

Woman steals, wrecks patrol car, 2 more

Slipped out of handcuffs; chase exceeded 100 mph

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

A 21-year-old woman is facing multiple charges after she wrecked three vehicles — including a sheriff's deputy patrol car that she stole while she was being detained — during early morning



THORNTON

joyrides on Wednesday. About 8 a.m. Dec. 27, Mia Victoria Thornton, of Cherryvale Drive, allegedly took her boyfriend's vehicle without his permission and wrecked it near Eagle Road between Broad Street and Patriot Parkway, states a news release from Sumter County Sheriff's Office. She then supposedly began walking

toward town and caught a ride with a good Samaritan. While in the car, Thornton reportedly grabbed the steering wheel as the good Samaritan's vehicle approached traffic on Pinewood Road and forced the vehicle into another car. Thornton got behind the wheel and fled the area as the driver checked on the occupants of the other vehicle. She wrecked on Pinewood Road a few minutes later and again began walking

toward town. A tow truck driver brought Thornton back to the second wrecked vehicle on Pinewood Road, where a trooper from S.C. Highway Patrol had responded and called for a deputy to assist him, states the release. Thornton was handcuffed and placed in the back of the deputy's vehicle, but she was able to slip one of her hands

SEE CHASE, PAGE A6



PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN CHRISTOPHER MALDONADO / SPECIAL TO THE SUMTER ITEM

U.S. Marine AV-8B Harriers with the Marine Attack Squadron 231 assigned to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina, park on the flightline during basic fighter maneuver training at Shaw Air Force Base in early December. Marine pilots received an opportunity to "battle" Air Force aircraft to include the F-16CM Fighting Falcon, F-22 Raptor and T-38C Talon.

Air Force, Navy and Marine pilots 'battle' at Shaw

BY SENIOR AIRMAN CHRISTOPHER MALDONADO
20th Fighter Wing Public Affairs
Special to The Sumter Item

Pilots assigned to Shaw Air Force Base hosted U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps and took to the skies to duel each other earlier this month. The pilots came together for basic fighter maneuver training to strengthen the strategic capabilities needed to win air-to-air battles. "Modern tactics are designed to destroy an airborne enemy before they ever see your formation," Capt. Dane Lannon, 55th Fighter Squadron activity security manager, said. "However, in the case that an aircraft makes it to the visual arena, known as 'the merge,' our pilots are extensively trained in the art of one-on-one aerial combat."



These trainings, which are scheduled to occur annually, give pilots the opportunity to test their skills against different airframes. "Our pilots need to know how to maneuver their airplane in relation to an adversary who is trying to kill

them," Lannon said. "It's important to Shaw and other bases because it's the building block for follow-on fighter tactics." The participating aircraft consisted of F-16CM Fighting Falcons assigned to Shaw; F-22 Raptors assigned to Tyndall AFB, Florida, F-18 Hornets as-

A U.S. Marine with Marine Attack Squadron 231 assigned to Marine Corps Air Station prepares to depart for basic fighter maneuver training at Shaw Air Force Base.

signed to Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia; AV-8B Harriers assigned to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina; and T-38C Talons assigned to Columbus AFB, Mississippi. "There are jets from across the East Coast flying in to meet in an airspace to fight each other," Capt. August Derosa, an instructor pilot from the 49th Fighter Training Squadron at Columbus AFB, Mississippi, said. "It gives the aircraft the opportunity to fight other aircraft as opposed to fighting their own." These trainings allow pilots to see the advantages and dis-

advantages of fighting different airframes and hone their skills to win the next fight. "It provides you with a war-time environment mentality for when you are going against someone who doesn't fly your aircraft," Derosa said. "You must study your adversary and see where you are best able to fight them and be able to act on the spot." The 49th FTS rarely has opportunities to participate in these trainings, so to come out and train against other services is a great experience, Derosa said. Upon the conclusion of BFM, visiting pilots returned to their respective installations with more knowledge on how to adapt and overcome "foreign" airframes, increasing their mission effectiveness and response times when battling enemy combatants.



Local merchants pleased with holiday sales

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

Retailers throughout the country saw an increase in sales this Christmas season compared to previous years which is great for local business owners, especially during a time of growing on-line shopping, according to

national economists and retail consultant companies. Some of Sumter's staple retailers saw steady traffic and sales this holiday season, allowing them to hold on to their titles. Much of the local popularity may be attributed to trusted staff and a variety of trusted brands and products. Sales were good; much

more than last year, said Ralph McLendon, owner of Wally's Hardware & Mobile Home on Broad Street. Some of Wally's best-selling items included flashlights, different kinds of knives, golf cart heaters and cast-iron products. The store sold out of so much merchandise that employees are playing

catch up with rebuilding their inventory, he said. Pam Chaney, assistant manager of The Olive Tree Christian Bookstore on Bultman Drive, said Christmas shopping started a little later than anticipated this year but picked up during

SEE MERCHANTS, PAGE A6

VISIT US ONLINE AT



CONTACT US

Information: 774-1200
Advertising: 774-1246
Classifieds: 774-1200
Delivery: 774-1258
News and Sports: 774-1226

DEATHS, B4

Lynne H. Bozard
Lewis Epps Sr.
Robert G. Dennis
Sadie G. Duncan
Albertus Porter
Benjamin A. Knox Sr.
Wilson S. Green
Angleen Odom

WEATHER, A8

GRAB A COAT
Another cold day under mostly cloudy skies. Sunshine moves in on Friday.
HIGH 41, LOW 24

INSIDE

2 SECTIONS, 14 PAGES
VOL. 123, NO. 50
Classifieds B6
Comics A5
Obituaries B4
Opinion A7
Sports B1
Television B5



SECOND FRONT

Call: (803) 774-1226 | E-mail: pressrelease@theitem.com

Councilman's son involved in stabbing

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

Charges have not been filed in the investigation of a Christmas gathering that turned violent at the home of a Sumter city councilman on Antlers Drive.

According to an incident report, Robert A. Galiano III, 36, — son of Sumter City Councilman Robert A. Galiano Jr. — had a verbal altercation

with a family member when he was allegedly grabbed from behind in a "headlock/choke hold" by another family member, a 43-year-old man.

Galiano III reportedly pulled a knife from his pocket during the struggle and stabbed the man in the lower left part of his abdomen.

The 43-year-old man was transported to Palmetto Health Richland where he was treated for non-fatal wounds and remains in stable condition.

Galiano III — a 2012 candidate for Sumter County Coroner — was transported to Sumter Law Enforcement Center for questioning.

As of Wednesday afternoon, no arrests were made in the assault, and no charges have been filed.

The incident report identifies the actions as assault and battery, first degree, and assault and battery, third degree.

At this point, neither of the men in-

involved have been ruled out as a suspect or as a victim, said Tonya McGirt, Sumter Police Department public information officer.

The police department's investigation is ongoing as the local agency receives assistance from South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.

SLED will provide oversight for the investigation, McGirt said. It is not uncommon to have the state agency assist in a local case.

2 unrelated fires displace 8 adults, 7 children

Space heater cause of 1

BY KAYLA ROBINS
kayla@theitem.com

Two unrelated house fires in Sumter displaced families Wednesday morning, though no injuries were reported.

Six people, including one child, cannot stay in their home off South Pike West, at least temporarily, after a couch inside was damaged by a fire that reportedly began in a space heater.

The blaze was out when Sumter Fire Department personnel arrived just before 5:30 a.m. Dec. 27 to the one-story residence in the 1100 block of Russell Street, according to an incident report.

It appeared the fire started in a space heater that spread to a nearby couch, according to the report. The couch was removed by firefighters.

American Red Cross-trained volunteers are helping the family — five adults and one child — for food, clothing, lodging and other essentials including comfort kits containing personal hygiene items.

Firefighters also responded to a mobile home on Shetland Street in Cane Savannah at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday to find a blaze had ignited behind the stove in the kitchen, according to another incident report.

The cause of the second fire was not immediately known, but the fire department is continuing an investigation. Firefighters removed the wall and floor in the kitchen to check the electrical appliances and connections.

The Red Cross is also assisting the second family, which consists of three adults and six children.

The Red Cross encourages residents to check existing smoke alarms and practice fire drills at home.

"Every household should develop a fire escape plan and practice it several times a year and at different times of the day," the agency said. "Install smoke alarms on every level of the home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. Test them every month, and replace the batteries when needed."

Record crops may mean lower, competitive prices in the state

BY KAYLA ROBINS
kayla@theitem.com

A record crop in 2017 may mean South Carolina producers will have to adjust their 2018 budgets to account for lower prices.

Corn, cotton and soybeans all had good crops this year, according to Clemson agricultural economists Nathan Smith and Scott Mickey at the recent 2018 Ag Outlook conference.

"Corn is one of our top crops," Smith said in a Clemson news release. "A record yield was reported in South Carolina at 137 bushels per acre and record U.S. yield at 275 bushels per acre. Prices have dropped because of a large U.S. crop, so it's going to be competitive in 2018. December futures slid from trading as high as \$4.14 in July to \$3.37 on Nov. 28."

Corn export inspections fell in the middle of the average trade projection at 25.1 million bushels, according to the release, that number being slightly behind a mid-November report of 26 million bushels and the 2016 total of 32.6 million bushels.

Soybean production in 2017 was one of the largest crops the state has ever seen, Mickey said, with 400,000 acres of the crop being planted throughout the state.

"The soybean crop was a great crop for producers," Mickey said. "Unfortunately, prices were not as good as they had hoped."

South Carolina is expected to have a record yield at 37 bushels per acre, according to Clemson.

Mirroring the state, the nationwide soybean crop was also a record crop — a total of 90.21 million acres of soybeans were planted in the United States in 2017, and another near-record yield of 49.5 bushels per acre is projected.

Earlier in December, about 250 growers were given the message that uniformed crops and updated technology are key to having successful corn and soybean crops at the first-ever South Carolina State Corn and Soybean Growers Meeting hosted by Clemson Cooperative Extension.

Five factors — a fertility program, proper nitrogen management, stand establishment and ear count, proper root growth and soil density, and pest management strategies — can help produce high-yielding corn crops, Missy Bauer, an independent crop consultant with B&M Crop Consulting in Coldwater, Michigan told them.

South Carolina cotton producers also reported good numbers in 2017, according to Clemson.

The USDA shows 250,000 acres of cotton were planted in the state in 2017



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

A combine harvests feed corn at Jeremy Cannon's farm near Turbeville in August.

and that producers are expected to harvest a 940-pound-per-acre yield, second best on record, the news release said.

"Cotton producers looking for pricing opportunities in 2018 will have to closely watch the markets and budget more closely," Smith said. "What is encouraging for cotton producers is cotton use is up, and we have strong exports. Hopefully, the lower prices will encourage more exports and more use."

A majority of U.S. cotton exports go to Vietnam, but Smith said those involved with the cotton industry should closely watch China's purchase activity with the U.S. and the rest of the world.

Another good production was seen with peanuts, Smith said.

"The 2017 crop is one of the best yields South Carolina has ever had," he said. "Right now, we're looking at two

ton peanuts in the state. I almost want to call it a 'warehouse buster.' We're probably going to fill up all of the available storage space for peanuts."

Prices for peanuts were up in 2017, Clemson said, but the large crop "probably will lead to lower prices in 2018."

Smith said an increased use of peanuts may be expected due to there being an additional supply.

"And with exports, as the shelled prices comes down, we'll see more peanuts being exported. This will help with our supply situation."

Across the board, Smith said, with corn, soybeans, cotton and peanuts, things will look similar for all crops — except peanuts.

"Peanuts probably will be the crop that could lose to the other crops," he said, "because of the lower price projection."

OSTEEN

PUBLISHING COMPANY
Established 1894

36 W. LIBERTY ST., SUMTER, S.C. 29150
(803) 774-1200

Vince Johnson
PUBLISHER
vince@theitem.com
(803) 774-1201

Kayla Robins
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
kayla@theitem.com
(803) 774-1235

Rhonda Barrick
NEWSROOM MANAGER
rhonda@theitem.com
(803) 774-1264

Kathy Stafford
CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER
CLASSIFIEDS, SUBSCRIPTIONS AND
DELIVERY
kathy@theitem.com
(803) 774-1212

Sandra Holbert
OBITUARY / NEWSROOM CLERK
sandra@theitem.com
(803) 774-1226

HOW TO REACH US

IS YOUR PAPER MISSING? ARE YOU GOING ON VACATION?

Call (803) 774-1258
Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday, 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

TO PLACE A NEWSPAPER AD

Call (803) 774-1200 Monday through Friday,
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

TO PLACE AN ANNOUNCEMENT

Birth, Engagement, Wedding,
Anniversary, Obituary
Call (803) 774-1226
Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

TO BUY A SUBSCRIPTION

Call (803) 774-1200
Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday, 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Standard Home Delivery
TUESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY PLUS
SUNDAY
One year - \$189; six months - \$94.50; three
months - \$47.50; one month - \$15.75. EZPay,
\$14.50/month

Mail Delivery

One year - \$276; six months - \$138; three
months - \$69; one month - \$23

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

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

Publication No. USPS 525-900

Mary Lee, the great white shark, is missing

Fans are asking offshore boaters to watch for her and report sightings

BY BO PETERSEN
Post and Courier

Mary Lee, the far-wandering great white shark the Lowcountry made famous, has vanished — electronically speaking.

The last "ping" from her transmitter was in June. No one has seen or heard from her since.

The reports of her death, though, have been speculatively exaggerated. The most likely thing that's happened is the electronic dorsal fin tracker used to map and follow her has lost battery power.

So keep an eye out if you're offshore. A lot of the people who have kept tabs on her would like to know where she is. A bite in her dorsal fin gives a few of her loyalest followers a nip of hope.

They're appealing to offshore boaters to watch — especially off South Carolina — for a huge great white with a distinctive half moon bite in her fin and maybe some equipment attached.

Report the sighting to Ocearch, a nonprofit organization tracking the shark, at www.ocearch.org.

"Hundreds of thousands of per-



PHOTO PROVIDED BY OCEARCH

Great white shark Mary Lee was tagged in 2012 off Cape Cod, Massachusetts. The last "ping" from her transmitter was heard in June. Though she has been reported dead, it's more likely her tracker has lost battery power.

sons are interested in Mary Lee," said Jo O'Keefe, of Carolina Shores, North Carolina, a Mary Lee fan.

Mary Lee has been the darling of the East Coast since she was tagged off Cape Cod in 2012 then turned up just past the breakers at Isle of Palms two months later.

An alert posted on a surfing web-

page brought a mention from *The Post and Courier*, and the tale of Mary Lee went viral on social media.

More than 100,000 people currently follow the Twitter feed for the shark, @MaryLeeShark.

Since her original tagging, she has foraged much of the Atlantic be-

tween the East Coast and Bermuda. But she continued to return to Lowcountry waters for what researchers guess is a rich supply of fish around the state's many inlets.

Mary Lee weighs more than a half ton and is at least 16 feet long. There's no more than a handful of tagged great whites that large out there, S.C. Department of Natural Resources biologist Bryan Frazier said.

Few more than a dozen somewhat smaller "sub-adults" have been tagged.

The batteries powering the sharks' locator transmitter "pings" normally have an expected lifespan of three years. Mary Lee has been tagged for five years now and pinged hundreds of times prior to going dark.

"In all likelihood it's just the battery," Frazier said.

If someone spots a very large great white, and particularly if they're able to get a photo, biologists might be able to say it's Mary Lee just by process of elimination, he said.

Great white sharks are the long-feared alpha predators of the deep ocean. More recently, though, shark species are becoming an invaluable resource for medicine and have been found to be key to the health of ocean ecosystems. Very simply: the more sharks you have, the more fish you have.

But little is known about their behavior.

Did the holidays leave you with stains, leftover meats?

Most stains can eventually be removed by following these procedures:

Always follow the "Three P's" of stain removal:

PROMPTNESS: Treat stains as quickly as possible before laundering. Age and laundering before pretreating can set some stains.

PATIENCE: If the garment is worth saving, it is worth a little extra time and effort to follow stain removal procedures.

PERSEVERANCE: Because some stains are difficult to remove, it may be necessary to repeat a procedure several times.

• **BEVERAGES** — (Alcohol, coffee, soft drinks, tea, wine). Sponge stain promptly with cold water or soak in cold water for 30 minutes. Pretreat remaining stain. Launder with an appropriate bleach.

• **CANDLE WAX** — Rub with an ice cube and carefully scrape off excess wax with a dull knife. Place several layers of paper towels and press with a warm iron. To remove



Nancy Harrison
RETIRED
CLEMSON
EXTENSION
AGENT

remaining stain, sponge with safe cleaning fluid and rinse. If colored stain remains, launder in the hottest water safe for fabric. Use appropriate bleach.

• **CHOCOLATE/COCOA** — Soak in cold water.

Pretreat remaining stain. Launder using the hottest water safe for the fabric. Use appropriate bleach. If stain remains, sponge with a safe cleaning fluid and rinse. Launder again.

• **EGG, MEAT JUICE, GRAVY** — If dried, scrape off as much as possible with a dull knife. Soak in cold water. Pretreat remaining stain. Launder using the hottest water safe

for the fabric. Use appropriate bleach.

• **GREASE AND OIL** — (Butter, shorting, vegetable oil). Pretreat stain, and then launder in the hottest water safe for the fabric. Use appropriate bleach. If stain persists, sponge thoroughly and launder again.

WHAT TO DO WITH LEFTOVER HOLIDAY MEATS

After the holidays have come and gone, do you get tired of all those turkey leftovers? You can eat only so many turkey sandwiches before you're ready to give up on the bird. Well, you need to try a new recipe. Turkey makes great chowder, sandwich, chili and casseroles. It's a great ingredient to include in stir-fry dishes, too.

TURKEY COTTAGE PIE

2 tablespoons margarine/butter
1/2 cup onion, chopped

1/2 cup celery, chopped
1/2 cup carrots, peeled and chopped
1 clove garlic, minced
1 cup turkey stock or chicken broth
1/4 teaspoon thyme
1/2 cup frozen peas
1 1/2 cups instant mashed potatoes
Rosemary sprigs

In saucepan, melt the margarine/butter. Add onion, celery, garlic, and carrots and sauté over medium heat, stirring often, 8 to 10 minutes. Stir in gravy, and thyme. Bring to a boil. Cover and simmer 15 minutes.

Divide turkey meat and peas between two 1 1/2- to 2-cup casseroles. Add gravy and vegetables.

Prepare instant mashed potatoes according to the package directions. Spread carefully over turkey mixture. Bake at 400 degrees for 20 minutes, until potatoes are brown

and pies are bubbly. Garnish with rosemary sprigs.

HAM AND SCALLOPED POTATOES

2 ounces lean ham
1 medium potato (peeled and slice)
2 tablespoons onion
2 teaspoons parsley
vegetable cooking spray
1/4 cup condensed cream of celery soup

1/4 cup milk
salt and pepper to taste
Combine ham, potato, onion, and parsley in baking dish coated with vegetable

Cooking spray. Blend condensed soup and milk; pour over potato mixture; cover. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour, or until potatoes are tender. Add salt and pepper.

It's your world.
Read all about it.
the Sumter ITEM
Call (803) 774-1200 and get started today.

BUYING GOLD EVERY DAY
Paying Top Dollar in Sumter
JEWELRY WHOLESALE
41 E. Wesmark Blvd. • 778-1031

Cash in a FLASH!
We Buy: Gold & Silver Jewelry, Silver Coins & Collections, Sterling, 925, Diamonds, Pocket Watches, Antiques & Estates
Lafayette Gold and Silver Exchange
Inside Vestco Properties
480 E. Liberty St. Sumter, SC 29150
(Inside Coca-Cola Building)
Mon. - Fri. 8:30 - 5:30 PM • Sat: 8 - 2 PM
803-773-8022

Winter... Good time for new **LANDSCAPE DESIGN.**
Let Paula help you get your yard Spring ready.
BRUNSON NURSERY & DESIGN
3000 Plowden Mill Road • 495-2391
Open: Thursday, Friday, Saturday 9am-5pm

Display Advertising Edition Deadline
Fri., Dec. 22nd Wed. Dec. 20th @ 11 am
Sun., Dec. 24th Wed. Dec. 20th @ 2 pm
Tues., Dec. 26th Thurs. Dec. 21st @ 11 am
Wed., Dec. 27th Thurs. Dec. 21st @ 2 pm
Tues., Jan. 2nd Thurs. Dec. 28th @ 2 pm
Wed., Jan. 3rd Fri. Dec. 29th @ 11 am
Have a safe and Merry Christmas!
Business office will be closed December 22nd, 25th and January 1
the Sumter ITEM
36 W. Liberty Street • Sumter, SC
803-774-1200

PARTNER UP WITH THE #1 FINAL EXPENSE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY



Greetings, my name is Cherie' Buckman. I've been employed with UBI Southeast for over 2 years.
I assist families with their final expense needs (burial policies) with reasonable rates that will never increase and can never be cancelled. Burial coverage is to assure the families that they will not be in a financial burden when they lose a love one.
This opportunity has allowed me to be able to take care of my household, assist family and friends. Overall, I'm financially stable, I'm earning over six figures a year, and the greatest thing is to work in a upbeat and stable environment which keeps me smiling daily. UBI Southeast has shown me how to build a legacy, secure my family, and myself for generations to come.
I'm seeking motivated individuals who's hungry for success to join my team.
We're currently interviewing.



Cherie' Buckman

525 OXFORD STREET • SUMTER SC 29150 • 803-395-0033

Israel minister plans Trump train station at Western Wall

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's transportation minister is pushing ahead with a plan to dig a railway tunnel under Jerusalem's Old City, passing near sites holy to Jews, Christians and Muslims — and ending at the Western Wall with a station named after President Donald Trump.

Yisrael Katz's plan, currently in the initial stages, involves constructing two underground stations and excavating more than two miles of tunnel beneath downtown Jerusalem and under the politically sensitive Old City. The project would extend Jerusalem's soon-to-open high-speed rail line from Tel Aviv to the Western Wall, the holiest site where Jews can pray.

The route will run close to — but not directly under — the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where tradition holds that Jesus was crucified and buried, and a contested holy site known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary. Previous excavations by Israel near the holy site — the spiritual epicenter of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — have sparked violent Palestinian protests.

Because of those sensitivities, the proposal will likely meet with heavy resistance

from the Palestinians, neighboring Arab countries and the international community.

Katz, a senior Cabinet official who also serves as Israel's intelligence minister, is a close ally of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and is seen by many as his likely eventual successor as head of the Likud Party.

Transportation Ministry spokesman Avner Ovadia said Wednesday the project is estimated to cost more than \$700 million and, if approved, would take four years to complete.

Katz's office said the minister advanced the plan in a recent meeting with Israel Railways executives and has fast-tracked it in the planning committees.

Katz said a high-speed rail station would allow visitors to reach "the beating heart of the Jewish people — the Western Wall and the Temple Mount." He proposed naming the station after Trump "for his brave and historic decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital" earlier this month.

Trump's announcement has enraged the Palestinians and much of the Muslim world. The U.N. General Assembly overwhelmingly adopted a resolution last week condemning the move, with several tra-

ditional American allies breaking with Washington to vote in favor of the motion.

Israel captured east Jerusalem, which includes the Old City, in 1967, and annexed it in a move not recognized internationally. The Palestinians claim east Jerusalem as the capital of their future state, and a longstanding international consensus holds that the fate of the city should be decided through direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Digging railway tunnels to the Western Wall would also entail excavating in Jerusalem's Old City, where religious and political sensitivities — as well as layers of archaeological remains from the city's 3,000-year history — could make for a logistical and legal quagmire.

Last year, an initiative to convert an already excavated area abutting the Western Wall into an egalitarian Jewish prayer section was hotly contested by Israeli archaeologists, who said such a move would cause irreparable damage to the historic remains of the ancient city.

Despite the likely opposition to the project, Ovadia said he expects the plans to be approved in the coming year, barring major complications.



Sgt. Aaron Thompson of the Washington County Sheriff's Office speaks at a press conference on Tuesday, following his rescue of a boy who fell into an icy pond in New Harmony, Utah, on Christmas Day.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deputy breaks through frozen pond to rescue boy

NEW HARMONY, Utah (AP) — A Utah sheriff's deputy said Tuesday he was desperate and numb from the cold as he punched and stomped his way into a frozen pond on Christmas Day to pull out an 8-year-old boy who had fallen through the ice while chasing his dog.

With cuts on his forearms, Washington County sheriff's Sgt. Aaron Thompson said at a news conference that rescuers believe the child was in the 37-degree water for about 30 minutes until the deputy rescued him.

"I couldn't feel anything. I didn't notice anything when I was doing it," Thompson said. "I knew that time was of the essence. I had a very short window to get that child out of the water."

Sheriff's Lt. David Crouse said the boy was hospitalized in Salt Lake City, but he didn't have details on his condition. Thompson said deputies were hopeful.

The boy fell through the ice in the town of New Harmony, north of St. George.

After arriving at the scene,

Thompson, who had served on a search and rescue dive team, began searching an area where a woman reported seeing the boy's hand flail about four minutes earlier.

The deputy stomped to break through the ice and work his way deeper, pounding with his hands and fists.

"As the ice got thicker, I couldn't break it with my arms and my fists anymore, so I had to jump up on top of the ice, putting my weight on it, and then pound on it to get it to break," he said.

When he went into the water, his toes brushed against reeds growing on the bottom of the pond, and water reached his neck.

He swished his arms and legs around before finding the boy beneath the ice about 25 feet from the shoreline.

Thompson was treated for symptoms of hypothermia and released from a hospital Monday night. He said he lost the feeling in some fingers, but sensation had returned by Tuesday.

He expects to return to work by early next week.

Lifelong best friends discover they're brothers

HONOLULU (AP) — Two Hawaii men who grew up as best friends recently learned that they're actually brothers and revealed the surprise to family and friends over the holidays.

Alan Robinson and Walter Macfarlane have been friends for 60 years. Born in Hawaii 15 months apart, they met in the sixth grade and played football together at a Honolulu prep school.

Macfarlane never knew his father, and Robinson was adopted. Separately, they sought answers about their ancestry.

Macfarlane turned to family history and DNA-matching websites after unsuccessful searches on the internet and social media, Honolulu news station KHON-TV reported.

"So, then we started digging into all the matches he started getting," said his daughter, Cindy Macfarlane-Flores.

A top match — someone with identical X chromosomes — had the username Robi737. Robison's nickname was Robi and he flew 737s for Aloha Airlines, Macfarlane-Flores said.

It turned out Robinson used the same website to find answers about his family. They later learned they have the same birth mother.

"It was a shock," Macfarlane said. They revealed the relationship to friends and family during a party Saturday night.

"It was an overwhelming experience. It's still overwhelming," Robinson said. "I don't know how long it's going to take for me to get over this feeling."

They have plans to travel and enjoy retirement together.

"This is the best Christmas present I could ever imagine having," Robinson said.



Broadstone Manor
Antiques & Interiors

Holiday Hoopla

204 & 208 BROAD STREET
SUMTER, SC 29150
THURSDAY - SATURDAY 10:00-5:00
803.778.1890
WWW.BROADSTONEMANOR.COM

Ring in the New Year with fabulous apparel from One Accord





One Accord
MARKET
Women's Apparel
Children's Apparel
Jewelry • Shoes
Original Art

721 N. Bultman Dr., Suite A • 803-774-0542

Simply Southern Bistro
Southern Cooking with a Cajun Kick

Make your plans now to
Celebrate New Year's Eve with us

GREAT CHEF SPECIALS
Complimentary Glass of Champagne

WHY WAIT UNTIL NEW YEAR'S EVE
CHEF SPECIALS WILL BE OFFERED ALL WEEKEND!!
COME DINE IN A RELAXING ATMOSPHERE WITH
GREAT FOOD AND SERVICE

CATERING • GIFT CARDS • TAKE OUT
65 W. Wesmark Blvd • 803-469-8502
Sun., Mon., Tues. 11:00am-2:30pm • Wed. & Thurs. Lunch 11:00am-2:30pm
Dinner 5:00pm - 9:00pm • Fri. and Sat. 11:00am - 9:00pm

HOME IS WHERE THE START IS...

Give the gift of Home to a family in need this holiday season



Habitat | ReStore
for Humanity

Donate • Shop • Volunteer • Change a life
Help change a life in your community with Sumter Habitat for Humanity. Schedule a pickup today!
30 Bridge Ct. Sumter, SC • 803-934-9749

Bring this coupon in and get:
\$10 off
With a purchase of \$50 or more

Offer valid thru December 30th, 2017
Only valid at the Sumter Habitat for Humanity ReStore location.
Some exclusions may apply. See store for details.
Limit one coupon per customer per day.

FREEDOM FURNITURE
493 N. GUIGNARD • SUMTER, SC
499-2002
539 A S. MILL ST., • MANNING, SC
803-433-2300

Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00am-7:00pm • Saturday 9:00am-5:00pm • Sunday Closed
CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK.COM

The Item's Annual
FIRESIDE FUND 2017-18
DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF TOMMY MIMS

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____

THIS DONATION IS BEING MADE:

IN MEMORY OF
 IN HONOR OF
 ANONYMOUSLY

MY DONATION

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

CASH CHECK
 MONEY ORDER

Please Mail To: The Sumter Item/Fireside Fund
PO Box 1677 • Sumter, SC 29150

Or Drop Off At The Item
36 W. Liberty Street

QUEEN SIZE \$299
Bedroom Sets Includes: Headboard, Dresser, Mirror & Chest

SOFA & LOVESEATS
Starting at **\$399** Per Set

TWIN SET \$129	QUEEN SET \$199	FULL SET \$169	PILLOW TOP KING SET \$399
--------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

Lamps.....\$15 Bean Bags \$39
Rugs \$39 4 Drawer Chests ... \$79
Bunk Beds \$399 with mattress Dinette Sets \$169

FINANCING AVAILABLE • FREE LOCAL DELIVERY

BIZARRO



SOUP TO NUTZ



ANDY CAPP



GARFIELD



BETLE BAILEY



BORN LOSER



BLONDIE



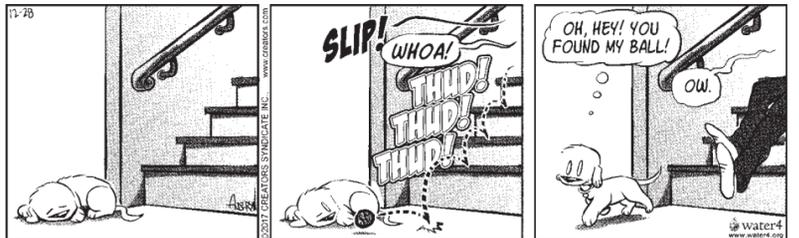
ZITS



MOTHER GOOSE



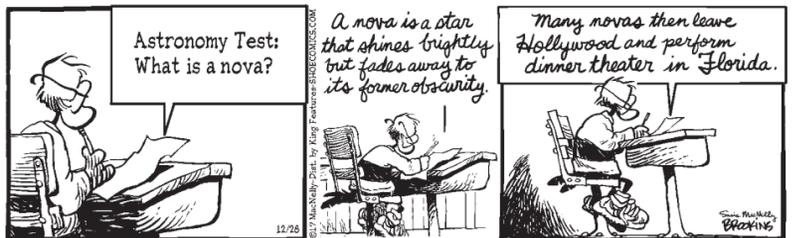
DOG EAT DOUG



DILBERT



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE



Man's desire for wife wanes after witnessing overdose



Dear Abby
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY — I have been married for three years to a woman who is very beautiful inside and out. (We have been together for six years.) Recently, I found out she is addicted to pain meds — and two months ago she confided that she had gotten hooked on heroin.

I set up an intervention to get her into rehab. But when the time came to go, she kept putting it off. She said she wanted to get high "one more time," so I told her OK, as long as she did it at home, so I'd know she was safe. After

she injected herself, she went limp, so I called 911 and got her into the hospital. It is now two months later and she is back. I love her dearly but I no longer desire to be intimate with her. How do I tell her I will always stand by her but no longer want to be intimate? She's younger and still has a strong sex drive.

Lost that part in the East
DEAR LOST — The news should be conveyed in the office of a licensed marriage and family therapist. While your sexual problem may result from the shock of seeing your wife nearly die in front of you, there may be more to it. You say she is "younger and STILL has a strong sex drive." This suggests that you are older and your lack of desire

might to some extent be age- or hormone-related. The two of you have a lot of talking to do about your feelings and your future. It would be better if it's done with the help of a trained moderator. Also, if your wife was sharing needles, you both need to be tested for any diseases she may have contracted.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbook-let Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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.



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

Yesterday's Jumbles: KITTY CIVIC INDIGO MINNOW
Answer: When the coin-production facility was completed, it was in — MINT CONDITION

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

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			

Jeff Stillman 12/28/17

ACROSS

1 Sugar amt.
5 Swimmer's regimen
9 Margaret Atwood's "Grace"
14 Cosmetic additive
15 Alternatively
16 Small drum or large antelope
17 Author Gertrude's Irish friend?
19 Prepared to tackle
20 Foul odor
21 Liquid-Plumr rival
23 Brewer's kiln
26 Black Sea port
29 Like some time-release pills
33 Old Toyota subcompact
34 "Don't interrupt!" studio sign
35 Inflexibility
37 Head lines, for short?
38 Fail to attend
39 Checkout choice
40 Latin word on a cornerstone
41 Road goo
42 Church law
43 Buzzing
44 Pleasant emanations
46 Antipathy

48 Air traffic control devices
49 Assist, as a theater patron
50 Puts a dent in one's gas mileage
52 Herbal cough drop brand
57 Carved piece of jewelry
59 Irish physician?
62 Alaskan native
63 Straddling
64 "Let me know if you're coming" letters
65 Mud nest builders
66 Dinner summons at the manor house
67 Young fellows

11 Irish hotel that offers perfumed pillows?
12 Turkish title
13 Tosspot
18 Search far and wide
22 Common pump part
24 Wrap for leftovers
25 Photography gear
27 "Already caught that movie"
28 1990s veep
29 Share the marquee
30 Capital ESE of Istanbul
31 Change tossed into an Irish busker's hat?
32 Sample some soup

36 "Arabian Nights" spirit
39 Behind the times
40 Actor Butterfield of "Ender's Game"
42 Where lemons may be sold
43 Cobwebby place
45 Fictionalized
47 Polynesian garment
51 Self-righteous
53 HBO's "Your Enthusiasm"
54 Guesstimate phrase
55 Tax
56 Nile serpents
57 Cornfield sound
58 Menu phrase
60 Mil. mail drop
61 Haitian negative

DOWN

1 Melody from a bugler
2 Sour note from a bugler
3 Dover flatfish
4 Menial employee
5 Quite destructive
6 Bass, e.g.
7 Pressure meas.
8 Dispatch
9 Carpenter's rasp, for one
10 Dealership vehicle

Previous Puzzle Solved

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

Virtual shooter training program aimed at survival

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — The shooter rapidly fires through the front doors of an elementary school with an assault rifle and blasts his way down the hallway. Screaming children are running for their lives or frozen in fear. Teachers quickly try to decide: barricade the doors, or make a run for it with their students?

Police officers arrive with guns drawn, working their way through the school. Finally they confront the shooter and end the threat.

Using cutting-edge video game technology and animation, the U.S. Army and Homeland Security Department have developed a computer-based simulator that can train everyone from teachers to first responders on how to react to an active shooter scenario. The training center is housed at the University of Central Florida in Orlando and offers numerous role-playing opportunities that can be used to train anyone in the world with a computer.

"With teachers, they did not self-select into a role where they expect to have bullets flying near them. Unfortunately, it's becoming a reality," said Tamara Griffith, a chief engineer for the project. "We want to teach teachers how to respond as

'Once you hear the children, the screaming, it makes it very, very real.'

BOB WALKER

Project manager of Enhanced Dynamic Geo-Social Environment

first responders."

The \$5.6 million program — known as the Enhanced Dynamic Geo-Social Environment, or EDGE — is similar to those used by the Army to train soldiers in combat tactics and scenarios using a virtual environment.

Originally designed for police and fire agencies, the civilian version is now being expanded to schools to allow teachers and other school personnel to train for active shooters alongside first responders. Homeland Security officials say the schools version should be ready for launch by spring.

Each character has numerous options, including someone playing the bad guy, said project manager Bob Walker. For example, each

teacher has seven options on how to keep students safe, and some of the students in the program might not respond or be too afraid to react. So that becomes another problem to be solved.

"Once you hear the children, the screaming, it makes it very, very real," Walker said.

The program can have the shooter be either an adult or a child.

"We have to worry about both children and adults being suspects," he said.

The program's designers listened to real dispatch tapes to understand the confusion and chaos that goes along with such frightening situations, Griffith said. They also talked to the mother of a child killed in the 2012 mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, who walked them through everything that happened that tragic day.

"It gives you chills when you think about what's happening on those tapes," Griffith said. "It tore us apart to listen to her and what she went through."

But it all serves one main goal: to train educators to save lives when an armed attacker bursts through a school door.

Another EDGE program, which was launched in June, has an active-shooter scenario involving a 26-story hotel that includes numerous possible environments for first responder training: a conference center, a restaurant, or office spaces. As many as 60 people can train on the program at once and can be located anywhere.

"It's important that this provides agencies like fire and law enforcement an opportunity to train together," said Milt Nenneman, Homeland Security Science and Technology First Responder Group program manager in a recent Justice Department article. "Very seldom do they have the opportunity to train together in real-life, and it is hard to get those agencies time away from their regular duties."

School safety advocates say safety training gets pushed to the back burner until a tragedy happens. Amanda Klinger, director of operations for nonprofit Educators School Safety Network, said this new program could help change that.

"I hope that people will sort of see this simulation as a really cool and engaging way," she said, "to think about school safety."

CHASE FROM PAGE A1

from the cuffs and crawl through a porthole window into the front seat.

She then, driving the marked patrol car, led deputies on a 15-minute chase at speeds that exceeded 100 miles per hour before she crashed through a gate and fence and then hit a tree in Sumter Industrial Park.

Approximately \$15,000 in damage was caused at the industrial park, and damage to the patrol car is estimated to be more than \$10,000. Damage to the good Samaritan's vehicle has not been estimated, according to the release.

Thornton is charged with grand larceny, assault and battery high and aggravated nature, driving under a first suspension, malicious injury to tree, possession, conceal, sell or dispose of a stolen vehicle and failure to stop for a blue light and siren. She is scheduled to have a bond hearing at 8 a.m. on Thursday at Sumter-Lee Regional Detention Center.

The incident is under active investigation, and more charges are forthcoming pending the result.



Thornton crashed through this gate at Kaydon Corp. in Sumter Industrial Park and hit a tree before being apprehended.

MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

MERCHANTS FROM PAGE A1

the second week of December.

She thought store traffic for Christmas would have started to pick up after Thanksgiving, but the local retailer had a good season despite the slow start.

Some of Olive Tree's best-selling items included Willow Tree figurines, hand-carved nativity scenes from Israel and devotionals.

The "Jesus Always" devotional was very popular, Chaney said.

Many customers personalized their gifts by having names and verses laser-printed onto items, and Christmas ornaments sold well, she said.

"We did really great," said Ann Ellis,

store manager. "We had a great season."

"We had a really good fall and Christmas season," said Shawn Matthews, manager of Simpson Hardware on Wesmark Boulevard.

Yeti continues to sell well with new products and special offers, and fuzzy pullovers are popular for young people, he said.

The clothing department in particular is one of the best sections every year, he said.

Matthews said the store was packed the week before Christmas with last minute shoppers, just like every year.

With so many retail options, he said Simpson is thankful that people choose to shop locally.

The Art of Flooring

HARDWOOD
REFINISHING
CARPET
TILE

9 N. GUIGNARD DR.
SUMTER, SC 29150

803-774-2800 • 803-774-2802

ALDERMAN DRUG CO., INC. & SNACK BAR

We have Grab-N-Go Sandwiches and Hot Dogs.

Mention this ad and get 2 Hot Dogs a Drink & a bag of Chips for \$4.50

RODAN+FIELDS AVAILABLE IN STORE

40 N. Main Street • Sumter, SC
Phone: 803-773-8666 • Fax: 803-775-5641

Happy NEW YEAR

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT THE RESTAURANT at Second Mill

DINNER MENU, STEAKS, SEAFOOD & MORE.

1100 W. LIBERTY STREET • SUMTER, SC (INSIDE THE ELK'S LODGE)
803.774.0270 • CATERING AVAILABLE

OPEN: WEEKDAYS MONDAY - FRIDAY 7AM - 10 AM, SATURDAY 1AM - 2PM
LUNCH BUFFET MONDAY-FRIDAY 11AM - 2PM
THURSDAY, FRIDAY, & SATURDAY NIGHT (MENU ONLY) 5PM - 10PM

Aunt Ruth Ann's

Made by Hand. Cooked to order. Just for you

Wed-Fri 6 am-11 am
Sat & Sun 6 am-2 pm

494 Pinewood Rd.
Sumter, SC 29154
803-757-1114

"Where Everyone is Treated Like Family"

"Where Quality Matters"

Brown's Furniture & Bedding

803-774-2100
www.BrownsofSumter.com

31 West Wesmark Blvd., Sumter, SC

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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

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

H.D. Osteen 1904-1987
THE ITEM

Margaret W. Osteen 1908-1996
THE ITEM



OPINION

Hubert D. Osteen Jr. CHAIRMAN & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Graham Osteen CO-OWNER

Kyle Osteen CO-OWNER

Jack Osteen CO-OWNER

Vince Johnson PUBLISHER

36 W. LIBERTY ST., SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA 29150 • Founded October 15, 1894

COMMENTARY

Did the FBI conspire to swamp Trump?

The original question the FBI investigation of the Trump campaign was to answer was a simple one: Did he do it?

Did Trump, or officials with his knowledge, collude with Vladimir Putin's Russia to hack the emails of John Podesta and the DNC, and leak the contents to damage Hillary Clinton and elect Donald Trump?



Pat Buchanan

A year and a half into the investigation, and, still, no "collusion" has been found. Yet the investigation goes on, at the demand of the never-Trump media and Beltway establishment.

Hence, and understandably, suspicions have arisen.

Are the investigators after the truth, or are they after Trump?

Set aside the Trump-Putin conspiracy theory momentarily, and consider a rival explanation for what is going down here:

That, from the outset, Director James Comey and an FBI camarilla were determined to stop Trump and elect Hillary Clinton. Having failed, they conspired to break Trump's presidency, overturn his mandate and bring him down.

Essential to any such project was first to block any indictment of Hillary for transmitting national security secrets over her private email server. That first objective was achieved 18 months ago.

On July 5, 2016, Comey stepped before a stunned press corps to declare that, given the evidence gathered by the FBI, "no reasonable prosecutor" would indict Clinton. Therefore, that was the course he, Comey, was recommending.

Attorney General Loretta Lynch, compromised by her infamous 35-minute tarmac meeting with Bill Clinton — to discuss golf and grandkids — seconded Comey's decision.

And so Hillary walked. Why is this suspicious?

First, whether or not to indict was a decision that belonged to the Department of Justice, not Jim Comey or the FBI. His preemption of Justice Department authority was astonishing.

Second, while Comey said in his statement that Hillary had been "extremely careless" with security secrets, in his first draft, Clinton was declared guilty of "gross negligence" — the precise language in the statute to justify indictment.

Who talked Comey into softening the language to look less than criminal? One man was FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe, whose wife, Jill, a Virginia state senate candidate, received a munificent PAC contribution of \$474,000 from Clinton family friend and big bundler Terry McAuliffe.

Also urging Comey to soften the fatal phrase "gross negligence" was key FBI agent Peter Strzok. In text messages to his FBI lover Lisa Page, Strzok repeatedly vented his detestation of the "idiot" Trump.

After one meeting with

"Andy" (McCabe), Strzok told Page an "insurance policy" was needed to keep Trump out of the White House.

Also, it appears Comey began drafting his exoneration statement of Hillary before the FBI had even interviewed her. And when the FBI did, Hillary was permitted to have her lawyers present.

One need not be a conspiracy nut to conclude the fix was in, and a pass for Hillary wired from the get-go. Comey, McCabe, Strzok were not going to recommend an indictment that would blow Hillary out of the water and let the Trump Tower crowd waltz into the White House.

Yet, if Special Counsel Robert Mueller cannot find any Trump collusion with the Kremlin to tilt the outcome of the 2016 election, his investigators might have another look at the Clinton campaign.

For there a Russian connection has been established.

Kremlin agents fabricated, faked, forged, or found the dirt on Trump that was passed to ex-British MI6 spy Christopher Steele, and wound up in his "dirty dossier" that was distributed to the mainstream media and the FBI to torpedo Trump.

And who hired Steele to tie Trump to Russia?

Fusion GPS, the oppo research outfit into which the DNC and Clinton campaign pumped millions through law firm Perkins Coie.

Let's review the bidding.

The "dirty dossier," a mixture of fabrications, falsehoods and half-truths, created to destroy Trump and make Hillary president, was the product of a British spy's collusion with Kremlin agents.

In Dec. 26's Washington Times, Rowan Scarborough writes that the FBI relied on this Kremlin-Steele dossier of allegations and lies to base their decision "to open a counterintelligence investigation (of Trump)." And press reports "cite the document's disinformation in requests for court-approved wiretaps."

If this is true, a critical question arises:

Has the Mueller probe been so contaminated by anti-Trump bias and reliance on Kremlin fabrications that any indictment it brings will be suspect in the eyes of the American people?

Director Comey has been fired. FBI No. 2 McCabe is now being retired under a cloud. Mueller's top FBI investigator, Peter Strzok, and lover Lisa, have been discharged. And Mueller is left to rely upon a passel of prosecutors whose common denominator appears to be that they loathe Trump and made contributions to Hillary.

Attorney General Bobby Kennedy had his "Get Hoffa Squad" to take down Teamsters boss Jimmy Hoffa. J. Edgar Hoover had his vendetta against Dr. Martin Luther King.

Is history repeating itself — with the designated target of an elite FBI cabal being the President of the United States?

Patrick J. Buchanan is the author of a new book, "Nixon's White House Wars: The Battles That Made and Broke a President and Divided America Forever." © 2017 creators.com.



COMMENTARY

Republicans have reformed taxes: Will they fix '70s budget rules next?

The Republicans have passed their tax bill, without a single Democratic vote, despite low to dismal poll ratings. It's reminiscent of the passage by Democrats, without a single Republican vote, of Obamacare in March 2010.



Michael Barone

Democrats lost 63 seats and their House majority that fall. Republicans hope they won't follow suit. They argue, accurately, that their bill will lower taxes for almost all taxpayers and that it will stimulate economic growth, which already has risen above the growth in the Obama years.

The effects of Obamacare, in contrast, were harder to model, and some backers' claims — if you like your insurance, you can keep it — soon were revealed as glaringly untrue. We'll see whether the greater simplicity of the tax bill makes a difference in political fallout.

One thing in common between the two bills is that voters have seemed congenitally skeptical about the claims of the party in power. Obamacare continued to be unpopular until, presto, Donald Trump took office and Republicans threatened repeal.

A second thing in common is that the details of both signature pieces of legislation — details that weakened their appeal and provided ammunition for opponents — were the result of legislative straitjackets created in the 1970s.

The restrictions of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 and the cost estimates of the Congressional Budget Office it created were intended to provide clarity and restraints on presidents and Congresses. Ironically, we had mostly balanced budgets before 1974 and have had mostly budget deficits since.

Another 1970s reform that has proved counterproductive involved changes in Senate filibuster rules. The number of votes needed to end a filibuster was reduced

As any student of political behavior might have predicted, both parties have learned to game these systems. Obamacare and the tax bill provide many examples.'

from 67 to 60, and filibusters were no longer required to hold the floor, speaking all night if need be, to block passage of legislation. The result: many more filibusters than before and an effective requirement — unimagined when I was writing the first edition of *The Almanac of American Politics* in 1970 — of a supermajority of 60 votes to pass major bills.

As any student of political behavior might have predicted, both parties have learned to game these systems. Obamacare and the tax bill provide many examples.

Democrats got the Congressional Budget Office to count the revenue generated by Obamacare's Community Living Assistance Services and Supports, or CLASS, Act taxes, fully realizing that program's postponed and unsustainable costs would never be incurred. Republicans likewise took some \$300 billion of savings, suddenly available when the CBO revised its clearly mistaken estimates of costs of repealing Obamacare's individual mandate, to pay for tax cuts they couldn't otherwise get.

This is not a criticism of the CBO, which has remained properly nonpartisan and which was designed to estimate revenue flows, not personal choices — such as how many young people would rather pay small individual mandate penalties rather than expensive Obamacare health insurance premiums.

It's a criticism of the notion that you can create neutral rules that will guide elected politicians to desired results. Politicians and the voters they represent have policy goals they believe important, and they have their own ways — fallible but subject to criticism and debate — to estimate the likely effects of particular policies.

My observation over the years is that systems intend-

ed to be fail-safe are sure to fail. Forty-three years of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act regime and 32 years of the opaque Byrd rule, which allows some Senate measures to pass with 50 votes whereas others require 60, have shown that both parties have figured out how to game the rules enough to foil their intended purposes.

The Constitution provides rules enough by allowing one Congress to repeal the laws made by a predecessor (rendering Obamacare's yet unimplemented Independent Payment Advisory Board unconstitutional) and by allowing each house to set its own rules. The Senate has enough other dilatory procedures to fit Thomas Jefferson's description as the saucer in which coffee can cool, and any House majority is subject to recall in 22 months.

Economic conditions often veer from the CBO's predicted flight paths, and foreign developments or domestic attacks can change national priorities. Congress should be free to respond.

The Republican tax bill is vulnerable to attack because it will cut the corporate tax rate from 35 percent, highest among developed countries, to 21 percent — even though economists of every stripe and Barack Obama said it should be lowered.

Surprisingly, Republicans in the Trump era took the responsible step of cutting the rate, at some political risk. Any chance they'll clear away the detritus of the long-dysfunctional 1970s reforms and relegate them to the fate of bell-bottoms and disco?

Michael Barone is a senior political analyst for the Washington Examiner, resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and longtime co-author of The Almanac of American Politics. © 2017 creators.com.

NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

BANKS — All area banks and credit unions will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1, 2018.

GOVERNMENT — The following will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1, 2018: federal government offices; U.S. Postal Service; state government offices; City of Sumter offices; Sumter County offices; Clarendon County offices; City of Manning offices; Lee County offices; and City of Bishopville offices.

SCHOOLS — The following will be closed through Monday, Jan. 1, 2018, with students returning on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018: Lee County Public Schools and Thomas Sumter Academy.

The following will be closed through Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018, with students returning on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018: Sumter School District; Clarendon School District 1; Clarendon School District 2; Wilson Hall; St. Anne and St. Jude Catholic School; St. Francis Xavier High School; Laurence Manning Academy; and Clarendon Hall.

Clarendon School District 3 and Sumter Christian School will be closed through Monday, Jan. 1, 2018, and will observe a faculty in-service day on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018, with students returning on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018.

Robert E. Lee Academy will be closed through Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018, with students returning on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2018.

UTILITIES — Black River Electric Coop. and FTC will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1, 2018.

OTHER — Clemson Extension Service and the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce will be closed through Monday, Jan. 1, 2018.

The Harvin Clarendon County Library and the Sumter County Library will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1, 2018.

The City of Sumter will collect household garbage and recyclables on New Year's Day. For additional information, call the sanitation department at (803) 436-2558.

Santee-Wateree RTA will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1, 2018.

The Sumter Item will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1, 2018.

AROUND TOWN

An American Red Cross blood drive will be held from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 29, at the Arts & Letters building, banquet hall, 109 Miller Road. To make an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code SumterCommunity.

The Sumter Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2018, at Shiloh-Randolph Manor, 125 W. Bartlette St. State membership dues are due on Jan. 9 without a penalty. If you know a blind person, contact Debra Canty, chapter president, at (803) 775-5792 or debra.canty@frontier.com. Donations are welcome and can be mailed to NFB Sumter Chapter, P.O. Box 641, Sumter, SC 29151.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dream Walk will be held on Monday, Jan. 15. The walk will start and end at the Nettles Building at USC Sumter, 200 Miller Road. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the walk beginning at 9:30 a.m. There will be a program at 11 a.m. The theme is "This situation CAN and WILL be changed." Francis Hill will serve as grand marshal and speaker. T-shirts will be available on the morning of the walk. Visit the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/136517243775779/>.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the walk beginning at 9:30 a.m. There will be a program at 11 a.m. The theme is "This situation CAN and WILL be changed." Francis Hill will serve as grand marshal and speaker. T-shirts will be available on the morning of the walk. Visit the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/136517243775779/>.

FYI

The National Kidney Foundation of South Carolina is in need of unwanted vehicles — even ones that don't run. The car will be towed at no charge to you and you will be provided with a possible tax deduction. The donated vehicle will be sold at auction or recycled for salvageable parts. Call (800) 488-2277.

The Muscular Dystrophy Family Foundation Inc. (MDFF), a non-profit organization, accepts vehicle contributions. To complete a vehicle donation, call 1-800-544-1213 or log onto the organization's web site at www.mdff.org and click on the automobile icon to complete an online vehicle donation application.

The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Learn from past mistakes and choose a path based on smart choices and personal growth. Question anyone who shows signs of inconsistency or an inability to make up his or her mind. Don't rely on someone else. Do your own thing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Plan a day trip or do something special with a friend or loved one. Sharing your feelings with someone special will help you plan for the future. Updating your appearance will bring good results. Romance will improve your personal life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Tidy up loose ends. Get your financial or legal matters in order. End the year knowing that you can start anew without having to backtrack. A tax break should be taken advantage of before the year comes to a close.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): What you do to help young people or those in need will bring you joy. Sharing your time and talents with those you love will open up a host of plans that will create strong bonds. Romance is highlighted.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't overreact no matter what happens. Keeping a steady pace and being of sound mind will be the best way to deal with any situation that arises. Avoid overindulgence or emotional arguments that will lead to regret.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Networking, socializing, family get-togethers and travel plans are all highlighted. Nurture personal relationships and discuss your plans for the future. Love and romance are in the stars and will improve your personal life. Don't

hesitate to make a commitment. **LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Emotional unpredictability will surface if you don't keep busy and avoid getting into debates. Pour your energy in to personal changes that will help build your confidence and make you feel good about who you are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Everything will begin to come together. You will gain support and be given the go-ahead to follow your dream. Broaden your horizons and set your plans in motion. Positive professional and financial changes are heading your way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Physical changes and choosing a healthier lifestyle should be your intent. Set up a routine and choose an exercise program that will be easy to maintain. Romance is on the rise and nurturing an important relationship is encouraged.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stick close to home and nurture the relationships that are important to you. Love and romance are highlighted and will make a difference in how your day unfolds. Use your imagination and mix the old with the new.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Added responsibilities may not be welcome, but doing your share will allow you to take extra time later in the week to spend with friends. Don't be indulgent and avoid overspending on items you don't really need.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Recap what you've accomplished this year and lay out a plan that will help you move into the next with greater hope and optimism. Consider the best way to earn more and spend less. Follow your heart.

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2017

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy	Mostly cloudy and cold	Sunshine and some clouds	Mostly sunny	Cooler with thickening clouds	Partly sunny and cold
41°	24°	47° / 29°	56° / 26°	42° / 23°	36° / 18°
Chance of rain: 5%	Chance of rain: 10%	Chance of rain: 10%	Chance of rain: 5%	Chance of rain: 10%	Chance of rain: 20%
NE 8-16 mph	NE 6-12 mph	NNE 4-8 mph	W 6-12 mph	NE 6-12 mph	NNE 7-14 mph

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

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

IN THE MOUNTAINS

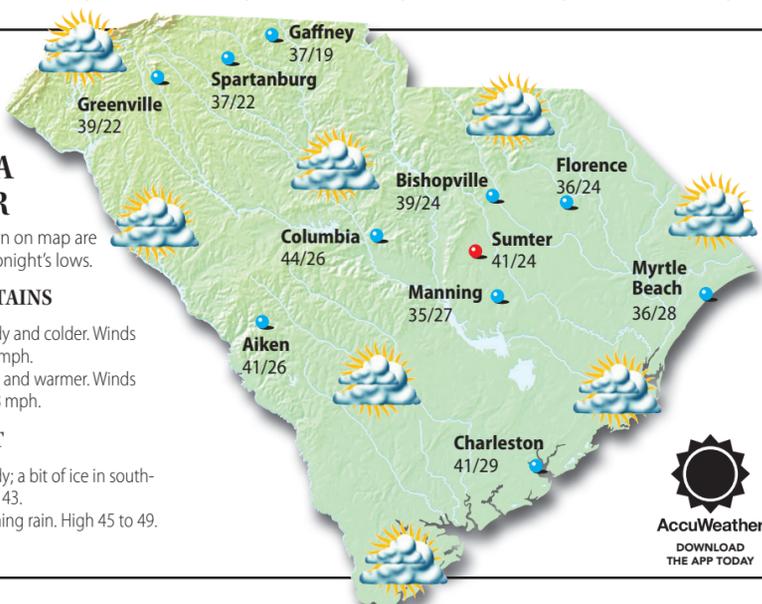
Today: Mostly cloudy and colder. Winds east-northeast 6-12 mph.

Friday: Partly sunny and warmer. Winds south-southwest 4-8 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: Mostly cloudy; a bit of ice in southern parts. High 36 to 43.

Friday: A little morning rain. High 45 to 49.



LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THROUGH 2 P.M. YESTERDAY

Temperature	High	Low	Normal high	Normal low	Record high	Record low
	44°	39°	54°	33°	78° in 1971	11° in 1983

Precipitation

24 hrs ending 2 p.m. yest.	0.06"
Month to date	4.02"
Normal month to date	2.87"
Year to date	37.54"
Last year to date	49.13"
Normal year to date	46.47"

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	354.83	-0.02
Marion	76.8	74.19	-0.03
Moultrie	75.5	74.31	+0.20
Wateree	100	96.77	-0.02

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	8.81	+0.03
Congaree River	19	3.16	+1.44
Lynches River	14	7.85	+0.20
Saluda River	14	2.76	-0.15
Up. Santee River	80	76.54	-0.07
Wateree River	24	5.14	-0.45

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	7:26 a.m.	Sunset	5:21 p.m.
Moonrise	1:55 p.m.	Moonsset	2:13 a.m.

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

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH				
	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	4:01 a.m.	3.0	11:10 a.m.	0.3
	4:29 p.m.	2.8	11:29 p.m.	-0.3
Fri.	5:04 a.m.	3.2	12:14 p.m.	0.1
	5:31 p.m.	2.8	---	---

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Fri.
Atlanta	42/29/c	46/32/s
Chicago	17/9/sn	19/0/sf
Dallas	45/31/pc	50/41/c
Detroit	16/9/c	22/9/sf
Houston	48/40/c	55/48/c
Los Angeles	79/55/s	79/53/s
New Orleans	49/42/r	57/47/pc
New York	21/13/s	24/18/c
Orlando	73/57/pc	72/50/c
Philadelphia	24/14/pc	28/19/c
Phoenix	77/47/s	77/47/s
San Francisco	57/43/s	60/44/pc
Wash., DC	29/20/pc	37/26/c

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Fri.	City	Today	Fri.
Asheville	37/19/pc	45/24/pc	Florence	36/24/c	45/28/pc
Athens	42/25/c	47/29/pc	Gastonia	38/20/pc	46/26/pc
Augusta	45/27/c	47/30/pc	Goldensboro	36/21/c	43/24/pc
Beaufort	40/31/c	47/36/r	Goose Creek	40/28/c	45/29/f
Cape Hatteras	38/32/c	47/37/r	Greensboro	33/18/pc	41/25/pc
Charleston	41/29/r	45/35/r	Greenville	39/22/c	46/28/pc
Charlotte	39/19/pc	46/27/pc	Hickory	35/18/pc	44/25/pc
Clemson	39/26/c	48/29/pc	Hilton Head	42/31/c	47/33/r
Columbia	44/26/c	48/29/pc	Jacksonville, FL	55/43/r	55/39/c
Darlington	33/25/c	45/22/pc	La Grange	46/31/c	51/30/pc
Elizabeth City	34/21/pc	44/26/pc	Macon	45/31/c	51/29/pc
Elizabethtown	33/24/c	44/23/pc	Marietta	41/27/c	46/28/s
Fayetteville	39/22/c	45/25/pc	Marion	34/18/pc	44/25/pc
			Mt. Pleasant	42/30/c	46/31/r
			Myrtle Beach	36/28/c	46/35/r
			Orangeburg	32/28/c	46/28/pc
			Port Royal	40/31/c	47/33/c
			Raleigh	34/18/pc	42/23/pc
			Rock Hill	37/20/c	45/25/pc
			Rockingham	37/20/c	45/20/pc
			Savannah	42/31/c	47/36/c
			Spartanburg	37/22/c	46/28/pc
			Summerville	34/30/c	45/28/f
			Wilmington	40/26/c	46/32/f
			Winston-Salem	34/18/pc	41/26/pc

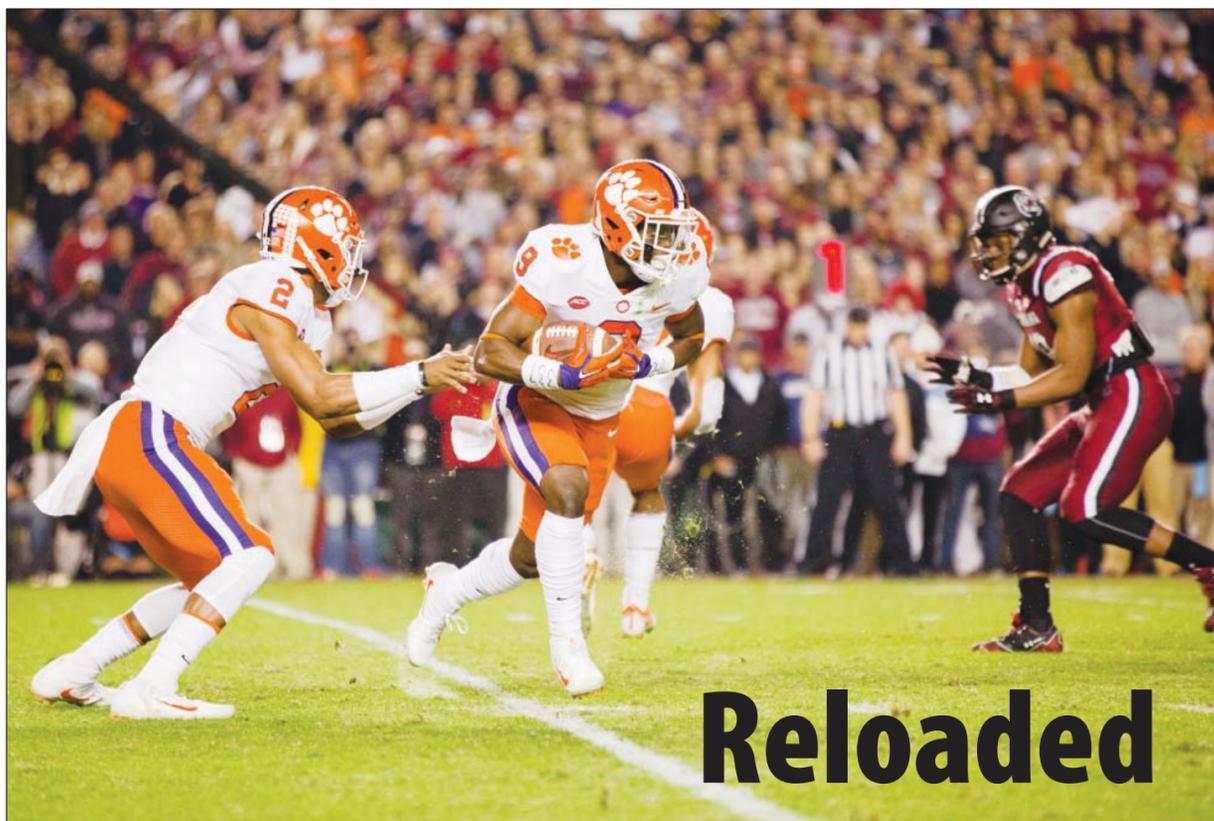
PICTURES FROM THE PUBLIC



Glen Clinch comments on his photo submission, "Enjoyed the Swan Lake Festival of Lights again this year!"

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.

CLEMSON FOOTBALL



MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Clemson true freshman running back Travis Etienne has had a tremendous season for the Tigers after taking over for Wayne Gallman. Clemson faces Alabama in the Sugar Bowl on Monday in a College Football Playoff national semifinal game.

Alabama, Clemson back in playoffs after mass talent exodus

BY JOHN ZENOR

The Associated Press

Clemson was fresh from the national championship game two years ago when the coaches called a highly touted recruit already being pursued by other big-name programs.

Kansas high school safety Isaiah Simmons listened, welcomed coach Dabo Swinney's recruiting visit and ultimately signed with the Tigers. He's now a significant

contributor.

"Our reach is much, much further than it has ever been," Swinney said.

Welcome to Alabama's world, Clemson. Sustaining high-level success is never easy, but being on that national stage and regularly contending for titles often facilitates entry into the living rooms of the kind of recruits who can help programs stay at the top.

That's certainly evident in the Sugar Bowl, where the

top-ranked Tigers reached after replacing two-time Heisman Trophy finalist DeShaun Watson, fellow first-round NFL draft pick Mike Williams and plenty more offensive talent after last season's national title. No. 4 Alabama lost a similar amount of defensive stars.

Perhaps the respective units haven't been quite as dominant but both teams are right back where they were last year — and the year before — in the College

Football Playoffs contending for a national title. They've split the past two championships.

Nick Saban has made reloading into a science at Alabama. In his words, the process .

NFL draft picks exit. Similarly talented high school prospects enter. The machinery keeps running .

Swinney's doing it awfully well these days, too.

SEE **TIGERS**, PAGE B4

PREP FOOTBALL

Kessinger steps down at TSA after 12 years

BY DENNIS BRUNSON

dennis@theitem.com

About middle of the way through the just completed season, Thomas Sumter Academy football head coach Troy Kessinger got a feeling.

"I went to my headmaster (Dr. Frank Martin) and told him it was probably time to start looking for a new football coach," Kessinger said.

So when the Generals' 3-8 campaign came to an end, so did Kessinger's 12-year tenure as TSA's head coach. It was a highly successful stretch too, one that saw Thomas Sumter win six straight region titles and play in three SCISA 2A state championship games, one of them coming away as state champion.

"It was just time for a change for me and my family," said Kessinger, who posted a 75-67 record with the Dalzell school. "I thought about this a couple of years ago, but I still felt it was where God wanted me. It's just time for a fresh start for me and my family."

Kessinger said he and his family will be moving to the mountains of North Carolina where he hopes to continue teaching and coaching.

"The next month or two I'm going to be hitting the bricks, looking for someone who needs a math teacher," said Kessinger, who will finish out the school year at TSA. "I love coaching; I'm not tired of it in any way. The past year I had a great time doing it."

"This was my 30th year coaching and teaching," he added. "I've always wanted to do both. I can't imagine doing one without doing the other."

Kessinger became the head coach at Thomas Sumter in 2006 after two stints as an assistant coach in Florida with three years as a head coach in North Carolina in between. The Generals went 4-7 in his first year, advancing to the state playoffs. The next season started the run of six straight region titles.

The six straight region titles started in '07. The Generals were 56-21 during that stretch, winning 10 times game in three of the seasons and 12 in 2010. That's the year they won the state title. They played for the state title three times in four years, also reaching the game in '08 and '11.

"That was obviously an enjoyable time," Kessinger said. "I've had a chance to talk to three, four or five of those guys recently, and we just talked about how good those times were."

"The last few years have been a little tougher, but it was a great time for me at Thomas Sumter. I got to work with some great young men at the school."

Kessinger said there was no direct correlation with him stepping down during the same year his son, Eli, will be graduating from TSA. Eli started at quarterback for his father this past season, tossing 29 touchdown passes.

"That really wasn't part of it," Coach Kessinger said. "It just worked out that way. It ended up being pretty good."

"Being in school at Thomas Sumter is all my kids have ever known," he added. "Eli was in kindergarten for one year in Sanford, Fla., but went 12 years at Thomas Sumter. For my other (three) children, this is the only school they've ever known. So it will definitely be something a little different for them."



KESSINGER

USC FOOTBALL

Skai high

Moore looking to leave Gamecocks with two records

FROM STAFF REPORTS

TAMPA, Fla. — As a fifth-year senior for the University of South Carolina football team, linebacker Skai Moore has literally been there for perhaps the highest point of the program and some of the lowest points. He is hoping he goes out on a high point with his teammates on Monday when they face Michigan in the Outback Bowl.

"It's been a long process for sure," said Moore. "It goes by quick, no matter even with my fifth-year deal, it still goes by quick. I've been sitting and thinking about all of this. I'm happy it's my last game."

Moore has been a standout for USC since he arrived on campus. He led USC in tackles in each of the first three years he played, and he holds a 13-tack-



AP FILE PHOTO

South Carolina linebacker Skai Moore (10) will be playing the final game of his career on Monday when the Gamecocks take on Michigan in the Outback Bowl in Tampa, Fla. Moore has a 13-tackle lead on fellow linebacker T.J. Brunson as Moore tries to lead the team in tackles in each of his four seasons. He's also tied for the career lead in interceptions with 14.

le lead over fellow linebacker T.J. Brunson entering Monday's game against the Wolverines, who are 8-4 on the season. He also needs one intercep-

tion to become the school's all-time leader in that category.

SEE **USC**, PAGE B4

USC MEN'S BASKETBALL

South Carolina beats Limestone 74-45

BY WILLIE T. SMITH III

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Frank Booker was 5 for 9 from 3-point range and scored 17 points to lead South Carolina to a 74-45 victory over Limestone on Wednesday.

Freshman David Beatty added 16 points for the Gamecocks (9-3) while Maik Kotsar had 13.

South Carolina closed the first half on a 17-2 run to take a 34-25 lead. The Game-

cocks scored the first 12 points of the second half to take control.

Kenny Hairston had 14 points for the Division II Saints (6-8) and T.J. Shappard added 12.

THE BIG PICTURE

South Carolina coach Frank Martin has not been pleased with the Gamecocks play in recent weeks. Although his squad eventually won comfortably against Limestone, his view proba-

SOUTH CAROLINA 74, LIMESTONE 45

LIMESTONE (0-1)

Kane 3-6 2-4 9, Harris 1-9 1-3 3, Simms 0-6 0-0 0, Hairston 4-16 2-2 14, Cole 0-2 1-2 1, Hunt 0-1 0-0 0, McGriff 1-1 4-7 6, Oliver 0-0 0-0 0, Sheppard 4-9 3-9 12, Clayton 0-0 0-0 0, Jenkins 0-2 0-2 0. Totals 13-52 13-29 45.

SOUTH CAROLINA (9-3)

Kotsar 6-10 1-1 13, Minaya 1-6 1-2 4, Silva 0-3 4-4 4, Gravett 2-9 2-2 6, Booker 5-10 2-2 17, Doumbia 0-4 0-0 0, Haase 2-5 0-0 5, Cudd 2-3 0-0 4, Gueye 0-0 0-0 0, Corchiani 0-0 0-0 0, Schmitt 0-1 0-0 0, Beatty 6-11 3-5 16, Myers 2-6 1-4 5. Totals 26-68 14-20 74.

Halftime_South Carolina 34-25. 3-Point Goals_Limestone 6-22 (Hairston 4-14, Sheppard 1-1, Kane 1-2, Hunt 0-1, Jenkins 0-1, Cole 0-1, Simms 0-2), South Carolina 8-21 (Booker 5-9, Minaya 1-1, Haase 1-3, Beatty 1-3, Doumbia 0-1, Schmitt 0-1, Gravett 0-3). Fouled Out_None. Rebounds_Limestone 35 (Harris 12), South Carolina 48 (Haase 8). Assists_Limestone 4 (Hairston 2), South Carolina 14 (Myers 6). Total Fouls_Limestone 17, South Carolina 21. A_11,305 (18,000).

bly didn't change. The Gamecocks barely escaped a home loss to Coastal Carolina, then suffered a 16-point loss to instate rival Clemson.

Limestone managed not only to play competitively with its Division I opponent, but outplayed it for the initial 15 minutes. That could

build confidence down the road.

UP NEXT:

Limestone travels to Emanuel for the third of a six-game trip.

South Carolina opens Southeastern Conference play at Mississippi on Dec. 31.

SCOREBOARD

TV, RADIO

TODAY
1:30 p.m. — College Football: Military Bowl from Annapolis, Md. — Virginia vs. Navy (ESPN).
2:55 p.m. — International Soccer: English Premier League Match — Arsenal vs. Crystal Palace (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
3:30 p.m. — High School Basketball: Beach Ball Classic Playoff-Round Game from Myrtle Beach (SPECTRUM 1250).
5 p.m. — College Basketball: East Carolina at Tulsa (ESPNU).
5:15 p.m. — College Football: Camping World Bowl from Orlando, Fla. — Virginia Tech vs. Oklahoma State (ESPN).
5:15 p.m. — High School Basketball: Beach Ball Classic Playoff-Round Game from Myrtle Beach (SPECTRUM 1250).
6:05 p.m. — Talk Show: Sports Talk (WDXY-FM 105.9, WDXY-AM 1240).
6:30 p.m. — College Basketball: Creighton at Seton Hall (FOX SPORTS 1).
7 p.m. — College Basketball: Tennessee State at Tennessee (Martin) (CBS SPORTS NETWORK).
7 p.m. — College Basketball: Houston at South Florida (ESPN).
7 p.m. — College Basketball: Tulane at Temple (ESPN).
7 p.m. — College Basketball: Providence at St. John's (FOX SPORTSOUTH).
7 p.m. — High School Basketball: Beach Ball Classic Playoff-Round Game from Myrtle Beach (SPECTRUM 1250).
7:30 p.m. — NHL Hockey: Boston at Washington (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
8 p.m. — Professional Basketball: NBA G-League Game from Cleveland — Windy City vs. Canton (ESPNU).
8 p.m. — Women's College Basketball: Texas at Oklahoma (FOX SPORTS SOUTHEAST).
8 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Houston at Boston (TNT).
8:30 p.m. — Women's College Basketball: St. John's at Marquette (FOX SPORTS 2).
8:45 p.m. — High School Basketball: Beach Ball Classic Playoff-Round Game from Myrtle Beach (SPECTRUM 1250).
9 p.m. — College Basketball: Portland at Brigham Young (BYUTV).
9 p.m. — College Basketball: Louisiana State at Memphis (CBS SPORTS NETWORK).
9 p.m. — College Football: Alamo Bowl from San Antonio — Stanford vs. Texas Christian (ESPN).
9 p.m. — College Basketball: Pacific at Gonzaga (ESPN2).
9 p.m. — College Football: Holiday Bowl from San Diego — Washington State vs. Michigan State (FOX SPORTS 1).
10 p.m. — NHL Hockey: Vegas at Los Angeles (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
10:30 p.m. — Professional Basketball: NBA G-League Game — South Bay at Agua Caliente (ESPNU).
10:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Philadelphia at Portland (TNT).

PREP SCHEDULE

TODAY
Varsity Basketball
 Sumter in C. Dan Joyner Classic Tournament (Boys Only) (in Greenville), TBA
 Crestwood in Pepsi Classic (Boys Only) (in Florence), TBA
 Lakewood in Tournament Champions (Boys Only) (at Wheeler High in Atlanta), TBA
 Manning in Orangeburg Sweet 16, TBA
 Wilson Hall vs. Oldham County, Ky., in Carolinas Invitational Tournament (Girls Only) (at James Island Charter High in Charleston), 4 p.m.
Varsity and JV Basketball
 Clarendon Hall in Orangeburg Prep Christmas Tournament, TBA
Varsity Wrestling
 Sumter in Lexington Duals, TBA

FRIDAY
Varsity Basketball
 Sumter in C. Dan Joyner Classic Tournament (Boys Only) (in Greenville), TBA
 Crestwood in Pepsi Classic (Boys Only) (in Florence), TBA
 Lakewood in Tournament Champions (Boys Only) (at Wheeler High in Atlanta), TBA
 Manning in Orangeburg Sweet 16, TBA
 Wilson Hall in Carolinas Invitational Tournament (Girls Only) (in Charleston), TBA
Varsity and JV Basketball
 Clarendon Hall in Orangeburg Prep Christmas Tournament, TBA
Varsity Wrestling
 Sumter in Lexington Duals, TBA

SATURDAY
Varsity Basketball
 Sumter in C. Dan Joyner Classic Tournament (Boys Only) (in Greenville), TBA
 Lakewood in Tournament Champions (Boys Only) (at Wheeler High in Atlanta), TBA
Varsity and JV Basketball
 Clarendon Hall in Orangeburg Prep Christmas Tournament, TBA
NFL STANDINGS
AMERICAN CONFERENCE

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

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

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

West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Kansas City	9	6	0	.600	388	315
L.A. Chargers	8	7	0	.533	325	262
Oakland	6	9	0	.400	291	343
Denver	5	10	0	.333	265	355

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Philadelphia	13	2	0	.867	457	289
Dallas	8	7	0	.533	348	332
Washington	7	8	0	.467	332	370
N.Y. Giants	2	13	0	.133	228	378

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

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

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Philadelphia	13	2	0	.867	457	289
Dallas	8	7	0	.533	348	332
Washington	7	8	0	.467	332	370
N.Y. Giants	2	13	0	.133	228	378

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

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

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

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	27	10	.730	—
Toronto	23	9	.719	1½
New York	17	16	.515	8
Philadelphia	15	18	.455	10
Brooklyn	12	21	.364	13

Southeast Division

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	25	7	.781	—
San Antonio	24	11	.686	2½
New Orleans	17	16	.515	8½
Memphis	10	24	.294	16
Dallas	10	25	.286	16½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	21	13	.618	—
Oklahoma City	19	15	.559	2
Denver	19	15	.559	2
Portland	17	16	.515	3½
Utah	15	20	.429	6½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	27	7	.794	—
L.A. Clippers	14	19	.424	12½
Phoenix	13	23	.361	15
L.A. Lakers	11	21	.344	15
Sacramento	11	22	.333	15½

TUESDAY'S GAMES
 Dallas 98, Toronto 93
 Detroit 107, Indiana 83
 Miami 107, Orlando 89
 Chicago 115, Milwaukee 106
 San Antonio 109, Brooklyn 97
 Denver 107, Utah 83
 Phoenix 99, Memphis 97
 L.A. Clippers 122, Sacramento 95

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
 Boston at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
 Dallas at Indiana, 7 p.m.
 Washington at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
 Brooklyn at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
 Denver at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
 New York at Chicago, 8 p.m.
 Toronto at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
 Cleveland at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
 Memphis at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
 Utah at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

TODAY'S GAMES
 Detroit at Orlando, 7 p.m.
 Houston at Boston, 8 p.m.
 Minnesota at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
 New York at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
 Philadelphia at Portland, 10:30 p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES
 Houston at Washington, 7 p.m.
 Atlanta at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
 Brooklyn at Miami, 8 p.m.
 Dallas at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
 Indiana at Chicago, 8 p.m.
 Milwaukee at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
 Phoenix at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
 Charlotte at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
 L.A. Clippers at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

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

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	35	26	7	2	54	133	87
Toronto	37	22	14	1	45	122	104
Boston	34	19	10	5	43	101	89
Montreal	36	16	16	4	36	98	114
Florida	35	16	15	5	35	103	119
Detroit	35	12	15	7	33	96	113
Ottawa	34	11	15	8	30	92	114
Buffalo	36	9	20	7	25	78	120

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	35	21	9	5	47	113	103
Columbus	37	22	13	2	46	105	99
Washington	37	22	13	2	46	114	107
N.Y. Islanders	36	19	13	4	42	130	127
N.Y. Rangers	36	19	13	4	42	117	104
Carolina	35	16	12	7	39	99	109
Pittsburgh	37	18	16	3	39	104	118
Philadelphia	36	15	13	8	38	99	103

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	38	23	13	2	48	113	94
Nashville	35	21	9	5	47	116	99
Winnipeg	37	20	11	6	46	121	105
Dallas	37	20	14	3	43	110	106
Chicago	35	17	13	5	39	103	94
Minnesota	36	18	15	3	39	102	106
Colorado	35	17	15	3	37	112	113

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	34	23	9	2	48	119	100
Los Angeles	37	22	11	4	48	109	85
San Jose	34	19	11	4	42	95	84
Anaheim	37	16	13	8	40	101	108
Calgary	36	18	15	3	39	101	106
Edmonton	36	17	17	2	36	108	113
Vancouver	37	15	17	5	35	98	121
Arizona	38	8	25	5	21	85	133

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 No games scheduled

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
 Buffalo at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
 Montreal at Carolina, 7 p.m.
 Ottawa at Boston, 7 p.m.
 Columbus at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
 Detroit at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
 Nashville at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
 Washington at N.Y. Rangers, 8 p.m.
 Dallas at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
 Edmonton at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
 Arizona at Colorado, 9 p.m.
 Vegas at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES
 Philadelphia at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
 Boston at Washington, 7:30 p.m.
 Montreal at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
 Toronto at Arizona, 9 p.m.
 Vegas at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.
 Chicago at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
 Calgary at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES
 Buffalo at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
 N.Y. Rangers at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
 Philadelphia at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
 Pittsburgh at Carolina, 7:30 p.m.
 Columbus at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
 Nashville at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
 N.Y. Islanders at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
 St. Louis at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
 Toronto at Colorado, 9 p.m.
 Chicago at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
 Calgary at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

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

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S TOP 25 SCHEDULE
Tuesday's Games
 No games scheduled
Wednesday's Games
 No. 1 Villanova at DePaul, 7:30 p.m.
 No. 6 Xavier at Marquette, 8:30 p.m.
Today's Games
 No. 20 Gonzaga vs. Pacific, 9 p.m.
 No. 23 Seton Hall vs. No. 25 Creighton, 6:30 p.m.
Friday's Games
 No. 2 Michigan State vs. Cleveland State, 6 p.m.
 No. 7 West Virginia at Oklahoma State, 7 p.m.
 No. 11 Kansas at Texas, 9 p.m.
 No. 16 Kentucky vs. Louisville, 1 p.m.
 No. 18 Baylor at No. 22 Texas Tech, 8 p.m.

Saturday's Games
 No. 1 Villanova at Butler, 4 p.m.
 No. 3 Arizona State at No. 17 Arizona, 9 p.m.
 No. 4 Duke vs. No. 24 Florida State, 2 p.m.
 No. 5 Texas A&M at Alabama, 6 p.m.
 No. 6 Xavier vs. DePaul, 2 p.m.
 No. 8 Wichita State vs. UConn at the XL Center, Hartford, Conn., Noon
 No. 9 Virginia vs. Boston College, 2 p.m.
 No. 10 TCU vs. No. 12 Oklahoma, 2 p.m.
 No. 13 North Carolina vs. Wake Forest, Noon
 No. 14 Purdue vs. Lipscomb, 8 p.m.
 No. 15 Miami at Pittsburgh, 4 p.m.
 No. 19 Tennessee at Arkansas, 1 p.m.
 No. 20 Gonzaga vs. Santa Clara, 7 p.m.
Sunday's Games
 No. 2 Michigan State vs. Savannah State, oon
 No. 16 Kentucky vs. Georgia, 6 p.m.
 No. 21 Cincinnati vs. Memphis, 4 p.m.
 No. 23 Seton Hall vs. St. John's, 5 p.m.
 No. 25 Creighton vs. Providence, 2:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S TOP 25 SCHEDULE
Tuesday's Games
 No games scheduled
Wednesday's Games
 No games scheduled
Today's Games
 No. 2 Notre Dame vs. Syracuse, 7 p.m.
 No. 3 Louisville at Georgia Tech, 7 p.m.
 No. 5 Mississippi State vs. MVSU, 8 p.m.
 No. 6 Baylor at Kansas State, 8 p.m.
 No. 8 Texas at Oklahoma, 8 p.m.
 No. 9 West Virginia at TCU, 7:30 p.m.
 No. 12 Ohio State at Nebraska, 8 p.m.
 No. 13 Florida State vs. Jacksonville, 7 p.m.
 No. 15 Maryland vs. Illinois, 6 p.m.
 No. 18 Villanova at Creighton, 8 p.m.
 No. 19 Green Bay at Wright State, 4:30 p.m.
 No. 21 Michigan vs. Penn State, 6 p.m.
 No. 22 Texas A&M vs. SMU, 8 p.m.
 No. 23 Iowa at Wisconsin, 8 p.m.
 No. 24 Oklahoma State at Texas Tech, 7:30 p.m.</

PRO FOOTBALL

Runts? Misfits? Panthers keep finding answers at receiver

BY STEVE REED

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE — Runts. Misfits. Rungrats.

Carolina's Kaelin Clay says all of those nicknames apply when it comes to describing the unheralded collection of wide receivers on the Panthers' roster.

"A lot of us were looked down upon — were guys that nobody wanted," said Clay, one of three former undrafted rookie receivers on Carolina's 53-man roster. "A lot of us where no names coming out (of college) — or still are. But we love it. And we like being the underdogs."

It has been an odd season when it comes to Cam Newton's cast of receivers.

The team surprisingly traded Kelvin Benjamin early in the season, leaving Devin Funchess as the new No. 1 receiver.

The other receiving spot has been a revolving door with rookie Curtis Samuel and Damiere Byrd playing well before injuries forced them to injured reserve. That leaves Clay, Brenton Bersin, Russell Shepard and Mose Frazier battling for the second receiving spot as the Panthers prepare to face Atlanta on Sunday with a shot at the NFC South division title on the line.

Outside of Funchess, who was a second round pick by Carolina in 2015, Carolina's wide receivers are relatively unknown.

Clay was a sixth round pick in 2015 by Tampa Bay, but never played a down for the Buccaneers. Shepard, Frazier and Bersin were undrafted, with Bersin being cut five times before by Carolina — including earlier this season after training camp. Together, the foursome has 82 career catches for 1,083 yards and five touchdowns.

When asked what his reaction would have been if someone had told during training camp this would be the group of receivers he'd be taking into the playoffs, Panthers coach Ron Rivera let out a hearty laugh on Wednesday.

"That's what my reaction would be," Rivera said of his cackle.

Yet in many respects Rivera likes what he has at the position — a group of players who are hungry to prove they belong in the NFL. It's one of the reasons the Panthers haven't looked outside the organization for help at



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Carolina's Damiere Byrd (18) is joined by teammates as he returns a kickoff 103 yards for a touchdown in the Panthers' 22-19 victory over Tampa Bay on Sunday in Charlotte. Byrd suffered a season-ending injury later in the game.

wide receiver, even after Byrd's injury on Sunday.

"Everybody loves an underdog, right?" said Shepard, who joined the Panthers earlier this year as a free agent from Tampa Bay. "Life is about overcoming struggles. Those who overcome things the best, those are the names that you remember and you want to be like."

Panthers tight end Ed Dickson said there probably aren't many players around the league who can name more than a couple of wide receivers on the Carolina roster.

He may be right.

When asked if he could name all five Carolina wide receivers, Falcons safety Ricardo Allen replied, "Most

likely not.

"I haven't seen them since (Byrd) got hurt," Allen said. "I think one of their guys just got put on IR? I really don't know much about it."

Despite the revolving door at wide receiver, Newton said the Panthers will be just fine.

"We have a lot of hungry guys in the receiving room right now that are ready to prove themselves," Newton said. "And proving it to the outside world is irrelevant. Proving it to themselves and this team is more important, and I think that's what they are trying to do."

The Panthers (11-4) have already wrapped up a playoff spot.

They can still capture the division

and secure a home playoff game with a win Sunday and a Tampa Bay victory over New Orleans. The Panthers also have an outside shot at a first-round bye but would need a win combined with losses by the Saints and Minnesota Vikings.

NOTES: Defensive end Charles Johnson returned from a four-game suspension for substance abuse this week and linebacker Thomas Davis is back from a one-game suspension for an illegal hit. Both are expected to play against the Falcons on Sunday, Rivera said. Guard Trai Turner was back on the field after missing the last two games with a concussion, but has not yet been cleared from the NFL's concussion protocol.

BOWL ROUNDUP

Florida State beats Southern Miss 42-13

SHREVEPORT, La. — James Blackman threw three of his Independence Bowl-record four touchdown passes to Auden Tate and Florida State beat Southern Mississippi 42-13 on Wednesday.

Florida State (7-6) avoided its first losing season since 1976.

Southern Miss took a 6-0 lead in the first quarter after a 63-yard touchdown drive that was aided by two 15-yard Florida State penalties, one for unsportsmanlike conduct and the other for roughing the kicker.

Blackman matched an Independence Bowl record with three touchdown passes in the first half to help Florida State take a 23-6 lead.

The Seminoles pushed the advantage to 33-6 late in the third quarter. Cam Akers led Florida State with 94 yards rushing, and Jacques Patrick added 61 yards. Blackman completed 18 of 26 passes for 233 yards.

Southern Miss (8-5) was led by Ito Smith, who ran for 92 yards. Kwadra Griggs completed 13 of 25 passes for just 86 yards and a touchdown.

PINSTRIPE BOWL

IOWA 27

BOSTON COLLEGE 20

NEW YORK — Drake Kullick fought for a 1-yard touchdown run late in the fourth quarter on his only carry of the game and Iowa beat Boston College 27-20 in the frigid Pinstripe Bowl on Wednesday night at Yankee Stadium to snap a five-game bowl losing streak.

The Hawkeyes (8-5) had been the only team in the nation to lose a bowl game in each of the last four seasons. Iowa had last won a bowl game in 2010 and started the losing streak the next season.

Boston College (7-6) had nothing on its final drive and that ended an otherwise miserable day at Yankee Stadium. The Yankees' postseason games in October seemed downright balmy compared to



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Southern Mississippi running back Ito Smith (25) carries past Florida State linebacker Jacob Pugh (16) in the first half of the Seminoles' 42-13 victory in the Independence Bowl in Shreveport, Louisiana, on Wednesday.

the kickoff temperature of 23 degrees and a wind chill that made it feel like 12 degrees.

CACTUS BOWL

KANSAS STATE 35

UCLA 17

PHOENIX — Alex Delton ran for 158 yards and accounted for four touchdowns, leading Kansas State to a 35-17 Cactus Bowl victory over UCLA on Tuesday night in what could be the final game of coach Bill Snyder's career.

Delton replaced Skylar Thompson late in the first quarter and scored on runs of 68 yards, 3 yards and 1 yard. Alex Barnes added 117 yards and a touchdown for the Wildcats, who rushed for 345 yards.

Kansas State (8-5) struggled in the first half against UCLA's potent offense, but shut down the Bruins in the second to give Snyder his 210th — and possibly final — win with the Wildcats.

UCLA (6-7) played without top NFL prospect Josh Rosen, who's recovering from a concussion, and built a 10-point halftime lead without its star quarterback.

The Bruins' offensive success didn't carry over into the second half and their defense had a hard time containing Delton, saddling interim coach Jedd Fisch with a loss in his last game before Chip Kelly takes over the program.

Snyder turned around one of the nation's worst programs after taking over in the Little Apple in 1989. He returned in 2008 and led the Wildcats to eight straight bowl appearances.

Snyder has not decided whether he will return for a 27th season or retire again to spend time with his family.

From wire reports

SPORTS ITEMS

District 9 Officials Christmas tournament starts today at LCHS

The District 9 Officials Christmas Basketball Tournament begins today at the Lee Central High School gymnasium in Bishopville.

Play today begins at 11 a.m. with seven games on the schedule. The final one is a boys game scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. between C.E. Murray and Lee Central.

Six games are scheduled for Friday with the first one set for a noon start. The final game is set to begin at 7:30 p.m. between Lee Central and Scott's Branch.

The championship games are scheduled for Saturday with the girls starting at 6 p.m. and followed by the boys contest.

There are seven girls teams in the tournament and three boys teams.

All-day tickets are \$7 for students and \$9 for adults.

TODAY

11 a.m. — Crestwood vs. Scott's Branch (Girls)
12:30 p.m. — Blythwood vs. Hartsville (Girls)
2 p.m. — Scott's Branch vs. Newberry (Girls)
3:30 p.m. — Scott's Branch vs. C.E. Murray (Boys)
5 p.m. — Spring Valley vs. Crestwood (Girls)
6:30 p.m. — Hartsville vs. Lee Central (Girls)
8 p.m. — C.E. Murray vs. Lee Central (Boys)

FRIDAY

Noon — Newberry vs. Spring Valley (Girls)
1:30 p.m. — Lee Central vs. Blythwood (Girls)
3 p.m. — Spring Valley vs. Scott's Branch (Girls)
4:30 p.m. — C.E. Murray vs. Scott's Branch (Boys)
6 p.m. — Crestwood vs. Newberry (Girls)
7:30 p.m. — Lee Central vs. Scott's Branch (Boys)

SATURDAY

6 p.m. — Girls Championship Game
7:30 p.m. — Boys Championship Game

ASTROS' ALTUVE NAMED AP MALE ATHLETE OF YEAR

HOUSTON — Jose Altuve was chosen as The Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year on Wednesday.

Altuve is a five-time All-Star who led the majors with a career-high .346 batting average and his 204 hits topped the American League. He is the first player in MLB history to lead his league in hits in four straight seasons. He tied a career-best with 24 homers and had 81 RBIs. He was second in the AL by scoring 112 runs, his on-base percentage of .410 ranked third, he was third with 32 steals and his .547 slugging percentage ranked sixth.

His work made him the second Astro to win an MVP award, joining Hall of Famer Jeff Bagwell, who picked up the National League's honors in 1994.

LEDECKY SWIMS TO AP FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR HONORS

Katie Ledecky earned five golds and a silver at this year's world championships in Budapest, maintaining the upward trajectory she first established as a surprise gold medalist at the 2012 London Olympics.

Her dominant performance in Hungary earned Ledecky Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year honors, it was announced Tuesday.

From staff and wire reports

TIGERS

FROM PAGE B1

Alabama arrived at Louis Armstrong International New Orleans airport on damp Wednesday morning to begin their final Sugar preparations. The Tide had to replace seven defensive players drafted within the first four rounds, including first-rounders Marlon Humphrey, Jonathan Allen and Reuben Foster.

The Tigers had seven offensive starters depart, including a 4,000-yard passer, 1,000-yard receiver and 1,000-yard rusher (Wayne Gallman). Only 22.7 percent of the offensive production returned from 2016, less than all but two of 130 FBS teams.

Saban praises the way Alabama players have embraced new roles, and sees similar results from Clemson's offense led by quarterback Kelly Bryant.

"They have really good players. They recruit well," Saban said. "And the guys that they've had step in on offense have done a fantastic job for them this year, starting with the quarterback. The receivers, the new running backs, those guys have all been very effective for them. They are almost as productive offensively as they were a year ago."

And that's saying something from a group that averaged 39 points and 503 yards per game. The 2017 Clemson offense averages a still-not-shabby 35.4 points and 448 yards.

Alabama's defense is still pretty darn good, even without a dominant pass rusher like Allen or Tim Williams and with a barrage of injuries, especially at linebacker. The Tide will be without linebacker Shaun Dion Hamilton and almost certainly freshman Dylan Moses with injuries through the playoffs, along with starting safety Hootie Jones. Linebackers Christian Miller, Terrell Lewis and Mack Wilson figure to be healthier for the Sugar Bowl after returning from injuries in the regular-season finale against No. 7 Auburn.

Injuries aren't nearly as predictable as graduations and early departures but the same principle applies.



Clemson head coach Dabo Swinney, left, talks with Kelly Bryant, who has stepped in at quarterback and led the Tigers to the College Football Playoff for the third straight year.

"I think what this place does a great job of is having the next man up, everyone knowing what to do no matter who goes down," Tide cornerback Levi Wallace said.

Replacing loads of talent is nothing new for either team. Alabama has produced more NFL draft picks (65) over the past nine years than any other program, including 22 first-rounders. Five Clemson players have been chosen in the first round over the past three drafts.

Despite the NFL departures and injuries, Alabama's defense still leads the nation in scoring defense, allowing just 11.5 points per game. That's even better than last year's nation-leading 13 points allowed, and the pass defense has been even better, too.

Both units ranked second nationally in total yards allowed although Alabama's numbers last year are somewhat skewed after allowing 511 yards to Watson and the Tigers).

Versatile defensive back Minkah Fitzpatrick is a unanimous All-American who won the Chuck Bednarik and Jim Thorpe awards as the nation's top defensive player and defensive back, respectively.

Clemson offensive lineman Justin Falcinelli said Alabama's defense looks almost the same on film over the past three seasons and uses talent and technique to overpower offenses.

"It's just some different (jersey) numbers," Falcinelli said. "They are powerful."

USC

FROM PAGE B1

Moore, who was originally committed to Rutgers before signing with South Carolina, feels that he has acquitted himself well over the past five years.

"I was an overlooked guy," Moore said. "Down there in south Florida, a lot of guys get overlooked. I had a chip on my shoulder coming in, and I just always wanted to prove people wrong. People thought I was too undersized to play the position I do in this league, but I feel I proved people wrong."

As a freshman in 2013, Moore was part of South Carolina's third straight 11-2 team. The Gamecocks beat Wisconsin 34-24 in the Capital One Bowl. The following season USC dropped to 7-6 and cratered the following season as Steve Spurrier resigned as head coach in the middle of the season and Carolina went on to a 3-9 season.

Moore's fourth year saw South Carolina rebound to 6-7 under first-year head coach Will Muschamp, but Moore was sidelined the entire season with a neck injury. He came back this year and has helped the Gamecocks to an 8-4 season and more than likely his fourth year as the lead-

ing tackle.

Moore said he doesn't worry about the tackles issue when he plays, but it is still a nice accomplishment.

"We're focused on the scheme and trying to get our gaps right," Moore said of himself and Brunson. "He's going to make his plays and I'm going to make my plays. But it means a lot. It's a big accomplishment. Of all the guys that have played college football, only 15 guys (have led their team in tackles in four seasons). That's something that's big."

Moore has 88 tackles on the season to 75 for Brunson. His three interceptions give him 14 for his career, tying him with Bo Davies for the school lead.

"I hope (Moore) gets that last pick, Brunson said. "I want him to get that pick. Everyone does. That's a big deal, for a linebacker to have that many interceptions."

Moore knows how he wants to be remembered.

"A player who showed up on Saturdays and did what he had to do to help his team win," he said. "A good leader that's a good person and a guy who always made plays."



South Carolina linebacker Skai Moore (10) will be looking for his 15th career interception, which would give him the school record, in the Outback Bowl against Michigan on Sunday.

OBITUARIES

LYNNE H. BOZARD

MANNING — Lynne Hudson Bozard, 75, widow of Dr. Henry Plowden "Mutt" Bozard, died on Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2017, at her home.

Born on Oct. 24, 1942, in Greenville, North Carolina, she was a daughter of the late

Robert Edward and Virginia Ellis Hudson. She was crowned Miss Columbia in 1963 and graduated from Columbia College in 1965. She served on the Foster Care Review Board, was a retired school teacher and was a member of Manning United Methodist Church. Besides being a loving wife, mother, grandmother and sister, Lynne enjoyed playing bridge with friends; was an avid reader; enjoyed summers at the beach and the lake; and was proud to call herself a breast cancer survivor.

She is survived by a son, Henry Plowden "Bo" Bozard Jr. (Amy) of Manning; a daughter, Ashton Ellis Bozard of Columbia; two grandsons, Robert Hugh Bozard and James Hudson Bozard; three sisters, Sandra Hudson Fitts (Tom) of Lugoff, Deborah Hudson Davis of Camden and Denise Hudson McGirt (Jay) of Orlando, Florida; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday at Manning United Methodist Church with the Rev. Kem Thomas and the Rev. Dr. James C. Adams officiating. Burial will follow at Manning Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Jerry Robertson, Dr. Joseph Brantley, Billy Coffey, Fin Coffey, Billy Geddings, Frances Rich-

bourg, Dr. Clarence Coker, Carter Jones and Ed Gamble.

Visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday at Stephens Funeral Home and other times at the residence, 1270 Hickory Ridge Circle, Manning.

Memorials may be made to The H.P. "Mutt" Bozard Fire-fighter Assistance Fund, c/o Bank of Clarendon, Attn: J. Barry Ham, P.O. Box 520, Manning, SC 29102.

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

LEWIS EPPS SR.

ALCOLU — Lewis Epps Sr., 76, husband of Louise Hudson Epps, died on Saturday, Dec. 24, 2017.

He was a son of the late Willie and Gracie Tomlin Epps.

Funeral services for Mr. Epps will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday at Harmony

Presbyterian Church, Alcolu, with the Rev. Dr. Franklin D. Colclough Sr. officiating. Burial will follow at the church cemetery.

The family is receiving friends at his residence, 1544 Pinecrest Acres, Alcolu.

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

ROBERT G. DENNIS

Robert Gerald Dennis, 74, died on Dec. 1, 2017.

Born on June 8, 1943, in Greenwood, he was a son of Robert Zack and Helen Balentine Dennis. Mr. Dennis grew up in West Columbia and graduated from the University of South Carolina. He lived in Sumter for many years, where

he was the librarian at Sumter High School. After retirement, he moved to Raleigh, North Carolina, and worked at Green Road Community Library until September of this year.

Surviving him are a brother, John Carl Dennis of Spartanburg; a sister, the Rev. Beverly D. Alexander of Raleigh; as well as aunts, uncles and many cousins.

While in Sumter, he was a longtime member of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter and later Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh. He loved music, art and nature. He had an abiding sympathy for the poor.

Memorials would be welcome to any charity that serves the poor, the sick, the hungry, the homeless, the immigrant or the refugee. Notifications should be sent to John Dennis, 104 Stribling Circle, Spartanburg, SC 29301.

A private committal is planned for a later date.

SADIE G. DUNCAN

Sadie G. Duncan, age 96, died on Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017, at her residence.

Plans will be announced by Bullock Funeral Home.



ALBERTUS PORTER

Albertus Porter, 75, husband of Elaine Wright Porter, died on Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2017, at his home.

Born on June 17, 1942, in Sumter County, he was a son of Alfonzo and Lottie Ford Porter.

The family will receive relatives and friends at the home, 5590 Goshen Road.

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

BENJAMIN A. KNOX SR.

Benjamin Alonzo Knox Sr., 101, affectionately known as "Alonzo," was born on Dec. 22, 1916, in Sumter, a son of the late Mary Knox Howard.

Mr. Knox entered eternal rest on Saturday, Dec. 23, 2017, at Sumter Health & Rehabilitation Center.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday at Mount Pisgah AME Church, 217 W. Bartlette St., Sumter, SC 29150 with the Rev. Laddie Howard officiating. Interment will follow at Hillside Memorial Park.

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

Online memorials may be sent to the family at jobsmortuary@sc.rr.com or visit us on the web at www.jobsmortuary.net.

WILSON S. GREEN

Wilson Seon Green, 55, departed this earthly life on Sunday, Dec. 24, 2017, at Palmetto Health Tuomey.

Born on July 23, 1962, in Sumter County, he was a son of the late Wilson and Emma Jones Green. He received his formal education in the public schools of Thomasville, North Carolina. He was a graduate of Mayewood High School. He was employed for 17 years with Santee Prints as a supervisor and 13 years with Gold Kist as a forklift driver.

He leaves to cherish his memories: his wife, Annie Carter Green of Sumter; his adopted mother, Rosa Lee G. Ford; his children, Nicole Phillips (Stanley), Curtis Green, Tiffany Green, Whitney Green and JoeAnn Carter, all of Sumter; Charles Carter (Shonda) of Youngsville, North Carolina, Elonda Dukes (Troy) of Atlanta and Gregory Carter (Renee) of Sumter; his stepmother, Julia Green of Summerton; his

brothers, Tony Ford (Nicole) of Thomasville, North Carolina, and Reggie Ford (Shama) of Charleston; sisters, Essie Juanita Vinson (Travis) of High Point, North Carolina, Ruby Renee Green of Troy, Alabama, and Elizabeth Dallas of Thomasville; one uncle, Robert Green of Sumter; one aunt, Lillian Frierson of Sumter; 18 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

The family is receiving relatives and friends at the home, 780 Reid Roman Road, Sumter.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday at Congruity Presbyterian Church, USA, 3750 Congruity Road, Gable, with the Rev. Alonza A. Washington, pastor, eulogist.

The remains will be placed in the church at noon.

The procession will leave at 12:20 p.m. from the home.

Burial will be at Barfield Cemetery.

These services have been entrusted to the management and staff of Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter.

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

ANGLEEN ODOM

Angleen Odom, 45, departed this life on Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017, at her residence.

She was born on May 5, 1972, in Newark, New Jersey, a daughter of Larry Odom and the late Juanita McCoy Odom.

The family will be receiving friends at the home, 111 Victory Drive, Sumter, SC 29150.

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

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 Hollywood breakups of 2017.	Superstore Amy tries to prove how wild she can be.	Will & Grace The friends fantasize about the past.	Will & Grace Grace must work for an obnoxious client.	Great News Carol's parents are getting a divorce.	Chicago Fire "Down Is Better" Kidd is surprised to be transferred. (DVS)	WIS News 10 at 11 (N)	(:34) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon Gary Oldman; Gigi Hadid.	
WLTX	19	9	9	News 19 at 7pm (N)	Inside Edition (N)	The Big Bang Theory "The Separation Agitation"	(:31) Young Sheldon (DVS)	(:01) The Big Bang Theory (DVS)	(:31) Mom Adam's hard-partying friends visit.	S.W.A.T. "Pamilya" A newcomer jeopardizes his career.	News 19 at 11pm (N)	(:35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert "Joe Biden; Elton John" Joe Biden; Elton John performs.	
WOLO	25	5	12	Wheel of Fortune "Hawaii" (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	To Tell the Truth "Gabriel Iglesias; Craig Robinson; Rachel Platten; Lauren Ash" Rachel Platten; Gabriel Iglesias.		The \$100,000 Pyramid Leslie Jones; LL Cool J; Tom Bergeron.	Match Game Andy Richter; Bellamy Young; Judy Greer.	ABC Columbia News at 11 (N)		(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live Neil Patrick Harris; Armie Hammer.	
WRJA	27	11	14	Rick Steves' Europe "Amsterdam"	Palmetto Scene	A Chef's Life A challenging hunt for broccoli.	A Chef's Life Whiskey, scotch and bourbon.	Hamilton's America: The Broadway musical "Hamilton."	Reel South Old-time barn dance in North Carolina.	Amanpour on PBS (N)		Third Rail With OZY NHK Newline	
WACH	57	6	6	The Big Bang Theory "The 21-Second Excitation"	The Big Bang Theory "The Geology Elevation"	"Can't Stop, Won't Stop: A Bad Boy Story" (2017, Documentary) Puff Daddy, Faith Evans, Lil' Kim. Life of singer and entrepreneur Sean "Puff Daddy" Combs.			WACH FOX News at 10 (N) (Live)	Sports Zone		DailyMailTV "The Voice" star accused. TMZ (N)	
WKTC	63	4	22	Last Man Standing Eve wants to quit soccer.	Last Man Standing Ed wants to reunite with his ex.	iHeartRadio Music Festival Night 1: P!nk; Harry Styles; Coldplay.			Law & Order: Criminal Intent "Cold Comfort" Woman wants to freeze father.	Law & Order: Criminal Intent "Legion" Adolescents.		The Game Melanie has a sexy surprise for Derwin.	
CABLE CHANNELS													
A&E	46	130		The First 48 "M.I.A." A welder goes missing.	The First 48 "Deadly Lies; Stay Down" A man gets shot and run over by a car.	The First 48: Murder in the Family A child's birthday party turns deadly. (N)		The Menendez Murders: Erik Tells All: Erik begins to mount an appeal.		(:03) The First 48 "A Fighting Chance" A social activist is killed at a bar.		(12:03) The First 48	
AMC	48	180		(6:58) Fear the Walking Dead The group finds danger on Strand's ship.	(7:59) Fear the Walking Dead A survivalist family provides shelter.			(:01) Fear the Walking Dead Another family boards the Abigail.		(:03) Fear the Walking Dead "Captives" Alicia tries to reunite with her family.		(12:04) Fear the Walking Dead	
ANPL	41	100		Finding Bigfoot	Finding Bigfoot "Bigfoot Town"	Finding Bigfoot "Return to Four Corners"		Previous witnesses report new activity.		Finding Bigfoot		Finding Bigfoot	
BET	61	162		(4:30) ** "Takers" (2010)	** "Death at a Funeral" (2010, Comedy) Keith David, Loretta Devine, Peter Dinklage. Rival siblings learn a shocking secret about their late patriarch.			** "Django Unchained" (2012, Western) Jamie Foxx, Christoph Waltz, Leonardo DiCaprio. An ex-slave and a German bounty hunter roam America's South.					
BRAVO	47	181		Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles Madison pops a big question.	Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles The Altman's baby daughter is born.	Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles James and David make a pitch. (N)		Top Chef "Little Tools, Big Challenge" The chefs make kid-menu classics. (N)		Watch What Happens Live	Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles James and David make a pitch.		
CNBC	35	84		Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank Stylish baby shoes.		Shark Tank		The Profit "Top 10 Rules for Success"	The Profit		
CNN	3	80		Erin Burnett OutFront (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	CNN Special Report		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)	Special Report		
COM	57	136		South Park "Cartman Finds Love"	South Park "Professor Chaos"	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	(:35) South Park	(:05) South Park "Chinoko Mon"	(:35) South Park	(12:05) South Park "It Hits the Fan"
DISN	18	200		The Suite Life on Deck	The Suite Life on Deck A beach club.	The Suite Life on Deck	The Suite Life on Deck	The Suite Life on Deck	Andi Mack Andi takes a stand.	Liv and Maddie	Bizaardvark	Raven's Home	Stuck in the Middle
DSC	42	103		Naked and Afraid "The Hunted"	Naked and Afraid "King of the Mountain"	Survivalists on Montserrat. (N)					Naked and Afraid "Eye of the Storm"	Naked and Afraid	
ESPN	26	35		College Football: Camping World Bowl	Scoreboard	College Football Valero Alamo Bowl -- Stanford vs TCU. (N) (Live)							
ESPN2	27	39		College Basketball Tulane at Temple. (N) (Live)		College Basketball Pacific at Gonzaga. (N) (Live)				SportsCenter (N) (Live)		SportsCenter (N)	
FOOD	40	109		Chopped Naan and blood sausages.	Chopped "Better Duck Next Time"	Chopped "Cocktail Party"		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)				Tucker Carlson	
FREE	20	131		(6:30) Movie Night With Karlie Kloss "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" (Series Premiere) Karlie and her friends watch a film. (N)				Beyond "Beyond: What Lies Ahead"		The 700 Club III infant's mother prays for a miracle.	** "Mirror Mirror" (2012)	** "Mirror Mirror" (2012)	
FSS	21	47		Holiday Parade	Future Phenoms	Women's College Basketball Texas at Oklahoma. (N) (Live)		89 Blocks		Future Phenoms	Wm. Basketball		
HALL	52	183		(6:00) "The Christmas Cottage" (2017) Merritt Patterson, Steve Lund.	"Christmas at Holly Lodge" (2017, Drama) Alison Sweeney, Jordan Bridges, Sheryl Lee Ralph. Sophie tries to save her Holly Lodge from a developer.			"A Gift to Remember" (2017, Romance) Peter Porte, Ali Liebert, Jennifer Koenig. A hopeless romantic finds love with a handsome stranger.		Peter Porte, Ali Liebert, Jennifer Koenig. A hopeless romantic finds love with a handsome stranger.	"Looks Like Christmas" (2016)	"Looks Like Christmas" (2016)	
HGTV	39	112		Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop Ft.	Flip or Flop	House Hunters	Hunters Int'l	House Hunters	Hunters Int'l	Flip or Flop Ft.
HIST	45	110		American Pickers (DVS)	American Pickers (DVS)	American Pickers "Big Money Rides"		(:12) American Pickers "Time Warp"		(:11) American Pickers (DVS)	American Pickers		American Pickers
ION	13	18		Blue Bloods "Payback" A suspect's confession is questioned.	Blue Bloods "New Rules" NYPD Deputy Chief Donald Kent is killed.	Blue Bloods "The Art of War" Danny tries to track down a shooter.		Blue Bloods "Worst Case Scenario" A threat to New York may be imminent.		Blue Bloods "Absolute Power" Danny receives a chilling message.	Blue Bloods (DVS)		Blue Bloods (DVS)
LIFE	50	145		Grey's Anatomy Izzie grills George about his life.	** "First Daughter" (2004, Romance-Comedy) Katie Holmes, Marc Blucas, Amerie Rogers. The president's daughter falls for a man at college.			(:02) * "What Happens in Vegas" (2008, Romance-Comedy) Cameron Diaz, Ashton Kutcher. Two strangers awake together and find they are married.				(12:01) ** "First Daughter" (2004)	
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		Rachel Maddow
NICK	16	210		Henry Danger	** "Megamind" (2010, Children's) Voices of Will Ferrell, Brad Pitt.			Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Friends	Friends		Friends
SPIKE	64	153		Friends	Friends	** "The Day After Tomorrow" (2004) Dennis Quaid. Global warming leads to worldwide natural disasters.							** Taken
SYFY	58	152		** "G.I. Joe: Retaliation" (2013, Action) within the government jeopardize the G.I. Joes. (DVS)	Dwayne Johnson, Bruce Willis. Threats from Seinfeld "The Caddy"	Seinfeld "The Caddy"	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	Ghost Wars "There's No More Room in Hell" Civil unrest breaks out in town.	Superstition "Uncle Bubba" Venturing into a clock domain house. (N)	Happy! "Year of the Horse"	Happy! "Year of the Horse"	
TBS	24	156		Seinfeld Elaine mulls intimacy.	Seinfeld "The Rye"	Seinfeld "The Seven"	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	Conan musician "Weird Al" Yankovic.	Conan musician "Weird Al" Yankovic.	Drop the Mic		Drop the Mic
TCM	49	186		(6:00) ** "Firecreek" (1968, Western) James Stewart, Henry Fonda.	** "The Dolly Sisters" (1946, Musical) Hungarian-born sisters become the toast of vaudeville.			(:15) *** "Annie Get Your Gun" (1950, Musical) Betty Hutton, Howard Keel. Irving Berlin's musical about sharpshooter Annie Oakley.				(12:15) **** "On the Town"	
TLC	43	157		Unexpected "Home Alone"	Unexpected "Ticking Clocks"	Unexpected (N)		I Catfished My Kid		(:02) Unexpected	I Catfished My Kid		I Catfished My Kid
TNT	23	158		NCIS: New Orleans "Stolen Valor" A retired SEAL is murdered.	NBA Basketball Houston Rockets at Boston Celtics. (N Subject to Blackout) (Live)			NBA Basketball Philadelphia 76ers at Portland Trail Blazers. (N Subject to Blackout) (Live)					
TRUTV	38	129		Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Carbonaro Eff.	Carbonaro Eff.	Carbonaro Eff.	Carbonaro Eff.	Carbonaro Eff.	Carbonaro Eff.	Carbonaro Eff.	
TV LAND	55	161		M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Mom	Mom	King of Queens	King of Queens
USA	25	132		(:07) Law & Order: Special Victims Unit A teenage girl makes a rape accusation.	(:15) Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Carisi investigates his sister's fiancé.	(:08) Law & Order: Special Victims Unit A coed says she was raped.		Damnation "A Different Species" Creeley meets his master. (N) (DVS)		(:01) Law & Order: Special Victims Unit An officer helps a woman in trouble.	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	
WE	68	166		Tamar & Vince "Hard to Manage"	Tamar & Vince "Last Effort for Peace"	Tamar & Vince "Bluebird Flies"		(:12) Growing Up Hip Hop Atlanta (N)		(:12) Tamar & Vince "Bluebird Flies"	Tamar & Vince	Tamar & Vince	
WGNA	8	172		Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	

Summing up, reflecting on TV trends of 2017

BY KEVIN MCDONOUGH

A night that ABC dedicates to three repeat game shows is as good as any to glance back at the TV trends of 2017.

Covering a medium that churns out more than 400 new scripted series a year leaves little time to sum up the year's best and worst. Last year, FX's "People vs. OJ Simpson" was both the best series of the year and a drama almost frightening in its ability to capture the zeitgeist. Did a similar series emerge in 2017?

More than any other series, Hulu's "Handmaid's Tale" was the drama of the year, a dystopian tale of grim Fundamentalist patriarchy, perfectly timed to air, or rather stream, right after the Women's March on Washington and before the #MeToo movement that emerged in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein revelations.

As topical as it seemed, "Handmaid's Tale" was also a fairly faithful adaptation of Margaret Atwood's 1985 novel, and as such, a reflection of the fears of that era as well as our own.

The history of television in 2017 will be dominated by the departures of media stars in the wake after revelations of sexually abusive behavior. Bill O'Reilly, Louis C.K., Kevin Spacey, Charlie Rose and Matt Lauer are only the biggest names among the disgraced.

The exit of two morning television hosts also dovetailed with a weird 2017 story — NBC's attempt to dumb down Megyn Kelly to make her chirpy, inoffensive and palatable to a morning audience acclimated to inane repetitive drivel disguised as "news." The "Veep" sendup of morning news shows featuring Dan Egan (Reid Scott) is as savage as it is accurate.

Kelly's "fun" show was tanking be-



GEORGE KRAYCHYK / HULU

Elisabeth Moss stars as Offred in the Hulu series "The Handmaid's Tale."

fore she seized upon stories of women making accusations of sexual abuse and harassment at the highest levels.

If any good can come out of a year characterized by "The Handmaid's Tale" and the MeToo movement, it's the emergence of morning news aimed at women who think.

The year also continued a trend toward corporate gigantism in television production and distribution. I'm not just talking about Disney's proposed purchase of Fox. Netflix has grown so large so fast that its subscriber list basically equals the number of people with cable access. In other words, Netflix has become as big as all of its competitors, combined. How big is too big?

CULT CHOICE

Betty Hutton and Howard Keel star in the 1950 adaptation of the Irving Ber-

lin stage musical "Annie Get Your Gun" (10:15 p.m., TCM). Hutton only got the part after the firing of an insubordinate Judy Garland, who had been cast in place of Ethel Merman, the belter who helped make "Annie" a hit on Broadway. Sounds like "Valley of the Dolls!"

TONIGHT'S OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- "Apple Music's Can't Stop Won't Stop: A Bad Boy Story" (8 p.m., Fox, TV-14) chronicles a hip-hop reunion.
- Rachel Platten, Gabriel Iglesias, Lauren Ash and Craig Robinson play "To Tell the Truth" (8 p.m. ABC, r, TV-PG).
- Ryan Seacrest hosts "iHeartRadio Music Festival Night 1" (8 p.m., CW, r).
- Michael Strahan hosts "The \$100,000 Pyramid" (9 p.m. ABC, r, TV-PG).
- Carol's parents announce their di-

voice after 70 years together on "Great News" (9:30 p.m., NBC, TV-PG).

- Jim may be too loyal to his old ties on "S.W.A.T." (10 p.m., CBS, r, TV-14).
- Kidd is shocked to hear of her transfer on "Chicago Fire" (10 p.m., NBC, TV-14).
- Alec Baldwin hosts "Match Game," (10 p.m., ABC, r, TV-14).

SERIES NOTES

Jealousy consumes Leonard on "The Big Bang Theory" (8 p.m., CBS, r, TV-PG) * Amy tries to act "wild" on "Superstore" (8 p.m., NBC, r, TV-14) * Smarts aren't everything on "Young Sheldon" (8:30 p.m., CBS, r, TV-PG) * On two helpings of "Will & Grace" (NBC, r, TV-14), olde New York (8:30 p.m.), lucky numbers (9 p.m.) * Adam's rowdy entourage descends on "Mom" (8 p.m., CBS, r, TV-PG) * Too close for comfort on "Life in Pieces" (9:30 p.m., CBS, TV-PG).

LATE NIGHT

"The Daily Show With Trevor Noah" (11 p.m., Comedy Central) is pre-empted * "Weird Al" Yankovic, Taran Killam and Solomon Georgio appear on "Conan" (11 p.m., TBS, r) * Joe Biden and Elton John are booked on "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" (11:35 p.m., CBS, r) * Jimmy Fallon welcomes Gary Oldman, Gigi Hadid, Darryl Strawberry and Macklemore on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC) * Armie Hammer, Vanessa Kirby and Jules Sylvester appear on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" (11:35 p.m., ABC, r), guest-hosted by Neil Patrick Harris.

Copyright 2017 United Feature Syndicate

'Star Wars: The Last Jedi' still dominating movie galaxy

BY SANDY COHEN

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" is continuing its dominance over the movie galaxy as expected, outpacing three new releases. The eighth installment in the Disney-owned space saga was expected to add another nearly \$69 million to its coffers over the weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Sony's adventure caper "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" debuted in second place with \$34 million. A

pair of critically panned new musicals followed: Universal's "Pitch Perfect 3" opened in third place with \$20.4 million and Fox's "The Greatest Showman" debuted in fourth with \$8.6 million.

These three new releases collectively earned less than "The Last Jedi" since opening on Friday.

"It's an overwhelming array of options at the movie theater, which could prove daunting to most moviegoers," said box office analyst Paul Dergarabedian of comScore. "But you'd have to be a Scrooge not to find a

movie you like in this marketplace."

Sony's president of distribution, Adrian Smith, said he was "absolutely pleased" with the performance of "Jumanji" so far.

"It's above our expectations," he said. "We have incredible momentum as we head into one of the biggest movie-going weeks of the year."

Dergarabedian said the period between Christmas and New Year's Day is traditionally among the busiest times at the Cineplex. Families are together and the-



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This image released by Lucasfilm shows BB-8 in "Star Wars: The Last Jedi."

aters are brimming with blockbusters and awards-season hopefuls. Two celebrated films, "Darkest

Hour" and "The Shape of Water," expanded to hundreds more screens this weekend.

the Sumter ITEM CLASSIFIEDS

To Place Your Classified Ads, Please call

803-774-1200

OR TO PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE GO TO WWW.THE ITEM.COM/PLACEMENT

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

11:30 a.m. the day before for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday edition.
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.

BUSINESS SERVICES

Health Service/ Medical

1st Care Home Health
Professional & Certified Home Care Aide. Call Barola Prince 803-391-2387. Certified

Home Improvements

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

Legal Service

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

Roofing

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

Tree Service

Newman's Tree Service Tree removal, trimming, topping, view enhancement pruning, bobcat work stump grinding, Lic & insured. Call 803-316-0128

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

Want to Buy

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

Firewood

Split Oak Firewood \$55 for truck load, 2 truck loads for \$100. Delivered stacked. 843-536-6050

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted Full-Time

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

Contractors Wanted!

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

Help Wanted Full-Time

Administrative Assistant
Manufacturing facility in Sumter, SC is looking for an Administrative Assistant with experience in financial accounting. Candidate will be responsible for supervising office staff, familiar with debits/credits, billing, payroll, and insurance. Must have ability to effectively communicate with diverse group of people. Minimum of 7-10 years of Accounting g/Management experience. Bachelor's Degree or higher required. Send your resume' to:
Santee Print Works
PO Box 340 Sumter, SC 29151
Attn: J Blackmon
Or email to: jblackmon@santeeprint.com

Front Desk Clerk & Maintenance person needed. Some experience helpful. Apply in person 9 am - 3 pm. Mon - Fri. at Mt. Vernon Inn, 2 Broad St. Sumter.

Electrical Supervisor
Large textile manufacturer of quality printed, dyed and finished fabrics is in search of an experienced salaried Electrical Supervisor. The successful candidate will be responsible for leading a team of electrical maintenance personnel. Must have ability to effectively communicate with a diverse group of people. Minimum of 4 years' experience in Electrical Maintenance Supervision and the design, installation, and troubleshooting of drive and control systems in a production facility. Pay commensurate with experience. Excellent Benefit package
Send your resume' to:
Santee Print Works
HR Department
PO Box 340 Sumter, SC 29151
Or email to: hr@santeeprint.com
An Equal Opportunity Employer

RENTALS

Furnished Apartments

Apartment for Rent
Furnished, quiet country setting, single occupancy only. Excellent for elderly. No smoking, alcohol or drugs. Safe and secure. \$550/month Call 803-481-0015

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

Huntington Place Apartments

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

Mobile Home Rentals

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

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

Commercial Rentals

32,000 Sq. ft shed
\$1500 mo.
Call Bobby Sisson
803-464-2730.



Land & Lots for Sale

OWNER FINANCING! 3 acres for sale by owner near St. Charles. Call or text 803-464-5813.



Autos For Sale

Holiday Sales
Cars, Trucks and Vans
Starting at \$1995
Price is Right Auto Sales
3210 Broad St 803-494-4275



Legal Notice

LEGAL NOTICE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Ben T. Green, Sr. vs. Exide Corporation

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-styled action is presently pending before the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission in connection with a work-related incident of Ben T. Green Sr., Deceased, in a work-related incident in Sumter, South Carolina in June of 1982. Any person or persons having information concerning the identity and/or location of anyone who is, or claims to be, an heir at law of the said Ben T. Green, Sr., Deceased, at the time of his injury, or claims to have been dependent upon the said Ben T. Green, Sr., Deceased, at the time of his death on November 17, 1982, please contact Chris Tuten, Tuten Insurance Services, 236 Ranch Lake Road, Chapin, South Carolina 29036, Telephone (803) 783-2008 no later than January 5, 2018.

Bid Notices

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Sealed proposals will be received by the Purchasing Director until **11:00 am on Tuesday, January 9, 2018** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Opening will be held in the Office of the Purchasing Department, Sumter County Administration Building, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, South Carolina 29150.

Proposals will be for the purpose of furnishing the County of Sumter with one (1) each new, complete fire truck and related equipment. A copy of the instructions to proposers and specifications are included in this package.

The County of Sumter reserves the

Bid Notices

right to reject any or all proposals, to waive any or all technicalities and to award the contract as it appears to be in the best interest of the County.

The right is also reserved to hold any or all proposals for a period not exceeding thirty (30) days from the opening thereof.

Questions concerning the equipment specifications may be directed to: Mr. Robert E. Galloway, Jr.
E m a i l : P u r c h a s i n g @sumtercountysc.org
Sumter County
13 East Canal Street
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone (803) 436-2329

All proposals must be submitted to: Mr. Robert E. Galloway, Jr.
E m a i l : P u r c h a s i n g @sumtercountysc.org
Sumter County
13 East Canal Street
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone (803) 436-2329

The package should be marked as specified **"FIRE TRUCK PROPOSAL"**.

Summons & Notice

SUMMONS AND NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS C/A NO: 2017CP4302251 (NON-JURY MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE)

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF SUMTER

CitiMortgage, Inc., PLAINTIFF,

vs. The State of South Carolina; and Any Heirs or devisees of The Estate of Pearl V. Welch, deceased, and/or The Estate of Julia D. Pezwe, deceased; including any other Heirs, Personal Representatives, Successors, Assigns, Spouses, Creditors, and all others claiming any right, title or interest in the real estate known as 13 East College Street, Sumter, SC 29150, any adults or persons in the Military Service of the United States of America, being a class designated as John Doe, and any minors or persons under legal disability, being a class designated as Richard Roe, DEFENDANT(S).

TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint herein, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, or to otherwise appear and defend, and to serve a copy of your Answer to said Complaint upon the subscribers at their office, P.O. Box 71727, North Charleston, South Carolina, 29415, within thirty (30) days after service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; except that the United States of America, if named, shall have sixty (60) days to answer after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to

Summons & Notice

answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, or otherwise appear and defend, the Plaintiff in this action will apply to the Court for relief demanded therein, and judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

TO THE MINOR(S) OVER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE, AND/OR TO MINOR(S) UNDER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND THE PERSON WITH WHOM THE MINOR(S) RESIDES AND/OR TO PERSONS UNDER SOME LEGAL DISABILITY:

YOU ARE FURTHER SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to apply for the appointment of a guardian ad litem within thirty (30) days after the service of this Summons and Notice upon you. If you fail to do so, application for such appointment will be made by the Plaintiff.

YOU WILL ALSO TAKE NOTICE that should you fail to answer the foregoing Summons, the Plaintiff will move for a general Order of Reference to the Master in Equity for Sumter, which Order shall, pursuant to Rule 53(b) of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure, specifically provide that the said Master in Equity is authorized and empowered to enter a final judgment in this action.

NOTICE OF FILING COMPLAINT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the original Complaint in the above entitled action, together with the Summons, was filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Sumter County on November 21, 2017 at 12:03 p.m.

ORDER APPOINTING GUARDIAN AD LITEM NISI

It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court, upon reading and filing of the Petition of the Plaintiff for the appointment of Kelley Y Woody, attorney in Columbia, South Carolina, as Guardian ad Litem Nisi for all unknown minors, and for all persons who may be under a legal disability, it is

ORDERED that Kelley Y Woody, Attorney at Law, be and she is hereby appointed Guardian ad Litem Nisi on behalf of unknown minors or persons under a legal disability, all of whom may have an interest in or claim to have some interest in the real property known as 13 East College Street, Sumter, SC 29150; that she is empowered and directed to appear on behalf of and represent said Defendants, unless the said Defendants, or someone on their behalf, shall within thirty (30) days after service of a copy hereof as directed, procure the appointment of a Guardian ad Litem for the said Defendants;

AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this Order shall forthwith be served upon the said Defendants by publication thereof in The Item, a newspaper of general

Summons & Notice

circulation published in the County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, once a week for three consecutive weeks, together with the Summons in the above entitled action.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the Supreme Court of South Carolina Administrative Order 2011-05-02-01, you may be eligible for foreclosure intervention programs for the purpose of resolving the above-referenced foreclosure action. If you wish to be considered for a foreclosure intervention program, you must contact Finkel Law Firm LLC, 4000 Faber Place Drive, Suite 450 (29405), P.O. Box 71727 (29415), North Charleston, SC 29405, or call (843) 577-5460 within thirty (30) days from the date of this notice. Finkel Law Firm LLC represents the Plaintiff in this action. Our law firm does not represent you and is not authorized to provide you any legal advice.

IF YOU FAIL, REFUSE, OR VOLUNTARILY ELECT NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS FORECLOSURE INTERVENTION PROCESS, THE FORECLOSURE MAY PROCEED.

NOTICE PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT (15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq.): This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information you provide will be used for that purpose. However, if you have previously received a discharge from bankruptcy, this message is not and should be construed as an attempt to collect a debt, but only as a requirement pursuant to the administrative order.

James C. Campbell
Clerk of Court
for Sumter County
Sumter, South Carolina
December 7, 2017

FINKELEW LAW FIRM LLC
Thomas A. Shook
P.O. Box 71727
North Charleston, SC 29415
(843) 577-5460
Attorney for Plaintiff

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

ADVERTISING IS KEY

the Sumter ITEM
36 W. Liberty Street
Sumter, SC 29150
www.theitem.com

TOP 10 REASONS to advertise frequently

1. People may not need your product or service today, but they may need it tomorrow.
2. Frequency builds trust.
3. Frequent advertising adds credibility to your message.
4. When an ad is seen frequently, it gets the consumer yearning for your service and they will take action to buy it.
5. Advertising frequently helps put your name out in front of the competition's.
6. Frequency is the best way to get lower advertising rates.
7. Advertising frequently is a lot like repeatedly inviting a friend to come see you. One day, they are bound to visit!
8. Frequent advertising helps you build a steady source of incoming sales.
9. Out of sight, out of mind.
10. You make more money when you do! It's plain and simple.

the Sumter ITEM

CONTRACTORS WANTED!*
For Routes in Our Delivery Area

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

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

***PRN CONTRACTORS AS NEEDED.**

Classified In-line

Edition
Fri., Dec. 22nd
Sun., Dec. 24th
Tues., Dec. 26th
Tues., Jan. 2nd

Deadline
Wed. Dec. 20th @ 11:30 am
Thurs. Dec. 21st @ 9:30 am
Thurs. Dec. 21st @ 11:30am
Thurs. Dec. 28th @ 2 pm

Have a safe and Merry Christmas!
Business office will be closed December 22nd, 25th and January 1

the Sumter ITEM
36 W. Liberty Street
Sumter, SC
803-774-1200