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THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2016 75 CENTS

IN RELIGION: Are 'faith-based' films a must see? A4



THE CLARENDON SUN

Bringing a TV show to life

Summerton's Sanford and Son offers unique finds A6

Candidate filing period begins

Primary elections set for June 14

BY JIM HILLEY

jim@theitem.com

Wednesday was the first day for candidates seeking a political party's nomination for an office in the Nov. 8

General Election, but most candidates wait to file their paperwork, said Sumter County Voter Registration Director Patricia Jefferson.

Primary elections will be held June 14, according to www.scvotes.org.

"Mostly they (candidates) file on the last day," Jefferson said Wednesday morning. "But we did receive some calls yesterday wanting to know when filing opens today."

On ballots in the tri-county area, depending on location, will be South Carolina House districts 50, 51, 64, 67 and 70 and Senate districts 35 and 36.

Sumter County Council Areas 1, 3, 5 and 7 are also up for election.

County level offices up for election are auditor, clerk of court, coroner, sheriff and treasurer. Soil and Water Conservation Districts are also on the ballot.

SEE **FILING**, PAGE A10

'It's ... stood as a beacon of education'

Quinn Chapel School alumni share memories

BY JIM HILLEY

jim@theitem.com

A small, nondescript building sits behind Quinn Chapel Church at the intersection of Queen Chapel and Brewington roads.

The windows are boarded up, and the wooden structure slowly turns to shades of gray in the South Carolina sun and rain.

Inside, the two-room structure is filled with the dust-covered debris of years as a Masonic meeting hall and church memorial chapel.

A decrepit old piano sits in one corner. The old windows are stacked against a wall. Old tables and chairs are strewn about. A wasp's nest hangs from what remains of the ceiling as a number of the insects fly around an open door.

As brothers Eli and Victor Baker gaze around the room, a burst of memories must flood through them of a time and a place that seems long ago — almost in another world.

Three days earlier, the Quinn Chapel Church was filled with the voices of speakers and the sound of gospel music as a reunion of former students at the all-black



Victor C. Baker, left, and his brother, Eli W. Baker, talk about going to school at the Quinn Chapel School.

KEITH GEDAMKE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Quinn Chapel School were honored by the church's congregation and others who came to pay their respects to the aging alumni from the humble school.

Eli Baker, was a principal at Lemira Elementary School for

four years and Willow Drive Elementary School for 12 years. His long career in education found its beginning in the old building standing behind the church, at a time before desegregation when "separate but equal," was the law

of the land.

"It's a building that has stood as a beacon of education for at least 95 years," he said Saturday to the gathering that included about a dozen of his former classmates. "It's hallowed ground that

launched so many into the world. Something significant took place from the labor of caring teachers."

He said a reunion for a grade school is an uncommon

SEE **SCHOOL**, PAGE A10

S.C. moves on military retiree income tax cut

COLUMBIA (AP) — South Carolina lawmakers have approved legislation to sharply increase state income tax exemptions for military retirees.

A Senate Finance subcommittee sent to the full panel Tuesday legislation to increase a current tax exemption on retirement income for veterans 64 and under from \$3,000 to \$15,000 every year.

The panel also approved increasing tax exemptions for veterans over 65 from \$15,000 to \$30,000 annually. The exemptions would take effect in the current tax year.

The panel amended legislation that had called for a three-year, phased-in plan to exempt all income taxes for retirees who had served 20 years.

William Bethea, chairman of the state's Military Base Task Force, said he was elated. Bethea has worked for three years to increase veterans' tax exemptions.

Obama nominates Garland to high court, challenging GOP

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Obama nominated appeals court judge Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court on Wednesday, thrusting a respected moderate jurist and former prosecutor into the center of an election-year clash for the future of the nation's highest court.

Obama cast the 63-year-old Garland as "a serious man and an exemplary judge" deserving of a full hearing and a Senate confirmation vote, despite Republican vows to deny him both.

Standing in the White House Rose Garden with Garland, Obama argued the integrity of the court was at stake and appealed to the Senate to "play it straight" in filling the seat left vacant by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia.

"It's supposed to be above poli-



tics," Obama said of the high court. "It has to be. And it should stay that way."

Republican leaders, however, held to their refusal to consider any nominee, saying the seat

should be filled by the next president after this year's election. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell spoke with Garland by phone

SEE **JUSTICE**, PAGE A10

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DEATHS, B5

Mary Agnes Thomas
Carrie Lee Grant
Tyron Harvin
Brenda Harrison
Daniel Kay Hill Sr.
Jailynn Andrews

Joan Tipton
Essie Kennedy
Richard G. Barkley
Joan Fay Matt
David J. Benenhaley

WEATHER, A12

A TAD BIT COOLER
Partly sunny today and warm; turning clear tonight.

HIGH 80, LOW 51

INSIDE

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SECOND FRONT

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

South Carolina rolls out 2-1-1 service for disaster help

FROM STAFF REPORTS

There is good news for individuals in need of long term disaster recovery case management after the October 2015 flood. South Carolina 2-1-1 Information and Referral has begun Disaster Case Management Intake.

Victims of the flood still in need of assistance are able to dial 2-1-1 to have their information entered into the disaster case management coordinated system.

Hearts and Hands Disaster Recovery, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, will be the main provider of Disaster Case Management across the state. All residents in need of flood recovery will be assigned to Hearts and Hands for long-term recovery assistance.

S.C. 2-1-1 is not the agency providing disaster case management services but is an avenue for entering the system. Not everyone who enters the system will be eligible for disaster case management services. Flood victims still in need can dial 2-1-1, select their language and select option 7 when prompted to be connected to an intake specialist.

S.C. 2-1-1 is a service of the United Way Association of S.C., and the Disaster Case Management Intake service was made possible through a grant from the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce.

When flood victims previously called 2-1-1, they were referred to organizations providing assistance in their communities.

"Those needing help were given a list of available resources that were known at the time," said Richard LaPratt, vice president of the Contact Center Services at United Way Association of South Carolina. "Now we are able to get them in the system. With a disaster of this magnitude, it will still take some time for long term recovery groups to begin the disaster case management process, but flood victims should know that they have not been forgotten."

LADSON BOOTH 'MR. LADD' CHANDLER — 1928-2016

Beloved puppeteer touched the lives of generations of children

Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain," the Wizard of Oz said, attempting to hide his true identity from Dorothy Gale and her friends. While Ladson Booth "Mr. Ladd" Chandler made his puppets the stars of his shows, he was not hiding backstage at their performances — rather, he often spoke directly to his young audiences, conversing with them about the importance of being a good friend, sharing, not interacting with strangers and respect.

And the children loved and respected him.

After one of his regular performances for a second-grade class at Willow Drive Elementary School in the mid-1990s, several of the students expressed their love for the puppeteer. Among their comments?

"He loves us a lot. ... He walks here to read to us even if it's raining. ... He adopted us," said one.

"He cares for us," said another, and "he taught us to share and to love other people."

That caring attitude and his gift for reaching and entertaining children earned Mr. Ladd the designation as one of Sumter's Heroes a decade ago; back in 1994, South Carolina PTA District 13, comprising Sumter, Lee and Clarendon counties, honored him with the President's Award for service to children.

Mr. Ladd, who died Sunday at 87, was a Sumter native, a U.S. Navy veteran, a graduate of the N.Y. School of Fashion Design, a charter member of the Sumter Artists Guild and a retired life insurance salesman; but puppetry was his true vocation, which he took up full time in 1974.

Few who grew up in Sumter in the past four decades have not witnessed a performance by Mr. Ladd and his puppets or read his former column, Puppet Talk, that ran in *The Sumter Item* for many years. In the column, usually "written by" one of the puppets, young readers gained insight into Mr. Ladd's rich home life with his friends, such as (puppet) Patty McDougal.

She wrote of the birthday party the puppets gave Mr. Ladd "Remembering the good manners taught them by Mr. Ladd, the puppets took only one piece of cake and one cup of punch ... A good time was had by all, and the happy event ended with all the puppets ... singing the Happy Birthday song to Mr. Ladd."

Ann Beatty, a cousin of Mr. Ladd, said she will remember him as "a truly unique individual who loved his puppets and loved entertaining children with them. Many a Christmas night at a huge family party that my grandmother would host, Laddie would bring



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTOS

Above, Children watch intently as Ladson "Mr. Ladd" Chandler puts on a show at Bright Beginnings Day Care in 1990. Mr. Ladd began his career as a professional puppeteer in 1974. Right, children flock to Mr. Ladd after one of his many puppet shows.

the puppets to entertain us. He also loved opera and would incorporate it into his shows. ...

"He always had a story to tell, with or without his puppets. He was a very kind person, never married, and later in life lived with his mother and took care of her 'til she died."

Another cousin, Richard Booth, described him as "a sweet and gentle person," who loved classical music and opera and was "creative and interesting to all the children in town."

Booth also recalled fondly the holidays at his grandmother's house, when "Laddie would put on a puppet show and entertain us. He was an integral part of the extended Booth family. He was very devoted to caring for his mother, who lived to 101."

Mr. Ladd always took the time to talk with children and to introduce them and adults to his "Puppetland," those who knew him said.

Debbie Watson-Hayes recalls that Mr. Ladd "came to my table at Cole's long ago and introduced himself and some of his puppets. He told me he had gone back to school and was studying Spanish. Of course, when (my daughter) Whit came along, I took her to his shows at the mall. He made all his puppets and loved to bring them to life at his shows."

Through his many puppet "children," such as Pinky Rabbit, Carlotta Ostrich, Abigail Duck, Munchy Mouse, Freddy Frog and others, Mr. Ladd gently reminded his young human audience — and many adults — of good manners, morals and concern for others. He and his puppets explored reasons for happiness, too.

"Happiness is in your own back



yard," Pinky Rabbit advised. "If you're happy, then other people will be happy around you."

As Mr. Ladd said after a performance at Bright Beginnings Day Care many years ago:

"I think when you're given a God-given talent, you work with children and help them to lead a better life and to learn good morals. ... There are a lot of adults who can't communicate with children, unfortunately."

"Fortunately, they've given me the golden key to the magic garden because I live in two worlds. I live in the adult world as Ladson Chandler and the marvelous, exciting world of Puppet Land."

To see an example of Mr. Ladd's puppetry, see the YouTube link: <http://bit.ly/1R340YG>.

Graveside services for Mr. Ladd will be held at 11 a.m. Friday in Sumter Cemetery with the Rev. Michael Jones officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Calvary Bible Church, 770 N. Wise Drive, Sumter, SC 29153 or to the Salvation Army.

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

— Ivy Moore

Final suspect arrested in Amberwood Drive shooting

FROM STAFF REPORTS

On Wednesday, Sumter County Sheriff's Office arrested the final suspect involved in a shooting that took place at a residence on Amberwood Drive on Friday, according to a news release from the agency.

Officers arrested 24-year-old Marquis O. Richburg, of 833



RICHBURG

Club Lane, Sumter, for allegedly accompanying another man, 29-year-old Fuqron Nelson, to the Amberwood Drive residence where the two men reportedly had an altercation with the resident, Marion Simms.

Richburg and Nelson are relatives of Simms's ex-wife who got into an argument with Simms earlier that day.

During the shooting incident, Nelson grabbed a female victim at Simms's house and dragged her from the residence against her will, according the sheriff's office release.

According to the release, Nelson was shot in the leg by Simms in defense of the female victim and was taken to Palmetto Health Tuomey for treatment via a personal vehicle.

Nelson is charged with possession of a weapon during a violent crime; kidnapping; first degree burglary; and

criminal conspiracy.

Richburg reportedly fled the scene and evaded law enforcement after the shooting.

The release states the victim and other witnesses have given statements to law enforcement implicating Richburg, who is now charged with criminal conspiracy and first degree burglary.

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LOCAL BRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Bishopville motorcyclist killed in Darlington Co.

A motorcyclist from Bishopville was killed Tuesday evening in Darlington County, according to Cpl. Sonny Collins of South Carolina Highway Patrol.

Darlington County Deputy Coroner Wilber Vaughan identified the victim as Ronnie L. Hill, 58, of 275 Anderson Hill Road, Bishopville. He was killed about 9:35 p.m. Tuesday on Old Camden Road in Darlington County, according to Collins. Hill, who was not wearing a helmet, apparently drove his 1983 Harley-Davidson motorcycle off the road into a ditch, Collins said.

Easter giveaway Saturday in Bishopville

The Good Samaritans for All People Inc. will have its Easter Giveaway at 8 a.m. Saturday at the Old Bishopville High School football field on U.S. 15 in Bishopville.

Rev. Eddie Thomas Jr., president of the organization, said the events are planned to help poor people and especially single-parent families. The organization has been doing the giveaways several times a year for more than 20 years.

Thomas said the Easter Giveaway will include food items, clothing, furniture, candy, stuffed animals and Easter items.

For more information or to make a donation, call Thomas at (803) 428-4448 or (803) 459-4989.

Zumbathon raises money for sickle cell foundation

BY JIM HILLEY

jim@theitem.com

Every year for the past three years Angela Burkett, a Sumter native, has hosted a Zumbathon to raise money for the James R. Clark Sickle Cell Foundation. This year, the event will be from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the South Birnie Hope Center, 210 S. Purdy St.

According to the foundation's website, the disease is an inherited blood disorder that causes red blood cells to be malformed and can cause organ damage, anemia and pain. The disease most commonly effects people of African, Asian, Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Central American and South American ancestry.

One in 10 black Americans has the sickle cell trait, the website says. Sickle cell trait is inherited and does not become sickle cell disease, but children of people having the trait may inherit the disease.

Burkett said her interest in the disease and the foundation is because of her granddaughters who have the disease.

"I have two granddaughters, Daianya and Jaymee," Burkett said. "I didn't know a lot about sickle cell until Jaymee, when she was a baby, came to stay with me for a year while her mother was overseas."

She said that experience opened her eyes to how much suffering victims of sickle cell go through as well as the fact

that the patient population is underserved.

"There are a lot of people in the community who suffer with it," she said.

Burkett, a Zumba instructor at Cross Training Martial Arts, 493 N. Guignard St., in Sumter, organized the two-and-a-half hour Zumbathon to raise money for the foundation.

A \$10 donation is requested, all of which goes to the foundation, Burkett said.

The James R. Clark Memorial Sickle Cell Foundation is a nonprofit agency serving sickle cell clients and their families in the Midland and Upper portions of South Carolina.

Zumba is an exercise program based on moving to Latin music, Burkett said.

"It's perfect for everybody," she said. "It's designed to bring people together and exercise."

No type of exercise experience or fitness level is necessary.

"As long as you move you will do fine," she said.

"I call it an exercise party," Burkett said.

Burkett said she been teaching Zumba for about three years. She will be joined at the Zumbathon by a number of instructors from Sumter and Columbia, she said.

For more information, call Burkett at (803) 968-3644 or visit www.jamesclarksicklecell.org.

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LOCAL

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce has initiated a search for a new executive director after receiving the resignation of Christina Darby last week.

Darby said she wants to spend more time with her family.

The other Chamber employee, Jessica Nunnery, an information specialist, also resigned last Thursday.

In a letter to Chamber members on Tuesday, Chamber Board President Pro Prothro said the board will try to appoint a new executive director by the Striped Bass Festival, scheduled for the weekend of April 22-23.

"We are in the process of trying to identify the next director, so if you know anyone, please have them turn in a resume to the Chamber as soon as possible," Prothro wrote in the letter.

Meanwhile, he said the Chamber has moved back to its office at 19 N. Brooks St. in Manning.

Because the two Chamber employees left immediately, Prothro said volunteers will temporarily staff the office.

The job responsibilities for the executive director position include membership retention and expansion, programs and events, budget management and serving as a liaison to other community events. The executive direc-

tor reports to the Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce board of directors. Skills needed include a college degree (preferred), exceptional management skills, excellent public speaking skills and knowledge of how to use a number of computer programs. Anyone interested in the position can send a resume and references to chamber@clarendoncounty.com.

Darby joined the Chamber in May 2014 as an information specialist. She was promoted to executive director in January 2015 after longtime executive director Dawn Griffith retired in November 2014 after eight years of service.

POLICE BLOTTER**CHARGES**

Fantasia Foy, 24, of 525 E. Calhoun St., Sumter, and **Chiquita McCloud**, 19, of 623 S. Sumter St., Sumter, were both arrested Monday pursuant to a warrant issued on Feb. 9. The warrant al-

leges the two women broke into a house in the 1600 block of Broome Street, along with a third person who was arrested by Sumter County Sheriff's Office last week, and reportedly stole \$8,000 worth of items including a Hi-Point 9 mm semi-automatic handgun. Foy and McCloud are both charged with first-degree burglary.

Kermith Hill, 31, of 207 Dodamed St., Eastover, was arrested Wednesday for re-

portedly stealing a Yamaha Kodiak 450 four-wheeler and transporting it in a rental truck. The suspect did not tell officers where the theft took place.

STOLEN PROPERTY

A Lincoln grease gun valued at \$400 and a Dewalt tool bag containing various tools valued at \$700 were reportedly stolen from a white 2016 Chevrolet Silverado while the vehicle was parked in the 2300 block of Broad Street between 10:30 p.m. Sunday and 7 a.m. Monday.

Two white oscillating floor fans valued at \$20 each; a pair of white size-7 Nike Air Jordan "Space Jam" retro sneakers valued at \$200; a cream colored air

conditioning window unit valued at \$150; and an outdoor heating-and-cooling unit valued at \$1,500 were reportedly stolen from a residence in the 100 block of Gates Street between March 9 and March 12.

Two power meters valued at \$300 each were reportedly stolen from a pool house on the 100 block of Engleside Street between Feb. 1 and March 14. Also, approximately \$1,300 worth of damage was caused to the structure when two windows and two glass doors were broken.

A yellow and white gold diamond engagement ring and wedding band set valued at \$700 was reportedly stolen from a residence on Gadson Street between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. on March 15.

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Palm Sunday a good time to reflect on the kind of leadership we need

Palm Sunday holds a special meaning this year because our desires sound strangely like those held by certain groups of people centuries ago as Jesus entered the ancient city of Jerusalem. In this presidential election year, we are all desperate to find that one leader who will alleviate our social and economic problems and restore us to our respective and highly individualized sense of prosperity.

While the inadequacies of our world are particularly fresh on our minds, humanity's dissatisfaction with the authorities-that-be is not new. The cries of political and civil unrest have echoed through the centuries.

There are and will always be great populations of people crying out for a true leader, a representative, a Savior — someone who will make life a little easier.

Scripture records a joyous scene on that first Palm Sunday, one befitting the typical celebration accompanying the arrival of a military leader. By and large,



Faith Matters

JAMIE H.
WILSON

the Jewish people had been oppressed by various world powers for several centuries, but they had maintained a modicum of control within

their community which was exploited by their religious leaders, who piously enforced a litany of more than 500 religious rules as a means to personal righteousness. It would take a leader of untold authority to unseat such great oppression.

With this unbridled hope growing in their hearts, a large group of people rallied around this would-be leader as he entered the city gates: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the king of Israel!" (John 12:13b, NIV).

It would be just one week later that another group —

perhaps some of the same people — would be calling for his execution. I think it's a pretty safe assumption that Jesus wasn't the leader they wanted. He was a disappointment. He didn't bring earthly relief; he just promised heavenly rewards.

Regardless of the outcome in November, I'm absolutely sure that we will be disappointed by the actions of our incoming president in the coming years because there is a defect in the system of humanity: There is no one good, not one (Rom. 3:10). We will elect an imperfect leader who might make great or terrible changes to our lives.

Listen closely, we can pray and hope that person makes sound decisions that benefit our country and communities, but we can't rely on any person to satisfy the thirst for personal peace. We can't continue to reject the one leader — the one Savior — who can.

Email Jamie H. Wilson at faithmatterssumter@gmail.com

CHURCH NEWS

Agape Outreach Ministries, 328 W. Liberty St., announces:

- * Sunday — Unity choir rainbow tea and program at 3:30 p.m.

Allen Chapel AME Church, 471 Lynam Road, announces:

- * Sunday — Sallie Evans Women's Missionary Society women's day program at 2 p.m. The Rev. Ruth Robinson will speak.

Antioch United Methodist Church, 4040 Dubose Siding Road, announces:

- * Sunday — Women's day program "Hats off to Women of God, Growing in Faith" at 4 p.m. The Rev. Donna Jackson will speak.

Bethel AME Church, 219 E. Calhoun St., announces:

- * Saturday — Baby contest at 4 p.m.

Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 1275 Oswego Highway, announces:

- * Sunday, March 27 — Sunrise service at 6 a.m. Youth Easter recitals at 4 p.m.

Church of God of Prophecy, 140 S. Guignard Drive, announces:

- * Sunday, March 27 — The 43rd anniversary of the New Gospel Tones of Sumter will be celebrated at 5 p.m. Doors open at 4 p.m. On the program: the Rev. Matthew Mickens and the Highway Travelers of Hopkins; Spiritual Caravans of Sumter; Team of Joy of Orangeburg; and many others.

Community Church of Praise, 562 S. Pike Road, announces:

- * Friday — Glory night at 7 p.m.
- * Saturday, March 26 — Youth Easter Extravaganza at 2 p.m.
- * Thursday-Friday, March 31-April 1 — Revival at 7 nightly. Pastor Windley Jr. will speak.

Concord Baptist Church, 1885 Myrtle Beach Highway, announces:

- * Sunday — Easter Cantata at 11 a.m.
- * Sunday, March 27 — Easter Sunrise service at 7 a.m.; Sunday school at 8:45 a.m.; and 10 a.m. worship.

Dalzell United Methodist Church, 3330 Black River Road, Dalzell, announces:

- * Accepting donations of non-clothing items until Friday, April 1, for Relay for Life yard sale. Drop items off on the porch of the Dorcas Closet building (white house) on the church grounds. For pick up, call (803) 565-1602 and leave message.
- * Saturday, April 2 — Relay for Life yard sale from 7 a.m. until everything is gone.

Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, 105 Dinkins St., Manning, announces:

- * "Men Helping Boys and Men to Become Better" event at 6 p.m. each Monday in the fellowship hall. Call (803) 556-1848 or (803) 968-9466.

Emmanuel Baptist Church, 1794 Old Georgetown Road, Manning, announces:

- * Friday, March 25 — Good Friday service at 6:30 p.m.

- * Sunday, March 27 — Easter Sunrise service at 7 a.m. and Easter worship at 10 a.m.

First Baptist Missionary Church, 219 S. Washington St., announces:

- * Today-Friday — Revival. The Rev. Dr. Sammie Simmons will speak.
- * Sunday — Benedict College day at 11 a.m.
- * Sunday, March 27 — Easter Sunrise service at 6 a.m. The Rev. Laddie Howard will speak.

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, 182 S. Pike East, announces:

- * Sunday — Member appreciation day at 3:30 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Ella Busby will speak.
- * Friday, March 25 — Seven last words service at 7 p.m.
- * Sunday, March 27 — Easter service at 11:15 a.m.

Grace Christian Fellowship Church, 2938 Raccoon Road, Manning, announces:

- * Saturday — Hands of Grace Ladies Ministry will host a bake sale fundraiser from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the vacant lot next to Tanner's convenience store, Route 301 / Raccoon Road, Manning.

Grant Hill Missionary Baptist Church, 5405 Black River Road, Rembert, announces:

- * Sunday — The 10th pastoral anniversary of Pastor Clifton Witherspoon will be celebrated at 3 p.m. Minister Kenton Rogers will speak. One Purpose will provide music.

High Hills Missionary Baptist Church, 6750 Meeting House Road, Dalzell, announces:

- * Sunday — Palm Sunday during morning worship.

- * Sunday, March 27 — Joint Sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. The Rev. Stanley Rivers will speak.

- * Sunday, April 3 — Holy communion will follow the 10:15 a.m. worship.

Holly Hill Missionary Baptist Church, 1304 Hidden Branch Road, Manning, announces:

- * Sunday, April 3 — Four Gospels program at 5 p.m. Speakers: Pastor Kenneth Murray; Pastor Ranzy McFadden; Elder Kevin Bosier; and Pastor David Pugh.

House of Judah Worship Center, 3890 White Oak Drive, Davis Station, announces:

- * Sunday, April 3 — The 16th anniversary celebration at 4 p.m. One Accord of Manning will provide music.

Love Covenant Church, 245 Oswego Road, announces:

- * Saturday — "Strong Men in Tough Times" small group meeting and "Women of Warfare" small group meeting, both at 9 a.m.

Manning United Methodist Church, 17 E. Rigby St., Manning, announces:

- * Registration for the 2016-2017 school year has begun. Nursery,

perhaps some of the same people — would be calling for his execution. I think it's a pretty safe assumption that Jesus wasn't the leader they wanted. He was a disappointment. He didn't bring earthly relief; he just promised heavenly rewards.

Regardless of the outcome in November, I'm absolutely sure that we will be disappointed by the actions of our incoming president in the coming years because there is a defect in the system of humanity: There is no one good, not one (Rom. 3:10). We will elect an imperfect leader who might make great or terrible changes to our lives.

Listen closely, we can pray and hope that person makes sound decisions that benefit our country and communities, but we can't rely on any person to satisfy the thirst for personal peace. We can't continue to reject the one leader — the one Savior — who can.

Email Jamie H. Wilson at faithmatterssumter@gmail.com

2-year-old and 3/4-year-old classes available. Offering 5 days a week and early drop off. Classes begin in late August. Call (803) 435-8115.

Mount Sinai AME Church, 5895 Mt. Sinai Church Road, Lynchburg, announces:

- * Sunday, March 27 — Easter Sunday services as follows: 8:15 a.m. church school and 9 a.m. worship and Easter program.
- * Sunday, April 3 — Stewardess / Pulpit Aide day during 10 a.m. service.

Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 325 Fulton St., announces:

- * Sunday — Pastor's support ministry anniversary program at 10:45 a.m.

- * Saturday, March 26 — "Health and Heritage" health fair from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Mount Zion Enrichment Center, 315 W. Fulton St. Call Delores Nickelson at (803) 972-3034 for vendor information.

- * Sunday, March 27 — Joint Easter sunrise worship to be held at 6 a.m. at Salem Missionary Baptist Church, 320 W. Fulton St., followed by 9:45 a.m. Easter program.

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, 3249 U.S. 15 S., announces:

- * Sunday — Morris College Day annual program at 10 a.m.

- * Wednesday-Thursday, March 23-24 — Holy Week services at 7 nightly. The Rev. Hazel Charles will speak on Wednesday. Pastor Willie A. Wright Jr. will speak on Thursday.

- * Sunday, March 27 — Easter service at 10 a.m.

New Salem Baptist Church, 2500 W. Oakland Ave., announces:

- * Friday — Spring festival 7-9 p.m. Carnival type of games and food. Evening will conclude with a glow in the dark Easter egg hunt. Preregister at www.newsalemsumter.com.

- * Sunday, March 27 — Easter services as follows: 8 a.m., outside reflections at the cross; 8:15 a.m. worship; and 9:45 a.m. pot-luck brunch. Pastor Kevin Massey will speak.

Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church announces:

- * Thursday-Sunday, March 24-27 — Holy Week and Easter Mass Schedule for Catholic churches in Manning and Santee as follows: 7 p.m. Holy Thursday service at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church, 2529 Raccoon Road, Manning, and at St. Ann's Church, 2205 State Park Road, Santee; 3 p.m. Good Friday service at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church and St. Ann's Church; 8 p.m. Saturday Vigil service at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church and St. Ann's Church; 9 a.m. Easter Sunday service at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church; and 11 a.m. Easter Sunday service at St. Ann's Church. www.myoloh.org

Pine Grove AME Church, 41 Pine Grove Road, Rembert, announces:

- * Sunday — Layman's organization worship at 11 a.m. Elder Joseph Postell will speak.

- * Sunday, March 27 — Resurrection Day Sunrise service at 7 a.m. Breakfast will be served.

Pinewood Baptist Church, S.C. 261, Pinewood, announces:

- * Saturday — Community Easter egg hunt 10 a.m.-noon for ages birth to sixth grade. There will be games, prizes and snacks. Adult chaperones must accompany all children.

- * Friday, March 25 — Good Friday service at 6:30 p.m.

- * Sunday, March 27 — Easter services as follows: 7:15 a.m. sunrise service; 7:45 a.m. breakfast; 9 a.m. Sunday school; 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery provided.

Plaza Church of Christ, 1402 Camden Highway, announces:

- * Friday-Saturday — Marriage seminar at 6 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. on Saturday. Gary Johnson will speak.

Providence Baptist Church, 2445 Old Manning Road, announces:

- * Monday, March 21 — Widow's luncheon at 11 a.m.

- * Saturday, March 26 — Easter egg hunt for children under 13 years of age from 10 a.m. to noon.

- * Tuesday, March 29 — Senior adult lunch at noon. Bring a covered dish.

Reid Chapel AME Church, 1008 Dibert St., announces:

- * Sunday — Family and friends program at 3 p.m. The Rev. Abraham Temoney Sr. will speak.

Salem Missionary Baptist Church, 320 W. Fulton St., announces:

- * Sunday, March 27 — Easter Sunrise service at 6 a.m. The Rev. Dr. James B. Blassingame will speak.

Second Presbyterian Church, 1125 Old Pocalla Road, announces:

- * Friday, March 25 — Good Friday worship service at noon.

The Rev. Dr. Ella F. Busby will speak.

St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, 7650 Summerton Highway, Silver community, Pinewood, announces:

- * Today-Friday — Youth Spring Revival at 7 nightly.

- * Saturday, March 26 — First quarter 2016 seminar 8 a.m.-noon. Topics of discussion: ministers and ministries; tithing and giving; and evangelism and discipleship. Call (803) 236-6451 to confirm attendance.

- * Sunday, March 27 — Easter program during 10 a.m. service, sponsored by the youth ministry.

St. Matthews Missionary Baptist Church, 1126 St. Matthews Lane, Manning, announces:

- * Sunday — Men's Day at 3 p.m. The Rev. Hazel Charles will speak.

Summerton Southern Methodist Church, 1107 Felton Road, Summerton, announces:

- * Saturday — Barbecue chicken supper 4-7 p.m.

Trump: GOP needs to embrace his candidacy

WASHINGTON (AP) — An emboldened Donald Trump offered himself Wednesday as the inevitable Republican presidential nominee and called on balky GOP leaders to embrace the voters' "tremendous fervor" for his candidacy.

But the billionaire businessman's latest wins didn't stop anti-Trump Republicans from seeking scenarios to deny him the GOP nomination.

Trump, who padded his delegate lead in the latest round of voting, predicted he'd amass enough support to snag the nomination outright before the Republican convention — without much difficulty. And if GOP leaders try to deny him the nomination at a contested convention when he is leading the delegate count, Trump warned, "You'd have riots."

With his latest wins, Trump has won 47 percent of delegates so far. He'll need to win 54 percent of remaining delegates to clinch the nomination before the convention, according to The Associated Press delegate count.

Despite Trump's momentum, some GOP leaders and conservatives continue to explore ways to block him.

Former House Speaker John Boehner waded into the fracas on Wednesday, saying he'd support his successor, Paul Ryan, for president if Republicans can't agree on a candidate at the convention.

Boehner, who has endorsed John Kasich, said that if Republicans can't nominate Trump, Kasich or Texas Sen. Ted Cruz on the first ballot, he'd be "for none of the above. I'm for Paul Ryan to be our nominee."

Democrat Hillary Clinton, eager for a November matchup against Trump, took direct aim at him after strengthening her position against rival Bernie Sanders with another batch of primary victories.

"Our commander-in-chief has to be able to defend our country, not embarrass it," Clinton said in a speech that largely ignored Sanders. "We can't lose what made America great in the first place."

Trump suggested in calls to morning TV shows that the party establishment is starting to fall in line behind him. Without naming names,

Trump said some of the same Republican senators who are publicly running him down have called him privately to



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks to supporters at his primary election night event at his Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, Florida, on Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

say they want to "become involved" in his campaign eventually.

Trump said Clinton would be "a major embarrassment for the country" and added that she "doesn't have the strength or the stamina to be president."

Plans for a GOP debate in Salt Lake City on Monday looked doubtful after Trump said he'd skip the event, and then Kasich's camp said they'd pull out if Trump didn't participate.

Clinton triumphed in the Florida, Illinois, Ohio and

North Carolina presidential primaries, putting her in a commanding position to become the first woman in U.S. history to win a major-party nomination.

Trump strengthened his hand in the Republican race with wins in Florida, North Carolina and Illinois but fell in Ohio to that state's governor, Kasich. Votes were also being counted in Missouri, though races in both parties there were too close to call.

Kasich, celebrating his home state win over Trump, told NBC's "Today" show, "I

dealt him a very, very big blow to being able to have the number of delegates."

He added that neither Trump nor Texas Sen. Cruz can win the general election. But after Tuesday's contests, it's mathematically impossible for the Ohio governor to win a majority of delegates before the GOP's July national convention.

Even before Tuesday's results, a group of conservatives was planning to meet to discuss ways to stop Trump, including a contested convention or rallying around a third-party candidate.

While no such candidate has been identified, the participants in Thursday's meeting planned to discuss ballot access issues, including using an existing third party as a vehicle or securing signatures for an independent bid.

Trump said putting up a third-party candidate to block him would "guarantee" a Democratic win in November.

On Tuesday, Ryan did not rule out the idea of being drafted by the party at the convention, but on Wednesday his spokeswoman, AshLee Strong, appeared to close that door.

Church Directory

Adventist

Sumter Seventh-Day Adventist
103 N Pike West 775-4455
Pastor Harry Robinson
Sat. Sch: 9:15 am, Worship: 11:00 am
Tues Bible Study 7 pm
www.sumter2.adventistchurchconnect.org

African Methodist Episcopal

Wayman Chapel AME Church
160 N. Kings Hwy. • 803-494-3686
www.waymanchapelame.com
Reverend Dennis W. Broughton, Jr.
Church School 9:00 am
Worship 10:15 am
Wed. Bible Study 12:00 pm & 6:30 pm

Anglican

Church of the Holy Cross
335 North Kings Hwy (Hwy 261 N)
803-494-8101

Father Michael E. Ridgill, C.F.S.B.
Sunday School 9:00 am
Mass 10:00 am
Mon.-Thurs. Chapel 9 am Morning Prayer
Wed. Chapel 11:00 qm • Bible Study 12 pm Mass

Assembly of God

First Assembly of God
1151 Alice Drive • 773-3817
www.sumtercg.org
Jason Bonar, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30 am
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am

Baptist - Missionary

Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church
803 S Harvin St. • 775-4032
Marion H. Newton, Pastor
Sunday Worship: 7:45 & 10:45 am
Sunday Youth Service: 10:45 am
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm

It's A Jungle Out There...



Photo Credit: stockphoto.com/BreadCakies

Life can get a little wild and crazy, with responsibilities coming at us from all directions. Wouldn't it be nice to find a refuge? A safe place we can share with our close ones? We can trust our faith in God to protect us. "The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him..." (Nahum 1:14) Find tranquility from the world's troubles at your house of worship this week. Go and give thanks to God!

Weekly Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 42:1-22 Lam. 3:1-33 Lam. 3:4-66 Lam. 5:1-22 Luke 11:13 Luke 18:1-14

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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Salem Missionary Baptist Church

Shaw Heights Baptist Church

320 West Fulton Street
803-775-8054

2030 Peach Orchard Rd. • 499-4997

Sun. School 9:00 am

Rev. Robert White Pastor

Praise Worship 9:55 am

Sunday School: 9:45 am

Worship 10:00 am

Sunday Worship: 11 am & 6 pm

Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 pm

Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm

Catholic - Roman

The Catholic Community of Sumter, St. Anne Site

216 E Liberty St • 803-773-3524

Pastor Rev. Frank Palmieri, CRM

Vicar Rev. Noly Berjuega, CRM

Weekend Masses: Sat. 4:30 pm

Sun. 8:00 and 12:00 Noon

Confession: Sat. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Grace Baptist Church

219 W Calhoun St • 778-6417

Dr. Stephen Williams

S.S. 9:45 am; Worship 11:00 am

Evening Worship/Bible Study 6:30 pm

Wed. Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm

Wed. Bible Study: 6:30 pm

Hickory Road Baptist Church

1245 Cherryvale Dr
803-494-8281

Dr. Ron Taylor Pastor

Sunday School 9:45 am

Worship 10:55 am

Evening Worship 6:00 pm

The Catholic Community of Sumter, St. Jude Site

611 W. Oakdale Ave • 773-9244

www.stjudesumters.org

FPastor Rev. Frank Palmieri, CRM

Vicar Rev. Noly Berjuega, CRM

Holy Communion: 12:00 pm

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THE CLARENDON SUN

E-mail: konstantin@theitem.com

Find an antique at Sanford and Son

BY KONSTANTIN VENGEROWSKY
konstantin@theitem.com

SUMMERTON — Plato wrote that "Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder." When it comes to antiques, Summerton business owner Fred Baker would agree.

Baker runs the store Sanford and Son at 201 Main St., with his wife, Harriet. The shop is filled with antique items and furniture.

A customer can find everything from silverware, glassware, old books and albums, a collection of old television and radio sets, chandeliers and even small mannequin dolls.

"Sanford and Son" was a popular sitcom that aired on NBC in the 1970s. In the show, the main character, Fred G. Sanford, owns an antique shop by the same name.

Baker, 76, said that some people in Summerton call him "Mr. Sanford," because of the store's name.

He is originally from High Point, North Carolina, which Baker said is considered the "furniture capital of the world."

Growing up in the city, he said, he was exposed to the furniture world at a young age, and ran his own furniture business there. In 1990, he was driving through South Carolina, looking for a warehouse to store some of his items. He did not plan on

opening a store.

Baker stopped in Summerton and found the perfect place, just a few blocks from where his store is now, and decided to make it a furniture and antique shop.

"When I first opened, we would travel to auctions all over, as far as New York, Kentucky and Tennessee," he said. "We have slowed down a bit since then."

He credits the store's success to treating everyone with hospitality, while keeping prices down.

Baker receives most of his items from auction sales that he attends all over the state.

"You never know what you may find at an auction," he said. "At times, it is possible to find things that you may not know the value of until later."

Baker tells the story of how he once bid on a set of dishes at an auction that he did not think were worth much. He decided to bid \$200 to get the dishes anyway.

He was hoping to make a few hundred dollars in profit. He decided to increase the price and priced the dishes at \$1,200.

About a week later, a woman who was driving from California came through Summerton and stopped by the store. She bought the dishes for \$1,200. She later told Baker that apparently the set was worth \$10,000. The woman immediately sold the dishes to



Horton Davis, left, of the Jordan Community, enjoys a conversation with Fred Baker outside of Baker's store, "Sanford and Son." The antique and furniture shop has operated in Summerton since the early 1990s.



Glass items for sale are seen above left at Sanford and Son, a furniture and antique store in Summerton. An old piano, above right, is just one of many antique items for sale at the downtown shop.



someone else for \$5,000.

"You probably won't get rich in this business, but you'll make enough to get by," he said. "I just thank the Lord for good health and everything I've got."

Carl Sherman, of Santee,

said he enjoys coming by the shop because there's always something unique to find.

"I like to look around and see if I can find something that I can use or an old antique," Sherman said. "Mr. Baker really takes his time

with each customer; he's a good person."

The store's hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

For more information, contact Fred Baker at (803) 410-2787.

Pets of the Week



Taylor is a 2-year-old female tan and white Chihuahua/terrier mix. She is current on her shots, has been spayed and tested negative for heart worms. She loves to have her belly rubbed and is very gentle. Stop by and meet this sweet girl.

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Easter Egg Hunt

Gibbons Street Park

March 24, 2016



Calling all children 11 and under to celebrate the Easter season with an Easter Egg Hunt. Eggs will be hidden in Gibbons Street Park. Be there at 6:30 pm for instructions and to start hunting! There will be two age groups, 5 and under, and 6 to 11. Eggs will have surprises. For more information contact City Hall, 435-8477.

Main Street Manning

If your business or organization would like to sponsor or participate in this event, please contact Carrie Trebil at 435-8477.

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DEADLINE
TUESDAY 11AM

LEGAL NOTICES

Summons & Notice

SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF FILING OF COMPLAINT AND NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE INTERVENTION (NON-JURY MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE)

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS C/A NO: 2015-CP-14-00458 DEFICIENCY WAIVED

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CLARENDRON

U.S. Bank National Association, PLAINTIFF,
vs.
Fred Bennett, 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 otherwise appear and defend, and to serve a copy of your Answer to said Complaint upon the subscriber at his office, Hutchens Law Firm; P.O. Box 8237; Columbia, SC 29202, within thirty (30) days after service hereof, except as to the United States of America, which shall have sixty (60) days, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, or otherwise appear and defend, the Plaintiff in this action will apply to the Court for the relief demanded therein, and judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

YOU WILL ALSO TAKE NOTICE that you fail to Answer the foregoing Summons, the Plaintiff will move for an Order of Reference of this case to the Master in Equity for Clarendon County, which Order shall, pursuant to Rule 53 of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure, specifically provide that the said Master in Equity for Clarendon County is authorized and empowered to enter a final judgment in this case with appeal only to the South Carolina Court of Appeals pursuant to Rule 203(d)(1) of the SCAR, effective June 1, 1999.

TO 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 immediately and separately and such application will be deemed absolute and total in the absence of your application for such an appointment within thirty (30) days after the service of the Summons and Complaint upon you.

YOU WILL ALSO TAKE NOTICE

Summons & Notice

Summons & Notice

MORTGAGE COMPANY/AGENT MAY PROCEED WITH A FORECLOSURE ACTION.

If you have already pursued loss mitigation with the Plaintiff, this Notice does not guarantee the availability of loss mitigation options or further review of your qualifications.

Notice of Sale

NOTICE OF SALE IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS CASE NO. 2014-CP-14-185

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CLARENDRON

Green Tree Servicing LLC Plaintiff,

-vs- Richard Todd Avant, Teresa A. Seitz n/k/a Teresa A. Avant aka Teresa Avant, Household Finance Corporation II, John McDavid, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for GMAC Mortgage, LLC dba ditech, and The South Carolina Department of Revenue, Plaintiff.

Defendant(s)

BY VIRTUE of a judgment heretofore granted in the case of Green Tree Servicing LLC vs. Richard Todd Avant, Teresa A. Seitz n/k/a Teresa A. Avant aka Teresa Avant, Household Finance Corporation II, John McDavid, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for GMAC Mortgage, LLC dba ditech, and The South Carolina Department of Revenue, Plaintiff.

To the last and highest bidder or in the case of noncompliance. Should the last and highest bidder fail or refuse to make the required deposit at the time of the bid or comply with the other terms or the bid within twenty (20) days, then the Special Referee may

TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the Plaintiff, will deposit with the Special Referee at conclusion of the bidding, five (5%) as evidence of good faith, the same to be applied to purchase price in case of compliance, but to be forfeited and applied first to costs and then to Plaintiff's debt in the case of noncompliance. Should the last and highest bidder fail or refuse to make the required deposit at the time of the bid or comply with the other terms or the bid within twenty (20) days, then the Special Referee may

Notice of Sale

Notice of Sale

resell the property on the same terms and conditions on some subsequent Sales Day (at the risk of the former highest bidder). No personal or deficiency judgment being demanded, the bidding will not remain open after the date of sale, but compliance with the bid may be made immediately.

The successful bidder will be required to pay interest on the amount of the bid from the date of sale to date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 4.0% per annum.

Frances Ricci Land Welch
Special Referee
for Clarendon County

Theodore von Keller, Esquire
B. Lindsay Crawford, III, Esquire
Sara Hutchins
Columbia, South Carolina
Attorney for Plaintiff

This being the same property conveyed to Richard Todd Avant and Teresa A. Seitz by Deed from Larry B. Minton and Diana A. Minton dated March 15, 2001 and recorded March 15, 2001 in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Clarendon County, South Carolina in Book A434 at Page 243.

TMS #: 160-14-01-031-00
Physical Address:
2572 Patriot Rd.,
Manning, SC 29102

SUBJECT TO CLARENDRON COUNTY TAXES

FISH DAY

Thursday, March 31, 2016
9:00am

Pond Stocking

*Bluegill/Shellcracker 35¢/ea

1"- 2" Recommend 1000 acre

*Channel Catfish 40¢/ea

3"- 5" Recommend 100 acre up to 1000/acre

*Hybrid Bluegill 40¢/ea

1"- 2" Recommend 3000 acre

Sterile Grass Carp \$12.00/ea

8"- 11" Recommend 20 or more per acre

*Must Order in Multiples of 100

Fish will be delivered on

March 31, 2016 • 9:00am Sharp

\$1.00 Bag Fee for each type of fish you order

You Must Pre-Order Your Fish before March 29, 2016.

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FISH DAY

Thursday, March 31, 2016
9:00am

Pond Stocking

*Bluegill/Shellcracker 35¢/ea

1"- 2" Recommend 1000 acre

*Channel Catfish 40¢/ea

3"- 5" Recommend 100 acre up to 1000/acre

*Hybrid Bluegill 40¢/ea

1"- 2" Recommend 3000 acre

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8"- 11" Recommend 20 or more per acre

*Must Order in Multiples of 100

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\$1.00 Bag Fee for each type of fish you order

You Must Pre-Order Your Fish before March 29, 2016.

The truck will be at the store for 1 hour.

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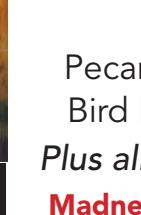


GAIL MATHIS

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Alcolu is pictured with Nelson Hill of Timmonsville and Hill's squirrel Champion dog, Big John. Hill and Big John won a squirrel trial in February. Big John's food came from E&E.



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CDC guidelines aim to curb painkiller prescribing

WASHINGTON (AP) — Prescription painkillers should not be a first choice for treating common ailments such as back pain and arthritis, according to new federal guidelines designed to reshape how doctors prescribe drugs such as OxyContin and Vicodin.

Amid an epidemic of addiction and abuse tied to these powerful opioids drugs, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is urging primary care doctors to try physical therapy, exercise and over-the-counter pain medications before turning to painkillers for chronic pain. Opioid drugs include medications such as morphine and oxycodone as well as illegal narcotics like heroin.

The new recommendations — which doctors do not have to follow — represent an effort to reverse nearly two decades of rising painkiller use, which public health officials blame for a more than four-fold increase in overdose deaths tied to the drugs. In 2014, U.S. doctors wrote nearly 200 million pre-

scriptions for opioid painkillers, while deaths linked to the drugs climbed to roughly 19,000 — the highest number on record.

"We're trying to chart a safer and more effective course for dealing with chronic pain," Dr. Tom Frieden, the CDC's director, said in an interview with the Associated Press. "The risks of addiction and death are very well documented for these medications."

More than 40 Americans die every day from painkiller overdoses, a staggering rate that Frieden said is "doctor driven."

Under the new guidelines, doctors would prescribe painkillers only after considering non-addictive pain relievers, behavioral changes and other options. The CDC also wants doctors to prescribe the lowest effective dose possible. And doctors should only continue prescribing the drugs if patients show significant improvement.

For short-term pain, the CDC recom-



OxyContin pills are seen at a pharmacy in Montpelier, Vermont, in February 2013. Prescription painkillers should not be a first-choice for treating common ailments such as back pain and arthritis, according to new federal guidelines designed to reshape how doctors prescribe drugs such as OxyContin and Vicodin.

AP FILE PHOTO

mends limiting opioids to three days of treatment, when possible.

The guidelines do not apply to doctors who specialize in treating severe pain because of cancer and other debilitating diseases. Though the guidelines are voluntary, they could be widely adopted by hospitals, insurers and state and federal health systems.

Government officials have already tried multiple approaches to tackling painkiller abuse. The Food and Drug

Administration restricted some widely-prescribed painkillers to limit refills. States such as Florida and New York have cracked down on "pill mills" using databases to monitor what doctors are prescribing. And this week, Massachusetts signed into law a seven-day limit on first-time prescriptions for opioids — the first of its kind in the nation.

"Changing medical practice isn't quick, and it isn't easy," Frieden said. "But we think the pendulum on pain management swung way too far toward the ready use of opioids."



Shamrocks

In ancient Ireland, the shamrock was considered a sacred plant that symbolized the rebirth of spring. Over time, the shamrock would become even more meaningful to the Irish people, eventually becoming a symbol of the pride they felt with regard to their Irish heritage and a symbol of their displeasure with English rule.

The Color Green

The color green is another symbol of St. Patrick's Day, though many historians note the color St. Patrick wore was blue and not green. But wearing green on St. Patrick's Day is a way those of Irish descent show pride in their heritage.

Green was likely adopted because of the lush green landscape of Ireland, which thanks to ample yearly rainfall, is green year-round.

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	TW	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 7:00pm Local news update.	Entertainment Tonight (N) (HD)	You, Me and the Apocalypse: Savoir Day Layla, Jamie plot to get Ariel back. (N) (HD)	The Blacklist: The Director Red and Aram ensure Liz's safety. (HD)	(:01) Shades of Blue: The Breach Harlee realizes she mistrusted Stahl. (N) (HD)	WIS News 10 at 11:00pm News and weather.	(:35) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon Clive Owen; Nia Vardalos. (N) (HD)				
WLTX 13	9	9	2016 NCAA Basketball Tournament: First Round: Indiana Hoosiers vs Chattanooga Mocs from Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines, Iowa LIVE (HD)			2016 NCAA Basketball Tournament: Seawolves from Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines, Iowa LIVE (HD)				News 19 @ 11pm			
WOLO 25	5	12	Wheel of Fortune: America's Game (N) (HD)	Jeopardy! (N) (HD)	Grey's Anatomy: Odd Man Out Richard changes the resident pairings. (N) (HD)	Scandal: I See You Olivia continues to spy on Jake; things intensify for Susan and Mellie. (N) (HD)	How to Get Away With Murder: Anna Mae Annalise tries to escape the pressure. (N) (HD)	ABC Columbia News at 11 (HD)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live Henry Cavill; Gabourey Sidibe; musical guests Flogging Molly. (N) (HD)				
WRJA 27	11	14	Pledge Programming Critically acclaimed and viewer-renowned programming is featured for a membership drive encouraging viewer support through highlight-worthy segments.		Pledge Programming Critically acclaimed and viewer-renowned programming is featured for a membership drive encouraging viewer support through highlight-worthy segments.		Pledge Programming Critically acclaimed and viewer-renowned programming is featured for a membership drive encouraging viewer support through highlight-worthy segments.		Pledge Programming Highlights encourage viewer support.	Pledge Programming Viewer support.			
WACH 57	6	6	The Big Bang Theory Penny "buzzkill." (HD)	The Big Bang Theory (HD)	American Idol: Top 5 Perform The competition to become America's next superstar will be even closer as the remaining contestants perform before the judges for a spot in the Top Five. (N) (HD)		WACH FOX News at 10 Local news report and weather forecast.	Overtime	2 Broke Girls Critical discovery. (HD)	Mike & Molly: St. Patrick's Day (HD)			
WKTC 63	4	22	Anger Management Eccentric therapist. (HD)	Anger Management Eccentric therapist. (HD)	DC's Legends of Tomorrow: Fail-Safe Smart leads escape mission to free team. (HD)	The 100: Wanheda: Part One Team finds out bounty on Clarke's head. (HD)	The Mentalist: Paint It Red Tycoon's \$50 million painting stolen. (HD)	The Mentalist: Crimson Casanova Cho undercover as ladies' man. (HD)	The Mentalist: Crimson Casanova Cho undercover as ladies' man. (HD)	Hot in Cleveland Friends share home. (HD)			
CABLE CHANNELS													
A&E	46	130	The First 48: Murder in Treme Woman's slashing. (HD)	The First 48: Miraculous Survivors: Burned Alive (N) (HD)	The First 48: Broken Home Eyewitness account. (N) (HD)	(:01) 60 Days In: Cell Shock New to program. (N) (HD)	(:02) The First 48: Last Stop: Paradise; Bad Blood (HD)	(:01) The First 48: (HD)					
AMC	48	180	Rocky II ('79, Drama) ★★★ S. Stallone. A boxer's fame. (HD)	Rocky III ('82, Drama) ★★★ Sylvester Stallone. A boxer is trained by his former rival to reclaim the boxing championship. (HD)	River Monsters (HD)	(:01) River Monsters (HD)	(:03) River Monsters (HD)	Rocky IV ('85, Drama) ★★½ Sylvester Stallone. A former champion comes out of retirement to challenge a deadly Russian boxer. (HD)	Man-Eating Zombie Cats (HD)	(.05) River (HD)			
ANPL	41	100	River Monsters (HD)	BET Honors 2016 (HD)			Martin: Martin Gets Paid	(:15) Martin: Break Up to Make Up Relationship strain.	Wendy Williams Show (N)				
BET	61	162	(:59) It's a Mann's World (HD)	It's a Mann's World (HD)				(:02) What Happens (N) (HD)	(:32) Top Chef: Finale				
BRAVO	47	181	Top Chef: Back Where It All Started Five chefs remain.	Top Chef: Magic Hour Chefs battle to Las Vegas finale.	Top Chef: Finale (N)	(:02) Recipe for Deception: We Can Pickle That (N) (HD)	(:02) The First 48: Last Stop: Paradise; Bad Blood (HD)	(:01) The First 48: (HD)					
CNBC	35	62	Greed: A Widow's Web	Shark Tank Apps: pickles. (HD)	Shark Tank Tree rental. (HD)	Shark Tank New ideas. (HD)	Greed: The Dirtiest Con	Greed					
CNN	33	64	Erin Burnett OutFront (N)	Anderson Cooper 360° (N) (HD)	Anderson Cooper 360° (N) (HD)	CNN Tonight with Don Lemon	Anderson Cooper 360° (HD)	360° (HD)					
COM	57	136	(:52) South Park (HD)	(:24) South Park (HD)	(:55) Tosh.0: Dizzy Best Man (HD)	Tosh.0: Krispy Kreme (HD)	Workaholics (N) Idiotsitter: Finale (HD)	Daily Show with Trevor (N)	Nightly Show w/ Wilmore (N) (N) (HD)	(01) @midnight (N) (HD)			
DISN	18	80	Girl Meets World (HD)	K.C. Undercover (HD)	Wizards of Waverly Place: The Movie ('09, Comedy) ★★½ Selena Gomez. Wish come true. (HD)	Best Friends Whenever (HD)	(:10) Austin & Ally (HD)	BUNK'D: Camp Rules (HD)	Liv and Maddie (HD)	Jessie Incoming meteor. (HD)			
DSC	42	103	Naked and Afraid (HD)	Naked and Afraid (HD)	Naked and Afraid (HD)	Naked and Afraid (HD)	Naked and Afraid (HD)	Naked and Afraid (HD)	Naked and Afraid (HD)	Naked (HD)			
ESPN	26	35	MLB Spring Training: Arizona Diamondbacks vs Chicago Cubs from Cubs Park, Mesa, Ariz. (HD)			Postgame	The Lineup	Polaris	World Poker Tour (E) (HD)	NHL Hockey			
ESPN2	27	39	NFL Live (HD)	2016 BNP Paribas Open Tennis: Men's & Women's Quarterfinals: from Indian Wells Tennis Garden in Indian Wells, Calif. LIVE (HD)			The Middle (HD)	The Middle (HD)	Golden Hurricane	Golden Stan's comes.			
FOOD	40	109	Chopped: Bizarre Battle (HD)	Chopped (N) (HD)	Cooks vs. Cons (N) (HD)	Shark Tank New ideas. (HD)	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Cooks/Cons		
FOXN	37	74	On the Record with Greta (N)	The O'Reilly Factor (N) (HD)	The Kelly File News updates.	Hannity (N) (HD)	Hannity (N) (HD)	The O'Reilly Factor (HD)	The Kelly File				
FREE	20	131	(6:45) Bedtime Stories ('08, Comedy) ★★½ Adam Sandler. An uncle tells tales to his niece and nephew, and the stories come true. (HD)	Despicable Me ('10, Comedy) ★★½ Steve Carell. A master thief decides to use three orphaned girls to pull off a big heist. (HD)				The 700 Club	Willy Wonka Chocolate (HD)				
FSS	31	42	NHL Hockey: Carolina Hurricanes at Pittsburgh Penguins LIVE (HD)										
HALL	52	183	Last Man Standing (HD)	Last Man Standing (HD)	Last Man Standing (HD)	The Middle (HD)	The Middle (HD)	The Middle (HD)	Golden Hurricane	Golden Stan's comes.			
HGTV	39	112	Flip Flop (HD)	Flip Flop (HD)	Flip Flop (HD)	Flip Flop (N)	Flip Flop (HD)	Hunters (HD)	Hunters (N)	Masters of Flip (HD)	Flip Flop (HD)		
HIST	45	110	Pawn Stars (HD)	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Vikings: Yol Yule Log. (HD)	Vikings: Promised (N) (HD)	Join or Die (N)	Night (N) (HD)	Pawn Stars			
ION	13	160	Blue Bloods: Some Kind of Hero Suicide case. (HD)	Blue Bloods: Working Girls Key witness. (HD)	Blue Bloods: Collateral Damage House arrest. (HD)	Blue Bloods: Mother's Day Biological attack. (HD)	Blue Bloods: Family Business Jackie kidnapped. (HD)	Blue Bloods (HD)	Blue Bloods (HD)				
LIFE	50	145	Project Runway All Stars: Fashion 911 (HD)	Project Runway All Stars: Social Thread: Birthday Suits (N) (HD)	Project Runway All Stars: Going for Baroque (N) (HD)	(:02) Nightmare Nurse ('16, Thriller) Sarah Butler. A woman's bedridden boyfriend may be being preyed upon by a beautiful nurse. (HD)	(:02) Project Runway (HD)						
MSNBC	36	76	Hardball with Chris (N) (HD)	All in with Chris Hayes (HD)	The Rachel Maddow Show (N)	Lawrence O'Donnell (HD)	All in with Chris Hayes (HD)	Maddow (HD)					
NICK	16	91	Paradise School	Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs ('09, Comedy) Bill Hader. (HD)	Full House	Full House	Friends (HD)	Friends (HD)	Friends (HD)	Friends (HD)			
SPIKE	64	154	(6:30) The Expendables 2 ('12, Action) ★★★ Sylvester Stallone.	Lip Sync	Lip Sync	Lip Sync	Lip Sync	Law Abiding Citizen ('09, Crime) Jamie Foxx. (HD)	Blow-Up ('66) ★★½ (HD)				
SYFY	58	152	Legion ('10, Fantasy) ★★ Paul Bettany. Humans become part of a horrifying battle between factions of angels.	Resident Evil ('02, Horror) ★★★ Milla Jovovich. A team of agents must search an underground research complex full of zombies. (HD)	(:45) Kiss Me, Stupid ('64, Comedy) ★★½ Dean Martin. A nightclub singer breaks down in a small Nevada town.	(:45) Kiss Me, Stupid ('64, Comedy) ★★½ Dean Martin. A nightclub singer breaks down in a small Nevada town.							
TBS	24	156	(:15) 2016 NCAA Basketball Tournament: First Round: North Carolina Tar Heels at Team TBD from PNC Arena in Raleigh, N.C. LIVE		(:45) 2016 NCAA Basketball Tournament: First Round: USC Trojans vs Providence Friars from PNC Arena in Raleigh, N.C. LIVE								
TCM	49	186	Finian's Rainbow ('68, Musical) Fred Astaire. Stolen pot of gold.	Viridiana ('61, Drama) ★★★½ Silvia Pinal. A young woman tries to improve others.	(:45) Kiss Me, Stupid ('64, Comedy) ★★½ Dean Martin. A nightclub singer breaks down in a small Nevada town.	(:45) Kiss Me, Stupid ('64, Comedy) ★★½ Dean Martin. A nightclub singer breaks down in a small Nevada town.							
TLC	43	157	My 600-lb Life (HD)	My 600-lb Life (N) (HD)	Extreme Weight Loss: Jason and Rachel 652-lb couple. (HD)	Fat Chance: Ta'Tiana (HD)	My 600-lb (HD)						
TNT	23	158	(6:45) 2016 NCAA Basketball Tournament: First Round: Miami Hurricanes at Buffalo Bulls from Alumni Arena LIVE		(:15) 2016 NCAA Basketball Tournament: First Round: Arizona Wildcats at Team TBD LIVE			Separation Anxiety: Clancy & Adam (HD)					
TRUTV	38	102	2016 NCAA Basketball: Utah Utes vs Fresno State Bulldogs from Pepsi Center in Denver, Colo. (HD)			2016 NCAA Basketball: First Round: Seton Hall Pirates vs Gonzaga Bulldogs (HD)							
TVLAND	55	161	Griffith (HD)	Griffith (HD)	Raymond (HD)	(:48) Loves Raymond (HD)	Raymond (HD)	Queens (HD)	Queens (HD)	Queens (HD)			
USA	25	132	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit: Pandora (HD)	WWE SmackDown LIVE (HD)		Colony: Gateway Lockdown of LA bloc after kidnapping. (N) (HD)	(:02) Law & Order: Special Victims Unit: Funny Valentine (HD)	(:02) Law & Order: SVU (HD)					
WE	68		Mary Mary Sisters reunite. (HD)	Mary Mary (HD)	Mary Mary (N) (HD)	Mary Mary (HD)	Mary Mary (HD)	Mary Mary	Mary Mary	Mary Mary			
WGN	8	172	Elementary (HD)	Elementary (HD)	Elementary (HD)	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met		

'How to Get Away With Murder' wraps up 2nd season

BY KEVIN McDONOUGH

Viewers slightly dumbfounded by the fact that "The Bachelor" has completed its 20th season might not be ready for the 31st incarnation of "The Real World."

MTV's popular franchise "The Real World: Go Big or Go Home" (10 p.m., TV-14) follows seven guests in a Las Vegas hotel. But they're not just ordering room service. In every episode they are challenged to increasingly contrived events, like jumping out of a hot air balloon or performing in a strip club. Yeah, it's all about the "real."

This is a far cry from the first season of "The Real World: New York" way back in 1992. Like the 1970s series "An American Family," the grandfather of all reality TV that inspired it, "The Real World" depended on cast interaction for "drama." There was enough quiet time for actual conversation; some revealed young people's attitudes toward sexuality, bigotry, politics, etc. There's just not as much space for meaningful conversation when you're jumping out of a balloon.

Annalise finds the pressure is too much on the season finale of "How to Get Away With Murder" (10 p.m., ABC, TV-14). So one of last season's most popular new network dramas wraps up its season early? Is there trouble in ShondaLand? A limit to audience hunger for an entire night of series produced or created by Shonda Rhimes?

Hardly. ABC's Thursday prime time remains Rhimes-time with the arrival next week of "The Catch," yet another Rhimes-produced legal drama set at an elite firm stuffed to the gills with good-looking attorneys. I've yet to review it, but I'd suspect they can't keep their hands off each other.

Before CBS jumped into reality programming with "Survivor" back in 2000, its most dependable unscripted prime-time programming aired only in March. CBS has been broadcasting the **NCAA Basketball Tournament** since 1982.

Tonight's action includes University of Tennessee-Chattanooga vs. Indiana (7 p.m.) and Stony Brook vs. Kentucky (9:30 p.m.). TBS broadcasts North Carolina vs. a team to be determined (7:15 p.m.) and Provi-



With chaos surrounding Annalise, she can't stand the pressure anymore and needs to escape. Meanwhile, Frank must come to terms with the things he has done while Wes continues to get closer to finding out about his past on the season finale of "How to Get Away with Murder," airing at 10 p.m. today on ABC.

dence vs. USC (9:45 p.m.).

TONIGHT'S OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

• Richard shakes up the staff

on "Grey's Anatomy" (8 p.m., ABC, TV-14).

- Olivia spies on

JUSTICE

FROM PAGE A1

but did not change his position that "the American people will have a voice." He said he would not be holding "a perfunctory meeting, but he wished Judge Garland well," a spokesman said.

Others in the GOP ranks were less wedded to the no-hearing, no-vote, not-even-a-meeting stance — a sign that Republicans are aware the strategy could leave them branded as obstructionist.

Unlike McConnell, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Charles Grassley said he is open to meeting with Garland in the coming weeks, as did five other Republican senators — Rob Portman of Ohio, Jeff Flake of Arizona, Susan Collins of Maine, James Inhofe of Oklahoma and Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire. The judge will begin visiting with Democratic senators on Thursday at the Capitol, before the Senate breaks for a two-week recess.

Scheduling courtesy meetings is a long way from securing a full hearing, much less winning the 60 votes needed for confirmation.

Still, the White House seized the comments as evidence Garland's weighty resume and bipartisan credentials were putting pressure on Republicans.

Garland is the chief judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, a court whose influence on federal policy and national security matters has made it a proving ground for potential justices.

A graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, Garland has clerked for two appointees of Republican President Dwight D. Eisenhower — the liberal Justice William Brennan Jr. as well as

Judge Henry J. Friendly, for whom Chief Justice John Roberts also clerked.

As a federal prosecutor, he made his reputation overseeing the investigation and prosecutions in the Oklahoma City bombing case in 1995 as well as the case against Unabomber Ted Kaczynski.

When confirmed to the D.C. Circuit in 1997, Garland won backing from a majority in both parties, including seven current Republicans senators.

As a replacement for Scalia, Garland would undoubtedly shift the court away from its conservative tilt. He would be expected to align with the more liberal members on environmental regulation, labor disputes and campaign finance.

The D.C. Circuit isn't a hotbed for cases on social issues, leaving few solid indicators of Garland's views on abortion rights or the death penalty.

Garland's involvement in two high-profile gun rights cases has prompted concern from gun control opponents. In 2007, Garland wanted the full court to reconsider a panel decision that struck down Washington, D.C.'s ban on handgun ownership. But Garland never took a position on the merits of the case.

In 2000, he was part of a 2-1 majority that said the FBI could retain gun purchase records for six months to make sure the computerized instant background check system was working. The FBI's position was challenged by the National Rifle Association and other gun rights groups.

But he is not viewed as a down-the-line liberal. He ruled against giving the District of Columbia a vote in Congress. Particularly on criminal defense and national security cases, he has earned a reputation as centrist with a law-and-order streak, siding more often with prosecutors.

FILING

FROM PAGE A1

Filing began at noon Wednesday and all candidates must file by noon Wednesday, March 30.

Candidates for county level offices or the South Carolina General Assembly may file in person or through an agent at their local Voter Registration Office during office hours. The Sumter County Voter Registration office is in the Old Court House, 141 N. Main St.

Candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives or the U.S. Senate must file in person at the State Election Commission Office, 1122 Lady Street, Suite 500, Columbia, during office hours.

Anyone seeking office in the election must complete and file a Statement of Intention of Candidacy/Party Pledge form, a Statement of Economic Interest and all relevant disclosure forms. Forms must be notarized if

not filed in person.

Candidates for county sheriff or county coroner must file the appropriate notarized affidavit with their county party chairmen no later than 10 days following the closing of the filing period.

In Sumter County, filing fees vary from \$208 for the S.C. House of Representatives to \$3,478 for Sumter County Sheriff. Fees are paid to the appropriate state party office.

For more information, call Sumter County Voter Registration Office at (803) 436-2312 or visit www.scvotes.org.

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LOCAL | NATION**SCHOOL**

FROM PAGE A1

thing, but this one is appropriate.

"It gives us an opportunity to look back and reminisce," he said.

Baker told attendees of the remarkable legacy of business magnate Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears Roebuck and Company.

In 1912, according to the National Historic Preservation Trust, Rosenwald granted black entrepreneur Booker T. Washington permission to spend some of the money he had donated to the Tuskegee Institute for the construction of several small schools in rural Alabama.

When that proved successful, Rosenwald agreed to a larger school construction program.

"Schools were built all over the South," Baker said.

By the end of the program in 1932, it included more than 5,300 public schools and served more than 600,000 students, Baker said. The schools became known as Rosenwald Schools, he said.

Several of those schools were in Sumter County, including the Quinn Chapel School, Baker said.

Former student Elaine Mahatha traveled from Arizona to attend the reunion.

"Quinn Chapel School is etched in my memory," she said.

The school was built in 1939, and Mahatha remembered being fascinated as a young girl as she watched the new school being constructed.

"It has given me the foundation of my being," she said. "It is fitting it has been made a historical memorial."

Life was not easy for the students who attended the school. Many of them had chores to do both before and after school.

Buelah Green remembers having to get up and feed the hogs.

"Then we got dressed and



The Quinn Chapel School house, above, featured lower grades in the front with upper grades in the back of the building. A plaque, left, denotes the historical nature of the building.

PHOTOS BY KEITH GEDAMKE / THE SUMTER ITEM

went to school," she said.

George Shaw, said he had to be at the school by 6 a.m. to cut wood and make a fire.

"We had to walk to school, lots of time barefooted," he recalled.

He said in the afternoons they picked cotton, plowed with mules and dug peanuts.

The Rev. Earth McCloud Joe attended the school in the late '40s.

"We had to sweep the school yard on Friday and get in wood," she said.

In the mornings, the students had devotion, she said, and had to sing a song and repeat a verse.

According to the student's accounts, parental involvement was not a problem.

"If you was in trouble at school, you was in trouble at home," Eli Baker said. "If I didn't finish my lesson, I didn't go to school the next day. My dad would say,

'You're workin' in the fields tomorrow.'

There were no telephones, cellphones or computers.

"A yell across the fields," called the children home to supper or for discipline, he said.

The students said the teachers were very strict.

"We were all so challenged, we put forth our best effort," Baker said. "When we left this school, we could all read at any level."

The reunion was the brain child of Quinn Chapel Church Pastor the Rev. Joshua Dupree, who said he read an article in *The Sumter Item* and was determined to honor the school's students.

"I wanted to do it because you deserved it," he told the students. "I wanted to do it because our mothers and grandmothers went to schools very much like this one."

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2003 Nissan Murano SL Black \$7,990	2005 Ford Expedition LTD Tan/Leather \$7,990	2008 Volkswagen Beetle Conv. Lt. Green/Tan Leather
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N.G. Osteen 1843-1936
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H.G. Osteen 1870-1955
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THE ITEM



OPINION

20 N. MAGNOLIA ST., SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA 29150 · Founded October 15, 1894

COMMENTARY

Understanding the Islamic State

MIAMI BEACH — One wouldn't call them bedfellows, strange or otherwise, but President Obama and Donald Trump are both inadvertently helping the Islamic State through rhetoric that is either too cautious or too rash.

It shouldn't be difficult to discern which is which.

Obama, through his studious avoidance of explicitly calling terrorists or the Islamic State either Islamic or Muslim, is "silly," perhaps "cowardly" and likely unproductive. And Trump, with his other-izing approach to problem solving -- targeting adherents of Islam for special scrutiny -- contributes to recruitment and radicalization by marginalizing Muslims.

This composite appraisal comes from two authorities on Islam-inspired terrorism -- Boston University professor Jessica Stern, author of "ISIS: The State of Terror," and Abdullah Antepli, an imam and senior fellow at Duke University's Office of Civic Engagement.

The two were among several speakers at a recent Faith Angle Forum, sponsored by the Ethics and Public Policy Center, which twice annually convenes journalists and scholars to delve deeply into issues related to religion, culture and current events.

Antepli was also critical of moderate Muslims who feel the need to defend Islam even in the wake of terrorist attacks. A jovial fellow whose students have nicknamed him the "Turkish Delight Imam," Antepli said he'll "scream and pull my hair out" if he hears one more time that Islam is a religion of peace.

It is and it isn't, depending on which text one uses for one's purposes. Just as the abolitionists used scripture to end slavery, the Islamic State uses the Quran to resurrect slavery.

No religion, said Antepli, is one thing. Every religion, especially those that are centuries old, is many things. Understanding requires familiarity with what Antepli identified as the three main categories of all religions: history, people and, last, theology.

In other words, religion is only part of the terrorist equation, but denying it altogether is a mistake, both agree. On this score, Obama's critics may be correct, though others would argue that naming Islam risks alienating moderate Muslims.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

ROADS PERFECT EXAMPLE OF WHY PEOPLE WANT CHANGE

Like most people in South Carolina, I have been reading about, hearing about, and dealing with the bad condition of the roads in the state since the October flooding. I have also been reading and hearing about the inability and/or unwillingness of the state government to do anything about it. According to some, the state doesn't have enough money to

Antepli countered that moderate Muslims are just as repelled by the Islamic State -- and are just as often its victims -- as the rest of the world.

The question that puzzles the civilized world is why the Islamic State is so successful in recruiting. For your edification, only about 120 Americans thus far have been recruited, about 40 percent of whom are converts, Antepli said. We know that the Islamic State has a sophisticated propaganda machine and a viral social media presence. But most won't know how poorly we perform comparatively.

Every day, the Islamic State tweets tens of thousands of times, compared with the U.S. State Department,

which sends about a dozen.

Stern emphasized that the radical jihadist ideology is undergirded with a narrative of humiliation, reinforced with branding and perverse promises -- sex slaves, drugs, power -- all of which can be justified with Quranic text. The promises would be especially irresistible to a certain kind of person: The typical jihadist is a male aged 14-35 who has a mental health history and feels alienated.

Yes, some percentage of recruits are surely psychopaths attracted to the brutality the Islamic State justifies with text. And some are true believers. But many of the remainders are simply ripe for the picking. We do ourselves no favors when we play into the Islamic State's hand by reinforcing their propaganda that America hates Muslims.

Nor is it useful to fight ideology with violence, which only nurtures brutality in the jihadi mind. And certainly not by creating divisions between them and us, a propagandist tool for recruitment and radicalization.

My favorite approach relates to a method Antepli uses in his work to de-radicalize young Muslims. He told the story of a young man who was considering joining the Islamic State. Antepli, who is often called in by parents concerned about their children, said though it was the lad's decision, he should thoroughly understand all the parts of Islam before making a decision.

The young man agreed to listen. By the time Antepli had finished his recitation of the nuances, history and reality of the Islamic State, the erstwhile sympathizer said, "I don't want anything to do with that. It's boring!"

Indeed, evil isn't only banal; it's a big bore.

Kathleen Parker's email address is kathleenparker@washpost.com. © 2016, Washington Post Writers Group

do much to repair the roads; however, DOT is spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to change some intersections to traffic circles instead of first using the funds to repair roads. Where are these funds coming from?

The whole situation is a perfect example of why so many people in this state and in the U.S. are fed up with 'politics as usual' and want a change.

BOB THOMPSON

Sumter

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COMMENTARY

Trump not solely to blame for the violence at his rallies

For the last few days the burning question among pundits has been: "How much blame does Donald Trump deserve for the violence at his rallies?" It's a fair question, and the obvious answer is: a lot.

On Sunday, the demagogue paid his usual lip service to social norms, rejecting "violence in any shape." He then proceeded to say — again — that he's willing to pay the legal fees of those who commit violence on his behalf. He routinely waxes nostalgic for the good old days when troublemakers were "carried out on stretchers."

That said, there was a good deal of Kabuki to the recent chaos in Chicago.

The Trump campaign said it had to cancel its event there because the police were concerned about public safety. That's a lie. The Chicago Police Department insists the decision was Trump's — as was the choice to stage a rally in an area of Chicago where the campaign knew protesters would swarm.

Of course, protesters were only too happy to play the role Team Trump expected them to play. It matters little whether they were Bernie Sanders campaign pawns, as the chants of "Bernie! Bernie!" would suggest, or puppets of MoveOn.org, or self-starting rebels. What they wanted, as the hashtag campaign #ShutItDown suggests, was to suppress free speech.

That makes them doubly blameworthy: Their goal was dishonorable, and their tactics only helped burnish Trump's bogus self-image as the brave-yet-victimized anti-PC warrior.

Such high-ratings spectacles only magnify the sense that politics is a contest of will, not arguments. As the



Jonah Goldberg

commentator Jonathan Chait writes: The whole premise of democracy is that rules need to be applied in every case

without regard to the merit of the underlying cause to which it is attached." If you think it's acceptable to shut down Trump's rallies, you have no grounds to complain when Trump's supporters shut down Sanders' rallies.

The real problem with the question "How much blame does Trump deserve?" — or, for that matter, "How much blame does Sanders deserve?" — is that such questions assume blame is a limited commodity. If we say

Trump deserves a lot of blame, the implication is that there's only a little left for everyone else. The reality is that there's plenty to go around. We are all adrift in an ocean of blameworthiness.

Chicago was a fleeting scene in a very long-running play. The Spanish philosopher Jose Ortega y Gasset defined barbarism as the lack of universal ideals to which all can subscribe. The war on free speech is really just a battle in the larger war on universal standards.

When leaders claim the system is irredeemably corrupt and the rules

rigged against them, politics becomes a kind of barbarism. What is good for my team is right, and whatever is good for your team is wrong.

Trump is merely the latest actor to deliver such assurances to his coddled constituencies. Barack Obama — who recently ab-

solved himself of all blame for the state of politics in the nation he's led for seven years — has played this game with more finesse than most. But that's the thing about the great ones: They make it look so easy. Obviously, he hasn't encouraged violence — that is Trump's special contribution to the degradation of our politics. But from his contemptuous rhetoric for his political opponents to his unilateral disregard for constitutional restraints, Obama has helped fuel distrust and discord in ways his fans can't or won't see.

Sanders litigated his populist fire by insisting the country is held hostage by malefactors of great wealth who are exempt from the rules that bind the rest of us. Hillary Clinton, who got rich(er) giving hidden speeches to those very same malefactors, is not trusted by the voters because she seems to think the rules are for other people, at least when it comes to handling classified materials.

The truth is that politics is downstream of culture. And all of these politicians, Trump included, reflect deeper tendencies. Identity politics on the left and the right — from the war on so-called white supremacy to the bitterness of the white backlash — amount to what the French philosopher Julien Benda described as the "intellectual organization of political hatreds." What's remarkable about the violence Trump encourages isn't its sudden appearance. It's that it took this long.

Jonah Goldberg is a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and a senior editor of National Review. He can be reached by e-mail at goldbergcolumn@gmail.com. © 2016 Tribune Content Agency

EDITORIAL PAGE POLICIES

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AROUND TOWN

The Pinedale Neighborhood Association will meet at 4 p.m. today at the South Sumter Resource Center, 337 Manning Ave. For more information, call Ferdinand Burns at (803) 968-4464.

The General George L. Mabry Jr. Chapter 817, Military Order of the Purple Heart will meet at 6 p.m. today at American Legion Post 15, 34 S. Artillery Drive. All Purple Heart recipients and those interested in associate membership are invited. Call (803) 506-3120.

AARP will offer free tax preparation from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays through April 13 at the Shepherd's Center of Sumter, 24 Council St. Applicants are advised to bring with them government-issued photo IDs, Social Security cards and/or Medicare cards for anyone in the household, last year's tax forms, W-2 and/or 1099 forms, and power of attorney certification forms if they are filing for someone else. For more information, call Henry Dinkins at (803) 499-4990 or Lula King at (803) 316-0772.

Broken Wings, an eight-week grief support group hosted by Amedisys Hospice Care, will be held from 10 a.m. to noon each Saturday through April 23. Meetings will be held at the Amedisys Hospice office, 198 E. Wesmark Blvd., Suite 2, (803) 774-4036. There is no charge and the public is invited.

1199 SEIU Retired Health Care Workers of North Carolina and South Carolina will celebrate women's history month from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, March 18, at the Birnie HOPE Center, 210 S. Purdy St. Frances Finney will speak. A light lunch will be served. Call (803) 481-0475.

The Sumter Combat Veterans Group will meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 18, at the South HOPE Center, 1125 S. Lafayette Drive. All area veterans and active military are invited.

The Lincoln High School Preservation Alumni Association will hold a dinner fundraiser from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, March 18, at the Lincoln High School cafeteria, Council Street. Cost is \$8 per dinner and menu will consist of turkey wing, seasoned rice, gravy, green beans, roll, dessert

and a drink. Dine in or take out. Call James L. Green at (803) 968-4173.

The Sumter County Democrats will hold their county convention at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 19, at the Sumter County Judicial Center for the purpose of electing party officers and selecting delegates to the April 30 state convention in Columbia. The keynote speaker for this year's convention is Sumter County Sheriff Anthony Dennis. Call Allen Bailey at (803) 316-1976.

Lincoln High School Class of 1963 will meet at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 19, at the South Sumter Resource Center, 337 Manning Ave. For more information, call Ferdinand Burns at (803) 968-4464.

The Sumter Branch NAACP's Annual Women in the NAACP Program will be held at 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 20, at Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church, 7355 Camden Highway, Rembert. Dr. Mary B. Hallums will speak.

The Shannon Town Community Neighborhood Watch Group will meet from 6 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 25, at the South HOPE Center, 1125 S. Lafayette Drive.

Lincoln High School Class of 1966 will meet at noon on Saturday, March 26, at the Trinity-Lincoln Center, 26 Council St. Plans are still being made for the 50th class reunion scheduled for June 3-5.

The Bishopville, Manning, Shaw Air Force Base Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Inc. will hold a charter ceremony at 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 26, at the Mount Zion Enrichment Center, 325 W. Fulton St. E. Daniel Rosemond, Southeastern Province Polemarch, will speak. Tickets are \$30 and must be purchased in advance. Call Polemarch Ashley Vaughn at (803) 968-2283 or Vice-Polemarch Kenneth Benjamin at (803) 773-8514. Tickets will not be available at the door.

The Clarendon County Branch NAACP Annual Freedom Fund Banquet will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 26, at Taw Caw Community Outreach Center, Sumter. U.S. Rep. James E. Clyburn will speak. The Gary Green Ensemble will provide entertainment. Call (803) 485-2071.

PUBLIC AGENDA

CENTRAL CAROLINA TECHNICAL COLLEGE AREA COMMISSION Today, 5:30 p.m., building M500, second floor, President's Conference Room, Main Campus, 506 N. Guignard Drive

CLARENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT 3 Today, 7:30 p.m., district office, Turbeville

The last word in astrology ARIES (March 21-April 19): Choose to get along with others and to look for healthy alternatives. Look inward and find meaningful ways to make personal improvements. An interesting turn of events will improve a partnership.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Home, family and friends should be your focus. Discussing plans that you want to put into play will bring you closer to the ones you love and give everyone something to look forward to. Don't procrastinate — make it happen.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't take on responsibilities that don't belong to you, but don't ignore those that do. A realistic and fair approach to what you face will be the only way to get past what stands in your way. Don't overreact.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep an open mind and you will be amazed by the information you are given and how you can put it to good use in your everyday life. Romance will lead to a promising adventure with someone you love to spend time with.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Show off a little. It's in your best interest to let others know what you are capable of doing. Don't be shy when it comes to taking charge and being responsible. The difference you make will be appreciated and acknowledged.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take the initiative and do what you can to help those less fortunate. Your actions will lead to an encounter with someone who can help you bring your own dreams to fruition. A partnership will fill a void you have been experiencing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Check out every option before making a decision. Take your time and observe what's going on around you. Don't let anyone make you feel as if you are being left behind. Do things on your own terms and at your own pace.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get involved in something you've never done before. New or unusual experiences will get your creative imagination flowing and encourage you to follow through with an idea that could turn in to a moneymaker. Love is highlighted.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Expect to face opposition from someone who is trying to control your life. It's likely that you'll have to make unexpected alterations to the way you live. Protect your assets, possessions, your reputation and your health.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You don't have to join in if someone makes a last-minute change that disrupts your plans. Look for a way to carry on and you won't miss out on something you want to do. You'll obtain valuable insight from an unusual encounter.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Revisit an idea and tweak it to fit the current trends. Your ingenuity and desire to do something unique will help you forge ahead. High energy coupled with discipline will be your ticket to success. Personal improvements will be satisfying.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put the skills and talents you are passionate about to play, and you will come out a winner. Your ability to wow others with your unique approach to life will result in a partnership and profitable joint venture.

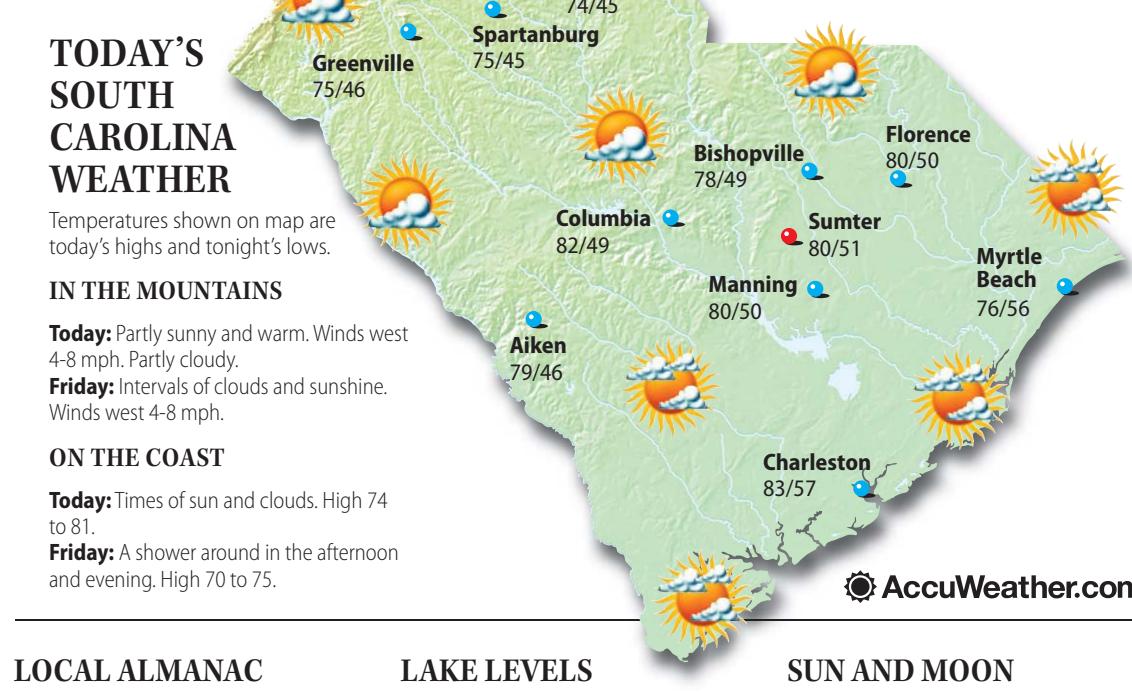
DAILY PLANNER

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2016

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly sunny and very warm 80°	Turning clear 51°	Clouds and limited sun 75° / 49°	Periods of rain 66° / 43°	Cooler; rain in the morning 56° / 36°	Plenty of sun 60° / 35°
Chance of rain: 25%	Chance of rain: 5%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 65%	Chance of rain: 65%	Chance of rain: 10%
WSW 6-12 mph	W 4-8 mph	E 7-14 mph	ENE 8-16 mph	NNE 8-16 mph	WNW 6-12 mph



AccuWeather.com

LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THROUGH 4 P.M. YESTERDAY

Temperature

High	88°
Low	61°
Normal high	66°
Normal low	41°
Record high	88° in 2016
Record low	18° in 1993

Precipitation

24 hrs ending 4 p.m. yest.	0.00"
Month to date	0.43"
Normal month to date	2.09"
Year to date	10.22"
Last year to date	13.22"
Normal year to date	9.64"

LAKE LEVELS

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	357.72	+0.03
Marion	76.8	75.89	-0.04
Moultrie	75.5	75.50	-0.07
Wateree	100	97.33	+0.14

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	8.89	-0.03
Congaree River	19	5.89	+0.22
Lynches River	14	6.75	-0.15
Saluda River	14	5.63	-0.14
Up. Santee River	80	78.65	+0.09
Wateree River	24	11.02	+2.00

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise 7:29 a.m. Sunset 7:31 p.m.

Moonrise 2:28 p.m. Moonset 3:41 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
Mar. 23	Mar. 31	Apr. 7	Apr. 13

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH

High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	5:08 a.m.	3.0	12:11 p.m.
	5:41 p.m.	2.7	---
Fri.	6:09 a.m.	3.0	12:23 a.m.
	6:40 p.m.	2.8	1:10 p.m.

NATIONAL CITIES

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	75/51/pc	71/50/sh	Asheville	69/41/pc	65/37/pc	Florence	80/50/pc	76/48/pc
Chicago	52/33/pc	41/28/pc	Athens	78/48/pc	74/48/c	G		

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Happy but hampered homecoming

Crestwood's Williams returns to Palmetto State, but broken foot will keep her out of Jacksonville University's 1st Women's NCAA Tournament game

BY JUSTIN DRIGGERS

justin@theitem.com

Keanua Williams is returning to Colonial Life Arena — but under slightly different circumstances than her last visit.

And with a much different role.

Williams, the former Crestwood High School standout, is in her second year with the Jacksonville University women's basketball team. By virtue of winning the Atlantic Sun Conference tournament on Sunday, the Dolphins secured their first-ever NCAA Women's Tournament berth.

Their opponent? Top-seeded South Carolina whom they will take on this Friday at 7:30 p.m. in Columbia.

"When I found out we were playing there I was really excited," Williams said. "My hometown; I get to see my family. I'm going to do everything I can to help push my team to get this W."

But despite a solid sophomore season in which Williams proved to be a key piece coming off the bench, her role will be relegated to cheerleader after suffering a broken foot against Lipscomb on Feb. 15.

"When I went up for a layup, I came down wrong on one of my teammate's feet," Williams said. "I didn't know it was broken, so I tried to run it off."

"When I found out it was broken, it hurt me, but I was going to push through it."

Williams' season is over as she has yet to resume basketball activities, but it hasn't stopped her from enjoying the ride to the NCAAs.

"My senior season we went to the championship (game) and didn't win," she said. "And now my sophomore

SEE HOMECOMING, PAGE B4



JACKSONVILLE UNIVERSITY MEDIA RELATIONS

Jacksonville University sophomore guard and former Crestwood High School standout Keanua Williams (3) was key member of the Dolphins' bench this season until injuring her foot against Lipscomb. Even so, she'll be courtside when JU plays its first NCAA Women's Tournament game on Friday at 7:30 p.m. against South Carolina at Colonial Life Arena in Columbia -- the site of her final game with the Lady Knights.

SEE DENGOKI, PAGE B4

CLEMSON BASKETBALL

Tigers star to test the NBA waters

BY MANDRALLIUS ROBINSON

Greenville News

CLEMSON — Clemson University junior forward Jaron Blossomgame has declared for the National Basketball Association draft.

At least until May 25.

In January, the NCAA revised the declaration process for the NBA draft.

College players are now permitted to enter the draft pool, attend the NBA scouting combine and individual team tryouts, and then return to their school, as long as they do not sign with an agent and withdraw their name from the draft within 10 days of the combine.

The revision protects eager young players from imprudently forfeiting their eligibility. Instead of the assessments of agents and unaffiliated analysts, players can make informed decisions based on direct feedback from NBA teams.

SEE BLOSSOMGAME, PAGE B5

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

A guide to the NCAA Tournament

BY JOHN MARSHALL

The Associated Press

College basketball fans thought picking the bracket was tough last season.

Wait til this NCAA Tournament really gets going.

With no clear-cut favorites and seemingly a dozen teams that could take down the nets in Houston, this March could be the mother of madness.

Regardless of whether you have to shred your bracket early, it figures to be a fantastic road to the Final Four, so we've got a rundown of the top matchups, players and some other tidbits about this year's NCAA Tournament.

TOP TEAMS

Kansas. Bracket's No. 1 overall seed. No need to say more.

North Carolina. Preseason No. 1 has the talent to be there at the end, too.

Oregon. Athletic, frenetic on defense, filled with get-to-the-rim players.

Virginia. Cavaliers guard like the rim is a pot of gold.

Michigan State. Guessing Tom Izzo will use being bumped to a No. 2 in the Midwest as motivation. Never anger the Izzo, especially in

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
North Carolina forward Brice Johnson, right, holds the ACC trophy after Saturday's victory over Virginia. UNC is a top-four seed.

March.

TOP GAMES

Iowa State vs. Iona, Thursday, Midwest Region. Both average around 80 points a

game and will be playing in Denver, where the thin air will make it tough to get back on defense. If you like offense, this is your game.

Wichita State vs. Arizona,

Thursday, South Region. The Shockers had to play in the First Four on Tuesday, but are a talented, upperclassmen-led team — just like Arizona.

Baylor vs. Yale, Thursday, West Region. The Bears are talented, but struggled down the stretch. The Bulldogs are playing less than two hours from home and talented. Potential for an early 12-over-5 upset.

Seton Hall vs. Gonzaga, Thursday, Midwest Region. The Pirates are one of the hottest teams in the country and the Zags are coming around now that their guards are playing well around Kyle Wiltjer and Domantas Sabonis.

West Virginia vs. Stephen F. Austin. The Mountaineers are a trendy pick to make a deep run, but the Lumberjacks have not lost since Dec. 29 and are No. 1 nationally in forcing turnovers.

Kentucky vs. Indiana, Saturday, East Region. Blue bloods have to win their first games to set this up, but worth the wait if it happens.

MARQUEE PLAYERS

Buddy Hield, Oklahoma.

SEE GUIDE, PAGE B3

KEEPING UP

Lakewood's Dengoki honored

BY BARBARA BOXLEITNER

Special to The Item

Sonora Dengoki has been recognized for her basketball play.

The University of North Carolina-Asheville reserve guard was named the Big South Conference freshman of the week on Monday, and now she'll get a chance to play in the NCAA tournament.

DENGOKI
Sonora Dengoki has been recognized for her basketball play. The University of North Carolina-Asheville reserve guard was named the Big South Conference freshman of the week on Monday, and now she'll get a chance to play in the NCAA tournament.

The Lakewood High School graduate was acknowledged for her performances in wins over Charleston Southern and High Point, the latter of which resulted in the Bulldogs claiming their first conference title. She had 10 points and five rebounds in a start against Charleston Southern and seven points and five rebounds in 13 minutes against High Point.

Dengoki had eight points in a win over Campbell University as the team advanced to Saturday's semifinals of the conference tournament.

She has played in all 32 games for UNCA and is averaging 5.8 points and 3.3 rebounds.

Asheville is 26-6 on the season and will play Kentucky in the first round of the NCAAs on Saturday.

MORE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

USC Upstate senior Brittany Starling has been named to the College Sports Madness all-Mid Major fourth team. The center out of Sumter High also was recognized on the all-Atlantic Sun Conference first team. She averaged 15.4 points and 12 rebounds, both of which led the team. Starling finished her career as the program's all-time leader in rebounds and ranks fourth in points.

Bishopville resident Precillya Dixon averaged 4.3 points and 2.6 rebounds in 23 games for Johnson and Wales University. She had a season-high 10 points and added five rebounds against Mid-Atlantic Christian University.

SPORTS ITEMS

Ard's grand slam powers USC softball to DH sweep

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Senior center fielder and former Wilson Hall standout Ansley Ard launched a grand slam in the sixth inning to lead the South Carolina (21-5) softball team to a 7-4 win over Buffalo in the first game of Wednesday's doubleheader at Carolina Softball Stadium at Beckham Field.

Ard also had a bunt single in the second contest that tied the game as the Gamecocks swept the twinbill with a 10-2 victory in five innings.

Ard's bomb with two outs in the opener put the Gamecocks on top for good. Ard went 2-for-2 with a walk, a stolen base and the grand slam. She scored twice with the one hit in the nightcap.

The top four in the Gamecock lineup did most of the damage in the second contest, combining to go 8-for-11 with six runs scored and seven driven in. The quartet of freshman Alexis Mack, senior Alaynie Page, freshman Kennedy Clark and junior Kaylea Snaer all had two hits, with Clark's four RBI topping the group.

CLEMSON 5

CITADEL 4

CHARLESTON -- Weston Wilson's 2-run single in the ninth inning broke a 3-3 tie and propelled No. 19 Clemson to 5-4 win over The Citadel at Riley Park on Wednesday.

The Tigers, who won the midweek series 2-0, improved to 13-3, while the Bulldogs dropped to 7-10.

Weston Wilson broke a 1-1 tie with a run-scoring double in the third inning, then the Bulldogs plated an unearned run in the fifth inning to tie the score. Seth



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Charlotte's Jeremy Lin (7) drives around Orlando's Aaron Gordon during the Hornets' 107-99 victory on Wednesday in Charlotte.

Beer, who earlier extended his hitting streak to 14 games, ripped a run-scoring single in the sixth inning to give Clemson a 3-2 lead. The Bulldogs tied the score in the eighth inning on a 2-out, run-scoring single by Brett Hines. But Chris Okey led off the ninth inning with a double and scored the go-ahead run on Wilson's single to left-center. Wilson had a game-high three RBI and has 10 RBI in the last three games.

Alex Bostic (2-0) earned the win in relief by tossing 1½ innings. Bulldog reliever Kyle Smith (1-1) suffered the loss as he gave up the two runs in the ninth inning.

Former Wilson Hall standout William Kinney had a hit and drove in a run for the Citadel and former Sumter High and Sumter P-15's standout Jacob Watcher scored a run. His brother Phillip pitched a scoreless inning of relief and struck out two.

SOUTH CAROLINA 15

DAVIDSON 2

COLUMBIA -- Gene Cone, Marcus Mooney and TJ Hopkins combined for nine hits and 11 runs batted in as No. 12 South Carolina routed Da-

vidson 15-2 on Wednesday at Founders Park.

USC improved to 17-2 overall while Davidson fell to 7-9.

Cone, Mooney and Hopkins each recorded a double as the Gamecocks built a sizeable lead by the midway point of the game and never looked back. Four Carolina pitchers combined to allow one earned run, including former USC Sumter standout Colie Bowers who went two innings and gave up no runs on no hits with a strikeout and four walks.

NBA

HORNETS 107

MAGIC 99

CHARLOTTE — Marvin Williams and Nicolas Batum each scored 26 points, and the Charlotte Hornets beat the Orlando Magic 107-99 to finish their homestand with a 6-1 record.

Williams added nine rebounds and four 3-pointers, while Batum had nine assists and seven rebounds for the Hornets, who have won 14 of their last 17. Cody Zeller had his fourth double-double of the season with 13 points and 13 rebounds.

From staff, wire reports

AREA ROUNDUP

Sumter softball tops Socastee 10-6

MYRTLE BEACH -- Sumter High School's varsity softball team opened its Region VI-4A schedule with a 10-6 victory over Socastee on Tuesday at the Socastee field.

Erin McCaffrey went 3-for-4 with two doubles, two runs scored and two runs batted in to lead the Lady Gamecocks. Gabby Kirkman was 2-for-3 with a double and two RBI, Anna Copeland and Kaylee Posey both had two hits, including a double, and an RBI and Chelsie Logan had a triple and an RBI.

Hannah Bettencourt picked up the win, striking out eight and allowing just two earned runs.

WILSON HALL 14

CAROLINA ACADEMY 0

Drake Ives pitched a 1-hit shutout, striking out four, as Wilson Hall earned a 14-0, 5-inning victory over Carolina Academy on Wednesday at Patriot Park SportsPlex.

Madison Sliwonik had three hits -- including a double -- with two RBI and two runs scored. Betsy Cunningham had a double and drove in four while Madison Reaves collected two hits and two RBI.

Madison Elmore had two hits and an RBI, Ives had two hits, Amelia Weston had two RBI and Liza Lowder scored two runs.

VARSITY SOCCER

SOCASSEE 3

SUMTER 0

Sumter High School lost to Socastee 3-0 on Tuesday in its Region VI-4A opener at the SHS field.

On Friday in Sumter, the Lady Gamecocks lost to

White Knoll 7-0.

BOYS

VARSITY TENNIS

WILSON HALL 6

CARDINAL NEWMAN 3

COLUMBIA — Despite having to forfeit two matches due to injury, Wilson Hall's varsity tennis team improved to 3-0 on Wednesday with a 6-3 victory over Cardinal Newman in Columbia.

The Barons return to action on Monday at A.C. Flora.

SINGLES

1 — Brown (WH) defeated Pankau 6-0, 6-0.
2 — Hendrix (WH) defeated Miller 6-1, 4-6, 10-8.

3 — Stover (WH) defeated Liebenow 6-3, 6-3.

4 — Stone (WH) defeated Michalski 6-1, 6-4.

5 — Bolshakov (CN) defeated Newmann 6-0, 6-0.

6 — CN wins via injury forfeit

1 — Brown/Hendrix (WH) defeated Pankau/Miller 8-0.

2 — Stover/Stone (WH) defeated Liebenow/Michalski 8-6.

3 — CN wins via injury forfeit

VARSITY BASEBALL

MARLBORO COUNTY 13

CRESTWOOD 1

Crestwood opened its Region VI-3A schedule with a 13-1 loss to Marlboro County on Tuesday at the CHS field.

Michael Stiles had a double for the Knights, who fell to 1-6 overall. Richard Scurry scored the run.

JUNIOR VARSITY

BASEBALL

MARLBORO COUNTY 19

CRESTWOOD 3

BENNETTSVILLE -- Crestwood High School fell

to 0-2 with a 19-3 loss to Marlboro County on Monday at the MC field.

Tylk Farmer had two hits, one a double, and scored once for the Knights.

Tai'Juan Richardson had two hits, a walk and scored twice. Shane Gaymon added a double.

LAURENCE MANNING 8-14

HAMMOND 4-1

COLUMBIA -- Laurence Manning Academy picked up a doubleheader sweep of Hammond on Tuesday at the Skyhawks field by scores of 8-4 and 14-1.

J.T. Stanley and Chase Lee were the two winning pitchers for the Swampcats.

In the opener, Brewer Brunson, Riley Nettles and Jake Jordan each had two hits for LMA. Tripp Prosser, Lee, Stanley and Seth Stamps led the 'Cats at the plate in Game 2.

B TEAM BASEBALL

WILSON HALL 11-5

ORANGEBURG PREP 4-2

Wilson Hall swept a doubleheader from Orangeburg Prep on Wednesday by scores of 11-4 and 5-2.

James Wiley got the win in the opening game, going three innings with five strikeouts while Hunter Ives was the winning pitcher in Game 2 with six punchouts over three innings. Tyler James and Tate Sistar each had a 2-inning save.

Justin Holmes led the Barons at the plate in Game One, going 2-or-3 with a double. Keaton Price, Wise Segars and Preston Jacocks had two hits apiece in the second contest with Price also scoring two runs.

SCOREBOARD

TV, RADIO

TODAY

5 a.m. — Professional Golf: European PGA Tour Indian Open First Round from New Delhi (GOLF).

6 a.m. — Major League Exhibition Baseball: Pittsburgh vs. Baltimore from Clearwater, Fla. (MLB NETWORK).

9 a.m. — Major League Exhibition Baseball: Chicago Cubs vs. Kansas City from Tempe, Ariz. (MLB NETWORK).

Noon — College Wrestling: NCAA Tournament First-Round Matches from New York (ESPN).

1 p.m. — Major League Exhibition Baseball: St. Louis vs. Detroit from Lakeland, Fla. (MLB NETWORK).

2 p.m. — Professional Tennis: BNP Paribas Open Men's and Women's Quarterfinal Matches from Indian Wells, Calif. (ESPN2).

2 p.m. — International Soccer: UEFA Europa League Match — Villarreal vs. Bayer Leverkusen (FOX SPORTS 1).

2 p.m. — International Soccer: UEFA Europa League Match — Athletic Bilbao vs. Valencia (FOX SPORT 2).

2 p.m. — PGA Golf: Arnold Palmer Invitational First Round from Orlando, Fla. (GOLF).

4 p.m. — International Soccer: UEFA Europa League Match — Liverpool vs. Manchester United (FOX SPORTS 1).

4 p.m. — International Soccer: UEFA Europa League Match — Borussia Dortmund vs. Tottenham (FOX SPORT 2).

4 p.m. — Major League Exhibition Baseball: Los Angeles Angels vs. Colorado from Mesa, Ariz. (MLB NETWORK).

6 p.m. — LPGA Golf: JTBC Founders Cup First Round from Phoenix (GOLF).

6:05 p.m. — Talk Show: Sports Talk (WDXY-FM 105.9, WDXY-AM 1240).

7 p.m. — Major League Exhibition Baseball: Arizona vs. Chicago Cubs from Mesa, Ariz. (ESPN).

7 p.m. — College Wrestling: NCAA Tournament Second-Round Matches from New York (ESPN).

7 p.m. — NHL Hockey: Carolina at Pittsburgh (FOX SPORTS SOUTH).

7:15 p.m. — High School Baseball: Blythewood at Lugoff-Elgin (WPUB-FM 102.7).

7:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Charlotte at Miami (FOX SPORTS SOUTHEAST).

7:30 p.m. — NASCAR Racing: K&N Pro Series East from Mobile, Ala. (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).

7 p.m. — Formula One Racing: Australian Grand Prix Practice (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).

10 p.m. — Major League Exhibition Baseball: San Francisco vs. San Diego (MLB NETWORK).

1:30 a.m. — Formula One Racing: Australian Grand Prix Practice (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).

2 a.m. — Major League Exhibition Baseball: Toronto vs. Houston from Kissimmee, Fla. (MLB NETWORK).

5 a.m. — Professional Golf: European PGA Tour Indian Open Second Round from New Delhi (GOLF).

TUESDAY'S GAMES

Indiana 103, Boston 98

Orlando 116, Denver 110

Brooklyn 131, Philadelphia 114

Toronto 107, Milwaukee 89

San Antonio 108, L.A. Clippers 87

Sacramento 106, L.A. Lakers 98

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

Dallas at Cleveland, 7 p.m.

Oklahoma City at Boston, 7 p.m.

Chicago at Washington, 7 p.m.

Orlando at Charlotte, 7 p.m.

Atlanta at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.

Minnesota at Memphis, 8 p.m.

L.A. Clippers at Houston, 9:30 p.m.

New Orleans at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

New York at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Phoenix at Utah, 9 p.m.

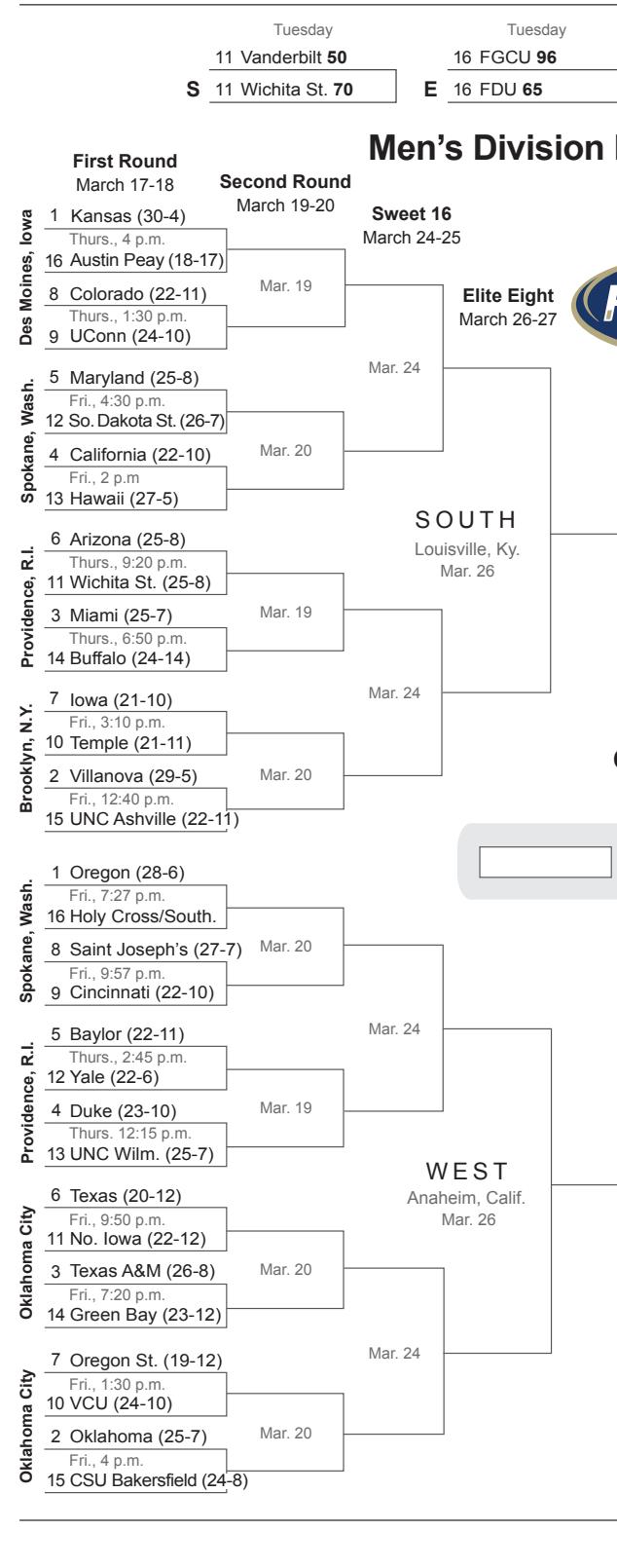
NHL STANDINGS

By The Associated Press

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	70	39	22	9	87	198
Boston	71	39	24	8	86	215
Tampa Bay	70	40	25	5	85	191
Detroit	70	34	25	11	79	176
Ottawa	71	33				



GUIDE

FROM PAGE B1

Scores in bunches, rises up under pressure. Denzel Valentine, Michigan State. Does everything except drive the Spartans' bus.

Tyler Ulis, Kentucky. Coach Cal says Ulis' size may have held him back in national player of the year conversations. The 5-foot-9 sophomore is one of the nation's best regardless of his height.

Malcolm Brogdon, Virginia. Shoots, drives, shuts his man down. Can't ask for much more.

Jakob Poeltl, Utah. Doesn't get as much exposure playing out West, but one of the nation's best big men.

NUMBERS

14-19—Record of Holy Cross, which won the Patriot League title to earn a spot in the bracket after going 5-13 in conference.

20—Straight wins by Stephen F. Austin heading into the tournament.

54—Years since Yale last made the NCAA Tournament.

63—Years since Holy Cross won an NCAA Tournament game.

78.7—UConn's free throw percentage, tops in the nation.

5,504—Miles Baylor will have to travel to reach the Final Four. That's longest among the 68 teams in the bracket, according to allmyteamssuck.com.

CINDERALLAS?

Gonzaga. The Zags weren't the same when Przemek Karnowski was injured. Their guards were good at the end of the season, though, and they still have the Wiltjer-Sabonis combo inside.

Wichita State. The Shockers sneaked into the First Four. With Fred Van Vleet healthy and teaming Ron Baker, this is a team that could make a run.

Purdue. Boilermakers are good at both ends, considered one of the most under-seeded teams in the bracket at No. 5 in the Midwest.

Hawaii. Rainbow Warriors force a lot of turnovers and make a lot of 3s, a good combination if they get hot in the tourney.

VCU. Havoc causes opponents problems and the Rams have a knack for getting to the rim. New team and new coach, but they've been deep in the bracket before.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL TV SCHEDULE

NCAA

WLTX 19

Noon - Duke vs. UNC-Wilmington

2:30 p.m. - Baylor vs. Yale

7 p.m. - Indiana vs. Chattanooga

TRUTV

12:30 p.m. - Texas Tech vs. Butler

3 p.m. - Virginia vs. Hampton

7:15 p.m. - Utah vs. Fresno State

9:30 p.m. - Kentucky vs. Stony Brook

9:55 p.m. - Seton Hall vs. Gonzaga

TNT

1 p.m. - Colorado vs. Connecticut

3:50 p.m. - Kansas vs. Austin Peay

6:45 p.m. - Miami vs. Buffalo

9:15 p.m. - Arizona vs. Wichita State

TBS

1:30 p.m. - Iowa State vs. Iona

4:20 p.m. - Purdue vs. Ark.-Little Rock

7:15 p.m. - UNC vs. Florida Gulf Coast

9:45 p.m. - So. California vs. Providence

NIT

ESPNNU

11 p.m. - Teams To Be Announced

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Holy Cross wins first tournament game since '53

DAYTON, Ohio — Robert Champion scored 19 points, including a key 3-pointer in the final minute, to help Holy Cross beat Southern University 59-55 Wednesday night for its first NCAA Tournament victory in 63 years.

Champion, a junior guard, also made two key free throws with 14 seconds left to put the game away. He connected on as many 3s as the entire Southern team, which was 3 for 20 from beyond the arc in a sluggish, mistake-filled First Four game.

Holy Cross (15-19) was an unlikely NCAA participant, earning its automatic bid by winning four straight road games to take the Patriot League Tournament title. Now, the 16th-seeded Crusaders advance to play No. 1 seed Oregon in the West Regional on Friday in Spokane, Washington.

The Crusaders had lost nine consecutive NCAA Tournament games since defeating Navy and Wake Forest in 1953 six years after Holy Cross won the national championship.

Holy Cross led by as many as 12 in the first half.

WICHITA STATE 70 VANDERBILT 50

DAYTON, Ohio — Wichita State's guards used their Final Four experience to pull out a defense-dominated First Four game on Tuesday night, leading the way to a 70-50 victory over Vanderbilt.

Fred VanVleet — the two-time Missouri Valley player of the year — scored 14 points, and Ron Baker also had 14 as Wichita State (25-8) took control at the start of the second half and held on. The seniors were part of Wichita State's 2013 Final Four team.

The Shockers play Arizona on Thursday in Providence, Rhode Island.

Vanderbilt (19-14) couldn't take advantage of its pronounced size advantage on offense and never led in the second half. Joe Toye and Riley LaChance had 10 apiece.

From wire reports



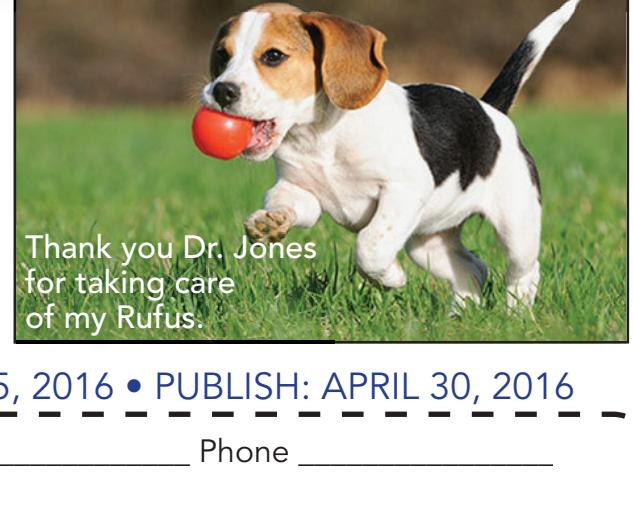
Michigan State's Denzel Valentine is one of the tournament's marquee players.



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Women's Division I Basketball Championship



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Columbus, Ohio

Tempe, Ariz.

Notre Dame, Ind.

Stanford, Calif.

Lexington, Ky.

College Park, Md.

AP



HOMECOMING

FROM PAGE B1

season in college, I actually got to see how it felt to be a champion.

"The celebration was just the best."

The journey to Columbia caps off a roller-coaster of emotions for Williams through her first two years in Jacksonville. She appeared in just seven games her freshman year, averaging six minutes and two points.

The Dolphins' emphasis on

and style of defense was a challenge she had to meet in order to stay on the team and keep playing basketball, she said.

"I really wasn't good with defense and that was the big thing here," Williams said. "My conditioning was the biggest thing. Once I passed that test, I knew good things were going to happen."

"I just came in to this year trying to have a positive attitude."

Things started to pick up for Williams in the early part of this season. She played 21 minutes against Thomas Universi-

ty on Nov. 24 and scored a career-high 10 points.

She appeared in 24 games overall with a career-high 22 minutes logged against NJIT on Jan. 26. She was on the court for 18 minutes on Dec. 28 against Florida State -- a game where she said she really felt like she stepped up and contributed.

"I felt really good that game," Williams said. "But mostly, I just worked hard and tried to prepare myself for when they needed me."

"When my name was called, I was ready to go."

DENGOKI

FROM PAGE B1

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Travis Fredimon helped Lander University win the Peach Belt Conference championship. The past GSUmer ame-cock had a team-high five assists, 13 points and seven rebounds in the win over Augus-

ta University. Fredimon averaged 8.2 points, 3.7 rebounds and a team-best 2.7 assists in 29 games for the Bearcats, who lost to Lincoln Memorial University in the first round of the NCAA Division II national tournament.

MEN'S GOLF

Laurence Manning Academy product John Duke shot a 235 (80-77-78) to finish fourth

among the Coker College scorers at the Spring Kickoff Inter-collegiate.

John Keffer shot a 248 (86-80-82) for Southern Wesleyan University in the Newberry College Invitational. The Sumter alumnus was third among the Warriors.

Send updates about area athletes to Barbara Boxleitner at bboxleitner@outlook.com.

The Item's Annual **FIRESIDE FUND 2015-16** DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF CHARLES R. "PAP" PROPT



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JACKSONVILLE UNIVERSITY MEDIA RELATIONS
 Jacksonville University sophomore guard and former Crestwood High School standout Keanua Williams (3) averaged 9.4 minutes and 2.5 points a game for the Dolphins in 24 games this season before breaking her foot against Lipscomb. Williams will be courtside on Friday when JU plays its first NCAA Women's Tournament game against South Carolina at Colonial Life Arena in Columbia.

NATIONAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Maten's 33 points lift Georgia past Belmont

ATHENS, Ga. — Yante Maten scored a career-high 33 points and Charles Mann added 23 points to help Georgia beat Belmont 93-84 in the first round of the NIT on Wednesday night.

The Bulldogs (20-13) have won six of their last seven and will visit Saint Mary's on Sunday.

Belmont pulled as close as two on Craig Bradshaw's two free throws late in the second half and trailed by three on Taylor Barnette's 3 with 3:38 remaining.

But J.J. Frazier followed with a straightaway 3 at the 1:47 mark and hit eight consecutive free throws in the final minute to put the game away.

Bradshaw finished with 19 points for the Bruins (20-12). Austin Luke had 16 points and Nick Smith added 14.

Maten scored 20 of Georgia's first 34 points. The Bulldogs snapped a five-game winning streak in a loss to Kentucky in the last week's Southeastern Conference semifinal.

Evan Bradds, the Ohio Valley Conference player of the year, took just five shots from the field and finished with 13 points.

**MONMOUTH 90
BUCKNELL 80**

WEST LONG BRANCH, N.J. — Justin Robinson scored 23 points and Monmouth, snubbed by the NCAA Tournament, opened the NIT with a 90-80 victory over Bucknell.

Collin Stewart added 16 points and Deon Jones 15 for the No. 1-seeded Hawks, who hit 11 of 27 from the arc and will host George Washington on Monday.

Monmouth (28-7), the regular-season champion of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference that had victories over USC, Notre Dame and UCLA, was left out of the NCAAs after losing to Iona in the MAAC title game.

Monmouth led 36-30 at halftime on Wednesday before both teams got hot in the second half when both shot over 58 percent and combined for 104 points.

The Bison (17-14), regular-season champs in the Patriot League but a quarterfinal loser to eventual tournament champion Holy Cross, caught the Hawks at 52-all on Kimbal Mackenzie's 3-pointer. The Hawks responded with two Stewart 3-pointers and another by Robinson and led the rest of the way.

Seven straight points by Jones put Monmouth up by 12 with under a minute left.

Chris Haas led Bucknell

with 18 points. Zach Thomas added 15, Mackenzie 13, and the Bison made 11 of 27 3-point attempts.

**WAGNER 79
ST. BONAVENTURE 75**

SAINT BONAVENTURE, N.Y. — Romone Saunders scored 21 points with four 3-pointers and eighth-seeded Wagner upset No. 1 seed St. Bonaventure 79-75 Wednesday night in an opening-round NIT game.

After trailing by as many as 16 in the second half, St. Bonaventure went on a 9-2 run to pull to 62-53 cutting the margin to single digits for the first time since 19-10.

The Bonnies got within two before Saunders sank a 3-pointer from the wing for a 74-69 lead with 1:45 left. Neither team scored again until JoJo Cooper hit two free throws with 12.6 seconds left to extend the Seahawks' lead to 76-69.

Mike Aaman and Michael Carey controlled the paint and scored 13 points apiece for Wagner (23-10), which will play at Creighton on Saturday. Aaman grabbed nine rebounds and Carey had eight.

Wagner went on an 18-2 run, capped by Saunders' 3-point play, to take a 26-10 lead. St. Bonaventure started the game shooting just 4 of 17 from the field (23.5 percent). A Saunders 3-pointer from the wing with four minutes left increased the Seahawks' lead to 36-19.

Jaylen Adams led St. Bonaventure (22-9) with 24 points and six 3-pointers.

**GEORGE WASHINGTON 82
HOFSTRA 80**

WASHINGTON — Alex Mitola's 12-foot runner with four seconds remaining gave George Washington an 82-80 win over Hofstra in a first-round NIT game on Wednesday night.

The Colonials will play at Monmouth, a No. 1 seed, on Monday.

Mitola's 3-pointer, his first points after missing seven shots, gave George Washington an 80-71 lead with 2:38 to go. Hofstra rallied to knot the game at 80 — the first tie since it was 31-all in the first half — on Juan'ya Green's drive with 13 seconds left. Mitola then made his game-winner before a desperation shot by Hofstra.

Tyler Cavanaugh scored 20 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for the Colonials. Patricio Garino added 18 points, Kevin Larsen 16 and Yuta Watanabe 15.

From wire reports

NIT GLANCE**FIRST ROUND**

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

South Carolina 88, High Point 66
Florida State 84, Davidson 74
Ohio State 72, Akron 63, OT
Creighton 72, Alabama 54
Washington 107, Long Beach State 102
Florida 97, North Florida 68
Valparaiso 84, Texas Southern 73
San Diego State 79, IPFW 55
Saint Mary's (Cal) 58, New Mexico State 56

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

Wagner 79, St. Bonaventure 75
Georgia 93, Belmont 84
Monmouth 90, Bucknell 80
George Washington 82, Hofstra 80
Virginia Tech 86, Princeton 81, OT
Houston (22-9) at Georgia Tech (19-14)
UAB (26-6) at BYU (23-10)

SECOND ROUND

MARCH 18-21

Wagner (23-10) vs. Creighton (19-14), TBA
Virginia Tech (20-14) vs. UAB-BYU winner, TBA
Valparaiso (27-6) vs. Florida State (20-13), TBA
Georgia (20-13) vs. Saint Mary's (Cal) (28-5), TBA
South Carolina (25-8) vs. Houston-Georgia Tech winner, TBA
Washington (19-14) vs. San Diego State (26-9), TBA
Monmouth (28-7) vs. George Washington (24-10)
Ohio State (21-13) vs. Florida (20-14), TBA

QUARTERFINALS

MARCH 22-23

Wagner-St. Bonaventure-Creighton winner vs. Princeton-Virginia Tech-UAB-BYU winner, TBA
Valparaiso-Florida State winner vs. Belmont-Georgia-Saint Mary's (Cal) winner, TBA
South Carolina-Houston-Georgia Tech winner vs. Washington-San Diego State winner, TBA
Bucknell-Monmouth-Hofstra-George Washington winner vs. Ohio State-Florida winner, TBA

SEMI-FINALS

AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

NEW YORK

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

Game 1, 7 p.m.
Game 2, 9:30 p.m.

CHAMPIONSHIP

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

Semifinal winners, 7 p.m.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clemson's Jaron Blossomgame is testing to see if he will enter the upcoming NBA draft.

CLEMSON

FROM PAGE B1

"I'll be looking at their projections and where teams see me fitting in at the next level," Blossomgame said. "If the feedback is not positive, then I will return to school for my senior season. We'll have a great chance to put a good team together."

If invited, Blossomgame will attend the scouting combine May 11-15 in Chicago. Clemson coach Brad Brownell and his staff already have reached out to their NBA contacts to help Blossomgame gauge his draft stock.

"Jaron wants to test himself, and that's what competitive guys want to do. They want to play against the best. They feel like they belong," Brownell said. "We're going to do everything we can to support him through this process now."

"My job is to do what's best for the player. When we recruit young men and sit in their homes and talk to their families, they need to know that's what we're going to do. I take that responsibility very seriously."

Blossomgame earned first-team All-Atlantic Coast Conference honors this season after averaging 18.6 points per game, the highest average by a Clemson player since 2001. Blossomgame became the only Clemson player to convert at least 50 percent from the field, 40 percent from 3-point range and 75 percent from the foul line.

His return would bolster Clemson's chances end a five-year drought from the NCAA Tournament. His departure would revert Brownell to a precarious position.

The last All-ACC honoree he coached, K.J. McDaniels, declared for the NBA draft after leading Clemson in points, steals, blocks and 3-pointers in 2014. McDaniels was selected in the second round, 32nd overall, by the Philadelphia 76ers.

In the following season, Clemson's win total dropped from 23 to 16.

With the possibility that Blossomgame could return,

"If the feedback is not positive, then I will return to school for my senior season. We'll have a great chance to put a good team together."

CLEMSON'S JARON BLOSSOMGAME

Brownell will not search immediately to fill that scholarship with a late-blooming freshman or a graduate transfer. Conversely, if he waits until the end of May, the recruiting pool may be depleted of viable talent.

However, Brownell said the predicament is less daunting than it was two years ago, because Blossomgame would leave behind a better roster.

"We have more quality players with experience that we can handle that situation, but to think that won't have some impact is probably naive," Brownell said. "We'll have to make adjustments. Somebody else is going to have to emerge and have a major year."

Donte Grantham is the top candidate to ascend to the alpha role. As a sophomore, Grantham averaged 10.2 points, 4.1 rebounds and one steal per game. He was the only Tiger with more than 50 3-pointers.

Clemson also will add three promising transfers who sat out this season — sophomore point guard Shelton Mitchell, sophomore shooting guard Marquise Reed and freshman post player Elijah Thomas.

Brownell acknowledged that each player will face an acclimation period, especially to ACC competition, but the trio will strengthen Clemson's depth.

Brownell said Mitchell may be the first "real pure point guard" he has coached at Clemson. He will allow returning guard Avry Holmes to slide to the wing. Transferring from facilitator to scorer, Holmes could augment the 10 points he

averaged this season.

Center Sidy Djitte may not develop into a double-digit scorer, but he has exhibited his ability to protect the rim and collect rebounds on both ends. He averaged 5.3 points and 5.2 boards while averaging merely 15.2 minutes per game.

"I don't know if we have a guy who's going to do what (Blossomgame) did," Brownell said. "But we have more guys who are ready to be better offensively to help us, so I'm optimistic that we can withstand that."

Brownell contended, whether Blossomgame is back on campus or in the NBA next season, Clemson's goal will remain the same — reaching the NCAA Tournament. He adamantly denounced any detractors who insist that, after a third consecutive winning season, the Tigers are not aimed in that direction.

"To sound like we're not in a good place or that we're not doing some good things, certainly I would dispute all that. To think there's not positive momentum in our program, I dispute all those kinds of things that some people would say," said Brownell, who cited Clemson's 10-8 ACC record and the ongoing renovation to Littlejohn Coliseum.

Brownell said, since the conclusion of the season, he has visited with director of athletics Dan Radakovich, and they agree on the status of the program — dissatisfied with the result but encouraged by the future. Brownell asserted that any speculation about his job security was simply a waste of words.

"We need to make the tournament. We want to make the tournament. It's what we're trying to do," Brownell said. "But I also think that's a little bit of just outside anxiousness that would lead to nothing productive for me."

"It's not just about wins and losses with me. I understand ultimately that's how you're judged at this level. No problem. I can understand that, but there's a lot more to it about having the right kind of guys doing the right kind of things. We're doing all those things, building a program and a consistent program."

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PRO GOLF

Scott arrives at Bay Hill on a tear

BY DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Adam Scott went nearly two years without winning and now looks like he can't lose.

Over three straight weeks, he was runner-up at Riviera, won the Honda Classic and then rallied to beat Rory McIlroy in the Cadillac Championship at Doral. It brought the Australian back into the conversation of golf's elite, and it raised one pair of questions going into the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

How long can he sustain this great run?

With the Masters less than a month away, is it possible that Scott has peaked too early?

"I don't really know how long I can keep it up," Scott said Wednesday at Bay Hill, where players are raving about the condition of the course. "You've got to take advantage of it while it's there. That's the big thing and obviously, I feel confident I can play well this week. Nothing feels any different than when I left Doral, and I'd like to get myself in that position to win again this week and keep it running."

No one has ever won the opening two legs of the Florida swing since Doral began in 1962. Scott went home to the Bahamas last week, where he didn't touch a club for four days because he needed rest more than practice. Now he goes for a third straight victory.

He couldn't help but laugh when he mentioned how Tiger Woods kept a hot streak going "for about 10 years."

PRO BASKETBALL

As playoffs approach, Aldridge finally finds groove with Spurs

BY JON KRAWCZYNSKI

The Associated Press

LaMarcus Aldridge's union with the Spurs last summer was something rarely seen in San Antonio, a big-money free agent being pursued by a franchise that prides itself on not having to chase anyone during the annual bonanza.

Armed with a rising young star in Kawhi Leonard and three ageless veterans who have won four championships together but need help now more than ever, the Spurs deviated from that long-held plan and went after the premier name on the market.

When Aldridge chose them, everyone expected the assimilation to take time for both sides. And as the playoffs near, it should come as no surprise that the player and the team are starting to find a groove.

"It takes time," said guard Manu Ginobili, who along with Tony Parker and Tim Duncan are the mainstays that the Spurs have built around for more than a decade. "Many times before we added role players, so they've just got to adjust to us and they'll figure it out or not."

"With him it's different because we've got to adjust to him, too, along with him adjusting to us. We've just got to know him, we've got to make him feel good, important. And, of course, he's so talented."

Aldridge's averages in points (17.7), field goal attempts (14.0) and minutes (30.4) are the lowest since his rookie season in 2006-07. But he is having one of the most efficient seasons of his career in Gregg Popovich's ball-sharing offense.

And while his numbers have been down compared to where they were as a featured player in Portland, they have spiked over the last month. Over his last 21 games, Aldridge is averaging 21.6 points on 55 percent

Whether he is using up all his great chances before going for another green jacket at Augusta National is impossible to predict. Fifteen years ago, when there were rumblings that Woods was going through a slump, Woods won Bay Hill and The Players Championship in successive weeks, and then won the Masters.

"I think guys like Tiger and some of the best players of history have shown that they can sustain a high level of golf for fairly long periods of time," Scott said.

Scott said the Arnold Palmer Invitational is a tournament he would love to win for no other reason than the host.

The 86-year-old Palmer is not as visible this week as in years past, though he has been seen driving a cart and watching his grandson, Sam Saunders, on the practice range. He is slowing down, his speech isn't as sharp and his hearing not as clear, so he is taping interviews for the telecast this week.

It only deepens the appreciation of all that Palmer has meant for the game.

"The most dynamic, impactful player in the history of the game," PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem said.

In some respects, Scott has a score to settle. He tied records for 18 holes (62) and 36 holes (130) two years ago when he had seven-shot lead going into the weekend. He closed with a 76 and finished two shots behind.

The field features five of the top 10 in the world, including McIlroy and Jason Day.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Antonio forward LaMarcus Aldridge (12) is finally fitting in with the team who signed the big-money free agent during the summer.

shooting to help the Spurs (57-10) stay on Golden State's heels in the West with another showdown coming this weekend.

"I think it's been a mutual effort from Coach Pop and all the veterans and LaMarcus to step to each other," Spurs assistant Ettore Messina said. "Nobody rushed him. There was a lot of step-by-step attitude. Every day he feels more comfortable and guys know where to find him, where are his sweet spots. He's also giving us a defensive presence that most of the times goes underrated."

Perhaps even more telling, Aldridge has played at least 34 minutes six times in the last 12 games on a team that likes to keep everyone under 30 minutes per game and only has had one of the rest days that Popovich likes to give his veterans to keep them fresh for the playoffs.

"Before this little stretch I was playing 28-29 minutes," Aldridge said. "I'm actually enjoying the 36, 37-minute nights. That's what I like to do out there."

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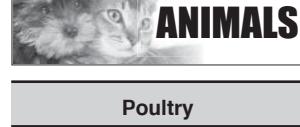
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