

the Sumter ITEM

Why babies can learn 2 languages at the same time

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2018 | Serving South Carolina since October 15, 1894

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A4

Man gets 18 years in rape case

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

Third Circuit Judge R. Ferrell Cothran Jr. sentenced Edward McElveen, 67 — charged with sexually assaulting his neighbor in February 2017 — to 18 years in prison after the defendant was found guilty of three charges on Wednesday evening.

After two-and-a-half days of trial and about an hour and a half of deliberat-



McELVEEN

Dalzell woman who was 78 at the time on Feb. 21.

McElveen received two 18-year sen-

ing, the jury of six men and six women returned a guilty verdict for the charges of first-degree criminal sexual conduct, kidnapping and possession of a weapon during a violent crime for the confinement and rape of a

tences, each, for criminal sexual conduct and kidnapping, and five years for possession of a weapon during a violent crime, all to be served concurrently.

The prosecution introduced four new witnesses: a SLED forensic scientist specializing in DNA analysis, a Sumter County Sheriff's Office investigator, a Palmetto Health Tuomey critical care nurse and a woman who was visiting her mother at Scenic Lake Mobile Home Park the night of the assault.

Semen and saliva samples taken from the victim were matched with a DNA swab taken from McElveen, according to the forensic scientist with SLED.

Sgt. Wayne DuBose with the sheriff's office said a .22-caliber handgun that can hold up to about five bullets was found in the defendant's possession when he was arrested on Feb. 22. There were two bullets in the gun just like the

SEE GUILTY, PAGE A6

Coming home

Dad back from deployment surprises sons at schools

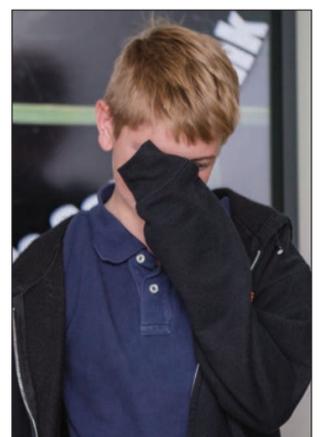
BY KAYLA ROBINS
kayla@theitem.com

Karson Zimmerman thought Wednesday was just another school day. Then a face appeared in his classroom doorway he had not seen in a year except over a computer or phone screen.

His classmates at Ebenezer Middle School stayed silent as they watched father and son reunite, son wrapping his arms around father's waist, burying his face into the Airman Battle Uniform.

Karson, a sixth-grader, and his brother, Gavyn, who is in ninth grade at Crestwood High School, are used to their father going away. When Master Sgt. Steven Zimmerman returned home to surprise his sons at school on Wednesday from a yearlong remote deployment in Korea, he ended his seventh deployment. This time was different.

SEE HOME, PAGE A6



PHOTOS BY MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Karson Zimmerman cracks a smile, top, as he sees his father, Master Sgt. Steven Zimmerman, for the first time since a yearlong deployment to Korea. Karson's classmates at Ebenezer Middle School watched as he buried his face in his father's chest. His ninth-grade brother, Gavyn, was surprised earlier at Crestwood High School.

WATCH THE VIDEO

Watch our video of the homecoming at www.facebook.com/theitem.

Leaders tell Chestnut Oaks students to 'dream big' at career forum

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

"Dream big and set goals." That was the key message Wednesday as seven local business leaders spoke to a group of 60 eighth-graders at Chestnut Oaks Middle School's first-ever career forum.

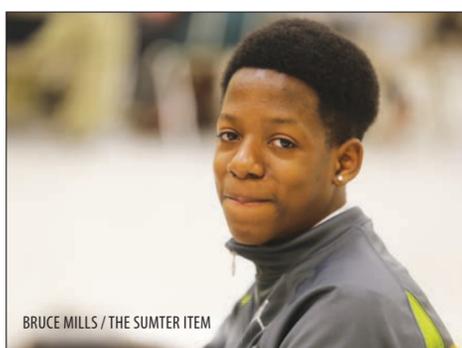
Sponsored by Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce, the event allowed groups of students to rotate around for round-table discussions with each leader and hear what it takes to be successful in today's business world.

The seven leaders in attendance came from various career fields — the military, business and industry, higher education and others — but all emphasized to the students the importance of education and at least finish-

Doing the right thing and believing in yourself is important.

DAJAN VANBUREN

An eighth-grader at Chestnut Oaks Middle School



BRUCE MILLS / THE SUMTER ITEM

ing high school and earning their diploma. Each leader also explained the steps he or she had to take to advance into careers.

Dennis Turner, chairman of the Chamber's Education Committee, has helped lead the forums in Sumter

School District for about five years now.

Originally, the forums were held at just the three high schools in the district, but this year they have been expanded to all seven middle schools, Turner said.

Turner and the professionals spoke to the students at Chestnut Oaks, at 1200 Oswego Road, on various topics, including the importance of individual responsibility, character, motivation and attitude.

Many leaders, including engineer James Robinson, emphasized the importance of dreams and goal setting to the school's eighth-graders, who generally come from a high-poverty area of the county.

"First, you have to get your dream; then you set your goals," Robinson said. "The goals are the steps you need to accomplish to meet that dream. Once you start checking those off, you see you are getting closer and closer to your dream."

A senior manufacturing engineer

SEE FORUM, PAGE A6

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DEATHS, B3

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WEATHER, A8

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2 SECTIONS, 14 PAGES
VOL. 123, NO. 70

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SECOND FRONT

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LOCAL BRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Shaw: Cloud cover likely caused boom Monday

Shaw Air Force Base conducted explosive ordnance disposal training on Wednesday, which the public may have heard or felt about 10:15 a.m., though it likely was not as strong as earlier in the week.

Training also occurred at the Sumter base on Monday, causing people to ask what shook their house or what the booming was that sounded like a bomb going off.

"The sounds heard were part of a routine munition retrieval effort that happens twice a year — January and September," said Technical Sgt. Nathan Allen of Shaw's Public Affairs Office. "The significant cloud cover [on Monday] likely created a 'fluke' situation that caused the explosions to be heard because normally they are not."

Allen said the explosive ordnance disposal team detonated less than 50 pounds of explosives on Monday, "which is not a lot for them."

He said this is the first time he has heard of the public hearing and feeling the training explosions since he's been at Shaw.

Design review committee meeting is canceled

The Sumter City-County Planning Department's Historic Preservation Design Review Committee will not meet today as planned because there are no requests in the Planning Office that require review by the committee, according to the city.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the committee is on Feb. 22 at 3:30 p.m.

For questions or more information, call the Planning Department at (803) 774-1660.

SAFE names Bishopville branch manager

SAFE Federal Credit Union has named a new branch manager at its Bishopville location.

Ashley Reddick will lead a staff of seven at the credit union's 596 Sumter Highway location.

Reddick has worked at SAFE since 2012, serving most of that time as head teller at the Wesmark branch in Sumter. She recently completed the company's comprehensive management training program.

"I love getting to know members and plan to be very hands on in helping them with all their SAFE business," Reddick said.

Reddick is active in the Sumter Junior Welfare League, volunteers at Sumter United Ministries and said she plans to get involved in the Bishopville community, as well. Her husband, John, is an attorney in Sumter.

She said serving members is a calling that she shares with her 95-year-old grandmother, who worked as a teller years ago in Camden and helps Reddick understand how banking has changed through the years.



REDDICK

Sumter native elected to college's board

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Willie Cooper Jr., a Sumter native and 1977 graduate of Mayewood High School, has been elected to serve on the Presbyterian College board of trustees.

Cooper received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting from Presbyterian College in 1981, according to a news release from the college.

"I consider this opportunity to serve on the board of trustees of my alma mater to be both an honor and



COOPER

a privilege," Cooper said. "I look forward to the opportunity."

Cooper, a certified public accountant, has served as an independent accounting and finance consultant since 1996. He has a wide range of experience in the public accounting, non-profit and professional services sectors, among others.

Cooper has held controller and CFO roles for sports technology, manufacturing and financial service

firms.

Before becoming an independent consultant, Cooper conducted division audits for a large regional bank and internal audits for a large financial services company. He also developed and implemented accounting and operations policy and procedures for a financial services firm and led an accounting systems and software installation and implementation.

Presbyterian College is a 240-acre campus in Clinton, between Columbia and Greenville.

Crosswell holds Family Night



BRUCE MILLS / THE SUMTER ITEM

From left, Crosswell Drive Elementary School teacher Fredericka Plowden, student Alena Bradley and her mother, Dawn Bradley, participate in Monday's Family Night at the school.

Sumter Elks sponsor Hoop Shoot competition for youth

BY IVY MOORE

Special to The Sumter Item

Free throws can win — or lose — a basketball game. On Sunday, they can win two area young people advancement to the district competition of the Elks National Hoop Shoot free throw program.

Sumter Elks Lodge No. 855 will host its local free throw competition for boys and girls ages 8 to 13 from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday at Alice Drive Middle School gym, 40 Miller Road.

The Elks National Foundation sponsors the overall competition, while the Sumter Elks sponsor the local Hoop Shoot, according to Al Mossell, director of the event. There is no charge to competitors, who may register from 1

to 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the gym.

The foundation has been sponsoring the competition for more than 45 years as a character-building program, in which competitors "learn about the importance of respect and good sportsmanship" and "to be humble after a successful win and are prepared to accept defeat gracefully."

Another stated aim of Elks National is to "develop ... gritty kids (because) ... Research suggests grit is a more accurate predictor of success than social intelligence, good looks, physical health or IQ."

The competition is divided by age group within the 8- to 13-year-old eligibility range. One boy and one girl will advance to the district competition and the opportunity to win again and

continue on through state, regional and national events. Winners of the national championships will have their names inscribed in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and will receive the Getty Powell Award for most baskets made during the national finals.

Registration for Sunday's Hoop Shoot competition begins at 1 p.m. in the Alice Drive Middle School gym, and the event starts at 1:30 p.m.

Gym shoes are required, and pants, gym shorts or basketball uniforms are acceptable attire.

Complete contest rules can be found at the official website, www.elks.org/hoopshoot/compete/playbook.cfm.

For more information, call Mossell at (803) 972-7188.

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months - \$69; one month - \$23

The Sumter Item is published
five days a week except for
July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas
and New Years Day (unless those
fall on a Sunday) by Osteen
Publishing Co., 36 W. Liberty St.,
Sumter, SC 29150.
Periodical postage paid at
Sumter, SC 29150.

Postmaster: Send address
changes to Osteen Publishing
Co., 36 W. Liberty St., Sumter, SC
29150

Publication No. USPS 525-900

1 Weekend aims to bring youth together in faith

BY CHRIS MOORE

Special to The Sumter Item

Can one weekend make a difference?

The Sumter Youth Network believes it can.

That's why the group, comprised of several area youth ministries, is hosting its second-annual "ONE Weekend" on March 9-11.

"ONE Weekend" is open to area middle or high school students who would like to attend and organizers hope this one weekend indeed makes a difference in their lives.

The event, which started in 2017, was a way to bring collaboration and share resources between area churches.

In the past, several churches would hold separate weekend-long annual youth events, but as friendships developed between youth pastors in the area it became apparent that there



was an opportunity to do something new, exciting and for it to be done together.

Delmar Peet, pastor to students and families at Alice Drive Baptist Church, said, "The genesis of 'ONE Weekend' occurred when we realized our past events all shared similar goals and that combining efforts could multiply the time, money and other resources that are needed for hosting large youth events."

"We took the overhead that we were spending (collectively) and put that toward feeding the needy in Jesus' name," Peet said when recollecting on how "ONE Weekend" began to take

shape last year.

One of the first youth pastors to sign on was First Church of God's Phillip Beacham.

"It's an awesome opportunity for our students to be able to see other students in the community that have the same faith," Beacham said.

Peet went on to say, "We want our students (of area churches) to go to 'ONE Weekend' so when they walk away that they know they are not alone in the faith in Sumter ... and they feel encouraged."

The students will not only receive encouragement, but also teaching, get to worship together, laugh, have conversations with others their own age and also have the opportunity to minister together.

Friday and Saturday night students are encouraged to stay overnight with their youth group, which is organized by their home church.

On Saturday, the group will pack meals with "Servants With a Heart," which is a nonprofit that helps organizations — like "ONE Weekend" — create highly nutritious dehydrated meals to be delivered to starving and malnourished children and their families around the world. Last year, the group packaged more than 50,000 meals.

Peet also said, "This is a huge resource for churches without student ministers. It is as easy as signing up and showing up."

To register for "ONE Weekend" go to www.OneWeekendSumter.com and look for the registration tab.

The cost is \$50 per student and it covers the program, a T-shirt, lunch on Saturday and the foods needed for the packaging event.

For more information, contact your youth pastor or visit www.OneWeekendSumter.com.



LOS ANGELES TIMES / GINA FERAZZI VIA AP

Defendants Louise Anna Turpin, left, with attorney Jeff Moore, and David Allen Turpin, right, with attorney Allison Lowe, appear in court Jan. 18 for their arraignment in Riverside, California. More than \$120,000 has been donated to help the Turpin's 13 children who authorities say were kept chained to beds for months and starved so much that their growth was stunted.

DA seeks to bar parents from contacting 13 kids kept captive

20 people have offered to take the siblings, donations total \$120,000

BY MICHAEL BALSAMO AND EMILY SCHMALL

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The parents accused of torturing 12 of their children and keeping them chained to beds for months and so malnourished their growth was stunted appeared in court Wednesday as prosecutors ask a judge to bar them from contacting their kids.

The court proceeding is the latest step as authorities seek to sever ties between David and Louise Turpin and their 13 children — between 2 and 29 years old — who were rescued from their home in Peris, California, on Jan. 14. They have pleaded not guilty to torture, abuse and other charges.

Riverside County prosecutors are seeking a protective order that would prohibit the Turpins from having any contact with their children, district attorney's office spokesman John Hall said.

The case has attention from around the world and about 20 people from across the U.S., including nurses and psychologists, have offered to take the seven adult children and six minors and keep them together. The Riverside University Health System Foundation, which is collecting money for the siblings, so far has received 1,500 donations totaling \$120,000, spokeswoman Kim Trone said.

Sheriff's deputies arrested the husband and wife after their 17-year-old daughter climbed out a window and called 911. Authorities found

the siblings in the family's filthy California home, three of whom were shackled to beds. Neighbors and relatives said they were unaware of the children's treatment until authorities arrested the parents and revealed what they found inside.

In a heart-wrenching Facebook post, a former classmate of the oldest Turpin sibling recalled that she was picked on as a grade school student in Texas.

Taha Muntajibuddin, who attended kindergarten through third grade with her in Fort Worth, Texas, described her as "a frail girl, had pin-straight hair with bangs, and often wore the same purple outfit." After learning of the case, he shared on Facebook his "overwhelming sense of guilt and shame" over how she was treated.

He wrote that it was jarring to learn that the girl, who was teased in school for being smelly, "quite literally had to sit in her own waste because she was chained to her bed."

Muntajibuddin said he is hopeful his former classmate can recover and live an enriched life.

He said despite being bullied by her peers, she "was still one of the most pleasant people I have had the opportunity to meet. She had this whimsical optimism to her that couldn't be dampened, couldn't be doused no matter what anybody threw at her."

The AP is not naming the siblings because of the severity of abuse allegations, which are still under investigation. The AP also has not been able

to talk to the children, including the 29-year-old, or anyone who can speak on their behalf.

Another classmate, Stephanie Hernandez, told the AP in a Facebook message that the girl was quiet and always wore dirt-stained jeans that were too small. Hernandez said she often was bullied.

"I remember someone kind of slung her around like a rag doll," said Hernandez, a registered nurse in Mansfield, Texas.

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Toys R Us, hobbled by competition, will shutter 180 stores

NEW YORK (AP) — Toys R Us, squeezed by Amazon.com and huge chains like Walmart, will close 180 stores, or about 20 percent of its U.S. locations, within months.

Hobbled by \$5 billion in debt, the company that once dominated toy sales in the U.S. filed for bankruptcy protection in September.

Chairman and CEO Dave Brandon said in a letter Wednesday that tough decisions are required to save Toys R Us.

Toys R Us operates about 900 stores in the U.S.

The store closings will begin in February and the majority of the targeted locations will go dark by mid-April. At some other locations, the retailer is combining its Toys R Us and Babies R Us stores.

Toys R Us, based in Wayne, New Jersey, has struggled with debt since private-equity firms Bain Capital, KKR & Co. and Vornado Realty Trust took it private in a \$6.6 billion leveraged buyout in 2005. The plan had been to take the company public again, but weak sales have prevented that from happening.

While its numbers have been shrinking, Toys R Us still sells about 20 percent of the toys bought in the U.S. according to Stephanie Wissink, an analyst at Jef-

feries LLC.

Competitive pressures will force the company to take a close look at all of its stores, and more will likely be shuttered over the next year or two, Wissink said.

Toys R Us reigned supreme in the 1980s and early 1990s, when it was one of the first of the "category killers" — a store totally devoted to one thing: toys. Its scale gave it leverage with toy sellers and it disrupted general merchandise stores and mom-and-pop shops.

Now Toys R Us and other category killers like the now-defunct Sports Authority, Borders and Circuit City, are being upended by a new force: Amazon.com.

GlobalData Retail estimates that about 13.7 percent of toy sales were made online in 2016, up from 6.5 percent five years ago.

Toys R Us has been hurt by a shift to mobile devices as well, which take up more and more play time.

About three dozen retailers sought bankruptcy protection last year due in large part to a radical shift in consumer behavior, both in where they shop and what they buy.

Toys R Us closed its flagship store in Manhattan's Times Square, a huge tourist destination, about two years ago.

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Students ran for their lives as shots erupted in school

BENTON, Kentucky (AP) — They ran silently, too stunned to shout.

Some of the children ran into classrooms to hide from the boy with the gun. Some ran out of the building, into the fields, across the streets, through the doors of nearby businesses.

"No one screamed," said 16-year-old Alexandria Caporali, recounting the moment her high school became the site of the latest American mass shooting. "It was almost completely silent as people just ran."

Bailey Nicole Holt and Preston Ryan Cope, both 15, were killed and another 18 people injured when a classmate opened fire Tuesday morning in the school's busy atrium, a common area in the center of Marshall County High School, where several hallways meet and children gather before classes.

The trauma consumed the rural town of about 4,300 people, where nearly everyone has a connection to the school. Parents left cars on both sides of an adjacent road, desperately trying to find their teenagers; business owners pulled fleeing children to safety; a state trooper rushed to the school, terrified he would find his own

daughter among the dead.

Kentucky State Police Commissioner Rick Sanders said authorities would not yet identify the 15-year-old, now in police custody, who he said walked into the school armed with a pistol just before 8 a.m. and immediately started firing.

Caporali was eating breakfast when she heard a shot, turned and saw the teenager with the gun. She knew him as a quiet boy who played music and always seemed happy. After the first shot, he seemed to hesitate.

In the same room, two 16-year-olds, Lexie Waymon and Baleigh Culp, had been laughing and talking about makeup and the homecoming basketball game like ordinary teenagers on an ordinary morning. They heard a bang, and imagined something equally ordinary, like a heavy book hitting the floor.

"That's what I expected it to be," Culp said. "Until I saw a body drop on the ground and the bangs continued. There was bullets flying everywhere."

Fear momentarily seized Waymon.

"I couldn't move. I got up and tried to run, but I fell. I heard someone hit the ground. It was so close to me," she said. She

No one screamed. It was almost completely silent as people just ran.

ALEXANDRIA CAPORALI

16-year-old recounting shooting at Marshall County High School



RYAN HERMENS/THE PADUCAH SUN VIA AP

Kentucky State Police Lt. Michael Webb speaks during a media briefing at the Marshall County Board of Education following a shooting at Marshall County High School in Benton, Kentucky, on Tuesday.

froze, she said. She could see only blackness — for a full minute, she guesses. Then she came to and ran.

Waymon did not stop running, even though her chest hurt. One phrase ran on repeat through her mind: "I can't believe this is happening. I cannot believe this is happening." She didn't stop until she made it to a McDonald's, more than a mile from the school.

Culp was running, too. She ran to the highway, hearing shot after shot behind her. She kept running, unsure what to do, when a man reached out from the door of a business and pulled her to safety inside, where dozens of other students were hiding.

"They were running and crying and screaming," said Mitchell Garland, who owns the cleaning company where the girl took refuge. He estimated between 50 and 100 students who ran from the school huddled there, including his own 16-year-old son.

"Everyone is just scared. Just terrified for their kids," Garland said.

Inside the school, the boy

kept firing, said Caporali, who ran into a classroom.

"It was one right after another — bang, bang, bang, bang," she said.

He kept shooting until he ran out of ammunition, she said. Then he took off running, trying to get away. He was soon apprehended by police and led away in handcuffs.

But by then, 14 had been shot and five others were injured as they ran from the gunfire. Bailey died at the scene and Preston died after being taken to Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee. Five others remained in critical condition late Tuesday.

Benton residents gathered in a church hours after the fatal shooting where they were reminded that God had not forsaken them and told not to think "what did anyone do to deserve this."

The case against the suspect will begin in juvenile court, which is closed to the public and the records sealed under Kentucky law. Prosecutors will request a judge move it to adult court, at which point the details will no longer be secret.

The teen is being held at a regional juvenile jail in Paducah, Kentucky, about a half-hour away, authorities said, and he has been appointed an attorney.

Word of the shooting spread quickly around town, and people rushed toward the school.

Marshall County Attorney Jeff Edwards heard the news from a friend and immediately drove to the building. He and his wife both graduated from the school, as did their children.

He saw children running in every direction and said his heart broke for the ordeal he knows they must endure.

He took office in 1997, the year a student opened fire in a school 30 minutes away in Paducah, Kentucky, killing three and injuring five. It was two years before the fatal attack at Columbine High School in Colorado, before mass school shootings became all too common, and it left scars across the state.

"This is something that they will never forget," he said of children who ran for their lives. "It will be with them forever."

Why babies can learn 2 languages at the same time

BY NAJA FERJAN RAMIREZ
University of Washington, The Conversation

Any adult who has attempted to learn a foreign language can attest to how difficult and confusing it can be. So when a 3-year-old growing up in a bilingual household inserts Spanish words into his English sentences, conventional wisdom assumes that he is confusing the two languages.

Research shows that this is not the case.

In fact, early childhood is the best possible time to learn a second language. Children who experience two languages from birth typically become native speakers of both, while adults often struggle with second language learning and rarely attain native-like fluency.

But the question remains: is it confusing for babies to learn two languages simultaneously?

WHEN DO BABIES LEARN LANGUAGE?

Research shows babies begin to learn language sounds before they're even born. In the womb, a mother's voice is one of the most prominent sounds an unborn baby hears. By the time they're born, newborns can not only tell the difference between their mother's language and another language, but also show a capability of distinguishing between languages.

Language learning depends on the processing of sounds. All the world's languages put together comprise about 800 or so sounds. Each language uses only about 40 language sounds, or "phonemes," which distinguish one language from another.

At birth, the baby brain has an unusual gift: It can tell the difference between all 800 sounds. This means that at this stage infants can learn any language that they're exposed to. Gradually babies figure out which sounds they are hearing the most.

Between six and 12 months, infants who grow up in monolingual households become more specialized in the subset of sounds in their native language. In other words, they become

"native language specialists." And, by their first birthdays, monolingual infants begin to lose their ability to hear the differences between foreign language sounds.

STUDYING BABY BRAINS

What about those babies who hear two languages from birth? Can a baby brain specialize in two languages? If so, how is this process different than specializing in a single language?

Knowing how the baby brain learns one versus two languages is important for understanding the developmental milestones in learning to speak. For example, parents of bilingual children often wonder what is and isn't typical or expected, or how their child will differ from those children who are learning a single language.

My collaborators and I recently studied the brain processing of language sounds in 11-month-old babies from monolingual (English only) and bilingual (Spanish-English) homes. We used a completely noninvasive technology called magnetoencephalography (MEG), which precisely pinpointed the timing and the location of activity in the brain as the babies listened to Spanish and English syllables.

We found some key differences between infants raised in monolingual versus bilingual homes.

At 11 months of age, just before most babies begin to say their first words, the brain recordings revealed that:

- Babies from monolingual English households are specialized to process the sounds of English, and not the sounds of Spanish, an unfamiliar language.

- Babies from bilingual Spanish-English households are specialized to process the sounds of both languages, Spanish and English.

Our findings show that babies' brains become tuned to whatever language or languages they hear from their caregivers. A monolingual brain becomes tuned to the sounds of one language, and a bilingual brain becomes tuned to the sounds of two lan-

guages. By 11 months of age, the activity in the baby brain reflects the language or languages that they have been exposed to.

IS IT OK TO LEARN TWO LANGUAGES?

This has important implications. Parents of monolingual and bilingual children alike are eager for their little ones to utter the first words. It's an exciting time to learn more about what the baby is thinking. However, a common concern, especially for bilingual parents, is that their child is not learning fast enough.

We found that the bilingual babies showed an equally strong brain response to English sounds as the monolingual babies. This suggests that bilingual babies were learning English at the same rate as the monolingual babies.

Parents of bilingual children also worry that their children will not know as many words as children who are raised with one language.

To some extent, this concern is valid. Bilingual infants split their time between two languages, and thus, on average, hear fewer words in each. However, studies consistently show that bilingual children do not lag behind when both languages are considered.

Vocabulary sizes of bilingual children, when combined across both languages, have been found to be equal to or greater than those of monolingual children.

Another common concern is that bilingualism causes confusion. Part of this concern arises due to "code switching," a speaking behavior in which bilinguals combine both languages.

For example, my 4-year-old son, who speaks English, Spanish and Slovene, goes as far as using the Slovene endings on Spanish and English words. Research shows bilingual children code-switch because bilingual adults around them do too. Code-switching in bilingual adults and children is rule-governed, not haphazard.

Unlike monolingual children, bilin-

gual children have another language from which they can easily borrow if they can't quickly retrieve the appropriate word in one language. Even 2-year-olds modulate their language to match the language used by their interlocutor.

Researchers have shown code switching to be part of a bilingual child's normal language development. And it could even be the beginning of what gives them the extra cognitive prowess known as the "bilingual advantage."

BILINGUAL KIDS ARE AT AN ADVANTAGE

The good news is young children all around the world can and do acquire two languages simultaneously. In fact, in many parts of the world, being bilingual is the norm rather than an exception.

It is now understood that the constant need to shift attention between languages leads to several cognitive advantages. Research has found that bilingual adults and children show an improved executive functioning of the brain — that is, they are able to shift attention, switch between tasks and solve problems more easily. Bilinguals have also been found to have increased metalinguistic skills (the ability to think about language per se, and understand how it works). There is evidence that being bilingual makes the learning of a third language easier. Further, the accumulating effect of dual language experience is thought to translate into protective effects against cognitive decline with aging and the onset of Alzheimer's disease.

So, if you want your child to know more than one language, it's best to start at an early age, before she even starts speaking her first language. It won't confuse your child, and it could even give her a boost in other forms of cognition.

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Quake, tsunami fears rattle temblor-prone Alaskans

BY RACHEL D'ORO
and BECKY BOHRER
The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — When it comes to earthquakes, Alaskans are major pros. But even they get rattled by the strong ones, as Tuesday's early morning shaker proved.

In the popular cruise-ship town of Seward, about 110 miles south of Anchorage, Fire Chief Eddie Athey said the quake lasted for up to 90 seconds.

"It went on long enough that you start thinking to yourself, 'Boy, I hope this stops soon because it's just getting worse,'" Athey said.

The magnitude 7.9 quake in the Gulf of Alaska triggered the jarring alert that roused people shortly after midnight Tuesday. Even for Alaskans accustomed to tsunami threats and tsunami drills, the phone message was alarming. It read: "Emergency Alert. Tsunami danger on the coast. Go to high ground or move inland. Listen to local news."

After the alert, people grabbed blankets and suitcases and hustled to evacuation centers or schools in the middle of the night.

The monster waves never materialized, but people who fled endured hours of tense waiting before they were cleared to return home.

Tina Anderson, clerk of the Aleutians East Borough, was awakened by the quake at her home in Sand Point, an island fishing community about 570 miles southwest of Anchorage. Anderson, who lives on high ground, called friends in vulnerable areas to make sure they moved to an evacuation center at the school or to friends with homes on higher ground.



Evacuees gather at Kodiak High School in Kodiak, Alaska, on Tuesday after an earthquake and tsunami alert.

A short while later, a police officer drove through the lower-lying parts of the community with his siren blaring and a loudspeaker telling people to evacuate.

People monitored the event by social media.

"Everyone was on Facebook, seeing what was going on," Anderson said. "I was monitoring, actually, the Kodiak Police Department Facebook page. They were posting things regularly. I knew we were after them if something were to hit."

When Sand Point Police Chief Hal Henning learned the projected tsunami landfall was 2 a.m., he jumped into his

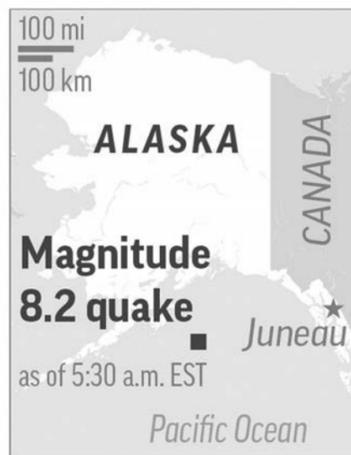
patrol car to start alerting residents to move to high ground, starting with people sleeping on boats in the harbor or at the seafood processing plant.

Winds gusting to 60 mph made it hard to hear community warning sirens. The patrol car siren and loudspeaker siren were easier to hear, he said. Some people walked to the emergency center at the school. Others drove, offering pedestrians rides in the back of pickups and flatbed trucks, Henning said. Eventually hundreds of people crowded into the school gymnasium.

"I would say it was a huge success," Henning said of the evacuation.

There were no reports of damage, not

Alaska quake



SOURCE: Maps4News/HERE, AP USGS

even on Kodiak Island, the closest land to the epicenter. Tuesday's quake was recorded at 12:32 a.m. in the Pacific Ocean about 170 miles southeast of Kodiak, home to one of the nation's largest Coast Guard bases.

It prompted the warning across thousands of miles of Alaska's southern coast, from Attu in the Aleutian Islands to Canada's border with Washington state. Kodiak is about 200 miles south of Anchorage, the state's largest city, which was not under a tsunami threat. Elsewhere in the United States, Washington state, Oregon, California and Hawaii were under tsunami watches, which eventually were lifted. Officials in Japan say there was no tsunami threat there.

Do e-cigarettes help or harm? Report says that's not clear yet

BY MATTHEW PERRONE
AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON — Electronic cigarettes could be a boon to public health or a major liability, depending on whether they help Americans quit smoking or encourage more young people to try traditional cigarettes, a new report concludes.

The report issued Tuesday wrestles with the potential benefits and harms of the vapor-emitting devices which have been sold in the U.S. for more than a decade. But those effects may not be known for decades, in part, because of how slowly illnesses caused by smoking emerge.

"In some circumstances, such as their use by non-smoking adolescents and young adults, their adverse effects clearly warrant concern," said David Eaton, of the University of Washington, who headed the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine committee that studied the issue. "In other cases, such as when adult smokers use them to quit smoking, they offer an opportunity to reduce smok-

ing-related illness."

There are no long-term studies on the health consequences of e-cigarettes and little consensus on whether they are effective in helping smokers quit, according to the report requested by the Food and Drug Administration.

The experts found "substantial" evidence that young people who use e-cigarettes are more likely to try cigarettes. On the other hand, experts found only "limited evidence" that cigarettes are effective tools to help adult smokers quit.

The committee's review of more than 800 studies yielded many findings that were largely in line with prior assessments by other researchers. For instance, the panel found "conclusive evidence" that most e-cigarettes contain numerous chemicals that can be toxic. However, there was equally strong evidence that e-cigarettes contain fewer toxicants and at lower levels than regular cigarettes.

E-cigarettes have been sold in the U.S. since at least 2007. Most devices heat a liquid nicotine solution into vapor and have been promoted to smok-



A doctor holds an e-cigarette in a smoking lab in 2016 at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ers as a less-dangerous alternative because they don't have all the chemicals, tar or smoke of regular cigarettes. E-cigarettes and similar vaping devices have grown into a \$4 billion U.S. industry with thousands of varieties of flavors and customizable products available in specialty shops and online.

The FDA gained authority to regulate the devices in 2016 after years of pushback from the industry. But last year the agency said it would delay the deadline for manufacturers to submit their devices for re-

view until 2022. The decision was blasted by anti-smoking advocates who say some e-cigarette manufacturers target kids with candy and fruit flavors.

The FDA has signaled its intention to begin pushing U.S. consumers away from traditional cigarettes toward alternative products, such as e-cigarettes. The regulatory delay was intended, in part, to give companies more time to research their products.

FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb called the link between e-cigarette use and try-

ing smoking in young people "troubling."

"We need to put novel products like e-cigarettes through an appropriate series of regulatory gates to fully evaluate their risks and maximize their potential benefits," he said in a statement.

Some other key takeaways and questions from the report:

- Chemicals in e-cigarette vapor, such as formaldehyde, are capable of damaging DNA in humans. However, it's unclear if the chemicals exist at levels high enough to cause cancer.

- Switching completely from traditional cigarettes to e-cigarettes significantly reduces exposure to numerous cancer-causing chemicals.

- E-cigarettes can sometimes explode, causing burns and injuries. The risk of such accidents is higher with devices that are stored improperly or contain low-quality batteries.

- There is substantial evidence that e-cigarette vapor contains traces of metal, possibly because of the metallic coils used to heat liquid that the devices vaporize.

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Melanie Zimmerman surprised her children with their father, Master Sgt. Steven Zimmerman, who returned home early from a yearlong deployment. Karson, center, is a student at Ebenezer Middle School, and Gavyn is a student at Crestwood High School. The Zimmermans have been at Shaw Air Force Base for 11 years.

MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

HOME FROM PAGE A1

"It's rough, especially leaving them for long amounts of time at this age," Zimmerman said. "They're changing so much. School, work, sports, just growing, learning. It's a rough time. That's the roughest part of it now."

Zimmerman and his wife, Melanie, the brainchild of the surprise plan, first went to Crestwood to pick up Gavyn.

"I was surprised because my mom picked me up and said I was just being dismissed, and I saw my dad and was happy," Gavyn said.

The Zimmermans have been at Shaw Air Force Base for 11 years. Over the course of his deployments, a lot of basketball and soccer games were watched over FaceTime.

"He's never been gone like that whenever I was older," said the youngest Zimmerman, straining to keep his voice leveled from emotion.

Karson said the hardest part of his father being gone is "having to go places and with someone else taking one of us to games so Mom and him couldn't see both of us."

Now that the family is together again, Melanie Zimmerman said the surprise was surreal.

"It doesn't feel real because it's been so long," she said, one arm around Karson, the other wrapped around her husband, whose hand stayed on his oldest son's shoulder. "It was hard [to carry out the surprise] because I don't keep secrets very well. I tend to accidentally say something, but I managed."

After the hugs — and probably more tears — each son knows what he wants to do first with his dad.

"I'll probably play my PS4 with him," Karson said.

Gavyn? Basketball. No FaceTime included.

"Being away from family, they get me through. It gives you something...the whole reason you're doing the job..." said Steven Zimmerman, trying to find adequate words to describe what his family means to him — sometimes the simple words are all you need. "It's something to come back to."



Kim Osbourne, a nurse with Palmetto Health Tuomey in Sumter, discusses what she loves about her career at Chestnut Oaks Middle School on Wednesday.

BRUCE MILLS / THE SUMTER ITEM

FORUM FROM PAGE A1

with Kaydon Corp., Robinson was then asked by a student if he had ever experienced failure in his job.

"Yes, everybody is going to have failure," Robinson said. "You're not just going to go out there, first gate, and be successful at every opportunity. You're going to fail. What makes a failure disappointing or bad is when you don't learn from it. Always learn from your mistakes."

Eighth-grader Dajan Vanburen, who wants to be an architectural engineer, said he learned at the forum that life is not all about money.

"Doing the right thing," Vanburen said, "and believing in yourself is important."

PROFESSIONAL PARTICIPANTS

- Ryan Cotto – Army Central Command, Shaw Air Force Base
- Kathryn Reaves – 20th Fighter Wing, Shaw Air Force Base
- Amanda Brugh – Thompson Construction Group
- Cindi McDuffie – Central Carolina Technical College
- Kim Osbourne – Palmetto Health Tuomey
- James Robinson – Kaydon Corp.
- Tara Wise – AllSouth Federal Credit Union

GUILTY FROM PAGE A1

victim said, he testified.

Looking at photographs he took of the crime scenes, DuBose pointed to a roll of silver duct tape and clear packing tape — used to bind the victim's hands and cover her mouth — that were found on the coffee table in the victim's living room.

No fingerprints were found on either roll of tape, he said.

The prosecution and defense gave their closing arguments after all of the evidence was presented and all witnesses testified.

There has been reasonable doubt throughout the trial, said public defender Michael Routzong, lead defense attorney.

He referenced inconsistencies in the victim's story such as when she told investigators she did not bathe after the incident but told the critical care nurse that she did. The victim's statement about washing was recorded by the nurse in a sexual assault evidence collection kit report.

The victim was specific about the times certain actions took place but was inconsistent with other statements, he said.

Routzong said he wondered about the victim's intentions after the incident because she waited until the next morning to tell anyone what happened, changed her clothes and made the bed where she was assaulted. But she left the tape on her wrist, he said.

He said it was possible that the victim was worried that McElveen — her only significant other since she became a widow in 2014 — was leaving her, had consensual intercourse with the defendant and regretted it the next morning.

Assistant Solicitor John Meadors' closing argument highlighted what he called the clear truths presented by the victim and the prosecution. This is a "she say and evidence say" case, he said.

It's clear the victim and defendant had a prior relationship, and it is clear that the defendant was angry because he thought the victim was having an affair during the relationship, he said.

Meadors showed the jury photos of the victim's wounds, describing what caused each injury. Those injuries are real, he said.

The victim did not give consent to any of the things done to her that night, he said. "And no means guilty in this case."

Why would the victim make up that story, have someone examine her body at the hospital and have people talk about her body in a public setting, Meadors asked.

There is no certain way a person will react after she has been raped, he said about the victim's hesitance to come forward.

At first, the victim did not want to tell what happened, Meadors said, perhaps because she still wanted to help McElveen because she knew he was leaving.

Though the relationship was over, the victim was still nice to the defendant and gave him food that night because that's the kind of person she is, he said.

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COMMENTARY

Lawmakers should reject Dominion's 'Trojan horse' deal

BY DANA BEACH

Editor's note: This column was originally published in the Jan. 18 edition of The Post and Courier.

The saga of South Carolina's nuclear plant financial meltdown continues. The latest installment features Virginia-based Dominion Energy with an offer we are told we can't refuse — a gift horse we shouldn't look in the mouth. But on closer examination, this horse resembles the one the Greeks delivered to Troy 3,000 years ago.

WHO PROFITS?

Dominion and South Carolina Electric & Gas parent SCANA claim the deal is fair and the only way to avert disaster. In fact, the transaction would result in the transfer of billions of dollars from SCANA customers to Dominion and SCANA shareholders. It would accomplish this by perpetuating the abusive regulatory arrangement that led to the largest financial disaster in South Carolina's history.

Although little has been written specifically about the financial aspects of the deal, some legislators (who, as a body, are responsible for the mess in the first place), seem skeptical about the extensively advertised benefits of the offer. Research by Wall Street securities analysts and other energy experts supports their skepticism.

Take, for example, Eric Selmon and Hugh Wynne, with Sector and Sovereign Research LLC, an investment research firm that focuses on the energy industry. Selmon and Wynne evaluated the Dominion proposal in a Jan. 4, 2018, report. Here is a summary of their review:

"Dominion's offer for SCANA, were it to close on the terms proposed, would be materially accretive to Dominion's earnings. From the standpoint of SCANA ratepayers, however, it would be a far less attractive option than the securitization of SCANA's unrecovered investment in V.C. Summer. ..."

In a nutshell, the Dominion deal is great for Dominion shareholders. It's great for SCANA shareholders, and it's a disaster for SCANA ratepayers. But there are other ways of getting out of the mess that would be substantially better for customers.

REJECT 'REBATE'

Meanwhile, Dominion's sales pitch begins with the stunning offer of \$1,000 — cash money up front, payable to every SCANA customer within 90 days of closing. "Call this number now to receive your check!" To this, the old saying applies: "If something looks too good to be true, it probably is."

The catch is that the offer requires the Legislature to retain the law, the Base Load Review Act, that created the problem. That way, Dominion can charge South Carolinians for \$3.5 billion that was wasted on the nuclear plant, on top of what we have been forced to spend on the debacle over the past 10 years.

The cash "rebate," totaling \$1.3 billion, represents the money Dominion would save because of the lower federal corporate tax rate, money that shareholders are already due, regardless of ownership. And the trick is that Dominion would get it back from customers over 20 years.

SSR's Wynne describes the cash offer as, "a loan to ratepayers to be recovered over 20 years in higher electricity rates and carrying an effective interest rate of 9.7 percent." Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey, R-Edgefield, has called the payment a "payday loan."

Mark Cooper, a senior research fellow for economic analysis at the Institute for Energy and the Environment at Vermont Law School, summarized the deal this way in last week's "Utility Dive," a trade publication:

"It is a sweet deal for Dominion, but, penny for penny, it is what ratepayers would get anyway. Dominion's deal is essentially a sham ..."

WHAT ABOUT RATES?

Currently, SCANA customers pay approximately 18 percent of their bill for the failed plant — that is, for nothing. Under the Dominion proposal, this would decline by about 5 percent. Even if this were an acceptable reduction — and it's not — these are largely savings that ratepayers would be entitled to anyway, because of the change in the tax rate. Or they represent reductions in nuclear plant costs that have yet to be approved by regulators, and probably won't be.

The savings estimates assume that everything SCANA has done to date with the nuclear plant will be confirmed as "prudent" by the S.C. Public Service Commission, the regulatory agency that sets utility rates. But the Bechtel report pointing out major flaws in design and construction and SCANA's attempts to withhold and amend that report make it unlikely that the company's actions will be deemed to have been prudent, and therefore unlikely that the expenditures would be eligible for reimbursement anyway.

BOTTOM LINE

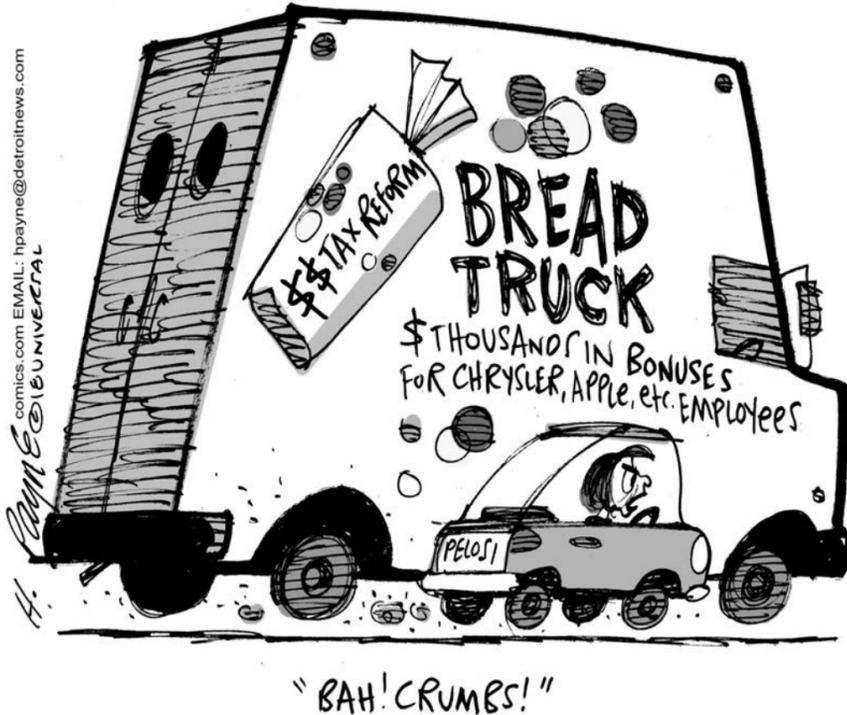
In essence, this deal adds up to savings that customers are entitled to anyway, or reductions to charges that may not have ever materialized. Furthermore, it locks in a stream of ill-gotten revenues over the coming two decades. Dominion's Trojan horse, promoted with full-page ads in newspapers around the state, is a masterpiece of smoke and mirrors.

The Virginia utility has offered a price that will raise SCANA's stock price by roughly 25 percent. This is good news for SCANA stockholders. Similarly, Dominion views this as a great deal for their own shareholders. Their slick public relations campaign, the scare tactics about SCANA's bankruptcy — Wall Street predicts a further decline in stock price but no bankruptcy — and their army of lobbyists in Columbia all confirm what analysts are predicting: the transaction will also enhance Dominion's stock value.

There is one basic reality we must keep in mind. In this transaction, Dominion is proposing to buy a stream of income from SCANA customers. But unlike a normal business operating in a free market, SCANA's stream of income is established by regulatory fiat — that is, it is set by the seven individuals, appointed by the Legislature, who sit on the PSC. By setting the stream of income, they also set the price Dominion will pay. Dominion has said as much.

With the Dominion offer, South Carolina faces a critically important decision that will determine the burden citizens must bear for the epically poor judgment of two utilities. Central to this decision is the question of whether we have the political courage and wisdom to repeal, in its entirety, the insidious law that led to the nuclear debacle, the Base Load Review Act, or whether we will succumb to pressure from Dominion and SCANA to continue business as usual.

Dana Beach is founder and executive director emeritus of the Coastal Conservation League.



EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

A recent editorial from a South Carolina newspaper:

THE INDEX-JOURNAL
Jan. 21

Improving school safety should be taken seriously

You know the expression: There are two sides to every story. More often than not, there are three sides. Somewhere between the two sides lies the true story.

Our hope is that somewhere in the middle exists the truth about how safe students are in Greenwood County School District 50 and about how the district prepares for — and is prepared for — worst-case scenarios. Somewhere in the middle, legitimate parents' concerns should be balanced against the district's responses to those concerns, as were aired this past week at the school board meeting. There is a tendency, especially among school boards and school administrators, to take a cavalier, we-know-best approach to day-to-day public school business.

That a number of weapons and potential weapons, namely BB guns and a .40-caliber handgun, have made their way into the district's schools is a legitimate concern. That a number of fights have occurred, some purported to be among gang-like members even at the middle school level, is a legitimate concern.

It is reasonable that the district does not want to jeopardize its safety measures by revealing every element and detail of those plans, a point made by Gerald Witt, assistant superintendent for administration, during last week's meeting. Witt did enumerate some of the measures in place, such as the number of cameras in schools and on

buses. He shared the district's investment in school resource officers, that school visitors cannot simply enter schools but must be "buzzed in." He noted there are hand-held metal detectors and that ID badges are implemented across the district.

Certainly we don't pretend to have the answers and the parents who showed up to and spoke at the board meeting last week don't claim to have all the answers regarding how to better ensure across-the-board school safety. That, however, does not mean the concerns raised should be dismissed. Nor does it mean the school board should simply accept the administration's responses to concerns at face value. Better and increased communication from the district with the public it works for is advisable and would go a long way toward bridging gaps of trust.

We hardly think school administrators, principals, teachers and board members themselves have no concerns for safety or that they would not want to seek ways to improve upon any and all plans already in place. But we do think the matter should be taken seriously and that the board should make this an ongoing discussion.

Committees can be the best approach to killing forward progress, but they also can be engines that drive progress, if given the tools and power to be effective. Toward that end and in an effort to mitigate safety concerns, both real and perceived, the board would do well to establish a committee consisting of some of its members, parents, administrators, teachers, staff and, perhaps, even students. This committee could re-examine measures in place and seek out best practices conducted within other school districts, and not just within South Carolina.

By bringing to the table a sampling of all those affected by a problem or potential problem, the likelihood of creating viable and effective solutions is exponentially increased.

Would that not be a win for all?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

MAYBE THERE'S A SWAMP AT THE POST OFFICE TO DRAIN TOO

I was prompted to write regarding the U.S. Postal Service when I read Mr. Duhon's letter to the editor in Tuesday's paper.

We live in the Wintergreen Subdivision and have had terrible service from the Shaw Post Office for about the past four months.

The first sign was when I came home and there was mail scattered all over my front lawn (it was thrown in the box so hard that it came out the other end). I called the postmaster, and he said that the carrier had a doctor's appointment and must have been in a hurry.

We have lived here for nine years, and there has never been a day, until about four months ago, when we didn't receive a bill, magazine or catalog.

I know we're not getting regular service because I leave mail in my box with the red flag up for pickup, and if they are delivering, they would see the flag and pick it up. Additionally, on two separate days this week alone we received mail that belonged

to someone from Manning and someone from Sumter.

Delivery was worse in December. I called the postmaster again and was told that since it was Christmas, their volume was up and they couldn't force the carriers to deliver after dark because they might hit someone. REALLY?

I wouldn't want to work at the post office in December, but isn't that their job, and shouldn't they be prepared for it?

Although I know there are many dedicated, hardworking carriers, it's very frustrating when something you depend on like the U.S. Postal Service just doesn't regularly deliver and they hold the monopoly on mail service.

Whatever happened to their slogan, "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds?" I don't know if the problem is the carriers or management, but maybe there's a swamp at the post office that needs to be drained, too.

COLLEEN HAKOLA
Sumter

AROUND TOWN

The American Red Cross is issuing an urgent call for blood and platelet donors. Severe winter weather has more than doubled the number of cancelled blood drives and the resulting blood and platelet donation shortfall. In South Carolina, winter weather conditions during the month of January have led to 25 blood drives being cancelled. Schedule your donation appointment by using the free Blood Donor App, by visiting www.redcrossblood.org or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Help save a life by participating in one of the following American Red Cross blood donation opportunities: 2-7 p.m. today, Grace Baptist Church, 219 W. Calhoun St.; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3, St. Francis Xavier High School, 15 School St.; 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6, YMCA of Sumter, 510 Miller Road; and 8:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14, Lake-wood High School, 350 Old Manning Road.

“Saturday Morning Coffee with the Judge” will be held from 9 a.m. until noon on Saturday, Jan. 27, at Trinity Missionary Baptist Church, 155 Wall St. This free seminar will help attendees learn about estate planning. Featured topics include use of wills to pass assets to heirs and beneficiaries; burial policies / insurance policies; and burial plots. Refreshments provided and door prizes to include preparation of Last Will and Testament. Call the church office at (803) 775-4041 to register for the event.

Scholarship Bootcamp: Manning High School Edition will be held 9 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Jan. 27, in the lecture hall of Manning High School, 2155 Paxville Highway, Manning. Services will include essay writing assistance, assistance in completing scholarship packets, college resumés assistance and institutional scholarship search. Students need to sign up by speaking with a counselor in the guidance office.

The Sumter County Democrats will host its 2018 Precinct Reorganization at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 27, at the Sumter County Judicial Center, 215 N. Harvin

St., in the jury meeting room on the first floor. All local Democrats are encouraged to attend to elect precinct leaders to serve the county party. Contact Allen Bailey at (803) 316-1976 or sumter-democratssc@gmail.com.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 202 will meet from 1 to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 27, at 310 Palmetto St. Call Barbara at (803) 607-3910.

The Sumter County Historical Society will meet at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 28, at Temple Sinai, Church Street. Elizabeth Moses, of the Sumter County Museum, will present an update on the partnership of the temple and the museum along with providing insight into the history of the temple and the plans for the future.

VFW Post 10813 will hold a “4th Sunday Wine & Cheese Affair” from 5 to 9 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 28, at 610 Manning Ave. Come and support our veterans and families programs.

The Network Organization of Women will host a free legal workshop with South Carolina Legal Aide Services 1-3 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 31, at the Sumter County Library, 111 N. Harvin St. Featured topics will include landlord and tenant, foreclosure, probate and family law (divorce, custody, foster care, etc.). Pre-registration before Jan. 29 is required either online at www.yournowonlinehelp.org or by calling toll free (866) 376-4767.

The Lee County Branch of the NAACP will sponsor its annual Freedom Fund Banquet at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3, at the Lee Central High School cafeteria, 1800 Wisacky Highway, Bishopville. Retired Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department Detective Garry McFadden, of Investigation Discovery’s “I Am Homicide,” will speak. Tickets for the event are \$25 and must be purchased in advance from a committee member. For additional information, email nasia500@yahoo.com.

The Lincoln High School Class of 1964 will meet at 11 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 5, at the Historic Lincoln Center conference room, 20 Council St. For additional information, call (803) 773-3804 or (808) 775-9660.

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2018

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Plenty of sunshine	Clear and cold	Partly sunny and pleasant	Times of clouds and sun	Occasional rain	Mostly sunny
56°	28°	61° / 40°	66° / 53°	67° / 41°	61° / 30°
Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 5%	Chance of rain: 70%	Chance of rain: 5%
NNE 4-8 mph	VAR 2-4 mph	E 4-8 mph	ESE 4-8 mph	S 4-8 mph	N 7-14 mph

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

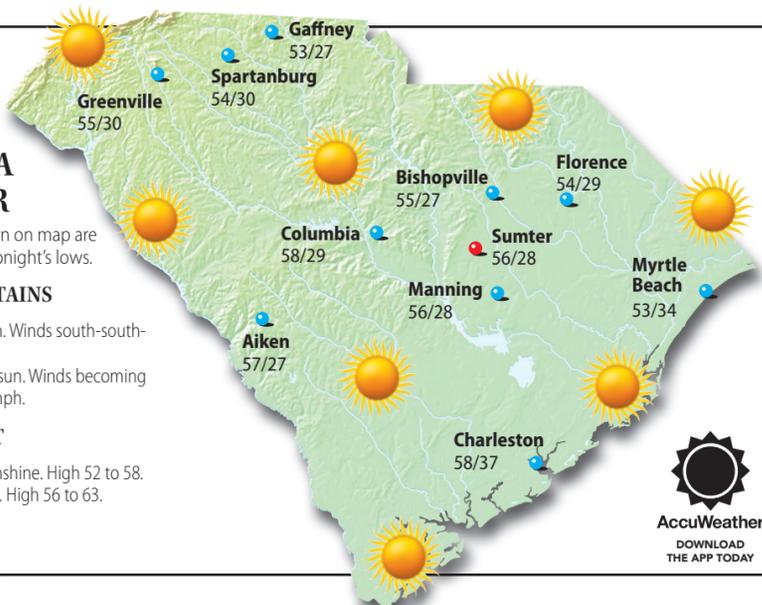
Temperatures shown on map are today's highs and tonight's lows.

IN THE MOUNTAINS

Today: Plenty of sun. Winds south-southwest 3-6 mph. Clear.
Friday: Clouds and sun. Winds becoming east-southeast 4-8 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: Plenty of sunshine. High 52 to 58.
Friday: Partly sunny. High 56 to 63.



LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THROUGH 2 P.M. YESTERDAY

Temperature	High	Low	Normal high	Normal low	Record high	Record low
	58°	37°	55°	33°	80° in 1974	12° in 2003

Precipitation	24 hrs ending 2 p.m. yest.	Month to date	Normal month to date	Year to date	Last year to date	Normal year to date
	0.00"	0.92"	3.09"	0.92"	4.51"	3.09"

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	353.95	+0.04
Marion	76.8	73.39	+0.08
Moultrie	75.5	73.57	+0.25
Wateree	100	97.07	+0.31

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	7.27	-0.16
Congaree River	19	3.60	-0.60
Lynches River	14	5.28	-0.05
Saluda River	14	3.79	+1.29
Up. Santee River	80	75.94	+0.42
Wateree River	24	7.86	+2.69

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	7:23 a.m.	Sunset	5:45 p.m.
Moonrise	12:31 p.m.	Moonset	1:04 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
Jan. 31	Feb. 7	Feb. 15	Feb. 23

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH				
	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	2:26 a.m.	2.8	9:37 a.m.	0.3
	2:55 p.m.	2.6	9:59 p.m.	-0.1
Fri.	3:32 a.m.	3.0	10:48 a.m.	0.2
	4:03 p.m.	2.6	11:02 p.m.	-0.3

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Fri.
Atlanta	57/34/s	58/44/pc
Chicago	43/34/pc	53/40/pc
Dallas	67/49/s	63/58/c
Detroit	37/28/pc	47/41/pc
Houston	64/49/pc	66/56/c
Los Angeles	63/47/pc	66/46/s
New Orleans	59/46/s	67/57/c
New York	34/23/s	39/32/s
Orlando	67/53/pc	69/60/pc
Philadelphia	38/23/s	44/32/s
Phoenix	75/47/s	69/44/s
San Francisco	54/44/sh	54/43/pc
Wash., DC	44/28/s	51/38/s

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Fri.	City	Today	Fri.
Asheville	50/26/s	52/32/pc	Florence	54/29/s	60/39/pc
Athens	58/29/s	59/40/pc	Gastonia	54/28/s	58/36/pc
Augusta	59/27/s	63/43/pc	Goldsboro	51/28/s	58/35/s
Beaufort	58/36/s	63/48/pc	Goose Creek	57/33/s	63/47/pc
Cape Hatteras	43/34/s	47/43/s	Greensboro	49/28/s	55/33/s
Charleston	58/37/s	63/49/pc	Greenville	55/30/s	57/37/pc
Charlotte	53/29/s	58/36/pc	Hickory	51/28/s	55/32/s
Clemson	55/32/s	57/40/pc	Hilton Head	56/39/s	61/50/pc
Columbia	58/29/s	62/41/pc	Jacksonville, FL	59/43/s	64/55/pc
Darlington	54/28/s	60/37/pc	La Grange	60/33/s	61/46/pc
Elizabeth City	47/28/s	51/35/s	Macon	61/31/s	63/47/pc
Elizabethtown	52/27/s	59/36/s	Marietta	55/31/s	56/41/pc
Fayetteville	53/29/s	59/36/s	Marion	53/25/s	55/30/s
			Mt. Pleasant	56/38/s	62/50/pc
			Myrtle Beach	53/34/s	57/44/s
			Orangeburg	56/29/s	61/41/pc
			Port Royal	55/38/s	59/49/pc
			Raleigh	49/28/s	56/32/s
			Rock Hill	54/28/s	59/36/pc
			Rockingham	53/26/s	58/34/s
			Savannah	59/38/s	63/50/pc
			Spartanburg	54/30/s	57/37/pc
			Summerville	57/32/s	63/45/pc
			Wilmington	53/31/s	57/40/s
			Winston-Salem	49/28/s	55/34/s

PUBLIC AGENDA

SUMTER COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Today, 7:30 a.m., Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce boardroom, 32 E. Calhoun St.

The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): What you do for others might not be appreciated.

Don't let anyone take you for granted. Take care of your responsibilities before you invest your time in helping others. Don't let an emotional matter interfere with your responsibilities.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep moving forward. Refuse to let anyone interfere with your progress. Set your goal and don't stop until you reach your destination. Refuse to let emotional issues lead to indulgent behavior. Protect and nurture important relationships.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Deal with money, legal and medical matters realistically. Have a plan in place and only share it with people who are dependable. There is money to be made if you are smart with your investments. Moderation is encouraged. Simplify your life.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Strike up a friendship with someone who has something to offer you in return. A partnership will give you more time to dedicate to what you do best. Taking time to rejuvenate will be necessary. Don't abuse your health.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Moderation will be necessary. Keep your life simple and uncomplicated. Strive for personal growth, greater understanding and meaningful interactions with others. Say "no" to excessive behavior and verbal abuse.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can pick up valuable information if you participate in networking functions, conferences or classes. Adding to your knowledge, skills and experience will result in unusual opportunities. Avoid donating or investing in something you know

little about.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be offered something that sounds good in theory, but is likely to fall short when put into play. You are better off investing more time and energy into perfecting your skills and adding to your qualifications.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll avoid a scene if you deal with work or personal relationship matters in a diplomatic manner. Emotional stress will lead to ill health and personal loss if you aren't careful. Try to avoid being used or taken for granted.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll have the discipline to get things done. Pull out your to-do list and start at the top. The more organized you are, the better you will feel and the more you will be able to accomplish throughout the day.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll be able to make positive changes. Partnerships are favored, and working alongside like-minded people will encourage success. The cause of emotional stress should be handled quickly. Walk away from toxic situations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Help those close to you. Remember that charity begins at home and you need to protect those you love. Communication and travel will lead to knowledge and clear choices. Your intuition will not disappoint you or lead you astray.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take care of your physical and emotional health. Listen to expert advice and find ways to alter your routine to accommodate better dietary habits and required exercise. A unique opportunity can turn into a prosperous venture. Protect your secrets and personal information.

We have a NOSE for NEWS

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

the Sumter ITEM



PICTURES FROM THE PUBLIC



Sterling Boyd shares a photo he took of the Church of the Transfiguration on Kizhi Island on Lake Onega in Russia. The church was built in 1714 and is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The church is constructed entirely of wood without the use of a single nail.

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

COMMENTARY

To Duke or not to Duke?



LEFT: Spartanburg Day's Zion Williamson (12) flies in for a shot over Christian Academy's Jaylen Matthews (12) during last year's SCISA 2A state basketball tournament at the Sumter County Civic Center. Williamson and the Griffins won the title. RIGHT: Williamson winds up for a monster dunk, a scene sure to repeat itself at this year's tournament, which gets underway on Feb. 16.

If he only plays 1 year at Duke, could Zion have had greater impact at a state school?

First things first. This is not written in any way to denigrate Zion Williamson for his decision to play college basketball at Duke University. The 6-foot-6-inch phenom from Spartanburg Day School laid out his reasons for going to arguably the best program in the country for the past four decades in eloquent fashion.

While it hurt instate college basketball fans that he turned down both South Carolina and Clemson — especially the Tiger fans who had heard from most of the recruiting pundits that Clemson would be his choice — he isn't the first big-time instate recruit to do so and he



Dennis Brunson

certainly won't be the last. In reality, he owes nothing to those schools and he spoke highly of both of them in their recruitment of him. His choice came about more because of Duke being Duke than anything USC or Clemson did wrong.

Which brings me to the point of this column.

If I were in Williamson's shoes and facing the same circumstances, I don't think I would have gone to a blue blood program like Duke or Kentucky. Thank

goodness though that Williamson chose Duke over UK.

When you're predicted to be a one-and-done college player before moving on to the National Basketball Association, a player is going to have to have a tremendous impact to be remembered among the greats at a program with a pedigree like Duke's. That doesn't mean Williamson will not go down as one of the all-time greats at Duke, but there is a lot of greatness to which he will be compared, starting with the other three top 10 players in his recruiting class.

SEE ZION, PAGE B2

PRO BASEBALL

Chipper Jones, 3 others elected to baseball's Hall of Fame

BY BEN WALKER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Chipper Jones, Jim Thome, Vladimir Guerrero and Trevor Hoffman were elected to the baseball Hall of Fame.

Designated hitter Edgar Martinez came close after a grass-roots campaign to boost him. Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens, both tainted by the steroids scandal, edged up but again fell far short.

Jones and Thome made it 54 players elected in their first year of eligibility by members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Jones drew 97.2 percent (410 of 422) in results announced Wednesday, and Thome was at 89.8 percent.

"It was waterworks," Jones said after hearing the vote.

Jones was an eight-time All-Star third baseman for the Atlanta Braves. The switch-hitter batted .303 with 468 home runs.

Jones was a force for most of the Atlanta teams that won 14 straight division titles — his election puts another member of those Braves clubs in Cooperstown, along with pitchers John Smoltz, Tom Glavine and Greg Maddux, manager Bobby Cox and general manager John Schuerholz.

Thome hit 612 home runs, putting him eighth on the career list. The five-time All-Star played mostly for the Cleveland Indians.

Guerrero was elected in his second try, getting 92.9 percent. The nine-time All-Star



JONES



THOME



GUERRERO



HOFFMAN

SEE FAME, PAGE B2

USC MEN'S BASKETBALL

Gamecocks rain 3s, drop Gators 77-72

BY MARK LONG
AP Sports Writer

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Wesley Myers scored a season-high 22 points, Chris Silva added a double-double and South Carolina upset No. 20 Florida 77-72 on Wednesday night.

Silva finished with 18 points and 12 rebounds for the Gamecocks, who won the Elite Eight rematch from last year's NCAA Tournament.

South Carolina knocked off the Gators in that one thanks to 42 points in the paint. Coach Frank Martin's team won this one from the 3-point line.

The Gamecocks (13-7, 4-4 Southeastern Conference) hit 11 of 21 shots from beyond the arc, matching their most 3s all season. Myers was 5 of 7 from 3-point range, taking advantage of the league's worst team at defending the 3.

The Gators (14-6, 6-2) led by 11 in the first half and were up 48-39 early in the second. But they had no answer for

SOUTH CAROLINA 77
NO. 20 FLORIDA 72

SOUTH CAROLINA (13-7)
Kotsar 3-6 2-2 9, Silva 5-9 8-9 18, Minaya 2-5 0-0 6, Myers 8-15 1-2 22, Hinson 3-6 0-0 8, Haase 1-4 3-4 5, Cudd 0-0 0-0 0, Gueye 0-0 0-0 0, Booker 1-3 4-4 7, Gravett 1-4 0-1 2, Beatty 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 24-55 18-22 77.

FLORIDA (14-6)
Stone 1-3 0-2 2, Hayes 2-5 0-0 4, Koulechov 6-11 3-3 16, Allen 5-15 2-3 15, Chiozza 2-7 6-6 10, Bassett 2-2 5-7 9, Gak 0-1 0-0 0, Ballard 0-0 0-0 0, Okauru 0-0 0-0 0, Hudson 6-12 2-2 16. Totals 24-56 18-23 72.

Halftime: South Carolina 39-37, 3-Point Goals: South Carolina 11-21 (Myers 5-7, Minaya 2-3, Hinson 2-4, Kotsar 1-1, Booker 1-2, Gravett 0-1, Beatty 0-1, Haase 0-2), Florida 6-23 (Allen 3-9, Hudson 2-6, Koulechov 1-4, Stone 0-2, Chiozza 0-2). Fouled Out: None. Rebounds: South Carolina 29 (Silva 12), Florida 27 (Koulechov 8). Assists: South Carolina 14 (Kotsar, Myers 4), Florida 10 (Chiozza 8). Total Fouls: South Carolina 19, Florida 17. A 10,550 (10,133).

Myers outside and Silva down low.

Frank Booker sealed the victory by hitting four free throws in the final 40 seconds.

Florida won eight of its previous nine games to return to the rankings for the first time in more than a month.

Egor Koulechov and Jalen Hudson led Florida



South Carolina's David Beatty (0) dribbles against Florida's Jalen Hudson (3) during the Gamecocks' 77-72 victory on Wednesday in Gainesville, Florida.

with 16 points apiece. KeVaughn Allen added 15 for the Gators, who shot 6 of 23 from 3-point range.

Florida had a great chance to tie the game

with two minutes to play, but teammates turned the ball over while fighting for a rebound. Silva sank a jumper a few seconds later to make it 73-68.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

USC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



AP FILE PHOTO

A'ja Wilson is back in the lineup for ninth-ranked South Carolina after missing a few games with a sprained ankle, and just in time as the Gamecocks prepare for one of their most challenging stretches of the season.

USC women getting healthy at right time

COLUMBIA (AP) — South Carolina is getting healthier — and at exactly the right time for the defending national champions.

The ninth-ranked Gamecocks (16-3, 5-2 Southeastern Conference) have been snake-bit by injuries at times this season, including earlier this month when All-American forward A'ja Wilson missed two games — including an 86-70 loss to No. 10 Tennessee on Jan. 14 — with a sprained right ankle.

SEE WILSON, PAGE B2

SCOREBOARD

TV, RADIO

TODAY

6 a.m. — Professional Tennis: Australian Open Men's and Women's Singles Semifinal Matches from Melbourne, Australia (TENNIS).
6:30 a.m. — Professional Golf: European PGA Tour Omega Dubai Desert Classic First Round from Dubai, United Arab Emirates (GOLF).
11:30 a.m. — LPGA Golf: Pure Silk Bahamas LPGA Classic First Round from Paradise Island, Bahamas (GOLF).
Noon — Figure Skating: Four Continents Championships from Taipei City, Taiwan — Free Dance Competition (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
1 p.m. — Professional Tennis: Australian Open Men's Singles Semifinal Match from Melbourne, Australia (ESPN2).
1 p.m. — College Football: Senior Bowl Practice from Mobile, Ala. (NFL NETWORK).
1:30 p.m. — College Football: Senior Bowl Practice from Mobile, Ala. (ESPN).
2 p.m. — Figure Skating: Four Continents Championships from Taipei City, Taiwan — Men's Short Program (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
3 p.m. — PGA Golf: Farmers Insurance Open First Round from La Jolla, Calif. (GOLF).
3 p.m. — College Football: Senior Bowl Practice from Mobile, Ala. (NFL NETWORK).
4 p.m. — College Football: Senior Bowl Practice from Mobile, Ala. (ESPN).
5 p.m. — Professional Tennis: Australian Open Men's and Women's Semifinal Matches from Melbourne, Australia (TENNIS).
6:05 p.m. — Talk Show: Sports Talk (WDXY-FM 105.9, WDXY-AM 1240).
6:30 p.m. — Women's College Basketball: Arkansas at South Carolina (SEC NETWORK, WNKT-FM 107.5).
7 p.m. — College Basketball: Southern Methodist at Connecticut (CBS SPORTS NETWORK).
7 p.m. — College Basketball: Michigan at Purdue (ESPN).
7 p.m. — Women's College Basketball: Teas at Baylor (ESPN2).
7 p.m. — College Basketball: Morehead State at Murray State (ESPN).
7 p.m. — Women's College Basketball: North Carolina State at Wake Forest (FOX SPORTSOUTH).
7:30 p.m. — NHL Hockey: Chicago at Detroit (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
7:30 p.m. — NHL Hockey: Carolina at Montreal (FOX SPORTS SOUTHEAST).
7:30 p.m. — College Basketball: Texas (San Antonio) at Middle Tennessee State (SPECTRUM 1250).
8 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Washington at Oklahoma City (TNT).
8:30 p.m. — College Basketball: Colorado at Arizona (FOX SPORTS 1).
8:30 p.m. — Women's College Basketball: Florida at Mississippi State (SEC NETWORK).
9 p.m. — Women's College Basketball: St. Mary's (Calif.) at Brigham Young (BYUTV).
9 p.m. — College Basketball: LIU (Brooklyn) at Mount St. Mary's (CBS SPORTS NETWORK).
9 p.m. — NFL Football: Pro Bowl Skills Showdown from Orlando, Fla. (ESPN).
9 p.m. — College Basketball: Central Florida at Wichita State (ESPN2).
9 p.m. — College Basketball: South Florida at Tulane (ESPN).
10:30 p.m. — College Basketball: California at UCLA (FOX SPORTS 1).
10:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Minnesota at Golden State (TNT).
11 p.m. — College Basketball: Brigham Young at St. Mary's (Calif.) (ESPN2).
11 p.m. — College Basketball: Gonzaga at Portland (ESPN).
11 p.m. — Professional Tennis: Australian Open Mixed Doubles Semifinal Matches and Women's Doubles Championship Match from Melbourne, Australia (TENNIS).
3:30 a.p.m. — Professional Tennis: Australian Open Men's Singles Semifinal Match from Melbourne, Australia (ESPN2).
3:30 a.m. — Professional Golf: European PGA Tour Omega Dubai Desert Classic Second Round from Dubai, United Arab Emirates (GOLF).

PREP SCHEDULE

TODAY

Junior Varsity Basketball
 Lakewood at Darlington, 6 p.m.
 Lee Central at North Central, 6 p.m.
B Team Basketball
 Wilson Hall at Trinity-Byrnes, 6 p.m.
 Thomas Sumter at Dillon Christian, 4 p.m.
Middle School Basketball
 Hillcrest at Alice Drive, 5 p.m.
 Chestnut Oaks at Bates, 5 p.m.
 Furman at Ebenezer, 5 p.m.
 Manning at Mayewood, 5 p.m.
 Lee Central at C.E. Murray, 5:30 p.m.
Varsity Bowling
 Wilson Hall, Laurence Manning, Thomas Sumter, Robert E. Lee in SCISA Individual State Tournament (at Gamecock Lanes), 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Varsity Basketball
 Crestwood at Camden, 6 p.m.
 Darlington at Lakewood, 6 p.m.
 North Central at Lee Central, 6 p.m.
 East Clarendon at Hannah-Pamplico, 6 p.m.
Varsity and JV Basketball
 West Florence at Sumter (Boys Only), 6 p.m.
 Sumter at West Florence (Girls Only), 6 p.m.
 Lake Marion at Manning, 4:30 p.m.
 Wilson Hall at Florence Christian, 4 p.m.
 Orangeburg Prep at Laurence Manning, 4 p.m.
 Williamsburg at Thomas Sumter, 4 p.m.
 Northside Christian at Robert E. Lee, 4 p.m.
 Sumter Christian at Step of Faith Christian, 4 p.m.
Junior Varsity Basketball
 Hannah-Pamplico at East Clarendon, 5:30 p.m.
B Team Basketball
 Williamsburg at Thomas Sumter, 5 p.m.

SATURDAY

Varsity and JV Basketball
 Camden Military at Thomas Sumter (Boys Only), 4:30 p.m.
 Augusta Prep at Thomas Sumter (Girls Only), 2 p.m.
Junior Varsity Basketball
 Sumter, Crestwood in Sumter JV-B Team Invitational, TBA
B Team Basketball
 Sumter in Sumter JV-B Team Invitational, TBA
Varsity Wrestling
 Sumter in Region VI-5A Tournament (at Socastee High School), 10 a.m.

NFL PLAYOFFS

WILD-CARD PLAYOFFS

Saturday, Jan. 6
 Tennessee 22, Kansas City 21
 Atlanta 26, Los Angeles Rams 13
Sunday, Jan. 7
 Jacksonville 10, Buffalo 3
 New Orleans 31, Carolina 26

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

Saturday, Jan. 13
 Philadelphia 15, Atlanta 10
 New England 35, Tennessee 14
Sunday, Jan. 14
 Jacksonville 45, Pittsburgh 42
 Minnesota 29, New Orleans 24

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sunday, Jan. 21

AFC
 New England 24, Jacksonville 20
NFC
 Philadelphia 38, Minnesota 7

PRO BOWL

Sunday, Jan. 28
At Orlando, Fla.
 AFC vs. NFC, 3 p.m. (ESPN/ABC)
SUPER BOWL
Sunday, Feb. 4
At Minneapolis
 New England vs. Philadelphia, 6:30 p.m. (NBC)

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	34	14	.708	—
Toronto	31	14	.689	1½
Philadelphia	22	21	.512	9½
New York	21	27	.438	13
Brooklyn	18	30	.375	16

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	27	20	.574	—
Washington	26	21	.553	1
Charlotte	19	26	.422	7
Atlanta	14	32	.304	12½
Orlando	14	33	.298	13

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	27	19	.587	—
Indiana	25	22	.532	2½
Milwaukee	24	22	.522	3
Detroit	22	23	.489	4½
Chicago	18	29	.383	9½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	33	12	.733	—
San Antonio	31	18	.633	4
New Orleans	25	21	.543	8½
Memphis	17	29	.370	16½
Dallas	16	31	.340	18

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	31	18	.633	—
Oklahoma City	27	20	.574	3
Portland	25	22	.532	5
Denver	24	23	.511	6
Utah	19	28	.404	11

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	38	10	.792	—
L.A. Clippers	23	23	.500	14
L.A. Lakers	18	29	.383	19½
Phoenix	17	30	.362	20½
Sacramento	14	33	.298	23½

TUESDAY

Sacramento 105, Orlando 99
 Oklahoma City 109, Brooklyn 108
 San Antonio 114, Cleveland 102
 Golden State 123, New York 112
 L.A. Lakers 108, Boston 107

WEDNESDAY

Chicago at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
 New Orleans at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
 Phoenix at Indiana, 7 p.m.
 Utah at Detroit, 7 p.m.
 Toronto at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
 Houston at Dallas, 8 p.m.
 San Antonio at Memphis, 8 p.m.
 Minnesota at Portland, 10 p.m.
 Boston at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

TODAY

Sacramento at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
 Washington at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
 New York at Denver, 9 p.m.
 Minnesota at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Atlanta at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
 Indiana at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
 Utah at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
 Brooklyn at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
 Houston at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
 L.A. Clippers at Memphis, 8 p.m.
 L.A. Lakers at Chicago, 8 p.m.
 Philadelphia at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
 Portland at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
 New York at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

Oklahoma City at Detroit, 5 p.m.
 Orlando at Indiana, 7 p.m.
 Charlotte at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
 Washington at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
 Boston at Golden State, 8:30 p.m.
 Brooklyn at Minnesota, 9 p.m.
 Dallas at Denver, 9 p.m.

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	48	33	12	3	69	170	124
Boston	46	28	10	8	64	153	114
Toronto	49	26	18	5	57	155	143
Detroit	47	19	20	8	46	125	141
Montreal	48	20	22	6	46	124	150
Florida	46	19	21	6	44	130	154
Ottawa	46	15	22	9	39	122	163
Buffalo	48	13	26	9	35	110	163

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	48	28	15	5	61	146	136
New Jersey	47	24	15	8	56	144	143
Philadelphia	48	24	16	8	56	140	136
Columbus	48	26	19	3	55	129	136
Pittsburgh	50	26	21	3	55	145	150
N.Y. Rangers	49	24	20	5	53	147	146
N.Y. Islanders	49	24	20	5	53	170	179
Carolina	48	21	19	8	50	131	149

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Winnipeg	49	29	13	7	65	161	132
Nashville	46	28	11	7	63	142	123
St. Louis	50	29	18	3	61	145	129
Dallas	49	28	17	4	60	154	130
Colorado	47	27	17	3	57	156	136
Minnesota	48	26	17	5	57	141	134
Chicago	47	22	19	6	50	139	132

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	47	32	11	4	68	163	126
San Jose	47	26	14	7	59	138	127
Calgary	47	25	16	6	56	133	129
Los Angeles	48	25	18	5	55	137	120
Anaheim	49	23	17	9	55	137	138
Edmonton	48	21	24	3	45	131	154
Vancouver	48	19	23	6	44	127	155
Arizona	49	12	28	9	33	117	170

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.

TUESDAY

Pittsburgh 3, Carolina 1
 Boston 3, New Jersey 2
 Philadelphia 3, Detroit 2, OT
 Montreal 4, Colorado 2
 St. Louis 3, Ottawa 0
 Tampa Bay 4, Nashville 3, OT
 Dallas 6, Florida 1
 Buffalo 5, Edmonton 0
 Vegas 6, Columbus 3
 Anaheim 6, N.Y. Rangers 3
 Vancouver 6, Los Angeles 2
 Winnipeg 5, San Jose 4, OT

WEDNESDAY

Toronto at Chicago, 8 p.m.
 Los Angeles at Calgary, 10 p.m.

TODAY

Tampa Bay at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
 Minnesota at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
 Nashville at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
 Boston at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
 Chicago at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
 Washington at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
 Carolina at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
 Colorado at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
 Toronto at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
 Columbus at Arizona, 9 p.m.
 Calgary at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
 Buffalo at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
 N.Y. Islanders at Vegas, 10 p.m.
 Winnipeg at Anaheim, 10 p.m.
 N.Y. Rangers at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S TOP 25 RESULTS

TUESDAY

- Villanova (19-1) beat Providence 89-69. Next: at Marquette, Sunday.
- Virginia (19-1) beat No. 18 Clemson 61-36. Next: at No. 4 Duke, Saturday.
- Purdue (19-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 25 Michigan, Thursday.
- Duke (18-2) beat Wake Forest 84-70. Next: vs. No. 2 Virginia, Saturday.
- Kansas (16-4) lost to No. 12 Oklahoma 85-80. Next: vs. Texas A&M, Saturday.
- Michigan State (18-3) did not play. Next: vs. Wisconsin, Friday.
- West Virginia (16-4) did not play. Next: vs. Kentucky, Saturday.
- Xavier (18-3) did not play. Next: vs. Marquette, Wednesday.
- Cincinnati (17-2) did not play. Next: vs. Temple, Wednesday.
- North Carolina (16-5) did not play. Next: vs. N.C. State, Saturday.
- Arizona (16-4) did not play. Next: vs. Colorado, Thursday.
- Oklahoma (15-4) beat No. 5 Kansas 85-80. Next: at Alabama, Saturday.
- Ohio State (18-4) did not play. Next: vs. Penn State, Thursday.
- Texas Tech (16-4) beat Oklahoma State 75-70. Next: at South Carolina, Saturday.
- Gonzaga (17-4) did not play. Next: at Portland, Thursday.
- Saint Mary's 19-2) did not play. Next: vs. BYU, Thursday.
- Wichita State (15-4) did not play. Next: vs. UCF, Thursday.
- Clemson (16-4) lost to No. 2 Virginia 61-36. Next: at Georgia Tech, Sunday.
- Auburn (17-2) did not play. Next: at Missouri, Wednesday.
- Florida (14-5) did not play. Next: vs. South Carolina, Wednesday.
- Arizona State (15-4) did not play. Next: vs. Utah, Thursday.
- Tennessee (14-5) beat Vanderbilt 67-62. Next: at Iowa State, Saturday.
- Nevada (18-3) did not play. Next: at Wyoming, Wednesday.
- Rhode Island (15-3) did not play. Next: at Fordham, Wednesday.
- Michigan (17-5) did not play. Next: at No. 3 Purdue, Thursday.

TRANSACTIONS

WEDNESDAY

MLB AMERICAN LEAGUE

DETROIT TIGERS — Agreed to terms with RHP Matt West. LHPs James Russell and Caleb Thielbar and INF Alexi Amarista on minor league contracts.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Agreed to terms with INF Ryan Goins on a minor league contract.
MINNESOTA TWINS — LHP Glen Perkins announced his retirement.
TEXAS RANGERS — Named Juan Leonel Garcia director/youth academy and youth baseball/softball programs.

MLB NATIONAL LEAGUE

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Designated SS Engelb Vielma for assignment.

SPORTS ITEMS

Wilson Hall 3rd, REL 4th in SCISA bowling tourney

Wilson Hall placed third and Robert E. Lee Academy fourth in the girls division of the SCISA Team Bowling Championships on Thursday, Jan. 18, at Gamecock Lanes.

Heathwood Hall won the state title with a 3-game score of 454. Cardinal Newman was second with 365 followed by Wilson Hall with 359 and REL with 338.

The WH team included Hayley DuBose, Lauryn Bell, Ashley Cranshaw, Emily Bell, Kelly Brady and Bridget Anderson.

The REL team included Santana Christmas, Kaitlyn Hancock, Caroline Johnson, Courtney King and Maddy Sims.

LEBRON JAMES BECOMES SEVENTH TO REACH 30,000 CAREER POINTS

SAN ANTONIO — LeBron James has joined the NBA's 30,000-point club. James became the seventh player with 30,000 career points when he hit a jumper with one second left in the first quarter of the Cleveland Cavaliers' game against the San Antonio Spurs on Tuesday night.

James was recognized by the arena before the second quarter and got a standing ovation from Spurs fans. James patted his heard and said "thank you so much."

James needed seven points Tuesday to get there. He missed his first two midrange jumpers before making two driving layups and a 20-footer. He hit the milestone jumper over Danny Green from 19 feet out.

FEDERER IN AUSTRALIAN OPEN SEMIFINAL AGAINST CHUNG

MELBOURNE, Australia — Roger Federer beat long-time rival Tomas Berdych to set up an Australian Open semifinal against Hyeon Chung, a champion of the so-called Next Generation.

Defending champion Federer extended his winning streak to 14 in Australian Open quarterfinals and to nine in a personal duel with Berdych that dates to the 2004 Olympics. The 19-time major winner wins that head-to-head contest 20-6, including all five meetings at Melbourne Park.

The 36-year-old Swiss star overcame a shaky start, dropping his opening service game and uncharacteristically challenging the chair umpire because of a technological fault, before winning 7-6 (1), 6-3, 6-4 on Wednesday night.

"I had to get a bit lucky. A bit angry. A bit frustrating maybe at the umpire," Federer said. "Anyway, glad to get out of that first set. It was key to the match."

BOYS AREA ROUNDUP

Barons edge Generals 50-47

DALZELL — A low-scoring second quarter proved to be fatal for Thomas Sumter Academy's varsity boys basketball team as it lost to Wilson Hall 50-47 on Tuesday at Edens Gymnasium.

The Barons improved to 8-8 on the season while the Generals slipped to 7-7.

TSA led by five, 15-10, after one quarter but managed just four points in the second. Wilson Hall led 21-19 at halftime and stretched the lead to five, 34-29, after three quarters. TSA had its chances late as the Barons hit just 3 of 12 free throw attempts in the final quarter, but the Generals came up just short in the end.

Both teams struggled with free-throw shooting as Wilson Hall connected on just 10 of 19 shots while TSA closed at an even 50 percent, hitting on 5 of 10 shots.

Daulton Dabbs closed with 12 points and Chandler Scott added 11 for Wilson Hall while Eli Kessinger scored 13 to pace TSA.

**HARTSVILLE 67
LAKEWOOD 65**

HARTSVILLE — Lakewood High School suffered its first loss in Region VI-4A, falling to Hartsville 67-65 on Tuesday at the HHS gymnasium.

Juwan Perdue had 20 points to lead the Gators, who fell to 12-9 overall and 3-1 in region play. Terrell Houston added 18 and Grant Singleton 14.

Lakewood will play host to Darlington on Friday with first place in the region on the line.

**LEE CENTRAL 56
CHESTERFIELD 40**

CHESTERFIELD — Lee Central improved to 7-0 in Region IV-2A with a 56-40 victory over Chesterfield on Tuesday at the CHS gymnasium.

Amadric Mixon led the 15-3 Stallions with 13 points. DaVeon Thomas and Treson Pringle each added nine points and Daequan Thomas added seven.

**CLARENDON HALL 80
HOLLY HILL 61**

SUMMERTON — Zyan Gilmore scored 33 points and grabbed nine rebounds to lead Clarendon Hall to an 80-61 victory over Holly Hill on Monday at the CH gymnasium.

Dylan Way added 15 points for the Saints, who improved to 8-1 in SCISA Region III-1A. Tyrese Mitchell added 11 and Kade Elliott had 10.

**EAST CLARENDON 52
GREEN SEA-FLOYDS 49**

TURBEVILLE — East Clarendon High School defeated Green Sea-Floyds 52-49 on Tuesday at the EC gymnasium.

Tyjai Calvin led the Wolverines with 28 points. Jalen Bryant added 10.

Shaq Johnson led GSF with 22.

GREEN SEA FLOYDS
Johnson 22, Campbell 10, Dixon 10, Gillard 4, Scott 1.

EAST CLARENDON
Calvin 28, Bryant 10, Fullard 5, Sherriod 9.

**HANAHAN 53
MANNING 51**

HANAHAN — Manning High School suffered its first loss in Region VII-3A with a 53-51 defeat at the hands of Hanahan on Tuesday at the HHS gymnasium.

The Monarchs, who fell to 13-5 overall and 3-1 in region play, led 18-9 after one quarter. They trailed 22-20 at halftime and 41-34 entering the fourth quarter.

JV BASKETBALL

**CLARENDON HALL 31
HOLLY HILL 27**

SUMMERTON — Clarendon Hall defeated Holly Hill 31-27 on Monday at the CH gymnasium.

Josh Black led the Saints with 11 points and six rebounds. Jonathan McIntosh had nine points and Justin James had seven.

From staff reports

GIRLS AREA ROUNDUP

East Clarendon cruises by GSF 64-30

TURBEVILLE — In a rematch of the 1A girls basketball lower state championship game last season, East Clarendon High School pounded Green Sea-Floyds 64-30 on Tuesday at the EC gymnasium.

Talaysia Cooper had a double-double of 26 points and 12 rebounds to go with four steals and four blocked shots to lead the Lady Wolverines, who lost to GSF in overtime in the LS title game.

Caitlin Timmons had 12 points, six rebounds, five steals and six assists for East Clarendon, which entered the game ranked No. 2 in 1A, while Green Sea-Floyds was No. 1. Britini Anderson also had a double-double of 10 points and 14 rebounds.

Tamara Jackson scored 15 points to lead GSF.

**CRESTWOOD 66
LUGOFF-ELGIN 19**

LUGOFF — Destinee Jamison and Jah'Che Whitfield combined for 41 points to lead Crestwood High School's varsity girls basketball team to a 66-19 victory over Lugoff-Elgin on Tuesday at the L-E gymnasium.

Whitfield had a double-double of 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Lady Knights, who improved to 15-2 on the season and 5-0 in Region VI-4A. She also had three steals. Jamison had 21 points and five steals.

Monijah Lewis added 10 points and Sedajah Remberth had eight points, five rebounds and four steals.

**CONWAY 48
SUMTER 41**

CONWAY — Sumter High School dropped its second straight game, falling to Conway 48-41 on Tuesday at the CHS gymnasium.

Nina Edlow led the Lady Gamecocks, who are 11-5 overall and 3-2 in Region VI-5A, with 20 points. Carnasia Wells and Layken Cox both had six.

**MANNING 57
HANAHAN 50**

HANAHAN — Manning High School improved to 3-1 in Region VII-3A with a 57-50 overtime victory over Hanahan on Tuesday at the HHS gymnasium.

Tajabreonna Dow led the 16-4 Lady Monarchs with 16 points. Myisha Smiling added 13 points and Ariyonia Busby had 11.

**HARTSVILLE 66
LAKEWOOD 60**

HARTSVILLE — Lakewood High School fell to 1-3 in Region VI-5A with a 66-60 loss to Hartsville on Tuesday at the HHS gymnasium.

Ki'Ari Cain led the Lady Gators, who fell to 7-8 overall with 24 points. Rahtesha Burgess added 18.

**HOLLY HILL 48
CLARENDON 27**

SUMMERTON — Clarendon Hall fell to 2-7 in SCISA Region III-1A with a 48-27 loss to Holly Hill on Monday at the CH gymnasium.

Sydney Wells led the Lady Saints with a double-double of 14 points and 12 rebounds.

JV BASKETBALL

**WILSON HALL 27
THOMAS SUMTER 20**

DALZELL — Thomas Sumter Academy lost to Wilson Hall 27-20 on Tuesday at Edens Gymnasium.

Lindsay Daniel had a double-double of 10 points and 10 rebounds to lead TSA. Karleigh Young had 12 rebounds, four points and six steals.

**HOLLY HILL 31
CLARENDON HALL 13**

SUMMERTON — Clarendon Hall lost to Holly Hill 31-13 on Monday at the CH gymnasium.

Sarah Henning led the Lady Saints with nine points.

From staff reports

OBITUARIES

HARRY PECKO

The memorial service for Harry Pecko, who passed away on Dec. 12, 2017, will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday at St. Jude Catholic Church, 611 W. Oakland Ave. A private burial will follow.



PECKO

GEORGE SCOTT

Funeral services for George Scott will be held on Friday at Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 1275 Oswego Highway / U.S. 401 North, with the Rev. Daniel Bennett Jr., pastor, and the Rev. Otis Scott Jr. as eulogist. Interment will follow at the Florence National Cemetery in Florence.



SCOTT

The public may view from 2 to 7 p.m. today at Palmer Memorial Chapel, 304 S. Main St., Sumter.

Mr. Scott will be placed in the church at 10 a.m. on Friday for further viewing until the hour of service.

Mr. Scott, 72, transitioned on Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2018, at Palmetto Health Tuomey.

Born in Lynchburg, he was a son of Florabell Scott and the late Lewis Fulwood and was raised by his late grandparents, Ed and Emma Green Scott. He was the husband of Elizabeth Scott and the family resides in Philadelphia. After serving his military tour of duty in the United States Army, he was employed by the Philadelphia Navy Shipyard.

Mr. Scott was preceded in death by his oldest son, George Andrew Scott Jr., and brother, Randall Fulwood.

Survivors are his wife, Elizabeth Scott of Philadelphia; son, André L. Scott of Philadelphia; mother, Florabell Fulwood of Sumter; 10 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; a special-in-law, Clara Pringle; a mother-in-law, Evelyn Levy, all of Sumter; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws and friends.

Condolences may be made on his tribute page found at www.PalmerMemorialChapel.com.

Professional services rendered by Palmer Memorial Chapel Inc.

JOHN E. DINGLE SR.

FLORENCE — On Thursday, Jan. 18, 2018, John Elliott "Honey" Dingle Sr., husband of Ruth Davis Dingle, heard his master's call at Carolinas Hospital System, Florence. Born on Sept. 14, 1949, in Davis Station, he was a son of Susan Hilton Dingle and the late Washington Dingle Sr. Service of remembrance will take place at noon today at Triumph the Church and Kingdom of God in Christ, 1285 Pearson Road, Davis Station community, Manning, where the pastor, Pastor Elder Sampson Pearson, will preside. Words of hope will come from Pastor Leroy Dingle. Service of committal will follow at the Dingle family plot located in the Manning Cemetery.

The family is receiving relatives and friends from 2 to 7 p.m. at The Marion House, 1079 Capital Way, Manning.

Fleming & DeLaine Funeral Home and Chapel of Manning is in charge of these services.

Online condolences for the family will be sent to www.flemingdelaine.com or flemingdelaine@aol.com

BRENDA H. JOSLIN

Brenda Karen Hassell Joslin, age 74, beloved wife of David Edward Joslin, died on Saturday, April 8, 2017.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday at the Salt and Light Church.

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

The family has chosen Bullock Funeral Home for the arrangements.



ROBERT E. MOYE SR.

Robert E. "Bob" Moye Sr., 79, husband of Margie Jeanette Moye, died on Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2018, at Palmetto Health Tuomey.

Born in Chester, he was a son of the late Fulton E. Moye Sr. and Louise Mitchell Moye.

Bob was a member of Northside Baptist Church. He retired from Sifco Mechanical. He enjoyed his Sunday school class, outdoor activities, working and watching NASCAR.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years; four children, Robert E. Moye Jr. (Jennifer), Pamela Moye Cody (Paul) and Lynda Moye Welch (Tommy), all of Sumter, and Robert E. "Bubba" Moye of Rockford, Illinois; six grandchildren, Carmen Logan, Jimmy Hughes, David Hughes, Stephen Springs, Brittney Moye and Zac Welch; four great-grandchildren, Brynleigh, Gauge, Payten and Huck; one brother, Joe Moye of Summerton; and two sisters, Martha "Mickey" Rogers (Ray) and Helene "Bootsie" Dickerson (John), both of Sumter.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three brothers, Bill Moye, Emmett Moye Jr. and Michael Moye; and one sister, Flora Ardis.

Special recognition to his dear friends, Rusty Brown and the Rev. Jimmy Holley, along with his two cousins, Ray Ardis Jr. and Carol Houser, for the special bond you shared with Bob.

Honorary pallbearers are members of the Fellowship Sunday School Class and Allen Goff, David Croft, Deron Donohoo, Red Arrants and Sifco Employees.

Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. today at Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home.

Memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Friday at Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home chapel with the Rev. Jimmy Holley and the Rev. Jim Johnson officiating.

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

JERRY COKER

LYNCHBURG — James Jerry "Jim" Coker, age 62, died on Jan. 15, 2018, at his home after an illness.

Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. on Friday at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church with burial at Friendship Cemetery, directed by Floyd Funeral Home. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church.

Born in Clarendon County, he was a son of Annette Coleman Coker and the late James

Harley Coker. He was a U.S. Navy Vietnam veteran and was a retired U.S. mail carrier.

Surviving are his mother, Annette Coleman Coker of Lynchburg.

Memorials may be made to Friendship Cemetery c/o J. W. Altman, 2880 Shiloh Raccoon Road, Lynchburg, SC 29080.

Online condolences may be made at www.floydfuneral.com

VERNELL FLOYD LESSEL

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — Carolyn Vernell Floyd Lessel, 69, wife of James B. Lessel, died on Friday, Jan. 12, 2018, at the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, Virginia.

Born on July 26, 1948, in Sumter, she was a daughter of the late Charlie Don Floyd and Frances Maybelle Braxton Floyd. She was a dental assistant for more than 30 years and was of the Baptist faith. Vernell was a giver. She touched thousands of people's lives, never met a stranger and would talk to anyone.

Survivors include her husband; three sisters, Ruby Floyd Garris, Anne Shore and Charlene Allen; aunts and uncles, Annette and Roe Griffin, Charles Braxton and Genlon Hanna; and her beloved dogs, Seven and Foxy.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday at Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home chapel with Jimmy Baker Jr. officiating.

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

SAMUEL T. GOODMAN

Samuel Thomas Goodman, 56, departed this earthly life on Monday, Jan. 22, 2018, at Palmetto Health Tuomey.

Born on Feb. 28, 1961, in Sumter County, he was a son of the late Segars and Earline Grant Goodman. He received his education in the public schools of Sumter County. He was employed by Daniels Construction and Invista before his health declined.

His fondest memories will be cherished by his wife, Nancy Goodman of the home; one son, Jason Thomas Goodman; two grandchildren, Nevaeh Joe and Jamiya Goodman; eight stepchildren, Sheridan, Lola, Alexander, Latanya, Kiana, Alonzo, Torris and Precious; four brothers, Freddie (Barbara), James (Janie),

Carl (Renee) and John Goodman; and two sisters, Earline Porter and Lilly Goodman, all of Dalzell; two uncles, James Grant of Newark, New Jersey, and Leroy Grant of Dalzell; host of nieces, nephews, in-laws, other relatives and friends.

The family is receiving relatives and friends at the home, 2615 Yank Haven Drive, Sumter.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday at John Wesley Williams Sr. Memorial Chapel, Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter, with the Rev. Sammie Simmons officiating, eulogist.

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

Burial will be at Ebenezer Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

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

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

LUCILLE F. WILSON

MANNING — Lucille Fleming Wilson, 85, widow of Perry Wilson Jr., died on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2018, at her residence.

She was born on April 24, 1932, in the Bloomville community of Clarendon County, a daughter of the late Sam and Emma Mouzon Fleming.

The family is receiving friends at her residence, 3279 Home Branch Road, Manning.

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

HENRY B. JACKSON

SUMMERTON — Henry Beaufort Jackson, 85, widower of Fannie Black Jackson, died on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2018, at his residence in Summerton.

He was born on March 1, 1932, in Clarendon County, to the late Molly Mae Stukes Jackson and Henry Jackson.

The family is receiving friends at the home of his brother, John Jackson, 1164 Hall St., Summerton, SC 29148.

Services have been entrusted to the professional care of King-Fields Mortuary, Summerton, (803) 485-5039.

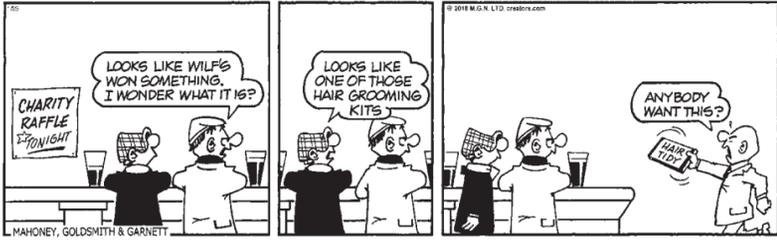
BIZARRO



SOUP TO NUTZ



ANDY CAPP



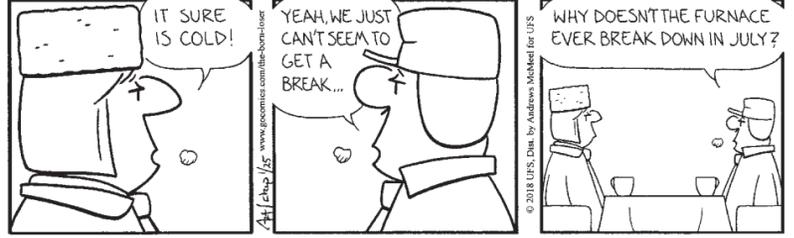
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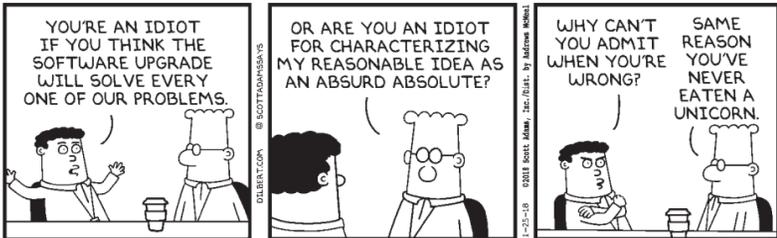
MOTHER GOOSE



DOG EAT DOG



DILBERT



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE



Celibacy before marriage has groom eager to wed



Dear Abby
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY — I'm a 50-year-old male engaged to be married to my elementary school sweetheart, "Marie." This will be the second marriage for both of us. We've been dating for six years, three of which were a long-distance relationship. During a time when her mother became ill and sadly passed, Marie told me God had spoken to her and told her not to be sexually active anymore until we're married. I respect and want to honor her and God, but my

concern is that we haven't even discussed a wedding date. The earliest could still be six or eight months away. Am I wrong for feeling resentment toward Marie, and will this resentment create problems after marriage with our bedroom life?

On hold in South Carolina

DEAR ON HOLD — You and Marie have known each other for many years, and know each other very well in every sense. Because Marie doesn't want to have intimate relations again until after you are married, you should not only discuss a wedding date, but also an elopement.

DEAR ABBY — My sister takes my nephews for modeling and acting assignments.

They have been in print ads, websites for clothing, and even a movie.

I was shocked when she told me her 6-year-old is interviewed without a parent present in the room. The boy is bright, self-possessed and spirited, but still — he's only 6. Given the recent revelations about industry-wide problems with child sexual abuse ("An Open Secret" documentary), was I out of line to suggest she have a device to listen in and record?

Concerned auntie

DEAR CONCERNED AUNTIE — Better than that, minor children should have a trusted and responsible adult present — whether it's a parent, another relative or the child's agent. That way, EVERYONE would be protected.

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.

LDAAS

PUTIL

COSTEK

SIFLOS

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

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CURLY TRUCK ADMIRE GALLON
Answer: The story about the diamond and its setting didn't — RING TRUE



SUDOKU

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

THE DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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

C.C. Burnikel 1/25/18

- ACROSS**
- 1 Apple Store display
 - 5 Centipede developer
 - 10 Farm digs
 - 13 Tennis legend for whom a "Courage Award" is named
 - 14 French upper house
 - 15 Hershey bar
 - 16 *Tony Hawk legwear
 - 18 Helps out
 - 19 Unpretentious
 - 20 Turned it down
 - 22 Nadal's birthplace
 - 23 Snatch, as a toy?
 - 24 Composer Franck
 - 26 Luggage attachments
 - 29 Soak up the sun
 - 32 Blue Grotto resort
 - 34 Boy king
 - 35 "That's gross!"
 - 36 *Stick in the snow
 - 38 Premier : wine designation
 - 39 Word before watch or window
 - 40 Signs away
 - 41 Israeli politician Barak
 - 42 Nurses, as a drink
 - 44 Chills out
 - 47 "No harm done"
 - 49 Waited nervously, perhaps
 - 52 Wheat protein
 - 53 Tree with durable wood
 - 55 Fellas
 - 56 *Drawing needs
 - 59 Inauguration words
 - 60 Dairy mascot
 - 61 Canal completed in 1825
 - 62 Belly dance muscles
 - 63 Kennel cries
 - 64 "Hairspray" mom
 - 8 "Midnight Cowboy" con man
 - 9 Delivery room cry
 - 10 *Medicated dermal strip
 - 11 Fuss
 - 12 Cen. components
 - 15 1978 Peace co-Nobelist
 - 17 Tahari of fashion
 - 21 Many a low-budget flick
 - 23 Decorator's choice
 - 25 Corrosive liquid
 - 27 Expert
 - 28 Drywall support
 - 29 Spill catchers
 - 30 Smoothie berry
 - 31 *Military chaplains
 - 33 Sit for a snap
 - 36 Hurry along
 - 37 Creator of Randle McMurphy and Chief Bromden
 - 41 Search dogs' target ... and a phonetic hint to the answers to starred clues
 - 43 Flatten
 - 45 Garage units
 - 46 Dash dial
 - 48 A high-top hides it
 - 50 Hallmark.com choice
 - 51 Bumped off
 - 52 Snatch
 - 54 On the Pacific
 - 55 Showgirl's accessory
 - 57 Course for intl. students
 - 58 Lead

Previous Puzzle Solved

L	O	I	N	A	S	K	I	N	G	B	L	E	D										
A	N	N	A	S	H	I	V	E	R	O	I	L	Y										
M	E	T	S	H	A	W	A	I	L	S	T	Y	E										
B	L	I	S	T	E	R	I	N	G	P	A	C	E										
D	O	M	A	I	N	H	E	N	R	T	E												
A	T	E	U	P	P	A	N	P	A	N	T	S	A	R	S								
					S	H	I	N	O	L	A	A	T	O	P								
D	I	Z	Z	Y	I	N	G	V	E	L	O	C	I	T	Y								
J	O	W	A	D	E	R	A	T	E	D													
S	N	I	P	E			Y	E	S		E	R	A	T	O								
H	A	E	W	E	S					S	T	U	P	O	R								
										B	R	E	A	K	N	E	C	K	S	P	E	E	D
C	I	A	O				S	O	I	R	E	E			E	R	T	E					
A	R	C	S				T	A	K	I	N	G			E	C	A	R					
P	E	K	E				S	L	E	E	T	S			S	U	P	S					

SP	FT	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM
LOCAL CHANNELS												
WIS	10	3	10	WIS News 10 at 7 (N)	Entertainment Tonight (N)	Superstore Cheyenne's ex-convict mom visits. (N)	The Good Place "The Burrito" (N) (DVS)	Will & Grace Will and Grace date the same man.	(-31) Great News "Early Retirement" (Season Finale) (N)	Chicago Fire "Slamigan" Dawson and Casey try to find Bria. (N) (DVS)	WIS News 10 at 11 (N)	(-34) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon "Will Ferrell; Robert Irwin; Migos" Will Ferrell; Robert Irwin; Migos.
WLTX	19	9	9	News 19 at 7pm (N)	Inside Edition (N)	MVP: Most Valuable Performer: Football player's off-the-field talents. (Live)	The Big Bang Theory "The Retraction Reaction"	(-31) Young Sheldon (DVS)	S.W.A.T. "Miracle" Gold bars are stolen from a drug cartel.	News 19 at 11pm (N)	(-35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert Gwyneth Paltrow; Ben McKenzie. (N)	
WOLO	25	5	12	Wheel of Fortune "Swiss Holiday" (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Grey's Anatomy "Personal Jesus" Jo deals with her estranged husband. (N)	Scandal "Good People" The events from Rowan's basement. (N)	How to Get Away With Murder "Everything We Did Was for Nothing" Laurel struggles with the past. (N)	ABC Columbia News at 11 (N)	(-35) Jimmy Kimmel Live "Viola Davis; Thomas Haden Church; LANco" Viola Davis; Thomas Haden Church; LANco.		
WRJA	27	11	14	Rick Steves' Europe Religious tradition in Jerusalem.	Palmetto Scene	Victoria on Masterpiece "Warp and Weft; The Sins of the Father" Victoria is paralyzed by sorrow.	Live at the Charleston Music Hall	Live at the Charleston Music Hall	Amanpour on PBS (N)	BBC World News	NHK Newline	
WACH	57	6	6	The Big Bang Theory Will Wheaton throws a party.	The Big Bang Theory	The Four: Battle for Stardom "Week Four" New challengers perform. (N) (DVS)	WACH FOX News at 10 (N) (Live)	Sports Zone	DailyMailTV (N)	TMZ (N)		
WKTC	63	4	22	Last Man Standing "Mike Advises Mandy"	Last Man Standing "Big Shots"	Supernatural "Breakdown" Donna's niece is kidnapped. (N)	Arrow "We Fall" Cayden launches his plan. (N)	Law & Order: Criminal Intent "The Gift" Woman believes she is clairvoyant.	Law & Order: Criminal Intent "But Not Forgotten" Missing bookkeeper.	The Game Malik in a promotional campaign.		
CABLE CHANNELS												
A&E	46	130	(6:00) 60 Days In "Shank Anxiety" Inmate feuds and power plays.	60 Days In "Pissed Off" Jaclyn begins to alienate the officers.	60 Days In "Party Favors" The participants try to stay focused.	60 Days In "Jail Crush" Stephanie uses drugs. (N)	Waco: Madman or Messiah	(-31) The First 48	(12:03) 60 Days In "Pissed Off"			
AMC	48	180	(5:00) *** "True Lies" (1994, Action) Arnold Schwarzenegger.	*** "Bruce Almighty" (2003, Comedy) Jim Carrey, Morgan Freeman, Jennifer Aniston. A frustrated reporter receives divine powers from God.	*** "Pretty Woman" (1990, Romance-Comedy) Richard Gere, Julia Roberts, Ralph Bellamy. A corporate raider hires a hooker to act as a business escort.							
ANPL	41	100	North Woods Law "Deer Detectives"	North Woods Law	North Woods Law: Uncuffed Handling dangerous timber rattlesnakes. (N)	North Woods Law	North Woods Law	North Woods Law				
BET	61	162	(-05) * "Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son" and his stepson go under cover at a girls school.	Black Card Revoked (N)	BET's Mancave (N)	The Rundown With Robin Thede (N)	Black Card Revoked	BET's Mancave				
BRAVO	47	181	Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles Tracy heads to New York.	Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles Tracy's ex-client comes crawling back.	Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles Flagg and Bobby tie the knot.	(-15) Top Chef "Restaurant Wars" The chefs create restaurant concepts. (N)	Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles Flagg and Bobby tie the knot.					
CNBC	35	84	Shark Tank	Shark Tank Wet paintbrush storage.	Shark Tank	Jay Leno's Garage "More Power" (N)	Jay Leno's Garage	Jay Leno's Garage				
CNN	3	80	Erin Burnett OutFront (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	Cuomo Prime Time (N)	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)	Anderson Cooper				
COM	57	136	(6:50) Corporate	(-25) South Park	South Park "Gnomes"	South Park	Tosh.0 "Climate Change Comedian"	Tosh.0 "Pee Lady"	The Daily Show With Trevor Noah	The Opposition w/ Jordan Klepper (N)	(12:01) The Office "The Merger"	
DISN	18	200	Bunk'd	Bunk'd An abandoned treehouse.	Jessie	Jessie Mrs. Kipling becomes famous.	Jessie	Jessie	Andi Mack Andi takes a stand.	Stuck in the Middle	K.C. Undercover	
DSC	42	103	Moonshiners: Art of the Shine Josh is down his right hand. (N)	Killing Fields (N)	Tesla's Death Ray: A Murder	(-01) Moonshiners	Moonshiners					
ESPN	26	35	College Basketball Michigan at Purdue. (N) (Live)	2018 Pro Bowl Skills Showdown	Winter X Games Aspen. From Aspen, Colo. (N) (Live)	SportsCenter						
ESPN2	27	39	Women's College Basketball Texas at Baylor. (N) (Live)	College Basketball Central Florida at Wichita State. (N) (Live)	College Basketball BYU at Saint Mary's (Calif.). (N) (Live)							
FOOD	40	109	Chopped "Fry, Fry Again"	Chopped "Fried Chicken Time"	Chopped "T.G.I. Fry-Day"	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Chopped		
FOXN	37	90	The Story With Martha MacCallum (N)	Tucker Carlson Tonight (N)	Hannity (N)	The Ingraham Angle (N)	Fox News at Night (N)	Tucker Carlson				
FREE	20	131	(6:00) * "The Waterboy" (1998) Adam Sandler, Kathy Bates.	Beyond "No Es Bueno" Nightmares plague Holden. (N)	(-01) * "Jumper" (2008, Science Fiction) Hayden Christensen, Jamie Bell. Premiere. A young man has the ability to teleport himself anywhere.	The 700 Club God's work across the globe. (N)	* "Vegas Vacation" (1997)					
FSS	21	47	Women's College Basketball Kansas at Oklahoma.	Xterra World Championship	Triathlon	NHL Hockey Carolina Hurricanes at Montreal Canadiens.						
HALL	52	183	Full House	Full House "Air Jesse"	Full House "We Got the Beat"	The Middle "The Map"	The Middle "Heckin' It Up"	The Middle "Valentine's Day III"	The Middle "The Concert"	The Golden Girls	The Golden Girls	The Golden Girls
HGTV	39	112	Flip or Flop Nash	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	House Hunters (N)	Hunters Int'l	House Hunters	Hunters Int'l	Flip or Flop Nash	
HIST	45	110	American Pickers (DVS)	American Pickers	American Pickers "Crazy Collections"	(-09) American Pickers (DVS)	(-08) American Pickers (DVS)	American Pickers				
ION	13	18	Blue Bloods "Critical Condition" Jamie starts working with a new partner.	Blue Bloods "Innocence" Erin reopens a case Frank worked on.	Blue Bloods Danny and Linda plan a romantic weekend.	Blue Bloods "Black and Blue" A call from a church leads to trouble.	Blue Bloods "Lonely Hearts Club" Jackie and Danny track a serial killer.					
LIFE	50	145	Project Runway All Stars "Damsels in Distress" Creating distressed fashion.	Project Runway All Stars Food and wine inspires fashion. (N)	Project Runway All Stars "Balls Out!" Designers create "ball gowns." (N)	(-02) Making a Model With Yolanda Hadid "Learning the Ropes" (N)	(-12) This Time Next Year Overweight family; deaf veteran.	(12:01) Project Runway All Stars				
MSNBC	36	92	Hardball With Chris Matthews (N)	All In With Chris Hayes (N)	The Rachel Maddow Show (N)	The Last Word	The 11th Hour With Brian Williams (N)	Rachel Maddow				
NICK	16	210	Paradise Run (N)	SpongeBob	*** "Megamind" (2010, Children's) Voices of Will Ferrell, Brad Pitt.	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Friends	Friends			
SPIKE	64	153	Friends	Friends	Friends	Lip Sync Battle (N)	Lip Sync Battle	(-32) *** "The Devil Wears Prada" (2006, Comedy) Meryl Streep.				
SYFY	58	152	(6:00) *** "G.I. Joe: Retaliation" (2013) Dwayne Johnson. (DVS)	(-05) *** "Tomorrowland" (2015, Science Fiction) George Clooney, Hugh Laurie, Britt Robertson. A scientist and a young woman explore a mysterious city. (DVS)	The Magicians "The Losses of Magic" Alice and Quentin visit her parents.	Happy! "Destroyer of Worlds"						
TBS	24	156	Brooklyn Nine-Nine "The Mole"	Brooklyn Nine-Nine "USPIS"	Brooklyn Nine-Nine "Lockdown"	Brooklyn Nine-Nine "Stakeout"	Brooklyn Nine-Nine "Stakeout"	Conan Actor Lisa Kudrow; comic Tom Segura. (N)	The Detour "The Run"			
TCM	49	186	(6:15) *** "The Valley of Gwangi" (1969, Fantasy) James Franciscus.	** "Fanny" (1961, Drama) Leslie Caron, Maurice Chevalier, Charles Boyer. A French woman conducts a bittersweet affair with a sailor.	*** "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" (1962, Drama) Glenn Ford, Ingrid Thulin. Loyalties divide a European family during World War II.	Glenn Ford, Ingrid Thulin.						
TLC	43	157	My 600-Lb. Life "Amber's Story"	My 600-Lb. Life "Supersized: Alicia's Story" Alicia's boyfriend threatens to leave.	Family by the Ton (N)	(-01) My 600-Lb. Life Alicia's boyfriend threatens to leave.						
TNT	23	158	NBA Tip-Off (N) (Live)	NBA Basketball Washington Wizards at Oklahoma City Thunder. (N Subject to Blackout) (Live)	NBA Basketball Minnesota Timberwolves at Golden State Warriors. (N Subject to Blackout) (Live)							
TRUTV	38	129	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Laff Mobb Laff	Laff Mobb Laff	Impractical Jokers		
TV LAND	55	161	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Nashville "That's My Story"	King of Queens	King of Queens	King of Queens
USA	25	132	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit A baby boy is discovered in the trash.	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit A lawyer is secretly a stripper.	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit A student on a class trip vanishes.	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Witnesses of a rape don't call for help.	Modern Family (DVS)	Modern Family (DVS)	Modern Family "Regrets Only"			
WE	68	166	Growing Up Hip Hop Atlanta	Growing Up Hip Hop Atlanta	Growing Up Hip Hop Atlanta (N)	Growing Up Hip Hop Atlanta	Growing Up Hip Hop Atlanta	Growing Up Hip Hop Atlanta	Hip Hop			
WGNA	8	172	Cops	Cops	Cops "Arizona"	Cops "Arizona"	Cops "Arizona"	Cops	Cops	Cops "Fort Worth"		



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Singer Elton John announces his final world tour at Gotham Hall on Wednesday in New York.

Elton John says upcoming tour will be his last

BY MESFIN FEKADU
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK — Elton John is retiring from the road after his upcoming three-year global tour, capping nearly 50 years on stages around the world. He calls it a “way to go out with a bang.”

“I’ve had a good run, I think you’d admit that,” John said Wednesday, adding that he wanted to “leave people thinking, ‘I saw the last tour and it was fantastic.’”

The 70-year-old singer, pianist and composer said he wanted to spend time with his family. His children will be 10 and 8 when he stops in 2021, and John said he hoped he might be able to take them to soccer practice. “My priorities now are my children and my husband and my family,” he said. “This is the end.”

John made the announcement at an event in New York in which he sat at a piano and performed “Tiny Dancer” and “I’m Still Standing.” He wore his signature glasses and a colorful suit jacket that read “Gucci Loves Elton.”

His final tour — dubbed “Farewell Yellow Brick Road” — starts in September. It will consist of 300 shows in North America, Europe, Asia, South America and Africa. Tickets go on sale beginning Feb. 2.

John said he decided on his retirement plans in 2015 in France. “I can’t physically do the traveling and I don’t want to,” he said. He also ruled out a residency but

vowed: “I will be creative up until the day I die.”

At the Grammy Awards, to be presented in New York on Sunday, John is to perform alongside Miley Cyrus and will collect the President’s Merit Award. His Vegas residency ends in May after six years.

His hits include “Your Song” and “Candle in the Wind.” He has won five Grammys, an Oscar, a Golden Globe for “The Lion King” and a Tony Award for “Aida.” He is the recipient of a Kennedy Center Honor.

John, who has sold 300 million records, launched his first tour in 1970 and boasts having performed over 4,000 times in more than 80 countries. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1994.

He has suffered several medical setbacks of late, including a bacterial infection last year that he contracted during a South American tour and an E. coli bacterial infection in 2009. He’s also suffered an appendicitis and has been fitted with a pacemaker.

From 1970-76, John released 10 original studio albums and seven consecutive chart toppers. He remained a hit maker over the following four decades, from “The Lion King” soundtrack song “Can You Feel the Love Tonight” to a revision of his Marilyn Monroe ode “Candle in the Wind,” released in 1997 after the death of his friend Princess Diana and one of the best-selling singles of all time.

NFL players demonstrate talents off the field on variety show

BY KEVIN McDONOUGH

The skills of NFL stars are not limited to appearances on “Dancing With the Stars.” With one meaningful game left in the season, CBS presents “MVP: Most Valuable Performer” (8 p.m., CBS).

“NCIS: Los Angeles” star LL Cool J will host this variety show, featuring finalists culled from audition tapes submitted by 32 NFL players.

Were you aware that Miami Dolphins long snapper John Denney could play the violin? As Johnny Carson used to say, “I did not know that.”

In his video submission, Buffalo Bills defensive end Eddie Yarbrough strummed the ukulele and sang. The Super Bowl-bound New England Patriots are just brimming with talent. Offensive lineman Joe Thuney demonstrated surprising skills with a Rubik’s Cube. His teammates, twins Jacob and Cody Hollister, sang and played guitar, while Patrick Chung showed off his culinary skills.

On Super Bowl Sunday, the Patriots will meet the Philadelphia Eagles, whose defensive tackle Fletcher Cox will show off his archery skills on “MVP.”

Other talents submitted for the “MVP” honors included no fewer than three piano players, a poet and even an Irish step dancer (the Baltimore Ravens’ Alex Collins).

The top finalists will face a live TV audience and receive mentoring from professional talents in their field.

Sitcoms generally don’t have room for debates about belief, faith, superstition and skepticism. In tonight’s episode of “Superstore” (8 p.m., NBC, TV-14), Jonah (Ben Feldman) develops cold feet about his romantic getaway with Kelly (Kelly Stables) after he discovers that she believes in angels.

Jonah’s manipulative roommate, Garrett (Colton Dunn), believes he’s mad to allow theological quibbles to get in the way of a steamy cabin getaway. Or perhaps Garrett was simply counting on having the apartment to himself (and his gamer buddies) all weekend.

Anyone following this series knows that this complication

is merely another speed bump on the road to getting Jonah back together with Amy (America Ferrera), who spends the episode bickering and bonding with Cheyenne’s (Nichole Bloom) mother — just released from prison.

TONIGHT’S OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Joel’s travels come under examination on “Mosaic” (8 p.m., HBO, TV-MA).

- A pediatric case proves moving on “Grey’s Anatomy” (8 p.m. ABC, TV-14).

- Washington’s revolving door gets sticky on “Scandal” (9 p.m. ABC, TV-14).

- Mike and Frank recall eccentric collections on “American Pickers” (9 p.m., History, TV-PG).

- Shifting narratives on “Nashville” (9 p.m., CMT, TV-PG).

- On two new episodes of “Mysteries at the Museum” (Travel, TV-PG), Little Big Horn (9 p.m.), Antarctica (10 p.m.).

- Chuck faces an ultimatum on the season and perhaps series finale of “Great News” (9:30 p.m., NBC, TV-PG).

- The drug war doesn’t stop for Christmas on “S.W.A.T.” (10 p.m., CBS, r, TV-14).

- Bria remains missing on “Chicago Fire” (10 p.m., NBC, TV-14).

- Laurel can’t handle her past on “How to Get Away With Murder” (10 p.m., ABC, TV-14).

SERIES NOTES

- Donna needs help on “Super-

natural” (8 p.m., CW, TV-14) * The gang takes stock on “The Good Place” (8:30 p.m., NBC, TV-PG) * Leonard’s loose lips on “The Big Bang Theory” (9 p.m., CBS, r, TV-PG) * Double-dating on “Will & Grace” (9 p.m., NBC, r, TV-14) * Michael Emerson guest-stars as Cayden James on “Arrow” (9 p.m., CW, TV-14) * Slow-cooked meat on “Young Sheldon” (9:30 p.m., CBS, r, TV-PG).

LATE NIGHT

Cecile Richards is booked on “The Daily Show With Trevor Noah” (11 p.m., Comedy Central) * Lisa Kudrow, Tom Segura and Sam Morril appear on “Conan” (11 p.m., TBS) * Gwyneth Paltrow, Ben McKenzie and 30 Seconds to Mars are booked on “The Late Show With Stephen Colbert” (11:35 p.m., CBS) * Jimmy Fallon welcomes Will Ferrell, Robert Irwin and Migos on “The Tonight Show” (11:35 p.m., NBC) * Viola Davis, Thomas Haden Church and Lanco appear on “Jimmy Kimmel Live” (11:35 p.m., ABC) * Willem Dafoe, Dakota Fanning, Amirah Kassem and Brann Dailor visit “Late Night With Seth Meyers” (12:35 a.m., NBC) * Neil de-Grasse Tyson, Saoirse Ronan, Finn Wolfhard, Gaten Matarazzo, Caleb McLaughlin, Noah Schnapp and Billy Corgan are on “The Late Late Show With James Corden” (12:35 a.m., CBS, r).

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