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Finance Committee school board members defend role in crisis

School district members say there were no internal processes to monitor budget

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

Members of Sumter School District's advisory Finance Committee said Tuesday they were not made aware in any way by administration of the district's \$6.2 million in overspending before the release of the fiscal 2016 audit report in December 2016. Their responses Tuesday came after a former board

member questioned last week why the committee didn't prevent the financial failures from occurring.

"The Finance Committee was set up and designed to stop this type of financial malfeasance," Schultz said during the Jan. 8 board meeting's public participation. "It happened under the watch of the Finance Committee,

SEE DISTRICT, PAGE A5



ADRIENNE SARVIS / THE SUMTER ITEM
Thomas Euten, 17, tells Magistrate Judge Fred Gordon Jr. that some of the items provided through the Sumter Fire Department Explorer program were destroyed in the house fire he reportedly set Monday.

Teen makes \$15K bond in home fire

Former member of fire department program said he played with matches

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
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A former member of Sumter Fire Department's program for young people interested in fire fighting was given a \$15,000 bond after he allegedly caused a fire in his family's home Monday.

Thomas Euten, 17, is charged with second-degree arson for allegedly causing approximately \$40,000 in damage to his family's rented double-wide mobile home on Pantego Drive after playing with matches, making

SEE ARSON, PAGE A6

DOUGLAS MATHIS • 1952 - 2018

Mathis was father, uncle to more than his own family



PHOTOS BY CHRIS MOORE / SPECIAL TO THE SUMTER ITEM

Douglas Mathis' casket is seen at Grace Baptist Church on Saturday during his funeral. Mathis died Jan. 10 at 65 and was remembered for his dedicated service to Sumter Fire Department and the Sumter community. He served as fire chief from 1999 to 2002 and retired a second time from the department in 2014 after decades of service.

Former Sumter fire chief remembered for passion, friendship

A longtime supporter of Sumter Fire Department and the Sumter community, Douglas Mathis, former fire chief, is remembered as a mentor to the men and women of the fire service and anyone else who crossed his path.



MATHIS

Mathis died on Jan. 10 at the age of 65 after battling with chronic illnesses. He joined the fire department in 1972 after earning an associate degree in fire science and criminal justice from Central Carolina Technical College.



Debbie Quinn Mathis, wife of Douglas Mathis, receives a flag in his honor during his funeral on Saturday afternoon at Grace Baptist Church.

According to Mathis' wife, Debbie, the former fire chief was a well-respected mentor to many people inside the department and out. People regularly referred to him using family titles such as Father and Uncle, she said.

If you were lucky to get a hug from him, you know he loved you, she said. During the funeral service on Saturday, Debbie listened to numerous stories about how her husband helped others in the community.

"I could have listened to all of those stories," she said.

Doug's guiding nature was strong within the fire department as well as at home.

"He supported me in everything I did," Debbie said.

Mathis is survived by his wife; son, Stephen; and dog, Bogey.

SEE MATHIS, PAGE A6

Throughout his career, Mathis worked his way up the ladder, serving the community on multiple levels before serving as fire chief from 1999 to 2002. He rejoined the department in 2002 before retiring a second

time in 2014.

For his contributions to the fire department and Sumter community, Mathis was a two-time recipient of the American Legion Certificate Accommodation Firefighter of the Year.

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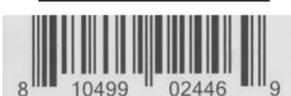
WEATHER, A8

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INSIDE

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S.C. bill would protect identities of companies that sell execution drugs

COLUMBIA (AP) — The identities of companies that sell execution drugs to South Carolina would be protected under a bill proposed by a state lawmaker on Tuesday.

Spartanburg Rep. Eddie Tallon told The Associated Press that the bill he's filing will make drug suppliers part of the execution team, so that just like employees in the death chamber who carry out the sentence, the companies' identities will be shielded by state law.

Public pressure has made pharmaceutical companies reluctant to sell drugs knowing they'll be used to end lives, not save them. Nearly a dozen states have passed laws providing secrecy for suppliers in response.

"If South Carolina is going to have the death penalty, then we need to have a way to carry it out," Tallon told the AP.

Lawmakers have been looking for ways to carry out executions since the state's supply of lethal injection drugs expired in 2013. The state has not conducted any executions since 2011, in part because the drugs have not been available.

Another possibility is empowering the state to electrocute inmates when the drugs aren't available. Currently, inmates can only be electrocuted if they request that method. South Carolina last used electrocution in 2008, to put James Earl Reed to death for the 1996 killing of his ex-girlfriend's parents.



STONE

If South Carolina is going to have a death penalty, then we need to have a way to carry it out.'

**REP. EDDIE TALLON,
R-SPARTANBURG**

Corrections Director Bryan Stirling has warned repeatedly in legislative testimony that the state can't obtain the drugs it needs without such secrecy.

Gov. Henry McMaster made the same point last year after the state Supreme Court scheduled a Dec. 1 execution for 52-year-old Bobby Wayne Stone, who is on death row for killing Sumter County Sheriff's Department deputy Sgt. Charlie Kubala. Kubala was killed when he was shot twice while checking on a suspicious person at a Sumter home in February 1996. Stone didn't deny shooting the officer but said his gun went off accidentally when both were in the same area.

McMaster said the state couldn't carry out the execution due to a lack of lethal injection drugs, and called on lawmakers to shield their identities so that executions could resume.

"It's their decision on whether or not we have the death penalty," Stirling told the AP. "It's just my job to make sure we have ways to carry it out."

Sumter AARP offers free tax assistance



MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Lula King, Fran Broadway, Larry Bock and Paula Martin train on tax preparation software at the Historic Lincoln Center on Tuesday. The group is part of the Sumter AARP Tax-Aide Foundation which will be providing free tax assistance and preparation Feb. 5 through April 17 at the center (former home of the Shepherd Center), 26 Council St. There is no fee, no age requirement, and AARP membership is not required. The Sumter Tax-Aide Center will operate on Mondays and Wednesdays (first come, first served). Saturday, Feb. 17, will operate on an appointment-basis only. Appointments at other times may be available. Call Lula King at (803) 316-0772 or email cking3684@aol.com with questions or for appointments.

LOCAL BRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Space heater burns house down; 3 adults, 1 child displaced

A fire that destroyed a house this weekend has displaced a family in south Sumter.

The blaze began just after 3 a.m. on Sunday on Perkins Avenue according to a Sumter Fire Department incident report.

Firefighters arrived to a fully involved fire, which is thought to have started in a space heater, the report says. About \$50,000 in damage was estimated.

Inmate stabbed in Turbeville Correctional Institution

An inmate was stabbed during a fight in Turbeville Correctional Institution on Tuesday afternoon, officials said.

The man was stabbed by another inmate during an "altercation," according to South Carolina Department of Corrections Communications Director Jeff Taillon.

He was taken out of the Level 2 institution that houses adult male offenders mostly sentenced under the Youthful Offender Act to re-

ceive medical attention. Taillon did not detail the extent or nature of the inmate's injuries.

This is the second reported fight between inmates at the Clarendon County institution recently.

A 32-year-old man identified as Allen Jerome Capers was killed in a fight that injured eight other inmates on New Year's Eve.

Taillon said Tuesday's incident remains under investigation by SCDC police services.

Sheriff's office: AT&T customers being targeted by phone scam

Sumter County Sheriff's Office is warning Sumter residents about a phone scam.

AT&T wireless customers are getting calls from an automated system that shows up on the caller ID as their own number. The automated message claims to be from AT&T and states that the wireless account has been flagged for security purposes and asks the person to enter the last 4 digits of the primary account holder's Social Security number.

AT&T has confirmed this is a scam. Do not answer if it is from your mobile number. Under no circumstance should you give such personal information to this automated system; hang up immediately.

Memorial for Richardson set for Friday at Morris

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
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Memorial services for Luns C. Richardson, president emeritus of Morris College, will be held on Friday and Saturday in Sumter and Hartsville, respectively.



RICHARDSON

Richardson, 89, died on Saturday, Jan. 13, in his hometown of Hartsville.

Services for the former college president will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday in the Garrick-Boykin Human Development Center on the Morris College campus and

at 11 a.m. on Saturday at Jerusalem Baptist Church in Hartsville.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be sent to the Office of Church Relations for the Luns C. Richardson Endowed Scholarship.

Visitation will be held from 2 to 8 p.m. at 1214 Club Court, Hartsville, from today through Friday.

Richardson served as president of the Sumter college for 43 years before retiring in 2017.

A more in-depth look back on Richardson's life and his effect on the Sumter community will be published on Sunday.

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Habit-based coaching can help you change behavior

Approximately more than 40 percent of our daily behaviors are done out of habit, meaning we do not have to think about them. Habits are an automatic behavioral pattern that is more than just repetitive behavior. These behaviors are so ingrained that in order to change them, the brain must be prepared to face a tremendous battle.



Missy Corrigan

Charles Duhigg, author of *The Power of Habit*, explains that there are three components that make up a habit loop: cue, behavior, reward.

The cue is simply a trigger from within you, internal, or environment, external. An internal cue example is stress which triggers you to eat or

drink. An external cue example is the chime you hear in your car that reminds you to put on your seatbelt. The behavior is the actual routine or task, and the reward is the positive feeling or incentive that makes the behavior stick.

The more habitual a behavior is, the more it is ingrained in us almost to the point where it never leaves. This makes it difficult for many of us who embark on resolutions to make better choices and exhibit positive behaviors. Whether it is losing weight, getting more sleep or quitting smoking, the intention of creating a new you is exciting, but a lot must happen in order for the new behavior to stick. And it isn't as simple as a new habit being created in 21 days. In fact, the process is quite long and can take months to years to fully create.

You see, the habit is not just in repeating the behavior; it takes place much deeper in the processing systems

of the brain where a tug-of-war takes place between the new brain and the old brain. The new brain is the outer region of the brain that helps us think critically and form new steps and behaviors. The old brain is the inner part that is associated with emotional processing that is responsible for translating a response into a positive or negative and determines whether a behavior should be repeated.

This old brain is also responsible for behavior automation, so tasks that once required energy to complete no longer need brainpower. This part of the brain quickly realizes that a lack of reward for behaviors is minimal, and the old brain quickly overpowers the new brain, making it almost impossible to change.

For example, the brain does not process the same immediate feeling of pleasure from eating an apple as it does eating an apple pie. Therefore, it won't

be long before the old brain overrides the new brain because it wants that immediate reward. By eliminating the food altogether, you are not addressing the triggers that remind you how delicious the reward is, and eventually your willpower will be drained.

But experts say this isn't a reason to give up. To change a habit, you must find a way to create the same cue and reward by using a different behavior. Use the habit loop to establish new daily habits that will help you achieve the desired outcome. Establish goals and milestones — break large goals into smaller ones; identify motivational factors — create a habit based off satisfaction, not consequence; pick a goal-oriented behavior — choose one from a list of goals to start with; create the cue and reward — select a reward for the behavior; and eliminate disruptors — have the resources and tools readily available to support the habit.

U.S. Army hero dog during WWII receives posthumous medal



PHOTOS BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A poster shows the U.S. hero dog Chips, who was posthumously awarded the PDSA Dickin Medal, the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross, in London on Monday. Chips was a U.S. Army dog who protected the lives of his platoon during the invasion of Sicily in 1943.

LONDON (AP) — A U.S. Army dog who attacked a machine-gun nest during World War II was posthumously awarded Britain's highest honor for animal bravery on Monday.

Chips, a German shepherd-husky cross, was awarded the Dickin Medal for actions during a 1943 beach landing in Sicily. According to the U.S. soldiers, Chips raced into an Italian machine-gun nest, attacking an enemy soldier by the throat and pulling the gun from its mount.

The medal was awarded by veterinary charity PDSA in a ceremony at the Churchill War Rooms in London. The honor was accepted by 76-year-old John Wren of Southold, New York, whose father donated Chips to the war effort in 1942.

Lt. Col. Alan Throop, who attended on behalf of the U.S. Army, said that shortly after the battle Chips was recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star and the Purple Heart. The awards were later rescinded because army policy didn't allow animals to receive medals.



John Wren from New York, who was 4 years old when Chips the family pet dog returned from the war effort, is seen with military working dog Ayron, who received the PDSA Dickin Medal on Chips' behalf in London on Monday.

Chips suffered scalp wounds and powder burns in the battle but survived the war, returning to his owners in Pleasantville, New York.

The medal was awarded on the 75th anniversary of the Casablanca Conference, at which British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt plotted wartime strategy. Chips served as a sentry at the conference and met both leaders.

"It has taken over seven decades, but Chips can now finally take his place in the history books as one of the most heroic dogs to serve with the U.S. Army," PDSA director general Jan McLoughlin said.

Since 1943, the Dickin Medal has recognized gallantry by animals serving with the military, police or rescue services. Recipients include 33 dogs, 32 messenger pigeons, four horses and a cat.

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Booty and books: New evidence of pirates' interest in both

BY MARTHA WAGGONER
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Dead men tell no tales, but there's new evidence that somebody aboard the pirate Blackbeard's flagship harbored books among the booty.

In an unusual find, researchers have discovered shreds of paper bearing legible printing that somehow survived three centuries underwater on the sunken vessel. And after more than a year of research that ranged as far as Scotland, they managed to identify them as fragments of a book about nautical voyages published in the early 1700s.

Conservators for Blackbeard's ship the Queen Anne's Revenge found the 16 fragments of paper wedged inside the chamber for a breech-loading cannon, with the largest piece being the size of a quarter.

The Queen Anne's Revenge had been a French slave ship when Blackbeard captured it in 1717 and renamed it. The vessel ran aground in Beaufort, in what was then the colony of North Carolina, in June 1718. Volunteers with the Royal Navy killed Blackbeard in Ocracoke Inlet that same year.

Tens of thousands of artifacts have been recovered since Florida-based research firm Intersal Inc. located the shipwreck off the North Carolina coast in 1996 but few, if any, are as surprising as pieces of paper. To find paper in a 300-year-old shipwreck in warm waters is "almost unheard of," said Erik Farrell, a conservator at the QAR Conservation Lab in Greenville.

Eventually, the conservators determined that the words "south" and "fathom" were in the text, suggesting a maritime or navigational book. But one word, Hilo, stood out because it was both capitalized and in italics, said Kimberly Kenyon, also a conservator at the lab.

They turned to Johanna Green, a specialist in the history of printed text at the University of Glasgow, who pointed them to the Spanish settlement of Ilo — or Hilo — on the coast of Peru. The fragments eventually were determined to be from a 1712 first edition of a book by Capt. Edward Cooke titled "A Voyage to the South Seas, and Round the World, Peform'd in the years 1708, 1709, 1710 and 1711."

It's impossible to say who aboard Blackbeard's ship would have been reading the voyage narrative — a form popular in England in the 17th and 18th century — or whether it belonged to a pirate or some terrified captive. But some pirates were known to be literate, Kenyon said.

For example, Stede Bonnett, the "gentleman pirate" who joined Blackbeard in 1717, had his own library. It's not known if he brought his books on the Queen Anne's Revenge.

A history of pirates written in 1724 mentions a journal belonging to Blackbeard that was taken when he was killed. And when Blackbeard captured a ship called the Margaret in December 1717, the list of items taken from the ship included books, Farrell said.

"They were literate men," Kenyon said. "People always assume pirates are ruffians from bad backgrounds, and that wasn't always the case."

The survival of the paper fragments is perhaps even more unusual than their existence aboard the pirate vessel.

The chamber in which they were found was a separate piece of a breach-loading swivel gun that was likely kept on the top deck because it was used as an anti-personnel weapon, Farrell said. Conservators don't have the cannon itself, which likely was salvaged or stolen when the Queen Anne's Revenge ran aground. In cannons of that period, "wadding" material such as cloth or paper would usually be stuffed behind a



A piece of paper is shown from books found on board Blackbeard's ship, the Queen Anne's Revenge. To find paper in the 300-year-old shipwreck in warm waters is "almost unheard of," Erik Farrell, a conservator at the QAR Conservation Lab in Greenville, said.

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES VIA AP

easily enough, but prying the fragments from the fabric was more tedious and time-consuming, he said.

The combination of fabric and the plug likely protected the paper, which normally would have disintegrated in water, Farrell said.

But the ability to read doesn't change the evil character of pirates, who ransacked, raped and killed.

"The fact that they're literate doesn't mean they're not terrible, marauding people," Farrell said. "It just adds some nuance."

cannonball. So it's also possible someone just tore up the book without reading it to use it for firepower.

Conservators had removed a wooden plug from the cham-

ber so they could clean it when they discovered the paper fragments stuffed in there, along with pieces of fabric in May 2016, Farrell said. That mass was removed

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Mom of malnourished children 'perplexed' by police visit

BY AMY TAXIN

The Associated Press

PERRIS, Calif. — The mother of 13 malnourished children and young adults who were held in filthy conditions, some chained to furniture, was “perplexed” when deputies arrived at the family’s Southern California home, a sheriff’s official said Tuesday.

The deputies had been summoned by a 17-year-old daughter who jumped out a window and called 911.

Riverside County sheriff’s Capt. Greg Fellows described the reaction of the mother, Louise Anna Turpin, 49, without elaborating. He said he did not know how the father, 57-year-old David Allen Turpin, reacted.

The situation at the home in Perris, about 70 miles southeast of Los Angeles, was discovered



when the daughter escaped early Sunday, Fellows said.

The teen, who was so small that deputies initially thought she was 10 years old, showed them photographs that led them to believe her story, so they went to the home to check on the family, Fellows said.

“The conditions were horrific,” he said.

The children, ages 2 to 29, are all thought to be the Turpins’ biological offspring, authorities said.

Fellows said the investigation has so far found no indication of sexual abuse but that the conditions amounted to torture.

“If you can imagine being a 10-year-old and being chained

Louise Anna Turpin, left, and David Allen Turpin are seen. Riverside County sheriff’s deputies arrested them on Sunday. The parents could face charges including torture and child endangerment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

to a bed ... I would call that torture,” he said.

The family had lived in Perris since 2014, and deputies had never been to the residence previously for any reason, Fellows said.

Social workers had never visited either, said Susan von Zabern, director of the county Department of Public Social Services.

The seven adult children were being cared for at Corona Regional Medical Center, CEO Mark Uffer said. He described

them as small and clearly malnourished. They were being fed and were listed in stable condition.

“They’re very friendly,” he said. “They’re very cooperative, and I believe they are hopeful that life will get better for them.”

The parents were each held on \$9 million bail and could face charges including torture and child endangerment.

It was not immediately known if they had attorneys. They were scheduled to appear in court later Thursday.

State Department of Education records show the family home has the same address as Sandcastle Day School, where David Turpin is listed as principal. In the 2016-17 school year, it had an enrollment of six with one student each in the fifth, sixth, eighth, ninth, 10th and 12th grades.

DISTRICT FROM PAGE A1

who in turn advised the board.”

After a committee meeting Tuesday at the district office, Finance Committee Chairman and board member

Johnny Hilton said the committee was never made aware of any financial problems by the previous district administration under the guidance of former Superintendent Frank Baker. Hilton said the committee and board previously received quarterly financial statements from the district. With the addition of a short-term financial consultant last year and now a chief financial officer in the district’s finance department, the committee and board currently receive monthly financial statements.

“The Finance Committee was given the same information as the board was given,” Hilton said. “The information that was in those financial statements did not indicate there was any issue with overspending.”

Hilton said the administration repeatedly reassured the committee that the district’s finances were on track.

“When the audit report came out in December 2016, then the board and the Finance Committee discovered the financial information that we had been given was inaccurate and there were not adequate procedures in place at the district level to report and keep up with the financial situation,” Hilton said.

Of note, Hilton defeated Schultz, the incumbent board member for the Area 4 seat, in the November 2014 general election.

Committee member and board member William Byrd, a certified public accountant who owns and operates a local CPA firm, said a main issue previously involved the lack of reporting by district staff of year-end accruals or expenses incurred in one accounting period but not paid until a future accounting period.

“The finance committee and the board weren’t aware of year-end accruals during the year because reporting during the year was based on a cash-based method of accounting,” Byrd said. “Then, at the end of the year, the auditor comes in and books all these year-end accruals that changes the picture entirely.”

Both Hilton and Byrd said they are pleased with the addition of new CFO Chris Griner and the current administration with putting procedures in place to monitor accruals regularly

and prevent a similar occurrence from happening again.

Finance Committee member and local business owner Greg Thompson said he agreed with Byrd’s and Hilton’s analysis.

COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND NEW PURCHASING PROCEDURES

At its monthly committee meeting Tuesday, the school board’s advisory Finance Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the full board to approve and publish a listing of additional purchasing procedures. The committee recommended those added procedures be included in the district’s administrative rules to its purchasing policy.

The full board will receive the recommendation at its next meeting, which is scheduled for Monday night at the district office.

The committee’s motion comes after the district’s auditor noted various related findings in the district’s initial procurement audit in December 2016.

Hilton said the intent of publishing the recommendations is to alleviate the potential for misinterpretation of purchasing policies by district staff in the future by having them documented somewhere.

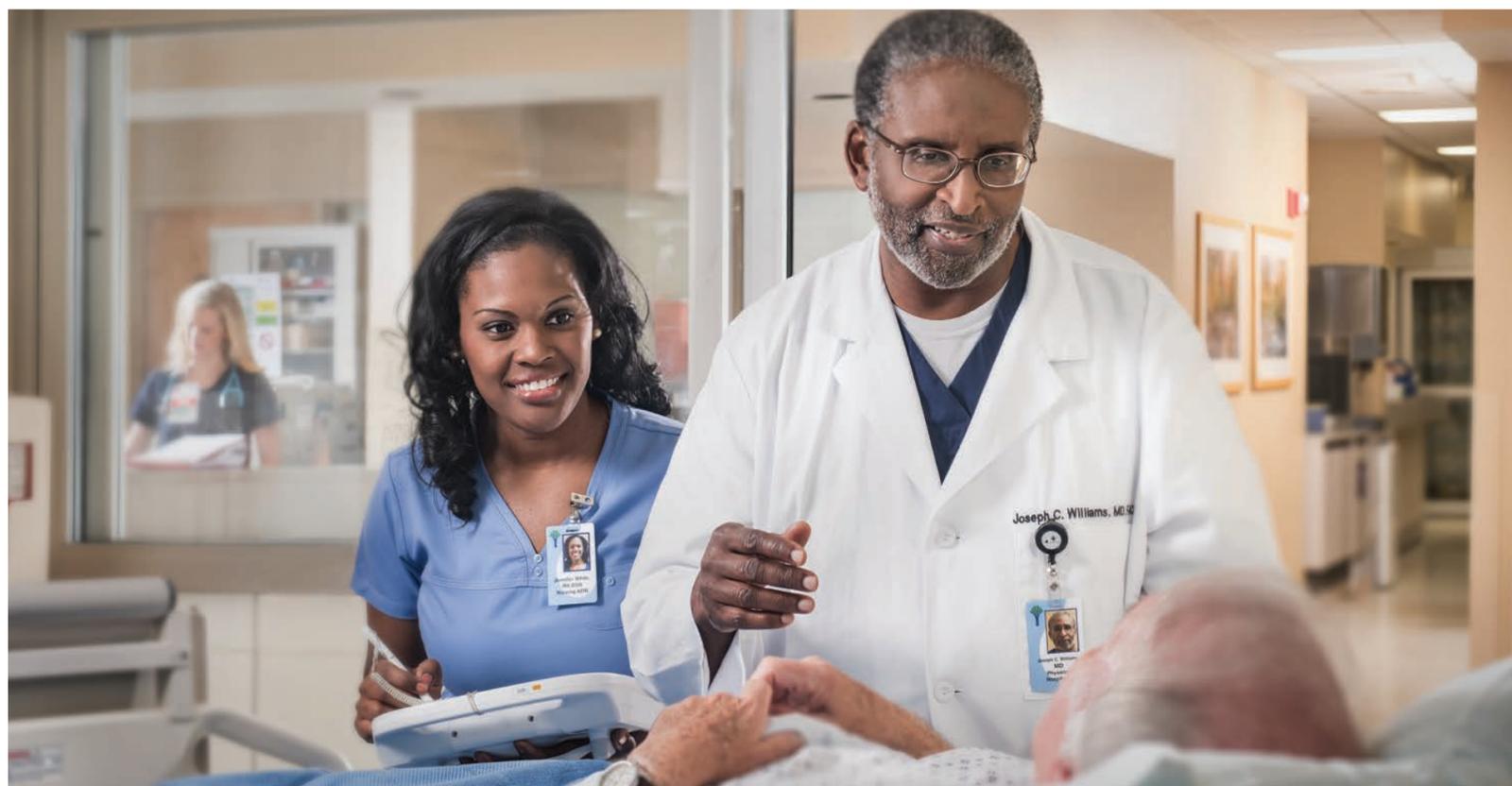
As Finance Committee chairman, Hilton previously recommended the added procurement procedures in

June of last year, but the full board took no action at the time.

The additional purchasing policies in the committee’s recommendation include:

- Conducting a procurement audit every fiscal year;
- Notifying school board members immediately by email when the need arises for an emergency procurement. Emergency procurements should also only be made in the case of an actual emergency.
- Sole-source procurements should only occur rarely; and
- The procurement officer shall report all sole-source, emergency procurements and minority business utilization from the previous fiscal year — ending June 30 — in writing in open session of a board meeting no later than Sept. 30.

The December 2016 procurement audit was the first for the consolidated district, which was officially formed in July 2011. After formation, the district received a two-year grace period before a procurement audit was necessary, according to the state Department of Education. School districts are required to have the audit of purchase processes at least once every three years by state law. The procurement audit completed in December 2016 represented the three-year period of 2013-16.



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MATHIS

FROM PAGE A1

He cared about his firefighters and the fire department, Sumter Fire Chief Karl Ford said.

Ford met Mathis in 1982, and both men had the opportunity to serve as fire chief while the other worked at the department.

He loved to have a good time, Ford said.

"We laughed hard, played hard and worked hard," he said.

Mathis was very passionate about the fire service, he said.

"He will be missed," he said. Battalion chief Joey Duggan

— who knew Mathis for nearly 30 years — said he met the former fire chief in 1990 when he interviewed for a job at the department.

Mathis had a heart for service, he said. He took care of the firefighters like his family, he said.

He also had a special place in his heart for volunteer firefighters, which make up about 80 percent of the country's fire departments, Duggan said.

Mathis understood that the volunteers did not have to answer the call but served their community anyway, he said.

He was a man of his word,

Duggan said.

Also known as a vehicle enthusiast, Mathis is said to have been a supporter of local car clubs and the initiatives they represented.

Todd Touchberry, general manager of Cut Rate Drugs, said Mathis was a member of multiple car clubs and attended numerous car shows every year.

He was always at the shows to buy a raffle ticket or help repair a vehicle, Touchberry said.

Cut Rate will host a car show in honor of Mathis in March 2019, he said, to raise money for Sumter SPCA.

— Adrienne Sarvis



CHRIS MOORE / SPECIAL TO THE SUMTER ITEM
Douglas Mathis took his final ride through Headquarters Station on Saturday afternoon after his funeral at Grace Baptist Church.

ARSON

FROM PAGE A1

the residence uninhabitable.

Though he was staying with family before the fire, no one from Euten's family attended his bond hearing at Sumter-Lee Regional Detention Center.

His mother was heartbroken, said Investigator Randy Stewart with Sumter County Sheriff's Office.

Euten lived in the home — which was about 40 percent engulfed when firefighters arrived — with his mother, sister, his sister's boyfriend and his sister's 1-year-old child, Stewart said.

The baby's room was the first part of the house to catch fire, he said.

The fire spread to the house after a couch in the yard caught fire while Euten was throwing matches outside, according to a news release from the sheriff's office.

A call about the fire was received about 3:40 p.m., and

the fire was under control 20 minutes after firefighters arrived at 3:54 p.m., according to an incident report from Sumter Fire Department.

Euten is charged with second-degree arson because he willfully and maliciously lit those matches — even if he did not intend to start the house fire — and subsequently destroyed a dwelling, leaving his family homeless, Stewart said.

Euten partially admitted to causing the fire but claimed the fire was an accident though he knowingly lit those matches around flammable items, Stewart said.

He also attended the fire department's Explorer program — which prepares teenagers for future careers in the fire service — for about six months, he said.

He is not enrolled in school, Stewart said, though he would be in the 10th grade. He was expelled from Lakewood High School a few months ago, he said.

Aside from the \$15,000 bond, Euten must also re-

turn equipment and clothing provided to him by the fire department, at the request of Division Chief Brian Christmas and Battalion Chief Joey Duggan — both with Sumter Fire

Department.

Euten gave permission for the fire department to retrieve the items from a relative's house though he said a few things were destroyed in the house fire.

Euten made bail on Tuesday afternoon and is scheduled to have a preliminary hearing on March 16.

He faces three to 25 years in prison if convicted of second-degree arson.

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N.G. Osteen 1843-1936
THE WATCHMAN AND SOUTHRON

H.G. Osteen 1870-1955
FOUNDER, THE ITEM

H.D. Osteen 1904-1987
THE ITEM

Margaret W. Osteen 1908-1996
THE ITEM



OPINION

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COMMENTARY

Constitutional ignorance — perhaps contempt

Hillary Clinton blamed the Electoral College for her stunning defeat in the 2016 presidential election in her latest memoirs, “What Happened?”



Walter Williams

Some have claimed that the Electoral College is one of the most dangerous institutions in American politics.

Why? They say the Electoral College

system, as opposed to a simple majority vote, distorts the one-person, one-vote principle of democracy because electoral votes are not distributed according to population.

To back up their claim, they point out that the Electoral College gives, for example, Wyoming citizens disproportionate weight in a presidential election. Put another way, Wyoming, a state with a population of about

600,000, has one member in the U.S. House of Representatives and two members in the U.S. Senate, which gives the citizens of Wyoming three electoral votes, or one electoral vote per 200,000 people. California, our most populous state, has more than 39 million people and 55 electoral votes, or approximately one vote per 715,000 people. Comparatively, individuals in Wyoming have nearly four times the power in the Electoral College as Californians.

Many people whine that using the Electoral College instead of the popular vote and majority rule is undemocratic. I’d say that they are absolutely right. Not deciding who will be the president by majority rule is not democracy. But the Founding Fathers went to great lengths to ensure that we were a republic and not a democracy. In fact, the word democracy does not appear in the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution or any other of our founding documents.

How about a few quotations expressed by the Founders about democracy? In Federalist Paper No. 10, James Madison wanted to prevent rule by majority faction, saying, “Measures are too often decided, not according to the rules of justice and the rights of the minor party, but by the superior force of an interested and overbearing majority.” John Adams warned in a letter, “Remember Democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts and murders itself. There never was a Democracy. Yet, that did not commit suicide.” Edmund Randolph said, “That in tracing these evils to their origin, every man had found it in the turbulence and follies of democracy.” Then-Chief Justice John Marshall observed, “Between a balanced republic and a democracy, the difference is like that between order and chaos.”

The Founders expressed contempt for the tyranny of majority rule, and throughout our Constitution, they

placed impediments to that tyranny. Two houses of Congress pose one obstacle to majority rule. That is, 51 senators can block the wishes of 435 representatives and 49 senators. The president can veto the wishes of 535 members of Congress. It takes two-thirds of both houses of Congress to override a presidential veto. To change the Constitution requires not a majority but a two-thirds vote of both houses, and if an amendment is approved, it requires ratification by three-fourths of state legislatures. Finally, the Electoral College is yet another measure that thwarts majority rule. It makes sure that the highly populated states — today, mainly 12 on the East and West coasts — cannot run roughshod over the rest of the nation. That forces a presidential candidate to take into consideration the wishes of the other 38 states.

Those Americans obsessed with rule by popular majorities might want to get rid of the U.S. Senate, where

states, regardless of population, have two senators. Should we change representation in the House of Representatives to a system of proportional representation and eliminate the guarantee that each state gets at least one representative? Currently, seven states with populations of 1 million or fewer have one representative, thus giving them disproportionate influence in Congress. While we’re at it, should we make all congressional acts be majority rule? When we’re finished with establishing majority rule in Congress, should we then move to change our court system, which requires unanimity in jury decisions, to a simple majority rule?

My question is: Is it ignorance of or contempt for our Constitution that fuels the movement to abolish the Electoral College?

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

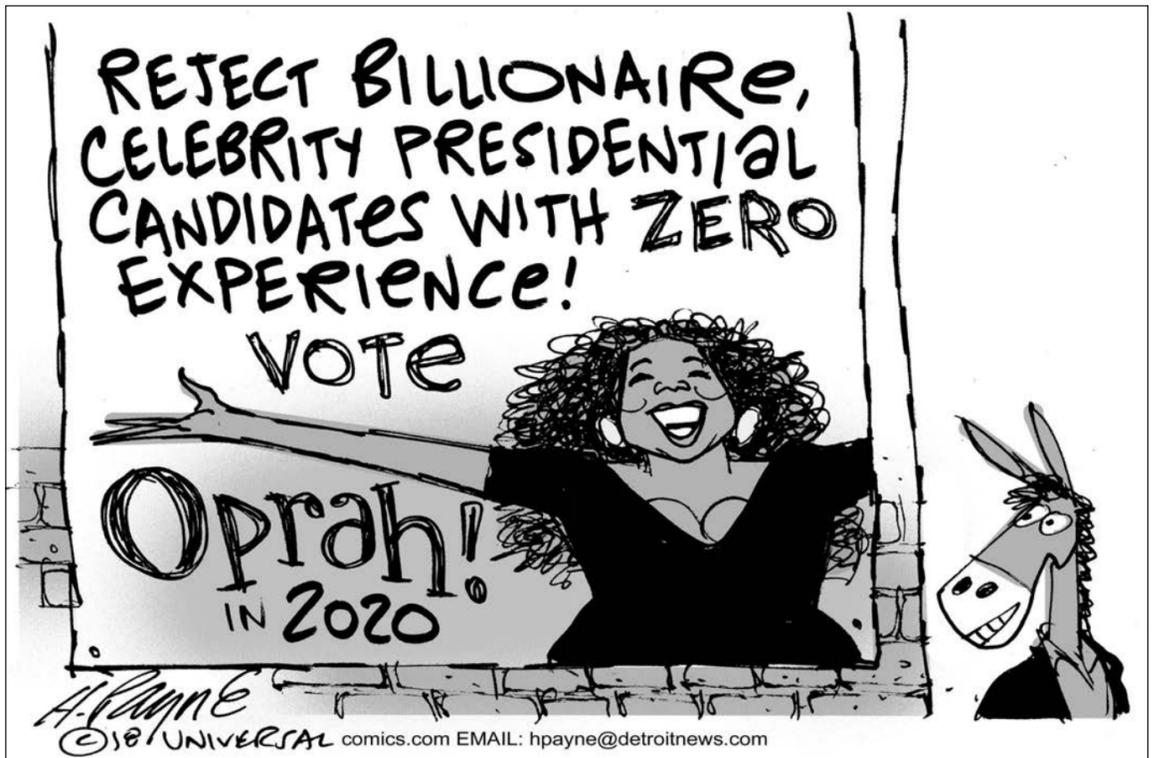
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COMMENTARY

‘Weakening’ libel laws is not the right tactic — for anyone

Editor’s note: This column was originally posted on Jan. 11 on the Newseum Institute’s website, www.newseuminstitute.org.

BY GENE POLICINSKI

Making it easier to sue people for libel is not a good idea — for our democracy in general, and even for President Trump and a few of his personal lawyers, in particular.

Trump has railed against existing legal protections, most recently following the publication of journalist Michael Wolff’s searing book “Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House.” On Wednesday, Trump said he will take a “strong look” at the country’s libel laws because they are a “sham and a disgrace and do not represent American values and American fairness.”

Just hours earlier, Trump’s personal attorney Michael Cohen sued BuzzFeed Inc. and consulting firm Fusion GPS for defamation, claiming they had made unproven or erroneous allegations about him in a con-

troversial “Russia dossier” compiled by Fusion and later published by BuzzFeed.

The laws that Trump wants to tinker with are rooted in a 1964 U.S. Supreme Court decision, *New York Times v. Sullivan*, which protects critics of public officials, even if their offending speech contains error — as did the newspaper advertisement at the heart of that legal dispute.

Most certainly that decision and others that followed it are not license to fabricate and defame without concern. *The Times v. Sullivan* decision stakes out conditions in which defamatory material is not protected: Material disseminated with “malicious intent” — that is, with the knowledge it is false — or with reckless disregard of whether it was false or not.

But absent those circumstances, the Court said, the need for a democracy to have an “uninhibited, robust and wide open” discussion on matters of public interest requires that we accept that those discussions likely will contain “vehement, caustic and sometimes unpleasantly sharp attacks on government and public officials.”

“I consider [the book] a work of fiction,” Trump told reporters on Jan. 6 at a meeting at Camp David, Maryland. “The libel laws are very weak in this country. If they were strong, it would be very helpful. You wouldn’t have things like that happen where you can say whatever comes to your head.”

Actually, the very point of the First Amendment’s protection for free speech and a free press is that we get to say “whatever” comes into our heads, with very few restraints, without fear of being prevented or punished by the government. The *Sullivan* standard accepts inadvertent error in the effort to inform citizens on matters of public interest.

In response to Cohen’s lawsuit, a spokesman for BuzzFeed said that “The dossier is, and continues to be, the subject of active investigations by Congress and intelligence agencies. It was presented to two successive presidents and has been described in detail by news outlets around the world. Its interest to the public is obvious.” The spokesman added, “This is not the first time

Trump’s personal lawyer has attacked the free press, and we look forward to defending our First Amendment rights in court.”

Cohen relies, ironically, on the very standard in *Sullivan* that Trump would alter or remove: That the material in the dossier was published with knowledge that it was false.

As has been noted by many experts following Trump’s multiple threats to change libel law, it isn’t possible to make changes with the stroke of a presidential pen, or even an act of Congress. Libel laws are state laws, so changes would have to take place in 51 sets of statutes (including Washington, D.C.), through a Supreme Court decision or through constitutional changes. Neither is likely.

The best tactic in defending Trump against the criticism in Wolff’s book or the allegations in the Fusion dossier may well be to use the power already in the hands of Trump and his cohorts: The power public officials have to respond effectively to negative and damaging comments (which is so much more than that of non-celebrities that in *Times v. Sullivan*

public officials — and later all public figures — were granted less protection against such comments).

Clearly, Trump and his legal representatives have plenty of means to counter virtually any allegation, including Tweet storms, via sympathetic news outlets, and from the daily platform of the White House briefing room.

In other words, Trump can use the “Bully Pulpit” that is the White House — and, if you will, the “Bully Tweets” that he relies on so much. He shouldn’t try to silence the news media for reporting what the public needs to know but instead encourage journalists to report the claims on all sides, including his own.

Trump needs to join in the “uninhibited, robust and wide open” discussion that is democracy’s lifeblood, rather than trying to silence others in this ongoing national conversation.

Gene Policinski is president and chief operating officer of the Newseum Institute. He can be reached at gpolicinski@newseum.org, or follow him on Twitter at @genefac.

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SUPPORT GROUPS

AA, AL-ANON, ALATEEN:

AA — Monday-Friday, noon and 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., 1 Warren St. (803) 775-1852.

AA Women's Meeting — Wednesdays, 7 p.m., 1 Warren St. (803) 775-1852.

AA Spanish Speaking — Sundays, 4:30 p.m., 1 Warren St. (803) 775-1852.

AA "How it Works" Group — Mondays and Fridays, 8 p.m., 1154 Ronda St. (803) 494-5180.

441 AA Support Group — Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, 8 p.m., Hair Force, 2090-D S.C. 441.

AA Summertown Group — Wednesday, 8 p.m., town hall.

Manning Al-Anon Family Group — Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Behavioral Health Building, 14 Church St., Manning. (803) 435-8085.

C/A "Drop the Rock" Group — Thursdays, 9:30 p.m., 1154 Ronda St. Call (803) 607-4543.

MONDAY MEETINGS:

Sumter Vitiligo Support Group — Second Monday, 5:45-6:45 p.m., North HOPE Center, 904 N. Main St. Call (803) 316-6763. The group is on Facebook.

TUESDAY MEETINGS:

Heroin Anonymous — Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30 p.m., 4742 Broad St. Call (803) 494-5180.

Sumter Connective Tissue Support Group — First Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November, 7 p.m., 180 Tiller Circle. Call (803) 773-0869.

Mothers of Angels (for mothers who have lost a child) — First Tuesday at noon and third Tuesday at 6 p.m., Wise Drive Baptist Church. Call (803) 469-6059, (803) 979-4498, (803) 469-4506 or (803) 938-8544.

Sumter Combat Veterans Group Peer to Peer — Tuesdays, 11 a.m., South HOPE Center, 1125 S. Lafayette Drive. Veterans helping veterans with PTSD, coping skills, claims and benefits.

"The Gathering" — Second Tuesday, 5:30-6:30 p.m., North HOPE Center, 904 N. Main St. For teens and adults with special needs. Call (803) 972-0051 or (803) 468-5745 or email the-gathering23@aol.com.

Sumter Amputee Support Group — Second Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Sumter Prosthetics & Orthotics, 259 Broad St. Call (803) 883-4356.

Sumter Chapter Parents of Murdered Children (POMC) — Third

Tuesday, 5:30-7 p.m., Birnie HOPE Center, 210 S. Purdy St.

EFMP Parent Exchange Group — Last Tuesday, 11 a.m.-noon, Airmar and Family Readiness Center. Support to service members who have a dependent with a disability or illness. Call (803) 895-1252/1253 or (803) 847-2377.

WEDNESDAY MEETINGS:

Sickle Cell Support Group — Last Wednesday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., South Sumter Resource Center, 337 Manning Ave. Call (803) 774-6181.

Divorce Care — Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., Bethel Baptist Church, 2401 Bethel Church Road. Call (803) 481-2160.

Grief Share — Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., Bethel Baptist Church, 2401 Bethel Church Road. Call (803) 481-2160.

THURSDAY MEETINGS:

TOPS S.C. No. 236 (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) — Thursdays, 9 a.m., Spectrum Senior Center, 1989 Durant Lane. Call (803) 775-3926 or (803) 469-4789.

Alzheimer's Support Group through S.C. Alzheimer's Association — First Thursday, 6-8 p.m., National Health Care, 1018 N. Guignard Drive. Call (803) 905-7720 or (800) 636-3346.

Journey of Hope (for family members of the mentally ill), Journey to Recovery (for the mentally ill) and Survivors of Suicide Support Group — Each group meets first Thursday, 7 p.m., St. John United Methodist Church, 136 Poinsett Drive. Call (803) 905-5620.

FRIDAY MEETINGS:

Celebrate Recovery — Fridays, 6 p.m., Salt & Light Church, Miller Road (across from Food Lion). Help with struggles of alcohol, drugs, family problems, smoking, etc.

Wateree AIDS Task Force Support Group — Third Friday, 11:30 a.m., 508 W. Liberty St. Call (803) 778-0303.

SATURDAY MEETINGS:

Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy/Complex Regional Pain Syndrome Support Group — Third Saturday, 1:30 p.m., 3785 Blackberry Lane, Lot 7. Call (803) 481-7521.

SUNDAY MEETINGS:

Sumter MS Support Group — First Sunday, 3 p.m., Wise Drive Baptist Church, 2751 S. Wise Drive. Call (803) 481-5344 or (803) 464-6440. Email lam.me.not.ms@gmail.com or msmiles013@gmail.com.

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2018

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
A snow shower in the morning	Clear and colder	Chilly with plenty of sunshine	Plenty of sunshine	Plenty of sunshine	Nice with plenty of sun
41°	20°	48° / 24°	55° / 27°	60° / 34°	65° / 43°
Chance of rain: 70%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 5%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 5%	Chance of rain: 10%
NW 6-12 mph	NNW 6-12 mph	W 4-8 mph	WSW 4-8 mph	WSW 6-12 mph	ESE 3-6 mph

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

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

IN THE MOUNTAINS

Today: Partly sunny. Winds north 6-12 mph. Clear and cold.

Thursday: Chilly with plenty of sun. Winds southwest 4-8 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: Some snow, but a shower in southern parts. High 45 to 49.

Thursday: Chilly with plenty of sunshine. High 45 to 49.

AccuWeather
DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY

LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THROUGH 2 P.M. YESTERDAY

Temperature	High	Low	Normal high	Normal low	Record high	Record low
	53°	23°	54°	32°	79° in 2013	10° in 1994

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"	0.75"	2.09"	0.75"	3.21"	2.09"

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	353.78	+0.06
Marion	76.8	73.10	+0.04
Moultrie	75.5	73.21	-0.07
Wateree	100	96.33	-0.15

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	7.29	+0.10
Congaree River	19	5.13	+1.03
Lynches River	14	5.88	+0.26
Saluda River	14	5.13	-0.30
Up. Santee River	80	76.45	+0.55
Wateree River	24	10.43	+0.31

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	7:27 a.m.	Sunset	5:38 p.m.
Moonrise	7:43 a.m.	Moonset	6:21 p.m.

Phase	First	Full	Last	New
	Jan. 24	Jan. 31	Feb. 7	Feb. 15

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH				
	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	9:18 a.m.	3.1	3:26 a.m.	-0.1
	9:20 p.m.	2.6	4:07 p.m.	0.0
Thu.	9:53 a.m.	3.1	4:03 a.m.	-0.1
	9:56 p.m.	2.6	4:43 p.m.	0.0

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	31/20/s	43/25/s
Chicago	21/16/s	32/24/s
Dallas	35/21/s	50/33/s
Detroit	27/17/pc	31/24/s
Houston	38/23/pc	44/35/pc
Los Angeles	78/56/pc	73/54/pc
New Orleans	37/25/s	45/30/pc
New York	36/20/sn	34/26/s
Orlando	67/31/pc	56/36/pc
Philadelphia	35/19/sf	37/26/s
Phoenix	71/48/pc	73/49/pc
San Francisco	60/51/pc	58/48/r
Wash., DC	29/21/sf	43/26/s

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W
Asheville	22/16/sf	44/21/s	Florence	42/20/sf	47/26/s
Athens	37/19/s	48/26/s	Gainesville	52/22/pc	51/25/s
Augusta	42/19/pc	49/25/s	Gastonia	36/17/sn	48/21/s
Beaufort	45/24/pc	48/28/s	Goldboro	43/19/sn	43/26/s
Cape Hatteras	43/25/sn	39/35/s	Goose Creek	47/23/c	48/28/s
Charleston	47/24/c	48/30/s	Greensboro	30/17/sn	43/22/s
Charlotte	35/17/sn	46/21/s	Greenville	33/18/pc	46/22/s
Clemson	37/20/pc	47/24/s	Hickory	32/18/pc	47/22/s
Columbia	42/22/pc	51/26/s	Hilton Head	48/25/pc	47/32/s
Darlington	39/20/sf	46/24/s	Jacksonville, FL	51/25/pc	49/27/s
Elizabeth City	42/18/sn	42/27/s	La Grange	35/18/s	46/21/s
Elizabethtown	42/20/sf	46/25/s	Macon	37/20/pc	48/24/s
Fayetteville	39/19/sn	46/24/s	Marietta	29/19/s	42/23/s
			Marion	31/15/sf	48/20/s
			Mt. Pleasant	49/25/c	48/31/s
			Myrtle Beach	49/24/sn	46/31/s
			Orangeburg	42/22/sn	49/25/s
			Port Royal	45/26/pc	46/31/s
			Raleigh	35/16/sn	44/20/s
			Rock Hill	36/17/sn	47/21/s
			Rockingham	37/16/sn	47/20/s
			Savannah	44/23/pc	49/26/s
			Spartanburg	35/19/pc	47/23/s
			Summerville	46/22/c	49/27/s
			Wilmington	49/21/sn	46/28/s
			Winston-Salem	31/18/sn	45/22/s

PUBLIC AGENDA

CENTRAL CAROLINA TECHNICAL COLLEGE AREA COMMISSION
Thursday, 11 a.m., Economic Development Conference Room, K205, Kershaw County Campus, 80 Campus Drive, Camden

CLARENDON SCHOOL DISTRICT 3
Thursday, 7:30 p.m., district office, Turbeville

The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep your life simple and avoid getting

into a dispute with someone over money or matters that aren't that consequential. Strive for perfection, personal growth, better health and greater happiness. Accept the inevitable and work with what you've got.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Tuck your emotions away where they cannot be detected. It's important to display a poker face if you want to navigate your way into a prime position. No matter what or who you are dealing with, control will be an issue.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Search for information that will help you bypass trouble with authority figures. Get a clear vision of your financial status before you make a donation or commit to taking on an additional expense. Personal improvements are in your best interest.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Generosity or miscalculating the cost of a repair or other expenses that unexpectedly crop up will leave you short. Monitor your spending carefully to ensure that you don't miss an important payment. Proper diet and fitness should be a priority.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Relationships should be handled carefully. Emotions will swell up if you make too many changes without discussing your plans with anyone who will be affected by the choices you make. Avoid indulgent behavior as well as emotional manipulation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Attend a networking event or seminar that will offer different points of view. Gathering information will help you determine what's best for you. Don't let anyone persuade you into

making a snap decision when money is involved.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Let past experiences lead the way. Consider what you can do to keep an important relationship healthy. Outside meddling or interference should be eliminated quickly to avoid making a mistake. Share your feelings and find out where you stand.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't feel you have to act impulsively in order to keep someone's interest. Do your own thing and don't worry about what others think. Go ahead and do things differently. Your uniqueness will draw interest and help you excel.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Reevaluate the past and how you have taken care of your interests and your health. Consider what you can do to make improvements without going into debt. Change is only good if it doesn't throw other aspects of your life in jeopardy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Slow down and pick and choose carefully when dealing with partners, friends or relatives. Refuse to be railroaded into something that doesn't meet your standards or isn't of interest to you. Love and happiness should be your top priorities.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Think twice before you take action. Find out exactly what's going on before you call out someone who may or may not be the problem. Observe and moderate reactions to avoid complaints as well as making a regrettable mistake.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Look at the big picture when it comes to your overall health, personal finances and commitments. Practicality and common sense are best put into play to avoid being persuaded to get involved in something you may regret later.

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Sleep Comfortable in the New Year

SUMTER ANIMAL CONTROL PETS OF THE WEEK



CAN'T ADOPT BUT WOULD LIKE TO HELP IN SOME WAY? Sumter Animal Control will gladly accept donations of the following: Capstar flea control pills (at Petco or Tractor Supply), bleach (gallons or spray bottle), metal food and water bowls in all sizes, towels, waterless pet shampoo, dog cologne, kibble, puppy food, newspapers and leashes and collars. You can also make a tax-deductible donation via Paypal at sumterstrays@gmail.com. One hundred percent of your donation will be used for the animals at Sumter Animal Control.

TOP: Pippey is a young girl who lost her home through no fault of her own. She is already spayed and it seems that she has had some house training as well. She gets along with other dogs and would do well with an active family. She is smart and people-focused. This pretty young lady deserves a loving, forever home.

BELOW: Sasha is a petite young girl who was found wandering at the highway department. We feel she must have been a family pet but she has not been claimed so she is now adoptable. Sasha has lovely manners, she walks well on a leash and is a gentle, easygoing dog. If you are looking for a young lady with manners and charm, Sasha would love to get to know you.

If you would like to meet Pippey in kennel 30 or Sasha in kennel 17, call the volunteer coordinator at (803) 774-3232 or stop by Sumter Animal Control, 1240 Winkles Road. We have many other adoptable dogs as well as animals who were found and are waiting for their owners to claim them. Check Sumter Animal Control on Facebook.

PREP BASKETBALL



MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Wilson Hall's Natalie Jackson rises above the confusion to put up a shot during the Lady Barons' 35-28 loss to Florence Christian on Tuesday at Wilson Hall's Nash Student Center.

Points at a minimum

Lady Barons fall to Florence Christian 35-28 in defensive struggle

BY DENNIS BRUNSON
dennis@theitem.com

Points were in short supply in the varsity girls basketball game between Wilson Hall and Florence Christian School on Tuesday at Nash Student Center. And Lady Barons head coach Glen Rector knew the reason why.

"Both teams played tremendous defense throughout the game tonight," said Rector, whose team lost to the Lady Eagles 35-28. "It was just great defense by both teams."

In the boys game, Wilson Hall won 52-31.

It was the first meeting of the season between the teams that shared the

SCISA Region II-3A girls regular-season title last season. FCS won the region tournament title.

WH fell to 11-5 on the season and 1-1 in region play. Florence Christian remained undefeated at 10-0 overall and 2-0 in region play.

Wilson Hall pulled out a new offense on Tuesday, one where it spread the

floor to try and take advantage to its size advantage with one-on-one matchups inside.

"With the exception of (Lady Eagles center) Zoe (Cauthen), we felt like we had the size advantage at every position," Rector said. "It didn't really

SEE BARONS, PAGE B3

CLEMSON BASKETBALL

Tigers still 0-and-forever in Chapel Hill

North Carolina holds off Clemson's second-half rally in 87-79 triumph

BY AARON BEARD
The Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — Graduate transfer Cameron Johnson scored a season-high 21 points to help No. 15 North Carolina hold off No. 20 Clemson 87-79 on Tuesday night, preserving its perfect all-time home record against the Tigers.

Joel Berry II scored 14 of his 17 after halftime for the Tar Heels (15-4, 4-2 Atlantic Coast Conference), who hung on despite seeing most of an 18-point lead erased by Clemson's torrid second-half shooting.

Luke Maye added 11 points

while playing with a stitched-up cut on his nose suffered shortly before halftime.

The win improved the Tar Heels to 59-0 all-time at home against Clemson, including 28-0 in the Smith Center. It's the longest home winning streak against a single opponent in NCAA history.

Marcquise Reed scored 21 points for the Tigers (15-3, 4-2), who made 15 of 16 shots out of halftime and thrice closed within two points in the final 10 minutes.

SEE TIGERS, PAGE B3



North Carolina's Kenny Williams (24) drives to the basket against Clemson's Aamir Simms (25) and Mark Donnal (5) during the first half of the Tar Heels' 87-79 victory over the Tigers in Chapel Hill, North Carolina on Tuesday. UNC improved to 59-0 all-time at home against Clemson.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PRO BASKETBALL

NBA investigating Rockets-Clippers events

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The NBA is planning to speak with players from both the Houston Rockets and Los Angeles Clippers to determine the specifics of late-game and postgame events involving the teams.

NBA spokesman Tim Frank said Tuesday that the league would look into the matter. Tempers boiled over Monday night late in the Clippers' 113-102 victory, to the point where several security guards were needed outside the Houston locker room postgame.

Citing anonymous NBA sources, ESPN reported several Rockets players headed toward the Clippers' locker room afterward, seeking a confrontation, but were escorted away by security before anything got physical.

There were late-game incidents as well in Chris Paul's first game in Los Angeles since he was traded to the Rockets this past summer. Clippers star Blake Griffin



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Houston guard Eric Gordon, left, shoots as Los Angeles Clipper forward Blake Griffin defends during the first half of their game on Monday in Los Angeles. Many of the Houston players went to the LA locker room following the game.

appeared to bump Houston coach Mike D'Antoni, and they exchanged words. Griffin and Houston's Trevor Ariza were later ejected after another incident.

Postgame, neither team offered specifics on what happened, if

anything, in the Clippers' locker room.

"We were where we were supposed to be," Griffin said. "We were in our locker room."

SEE NBA, PAGE B2

PRO FOOTBALL

Jags 'threw a tantrum' when Marrone started making changes

BY MARK LONG
The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Jacksonville's locker room was abuzz late last season. Four guys played table tennis while others crowded around a small table for dominoes. Two 80-inch televisions were tuned to a sports highlight show, and music blared from one corner of the room.

Doug Marrone, the team's offensive line coach at the time, walked through and shook his head.

"Can you believe this?" Marrone whispered.

The Jaguars were in the middle of a nine-game losing streak that would ultimately cost coach Gus Bradley his job. Marrone had watched from afar for two years, witnessing an atmosphere he felt was too loose, too laid-back and too lenient amid losing.

SEE JAGS, PAGE B2

SCOREBOARD

TV, RADIO

TODAY
7 a.m. — Professional Tennis: Australian Open Men's and Women's Second-Round Matches from Melbourne, Australia (TENNIS).
10 a.m. — NFL Football: Conference Championship Weekend Press Conferences (NFL NETWORK).
Noon — Figure Skating: European Championships from Moscow — Pairs Short Program Competition (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
1:30 p.m. — Figure Skating: European Championships from Moscow — Men's Short Program Competition (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
2 p.m. — Professional Tennis: Australian Open Men's and Women's Second-Round Matches from Melbourne, Australia (ESPN2).
2:30 p.m. — International Soccer: FA Cup Third-Round Match — Norwich City vs. Chelsea (FOX SPORTS 1).
6 p.m. — College Basketball: Tulsa at Temple (ESPNNEWS).
6:05 p.m. — Talk Show: Sports Talk (WDXY-FM 105.9, WDXY-AM 1240).
6:30 p.m. — College Basketball: Dayton at St. Joseph's (CBS SPORTS NETWORK).
6:30 p.m. — College Basketball: Villanova at Georgetown (FOX SPORTS 1).
7 p.m. — College Basketball: Arkansas at Florida (ESPN2).
7 p.m. — College Basketball: Southern Methodist at Wichita State (ESPN).
7 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Washington at Charlotte (FOX SPORTS SOUTHEAST).
7 p.m. — College Basketball: Auburn at Alabama (SEC NETWORK).
7 p.m. — Professional Tennis: Australian Open Men's and Women's Second-Round Matches from Melbourne, Australia (TENNIS).
7 p.m. — College Basketball: Bucknell at Loyola (Mid.) (SPECTRUM 1250).
7:30 p.m. — NHL Hockey: Montreal at Boston (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
8 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Los Angeles Lakers at Oklahoma City (ESPN).
8 p.m. — College Basketball: Houston at Tulane (ESPNNEWS).
8 p.m. — Professional Golf: Asian Tour Singapore Open First Round from Singapore (GOLF).
8:30 p.m. — College Basketball: St. John's at Xavier (CBS SPORTS NETWORK).
8:30 p.m. — College Basketball: Seton Hall at Creighton (FOX SPORTS 1).
9 p.m. — Professional Tennis: Australian Open Men's and Women's Second-Round Matches from Melbourne, Australia (ESPN2).
9 p.m. — College Basketball: Iowa State at Texas Christian (ESPN).
9 p.m. — Women's College Basketball: Baylor at Iowa State (FOX SPORTSOUTH).
9 p.m. — College Basketball: Tennessee at Missouri (SEC NETWORK).
10 p.m. — NHL Hockey: Pittsburgh at Anaheim (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
10:30 p.m. — College Basketball: Nevada at San Jose State (CBS SPORTS NETWORK).
10:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Denver at Los Angeles Clippers (ESPN).
10:30 p.m. — Professional Golf: European PGA Tour Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship First Round from Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (GOLF).
11 p.m. — College Basketball: Fresno State at San Diego State (ESPN).
3 a.m. — Professional Tennis: Australian Open Men's and Women's Second-Round Matches from Melbourne, Australia (ESPN2).

Toronto	29	13	.690	4
Philadelphia	20	20	.500	12
New York	20	24	.455	14
Brooklyn	16	28	.364	18

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	25	18	.581	—
Washington	25	19	.568	½
Charlotte	17	25	.405	7½
Atlanta	12	31	.279	13
Orlando	12	31	.279	13

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	26	17	.605	—
Indiana	24	20	.545	2½
Milwaukee	23	20	.535	3
Detroit	22	20	.524	3½
Chicago	17	27	.386	9½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	30	12	.714	—
San Antonio	29	16	.644	2½
New Orleans	22	20	.524	8
Dallas	15	29	.341	16
Memphis	14	28	.333	16

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	29	16	.644	—
Oklahoma City	24	20	.545	4½
Portland	22	21	.512	6
Denver	22	21	.512	6
Utah	17	26	.395	11

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	36	9	.800	—
L.A. Clippers	22	21	.512	13
Phoenix	16	28	.364	19½
L.A. Lakers	15	28	.349	20
Sacramento	13	30	.302	22

MONDAY'S GAMES
 Charlotte 118, Detroit 107
 Philadelphia 117, Toronto 111
 Milwaukee 104, Washington 95
 Atlanta 102, San Antonio 99
 New York 119, Brooklyn 104
 Chicago 119, Miami 111
 Memphis 123, L.A. Lakers 114
 Golden State 118, Cleveland 108
 Oklahoma City 95, Sacramento 88
 Indiana 109, Utah 94
 L.A. Clippers 113, Houston 102

TUESDAY'S GAMES
 Minnesota at Orlando, 7 p.m.
 New Orleans at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
 Dallas at Denver, 9 p.m.
 Phoenix at Portland, 10 p.m.

TODAY'S GAMES
 Washington at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
 Detroit at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
 New Orleans at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
 San Antonio at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
 Golden State at Chicago, 8 p.m.
 L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
 Miami at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
 New York at Memphis, 8 p.m.
 Utah at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
 Denver at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES
 Orlando at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
 Philadelphia at Boston, 7 p.m.
 Minnesota at Houston, 9:30 p.m.
 Indiana at Portland, 10 p.m.

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OTPts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	44	31	10	3	65	112
Boston	42	24	10	8	56	137
Toronto	45	25	17	3	53	146
Detroit	43	18	17	4	43	117
Florida	43	18	19	6	42	122
Montreal	44	18	20	6	42	115
Ottawa	42	15	18	9	39	117
Buffalo	44	11	24	9	31	99

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OTPts	GF	GA
Washington	45	28	14	3	59	140
Columbus	46	25	18	3	53	124
New Jersey	42	22	12	8	52	133
Pittsburgh	46	24	19	3	51	135
N.Y. Islanders	45	23	18	4	50	158
N.Y. Rangers	44	22	17	5	49	132
Philadelphia	43	20	15	8	48	128
Carolina	45	20	17	8	48	126

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OTPts	GF	GA
Winnipeg	46	26	13	7	59	153
Nashville	42	25	11	6	56	131
St. Louis	46	26	17	3	55	134
Dallas	45	25	17	3	53	136
Minnesota	46	24	17	5	53	133
Colorado	43	24	16	3	51	142
Chicago	45	22	17	6	50	136

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OTPts	GF	GA
Vegas	42	29	10	3	61	145
Calgary	45	25	16	4	54	131
Los Angeles	44	24	15	5	53	129
San Jose	42	23	13	6	52	120
Anaheim	45	20	16	9	49	122
Edmonton	46	20	23	3	43	126
Vancouver	45	18	21	6	42	119
Arizona	45	10	28	7	27	105

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.

MONDAY'S GAMES
 Dallas 3, Boston 2, OT
 Colorado 3, Anaheim 1
 San Jose 4, Los Angeles 1
 N.Y. Islanders 5, Montreal 4, OT

TUESDAY'S GAMES
 St. Louis at Toronto, 7 p.m.
 New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
 Philadelphia at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
 Dallas at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
 Vegas at Nashville, 8 p.m.
 San Jose at Arizona, 9 p.m.

TODAY'S GAMES
 Montreal at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
 Pittsburgh at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES
 Washington at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
 Dallas at Columbus, 7 p.m.
 Toronto at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
 Boston at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
 St. Louis at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
 Buffalo at N.Y. Rangers, 7:30 p.m.
 Vegas at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
 Arizona at Nashville, 8 p.m.
 San Jose at Colorado, 9 p.m.
 Pittsburgh at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES
 Vegas at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
 Montreal at Washington, 7:30 p.m.
 Los Angeles at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S TOP 25 RESULTS
Monday
 1. Villanova (16-1) did not play. Next: at Georgetown, Wednesday.
 2. Virginia (16-1) did not play. Next: at Georgia Tech, Thursday.
 3. Purdue (17-2) did not play. Next: vs. Wisconsin, Tuesday.
 4. Oklahoma (14-2) did not play. Next: at Kansas State, Tuesday.
 5. Duke (16-2) beat No. 25 Miami 83-75. Next: vs. Pittsburgh, Saturday.
 6. West Virginia (15-3) lost to No. 10 Kansas 71-66. Next: vs. Texas, Saturday.
 7. Wichita State (15-2) did not play. Next: vs. SMU, Wednesday.
 8. Texas Tech (15-2) did not play. Next: at Texas, Wednesday.
 9. Michigan State (16-3) did not play. Next: vs. Indiana, Friday.
 10. Kansas (15-3) beat No. 6 West Virginia 71-66. Next: vs. Baylor, Saturday.
 11. Xavier (16-3) did not play. Next: vs. St. John's, Wednesday.
 12. Cincinnati (15-2) did not play. Next: at UCF, Tuesday.
 13. Gonzaga (16-3) did not play. Next: vs. Saint Mary's, Thursday.
 14. Arizona (14-4) did not play. Next: at California, Wednesday.
 15. North Carolina (14-4) did not play. Next: vs. No.

20 Clemson, Tuesday.
 16. Arizona State (14-3) did not play. Next: at Stanford, Wednesday.
 17. Auburn (16-1) did not play. Next: at Alabama, Wednesday.
 18. Kentucky (14-3) did not play. Next: at South Carolina, Tuesday.
 19. Seton Hall (15-3) did not play. Next: at Creighton, Wednesday.
20. Clemson (15-2) did not play. Next: at No. 15 North Carolina, Tuesday.
 21. Tennessee (12-4) did not play. Next: at Missouri, Wednesday.
 22. Ohio State (15-4) did not play. Next: at Northwestern, Wednesday.
 23. Michigan (16-4) beat Maryland 68-67. Next: at Nebraska, Thursday.
 24. TCU (13-4) did not play. Next: vs. Iowa State, Wednesday.
 25. Miami (13-4) lost to No. 5 Duke 83-75. Next: at N.C. State, Sunday.

WOMEN'S TOP 25 REULTS

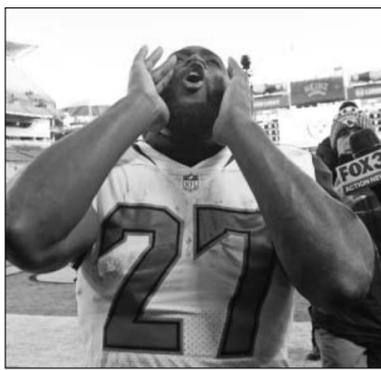
Monday
 1. UConn (16-0) beat No. 9 Texas 75-71. Next: vs. Tulsa, Thursday.
 2. Louisville (19-0) did not play. Next: at Pittsburgh, Thursday.
 3. Mississippi State (19-0) did not play. Next: at No. 6 Tennessee, Sunday.
 4. Baylor (15-1) did not play. Next: at Iowa State, Wednesday.
 5. Notre Dame (16-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 6 Tennessee, Thursday.
 6. Tennessee (16-1) did not play. Next: at No. 5 Notre Dame, Thursday.
 7. Oregon (17-2) did not play. Next: at No. 18 Oregon State, Friday.
 8. Ohio State (16-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 19 Michigan, Tuesday.
 9. Texas (14-3) lost to No. 1 UConn 75-71. Next: at Texas Tech, Saturday.
10. South Carolina (14-3) did not play. Next: at Vanderbilt, Thursday.
 11. Missouri (15-2) did not play. Next: at Mississippi, Thursday.
 12. Florida State (16-2) did not play. Next: at Wake Forest, Thursday.
 13. UCLA (13-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 21 California, Friday.
 14. Maryland (15-3) did not play. Next: at Indiana, Tuesday.
 15. Duke (14-4) did not play. Next: at Virginia Tech, Thursday.
 16. Texas A&M (14-5) did not play. Next: at Alabama, Thursday.
 17. West Virginia (15-3) did not play. Next: at No. 24 Oklahoma State, Wednesday.
 18. Oregon State (13-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 7 Oregon, Friday.
 19. Michigan (15-4) did not play. Next: at No. 8 Ohio State, Tuesday.
 20. Iowa (15-3) did not play. Next: at Nebraska, Tuesday.
 21. California (13-4) did not play. Next: at No. 13 UCLA, Friday.
 22. Arizona State (13-5) did not play. Next: vs. Utah, Friday.
 23. Green Bay (15-2) beat IUPUI 60-34. Next: at Detroit, Thursday.
 24. Oklahoma State (12-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 17 West Virginia, Wednesday.
 25. Rutgers (17-3) did not play. Next: at Penn State, Thursday.

PRO TENNIS RESULTS

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Men's Singles - First Round
 Dominic Thiem (5), Austria, def. Guido Pella, Argentina, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.
 Denis Kudla, United States, def. Steve Johnson, United States, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 7-6 (3), 6-2.
 Jiri Vesely, Czech Republic, def. Vaclav Safranek, Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.
 Adrian Mannarino (26), France, def. Matteo Berrettini, Italy, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.
 Fernando Verdasco, Spain, def. Roberto Bautista-Agut (20), Spain, 6-1, 7-5, 7-5.
 Maximilian Marterer, Germany, def. Cedrik-Marcel Stebe, Germany, 6-0, 6-3, 6-4.
 Tennys Sandgren, United States, def. Jeremy Chardy, France, 6-4, 7-6 (2), 6-2.
 Stan Wawrinka (9), Switzerland, def. Richard Berankis, Lithuania, 6-3, 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (2).
 Novak Djokovic (14), Serbia, def. Donald Young, United States, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.
 Gael Monfils, France, def. Jaume Antoni Munar Clar, Spain, 6-3, 7-6 (5), 6-4.
 Tim Smyczek, United States, def. Alexei Popyrin, Australia, 6-3, 6-7 (14), 6-3, 6-3.
 Albert Ramos-Vinolas (21), Spain, def. Jared Donaldson, United States, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.
 Hyeon Chung, Republic of Korea, def. Mischa Zverev (32), Germany, 6-2, 4-1.
 Daniil Medvedev, Russia, def. Thanasi Kokkinakis, Australia, 6-2, 6-7 (6), 7-6 (8), 6-4.
 Peter Gogojewicz, Germany, def. Mikhail Kukushkin, Kazakhstan, 6-3, 6-3, 6-1.
 Alexander Zverev (4), Germany, def. Thomas Fabbiano, Italy, 6-1, 7-6 (5), 7-5.
 David Goffin (7), Belgium, def. Matthias Bachinger, Germany, 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.
 Julien Benneteau, France, def. Taro Daniel, Japan, 6-7 (6), 7-6 (0), 6-4, 6-1.
 Evgeny Donskoy, Russia, def. Florian Mayer, Germany, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.
 Fabio Fognini (25), Italy, def. Horacio Zeballos, Argentina, 6-4, 6-4, 7-5.
 Tomas Berdych (19), Czech Republic, def. Alex De Minaur, Australia, 6-3, 3-6, 6-0, 6-1.
 Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, Spain, def. Benoit Paire, France, 6-0, 6-7 (4), 6-1, 6-4.
 Karen Khachanov, Russia, def. Peter Polansky, Canada, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (2), 6-4.
 Juan Martin Del Potro (12), Argentina, def. Francis Tiafoe, United States, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.
 Sam Querrey (13), United States, def. Feliciano Lopez, Spain, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.
 Marton Fucsovics, Hungary, def. Radu Albot, Moldova, 6-2, 6-3, 4-6, 7-5.
 Nicolas Kicker, Argentina, def. Jordan Thompson, Australia, 6-3, 6-1, 4-6, 3-6, 6-3.
 Lukas Lacko, Slovakia, def. Milos Raonic (22), Canada, 6-7 (5), 7-5, 6-4, 7-6 (4).
 Richard Gasquet (29), France, def. Blaz Kavcic, Slovenia, 6-1, 6-4, 7-5.
 Lorenzo Sonego, Italy, def. Robin Haase, Netherlands, 6-3, 7-5, 6-7 (6), 7-5.
 Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, def. Soon Woo Kwon, Republic of Korea, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.
 Roger Federer (2), Switzerland, def. Aljaz Bedene, Slovenia, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

Women's Singles - First Round
 Simona Halep (1), Romania, def. Destanee Aiava, Australia, 7-6 (5), 6-1.
 Eugenie Bouchard, Canada, def. Oceane Dodin, France, 6-3, 7-6 (5).
 Lauren Davis, United States, def. Jana Cepelova, Slovakia, 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-1.
 Andrea Petkovic, Germany, def. Petra Kvitova (27), Czech Republic, 6-3, 4-6, 10-8.
 Ashleigh Barty (18), Australia, def. Aryna Sabalenka, Belarus, 6-7 (2), 6-4, 6-4.
 Camilla Giorgi, Italy, def. Anna Kalinskaya, Russia, 6-4, 6-3.
 Naomi Osaka, Japan, def. Kristina Kucova, Slovakia, 7-5, 6-2.
 Elena Vesnina (16), Russia, def. Ons Jabeur, Tunisia, 6-3, 6-4.
 Johanna Konta (9), Britain, def. Madison Brengle, United States, 6-3, 6-1.
 Bernarda Pera, United States, def. Anna Blinkova, Russia, 6-2, 6-2.
 Lara Arruabarrena-Vecino, Spain, def. Richel Hogenkamp, Netherlands, 6-1, 6-2.
 Barbora Strycova (20), Czech Republic, def. Kristie Haerim Ahn, United States, 6-1, 7-5.
 Lucie Safarova (29), Czech Republic, def. Ajla Tomljanovic, Australia, 7-5, 6-3.
 Sorana Cirstea, Romania, def. Zarina Diyas, Kazakhstan, 5-7, 6-4, 6-3.
 Beatriz Haddad Maia, Brazil, def. Lizette Cabrera, Australia, 7-6 (3), 6-4.
 Karolina Pliskova (6), Czech Republic, def. Veronica Cepede Royg, Paraguay, 6-3, 6-4.
 Garbine Muguruza (3), Spain, def. Jessika Ponchet, France, 6-4, 6-3.
 Su-Wei Hsieh, Taiwan, def. Lin Zhu, China, 0-6, 6-0, 8-6.
 Lesia Tsurenko, Ukraine, def. Natalia Vikhlyantseva, Russia, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.
 Agnieszka Radwanska (26), Poland, def. Kristyna Pliskova, Czech Republic, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2.
 Angelique Kerber (21), Germany, def. Anna-Lena Friedsam, Germany, 6-0, 6-4.
 Donna Vekic, Croatia, def. Nao Hibino, Japan, 7-5, 6-3.
 Maria Sharapova, Russia, def. Tatjana Maria, Germany, 6-1, 6-4.
 Anastasija Sevastova (14), Latvia, def. Varvara Lepchenko, United States, 6-2, 6-3, 6-2.
 Ana Bogdan, Romania, def. Kristina Mladenovic (11), France, 6-3, 6-2.
 Yulia Putintseva, Kazakhstan, def. Heather Watson, Britain, 7-5, 7-6 (6).
 Ekaterina Alexandrova, Russia, def. Polona Hercog, Slovenia, 7-6 (2), 6-4.
 Madison Keys (17), United States, def. Qiang Wang, China, 6-1, 7-5.
 Mirjana Lucic-Baroni (28), Croatia, def. Shelby Rogers, United States, 7-6 (6), 5-7, 6-2.
 Aliaksandra Sasnovich, Belarus, def. Christina McHale, United States, 6-3, 6-2.
 Marketa Vondrousova, Czech Republic, def. Kurumi Nara, Japan, 7-5, 6-4.
 Caroline Garcia (8), France, def. Carina Witthoef, Germany, 7-5, 6-3.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jacksonville running back Leonard Fournette (27) celebrates as he walks off the field following a 45-42 win over the Pittsburgh Steelers in an AFC playoff game in Pittsburgh on Sunday.

JAGS FROM PAGE B1

So when Marrone was hired to replace Bradley last January, high on his to-do list was to change the culture in Jacksonville. His success is one reason the Jaguars (12-6) are in the AFC championship game against New England (14-3).

The ping pong table was the first to go. Dominoes followed. The locker room stalls were overhauled, too, with Marrone mixing and matching position groups and putting certain players next to veteran leaders and/or NFL role models.

"We definitely threw a tantrum," Pro Bowl defensive tackle Malik Jackson said. "Went in there and talked to him about it. Definitely wasn't happy. I learned just to be quiet, you know, and go with the flow. He's been at it longer than I have, and I'm just the football player. He says do this and I go do it. Just learn to follow him, and I'm glad I did."

Marrone saved the most significant changes for the practice fields.

Marrone, top executive Tom Coughlin and general manager Dave Caldwell wanted a much tougher and more physical team. They drafted bruising running back Leonard Fournette and fiery left tackle Cam Robinson to complement a defense that was significantly beefed up in free agency with the addition of All-Pro pass-rusher Calais Campbell, Pro Bowl cornerback A.J. Bouye and veteran safety Barry Church.

They also designed an offseason program that was more grueling than most players had experienced. Marrone's message was clear: Go hard or go home.

"You remember guys in camp talking about this took a few years off their lives," Jackson said. "It's pretty funny just to see us now. I guess he does know what he's doing." The Jaguars were in full pads nearly every day during training camp, a tortuous stretch in draining heat and humidity that left rookies and veterans questioning the process and wondering if it would pay off. It was the NFL's version of boot camp. Break them down, then build them up.

It ultimately brought players closer, making them accountable to each other and causing them to care more for each other. Winning was the final piece, and thumping Houston 29-7 in the season opener was all the proof players needed.

"It was the toughest training camp I've ever been a part of," said linebacker Paul Posluszny, in his 11th season. "Coach Marrone would talk to us and say, 'Listen. I have a plan and you have to trust me.' With that, guys were able to say, 'OK, we haven't gotten what we wanted in years past doing things a certain way, so we have to buy in, trust the head man and know that that'll bring us success when it's time.'"

"It was difficult just because of so many changes from what we were used to. I think the most important thing is we always said, 'Well, if it helps us win, then it's all good.'"

NBA FROM PAGE B1

BARONS FROM PAGE B1

work that well for us though. We were trying to spread the floor out, but they did a real good job defensively with their man-to-man defense.”

The Lady Barons led 8-7 after one quarter with six of them coming from Natalie Jackson. However, they managed only two in the second quarter and trailed 17-10 at halftime.

The offensive struggles continued for both teams in the third quarter. WH finally scored at the 3:41 mark on a steal and layup to make it 18-12. FCS pushed the lead to 10, 22-12, before Wilson Hall scored the final three of the final four points of the quarter to make it 23-15.

The Lady Barons scored the first six points of the fourth quarter. Jackson had a steal and a layup, had an assist on a Cameron Duffy basket and came up with a steal and an assist to Clark to make it 23-21 with 4:54 remaining in the game.

Clark was fouled on the bucket as well. She missed the free throw and there was a scramble for the ball where it appeared a Wilson Hall player was fouled. However, the ball was ruled out of bounds on the Lady Barons, causing one of the assistants to come out of his seat and he was whistled for a technical foul.

FCS' Corley Keefe hit just one of the free throws and the Lady Eagles didn't score on the ensuing possession, but it seemed to swing the momentum. A 3-point play by Kylie Stewart with 4:03 left made it 27-21.

“The rule is if an assistant coach stands up it is a techni-

cal,” Rector said. “They only hit one of the free throws, but it did take a little of the momentum from us.”

Florence Christian had a big advantage at the free throw line as well. The Lady Eagles shot 33 free throws, hitting 17 of them. WH was 5 for 10.

“Both teams were playing very aggressive defense,” Rector said.

Jackson led Wilson Hall with eight points, while Clark finished with six.

Cauthen led FCS with 10. Keefe, Kylie Stewart and Madison Stewart each had seven.

In the boys contest, Wilson Hall trailed 13-10 after one quarter. The Barons limited FCS to just 18 points the remainder of the game, going on to the 21-point victory. They improved to 7-6 overall and 2-0 in region play.

The Eagles' E.J. Porter hit three 3-point baskets in the first quarter and one in the second, but that was it for him and pretty much for Florence Christian.

Walker Jones drained a couple of treys for WH in the second quarter as they took a 23-18 lead at halftime. The Barons scored the first 16 points of the second half to go up 39-18. They used a half-court trap to force many turnovers that led to easy baskets.

“Our effort tonight was really good from start to finish,” said Wilson Hall head coach Eddie Talley. “This was one of our better games. We got into some foul trouble, but we had some guys come off the bench and do a good job.

“If we get that kind of effort



Wilson Hall's Liza Segars looks to pass during the Lady Barons' 35-28 loss to Florence Christian on Tuesday at Wilson Hall's Nash Student Center.

MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

every game we're going to give ourselves a chance. Our guys are starting to play with

a little bit of confidence.” Daulton Dabbs and Landon VanPattern led the Barons

with nine points apiece. Jones finished with eight and Grey Holler had six.

TIGERS FROM PAGE B1

BIG PICTURE

Clemson: Year after year, the Tigers have faced the question of what it would take to end its unprecedented losing streak here. And after each loss, all they've been able to do is shrug at the growing weight of history that has continued to follow their program to Chapel Hill. This looked to be as good of a chance as any to end the skid as it was the first meeting between the teams when ranked in the AP Top 25 since January 2009, but it ended the way all the others have before.

UNC: While the Tigers faced annual futility, the Tar Heels have long had the opposite issue — the pressure each time to ensure the streak doesn't end on that particular squad's watch. And that pressure could be felt in the Smith Center when the Tigers made their incredible second-half shooting surge to get back in it. In the end, Johnson's big performance and a couple of tough baskets from Maye helped

NO. 15 NORTH CAROLINA 87, NO. 20 CLEMSON 79

CLEMSON (15-3)

Grantham 1-9 2-2 5, Thomas 7-9 2-7 16, DeVoe 4-7 0-0 11, Mitchell 6-10 3-3 18, Reed 7-14 4-4 21, Simms 1-1 1-2 3, William 0-0 0-0 0, Skara 0-3 0-0 0, Donnal 1-2 0-1 3, Trapp 0-0 0-0 0, Oliver 0-1 2-2 2, Spencer 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 27-56 14-21 79.

NORTH CAROLINA (15-4)

Maye 4-8 2-4 11, Pinson 2-7 8-8 12, Williams 5-9 3-4 15, Berry 4-12 5-5 17, Johnson 7-10 1-2 21, Miller 0-0 0-0 0, Huffman 0-0 0-0 0, Rohiman 0-0 0-0 0, Manley 1-2 1-1 3, Brooks 1-1 0-0 2, Rush 0-0 0-0 0, Felton 0-0 0-0 0, Ma 0-0 0-0 0, Robinson 2-2 0-0 6, Platek 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 26-51 20-24 87.

Halftime_North Carolina 38-23, 3-Point Goals_Clemson 11-31 (DeVoe 3-6, Mitchell 3-7, Reed 3-8, Donnal 1-2, Grantham 1-5, Oliver 0-1, Skara 0-2), North Carolina 15-31 (Johnson 6-9, Berry 4-9, Robinson 2-2, Williams 2-5, Maye 1-2, Pinson 0-4). Fouled Out_Thomas, Rebounds_Clemson 24 (Thomas 6), North Carolina 26

UNC hang on.

UP NEXT

Clemson: The Tigers host Notre Dame on Saturday.

UNC: The Tar Heels host Georgia Tech on Saturday.

Keeping Sumter Beautiful

Katie Altman-Goff, Water Resources Extension Agent

Green Steps Schools

Calling all teachers and environmental professionals!

Help us launch an environmental education program in Sumter that teaches students about environmental issues through service learning.

South Carolina Green Steps Schools is an environmental education initiative established in 2003 in the Columbia area. Since then it has grown to a state-wide program. In 2016 44 schools in 9 counties throughout South Carolina created nearly 200 Green Steps projects! These projects range widely but are all focused on improving or reducing negative impacts to the natural environment.

Some examples of projects include: rain gardens, rainwater harvesting, growing plants to improve air quality, air quality monitoring systems using flags, litter clean-ups, waste-free lunch programs, reuse projects, recycling programs, energy-saving programs, and many more! The possibilities are limitless. One school I visited in Columbia had developed an interdisciplinary, curriculum based program of activities centered around their butterfly garden and monarch butterflies.

On Wednesday, January 24 Sumter area teachers will receive information and training to help them start Green Steps projects at their schools. If you are a teacher and are interested in participating in this effort, please see the event information at the end of this column.

You don't have to be a teacher to get involved! If you have expertise in any area that might be useful for a Green Steps Project, you are invited to come to the training too. We are looking for community members to serve as project mentors, giving valuable advice and guidance to students and teachers.

Sumter Green Steps Training
Where: Sumter High School room D111

When: Wednesday, January 24 4:30pm - 6:00pm

For more information or to RSVP, contact Katie Altman at klaltma@clemsun.edu or 803-773-5561.

Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.

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Wilson Hall JV girls stay perfect with win over Florence Christian

Wilson Hall's junior varsity girls basketball team remained undefeated on the season with a 29-25 victory over Florence Christian School on Tuesday at Nash Student Center.

Gracyn Coker led the Lady Barons, who improved to 12-0 on the season, with 11 points. Becca Cromer added five.

THOMAS SUMTER 30
ROBERT E. LEE 8

BISHOPVILLE — Thomas Sumter Academy defeated Robert E. Lee Academy 30-8 on Tuesday at the REL gymnasium.

Clara Burnette led the Lady Generals with eight points and four assists. Karleigh Young added seven points and eight rebounds and Mo Stevens had six rebounds and five steals.

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

SCOTT'S BRANCH 76
BRANCHVILLE 3

BRANCHVILLE — Thirteen different players scored as Scott's Branch defeated Branchville 76-3 on Friday at the BHS gymnasium.

Cambria Parker led the Lady Eagles with 17 points. Teja Madison added 13, while Mary Wimberly and Tonia Lawson both had 10.

SCOTT'S BRANCH
Wimberly 10, Bowman 3, Parker 17, Lawson 10, Brown 3, Sinkler 2, Madison 13, Bennett 2, Oliver 3, Gibson 3, Monroe 4, Seaberry 4, Hunt 2.

BRANCHVILLE
Butler 3

GIRLS B TEAM BASKETBALL

WILSON HALL 28
TIMMERMAN 2

Wilson Hall improved to 6-3 with a 28-2 victory over Timmerman on Tuesday at Nash Student Center.

Grace Beasley led the Lady Barons with eight points. Tiana Carver added six.

BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

SCOTT'S BRANCH 53
BRANCHVILLE 45

BRANCHVILLE — Terrence Yon scored 15 points to lead Scott's Branch to a 53-45 victory over Branchville on Friday at the BHS gymnasium.

Marquis Thomas added nine points for the Eagles. Amonte

AREA ROUNDUP

Brown had eight and Daezhon Dingle added seven.

SCOTT'S BRANCH
Thomas 9, Yon 15, Brock 2, Dingle 7, Fleming 5, Brown 8, Moore 2, Stukes 2, Thompson 3.

BRANCHVILLE
Hayes 19, Miller 4, Woody 4, Stokes 6, Stephenson 9, Dubois 3.

BOYS JV BASKETBALL

SCOTT'S BRANCH 49
BRANCHVILLE 21

BRANCHVILLE — Almont Rendell, Jalen Smith and Nyquan Lee each

scored in double figures as Scott's Branch defeated Branchville 49-21 on Friday at the BHS gymnasium.

Rendell scored 12 points, while Smith had 11 and Lee 10. Savior Seaberry added eight.

BOYS MS BASKETBALL

MANNING 62
EBENEZER 22

DALZELL — Latrell McCray scored 15 points to lead Manning Junior High School to a 62-22 victory over Ebenezer on Tuesday at the EMS gymnasium. Shikel Green added 12 points for the

Monarchs.

Quinten Bradshaw led the Tigers with 10 points.

SCOTT'S BRANCH 58
TIMMONSVILLE 10

SUMMERTON — Tariq Coard scored 21 points to lead Scott's Branch to a 58-10 victory over Timmons ville on Thursday at the SB gymnasium.

Randy Gipson added 13 points for the Eagles. Tydarian Chandler added seven and Zakee Rendell had six.

From staff reports.

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Find Kid Scoop on Facebook

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Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

Make your celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day "a day on, not a day off." This year, thousands of people will do just that by volunteering.

SEEDS OF LEARNING AND SERVICE

AMHERST, MA – Every spring, kids at the Common School in Amherst, plant pumpkins and proceed to learn how to care for them. And from these seeds come study and service.

In the fall, after they harvest the pumpkins, students practice math skills by weighing them and counting the seeds.

The learning continues as they measure ingredients to make dozens of loaves of pumpkin bread, which they donate to the nearby senior center.

Read the above article and identify each of the following:

WHO: _____ **WHAT:** _____

WHEN: _____ **WHERE:** _____

Standards Link: Civics: Students understand the importance of volunteering as a characteristic of American society (e.g., people should volunteer to help others in their family, schools and communities).

Service Ideas

The kids in Mrs. Kelsey's class painted some posters to give kids ideas about the kinds of things they can do to help in their neighborhood. But they fell off the line while drying and got mixed up.

Can you match the two halves of each poster?

BE A MARTIN

CLEAN PA

EMPHASIS

BE

SUPPORT COMMUNITY

ORGANIZE BOOKS

TUTOR

SELECT A QUALITY

PUN

Standards Link: Language Arts: Use reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of texts.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

What's a great way you can help someone today?

Starting at the R, move clockwise around the circle and write every third letter on the lines to find out something you can do today to help someone.

R _ _ _ _

_ _ _ _ _

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Take a look at this list of MLK, Jr. Day of Service ideas. Then look at each picture. Number the project you think each kid chose in the circles.

- Clearing an elderly neighbor's sidewalk.
- Collecting canned goods for a food bank.
- Help coach a younger child's team.
- Help a neighbor with some yard work.
- Play a game at the senior center.

Trash-bag Team

The volunteer coordinator asked four students to collect as many bags of garbage as they could find in the park. How many did each student find? Use the clues to complete the chart.

- The 4 students filled a total of 15 bags.
- No one filled more than 7 bags.
- None of the students filled the same number of bags.
- Cassidy filled 5 bags.
- Owen filled 3 less than Cassidy.
- Sam filled the most bags.

Students	Bags
CASSIDY	
OWEN	
BODIE	
SAM	
TOTAL	15

How many stars can you find on this page in 60 seconds? Now have a friend try. Who found the most?

Extra! Extra! Helping Others

Look through the newspaper to find:

- An organization that helps others
- A person helping others
- Adjectives about helping
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day events

ANSWER: Cassidy filled 5 bags, Owen filled 2 bags, Bodie filled 1 bag and Sam filled 7 bags.

Standards Link: Civics: Know how various American holidays reflect values, principles and beliefs of Americans.

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Thank You Ads

Find ads in the newspaper that thank and acknowledge community volunteers. Create a newspaper "Thank You" ad for participation in a Book Drive. Contact your local newspaper to find out the cost of running this ad.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

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the Sumter ITEM

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SPORTS ITEMS

Giants acquire OF McCutchen from Pittsburgh

SAN FRANCISCO — The Giants acquired Andrew McCutchen from the Pittsburgh Pirates for right-hander Kyle Crick, minor league outfielder Bryan Reynolds and \$500,000 in international signing bonus allocation.

Pittsburgh also will send the Giants cash to cover part of McCutchen's \$14.75 million salary.

McCutchen became the second star jettisoned by the Pirates in three days, following Saturday's trade that sent ace Gerrit Cole to Houston.

Earlier in the offseason, the Giants acquired third baseman Evan Longoria from Tampa Bay.

HORNETS' CLIFFORD RETURNS TO WORK AFTER 21-GAME ABSENCE

CHARLOTTE — Hornets coach Steve Clifford returned to practice following a 21-game absence due to headaches caused by sleep deprivation.

Clifford said Tuesday when he began experiencing intense headaches back in early December it scared him so bad he decided to take a medical leave of absence. Medical tests revealed nothing wrong internally, but Clifford said doctors told him he needed to dramatically change his lifestyle and work habits — and get more sleep.

Clifford, who last coached Charlotte on Dec. 1, says he feels rested and plans to delegate more to his assistant coaches moving forward.

TRIAL SET TO BEGIN IN EX-NFL PLAYER'S ROAD-RAGE KILLING

GRETNA, La. — The trial in a road-rage shooting that left a former NFL football player Joe McKnight dead is set to begin in a New Orleans suburb.

Fifty-five-year-old Ronald Gasser is charged with second-degree murder in the Dec. 1, 2016, shooting of the former running back.

McKnight played college ball at Southern California before three seasons with the New York Jets and one with the Kansas City Chiefs.

Police said the confrontation took place as they were traveling over a Mississippi River bridge in New Orleans and on roads in neighboring Jefferson Parish.

Gasser's attorneys have cast the 28-year-old McKnight as the aggressor and are expected to argue Gasser shot in self-defense.

Jury selection was set to begin Tuesday.

PRO TENNIS



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Maria Sharapova follows through on a shot against Tatjana Maria during their first round match in the Australian Open in Melbourne, Australia, on Tuesday. Sharapova won by the score of 6-1, 6-4. Read the full story at www.theitem.com.

Sharapova joins Federer, Djokovic in Australian Open's 2nd round

BY JOHN PYE

The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — It wasn't Maria Sharapova's choice to miss the last Australian Open. That decision was taken out of her hands because of a doping ban following a failed test on her previous visit to Melbourne Park.

The five-time major champion said it was her choice to return, though, and she relished every moment of it in Tuesday's 6-1, 6-4 victory over Tatjana Maria.

"With that choice I know that I face difficulties and challenges on the court, and that I start from no ranking and that I might start on some outside courts, and I understand that and that's part of the process," said Sharapova, who was a contentious choice to represent the women's champions last week at the official draw.

She was banned for 15 months after testing positive for meldonium, not long after the medication was added to the list of banned substances, when she was in Australia in 2016.

So when Serena Williams won the 2017 Australian Open, Sharapova was sick in bed and watching on TV.

She returned in April and, because of her slide down the rankings, needed some wild-card entries to enter tournaments. She made her return to the majors at the U.S. Open, and finished the year ranked No. 60.

"I learned what it feels like to be on the ground and seeing life from the ground, and I'm not shying away from any part of that," she said. "I love what I do. I'm a competitor and that's why I continue to do it."

There were all kinds of comebacks on Tuesday. Six-time Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic and 2014 winner Stan Wawrinka returned from injuries that had

sidelined them since Wimbledon, top-ranked Simona Halep recovered from 5-2 down in her first set and a tumble in the second, and 2016 champion Angelique Kerber continued her amazing return to form.

Defending champion Roger Federer just picked up where he left off, beating Aljaz Bedene 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 in a night match, his first on Rod Laver Arena since clinching a career-reviving title in Melbourne last year.

The 19-time major champion has been met on court after previous wins by tennis greats Laver, John McEnroe and Jim Courier.

On Tuesday night, he got something different. Comedian Will Ferrell stepped out of the crowd and, slipping into character as Ron Burgundy, conducted the post-match interview.

As usual, the 36-year-old Federer stayed classy.

OBITUARIES

FRANCES W. LONEY

REMBERT — Frances W. Sanders Loney was born on April 3, 1952, in Sumter County, to the late Marian Ted and Leola Miller Sanders.

Frances was preceded in death by four brothers, Edward Sanders, Harril Sanders,

Ernest Sanders and Louis Sanders.

"99" or Ninnie departed this life on Friday, Jan. 12, 2018, in Rembert.

Ninnie leaves to cherish her memory: daughter, LaKishia Hope (Larry Jr.) Connor; two loving granddaughters, Lauryn Faith Connor and Candice M. Granderson, both of Chesterfield, Virginia; beloved goddaughter, Haley Jo Martin; brother, Marion (Josephine) Sanders Jr.; seven sisters, Doretha Alston, Ruby Richardson, Polly (Robert) Dinkins, Martha Dennis, Evelyn Sanders, Louise (Melvin) Keith and Peggy (Donald) Perry; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, 182 S. Pike St., Sumter, with Aurelia Hill, pastor, and Elder Wanda Martin officiating. Interment will follow at Greater Mount Pisgah Church cemetery.

A public viewing will be held from 1 to 6 p.m. today at the mortuary.

The family is receiving friends at 4256 Furman Field Road, Rembert.

Services entrusted to Whites Mortuary LLC.

JOHN C. COLCLOUGH SR.

John C. Colclough Sr., husband of Priscillia L. Colclough, of 238 S. Purdy St.,

Sumter, died on Tuesday morning, Jan. 16, 2018, at Palmetto Health Tuomey.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced later by Sumter Funeral Service Inc.

The family will receive friends at the home.

FRANCIS D. RICHARDSON

Francis Marie Dixon Richardson, 53, widow of David Richardson Sr., died on Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018, at Palmetto Health Tuomey.

Born on June 23, 1964, in Bishopville, she was a daughter of Annie Mae Hunter Dixon and the late Roosevelt Dixon.

The family is receiving relatives and friends at the home, 12 Mitchell St.

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

VINCENT A. PHILLIPS JR.

Vincent A. Phillips Jr., 73, was called to rest on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018, at Palmetto Health Tuomey.

Born on Dec. 31, 1944, in Brooklyn, New York, he was a son of the late Earl Fleming Sr. and Louise Phillips. He received his education in the Catholic school system of Brooklyn. He later moved to Sumter, where he was employed by Southern Chemical Co., Harkins Moving and Storage and Tuomey Healthcare System.

He is survived by his wife, Ruby Cabbagestalk Phillips of the home; five sons, Andre Mickens of the home, Jermaine (Trina) Cabbagestalk of Alaska, Cedrick (Rosemary) Williams of Sumter, Vincent Phillips and Marsay Huston of Rochester, New York; two daughters, LaJuana (Carl) Perrin of Detroit and Shelby Phillips of Florida; five sisters, Patricia (Travis) Dinkins of Wedgefield, Stephanie Joe of Sumter, Theresa

(Dewitt) Taylor of Saint Stephen, Alice (Wendell) Lee of Whitesville, North Carolina, and Sandra (Johnathan) Peacock of Buffalo, New York; three brothers, Earl Fleming Jr. of Buffalo, Gregory and William Fleming of Tampa, Florida; one aunt, Mary P. Hunt of Atlanta; a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, in-laws, other relatives and friends.

The family is receiving relatives and friends at the home, 7245 Harvest Road, Rembert.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday at John Wesley Williams Sr. Memorial Chapel, Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter, with the Rev. Dr. Friendly J. Gadson officiating.

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

Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Garden, Pearl Street, Woodrow.

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

MICHAEL PRESCOTT

Michael Prescott, age 56, was born on Oct. 26, 1961, in New York, New York, to the late Susan Prescott Lee.

He departed this life on Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018, in Sumter.

The family is receiving friends at the home of his sister and brother-in-law, Linda and Larry Bradshaw, 5580 Rivers Road and 1046 Divert St.

Services entrusted to Whites Mortuary LLC of Sumter.

ROSETTA COUSAR

Rosetta Cousar, 97, widow of George Cousar, died on Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018, at her home.

Born on Dec. 14, 1920, in Clarendon County, she was a

daughter of Dais Billy and Loitta Oliva Witherspoon Burgess.

The family is receiving relatives and friends at the home, 1002 Plowden Mill Road.

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

BESSIE M. JOHNSON

BROOKLYN, New York — On Thursday, Jan. 11, 2018, Sister Bessie M. Johnson exchanged time for eternity at Brooklyn Hospital Center, Brooklyn.

Born on Feb. 26, 1926, in the Pinewood section of Clarendon County, she was a daughter of the late Lawrence R. Sr. and Susan Boyd Johnson.

The family is receiving relatives and friends at the residence of her daughter, Georgia M. Johnson, 112 McBride St., Pinewood.

Funeral services are incomplete and will be announced by Fleming & DeLaine Funeral Home & Chapel.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

In Memory



Edith Banks Adams 1/17/39 - 4/3/2010 Happy 79th Birthday Mother! From your baby MonaLisa, Leroy, and The Banks Family.

BUSINESS SERVICES

Home Improvements

H.L. Boone, Contractor: Remodel paint roofs gutters drywall blown ceilings ect. 773-9904

Legal Service

Attorney Timothy L. Griffith 803-607-9087, 360 W. Westmark. Criminal, Family, Accident, Injury

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Tax Service

Wayne Greene and Terri Gagnon are opening a tax office and future loan office. Mr Greene has come out of retirement and will be doing taxes for any of his former customers. Please contact us for an appointment.

Gates Finance & Tax Service 561 Bultman Dr #7 803-774-7600.

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

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

Need a truckload of firewood? \$60 delivered to Sumter or Manning. Call State Tree Service at 803-773-1320.



EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted Full-Time

Established full service tax, book-keeping and payroll company located in Sumter, SC is seeking a bookkeeper and payroll clerk. Experience with SageOne or Intuit Quickbooks required. This is a full time position. Hours are flexible and compensation is based on experience. Resumes and references may be submitted to HRavinAssociates@gmail.com.

Seasonal Tax Preparer wanted. HR Avin Associates, LLC of Sumter, SC has an immediate opening for a seasonal tax preparer. This position may lead to a full time position based on performance. This employee will work directly with a senior tax consultant who will provide training and support. Knowledge of Drake or similar tax preparation software is preferred. HR Avin Associates, LLC has been serving Sumter and surrounding areas for 34 years. Hours are flexible and compensation is based on experience. Resumes and references may be submitted to: HRavinAssociates@gmail.com.

Help Wanted from Manning, SC. Live in care giver needed for elderly woman. For more info please contact 267-442-8603 or 267-608-7952

Experienced Electricians & helpers needed immediately. Call 803-968-2303

Mechanic Needed Looking for skilled mechanic and experienced. Top pay for qualified candidate. Apply at Newman's Automotive. Please call Tracy at 803-773-3379

Help Wanted Full-Time

Contractors Wanted! The Sumter Item has a newspaper route for the Bishopville area. Contractor will service home delivery, newspaper racks & newspaper dealers. Also need contractor for the Mayesville, Elliott & Lynchburg route. Must have good dependable transportation & a phone in your home. Come by & apply at 36 W. Liberty St. or call Reda at 803-774-1257

EXPERIENCED HVAC INSTALLER/TECHNICIAN WANTED

Pay Based on Experience Must have your own reliable transportation Location: Sumter, SC Job Requirements: 2+ years' experience installing new HVAC systems, preventative and general maintenance servicing systems, installing duct work, extensive troubleshooting, and HVAC knowledge. Please call (803)968-4718 if interested.

Seamstress and minimum 2 year experience in alterations shop. Apply in person at Tom and Mary's cleaners. 55 W. Westmark Blvd.

Help Wanted Part-Time

Occasional help needed in cleaning out rentals. Must have truck or trailer. No skills needed. Call 803-775-0492

Work Wanted

Wanted: Private caregiver position. Years of experience and excellent references. Call 803-795-6067



RENTALS

Rooms for Rent

Randolph's Landing Winter Rental. Motel Room 2 Dbl beds, micr., TV., fridge. Wkly or monthly. Full hook-up camp sites. Free pier fishing. Call for rates. (803)478-2152. End of Hwy 260, foot of the dam. On grounds rest. Fayz Place.

ROOMS FOR RENT \$100- \$125 /wkly. All utilities & cable included. 803-938-2709

Unfurnished Apartments

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

2BR 2BA, Conv. to Sumter Mall. \$580/mo + dep. 803-775-1281.

Unfurnished Apartments

Huntington Place Apartments Rents from \$625 per month 1 Month free* *13 Month lease required Leasing office located at Ashton Mill Apartment Homes 595 Ashton Mill Drive 803-773-3600 Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9-5

Mobile Home Rentals

Scenic Lake 2 & 3BR 2BA No pets, Section 8 accepted. 499-1500 or 469-6978 btwn 9am-5pm

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690 Bultman Dr 1612 Sq. Ft. Reception area w/ hdwd floors, 4 Private offices, Conference rm, Secretarial work area, Copier/Equip. Rm, Shower rm, 2 1/2 baths, file storage rm, \$2050 mo+\$57.76 CAM Call 803 773-1477



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Near Shaw AFB: 2.2 acres for sale. Owner financing. Call 803-464-8355

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LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) is considering a request for Federal assistance from the City of Bishopville to construct a Bishopville Edgefield Wastewater Pump Station Upgrade and Force Main Extension in Bishopville, Lee County, South Carolina. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), EDA is conducting an assessment of the potential of the proposed project to affect the environment and/or historic properties. Notice is hereby given that the project is proposed to be located in, or may affect, a floodplain and/or wetland as defined by Executive Order (EO) 11988 and/or EO 11990.

Legal Notice

The project Bishopville Edgefield Wastewater Pump Station Upgrade and Force Main Extension will be located at Lee County's I-20 Industrial Park. The project will be located on an existing right-of-way owned by the City of Bishopville along US-15 between I-20 and the City of Bishopville and St. Charles Rd, South Lee St, Marion St, Cousar St, Perkins St, and Fountain Hills Drive.

Project information is available for review at Bishopville City Hall, 135 E. Church Street, P. O. Box 388, Bishopville, SC 29010, 803-484-5948.

If you have any information regarding potential impacts to historic properties or environmental resources including wetlands or floodplains associated with this proposed project please provide it in writing to:

Regional Environmental Officer Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration 401 West Peachtree Street, NW Suite 1820 Atlanta, GA 30308-3510

Comments received in the EDA Regional Office by 5:00 pm eastern on Monday, February 19, 2018. A copy of the NEPA/NHPA decisional document will be available upon request at the above EDA Regional Office.

Park it in the CLASSIFIEDS and watch it go fast!

the Sumter ITEM CONTRACTORS WANTED! For Routes in Our Delivery Area Great for person looking for extra income. If you have good dependable transportation and a phone in your home and a desire to earn a good extra income... COME BY & APPLY AT 36 W. Liberty Street Sumter, SC *PRN CONTRACTORS AS NEEDED.

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It's only a month away — Valentine's Day

Choose a high- or low-tech gift for your special someone

BY KIM COOK
Associated Press

Before the tech revolution, you might have sent a lock of hair, a printed photo or a perfumed note to a loved one far away.

And of course, you can still do that. Or you can choose from an array of clever high- and low-tech Valentine's Day gifts that send the "I miss you" message.

Consider the pair of table lamps designed by John Harrison and Vanessa Whalen of Wichita, Kansas, that are like a "thinking of you" text message. You each get one lamp, and sync them via Wi-Fi. Then, whenever one of you touches the lamp, its mate will glow. The fixture has an Arts and Crafts aesthetic, and the light cycles through an array of soothing hues. Available online at www.uncommongoods.com.

Little Riot's Pillow Talk is a set of bracelets and small, cushioned speakers that you each place under your pillow. When synced, the bracelets send your heartbeats to each other so you can fall asleep and wake up to the sound of your loved one's heart.

Another tech gift is a pair of HEY bracelets, which resemble Fitbit. Whenever one of you gives the bracelet a little squeeze, the other feels it on their wrist.

Your grandparents may have told you how thrilling it was to get a telegram back in the day; www.telegramstop.com will print up your message on old-timey-looking telegram paper and mail it to your loved one.

Keep the lovefest going all year long with a monthly subscription gift. Both avid readers? Then www.bookofthemoon.com can send a tome to your beloved on a three-, six- or 12-month basis. You pick, or let them pick. There's an option to skip a month if life gets too busy.

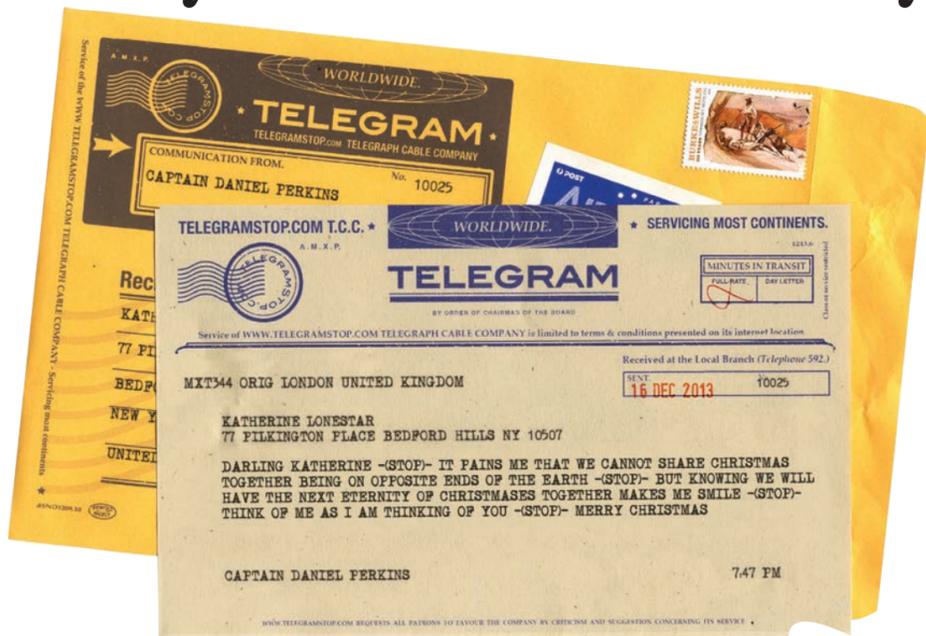
Or send your beloved a

Note Cube; it's a small, clear, plastic box full of customized notes. You can have your thoughts — maybe poetry, shared memories or future hopes, up to 60 per cube — nicely printed and sent in under two weeks, worldwide.

The folks at www.paintyourlife.com will turn any photo into an artsy portrait; you choose the medium from a list that includes oil paint, charcoal, watercolor, pencil and pastel.

Find lots of inspiring mugs with messages like "Don't Measure the Distance, Measure My Love," "Miles Apart Together at Heart" and "Love Knows No Distance" at www.ldrmagine.com. Make a map of your two locations for free on LDR Magazine's website, then download and print it onto transfer paper to make a pillow case or cover.

Also on that site are hand-cut paper cards from Cardventure with sentiments like "You're My Favorite Notification" and "It Was Love at First Skype."



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

Send an old-timey note to a far-away loved one with one of Telegram Stops' telegrams. Compose online, and in about a week the recipient will receive the telegram in the mail.

mix tape was pretty romantic. Now, you can buy a 1 GB USB stick in a retro cassette case at <http://www.thehut.com> so you can make a nice long playlist.

Or if you're crafty, go to www.instructables.com for directions on making your own, using a USB stick, an old cassette case, a couple of simple hand tools and some tape.

Etsy.com has a plethora of presents for geographically challenged paramours.

Keychains and jewelry etched with latitude and longitude coordinates make cool personalized gifts for either sex. Rogue River Jewelry in Rockford, Michigan, will etch your personal messages as sound-wave patterns onto tungsten rings; they'll also etch fingerprints. Back Zero Design crafts spiral silver rings and bracelets with the shape of your respective countries or states on each end of the curl.

And Cali Girl Customs in Redding, California, makes keychains personalized with location coordinates or initial sets, as well as inspirational messages like "Always remember we are looking at the same moon, under the same stars."

For those far apart from the ones they love, carrying around a heartfelt note on a keepsake might just ease the pangs till they're reunited.



Uncommongoods Long Distance Touch Lamps are like a 'thinking of you' text in lamp form. Sync them via Wi-Fi, and then whenever one of you touches the lamp, the mate will glow.



Little Riot's Pillow Talk transmits the sound of one person's heartbeat to another's pillow, using a smartphone app, two wristbands and speakers.

Got a bunch of Instagram memories from your last visit together? Shutterfly.com will make up a duvet cover, blanket or pillow with a collage.

If you or your beloved has a signature scent, consider giving jewelry from Vessel Scents of Style with little ceramic beads that you can either infuse with your own fragrance or buy already scented with fragrance or aromatherapy oils. There are unisex pieces, like arrowhead lockets that can go on leather cords and bracelets, as well as more feminine lockets, earrings and rings.

There were a few decades when giving a sweetheart a



Peeps Vanilla Creme Marshmallow Hearts may be all it takes to please your loved one.

Chocolate is still the perfect show of love for some

NEW YORK (AP) — Got a chocolate lover? Why not mark the season of romance with something special just for them?

With an ancient love connection — the Aztecs believed chocolate was an aphrodisiac — and built-in marketing opportunities that include Valentine's Day, the purveyors of chocolate offer their wares in a variety of price ranges, flavor combinations and just plain fun factor.

Some suggestions:

THE BUBBLY

The folks over at Jacques Torres offer 10- and 20-piece boxes of truffles (\$20 and \$48 respectively) that contain milk chocolate, fresh cream and Taittinger Brut La Francaise Champagne. Yes, the real deal! Uncommongoods offers a Champagne bottle crafted out of dark chocolate that is filled with silver-wrapped truffles that contain a bit of the bubbly, all handmade, for \$62.

With Champagne and chocolate forever intertwined in the romance department, gift basket pairings are everywhere. Make sure to check out websites and read reviews.

THE PLAYFUL

Sometimes, one needs a gift of Peeps

to make all the sugar worthwhile, so take advantage of the little packets of red and pink hearts and other specialty items on offer this season from the makers of the marshmallow mainstay. Peeps are especially nice if your holiday is more Galentine's Day than Valentine's Day. They just make certain people smile. Packs of mini hearts are available for \$3.75. A two-pack of larger pink hearts goes for \$9.91. Look for the company's four-pack of vanilla-flavored chicks on a stick in Valentine's hues of white, pink and red.

Got a Candy Corn fanatic? Give the gift of Cupid Corn in a 2-pound bag, \$12.95. It's red, pink and white.

THE FRUITY

Yes, we're talking chocolate-dipped strawberries, either DIY or ordered ahead. A box of 12 dipped in semi-sweet chocolate from Edible Arrangements costs \$19. A dozen in a milk and dark chocolate mix from Godiva runs \$80. Look around to go even fancier with added embellishments, full coverage rather than just the tips and other flavors, including Belgian white chocolate.

Fruity bouquets are also available. So are other fruits with a kiss of chocolate. Bissingers offers 12 Valencia or-

ange slices dipped in dark chocolate using glaceeing techniques for \$43.

If you feel like going DIY, buy a chocolate fountain, slice up your loved one's favorite fruit and have at it.

THE SENTIMENTAL

Partial to See's Candies? Check the website after Jan. 18 for Valentine's Day specials. A heart-shaped box in a tuxedo theme and stuffed with the company's best chocolates has been available in the past. How about personalizing some M&Ms for your beloved?

Hershey offers its chocolate Kisses by occasion, including pink ones. Lots of other name brands like Kit Kat will be offering up special-issue goodies for Valentine's Day, if you're looking to not break the bank. Little grab-and-go's like these are a great complement to a larger gift.

MISCELLANEOUS YUMMINESS

Lots of handcrafted boxes of chocolates are available online and off with fancy and colorful decorations that may not be all about love but are special nonetheless. If you're lucky, you'll have a high-end chocolate maker nearby to shop offline, but if not, search around online for just the

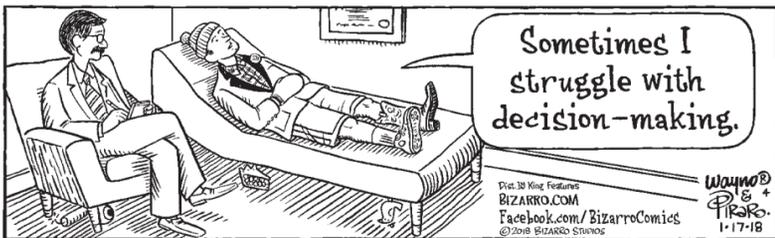
right box and flavor profiles. Marie-Belle sells a 25-piece caramel collection with flavors ranging from banana flambé to matcha green tea for \$52. They're beautifully decorated, handmade and preservative-free.

In luxury, La Maison du Chocolat offers a vast range of packaging and combinations year round. One, a robin's-egg blue hatbox, sells for \$210 and is filled with a 3.2-pound mix of truffles, bars and other delights in both dark and milk chocolate.

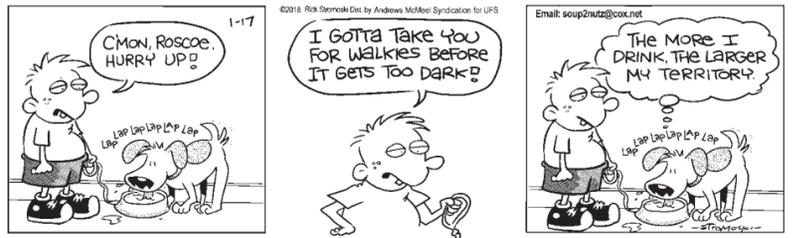
Loads of local artisanal chocolate exists, including some breakout Brooklyn brands. New York maker Raaka sells bars and gift packs online, including a box of 100 8-gram, pink, sea-salt minis that are 71 percent dark chocolate with a blend of cacao from Zorzal Cacao in the Dominican Republic and Alto Beni Cacao Company in Bolivia. They're fruity, nutty, and also vegan, gluten-free and soy-free. The box turns into a cute tabletop dispenser.

Raaka will also put together a gift of three bars in whatever flavors you choose. They make limited-batch Ginger Snap at 70 percent cacao, Bourbon Cask Aged at 82 percent and Cabernet Sauvignon at 68 percent, for \$19.95.

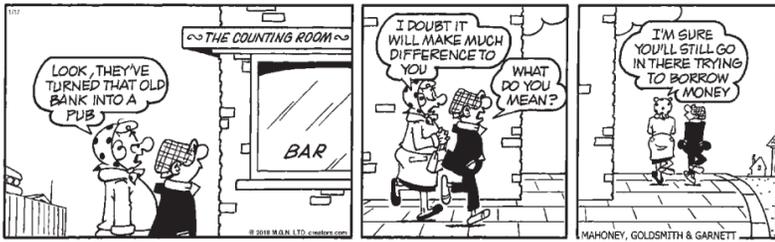
BIZARRO



SOUP TO NUTZ



ANDY CAPP



GARFIELD



BEETLE BAILEY



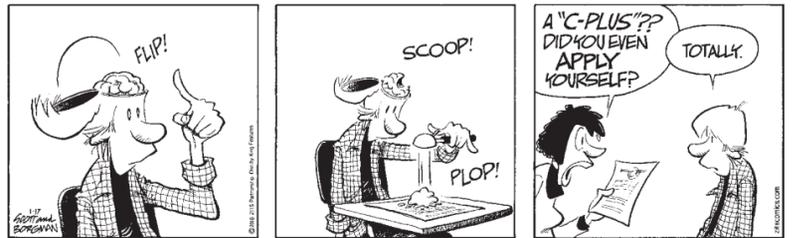
BORN LOSER



BLONDIE



ZITS



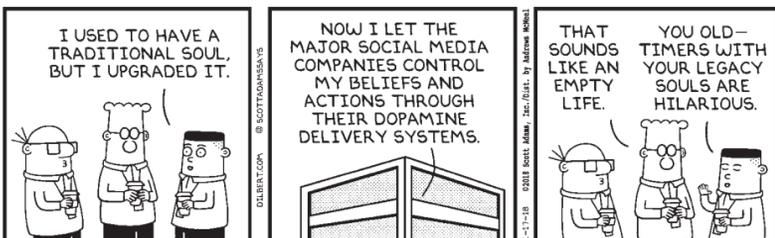
MOTHER GOOSE



DOG EAT DOUG



DILBERT



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE



Anger explodes in words, deeds woman later regrets



Dear Abby
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY — I am 28 and I'm disgusted with myself about how I talk to my mother when I'm stressed out. I know it's not her. It's me.

My other issue is road rage. When I'm behind

the wheel and the cars ahead of me are going too slow or the drivers make stupid moves, I'm annoyed to the point that I sometimes take risky chances to get away from them. I know it puts my life and the lives of others at risk, and I don't want to be like this.

Do you have any tips on

how to control my temper?
Simmering in suburbia

DEAR SIMMERING — If you think you're alone in having these issues, you're mistaken. We're living in increasingly stressful times that have affected most of us in one way or another. If, however, you continue allowing your stress to dictate your behavior, it may eventually drive a wedge between you and the people you care about.

It's important that you realize anger is a normal emotion. At one time or another, anger is experienced by everyone. Recognizing what is causing your stress and anger can help you to avoid taking it out on others.

It takes self-control — and maturity — to react calmly, instead of reacting angrily. Being able to identify what's

triggering the anger and causing you to verbalize it can help to prevent an outburst. Instead say, "When you do or say that, it makes me angry." Or try saying, "Mom, I'm stressed right now. Can we discuss this later?" Or, "I've had a really rough day. I need to be alone for a little while." Then go for a walk to help you to regain your perspective. Developing the ability to do this will not only lessen your guilt, but also earn you the respect of those with whom you interact.

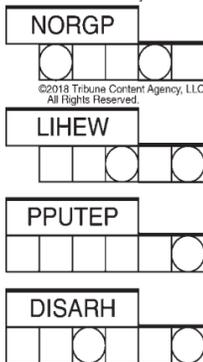
As to your "over the top" reactions when you're driving, try to remember that we're all human and make mistakes.

If you MUST drive during rush hours, try listening to music or an audio book. And count to 10 before you hit the accelerator. Avoid blasting the horn or making rude gestures.

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.



Print answer here: _____

SUDOKU

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

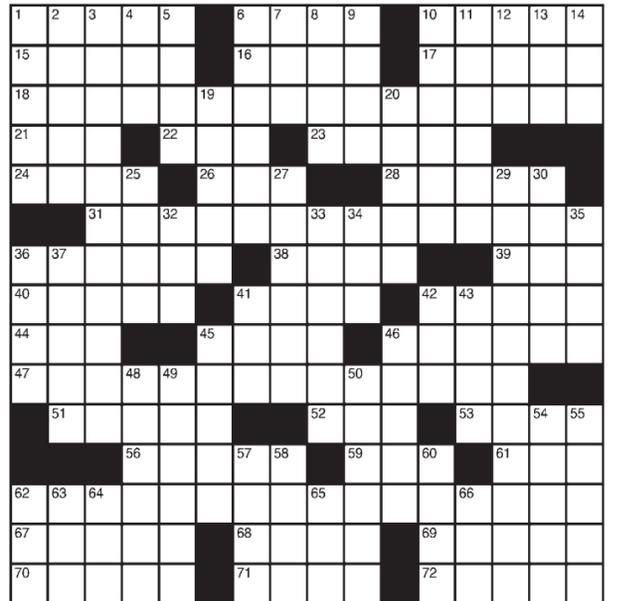
PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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

THE DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



David Poole

- 1/17/18
- ACROSS**
- 1 Like most cookies
 - 6 Director of the final episode of "M*A*S*H"
 - 10 Food inspector's concern
 - 15 Jazz singer O'Day
 - 16 Osso buco meat
 - 17 Swerved at sea
 - 18 Math teacher's favorite sport?
 - 21 Diplomatic bldg.
 - 22 Flying off the shelves
 - 23 Praise to the heavens
 - 24 Rock's Grateful
 - 26 Fiat fuel
 - 28 Perspire nervously, say
 - 31 Math teacher's favorite brew?
 - 36 Arrowhead Stadium NFL team
 - 38 Mark for deletion
 - 39 Sellout sign letters
 - 40 Very confident
 - 41 Chanel competitor
 - 42 Museum worker
 - 44 1869-77 pres. monogram
 - 45 Place for private dining?
 - 46 New York hockey team
 - 47 Math teacher's favorite hat?
 - 51 Bathroom outlet
 - 52 Product prefix suggesting winter
 - 53 Activist Parks
 - 56 Minds someone else's business
 - 59 Slice of history
 - 61 Old conductance unit
 - 62 Math teacher's favorite cut of beef?
 - 67 As scripted
 - 68 World Golf Hall of Famer Isao
 - 69 Cosmic come-uppance
 - 70 Gives a hand, in a way
 - 71 Editorial override
 - 72 Hog caller's call
 - 10 Shoelace hole
 - 11 Cambridge student, informally
 - 12 Have title to
 - 13 Luau loop
 - 14 TSA requests
 - 19 Roman robes
 - 20 Major Arcana deck
 - 25 Kicked out of the game, informally
 - 27 Gender-specific, to some
 - 29 The Joker portrayer on TV
 - 30 Haute
 - 32 Many a tabloid pic
 - 33 Fowl poles?
 - 34 Possessive word
 - 35 Fishing gear
 - 36 Lingerie size
 - 37 Member of a strict Jewish sect
 - 41 Article written by Marx and Engels?
 - 42 Break
 - 43 App offering fare estimates
 - 45 Wildly excited
 - 46 Future fern
 - 48 Downy amount
 - 49 New faces around the water cooler
 - 50 In the slightest
 - 54 Disgrace
 - 55 Fine
 - 57 Flight sked data
 - 58 Many a bagpiper
 - 60 Wants to know
 - 62 Sci-fi escape vehicle
 - 63 St. Louis-to-Indianapolis dir.
 - 64 Label for Elvis
 - 65 Hula strings
 - 66 Lao Tzu ideal

Previous Puzzle Solved



(Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: GIANT BROKE SKINNY TIPTOE
Answer: He said he was going to win the poker tournament, but his wife wasn't — BETTING ON IT

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)	The Blacklist "Abraham Stern" Red searches for a legendary treasure. (N)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Flight Risk" Pilot accuses captain of sexual assault. (N) (DVS)	Chicago P.D. "Captive" Atwater disappears. (N) (DVS)	WIS News 10 at 11 (N)	(:34) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon (N)		
WLTX	19	9	9	News 19 at 7pm (N)	Inside Edition (N)	The Amazing Race "It's Gonna Be a Fragrant Day" (N)	SEAL Team "The Upside Down" A top-secret drone must be retrieved. (N)	Criminal Minds "Bad Moon on the Rise" Casualties are reported in Central Park. (N) (DVS)	News 19 at 11pm (N)	(:35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert "Ricky Gervais; Matt Czuchy; Jon Bon Jovi" Ricky Gervais; Matt Czuchy. (N)		
WOLO	25	5	12	Wheel of Fortune "Wheel Around the World" (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	The Goldbergs Adam's actions distract his teacher.	Speechless Maya launches her own school. (N)	Modern Family "In Your Head" Luke goes missing. (N)	(:31) American Housewife Taylor's new boyfriend. (N)	Match Game Adam Pally; Cheryl Hines; Ron Funches. (N)	ABC Columbia News at 11 (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live
WRJA	27	11	14	State of the State South Carolina address to citizens. (N) (Live)	Nature "Arctic Wolf Pack" The white wolf fights for survival. (N) (DVS)	NOVA "Hagia Sophia -- Istanbul's Ancient Mystery" Hagia Sophia survives earthquakes. (DVS)	Understanding the Opioid Epidemic: Impact of the opioid epidemic.	Amanpour on PBS (N)	BBC World News	NHK Newsline		
WACH	57	6	6	The Big Bang Theory "The Luminous Fish Effect"	The Big Bang Theory "The Luminous Fish Effect"	The X-Files "Plus One" Twins are playing a dangerous game. (N)	9-1-1 "Next of Kin" An emergency at a kid's birthday party. (N) (DVS)	WACH FOX News at 10 (N) (Live)	Sports Zone	DailyMailTV (N)	TMZ (N)	
WKTC	63	4	22	Last Man Standing "Stud Muffin"	Last Man Standing "Project Mandy"	Riverdale "Chapter Twenty-Three: The Blackboard Jungle" Jughead must transfer to Riverdale High. (N)	Dynasty "A Well-Dressed Tarantula" Fallon gains control of her trust. (N)	Dateline "The Face of Evil" Investigating a college student's death.	Dateline "Troubled Waters" A cold case involving a mom lost at sea.	The Game Tasha's attraction to Rick.		
CABLE CHANNELS												
A&E	46	130	Storage Wars	Storage Wars "L. Ron YUUPer"	Storage Wars "The Nutty Appraiser"	Storage Wars "Olé; GYN"	Storage Wars (N)	Storage Wars (N)	(:01) Rooster & Butch Two drug products are put to the test. (N)	(:03) Rooster & Butch "Brothers in Arms" Testing laser tag equipment.	(12:03) Storage Wars	
AMC	48	180	(5:30) *** "Under Siege" (1992) Steven Seagal, Tommy Lee Jones.	*** "Planet of the Apes" (1968, Science Fiction) Charlton Heston, Roddy McDowall, Kim Hunter. Astronauts crash on a world ruled by intelligent simians.	*** "Planet of the Apes" (1968, Science Fiction) Charlton Heston, Roddy McDowall, Kim Hunter. Astronauts crash on a world ruled by intelligent simians.	*** "Planet of the Apes" (1968, Science Fiction) Charlton Heston, Roddy McDowall, Kim Hunter. Astronauts crash on a world ruled by intelligent simians.	*** "Planet of the Apes" (1968, Science Fiction) Charlton Heston, Roddy McDowall, Kim Hunter. Astronauts crash on a world ruled by intelligent simians.	*** "Planet of the Apes" (1968, Science Fiction) Charlton Heston, Roddy McDowall, Kim Hunter. Astronauts crash on a world ruled by intelligent simians.	*** "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" (1991) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Linda Hamilton. Cyborgs battle over a youth who holds the key to the future.	*** "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" (1991) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Linda Hamilton. Cyborgs battle over a youth who holds the key to the future.	*** "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" (1991) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Linda Hamilton. Cyborgs battle over a youth who holds the key to the future.	*** "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" (1991) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Linda Hamilton. Cyborgs battle over a youth who holds the key to the future.
ANPL	41	100	Tanked "Panama City Beach Tank"	Tanked "Alyssa's Charmed Tank"	Tanked "Alyssa's Charmed Tank"	Tanked "Alyssa's Charmed Tank"	Tanked "Alyssa's Charmed Tank"	Tanked "Alyssa's Charmed Tank"	Tanked "Alyssa's Charmed Tank"	Tanked "Alyssa's Charmed Tank"	Tanked "Alyssa's Charmed Tank"	Tanked "Alyssa's Charmed Tank"
BET	61	162	(4:35) "Tyler Perry's Good Deeds"	*** "Barbershop 2: Back in Business" (2004, Comedy) Ice Cube, Cedric the Entertainer, Sean Patrick Thomas. A barbershop owner considers selling his establishment.	*** "Barbershop 2: Back in Business" (2004, Comedy) Ice Cube, Cedric the Entertainer, Sean Patrick Thomas. A barbershop owner considers selling his establishment.	*** "Barbershop 2: Back in Business" (2004, Comedy) Ice Cube, Cedric the Entertainer, Sean Patrick Thomas. A barbershop owner considers selling his establishment.	*** "Barbershop 2: Back in Business" (2004, Comedy) Ice Cube, Cedric the Entertainer, Sean Patrick Thomas. A barbershop owner considers selling his establishment.	*** "Barbershop 2: Back in Business" (2004, Comedy) Ice Cube, Cedric the Entertainer, Sean Patrick Thomas. A barbershop owner considers selling his establishment.	*** "Barbershop 2: Back in Business" (2004, Comedy) Ice Cube, Cedric the Entertainer, Sean Patrick Thomas. A barbershop owner considers selling his establishment.	*** "Barbershop 2: Back in Business" (2004, Comedy) Ice Cube, Cedric the Entertainer, Sean Patrick Thomas. A barbershop owner considers selling his establishment.	*** "Barbershop 2: Back in Business" (2004, Comedy) Ice Cube, Cedric the Entertainer, Sean Patrick Thomas. A barbershop owner considers selling his establishment.	*** "Barbershop 2: Back in Business" (2004, Comedy) Ice Cube, Cedric the Entertainer, Sean Patrick Thomas. A barbershop owner considers selling his establishment.
BRAVO	47	181	The Real Housewives of New Jersey Teresa models in a photo shoot.	The Real Housewives of New Jersey Teresa visits her husband in prison.	The Real Housewives of New Jersey Teresa visits her husband in prison.	The Real Housewives of New Jersey Teresa visits her husband in prison.	The Real Housewives of New Jersey Teresa visits her husband in prison.	The Real Housewives of New Jersey Teresa visits her husband in prison.	Relative Success With Tabatha Business offer for a pizzeria chain.	Watch What Happens Live	The Real Housewives of New Jersey The ladies hash out their differences.	
CNBC	35	84	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank
CNN	3	80	Erin Burnett OutFront (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)	Anderson Cooper	
COM	57	136	(6:50) South Park "Chickenlover"	(:25) South Park "Let Go, Let Gov"	South Park	South Park "Eek, a Penis!"	South Park	South Park "Goo-backs"	Corporate The Void	Corporate (N)	The Daily Show With Trevor Noah	The Opposition w/ Jordan Klepper (N)
DISN	18	200	Bunk'd Emma and Zuri butt heads.	Raven's Home	K.C. Undercover	Stuck in the Middle	Bizaardvark	Bizaardvark	Bunk'd	Jessie (Part 1 of 2)	Stuck in the Middle	K.C. Undercover
DSC	42	103	(6:00) Barrett-Jackson Live (N)	Barrett-Jackson Live (N)	Barrett-Jackson Live (N)	Barrett-Jackson Live (N)	Barrett-Jackson Live (N)	Barrett-Jackson Live (N)	Barrett-Jackson Live (N)	Barrett-Jackson Live (N)	Barrett-Jackson Live (N)	Barrett-Jackson Live (N)
ESPN	26	35	NBA Countdown (N) (Live)	NBA Countdown (N) (Live)	NBA Countdown (N) (Live)	NBA Countdown (N) (Live)	NBA Countdown (N) (Live)	NBA Countdown (N) (Live)	NBA Countdown (N) (Live)	NBA Countdown (N) (Live)	NBA Countdown (N) (Live)	NBA Countdown (N) (Live)
ESPN2	27	39	College Basketball Arkansas at Florida. (N) (Live)	College Basketball Arkansas at Florida. (N) (Live)	College Basketball Arkansas at Florida. (N) (Live)	College Basketball Arkansas at Florida. (N) (Live)	College Basketball Arkansas at Florida. (N) (Live)	College Basketball Arkansas at Florida. (N) (Live)	College Basketball Arkansas at Florida. (N) (Live)	College Basketball Arkansas at Florida. (N) (Live)	College Basketball Arkansas at Florida. (N) (Live)	College Basketball Arkansas at Florida. (N) (Live)
FOOD	40	109	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games
FOXN	37	90	The Story With Martha MacCallum (N)	Tucker Carlson Tonight (N)	Tucker Carlson Tonight (N)	Tucker Carlson Tonight (N)	Tucker Carlson Tonight (N)	Tucker Carlson Tonight (N)	Tucker Carlson Tonight (N)	Tucker Carlson Tonight (N)	Tucker Carlson Tonight (N)	Tucker Carlson Tonight (N)
FREE	20	131	(6:00) *** "The Lion King" (1994) Voices of Matthew Broderick.	grown-ish "Starboy" (N)	(:31) Alone Together "Road Trip"	(:02) *** "Ghosts of Girlfriends Past" (2009) Matthew McConaughey, Jennifer Garner. Spirits of ex-lovers show a cad his failed relationships.	grown-ish "Starboy" (N)					
FSS	21	47	Hawks Pregame	NBA Basketball New Orleans Pelicans at Atlanta Hawks. From	NBA Basketball New Orleans Pelicans at Atlanta Hawks. From	NBA Basketball New Orleans Pelicans at Atlanta Hawks. From	NBA Basketball New Orleans Pelicans at Atlanta Hawks. From	NBA Basketball New Orleans Pelicans at Atlanta Hawks. From	NBA Basketball New Orleans Pelicans at Atlanta Hawks. From	NBA Basketball New Orleans Pelicans at Atlanta Hawks. From	NBA Basketball New Orleans Pelicans at Atlanta Hawks. From	NBA Basketball New Orleans Pelicans at Atlanta Hawks. From
HALL	52	183	Full House	Full House "Honey, I Broke the House"	Full House "Just Say No Way"	Full House	The Middle	The Middle "Hecks on a Plane"	The Middle "The Math Class"	The Middle "Spring Cleaning"	The Golden Girls	The Golden Girls "Love for Sale"
HGTV	39	112	Property Brothers "Lakeside Dreaming"	Property Brothers "Big City Move"	Property Brothers	Property Brothers						
HIST	45	110	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars
ION	13	18	Law & Order An heiress dies of an apparent overdose.	Law & Order "Immortal" A man's double life comes to light.	Law & Order "Immortal" A man's double life comes to light.	Law & Order "Immortal" A man's double life comes to light.	Law & Order "Immortal" A man's double life comes to light.	Law & Order "Immortal" A man's double life comes to light.	Law & Order "Immortal" A man's double life comes to light.	Law & Order "Immortal" A man's double life comes to light.	Law & Order "Immortal" A man's double life comes to light.	Law & Order "Immortal" A man's double life comes to light.
LIFE	50	145	Little Women: Atlanta "You're Fired" Minnie trains for her first 5K run.	Little Women: Atlanta Amanda works at a local nail salon. (N)	Little Women: Atlanta Amanda works at a local nail salon. (N)	Little Women: Atlanta Amanda works at a local nail salon. (N)	Little Women: Atlanta Amanda works at a local nail salon. (N)	Little Women: Atlanta Amanda works at a local nail salon. (N)	Little Women: Atlanta Amanda works at a local nail salon. (N)	Little Women: Atlanta Amanda works at a local nail salon. (N)	Little Women: Atlanta Amanda works at a local nail salon. (N)	Little Women: Atlanta Amanda works at a local nail salon. (N)
MSNBC	36	92	Hardball With Chris Matthews (N)	All In With Chris Hayes (N)	All In With Chris Hayes (N)	All In With Chris Hayes (N)	All In With Chris Hayes (N)	All In With Chris Hayes (N)	All In With Chris Hayes (N)	All In With Chris Hayes (N)	All In With Chris Hayes (N)	All In With Chris Hayes (N)
NICK	16	210	Paradise Run (N)	SpongeBob	*** "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" (2010, Children's) Zachary Gordon.	*** "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" (2010, Children's) Zachary Gordon.	*** "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" (2010, Children's) Zachary Gordon.	*** "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" (2010, Children's) Zachary Gordon.	*** "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" (2010, Children's) Zachary Gordon.	*** "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" (2010, Children's) Zachary Gordon.	*** "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" (2010, Children's) Zachary Gordon.	*** "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" (2010, Children's) Zachary Gordon.
NIKE	64	153	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SYFY	58	152	(6:30) *** "Twister" (1996, Action) Helen Hunt, Bill Paxton, Cary Elwes. Storm chasers race to test a new tornado-monitoring device.	The Magicians "Heroes and Morons" Eliot embarks on a quest. (N)	The Magicians "Heroes and Morons" Eliot embarks on a quest. (N)	The Magicians "Heroes and Morons" Eliot embarks on a quest. (N)	The Magicians "Heroes and Morons" Eliot embarks on a quest. (N)	The Magicians "Heroes and Morons" Eliot embarks on a quest. (N)	Happy! Sax's plan for his daughter's release. (N)	(10:50) The Magicians "Heroes and Morons" Eliot embarks on a quest.	(11:50) "The Fifth Element" (1997)	
TBS	24	156	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	Full Frontal With Samantha Bee (N)	Conan "Molly Shannon; Aaron Sorkin; Mo'Nique" Actor Molly Shannon. (N)	Full Frontal With Samantha Bee
TCM	49	186	(6:15) ** "Tall Story" (1960, Comedy) Anthony Perkins, Jane Fonda.	*** "Chimes at Midnight" (1965, Historical Drama) Orson Welles, Jeanne Moreau, John Gielgud. Shakespeare's Falstaff wanes with Prince Hal.	*** "Chimes at Midnight" (1965, Historical Drama) Orson Welles, Jeanne Moreau, John Gielgud. Shakespeare's Falstaff wanes with Prince Hal.	*** "Chimes at Midnight" (1965, Historical Drama) Orson Welles, Jeanne Moreau, John Gielgud. Shakespeare's Falstaff wanes with Prince Hal.	*** "Chimes at Midnight" (1965, Historical Drama) Orson Welles, Jeanne Moreau, John Gielgud. Shakespeare's Falstaff wanes with Prince Hal.	*** "Chimes at Midnight" (1965, Historical Drama) Orson Welles, Jeanne Moreau, John Gielgud. Shakespeare's Falstaff wanes with Prince Hal.	(:15) *** "Midnight Lace" (1960, Mystery) Doris Day, Rex Harrison, John Gavin. A London newlywed is tormented by threatening phone calls.	(:03) Family by the Ton (N)	(:05) My 600-Lb. Life An obese woman is nearly immobile.	(:12:15) "That Midnight Kiss" (1949)
TLC	43	157	(:02) My 600-Lb. Life (Part 2 of 2)	My 600-Lb. Life "Janine's Story" An obese woman is nearly immobile. (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Janine's Story" An obese woman is nearly immobile. (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Janine's Story" An obese woman is nearly immobile. (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Janine's Story" An obese woman is nearly immobile. (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Janine's Story" An obese woman is nearly immobile. (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Janine's Story" An obese woman is nearly immobile. (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Janine's Story" An obese woman is nearly immobile. (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Janine's Story" An obese woman is nearly immobile. (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Janine's Story" An obese woman is nearly immobile. (N)
TNT	23	158	(5:00) *** "Transformers" (2007, Action) Shia LaBeouf. (DVS)	The Librarians Ghosts plague a Civil War re-enactment. (N)	*** "Real Steel" (2011, Action) Hugh Jackman, Evangeline Lilly, Dakota Goyo. A boxing promoter and his son build a robot fighter. (DVS)	*** "Real Steel" (2011, Action) Hugh Jackman, Evangeline Lilly, Dakota Goyo. A boxing promoter and his son build a robot fighter. (DVS)	*** "Real Steel" (2011, Action) Hugh Jackman, Evangeline Lilly, Dakota Goyo. A boxing promoter and his son build a robot fighter. (DVS)	*** "Real Steel" (2011, Action) Hugh Jackman, Evangeline Lilly, Dakota Goyo. A boxing promoter and his son build a robot fighter. (DVS)	*** "Real Steel" (2011, Action) Hugh Jackman, Evangeline Lilly, Dakota Goyo. A boxing promoter and his son build a robot fighter. (DVS)	*** "Real Steel" (2011, Action) Hugh Jackman, Evangeline Lilly, Dakota Goyo. A boxing promoter and his son build a robot fighter. (DVS)	*** "Real Steel" (2011, Action) Hugh Jackman, Evangeline Lilly, Dakota Goyo. A boxing promoter and his son build a robot fighter. (DVS)	*** "Real Steel" (2011, Action) Hugh Jackman, Evangeline Lilly, Dakota Goyo. A boxing promoter and his son build a robot fighter. (DVS)
TRUTV	38	129	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers
TV LAND	55	161	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H
USA	25	132	NCIS "Off the Grid" Gibbs probes an anti-government militia. (DVS)	NCIS "Nonstop" A petty officer is murdered. (DVS)	NCIS "Nonstop" A petty officer is murdered. (DVS)	NCIS "Nonstop" A petty officer is murdered. (DVS)	NCIS "Nonstop" A petty officer is murdered. (DVS)	NCIS "Nonstop" A petty officer is murdered. (DVS)	NCIS "Nonstop" A petty officer is murdered. (DVS)	NCIS "Nonstop" A petty officer is murdered. (DVS)	NCIS "Nonstop" A petty officer is murdered. (DVS)	NCIS "Nonstop" A petty officer is murdered. (DVS)
WE	68	166	Law & Order "Mother's Milk"	Law & Order "Panic"								
WGNA	8	172	Cops "Fort Worth"	Cops								

Spellbinding 'Versace' about so much more than murder

BY KEVIN McDONOUGH

The television year begins in earnest with "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story" (10 p.m., FX, TV-MA).

The story opens with the murder of fashion designer Gianni Versace (Edgar Ramirez) outside his Miami mansion in 1997. But rather than settle into a court drama or police procedural, it offers a profound meditation on the psyche of Versace's assassin, Andrew Cunanan (Darren Criss).

Cunanan's story unfolds in a series of overlapping flashbacks, recalling his past as a delusional hustler who preyed upon the vanity of older and powerful men, using them to live lavishly and beyond his means. As the episodes of "Crime Story" pile up, we dig deeper into Cunanan's story, culminating in a string of murders that ended at Versace's front door.

In some ways, the title is misleading; it should be "The Assassin of Gianni Versace." It's about 15 percent victim and 85 percent killer. But it's 100 percent fascinating.

Still, people will be talking about Penelope Cruz as the designer's sister, Donatella Versace, and Ricky Martin playing his partner and lover, Antonio D'Amico.

On a deeper level, if the "The People v. O.J. Simpson" season of "Crime Story" was about race, "Versace" is about the psychotic pursuit of wealth and status, and how "normal" such avaricious obsessions have become in our society — particularly on television. At times Cunanan seems like Patrick Bateman (Christian Bale) from the 2000 movie "American Psycho." But plenty of times his label-obsessed behavior would put him right at home on Bravo's "Million Dollar Listings."

In one telling scene, he assaults his mother because she substitutes a budget store-brand ice cream for Haagen-Dazs.

With "Versace," creator Ryan Murphy has chosen to tell the story of a gay martyr and a gay monster. The series offers viewers a rather bracing look at how gay identity and gay lifestyle are portrayed



RAY MICKSHAW / FX

Darren Criss stars as Andrew Cunanan in "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story," premiering at 10 p.m. today on FX.

within popular culture. We see as Versace struggles with the idea of coming out in the late 1990s, just as the specter of AIDS began to recede.

With Cunanan, Murphy plays with a character who is fully diabolical yet frighteningly familiar. He is frequently charming, erudite and witty and at the same time brittle, shallow, neurotic and obsessed with status and expensive things.

"The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story" is well worth watching. And like that rarest of television dramas, it's also worth thinking about.

TONIGHT'S OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Double vision on "The X-Files" (8 p.m., Fox, TV-14).
- A school merger brings Jughead closer to the scuttlebutt on "Riverdale" (8 p.m., CW, TV-14).
- Atwater vanishes on "Chicago P.D." (10 p.m., NBC, TV-14).
- Tabatha Coffey counsels small business owners on "Relative Success With Tabatha" (10 p.m., Bravo, TV-14).

SERIES NOTES

Treasure hunting on "The Blacklist" (8 p.m., NBC, TV-14) * A shop class accident on "The Goldbergs" (8 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) * Maya creates a home school on "Speechless" (8:30 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) * A search for a drone turns deadly on "SEAL Team" (9 p.m., CBS, TV-14) * An airline's unhappy

skies on "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" (9 p.m., NBC, TV-14) * An accident hits close to home on "9-1-1" (9 p.m., Fox, TV-14) * Missing in action on "Modern Family" (9 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) * Cristal fights for her marriage on "Dynasty" (9 p.m., CW, TV-14) * Oliver's first date is a bust on "American Housewife" (9:30 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) * Central Park carnage on "Criminal Minds" (10 p.m., CBS, TV-14).

LATE NIGHT

Molly Shannon, Aaron Sorkin and Mo'Nique appear on "Conan" (11 p.m., TBS) * Ricky Gervais, Matt Czuchy and Jon Bon Jovi are booked on "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" (11:35 p.m., CBS) * Luke Evans, Sean "Diddy" Combs, Nicole Sullivan and John Stanier visit "Late Night With Seth Meyers" (12:35 a.m., NBC) * Ed Helms and Stefflon Don appear on "The Late Late Show With James Corden" (12:35 a.m., CBS).

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No 'Crown,' no wedding: What's a royal obsessive to do while waiting?

BY LEANNE ITALIE

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Are you a royal desperado, in that binge watching kind of way?

The House of Windsor has provided five British monarchs to date, but it took you a quick minute to breeze through the recently released second season of "The Crown" on Netflix. And the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle isn't until May 19, for heaven's sake.

Word is the third season of "The Crown" won't be released until 2019, so what's a royal obsessive to do in the interim? Some ideas on what to read and watch while you wait:

HOUSE OF WINDSOR

"Diana, in Her Own Words," "Empire of the Tsars," "Prince Philip: The Plot to Make a King," "Elizabeth at 90: A Family Tribute," "The Royals" and "The Royal House of Windsor" are all available on Netflix. Love them or hate them. Just know that the mix of drama and documentary is there for you. The first season of the "The Royal House of Windsor" includes interviews and archival footage that jibes nicely with events covered in "The Crown."

Interested in time hopping? There's the Showtime series "The Tudors," available on Netflix. It stars Jonathan Rhys Meyers and covers the tumultuous 16th-century court of King Henry VIII. And there's "Reign," a vivid drama orig-

inally on the CW that spans the rise of Mary, Queen of Scots. It's also on Netflix. Plenty of sex and political intrigue there. Just sayin'.

LATEST FROM THE BIG SCREEN

If you feel like big and fresh film productions, find "Dunkirk" and "Darkest Hour." They've got you covered on World War II England. In the latter, Winston Churchill (played by the recent Golden Globe-winning Gary Oldman) is newly appointed as prime minister and must decide to fight or negotiate with Adolf Hitler. The gritty "Dunkirk" puts viewers on the beach and in the heart of peril as the famous evacuation during fierce battle unfolds in the French town of Dunkirk.

Out in 2017 and still to be had on demand is "Victoria & Abdul," a follow-up to Judy Dench's star turn in the 1997 "Mrs. Brown." Both feature Dench as a sad Queen Victoria.

WHAT TO READ

There's an official companion book to "The Crown." Written by British historian Robert Lacey, "The Crown: The Official Companion, Volume 1" covers 1947 through 1955. For all those viewers of the series who found themselves Wikipedia-ing and YouTube-ing real events depicted on the show, this book will be dessert. In addition to production and cast details, the book includes loads of photos and fact-checking. More volumes are expected. Look up Lacey for other royal matter he has taken on.

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Over-ripe bananas make better pancakes

BY ELIZABETH KARMEL
Associated Press

I hate to throw over-ripe bananas away. It is such a wasted opportunity for fresh, fragrant banana bread. But, there is only so much banana bread that one can eat. That is why I asked myself, what else can I make with over-ripe bananas?

And, since it was Sunday, banana pancakes popped into my head. I had never made banana pancakes with over-ripe bananas. I usually make them with slices of firm, slightly green bananas because that is how I like to eat fresh bananas. As it turned out, the over-ripe bananas are way better for pancakes.

I also wanted to try a pancake technique that a friend of mine swears by. You separate the egg and blend the yolk and the white into the batter at different times. It is supposed to make the pancakes lighter. I am not sure that it made that much difference, but it is easy to do, doesn't take any extra time like beating egg whites, and the resulting pancakes were light and fluffy and toothsome all at once.

The recipe is pretty basic with both sour milk and cream used as the liquid. I had cream on hand, but you could use half and half. I opted for cream because my milk was 2 percent and not whole milk. If I had had whole milk in the fridge, I would have used whole milk and half and half. I also soured my milk with white vinegar, but you could substitute buttermilk for the milk-and-vinegar combination.

A touch of nutmeg accented the ripe banana. I mashed the bananas as if I were making banana bread and added it to the batter right before I made the pancakes. The result was incredible — almost like banana bread pancakes. I love how the essence of banana was evident through the entire pancake, but there were no discernable chunks of fruit.

Most pancake recipes instruct you to heat oil or melt butter in a skillet and "fry" the pancake. I prefer to cook them on a dry non-stick skillet so that they brown and bubble without any extra fat. If you do a side-by-side taste test, you can really see the difference. One looks like the top of a grilled quesadilla, and the other resembles a baked good. The non-fried version is softer and more delicate in texture. The fried has a slightly crunchy top and is a bit greasy. Neither is right or wrong; it's all a matter of preference.

It's important to serve the pancakes with a good salted butter to bring out the banana flavor — I like Kate's Homemade Butter or Kerrygold — and real maple syrup. Other good additions are mini chocolate chips, dried coconut, toasted walnuts and pecans. These pancakes are good for breakfast but even better served as "Breakfast for Dinner" with a side of crispy bacon.



RIPE BANANA PANCAKES

Servings: 18 medium pancakes

Start to finish: 25 minutes

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon granulated sugar
1/2 plus 1/4 teaspoon fine sea salt
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1 large egg, separated
1 cup milk
1 tablespoon white vinegar
1/4 cup cream or half and half
5 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
1 ripe banana, mashed with a fork
Salted butter and real maple syrup for serving

Heat the oven to 250 F, and set a sheet pan with a rack. Set aside.

Whisk the flour, sugar, salt, baking powder, baking soda and nutmeg together in a large bowl. Combine the milk and the vinegar in a 2-cup glass measuring cup, and let sit 1-2 minutes. Add the egg yolk and cream or half and half and mix well. Add the melted butter to the milk and egg yolk mixture, and blend with a fork until well combined.

Pour the yolk and milk mixture into the flour mixture, and stir with a blending fork until barely combined. Mix the egg white in a small bowl until slightly foamy, and add the egg white to the batter. Stir just until a thick batter is formed. Set aside for 5 minutes.

Meanwhile, mash a ripe banana in a separate bowl. Just before cooking, combine the mashed banana and the pancake batter.

Heat a non-stick skillet over medium heat. When hot, use a spoon or a ladle to drop batter in heaping spoonfuls to the pan, allowing room for the batter to spread out. Unlike most recipes, I prefer not to "fry" the pancakes in oil or butter. I like a drier, non-oily finish. If your skillet is non-stick, this will not be a problem.

Cook for about 1-2 minutes, depending on size. When the pancake begins to bubble, use a thin off-set spatula to gently flip to the other side. The pancake should be golden brown; if the heat is too high, the pancake will burn on the outside and be uncooked on the inside. Cook on the other side for another 2 minutes, or until the bottom of the pancake is golden brown.

Remove from the skillet to the baking sheet, and place the sheet in the oven while you cook all the batter. Scrape any stray crumbs or scraps out of the skillet as you make the pancakes or the fresh pancakes will pick up the burned bits as they cook. Serve as soon as possible with salted butter and maple syrup.

Chef's Note: If cooking for a crowd, this recipe can be easily doubled, and extra pancakes can be frozen and re-heated with very little difference in taste.

Nutrition information per pancake: 99 calories; 47 calories from fat; 5 g fat (3 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 26 mg cholesterol; 145 mg sodium; 11 g carbohydrate; 1 g fiber; 2 g sugar; 2 g protein.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Elizabeth Karmel is a barbecue and Southern foods expert. She is the chef and pit master at online retailer CarolinaCueToGo.com and the author of three books, including "Taming the Flame."

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