

Most big public colleges don't track suicides

A5

City Council may add meter damage fees

Ordinance prohibiting loitering youths aired

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

City residents could face a fine for damaged water meters after Sumter City Council approved first reading of an ordinance to amend the city's water and sewer rates to include meter damage fees on Monday.

The city has never had a

way of recovering the money spent to repair or replace damaged meters, City Attorney Eric Shytle said.

Many customers drive over meter boxes — as people have done for decades — which can press the meter farther into the ground and break the seal between the meter and the pipes underground, he said.

"The city incurs substantial

costs in repairing and/or replacing meters that have been damaged by customer or third-party action," the proposed ordinance states.

A \$50 minimum fee will be applied to any unintentional, negligent or intentional damage to water meters caused by vehicles, lawn equipment, landscaping or misuse, according to the proposal.

The minimum fee is set at \$50 because that is about what

it costs just to send a crew out to check the meter, Shytle said.

The fee can be waived if it is determined the customer damaged the meter unintentionally or if the damage is a first offense for the customer, he said.

He said the amendment will make customers share the responsibility of protecting the water meters. Failure to report damage to a water meter

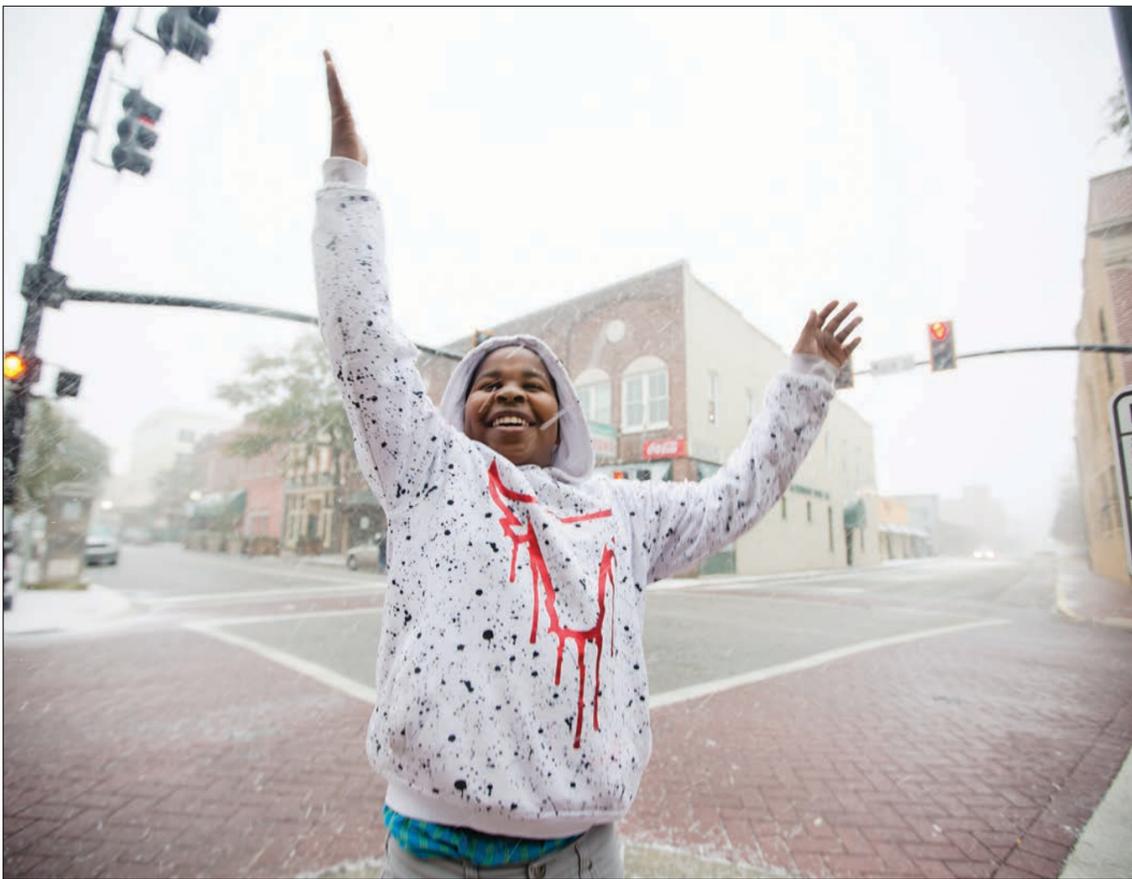
may be considered in determining if the fee will be waived.

Councilman Calvin Hastie told City Manager Deron McCormick about comments from constituents that their water and sewer fees have increased after the city installed new water meters in some areas.

Water meters tend to slow

SEE DAMAGE FEES, PAGE A6

Storm blankets Sumter in snow



PHOTOS BY MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Kayvonte Bells dances outside of Main Attraction Barber Salon on North Main Street on Wednesday afternoon as snow begins to fall.

1st snow in decades puts Florida, South into a deep freeze

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — A brutal winter storm dumped snow in Tallahassee, Florida, on Wednesday for the first time in nearly three decades before slogging up the Atlantic coast and smacking Southern cities such as Savannah and Charleston, South Carolina, with a rare blast of snow and ice.

Snow began to fall in Sumter County about 3 p.m., and with temperatures expected to rise above freezing today, most of the snow will likely melt.

But according to Brian Edwards with AccuWeather in State College, Pennsylvania, the below-freezing temperature forecast for tonight means that melted snow could re-



Centennial Plaza is seen on Wednesday afternoon. Sumter was expected to get up to three inches of snow.

freeze and cause dangerous travel conditions.

Erik Hayes, Sumter County emergency management director, said Wednesday that because this is a snow-only event for Sumter, the emergency management center would not be operating.

Forecasters warned that the same system could soon strengthen into a "bomb cyclone" as it rolls up the East Coast, bringing hurricane-force winds, coastal flooding and up to a foot of snow.

SEE SNOW, PAGE A6

Weeks files letter to delay Morris mold case hearing

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

The attorney for Morris College has delayed an initial subpoena hearing in the case brought against the school by current and former students, according to documents filed recently with the state's Third Judicial Circuit Court.

Attorney David Weeks of Weeks Law Office LLC, of Sumter, who is also a representative in the state House of Representatives, filed a letter on Dec. 28 with at-large circuit court Judge George McFaddin Jr. to effectively delay the case for the entire legislative session and through July 31 under a state statute. The initial hearing was scheduled for Wednesday at Sumter County Judicial Center.

In his letter last week to McFaddin, Weeks cites that lawyers who are members of the General Assembly are granted "absolute protection" from being called to a trial or hearing in any court in the state from January through July.

"Therefore, as a member of the South Carolina General Assembly, I am asserting my legislative protection for those terms," Weeks wrote.

Calls for clarification on the consequences of Weeks' letter were not returned by Weeks or the Third Circuit Court on Wednesday.

In the class-action lawsuit, the students allege the college has mold infestation in its dormitories and it's resulted in health hazards for students through the years. Litigation attorney John Harrell, of Harrell Law Firm PA in Charleston, filed the suit on behalf of the five current and former Morris College students against the school in mid-November. The college is the defendant in the case.

At Wednesday's initial hearing, McFadden was supposed to hear Harrell's request to allow his firm to send a mold specialist onto the campus to inspect for mold, according to Harrell.

In mid-December when Weeks provided the college's answer to the served

SEE WEEKS, PAGE A6

WATCH MORE

To watch a video of The Sumter Item's ride-along with the Sumter County Sheriff's Office, find this story on



TheItem.com or go to TheItem.com/studiosumter.



SARVIS

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

Being nervous while approaching a check point is normal, even if you haven't done anything wrong.

But if you have done something that warrants more attention at a check point, it's good to know officers are more concerned with making sure drivers make better decisions than

simply taking people to jail.

I rode along with Sumter County Sheriff's Office deputies on New Year's Eve to see what check points are like on the other side of that bright flashlight.

The night wasn't anything like "Training Day" or "Lethal Weapon," but it was interesting.

Sometimes, check points

SEE RIDE-ALONG, PAGE A6

Not like 'Training Day': New Year's Eve ride-along

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DEATHS, B3

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Brenda Lee Brown
Eva N. Harvin
Elizabeth Messersmith
Maria M. Bernhardt
Frederick K. Warcher Jr.
June R. Catoe
Mamie R. Rodwell

WEATHER, A8

RECORD COLD POSSIBLE
Sunny and breezy in the afternoon; near-record temperatures tonight
HIGH 41, LOW 16

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the Sumter ITEM SECOND FRONT

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Man who drove into frigid pond is located

BY KAYLA ROBINS
kayla@theitem.com

The driver in a New Year's Eve crash that ended in a frigid pond seemingly avoided tragedy, officials have learned.

A Hyundai sedan apparently went off the roadway at East Calhoun Street and Salterstown Road some time after 9 p.m. on Dec. 31 and ended up in a pond, South Carolina Highway Patrol Lance Cpl. David Jones said.

The man abandoned the vehicle after it skidded across a field into the water, Jones said, and he left the scene before troopers and first responders arrived.

SCHP troopers went to the house where the car is registered and spoke with the man's girlfriend, who reportedly said he was OK but had no way of getting in touch with him.

Jones said troopers located and spoke with the man the next day.

Charges were either unlikely or unknown, he said.

No one else was involved in the incident.

Rat boards flight, forces cancellation

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Alaska Airlines is calling in an exterminator after the company says a rat boarded one of its planes at Oakland International Airport in California and forced it to cancel the flight.

The airline says passengers were boarding the Portland, Oregon-bound flight Tuesday when the rat jumped from the jet way onto the plane.

Passengers already on board came off, and the plane was taken out of service. Most of the 110 passengers scheduled to take the flight were re-booked on a later flight to Portland.

Alaska Airlines says it will resume using the plane when a professional exterminator certifies it is rodent-free. The aircraft will also be inspected for any damage.

Stay warm, but be cautious of carbon monoxide poisoning

BY RHONDA BARRICK
rhonda@theitem.com

With the extreme cold temperatures in the Midlands comes the threat of carbon monoxide poisoning as residents try to stay warm.

Carbon monoxide — a colorless, odorless, tasteless toxic gas produced when natural gas, propane, gasoline, kerosene, wood or charcoal is burned — can be deadly but can also cause permanent damage to the brain and nervous system. All ages can be affected, but infants and children are especially vulnerable.

According to the Palmetto Poison Center, the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning can be similar to the flu or food poisoning: fatigue/sleepiness; dizziness; nausea; headache; irregular breathing; and confusion or disorientation.

Gas water heaters, gas stoves and ovens, kerosene heaters, grills, wood and gas fireplaces, portable generators and automobile engines are all sources of carbon monoxide and should not be used in enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces such as a tent, garage, basement, etc.

Besides following manufacturer's instructions for fuel-burning appliances, the center also recommends having a qualified technician check gas-burning appliances including water heaters and gas dryers annually, installing a UL-approved CO alarm on every level of the home containing sleeping quarters and posting the poison hotline number (1-800-222-1222) near phones. Call immediately for possible poisonings.

If the carbon monoxide alarm goes off, the center recommends the following:

- Check to see if any member of the household is experiencing symptoms, and if they are, leave the affected area immediately and get fresh air;

- If no one has symptoms, open windows/doors and turn off potential sources of CO; and

- Have a qualified technician inspect fuel-burning appliances to identify and correct source of leak.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention more than 400 people in the United States die each year from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning not linked to fires, more than 20,000 visit the emergency room and more than 4,000 are hospitalized.

For additional information on carbon monoxide poisoning, visit the Palmetto Poison Center's website at poison.sc.edu or the Center for Disease Control at cdc.gov/co/faqs.htm.

Miss Morris College reads to students



PHOTO PROVIDED

Miss Morris College Alazia Williams strives to instill the love of reading to area youth and recently read to children in the Rubye J. Johnson Headstart program. If you are interested in having Miss Morris College read to your classroom, contact Morris College Director of Public Relations at (803) 934-3168.

USC Sumter to host Dream Walk 2018 on MLK holiday

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

University of South Carolina Sumter will host the 18th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dream Walk in Sumter on Jan. 15, according to a news release from the college on Wednesday. As the third Monday in January, the 15th also marks the federal holiday honoring King.

The Dream Walk is a local effort to acknowledge and celebrate the meaning and purpose of the holiday, the college said. King was an influential American civil rights leader, who is well known for his campaigns to end racial segregation on public transportation and for racial equality in the U.S. during the 1950s and '60s.

Dream Walk 2018 is a 3-mile walk,

which starts and ends at USC Sumter's Nettles Building. According to the college, registration for the event will be at 8:30 a.m., with the walk beginning at 9:30 a.m.

After the walk concludes back on the campus, a celebration program will begin at 11 a.m. to include a keynote speaker and musical performances. The speaker is still to be determined, the college said.

Commemorative T-shirts will be available for a \$13 donation. Double- and triple-extra large T-shirts will be \$15. Refreshments will be available for walkers, according to the college.

The Dream Walk, sponsored by USC Sumter, Morris College and Central Carolina Technical College, is free and open to the public.

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

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

Publication No. USPS 525-900

S.C. customers could see refunds in a utility sale

COLUMBIA (AP) — A proposed deal announced Wednesday could mean \$1.3 billion in refunds for customers of a troubled South Carolina utility who have been funding a failed nuclear reactor project.

In a news release, Richmond, Virginia-based Dominion Energy announced that it would make immediate \$1,000 cash payments to SCANA Corp. customers within 90 days of closing its purchase of the company. If approved by regulators, the deal would also cut rates for customers of SCANA subsidiary South Carolina Electric & Gas Co. by about 5 percent, an amount officials said would mean more than \$7 in monthly givebacks for customers.

SCANA has been reeling since announcing last summer that SCE&G was abandoning construction of two new nuclear reactors at the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station. Thousands were left jobless in the wake of the \$9 billion failure, which SCE&G and project co-owner Santee Cooper blamed on the bankruptcy by lead contractor Westinghouse.

The debacle has spawned multiple lawsuits, with customers accusing

SCANA executives of misleading them about the project's viability. State lawmakers have opened inquiries, and both state and federal authorities are investigating.

The \$14.6 billion deal with Dominion would still leave SCE&G customers holding the bag on funding the scuttled construction but would reduce the timetable on those payments, from up to 60 years down to around 20 years, officials said. Via a series of rate hikes, SCE&G customers have paid about \$2 billion toward the company's debt on the project.

South Carolina regulators are considering whether SCE&G customers should continue shouldering that debt, paying \$37 million a month for work that will not provide a kilowatt of power. State lawmakers also will begin considering legislation next week that would cut off payments for the nuclear project, which account for 18 percent of customers' electric bills, or \$27 a month.

SCANA Corp. shareholders will receive 0.6690 shares of Dominion common stock for each share of SCANA, under the stock deal Dominion is valuing at about \$7.9 billion, with an addi-

tional \$6.7 billion in assumed debt.

If the deal is approved, SCANA would become a wholly owned subsidiary of Dominion, which already has some holdings in South Carolina. It also includes completion of the \$180 million purchase of a 540-megawatt, natural gas-fired power plant, a proposal that is part of plans announced by SCE&G President Keller Kissam in November.

Dominion, one of the nation's largest utility companies, already operates a pair of solar farms in South Carolina, as well as a network of gas pipelines purchased from SCANA two years ago. SCANA has about 1.6 million electric and natural gas residential and business accounts in South Carolina and North Carolina. The combined company would operate in 18 states, providing energy to about 6.5 million regulated customer accounts.

Last month, SCE&G formally asked the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for permission to withdraw its operating license for the reactors, a move the company made as it seeks to show it's entirely given up on the project and is eligible for a \$2 billion tax write-off.

SCANA's stock, which has tumbled

about 40 percent since that announcement, was up in early trading Wednesday while Dominion stock was down slightly.

On a morning call with investors, Dominion chief executive Tom Farrell said he was "very pleased" about reaction to the deal from South Carolina leaders including Gov. Henry McMaster and House Speaker Jay Lucas. In a statement, McMaster said the deal would give money back to SCE&G ratepayers but reiterated his stance that state-owned utility Santee Cooper needed to be sold to account for its share of \$4 billion debt in the project.

"There is more work to be done, but today, we are headed in the right direction," McMaster said.

Rep. Micah Caskey, a Republican state representative whose district includes SCANA's headquarters, said the deal seemed like a good one at first glance but reserved his skepticism.

"We need to review the details before we act or before we choose not to act," he told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "South Carolinians deserve reliable electricity from an honest provider. I hope this plan is a step toward that goal."

Severe storm batters western Europe; 1 dead, 15 injured

Train blown off tracks, vehicles overturned, power outages extreme

BY GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press

LONDON — A violent storm packing winds up to 100 mph battered parts of western Europe on Wednesday, derailing trains, toppling trees and halting flights. Authorities said one person was killed and at least 15 others were injured in France and Switzerland.

The high winds played havoc on transport, derailing trains in Switzerland and Germany and leaving hundreds of thousands of homes across France, Switzerland, Britain and Ireland without power.

Officials said one skier was killed in the French Alps after being hit by a falling tree in Morillon in Haute-Savoie.

Several people were injured when a train was blown off the tracks near Lenk, a town south of Bern, the Swiss capital, local media reported. In western Germany, a train de-



Waves crash over the stone jetty wall in Aberystwyth in west Wales as Storm Eleanor lashed the UK with violent storm-force winds of up to 100 mph, leaving thousands of homes without power and hitting transport links.

AARON CHOWN / PA WIRE

photos of destroyed cars, collapsed scaffolding and uprooted trees on social media.

France's national electricity provider says the storm left some 200,000 households without electricity, including 30,000 in the Paris region.

In the Paris region, a falling tree hit a car and seriously injured one person, while another resident was seriously hurt falling from a building. In all, the Interior Ministry said 15 people in France were injured, with four in serious condition, following accidents caused by high winds.

Strong winds also caused delays at Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris, as extra precautions were taken to safely get travelers into aircraft.

In Germany, highways near Duisburg and Juelich in the west were partially blocked because of toppled trees and flooding. The zoos in Munich and Augsburg in Bavaria closed for the day, and the railway going up Germany's tallest mountain, the Zugspitze, was shut down because of the storm.

In neighboring Austria, a ski jumping practice in Innsbruck was cancelled due to the strong winds and snow.

railed near Luenen when it crashed into a tree that had fallen onto the tracks, according to the dpa news agency. No injuries were reported.

The storm forced the cancellation of flights at Zurich and Basel airports and toppled a truck on a Swiss highway. Thousands of households at Lake Zurich were left without power, and firefighters were called to help with toppled trees blocking streets and flooding due to heavy rain.

Swiss police say several people were stuck inside a cable car that halted in the ski resort of Pizol in the Swiss Alps. St. Gallen police said several rescue teams were trying to get them out. High winds prompted ski lifts to stop running at other Swiss resorts as well.

In England, the storm brought hail and lightning. Overturned vehicles forced officials to close portions of three major highways. Some bridges were also shut down.

Extremely high tides caused the partial collapse of a harbor wall in Cornwall in southwestern England, bringing seawater flooding in.

The country's main weather forecaster, the Met Office, says gusts reached 100 mph in Cumbria, 280 miles northwest of London, early Wednesday.

The storm battered northern France with winds surpassing 90 mph, some of the worst gusts to hit the country in years. Many people posted

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2 Democrats to be sworn in as senators

New faces will narrow Republican majority

BY KEVIN FREKING and
KIMBERLY CHANDLER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two new Democrats will be sworn in to the U.S. Senate on Wednesday, narrowing the Republican majority and complicating efforts by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to advance the White House's legislative agenda before the midterm elections in November.

Doug Jones, the first Alabama Democrat elected to the Senate in a quarter century, is one of two new members who took the oath of office on the Senate floor at noon. The other is Minnesota Lt. Gov. Tina Smith, who was appointed to replace Al Franken following the Democrat's resignation over accusations of sexual misconduct. Smith also plans to compete in the special election taking place in November to complete the final two years of Franken's term.

They will narrow the Republican majority to 51-49.

Jones, 63, will represent one of the most conservative states in the nation and is stressing his desire to work with both parties. He will be under pressure to find some areas of agreement with Republicans and has cited the funding of infrastructure improvements as one possible avenue.

"I will be an independent voice and work to find common ground with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to get Washington back on track and fight to make our country a better place for all," Jones said after defeating Republican Roy Moore in a special election rocked by allegations of sexual misconduct against Moore. Jones will take the seat once held by Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

Before the Senate seat belonged to Sessions, it belonged to the man Jones considered his mentor, the late Sen.



LEFT: Then-Democratic senatorial candidate Doug Jones speaks at a news conference Dec. 4 in Dolomite, Alabama. Jones, the first Alabama Democrat elected to the Senate in a quarter century, is one of two new members who took the oath of office on the Senate floor at noon on Wednesday.

RIGHT: Minnesota Lt. Gov. Tina Smith speaks in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 2015. Tina Smith, who was appointed to replace Al Franken following his resignation over accusations of sexual misconduct, was sworn in on Wednesday.



AP PHOTOS

Howell Heflin. Jones worked for Heflin as a staffer after graduating from law school in 1979. Heflin was the last Democrat to represent Alabama in the U.S. Senate.

Jones said for that reason, Wednesday would feel something like a homecoming, bringing his career full circle. During the swearing-in, Jones wore a pair of Heflin's cufflinks. Jones plans to place one of Heflin's cigar boxes in his office.

"To be able to have done the things I've done and end up back here is just a remarkable thing," Jones said. "I am looking forward to getting my feet wet and getting to know my colleagues and jumping into the action."

Jones said he is hopeful that he comes to the Senate with a "little bit of a voice" because of the attention on

the Alabama race.

"There are a lot of people who didn't vote for me, and I hope they will keep an open mind because I am going to try to be the best senator I can for the state to try to move the state forward as a whole and not just one particular group or philosophy," he said.

Jones made it clear during the campaign that he was opposed to the GOP's efforts to repeal President Barack Obama's signature health care overhaul, the Affordable Care Act. He said the efforts would drive up costs and lead to the closure of more rural health care facilities in the state.

"That is a nonstarter," Jones said. Smith, 59, served as chief of staff to Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton before becoming his No. 2 when the previous lieutenant governor declined to seek a

second term.

Smith is known largely as a liberal Democrat who has maintained connections to the state's large and politically powerful business community.

Once the senators take the oath of office, they reprise the event at a ceremony with family and friends in the Old Senate Chamber, once the home to the U.S. Senate and later to the U.S. Supreme Court from 1860 to 1935.

Former Vice President Walter Mondale was expected to join Smith at the ceremony.

Jones said former Vice President Joe Biden, who headlined Jones' campaign kickoff rally, and former Attorney General Eric Holder were expected to be among his guests Wednesday.

Trump boasts of 'nuclear button' but doesn't really have one

BY MATTHEW PENNINGTON

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump boasted that he has a bigger and more powerful "nuclear button" than North Korean leader Kim Jong Un does — but the president doesn't actually have a physical button.

The president's Tuesday evening tweet came in response to Kim's New Year's address, in which he repeated fiery nuclear threats against the United States. Kim said he has a "nuclear button" on his office desk and warned that "the whole territory of the U.S. is within the range of our nuclear strike."

Trump mocked that assertion, writing, "Will someone from his depleted and food starved regime please inform him that I too have a Nuclear Button, but it is a much bigger & more powerful one than his, and my Button works!"

But despite ratcheting up the tension, Trump doesn't really have a nuclear button.

The process for launching a nuclear strike is secret and complex and involves the use of a nuclear "football," which

is carried by a rotating group of military officers everywhere the president goes and is equipped with communication tools and a book with prepared war plans.

If the president were to order a strike, he would identify himself to military officials at the Pentagon with codes unique to him. Those codes are recorded on a card known as the "biscuit" that is carried by the president at all times. He would then transmit the launch order to the Pentagon and Strategic Command.

Earlier Tuesday, Trump sounded open to the possibility of an inter-Korean dialogue after Kim made a rare overture toward South Korea in a New Year's address. But Trump's ambassador to the United Nations insisted talks would not be meaningful unless the North was getting rid of its nuclear weapons.

In a morning tweet, Trump said the U.S.-led campaign of sanctions and other pressure were beginning to have a "big impact" on North Korea. He referred to the recent, dramatic escape of at least two North Korean soldiers across the heavily militarized border

into South Korea. He also alluded to Kim's comments Monday that he was willing to send a delegation to the Winter Olympics, which will be hosted by South Korea next month.

"Soldiers are dangerously fleeing to South Korea. Rocket man now wants to talk to South Korea for first time. Perhaps that is good news, perhaps not — we will see!" Trump said, using his derisive moniker for the young North Korean leader.

In response to Kim's overture, South Korea on Tuesday offered high-level talks on Jan. 9 at the shared border village of Panmunjom to discuss Olympic cooperation and how to improve overall ties. The South said Wednesday that North Korea's state-run radio station announced the North would reopen a cross-border communication channel.

If there are talks, they would be the first formal dialogue between the Koreans since December 2015. Relations have plunged as the North has accelerated its nuclear and ballistic missile development that now poses a

direct threat to America, South Korea's crucial ally.

The U.S. administration, however, voiced suspicions that Kim was seeking to drive a wedge between Seoul and Washington. Pyongyang could view a closer relationship with Seoul as a way for reducing its growing international isolation and relief from sanctions that are starting to bite the North's meager economy.

"We won't take any of the talks seriously if they don't do something to ban all nuclear

weapons in North Korea,"

U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley told reporters at the United Nations. "We consider this to be a very reckless regime. We don't think we need a Band-Aid, and we don't think we need to smile and take a picture."

North Korea has been punished with unprecedented sanctions at the U.N. over its weapons programs, and Haley warned Tuesday of more measures if the North conducts another missile test.

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Notice is hereby given that on March 13, 2018 a nonpartisan election will be held in School District No. 3, Clarendon County, South Carolina. The purpose of this election is to elect two trustees for School District No. 3. The seats to be filled are Seat 3 and Seat 4.

FILING WILL OPEN AT NOON ON JANUARY 9, 2018 AND CLOSE AT NOON ON JANUARY 23, 2018. THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN THIS ELECTION WILL BE FEBRUARY 12, 2018. THERE IS NO FEE FOR FILING. CANDIDATES SHOULD FILE AT THE CLARENDON COUNTY VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS OFFICE, 411 SUNSET DRIVE, MANNING, SOUTH CAROLINA.

The polls shall open at 7:00 a.m. in the forenoon and shall close at 7:00 p.m. in the afternoon on the day of the election and shall be held open during these hours without intermission or adjournment.

If a runoff is necessary, it will be held on March 27, 2018.

The following is a list of the polling places within the County of Clarendon that will be open:

New Zion	Clarendon County EMS Building, 15677 US 301, New Zion, SC
Sardinia Gable	Sardinia Fire Station, 12878 US 301, Gable, SC
Turbeville	Turbeville Town Hall, 1400 Main Street, Turbeville, SC

The Clarendon County Voter Registration and Elections Board will receive and canvass the votes after the polls close on the day of election at the Clarendon County Election Central Building, 20 West Keitt Street, Manning, South Carolina, 29102, and will declare the official results on Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 10:00am at the same location.

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AP: Most big public colleges don't track suicides

BY COLLIN BINKLEY
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Most of the largest U.S. public universities do not track suicides among their students, despite making investments in prevention at a time of surging demand for mental health services.

Tabulating student suicides comes with its own set of challenges and problems. But without that data, prevention advocates say, schools have no way to measure their success and can overlook trends that could offer insight to help them save lives.

"If you don't collect the data, you're doing half the job," said Gordon Smith, a former U.S. senator from Oregon who became a prevention advocate after his son, Garrett, took his life in 2003 while attending college. "We need information in mental health if we're actually going to be able to better tailor health and healing."

The Associated Press asked the 100 largest U.S. public universities for annual suicide statistics and found that 46 currently track suicides, including 27 that have consistently done so since 2007. Of the 54 remaining schools, 43 said they don't track suicides, nine could provide only limited data and didn't answer questions about how consistently they tracked suicides, and two didn't provide statistics.

Schools that don't track suicides include some of the nation's largest, including Arizona State University and the University of Wisconsin, which have both dealt with student suicides in the recent past, according to news reports. There were at least two suicides at Arizona State in 2017. Health officials at Wisconsin said they're finalizing a database to track the causes of student deaths.

"We will create a formal model to accurately document all student deaths at UW-Madison," Dr. Agustina Marconi, an epidemiologist at the university, said in a statement. "Our findings and the standards we create will benefit other universities moving forward."

The issue has come to the fore as some schools report today's students are arriving on campus less prepared for the rigors of college. Many schools have increased spending on mental health services to counter what the American Psychological Association and other groups have called a mental health crisis on campuses.

Surveys have found increasing rates of anxiety and depression among college students, but some experts say the problem only appears to be worsening because students who might have stayed silent in the past are taking advantage of the increasing availability of help.

"It's unfortunate that people are characterizing this outcome as a crisis," said Ben Locke, who runs a national mental-health network for colleges and leads the counseling center at Penn State. "It's counterproductive because it's criticizing the exact people we've encouraged to come forward."

Adding to the skepticism is that young adults in college have been found to have lower suicide rates than their peers. But they are also at an age when disorders including schizophrenia and bipolar depression often start to develop.

Federal health officials have sought to encourage data collection as part of a grant program named after Smith's son, which has awarded \$76 million to more than 230 colleges since 2005. Schools have separately spent millions on their own, often adding programs that teach basic life skills and training staff across campus to identify students in need.

The U.S. Education Department asks colleges to collect data on student deaths but not suicides specifically, and a variety of factors can discourage schools from tracking it.

Often it's difficult to confirm the cause of death, and medical examiners don't always notify universities when a cause is determined. There are concerns about legal liability. Some families prefer to keep it private. Even schools that collect data differ on whether they count



In this 2006 photo, then Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Oregon, sits at his Pendleton, Oregon, home behind a photo collage of his son, Garrett, who committed suicide in 2003.

AP FILE PHOTO

suicides that occur away from campus or during breaks.

And if the statistics become public, some schools fear it could damage their reputations.

"No school wants to be known as a school with multiple suicides. It's not good for business," said Nance Roy, chief clinical officer for the Jed Foundation, a nonprofit that works with colleges and high schools on prevention.

Advocates in at least three states have pushed to require universities to collect suicide data — in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Washington — but without success so far.

After the 2014 suicide of freshman track star Madison

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Holleran at the University of Pennsylvania, one of her former teachers in her hometown of Allendale, New Jersey, was surprised to learn many universities don't report suicide statistics. He pushed for a law that would have required the state's public universities to collect and publicize annual numbers, but it never made it to a vote amid pushback from schools.

"He felt that it was something that the public had every right

'If you don't collect the data, you're doing half the job. We need information in mental health if we're actually going to be able to better tailor health and healing.'

GORDON SMITH

Former U.S. senator who became a prevention advocate after his son took his own life while attending college

to know," said Pam Philipp, a New Jersey mental-health advocate who lobbied for the legislation along with Holleran's former teacher, Ed Modica, who died in 2017 at age 66.

A similar proposal by a state task force in Washington was sidelined amid budget woes last year, while lawmakers in Pennsylvania have yet to vote on recommendations to improve data collection.

National studies have found that suicide rates are on the rise in the United States, reaching 13 per 100,000 among all Americans and 12.5 among those ages 15 to 24. Much of the data on suicide comes from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which does not specifically track college suicides.

The gap in information led Dr. James Turner to seek funding for a national reporting system for student deaths in 2009 when he was president of the American College Health Association, but the National Institutes of Health didn't see the value, he said, and it never happened.

"I became puzzled, because we as a society are so interested in the health of college students," said Turner, who is now retired from the University of Virginia. "Why is it we don't have a comprehensive way of approaching this?"

The NIH declined to comment for this article.

A total of 27 schools provided statistics to the AP that they say were consistently tracked from 2007 through 2016, amounting to an overall suicide rate of about 4 per 100,000, although numbers from some universities were so low that experts including Roy at the Jed Foundation questioned their accuracy. The University

of Arizona, for example, averaged more than 40,000 students per year over the decade but reported just three suicides, a rate of 0.7 per 100,000.

Earlier studies have found average rates between 6.5 and 7.5 per 100,000 among college students. Schools that provided data to the AP had rates ranging from 0.27 to 8. Because of the inconsistency in responses, The Associated Press is not publishing figures for colleges that provided data.

Schools that do track suicides, however, often use their data to refine prevention efforts.

After Clemson University started gathering more data in 2015, campus officials noticed an increased suicide rate among transfer students. The school is now redoubling efforts to connect those students with campus services.

Data at other universities have led officials to secure access to certain rooftops.

Among the oldest examples is at the University of Texas at Austin, where officials in the 1990s installed iron barriers atop a clock tower that had previously been closed following several student suicides. The 10-year rate on that campus is in line with averages found in earlier studies, its data show, and has decreased in the second half of the past decade, even as national rates increase.

But Chris Brownson, the counseling center director who analyzes the university's suicides, said it's hard to celebrate success when every new case brings so much pain.

"One death is one death too many," he said, "and that's why we come to work every day — to do the things that we do here to try to prevent any of those from happening."

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DAMAGE FEES

FROM PAGE A1

after the city installed new water meters in some areas.

Water meters tend to slow down rather than speed up as time goes on, so the newer meters are giving a more accurate measure of water usage, McCormick said.

The water department can monitor each customer's water usage with the new meters to see if there are any leaks adding to an increase in fees, he said.

COUNCIL CONCERNED LOITERING YOUTHS, CRIME CONNECTED

During council reports, Councilman Hastie raised concern about youths standing on street corners for hours at a time, most likely, he said, engaging in illegal activity.

The community needs to come together to get these kids off the street and out of crime, he said.

Councilwoman Ione Dwyer suggested the city create a law prohibiting loitering to keep young people out of potentially dangerous situations.

The city needs to jump ahead of this issue because if the young people are standing on the streets in this weather, it will only get worse when it starts to warm up outside, she said.

In response to comments from city residents about possible inaction from Sumter Police Department regarding calls, Police Chief Russell Roark III said officers are required to work within the confines of the law and cannot act without probable cause. Though the community may not always be able to see what officers are doing, the department is taking action, he said.

Roark said the department does not

want to give away its hand and potentially let suspects know about its operations.

GRANT MAY BE USED FOR HOUSING REPAIR

Council also approved first reading of an ordinance to amend the 2017-18 Community Development Block Grant budget to appropriate \$1,800 — originally allocated for Wateree Aids Task Force, which agreed to dissolve during a meeting on July 13, 2016 — for housing repair.

In a letter addressed to McCormick, the task force board members said the group would not be using U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funds allocated for the year.

The \$1,800 is a portion of funding — a total of \$291,838 — allocated to Sumter by HUD for the city's 2017-18 CDBG budget.

The funding allows communities to address various development needs such as, in Sumter, the demolition of dilapidated houses, funding youth employment programs, YMCA and Sumter United Ministries.

BUSINESSMAN WANTS TWO CITY ALLEYS CLOSED

First reading of an ordinance was approved to close two alleyways on Dingle Street between Sumter and Main streets and transfer the property to an adjoining property owner and the request's applicant, Job's Mortuary.

Those two strips of land are currently not in use, and the city does not have any public interest in keeping those alleys open, the city's attorney Shytle said.

No one spoke in favor or opposition of the request, which will require a second approval before it passes.

SNOW

FROM PAGE A1

At least 16 deaths were blamed on dangerously cold temperatures that for days have gripped wide swaths of the U.S. from Texas to New England.

A winter storm warning extended from the Gulf Coast of Florida's "Big Bend" region all the way up the Atlantic coast. Forecasters said hurricane-force winds blowing offshore today could generate 24-foot seas.

Schools in the Southeast called off classes just months after being shut down because of hurricane threats, and police urged drivers to stay off the roads in a region little accustomed to the kind of winter woes common to the Northeast.

In Savannah, snow blanketed the city's lush downtown squares and collected on branches of burly oaks for the first time in nearly eight years. William Shaw, a Savannah native, used baby steps to shuffle along a frozen road from his home to the post office.

"It almost seems the town is deserted just like in the last hurricane," said Shaw, 65. "There's no one on the street. It's got a little eerie feeling."

Savannah saw measurable snowfall for the first time since February 2010. Up to 2 inches of snow and sleet were forecast Wednesday. Dump trucks spread sand on major streets ahead of the storm, and police closed several bridges, overpasses and a major causeway because of ice.

The icy weather forced airports to shut down in Savannah and Charleston, where 3 to 4 inches of snow was forecast about 20 miles inland from the coast.

Interstate 95 was nearly an icy parking lot for 60 miles stretching north from the Georgia-South Carolina state line. State troopers couldn't keep up with the number of reported wrecks as they climbed into the hundreds.

In Tallahassee, Florida, Michigan transplant Laura Donaven built a snowman 6 inches tall. The city tweeted that snow fell there for the first time in 28 years.

"It was very neat to see. It had been since the early '90s since we got any snow like that," said the 41-year-old hair salon owner. "I made a snowball and threw it at my dad."



Alderman's Drug Store is seen early Wednesday afternoon as snow begins falling.

PHOTOS BY MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM



J. O'Grady's in downtown Sumter gets a dusting of snow.

Authorities closed a stretch of Interstate 10 near the Florida state capital because of wintry precipitation.

The National Weather Service said snow and freezing rain was expected to spread up the coast and warned that icy roads and low visibility could make driving treacherous. Ac-

cumulations of 3 to 5 inches were possible in eastern North Carolina.

The weather service said the winter storm will probably intensify into a "bomb cyclone" that could dump more than 8 inches of snow on the Boston area today and at least half a foot of snow in the New York City region.

RIDE-ALONG

FROM PAGE A1

are exciting if drivers flee them, wreck their car and run through a cotton field, as one Sumter man did, before they are eventually apprehended.

The officers I rode with were prepared for most tricks people tried to pull, including lying.

In fact, being nervous is sometimes a clear sign that someone is acting within the law. The deputies were friendly with drivers and even offered advice to first-time offenders.

As long as you're honest and compliant, officers will be understanding. You'll still probably get a ticket, but at least the experience won't result in a worse situation, and things won't get out of hand.

If you're bold enough to break the law, you should be tough enough to take the punishment. Don't make the situation worse by lying.

You don't hear often about people successfully evading check points — as a reporter, I haven't.

Listening to the deputies speak on Sunday night, I learned that check points usually go how they did when I was there — uneventful. Many of the people who are selected for an exclusive interview are just given a ticket or warning.

I guess the main goal is to make sure drivers make it home safely so they have the opportunity to celebrate the next holiday.

Any readers who hope to hop into a cruiser for a ride-along can call Sumter County Sheriff's Office at (803) 436-2000 or Sumter Police Department at (803) 436-2727.

WEEKS

FROM PAGE A1

complaint, he also filed a motion to quash — or stop — the subpoena letter regarding the mold specialist.

In its answer to the complaint, the college said students assumed the risk of potential mold issues while living in the campus' facilities. In another answer to the complaint, Morris said the college never received any notification by students of mold problems on campus.

Weeks has been a member of the state House of Representatives for Sumter since 2000. Attempts to reach Weeks

for comments were unsuccessful on Wednesday.

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION FOR THE TOWN OF SUMMERTON

NOTICE is hereby given that a General Election will be held in the Town of Summerton, South Carolina on the 3TH of April, 2018 for the purpose of filling the seats of Mayor and 3 Council Members.

NOMINATIONS of candidates can be made by Petition, in accordance with Section 2.203, the general ordinance of the Town of Summerton, South Carolina, 1976, and Section 7-13-351 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 197, as amended. Petitions must be signed by at least five percent (5%) of the qualified registered electors of the municipality (this number of signers of a petition has been determined to be 50 such electors). Said Petition must be on forms provided by the State Election Commission and contain the information required thereon and may be obtained from the Clarendon County Voter Registration and Election Office at 411 Sunset Drive, Manning, SC.

NOMINATION Petitions for all nominations must be filed with the Clarendon County Voter Registration and Election office 411 Sunset Drive, Manning, SC, on or before 12 o'clock noon, January 19, 2018.

POLLING PLACE:

St. Matthias Episcopal Church, 9 North Dukes Street, Summerton, SC. Polls will open at 7:00am and close at 7:00pm.

At 9:00am on said Election Day the absentee managers will begin examination of the absentee ballots return envelopes. This examination will be held at the Clarendon County Voter Registration and Elections office, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning, SC.

The unofficial results of the election will be announced at the Clarendon County Election Central Building, 20 East Keitt Street, Manning, SC.

On Thursday, April 5, 2018, at 10:00am, at the Clarendon County Election Central Building, the Board will hold a hearing to determine the validity of ballots challenged in this election. After the hearing on challenged ballots, the Clarendon County Voter Registration and Elections Board will certify the results of the election.

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COMMENTARY

Queen Carlson wins again with her leadership

WASHINGTON — If karma is a b----, justice is a beauty queen.

After recent revelations that the CEO of the Miss America Organization and its pageant scriptwriter were talking trash about past winners, the board fired them both and installed Gretchen Carlson, a former Miss America 1989 and Fox News anchor, as its new chairwoman.

Carlson, you might say, was in the right place at the right time — one she basically created. It isn't exaggeration to say that Carlson launched the ongoing anti-harassment crusade when she sued her former boss, Fox News founder Roger Ailes. He left the company, and Fox settled with Carlson for a rumored \$20 million.



Kathleen Parker

Next, Carlson wrote a book about her experience, "Be Fierce," which shined an even brighter light on the frequent and largely ignored incidence of sexual harassment. Now she has been crowned again, this time as the head of the organization that first put her on the national map decades ago.

Although she didn't technically start the #MeToo movement that took over social media several months ago, she should be credited with helping bestir women to find their voices. An idea needs mass and energy to become a movement, and the purging of Fox's misogynist man cave seems to have been the pebble that caused the ripple that became the tsunami that led to dozens (and still counting) of powerful men being fired nationwide following accusations of sexual misconduct.

With her recent anointment, Carlson has come full circle in what must feel like justice for this Stanford graduate and world-class violinist. Always confident and a little bullheaded, by her own accounting, she was an unlikely victim. But her experience at Fox and her many interviews with other women helped her discover a greater purpose.

That such nasty disrespect toward women should surface, of all places, at the Miss America Organization is alternately shocking and juicy fruit for the tartly inclined. CEO Sam Haskell and writer Lewis Friedman weren't merely disrespectful; they were disgusting. Also, one notes, stupid.

It all started in 2014 with an email from Haskell to Friedman about changing the telecast script: "I have decided that when referring to a woman who was once Miss America, we are no longer going to call them Forever Miss Americas ... please change all script copy to reflect that they are Former Miss Americas!"

Friedman replied, "I'd already changed 'Forever' to 'C-ts.' Does that work for you?"

"Perfect ... bahahaha," Haskell replied.

This is doubtless amusing to pageant haters, but outrage from more than 50 former pageant winners muffled the chortles of those who find such remarks entertaining. These apparently included some of the board members, who also have resigned. The emails might have gone unnoticed — and, in fact, did for a few years — were it not for the fact that several million women are in a bad mood at the moment.

The irony is that feminists, including the #MeToo cavalry, might be expected to rally alongside Carlson and other Miss

Americas to fight the boys-will-be-boys excuse for sexual misconduct. But we've learned from past episodes that many feminists suffer selective outrage.

The rebuffing of Democratic Sen. Al Franken, notwithstanding, they are hard-pressed to align themselves with beauty queens, whose participation in contests involving a bikini strut and cultivation of an "ideal" woman (circa 1950) is viewed as a symbolic obstacle in the battle for equality.

Rallying the troops for Barbie is a hard sell as long as she's prancing around nearly naked before judges who will decide whether she's got the right stuffing. Acknowledging this conflict of interests doesn't change the reality, however, that young women who have put in the time, sweat and investment required to compete in a national competition deserve at least respect, especially from the organization that sponsors them.

The contestants may not be everyone's ideal of womanhood, but whom do they hurt? After nearly 100 years of pageants, there's no record of a Miss America posing a danger to society. Nor, one may rationally infer, has any winner felt objectified by the \$50,000 scholarship money.

So, she can't be married while she holds the title. Nor can she be pregnant. Are these restrictions really so essential to full female autonomy? And, finally, who cares?! The pageant is a tradition, for better or worse. As an agnostic observer, I suspect that Carlson will make it better and perhaps lead this archaic institution toward a female role model who more closely resembles who we aspire to be.

Kathleen Parker's email address is kathleenparker@washpost.com.

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comics.com EMAIL: hpayne@detroitnews.com © JUNE 19

EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

Recent editorials from South Carolina newspapers:

THE TIMES AND DEMOCRAT

Dec. 27

Governor prioritizes the opioid crisis

Earlier this year, T&D Staff Writer Dionne Gleaton profiled the opioid crisis in an eye-opening three-part series focusing on the extent of the problem, its direct impact on lives and what can be done.

Gleaton reported on the numbers:

- The U.S. Centers for Disease Prevention and Control's latest Vital Signs shows opioid prescriptions continue to be written at a high rate, with the amount of opioids prescribed per person standing three times higher in 2015 than in 1999.

- The report indicates that while the amount of opioids prescribed in the United States peaked in 2010 and then decreased each year through 2015, the volume of the potentially addictive medications prescribed is still about three times higher than in 1999, when the problem with opioid addiction was in its infancy.
- The CDC has reported that prescription painkillers were responsible for roughly half of the nation's 33,000 opioid-related overdose deaths in 2015.

Gleaton reported that focus on stemming the tide of prescriptions for painkillers is essential.

"I would consider that opioids are overprescribed in general. What has helped in the recent past are the guidelines that have come out from the CDC and the DEA in terms of their recommendations for how to use opioids and having the providers be more aware of their prescribing habits through just that educational process," said Dr. Monnie Singleton of Singleton Health Center in Orangeburg.

"I think that has helped us to sort of see a slight decrease in the number of prescriptions that are written, but old habits are hard

to break. There are lots of physicians who've had patients on opioids for long periods of time, and it's hard to get them off of opioids," Singleton said.

Gleaton reported that addiction experts believe the problem has to be approached as a medical one.

"There is not a silver bullet, but I think that the United States government needs to step up to the plate and do more to treating it more kindly and participate in finding ways to treat it more effectively," Singleton said. "Incarceration doesn't do a thing. What they need to do is really embrace the fact that opioid addiction is a medical condition."

And Gleaton reported that the state government is aware that it must play a key role in addressing the problem.

Toward that end, Gov. Henry McMaster this past week put the full force of his office into finding solutions.

Calling the opioid abuse a "silent hurricane going on in our state," McMaster said opioid overdoses caused 616 deaths in the state in 2016, nearly double the state's 366 homicides and 331 drunken driving deaths in the same period.

As reported by The Associated Press, the governor announced he is using executive orders to limit opioid prescriptions under two state programs. He directed state health officials to limit initial opioid prescriptions to five days for post-operation pain and other acute needs for Medicaid recipients in the state system. Patients would have to make a request if they need more.

THE INDEX-JOURNAL

Dec. 26

We are losing too many to addiction

While many families celebrated Christmas by exchanging gifts, attending church and sharing laughs over meals, others had to endure a massive void.

One voice was heard no more, one person's laughter and smile were missing. Under the Christmas tree

there were fewer gifts. On the tree hung ornaments that marked Christmases past, not to be added to beyond Christmas 2016.

For these families, Christmas was a struggle because a loved one lost his or her struggle with an addiction to a prescription pain medication, an addiction that is sweeping across the nation like a raging wildfire.

A small crowd gathered in Uptown Greenwood with lighted candles. They shared a common bond. Each had lost a loved one to an opioid overdose. And on Saturday, the family and friends of Brandon Wood will gather at The Oasis at Connie Maxwell Children's Home for a balloon release to honor Brandon's life and draw attention to the struggles both the addict and his family endure when addiction does not release its grip on a young life.

The #doitfor6 balloon release is but one way one Greenwood County family is channeling its grief over the loss of Brandon, a 21-year-old soccer athlete who wore jersey No. 6, was known for a broad smile who genuinely cared for others while struggling daily with an addiction to fentanyl — an addiction that took his life Oct. 24, just two months before he and his family should have been sharing the joys of the season on Christmas Eve.

Brandon and others whose lives become entangled with opioids don't take such a path purposefully. But it is a path that is difficult to leave. There becomes no clear direction to turn back and no side path along the way that leads the addict to freedom and a renewed whole life.

Nationally, and here at home in South Carolina, efforts are under way to not only heighten awareness of the power of opioid addiction, but also combat it. Drug companies are duty bound to help. They exist to improve health and extend lives, not end lives. They have created drugs that excel at combating pain but also can lead to addiction and death.

A war on opioids? Call it what you will, but it is a battle that must be waged and requires all of us to participate in because we are losing far too many otherwise good and wonderful lives every day.

EDITORIAL PAGE POLICIES

EDITORIALS represent the views of the owners of this newspaper.

COLUMNS AND COMMENTARY are the personal opinion of the writer whose byline appears. Columns from readers should be

typed, double-spaced and no more than 850 words. Send them to *The Sumter Item*, Opinion Pages, P.O. Box 1677, Sumter, S.C. 29151, or email to letters@theitem.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are written by

readers of the newspaper. They should be no more than 350 words and sent via e-mail to letters@theitem.com, dropped off at *The Sumter Item* office, 36 W. Liberty St. or mailed to *The Sumter Item*, P.O. Box 1677, Sumter, S.C. 29151, along with the full name of the

writer, plus an address and telephone number for verification purposes only. Letters that exceed 350 words will be cut accordingly in the print edition, but available in their entirety at www.theitem.com.

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

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

Manning Al-Anon Family Group — Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Behavioral Health Building, 14 Church St., Manning. Call (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 also 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) 493-0869.

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. Support group for teens and adults with special needs. Call (803) 972-0051 or (803) 468-5745 or email thegathering23@aol.com.

Parkinson's Support Group — Second Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., Carolinas Rehabilitation Hospital, 121 E. Cedar St., Florence. Call (843) 661-3746.

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. Open to anyone who has lost a loved one to murder in a violent way.

EFMP Parent Exchange Group — Last Tuesday, 11 a.m.-noon, Airman 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 the Alzheimer's Association at (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 every 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. dinner, 7 p.m. program, Salt & Light Church, Miller Road (across from Food Lion). For 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 fellowship hall, 2751 S. Wise Drive. Call (803) 481-5344 or (803) 464-6440. Email l.am.me.not.ms@gmail.com or ms-miles013@gmail.com.

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2018

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Sunny; breezy in the afternoon	Near-record temperatures	Mostly sunny and cold	Cold with plenty of sun	Chilly with some sun	Warmer; a little p.m. rain
41°	16°	39° / 18°	37° / 16°	42° / 28°	60° / 43°
Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 5%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 5%	Chance of rain: 55%
NW 10-20 mph	NNW 8-16 mph	W 4-8 mph	NNE 4-8 mph	E 4-8 mph	SSE 4-8 mph

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

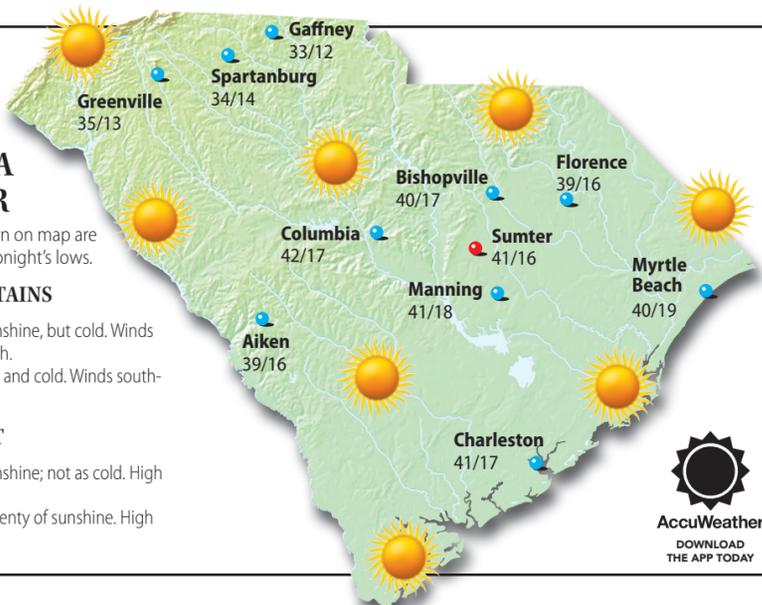
Temperatures shown on map are today's highs and tonight's lows.

IN THE MOUNTAINS

Today: Plenty of sunshine, but cold. Winds northwest 10-20 mph.
Friday: Partly sunny and cold. Winds southwest 4-8 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: Plenty of sunshine; not as cold. High 40 to 44.
Friday: Cold with plenty of sunshine. High 36 to 40.



LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THROUGH 2 P.M. YESTERDAY

Temperature	High	Low	Normal high	Normal low	Record high	Record low
	31°	19°	54°	32°	77° in 1966	17° in 1979

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
	trace	trace	0.38"	trace	2.13"	0.38"

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	354.45	-0.23
Marion	76.8	73.70	-0.14
Moultrie	75.5	73.87	none
Wateree	100	96.66	+0.24

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	8.15	-0.17
Congaree River	19	2.81	-0.17
Lynches River	14	4.71	-0.29
Saluda River	14	2.73	+0.27
Up. Santee River	80	75.59	+0.49
Wateree River	24	5.16	+0.42

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	7:28 a.m.	Sunset	5:26 p.m.
Moonrise	8:41 p.m.	Moonsset	9:35 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Jan. 8	Jan. 16	Jan. 24	Jan. 31

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH				
	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	10:44 a.m.	3.7	5:00 a.m.	-1.0
	11:12 p.m.	3.1	5:44 p.m.	-0.6
Fri.	11:36 a.m.	3.5	5:54 a.m.	-0.8
	---	---	6:35 p.m.	-0.5

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	33/17/s	35/22/s
Chicago	10/-2/s	9/-3/s
Dallas	47/28/pc	54/33/s
Detroit	10/-3/pc	9/-5/pc
Houston	50/33/pc	54/37/s
Los Angeles	73/56/pc	71/58/pc
New Orleans	46/29/pc	48/33/s
New York	28/9/sn	15/4/s
Orlando	53/30/s	51/32/s
Philadelphia	26/10/sn	17/5/s
Phoenix	75/50/s	76/50/pc
San Francisco	62/55/sh	60/48/sh
Wash., DC	28/13/sf	23/10/s

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Asheville	23/10/s	28/10/pc	Florence	39/16/s	38/16/s
Athens	37/16/s	38/20/s	Gainesville	46/21/s	46/25/s
Augusta	43/18/s	43/18/s	Gastonia	35/14/s	35/16/pc
Beaufort	41/20/s	40/21/s	Goldsboro	37/16/s	33/14/s
Cape Hatteras	36/21/sn	30/19/pc	Goose Creek	41/18/s	39/19/s
Charleston	41/17/s	39/19/s	Greensboro	32/13/s	28/11/s
Charlotte	35/14/s	35/16/s	Greenville	35/13/s	36/18/s
Clemson	38/16/s	37/18/s	Hickory	29/11/s	30/10/s
Columbia	42/17/s	41/18/s	Hilton Head	43/21/s	40/23/s
Darlington	39/18/s	37/17/s	Jacksonville, FL	46/23/s	44/27/s
Elizabeth City	34/13/pc	28/10/s	La Grange	37/18/s	39/19/s
Elizabethtown	37/16/s	34/15/s	Macon	41/19/s	43/23/s
Fayetteville	38/16/s	35/16/s	Marietta	31/14/s	33/17/s
			Marion	29/10/s	29/11/pc
			Mt. Pleasant	42/20/s	40/23/s
			Myrtle Beach	40/19/s	36/20/s
			Orangeburg	40/17/s	38/19/s
			Port Royal	42/21/s	39/24/s
			Raleigh	33/14/s	30/13/s
			Rock Hill	35/14/s	34/16/s
			Rockingham	38/16/s	34/15/s
			Savannah	41/20/s	41/22/s
			Spartanburg	34/14/s	35/15/s
			Summerville	41/16/s	39/18/s
			Wilmington	39/17/s	35/16/s
			Winston-Salem	31/13/s	29/11/s

PUBLIC AGENDA

SUMTER FAIR PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING HORSE AND CATTLE
Today, 6 p.m., Fair Memorial Building, 30 S. Artillery Drive

The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll come up with some interesting

ideas and solutions to problems you've been facing. Research and learn all you can before putting your plans into motion. Start small and work your way toward a better life and a healthier future.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A good deal will be difficult to resist. Consider any consequences you might suffer if you move forward without first getting the go-ahead. Time-sensitive matters will leave you questioning the best way to move forward without upsetting anyone.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can make positive changes at home if you discuss your intentions with someone who will be affected by the choices you make. Getting the help and support you want will make your life easier. A partnership is apparent.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A change in the way you offer your services to others or deal with your peers will encourage you to get more in return. Hard work will pay off. Set your sights high and don't stop until you reach your goal.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): If you love what you do, you'll do it well. Look for jobs that interest and inspire you to do your very best. Expanding your awareness and collaborating with people who have more experience than you will be enlightening.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A change may not be welcome, but it will be educational. Use your intelligence and do whatever it takes to make whatever is going on around you work to your benefit. It's how you handle situations that will count the most.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may feel like being generous and helping others, but when it comes to how you handle your cash, it's best to be frugal. Offer hands-on assistance or worthwhile suggestions that will encourage others to do what needs to be done.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Protect your reputation, position and status. Use your intelligence and common sense to keep heading down the right path. A well-thought-out strategy will encourage you to stick to a budget and avoid risky ventures.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Check out what everyone else is doing and consider your options. Past experiences will spare you from making a mistake when dealing with emotional matters. Change can be positive, and short trips and networking will pay off.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be careful how you spend money. Don't get involved in joint ventures or donate money because you are made to feel guilty. Keep your cash, possessions and personal information locked up somewhere safe. Avoid indulgent behavior.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Partnerships look promising. Discuss your position and your intentions. Focus on positive changes and offer intellectual alternatives. You have much to gain if you use common sense to make your point. Be bold and take action.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A change to the way you do business or treat peers will be questioned if you aren't accommodating. Explain your reasons for taking a different approach. Changes can be good if they are planned carefully.

PICTURES FROM THE PUBLIC



Susan Marks shares this photo of her grandsons, Constant and Quentin Roseiro, enjoying a shopping trip to BI-LO while visiting from France for the holidays. Picture taken by their mother, Kate Marks Roseiro.

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

YEAR IN REVIEW



New York Yankees starting pitcher Jordan Montgomery became Sumter's first major leaguer in more than a quarter century in 2017.

AP FILE PHOTO

Repeat, repeat, repeat

3 LMA teams defending state titles, Montgomery reaching big lead list of area's top achievements

BY DENNIS BRUNSON
dennis@theitem.com

The year that was 2017 was a busy one on the sports scene in Sumter, Clarendon and Lee counties.

It was very unusual in one way – the city of Sumter had its first Major League Baseball player in almost a quarter of a century when Jordan Montgomery made the New York Yankees roster out of spring training and went on to a solid rookie campaign. Three other players from Sumter who hope to join Montgomery in the bigs were selected in the MLB draft in June.

There were several championships – both team and individual – won over the 12-month period. The baseball, softball and boys bowling teams at Laurence Manning Academy each defended state titles and LMA also won the state strength meet.

Thomas Sumter Academy's girls basketball team won the SCISA 2A state title and its co-ed archery team won state as well. The East Clarendon High School softball team won the 1A state title and both the boys and girls track and field teams at Scott's Branch High won 1A titles as well.

Several teams came close to winning state titles, including the TSA volleyball team playing for the SCISA 2A state title, Robert E. Lee Academy baseball team playing for the SCISA 2A baseball title, LMA playing for the SCISA 3A football title and the EC girls basketball team reaching the 1A

lower state championship game.

Here's a review of the championships and achievements that took place in the just completed year

MONTGOMERY HAS STRONG ROOKIE SEASON

Montgomery learned in January that he would be heading to Florida as a non-roster invitee to the Yankees' spring training after just two years in the organization. When the team broke camp and headed north in April, he was the No. 5 starter in their pitching rotation, and he didn't let up from there.

The 6-foot-6-inch left-hander went on to have a strong rookie campaign. He had a 9-7 win-loss record and a 3.88 earned run average in 29 starts. He worked 155 1/3 innings, striking out 144 while allowing 140 hits and 51 walks.

He was in the rotation until New York acquired veteran starters Sonny Gray and Jaime Garcia at the trade deadline.

Still, when the Yankees made the postseason as a wild-card team, Montgomery was placed on the 25-man postseason roster. However, he didn't make an appearance in the American League Division Series or the AL Championship Series.

LMA DEFENDS BASEBALL CROWN

After winning its first SCISA 3A baseball title since 2002 in dramatic

SEE TOP, PAGE B3

PRO FOOTBALL

Rivera wants Panthers to turn focus to Saints, playoffs

BY STEVE REED
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE — Panthers coach Ron Rivera sent a clear message to his players Monday: Forget about Atlanta.

Rivera took only a couple questions during his press conference about his team's uninspiring performance in a 22-10 loss to the Atlanta Falcons on Sunday before saying he was done talking about it. Rather than allow a bad New Year's Day football hangover to linger, the two-time NFL Coach of the Year told his players it is time to move on and turn their attention to next Sunday's NFC wild card game at New Orleans.

"The big thing that we need to do more than anything else is to move forward and get past the game we just played," Rivera said. "Right now that game isn't going to do anything for us."

The Panthers had plenty of momentum entering the regular season finale having won seven of their previous eight games.

Had Carolina beat Atlan-

ta, they would have won the NFC South and had a home playoff game.

Now they're limping into the postseason and likely will have to win three in a row on the road to reach the Super Bowl.

Cam Newton's struggles in one of the worst games of his career could be cause for concern entering the postseason. Newton missed on his first eight passes against Atlanta, his throws often sailing high and wide of his intended targets and could never get on track. It hasn't helped that the Panthers wide receiver position has been besieged by injuries, leaving Newton with a cast of no-name players.

One thing is for certain: Newton and the offense will need to be on its game Sunday against the Saints.

The Panthers (11-5) don't appear to match up well with the Saints (11-5), particularly on defense where they've been unable to slow Drew Brees and the NFC South champions.

New Orleans clobbered Carolina 34-13 in Charlotte

SEE PANTHERS, PAGE B2



Carolina tight end Greg Olsen (88) is hit by Atlanta strong safety Keanu Neal (22) during the first half of the Falcons' 22-10 victory over the Panthers on Sunday in Atlanta.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KEEPING UP



Murray State's Ja Morant (12) goes up against Auburn's Chuma Okeke during a December contest. Morant, the former Crestwood High School standout, is having a standout freshman season for the Racers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ja Morant excelling for Racers

BY BARBARA BOXLEITNER
Special to The Sumter Item

Ja Morant has been a freshman standout for the Murray State University men's basketball team so far this season.

The guard out of Crestwood High School started the first 13 games for the 10-3 Racers and has averaged a team high 7.3 assists, 6.5 rebounds, second on the squad, and 11.8 points, fourth on the team. He reached double figures in points nine times and in rebounds and assists three times.

Ohio Valley Conference sports information directors voted him the conference freshman of the week on Dec. 27. He was cited for averaging 13 points, nine rebounds and seven assists during Dec. 18-24 action.

During a recent win over Eastern Illinois, Morant recorded the program's first triple-double in eight years, ac-

ording to the school's online site. He finished with 11 points, 10 rebounds and a season-high 14 assists.

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Junior Christopher Hoza was Vaughn College's lone representative on the all-Hudson Valley Intercollegiate Athletic Conference team. The Dazell resident placed 31st, second among the Warriors, in the conference championship 8K.

SOFTBALL

Thomas Sumter Academy graduate Emily Nevels is a junior infielder for Mississippi University for Women. She played for the University of South Carolina Sumter.

Women's basketball Sumter High alumna Brittany Starling led the Kangaroos in the Belgian league with an 8.8 rebounding average through 15 games. She averaged 12.7 points, fourth on

the squad. In a Dec. 26 win, she led players from both teams with 13 rebounds. She had seven points.

Freshman Tyana Saunders didn't start any of the first nine games for North Greenville University, but she was fifth on the team in minutes. The Crestwood product led the squad with 20 steals and averaged 4.0 points and 2.3 rebounds.

North Greenville freshman reserve Bree Stoddard averaged 2.1 points and 1.8 rebounds in nine games. The Thomas Sumter graduate led the team with 13 points during a loss to King University.

Out of Sumter High, freshman guard Taylor Myles had two assists, one rebound and one point for Southern Wesleyan University against Columbia International.

Send updates about area athletes to Barbara Boxleitner at jlanddoc@gmail.com.

SCOREBOARD

TV, RADIO

TODAY

5:30 a.m. — Professional Tennis: Brisbane International Early-Round Matches from Brisbane, Australia (TENNIS).
7:30 a.m. — Professional Tennis: Qatar ExxonMobil Open Quarterfinal Matches from Doha, Qatar (TENNIS).
11:30 a.m. — Professional Tennis: Qatar ExxonMobil Open Quarterfinal Matches from Doha, Qatar (TENNIS).
2:55 p.m. — International Soccer: English Premier League Match — West Ham vs. Tottenham (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
3:30 p.m. — International Tennis: Hopman Cup Session 9 and 10 from Perth, Australia — Canada vs. Germany and Australia vs. Belgium (TENNIS).
5 p.m. — Figure Skating: U.S. Championships from San Jose, Calif. — Pairs Short Program (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
6 p.m. — High School Football: Under Armour All-America Game Practice from St. Petersburg, Fla. (ESPN2).
6 p.m. — PGA Golf: Tournament of Champions First Round from Maui, Hawaii (GOLF).
6:05 p.m. — Talk Show: Sports Talk (WDXY-FM 105.9, WDXY-AM 1240).
6:30 p.m. — International Athletics: U.S. Olympic Trials from Milwaukee — Men's 10,000 and Women's 5,000 Finals (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
7 p.m. — College Basketball: Tennessee-Martin at Austin Peay (CBS SPORTS NETWORK).
7 p.m. — College Basketball: Houston at Wichita State (ESPN).
7 p.m. — College Basketball: Ohio State at Iowa (ESPN).
7 p.m. — NHL Hockey: Carolina at Pittsburgh (FOX SPORTS SOUTHEAST).
7 p.m. — Women's College Basketball: North Carolina at Boston College (FOX SPORTSOUTH).
7 p.m. — Women's College Basketball: Kentucky at Texas A&M (SEC NETWORK).
7:30 p.m. — College Basketball: Texas (San Antonio) at Louisiana Tech (SPECTRUM 1250).
8 p.m. — College Basketball: Maryland at Michigan State (FOX SPORTS 1).
8 p.m. — Professional Tennis: Brisbane International Quarterfinal Matches from Brisbane, Australia (TENNIS).
8 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Golden State at Houston (TNT).
8:30 p.m. — Figure Skating: U.S. Championships from San Jose, Calif. — Men's Short Program (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
9 p.m. — Women's College Basketball: San Francisco at Brigham Young (BYUTV).
9 p.m. — College Basketball: Northern Iowa at Missouri State (CBS SPORTS NETWORK).
9 p.m. — College Basketball: Arizona at Utah (ESPN).
9 p.m. — College Basketball: Cincinnati at Temple (ESPN2).
9 p.m. — College Basketball: Southern Methodist at Tulane (ESPN).
9 p.m. — Women's College Basketball: Arkansas at Mississippi State (SEC NETWORK).
10 p.m. — College Basketball: UCLA at Stanford (FOX SPORTS 1).
10:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Oklahoma City at Los Angeles Clippers (TNT).
11 p.m. — College Basketball: Gonzaga at Pepperdine (ESPN).
4 a.m. — Professional Tennis: Brisbane International Quarterfinal Match from Brisbane, Australia (TENNIS).

PREP SCHEDULE

TODAY

Junior Varsity Basketball
 Darlington at Lakewood, 6 p.m.
B Team Basketball
 Cardinal Newman at Laurence Manning, 5 p.m.
 Clarendon Hall at Patrick Henry, 4 p.m.
Middle School Basketball
 Alice Drive at Chestnut Oaks, 5 p.m.
 Bates at Furman, 5 p.m.
 Manning at Ebenezer, 5 p.m.
 Hillcrest at Mayewood, 5 p.m.
 Scott's Branch at Lee Central, 5:30 p.m.
Varsity Wrestling
 Carolina Forest, Spring Valley at Sumter, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY

Varsity Basketball
 Crestwood at Camden, 6 p.m.
 Lakewood at Darlington, 6 p.m.
Varsity and JV Basketball
 Sumter at West Florence (Boys Only), 6 p.m.
 West Florence at Sumter (Girls Only), 6 p.m.
 Hanahan at Manning, 4 p.m.
 Lee Central at Central (No JV Girls), 5 p.m.
 Lamar at East Clarendon, 4:30 p.m.
 Timmonsville at Scott's Branch, 4 p.m.
 Wilson Hall at Northside Christian (No JV Girls), 5 p.m.
 Laurence Manning at Porter-Gaud, 4 p.m.
 Thomas Sumter at Carolina, 4 p.m.
 Caloun at Robert E. Lee, 4 p.m.
 Holly Hill at Clarendon Hall, 4 p.m.
 Sumter Christian at South Pointe Christian (Boys Only), 4 p.m.
B Team Basketball
 Wilson Hall at Northside Christian (Girls Only), 4 p.m.

SATURDAY

Varsity and JV Basketball
 Manning at Scott's Branch, 2 p.m.
B Team Basketball
 Laurence Manning at Heathwood Hall, 10 a.m.
 Dillon Christian at Thomas Sumter, 11 a.m.
Middle School Basketball
 Furman at Chestnut Oaks, noon
 Hillcrest at Manning, noon

NFL PLAYOFFS

WILD-CARD PLAYOFFS

Saturday, Jan. 6
 Tennessee at Kansas City, 4:35 p.m. (ESPN/ABC)
 Atlanta at Los Angeles Rams, 8:15 p.m. (NBC)
Sunday, Jan. 7
 Buffalo at Jacksonville, 1:05 p.m. (CBS)
 Carolina at New Orleans, 4:40 p.m. (FOX)

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

Saturday, Jan. 13
 New Orleans/Carolina/Atlanta at Philadelphia, 4:35 p.m. (NBC)
 Kansas City/Tennessee/Buffalo at New England, 8:15 p.m. (CBS)
Sunday, Jan. 14
 Jacksonville/Kansas City/Tennessee at Pittsburgh, 1:05 p.m. (CBS)
 Los Angeles Rams/New Orleans/Carolina at Minnesota, 4:40 p.m. (FOX)

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sunday, Jan. 21
 AFC
 TBD, 3:05 p.m. (CBS)
 NFC
 TBD, 6:40 p.m. (FOX)

PRO BOWL

Sunday, Jan. 28
 At Orlando, Fla.
 AFC vs. NFC, 3 p.m. (ESPN/ABC)

SUPER BOWL

Sunday, Feb. 4
 At Minneapolis, Minn.
 AFC champion vs. NFC champion, 6:30 p.m. (NBC)

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	30	10	.750	—
Toronto	25	10	.714	2½
New York	18	19	.486	10½
Philadelphia	17	19	.472	11
Brooklyn	14	23	.378	14½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	21	16	.568	—
Miami	19	17	.528	1½
Charlotte	14	23	.378	7
Orlando	12	26	.316	9½
Atlanta	10	27	.270	11

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	25	12	.676	—
Detroit	20	15	.571	4
Milwaukee	19	16	.543	5
Indiana	19	18	.514	6
Chicago	13	24	.351	12

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	26	9	.743	—
San Antonio	26	12	.684	1½
New Orleans	18	18	.500	8½
Dallas	13	25	.342	14½
Memphis	12	26	.316	15½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	24	14	.632	—
Oklahoma City	20	17	.541	3½
Denver	19	17	.528	4
Portland	19	18	.514	4½
Utah	16	21	.432	7½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	29	8	.784	—
L.A. Clippers	17	19	.472	11½
Phoenix	15	24	.385	15
Sacramento	12	25	.324	17
L.A. Lakers	11	25	.306	17½

MONDAY'S GAMES

Brooklyn 98, Orlando 95
 Toronto 131, Milwaukee 127, OT
 Minnesota 114, L.A. Lakers 96
 Portland 124, Chicago 120, OT

TUESDAY'S GAMES

Cleveland 127, Portland 110
 San Antonio 100, New York 91
 Phoenix 104, Atlanta 103
 Charlotte 131, Sacramento 111
 L.A. Clippers 113, Memphis 105

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

Houston at Orlando, 7 p.m.
 New York at Washington, 7 p.m.
 San Antonio at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
 Detroit at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
 Minnesota at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
 Cleveland at Boston, 8 p.m.
 Indiana at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
 Toronto at Chicago, 8 p.m.
 Golden State at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
 New Orleans at Utah, 9 p.m.
 Phoenix at Denver, 9 p.m.
 Oklahoma City at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

TODAY'S GAMES

Golden State at Houston, 8 p.m.
 Oklahoma City at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Detroit at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
 Minnesota at Boston, 7 p.m.
 New York at Miami, 8 p.m.
 Toronto at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
 Chicago at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
 Phoenix at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
 Utah at Denver, 9 p.m.
 Washington at Memphis, 9:30 p.m.
 Atlanta at Portland, 10 p.m.
 Charlotte at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	39	29	8	2	60	146	93
Boston	38	22	10	6	50	119	95
Toronto	41	23	16	2	48	135	120
Florida	39	17	17	5	39	109	126
Detroit	38	15	16	7	37	104	119
Montreal	40	16	20	4	36	101	126
Ottawa	37	12	17	8	32	98	128
Buffalo	39	10	20	9	29	86	129

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	41	25	13	3	53	128	117
New Jersey	39	22	10	7	51	123	116
Columbus	41	23	15	3	49	115	115
N.Y. Rangers	39	21	13	5	47	123	109
Carolina	39	18	13	8	44	110	119
N.Y. Islanders	40	20	16	4	44	137	144
Pittsburgh	41	20	18	3	43	116	129
Philadelphia	39	16	15	8	40	107	114

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Winnipeg	41	23	11	7	53	136	113
St. Louis	42	25	15	2	52	122	104
Nashville	39	23	11	5	51	123	107
Dallas	41	22	16	3	47	123	114
Minnesota	40	21	16	3	45	115	114
Colorado	39	20	16	3	43	126	122
Chicago	38	18	14	6	42	112	106

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	38	27	9	2	56	135	106
Los Angeles	40	24	11	5	53	120	91
San Jose	37	21	12	4	46	102	93
Anaheim	41	19	14	8	46	114	115
Calgary	39	19	16	4	42	108	114
Edmonton	40	17	20	3	37	114	131
Vancouver	40	16	19	5	37	106	132
Arizona	41	9	27	5	23	94	146

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

TUESDAY'S GAMES

Boston 5, N.Y. Islanders 1
 Washington 5, Carolina 4, OT
 Tampa Bay 2, Toronto 0
 Pittsburgh 5, Philadelphia 1
 San Jose 4, Montreal 1
 St. Louis 3, New Jersey 2, SO
 Minnesota 5, Florida 1
 Columbus 2, Dallas 1
 Colorado 3, Winnipeg 2, OT
 Los Angeles 5, Edmonton 0
 Vegas 3, Nashville 0
 Anaheim 5, Vancouver 0

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

Ottawa at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
 Chicago at N.Y. Rangers, 8 p.m.

TODAY'S GAMES

Florida at Boston, 7 p.m.
 Carolina at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
 San Jose at Toronto, 7 p.m.
 N.Y. Islanders at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
 Tampa Bay at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.

Buffalo at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
 Vegas at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
 New Jersey at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
 Los Angeles at Calgary, 9 p.m.
 Anaheim at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
 Columbus at Colorado, 9 p.m.
 Nashville at Arizona, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Pittsburgh at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
 Florida at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
 San Jose at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
 Buffalo at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
 Vegas at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.

BOWL RESULTS

SATURDAY, DEC. 16
Celebration Bowl
 At Atlanta
 NC A&T 21, Grambling State 14
New Orleans Bowl
 Troy 50, North Texas 30
Cure Bowl
 Orlando, Fla.
 Georgia State 27, Western Kentucky 17
Las Vegas Bowl
 Boise State 38, Oregon 28
New Mexico Bowl
 Albuquerque
 Marshall 31, Colorado State 28
Camellia Bowl
 Montgomery, Ala.
 Middle Tennessee 35, Arkansas State 30

TUESDAY, DEC. 19

Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl
 FAU 50, Akron 3

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20

Frisco (Texas) Bowl
 Louisiana Tech 51, SMU 10

THURSDAY, DEC. 21

Gasparilla Bowl
 At St. Petersburg, Fla.
 Temple 28, FIU 3

FRIDAY, DEC. 22

Bahamas Bowl
 Nassau
 Ohio 41, UAB 6
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
 Boise
 Wyoming 37, Central Michigan 14

SATURDAY, DEC. 23

Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl
 South Florida 38, Texas Tech 34
Armed Forces Bowl
 Fort Worth, Texas
 Army 42, San Diego State 35
Dollar General Bowl
 Mobile, Ala.
 Appalachian State 34, Toledo 0

SUNDAY, DEC. 24

Hawaii Bowl
 Honolulu
 Fresno State 33, Houston 27

TUESDAY, DEC. 26

Heart of Dallas Bowl
 Utah 30, West Virginia 14
Quick Lane Bowl
 Detroit
 Duke 36, Northern Illinois 14
Cactus Bowl
 Phoenix
 Kansas State 35, UCLA 17

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27

Independence Bowl
 Shreveport, La.
 Florida State 42, Southern Mississippi 13
Pinstripe Bowl
 Bronx, N.Y.
 Iowa 27, Boston College 20
Foster Farms Bowl
 Santa Clara, Calif.
 Purdue 38, Arizona 35
Texas Bowl
 Houston
 Texas 33, Missouri 16

THURSDAY, DEC. 28

Military Bowl
 Annapolis, Md.
 Navy 49, Virginia 7
Camping World Bowl
 Orlando, Fla.
 Oklahoma State 30, Virginia Tech 21
Alamo Bowl
 San Antonio
 TCU 39, Stanford 37
Holiday Bowl
 San Diego
 Michigan State 42, Washington State 17

FRIDAY, DEC. 29

Belk Bowl
 Charlotte, N.C.
 Wake Forest 55, Texas A&M 52
Sun Bowl
 El Paso, Texas
 North Carolina State 52, Arizona State 31
Music City Bowl
 Nashville, Tenn.
 Northwestern 24, Kentucky 23
Arizona Bowl
 Tucson, Ariz.
 New Mexico State 26, Utah State 20, OT
Cotton Bowl Classic
 Arlington, Texas
 Ohio State 24, Southern Cal 7

SATURDAY, DEC. 30

TaxSlayer Bowl
 Jacksonville, Fla.
 Mississippi State 31, Louisville 27
Liberty Bowl
 Memphis, Tenn.
 Iowa State 21, Memphis 20
Fiesta Bowl
 Glendale, Ariz.
 Penn State 35, Washington 28
Orange Bowl
 Miami Gardens, Fla.
 Wisconsin 34, Miami 24

MONDAY, JAN. 1

Outback Bowl
 Tampa, Fla.
 South Carolina 26, Michigan 19
Peach Bowl
 Atlanta
 UCF 34, Auburn 27
Citrus Bowl
 Orlando, Fla.
 Notre Dame 21, LSU 17
Rose Bowl (CFP Semifinal)
 Pasadena, Calif.
 Georgia 54, Oklahoma 48, 2OT
Sugar Bowl (CFP Semifinal)
 New Orleans
 Alabama 24, Clemson 6

MONDAY, JAN. 8

College Football Championship
 Atlanta
 Georgia (13-1) vs. Alabama (12-1), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

SATURDAY, JAN. 20

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

SATUR

TOP FROM PAGE B1

fashion in 2016, Laurence Manning went about defending it in a much easier way. The Swampcats swept Cardinal Newman in the best-of-3 series.

LMA finished the year with a 22-4 record. It defeated the Cardinals 7-4 in the opening game and followed it up with a 3-0 victory.

LMA SOFTBALL DEFENDS STATE TITLE

The LMA softball team defended its 3A state title by again beating a local team in the best-of-3 championship series. This time though it wasn't Thomas Sumter.

Instead, the Lady 'Cats defeated Wilson Hall this time around, winning the deciding contest 3-2 in eight innings.

Laurence Manning won the opening game 2-0 on a no-hitter by Liz Hussey. However, the Lady Barons rebounded to win the second game 4-1.

LMA finished with a 26-9-1 record, while WH finished 23-16

BARNES, SEARS NEAL PICKED IN MLB DRAFT

Former Sumter High School standout and Clemson left-handed pitcher Charlie Barnes, former Wilson Hall standout and The Citadel lefty John Patrick Sears and University of South Carolina Sumter outfielder DJ Neal were all picked in the MLB draft.

Barnes was selected by the Minnesota Twins in the fourth round. After going 5-5 with a 3.20 ERA, 113 strikeouts and 22 walks in 101 1/3 innings for the Tigers, Barnes was 4-2 with a 2.88 ERA in 48 1/3 innings in 12 starts between two stops in the Minnesota organization.

Sears was selected by Seattle in the 11th round. He went 7-2 and had a 2.03 ERA with 142 strikeouts for The Citadel and was named the Southern Conference Pitcher of the Year and was selected to three All-America teams.

Sears was 1-2 with three saves in 17 relief appearances between two stops in the Mariners organization. He was traded to the Yankees in November.

Neal, who came to USC Sumter to play baseball after trying to play football at USC, was drafted in the 27th round by Toronto.

In 42 games and 155 at-bats with the Blue Jays' Rookie League team, Neal batted .297 with seven doubles, two

triples and three home runs to go with 20 runs batted in. He stole eight bases.

TSA GIRLS HOOPS WINS 2A TITLE

Thomas Sumter defeated Calhoun Academy 40-33 to win the SCISA 2A girls basketball state title.

The Lady Generals, who finished 25-5, were led by Bree Stoddard with a double-double of 12 points and 10 rebounds to go with five assists, two steals and two blocked shots. Her sister, Aubrey, had 11 points.

EC SOFTBALL WINS 1A TITLE

East Clarendon scored two runs in the bottom of the seventh inning to beat Dixie 4-3 and win the second 1A softball state title in school history.

The Lady Wolverines, who finished 22-5, defeated Dixie 3-1 in the opening game in sweeping the best-of-3 series.

TSA, DECKER WIN ARCHERY TITLES

Thomas Sumter's co-ed archery team won the SCISA state title in just its second year of existence thanks to a strong performance by individual state champ Kyle Decker.

TSA scored 3,140 out of a possible 3,600 points. Decker finished with 282 points to win the individual title.

LMA BOWLING WINS TITLE

Laurence Manning shot a 507 in the championship round to beat Heathwood Hall by 51 pins and defend its SCISA boys team bowling state championship

It was the third state title for LMA in school history.

SUMTER X-PLAY ANGELS 2ND IN DWS

The Sumter X-Play Angels softball team finished second in the Dixie Softball World Series played at Patriot Park SportsPlex, losing to Dillon 7-3 in the championship game.

Sumter forced a deciding game after beating Dillon 8-6 earlier in the day. It was the third game between the two teams with Dillon beating Sumter 8-4 in the first meeting.

Sumter's 13U all-star baseball team advanced to the Dixie Junior World Series.

PUNTER HARVIN RECEIVES HONORS

Former Sumter High School standout and current Georgia Tech punter Pressley Harvin received several hon-

ors after a standout freshman season with the Yellow Jackets.

Harvin was selected to the All-Atlantic Coast Conference third team and was named to ESPN's True Freshman All-America team.

Harvin led all NCAA Division I FBS true freshmen punters and was second in the ACC in punting average at 44.1 yards per punt. Sixteen of his 50 punts (32 percent) were downed inside the 20 yard line, 13 (26 percent) traveled 50-plus yards and just 21 (42 percent) were returned.

TSA'S GRAY INDIVIDUAL CHAMPI AGAIN

After winning the SCISA 3A boys golf individual state title in 2016, Thomas Sumter's Tyler Gray won it in 2A in '17.

Gray won with a round of 66 after the tournament was shortened to one round due to rain.

SCOTT'S BRANCH TRACK TEAMS WIN TITLES

The Scott's Branch High School boys and girls track and field teams both won 1A state titles at Harry Parone Stadium in Columbia.

The Lady Eagles won with 105 points followed by Lewisville with 49. The Scott's Branch boys dominated with 163 points while second place McBee had 73.

Winning events for the boys were Marquise Thomas in the shotput, Andrew Brown in the discus, Vaquan Wilder in the pole vault, the 4x100-meter relay team of Marqus House, Christavius Johnson, Jacob Brailsford, and Kevin Johnson, the 4x8 team of Christavius Johnson, Keondre Tappin, Alexander Conyers and Daquan Brock and the 4x400 team of Christavius Johnson, Tappin, House and Kevin Johnson.

Winners for the girls were Mary Wimberly in both the 800 and 1,600, Paulette Wimberly in the 400 and 200, the 4x800 team of Paulette Wimberly, Mary Wimberly, Queen Ford and Aly Conyers and the 4x400 team of Paulette Wimberly, Mary Wimberly, Ford, and Conyers.

LMA WINS STRENGTH MEET

Laurence Manning won the SCISA 3A state strength and speed meet for the third time in four years, easily outscoring second place Pinewood Prep.

The Swampcats scored 572 out of a possible 660 points. PP finished with 439.

OBITUARIES

RAY HUCKS

Ray Hucks, 82, died on Monday, Jan. 1, 2018, at Wellmore in Tega Cay.

The funeral will be at 3 p.m. on Friday at First Baptist Church Chapel with the Rev. Ralph Riley, the Rev. Shannon Ford and Andrew Limbaugh officiating. Burial will follow at Flint Hill Baptist Church Cemetery.

Born in Fort Mill, Ray was one of 15 children born to the late Joe Wade Hucks and Eva Preslar Hucks. He graduated from Fort Mill High School in 1954 and then served 23 years in the U.S. Air Force. Following his retirement, Ray went on to work at C&S Tire Co. for more than 20 years. He was a member of First Baptist Church and was a very active member of his Sunday school class. He was a NASCAR enthusiast and enjoyed attending races. Ray also was a coin collector.

Surviving are his daughter, Ashley Hucks of Asheville, North Carolina; his sisters, Shirley Smith of Fort Mill, Mary Lee Dickson of Fort Mill, Jean Morton (Tally) of Lancaster, Peggy Davidson of Charlotte, North Carolina, and Sarah Osborne of Rock Hill; and brother, Paul Hucks of Lancaster.

He was preceded in death by siblings, Betty Stegall, Ruby Wolfe, Josephine Cater, Nell Lee, James W. Hucks, Bill Hucks, Evelyn Bennett and Beatrice Whisonant.

The family will receive friends from 6 until 8 p.m. today at Wolfe Funeral Home, 314 Spratt St., Fort Mill.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church, 121 Monroe White St., Fort Mill, SC 29715 or to Hospice & Community Care, P.O. Box 993, Rock Hill, SC 29731.

Condolences: www.wolfefuneralhome.com.

BRENDA LEE BROWN

Brenda Lee Brown was born on Dec. 19, 1972, in Sum-



BROWN

ter, to Mary Ludd Brown and the late Marvin Brown.

Brenda was preceded in death by her father, Marvin Brown. Brenda departed this life on Saturday, Dec. 30, 2017, in Sumter. Brenda leaves to cherish her precious memory: her mother, Mary Brown; three sons, Quinton Brown, Raheem Washington and Rontavious Rhames; two grandchildren, Jalyamaria Brown and Aleyshia Brown; four sisters, Michelle Brown, Nikkie Brown, Andra Brown (Mike) and Hope Brown; and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, great-aunt, other relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, 182 Pike Road East, Sumter, with Aurelia Hill, pastor, and Elder Donald Searson, officiant.

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

Brenda's family is receiving friends at 4412 Amelia Drive, Sumter.

Services entrusted to Whites Mortuary LLC of Sumter.

EVA N. HARVIN

Funeral services for Eva Nolia "Tut" Harvin will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday at LaGree AME Church, 2920 Kolb Road, Sumter, with the Rev. Jeanette Collins officiating. Interment will follow at Walker Cemetery, Oakland Avenue, Sumter.

Mrs. Harvin, wife of Elijah Harvin, transitioned on Thursday, Dec. 28, 2017, at her residence in Sumter. Born in Sumter County, she was a daughter of the late Emma Louise Spann and Sammie Miller. She was employed by Sumter School District 17 and at Georgia-Pacific Co. of Sumter.

Survivors include her husband, Elijah Harvin of

the home; a son, Timothy (Keisha) Harvin; a grandson, Brandon Cummings; a stepmother, Ola Mae Miller; two brothers, Fredrick Alston and Sammie Miller Jr.; five sisters, Dorothy (Joseph) Scott, Mary Miller, Shirley (David) Clayton, Cynthia Berrien and Deborah Miller; a stepsister, Jacqueline (James) Williams; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Elizabeth "Eliza" Lucas Edmunds Messersmith was taken from us on Dec. 29, 2017. A Sumter native, she was a longtime resident of Edisto Island. Born on June 1, 1938, to Champion Moore Edmunds and Elizabeth Hayes Lucas Walker Edmunds, she was 79 years old. Eliza graduated from Edmunds High School in Sumter and went on to earn a degree in interior design at Ringling School of Art in Sarasota, Florida, in 1959. She married John David Messersmith in 1962 at All Saints Episcopal Church on Pawleys Island and they celebrated their 55th anniversary in June of 2017. Well-known for her artistic talent and love of animals, she led a life rich with family and travel, including many years living overseas in countries such as Turkey, England and Saudi Arabia.

ELIZABETH MESSERSMITH

Survived by her husband, retired U.S. Air Force Col. John David Messersmith; her two sons, John David Messersmith Jr. of La Quinta, California, and Champion Edmunds Messersmith of Atlanta; as well as four brothers and one sister, Richard Champion Edmunds, Bentham Walker Edmunds, DeSaussure Davis Edmunds, Samuel Henry Edmunds and Mary Edmunds Reed and their families, all of Sumter.

A memorial service will be held in the spring. Details to be announced.

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Jose A. Bernard, passed away on Friday, Dec. 29, 2017, at her home.

Mrs. Bernard was born on Dec. 19, 1925, in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, to the late Tulio and Maria Delos Angeles Longo Lopez. She served as an administrative assistant at Asoma Metal and Minerals Co. of New York, New York, and attended the Catholic Church of the Incarnation in Manhattan, New York. She was a devoted Yankees fan and enjoyed watching games with her late husband. She also enjoyed spending time with her family and grandchildren.

Mrs. Bernard is survived by her sons, Jose A. Bernard Jr. (Stacy) of Ridgeland and Kenneth D. Bernard (Christi) of Sumter; brother, Luis R. Lopez of Orlando, Florida; sisters, Magali Agosto (Joseph A.) of Woodside, New York, and Carmen Lopez of Bronx, New York; 11 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her son, Alfredo Bernard; and one brother, Julio A. Lopez.

A funeral service will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday at Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home, 515 Miller Road.

FREDERICK K. WAECHTER JR.

Frederick Karl Waechter Jr., age 60, beloved husband of Pamela Lynn Allgood Bruce, died on Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday in the Bullock Funeral Home Chapel.

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

The family has chosen Bullock Funeral Home for the arrangements.

Bullock Funeral Home & Crematorium

JUNE R. CATOE

June Rose Ripper Catoe, 85, widow of Wilbert Benjamin Catoe, died on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018, at National Healthcare Center.

REL BASEBALL 2A RUNNER-UP

The Robert E. Lee Academy baseball team finished second in 2A, being swept by Pee Dee Academy in the best-of-3 series.

REL lost the opening game 4-3 in Mullins and fell 5-2 in Bishopville. The Cavaliers finished with a 24-10 record.

TSA VOLLEYBALL PLAYS FOR TITLE

Thomas Sumter, playing in its first ever volleyball state championship match, lost to defending 2A state championship Spartanburg Christian School 3-0 at Presbyterian College's Furman B. Pinson Jr. Court in Clinton.

The Lady Generals, who finished 28-3, lost by the scores of 25-16, 25-19, 25-23.

EC GIRLS HOOPS PLAYS FOR LS TITLE

The East Clarendon High girls basketball team, which had not won a region title since 1971 before winning one in 2017, almost played for a state title.

The Lady Wolverines took a 9-point lead into the fourth quarter of the 1A lower state championship game against Green Sea-Floyds at Florence Civic Center. However, GSF rallied to force overtime and went on to win 71-68.

LMA FOOTBALL PLAYS FOR SCISA 3A TITLE

Laurence Manning reached the SCISA 3A football state championship game where they lost to perennial power Hammond 49-0.

The Swampcats finished with a 10-3 record.

RICHARDSON INDUCTED INTO HIGH SCHOOL HALL

Bobby Richardson, the Sumter native known for his time as a standout second baseman for the New York Yankees and as the head baseball coach at South Carolina, was inducted into the National Federation of State High School Associations National High School Hall of Fame in July.

Richardson was a 2-sports standout at Edmunds High School in both basketball and baseball, lettering three years in each. He helped lead Edmunds to two state titles and was also an integral part of two American Legion baseball state championship teams in 1950 and 1952.

Born in England, she was a daughter of the late Fredrick and Betty Borrett Ripper.

Mrs. Catoe was a member of Dalzell Baptist Church. She was known as "Nana" to the many children she cared for through the years in Dalzell.

Surviving are a son, Steve Catoe (Cheryl) of Sumter; a daughter, Sheree McCoy (Glenn) of Sumter; a brother, Ray Ripper of England; three sisters, Eunice Fair (Richard) of Columbia, Tennessee, Valerie Prentice (Geoffrey) of England and Jeanette Ripper of England; three grandchildren, Shaun McCoy, Christen Spicer (Kris), Benjamin "B.J." Catoe; and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Roy Ripper; and two sisters, Pearl Brewer and Della Ripper.

Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Friday at Dalzell Baptist Church with the Rev. Mark Barnette officiating. Burial will follow at Evergreen Memorial Park cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Friday in the Fellowship Hall of Dalzell Baptist Church.

Memorials may be made to Dalzell Baptist Church, 3645 Camden Highway, Dalzell, SC 29040.

Online condolences may be sent to www.sumterfunerals.com

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



Elmore Hill McCreight
FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY

MAMIE R. RODWELL

Mamie Ruth Rodwell, 84, departed this life on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018, at Palmetto Health Tuomey.

She was born on Feb. 1, 1933, in Summerton, a daughter of the late Joe and Rosa Johnson Gibson.

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

BIZARRO



SOUP TO NUTZ



ANDY CAPP



GARFIELD



BEETLE BAILEY



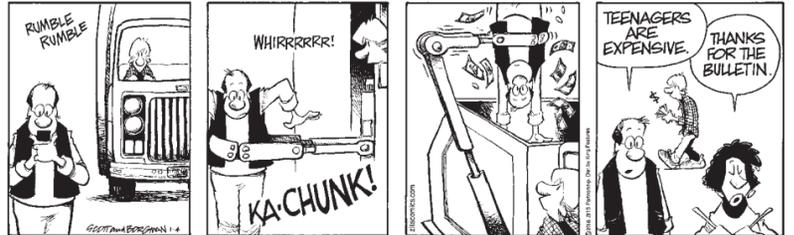
BORN LOSER



BLONDIE



ZITS



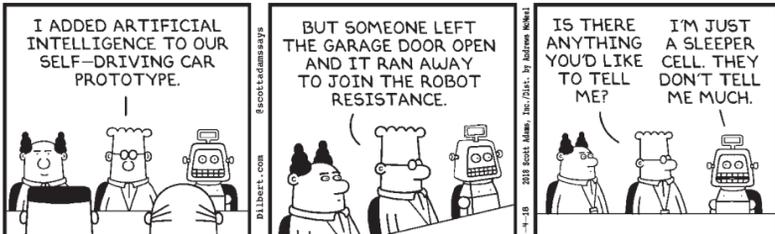
MOTHER GOOSE



DOG EAT DOUG



DILBERT



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE



Ride in vintage car makes passenger fear for her life



Dear Abby
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY — Recently a friend came over and took me to lunch. She has a small, 50-year-old vintage car that was very popular in the '60s. She had come from Marin

County over the Golden Gate Bridge to my house. She has plenty of money to buy a safe used car but she says, "I like driving vintage." I don't want to get into her car again. Was I wrong to tell her I felt her car was unsafe?

Not only is she not married to the baby's daddy but they don't even live together.

She's been asking me to help her a lot now that the baby is born. I'm 10 years older and raising three kids, all in their teens.

Abby, I don't want to raise anyone else's kids. How can I politely tell her that I have my own family to care for? She has a tendency to overreact.

County over the Golden Gate Bridge to my house.

As she drove us to the restaurant, her car stalled twice. It was very underpowered and, in my opinion, rickety. After she dropped me home, I sent her an email strongly expressing my concern that she is driving an unsafe car. I was worried for her safety. She took offense, so I apologized.

DEAR PASSENGER — You weren't wrong to warn her. However, you may have been wrong to assume that she has "plenty of money to buy a safe used car." Nobody has as much money as others assume they do. Because you don't want to get into her car again, you should provide the transportation from now on or meet her at the restaurant.

DEAR ABBY — My across-the-street neighbor and I have become friendly. She has a 15-month-old and a newborn.

DEAR KEEPING DISTANCE — To tell your neighbor you "don't want to raise anyone else's kids" may be accurate, but it's a bit rough. When she asks you to do things for her, be pleasant and say — consistently — that you're busy, you don't have time, you have other plans, etc. She will soon realize that you are not to be depended upon.

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.

PORAN

SITOH

RETVDI

CRAEDA

Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

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

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CHEER NOVEL STODGY DISOWN
Answer: The superhero was a star on her softball team and not a — ONE-HIT WONDER

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

THE DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
14						15					16				
17						18				19					
20						21			22						
23						24			25						
26	27	28						29	30						
31								32		33	34	35	36		
37							38	39	40			41	42		
43							44		45			46	47		
48	49								50	51					
52	53	54							55						
56								57	58			59	60	61	62
63								64				65			
66								67				68			
69								70				71			

Robert and Marlea Ellis 1/4/18

- ACROSS**
- 1 Waldorf abbr.
 - 6 Crawford of the Timberwolves
 - 11 Rx watchdog
 - 14 Cast out
 - 15 Where glasses may be raised?
 - 16 Standee's lack
 - 17 Duffer's flaw from the tee?
 - 20 Wingless parasite
 - 21 "Cheers" actor Roger
 - 22 Approximately
 - 23 Speech characteristic of Dustin on "Stranger Things"
 - 25 "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" newsmen
 - 26 Duffer's impossible dream?
 - 31 Family dinner entrée
 - 32 de guerre
 - 33 It may be sharp
 - 37 Handyman's tasks
 - 42 Each
 - 43 Bean used in Asian sauces
 - 45 Classic auto
 - 46 Cutting
 - 48 Duffer's cry after botching a putt and settling for par?
 - 52 Yelp piece
 - 55 Move, in Realtor lingo
 - 56 They have pHs below 7
 - 57 "Let It Go" singer in "Frozen"
 - 59 Landing
 - 63 Duffer's sad 18th-hole reply to "Bogey for you?" ... and 19th-hole request to the bartender?
 - 66 Miner concern
 - 67 Make ___ rake it in
 - 68 Deal with 69 '60s activist gp.
 - 70 Help for the graveyard shift, maybe
 - 71 Slurpee insert
 - 9 Itinerary abbr.
 - 10 Not of the cloth
 - 11 Toy (with)
 - 12 Hula or hora
 - 13 ___ score: neonatal measure
 - 18 Once, quaintly
 - 19 Kit's mom
 - 24 Absorbed by
 - 25 Fall flat
 - 26 Readies for battle
 - 27 2017 Pixar film set in Mexico
 - 28 Like Sunday morning, in a Commodores title
 - 29 "Have a nice time!"
 - 30 "Woo-!"
 - 34 Newspaper page
 - 35 Actress Garr
 - 36 Kathryn of "Law & Order: C.I."
 - 39 Used charcoal pencils, say
 - 40 Society newcomer
 - 41 Glide (through)
 - 44 Bear
 - 47 Alice had to play it with flamingos as mallets
 - 49 Sycophant
 - 50 Not authentic
 - 51 Rosary unit
 - 52 "Parenthood" actress Sarah
 - 53 Digital greeting
 - 54 Twin Cities team, familiarly
 - 57 Oklahoma city
 - 58 Carson's successor
 - 60 Taxi alternative
 - 61 Utah ski resort
 - 62 "Ouch!"
 - 64 Texting qualifier
 - 65 CIA predecessor

Previous Puzzle Solved

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

SP	FT	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM					
LOCAL CHANNELS																	
WIS	10	3	10	WIS News 10 at 7 (N)	Entertainment Tonight (N)	Superstore Glenn suspects Mateo of fraud. (N)	The Good Place The gang attempts to solve a riddle. (N)	Will & Grace Will and Grace date the same man. (N)	(-31) Great News Carol hatches a plan to help Katie. (N)	Chicago Fire "A Man's Legacy" Brett must make a lifesaving decision. (N) (DVS)	WIS News 10 at 11 (N)	(-34) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon Martin Short; Gina Rodriguez; Spoon.					
WLTX	19	9	9	News 19 at 7pm (N)	Inside Edition (N)	The Big Bang Theory "The Matrimonial Metric" (N)	(-31) Young Sheldon (N) (DVS)	(-01) Mom Christy gets fired from her job. (N)	Life in Pieces The family surprises Joan. (N)	S.W.A.T. "Blindspots" A robbery crew targets dispensaries. (N)	News 19 at 11pm (N)	(-35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert "50 Cent; Rachel Brosnahan" Rapper 50 Cent; Rachel Brosnahan. (N)					
WOLO	25	5	12	Wheel of Fortune "America's Game" (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	The Middle Sue and Lexie prepare to move. (N)	American Housewife "The Pig Whisperer" (N)	Truth and Lies: Waco: Seige on the Branch Davidian compound.			ABC Columbia News at 11 (N)	(-35) Jimmy Kimmel Live "Kobe Bryant; Khloe Kardashian; Prophets of Rage" Kobe Bryant; Khloe Kardashian. (N)					
WRJA	27	11	14	Rick Steves' Europe Sights outside of Amsterdam.	Palmetto Scene SC Hall of Fame.	A Chef's Life "Per-simmon Style"	A Chef's Life Feast of the Seven Fishes dinner.	Joseph Smith: American Prophet: Frontier prophet Joseph Smith's life.		Reel South Old-time barn dance in North Carolina.	Amanpour on PBS (N)	BBC World News NHK Newsline					
WACH	57	6	6	The Big Bang Theory "The Thespian Catalyst"	The Big Bang Theory	The Four: Battle for Stardom "Week One" the prize. (N)		(Series Premiere) Recording artists vie for		WACH FOX News at 10 (N) (Live)	Sports Zone	DailyMailTV (N) TMZ (N)					
WKTC	63	4	22	Last Man Standing The Outdoor Man puts on a skit.	Last Man Standing "Breaking Curfew"	Supernatural "The Bad Place" Jack tries to prove that he is good.	Arrow "Thanksgiving" Oliver tries to celebrate Thanksgiving.		Law & Order: Criminal Intent "Cherry Red" A heiress is murdered.	Law & Order: Criminal Intent "Blink" Gambling.	The Game Melanie's showdown with Tasha.						
CABLE CHANNELS																	
A&E	46	130	The First 48 "Monster" A detective tracks a sadistic killer.		The First 48 "Cruel Summer" Gunmen open fire on a porch. (N)		60 Days In "Shank Anxiety" Inmate feuds and power plays. (N)			(:03) Intervention "The Heroin Triangle: Chapter 1" Combating the opioid crisis.		(12:03) Intervention					
AMC	48	180	(5:00) *** "Enemy of the State" (1998) Will Smith, Gene Hackman.		** "Demolition Man" (1993, Science Fiction) Sylvester Stallone, Wesley Snipes, Sandra Bullock. A frozen cop is thawed out to capture an old nemesis.		*** "Under Siege" (1992, Action) Steven Seagal, Tommy Lee Jones, Gary Busey. A Navy cook thwarts a plot to hijack a battleship.										
ANPL	41	100	North Woods Law "Shifting Gears"		North Woods Law "Homecoming"		North Woods Law "Under Suspicion"		North Woods Law "Crossing the Line"		North Woods Law "Wicked Summer"		North Woods Law				
BET	61	162	(5:30) ** "First Sunday" (2008, Comedy) Ice Cube, Katt Williams.		(7:55) ** "All About the Benjamins" (2002, Action) Ice Cube, Mike Epps, Eva Mendes. A bounty hunter and his prey get mixed up in a diamond scam.		*** "ATL" (2006, Comedy-Drama) Tip Harris, Lauren London, Mykelti Williamson. Four Atlanta teens face challenges.										
BRAVO	47	181	Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles The Altmans' baby daughter is born.		Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles James and David make a pitch.		Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles The Brits throw a huge party. (N)		Top Chef "This Is Not Glamping" The chefs are sent camping. (N)		Watch What Happens Live		Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles The Brits throw a huge party.				
CNBC	35	84	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Jay Leno's Garage "In Harm's Way"		Jay Leno's Garage		Jay Leno's Garage				
CNN	3	80	Erin Burnett OutFront (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (N)		The Lead With Jake Tapper		CNN Special Report		Anderson Cooper				
COM	57	136	South Park "Butt Out"		South Park "In-sheepion"		South Park "Over Logging"		Tosh.0 A singing math teacher.		Tosh.0 Daniel talks "Star Wars."		Tosh.0 Tosh starts World War III.	Tosh.0 "Bryan Silva (Gratata)"	The Daily Show With Trevor Noah	The Opposition w/ Jordan Klepper (N)	(12:01) That '70s Show
DISN	18	200	Bunk'd		Raven's Home		Andi Mack		Stuck in the Middle		Bizaardvark		Bizaardvark	Bunk'd Hazel makes Zuri a CIT.	Jessie	Stuck in the Middle	K.C. Undercover
DSC	42	103	(6:00) Moonshiners		Killing Fields: Murder Isle (N)		Killing Fields: Murder Isle		Killing Fields: Murder Isle		Killing Fields: Murder Isle		Interrogation Room				
ESPN	26	35	College Basketball Houston at Wichita State. (N) (Live)		College Basketball Arizona at Utah. From Huntsman Center in Salt Lake City. (N)		College Basketball Cincinnati at Temple. (N) (Live)		College Basketball Cincinnati at Temple. (N) (Live)		Basketball		30 for 30 Shorts				
ESPN2	27	39	(6:00) High School Football Under Armour All-America Game. (N) (Live)		College Basketball Cincinnati at Temple. (N) (Live)		College Basketball Cincinnati at Temple. (N) (Live)		College Basketball Cincinnati at Temple. (N) (Live)		Basketball		30 for 30 Shorts				
FOOD	40	109	Chopped "Light Makes Right"		Chopped "Healthy Rivalry"		Chopped "Clean Eatin"		Beat Bobby Flay		Beat Bobby Flay		Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Chopped		
FOXN	37	90	The Story With Martha MacCallum (N)		Tucker Carlson Tonight (N)		Hannity (N)		The Ingraham Angle (N)		Fox News at Night (N)		Tucker Carlson				
FREE	20	131	(6:00) ** "Miss Congeniality" (2000) Sandra Bullock. A clumsy FBI agent goes undercover at a beauty pageant.		** "Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous" (2005, Comedy) Sandra Bullock, Regina King, Enrique Murciano. FBI agent Gracie Hart must save two kidnapped friends in Las Vegas.		*** "Shooter" (2007) Mark Wahlberg. A wounded sniper plots revenge against those who betrayed him.			Fresh Prince		Friends	Friends	Friends			
FSS	21	47	NHL Hockey Carolina Hurricanes at Pittsburgh Penguins. From PPG Paints Arena in Pittsburgh. (N)		Hurricanes Live!		Triathlon From October, 2016.		NHL Hockey Carolina Hurricanes at Pittsburgh Penguins.								
HALL	52	183	Full House "A Pox in Our House"		Full House Joey's comedy act bombs.		Full House "Just One of the Guys"		The Middle Mike tries to help Brick.		The Middle Axl breaks a door.		The Middle "The Scratch"	The Middle "Thanksgiving"	The Golden Girls	The Golden Girls	The Golden Girls
HGTV	39	112	Flip or Flop		Flip or Flop		Flip or Flop		Flip or Flop Ft.		Flip or Flop Ft.		House Hunters (N)	Hunters Int'l	House Hunters	Hunters Int'l	Flip or Flop Ft.
HIST	45	110	American Pickers "The Joy of Sax"		American Pickers		American Pickers		Blue Bloods "Fresh Start" A police officer disappears. (DVS)		Blue Bloods "Help Me Help You" An outspoken city council speaker.		Blue Bloods "Friends in Need" A reckless rookie causes problems.		American Pickers "Raze the Roof"	American Pickers	
ION	13	18	Blue Bloods "Stomping Grounds" A retired lieutenant accused of a crime.		Blue Bloods "The Road to Hell" Multiple women take credit for a murder.		Project Runway "Finale, Part 2" The winner is chosen. (Part 2 of 2)		Project Runway All Stars Rookies and returning veterans compete.		(-13) Married at First Sight "Wedding Prep" Wedding preparations begin.		(-04) Project Runway All Stars Rookies and returning veterans compete.		(12:01) Project Runway		
LIFE	50	145	Project Runway "Finale, Part 1" Tim visits the five finalists.		Project Runway "Finale, Part 2" The winner is chosen. (Part 2 of 2)		Project Runway All Stars Rookies and returning veterans compete.		(-13) Married at First Sight "Wedding Prep" Wedding preparations begin.		(-04) Project Runway All Stars Rookies and returning veterans compete.		(12:01) Project Runway				
MSNBC	36	92	Hardball With Chris Matthews (N)		All In With Chris Hayes (N)		The Rachel Maddow Show (N)		The Last Word		The 11th Hour With Brian Williams (N)		Rachel Maddow				
NICK	16	210	Paradise Run (N)		The Thundermans		*** "Rango" (2011, Children's) Voices of Johnny Depp, Isla Fisher, Abigail Breslin.		Fresh Prince		Friends	Friends	Friends				
SPIKE	64	153	Friends		Friends		Friends		Friends		Friends	Friends	Nashville				
SYFY	58	152	(6:32) *** "Ghost Rider" (2007, Action) Nicolas Cage, Eva Mendes, Wes Bentley. A motorcycle stuntman is a supernatural agent of vengeance.		*** "Shooter" (2007) Mark Wahlberg. A wounded sniper plots revenge against those who betrayed him.		Van Helsing "Black days" Secrets of the Van Helsing family.		Ghost Wars "...My Soul to Keep" The ghosts build a resistance.		(-01) Superstition "Green-on-Blue" Calvin goes to a nearby military base. (N)		(12:01) *** "Hanna" (2011)				
TBS	24	156	Brooklyn Nine-Nine "The Tagger"		Brooklyn Nine-Nine "48 Hours"		Brooklyn Nine-Nine "The Vulture"		Brooklyn Nine-Nine "The Slump"		Brooklyn Nine-Nine "M.E. Time"		Brooklyn Nine-Nine "Halloween"	Brooklyn Nine-Nine "Sal's Pizza"	Conan Actor JB Smoove; actor Whitney Cummings.	Drop the Mic	
TCM	49	186	(6:00) *** "Deception" (1946, Crime Drama) Bette Davis, Claude Rains.		*** "Love Affair" (1939) Irene Dunne, Charles Boyer. Although engaged to others, two strangers fall in love.		(-45) *** "All This and Heaven Too" (1940, Drama) Bette Davis, Charles Boyer, Barbara O'Neil. A new governess creates scandal for a French nobleman. (DVS)										
TLC	43	157	My 600-Lb. Life "Angel's Story"		My 600-Lb. Life Steven's drug habit spirals. (N)		Dr. Pimple Popper (N)		NBA Basketball Oklahoma City Thunder at Los Angeles Clippers. (N Subject to Blackout) (Live)		(-01) My 600-Lb. Life Steven's drug habit spirals.						
TNT	23	158	NCIS: New Orleans A member of a security detail is slain.		NBA Basketball Golden State Warriors at Houston Rockets. (N Subject to Blackout) (Live)		Carbonaro Eff.		Laff Mobb Laff		ImpRACTical Jokers		ImpRACTical Jokers	Carbonaro Eff.			
TRUTV	38	129	ImpRACTical Jokers		ImpRACTical Jokers		ImpRACTical Jokers		ImpRACTical Jokers		Carbonaro Eff.		Carbonaro Eff.				
TV LAND	55	161	M*A*S*H		M*A*S*H		Love-Raymond		Love-Raymond		Love-Raymond		Love-Raymond	Nashville "New Strings" (N)	King of Queens	King of Queens	King of Queens
USA	25	132	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit The squad looks for a missing escort.		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Benson adjusts to motherhood.		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Allegations against a basketball player.		Damnation "The Goodness of Men" Bes-sie discovers the plans for Holden.		(-01) Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Holden's Manifesto" (DVS)		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit			
WE	68	166	Growing Up Hip Hop Atlanta (N)		** "Diary of a Mad Black Woman" (2005, Comedy-Drama) Kimberly Elise, Steve Harris.		** "Diary of a Mad Black Woman" (2005) Kimberly Elise, Steve Harris.		** "Diary of a Mad Black Woman" (2005) Kimberly Elise, Steve Harris.		** "Diary of a Mad Black Woman" (2005) Kimberly Elise, Steve Harris.						
WGNA	8	172	Cops		Cops		Cops		Cops		Cops		Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops "Busted!"

'The Four: Battle for Stardom' debuts on FOX

BY KEVIN McDONOUGH

Has America clamored for a new singing competition? Fox sure hopes so. Some 10 years back, "American Idol" was so dominant that it was called a ratings "Death Star," eclipsing any other network show that aired on the same night. But that was a long time ago.

"The Four: Battle for Stardom" (8 p.m., FOX, TV-14) features four experts and mentors: Sean "Diddy" Combs, DJ Khaled, Meghan Trainor and Charlie Walk. Every week, experienced performing artists will try to defend their place on the show against newcomers.

After six episodes of competition, a winner will be crowned, anointed and announced as iHeartMedia's "On the Verge" artist and win a recording contract with Republic Records, through Universal Music Group.

Fergie will serve as host. While "The Four" may not replace "Idol," it meshes well with Fox's musical melodramas "Empire" and "Star."

• Speaking of musical melodramas, "Nashville" (9 p.m., CMT, TV-14) enters its sixth and final season. As fans know, the series was canceled by ABC after four seasons before moving to CMT. The country music venue was a logical home for the guilty-pleasure soap opera, but the network has decided to go in a different direction and air only unscripted fare.

• Discovery hopes fans of true crime gravitate to its second season of "Killing Fields" (9 p.m., TV-14), co-produced by Tom Fontana and Barry Levinson ("Homicide").

This season's "Fields" concentrates on a gruesome murder in the isolated Virginia farmland community called Isle of Wight. In 2004, this bucolic setting was rocked by the discovery of the half-naked and brutally beaten body of 28-year-old Carrie Singer. Fourteen years later, "Fields" will employ new technology to solve a cold case that has evaded justice.

• "Truth and Lies: Waco" (9 p.m., ABC) devotes two hours to the 25th anniversary of the shootout that sparked a standoff between federal agents and the followers of



Fergie serves as host on the all-new singing competition series "The Four: Battle for Stardom," premiering at 8 p.m. today on FOX.

fringe religious figure David Koresh.

The original clash would leave four ATF agents dead and kill six of Koresh's followers. A 51-day siege followed, culminating in a fire that would leave 76 dead.

Long considered one of the most disastrous debacles in federal law enforcement history, Waco became a rallying cry for militia extremists and anti-government terrorists, including Timothy McVeigh, who perpetrated the 1995 Oklahoma City Bombing on the second anniversary of the Waco conflagration. "Waco" is the fifth installment of the "Truth and Lies" series, which has looked back at other stories about the Menendez murders, Charles Manson, Watergate and Laci Peterson.

TONIGHT'S OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Michael has a visitor on "The Good Place" (8:30 p.m., NBC, TV-PG).
- Jack and Karen share a song stuck in their heads on "Will & Grace" (9 p.m., NBC, TV-14).
- Familiar faces return on the sixth season premiere of "Project Runway All Stars" (9 p.m., Lifetime, TV-PG).
- Hondo faces charges on

"S.W.A.T." (10 p.m., CBS, TV-14).

• Brett sets his priorities on "Chicago Fire" (10 p.m., NBC, TV-14).

CULT CHOICE

After a cruise ship romance, a couple (Irene Dunne and Charles Boyer) make a promise to meet atop the Empire State Building in the 1939 romance "Love Affair" (8 p.m.,

TCM), the inspiration for the 1957 remake "An Affair to Remember" with Deborah Kerr and Cary Grant, as well as the 1993 homage "Sleepless in Seattle," starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan.

SERIES NOTES

Weddings by formula on "The Big Bang Theory" (8 p.m., CBS, TV-PG) * A social media scandal on "Superstore" (8

p.m., NBC, TV-PG) * Axl gets a job as the school bus driver on "The Middle" (8 p.m., ABC, r, TV-PG) * Best-laid plans backfire on "Supernatural" (8 p.m., CW, r, TV-14) * Sheldon interviews at a new school on "Young Sheldon" (8:30 p.m., CBS, TV-PG) * Wallowing with the pigs on "American Housewife" (8:30 p.m., ABC, r, TV-PG) * Bonnie feels unneeded on "Mom" (8 p.m., CBS, TV-14) * Thanksgiving on "Arrow" (9 p.m., CW, r, TV-14) * Childbirth parables on "Life in Pieces" (9:30 p.m., CBS, TV-PG) * Carol plays the anti-Cupid on "Great News" (9:30 p.m., NBC, TV-PG).

LATE NIGHT

JB Smoove, Whitney Cummings and Joel Kim Booster appear on "Conan" (11 p.m., TBS, r) * 50 Cent and Rachel Brosnahan are booked on "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" (11:35 p.m., CBS, r) * Jimmy Fallon welcomes Martin Short, Gina Rodriguez and Spoon on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC, r) * Jeff Daniels, Danielle Brooks and Daniel Caesar visit "Late Night With Seth Meyers" (12:35 a.m., NBC, r) * Jason Segel, Seth Rogen and Jaden Smith appear on "The Late Late Show With James Corden" (12:35 a.m., CBS, r).

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11:30 a.m. Friday for Sunday's edition.

We will be happy to change your ad if an error is made; however we are not responsible for errors after the first run day. We shall not be liable for any loss or expense that results from the printing or omission of an advertisement. We reserve the right to edit, refuse or cancel any ad at any time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lost & Found

Found: **small brindle dog** in area of Catchall Rd. Owner call to identify: 803-421-7775.

In Memory



Leroy Jefferson Jr.

Nine years ago today I lost my grandpa. It was the hardest thing ever. I miss and love him so much. He will always be in my heart and I will always be his boo-boo. Love Jazmyne & The Jefferson Family

In Loving Memory of



Melvin Jones

01/04/1958-08/21/05
Happy 60th birthday in Heaven, Dad!
Love, Melody



BUSINESS SERVICES

Home Improvements

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

Mickey's Home improvements & Repairs. Electrical, wooden fence, decks & handyman work. 803-840-6911 or 803-340-0662

Legal Service

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

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All Types of Roofing & Repairs All work guaranteed. 30 yrs exp. SC lic. Virgil Bickley 803-316-4734.

Tree Service

Ricky's Tree Service Tree removal, stump grinding, Lic & ins, free quote, 803-435-2223 or cell 803-460-8747.

A Notch Above Tree Care Full quality service low rates, lic./ins., free est BBB accredited 983-9721

MERCHANDISE

For Sale or Trade

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

Licensed P & C Agent in Manning Area. Must be team oriented & work well with the public. Must be organized w/ exc. sales skills. Exp. is req. Send resume to P-479 c/o The Item, PO Box 1677 Sumter SC 29151

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.

HVAC Lead Installer

Well established company is seeking dedicated and energetic person to lead a fast paced residential installations department. You will be responsible for installing the finest air conditioning systems in this area. Must be quality driven and experienced in planning, organizing, and supervising jobs. Willingness to be creative and work hard will earn you a progressive compensation package and the ability to advance. Good driving record a must. EPA certification a plus.

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WE WILL BUY YOUR CAR OUTRIGHT!
Regardless of year, make or model, we will pay you good money for your current vehicle. We can give you a fair price appraisal in 15 minutes.
Call Dealer For An Appointment 855.223.5023

Help Wanted Full-Time

Needed: HVAC Technician. Minimum 5 years experience. \$15-\$20 an hour depending on exp. Must be EPA certified. Call 803-825-9075

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

Tru by Hilton. Please apply in person at Spring Hill Suites 2645 Broad St. Seeking front desk clerk, house keeping and maintenance engineer. Trusumter@gmail.com

Help Wanted Part-Time

Part Time custodian position available. 30 hours per week. Send resume to P-480 c/o The Item, PO Box 1677 Sumter SC 29151

Office Rentals

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

RENTALS

Unfurnished Apartments

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

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