.

Wendy was reared with the support of a loving family. She was educated in the public schools of Sumter County. She was employed with Genuine Flava Restaurant.

Wendy leaves to cherish her precious memories: loving husband, Cleveland Durant Jr.; children, Clevetria (Gregory) Durant, Courtney (Stedmond) Hammett, Jeremy (Jodi) Durant, Jimmy Durant, Joseph Buck and Jalen Durant; her stepchildren, Donte (Diamond) Wheeler,

Justice Durant, Cleveland (Melinda) Maple and Demond Pringle; her father, Joseph Hammett; four sisters, Mechell (Eric) McClam, Linda Hammett Johnson, Cara (Adrain) Spann and Jennifer Simon (Glenn); two daughters that she helped and raised as her own, Ericka L. McClam and Destiny S. Johnson, all of Sumter; her father-in-law, Cleveland Durant Sr. of Sumter; grandchildren, Mauri, Ganiyah, Zionne, Ga' Laiyah, Gregory Jr., Brysyn, Cleveah, Jazlynn, Jakori, Jyheem and Jhymir; a host of step-grandchildren; aunts, Ellanora Shaw, Debra Johnson, Dot (Mallie) Richardson and Rosetta Felder; uncles, Norris (Ida) Hammett and George (Carolyn) Stukes Jr.; grandaunt, Luphillis (Sam) McFadden; granduncle, Johnny Lee (Mary) Bradley; sisters-in-law, Doris (Willie) Shaw, Lula Mae Sigler, Mary Shropshire, Grandeur Durant, Rutdenia (Larry) Bouknight, Beverly (Ike) Peterson, Janice (Herbert) Wells and Doris English; brothers-in-law, Gregory Durant, Joseph Durant and Lazars (Tacarra) Durant; a dear cousin she took as a brother, Gary Washington; a host of nieces, nephews, close relatives, cousins and friends, Tawn Chris, Carolyn, Jennifer, Kathy, Nobie and Tarlisa and Patsy.

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

Mrs. Durant will be placed in the church on Friday at 1pm for viewing until the hour of service.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday at Salem Chapel & Heritage Center, 101 S. Salem Ave., Sumter, with the Rev. Roger Mullins officiating. Interment will follow at Calvary-Zion Hill Cemetery, Pinewood.

The family will be receiving friends at the home, 169 Gatewood St., Sumter.

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

Online memorials may be sent to the family at [jobsmortuary@sc.rr.com](http://jobsmortuary@sc.rr.com) or visit us on the web at [www.jobsmortuary.net](http://www.jobsmortuary.net).

## JAMES BURGESS JR.

James Burgess Jr., 92, departed this life on Sunday, Sept. 3, 2017, at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

He was born on Aug. 20, 1925, in Clarendon County, a son of the late James Sr. and Essie Burgess and brother of Lucille B. Hastie.

Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Hoper Funeral Home, Winston-Salem.

Courtesy announcement of Job's Mortuary Inc., 312 S. Main St., Sumter.

## PATRICIA MCDONALD

Patricia McDonald, 53, departed this life on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017, at Palmetto Health Tuomey.

She was born on March 11, 1964, in Sumter, a daughter of Betty William McDonald and the late Valentine McDonald.

The family will receive friends at the home of her sister, 965 Gaines Road, Sumter, SC 29150.

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

## MARIAH M. BOYD

Mariah Monroe Boyd, daughter of Kimberly Bell and Cornelius Boyd, died on Friday, Sept. 1, 2017, at Pametto Health Tuomey.

She was born on Sept. 1, 2017, in Sumter County.

She is survived by six brothers, Ty Shawn Bell, Marveqell Stevens, Dequan Stevens, Kveon Stevens, Mekhi Stevens and Skyler Stevens; four sisters, Ashanti, Armani, Parris and Lyric; maternal grandparents, Toney and Etta Tomlin; paternal grandparents, Billy and Samantha Boyd Bracey; other relatives and friends.

Memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday at the chapel of Sumter Funeral Service Inc. with Pastor Yancy Martin officiating, assisted by Dr. Lewis Walker Jr.

The funeral cortege will leave at 1:30 p.m. from the home, 30 Habitat Court, Sumter.

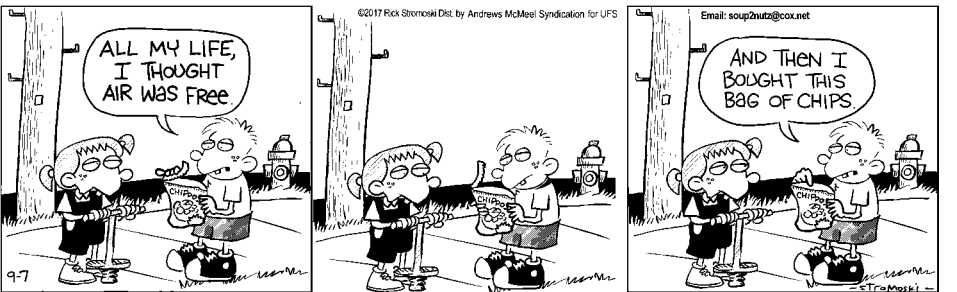
Sumter Funeral Service Inc. is in charge of arrangements.



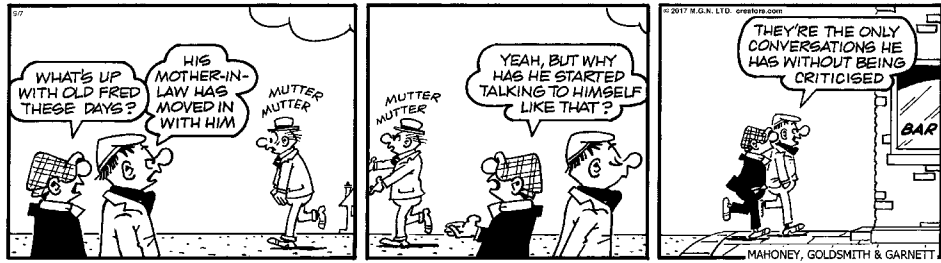
**BIZARRO**



**SOUP TO NUTZ**



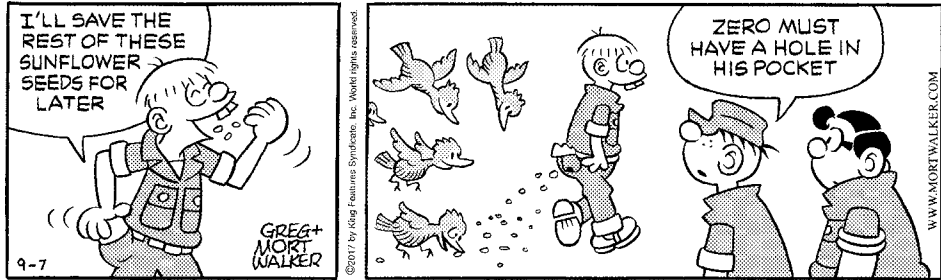
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**GARFIELD**



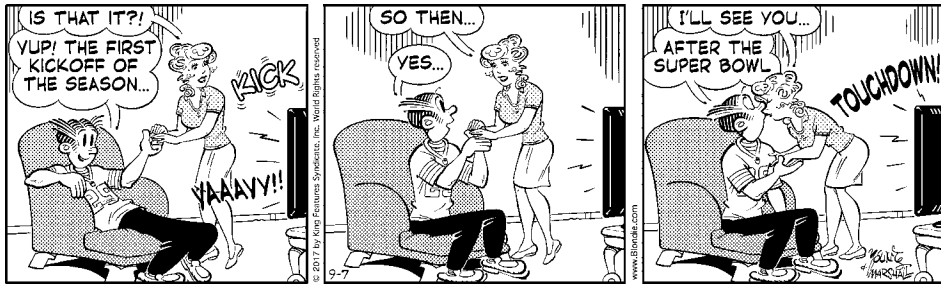
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**BORN LOSER**



**BLONDIE**



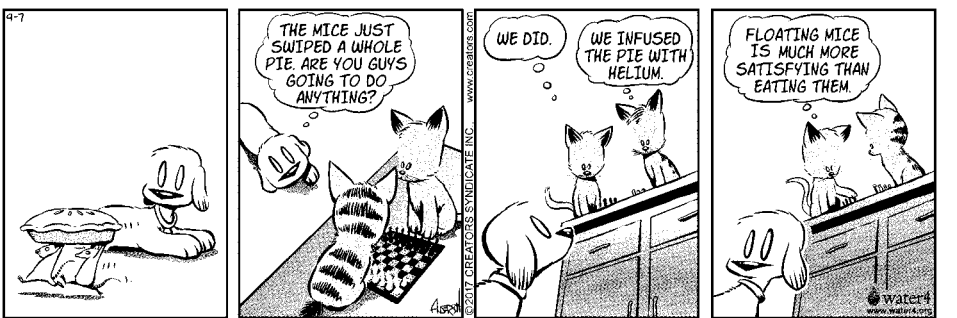
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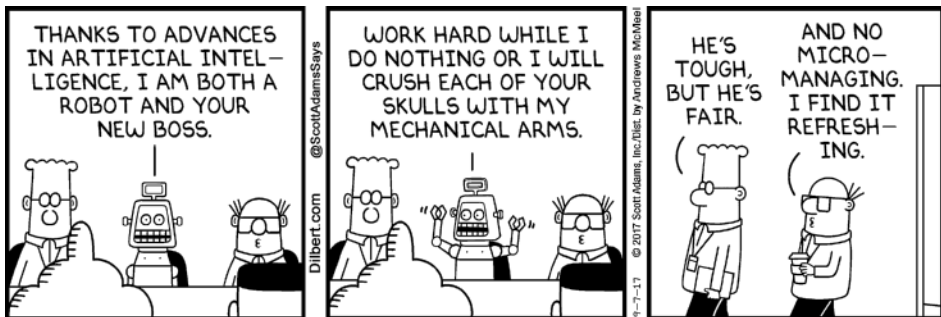
**MOTHER GOOSE**



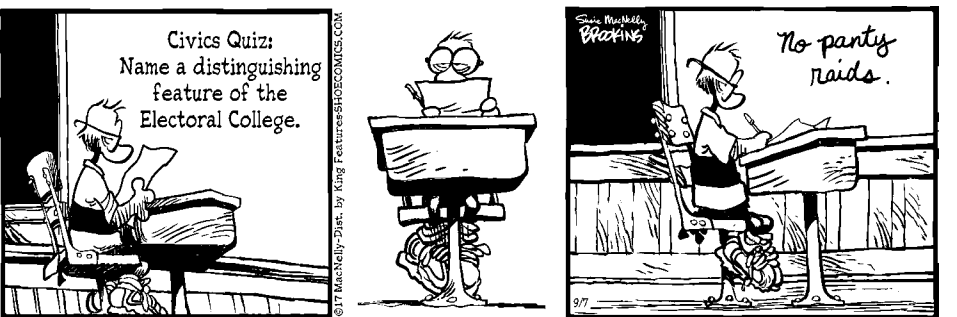
**DOG EAT DOUG**



**DILBERT**



**JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE**



*Wife fears husband's kindness will be misconstrued*



**Dear Abby**  
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

**DEAR ABBY** — I have been happily married to "Roger" for 20 years and have two kids still at home. They are pretty independent now, but my husband was very involved in coaching and volunteering when they were younger.

Sometimes when Roger and I take walks, we run into children playing in a yard or biking up and down the block. If they initiate conversation, I'll smile at them and respond with a quick "hi" or "nice bike" and keep walking, but my husband will

stop to chat or listen to what they say. I have told him not to do that regardless of whether they seem willing. My fear is that an overprotective mom (like many of us moms) glancing out the window and seeing a middle-aged stranger talking to their child may assume the worst.

I know Roger loves kids, and we both sometimes miss the younger years when kids could be more open and talk with adults, but times have changed. This used to happen more often when we'd go swimming with our kids and other kids who were bored and not closely supervised would be looking for other people playing together to join. I used to worry then that if I wasn't there it could be misconstrued, although

my fears never came to pass. Do you agree that adults (and especially male adults) have to be overly cautious about engaging in any communication with an unaccompanied child?

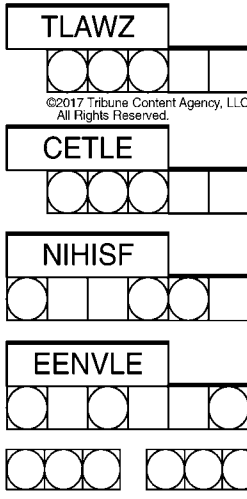
*Changing times in the Midwest*

**DEAR CHANGING TIMES** — I think (regrettably) that the answer to your question is yes. Because fears of molestation are so prevalent now, males do have to be more circumspect with minor children than they did years ago. Frankly, that's a shame, because kids gain so much confidence by knowing an adult is interested in what they have to say. Consider staying with your husband during these friendly instances as a "buffer."

**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.



Yesterday's Jumbles: GRANT HONOR INSIST RODENT  
Answer: It's easy to add zero plus zero because there's — NOTHING TO IT



AFTER HER DIVORCE, SHE MOVED, WANTING A ---  
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ON  
(Answers tomorrow)

**SUDOKU**

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

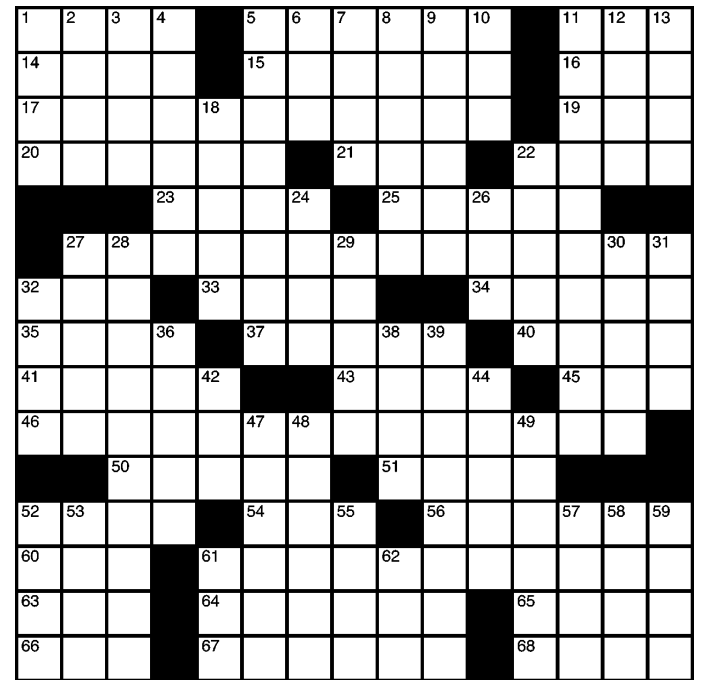
**PREVIOUS SOLUTION**

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

**THE DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE**



By Kurt Mengel and Jan-Michele Gianette

9/7/17

- ACROSS**
- 1 Drains
  - 5 Takes from page to screen, say
  - 11 One
  - 14 Party with tiki torches
  - 15 Flashy Chevy
  - 16 With 36-Down, Dr. Seuss classic with the subtitle "The Simplest Seuss for Youngest Use"
  - 17 Cowardly Snoopy nemesis?
  - 19 Seagoing "I see"
  - 20 French film icon
  - 21 "The Racer's Edge"
  - 22 Urban air concern
  - 23 Much
  - 25 Curriculum
  - 27 Gloomy route to Oz?
  - 32 Actress Vardalos
  - 33 Butte relative
  - 34 RadioShack predecessor
  - 35 Automaker
  - 37 Watched closely
  - 40 Fictional London alter ego
  - 41 United
  - 43 Halt
  - 45 Belonging to us
  - 46 Embarrassed three-person Vegas act?
  - 50 Kentucky pioneer
  - 51 Divided sea
  - 52 Applaud
  - 54 Old PC monitor
  - 56 "Altogether ooky" family name
  - 60 Rocker Ocasek
  - 61 Primary mixes that affect 17-, 27- and 46-Across
  - 63 Query
  - 64 Fire up
  - 65 Attract pigeons for, say
  - 66 Bluster
  - 67 Colorful fish
  - 68 2016 N.L. East champs
  - 70 Junior
  - 11 Words with mechanical lures
  - 12 Up-and-down toy
  - 13 Downloaded video format
  - 18 Jewish folklore figure
  - 22 Mother of Isaac
  - 24 Recipe amt.
  - 26 B'way buy
  - 27 Many of its knives have a limited lifetime warranty
  - 28 Arkansas team
  - 29 Mrs. Gorbachev
  - 30 Compute
  - 31 Salon worker
  - 32 Twice-monthly tide
  - 36 See 16-Across
  - 38 Sicilian high point
  - 39 Track events with mechanical lures
  - 42 "Strange Magic" gp.
  - 44 Museum with Goyas and El Grecos
  - 47 Recital bonus
  - 48 Red wine option
  - 49 Gary who played Beethoven in "Immortal Beloved"
  - 52 Outcropping
  - 53 Songwriter Loeb
  - 55 de force
  - 57 "Dancing Queen" quartet
  - 58 Bubbly maker
  - 59 Old fast fliers
  - 61 Player in an indoor tree
  - 62 Soweto's country: Abbr.
- DOWN**
- 1 Untidy type
  - 2 Certain something
  - 3 Early late-night host
  - 4 Ice cream treat
  - 5 Polish removers
  - 6 Apply carefully
  - 7 Latin I verb
  - 8 "Friday the 13th: Jason Lives," sequentially
  - 9 Torrid Zone parallel
- Wednesday's Puzzle Solved**
- RIVED INAWAY ROT  
JACKANDCOKECLE  
LOSHOEALGA  
PEACHESANDCREAM  
ITSHEROHRATS  
GASJAGO AONE  
SACREDCOW  
EVILSOSODII  
EMILIOORATION  
BACKGROUNDCHECK  
BITSIFSRRET  
ELTPOWERCUPLE  
TEMCLARET SOAK  
SRS PERSIA APSK



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)	Football Night in America (N) (Live)	NFL Football Kansas City Chiefs at New England Patriots. The Patriots host the Chiefs in the NFL's first game of the 2017 season.				WIS News 10 at 11 (N)	(12:05) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon (N)	
WLTX	19	9	9	News 19 at 7pm (N)	Inside Edition (N)	The Big Bang Theory (DVS)	(:31) Mom Jill adjusts to being a foster mom.	Big Brother Eviction; head of household competition. (N) (Live)	Zoo "Cradles and Graves" The team is trapped inside the plane. (N)	News 19 at 11pm (N)	(:35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert Bernie Sanders; Caitriona Balfe. (N)	
WOLO	23	5	12	Wheel of Fortune "Big Money"	Jeopardy! "Teachers Tournament: Week 2"	Battle of the Network Stars "Doctors vs. Famous TV Families" Danny Bonaduce; Barry Williams. (N)	Battle of the Network Stars "TV Lifeguards vs. Trouble Makers" (Season Finale) Vivica A. Fox; Paul Johansson. (N)	The Gong Show "Isla Fisher; Will Arnett; Courtney Cox" Isla Fisher; Will Arnett; Courtney Cox.	ABC Columbia News at 11 (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live Christian Slater; Abbi Jacobson; Khalid. (N)		
WRJA	27	11	14	Rick Steves' Europe	Palmetto Scene Education in SC.	"In Our Son's Name" (2015) Phyllis and Orlando choose reconciliation and nonviolence over revenge.	The Power of Forgiveness: Healing qualities of forgiveness.	Secrets of the Six Wives: Henry VIII's last three wives. (Part 3 of 3)	Tavis Smiley (N)	BBC World News	Charlie Rose (N)	
WACH	57	6	6	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	Beat Shazam "Episode Thirteen" Twin brothers; best friends. (N) (DVS)	Love Connection "Bridge to Nowhere" A gay man; a college recruiter. (N) (DVS)	WACH FOX News at 10 (N) (Live)	Sports Zone	2 Broke Girls Caroline finds Max's secret ingredient.	Mike & Molly Molly worries that her book won't sell.	
WKTC	63	4	22	Last Man Standing Vanessa educates Eve.	Last Man Standing "Educating Boyd"	Penn & Teller: Fool Us "I Dream of Genie Tube" Dennis Watkins; Jeff McBride; Kevin Li. (N)	Whose Line Is It Anyway? "Wayna Morris" (N)	Whose Line Is It Anyway? "Chris Jericho"	Bones "The Bump in the Road" The team investigates roadside remains.	Bones "The Don't in the Do" A blue corpse is found in a landfill.	Hot in Cleveland "Kitchen Nightmare"	
CABLE CHANNELS												
A&E	46	130		The Murder of Laci Peterson A pregnant woman goes missing.	The Murder of Laci Peterson Scott Peterson's girlfriend appears.	The Murder of Laci Peterson Police arrest Scott Peterson.	(:01) The Murder of Laci Peterson: A Closer Look "The Trial Begins" (N)	(:03) The Murder of Laci Peterson A pregnant woman goes missing.	(12:03) The Murder of Laci Peterson			
AMC	48	180		(5:30) *** "Twister" (1996, Action) Helen Hunt, Bill Paxton.	*** "Independence Day" (1996, Science Fiction) Will Smith, Bill Pullman, Jeff Goldblum. Earthlings vs. evil aliens in 15-mile-wide ships.	*** "Life" (1999, Comedy-Drama) Eddie Murphy, Martin Lawrence, Obba Babatundé. Two wrongly convicted friends rally around her. (N)	*** "Alien vs. Predator" (2004) Sanaa Lathan. Antarctic explorers encounter deadly extraterrestrials.	*** "The Last Sunset" (2004) Sanaa Lathan. Antarctic explorers encounter deadly extraterrestrials.	*** "The Last Sunset" (2004) Sanaa Lathan. Antarctic explorers encounter deadly extraterrestrials.			
ANPL	41	100		Yukon Men: Roughing It "The Payload"	Yukon Men: Roughing It (N)	The Last Alaskans	The Last Alaskans	The Last Alaskans	The Last Alaskans	The Last Alaskans	The Last Alaskans	
BET	61	162		(5:30) * "Blue Streak" (1999, Comedy) Martin Lawrence, Luke Wilson.	*** "Life" (1999, Comedy-Drama) Eddie Murphy, Martin Lawrence, Obba Babatundé. Two wrongly convicted friends rally around her. (N)	Flipping Out Jeff and Gage bring baby Monroe home. (N)	Girlfriends' Guide to Divorce Abby's friends rally around her. (N)	Watch What Happens Live	Flipping Out Jeff and Gage bring baby Monroe home. (N)			
BRAVO	47	181		(6:00) Million Dollar Listing New York	Watch What Happens Live	Below Deck "The 1 Percenters" Capt. Lee and the crew set sail.	Flipping Out Jeff and Gage bring baby Monroe home. (N)	Girlfriends' Guide to Divorce Abby's friends rally around her. (N)	Watch What Happens Live	Flipping Out Jeff and Gage bring baby Monroe home. (N)		
CNBC	35	84		Shark Tank	Shark Tank A unique dating service.	Shark Tank	Shark Tank A new dating app.	The Filthy Rich	The Filthy Rich	The Filthy Rich		
CNN	3	80		Erin Burnett OutFront (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)	Anderson Cooper		
COM	57	136		South Park "Chef Goes Nanners"	South Park	South Park "Probably"	South Park "Cripple Fight!"	South Park "It Hits the Fan"	South Park	The Daily Show With Trevor Noah	The Daily Show With Trevor Noah	(12:01) South Park "4th Grade"
DISN	18	200		K.C. Undercover	Raven's Home	Stuck in the Middle	Bizaardvark "Draw My Life"	Liv and Maddie	K.C. Undercover	Bizaardvark "Friend Fight!"	Raven's Home Nia contacts her father.	Stuck in the Middle
DSC	42	103		(6:00) Naked and Afraid	Naked and Afraid "Wrath of Nature" Six adventurers brave the elements. (N)	Naked and Afraid "Wrath of Nature" Six adventurers brave the elements. (N)	Naked and Afraid "Melt Down Under"	Naked and Afraid "Melt Down Under"	Naked and Afraid "Melt Down Under"	Naked and Afraid		
ESPN	26	35		2017 U.S. Open Tennis Women's Semifinals.	From the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing, N.Y. (N) (Live)	From the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing, N.Y. (N) (Live)	SportsCenter (N) (Live)	SportsCenter (N) (Live)	SportsCenter (N) (Live)	SportsCenter		
ESPN2	27	39		The Fantasy Show (N)	30 for 30	30 for 30	30 for 30	30 for 30	30 for 30	Nación ESPN (N)		
FOOD	40	109		Chopped "Meatball Madness"	Chopped "Viewers' Vengeance"	Chopped Hunter-forager ingredients.	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)	The Five (N)	Hannity (N)	Hannity (N)	Hannity (N)	Tucker Carlson Tonight	The Five	
FREE	20	131		(5:05) *** "Forrest Gump" (1994) Tom Hanks. A slow-witted Southerner experiences 30 years of history.	(:20) *** "Crazy, Stupid, Love." (2011, Romance-Comedy) Steve Carell, Ryan Gosling, Julianne Moore. A suddenly single 40-something needs help finding his groove again.	(:20) *** "Crazy, Stupid, Love." (2011, Romance-Comedy) Steve Carell, Ryan Gosling, Julianne Moore. A suddenly single 40-something needs help finding his groove again.	The 700 Club A closer look at Antifa.	The 700 Club A closer look at Antifa.	The 700 Club A closer look at Antifa.	** "View From the Top" (2003)		
FSS	21	47		Braves Live!	MLB Baseball Miami Marlins at Atlanta Braves. From SunTrust Park in Atlanta. (N) (Live)	Braves Live! Post.	MLB Baseball Miami Marlins at Atlanta Braves.	MLB Baseball Miami Marlins at Atlanta Braves.	MLB Baseball Miami Marlins at Atlanta Braves.	MLB Baseball Miami Marlins at Atlanta Braves.		
HALL	52	183		Last Man Standing "Halloween"	Last Man Standing "The Dad Hat"	The Middle "A Simple Christmas"	The Middle	The Middle "The Big Chill"	The Middle Brick studies football.	The Golden Girls	The Golden Girls	The Golden Girls
HGTV	39	112		Love It or List It	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Desert Flippers (N)	Hunters Int'l	Desert Flippers	Flip or Flop At	Flip or Flop At
HIST	45	110		Mountain Men "Waste Not, Want Not"	Mountain Men: Fully Loaded (N)	Mountain Men "High & Dry" (N)	(:03) Ice Road Truckers "Helter Melter"	(:03) Ice Road Truckers "Helter Melter"	(:03) Mountain Men "High & Dry"	(:03) Mountain Men "High & Dry"	Mnt. Men	
ION	13	18		Blue Bloods "With Friends Like These" An informant leaves witness protection.	Blue Bloods "Backstabbers" Danny searches for two escaped convicts.	Blue Bloods "Rush to Judgment" Jamie's behavior is questioned.	Blue Bloods "The Bullitt Mustang" A car from a classic film is stolen.	Blue Bloods "The Bullitt Mustang" A car from a classic film is stolen.	Blue Bloods "Unsung Heroes" An elusive serial killer taunts Danny.	Blue Bloods "Unsung Heroes" An elusive serial killer taunts Danny.	Blue Bloods "Hold Outs"	
LIFE	50	145		Project Runway The designers' first team challenge.	Project Runway Creating an innovative design. (N)	Project Runway "We're Sleeping Wear?" The Heidi Klum	(:32) Project Runway (N)	(:32) Project Runway (N)	(10:47) Project Runway The Heidi Klum Sleepwear challenge.	(10:47) Project Runway The Heidi Klum Sleepwear challenge.	(12:02) Project Runway	
MSNBC	36	92		Hardball With Chris Matthews (N)	All In With Chris Hayes (N)	The Rachel Maddow Show (N)	The Last Word	The Last Word	The 11th Hour With Brian Williams (N)	The 11th Hour With Brian Williams (N)	Rachel Maddow	
NICK	16	210		Henry Danger	Henry Danger	** "Shrek Forever After" (2010, Children's) Voices of Mike Myers.	Full House	Full House	Friends	Friends	Friends	
SPiKE	64	153		Friends	Friends	Stephen King's It: Maine friends struggle with the embodiment of evil.	Stephen King's It: Maine friends struggle with the embodiment of evil.	Stephen King's It: Maine friends struggle with the embodiment of evil.	Stephen King's It: Maine friends struggle with the embodiment of evil.	Stephen King's It: Maine friends struggle with the embodiment of evil.	Stephen King's It: Maine friends struggle with the embodiment of evil.	
SYFY	58	152		(6:30) *** "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" (2005) Johnny Depp, Freddie Highmore. Five children tour the wondrous factory of an odd confectioner.	*** "The Princess Bride" (1987, Children's) Cary Elwes, Robin Wright, Mandy Patinkin. A stableboy in disguise sets out to rescue his beloved.	*** "The Princess Bride" (1987, Children's) Cary Elwes, Robin Wright, Mandy Patinkin. A stableboy in disguise sets out to rescue his beloved.	(:21) *** "The Princess Bride" (1987) Cary Elwes, Robin Wright.	(:21) *** "The Princess Bride" (1987) Cary Elwes, Robin Wright.	(:21) *** "The Princess Bride" (1987) Cary Elwes, Robin Wright.	(:21) *** "The Princess Bride" (1987) Cary Elwes, Robin Wright.		
TBS	24	156		Seinfeld "The Keys"	Seinfeld "The Postponement"	Seinfeld "The Maestro"	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Guest Book "Story Eight" (N)	Conan Actors Jacob Anderson and Conleth Hill.	The Guest Book "Story Eight"
TCM	49	186		(5:45) *** "A Streetcar Named Desire" (1951, Drama) Marlon Brando.	*** "Fitzcarraldo" (1982, Drama) Klaus Kinski, Claudia Cardinale, José Lewgoy. Irishman attempts to conquer the Peruvian jungle.	*** "Fitzcarraldo" (1982, Drama) Klaus Kinski, Claudia Cardinale, José Lewgoy. Irishman attempts to conquer the Peruvian jungle.	My 600-Lb. Life "Tracey's Story" Tracey's weight resides in her legs.	(:02) My 600-Lb. Life "Penny's Story"	(:02) My 600-Lb. Life "Penny's Story"	(:02) My 600-Lb. Life "Penny's Story"	My 600-Lb. Life	
TLC	43	157		My 600-Lb. Life "Penny's Story"	My 600-Lb. Life "Olivia's Story"	My 600-Lb. Life "Tracey's Story" Tracey's weight resides in her legs.	(:02) My 600-Lb. Life "Penny's Story"	(:02) My 600-Lb. Life "Penny's Story"	(:02) My 600-Lb. Life "Penny's Story"	(:02) My 600-Lb. Life "Penny's Story"	My 600-Lb. Life	
TNT	23	158		Bones "The Bones That Foam" Corpse at the bottom of a gorge.	*** "American Sniper" (2014, War) Bradley Cooper, Sienna Miller, Jake McDorman. Navy SEAL Chris Kyle logs an incredible number of kills. (DVS)	*** "American Sniper" (2014, War) Bradley Cooper, Sienna Miller, Jake McDorman. Navy SEAL Chris Kyle logs an incredible number of kills. (DVS)	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	
TRUTV	38	129		Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	
TV LAND	55	161		M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	(:36) M*A*S*H "No Laughing Matter"	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	
USA	25	132		NCIS "Grace Period" Tip on terrorists was a trap. (DVS)	NCIS "Rogue" The team investigates a car explosion. (DVS)	NCIS "Being Bad" A murder probe uncovers a theft ring. (DVS)	NCIS "Privileged Information" A Marine falls to her death. (DVS)	NCIS "Privileged Information" A Marine falls to her death. (DVS)	NCIS "Privileged Information" A Marine falls to her death. (DVS)	The Sinner "Part VI" Ambrose begins to waver. (DVS)	Shooter "That'll Be the Day"	
WE	68	166		Growing Up Hip Hop	Growing Up Hip Hop	Growing Up Hip Hop (N)	Growing Up Hip Hop	Growing Up Hip Hop	Growing Up Hip Hop	Driven to Love "No Dogs Allowed" (N)	Gr. Hip Hop	
WGNA	8	172		Cops	Cops	Cops Tire thieves.	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Rules/Engagement	

# How long can NFL ratings remain strong?

**BY KEVIN McDONOUGH**

Everybody loves football. Except those who don't.

A game between the **Kansas City Chiefs** at the **New England Patriots** (8:30 p.m., NBC) kicks off the regular season. A special edition of **"Football Night in America"** (8 p.m., NBC) initiates the hoopla.

NFL football continues to be among the most widely watched programming on television. For years, ratings for NFL games offered one of the bright spots for network bean-counters.

But last year, according to a report from ESPN's website, ratings were down approximately 8 percent. Some watchers have attributed this to some less than stellar matchups. Others point to an overall decline in cable subscriptions.

For years, live sports was among the reasons that people kept their ever-more-expensive cable packages. But now some streaming services, like Amazon Prime, are streaming select NFL football games.

Amazon will stream CBS's **"Thursday Night Football"** feed beginning next week.

It's interesting to note that the NFL came of age with television as America's preeminent sport. Games like the 1958 NFL championship game between the New York Giants and the Baltimore Colts attracted millions to their tiny black and white sets. The arrival of **"Monday Night Football"** in 1970 all but announced the marriage of the sport and the medium.

The action-based sport lent itself to breathless coverage much more than

the languid pace of Major League Baseball, which had been the dominant sport in the pre-television age. In fact, baseball entered its great Babe Ruth era just as radio was becoming the dominant medium.

So, it's interesting to see what happens to the NFL as television itself continues to "mature" and transform, finding a million different niche markets.

I'd venture a guess that some of the decline in NFL ratings is attributable to factors that transcend television. The league's concussion crisis cannot be ignored. Even NFL players have stated that they would not allow their own children to play the game.

Just last week, ESPN analyst Ed Cunningham, an NFL veteran, resigned rather than continue as what he characterized as a "cheerleader" for a sport that resulted in so many deadly brain injuries.

Parents with no relationship to the NFL have also begun pulling their sons out of midget and high school football. All over America, high schools have been forced to merge football programs or cancel them outright because not enough players have signed up to make a team.

I have no doubt that NFL ratings will be strong this year, and probably next. But what about five years from now? Or 10? Or when a generation of would-be players have begun participating in other sports or activities?

**TONIGHT'S OTHER HIGHLIGHTS**

- On two helpings of **"Battle of the Net-**



BYRON COHEN / ABC  
Actor Barry Williams participates in the **"Doctors vs. Famous TV Families"** episode of **"Battle of the Network Stars,"** airing at 8 p.m. today on ABC.

**work Stars** (ABC, TV-PG), doctors vs. TV families (8 p.m.), lifeguards take on troublemakers (9 p.m.).

- Toxic spores spread on **"Zoo"** (10 p.m., CBS, TV-14).

**LATE NIGHT**

Zac Posen is booked on **"The Daily Show With Trevor Noah"** (11 p.m., Comedy Central) \* Jacob Anderson, Conleth Hill, Liam Cunningham, Isaac Hempstead Wright, Gwendoline Christie, Nathalie Emmanuel, John Bradley, Sophie

Turner and Alfie Allen are on **"Conan"** (11 p.m., TBS, r) \* Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Va.), Caitriona Balfe and the National are booked on **"The Late Show With Stephen Colbert"** (11:35 p.m., CBS) \* Jimmy Fallon welcomes Reese Witherspoon on **"The Tonight Show"** (11:35 p.m., NBC) \* Dana Carvey, Lake Bell and All American Rejects appear on **"The Late Late Show With James Corden"** (12:35 a.m., CBS).

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# Miss America contestants to face another round of questioning

**BY WAYNE PARRY**  
The Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — The contestants in the final stages at the Miss America competition will have to answer a second round of questioning on the way to winning the crown.

Sam Haskell, executive chairman and CEO of the Miss America Organization, told The Associated Press that the second round of onstage interviews is designed to bring out more about the contestants.

"It's an opportunity to know who they are," he said. "So we decided to add a second question. They can't prepare for it; it's not about their platform."

Starting with this year's finale on Sunday, seven contestants from the top 10 will be asked a personality question. From those seven, five will advance and be asked a second question on current events, societal issues or the like.

The addition of a second round of questioning comes as the onstage interview has played a significant role in helping to select the last two Miss Americas.

In 2015, Miss Georgia, Betty Cantrell, was asked whether she believed New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady cheated en route to his team's run to a Super Bowl title in the previous season by using footballs that were improperly deflated. Brady served a four-

game suspension.

During the pageant, Cantrell said, "I'm not sure" when asked if Brady cheated. "I'd have to see the ball and feel it" she said, before adding, "If there's any question, then yes, he cheated."

In 2016, Miss Arkansas,

Savvy Shields, was asked a question about Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton. She answered that while both Clinton and Republican Donald Trump had done a good job thus far, "they also need to watch what they're doing."

Meeting reporters after the pageant, Shields elaborated. "What I want both candidates to focus on is compromise," she said. "Our country was founded on compromise. We're in a state now where both parties just seem to be yelling at one another."

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Professional tree care at affordable prices. 4 generations of expert tree care. Over 65 yrs. exp. Tree removal, stump grinding, pruning, lot clearing, bob cat & lot clearing also available. Free estimates. Call 803-720-7147

### MERCHANDISE

### Want to Buy

**Will buy** furniture by piece or bulk, tools, trailers, lawn mowers, 4 wheelers, or almost anything of value. Also old signs & lawn furniture Call 803-983-5364

### Auctions

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
SUMTER EAST SELF STORAGE  
800 MYRTLE BEACH HWY.  
AUCTION  
September 16, 2017  
10:00 A.M.

**UNITS FOR AUCTION**  
A-8 - Stephanie Parrott  
A-32 - Nateshia Wardlaw  
B-37 - Chrishonda Samuel  
B-38 - Denise Mosely  
C-6 - James Byrd  
C-8 - James Byrd  
C-21 - Charise T. Vines  
C-29 - John Ragin  
E-8 - James Byrd  
G-1 - Justin Sherrill  
G-31 - Natasha M. McFadden

### Garage, Yard & Estate Sales

**Annual Fall Yard Sale**  
Hot dog & bake sale.  
Rain or Shine  
**1st Pentecostal Holiness Church,**  
**2609 McCray's Mill Rd**  
Across from Sumter High  
Sat-Sept. 9th 7:30am-12:30pm

**Annual Ameranth Yard Sale!**  
Hillcrest Masonic Lodge, Stamey Livestock at Frierson Rd. Sat. 09/09, 8am-noon. Large Variety!

**3220 Horatio Hagood Rd** (next to Lenoirs country store) Sat 7-3 antiques, hshld, clothes & misc

### For Sale or Trade

**4 Cemetery Plots** in Evergreen Cemetery \$6000 for all 4 Call 803-775-4045

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

### EMPLOYMENT

### Help Wanted Full-Time

**Wanted Roofers,** roofing laborers, shingle & metal roofing subcontractors. Call between 9-5 at 803-968-9833

**Full Time Sales position** available. Some experience preferred but will train. No calls. Apply at Wally's Hardware 1291 Broad St.

### Help Wanted Part-Time

**PAYROLL CLERK**  
Experience required.  
**Tesco Call 803-773-1515**

**Experienced Trailer switcher needed** 3 days a week in Sumter. Must have current CDL, 5 years experience, clean driving record. Call 803-938-2708 leave message with your experience M-F 9am-3pm.

### Trucking Opportunities

**Nesbitt Transportation** is currently hiring CDL drivers. Must be 24 yrs old w/ 2 yrs exp. Home nights & weekends. Please call 843-659-8254 or 843-621-0943

### RENTALS

### Unfurnished Apartments

**Senior Living Apartments for those 62+ (Rent based on income)**  
Shiloh-Randolph Manor  
125 W. Bartlette.  
775-0575  
Studio/1 Bedroom apartments available  
EHO

### Unfurnished Homes

**2BR 1BA** home in quiet cul-de-sac w/ C/H/A. \$450/mo+ dep. 481-9195 or 418-9444

**Country Living, 2BR 1BA** all appliances, \$550 mo. + dep. Call 803-491-5042

**Lg 4BR 1BA C/H/A,** \$750 mo. and **3BR 1.5BA C/H/A** \$650 mo. Call 803-464-8964 or 803-757-0083.

### REAL ESTATE

### Mobile Home with Lots



**MUST SELL! 5 Coulter Dr.** Wedge-field, Fleetwood 3br 2ba, den w/ fireplace, completely remodeled. like new, on 0.45 ac lot in cozy neighborhood. **Only \$47,500.** Please call (803) 458-7478.

### RECREATION



### Hunting / Fishing

**Hunting Land for Lease,** for deer stands in Clarendon County. Call (803) 473-8896 or (803) 473-3301

### TRANSPORTATION

### Miscellaneous



**Refurbished batteries** as low as \$45. **New batteries** as low as \$59.95. 6v golf cart battery as low as \$59.95. Auto Electric Co., 102 Blvd Rd. 803-773-4381

**CONTRACTORS WANTED!\***

**For Routes in Our Delivery Area**

Great for person looking for extra income.  
If you have good dependable transportation and a phone in your home and a desire to earn a good extra income...

**COME BY & APPLY AT**  
36 W. Liberty Street  
Sumter, SC

**\*PRN CONTRACTORS AS NEEDED.**



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The Sumter Item is locally owned and run. We're part of this community and we believe in Sumter.



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