

INSIDE SUNDAY

4 SECTIONS, 26 PAGES | VOL. 123, NO. 52

SPORTS



Threepeat should be fun

Clemson, Alabama meet Monday for Sugar Bowl **B1**

FINANCES

Wondering what deals to score each month next year? Keep this list **A7**

DEATHS, B5-B6

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Harry C. Pecko | Dorothy B. Willis |
| Ulysses Hickman | Eva N. Harvin |
| Willie M. Carter | Cleaszell White |
| Milton E. Lyles | Joan Johnson |
| Leroy Sansbury Sr. | Robert Walter |
| Alva M. Adams | Hulean M. Kinder |
| Wilhelmenia J. | Ruby M. Champagne |
| Breckenridge | Walter R. Straw |
| Gloria M. Wendell | Florence M. Anderson |
| Robert S. Slover | Robert Billie Jr. |

WEATHER, A10

BUNDLE UP

Colder with clouds today; cloudy and cold tonight
HIGH 41, LOW 21

INSIDE

- Classifieds C6
- Comics D1
- Opinion A8
- Reflections C4
- USA Today C1
- Yesteryear C3

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Brewery will open downtown in 2018

A look ahead to what else the next year will bring

BY KAYLA ROBINS
 kayla@theitem.com

Belly up, beer lovers of Sumter. Get your New Year's resolutions out of the way early because, starting sometime in 2018, a brewery is scheduled to open downtown.

The city cannot yet disclose the name or owner of the brewery, Downtown Development Coordinator Leigh Newman said, but she did say it is slated to take up residence on Liberty Street by "someone local."

While reviewing another year in the books often results in headline after headline of doom and gloom — according to online clicks — there are plenty of positives Sum-

ter County can look forward to in 2018.

National headlines claim holiday sales were up this year and that people are continuing the upward trend of getting out and spending money, and that is a good sign for development in downtown Sumter.

North Main Street will add at least two brand-new restaurants in

SEE **COMING SOON**, PAGE A6

Clemson visits young fans at New Orleans hospital



PHOTOS BY MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Clemson head coach Dabo Swinney speaks with Ricardo Collins, a patient at Ochsner Baptist Children's Hospital, on Saturday in New Orleans at a party thrown for the patients and their families. *The Sumter Item* is in New Orleans covering Clemson in the weekend leading up to the Clemson vs. Alabama game on Monday.



ABOVE LEFT: Clemson quarterback Kelly Bryant helps a patient at the hospital decorate a megaphone at the party Saturday.



ABOVE RIGHT: Dylan Jackson and his mother, Monica Jackson, celebrate with Clemson players, including wide receiver Hunter Renfrow, at the hospital in New Orleans.

Sumter's year in review, part II: 2017

FROM STAFF REPORTS

With the countdown to the new year beginning tonight, *The Sumter Item* has been looking back at the stories you, our readers, clicked on the most at *theitem.com* throughout 2017.

On Friday, we showed Nos. 6-10 of the top stories, and today we're re-running the top five. While a majority of the stories that got the most clicks were related to the crime and courts beat, our most popular story of the year may come as a surprise. It's certainly worth the re-read to prepare you for 2018.

5. AUTHORITIES ARREST 70 IN OPERATION ECLIPSE

Sunday, Sept. 3
 By Bruce Mills

After conducting a six-month undercover drug investigation, Sumter County Sheriff's Office deputies have arrested 70 people allegedly involved in a

major drug ring locally, and more arrests are expected, Sheriff Anthony Dennis said Saturday. Officials reportedly seized quantities of methamphetamine, opiates, marijuana, cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, firearms and more than \$100,000 in cash during the sting operation — called Operation Eclipse.

Dennis said in a Saturday news release the operation lasted several months because so many people were involved.

"We have arrested 70 people," Dennis said. "And more arrests are expected. We still have 20 outstanding warrants."

He said various law enforcement agencies across the tri-county region and the state assisted the sheriff's office in the operation. Those included the FBI, State Law Enforcement Division, Clarendon County's Sheriff's Office, Manning Police Department, Lee County Sheriff's Office, Sumter-Lee Regional Detention Center and Rich-

land County Sheriff's Department, among others.

Dennis said Operation Eclipse was a success and credited the seamless cooperation between the numerous agencies.

"Any time we have an operation of this magnitude, we solicit the assistance from other agencies," he said. "All of us work together well."

During the arrests and the execution of search warrants, law enforcement reportedly seized 21 firearms and \$108,931.64 in cash.

4. MAN DIES FROM INJURIES IN U.S. 15 SOUTH MORNING WRECK

Monday, June 5
 From staff reports

A 32-year-old man died as the result of a traffic collision on U.S. 15 South near Clipper Road involving four vehicles about 8 a.m. Monday.

Sumter County Coroner Robbie Baker identified the deceased as Orin

Lewis of Sumter County.

South Carolina Highway Patrol Lance Cpl. David Jones said the incident started when Lewis' Ford Explorer, traveling southbound, was struck from behind by a 2000 Buick while he was slowing down. Lewis, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was ejected from the vehicle, he said.

Jones said Lewis was airlifted to an area hospital, where he later died of his injuries.

After the initial collision, the Ford Explorer went across the median and struck two vehicles — a 2015 Nissan Altima and a 2011 Toyota car — that were traveling northbound on U.S. 15, he said.

Jones said the driver of the Nissan was wearing a seatbelt and was transported to an area hospital for injuries; the driver of the Toyota did not sustain any injuries.

SEE **TOP STORIES**, PAGE A6

Shots fired at church hoops game Thursday

No injuries reported

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

It seems everyone escaped injury after shots were fired during a basketball game at Berea Seventh-Day Adventist Church gym about 8:15 p.m. on Thursday, officials said.

The purpose of the church's basketball ministry, pastor Michael Miller said, is to provide an outlet for young people and others to learn positive life

skills, such as how to properly handle disagreements and how to be a better person.

That lesson apparently missed the basket for at least two of the ministry's participants. A preliminary investigation conducted by Sumter Police Department indicates shots were fired during an argument between two opposing team members, according to a news release.

Witnesses said they neither know the identities of the people involved nor what led to

the fight.

Though the initial call claimed someone had been grazed by a bullet, investigators could not find anyone who was injured by a gunshot, said Tonyia McGirt, public information officer for the department.

From this incident, there are lessons that can be learned, the church's Miller said.

"The greatest display of power is restraint," he said. "Use your mind, and come to a positive result."

Records show mostly proper-

ty checks were conducted at the church and its gym, states the release.

Despite the recent shooting, Berea's basketball ministry is known for its positive outreach in the Lafayette Drive community for the past 15 years.

Each Thursday, 25-30 people attend basketball games held in the gym — those who attend Bible study on Tuesday can play.

"Berea's basketball ministry serves as an example of the efforts within Sumter to have a

positive impact on young people and the community as a whole," Sumter Police Chief Russell F. Roark III said. "However, the best of intentions can't always anticipate or control the actions of others."

A sign posted on the gym's door prohibits firearms and other weapons.

Roark III said the police department is working with the church on safety concerns as it plans to continue the basketball ministry after Thursday's incident.

Shepherd's Center offers packed 2018 calendar

BY IVY MOORE
Special to The Sumter Item

"By seniors for seniors" is the operating principle for classes and other activities at Shepherd's Center of Sumter, Executive Director Jeanette Roveri-Smith said Thursday. The center offers its Adventures in Learning program in three annual sessions of classes, each eight weeks long, in fall, winter and spring.

The winter session will begin Jan. 18, with classes meeting on Thursdays through March 8. Classes meet at Trinity United Methodist Church on Council Street.

Roveri-Smith said classes have been requested by members, are taught by knowledgeable volunteers and are aimed at "enhancing the growth and lifestyle ... of participants."

"If members request a certain class, we will make it happen," she said.

They include both classroom and hands-on subjects and skills as well as several that promote physical activity.

About 500 members participate in classes and other activities throughout the year, Roveri-Smith said.

During the winter session, Shepherd's Center members can learn or improve their skills in such areas as quilting, knitting, card games, computers, line dancing, money management and more. Fitness and flexibility are enhanced by yoga, tai chi, low-impact aerobics and line-dancing classes.

Classroom topics for the winter term include Bible study, geography, short stories and writing.

Roveri-Smith said some special classes meet on days other than Thursday at alternate locations. Bowling Buddies, for example, meets at 10 a.m. at Gamecock Lanes on Broad Street, where Shepherd's Center members receive free shoe rentals and pay only \$1.50 per game. At 1 p.m. on Tuesdays, members can meet for the card game Hand and Foot at South HOPE Center on Lafayette Drive, and from 9 to 10 a.m. on Fridays, Heather Freiberg teaches Gentle Chair Yoga at Morningside of Sumter on Lindo Court.

For the past few years, members have been embracing Shepherd's Center-sponsored trips and tours in large numbers, Roveri-Smith said.

"Anita Kieslich started and organized our day trips several years ago," she said, "and, since then, we've expanded our offerings, even including overseas trips."

A day trip to Brookgreen Gardens is on the agenda for Wednesday, April 18. Members will travel together for a day touring the famous sculpture gardens and wildlife preserve, as well as taking an optional guided pontoon boat tour of the tidal creeks and lands once used for the thriving rice production.

"Our trips are so popular, we've had around 30 members of the Florence Shepherd's



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Fiber crafts from smocking to quilting and crochet are offered at the Shepherd's Center of Sumter.

Center join our center to take advantage of them," Roveri-Smith said.

Currently, members can sign up for trips to San Antonio, Texas, scheduled for Jan. 19-28; Ireland, July 28-Aug. 8; Greece and surrounding islands, Oct. 11-25; and add their names to the waiting list for a May 23-June 3 trip to Montreal, Canada. Sept. 3-8 has members traveling to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum in Arkansas, with side trips to the famous Newport Aquarium and the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens. In April, members can visit many attractions in Washington, D.C.

Currently in the planning stages are tours of Egypt, Morocco, Dubai, Oman and Abu Dhabi; Alaska and the U.S. National Parks; and one titled

"Greece: In the Footsteps of Paul the Apostle."

Prices vary for the tours. You must be a member of Sumter Shepherd's Center to tour with the group.

Membership dues are \$20 per year, and there is a class fee of \$15 per session, which entitles the member to take as many classes as can fit into his or her schedule. Meals, also served on Thursday class days, are \$6 each. Members must be 50 years of age or older. For complete information about class offerings and trips, request a brochure from the center by calling (803) 840-3770 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.

Funding for Shepherd's Center of Sumter comes from local churches, businesses,

New class would explore connection between body, brain

A new class for the Shepherd's Center has been proposed by Central Carolina Technical Center retiree Gus Becker. The proposal states, "Studies show that our brains stay young if we choose the right ways to use them. One choice involves creating things that use the brain-body connection. If we think of something to make and then engage our hands and our mind to make it, we are firing on all neurons ... We make new connections in our brain."

Called Senior Odyssey of the Mind, the program "would allow us to form friendly competitive teams that would work together for several weeks to solve intellectual problems or create a variety of things. ... An example: make a balsa wood structure to hold as much weight as possible. Or think of as many things that are red within a given time."

If interest in the program is strong, it will be offered at the center at no charge other than the \$20 annual membership dues.

Explore the program by visiting www.miseniorodyssey.org.

For more information or to register your interest, call Shepherd's Center of Sumter at (803) 840-3770.

foundations and individuals, including memorials and honorariums.

CLARIFICATION

To clarify the incident that led to Bobby Wayne Stone's conviction of murder that was mentioned on page A3 in the Friday, Dec. 29, edition of *The Sumter Item*, Stone fatally shot Sumter County sheriff's Sgt. Charlie Kubala in 1996.

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

2 mobile home fires displace families

BY KAYLA ROBINS
kayla@theitem.com

Sumter Fire Department units fought two separate mobile home fires on Thursday that displaced families in each, including one family of five whose residence was destroyed.

Fire was showing from outside the structure on Reedroman Road in east Sumter when crews arrived to the alarm just

before 11:30 a.m. Dec. 28, according to an incident report.

A cause of the blaze could not be immediately determined, but it began in the master bedroom, firefighters reported. The American Red Cross sent disaster-trained volunteers to help the three adults and two children with food, clothing, lodging and other essentials and comfort kits that typically include personal hygiene items.

It was reported the family incurred \$30,000 in structural loss and \$20,000 in loss to contents inside the home. Nothing was salvaged.

Later on Thursday, the fire department responded to a mobile home on Havenwood Drive off U.S. 15 South for another fire. When crews arrived about 6:20 p.m., they found a fire had started in and under the dryer, which they extinguished before

removing the dryer and opening the floor to check for further hot spots, according to a report. While this structure was not destroyed, the family of six — four adults and two children — were displaced and reported \$20,000 in losses, including \$5,000 worth of contents. They were able to salvage \$10,000 worth of contents, the report said. The Red Cross also responded to the second blaze.



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Sumter city, county law enforcement will be watching for drunken drivers New Year's Eve

Know the signs, laws and the consequences

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

Traveling on New Year's Eve, one of the deadliest holidays involving drunken driving, can dramatically change the start of 2018 if the proper precautions are not taken. At a time when a safe ride home is just a few taps away by cellphone, many party-goers should find it easy to make it to and from their destinations without incident.

PLAN TRANSPORTATION

Motorists are advised to keep an eye out for intoxicated pedestrians who may jaywalk and not obey traffic signals, states a release from American Automobile Association.

Walking while intoxicated can also be deadly, as coordination and lack of attention puts drunken pedestrians at risk of getting hit by vehicles.

AAA suggests the following:

- Decide ahead of time if you will be drinking or driving — you cannot do both;
- Plan the ride home before the night begins whether that be designating a sober driver or planning to use a taxi or ride-sharing service;
- Download a ride-sharing app for convenience in case plans change;
- If you see someone getting behind the wheel intoxicated, take his or her keys and assist the person in finding a safe ride home;

- If you are hosting a party with alcohol, help find guests a safe ride home or allow guests to stay the night if need be;
- Stop serving alcohol at least an hour before the party ends; and
- If you see a driver on the road who you suspect is impaired, pull over to a safe location and call 911. Provide a description of the vehicle.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

Sumter County Sheriff's Office and Sumter Police Department will have multiple checkpoints set up throughout Sumter on New Year's Eve, and officers will be watching for drivers who are violating traffic and safety laws.

In the county, deputies will move checkpoints throughout the night to stop as many impaired and distracted drivers as possible.

S.C. DUI LAWS

An officer can infer that a person is driving under the influence if the driver has a Blood Alcohol Content of .08 percent or higher. A BAC of at least .05 percent can also infer that a person is driving under the influence, along with other evidence.

- If convicted of DUI, a person could face:
- A fine of up to \$400 and/or imprisonment between 48 hours to 30 days and a driver's license suspension for six months for a first offense;
 - Possible punishments for second and third DUI convictions include fines that range from \$2,100 to \$6,300 and imprisonment between five days to three years; and
 - A fourth or subsequent conviction could result in one to five years in prison and a permanent revocation of the

driver's license.

POSSIBLE SIGNS OF AN IMPAIRED DRIVER

- Making unusually wide turns, weaving or swerving;
- Staying close to, driving on or crossing the centerline;
- Almost hitting other vehicles, objects, or people;
- Driving at excessive speeds or very slowly, and changing speeds erratically; and
- Following too closely.

HOW TO AVOID IMPAIRED DRIVERS

- Maintain a greater following distance if the driver ahead may be intoxicated. Do not try to pass that vehicle because the driver may try to swerve into your vehicle;
- Turn right at the closest possible place and let supposedly impaired drivers pass;
- If another vehicle is coming straight toward your vehicle, slow down quickly, and steer as far to the right as possible. Do whatever you have to do to avoid a head-on collision; and
- Report impaired drivers to law enforcement once you safely come to a stop. Contact highway patrol by dialing *HP.

TRAFFIC FATALITY NUMBERS

According to the S.C. Highway Patrol website:

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported 331 alcohol-impaired driving fatalities in South Carolina during 2016; and
- From 2011-15, preliminary data shows approximately 29,300 people were involved in DUI-related collisions in the state.

Grants available for arts programs

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Sumter County Cultural Commission still has subgrants available for the 2017-18 fiscal year, Executive Director Melanie Colclough announced this week. The commission itself was awarded a grant for the year from the South Carolina Arts Commission, funded in part by the John and Susan Bennett Memorial Arts Fund of the Coastal Community Foundation of South Carolina.

Commission Chairman Todd Warrick said these and matching funds from Sumter County have enabled the commission "to support the arts in our schools, enhance arts programming from community organizations and encourage local artists."

Already this year, from July through December, the commission has awarded subgrants to local groups and individuals, including Sumter County Library, Sumter County Gallery of Art, Heart of Sumter Neighborhood Association, South Sumter Resource Center, Sumter Cheraw Indian Tribe, Sumter Civic Dance Co., Sumter Little Theatre, Sumter Senior Services, Rising Stars of Sumter, Michelle Ross, Sumter High School Drama and Lakewood High School.

Colclough said organizations and individuals can apply for the 2017-18 sub-grant program until Feb. 9. For an application, email Colclough at mcolclough@sumtercountysc.org.

The South Carolina Arts Commission is the state agency charged with creating a thriving arts environment that benefits all South Carolinians, regardless of their location or circumstances. Created by the South Carolina General Assembly in 1967, the Arts Commission works to increase public participation in the arts by providing services, grants and leadership initiatives in three areas: arts education, community arts development and artist development.

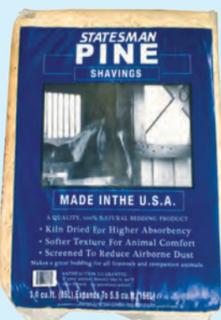
Headquartered in Columbia, the Arts Commission is funded by the state of South Carolina, by the federal government through the National Endowment for the Arts and other sources. For more information, visit www.SouthCarolinaArts.com or call (803) 734-8696.

The Sumter County Cultural Commission is a county-appointed volunteer commission committed to creating and driving cultural unity in Sumter County through the arts. For more information, call (803) 436-2260.



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Palmetto Health Tuomey Community Calendar

January 2018

The Tuomey Foundation sponsors several local classes and events such as Joint Camp, Care Reach, Safe Kids, car seat installations, Touching Hearts and various Cancer Support efforts. If you would like to help support these initiatives, consider a donation to The Foundation.



TuomeyFoundation.org



Women and Children

Please call 803-774-BABY (2229) to register for any of the classes listed below. Fees are waived for moms who deliver at Palmetto Health Tuomey. All baby classes are held in the Women and Infants Pavilion classroom.

Baby Basics

In this class, you will learn all the basics of caring for your newborn before you deliver.

CLASS DATE Thursday, Jan. 18
CLASS TIME 9:30–11:30 a.m. and 6–8 p.m.
COST \$15

Breastfeeding Class

This informal class offers instruction and discussion time for breastfeeding for expectant mothers. Babies and dads are welcome, too.

CLASS DATE Thursday, Jan. 4
CLASS TIME 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.
COST \$15

Women and Infants Pavilion Tour

Tours are by appointment only. Come let us show you our Birthplace. Call 803-774-BABY (2229).

Car Seat Installation

Learn how to properly install your child's car seat for maximum safety. The Tuomey Foundation, working with Safe Kids Sumter County, makes car seats available for pregnant women who attend this free class and deliver at Palmetto Health Tuomey. Discounted car seats are also available.

CLASS DATE Monday, Jan. 15
CLASS TIME 6–8 p.m.
COST Free

Infant CPR

American Heart Association's Friends & Family course for expectant parents. This class does not offer CPR certification.

CLASS DATE Monday, Jan. 22
CLASS TIME 6–8 p.m.
COST Free

Labor and Delivery

Learn what to expect during the labor and delivery process. The class includes a tour of the Palmetto Health Tuomey Birthplace.

CLASS DATE Thursday, Jan. 11
CLASS TIME 6–8 p.m.
COST \$15

Pumping Class

This free class is offered to mothers returning to work and planning to continue breastfeeding. You will learn about the different kinds of pumps and how and when to pump, as well as storage guidelines. You will also learn how to teach your caregivers to gently bottle-feed your baby while you are away. It is best to wait until your baby is 4 weeks old to come to this class. All nursing babies are welcome to come along. For January classes, please contact Anna Elmore at 803-774-2229. Free.

Sibling Class

Designed for children ages 4 to 11 who will soon become brothers and sisters. They are welcome to ask questions about the expected newborn. This valuable time will help them with changes that will take place at home when baby arrives. Class includes a mini tour of our Birthplace/Women's Center and Nurseries. For January classes, please contact Anna Elmore at 803-774-2229. Free.

Free Event

Women at Heart

Saturday, Feb. 24
8 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

- Engaging health discussions
- Health screenings and vendors
- Fitness demonstrations
- Ask-a-doctor sessions
- Door prizes

Free transportation is available from Palmetto Health Tuomey.

Join Michelle Logan-Owens and other women from Sumter County for a fun-filled day of education, inspiration and laughs.

Palmetto Health Tuomey will also offer free heart health screenings Wednesday, Jan. 31 and Thursday, Feb. 8, 8–11 a.m.

Registration required for event and screenings. Call 803-774-CARE (2273).



January is Cervical Health Awareness Month.

This is a chance to raise awareness about how women can protect themselves from HPV (human papillomavirus) and cervical cancer. HPV is a very common infection that spreads through sexual activity. Each year, more than 13,000 women in the United States get cervical cancer. Cervical cancer can often be found early, and sometimes even prevented entirely, by having regular Pap tests. *Make an appointment today!* Call: 803-774-CARE (2273)

Support Groups

Breastfeeding Support Group "La Leche League of Sumter"

All breastfeeding mothers are welcome to join us. This class is led by a local mom who is also a La Leche League leader. She will be sharing her experiences in breastfeeding. Group meets on the first Monday of each month. Call 803-774-BABY.

GROUP MEETS Monday, Jan. 1
TIME 10 a.m.
LOCATION Women and Infants Pavilion Classroom
COST Free

Cancer Support

This support group is sponsored by Women's Imaging and the Education departments at Palmetto Health Tuomey to provide educational and emotional support to individuals and their families dealing with cancer. Call Phyllis Buckner at 803-774-8678, Susan Parnell at 803-774-9047.

GROUP MEETS Monday, Jan. 15
TIME 6–7:30 p.m.
LOCATION Hospital Classroom One
COST Free

Families Fighting Prostate Cancer

This is a community support group for individuals and their families. For information about our next group meeting, call 803-775-1324.

GriefShare

Palmetto Health Tuomey Hospice Services offers this support group for men and women who have recently lost their spouse. For information or to set up an appointment, call Linda Windley at 803-773-4663.



Your dog can bring joy to others!
Learn more about our Pet Therapy Program at 803-774-8658.

Education

Joint Camp

Joint Camp is designed for patients who are scheduled to undergo knee or hip replacement surgery. The camp educates patients on their surgery and expectations after surgery. The camp is run by our Care Management, Rehabilitation and Respiratory Therapy departments. For more information, call Lori Horton at 803-774-8661 or Ty Collier at 803-774-9174.

CLASS DATE Wednesdays, Jan. 10, 17, 24
CLASS TIME 1 p.m.
COST Free

Look Good, Feel Better

This free class is part of the American Cancer Society program. It's designed to help women during cancer treatment with makeup, turbans, skin/nail care, scarves, wigs and hats. For more information or to register for upcoming dates, call the ACS at 1-800-227-2345.

Diabetes Management Series

Take control of your diabetes. Course offers general information for diabetics and their families to simplify diabetes management and control. Each course consists of two 2-hour sessions. Call 803-774-8680 or 803-774-8678 for more information or to register for upcoming dates. Dates vary. Free.



Palmetto Heart now offers advanced cardiac care in Sumter

F. Roosevelt Gilliam III, MD; John Rozich, MD, Thomas W. Schultz, DO; and W. Strat Stavrou, MD, look forward to providing you with expert cardiac care at Palmetto Heart's new Sumter office.

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of the Sumter ITEM PANORAMA

Call the newsroom at (803) 774-1226

Definition mission: A rhyming limerick for each English word

BY RUSS BYNUM

Associated Press

One man's joke has become his mission: to give each word a rhyming definition.

Chris Strolin was teasing English buffs in an online forum years ago when he said the dictionary should be rewritten in the singsong rhyme scheme of limericks. He ended up embracing the absurd bravado of his own wisecrack and decided to try it for real.

He started with the word "a" — "It's used with a noun to convey/ A singular notion/ Like 'a duck' or 'a potion'" — and kept going. More than 1,000 contributors have joined him, off and on, over the years.

The Omnificent English Dictionary in Limerick Form (or OEDILF for short) has published more than 97,000 rhyming definitions since Strolin started it in 2004. The retired Air Force radio operator from Belleville, Illinois, says his project is on track to publish its 100,000th limerick in the coming year.

He hopes his grandchildren — or perhaps their kids — will finish the job decades from now.

The online wisecrack that led to the OEDILF's origin was a teasing swipe Strolin made at the venerable Oxford English Dictionary, which defines 600,000 words across 20 printed volumes. Strolin remarked that the Oxford dictionary was good but needed improvement. His not-so-serious solution: limericks.

"The more I got to thinking about it, it sounded like a good idea," Strolin said. "The limerick is probably the most reader friendly of all types of poetry. It's also one of the easiest forms of poetry to write."

Perhaps not so easy: Writing a limerick that weaves a joke into an accurate explanation of word's meaning. Take contributor Bill Middleton's definition of "adult":

*"As a kid, I was wild and a clown.
As a teen, I would dash about town.
Now adult, I shall go
Very cautious and slow.
Goes to prove: what grows up must calm down."*

The definitions run the gamut from the unwieldy adjective "aequeosalinocalcalinocera-ceoaluminosocupreovitriolic" — coined centuries ago to describe the spa waters of Bath, England — to terms that didn't exist until recently.

When President Donald Trump created a new word this year with a head-scratching Twitter typo, four OEDILF writers churned out limericks. "Inscrutably tweeted/ A word? Uncompleted?/ The absurd so-called word was covfeffe."

To break a huge job into manageable chunks, Strolin has writers tackle the lan-

guage in alphabetical order. The online dictionary currently stops in the Gs at "gizzard."

That leaves nearly three-fourths of the alphabet still undefined. Assuming the project outlives him, Strolin estimates writers following in his keystrokes will finish the Zs around the year 2076.

"People have said, 'I've got a great limerick for vacuum cleaner,'" Strolin said. "And I tell them: Great! Give it to your grandkids."

Andrew Besso of Jericho, Vermont, took up writing limerick definitions in late 2015. Since multiple sclerosis forced him to quit working as a high school math tutor last year, he's begun treating his hobby almost like a full-time job.

Besso, who used the screen name AndrewB, in recent months has been submitting one or two limericks each day. Between October and December, he more than doubled his two-year output for the site.

"I've been writing a limerick a day, or sometimes two, for a while now," Besso said. "Usually the way I decide what to write is by choosing from lists of words that haven't been defined yet. I won't tackle a word that's already been defined unless I've got something to add."

So while many words in the OEDILF have multiple definitions by different authors, Besso so far is the only one to write limericks for words including "auto-rewind," "crystal therapy," "drum stool," "emoter" and "gimlet."

Sandra Petersen of Frankfurt, Germany, has cranked out 289 limericks since March. The software designer said she likes the challenge of writing in English, which she learned as the daughter of a United Nations translator.

Petersen gravitates toward scientific words such as "ferriferous" and "Gastropteridae." And she wrote a series of limericks on computer keyboard shortcuts such as "Control-N" and "Control-W."

"I write most limericks in one sitting, but I lose interest quickly," Petersen said in an email. "Then I'll file away what I have and look at it again another day. Often I think of good solutions for a missing piece far away from my lists — in the shower, in bed or driving to work."

While handling duties as editor-in-chief, Strolin still tries to write at least one limerick per day. His total output: 7,657 rhyming definitions. That's an average of 589 each year.

Strolin said he's confident his quirky online dictionary is a literary monument that will last. He compares it to "the huge cathedrals in Europe" that took more than a century to complete.

"The people who began those projects knew they would never be sitting in the pews on opening day," Strolin said. "I do believe this project has legs. There's no doubt in my mind people are going to be reading and enjoying our limericks 200 to 300 years from now."



AP PHOTO

Chris Strolin created the online Omnificent English Dictionary in Limerick Form, or OEDILF for short, and with the help of contributors has published more than 97,000 definitions of words in limerick form since it began in 2004.

Examples from OEDILF website

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Omnificent English Dictionary in Limerick Form (or OEDILF) has published more than 97,000 definitions written in the singsong poetry of a five-line limerick. Here are some examples selected from the website.

ABSTRACT

*When my paint bottles spilled, how I swore!
They spread red, blue and yellow; what's more,
Purple, orange and green
Then appeared in the scene
As an abstract was formed on the floor.*

— by art bates

BOILERPLATE

*Here's a boilerplate limerick style:
The rhythm and meter beguile.
The lines at the core
Are too droll to ignore,
And a joke at the end makes you smile.*

—by David Schildkret

CONTROL-W

*Many websites you may have been cruising.
Time to close some you're no longer using:*

*Hold Control plus one key:
Don't think "close" and press "C" —
No, it's W. Ain't that confusing?*

— by zqms

DESCARTES, RENE

*Trigger knows about physics, of course,
When it deals just with speed, mass or force.
But his mind tends to jam
On "I think, so I am."
So please don't put Descartes 'fore this horse.*

— by zqms

EMOTIONAL BLACKMAIL

*Emotional blackmail's the way
I control him. I just have to say,
"If you leave me, I'll cry,
Or possibly die."
And his guilt makes me sure he will stay.*

— by AndrewB

FIXED

*When I spotted the typo, I cursed,
"Damn, this limerick is one of my worst!"
Had I fixed it, it could have been passably good.
I regret now not checking it first.*

— by Chris J. Strolin and Bob Egg

How to keep your smartened-up home safe from hackers

NEW YORK (AP) — More people are getting voice-activated speakers and other smart devices for convenience and security. But doing so could also be giving hackers a key to their homes.

Many devices from reputable manufacturers have safeguards built in, but those can't guarantee against hacks. Gadgets from startups and no-name brands may offer little or no protection.

Before buying one, here are some risks to assess.

LISTENING IN

Speakers with built-in microphones are increasingly popular. Devices such as Amazon's Echo and Google Home let people check the weather or their personal calendar with simple voice commands. Beyond that, many smart TVs and TV streaming devices now have voice-activated functions, often for playback controls and video search. Many newer toys also come with microphones so kids can talk to them and get canned responses.

Many of these devices are constantly listening for your commands; when they receive them, they connect to corporate servers to carry them out. What if you're having private conversations at home? Are they getting sent over the internet, too?

In some cases, sound recordings will only leave home when you trigger the device. You might have to speak a command phrase like "OK Google"



or press a button to get the device's attention. Check before buying to make sure a product includes such safeguards.

Some gadgets go further. Smart speakers, for instance, typically have a mute button to disable the microphone completely. Amazon says its mute function involves disconnecting the circuit, so that hackers cannot override the intent.

But there's no easy way for consumers to verify manufacturer promises, such as Amazon's assertion that the Echo never transmits recordings to the cloud unless it's been activated. That's where it helps to stick with reputable brands, as their reputations are at stake if they're caught in a lie. Bigger companies can also quickly fix security holes that crop up.

Missteps are still possible,

even with reputable brands. One of the WikiLeaks disclosures alleged that the CIA commandeered some Samsung smart TVs as listening devices even when the TV appeared to be off. And beware of internet-connected toys, as manufacturers frequently rush their products to market, sometimes skimping on privacy features in the process. (You can check online to see if other parents or consumer groups have identified problems.)

One more catch: Voice commands sent over the internet are typically stored indefinitely to help manufacturers personalize their services (and, potentially, advertisements). These voice snippets may include music or conversations in the background. They can be sought in lawsuits and investi-

The round version of the Echo Show has its own 2.5-inch display that can provide visual information, such as the weather or a clock face. It also provides access to Alexa and supports optional video-calling support. Amazon promises Echo will never transmit recordings to the cloud unless it's been activated.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

you're home. You might also want to turn off the microphone, since it could capture background conversations. Or just unplug the camera altogether ... though you'll also have to remember to reconnect it when you leave.

Along similar lines, consider covering up the front-facing camera on your laptop with opaque tape unless you need it regularly for video chats. Laptops aren't supposed to send video unless you activate an app that needs it, but malware has been known to activate the camera remotely.

DIGITAL TRAILS

Smart locks let you unlock doors with an app, so you can let in guests even when you're not home. Burglars might try to hack the system, though it's often easier for them to just break a window.

Some rental properties are also turning to smart locks to control access. When you move out, the landlord can automatically disable your digital key. But these systems also let landlords track your whereabouts and those of your guests. If you create a guest key that's used daily, for instance, the landlord might suspect you have an unauthorized occupant.

Even if you own the home, these keys can leave a digital trail. In a child-custody dispute, for instance, your ex might subpoena the records to learn that you've been staying out late on school nights.

gations. Reputable brands let you review and delete your voice history; be sure to do so regularly.

WATCHING YOU

Online security cameras such as the Cam IQ, from Google sibling company Nest, let you check in on your pets or kids when you're not home. They also typically store video online, so you can see whether your housekeeper actually cleaned the kitchen last week. Some services routinely send video to online storage; others do so only when triggered by a sound or motion.

Again, reputable brands are likely to take security seriously, but no system is perfect.

If you want to be very careful, you might want to turn the camera to face the wall when

COMING SOON

FROM PAGE A1

2018 and a new location for an already-established fine-dining eatery, according to Newman.

Hamptons, currently serving at 4 W. Hampton Ave., will move to 33 N. Main St. next year, neighboring and sharing a chef with the soon-to-be-fully-open La Piazza — the venue is already available as an event rental.

Danielle Thompson, who owns both restaurants, previously told *The Sumter Item* the goal is to eventually open a Tex-Mex restaurant where Hamptons now is, though an estimated opening date and a finalized cuisine is not in the books.

Restaurants may be the poster child of exciting development, but there are buildings being built all over downtown scheduled for completion in 2018.

“The Economic Development building is scheduled to open in February 2018,” Newman said.

Possibly the most visible project downtown is the Hyatt Place Hotel going in on North Main Street, which Newman said is on track to open in March.

She said the bottom floor of 119 N. Main St. — the old Naomi and Warner building on the corner of North Main and Law Range — will continue being developed into a “retail shop, a coffee shop and office space.”

The corner of Harvin and Bartlette streets will see ground broken on a new water department building in 2018, too.

“There are other projects for downtown Sumter in the pipeline for 2018, with details to come,” Newman said.

Popular events will continue to draw residents and visitors downtown, Newman said, including the Fourth Fridays Concert Series, the Downtown Market, the Microbrew Festival, Derby Day, Sip and Stroll and Oktoberfest, to name a few of many.

Expanding beyond downtown, creating more connections between the



ADRIENNE SARVIS / THE SUMTER ITEM

The Graham family is updating the display on the corner of North Main and East Liberty streets. It will have new Pennsylvania blue stone and matching brick.

Updating Beau Graham Square

The water display on the corner of North Main and East Liberty streets is getting a facelift.

Thanks to the family that owns the area, the Grahams, the concrete around the water feature will be replaced with Pennsylvania blue stone and matching brick, and concrete around East Liberty will be replaced with brick sidewalk matching the designs along North Main.

“[And they are] adding a planter below the waterfall that will

catch excess water as well as beautify the space with greenery and reconfiguring the plantings on the side and the front of the fountain,” Sumter Downtown Development Coordinator Leigh Newman said.

The downtown corner was dedicated in 2003 to Beau Graham, Sumter mayor from 1964-72 and a city councilman credited with helping develop downtown Sumter.

— *Adrienne Sarvis and Kayla Robins*

business community and public education will be a focus for Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce, said Chris Hardy, president of the group.

“We’re working on a long-term strategic plan that we’re going to present at our retreat in February when we go to

Greenville,” Hardy said. “It’s really going to be focused on the seven divisions of the Chamber and our overall body of work.”

He said a large focus will be “building additional relationships” between schools and businesses, especially

“workforce development issues between local industry and manufacturing, and Shaw [Air Force Base] is part of that.”

Creating and expanding programs to help small businesses will be a priority in 2018, too, he said.

“We’re going to be looking at a lot of changes in 2018 between programs and ... our long-term strategic plan,” he said.

Hardy said he could not comment on specific Economic Development projects.

Workforce development programs are not the only educational realm being looked at come 2018.

Though Sumter School District officials could not be reached for comment because of the winter holiday break, the most recent notable decision that will carry into 2018 was the Board of Trustees’ vote in early December to keep Debbie Hamm on as interim superintendent for another year.

School officials have credited Hamm for starting to lead the district out of a financial crisis and develop programs and initiatives to increase student achievement.

“I’m really interested in what we are doing in the district,” Hamm said earlier in December. “I feel like things are moving ahead, and I’m glad to be a part of it for another year.”

Roadways must be maintained and improved to enable residents to get to any of these new attractions and programs.

Funds collected from a 2014 voter-approved penny sales tax referendum are being used to build a new public safety complex. The new 36,000-square-foot Sumter Police Department headquarters and 21,600-square-foot, four-bay garage Sumter Fire Department headquarters should be completed by the end of the first quarter of 2018, and Sumter County Public Works Director Eddie Newman has previously told *The Sumter Item* that 18 miles of dirt roads are in the process of being paved to allow for better accessibility for emergency vehicles.

WEDDING

Betzel-McCarthy



MR., MRS. CASEY MCCARTHY

LANDRUM — Megan Betzel and Casey McCarthy were united in marriage on Sunday, Oct. 7, 2017, at Song Hill Reserve.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Michael Betzel of Landrum. She graduated from Clemson University. She is employed as a supervisor by ADM/Georgia Peanut Co.

The bridegroom is the son of Suzanne DeLorme McCarthy of Sumter and the late Michael Patrick McCarthy of Twin Falls, Idaho. He graduated from Clemson University. He is also employed as a supervisor by ADM/Georgia Peanut Co.

Following a wedding trip to Belize, the couple resides in Leesburg, Georgia.

TOP STORIES

FROM PAGE A1

The driver of the Buick was wearing a seatbelt and sustained no injuries.

Jones said highway patrol will determine whether there will be charges for the wreck after the Multi-disciplinary Accident Investigation Team completes its investigation.

3. MOTHER CHARGED AFTER 1-YEAR-OLD DIES FROM BEING IN HOT VEHICLE

Thursday, July 20

By Jim Hilley

Sumter County Coroner’s Office has reported the preliminary cause of death of 1-year-old Mekhi Rembert was hyperthermia because of entrapment in a hot vehicle. Coroner Robert M. Baker Jr. said a toxicology report will take about six weeks to confirm the cause of death.

The child was found unresponsive Wednesday at Swan Lake-Iris Gardens and was transported to Palmetto Health Tuomey shortly after 3:15 p.m. Wednesday. Police escorted the ambulance and blocked traffic en route to the hospital. The entrance gate to the gardens was shut and secured.

According to *wunderground.com*, the temperature in Sumter was in the mid-90s on Wednesday afternoon. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warns that even when it feels cool outside, cars can heat up to dangerous temperatures very quickly. Leaving a window open is not enough, according to the CDC, as temperatures inside the car can rise almost 20 degrees within 10 minutes, even with a window cracked open. Children who are left unattended in parked cars are at great risk for heat stroke and possibly death, according to the CDC.

Although Sumter-Lee Regional Detention Center’s website shows the child’s 24-year-old mother, Latisha Nichole Rembert, was arrested and charged with legal guardian, unlawful neglect of a child or helpless person, the police department has not confirmed the charges.

2. TEEN ADMITS HE SHOT 2 IN RETALIATION SCHEME

Tuesday, Sept. 12

From staff reports

A shooting Friday at Harmony Court

apartments that left two maintenance workers with lifelong injuries was the result of a plan to frame an associate of the assailant, according to a news release from Sumter Police Department.

Former Sumter High School Gamecocks basketball player Andrew Jeremiah Tiller, 18, of 2665 Goldeneye Ridge, was charged Monday after admitting he shot the two workers as part of an armed robbery scheme in order to frame a man in retaliation for something he did to him.

The teenager is charged with two counts of attempted murder, two counts of attempted armed robbery and possession of a weapon during a violent crime. Released Tuesday from Sumter-Lee Regional Detention Center on a \$37,500 surety bond set by a local magistrate, Tiller is required to wear an ankle monitor during his release.

According to reports, Tiller tried unsuccessfully to lure a local peddler near Harmony Court before driving a short distance to the apartment complex. Two maintenance men there were outside reviewing their work orders at about 11 a.m. Friday when a dark Dodge Charger pulled up in the parking lot. A masked man got out of the vehicle, demanded money and began firing a handgun before the victims were able to respond. Officers were later able to locate the vehicle and link the suspect to the shooting.

1. SCDOR: SAVE GAS RECEIPTS BEGINNING JANUARY '18

Tuesday, Dec. 5

From staff reports

According to a news release from S.C. Department of Revenue, January 2018 is the time to start saving receipts.

A new income tax credit going into effect in January is intended to offset the increased motor fuel user fee established by the S.C. Infrastructure and Economic Development Reform Act.

The S.C. Infrastructure and Economic Development Reform Act was passed by the General Assembly in 2017 and includes an increase of 2 cents in the state’s motor fuel user fee each July from 2017 to 2022, for a total increase from 16 cents per gallon to 28 cents per gallon. The money raised by the increase will be used for repairs, maintenance and improvements to South Carolina’s

existing transportation system.

Taxpayers may claim the motor fuel income tax credit when filing their state income tax returns beginning in 2019. This credit is applied to your 2018 S.C. Individual Income Taxes which are filed in 2019.

WHAT TAXPAYERS NEED TO KNOW

- This is a refundable credit on up to two private motor vehicles or motorcycles per resident taxpayer and is provided to offset the motor fuel user fee increase.

A private passenger motor vehicle is a motor vehicle designed, used and maintained for the transportation of 10 or fewer persons and a truck having an empty weight of 9,000 pounds or less and a gross weight of 11,000 pounds or less.

Vehicles that qualify include cars, minivans, sport utility vehicles and pickup trucks of a certain weight.

Vehicles and motorcycles must be registered in S.C. to qualify.

- To calculate and claim the credit amount and for personal tax records, taxpayers must save receipts and invoices from fuel purchases and vehicle preventative maintenance costs (such as new tires, oil changes and regular vehicle maintenance) beginning in January 2018.

Fuel receipts or credit card statements must show the number of gallons purchased in S.C. during the tax year.

The maintenance invoices must show the car model, amount and type of preventative maintenance work performed in S.C.

Fuel purchased outside of S.C. and preventative maintenance performed outside of S.C. may not be used in determining the credit.

- Taxpayers receive a credit on the lesser amount paid for either the motor fuel user fee increase or the vehicle’s preventative maintenance; and

- Taxpayers will calculate and claim the credit on Form I-385 when filing state income tax returns in 2019 (This form will be available in January 2019).

For additional information, including examples regarding the provisions of this tax credit, see SC Revenue Ruling No. 17-6, Refundable Motor Fuel Income Tax Credit or visit <https://dor.sc.gov/about/whats-new>.

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Know what to buy every month of 2018

BY COURTNEY JESPERSEN
NerdWallet via The Associated Press

In 2018, you may resolve to save more, spend less or budget better. Whatever your money goal, the one common key to your success is shopping smart. That means knowing the best time to buy just about anything.

To help you out, we've created a purchase calendar.

JANUARY

• **BEDDING AND LINENS.** Department stores hold bedding and linen "white sales" with deep discounts on sheets and towels.

• **FITNESS EQUIPMENT.** Retailers know you want to get in shape. Expect fitness equipment and apparel sales to abound.

• **TVS AND ELECTRONICS.** Just before the Super Bowl, retailers normally discount their selections of HDTVs and other home-theater essentials.

FEBRUARY

• **TVS.** TV sales spill over from January into February. Aside from Black Friday, this is one of the prime times to buy a new TV.

• **WINTER PRODUCTS.** With winter winding down, stores will be looking to unload their inventories of cold-weather products. Look for sales on apparel and winter sporting accessories.

• **HOME GOODS.** Presidents Day is Feb. 19 this year. Expect retailers to have home and apparel sales on that Monday and the weekend preceding.

MARCH

• **GOLF CLUBS.** Expect to find discounts on golf clubs in preparation for summer. Whenever consumer demand is down, prices usually are, too.

• **GRILLS.** Buy your summer grilling necessities in March to avoid the spike in prices that will come when summer arrives.

• **ST. PATRICK'S DAY ESSENTIALS.** St. Patrick's Day is March 17. Around that time, online retailers and department stores usually discount their selection of green-themed clothing, party supplies and jewelry.

APRIL

• **VACUUMS.** Buying a vacuum isn't the most exciting purchase, but it'll be less painful if you take advantage of a spring cleaning sale.

• **JEWELRY.** The general rule is to avoid buying jewelry close to major holidays. Try to get a good deal when jewelers have a slower period and may be more motivated to make sales.

• **FREEBIES.** Year after year, retailers and restaurants try to lighten the burden of tax day with discounts and freebies. Keep an eye out for these around mid-April. Tax day this year is April 17.

MAY

• **SPRING CLEANING NECESSITIES.** Before summer arrives, act on spring cleaning discounts on vacuums and mops.

• **SMALL KITCHEN APPLIANCES.** Use May discounts as a perfect opportunity to buy small kitchen appliances, such as coffee makers and blenders. These products normally are included in Memorial Day sales.

• **FURNITURE.** Three of the biggest blowout shopping days are Black Friday, Labor Day and Memorial Day. This year, Memorial Day is May 28. Look for plenty of furniture and home-decor discounts.

JUNE

• **LINGERIE.** Stock up on undergarments in June. That's when Victoria's Secret has been known to host its famed Semi-Annual Sale. The sale usually occurs in December also.

• **GYM MEMBERSHIPS.** Consider buying a gym membership during the summer, and don't forget to negotiate to get the best possible deal.

• **GIFTS FOR DAD.** Expect Father's Day deals this month, especially the closer you get to the holiday on June 17.

JULY

• **APPAREL.** If you don't want to wait for end-of-summer

sales, buy clothes in midsummer. You'll likely find a better price than you would at the start of the season.

• **PATRIOTIC ITEMS.** In the days leading up to the Fourth of July, there is usually an abundance of sales on red, white and blue products (and products that are all three colors), as well as on sporting goods, jewelry and furniture.

• **PERSONAL ELECTRONICS.** Black Friday is a big deal day that falls in November, but many retailers have begun hosting Black Friday in July sales, including Best Buy and Amazon.

AUGUST

• **BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLIES.** The start of school marks the need to buy small items such as pencils and expensive ones like laptops. Generally, the closer to the start of the school year you buy, the better your chances of getting a good price.

• **LAWN MOWERS.** Ride out the end of summer with a big deal on lawn mowers and other seasonal outdoor equipment.

• **SWIMSUITS.** Swimsuit clearance sales crest. Buy your swimsuits now to stock up for next year.

SEPTEMBER

• **MATTRESSES.** Year after year, September is the time for mattress sales. Expect these from department stores and mattress centers, usually as a part of Labor Day deals.

• **IPHONES.** Apple has been known to announce its new iPhone installments at the company's annual keynote in September. Usually, the unveiling

is followed by a drop in prices on the current phones in anticipation of the new models.

• **APPLIANCES.** This year, Labor Day falls on Sept. 3. Expect a series of blowout deals in the week leading up to the holiday, including promotions on appliances big and small.

OCTOBER

• **OUTDOOR FURNITURE.** People generally spend less time outdoors when the temperature drops. Expect deals on patio furniture and outdoor living products when summer ends.

• **JEANS.** Fall inventory arrives in stores in August and September, but you'll pay top dollar unless you wait a few weeks. October is a great time to buy a new pair of jeans.

• **CANDY.** The closer you get to Oct. 31, the better your chance at snagging a discounted bag of candy for your trick-or-treaters.

NOVEMBER

• **TABLETS AND LAPTOPS.** Electronics take center stage during Black Friday sales. Look for discounts on smartphones and activity trackers, too.

• **GAMING SYSTEMS.** Black Friday is the best time to buy a discounted gaming console or gaming system bundle like Xbox or PlayStation.

• **HOME APPLIANCES.** Reserve your major home appliance purchase — refrigerator, washer, dryer, dishwasher, etc. — for Black Friday deals. Often, sales on these can be found throughout the month.

DECEMBER

• **TOYS.** Since toys are a popular Christmas gift, stores generally host big toy sales as the holiday season draws to a close.

• **CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS.** Beginning the day after Christmas, shop sales for deep discounts — often

upward of 50 percent — on decorations, wrapping paper, ornaments, artificial trees and similar seasonal fixings.

• **CARS.** The end of December is an ideal time to buy a car. That's when dealerships are looking to meet end-of-year sales quotas.

FAITH

The mission of Thomas Sumter Academy is to develop, in a safe and Christian environment, well-rounded individuals who are fully prepared for college and life.

Add to your faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge. - 2 Peter 1:5



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- Patient-centered care provided by specially trained physicians, nurses and staff
- Pain and symptom management
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OPINION

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COMMENTARY

We don't need for our government to remind us that smoking kills

WASHINGTON — Preaching morality while practicing cupidity can be tricky, but various American governments have done it for years regarding smoking. This mental contortion now has a new chapter. The four largest American tobacco companies (Altria, R.J. Reynolds, Lorillard, Philip Morris) are, under government compulsion, funding newspaper and television ads to tell — actually, to remind — people that their products are sickening:

“Smoking kills, on average, 1,200 Americans. Every day. More people die every year from smoking than from murder, AIDS, suicide, drugs, car crashes, and alcohol, combined.” “Cigarette companies intentionally designed cigarettes with enough nicotine to create and sustain addiction.” Etc.

Please. Tell us something everyone hasn't known for decades. In 1988, the surgeon general declared tobacco addictive.

Since 1966, there have been increasingly severe health warnings on cigarette packs. In 1964, the surgeon general declared tobacco carcinogenic. In 1906, a character in an O. Henry story used a common slang phrase: “Say, sport, have you got a coffin nail on you?” In 1604, England's King James I called smoking “harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs.”

Eight years later, a colony named for him, Jamestown, in a place, Virginia, named for his immediate predecessor (Elizabeth I, “the virgin queen”), became an enriching source of tobacco — until a tobacco farmer named Washington disrupted things.

The strange, meandering path of tobacco — a legal commodity that is harmful when used as intended — to the present began in contradictions. They are crowned by this one: Many state governments are addicted to revenue from tobacco taxes. The federal tax on a pack is \$1.

The lowest state tax is Missouri's 17 cents; the highest, Connecticut and New York's \$4.35; the average, \$1.72. So, many governments have huge stakes in a steady supply of new smokers to replace those killed by smoking.

Hence these governments cannot afford for their anti-smoking efforts to be too successful. Furthermore, if every smoker quit tomorrow, Social Security's slow-motion crisis would accelerate, and many public and private pension systems would be staggered by having to revise downward their actuarial assumptions about the number of persons who will die before collecting many or any benefits.

In 1998, 46 states, in a mutually lucrative collaboration with trial lawyers (some of their \$13 billion in fees amounted to tens of thousands of dollars an hour),

sued the tobacco companies. The companies agreed to — if they will pardon the expression — cough up \$246 billion over many years.

The theory, more successful than plausible, was that health care for smoking-related illnesses makes smoking a huge net cost to the states.

Actually, smoking might be a net financial gain for government: Cigarettes are the most heavily taxed consumer product and, again, many smokers' premature deaths limit their receipt of entitlement benefits for the elderly — Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, nursing homes, etc.

The lawyers also argued that tobacco is so addictive that quitting requires heroic willpower that few can manage.

Even then, however, there were about as many ex-smokers as smokers. In 1845, former President John Quincy Adams wrote, “In my early youth, I was addicted to tobacco.” Its addictiveness was known and surmountable long ago.

Much of America's health care expenses (from lung cancer, coronary artery disease, AIDS, Type 2 diabetes brought on by obesity, violence, vehicular accidents) result from known-to-be-risky behaviors involving eating, drinking, smoking, driving and sex.

The most cost-efficient thing government does is disperse health information about smoking, cholesterol, automobile seat belts, sunscreen use, etc.

This is why only a sixth of adults, compared to nearly half 50 years ago, are smokers.

But the anti-smoking message that government is now coercing from the tobacco companies — Trust us, we are untrustworthy — merely confirms common sense: Filling one's lungs with smoke from a burning plant is dumb.

Smoking is increasingly concentrated among downscale, low-information Americans. (Hence tobacco taxes are regressive.) It has lost the cachet that once made it a marker of sophistication. Ninety percent of smokers begin by age 18 and vanishingly few after 21.

So, the way to extinguish smoking is not by belaboring the health issue (smoking is the leading preventable cause of death, it has killed many more than all of America's war deaths, etc.) but with the sort of broadcast ads California used years ago to cut smoking 17 percent: “I tried it once and I, ah, got all red in the face and I couldn't inhale and I felt like a jerk and, ah, never tried it again, which is the same as what happened to me with sex.”

George Will's email address is georgewill@washpost.com.

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George Will



COMMENTARY

Looking ahead to 2018 elections

Editor's note: This editorial originally ran in The Post and Courier on Thursday.

As the state wrestles with long-standing and significant new challenges, voters got a look recently at where the Republican candidates for governor stand in an early poll. It's a good time for voters to remember that it's a long way to Election Day and that candidates' solutions are a more substantial guide than poll numbers.

The stakes for South Carolina are too important to rely on name recognition, turning races into the grown-up equivalent of a high school popularity contest.

There should be more discussion of the state's needs and less pandering over sanctuary cities and putting more restrictions on who can vote in party primaries.

The first widely released GOP poll showed Gov. Henry McMaster with a large lead over former state agency head Catherine Templeton, with Lt. Gov. Kevin Bryant and former Lt. Gov. Yancey McGill far in the distance, according to the Mason-Dixon Polling results. Other than the large divide between Gov. McMaster and Ms. Templeton, there were no real surprises.

While horse-race coverage is entertaining, it shouldn't be a substitute for what's really important. The June 2018 primaries and November general election won't happen until the legislative session ends, but voters need to hear solu-

tions to South Carolina's problems from the GOP field as well as Democratic candidates Rep. James Smith and businessman Phil Noble.

And there is plenty to talk about.

One of the most important questions is what the candidates would do to address the state's education woes. They should further tell voters how they would improve education in general now that the Legislature is free from the school-funding lawsuit. The candidates need to tell us what they would do to help recruit and retain teachers. With the end of the TERI program next year and low teacher pay, there's a fear that educators will leave classrooms in droves. And what about the outrageous cost of higher education, which makes it increasingly difficult to get a college degree without taking on enormous debt?

The Legislature likely will focus on the fallout from shutting down the V.C. Summer nuclear project. How would the candidates protect ratepayers who are paying the price — literally — for the bad decisions made by SCANA and Santee Cooper?

We'd also like to hear how they'd support greater government transparency. There's already a bill on the House Ways and Means Committee agenda that would exempt from the Freedom of Information Act nonprofits that receive public money. In essence, chambers of commerce, development corporations and others could receive millions of dollars in public money but

would not be accountable to the public for how that money was spent. Sunshine is the best policy, especially where public money is concerned.

And what about the fallout from the ongoing Statehouse corruption probe? Will any of the candidates call for stronger ethics laws? So far, the only thing they've said amounts to “throw the bums out.” The reaction to the next scandal likely will be the same if the laws aren't changed.

There also are concerns about health care, protecting children and the elderly and safeguarding the environment. Also, where will they find the money to repair our crumbling roads and bridges and to build new ones, to keep up with the state's booming population?

It's critical that the candidates tell us how they'd tackle these issues without just throwing more money at them.

The real power in South Carolina politics resides in the Statehouse, not the Governor's Mansion, so whoever is elected in November 2018 must use a deft touch to push lawmakers toward the right answers. It will take leadership, especially in a year when the S.C. House of Representatives and the state's constitutional offices will be up for grabs, which could make for a less-robust decision-making climate.

A lot can change over the next several months, so let the speculation begin. But as we head down this road, let's not lose sight of what's really important.

TWEETS FROM OUR TIMELINE @THEITEM



Sumter County @SumterCountyGov · Dec 28

Want to see some photos of the Public Safety Complex under construction on North Lafayette Drive? Click here: sumtercountysc.org #SumterSC #TeamSumter #PennyForProgress



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Navy rediscovers captured flags hidden for nearly 100 years

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — The curator of the U.S. Naval Academy Museum wasn't exactly sure what would be found: Records indicated five display boxes long used to exhibit captured British flags from the War of 1812 actually concealed more banners underneath.

But not until all 61 banners were painstakingly removed in December for a conservation effort did curator Charles Swift, who is also the museum's managing director, actually see what was hidden. And he was gratified to learn that conservationists had uncovered dozens of other flags — many captured by the Navy in other conflicts of the 19th century.

The 46 newly discovered flags — including banners from battles in Asia and from the Spanish-American War — had originally been put on display in 1913. But seven years later, they were covered up by the 15 flags from the War of 1812 — and sealed up for nearly a century.

No one alive had seen the flags long hidden from view.

"More importantly than just seeing them was seeing the colors," Swift said. "It is what struck me immediately. It was sort of dark, but you could see the colors — the vibrant colors — of them having not been in light for 100 years, and so it was exciting."

The flags, covered by the others in boxes with large plate-glass lids, speak to an earlier era of U.S. intervention overseas. They include one taken from a Chinese pirate fort off Macau dating to 1854 and another captured in



Charles Swift, managing director and curator of the U.S. Naval Academy Museum in Annapolis, Maryland, looks up from a British flag of the HMS Landrail, which was captured in 1814 by American privateers sailing in the English Channel. It is one of 61 flags recently removed from glass cases at the U.S. Naval Academy for preservation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Korea in 1871, according to Swift. There were even some replicas of Revolutionary War-era flags among them.

He said no one had attempted to open the boxes for so long until it came time for needed conservation.

"It was mostly the recognition that after 100 years, these things really needed to be taken down, because hanging like this places stresses on the flags," Swift said. "It can tear them. They can be damaged. So, they're getting a well-deserved vacation."

In 1849, then-President James K. Polk designated the academy in Annapolis, Maryland, as the repository of flags captured in battle by the Navy. The museum is now home to about 800 flags and trusted with their conservation. Swift said. About 250 of them are trophy flags seized in battle. The museum also houses seafaring instruments, naval uniforms, medals, photographs, art and items recall-

ing past naval expeditions and explorations.

"We are ultimately stewards of these objects that tell important stories," said Swift, whose museum boasts more than 100,000 visitors a year.

Amelia Fowler, a well-known flag preserver who restored the original Star-Spangled Banner in 1914, was contracted in 1912 to conserve the academy's collection of trophy flags. She worked with dozens of other women in the museum's Mahan Hall, using a patented stitching method to help

Textile Services, based in Massachusetts. She said Fowler's work has enabled her crew to handle the flags without risk of damage.

"For us to conserve a collection of flags like this that's historical — not only for its use, but for how it was preserved and how it has been installed here for 100 years for Naval Academy students and visitors to appreciate and learn from," she said. "It's really our favorite kind of project."

Swift said funding for the conservation, about \$40,000, came from the U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command, which is tasked with preserving artifacts, documents and other items of that military branch.

preserve the fabric. All told, they stitched up enough flags to cover two football fields, Swift said.

Camille Myers Breeze is working on a new conservation process for the flags as director of an independent conservation studio, Museum

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WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER

NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

BANKS — All area banks and credit unions will be closed on Monday.

GOVERNMENT — The following will be closed on Monday: federal government offices; U.S. Postal Service; state government offices; City of Sumter offices; Sumter County offices; City of Manning; Clarendon County offices; Lee County offices; and City of Bishopville offices.

SCHOOLS — The following will be closed through Monday: Lee County Public Schools and Thomas Sumter Academy.

The following will be closed through Tuesday: Sumter School District; Clarendon School District 1; Clarendon School District 2; Wilson Hall; St. Anne and St. Jude Catholic School; St. Francis Xavier High School; Lawrence Manning Academy; and Clarendon Hall.

Clarendon School District 3 and Sumter Christian School will be closed through Monday and will observe a faculty in-service day on Tuesday. Students will return on Wednesday.

Robert E. Lee Academy will be closed through Wednesday.

UTILITIES — Black River Electric Coop. and FTC will be closed on Monday.

OTHER — Clemson Extension Service and the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce will be closed through Monday.

The Harvin Clarendon County Library and the Sumter County Library will be closed on Monday.

The City of Sumter will collect household garbage and recyclables on New Year's Day.

Santee-Waterree RTA will be closed on Monday. The Sumter Item will be closed on Monday.

PUBLIC AGENDA

SUMTER CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., Sumter Opera House, 21 N. Main St.

TOWN OF LYNCHBURG PLANNING COMMISSION
Wednesday, 4 p.m., town hall

BISHOPVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Colclough Building

The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Revisit what's transpired and how you can

dealing with others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Listen, but don't believe everything you hear. Someone will mislead you or misuse your personal information. Protect your heart, reputation and possessions. A change in your personal life will take you by surprise.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A financial gain is heading your way. Organize and tidy up loose ends. Make a promise to set positive guidelines that will make your life easier and less stressful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make changes at home or open your doors to friends and family. Don't hide your true feelings or put your dreams aside for the sake of others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If you mix business with pleasure, be wary of the information you share with peers. Indulgence will lead to emotional situations that can make you or someone you love look bad.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Old emotions will surface. Make time to discuss your future plans and feelings with loved ones. Clear your mind of any regrets that you don't want to carry into the new year.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Emotions will be difficult to hide, especially if you avoid facing the facts that you neglected to recognize in the past. Relationships must be handled with poise and intelligence, not indulgence and anger.

move forward in a positive manner. New beginnings may not always be welcomed, but they should be considered.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Reminisce about days gone by. Share your thoughts and feelings with someone you love. Common goals will be something to toast to as the year comes to a close.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Leave baggage behind and head into the next year with optimism. Make positive changes that will free up your time and allow you to head in a direction that excites you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Too much talk will give someone an inside look into who you are and what you have. Protect your assets, possessions and loved ones from anyone who is prying into your affairs.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Put bad habits behind you. Honesty will help you build the framework for a new beginning. Get back to basics and bring in the year with a clear head.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Make a toast to what has been and what lies ahead. Let go of the past. Make decisions and follow through with your plans. Strive for greater awareness and compassion when

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2017

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

TODAY	TONIGHT	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
41°	21°	37° / 19°	36° / 19°	43° / 22°	41° / 18°
Chance of rain: 5%	Chance of rain: 5%	Chance of rain: 10%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 10%	Chance of rain: 0%
NE 7-14 mph	NE 6-12 mph	NNE 8-16 mph	NNE 6-12 mph	NNW 3-6 mph	NNW 4-8 mph

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

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

IN THE MOUNTAINS

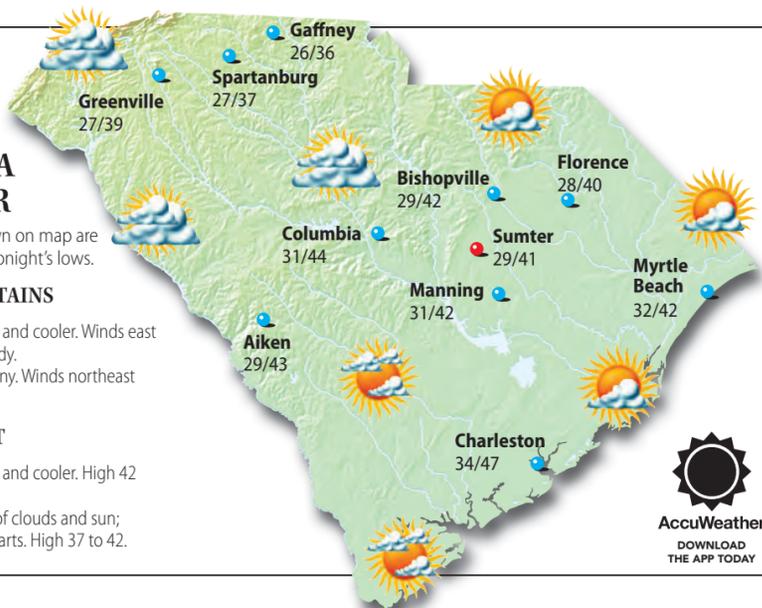
Today: Partly sunny and cooler. Winds east 4-8 mph. Partly cloudy.

Monday: Partly sunny. Winds northeast 6-12 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: Partly sunny and cooler. High 42 to 51.

Monday: Intervals of clouds and sun; colder in southern parts. High 37 to 42.



LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER YESTERDAY

Temperature	
High	48°
Low	26°
Normal high	54°
Normal low	32°
Record high	78° in 2015
Record low	19° in 1977

Precipitation	
Yesterday	0.00"
Month to date	4.02"
Normal month to date	3.10"
Year to date	37.54"
Last year to date	49.40"
Normal year to date	46.70"

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	354.81	-0.03
Marion	76.8	74.11	-0.08
Moultrie	75.5	74.12	none
Waterree	100	96.66	-0.01

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	8.75	-0.05
Congaree River	19	1.69	-1.31
Lynches River	14	6.88	-0.88
Saluda River	14	3.69	+0.03
Up. Santee River	80	75.52	-0.64
Waterree River	24	4.98	+0.01

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	7:27 a.m.	Sunset	5:23 p.m.
Moonrise	4:17 p.m.	Moonset	5:35 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
Jan. 1	Jan. 8	Jan. 16	Jan. 24

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH				
	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	7:03 a.m.	3.6	1:23 a.m.	-0.8
	7:29 p.m.	3.0	2:12 p.m.	-0.5
Mon.	8:01 p.m.	3.7	2:19 p.m.	-1.0
	8:27 a.m.	3.1	3:08 a.m.	-0.6

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	Mon. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	40/22/c	34/19/c
Chicago	13/-7/sf	5/-7/s
Dallas	37/18/f	31/19/pc
Detroit	16/-1/pc	15/3/c
Houston	53/29/c	40/24/pc
Los Angeles	70/52/pc	73/55/pc
New Orleans	55/28/r	39/26/pc
New York	20/9/s	20/13/s
Orlando	69/51/s	59/45/sh
Philadelphia	22/10/s	22/13/s
Phoenix	72/46/s	75/47/pc
San Francisco	59/46/pc	60/48/pc
Wash., DC	27/14/pc	27/14/s

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	Mon. Hi/Lo/W
Asheville	35/15/pc	27/8/s
Athens	43/25/pc	38/17/pc
Augusta	47/25/pc	41/18/c
Beaufort	51/29/pc	42/24/pc
Cape Hatteras	36/27/pc	33/24/c
Charleston	47/26/pc	40/22/pc
Charlotte	37/19/s	35/16/s
Clemson	38/25/pc	36/17/pc
Columbia	44/24/pc	38/19/pc
Darlington	39/23/pc	35/18/pc
Elizabeth City	33/16/pc	30/13/s
Elizabethtown	37/21/s	32/16/pc
Fayetteville	38/19/s	34/17/s

City	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	Mon. Hi/Lo/W
Florence	40/21/pc	36/18/pc
Gainesville	61/39/pc	50/29/c
Gastonia	37/21/s	34/13/s
Goldsboro	35/18/pc	32/16/s
Goose Creek	46/27/pc	38/21/pc
Greensboro	33/14/pc	30/11/s
Greensboro	33/14/pc	30/11/s
Greenville	39/21/s	35/17/pc
Hickory	34/16/pc	31/12/s
Hilton Head	48/30/pc	40/24/pc
Jacksonville, FL	58/42/pc	47/32/c
La Grange	43/22/c	37/17/pc
Macon	46/27/c	44/20/pc
Marietta	37/19/pc	34/16/c

City	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	Mon. Hi/Lo/W
Marion	34/16/pc	28/9/s
Mt. Pleasant	47/29/pc	39/22/pc
Myrtle Beach	42/23/s	37/21/pc
Orangeburg	43/26/pc	37/19/c
Port Royal	51/30/pc	40/25/pc
Raleigh	34/15/pc	30/13/s
Rock Hill	36/21/s	33/13/pc
Rockingham	37/20/s	32/14/pc
Savannah	52/30/pc	43/23/pc
Spartanburg	37/22/pc	32/14/pc
Summerville	45/27/pc	38/20/pc
Wilmington	40/20/s	35/18/pc
Winston-Salem	32/15/pc	30/12/s

Weather(W): s—sunny, pc—partly cloudy, c—cloudy, sh—showers, t—thunderstorms, r—rain, sf—snow flurries, sn—snow, I—ice

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

ATLAS HUGGED:
a.k.a. 118 Across
By Fred Piscop

ACROSS

- 1 Taters
- 6 Gather bit by bit
- 11 S&L amenity
- 14 Big Brother broadcaster
- 17 Portraitist's prop
- 18 Transitional state
- 19 Tangible
- 21 Two-purpose
- 22 Boot sole material
- 24 Singer Del Rey
- 25 Dagwood's young neighbor
- 26 Eerie
- 27 Number-aligning mark
- 29 Stun gun
- 30 Street vendor's vehicle
- 31 Friend in the hood
- 35 Ukraine's capital
- 37 Turf Builder
- seller
- 41 Unbooked slot
- 45 Soprano-range
- 49 Drummer's cymbal pair
- 50 Thomas Hardy heroine
- 51 Blue-haired Simpson
- 53 Hoist
- 55 Ration (out)
- 56 Slice of history
- 57 Freighter listing
- 60 Fourth one counted, perhaps
- 61 Cabinet department
- 63 Pedometer reset reading
- 64 BOGO event
- 65 Walesa's homeland
- 67 ___-proof (easy to operate)
- 69 Undercover worker
- 70 Diarist Nin
- 71 Fireplace adjunct
- 73 Italian wine

city

75 Good bud

77 Warehouse

80 "Just as I thought!"

81 Thermometer gradation

85 Make known

86 Brown shades

88 Navigation device

89 Small fry

90 Roofing piece

91 Prime-time hour

93 Sneezin' reason, perhaps

95 Shaved-ice treats

97 Unhappy looks

99 Nest eggs, briefly

101 Takes, as advice

102 Go-between

106 Italian cheese city

110 Old West train robbers

113 Combat supplies

116 Keystone State port

117 Vogue rival

118 Alternate title for the puzzle

121 Untrustworthy one

122 Horse hue

123 Built for speed

124 Alternative to texting

125 Hasty escape

126 Peculiar

127 Gull cousins

128 Overly sentimental

DOWN

1 Dry, as vermouth

2 Up to ___ (adequate)

3 Takes off the shelf

4 Captain Sparrow portrayer

5 Fell in pellets

6 Overfills

7 Cuba ___ (cocktail)

8 Board a ship

9 Genesis shepherd

10 Likewise not

11 Van Gogh hangout

12 Show the ropes to

13 Fanatical

14 Fringe group

15 Ole Miss rival

16 Unkempt one

20 Asian priests

21 Shoulder muscle

23 Elvis record label

27 Ava who directed Selma

28 Structure with a keystone

30 ___ diem worker

31 Red Monopoly piece

32 Puccini genre

33 Minnesota's iron source

34 Helpful connections

36 News story

38 "Common Sense" pamphleteer

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- 39 Raptor's gripper
- 40 Knight's mount
- 42 Physicians' org.
- 43 Seer's deck
- 44 Thus
- 46 Leave quickly, so to speak
- 47 Vivacity
- 48 Language suffix
- 52 Sticky stuff
- 54 NFL Live channel
- 57 Hollered
- 58 Jellied garnish
- 59 Warty creatures
- 62 "To a..." work
- 66 Fairway position
- 68 Small bills
- 69 Fine silver
- 70 Sci-fi visitor
- 71 Overfills
- 72 Island group
- 73 Florence's river
- 74 Shut tightly
- 75 Tissue layer
- 76 Seeks info
- 78 Stopped from squeaking
- 79 Lock of hair
- 82 RNC's group
- 83 Volcano near Palermo
- 84 GI-entertaining org.
- 87 Bus-stop structure
- 90 Sock part
- 92 Threesome
- 94 EMTs' destinations
- 96 Ebenezer's creator
- 98 More sensible
- 100 Web user
- 103 Ice house
- 104 Tossed fare
- 105 Upturned, as a crate
- 107 As You Like It forest
- 108 Smells strongly
- 109 Chap
- 110 HP's PC competitor
- 111 Diva's rendition
- 112 Actor Neeson
- 113 Smoothing tool
- 114 Cry from a crib
- 115 Break quickly
- 118 Only president from Mo.
- 119 Ballroom dance move
- 120 Full of gulls
- The U.S. Department of LABOR (61 Across) can trace its history back to the Bureau of Labor Statis-

tics, established under the Department of the Interior in 1884. Before becoming President of POLAND (65 Across) in 1990, Lech Walesa had been a shipyard electrician and union activist. Ava DUVERNAY (27 Down) won the Best Director Prize at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival for her second feature film, Middle of Nowhere.

SATURDAY'S ANSWERS

CROSSWORD

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Alabama-Clemson trilogy Monday

Tigers' defensive front could stifle 'Bama

BY BRETT MARTEL
AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS — Clemson has ridden a dominant defensive line to a No. 1 ranking heading into the climactic College Football Playoff.

Tigers defensive tackle Christian Wilkins sees no reason why Clemson's semifinal showdown with Alabama in Monday night's Sugar Bowl should be any different.

Confidence, Wilkins said, is "at an all-time high because we have guys who've played in these big-time type of games, who have played against Alabama and just are used to this. We have a lot of confidence in each other. ... We definitely are ready to bring it."

Indeed, Clemson has the requisite combination of talent and experience to advance past Alabama and into its third straight national title tilt against the winner of the Rose Bowl.

It all starts with a menacing front four that helped racked up 44 sacks this season. And it is their matchup against Alabama's offensive line and mobile QB Jalen Hurts that could very well tip the balance in the Sugar Bowl.

Alabama's offensive line struggled in its most recent game, a loss to Auburn in the Iron Bowl. Auburn's defense was credited with two sacks and nine QB hits in a convincing 26-14 victory. Statistically, Clemson's defense has outperformed Auburn's this season. Clemson ranks second nationally in points allowed per game at 12.8.

"This game is going to be won in the trenches and it starts with us and it ends with us," Wilkins said. "We put a lot of pressure on ourselves as a D-line to be the spark for the team, not just the defense. ... If we set the tone and the tempo for the game, then everyone else will follow."

Wilkins said Auburn's defensive front succeeded against Alabama because of relentless effort in pursuit off Crimson Tide quarterback Jalen Hurts, an adept scrambler who has rushed for 768 yards this season.

"We're just going to have to be relentless. We're going to have to keep pursuing, keep going after him, because you never know when an extra-effort play like that could be the biggest play in the game," Wilkins said. "That is a strength of our D-line because we have that mindset of just, 'Be relentless and keep going.'"

Auburn is one common opponent that Alabama and Clemson had this season. Clemson beat Auburn, 14-6.

On the offensive side of the ball, Clemson has kept rolling

SEE **WHY CLEMSON WINS**, PAGE B6



PHOTOS BY MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Clemson wide receiver Hunter Renfrow answers a question during Saturday's press conference for the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans. The Tigers will face Alabama in a College Football Playoff national semifinal on Monday.



The Clemson football team gets ready to practice on Saturday at Tulane University in preparation for Monday's Sugar Bowl. The defending national champion Tigers will face Alabama for the third straight year, this time in a national semifinal.

Threeppeat should be lots of fun

BY DENNIS BRUNSON
dennis@theitem.com

Monday night should be fun.

Whether you love Clemson and hate Alabama, love Alabama and hate Clemson, love both schools, have a passionate dislike for both or don't care one way or the other but just love college football, the trifecta between the Tide and Tigers in the College Football Playoff in the Sugar Bowl should be another shootout slugfest between the two programs.

Of course, they've met in the national championship games the past two years, 'Bama winning the first time and Clemson last year. This time around, it's just for a chance to get back to the title game, but the intensity will be just as great, if not greater.

And shootout slugfest is an apt description of both games. While Alabama won the first meeting 45-40 and the Tigers followed it up with a 35-32 triumph,

there were just as many big defensive plays as offensive plays.

Clemson is the defending champion and the No. 1 seed in this matchup, but one has to think head coach Dabo Swinney and his staff have been selling their players on the fact that no one respects them. And, in fact, there is some truth to that.

With star quarterback Deshaun Watson and most of his skill position supporting cast having moved on to the National Football League, hardly anyone thought the Tigers would be back in the CFP. Most thought Watson to be a generational player, and Clemson would become a 2- or 3-loss team without his presence.

The Tigers are 12-1 though and Kelly Bryant has matured into his role as the leader of the Clemson offense. And don't think Swinney has forgotten about all of

SEE **THREPEAT**, PAGE B6

With Watson gone, Tide is poised for redemption

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
AP National Writer

NEW ORLEANS — Deshaun Watson has moved on to the NFL.

That sigh of relief you hear is from Alabama.

Watson lit up the Crimson Tide's stellar defense in the last two national championship games, but Kelly Bryant will be lining up at quarterback for Clemson in Monday night's Sugar Bowl semifinal.

Not having to face Watson, combined with Alabama's punishing ground game, a healthier linebacker corps and plenty of motivation should be enough to carry coach Nick Saban's team to its third straight title game.

"This is kind of like a redemption game for us," linebacker Rashaan Evans said.

Two years ago, Watson set a national championship game record for total yards by passing for 405 and four touchdowns, and rushing for another 73. Fortunately for the Tide, the special teams recovered an onside kick and returned a kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown to pull out a 45-40 victory.

Watson would not be denied a year ago, even after Alabama raced to a two-touchdown lead. He passed for 420 yards and three TDs — breaking his own record for passing yards in a title game — and rushed for an 8-yard score. With one second remaining, Watson hooked up with Hunter Renfrow for a short TD pass that gave the Tigers a 35-31 victory.

"The loss last year is definitely on our minds and in our hearts," Alabama safety Ronnie Harrison said.

Bryant has provided the same sort of dual threat as Watson, passing for 2,678 yards and 13 touchdowns and running for 646 yards and 11 TDs. The offense had hardly missed a beat, averaging 35.4 points a game.

"I really don't see a drop off," Harrison said. "They are both efficient on the ground and through the air. They both make the offense go."

But it's too much to ask of Bryant — anyone, really — to provide the same sort of team-carrying performances as his predecessor, so look for Alabama to get a shot at its fifth national title in the last nine seasons.

Of course, the Tide must do a better job of keeping its defense off the field.

Clemson's go-go offense did a marvelous job of controlling the clock a year ago, running a staggering 99 plays (to just 66 for Alabama) and piling up a nearly 10-minute edge in time of possession. By the end of the game, when the Tide

SEE **WHY ALABAMA WINS**, PAGE B6

Gamecocks, Michigan have much at stake

BY DENNIS BRUNSON
dennis@theitem.com

Back somewhere around the end of August, I read where a wise college football soothsayer predicted the University of South Carolina football team would go 7-5 in 2017.

Of course, USC went 8-4, and this sage said if that happened then it was heel-clicking time for Carolina fans considering the youth of the team.

So, should Gamecock Nation be satisfied with the program's progress in the second year under head coach Will Muschamp regardless of what happens against Michigan in the Outback Bowl on Monday? Yes — and no. As for the players, it's an emphatic no.

South Carolina has the chance to win nine games in a season for only the seventh time in program history, but more importantly, a bowl triumph makes a greater statement of

what Muschamp has accomplished, and it definitely gives a different look to the public perception of the program on a national level.

While the vast majority of the bowl games outside of the obvious College Football Playoff semifinals and the other "big name" bowls do not have a lot at stake, both USC and the Wolverines definitely have much for which to play.

And for Michigan, just as mentioned above with Carolina, it is

that public perception on a nationwide level. A win makes the Wolverines 9-4 and makes it look as though they were victims of a tough Big 10 Conference after winning 10 games in the first two seasons under head coach Jim Harbaugh.

A loss though, coupled with a combined 1-5 record against main rivals Ohio State and Michigan State in Harbaugh's three seasons, makes it

SEE **USC**, PAGE B5

SCOREBOARD

TV, RADIO

TODAY
6:55 a.m. – International Soccer: English Premier League Match – Manchester City vs. Crystal Palace (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
11:25 a.m. – International Soccer: English Premier League Match – Arsenal vs. West Brom (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
Noon – Women's College Basketball: Tulane at South Florida (ESPN).
Noon – Women's College Basketball: Tennessee at Kentucky (SEC NETWORK).
12:30 p.m. – Women's College Basketball: Duke at Miami (FOX SPORTSOUTH).
1 p.m. – International Athletics: U.S. Olympic Trials from Park City, Utah – Ski Jumping Trials (WIS 10).
1 p.m. – NFL Football: Cleveland at Pittsburgh (WLTX 19).
1 p.m. – NFL Football: Chicago at Minnesota (WACH 57).
1 p.m. – Professional Basketball: NBA G-League Game – Lakeland at Maine (NBA TV).
2 p.m. – Women's College Basketball: Indiana at Ohio State (ESPN2).
2 p.m. – Women's College Basketball: Texas Tech at Baylor (ESPN).
2 p.m. – Women's College Basketball: Texas A&M at South Carolina (SEC NETWORK, WNKT-FM 107.5).
2:30 p.m. – College Basketball: Providence at Creighton (FOX SPORTS 1).
2:30 p.m. – Women's College Basketball: Louisville at North Carolina State (FOX SPORTSOUTH).
3 p.m. – Professional Basketball: Euroleague Game – Teams To Be Announced (NBA TV).
4 p.m. – NFL Football: Jacksonville at Tennessee (WLTX 19).
4 p.m. – College Basketball: Central Florida at East Carolina (ESPNEWS).
4 p.m. – Women's College Basketball: Florida at Auburn (ESPN2).
4 p.m. – College Basketball: Memphis at Cincinnati (ESPN).
4 p.m. – Women's College Basketball: West Virginia at Texas (FOX SPORTSOUTH).
4 p.m. – Women's College Basketball: Vanderbilt at Louisiana State (SEC NETWORK).
4:25 p.m. – NFL Football: Atlanta at Carolina (WACH 57, WVFN-FM 100.1, WPUB-FM 102.7).
5 p.m. – College Basketball: St. John's at Seton Hall (FOX SPORTS 1).
6 p.m. – College Basketball: Georgia at Kentucky (ESPN).
6 p.m. – College Basketball: South Carolina at Mississippi (ESPN2, WDXY-FM 105.9, WNKT-FM 107.5, WDXY-AM 1240).
6 p.m. – College Basketball: Virginia Tech at Syracuse (ESPN).
6 p.m. – Women's College Basketball: Mississippi State at Georgia (SEC NETWORK).
7 p.m. – NBA Basketball: Charlotte at Los Angeles Clippers (FOX SPORTS SOUTHEAST).
8 p.m. – College Basketball: South Florida at Southern Methodist (ESPN).
8 p.m. – Professional Tennis: ATP Brisbane Early-Round Matches (TENNIS).
4 a.m. – Professional Tennis: ATP Brisbane Early-Round Matches (TENNIS).

MONDAY
7:25 a.m. – International Soccer: English Premier League Match – Bournemouth vs. Brighton (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
9:55 a.m. – International Soccer: English Premier League Match – Burnley vs. Liverpool (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
10 a.m. – International Soccer: English Premier League Match – Huddersfield vs. Leicester City (CNBC).
11:30 a.m. – Professional Tennis: ATP Doha Early-Round Matches (TENNIS).
Noon – College Football: Outback Bowl from Tampa, Fla. – South Carolina vs. Michigan (ESPN2, WIBZ-FM 95.5, WNKT-FM 107.5).
12:25 p.m. – International Soccer: English Premier League Match – Manchester United vs. Everton (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
12:40 p.m. – College Football: Peach Bowl from Atlanta – Central Florida vs. Auburn (ESPN).
1 p.m. – NHL Hockey: New York Rangers vs. Buffalo from Queens, N.Y. (WIS 10).
1 p.m. – College Football: Citrus Bowl from Orlando, Fla. – Notre Dame vs. Louisiana State (WLO 25).
5 p.m. – College Basketball: West Virginia at Kansas State (ESPN).
5:10 p.m. – College Football: College Football Playoff Semifinal Game Rose Bowl from Pasadena, Calif. – Georgia vs. Oklahoma (ESPN, ESPNEWS, ESPN2, WWB-FM 94.7, WPUB-FM 102.7).
9 p.m. – College Basketball: Southern at Texas Southern (ESPN).

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	12	3	0	.800	432	290
Buffalo	8	7	0	.533	280	343
Miami	6	9	0	.400	265	371
N.Y. Jets	5	10	0	.333	292	356

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Jacksonville	10	5	0	.667	407	253
Tennessee	8	7	0	.533	319	346
Houston	4	11	0	.267	325	414
Indianapolis	3	12	0	.200	241	391

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Pittsburgh	12	3	0	.800	378	284
Baltimore	9	6	0	.600	368	272
Cincinnati	6	9	0	.400	259	322
Cleveland	0	15	0	.000	210	382

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Kansas City	9	6	0	.600	388	315
L.A. Chargers	8	7	0	.533	325	262
Oakland	6	9	0	.400	291	343
Denver	5	10	0	.333	265	353

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Philadelphia	13	2	0	.867	457	289

Dallas	8	7	0	.533	348	332
Washington	7	8	0	.467	332	370
N.Y. Giants	2	13	0	.133	228	378

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New Orleans	11	4	0	.733	424	295
x-Carolina	11	4	0	.733	353	305
Atlanta	9	6	0	.600	331	305
Tampa Bay	4	11	0	.267	304	358

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Minnesota	12	3	0	.800	359	242
Detroit	8	7	0	.533	375	365
Green Bay	7	8	0	.467	309	349
Chicago	5	10	0	.333	254	297

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-L.A. Rams	11	4	0	.733	465	295
Seattle	9	6	0	.600	342	306
Arizona	7	8	0	.467	269	337
San Francisco	5	10	0	.333	297	370

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

SUNDAY'S GAMES

N.Y. Jets at New England, 1 p.m.
Washington at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Chicago at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Houston at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Baltimore, 4:25 p.m.
New Orleans at Tampa Bay, 4:25 p.m.
Kansas City at Denver, 4:25 p.m.
Jacksonville at Tennessee, 4:25 p.m.
Buffalo at Miami, 4:25 p.m.
Arizona at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
San Francisco at L.A. Rams, 4:25 p.m.
Oakland at L.A. Chargers, 4:25 p.m.
Carolina at Atlanta, 4:25 p.m.

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	29	10	.744	—
Toronto	24	10	.706	2½
Cleveland	24	11	.686	3
Detroit	19	15	.559	7½
Milwaukee	19	15	.559	7½
Washington	20	16	.556	7½
Indiana	19	17	.528	8½
Miami	18	17	.514	9
New York	17	18	.486	10
Philadelphia	15	19	.441	11½
Chicago	13	22	.371	14
Brooklyn	13	22	.371	14
Charlotte	13	22	.371	14
Orlando	12	24	.333	15½
Atlanta	9	26	.257	18

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	28	8	.778	—
Houston	25	9	.735	2
San Antonio	25	11	.694	3
Minnesota	22	14	.611	6
Oklahoma City	20	16	.556	8
Denver	19	16	.543	8½
Portland	18	16	.529	9
New Orleans	18	17	.514	9½
L.A. Clippers	15	19	.441	12
Utah	15	21	.417	13
Phoenix	14	23	.378	14½
Sacramento	12	23	.343	15½
L.A. Lakers	11	23	.324	16
Dallas	12	25	.324	16½
Memphis	11	24	.314	16½

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Washington 121, Houston 103
Toronto 111, Atlanta 98
Brooklyn 111, Miami 87
Chicago 119, Indiana 107
Dallas 128, New Orleans 120
Milwaukee 97, Oklahoma City 95
Phoenix 111, Sacramento 101
Charlotte 111, Golden State 100
L.A. Clippers 121, L.A. Lakers 106

SATURDAY'S GAMES

Miami at Orlando, 7 p.m.
New York at New Orleans, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Portland at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Utah, 8 p.m.
Memphis at Golden State, 8:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Denver, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Chicago at Washington, 3:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Indiana, 5 p.m.
Brooklyn at Boston, 5:30 p.m.
Charlotte at L.A. Clippers, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Houston, 7 p.m.
Memphis at Sacramento, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Phoenix, 8 p.m.

MONDAY'S GAMES

Milwaukee at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Portland at Chicago, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY'S GAMES

Portland at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Charlotte at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Memphis at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	37	27	8	2	56	139	93
Toronto	39	23	14	2	48	132	112
Boston	36	20	10	6	46	109	94
Florida	37	16	16	5	37	106	121
Montreal	38	16	18	4	36	100	120
Detroit	37	14	16	7	35	100	118
Ottawa	36	12	16	8	32	98	123
Buffalo	38	10	20	8	28	84	126

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	37	22	9	6	50	119	108
Washington	39	23	13	3	49	118	111
Columbus	39	22	14	3	47	113	109
N.Y. Rangers	38	20	13	5	45	120	107
N.Y. Islanders	38	20	14	4	44	135	137
Carolina	37	18	12	7	43	104	111
Pittsburgh	39	19	17	3	41	110	124
Philadelphia	38	16	14	8	40	106	109

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Winnipeg	39	22	11	6	50	129	110
Nashville	37	22	10	5	49	120	104
St. Louis	40	23	15	2	48	116	100
Dallas	39	21	15	3	45	116	112
Minnesota	38	20	15	3	43	110	110
Chicago	37	18	14	5	41	109	102
Colorado	37	18	16	3	39	117	119

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	36	25	9	2	52	126	103
Los Angeles	38	22	11	5	49	111	88
San Jose	35	20	11	4	44	98	86
Anaheim	39	17	14	8	42	104	113
Calgary	38	18	16	4	40	104	111
Edmonton	38	17	18	3	37	114	121
Vancouver	38	16	17	5	37	103	123
Arizona	40	9	26	5	23	92	141

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Buffalo 4, New Jersey 3, OT
Detroit 3, N.Y. Rangers 2, SO
Philadelphia 5, Tampa Bay 3
Carolina 2, Pittsburgh 1
Ottawa 5, Columbus 4
Minnesota 4, Nashville 2
Winnipeg 4, N.Y. Islanders 2
Dallas 4, St. Louis 2
Colorado 4, Toronto 3, OT
Chicago 4, Edmonton 3, OT
Anaheim 2, Calgary 1

SATURDAY'S GAMES

Boston at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Washington, 7 p.m.
Montreal at Florida, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Carolina at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Los Angeles at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Toronto at Vegas, 3:30 p.m.
Arizona at Anaheim, 4 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Columbus, 6 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Winnipeg at Edmonton, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Dallas, 8 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Colorado, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Calgary, 9 p.m.

MONDAY'S GAMES

N.Y. Rangers vs. Buffalo at Citi Field, 1 p.m.
Tuesday's Games
Boston at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Washington at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Florida at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Columbus at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Winnipeg at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Los Angeles at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.
Nashville at Vegas, 10 p.m.
Anaheim at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

SATURDAY

1. Villanova (13-1) lost to Butler 101-93. Next: vs. Marquette, Saturday.
2. Michigan State (13-1) did not play. Next: vs. Savannah State, Sunday.
3. Arizona State (12-0) at No. 17 Arizona. Next: vs. Colorado, Thursday.
4. Duke (13-1) beat No. 24 Florida State 100-93. Next: at N.C. State.
5. Texas A&M (11-1) at Alabama. Next: vs. Florida, Tuesday.
6. Xavier (14-1) beat DePaul 77-72. Next: vs. Butler, Tuesday.
7. West Virginia (12-1) did not play. Next: at Kansas State, Monday.
8. Wichita State (11-2) beat UConn 72-62. Next: vs. Houston, Thursday.
9. Virginia (12-1) beat Boston College 59-58. Next: at Virginia Tech, Wednesday.
10. TCU (12-1) lost to No. 12 Oklahoma 90-89. Next: at No. 18 Baylor, Tuesday.
11. Kansas (11-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 22 Texas Tech, Tuesday.
12. Oklahoma (11-1) beat No. 10 TCU 90-89. Next: vs. Oklahoma State, Wednesday.
13. North Carolina (12-2) beat Wake Forest 73-69. Next: at No. 24 Florida State, Wednesday.
14. Purdue (12-2) vs. Lipscomb. Next: vs. Rutgers, Wednesday.
15. Miami (12-1) beat Pittsburgh 67-53. Next: at Georgia Tech, Wednesday.
16. Kentucky (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. Georgia, Sunday. Next: at LSU, Wednesday.
17. Arizona (10-3) vs. No. 3 Arizona State. Next: at Utah, Thursday.
18. Baylor (10-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 10 TCU, Tuesday.
19. Tennessee (9-3) lost to Arkansas 95-93, OT. Next: vs. Auburn, Tuesday.
20. Gonzaga (11-3) vs. Santa Clara. Next: at Pepperdine, Thursday.
21. Cincinnati (11-2) did not play. Next: vs. Memphis, Sunday.
22. Texas Tech (12-1) did not play. Next: at No. 11 Kansas, Tuesday.
23. Seton Hall (12-2) did not play. Next: vs. St. John's, Sunday.
24. Florida State (11-2) lost to No. 4 Duke 100-93. Next: vs. No. 13 North Carolina, Wednesday.
25. Creighton (10-3) did not play. Next: vs. Providence, Sunday.

NBA



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Charlotte's Dwight Howard dunks in the Hornets' 111-100 victory over Golden State on Friday in Oakland, California.

Howard leads Hornets past Warriors

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Dwight Howard was so good Friday night against the defending NBA champs that acting Charlotte Hornets coach Stephen Silas rode him to the finish line of a 111-100 victory over the Golden State Warriors.

"He was great," Silas said after Howard scored a season-high 29 points. "I couldn't take him out in the second half."

The Hornets won just their third road game of the season.

"They've had a tough go this year," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "They came in and earned it. They took it to us."

Charlotte, beginning a four-game road trip, arrived with a 2-12 record away from home.

"To get this win here against this team the first game of the road trip means a lot," Silas said. "Hopefully, we can carry that forward."

Six Hornets players scored in double figures, led by Howard, who also had 12 rebounds and seven assists.

The veteran big man had his way inside, especially when the Warriors tried to defend him with rookie Jordan Bell, who was giving up two inches and 40 pounds. "Obviously,

CLEMSON MEN'S BASKETBALL

Reed leads Clemson to 78-62 win over Wolfpack

BY PETE IACOBELLI
AP Sports Writer

CLEMSON — Clemson's Elijah Thomas is like most everyone else out there — he's waiting to see more before fully believing in the Tigers' strong start.

Clemson (12-1, 1-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) continued its best start in nine years and won its eighth consecutive game with a 78-62 victory over North Carolina State on Saturday. Thomas, who had 10 points and 10 rebounds, accepts that all Tiger fans and those in college basketball are reserving judgment on the Tigers' start.

"Last year we had a similar record and we kind of dropped the ball in conference," Thom-

CLEMSON 78, NC STATE 62

NC STATE (10-4)

Abu 1-3 2-3 4, Yurtseven 6-12 0-0 12, Dorn 1-8 5-6 7, A.Freeman 5-19 2-2 14, Beverly 6-9 0-0 15, L.Freeman 3-6 1-2 7, Batts 1-7 1-2 3, Hunt 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 23-66 11-15 62.

CLEMSON (12-1)

Thomas 4-7 2-2 10, Grantham 4-11 4-4 13, Reed 6-15 5-5 18, Mitchell 6-12 0-0 14, DeVoe 5-13 2-4 15, Simms 0-2 0-0 0, Skara 0-1 0-0 0, Donnal 4-6 0-0 8. Totals 29-67 13-15 78.
Halftime_Clemson 33-24. 3-Point Goals_NC State 5-22 (Beverly 3-5, A.Freeman 2-11, Yurtseven 0-1, Hunt 0-1, Batts 0-2, Dorn 0-2), Clemson 7-19 (DeVoe 3-6, Mitchell 2-4, Grantham 1-2, Reed 1-5, Donnal 0-1, Simms 0-1). Fouled Out_None. Rebounds_NC State 41 (Yurtseven, Dorn 10), Clemson 38 (Thomas 10). Assists_NC State 9 (Beverly 3), Clemson 17 (Reed 5). Total Fouls_NC State 15, Clemson 12.

as said. "We're not worried about the attention we get."

The Tigers will get more and more if they keep playing like this.

Marcquise Reed scored 13 of his 18 points in the second half and led all five starters in dou-

ble figures. It is their best start under coach Brad Brownell and best since opening 16-0 in 2008-09.

Brownell likes his team and thinks it will continue to gel.

"We're playing well, but I thought we were playing well

last year," he said. "I don't know. We'll see."

Clemson took control with defense, overcoming sluggish early shooting and a strong start by the Wolfpack (10-4, 0-1).

North Carolina State took its biggest lead, 16-10, on Torin Dorn's jumper with 9:18 to go. That's when the Tigers closed the half with a 23-8 surge to move in front for good. Grantham got the run started with a 3-pointer and closed it by collecting Gabe DeVoe's missed shot and throwing up a shot just before the buzzer sounded to put Clemson ahead 33-24.

The Wolfpack had problems with Clemson's defense in the critical stretch, going 1 of 10 from the field with three of

their seven first-half turnovers.

North Carolina State cut an 11-point lead to six on Braxton Beverly's jumper and 3-pointer early in the second half. But the Tigers gradually stretched the lead out to 19 points to stay comfortably ahead the rest of the way.

"We had a lot of positives and negatives," Wolfpack forward Lennard Freeman said. "We've just got to play smarter."

DeVoe added 15 points for the Tigers. Thomas had his fourth double-double of the season.

Beverly had 15 points to lead the Wolfpack. Allerik Freeman, the team's leading scorer coming in, had 14 points on 5-of-19 shooting.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Butler's 3-point barrage stops No. 1 Villanova 101-93

INDIANAPOLIS — Villanova's perfect season is over and its reign at No. 1 probably is, too.

Kelan Martin scored 24 points and Paul Jorgensen had a career-high 23 to help Butler upset the previously unbeaten Wildcats 101-93 on Saturday. It's the second straight year the Bulldogs (12-3, 2-0 Big East) have ended Villanova's perfect start.

Jalen Brunson had 31 points and Mikal Bridges finished with 21 to help Villanova (13-1, 1-1) cut a 23-point deficit to six with 1:33 left. But Brunson missed the front end of a 1-and-1 with a chance to make it a four-point game and the comeback bid fell short.

(4) DUKE 100
FLORIDA STATE 93

DURHAM, N.C. — Marvin Bagley III and Wendell Carter Jr. kept cleaning up plenty of misses for No. 4 Duke. Florida State had no way to stop them, especially down the stretch when the Seminoles' shots stopped falling.

Bagley had 32 points and a season-best 21 rebounds, and the Blue Devils pulled away to beat No. 24 Florida State 100-93 on Saturday.

Fellow freshman Carter added 14 points and a season-high 16 rebounds, Grayson Allen scored 22 points and Trevon Duval scored 11 of his 16 in the second half to help the Blue Devils (13-1, 1-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) win.

ALABAMA 79
(5) TEXAS A&M 57

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — John Petty made five 3-pointers and scored 18 points to help Alabama knock off No. 5 Texas A&M 79-57 on Saturday night in the Southeastern Conference opener for

both teams.

The Crimson Tide (9-4) rebounded from a lackluster performance against Texas to easily upset the short-handed Aggies (11-2). Texas A&M matched its highest ranking in the AP poll this week after a four-game winning streak but got off to a rough start in league play.

Alabama big man Donta Hall had 17 points and six rebounds.

(6) XAVIER 77
DEPAUL 72

CINCINNATI — J.P. Macura scored 19 points and had a steal and a blocked shot in the final minute Saturday, completing No. 6 Xavier's comeback from a 16-point deficit to a 77-72 victory over DePaul.

The Musketeers (14-1, 2-0 Big East) won their ninth in a row and matched the best start in school history. The big comeback set up their seventh win in a row over the Blue Demons (7-7, 0-2).

(8) WICHITA STATE 72
CONNECTICUT 62

HARTFORD, Conn. — This was the type of debut Wichita State envisioned when it joined the American Athletic Conference.

Landry Shamet scored 16 points and the eighth-ranked Shockers opened conference play by beating UConn 72-62 in front of a packed arena, which has four national championship banners hanging from the rafters.

Rashard Kelly, Conner Frankamp and Austin Reaves each added 11 points for Wichita State (11-2, 1-0).

(9) VIRGINIA 69
BOSTON COLLEGE 58

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Ty Je-

rome has said all along that his confidence remained high, even when his shot wasn't falling.

Now that it is falling, he's given No. 9 Virginia another offensive weapon for opponents to worry about.

Jerome hit 6 of 9 3-point tries and scored a career-high 31 points, including two free throws with 53 seconds left, as the Cavaliers held off Boston College 59-58 on Saturday.

(12) OKLAHOMA 90
(10) TCU 89

ORT WORTH, Texas — Freshman Trae Young scored 39 points, including the tiebreaking free throws with 7.9 seconds left, as No. 12 Oklahoma overcome a 13-point deficit in the second half to beat No. 10 TCU 90-89 on Saturday and end the nation's longest winning streak.

The Horned Frogs (12-1, 0-1 Big 12), with their highest ranking ever, entered their first home game in 20 seasons with both teams ranked on a 17-game winning streak.

Young scored 17 points in the final 9 1/2 minutes, the biggest when the freshman was fouled by Desmond Bane on a drive to the basket and then made both free throws.

Kameron McGusty added 22 points for the Sooners (11-1, 1-0), including a go-ahead 3-pointer with 26 seconds left after Young missed from long range.

(13) NORTH CAROLINA 73
WAKE FOREST 69

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — North Carolina survived its Atlantic Coast Conference opener, buoyed by the big late-game shot from Joel Berry II and the veteran experience from last year's national title run.

And yet, the 13th-ranked Tar Heels all know they have to play much better if they want to keep winning in league play.

Berry hit a high-arching floater in the paint with 10.3 seconds left and UNC closed the game on an 8-0 run to rally past Wake Forest 73-69 on Saturday, barely avoiding its first league-opening loss at home since January 2009.

(15) MIAMI 67
PITTSBURGH 53

PITTSBURGH — Anthony Lawrence II doesn't get homesick much. The way the athletic and versatile Miami forward figures it, the schedule makers can send the 15th-ranked Hurricanes wherever they please. The more nights in a hotel, the better.

"I love to play on the road because it's a better crowd and the crowd's against us," Lawrence said. "We play better." Looks like it.

Lawrence finished with a team-high 12 points and Miami smothered Pittsburgh when it mattered in a 67-53 victory on Saturday in the Atlantic Coast Conference opener for both schools.

ARKANSAS 95
(19) TENNESSEE 93

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) — Daryl Macon came back to Arkansas for his senior year for a number of reasons, from bettering his professional prospects to improving on a second-round NCAA Tournament appearance last season.

Led by Macon's career-best 33 points, the Razorbacks (11-2, 1-0) rallied for a wild 95-93 overtime win over No. 19 Tennessee to open Southeastern Conference play.

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AREA ROUNDUP

Lee Central boys win District 9 title

BISHOPVILLE – Lee Central High School defeated C.E. Murray 72-66 to win the boys championship game in the District 9 Officials Christmas Basketball Tournament at the LCHS gymnasium. The Stallions' DeMarcus Smith was named the most valuable player. Spring Valley defeated Hartsville 68-62 to win the girls title. SV's Lauren Taylor was named MVP.

GIRLS

CAPE FEAR 55 THOMAS SUMTER 42

CHARLESTON – Thomas Sumter Academy's varsity girls basketball team lost to Cape Fear High School of North Carolina 55-42 on Saturday in the Carolina Invitational Basketball Tournament. Aubrey Stoddard led the Lady Generals with 19 points. Caetlyn Martin and Sydney Daniel both added eight points. TSA lost to Irmo High 48-21 on Friday with Martin leading the way with eight points. On Thursday Thomas Sumter beat Ben Lippen 48-21. Daniel led the Lady Generals with 18 points, while Martin and Carmen Silvester both had nine.

WILSON HALL 40 JAMES ISLAND 21

CHARLESTON – Wilson Hall improved to 8-3 with a 40-21 victory over James Island Charter High School on Friday in the Carolina Invitational Basketball Tournament at the James Island gymnasium.

Courtney Clark led the Lady Barons with 14 points. Natalie Jackson added 11 and Liza Segars had six.

In WH's opening game of the tournament on Thursday, it lost to Oldham County High of Kentucky 72-38.

Clark led Wilson Hall with 11 points and Jackson had nine.

The Lady Barons were scheduled to face Worthington

High of Kilbourne, Ohio, in the fifth-place game on Saturday.

ORANGEBURG PREP 67 CLARENDON HALL 26

ORANGEBURG – Clarendon Hall lost to Orangeburg Prep 67-26 in the opening game of the Orangeburg Prep Christmas Tournament on Thursday at the OP gymnasium.

Whitney Avins led the Lady Saints with 15 points.

JV BASKETBALL

SCOTT'S BRANCH 18 LAKEWOOD 15

COLUMBIA – Scott's Branch defeated Lakewood 18-15 in the Columbia High School Christmas Tournament on Friday at the Columbia High gymnasium.

Tiera Parson led SB with nine points and Tiana Hunt had seven. Kaniya Ballard led LHS with 12.

On Thursday in the tournament, Scott's Branch lost to Columbia 41-12. Keonna Felder led SB with eight points.

BOYS

VARSITY BASKETBALL

CLARENDON HALL 69 DORCHESTER 63

ORANGEBURG – Clarendon Hall improved to 7-1 with a 69-63 victory over Dorchester Academy in the opening game of the Orangeburg Prep Christmas Tournament on Thursday at the OP gymnasium.

Zyan Gilmore led the Saints with 34 points and eight rebounds. Tyrese Mitchum and Kylic Horton both had nine points and Dylan Way had eight. Kade Elliott scored six points and grabbed eight rebounds.

CH was taking on Orangeburg Prep in the championship game on Saturday.

DULUTH 59 LAKEWOOD 52

MARIETTA, Ga. – Lakewood High School fell to 6-6 with a

59-52 loss to Duluth, Ga., in the Tournament of Champions at the Wheeler High gymnasium.

Juwan Perdue led the Gators with 15 points. Grant Singleton had 13 and Quentin Hodge had eight.

In its opening game of the tournament on Wednesday, LHS defeated Kel High 57-47. Perdue led the way with 18, while Singleton had 16 and Hodge 11.

JV BASKETBALL

CAMDEN 45 SCOTT'S BRANCH 27

COLUMBIA – Scott's Branch lost to Camden 45-27 on Friday in the Columbia High School Christmas Tournament at the Columbia gymnasium.

Brandon Noble led the Eagles with seven points and Al-mont Rendell had six.

On Thursday in the tournament, Columbia defeated Scott's Branch 66-33. Gabriel Oliver led SB with eight points, Noble had seven and Shareef Mims had six.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

GIBBES 52 SCOTT'S BRANCH 31

Scott's Branch lost to Gibbes 52-31 in the championship game of the Chestnut Oaks Middle School Christmas Tournament on Dec. 23 at the COMS gymnasium.

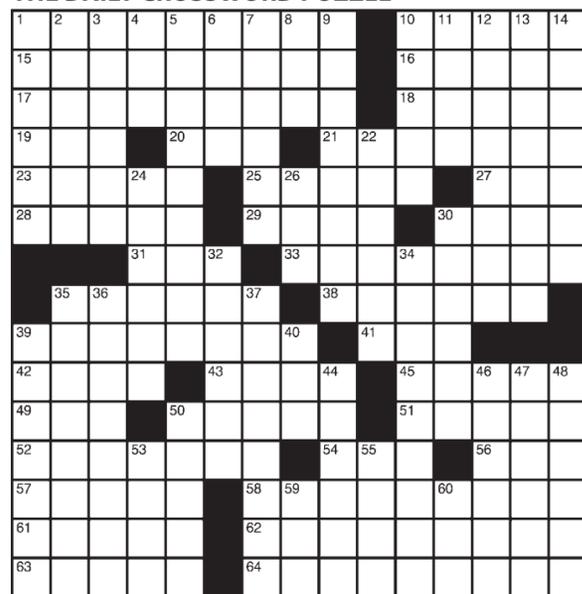
Randy Gibson led the Eagles with 12 points.

In its other tournament games, Scott's Branch beat Darlington 50-44, Southeast 36-33 and C.E. Murray 53-29.

In the Darlington game, Gibson led SB with 20 points and Tariq Coard had 13. Zakee Rendell and Tydarian Chandler both had six. Coard had 15 and Gibson 11 against Southeast. In the CEM game, Coard led the way with 19 points. Tyler Kind and Chandler both had eight and Gibson had seven.

SATURDAY PUZZLES

THE DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



C.C. Burnikel

12/30/17

ACROSS

- 1 On-the-go frozen breakfast
- 10 "Love, all alike, no season knows, nor ___": Donne
- 15 Sinatra's wife after Ava Gardner
- 16 "Breaking Bad" toxin
- 17 Exercise for the lower leg
- 18 In the presence of
- 19 Creator of the album "Reflection," which consists of one 54-minute track
- 20 Tijuana pronoun
- 21 Gulf of Finland republic
- 23 2001 bankruptcy headliner
- 25 Shaper in a shop
- 27 Minor player
- 28 Tuscany city
- 29 Kind of butter used in skin care
- 30 Pop, in Paris
- 31 ___ jump
- 33 To a large degree
- 35 Most likely
- 38 Car system
- 39 Homemade crystal products
- 41 "Entourage" agent
- 42 Driving force?
- 43 Twin Cities daily, familiarly
- 45 Historic times
- 49 Address-ending word
- 50 Overplay
- 51 Tabbouleh grain
- 52 Walked-over
- 54 Energy Star co-mgr.
- 56 Modern art?
- 57 Decluttering maven
- 58 Branch
- 61 Strange
- 62 Wasted call?
- 63 Literature
- Nobelist who served in the Irish Senate
- 64 "My bad"

DOWN

- 6 Nest egg accts.
- 7 Court affairs
- 8 Sister of Helios
- 9 Improves, as an offer
- 10 Box
- 11 Long ride?
- 12 "You win"
- 13 Cookie in Snak Saks
- 14 Keeps occupied
- 22 View from Yreka
- 24 GM security system
- 26 Often-grilled tuna
- 30 Outcast
- 32 "Am I off-base here?"
- 34 Controversial police procedure practices
- 35 Light-brown brew
- 36 Seat of South Africa's executive branch
- 37 Olds luxury car
- 39 Peter Parker's adoptive mother
- 40 Parking order?
- 44 Strengthen
- 46 Oceanside home asset
- 47 Fried shrimp sauce
- 48 Unwavering
- 50 Wonderlands
- 53 Losing effort
- 55 Flagsticks, to many golfers
- 59 To and ___
- 60 Veiled reply, perhaps

Previous Puzzle Solved



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.

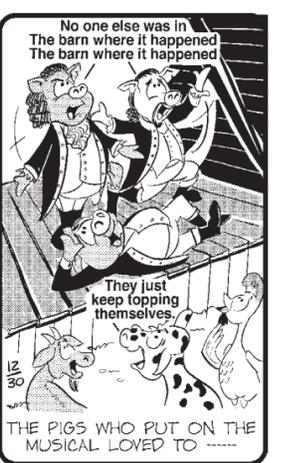
TICPH

ROURB

GIHYMT

FITANN

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

Print your answer here: (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PIXEL COCOA STIGMA BUTANE
Answer: When one of the barnyard animals got out, the other animals blamed the — "ESCAPE" GOAT

COLLEGE BOWL ROUNDUP

Penn State tops Washington

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Trace McSorley threw for 342 yards and two touchdowns, Saquon Barkley ran for two more scores and No. 9 Penn State outlasted No. 12 Washington 35-28 in the Fiesta Bowl on Saturday.

Penn State (11-2), No. 9 in the final College Football Rankings, had its way with Washington's vaunted defense early, building a 28-7 lead by the second quarter. Washington (10-3) woke up from an offensive slumber with two touchdowns and pulled to 35-28 on Myles Gaskins' 69-yard run in the fourth quarter.

The Huskies, No. 11 CFP, allowed Penn State to work the clock to under a minute on the next drive and gave up a season-high 545 total yards.

Washington had a shot with a desperation play, but Dante Pettis passed up a chance to step out of bounds to set up another play, and threw a final lateral that was intercepted.

IOWA STATE 21 (19) MEMPHIS 20

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Allen Lazard tied a Liberty Bowl record with 10 catches and put Iowa State ahead with a remarkable 5-yard touchdown reception in the third quarter, and the Cyclones beat No. 19 Memphis 21-20 on the Tigers' home field Saturday.

Iowa State (8-5) held after losing its first fumble this season just as it appeared on the verge of scoring an insurance touchdown late in the fourth quarter.

The Cyclones led 21-20 and had third-and-goal from the 1 when David Montgomery fumbled as he was crossing the goal line. Jonathan Cook recovered in the end zone for a touchback with 4:06 left.

The call stood after replays were inconclusive as to whether Montgomery had reached the end zone before Memphis' O'Bryan Goodson knocked the ball loose. Iowa State was at-

tempting to become the first Football Bowl Subdivision team to play an entire season without losing a fumble.

Memphis (10-3) drove to the Iowa State 40 on its next possession but lost the ball on downs when Riley Ferguson overthrew Phil Mayhue on fourth-and-10 with 1:52 remaining.

MISSISSIPPI STATE 31 LOUISVILLE 27

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — It likely was Lamar Jackson's farewell performance.

It definitely was Keytaon Thompson's coming-out party. Thompson, a highly touted

freshman making his first start in place of injured quarterback Nick Fitzgerald, ran for 147 yards and three touchdowns to help No. 24 Mississippi State beat Jackson and Louisville 31-27 in the TaxSlayer Bowl on Saturday.

Thompson completed 11 of 20 passes for 127 yards, with an interception. He was more effective as a runner, carrying on 27 of the team's 55 running plays.

Jackson ran 24 times for 158 yards and a touchdown, breaking the TaxSlayer Bowl record for most rushing yards by a quarterback.

From wire reports

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

THE ANSWERS TO THESE PUZZLES CAN BE FOUND ON TODAY'S DAILY PLANNER PAGE.

USC FROM PAGE B1

look as though the program has taken a bit of a dip.

Thus, there is quite a bit on the line for both teams, but it is the Gamecocks who should be playing with the chip on their shoulders. Say what you will, but Michigan is regarded as one of the premier programs in the country, regardless of record. South Carolina is not, and that should provide it with plenty of motivation.

The fact USC is debuting a new of-

fensive coordinator in Bryan McLendon adds to the intrigue. McLendon will be calling his first game. He is being considered for the gig on a permanent basis, so how he does will likely have something to do with Muschamp's ultimate decision.

And that raises the question as to what exactly will McLendon do. With predecessor Kurt Roper having been accused of a lack of creativity and no real identity in what he was doing, McLendon is likely to spice things up a bit. However, one has to think he doesn't want to go too overboard in

case none of his innovations work.

This leads the Wolverine defense not quite knowing what will be coming its way on Monday, and that could certainly work to Carolina's favor. Michigan though has one of the top defenses in the country, and its prowess may cause USC all kinds of problems.

Also, the knowledge that assistant coach Bobby Bentley has had a few weeks to work with son and Gamecock quarterback Jake Bentley adds to the questions surrounding the offense. South Carolina fans are no doubt hoping that daddy's work causes an amaz-

ing transformation to his son's play.

There's no secret that the Wolverines' offensive success hinges on their running game. They have no player with 30 catches and none of the three quarterbacks they've started have had any real success.

Therefore, Carolina would be wise to focus on stopping the run and making Michigan win with its passing game.

This is much easier said than done. Somehow though, I think USC will get enough done to pull out a 23-20 victory.

OBITUARIES

HARRY C. PECKO

Harry Carl Pecko, 84, of Ave Maria, Florida, and formerly of Union and Sumter, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017, due to complications from pneumonia.

Born on Aug. 24, 1933, in Columbus, Ohio, he was a son of the late Carl Anton Pecko and Kathleen DeVaughn Fordyce.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Elmeta Pecko.

Harry was a devoted husband to his wife of 59 years and loving father to his nine children, 18 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Survivors include his nine children listed in order with their spouses: Michael Pecko of Cape Canaveral, Florida, Mark Pecko of Rockledge, Florida, Theresa P. (Roy) Bryant of Sumter, retired U.S. Army Col. Joseph (Cris) Pecko of Cocoa Beach, Florida, Mary P. (Tracy) Reed of Ave Maria, Paul Pecko of Orlando, Florida, Anita P. (Jimbo) Whitney of Union, retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. John (Patti) Pecko of Woodbine, Georgia, and Patricia P. (Allen) Crawford of Huger.

Harry is also survived by a half-brother, Carl Pecko of Fort Myers, Florida; and two half-sisters, Barbara Pecko Weise of Cardington, Ohio, and Linda Pecko Cain of Cardington.

Harry was a member of Ave Maria Catholic Church in Ave Maria and was a retired deacon in the Roman Catholic Church with more than 40 years of service. Harry was a former member of St. Augustine Catholic Church, Union, and St. Jude Catholic Church in Sumter. Harry led a life of service to his family first, church and community second and, lastly but not least, his country, having served 22 years in the U.S. Air Force. Harry had a love for music, especially big band. While in the U.S. Air Force, he moonlighted by playing upright bass and drums in a couple of different bands. He played the drums for many productions at the Sumter Little Theatre. After Harry retired from the Air Force, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in interdisciplinary studies and an Associate of Science degree in institutional administration from the University of South Carolina (USC). At the age of 40, Harry was the oldest musician to play in the percussion section of the USC Marching Band. Harry also received an Associate of Public Service in criminal justice degree from Sumter Technical College. Harry was a member of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Association, South Carolina Alumni Association, former South Carolina Crime Prevention Officer of the Year, Police Officer of the Year, city and county of Sumter, and in 1980 was delegate to the Presidents White House Conference On Families, representing South Carolina. Harry was volunteering at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Imokalee, Florida, Catholic Church, before his brief illness. Harry and Betty's anniversary was Jan. 24.

The family is planning a memorial service on Jan. 27, which will be held in Sumter at St. Jude Catholic Church. His remains will be laid to rest with Betty in a private ceremony at St. Lawrence Catholic Cemetery in Sumter. In lieu of flowers, please honor the bereaved and the deceased by making a gift to St. Jude's International Ministries Inc., a nonprofit organi-

zation founded by the Pecko family that seeks to serve those who are the poorest among us. Gifts to St. Jude's International Ministries Inc. may be sent to 17 Azalea Drive, Cocoa Beach, FL 32931.

ULYSSES HICKMAN

ALCOLU — Ulysses "Jump-er" Hickman, 85, widower of Nancy Beaufort Hickman, died on Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017.

He was born on July 31, 1932, in Sumter County, a son of the late Mose and Sally Gardner Hickman.

Funeral services for Mr. Hickman will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday at Harmony Presbyterian Church, 8883 U.S. 301 N., Alcolu. The Rev. Carnell Hampton will serve as eulogist, and the Rev. Mary Hagen will assist.

Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

The family is receiving friends at the residence, 5719 Brogdon Road, Alcolu.

These services are entrusted to Samuels Funeral Home LLC, Manning.

WILLIE M. CARTER

MANNING — Willie Moses Carter, 69, husband of Daisy James Carter, died on Thursday, Dec. 28, 2017, at McLeod Health Clarendon, Manning.

He was born Dec. 25, 1948, in Manning, a son of the late Henry and Annie Mae Oliver Carter.

Funeral services for Mr. Carter will be held at noon on Wednesday at Taw Caw Missionary Baptist Church, 1130 Granby Lane, Summerton,

with the Rev. Dr. W.T. Johnson, pastor. Burial will follow in the church yard cemetery.

The family is receiving friends at the residence, 300 Hector Walker Road, Manning.

MILTON E. LYLES

Milton Eugene Lyles, 88, beloved husband of Mary Anne Hodge Lyles, died on Saturday, Dec. 30, 2017, at National Health Care.

He was born on Oct. 14, 1929, in Sumter, a son of the late Harvey and Orrie McCall Lyles Sr.

Milton was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He retired from Sumter Police Department as a lieutenant detective after serving 34 years of service, and was an active member of Northside Memorial Baptist Church.

Surviving is his wife of Sumter; a daughter, Connie Shumate of Florence; two sons, Donald Milton Lyles (Cindy) of Santee and Jason M. Lyles of Sumter; a granddaughter; a great-granddaughter; a brother, Stanley Lyles (Belvia) of Montgomery, Alabama; and three sisters, Sylvia Butler, Mavis Lynch and Peggy Grooms (Furman), all of Sumter.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by a daughter, Patricia Annette Lyles; two brothers, Harvey Lyles Jr. and James M. Lyles; and two sisters, Nellie Mae Hatchell and Sally Campbell.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. on Thursday at Northside Memorial Baptist Church with the Rev. Jimmy Holley officiating. Burial will follow in Evergreen Memorial Park Cemetery.

The family will receive

friends from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday at Elmore Hill McCreight Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to Sumter SPCA, 1140 S. Guignard Drive, Sumter, SC 29150.

The family wishes to express their sincere gratitude to all of the staff at National Health Care for all of the care and compassion they showed to Mr. Lyles and to them during his time there.

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

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



LEROY SANSBURY SR.

TIMMONSVILLE — Leroy Sansbury Sr., formerly of Lynchburg, died on Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2017.

Arrangements will be announced by Bacote-Eaddy Funeral Home of Timmonsville.

The family is receiving friends at 505 S. Warren St., Timmonsville.

ALVA M. ADAMS

Alva Murray Adams, 99, died on Saturday, Dec. 23, 2017, in West Los Angeles, California.

Born on Jan. 13, 1918, in Greeleyville, she was a daughter of James M. and Lucia T. Murray.

The family will receive relatives and friends from noon to 6 p.m. at the home of her daughter, Betty P. Sumter, 27 Albert Spears Drive.

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

WILHELMENIA J. BRECKENRIDGE

Wilhelmenia J. Breckenridge, 81, widow of Russell S. Breckenridge, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017, at her home.

Born on June 4, 1936, in Sumter, she was a daughter of the late Abraham Sr. and Binah Choice Johnson. She retired from Woolworth and was a member of the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses South Congregation.

Survivors include a daughter, Patricia J. Smith (Larry G. Smith) of Sumter; two grandchildren, Corey G. Smith and Sonya M. Mayo; three great-grandchildren, Destney Smith, Coen Chase Mayo and Cody Austin Mayo; three brothers, Abraham Johnson (Frances D. Johnson), George Johnson (Adeline Johnson) and William Johnson (Octavia Johnson); three sisters, Carrie Sanders, Nell Gates and Sarah Chilsom (John Chilsom); and a host of nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Marion Johnson and Bristow Johnson; two sisters, Lessie M. Sims and Naomi Franklin; and a grandchild, Bryan J. Smith.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses South Congregation, 100 Lynam Road, Sumter.

The family will receive friends from 1 to 3 p.m. on Monday at Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home and other times at the home of her daughter, 1019 Nathaniel St., Sumter.

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

GLORIA M. WENDELL

Gloria Faye Moore Wendell, age 78, died on Thursday, Dec. 28, 2017, at Palmetto Health Tuomey.

Plans will be announced by Bullock Funeral Home.



ROBERT S. SLOVER

SUMMERTON — Robert Saunders Slover, 64, husband of Francis Price "Jan" Slover, died on Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017, at Trident Medical Center.

Born on Aug. 7, 1953, in Amarillo, Texas, he was a son of the late John Anderson Slover and Mary Gerard Slover. He was a U.S. Army veteran.

He is survived by his wife of Summerton; two sons, Kevin Price Slover (Crystal) and Jon Slover (Theresa), both of Tulsa, Oklahoma; two brothers, Ron Slover (Ramona) of Amarillo and Johnny Slover (Erma) of Midwest City, Oklahoma; two sisters, Becky Brewer of Mineral Wells, Texas, and Barbie Blair of Marble Falls, Texas; three grandchildren, Lexi, Brendan and Jaxon; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday in the chapel of Stephens Funeral Home with the Rev. Walt Braddock officiating.

The family will receive friends immediately following the memorial service.

Memorials may be made to Cal Farley's Boys Ranch, P.O. Box 1890, Amarillo, TX 79174.

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

DOROTHY B. WILLIS

Dorothy Brown Willis, 105, widow of Marion Willis and daughter of the late Rev. Miller and Eva James Brown Sr. was born on Oct. 5, 1912, in Sumter County.

She departed this life on Friday, Dec. 29, 2017, at her residence in Sumter.

Family will be receiving friends at the home, 16 S. Milton Road, Sumter.

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

EVA N. HARVIN

Eva Nola "Tut" Harvin, wife of Elijah Harvin, died on Thursday, Dec. 28, 2017, at her residence in Sumter. Born in Sumter County, she was a daughter of the late Sammie Miller and Emma L. Brooks Spann.

The family will receive friends at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Scott, 327 Pear St., Sumter, from 1 to 8 p.m. daily, until the day of the funeral.

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

CLEAZELL WHITE

MANNING — Cleazell White, 73, husband of Freddie Lee Dingle White, died on Friday, Dec. 29, 2017, from injuries sustained in a vehicular accident.

He was born on Jan. 26, 1944, in Manning, a son of the late Abe and Lou Jane Montgomery White.

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

JOAN JOHNSON

Joan Elsie Monte Johnson, age 92, beloved wife of the late James Edward Johnson,

died on Friday, Dec. 29, 2017, at Palmetto Health Tuomey.

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



ROBERT WALTER

CHARLOTTE — Robert Walter, 61, husband of Doris Harvin Walters, died on Friday, Dec. 29, 2017, at his residence, 4144 Uppergate Lane.

He was born on Sept. 24, 1956, in Summerton, a son of the late John and Ruthie Lee Brailsford Walter Sr.

The family is receiving friends at the home of his sister and brother-in-law, Janie and George Pearson, 11 Berkeley St., Manning.

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

HULEAN M. KINDER

BRANFORD, Connecticut — Hulean Moore Kinder, 82, widow of Muldrow Kinder, died on Friday, Dec. 29, 2017, at St. Mary Hospital, Waterbury, Connecticut.

She was born on Feb. 8, 1935, in Manning, a daughter of the late Joe and Katie Oliver Moore.

The family is receiving friends later this week at the homestead, 2155 Hector Walker Road, Manning.

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

RUBY M. CHAMPAGNE

Ruby Mae Champagne, 74, wife of Willie Champagne, died on Thursday, Dec. 28, 2017, at Palmetto Health Richland Hospital, Columbia.

Born on July 13, 1943, in Sumter, she was the daughter of Clyde and Margaret Anthony Oliver.

The family will receive relatives and friends at the home, 205 Armstrong Boulevard, Sumter.

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

WALTER R. STRAW

Walter Ronald Straw, 76, died on Saturday, Dec. 30, 2017, at his home.

Services will be announced by Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home and Crematorium of Sumter.

FLORENCE M. ANDERSON

Florence Murray Anderson, age 94, beloved wife of the late Eugene L. Anderson, died on Saturday, Dec. 30, 2017, at National Health Care.

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



ROBERT BILLIE JR.

Robert "Bob" Billie Jr., age 66, entered into eternal rest on Saturday, Dec. 30, 2017, at the home of his sister, 121 Dickson Ave., Sumter.

Born in Clarendon County, he was a son of the late Robert and Elizabeth McFadden Billie Sr.

The family will receive friends at the home of his sister, Diane "Peep" Jackson, 121 Dickson Ave., Sumter.

Professional services are entrusted to Dyson's Home for Funerals, 237 Main St., Summerton. (803) 485-4280

Sooners' Mayfield has 'flu-like' ailment but plans to play

BY DAN GREENSPAN

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Oklahoma quarterback Baker Mayfield made it to Rose Bowl media day after all, swooping in late and providing a jolt of drama as he noted he has been dealing with "flu-like" symptoms.

The Heisman Trophy winner missed the first half of the 45-minute session Saturday morning at a downtown hotel but arrived in time to meet with the media for the first time this week ahead of the College Football Playoff semifinal between the second-ranked Sooners and No. 3 Georgia on Monday night.

Mayfield was not expected to attend as he's been dealing with the illness the past few days.

"Yeah, I'm not dying," Mayfield said.

Mayfield's unexpected entrance had reporters and camera operators scrambling to get to the dais where he was speaking, in the corner of a ballroom crowded with reporters, plus Oklahoma's entire roster and coaching staff. Mayfield said he changed his mind about missing media day after turning on the television at the team hotel and seeing coach Lincoln Riley answering questions about the quarterback's status.

"I realized this whole thing is not about me," Mayfield said. "Oklahoma is here to play a playoff game. It's not about any sickness that I have. We're here to win a game, and that's what it needs to be about. My



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oklahoma quarterback Baker Mayfield answers questions during his team's media appearance on Saturday for the Rose Bowl. Mayfield has been sick but said he will play against Georgia in Monday's College Football Playoff national semifinal game.

teammates don't need to answer questions on my behalf. I'm not dying. I'll be playing."

Drinking a cup of coffee with honey and lemon because Mayfield was sick of drinking tea, the only noticeable sign of illness was his raspy voice. That was as much a product of yelling during practice Friday as it was being under the weather, Mayfield said.

"I hope I'm 100 percent on Monday. I think I will be," said Mayfield, who

has thrown for 4,340 yards and 41 touchdowns against five interceptions this season.

Mayfield has been at practice each day this week. He said the practices have been a little tougher than usual.

"But I'd rather go out there and practice than have to go do other activities. I'd rather be with my teammates and working on our game plan," Mayfield said.

He did not attend the team's trip to

Disneyland on Wednesday, dinner on Thursday or his scheduled media availability Friday.

"He'll be ready to play," Riley said. "Will he be at 100 percent physically? We'll see. He's not going to miss this one."

Mayfield started getting sick when he was home for Christmas in Austin, Texas. When the team reconvened in Norman, Oklahoma, it just got worse. The former walk-on at Texas Tech does not believe the illness will hinder how he plays against the Bulldogs.

"We look pretty good right now," Mayfield said. "I think we're practicing well. I think we're settling into the game plan. Been working on it for a while, and I'm confident where we're at right now."

The absence of Mayfield has not diminished his presence in the build-up to the Rose Bowl. Teammates and co-offensive coordinator Cale Gundy were pestered with questions about his status on Friday. Georgia coach Kirby Smart has raved about Mayfield's ability to consistently make "wow" plays.

Even Bulldogs freshman walk-on Stetson Bennett, the scout team quarterback who has been mimicking Mayfield to prepare the Georgia defense, was a popular interview subject on Saturday.

"You love having fun, and he has the most fun out there," Bennett said. "He's the most exciting player. I got excited when we found out we had to play them."

THREEPEAT

FROM PAGE B1

the naysayers. After all, in introducing the Tigers' newest recruiting class last week, he pointed out that teams that are in "rebuilding" mode need recruiting classes like the one they took in that day.

And, like it or not Clemson fans, even though the programs have split two close games, most people consider the Tigers to be lucky to have done so.

Alabama is Alabama, and everyone else is ultimately a pretender is the way many in college football figure it.

With getting Clemson back to the Final Four without the services of Watson it certainly appears that Swinney has laid the foundation for a long run of success. That doesn't mean the Tigers will be in the CFP every year, but they will much more often than not be in the conversation.

The key to this game will be how productive the Tide can be on offense. Unless quarterback Jalen Hurts morphs into a tremendous passer, Alabama is going to have to be able to run the ball very effectively to be productive on offense.

The fact that Alabama has had an extra week to prepare for Clemson since it didn't play in the Southeastern Conference championship game should help the Tide out.

If anything, the extra week gave many players a chance to heal.

This Alabama team hasn't been as dominant as the past two, but the Tide were undefeated until they lost the Iron Bowl to Auburn in the regular-season finale.

And that fact is why Alabama worked its way back into the Final Four after falling to No. 5 following the loss to Auburn. Cry as its fans might, Ohio State never had a chance to get in the top four. Had Wisconsin beaten the Buckeyes in the Big 10 Conference championship game, it would have stayed in and Alabama would be out.

With Ohio State winning, that left the door open for the committee to slide Alabama back in the door.

Tide head coach Nick Saban and his staff will be keyed in on what they have to do to slow down the Clemson offense. That may be difficult to do though since it seems the Tigers have gotten into an offensive groove down the stretch.

Still, for whatever reason, I think Alabama is going to come away with a 24-21 victory.

WHY CLEMSON WINS

FROM PAGE B1

this season, despite having to replace quarterback Deshaun Watson, a two-time winner of the Manning Award given to the top quarterback in all of college football. But what new starter Kelly Bryant lacked in experience, he's made up for with talent.

He has accounted for 3,504 yards and 24 touchdowns from scrimmage this season — 2,678 yards and 13 TDs through the air and 826 yards and 11 TDs on the ground.

"It's not Deshaun Watson, but I think Kelly Bryant's more athletic though," Alabama defensive back Anthony Averett said Saturday. "He's a lot faster than Deshaun Watson."

Clemson receiver Hunter Renfrow, who caught the winning touchdown

pass in last season's national title triumph over the Tide, echoed Averett's assessment.

Whereas Watson often scrambled to give him more time to throw, "Kelly scrambles to run a good bit, which is great," Renfrow said. "Whenever I'm running a route and he's scrambling, I'm looking to block a little more."

That might not be an ideal matchup for an Alabama defense whose linebacker corps has been in constant flux because of injuries.

Meanwhile, Alabama defensive back Minkah Fitzpatrick sounded impressed by Bryant's decision-making as a passer.

"He makes smart decisions with the football," Fitzpatrick said. "He has re-

ally good athletes on the outside that he can get the ball to — gets the ball deep to Deon Cain, gets the ball and fits it into tight windows with Hunter Renfrow."

Renfrow has been such a tough cover for Alabama that he has joked that he hoped if he ever got pulled over for speeding in the state of Alabama, the officer would be an Auburn fan. Of course, that went out the window when he made nine catches in the victory over Auburn last September.

When asked about being known as Alabama's nemesis, Renfrow said, "It's funny to me because I know I'm not. I know that it's the entire team it takes to beat a team like Alabama, but it's cool. Hopefully we continue that on and have another good game."

Prediction: Clemson 21, Alabama 14.



AP FILE PHOTO

Clemson quarterback Deshaun Watson, left, tries to get away from Alabama's Jonathan Allen during the first half of the College Football Playoff championship game in Glendale, Ariz., on Jan. 11, 2016. Clemson and Alabama will meet on Monday in the College Football Playoff for the third straight year when they square off in the Sugar Bowl.

WHY ALABAMA WINS

FROM PAGE B1

desperately needed a stop, the defense was totally gassed.

Jalen Hurts has been inconsistent through the air, so the Tide will likely have to rely heavily on the ground game. It won't be easy sledding against Clemson's stout defensive front, but Damien Harris and Bo Scarbrough provide a punishing 1-2 punch, and don't forget Hurts' ability to turn a busted play into a big gainer with his legs.

Alabama's defense was ravaged by a series of injuries that hit mainly at the linebacker position. It took a toll, especially toward the end of the season, but that group appears to be in much better shape after being off for the past five weeks.

The Tide has gotten back three potentially important members of its linebacker corps. Christian Miller and Terrell Lewis should bolster an edge pass rush that has been relatively anemic this sea-

son by Alabama standards, while inside backer Mack Wilson will surely be more effective than he was in his return for the regular-season finale against Auburn.

"We've certainly had our share of challenges," Saban said. "Sometimes you can overcome injuries when you have one here, one there at different positions because you have enough depth. But it's created some issues for this group."

If nothing else, the Crimson Tide should be a very driven team.

Not only does Saban's team have plenty of bitter memories about the way last season finished, it's also coming into the playoff for the first time after a loss. Alabama lost its regular-season finale to Auburn 26-14, which knocked the Tide out of the Southeastern Conference championship game after it had been ranked No. 1 all season by The Associated Press.

Prediction: Alabama 24, Clemson 14.

SUGAR BOWL MATCHUP

By The Associated Press

No. 1 Clemson (12-1, 7-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) vs. No. 4 Alabama (11-1, 7-1 Southeastern Conference), Jan. 1, 8:45 p.m. (ESPN)

LOCATION: New Orleans

TOP PLAYERS

Clemson: QB Kelly Bryant. The emergence of Bryant has helped push the Tigers back into the College Football Playoff. His numbers aren't as eye-popping as predecessor Deshaun Watson, but he's still completing more than 67 percent of his passes for 2,678 yards.

Alabama: RB Damien Harris. He leads the team with 906 yards and 11 rushing touchdowns. He's a threat to score every time he touches the ball and averages 8.2 yards per carry.

NOTABLE

Clemson: The Tigers have been playing some of their best football over the past few weeks. They went on the road to beat rival South Carolina 34-10 on Nov. 25 and then beat Miami 38-3 in the ACC championship game on Saturday.

Alabama: Alabama's had a tough time staying healthy on defense this season, especially at linebacker. But coach Nick Saban says he expects his defense to be close to full strength by the time the Crimson Tide faces the Tigers on Jan. 1.

LAST TIME

Clemson beat Alabama 35-31 in the CFP national championship game last season.

BOWL HISTORY

Clemson is 22-19 in bowl games and is appearing in the postseason for a 13th straight season.

Alabama is 38-25-3 in bowl games and is trying to win its fifth national championship in nine seasons.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BOWL SCHEDULE

Monday
Outback Bowl
Tampa, Fla.
Michigan (8-4) vs. South Carolina (8-4), Noon (ESPN2)
Peach Bowl
Atlanta
UCF (12-0) vs. Auburn (10-3), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Citrus Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Notre Dame (9-3) vs. LSU (9-3), 1 p.m. (ABC)
Rose Bowl (CFP Semifinal)

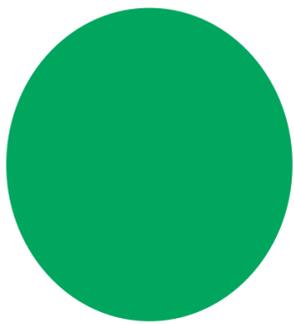
Pasadena, Calif.
Oklahoma (12-1) vs. Georgia (12-1), 5:10 p.m. (ESPN)
Sugar Bowl (CFP Semifinal)
New Orleans
Clemson (12-1) vs. Alabama (11-1), 8:45 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Jan. 8
College Football Championship
Atlanta
Rose Bowl winner vs. Sugar Bowl winner, 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Jan. 20

East-West Shrine Classic
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
East vs. West, 3 p.m. (NFLN)
NFLPA College Bowl
At Carson, Calif.
American vs. National, 4 p.m. (FS1)

Saturday, Jan. 27
Senior Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
North vs. South, 2:30 p.m. (NFLN)



USA TODAY PERSONAL FINANCE

THIS WEEK

75% of non-retired investors have a 401(k) plan. Out of those investors:

- **57%** say the most valued feature is the “match contribution from their employer.”
- **33%** say the next most valued feature is the tax deferral on the money they contribute.
- **46%** say they would “save less” or “stop saving” in their 401(k) if the tax deferred status was taken away.
- **42%** say without the tax deferral they would “save the same amount.”

SOURCE Wells Fargo/Gallup Investor and Retirement Optimism Index survey

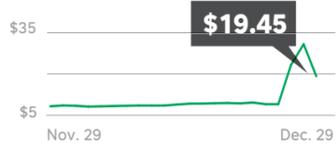
ON THE MOVE

Stock stories of the week

APPLE
Tech company's stock took a hit this week on reports of weak iPhone 10 sales and a controversy about iPhone software purposely slowing as the phone ages.



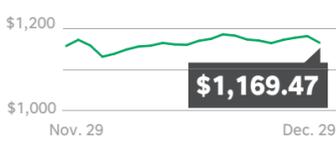
ENERGIOUS
Shares of wireless charging upstart soared on Wednesday after the company announced the FCC certified its first-generation WattUp Mid Field transmitter.



LIVE VENTURES
Micro-cap holding company's stock shot up 80% Thursday on strong earnings report and news of purchase of retail chain Vintage Stock, which deals nostalgia.



AMAZON
Online retailer's stock takes a hit after tweet from President Trump suggests U.S. Postal Service should charge Amazon more for shipping packages.



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USA SNAPSHOTS®

Business best sellers shown in proportion¹ of sales.

Tribe of Mentors Timothy Ferriss	10
Principles: Life and Work Ray Dalio	6.8
How to Win Friends & Influence People Dale Carnegie	3.5
StrengthsFinder 2.0 Tom Rath	3
Extreme Ownership Jocko Willink and Leif Babin	2.9

1- For every 10 copies of Tribe of Mentors sold, Principles: Life and Work sold 6.8 copies. SOURCE USA TODAY Best-Selling Books JAE YANG, VERONICA BRAVO/USA TODAY



ISTOCK IMAGE

Amrita Jayakumar
NerdWallet

There's no easy way to get rid of debt. But a bad credit score — typically below 630 — can make it even harder.

In 2012, Cara and Jesse Nuno had more than \$270,000 in debt between them and credit scores below 600. The Minnesota couple considered bankruptcy but couldn't afford the attorney fees, and Cara had a disability that prevented her from working.

The Nunos turned to a credit counselor, who helped them create a budget and negotiate debts with creditors. With income from Jesse's jobs, the couple paid off their debts in five years. Cara's score rose above 660, while Jesse's hit 758, which is considered excellent. They bought a house this spring.

"It was just hard to get started, but once we got started, everything fell into place," Jesse Nuno says.

If your score doesn't sparkle enough to get a balance-transfer credit card or consolidation loan, two common ways to pay off debt, you still have options.

Secured/co-signed personal loan

While most credit-card issuers require good credit, lenders can be more flexible. They may offer options such as pledging your car as collateral or allowing a co-signer, someone with better credit willing to apply with you.

Pros
■ Better chance of qualifying.
■ Can use a lower-interest-rate loan to pay off high-rate debts, saving money on interest.

Cons
■ Your car may be repossessed if you fall behind.
■ If you don't pay, your co-signer must pay or risk credit score damage.

Debt management plans

Credit counselors can offer budgeting and debt payoff advice, says Elaina

Johannessen, program director at LSS Financial Counseling, the Minnesota non-profit credit counseling agency that helped the Nunos.

Counselors also offer debt management plans that involve negotiating with creditors for lower interest rates on your debt. You make a single monthly payment over three to five years to pay it off.

Pros
■ You pay less overall, thanks to lower interest.
■ You have a plan to get out of debt.

Cons
■ Cannot use credit cards while on the plan.
■ Not all debts can be negotiated.
■ Counselors charge a monthly fee.

Bankruptcy

It carries a stigma, but it lets you wipe the slate clean and can protect assets such as your home and car.

Pros
■ Most people retain assets in a Chapter 13 bankruptcy.
■ Credit scores rebound in months.

Cons
■ Mark stays on your credit report for up to 10 years.
■ It may be hard to get new credit accounts.
■ Attorney fees can be expensive.
■ Does not erase some debts, such as student loans and child support.

What to avoid

Taking a loan against home equity or retirement accounts is drastic and risks your home and future, says Tasha Bishop, director of operations and development at Apprisen, an Ohio non-profit credit counselor.

Some debt settlement companies promise to reduce your debt for a fee, but they could be scams, Bishop says.

If you can wait, make a budget to free up money for debt repayment — whittling balances will help your score.

TAMING YOUR BUDGET-BUSTING BILLS

Have fun without breaking the bank

Entertainment can take big chunk from budget

David Carrig
USA TODAY

In this week's installment, we look at ways to cut your entertainment costs.

Everyone has a guilty pleasure they love to indulge, but when personal finance advisers look at household budgets one of the first things they will tell you to target for belt-tightening is entertainment. Americans spend, on average, almost \$3,000 a year on entertainment, or about 4% of the family budget, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

But there are ways to cut down on your entertainment spending and still have a good time.

Going out to a restaurant

■ Instead of dinner, consider going to that fancy restaurant for lunch instead when prices are lower.

■ Many restaurants offer special nights, such as half-price burger night or half-price bottles of wine.

■ Go for happy hour specials and eat at the bar instead of the dining room.



Happy hour dining at the bar instead of the dining room can save cash.

LARRY OLMSTED/SPECIAL FOR USA TODAY

■ Check out coupons and discounted deals. Joanie Demer, co-founder of The Crazy Coupon Lady, recommends Restaurant.com and Gift Card Granny.

Going to events

■ Many communities offer a wide range of events that are free or have minimal charges.

■ Volunteer. Usher at your local theater, take tickets at sporting events or offer to help out in the office.

■ Ask about discounts for seniors, students, military members and other groups. Check out websites offering discounted tickets such as Goldstar.

■ Check for special nights. Go on an off day, when prices are cheaper instead of the more popular Friday and Saturday nights.

Entertaining at home

■ Trim services. The cost of cable can be a drain on your monthly budget.

■ Check your local library. Many public libraries offer free online movies, ebooks, music and more.

■ Organize potluck dinners. You get to socialize and spread out the cost of dinner since your friends bring food.

MARKET ROUNDUP

Dow Jones industrial average ▼0.1% week ▲3.3% month ▲10.3% 3 months	S&P 500 ▼0.4% week ▲1.8% month ▲6.1% 3 months	Nasdaq composite index ▼0.8% week ▲1.2% month ▲6.3% 3 months	Wilshire 5000 ▼0.3% week ▲1.8% month ▲5.9% 3 months	Gold Ounce, Comex ▲2.3% week ▲1.8% month ▲1.8% 3 months	Oil Light sweet crude ▲2.8% week ▲4.9% month ▲16.4% 3 months	Heating oil ▲5.0% week ▲7.6% month ▲14.3% 3 months	Natural gas ▲10.5% week ▲7.2% month ▲2.0% 3 months
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REFLECTIONS

Sumter's Dr. Bossard acclaimed in S.C.

Physician also served as mayor

Reflections looks back at the life and times of two of Sumter's most respected and beloved medical doctors. This article features Dr. John J. Bossard and Dr. J. S. Hughson and is to be presented in two episodes. Next week's Reflections



Sammy Way
REFLECTIONS

will feature Hughson. These two sketches provide readers with views of medicine in the "old days." Information and photos used to produce these articles were

taken from *The Item* archives and from the writings of Cassie Nicholes, whose recollections of Sumter are found in Historical Sketches of Sumter County: Volumes I and II.

Dr. John J. Bossard was born on Rural Hall Plantation in Georgetown County on Feb. 26, 1825. His family moved to Sumterville in 1832 when he was seven years old. His parents were Anglo-French and played a significant role in the colonies before and during the Revolutionary War.

His father was John Postell Bossard, "a direct descendant of Col. George Pawley and John Postell, both of Revolutionary fame, who was a successful planter, who served in the state militia as captain, major and adjutant general. His mother, Charlotte White, was of English ancestry."

Dr. Bossard attended local schools before enrolling at Davidson College, from which he graduated in 1845.

His medical studies began under the guidance of Dr. J. B. Witherspoon and were expanded at the Medical College in Charleston. He graduated in 1848 with his medical degree and returned to Sumter, where he opened his practice.

"In 1861, he was commissioned by Gov. Pickens as surgeon of the Ninth South Carolina Volunteer Regiment of State Troops; he remained for one year. He then entered the Confederate Army as a surgeon with the rank of major and served until the end of the war. It was his nephew, Andrew Buchanan, who, with another young man, risked his life in the defense of Sumter in the Battle of Dingle's Mill. Dr. Bossard would return to Sumter, where in addition to his medical practice he would enter local politics and serve one term as alderman and two terms as mayor. He would also serve as president of the Sumter County Agricultural Association for as long as it existed. He was an active member of the South Carolina Medical Association of Surviving Surgeons of the Confederate Service and would be selected as a delegate to the State Medical Convention."

He married Frances Conyers Colclough, the widow of J. A. Colclough. Their marriage was blessed with a daughter, Mary Charlotte, who married William Percival Smith. Their daughter, Frances Conyers Smith, lived at 23 S. Harvin St., the home where six generations of Dr. Bossard's descendants lived. Dr. Bossard was an active member of First Presbyterian Church throughout his life.

He died on Nov. 29, 1907, in his 83rd year; his funeral was attended by "scores of friends and former patients."

"John Joseph Bossard was held in high regard by his fellow citizens, for he was recognized as a man of 'great discretion and of brilliant attainments.' Standing high in the medical profession, he was acclaimed among the best physicians in South Carolina. It was said of him that he possessed in 'full measure' the characteristics that go to make up a true gentleman."

He was always kind and generous, especially to the poor, answering their calls for medical help even when he expected no remuneration for his services. A sense of a duty done was the only reward he desired.

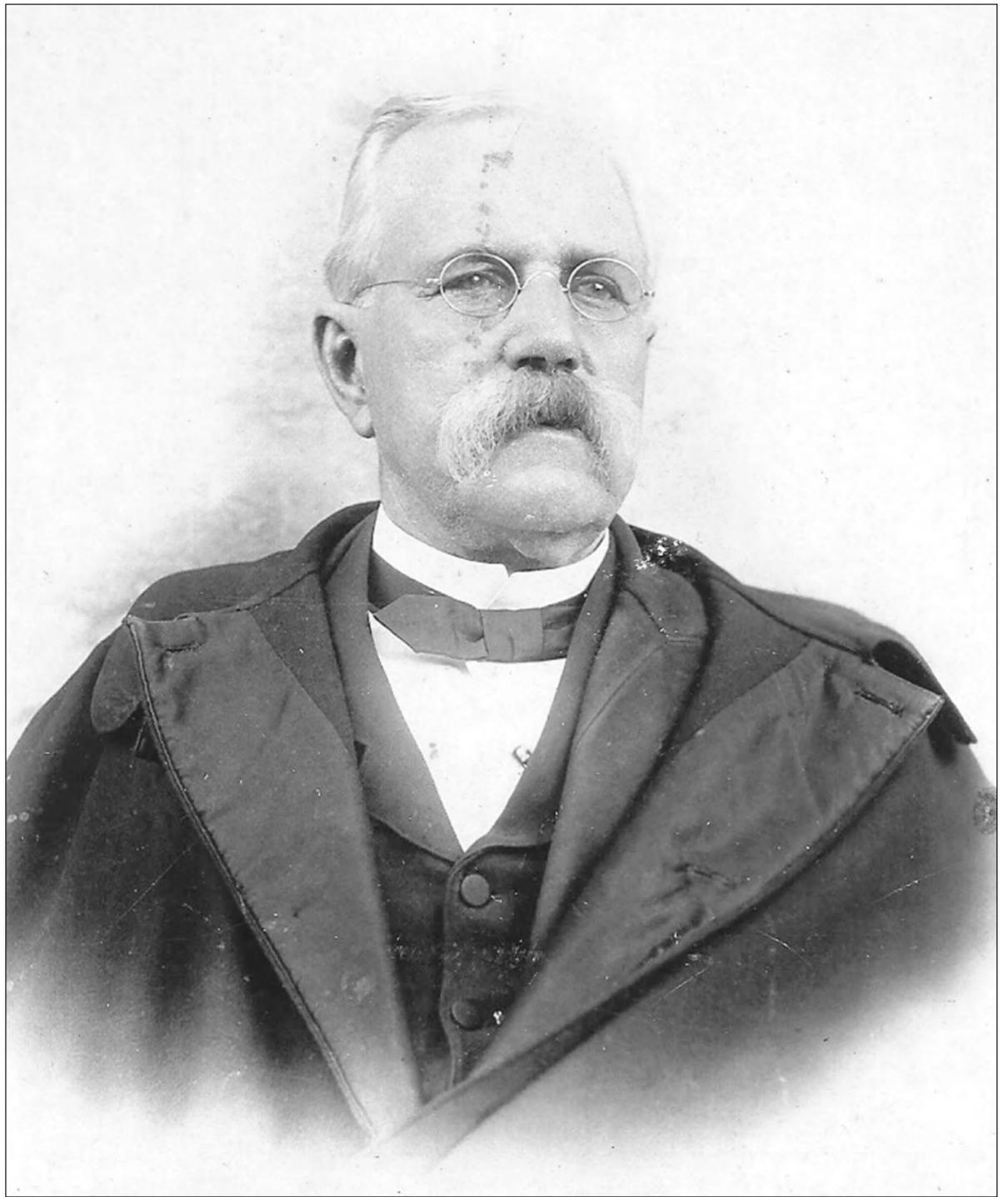
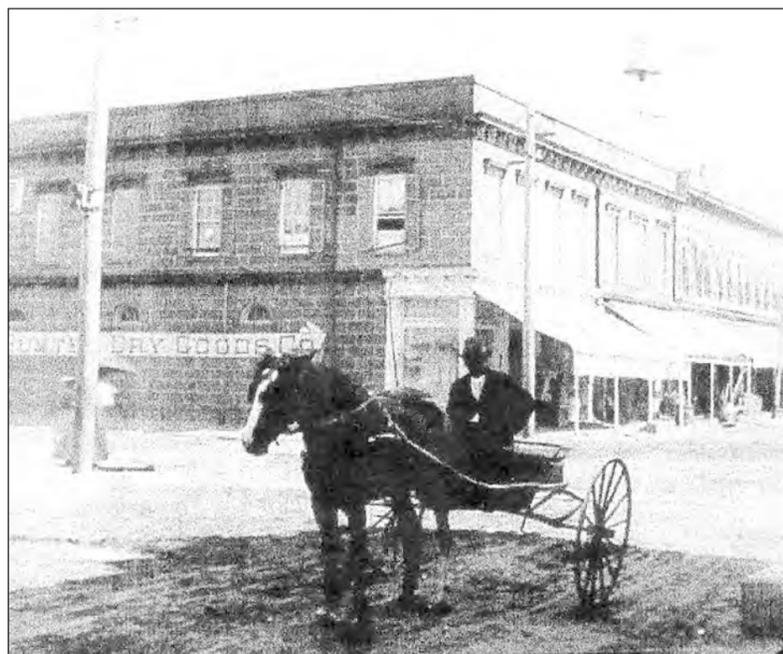


PHOTO PROVIDED

Dr. John J. Bossard, born in 1825, moved to Sumterville in 1832 and studied medicine with Dr. J.B. Witherspoon and later attended Medical College in Charleston. He returned to Sumter after graduating and opened his practice.



One of the early houses on Harvin Street is seen. Six generations of Bossard's family lived at 23 S. Harvin St., beginning with his granddaughter Frances Conyers Smith.



A.A. Solomons, owner of the store that later became Sumter Dry Goods, is seen outside his store. Early doctors used horses and buggies to visit patients.

SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTOS

the
Sumter
ITEM

YESTERYEAR

Sumter man indicted for treason; Stateburg homes open to public

75 YEARS AGO — 1943

July 24 — July 30

• Four women's shops of Sumter have combined to send 20,000 Camel cigarettes to soldiers overseas, a representative of the R. J. Reynolds Co., maker of Camels, reported. The cigarettes, which will be shipped to American Expeditionary Forces in various regions throughout the world



Yesteryear
in Sumter

SAMMY WAY

and distributed to men at the fighting fronts, are the donations of Ness' Women's shop, the Ru Velle, Alpererts and Schwartzes.

• Pvt. Jimmie Haseldon Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Halseldon,

has received a commendation from the commanding officer of the battalion for his part in a wire-laying detail near Gafsa, Tunisia, March 17, 1943. His commendation stated that operations, assisting materially in its success "by carrying 150 drums of wire over most difficult terrain and under most arduous and hazardous circumstances, thereby permitting continuous wire communication." "His spirit and stamina," the citation read, "were deserving of the utmost commendation."

• William Alexander Dabbs, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Dabbs of Mayesville, won his Navy "Wings of Gold" and was commissioned an ensign in the Naval Reserve last week following completion of the prescribed flight training course at the Naval Air Training Center, Pensacola, Florida, the "Annapolis of the Air." Having been designated a naval aviator, he will go on active duty at one of the Navy's air operational training centers before being assigned to a combat zone.

• Shaw Field's Fliers exploded in one inning to take the final game of the season from Sumter's American Legion Juniors by 14 to 2. The game was called at the end of the seventh inning. It was a nip-and-tuck affair until the fatal fifth, with the Juniors quelling potential Shaw Field rallies with brilliant fielding and headups play, but a bad break at home plate in the fifth started the fliers on their way.

• With July 30 set aside as the first anniversary of the WAVES of the United States Navy, and a special program underway this week to pay tribute to the WAVES, members of the local Women's Civilian Committee pointed out that the enlisting of women in the reserves of the armed forces goes back to World War I, when in a precedent-breaking series of events their importance as part of national safety was officially recognized. In that war, an acute shortage of men on the front lines of the Navy made it apparent that women could substitute for men holding jobs at shore stations. So, a program was developed, and the Navy enrolled 12,000 patriotic young women and called them "Yeomanettes."

• Thousands of Victory gardens are being grown in the state this summer and fall. The Victory production program will not be complete unless every pound and quart of home-grown vegetables and fruits not needed for daily consumption is conserved and stored for off-season use. According to J. H. Brooks, representative of Esso Marketers, a Victory Home Canning Guide and Time Table has been prepared by Esso Marketers with the cooperation of the South Carolina Extension Service, Clemson Agricultural College of South Carolina and Winthrop College.

• Eight Americans, including two women, who have broadcast regularly from Germany and Italy on behalf of the Axis war effort, were indicted for treason, and the attorney general said that they would be



"Buy stamps to bomb Tokyo" from the Aircraft Carrier Shang ri-la is the aim of a window display at Belk-Stroman Co. The display was blue and was fixed by J.O. Talbort, employee of the store, in 1943.



Mayor F.B. Creech receives an Esso Victory Home Canning Guide and Time Table from Phillip DuBose at the Esso service station, corner of Liberty and Washington streets, in 1943. Esso Marketers printed and distributed these time guides to aid the war effort.

brought to trial when caught. One those indicted was Robert H. Best, 47, a native of Sumter, former United States Army officer and long a correspondent for American interests in Europe.

• The Shaw Field Public Relations Office announced that Aviation Cadets Charles William Ahart, 19, of Orlando, Florida, and Marshall K. Smith Jr., of Oakdale, Massachusetts, were killed in the crash of a plane on a routine flight near Kershaw. Both cadets arrived at the basic flying school on June 1 and were members of the upper class, 43-1. They had only a few more days at the school before going on to an advanced training field.

• Black non-commissioned officers of Shaw Field gave their monthly dance and social at the Recreation Center on Council Street on Saturday night. The outdoor lawn setting was arranged with lights, tables and music. Chicken dinners were served banquet style. In charge of the affair were Sgt. Lowery and a staff of non-com officers.

• Four members of Sumter County's 4-H clubs, accompanied by Miss Harriet Des-Champs, returned from a conservation camp held at Camp Long near Aiken. From Monday through Friday, the local 4-H'ers along with representatives from 37 other counties were taught a variety of ways to conserve. Those attending the camp from Sumter were Loring Baker, Jordan, who acted as life guard; Parkin Thomas, Wedgefield; Mary Johnson, Sherwood; and Laura Jean Gardner of Hillcrest.

50 YEARS AGO — 1968

March 24 — 30

• Col. Horace D. Harby, Akron University assistant to the vice president for development, will become assistant to the vice president development and head AU's development department. The announcement of his appointment was made by Dr. Norman P. Auburn, president of the University. Col. Harby will head development on the Hilltop following the resignation of Dr H. LaMarr Rice.

• "Beautifully stated objectives can be no more good than what the teacher does with them," said Dr. Milly Cowles, professor of early childhood education at the University of

South Carolina Association on Children Under Six convention. The members, who held their 15th-annual spring conference at Edmunds High School, came from all over the state to begin general discussion sessions with various speakers highlighting each conference.

• Ask any Lincolnite who's the "rootin'est, tootin'est, shootin'est" guy around, and he won't have to think twice before answering, "Why Blythe, who else?" Indeed, who else: William Blythe, a 6'1" junior, gives the appearance of being just an ordinary student — but he is anything but ordinary on the basketball court. "Blythe's" aggressiveness around the backboard gave him an average of 25 points per game and helped him become the *Item's* 1968 Player of the Year.

• Probably the three strongest high school teams in the state will collide at the Alice Drive track when Eau Claire, Florence and Sumter run against each other in a big, triangular meet. The Gamecocks, fresh from a strong showing in the Furman—News—Piedmont Relays, are the defending state AAA champions and will count on the efforts of their fine relay teams to lead the way. But Eau Claire and Florence are expected to give Sumter all the competition it can handle during the afternoon.

• A 12-strike-out pitching performance by Robert Dubose and a combination of two doubles and two triples carried Ashwood-Central's Rams to their fourth win of the year over Maywood's Rebels, 4-2. Dubose notched his second triumph of the campaign as he gave up six hits and issued only two walks. Junior Allen Watts took the loss for the Rebels, who are now 0-2 for the season.

• The Spring Art Exhibit of the Sumter Artists Guild opened at the Sumter County Library with a collection of 57 art pieces of varied media and subject matter. The works on exhibit are by local Artist Guild members and in many instances indicate a great amount of talent. Although many of the paintings on exhibition appear amateurish, a few admirable contributions stand out among the works of the less professional.

• Another fine pitching performance by Billy Ardis and a nine-hit attack carried Sum-

ter's sophomore-dominated Gamecocks to their first baseball victory of the season as Coach Spencer Pouvey's club defeated Dreher 3-1 at Riley Park. The triumph broke a two-game losing streak for Sumter, which dropped earlier decisions to A.C. Flora and Eau Claire.

• The American Academy of Pediatrics has named Dr. Charles R. Propst of Sumter as one of 525 physician consultants from its membership, and other child health leaders, to participate in an evaluation of the medical aspects of Head Start programs in nearly 2,000 communities throughout the United States. Each medical consultant selected will work with the medical director and other health professionals in local Head Start projects.

• The portals of some of Stateburg's loveliest and most historic homes will be opened to the public next month for the first time in several years during a special tour sponsored by the Women of the Church of the Holy Cross. The Church of the Holy Cross, High Hills Baptist Church and the burial place of General Thomas Sumter will combine with six charming dwellings of a bygone era to take tour participants back through the pages of time during the three-hour-long tour. The Borough House, Edgehill and The Miller House are among the sites to be toured.

• The Lincoln High School Bulldogs gained victory No. 1 at Palmetto Park when they downed Butler of Hartsville by a 5-4 score. Joe Mack supplied the power in the bottom of the seventh with two outs and two on with a ringing double to left center to give the Lincoln team its win.

• Wesmark Plaza Merchants Association is sponsoring a series of events and attractions to commemorate the second anniversary of the large Broad Street Extension shopping center. There will be rides by Amusements of America with free discount tickets being given away each day of the event. The Spring Boat and Camping Show will display boats, motors and trailers from Carolina Hardware, Sumter Tire and Recapping Company, Sumter Marine Supply and McLean Equipment.

25 YEARS AGO — 1992

Dec. 26 — 30

• Famed Christian crusader

Billy Graham described his life's work in three words. A crusade, he said, is prayer, planning and perspiration. And evangelist Jim Wilson isn't about to forget it. For five days recently, those three words meant everything to Wilson, an evangelist cast in the mold of his friend and mentor Graham, preached in the Clarendon County Crusade for Christ. And to the local ministers and laymen who helped organize the crusade, the words became practically a litany of faith. "Prayer, perspiration and planning," local coordinator the Rev. Jim Palmer said with satisfaction, looking back on the crusade. "That's the trick. That's the key."

• Wayne Fogle, Patricia Taylor and Kathleen Kreipe have been selected as Central Carolina Technical College's nominees for the 1993 Technical Educator of the Year awards. Each year the S.C. Technical Education Association sponsors the selection of outstanding faculty and staff members from the 16 technical colleges in the state. Nominees are chosen from three categories: administrative, teaching and support services. Fogle was nominated in the administrative category. Taylor was nominated in the teaching category, and Kreipe was nominated in the support category.

• Music, magic, movies and much more will be on tap for USC Sumter students during the 1993 Spring Semester. "We've put together a really exciting assortment of events to entertain and educate our students throughout the semester," said Anthony Rice, USC Sumter's coordinator of student activities. "A number of our offerings are also open to the public, and we encourage and welcome their participation in these events. Kicking off the season will be husband and wife magic act Kevin and Cindy Spencer in "Magic for the '90s." The Spencers are dynamic entertainers who combine state-of-the-art illusions with comedy, audience participation, music and theater to produce an incredible evening of magic.

• A pilot from Shaw Air Force Base's 363rd Fighter Wing shot down an Iraqi warplane in a restricted "no-fly" zone in Iraq. Base spokesman Dave McMahon said the pilot is a member of Shaw's 33rd Fighter Squadron, which was sent to the Persian Gulf to enforce a United Nations resolution prohibiting Iraq from deploying warplanes over portions of the country. The squadron is part of the 363rd Fighter Wing.

• U.S. Department of Justice officials approved the new single-member district voting lines for Sumter School District 2. The approval came after a two-and-a-half-month study of how the lines were drawn by the county's legislative delegation. The decision means the Nov. 3 District 2 board elections will stand. Had the department rejected the liens, the November elections of four trustees to the District 2 board would have been rendered invalid, and the elections would have been held again. Incumbents Naomi Sanders and Elizabeth Kilgore, along with newcomers Elizabeth Kyler and Roland Robinson, were elected to the four seats that were up for election.

• Ray Allen scored a game-high 27 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to pace Hillcrest to a 70-64 win over Tennessee High School in the opening round of the Arby's Classic basketball tournament. Hillcrest, which shot 52 percent from the field, trailed 14-11 at the end of the first period. But the wildcats outscored Tennessee 25-18 in the second and led 36-32 at intermission. Tennessee shot poorly from the field (33 percent). Henry McMurray led Tennessee with 22 points and seven rebounds.

Sumter ITEM OUTDOORS

Call the newsroom at: (803) 774-1226 | E-mail: pressrelease@theitem.com

A buck for my brother

It was just the slightest sound — a soft rustle in the leaves, but it caught my attention. I looked up to see a big doe. She was only about 20 yards from the ground blind and was bounding away with her ears pinned back and her tail clamped down. She was in a hurry, and I knew that something was chasing her.

She had come from the thicket on my right into the narrow stand of hardwoods that bordered the overgrown cut-over and was gone just as suddenly as she had appeared. I knew that she had not seen me in the blind, and I knew that she had not winded me, as the wind was blowing softly to my rear.



Dan Geddings

I listened intently for a few seconds to see if perhaps there were hounds on her trail. I had seen some dog hunters just up the road on the way to the land — but I heard nothing. Then I realized that maybe a buck was chasing her. I reached over and grabbed my rifle that was leaning up in the corner of the blind.

I had not hunted this land in more than a month, but I had spent an afternoon back during the Thanksgiving holidays doing some scouting here. I knew there were some bucks in the area.

My brother Matt had put up this ground blind a few days before the season opened in September. He had only hunted the blind once. He had not hunted any of the other stands on the land. I had continued to put corn on this stand and the others throughout the season, but no one else had hunted the ground blind, even though they could — it was Matt's stand. We hunted all the other stands.

I had invited him to go on some dog drives in the Lowcountry throughout September and into October, but he had declined. I was concerned, and when I saw him, I realized that he had lost a lot of weight. He told me that he had not felt good for some time. I knew that he was hardheaded, just like me, and wouldn't want to go to the doctor like he should. We tend to think that we can will ourselves to get better.

After that, I just didn't have the heart to go hunting. Somehow it just didn't seem right to go when he couldn't.

To our dismay, Matt passed away a week before Christmas. I will miss him terribly. He was a husband, a father, a brother and a friend. He was 53 years old.

Two days after the funeral I decided



PHOTO PROVIDED

Dan Geddings is seen with Matt's buck, a typical nine-pointer with two sticker points.

to go sit in his ground blind. I had not been hunting in more than a month and would dedicate this hunt in his honor. It was a beautiful Friday afternoon — sunny and pleasant with a soft breeze out of the southwest. Perfect for the ground blind.

The blind is a short walk from our sign-in box, and I was settled in by four o'clock. There is a lane that runs east/west between the hardwoods and a cut-over to the north and the open pines to the south. There is a corn pile 70 yards to the west at the end of the lane. Another cut-over lies to the west.

When I opened my pack to get my binoculars I realized that I had left my big flashlight at home, sitting on the counter. What would I do if I got a shot close to dark and needed to do some tracking?

It seemed to be late in the season for rutting activity, but the doe that I had just seen was not acting normally. Almost as soon as I got my rifle in my hands, I heard a buck grunting out in the cut-over. Then there he was, 20 yards away, his big yellow antlers

gleaming in the sunlight. He overran the trail that the doe had followed, and he stopped in the hardwoods looking at the ground blind. I didn't have a shot. There were too many trees. I found him in the scope, but he was so close his image was blurry.

He only stopped for a second then bounded across the open lane into the pines. He stopped again, broadside. This time I found him in the scope and had an open shot at his front shoulder. I squeezed the trigger, and the big rifle roared. I was surprised, amazed and delighted when he went down. A few kicks, and it was over.

I had not shot a buck in two years. I've sat and watched them walk. I passed on a buck in the Lowcountry this year, on a dog drive. This buck was a gift, and I thanked the Lord for giving him to me. My brother Matt would be proud.

Oh, the flashlight? I didn't need it. I looked at my watch. It was 4:30 on a beautiful sunny afternoon.

Reach Dan Geddings at cdgeddings@gmail.com.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seed packets are seen at a hardware store in Freeland, Washington, on Nov. 17. The packs are great reference tools.

Pocket-size seed packets have plenty of information

BY DEAN FOSDICK
The Associated Press

A seed packet may be small, but it speaks volumes.

While seed catalogs promote thousands of types of plants, seed packets tell gardeners how to grow one. All the information is printed on the back of a paper pouch slightly larger than the size of your wallet and at prices that won't empty it.

Although the cost of seeds has risen through the past few years, they're still an economical way to garden, said Elsa Sanchez, a commercial vegetable crops specialist at Penn State University Extension.

"The other option would be to buy transplants, which is generally more expensive," Sanchez said. "You also find a lot more options for types and cultivars when you start from seed."

Seed packages have been a gardening staple in the United States for well more than a century, although their look is frequently changed.

W. Atlee Burpee & Co., for example, has begun shipping re-designed packets for the 2018 growing season.

"We made the picture (of the plant) virtually the entire front of the packet, so there's a very strong shout-out of what it is," said Burpee chairman and chief executive officer George Ball. "We have just a few things on the front — the name, price and weight, such as we need to have."

"But turn it over, and you'll see that we've amped up the type of gardening information you're going to get — the what, the how, the where and the when. The most important is the when," Ball said. "We use USDA (hardiness) zones and maps for that."

The kind of information to expect from these miniature reference guides:

- Days to seed germination and maturity. Expect those to vary somewhat, though, based on sun exposure, soil temperature, fertility and moisture.

- Seed count and packing date. "Seed longevity is dependent on the type of seed and also storage conditions," Sanchez said, recommending that any leftovers be kept cool and dry until another planting season rolls around. "Over time, viability and germination rates will decline."

- Plant profile and size: whether it's a hybrid, open pollinated or an heirloom, an annual, biennial or perennial.

- Planting instructions, including seed spacing and soil depth, light conditions and moisture requirements.

Then there's the bonus information available through "QR" or quick-response coding, those usually square, artistic designs appearing more frequently on the flip side of seed packets. Download a free QR code reader app into your smart phone or tablet so you can read links and find information online.

"You can use smart phones to scan QR readers for a great many plant-particular details — information that just wouldn't fit on the back of seed packets," Sanchez said.

"It is a good idea to hang onto the seed packages after sowing as references for future care and harvesting," she added.

What do Lowcountry alligators do in the winter?

BY MICHAEL OLINGER
The Island Packet of Hilton Head

HILTON HEAD ISLAND — Alligators, it turns out, are not that different from humans when it comes to bundling up during cold weather.

While cold winter days might be the perfect time for people to stay inside with a warm blanket and a nice cup of cocoa, alligators bundle up in their own way, retreating to burrows and dens under roads or in the banks of ponds and lakes, many of them under water, according to Andrew Grosse, alligator program biologist for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

"The ground around them insulates them, and they have a little air pocket where they can come up and breathe," Grosse said. "It's just a little den that they sit in for the harshest part of the winter."

Not all alligators winter in the same way, though, and some have developed some truly odd habits.

"I've seen alligators that have been in ponds that have frozen over," Grosse said. "Some of them have adapted to where they'll

stick their noses out of the water and let it freeze around them, and they'll stay there until the ice melts."

As winter approaches in the Lowcountry, temperatures can become erratic, jumping from warm to cold and back again in the space of a few days. So, how do alligators know when winter is actually setting in?

"One of the main cues that influences most wildlife is when we start getting shorter days and the sun is out less. That is more of a constant thing than the temperatures. That is what triggers them to initially prepare for the winter," Grosse said. "Both temperature and daylight influence seasonal behavior, but daylight is more consistent."

Most alligator nuisance calls that the Department of Natural Resources receives come during the fall and spring, and it all has to do with their need for warmth.

In fall, gators are trying to soak up as much warmth as possible before the long chill ahead, and in spring they are trying to warm back up. That means there are more of them on the banks of ponds and lakes, and they are more

difficult to scare off.

"People can approach them at these times of year, and they won't run away because they really don't want to go back into the water," Grosse said.

Oddly, eating is not a priority for alligators as winter approaches, according to Grosse.

"When it starts to feel more like fall, with temperatures kind of where they are now, maybe a little bit warmer, they slow down with their feeding or stop altogether and kind of prepare for winter," Grosse said. "Their primary goals become warming up when they can, finding a place to spend the winter and maybe feeding a little bit, but they start to lose interest at that point."

Alligators are cold-blooded, which means when it gets cold, they slow down. Their winters are devoted to staying as warm as possible.

As temperatures cool, alligators' metabolism slows, and

they begin a process known as brumation. This is different from hibernation, which occurs in mammals and involves a deep, seasonally induced sleep.

"It's really just, because the habitat around them is kind of slowing down, their metabolic rate and everything in their body slows down so much that they're not active," said Grosse. "They're just surviving at that point. They're not like bears that are in a kind of deep slumber. It's more just a reduced state of activity."

Brumation means that alligators are very much awake during winter. They're just not doing anything. It only takes a few warm days, though, to shake them from their self-imposed stupor, Grosse said.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Happy Birthday to a loving son, brother, father, & friend. Continue to sleep in peace, we love you.

In Memory of



Ramona "NeNe" Wright
One year has passed since that sad day, when the one we loved called away. God took her home, it was His will, but in our hearts she lives still. Love, Mom, Dad, Sister, Brothers, Williams and Wright family.

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Tru by Hilton. Please apply in person at Spring Hill Suites 2645 Broad St. Seeking front desk clerk, house keeping and maintenance engineer. Trusumter@gmail.com

Contractors Wanted!

The Sumter Item has a newspaper route for the Bishopville area. Contractor will service home delivery, newspaper racks & newspaper dealers. Also need contractor for the Mayesville, Elliott & Lynchburg route. Must have good dependable transportation & a phone in your home. Come by & apply at 36 W. Liberty St. or call Reda at 803-774-1257



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LEGAL NOTICES

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Public Notice
Sumter County First Steps is offering **Childcare Quality Enhancement Services** (Coaching/Consultation and Mentoring) to childcare providers to include technical assistance and minimal grant funding.

Each participating provider shall be identified via competitive application (the minimum components of which will be specified by South Carolina First Steps with priority to providers); Participating in the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program and

Legal Notice

documenting that at least 30% of enrolled students qualify for free meals/snacks (130% of federal poverty), OR

Located within the school attendance zone of (and/or enrolling primarily children attending) an individual elementary school rated "Below Average" or "At Risk" (Unsatisfactory) during the preceding three-year period, OR

In which 10% or more of enrolled students are ABC voucher recipients

If you are interested in being considered for this program, please request an application by emailing sumterfirststeps@gmail.com.

All applications must be submitted by **January 16, 2018.**

Sumter County First Steps to School Readiness Partnership Seeks Nominations for Board of Directors

The Sumter County First Steps to School Readiness Partnership, a nonprofit established in 1999 to address school readiness in Sumter County, is seeking nominations for individuals committed to the healthy development and well-being of children birth to five years old to serve on its board of directors.

The Partnership is seeking nominations for individuals from the following categories who either reside or work in Sumter County:

- i Pre-kindergarten through primary educator;
- ii Family education, training, and support provider;
- iii Childcare and early childhood development/education provider;
- iv Healthcare provider;
- v Local government;
- vi Nonprofit organization that provides services to families and children;
- vii Faith community;
- viii Business community;
- ix Philanthropic community; and
- x Parent of preschool children.

For more information and/or a nomination form, contact Sumter County First Steps at 803.464.1224 or sumterfirststeps@gmail.com. Nominations will be accepted until January 18, 2017.

Sumter County First Steps will have its Annual Meeting on January 25, 2018 at 5:30pm. The location for the meeting is 220 Hasel Street, Sumter, SC 29150. Board members are elected at this meeting.

Beer & Wine License

Notice Of Application
Notice is hereby given that **The Restaurant at Second Mill** intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license permit that will allow the sale and ON premises consumption of **Beer, Wine and/or Liquor at 1100 W. Liberty Street, Sumter, SC 29150.** To object to the issuance of this permit / license, written protest must be postmarked no later than **January 15, 2018.** For a protest to be valid, it

Beer & Wine License

must be in writing, and should include the following information: (1) the name, address and telephone number of the person filing the protest; (2) the specific reasons why the application should be denied; (3) that the person protesting is willing to attend a hearing (if one is requested by the applicant); (4) that the person protesting resides in the same county where the proposed place of business is located or within five miles of the business; and (5) the name of the applicant and the address of the premises to be licensed. Protests must be mailed to: S.C. Department of Revenue, ABL, P.O. Box 125, Columbia, South Carolina 29214-0907; or Faxed to: (803) 896-0110.

Public Hearing

NOTICE OF CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

The Sumter City Council will hold a public hearing on proposed amendments to the City of Sumter Zoning Ordinance on **Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the City Council Chambers located on the Fourth Floor of the Sumter Opera House (21 N. Main St.). The following requests are scheduled for consideration:

RZ-17-09, 1947 McCray's Mill Rd. (City)

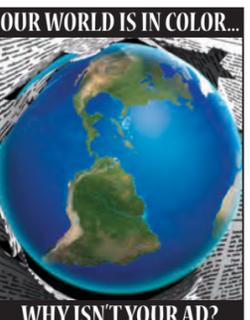
Request to rezone +/- 0.24 acres located at 1947 McCray's Mill Rd. from General Residential (GR) to General Commercial (GC). The property is represented by Tax Map # 206-12-02-038.

RZ-17-10, 301 S. Main St. (City)

Request to rezone a +/-0.28 acre parcel located at 301 S. Main St. from Light Industrial-Warehouse (LI-W) to Central Business District (CBD). The property is represented by Tax Map # 227-04-02-001.

Documents pertaining to the proposed request(s) are on file in the Office of the Sumter City-County Planning Department and are available to be inspected and studied by interested citizens.

Joseph T. McElveen, Jr.
Mayor



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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.**

Classified In-line

<u>Edition</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Fri., Dec. 22nd	Wed. Dec. 20th @ 11:30 am
Sun., Dec. 24th	Thurs. Dec. 21st @ 9:30 am
Tues., Dec. 26th	Thurs. Dec. 21st @ 11:30am
Tues., Jan. 2nd	Thurs. Dec. 28th @ 2 pm

Have a safe and Merry Christmas!
Business office will be closed December 22nd, 25th and January 1

the Sumter ITEM
36 W. Liberty Street
Sumter, SC
803-774-1200

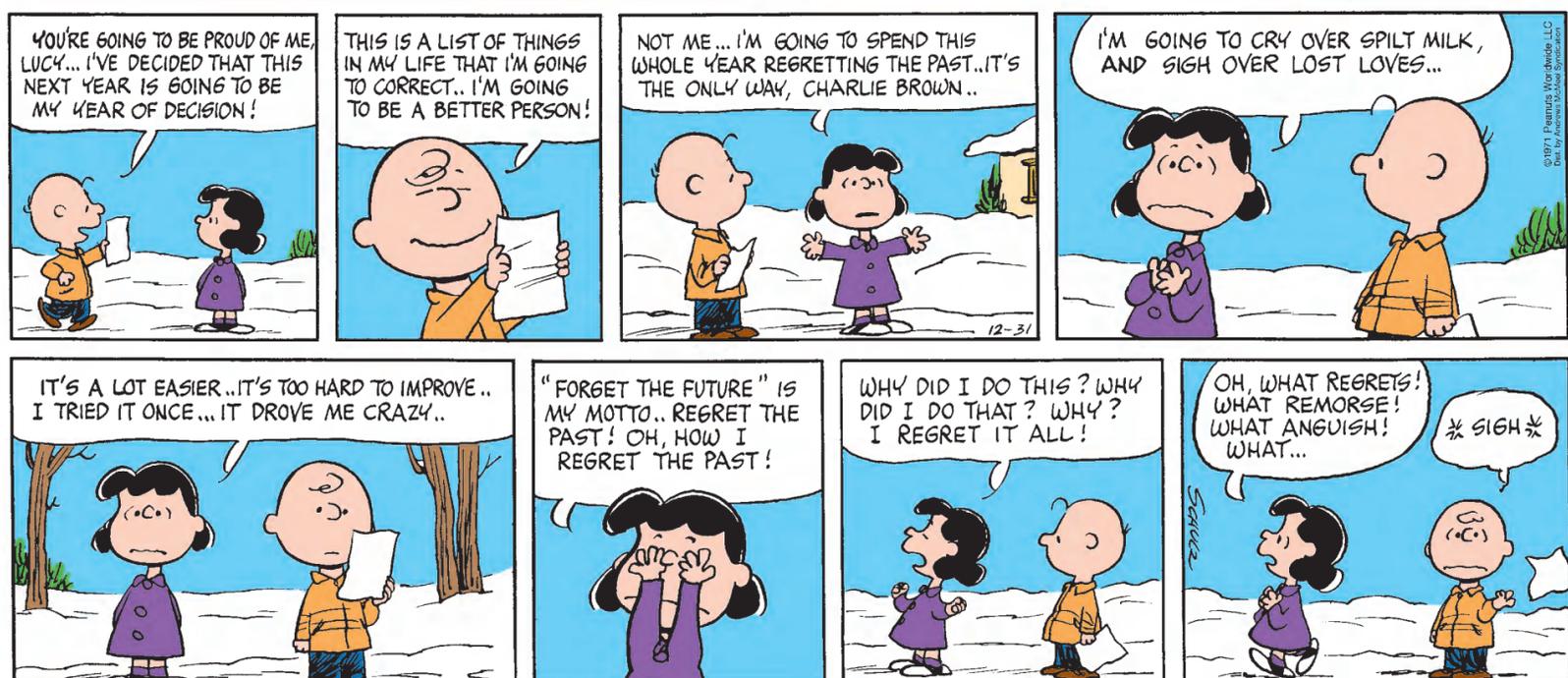
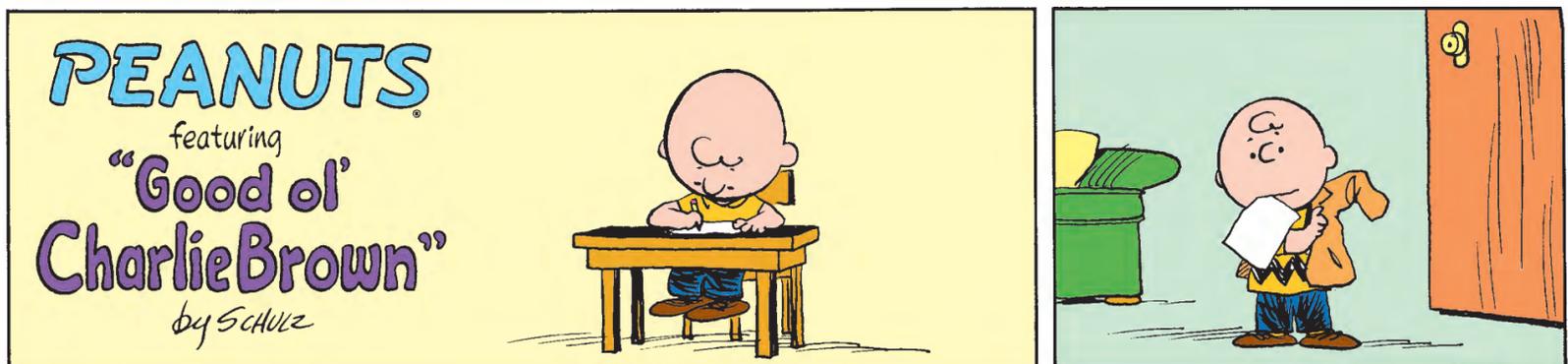
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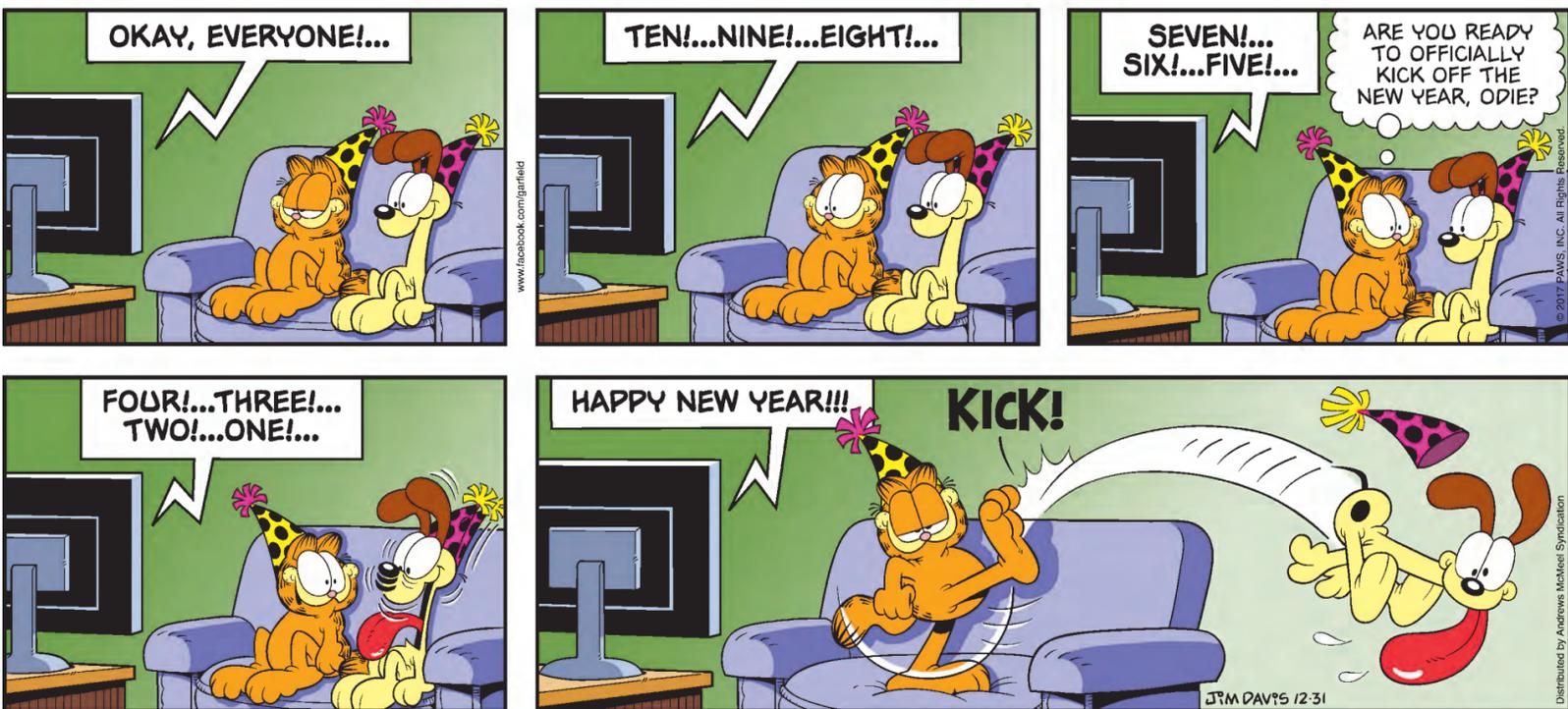
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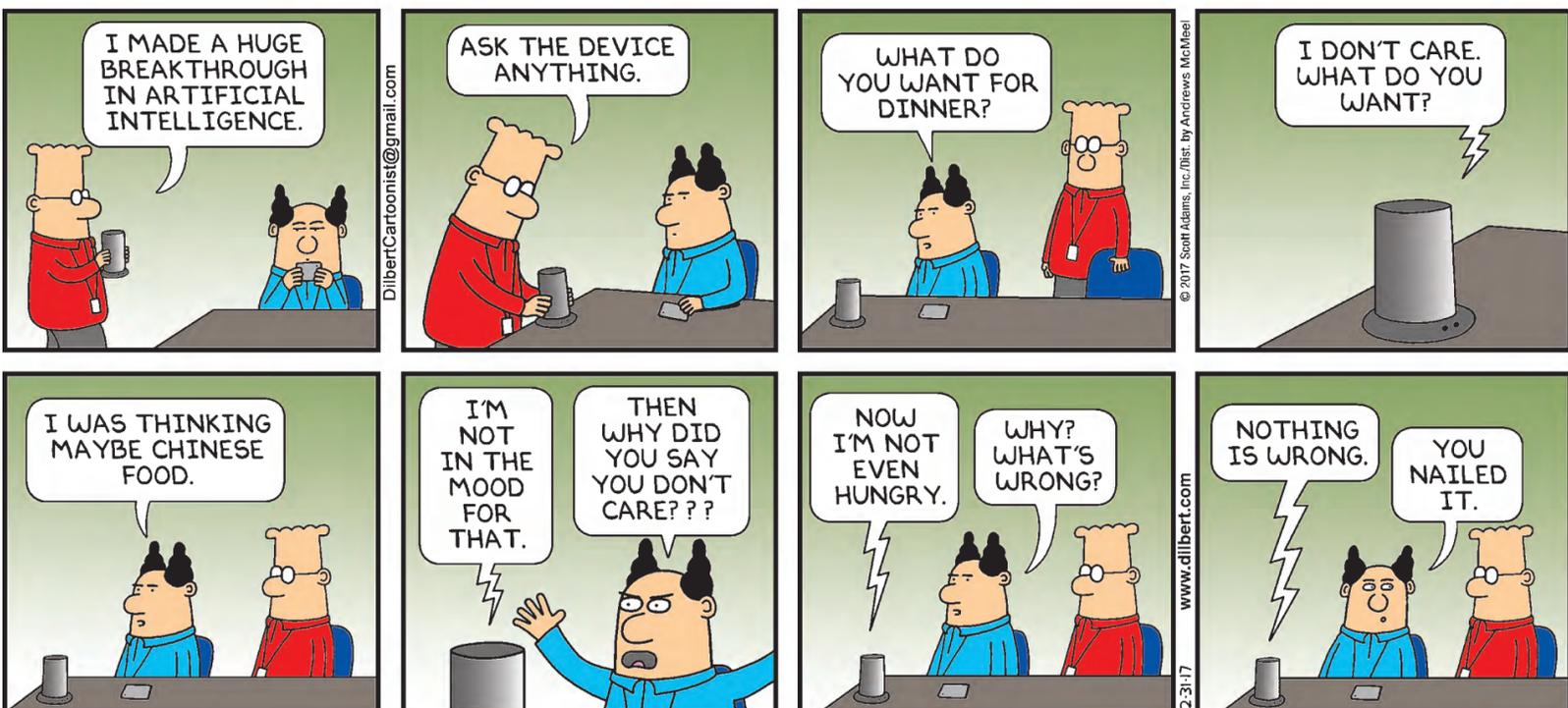
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



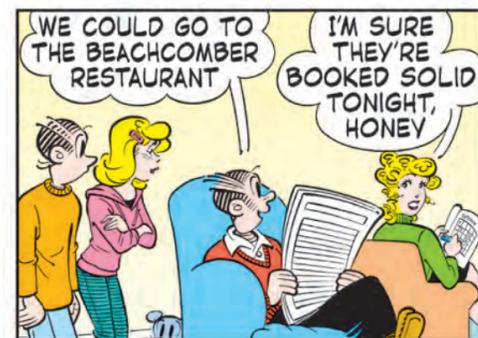
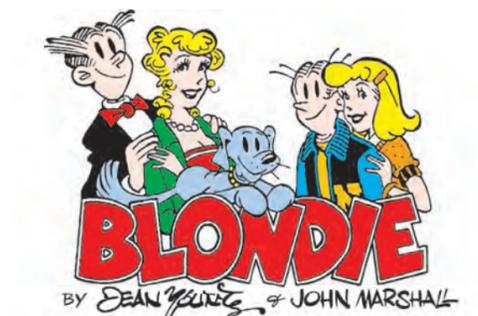
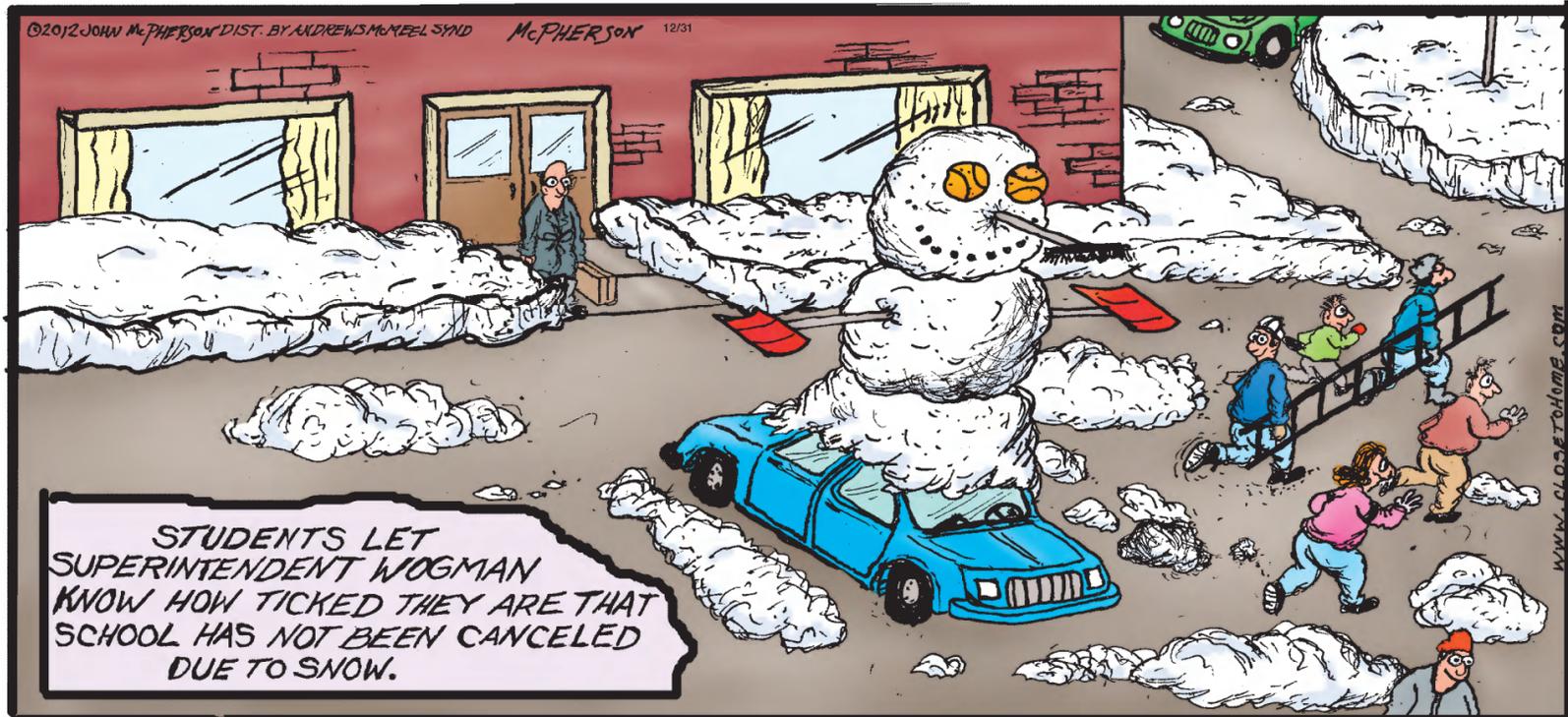
DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



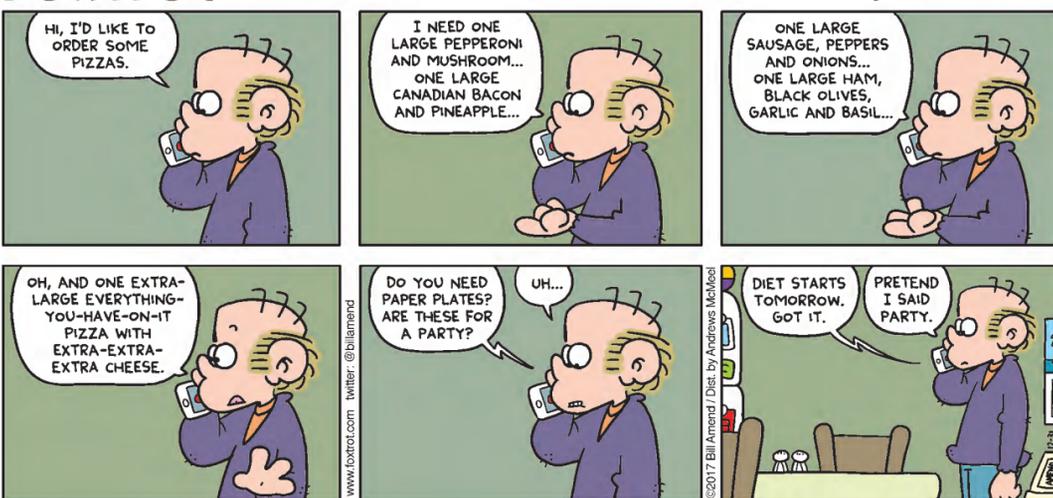
CLOSE TO HOME

BY JOHN McPHERSON



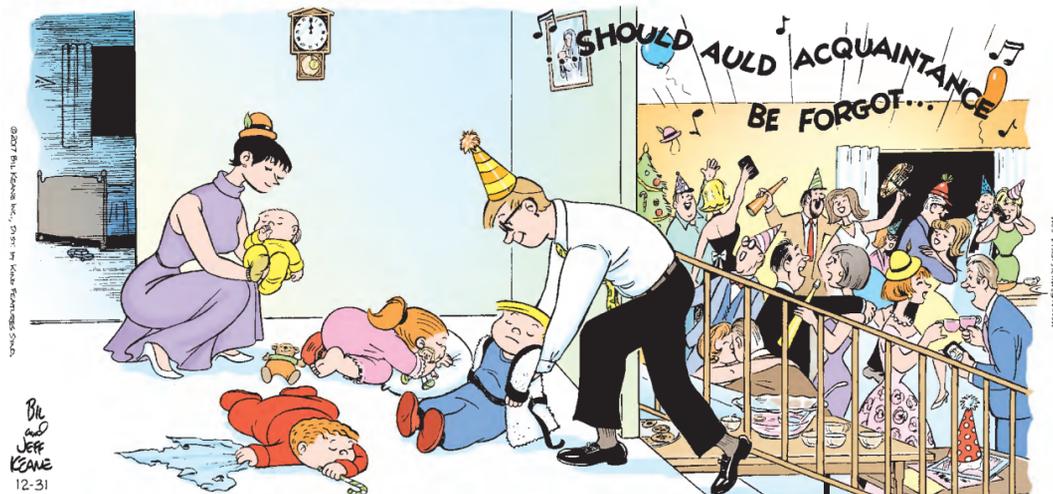
FoxTrot

by Bill Amend



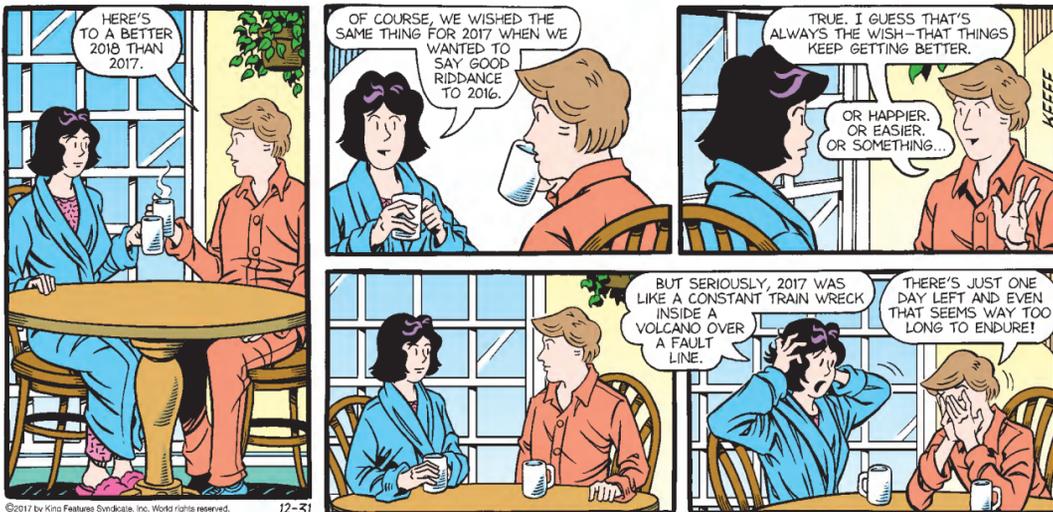
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

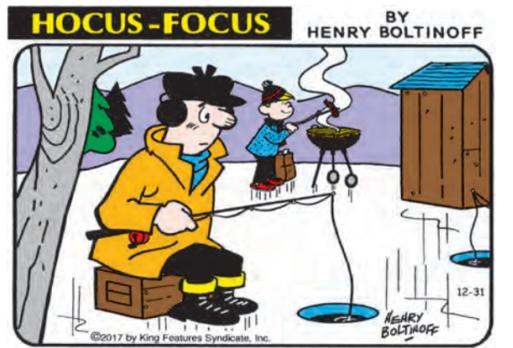
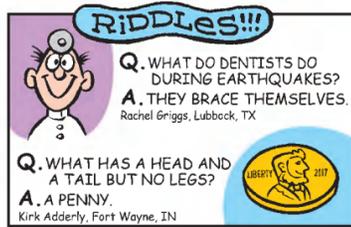
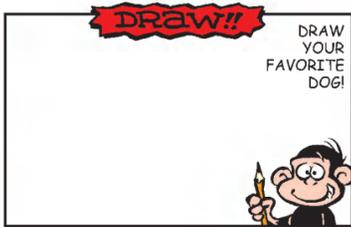
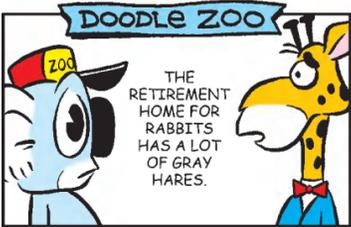
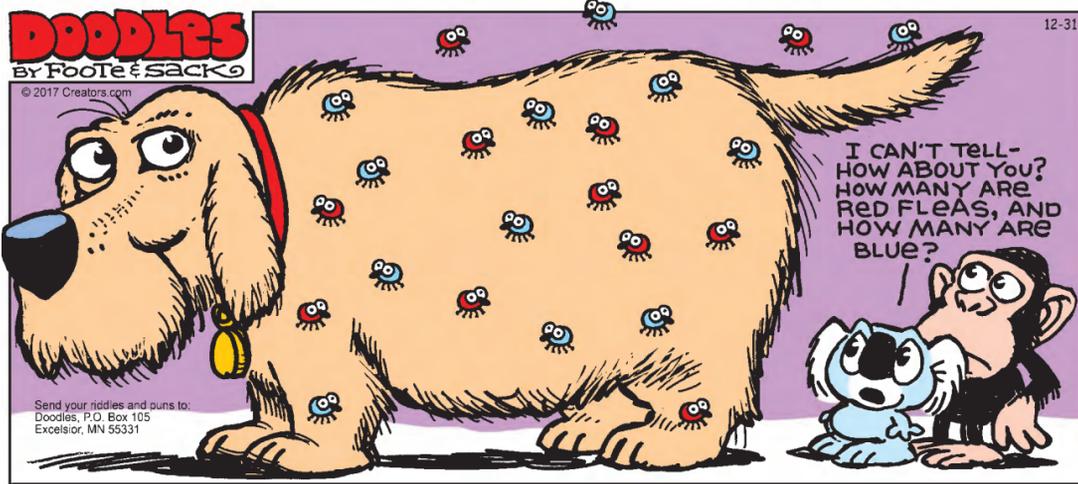
By Bill Keane



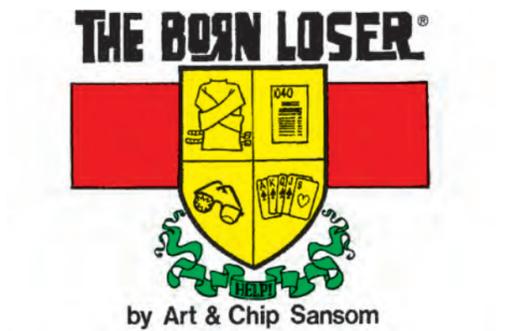
SALLY FORTH

BY FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & JIM KEEFE

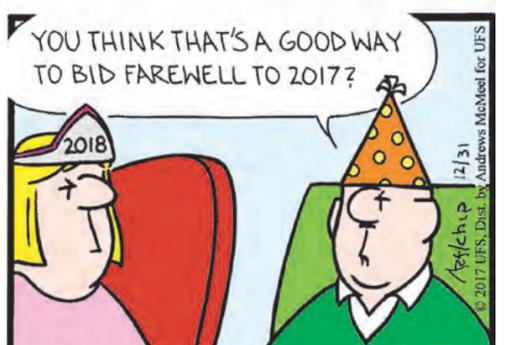




FRANK AND ERNEST



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS



GET FUZZY BY DARBY CONLEY



SHOE

BY GARY BROOKINS & SUSIE MACNELLY



DENNIS THE MENACE

BY HANK KETCHAM

