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District proposes 5.48-mill increase

Additional \$1M could pay for more teachers, other priorities at schools

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

Sumter School District will likely ask the county for a 5.48-mill increase next month amid a continued tight state funding environment and after being denied an increase last year by Sumter County Council.

District Chief Financial Officer Chris Griner and Interim Superintendent Debbie Hamm led a budget planning session for fiscal year 2018-19 on Monday night for the district's Board of Trustees at the district office.

Initially, Griner presented a balanced \$131,609,396 general fund bud-

get to the board that doesn't include the millage request. That budget forecast doesn't add any teachers to the budget and keeps student-teacher ratios at 25-1 for elementary schools, 30-1 for middle schools and 31-1 for high schools. It would also not add any money to the district's fund balance next year after it's projected to

be \$6 million at the end of this fiscal year on June 30, 2018.

The 5.48-mill increase translates to \$1,057,121 in additional revenue for the district from county taxpayers and could be used to fund various district priorities, such as adding six teaching

SEE BUDGET, PAGE A8

'Truly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.'

Matthew 25:40

'Church family' helps one in need during service day



BRUCE MILLS / THE SUMTER ITEM
Brandon Wharton, left, works on a new wheelchair ramp with Doug Gant on Saturday at Cynthia Bell's home as part of Alice Drive Baptist Church's Operation Inasmuch.

Mother, daughter reunited with new ramp

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

Thanks to one local church's commitment to follow God's word in an act of service to others, a mother and daughter are being reunited after months apart.

Last Christmas Eve, best of friends Cynthia Bell and her mother, Edna Bell — both of Sumter — were trying to figure out what they were going to do together on Christmas day.

Little did they know, it would be the last time they

would see each other for four months.

On Christmas morning, Edna Bell, 97, fell and broke two ribs and was taken to the hospital. Since then, she's been unable to climb steps.

Turns out, Edna's accident was another fall among a string of them since last summer for the Bells that left them basically immobilized. Initially, Edna fell in July, breaking five ribs, and was hospitalized for 12 days, according to daughter Cynthia.

SEE INASMUCH, PAGE A8

Event will show work at Thomas Sumter Park

Vandals strike site during renovations to memorial

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

Despite the recent spray paint vandalism at Thomas Sumter Memorial Park resulting in \$5,000 of damage, Sumter County Historical Society members are still excited to unveil new renovations during a scheduled event on Sunday.

Rangers with Poinsett State Park noticed the spray paint when they went to the park on Monday to start constructing a split rail fence and preparing the park for Sunday.

The suspect, or suspects, used gold spray paint to cover a portion of the monument, paid for by the South Carolina General Assembly in 1907 in honor of Gen. Sumter, and to draw a lewd image on the mausoleum constructed in honor of Sumter's daughter-in-law.

"It's a shame because you can't replace history," said Zabo McCants, manager of Poinsett State Park. "You can recreate it, but you can't replace it."

While cleaning up the paint inside the archway of the mausoleum would be as simple as a new coat of paint, removing the paint from the monument could require a little more care.

The goal is to remove the paint without altering the historic features, McCants said.

He said he and his crew would work to have the paint cleared and the fence constructed as planned for this weekend.

"It's nothing unusual," Jack Fudger, president of the historical society, said about the vandalism.

Though the spray paint will add more work to the preparations for Sunday, Fudger said he is still excited for the public to see the recent work at the park on Sunday.

He said the new fence was about halfway done when he left the park Tuesday evening and that he thinks it will be finished by today.

"I'm happy everything is going well," Fudger said.

Ken Bell, public information officer for Sumter County Sheriff's Office, said the agency is aware of the vandalism and is still investigating the incident.

The public is encouraged to visit Thomas Sumter Memorial Park, 7055 Acton Road, Dalzell, from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday where the historical society will discuss renovations that

SEE PARK, PAGE A8

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DEATHS, B5

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WEATHER, A10

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3 SECTIONS, 20 PAGES
VOL. 123, NO. 139

Classifieds B6
Comics C2
Opinion A9
Panorama C1
Sports B1
Television C3





SECOND FRONT

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Palmetto Health offers free seminars, screenings

FROM STAFF REPORTS

May is National Stroke and Hypertension Awareness Month, and in recognition, Palmetto Health will offer free seminars and health screenings to educate the public about the dangers of stroke and hypertension.

With South Carolina being in the "stroke belt" — an 11-state region of the United States where studies show the risk of stroke is 34 percent higher for the general population than it is in other areas of the country — it is important for South Carolinians to be prepared in the event of a life-threatening situation.

The first Stroke Awareness Seminar

will be held Tuesday, May 15, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., in Palmetto Health Baptist Auditorium, 1501 Sumter St., ground level, Columbia. Led by Dr. Anil Yallapragada, the presentation will include Mediterranean cooking and brain health. Free screenings for blood pressure, diabetes and prostate-specific antigen will be offered at 4:30 p.m. Seating is limited.

The second seminar will be held at South Sumter Resource Center, 337 Manning Ave., Sumter, on Saturday, May 19, 10 a.m. to noon. Led by Dr. Ravish Khotari, the presentation will also include Mediterranean cooking and brain health. Free screenings for blood pressure, diabetes and PSA will be of-

ferred at 4:30 p.m. Seating is limited.

According to the National Stroke Association, 80 percent of strokes can be prevented by working with a health care professional to reduce personal risk. The leading causes of stroke and the most important controllable risk factors for stroke are:

- high cholesterol;
- smoking;
- high blood pressure; and
- diabetes.

Vital in getting treatment and preventing permanent damage is getting to the hospital quickly. It is important to know the symptoms and to call 911 if you or someone you know experiences the following for more than a

few minutes:

- sudden weakness or numbness in face, arm, or leg on one side of body;
- abrupt loss of vision, strength, coordination, sensation, speech or ability to understand speech;
- sudden dimness of vision, especially in one eye;
- sudden and severe headache with no other cause followed rapidly by loss of consciousness; and
- unexplained dizziness or sudden falls.

To register for the seminar and the screening, or for more information on the Palmetto Health Stroke Center, please call (803) 296-CARE (2273) or visit PalmettoHealth.org/StrokeCenter.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Central Carolina Technical College welding student David Drummond works on finishing his piece at the South Carolina Technical System's 36th Annual Welding Skills Competition held at CCTC's Main Campus on April 19 and 20.

CCTC hosts welding skills competition

Local students show their winning talents

BY STAFF REPORTS

Central Carolina Technical College hosted the S.C. Technical System's 36th Annual Welding Skills Competition on April 19 and 20, and CCTC students showed their competitive drive against nine other colleges: Piedmont Technical College, Midlands Technical College, Tri-county Technical College, Spartanburg Community College, Florence-Darlington Technical College, Greenville Technical College, Horry Georgetown Technical College, York Technical College and Aiken Technical College.

Six of CCTC's welding students competed in the competition: Sam Debose, Cole Bodiford, David Drummond, Kacey Floyd, Clayton Possert and Derek White. Debose placed third in category one — GTAW tee joints carbon steel and aluminum, GMAW V-groove; Bodiford placed first in category two — SMAW tee joints; Drummond took first in category three — SMAW v-groove;



David Drummond holds the trophy he won for placing first in category three, SMAW v-groove, at the competition.

Floyd took eighth in category four, SMAW pipe; Possert placed first in category five — GTAW/SMAW pipe; and White placed second in category six — GTAW stainless steel pipe.

CCTC's nationally recognized welding program prepares students for careers as welding engineers, sales engineers, manufacturing engineers, application engineering, project engineers and managers. For additional information on the program, contact Alex Reis at (803) 778-7863 or visit cctech.edu/program-of-study/welding-certificate-weld/.

Sheriff's office goes blue for autism awareness



PHOTOS BY ADRIENNE SARVIS

Sumter County Sheriff's Office flashed their blue lights and released blue balloons in recognition of Autism Awareness Month on Monday afternoon. Deputies also listened to two mothers speak about raising a child with autism. Chief Deputy Hampton Gardner, right, said the sheriff's office plans to participate in Autism Awareness Month every year.



S.C. lawmakers restore mandatory vision screenings for license renewals

COLUMBIA (AP) — South Carolina lawmakers have passed legislation restoring mandatory vision screenings for drivers who renew their licenses.

The House voted 99-8 Tuesday to concur with a Senate amendment that would apply the new vision test. The bill, introduced in the House in January, is headed to Gov. Henry McMaster for his signature.

Drivers can waive the vision screening if

they can provide a certificate of vision examination form from a certified ophthalmologist or optometrist if performed within a year and submitted electronically to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Supporters of the bill say mandating the vision exams will make South Carolina roads safer while critics say it will only make lines at the DMV longer.

The screenings are to begin on Oct. 1, 2020.

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(803) 774-1200

Vince Johnson

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

Kayla Robins

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

Kathy Stafford

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

Rhonda Barrick

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

Sandra Holbert

OBITUARY / NEWSROOM CLERK
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Kingsbury service learning project helps homeless



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Kingsbury Elementary Principal's Council, under the leadership of Principal Phillip Jackson, participated in a service learning project titled "The By Name Project." The students assisted the ministry, which is committed to serving the homeless in Sumter by serving a meal and distributing clothes and hygiene items. The Principal's Council was able to spend about an hour serving a full breakfast to more than several dozen individuals who were delighted to see the young ones there. When Jackson first formed the council more than 10 years ago, it was to foster a sense of giving. He said, "We wanted the mindset of giving and serving others to spread and go with these children throughout their lives. Those who give to others live truly happier, more fulfilled lives." The council is comprised of one representative from each homeroom in grades 3-5. These students bring issues to Jackson's attention and projects and information back to their homerooms from the administrator. Each year, the council is involved in multiple service projects that involve the entire school.

Pentagon: Complaints of sexual harassment, retaliation claims rise

WASHINGTON (AP) — More U.S. service members said they faced retribution for filing sexual assault or harassment complaints last year than in 2016, according to an annual Pentagon report, as the Defense Department saw a growing number of sexual misconduct cases. According to the report released Monday, there were 146 reports of retaliation last year, compared to 84 in 2016, and the number of sexual harassment complaints jumped by 16 percent. Nearly two-thirds of the harassment cases that were resolved were substantiated.

The increase in sexual misconduct cases came in a year that also saw the number of reported sexual assaults grow by about 10 percent. The Associated Press reported last week that there were 6,769 reports of sexual assaults in the fiscal year that ended last Sept. 30, compared to 6,172 in 2016.

Pentagon officials say the increase in reporting reflects a broader confidence in the system and is a positive trend because sexual assault is a highly underreported crime. But it's unclear if the larger jumps in harassment and retaliation complaints reflect a similar confidence or simply represent a growing problem.

Retribution is a key element in sexual assault cases. "Fear of ostracism and retaliation remains a barrier to reporting sexual assault or filing a sexual harassment complaint," the report said, adding that many women fear it will damage their reputations and haunt them for the length of their careers.

The bulk of the retaliation cases involved women who had filed sexual assault complaints, while less than 20 percent involved service members who filed sexual harassment complaints. In their complaints, many said they felt ostracized and faced cruelty or mistreatment.

Under the law, reprisal can involve a range of unjustified personnel actions, such as in-

Fear of ostracism and retaliation remains a barrier to reporting sexual assault or filing a sexual harassment complaint.

PENTAGON REPORT

terfering with promotion, unreasonably downgrading someone's evaluation or unfairly denying an award. But victims also complain of bullying, including on social media.

The Pentagon has worked to better define and understand the retaliation issue, using survey results last year to try to separate actual retribution from actions that may seem like revenge but may not be meant that way.

Of the 85 people charged with retaliation in cases that were closed during the last fiscal year — which includes some that began in previous years — only 31 were substantiated. And the department took action against just nine offenders. Disciplinary actions against 14 others are still being finalized.

The number of sexual harassment complaints filed by U.S. military members increased from 601 in 2016 to 696 in 2017. Most of the reports were filed by women, with men making up less than 20 percent of the complaints. And the vast majority involved young enlisted troops.

The report said there is a need for greater leadership on sexual harassment prevention and response programs. The Pentagon said it will set up a broad new department program that will more explicitly define social media harassment and beef up oversight.

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Sumter County Sheriff's Office lights up blue for autism.

Sertoma Club feeds, supports Emmanuel UME soup kitchen

Sertoma Club of Sumter met recently at Emmanuel United Methodist Church's soup kitchen for one of its annual service projects — providing a catered lunch to the daily residents. Club President Chuck Wilson and Tyler Gibbs, president elect, presented a check on behalf of the members to support this endeavor that the church has spearheaded for numerous years. The club is the sponsor of the local football Jamboree held annually in August that provides scholarships for students and assistance to charities, including Sumter United Ministries, Camp Sertoma, the Emmanuel Soup Kitchen and projects at the YMCA. The club has adopted Bates Middle School and also has a business partnership there. Sertoma Club of Sumter was recently recognized for being the fastest-growing club in the Sertoma organization for the second time. The club meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month at noon at Sunset Country Club. For more information, contact a club officer: Wilson; Gibbs; Isaac Carr, secretary; Diane Renko, membership secretary; Eugene Ickes, treasurer; Dutch Holland, sergeant-at-arms; and John Moorman, board chairman.



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U.S. wants 1 million to share DNA, health habits for science

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON — Wanted: A million people willing to share their DNA and 10 years of health habits, big and small, for science.

On Sunday, the U.S. government will open nationwide enrollment for an ambitious experiment: If they can build a large enough database comparing the genetics, lifestyles and environments of people from all walks of life, researchers hope to learn why some escape illness and others don't and better customize ways to prevent and treat disease.

"A national adventure that is going to transform medical care" is how Dr. Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health, describes his agency's All of Us Research Program.

Congress has authorized \$1.45 billion over 10 years for the project. It all hinges on whether enough people across the country will sign up, either online or through participating health centers.

There's already interest: More than 25,000 people got early entry to the project during the past year through an invitation-only pilot test run by participating universities and health providers.

WHY STUDY SO MANY?

Most of today's medical

care is one-size-fits-all, based on what happened to the average person in short studies of a few hundred or thousand patients with a specific health condition.

And most people who volunteer for those studies are white, leaving questions about the best care for people of different races.

All of Us is part of a move toward "precision medicine," using traits that make us unique to forecast and treat disease. Learning enough to individualize care requires studying a massive number of participants: The healthy and not-so-healthy, young and old, rural and urban, blue collar and white collar — and people of all races and ethnicities.

For now, participants must be at least 18. Later, the study will open to children, too.

While there are other big "biobanks" of genetic data from at least 100,000 people,

the NIH project aims to be the largest and most diverse of its kind. At least half of the participants must be from groups traditionally under-represented in medical research, Collins stressed.

GENES AREN'T THE WHOLE STORY

Sure, what genes you harbor can raise your risk for various diseases. But other factors can increase or reduce some genetic risks.

So first volunteers will share their electronic health records and answer periodic questionnaires about their diet, sleep, environmental exposures and other lifestyle factors. They might wear fitness trackers and other sensors.

And they'll give a blood sample that later this year will undergo genetic testing, initially to look for so-called "variants" in DNA that affect disease risk, similar to what some private companies now sell, Collins said. Fully mapping the genetic code is too pricey now for a million people, but that more comprehensive approach eventually will be used with some partici-

pants, too.

Among the first lessons Collins hopes to learn is about resilience: Why do some people stay healthy despite smoking or pollution or poor nutrition?

"We have no idea how those people escape those odds," he said.

LEARN YOUR RESULTS

Unlike with most medical studies, participants can choose to see their own test results and share them with their physician long before the study reaches any big-picture conclusions. A caution: There are still many questions about how best to use the results of genetic tests. Still, "we will try to help their doctors sort through what it means," Collins said.

One result that might bring a quick benefit: Genetic variants can signal who is prone to side effects from more than 100 drugs, information that could be used to prescribe a safer drug if only their doctors knew, Collins added.

PROTECTING PRIVACY

The privacy of DNA databases made headlines last

week when investigators used a free genealogy website to track down a suspected California serial killer. That's pretty different than the security under which medical DNA must be handled.

NIH said it has taken as many steps as possible to safeguard against would-be hackers. Volunteers' medical data is stripped of identifying information and replaced with a code. Only scientists meeting specific security requirements will be cleared to study the data. NIH also said federal "certificates of confidentiality" prohibit disclosure to law enforcement.

Privacy wasn't a worry for Michelle McNeely, 41, an early participant at Dallas' Baylor Scott & White Health System. She underwent breast cancer treatment in 2016 and considers taking part in All of Us a way to give back.

"If they can use my genes and someone's genes in California and someone's genes in New York to find some common ground, to help discover some cure — they can use my genes all day long," McNeely said.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Visit <https://www.joinallofus.org/en> to learn more about the All of Us Research Program opening nationwide on Sunday and how you can sign up to participate.

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U.S. starts processing asylum seekers slammed by Trump

BY ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico — U.S. border inspectors allowed some of the Central American asylum-seekers to enter the country for processing, ending a brief impasse over lack of space. But the migrants who crossed Mexico in a caravan may face a long legal path.

Caravan organizers said eight members of the group criticized by President Donald Trump that traveled from southern Mexico to the border city of Tijuana were allowed in to be interviewed by asylum officers, but U.S. Customs and Border Protection did not provide a number.

About 140 others were still waiting in Mexico to turn themselves in at San Diego's San Ysidro border crossing, the nation's busiest, said Alex Mensing, project organizer for Pueblo Sin Fronteras, which is leading the caravan.

"The spirits are high, there was good news for everybody," Mensing said on the Mexican side of the crossing, moments after learning that some were allowed in.

U.S. attorneys who volunteered advice in Tijuana last week warned the Central Americans that parents may be separated from their children and be detained for many months while their asylum cases are pending.

Asylum-seekers are typically held up to three days at the border and turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. If they pass initial screenings by asylum officers, they may be detained or released with ankle monitors while their cases wind

through immigration court, which can take years.

Nearly 80 percent of asylum-seekers passed the initial screening from October through December, but few are likely to win asylum.

The denial rate for El Salvadorans seeking asylum was 79 percent from 2012 to 2017, according to asylum outcome information from Syracuse University's Transactional Records Action Clearinghouse. Hondurans were close behind with a 78 percent denial rate, followed by Guatemalans at 75 percent.

Trump administration officials have railed against what they call "legal loopholes" and "catch-and-release" policies that allow people seeking asylum to be freed while their cases are adjudicated. The president tweeted Monday that the caravan "shows how weak & ineffective U.S. immigration laws are."

Attorney General Jeff Sessions has pledged to send more immigration judges to the border if needed and threatened criminal prosecution. On Monday, the Justice Department said it filed illegal entry charges against 11 people identified as caravan members.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection said it processed hundreds of asylum-seekers in the previous week, many of them Mexican, which contributed to a bottleneck that led inspectors to turn away caravan members since they arrived late Sunday afternoon.

Asylum-seekers did not appear to be thrown off by the delay.

Elin Orrellana, a 23-year-old pregnant woman from El Salvador, said she is fleeing the violent MS-13 street gang, a favorite tar-

get of both Sessions and Trump because of its brutal killings in communities in the United States. She said her older sister had been killed by the gang in El Salvador, so she is attempting to join other family members in the Kansas City area.

"Fighting on is worth it," she said.

Customs and Border Protection has room for about 300 people at the San Diego border crossing.

"As in the past when we've had to limit the number of people we can bring in for processing at a given time, we expect that this will be a temporary situation," the agency said.

During a surge of Haitian arrivals at the San Diego crossing in 2016, Customs and Border Protection required people to wait more than five weeks in Mexico. Since then, smaller upticks of Mexican asylum-seekers have caused delays of several hours.

California shop cranks up classical music to dissuade loitering

MODESTO, Calif. (AP) — A 7-Eleven in California has found a way to keep people from panhandling and loitering outside the store: crank up classical music.

Sukhi Sandhu, who owns the franchise in Modesto, said his customers tell him they feel safer since he started blasting symphonies and occasional operas over outdoor speakers.

"Once the music started, the riffraff left," said Manuel Souza, who's homeless and jokingly referred to himself as part of the riffraff. The loud music makes it hard "to hang out and gossip and joke around" near the store, Souza told the *Modesto Bee* last week from under a tree down the block.

The classical music is part of a 7-Eleven program that encourages non-confrontational methods to reduce loitering, Sandhu said. It eliminates any risks faced by clerks when asking panhan-

dlers to leave, he said.

Another method employed at some stores is a device that emits a high-pitched screech similar to a mosquito buzzing in your ear. Clerks turn the device on and off as needed. Classical music is more effective, Sandhu said, and he plans to introduce it at other stores he owns in central California.

"We have received very positive feedback from our customers about the atmosphere created by the music devices piloted in several 7-Eleven stores across the U.S.," the convenience store chain's corporate office said in a statement.

The newspaper said Monday that such measures aren't new. Convenience stores and other businesses as well as public facilities have used classical music and the mosquito device over the years to repel panhandlers, homeless people and loitering teenagers.

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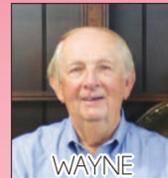
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WW II veteran to graduate 68 years after leaving college

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — Like so many American soldiers returning home from World War II, Bob Barger started working a new job and going to college. Once he settled into his career and raising a family, finishing school was no longer a priority.

Now, 68 years since he last sat in a classroom, Barger is set to graduate from the University of Toledo this week after a review of his transcripts from the late 1940s showed he completed enough courses to qualify for an associate degree — a two-year diploma not offered when he was still in school.

"It was something I never dreamed of," the 96-year-old Barger said. "I knew I couldn't go back to school now."

"I'm going to be proud to hang that diploma on the wall and think about the friends behind it," he said. "I found out without friends, this old world wouldn't be worth living in."

The university took a look at Barger's old school records because of a friendship he struck up with Haraz Ghanbari, the school's director of military and veteran affairs.

They met five years ago when Ghanbari, a Navy Reserve officer, asked Barger to officiate his promotion to lieutenant.

Ghanbari later found out that Barger never graduated from the university, even though he took a full load of classes from 1947 to 1950.

"We actually had to go into the archives to find his transcripts," said Barbara Kopp Miller, dean of University College at Toledo.

The records showed Barger completed 83 credit hours — about 20 more than what's required for the associate degree that he'll receive on Saturday. University officials say they don't know of anyone older ever graduating from the school.

"It's the right thing to do. He deserved. He earned it," Kopp Miller said. "It's so cool to honor a member of our greatest generation."

Barger was a pilot in the Navy, enlisting after seeing an advertisement that said "join the Navy and get an education."

He flew seaplanes for scout observation over the Gulf of Mexico and was a flight instructor at a base in Corpus Christi, Texas. He later was stationed in Norman, Oklahoma, after the war and planned on a career in the Navy until an explosion in a bunk house. He wasn't hurt, but carrying out the bloodied men changed his mind about staying in the military.

Barger returned home with his wife and young daughter and studied business and advertising while working for a paper company. He remembers history was his favorite class at what was then called Toledo University.

He never gave much



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World War II veteran Bob Barger poses with his Naval flight school certificate in Toledo, Ohio. Barger is set to graduate from the University of Toledo after a review of his transcripts showed he completed enough classes in the late 1940s for a two-year degree.

thought about not graduating until just recently. When he was told in January that he would finally get a degree, he let out a hearty laugh. "I can't believe this. I'm 96 years old," Barger, whose wife died in 2011, said.

Members of the university's Student Veterans of America chapter bought

him a cap and gown that he tried on last week. "It fit. I guess I look pretty good in it," he said.

The assisted living center where he lives is planning a big graduation party for more than 100 people. Barger stocked up on a dozen bottles of vodka, whiskey and scotch.

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Care to be remembered.

INASMUCH FROM PAGE A1

Then, Cynthia fell a series of times starting in September, breaking a bone in her left leg. She's been on crutches and unable to climb steps since.

Without wheelchair ramps at either of their homes, they were unable to visit one another during January, February, March and most of April despite the fact they live just around the corner from one another in the same neighborhood, their houses just three-tenths of a mile apart.

"We talk on the phone every day, but we used to be everywhere together," Cynthia said.

As of Saturday, their predicament and separation are now over, as a team of volunteers from Alice Drive Baptist Church put on their work clothes and rolled up their sleeves to construct a wheelchair ramp in the carport area of Cynthia's home on Chappell Street.

"Now, we can get somebody to drive her over and she can come up the ramp, sit down in the recliner inside, and we

can spend the day together," Cynthia said. "I can be with my mama. Then, at night, somebody can pick her up and take her home. This will just make all the difference in the world and turn everything around for the both of us."

The church volunteers' service project was part of an outreach day for Alice Drive Baptist known as Operation Inasmuch, where church members and attendees commit to a day of community service projects to help the less fortunate in various ways.

It's all in the name of Jesus Christ, according to church members, and based on Jesus' parable of the sheep and goats in Matthew Chapter 25, verses 31-46.

In the biblical text at the final judgment, Jesus tells righteous believers in Him in verse 40 that whatever they did to one of the least of these (those in need in various ways), they did it for Him. Those righteous believers (the sheep) will experience reward at His return and eternal life, Jesus says in the parable.



Brandon Wharton, a volunteer with Operation Inasmuch on Saturday, hugs Cynthia Bell, whose home he and others made a wheelchair ramp for in order to help Bell get out and about and visit her mother.

In the deeper biblical context, the righteous inherit the kingdom and eternal life not because of the compassionate works that they have done, but because their righteousness comes from their transformed hearts in response to Jesus, as evidenced by their compassion for the "least of these."

The church's volunteers said they didn't mind spending the beautiful spring day helping Cynthia, a fellow church member, in her time of need. In fact, they said they enjoyed it.

Brandon Wharton, 35, a church member and team lead in Saturday's ramp project,

is a building contractor by trade and does construction every day.

"Construction is what I know and what I do best," Wharton said. "It's neat and very rewarding to do it as a ministry."

Wharton said he builds about six ramps per year through the church's outreach ministry.

Doug Gant, another church member, also helped with the ramp project.

"It feels great to know that you are helping somebody who wouldn't be able to get this done without your help," Gant said.

Throughout the day the team of volunteers did some other odds and ends outside the house, such as trimming bushes, pulling weeds and installing flood lights in the front and back of the house.

Cynthia was overwhelmed by the act of love and support. "This takes my breath away, all these people giving up their Saturday to help someone like me and come and do anything and everything," Cynthia said. "It's unbelievable. They're not my family, but they're my 'church family.'"

A plaque from Sumter's Home Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, the monument in recognition of Gen. Thomas Sumter and the mausoleum constructed in honor of Sumter's daughter-in-law were spray-painted during the weekend, causing \$5,000 in damage.



ADRIENNE SARVIS / THE SUMTER ITEM

PARK FROM PAGE A1

have already been completed and talk about future projects.

The park has been a major focus of the historical society, along with local and state officials, for years and is now undergoing renovations that will make the park more attractive to guests.

Also, Key Club members from multiple schools will be at the park to guide guests

through the grounds and provide information about Gen. Sumter and his family.

Shuttle buses will be available at Wilson Hall and Thomas Sumter schools to take visitors to the park from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Guests are encouraged to take advantage of the bus rides because parking is limited at the park. Seating will also be limited, so guests are asked to bring lawn chairs.

Light refreshments will be served.

BUDGET FROM PAGE A1

positions as part of a process to inch down student-teacher ratios (valued at \$480,000), and making a \$500,000 contribution to the district's fund balance in an effort for the district to get closer to having one month's operating expenditures on hand.



GRINER

A millage rate is the amount per \$1,000 of property value used in the formula to calculate property taxes.

Griner and board members noted single-family homeowners will be exempt again from paying for operational millage

with the continuation of a millage-rate swap that was first implemented this fiscal year.

At Monday's meeting, board members asked questions on the proposal and millage-rate request to County Council but seemed to be in agreement with district administration on the various points.

The next presentation of the budget proposal will be at the May 14 board of trustees meeting at Chestnut

Oaks Middle School. That will also serve as the public hearing on the budget.

Griner said Tuesday that he expects the trustees will decide at that meeting which district priorities it wishes the administration to pursue when asking County Council for the extra funding.

Griner said district administration plans to present next year's budget to County Council and ask for the 5.48-millage rate increase on May 29.

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Amanda McNulty, Clemson Extension Agent

4-H2O: Exploring Sumter

Summer is the perfect time to supplement your student's education with hands-on experiences specific to their interests. The South Carolina 4-H Youth Development Program is a great resource for young people throughout the state, which uses a learn-by-doing approach. It empowers youth to improve themselves through a variety of activities. If you're looking for some educational summer fun for your 9-14 year old, check out our upcoming 4-H2O camp. 4-H2O is a partnership between Clemson Extension's 4H and Natural Resources teams. It gets kids outside (and out of their parents' hair!) for a couple days and allows them to experience the natural world first hand.

I am so excited to be working with Sumter's 4-H agent, Terri Sumpter, to provide our 4-H2O day camp for Sumter area youth ages 9-14. Participants will learn about our local watershed and water pollution through fun, interactive activities during this 3-day camp held July 10-12 from 9 am to 1 pm daily.

We will spend both days at Central Carolina Technical College's Natural Resource Management facility. Participants will learn all about the wildlife and plants that call Sumter home. We

will go on a hike, learn how to fish, make take-home crafts, and collect creek critters. Participating students will also benefit from spending time on a truly unique college campus, interacting with professors, and learning about possible educational and career opportunities for their future. These educational adventures help students better understand the concepts they learn in the classroom and will create memories they will talk about for years to come!

4-H2O camp costs \$30 per student and is limited to 20 students. Students must be between the ages of 9-14. Participants must wear sneakers or water shoes and appropriate clothing for a day spent outdoors. Snacks and water will be provided but participants must bring their own lunch. Registration is on a first come, first serve basis. To learn more and sign up contact Katie Altman-Goff or Terri Sumpter at (803) 773-5561, klaltma@clemson.edu, or tsumptr@clemson.edu. You can also check out pictures from the last 4-H2O camp at www.facebook.com/sumterstormwatersolutions

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COMMENTARY

Colleges are anti-diversity and pro-exclusion

Just within the past week or so, some shocking professorial behavior has come to light. In the wake of Barbara Bush's death, California State University, Fresno professor



Walter Williams

Randa Jarrar took to Twitter to call the former first lady an "amazing racist." Jarrar added, "PSA: either you are against these pieces of s--- and their

genocidal ways or you're part of the problem. that's actually how simple this is. I'm happy the witch is dead. can't wait for the rest of her family to fall to their demise the way 1.5 million iraqis have. byyy-eeeeeeee."

In New Jersey, Brookdale Community College professor Howard Finkelstein, in a heated exchange, was captured on video telling a conservative student, "F--- your life!" At

the City University of New York School of Law, students shouted down guest lecturer Josh Blackman for 10 minutes before he could continue his remarks. When Duke University President Vincent Price was trying to address alumni, students commandeered the stage, shouting demands and telling him to leave.

None of this professorial and student behavior is new at the nation's colleges. It's part of the leftist agenda that dominates our colleges. A new study by Brooklyn College professor Mitchell Langbert — "Homogeneous: The Political Affiliations of Elite Liberal Arts College Faculty" (<http://tinyurl.com/ycfomjy6>) — demonstrates that domination. (By the way, Academic Questions is a publication of the National Association of Scholars, an organization fighting the leftist propaganda in academia.) Langbert examines the political affiliation of Ph.D.-holding faculty members at 51 of the 66 top-ranked liberal arts colleges according to U.S. News & World Report.

He finds that 39 percent of the colleges in his sample are Republican-free — with zero registered Republicans on their faculties. As for Republicans within academic departments, 78 percent of those departments have no Republican members or so few as to make no difference.

Langbert breaks down the faculty Democrat-to-Republican ratio by academic department, and there are not many surprises. Engineering departments have 1.6 Democrats for every Republican. Chemistry and economics departments have about 5.5 Democrats for every Republican. The situation is especially bad in anthropology departments, where the Democrat-to-Republican faculty ratio is 133-to-1, and in communications departments, where the ratio is 108-to-zero. Langbert says, "I could not find a single Republican with an exclusive appointment to fields like gender studies, African studies and peace studies."

Later on in the study, Langbert turns his attention

to Democrat-to-Republican faculty ratios at some of our most elite colleges. At Williams College, the Democrat-to-Republican ratio is 132-to-1. At Amherst College, it's 34-to-1. Wellesley's is 136-to-1. At Swarthmore, 120-to-1. Claremont McKenna, 4-to-1. Davidson, 10-to-1. Only two colleges of the top 66 on U.S. News & World Report's 2017 list have a modicum of equality in numbers between Democratic and Republican faculty members. They are the U.S. Military Academy, aka West Point, with a Democrat-to-Republican ratio of 1.3-to-1, and the U.S. Naval Academy, whose ratio is 2.3-to-1.

Many professors spend class time indoctrinating students with their views. For faculty members who are Democrats, those views can be described as leftist, socialist or communist. It is a cowardly act for a professor to take advantage of student immaturity by indoctrinating pupils with his opinions before the students have devel-

oped the maturity and skill to examine other opinions. It is also dereliction of duty of college administrators and boards of trustees to permit the continuance of what some professors and students are doing in the name of higher education.

Langbert's findings suggest biases in college research and academic policy, where leftist political homogeneity is embedded in the college culture. The leftist bias at most of the nation's colleges is in stark contrast to the political leanings of our nation. According to a number of Pew Research Center surveys, most Americans identify as conservative. These Americans are seeing their tax dollars and tuition dollars going to people who have contempt for their values and seek to indoctrinate their children with leftist ideas.

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

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COMMENTARY

For the sake of journalism, stop correspondents' dinner

The 2018 White House Correspondents' Association Dinner should be the last.

It never has been a particularly good idea for journalists to don their fanciest clothes and cozy up to the people they cover, alongside Hollywood celebrities who have ventured to wonky Washington to join the fun.

But in the current era, it's become close to suicidal for the press' credibility.

Trust in the mainstream media is low, a new populism has caught fire all over the Western world, and President Trump constantly pounds the news media as a bunch of out-of-touch elites

who don't represent the interests of real Americans.

The annual dinner — or at least the optics of the dinner — seems to back him up.

And while Trump rarely sets a good example for anyone, his decision to hold a campaign-style rally in Michigan on Saturday night might be an exception.

Trump got to look like a man of the people, a guy who talks the language of autoworkers and waitresses.

Journalists — whose purported mission is to "afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted" — were meanwhile partying with their

sources at the Washington Hilton.

And Trump was more than happy to disparage them, just as he did when he declined the invitation to attend.

"Why would I want to be stuck in a room with a bunch of fake news liberals who hate me?" he asked in an email invitation to his supporters.

He said he would much rather "spend the evening with my favorite deplorables who love our movement and love America."

The reality is something quite different.

Journalists do not present false stories. When they get something wrong, they correct it.

They do their best to be impartial, and — contrary to what the president told his supporters — they aren't out to get him but to merely cover him. They are not the opposition party.

They are simply trying to do their jobs of informing the public, a job often made difficult by the obfuscation from the briefing room podium and the president's own lies.

As for Trump's touted allegiance to working-class values, solid reporting has shown that many of his policies and actions favor the rich (and his own business interests).

Journalists are trying to keep his administration and the Congress accountable to citizens. And the job of White House correspondent may be tougher than ever.

"What was once one of the most prestigious gigs in journalism has

become a daily slog" now that there's no downtime in the Trump era, wrote Michael Calderone of Politico.

But far from highlighting that hard work, this annual event sends the opposite message. And it encourages an unfortunate, false impression that the president loves to cultivate.

The White House Correspondents' Association no doubt has good intentions. Its annual dinner is meant to recognize excellent reporting and raise money for scholarships.

"Our dinner honors the First Amendment and strong, independent journalism," the organization's president, Margaret Talev of Bloomberg News, said as she announced Michelle Wolf, this year's main entertainer, praising the comic's Pennsylvania roots and her "truth-to-power" style.

But this event sure doesn't look like truth to power.

Its defenders say that it's perfectly all right to have "just one night" to enjoy a break from the supposedly adversarial relationship between government and press. But that relationship isn't always as arms-length as it should be in a town noted for its mutual back-scratching.

Talev and her cohort certainly are dedicated reporters and editors. But this festive night, always unseemly, is now downright counterproductive to good journalism's goals. It only serves to reinforce the views of those who already hate the media elite.

By Sunday morning, Fox News chief national correspondent Ed Henry and NBC News anchor Andrea Mitchell were even calling for the WHCA to apologize to Trump spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders, who was in the audience as Wolf skewered her: "She burns facts, and then she uses that ash to create a perfect smoky eye. Maybe she's born with it; maybe it's lies. It's probably lies."

A mini-dustup, at most, but more bad optics for the mainstream press — which doesn't need them.

"Unfortunately, I don't think we advanced the cause of journalism tonight," tweeted Peter Baker, chief White House correspondent of the *New York Times*. (The *Times*, for the most part, has not attended the event in recent years.)

Happily, the dinner may be fizzling out of its own accord. In previous years, the buzz has been palpable, with the glitterati arriving for a five-day celebration, bringing a sense of that rarest of all things: glamour in Washington. Last year and this year, it felt downright subdued.

Can't the correspondents' association come up with better ways to do its good work, ways that show journalists at their best?

That they are in the trenches digging out the truth.

Not schmoozing in the swamp while the president hustles the heartland.

For more by Margaret Sullivan, visit wapo.st/sullivan.

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

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

MONDAY MEETINGS:

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

TUESDAY MEETINGS:

Celebrate Recovery — Tuesdays, 6:45 p.m. coffee / snacks, 7 p.m. meeting, Alice Drive Baptist Church, Studio 4.3 (youth building), 1305 Loring Mill Road. For help with struggles of alcohol, drugs, family problems, addictions, pornography, smoking, anxiety, etc.

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

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

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

"The Gathering" — Second Tuesday, 5:30-6:30 p.m., North HOPE Center, 904 N. Main St. Support group for teens and adults with special needs. Call (803) 972-0051 or (803) 468-5745 or email thegathering23@aol.com.

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

Sumter Chapter Parents of Murdered Children (POMC) — Third Tuesday, 5:30-7 p.m., Birnie HOPE Center, 210 S. Purdy St. Open to anyone who has lost

a loved one to murder in a violent way.

Mothers of Angels (for mothers who have lost a child) — Third Tuesday at 6 p.m., Wise Drive Baptist Church. Call (803) 469-6059, (803) 979-4498 or (803) 316-4506.

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

WEDNESDAY MEETINGS:

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

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

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

THURSDAY MEETINGS:

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

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

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

FRIDAY MEETINGS:

Celebrate Recovery — Fridays, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. program, Salt & Light Church, Miller Road (across from Food Lion). For help with struggles of alcohol, drugs, family problems, smoking, etc.

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

SATURDAY MEETINGS:

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

SUNDAY MEETINGS:

Sumter MS Support Group — First Sunday, 3 p.m., Wise Drive Baptist Church, 2751 S. Wise Drive. Call (803) 481-5344 or (803) 464-6440. Email I.am.me.not.ms@gmail.com or ms-miles013@gmail.com.

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2018

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly sunny	Clear	Mostly sunny and warm	Partly sunny and very warm	Warm with clouds and sun	A couple of showers possible
87°	57°	87° / 59°	90° / 62°	88° / 63°	82° / 60°
Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 5%	Chance of rain: 5%	Chance of rain: 25%	Chance of rain: 30%
SSW 4-8 mph	S 4-8 mph	SSW 6-12 mph	SW 7-14 mph	SW 6-12 mph	N 4-8 mph

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

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

IN THE MOUNTAINS

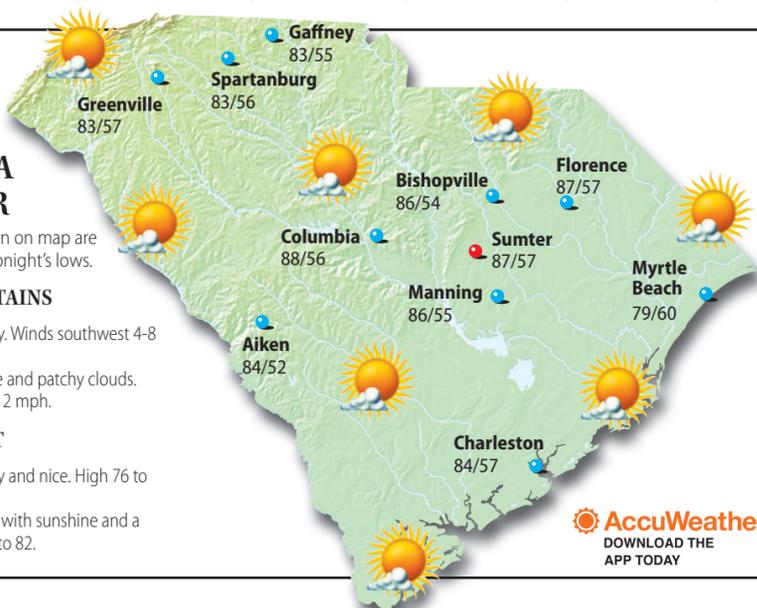
Today: Mostly sunny. Winds southwest 4-8 mph. Mainly clear.

Thursday: Sunshine and patchy clouds. Winds southwest 6-12 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: Mostly sunny and nice. High 76 to 82.

Thursday: Pleasant with sunshine and a few clouds. High 76 to 82.



AccuWeather
DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY

LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THROUGH 2 P.M. YESTERDAY

Temperature	High	Low	Normal high	Normal low	Record high	Record low
79°	79°	49°	78°	53°	93° in 1987	40° in 1999

Precipitation	24 hrs ending 2 p.m. yest.	Month to date	Normal month to date	Year to date	Last year to date	Normal year to date
0.00"	0.00"	0.10"	9.47"	14.50"	14.45"	

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	358.03	+0.05
Marion	76.8	76.31	+0.13
Moultrie	75.5	74.77	+0.12
Wateree	100	98.51	-0.37

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	9.15	+0.24
Congaree River	19	4.95	-0.17
Lynchies River	14	8.01	+0.31
Saluda River	14	2.52	-1.82
Up. Santee River	80	81.08	-0.62
Wateree River	24	20.15	-0.02

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	6:32 a.m.	Sunset	8:06 p.m.
Moonrise	10:43 p.m.	Moonset	8:30 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
May 7	May 15	May 21	May 29

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH				
	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	11:28 a.m.	2.8	6:15 a.m.	0.0
	11:56 p.m.	3.3	6:10 p.m.	0.2
Thu.	12:08 p.m.	2.7	6:57 a.m.	0.1
	---	---	6:48 p.m.	0.4

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Thu.
Atlanta	84/60/s	85/62/s
Chicago	80/65/c	75/61/t
Dallas	85/69/pc	81/67/t
Detroit	81/66/c	78/65/t
Houston	86/70/pc	85/68/c
Los Angeles	65/53/pc	70/56/s
New Orleans	86/65/s	84/68/pc
New York	86/68/s	88/70/pc
Oriando	85/63/pc	87/63/s
Philadelphia	86/66/s	90/68/pc
Phoenix	75/58/c	84/65/s
San Francisco	70/54/pc	66/53/pc
Wash., DC	87/67/s	90/69/s

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Thu.	City	Today	Thu.
Asheville	81/54/s	83/59/s	Florence	87/57/s	87/60/s
Athens	85/55/s	85/57/s	Gainesville	85/62/s	87/62/s
Augusta	87/51/s	88/55/s	Gastonia	84/57/s	84/58/s
Beaufort	82/58/s	82/60/s	Greensboro	87/58/s	87/60/s
Cape Hatteras	77/65/s	77/66/pc	Goose Creek	84/56/s	83/60/s
Charleston	84/57/s	83/59/s	Hickory	83/57/s	83/60/s
Charlotte	85/57/s	85/59/s	Hilton Head	79/60/s	79/64/s
Clemson	83/56/s	84/58/s	Jacksonville, FL	80/59/s	82/62/pc
Columbia	88/56/s	89/60/s	La Grange	85/57/s	85/57/pc
Darlington	87/55/s	87/59/s	Macon	87/55/s	88/58/s
Elizabeth City	86/61/s	86/63/pc	Marietta	84/58/s	86/60/s
Elizabethtown	86/54/s	86/59/s			
Fayetteville	87/57/s	88/60/s			
			Marion	82/53/s	83/55/s
			Mt. Pleasant	81/59/s	80/62/s
			Myrtle Beach	79/60/s	78/62/s
			Orangeburg	84/54/s	84/57/s
			Port Royal	79/60/s	79/63/s
			Raleigh	86/58/s	86/61/s
			Rock Hill	84/56/s	85/57/s
			Rockingham	86/55/s	87/58/s
			Savannah	83/56/s	82/60/s
			Spartanburg	83/56/s	83/58/s
			Summerville	84/55/s	83/58/s
			Wilmington	84/58/s	81/62/pc
			Winston-Salem	84/59/s	85/61/s

PUBLIC AGENDA

TOWN OF LYNCHBURG PLANNING COMMISSION
Today, 4 p.m., town hall

The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Tidy up unfinished business. Look

over settlements, contracts or medical information that will help you prepare for the future. Taking care of someone else's affairs may be daunting but necessary. Take the initiative and do what needs to be done.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Use your imagination to come up with a plan that encourages better relationships with important people; you will be able to find a solution to pending problems. Take better care of your health.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Emotions will be difficult to control. Be wary of what you're told or what transpires. Your intuition won't serve you well and can lead you into a precarious situation if you're misinformed or you don't look at the facts.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Being conscientious with others will help you create new opportunities. Your attentiveness will pay off as long as you're the one gathering information instead of sharing personal information with someone who may use it against you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your playful attitude and ability to relate to those of all ages will give you the edge when dealing with group activities. Speak freely about changes you want to make, and valuable input will help you round out your plans.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Settlements, joint finances and domestic matters will have to be looked at carefully. Demands will be voiced, and being fully prepared to counteroffer will be in your best interest. Meetings are favored as long as emotions are controlled.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Discussing personal matters with a partner or someone you want help from will bring you peace of mind and help you gain direction for how to move forward with your plans. Short trips and personal growth are favored.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone from your past or whom you work with won't be honest with you. Question contracts, negotiations and joint ventures that aren't unfolding the way you expect. A poor diagnosis regarding health issues will be a concern.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The way you handle loved ones, partners or those who have an influence on changes you want to bring about will make a difference to the outcome. Don't allow emotions to interfere with making the right decision.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Dealing with someone who is emotionally unstable or who has meant something to you in the past will create instability or uncertainty in your life. Don't believe everything you hear. Shy away from secret encounters.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your target should be on how you earn your living and the best way to use your skills, experience and knowledge to reach financial goals. An opportunity to make extra cash is apparent. Consider starting a small, home-based business.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take better care of your health. Be cautious dealing with friends or relatives who tend to take advantage of you. Concentrate on the people who have similar interests and are willing to put in as much as you are to obtain success.

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SUMTER ANIMAL CONTROL PETS OF THE WEEK



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

TOP: Meet Maggie, a smaller young adult weighing in at 36 pounds. Maggie really likes other dogs, and she is hoping that somewhere out there a loving person can see how special she is and take her home. In return, Maggie will give you her heart, her loyalty and her beautiful smile.

BELOW: We really cannot tell what breeds TJ's parents were, but we do know that he still has baby teeth, kind of big feet and a personality that will make you laugh out loud. Like most little pups, so much depends on how he is raised and cared for. Currently at 16 pounds, we would guess TJ will grow to be a medium-sized dog. This boy has so much potential. He will make a great addition to a family or a best friend for a single person.

If you would like to meet Maggie in kennel 20 or TJ in kennel 17 at Sumter Animal Control, 1240 Winkles Road, call the adoption coordinator at (803) 774-3232 or email at rescuesumtersc@gmail.com. As with all of our adoptable dogs, we do require a spay or neuter agreement, and it is strictly enforced. We have many other adoptable dogs as well as animals who were found and are waiting for their owners to claim them. Check Sumter Animal Control on Facebook.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Big Apple bound



Lakewood's Grant Singleton (5) navigates a crowd of Crestwood defenders during their January 20 game at The Swamp. Singleton signed to play college basketball at St. Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkill, New York.

SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Gators' Singleton to play for New York's St. Thomas Aquinas College

BY DENNIS BRUNSON
dennis@theitem.com

Lakewood High School's Grant Singleton is taking his game to the Big Apple -- or at least a suburb of New York City.

Singleton, the point guard for the 2-time defending Region VI-4A champion varsity boys basketball team, recently signed to play with St. Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkill, N.Y.

St. Thomas Aquinas is located about

15 miles north of New York. It is an NCAA Division II school that is a member of the East Coast Conference.

St. Thomas Aquinas head coach Tobin Anderson came to see Singleton practice in March, and Singleton went to the school for a visit and he liked what he saw.

"The coach is really confident in me, in the way I play," Singleton said. "I went up there for a visit, and I really liked the campus. I had a good feel for the community, so I decided it was the

right move for me."

Singleton chose STAC over Morehead State, a DI school in the Ohio Valley Conference and DII Lincoln Memorial.

"It means a lot to me because this is something I've been wanting to do since I was a kid," Singleton said of the opportunity to play college basketball. "This is an opportunity that's a real blessing, something I've been working toward."

SEE SIGNS, PAGE B4

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Lakewood's Crisp signs with USC Lancaster

BY DENNIS BRUNSON
dennis@theitem.com

Bobby Crisp doesn't care what position he gets to play as long as he gets to play college baseball.

That opportunity has been afforded to the Lakewood High

School player, as he has signed to play with the University of South Carolina Lancaster.

"I've been playing baseball all my life, and I've always wanted to play college baseball," Crisp said. "I'm just happy and thankful that it's something I'm going to get to do. It's a dream come true for me."

"It was when I was 13 or 14 years old that I really got into baseball," Crisp said. "I began playing more and working harder at it."

Crisp, who played his senior season with the Gators after having played for Laurence Manning Academy, played multiple positions in high school. He's been a catcher, an outfielder and a pitcher.

"Catching is something that I don't mind doing, but I feel more comfortable in the outfield," Crisp said.

LHS head coach Bill DeLavan thinks Crisp will get the opportunity to play in the field as well as step on the mound for Lancaster.

"Bobby's got all of the intangibles. He can run a little bit, he's got some pop in his bat, and he's got a plus arm," said DeLavan, who guided



CRISP

SEE CRISP, PAGE B4

PRO GOLF

Justin Thomas trying to make his bad golf better

BY DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE — The question Justin Thomas faced seven months ago was how to follow a season that featured five PGA Tour victories, his first major championship, the FedEx Cup and all the awards that go along with the best year in golf.

One solution was to avoid comparisons along the way, which was never going to be easy.

Quail Hollow presents one of those challenges.

Thomas played nine holes Tuesday with Tiger Woods, Bryson DeChambeau and Dru Love. It was the first time he set foot on Quail Hollow since the PGA Championship, when he holed a 15-foot putt on the first hole of the final round to escape with bogey, watched a birdie putt hang on the edge of the cup at No. 10 for the longest time before dropping, chipped in for birdie on the 13th hole and hit the best shot of his life — a 7-iron on the par-3 17th — for a birdie that

clinched his first major.

These are memories, and how he plays this week at the Wells Fargo Championship has no bearing on what he accomplished last summer.

Neither will anything else he does this year.

"The course is going to be playing different," he said. "That was a major, a different time of the year."

On the table as he spoke was his phone, the only place he keeps his goals. Thomas doesn't share them until the season is over, and if they're anything like a year ago, they can be as specific as being among the top 30 in scrambling and as general as making the Ryder Cup team.

One objective drives him. "Make my bad golf better," he said.

The encore to last year cannot be measured because Thomas still has the more important half of the season ahead of him, which includes three majors and the FedEx Cup playoffs. But there already is proof that he is backing it up just fine.

For starters, Thomas is sec-



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Justin Thomas celebrates after winning the Honda Classic in a sudden-death playoff in February in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. Thomas is trying not to make comparisons with last season when he won five times, including his first major.

ond in the Vardon Trophy to Dustin Johnson, the world's No. 1 player, but maybe not

for long. Thomas gets his third chance to move to No. 1 in the world this week, most

likely needing around 12th

SEE FRINGE, PAGE B4

PRO BASEBALL

Whiff of offense: Strikeouts top hits in month for 1st time

NEW YORK (AP) — Baseball had a whiff of offense in the air during a cold and wet April.

Strikeouts exceeded hits during a full calendar month for the first time in the sport's nearly century-and-a-half history, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. Nearly one-third of plate appearances this season have ended without the ball being put in play.

"One month is a rather small sam-

ple and we are hoping that the phenomenon of strikeouts exceeding hits is an anomaly that will not persist over the course of the season," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said in an email to The Associated Press.

Major League Baseball has increasingly become a game of long balls and long walks — back to the dugout.

There were 6,656 strikeouts and 6,360 hits in April, according to Elias. The previous low differential was in

April 2017, when there were 138 more hits than strikeouts.

"It's what's sexy now," Cincinnati catcher Tucker Barnhart said. "Home runs are sexy. Strikeouts are not sexy."

Including the first four days of the season in March, 32.8 percent of 32,324 plate appearances this season have ended without a batted ball in play: 7,335 strikeouts, 2,921 walks, 354 hit

batters and eight catcher's interference calls.

"Everyone wants more action, so I can't probably say it's good for baseball unless you want to go out there and see pitchers go for 25 strikeouts," said Minnesota manager Paul Molitor, a Hall of Famer. "I just don't think that would be the choice day to day for most people to come out and watch."

SEE WHIFF, PAGE B5

AREA ROUNDUP

East Clarendon to host Cross for District VII title

The East Clarendon High School varsity softball team will play host to Cross at 6 p.m. today in the championship round of the 1A District VII tournament.

EC needs just one victory to advance to the lower state tournament, while Cross will need two wins.

The Lady Wolverines beat Cross 24-1 in the first meeting in the tournament.

In the 1A District V tournament, Scott's Branch will be on the road against Green Sea-Floyds in the championship round today beginning at 6 p.m.

Scott's Branch, which beat Low Country 18-4 on Monday to advance, will need to beat GSF twice. The Lady Eagles lost to GSF 23-6 earlier in the tournament.

VARSITY BASEBALL

WILSON HALL 5 PINEWOOD PREP 2

SUMMERVILLE — Charlton Commander scattered five hits in a complete game effort to lead Wilson Hall to a 5-2 victory over Pinewood Prep in the opening game of their SCISA 3A baseball state playoffs quarterfinal series on Monday at the PP field.

The Barons, who improved to 9-8 on the season, were playing host to Pinewood on Tuesday at Baron Field with a

chance to win the best-of-3 series. If a third game is needed it will be played on Thursday in Summerville.

Commander struck out five batters. He had a double and scored two runs.

Trent Elmore had a run-scoring double.

The Barons

WANDO 2 SUMTER 1

MT. PLEASANT — Sumter High School saw its season come to an end with a 2-1 loss to Wando in the championship round of the District V tournament in the 5A state playoffs on Monday at the WHS field.

The Gamecocks finished the year with a 14-15 record.

Wando improved to 20-7 in advancing to the 5A lower state tournament. It will travel to Lexington for a first-round game on Thursday.

The game was scoreless into the fourth. Trey Yates drew a leadoff walk for SHS, stole second and went to third on a wild pitch. Drake Thames drove Yates in with a sacrifice fly.

Wando got its two runs in the fifth against Sumter starter and loser Josh Bryant.

Jaxon Rogers singled before James Tucker hit into a fielder's choice. Zach Ahearn drew a walk and Connor Boan followed with a 2-run double.

Cale Lewis pitched 5-plus

innings to get the win for Wando. Jared Adams came on in relief in the sixth with runners on first and third and no outs. He got out of the jam with a strikeout, a pop up and a runner caught stealing at home.

Adams ended up with the save.

VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER

LAKEWOOD, CRESTWOOD LOSE

Lakewood and Crestwood both saw their seasons come to an end on Monday with road losses in the first round of the 4A state playoffs.

Lakewood lost to Chapin 12-0 and Crestwood lost to Dreher 13-0.

VARSITY TRACK

MANNING TEAMS THIRD

CHARLESTON — The boys and girls teams from Manning High School both finished third in the Region VII-3A meet on Wednesday, April 25, at the Bishop England track.

Hanahan won the boys meet with 90 points. Bishop England was a point behind at 89 and MHS was another point back at 88. Timberland finished with 57 and Lake Marion with 30.

In the girls meet, Hanahan won with 118 followed by Bishop England with 112, Manning with 85, Timberland with 84 and Lake Marion

with 25. Picking up victories for the Manning boys were Emmery Mouzan in the 110-meter high hurdles (17.35 seconds), Zion Phillips in the 400 low hurdles (1 minute, 4.42 seconds), Aaron Smith in the high jump (5 feet, 10 inches) and the 4x400 relay team of Allen Benjamin, Dontavious Bates, Jordan Dozier and Keliah Dupree (3:33.46).

In the girls meet, Mahogany Green won three events – the high jump (04-08), the long jump (16-05.50) and the triple jump (32-10.50).

Measha Jones won both the 100 dash (12.65) and the 200 (25.51). Delaney Frierson won the 400 hurdles (1:12.70).

The top four finishers in each event qualified the 3A lower state meet on Saturday. Both Manning teams qualified for 14 positions

MANNING 3A LOWER STATE QUALIFIERS

Boys
First Place: Emmery Mouzan 110 hurdles; Zion Phillips 400 hurdles; Aaron Smith high jump; 4x400 relay (Allen Benjamin, Dontavious Bates, Jordan Dozier, Keliah Dupree).
Second Place: Bates 100 dash, 200 dash; Dupree 400 dash, 200 dash; JayQuan Pendergrass high jump; 4x100 relay (Bates, Pendergrass, Chandler Brunson, Dejuan Wilson); 4x800 relay (Benjamin, Martavis McKenzie, Travon Stukes, Traevion York).
Third Place: Dupree long jump; Sebastian Dozier 3,200 run; Smith triple jump.
Girls
First Place: Delaney Frierson 400 hurdles; Measha Jones 100, 200; Mahogany Green high jump, long jump, triple jump.
Second Place: Shantea Fulmore 100 dash; 4x100 relay (Sequoia Junious; Sulajah Stukes, Fulmore, Jones).

Third Place: Tristan Tripp 100 hurdles; Fulmore 200 dash; 4x400 relay (Frierson, Hessed Ben-Yisrael, Madisen Winn-Dennis, Fulmore).
Fourth Place: Frierson 100 hurdles; Savannah Williams discus; 4x800 relay (Anasia Felder, Jada Hilton, Ashley Ellis, Syderial Wilson).

JV SOFTBALL

WILSON HALL 17 ORANGEBURG PREP 13

Wilson Hall defeated Orangeburg Prep 17-13 on Monday at Patriot Park SportPlex.

Ansleigh Epps led the Lady Barons, going 3-for-3 with two runs. MaryBeth VanPatten was 2-for-3 with two RBI, Hannah Vaclavik was 2-for-2 with two runs and Dani Hanley was 2-for-4 with three runs.

CLARENDON HALL 21 COLLETON PREP 14

WALTERBORO — Clarendon Hall improved to 12-0 with a 21-14 victory over Colleton Prep on Monday at the CP field.

Amberly Way led the Lady Saints by going 4-for-4 with three RBI. She also struck out 10 batters to get the win.

Olivia Wilson and Colleen McIntosh were both 3-for-5 with Wilson picking up three RBI and McIntosh 1.

Hadleigh McIntosh was 3-for-6 with three RBI, Macie McIntosh was 3-for-4 with one RBI and Sidney Berry was 2-for-5 with two RBI.

From staff reports

SCOREBOARD

TV, RADIO

TODAY

5 a.m. — Professional Tennis: BMW Open Early-Round Matches from Munich (TENNIS).
9 a.m. — Professional Tennis: BMW Open Early-Round Matches from Munich (TENNIS).
1 p.m. — Professional Tennis: Istanbul Open Early-Round Matches from Istanbul (TENNIS).
2 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Colorado at Chicago Cubs or Kansas City at Boston (MLB NETWORK).
2:30 p.m. — International Soccer: UEFA Champions League Semifinal Second Leg Match — Liverpool vs. Roma (FOX SPORTS 1).
5 p.m. — Major League Baseball: San Diego at San Francisco (Joined In Progress) (MLB NETWORK).
6:05 p.m. p.m. — Talk Show: Sports Talk (WDXY-FM 105.9, WDXY-AM 1240).
7 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Atlanta at New York Mets (FOX SPORTS SOUTHEAST, WFFF-FM 100.1, WPUF-FM 102.7).
7 p.m. — NHL Hockey: Stanley Cup Playoff Eastern Conference Semifinal Series Match 3 — Tampa Bay at Boston (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
8 p.m. — Major League Baseball: New York Yankees at Houston (ESPN).
8 p.m. — College Softball: Oklahoma State at Oklahoma (FOX SPORTSOUTH).
8 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Western Conference Playoffs Semifinal Series Game 2 — Utah at Houston (TNT).
10 p.m. — NHL Hockey: Stanley Cup Playoff Western Conference Semifinal Series Match 4 — Vegas at San Jose (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
5 a.m. — Professional Tennis: BMW Open Early-Round Matches from Munich (TENNIS).

San Francisco	15	14	.517	5½
Colorado	15	15	.500	6
Los Angeles	12	16	.429	8
San Diego	10	20	.333	11

MONDAY

Chicago Cubs 3, Colorado 2
Washington 3, Pittsburgh 2
Miami 8, Philadelphia 4
Milwaukee 6, Cincinnati 5
Arizona 8, L.A. Dodgers 5
San Francisco 6, San Diego 5

TUESDAY
Pittsburgh at Washington, 7:05 p.m.
Atlanta at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.
Milwaukee at Cincinnati, 7:10 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:10 p.m.
Colorado at Chicago Cubs, 8:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox at St. Louis, 8:15 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers at Arizona, 9:40 p.m.
San Diego at San Francisco, 10:15 p.m.

TODAY

Chicago White Sox (Giolito 1-3) at St. Louis (Martinez 2-1), 1:15 p.m.
Colorado (Anderson 1-0) at Chicago Cubs (Darvish 0-2), 2:20 p.m.
San Diego (Richard 1-3) at San Francisco (Holland 0-3), 3:45 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Nova 2-1) at Washington (Strasburg 2-3), 7:05 p.m.
Atlanta (Teheran 1-0) at N.Y. Mets (deGrom 3-0), 7:10 p.m.
Milwaukee (Miley 0-4) at Cincinnati (Castillo 1-3), 7:10 p.m.
Philadelphia (Nola 3-1) at Miami (Urena 0-4), 7:10 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Ryu 3-0) at Arizona (Godley 4-1), 9:40 p.m.

THURSDAY

Pittsburgh at Washington, 1:05 p.m.
Atlanta at N.Y. Mets, 1:10 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers at Arizona, 3:40 p.m.

MLB LEADERS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BATTING Machado, Baltimore, .361; Altuve, Houston, .347; Betts, Boston, .344; Lowrie, Oakland, .339; Martinez, Boston, .337; Robertson, Tampa Bay, .333; Correa, Houston, .330; Ramirez, Boston, .330; Smith, Tampa Bay, .329; Gregorius, New York, .327.
RUNS Betts, Boston, 29; Gardner, New York, 24; Gregorius, New York, 24; Judge, New York, 24; Semien, Oakland, 24; Springer, Houston, 24; Chapman, Oakland, 21; Segura, Seattle, 21; Trout, Los Angeles, 21; 3 tied at 20.
RBI Gregorius, New York, 30; Haniger, Seattle, 27; Lowrie, Oakland, 27; Sanchez, New York, 24; KDavis, Oakland, 23; Machado, Baltimore, 22; Martinez, Boston, 22; 6 tied at 21.
HITS Altuve, Houston, 41; Lowrie, Oakland, 39; Machado, Baltimore, 39; Moustakas, Kansas City, 35; Castellanos, Detroit, 34; Correa, Houston, 34; Gordon, Seattle, 34; Martinez, Boston, 34; Segura, Seattle, 34; Semien, Oakland, 33.
DOUBLES Andujar, New York, 12; Betts, Boston, 11; Escobar, Minnesota, 11; Pillar, Toronto, 10; Cabrera, Detroit, 9; Correa, Houston, 9; Kepler, Minnesota, 9; Segura, Seattle, 9; 11 tied at 8.
TRIPLES Candelario, Detroit, 3; Chapman, Oakland, 3; 11 tied at 2.
HOME RUNS Gregorius, New York, 10; Haniger, Seattle, 10; Trout, Los Angeles, 10; Davidson, Chicago, 9; Machado, Baltimore, 9; Alonso, Cleveland, 8; Betts, Boston, 8; Gallo, Texas, 8; Moustakas, Kansas City, 8; 6 tied at 7.
STOLEN BASES Gordon, Seattle, 10; Anderson, Chicago, 8; Benintendi, Boston, 5; RDavis, Cleveland, 5; Garcia, Chicago, 5; Gentry, Baltimore, 5; Lindor, Cleveland, 5; Segura, Seattle, 5; Smith, Tampa Bay, 5; Trout, Los Angeles, 5.
PITCHING Carrasco, Cleveland, 4-1; Happ, Toronto, 4-1; Kluber, Cleveland, 4-1; Manaea, Oakland, 4-2; McCullers, Houston, 4-1; Morton, Houston, 4-0; Porcello, Boston, 4-0; Severino, New York, 4-1; Snell, Tampa Bay, 4-1; Tanaka, New York, 4-2; Velazquez, Boston, 4-0; Verlander, Houston, 4-0.
ERA Manaea, Oakland, 1.3; Verlander, Houston, 1.36; Morton, Houston, 1.7; Cole, Houston, 1.73; Lopez, Chicago, 1.78; Kluber, Cleveland, 2.18; Porcello, Boston, 2.23; Sale, Boston, 2.31; Bauer, Cleveland, 2.46; Snell, Tampa Bay, 2.52.
STRIKEOUTS Cole, Houston, 61; Happ, Toronto, 50; Verlander, Houston, 48; Hamels, Texas, 47; Kluber, Cleveland, 47; Bauer, Cleveland, 46; Morton, Houston, 45; Sale, Boston, 45; 3 tied at 44.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BATTING Herrera, Philadelphia, .343; Pham, St. Louis, .341; Cabrera, New York, .340; Grandal, Los Angeles, .315; Freeman, Atlanta, .314; Dickerson, Pittsburgh, .313; Castro, Miami, .312; Arenado, Colorado, .310; Cervelli, Pittsburgh, .308; Martinez, St. Louis, .306.
RUNS Albies, Atlanta, 29; Harper, Washington, 23; Blackmon, Colorado, 22; Pham, St. Louis, 22; Bellinger, Los Angeles, 21; Goldschmidt, Arizona, 21; Marte, Pittsburgh, 21; CTaylor, Los Angeles, 21; 3 tied at 20.
RBI Baez, Chicago, 26; Cespedes, New York, 25; Pollock, Arizona, 24; Franco, Philadelphia, 22; Albies, Atlanta, 20; Cervelli, Pittsburgh, 20; Grandal, Los Angeles, 20; 5 tied at 19.
HITS Albies, Atlanta, 34; Cabrera, New York, 34; Castro, Miami, 34; Gennett, Cincinnati, 34; Herrera, Philadelphia, 34; Turner, Washington, 33; 6 tied at 32.
DOUBLES Albies, Atlanta, 12; Freeman, Atlanta, 11; Hosmer, San Diego, 10; Kendrick, Washington, 10; Cabrera, New York, 9; Contreras, Chicago, 9; Dickerson, Pittsburgh, 9; Grandal, Los Angeles, 9; Martinez, St. Louis, 9; Mercer, Pittsburgh, 9.
TRIPLES Baez, Chicago, 3; Marte, Pittsburgh, 3; 13 tied at 2.
HOME RUNS Albies, Atlanta, 9; Blackmon, Colorado, 9; Pollock, Arizona, 9; Harper, Washington, 8; Villanueva, San Diego, 8; Baez, Chicago, 7; DeJong, St. Louis, 7; Schwarber, Chicago, 7; Thames, Milwaukee, 7; 7 tied at 6.
STOLEN BASES Inciarte, Atlanta, 13; Turner, Washington, 12; MTaylor, Washington, 9; Cain, Milwaukee, 8; Marte, Pittsburgh, 8; Pollock, Arizona, 6;

5 tied at 5.
PITCHING Scherzer, Washington, 5-1; Corbin, Arizona, 4-0; Godley, Arizona, 4-1; McCarthy, Atlanta, 4-0; Wacha, St. Louis, 4-1; Williams, Pittsburgh, 4-1; 17 tied at 3.
ERA Cueto, San Francisco, 0.84; Martinez, St. Louis, 1.43; Scherzer, Washington, 1.62; deGrom, New York, 2.06; Ryu, Los Angeles, 2.22; Corbin, Arizona, 2.25; Williams, Pittsburgh, 2.29; Betts, Colorado, 2.43; Foltyniewicz, Atlanta, 2.53; Nola, Philadelphia, 2.58.
STRIKEOUTS Scherzer, Washington, 57; Corbin, Arizona, 55; deGrom, New York, 48; Syndergaard, New York, 46; Ray, Arizona, 45; Strasburg, Washington, 43; Greinke, Arizona, 42; Kershaw, Los Angeles, 42; Smith, Miami, 41; Martinez, St. Louis, 40.

NBA PLAYOFFS

FIRST ROUND (Best-of-7)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Toronto 4, Washington 2
Saturday, April 14: Toronto 114, Washington 106
Tuesday, April 17: Toronto 130, Washington 119
Friday, April 20: Washington 122, Toronto 103
Sunday, April 22: Washington 106, Toronto 98
Wednesday, April 25: Toronto 108, Washington 98
Friday, April 27: Toronto 102, Washington 92
Boston 4, Milwaukee 3
Sunday, April 15: Boston 113, Milwaukee 107, OT
Tuesday, April 17: Boston 120, Milwaukee 106
Friday, April 20: Milwaukee 116, Boston 92
Sunday, April 22: Milwaukee 104, Boston 102
Tuesday, April 24: Boston 92, Milwaukee 87
Thursday, April 26: Milwaukee 97, Boston 86
Saturday, April 28: Boston 112, Milwaukee 96
Philadelphia 4, Miami 1
Saturday, April 14: Philadelphia 130, Miami 103
Monday, April 16: Miami 113, Philadelphia 103
Thursday, April 19: Philadelphia 128, Miami 108
Saturday, April 21: Philadelphia 106, Miami 102
Tuesday, April 24: Philadelphia 104, Miami 91
Cleveland 4, Indiana 3
Sunday, April 15: Indiana 98, Cleveland 80
Wednesday, April 18: Cleveland 100, Indiana 97
Friday, April 20: Indiana 92, Cleveland 90
Sunday, April 22: Cleveland 104, Indiana 100
Wednesday, April 25: Cleveland 98, Indiana 95
Friday, April 27: Indiana 121, Cleveland 87
Sunday, April 29: Cleveland 105, Indiana 101

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Houston 4, Minnesota 1
Sunday, April 15: Houston 104, Minnesota 101
Wednesday, April 18: Houston 102, Minnesota 82
Saturday, April 21: Minnesota 121, Houston 105
Monday, April 23: Houston 119, Minnesota 100
Wednesday, April 25: Houston 122, Minnesota 104
Golden State 4, San Antonio 1
Saturday, April 14: Golden State 113, San Antonio 92
Monday, April 16: Golden State 116, San Antonio 101
Thursday, April 19: Golden State 110, San Antonio 97
Sunday, April 22: San Antonio 103, Golden State 90
Tuesday, April 24: Golden State 99, San Antonio 91
New Orleans 4, Portland 0
Saturday, April 14: New Orleans 97, Portland 95
Tuesday, April 17: New Orleans 111, Portland 102
Thursday, April 19: New Orleans 119, Portland 102
Saturday, April 21: New Orleans 131, Portland 123
Utah 4, Oklahoma City 2
Sunday, April 15: Oklahoma City 116, Utah 108
Wednesday, April 18: Utah 102, Oklahoma City 95
Saturday, April 21: Utah 113, Oklahoma City 102
Monday, April 23: Utah 115, Oklahoma City 96
Wednesday, April 25: Oklahoma City 107, Utah 99
Friday, April 27: Utah 96, Oklahoma City 91

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS (Best-of-7; x-if necessary)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Toronto vs. Cleveland
Tuesday, May 1: Cleveland at Toronto, 8 p.m.
Thursday, May 3: Cleveland at Toronto, 6 p.m.
Saturday, May 5: Toronto at Cleveland, 8:30 p.m.
Monday, May 7: Toronto at Cleveland, 8:30 p.m.
x-Friday, May 11: Toronto at Cleveland, TBA
x-Sunday, May 13: Cleveland at Toronto, TBA
Boston 1, Philadelphia 0
Thursday, April 30: Boston 117, Philadelphia 101
Tuesday, May 3: Philadelphia at Boston, 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 5: Boston at Philadelphia, 5 p.m.
Monday, May 7: Boston at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
x-Wednesday, May 9: Philadelphia at Boston, TBA
x-Friday, May 11: Boston at Philadelphia, TBA
x-Sunday, May 13: Philadelphia at Boston, TBA

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Houston 1, Utah 0
Sunday, April 29: Houston 110, Utah 96
Wednesday, May 2: Utah at Houston, 8 p.m.
Friday, May 4: Houston at Utah, 10:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 6: Houston at Utah, 8 p.m.
x-Tuesday, May 8: Utah at Houston, TBA
x-Thursday, May 10: Houston at Utah, TBA
x-Monday, May 14: Utah at Houston, TBA
Golden State 1, New Orleans 0
Saturday, April 28: Golden State 123, New Orleans 101
Tuesday, May 1: New Orleans at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
Friday, May 4: Golden State at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Sunday, May 6: Golden State at New Orleans, 3:30 p.m.
x-Tuesday, May 8: New Orleans at Golden State, TBA
x-Thursday, May 10: Golden State at New Orleans, TBA
x-Monday, May 14: New Orleans at Golden State, TBA

NHL PLAYOFFS

FIRST ROUND (Best-of-7)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Tampa Bay 4, New Jersey 1
Thursday, April 12: Tampa Bay 5, New Jersey 2
Saturday, April 14: Tampa Bay 5, New Jersey 3

Monday, April 16: New Jersey 5, Tampa Bay 2
Wednesday, April 18: Tampa Bay 3, New Jersey 1
Saturday, April 21: Tampa Bay 3, New Jersey 1
Boston 4, Toronto 3
Thursday, April 12: Boston 5, Toronto 1
Saturday, April 14: Boston 7, Toronto 3
Monday, April 16: Toronto 4, Boston 2
Thursday, April 19: Boston 3, Toronto 1
Saturday, April 21: Toronto 3, Boston 3
Monday, April 23: Toronto 3, Boston 1
Wednesday, April 25: Boston 7, Toronto 4
Washington 4, Columbus 2
Thursday, April 12: Columbus 4, Washington 3, OT
Sunday, April 15: Columbus 5, Washington 4, OT
Tuesday, April 17: Washington 3, Columbus 2, OT
Thursday, April 19: Washington 4, Columbus 1
Saturday, April 21: Washington 4, Columbus 3, OT
Monday, April 23: Washington 6, Columbus 3
Pittsburgh 4, Philadelphia 2
Wednesday, April 11: Pittsburgh 7, Philadelphia 0
Friday, April 13: Philadelphia 5, Pittsburgh 1
Sunday, April 15: Pittsburgh 5, Philadelphia 1
Wednesday, April 18: Pittsburgh 5, Philadelphia 0
Friday, April 20: Philadelphia 4, Pittsburgh 2
Sunday, April 22: Pittsburgh 8, Philadelphia 5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Nashville 4, Colorado 2
Thursday, April 12: Nashville 5, Colorado 2
Saturday, April 14: Nashville 5, Colorado 4
Monday, April 16: Colorado 5, Nashville 3
Wednesday, April 18: Nashville 3, Colorado 2
Friday, April 20: Colorado 2, Nashville 1
Sunday, April 22: Nashville 5, Colorado 0
Winnipeg 4, Minnesota 1
Wednesday, April 11: Winnipeg 3, Minnesota 2
Friday, April 13: Winnipeg 4, Minnesota 1
Sunday, April 15: Minnesota 6, Winnipeg 2
Tuesday, April 17: Winnipeg 2, Minnesota 0
Friday, April 20: Winnipeg 5, Minnesota 0
Vegas 4, Los Angeles 0
Wednesday, April 11: Vegas 1, Los Angeles 0
Friday, April 13: Vegas 2, Los Angeles 1, 2OT
Sunday, April 15: Vegas 3, Los Angeles 2
Tuesday, April 17: Vegas 1, Los Angeles 0
San Jose 4, Anaheim 0
Thursday, April 12: San Jose 3, Anaheim 0
Saturday, April 14: San Jose 3, Anaheim 0
Monday, April 16: San Jose 8, Anaheim 1
Wednesday, April 18: San Jose 2, Anaheim 1

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS (Best-of-7; x-if necessary)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Pittsburgh 1, Washington 1
Thursday, April 26: Pittsburgh 3, Washington 2
Sunday, April 29: Washington 4, Pittsburgh 1
Tuesday, May 1: Washington at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 3: Washington at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Saturday, May 5: Pittsburgh at Washington, TBA
x-Monday, May 7: Washington at Pittsburgh, TBA
x-Wednesday, May 9: Pittsburgh at Washington, TBA
Boston 1, Tampa Bay 1
Saturday, April 28: Boston 6, Tampa Bay 2
Monday, April 30: Tampa Bay 4, Boston 2
Wednesday, May 2: Tampa Bay at Boston, 7 p.m.
Friday, May 4: Tampa Bay at Boston, 7 p.m.
Sunday, May 6: Boston at Tampa Bay, TBA
x-Tuesday, May 8: Tampa Bay at Boston, TBA
x-Thursday, May 10: Boston at Tampa Bay, TBA

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Winnipeg 1, Nashville 1
Friday, April 27: Winnipeg 4, Nashville 1
Sunday, April 29: Nashville 5, Winnipeg 4, 2OT
Tuesday, May 1: Nashville at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Thursday, May 3: Nashville at Winnipeg, 9:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 5: Winnipeg at Nashville, TBA
x-Monday, May 7: Nashville at Winnipeg, TBA
x-Thursday, May 10: Winnipeg at Nashville, TBA
Vegas 2, San Jose 1
Thursday, April 26: Vegas 7, San Jose 0
Saturday, April 28: San Jose 4, Vegas 3, OT
Monday, April 30: Vegas 4, San Jose 3, 2OT
Wednesday, May 2: Vegas at San Jose, 10 p.m.
Friday, May 4: San Jose at Vegas, 10 p.m.
x-Sunday, May 6: Vegas at San Jose, TBA
x-Tuesday, May 8: San Jose at Vegas, TBA

TRANSACTIONS

TUESDAY

AMERICAN LEAGUE BASEBALL
BALTIMORE ORIOLAS — Reinstated OF Mark Trumbo from the 10-day DL. Recalled INF Engeln Vielma from Norfolk (IL). Placed INF Luis Sardinas on the 10-day DL, retroactive to April 29.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Optioned SS Adalberto Mondesi to Omaha (PCL).
LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Placed RHP Keynan Middleton on 10-day DL, retroactive to April 29. Recalled RHP Eduardo Paredes from Salt Lake (PCL).
MINNESOTA TWINS — Placed 3B Miguel Sano on the 10-day DL, retroactive to April 28. Selected the contract of INF Gregorio Petit from Rochester (IL). Returned Rule 5 draft pick RHP Tyler Kinley to Miami.
NEW YORK YANKEES — Agreed to terms with RHP David Hale on a minor league contract.
SEATTLE MARINERS — Recalled OF Guillermo Heredia and RHP Casey Lawrence from Tacoma (PCL). Placed RHPs Dan Altavilla and Erasmo Ramirez, on the 10-day DL, retroactive to April 30.
TAMPA BAY RAYS — Recalled LHP Ryan Yarbrough from Durham (IL). Placed RHP Yonny Chirinos on the 10-day DL, retroactive to April 29.
TEXAS RANGERS — Sent RHP Ricardo Rodriguez on injury rehab assignment to Frisco (TDL).
TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Placed LF Randall Grichuk on the 10-day DL. Recalled SS Gift Ngoepe from Buffalo (IL).

NATIONAL LEAGUE BASEBALL
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Traded LHP Colin Poche and RHP Sam McWilliams to Tampa Bay Rays to complete an earlier trade for OF Steven Souza.
ATLANTA BRAVES — Selected the contract of RHP Mike Soroka from Gwinnett (IL). Optioned RHP Chase Whitley to Gwinnett.

KENTUCKY DERBY



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kentucky Derby hopeful Justify runs during a morning workout at Churchill Downs on Tuesday in Louisville, Kentucky. The 144th running of the Kentucky Derby is scheduled for Saturday.

Justify installed as early 3-1 favorite for Derby

BY BETH HARRIS

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Bob Baffert had no chance to fret over the Kentucky Derby draw.

By the time the Hall of Fame trainer managed to get into Churchill Downs, the process was halfway done and Justify had landed in the No. 7 post on Tuesday.

"We didn't want the 1-hole, that's for sure," the four-time Derby winner said. "I was relieved when I saw him in seven."

Justify was made the early 3-1 favorite for the Derby, with Europe-based Mendelssohn the second choice in a full field of 20 horses.

Six horses have won from the No. 7 post, most recently Street Sense in 2007.

"The only reason I'm the favorite is because I beat Bolt d'Oro and he was the horse to beat," said Baffert, referring to Justify's three-length win over his rival in the Santa Anita Derby last month.

Justify is one of two horses in Saturday's 1¼-mile race who didn't race at age 2. The other is 6-1 third choice Magnum Moon. No horse since Apollo in 1882 has won the Derby after not racing as a 2-year-old.

"I don't buy into the Apollo Curse or whatever at all, mainly because Bob Baffert and Todd Pletcher have got the horses," four-time Derby-winning trainer D. Wayne Lukas said. "Todd's going to have his (horse) ready, and Baffert is going to have his."

Justify is 3-0 in his brief career, winning by a combined 19 lengths. Magnum Moon is 4-0, winning the Arkansas Derby and Rebel Stakes in his

last two starts.

"It's one of the toughest Derbies I've ever seen," Baffert said. "All the important horses got good draws."

More history is working against Mendelssohn. A horse coming from Europe has never won America's biggest race. Trained by Irishman Aidan O'Brien, UAE Derby winner Mendelssohn is the 5-1 second choice. He drew the No. 14 post.

O'Brien wasn't at the draw and Mendelssohn won't hit the Churchill Downs dirt strip until Wednesday after clearing quarantine. The colt arrived Monday from Ireland.

Pletcher has a leading four horses in the field: Magnum Moon, 8-1 Audible, 12-1 Vino Rosso and 30-1 Noble Indy. He surpassed Lukas, his mentor, this year as the trainer with the most starters in Derby history with 52.

Pletcher won last year with Always Dreaming.

The main starting gate holds 14 horses and a six-stall auxiliary gate is attached. Horses are loaded into the gate two at a time, beginning with posts one and 11, which spend the most time waiting for the start.

"Having three of the four horses in the auxiliary gate wasn't what we were hoping for," Pletcher said. "Sometimes you can work out good trips from out there. We've got four terrific riders."

The co-fourth choices are 8-1: Audible and Bolt d'Oro.

Bolt d'Oro has won four of six career starts for trainer and owner Mick Ruis. The colt drew the No. 11 post, which means he will be waiting the longest for the gate to open. Firenze Fire drew the dreaded

No. 1 post and also will be standing the longest.

"We're good," Ruis said. "Bolt is so well-minded that he doesn't work himself up."

Baffert's other entry, 30-1 shot Solomini, drew the No. 17 post, which has never produced a Derby winner.

Lukas, the 82-year-old Hall of Famer, has his 49th Derby starter in Bravazo. The colt is one of five 50-1 shots in the field. In that group is Lone Sailor, owned by Gayle Benson, the widow of the New Orleans Saints owner Tom Benson.

Bravazo is owned by Calumet Farm, which has won a leading eight Derbies but none since 1968 when Calumet's Forward Pass was declared the winner after Dancer's Image was disqualified because of a positive drug test.

Seven horses were listed at 30-1 by Churchill Downs oddsmaker Mike Battaglia: Free Drop Billy, Promises Fulfilled, Flameaway, My Boy Jack, Enticed, Solomini and Noble Indy.

The Desormeaux brothers have teamed with My Boy Jack. Kent Desormeaux, a three-time Derby winner, will ride, while Keith Desormeaux does the training.

The field is limited to the top 20 horses based on points earned in designated prep races.

Twenty-one horses were entered. The 21st horse on the points list is Blended Citizen, who would need a defection by early Friday morning to get into the 144th edition of the race.

If all 20 horses start, the total purse would be \$2,192,000. The winner earns \$1,432,000. Post time is 6:46 p.m. EDT.

NBA PLAYOFFS

Jazz try to slow Harden in Game 2 after Game 1 rout

BY KRISTIE RIEKEN

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — No one on the Utah Jazz is using the word "stop" when referring to what they'll try to do to James Harden in Game 2 of the Western Conference semifinals on Wednesday night after the Houston Rockets' star scored 41 points in a Game 1 rout.

They're simply searching for ways to slow him down a bit after he's averaged almost 36 points a game in five meetings this season.

"He is a (heck) of a player so it's going to be tough, but we feel like we can just try to make it a bit tough on him for the whole (time) he's out there," Utah's Joe Ingles said.

Harden made seven 3-pointers in Game 1, leaving the Jazz focused on limiting him from long range.

"Just make him a driver," rookie Donovan Mitchell said. "He loves getting back to that 3. They got comfortable in the first half and they went up 30. So just being able to make them uncomfortable and not let them dictate what we do on defense. Make sure we dictate what they do."

Coach Mike D'Antoni isn't concerned about anything that the Jazz might throw at Harden on Wednesday and believes the only thing that can keep Harden from a big game is, well, Harden.

"There's no answer. He's seen it all," D'Antoni said. "Now, he might play bad and that's because he's human. But there's nothing

that you can conceivably come up with that can stop one of the best offensive players ever."

Harden led the NBA in scoring in the regular season by averaging a career-high 30.4 points a game and ranks second behind LeBron James this postseason with 31 points a game.

Houston's Trevor Ariza, a player known for his defense, has the task of guarding Mitchell in this series. He was asked what he would try if he had to guard Harden. There was a long pause before Ariza let out a loud sigh and said with a laugh: "I'd figure out a way to slow him down."

But the veteran is happy to be playing with Harden and not against him.

"I'm glad I don't have that problem right now," he said. "I wouldn't tell them what I think. I would let them try to figure it out on their own."

The top-seeded Rockets expect to see a different team than they did in Game 1 after the Jazz had only about 36 hours between the end of Game 6 against the Thunder and the start of this series.

"I think a couple days' rest will help them and we'll get the best they've got," D'Antoni said.

The Jazz refused to use fatigue as an excuse for their poor performance in Game 1, but they did admit that they were feeling better about this game with a little bit of rest. Mitchell said having two days to break down film and work on their game plan has also been beneficial.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Utah guard Donovan Mitchell (45) drives to the basket as Houston center Clint Capela, right, defends during the second half of Game 1 of their NBA second-round playoff series game on Sunday in Houston. The Rockets won 110-96.

NBA PLAYOFFS

Rozier's 29 points, Tatum's 28 help Celtics beat 76ers 117-101

BY JIMMY GOLEN

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Boston's rising stars stalled The Process and led the Celtics to victory in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Substitute point guard Terry Rozier scored 29, and first-year Celtics forward Jayson Tatum had a career-high 28 points to outplay redshirt rookie Ben Simmons on Monday night and lead Boston to a 117-101 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

With much of the attention focused on 76ers youngsters Simmons and Joel Embiid, Boston's youth movement of Tatum and Rozier led the way. Two days after scoring a career playoff-high 26 points in Game 7 against Milwaukee, Rozier topped it, while also adding eight rebounds and six assists.

"It's been a dream come true. I want to keep going," said Rozier, who was wearing a Drew Bledsoe Patriots jersey to milk one more chuckle out of

his pseudo-feud with vanquished Bucks guard Eric Bledsoe. "I'm just a guy just living in the moment."

Embiid scored 31 points with 13 rebounds for Philadelphia, which lost for just the second time in 22 games. Simmons, the likely rookie of the year, scored 18 with seven boards and six assists.

But with six days of rest since eliminating Miami, the 76ers missed 15 of their first 20 shots and hit 5 of 26 from 3-point range to lose for just the second time since March 13.

"We're NBA players and we have to be ready," Embiid said. "We weren't ready tonight."

Al Horford had 26 points and seven rebounds for Boston, which will host Game 2 on Thursday night. The Celtics are hoping to have guard Jaylen Brown back from a hamstring injury he sustained in the clincher against the Bucks, leaving him sidelined along with Kyrie Irving and Gordon Hayward.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boston forward Jayson Tatum (0) drives against Philadelphia center Joel Embiid (21) as 76ers guard Ben Simmons (25) looks on in the second half of Game 1 of their second-round playoff series game on Monday in Boston. The Celtics won 117-101.

FRINGE FROM PAGE B1

place to overtake Johnson, who is not playing at Quail Hollow.

What gets Thomas even more excited are his finishes — not just the victories at the CJ Cup in South Korea last fall or the playoff he won at the Honda Classic, but the tie for 22nd at Kapalua at the start of the year. It's his worst finish in his 10 individual events he has played.

The bad golf isn't bad at all. "I'm so much more consistent this year, which I really like," Thomas said. "That's what I've wanted to do this year. Get my bad golf better. No missed cuts. Have a chance to win more tournaments. Living around the top 10 is something Tiger did for a long time. He always had chances to win tournaments, and if he didn't, he was always around, always on that first page of the leaderboard."

That's what led Thomas to believe he is playing better this year.

"I don't have all the crazy things to go along with it," he said.

Thomas had said he would seek advice from Woods and Jack Nicklaus, along with Jordan Spieth, on how to deal with living up to expectations after a big year. But it was a conversation he had with Nicklaus last summer before winning at Quail Hollow that had a more lasting effect.

"When I talked to Mr. Nicklaus last year, he said he adjusted his game plan according to how he was playing," Thomas said. "I don't know why I never thought about that, but it stuck with me. Because at the time, I wasn't playing well. He said: 'When you're not playing well and you have a 6-iron, are you trying to make birdie? You probably won't because you're not playing well. Why wouldn't you just hit the middle of the green?'"

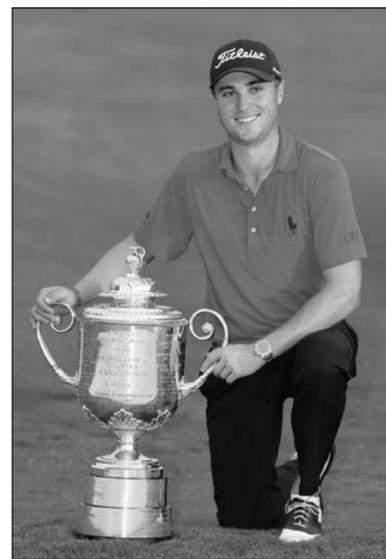
"I was like, 'Why am I playing courses the same when I'm playing my best versus when I'm not playing well?'" Thomas said. "That is a big part of why I'm having success this year."

The conversation carried into the offseason with his father, Mike Thomas. The idea was to make ordinary weeks better instead of worse. To turn 40th place into 20th place.

Make the bad golf better. "If he doesn't have a chance to win ... things irritate him more. He fires at flags he shouldn't fire at," Mike Thomas said. "He's good up front. He's not in the middle. We all sat and talked about that. It's not that you need 5 more (FedEx Cup) points or an extra \$5,000. It's just a frame of mind. Try to always improve." It appears to be working.

Better than last year? Along with five victories, Thomas shot a 59 at the Sony Open and a 63 at the U.S. Open. Seasons like that are hard to top.

"I feel I'm capable of doing it again," he said. "But it's not like I'm going to have those on my refrigerator and checking them off. There are many things I want to do and can do. And like many things, I'm hoping it can happen."



Justin Thomas poses with the Wanamaker Trophy after winning the 2017 PGA Championship at the Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte. Thomas returns to Quail Hollow this week for the Wells Fargo Championship.

CRISP FROM PAGE B1

Lakewood to a 16-7 record in the just completed season. "He's a legitimate 2-way player. He'll certainly play in the field, and I think he can give them some innings on the mound. He's got great arm strength."

Crisp batted .338 for the Gators in 78 plate appearances. He drove in 13 runs. As a pitcher, the right-hander had a 1-0 win-loss record in eight innings. He had a 0.00 earned run average.

USC Lancaster is a member of NJCAA Region X, just like USC Sumter. The Lancers are 20-21 heading into the region tournament, which begins Saturday at Lexington County Baseball Stadium.

Despite a subpar season this year, Lancaster won the region regular-season title last season and played in the Eastern District tournament.

SIGNS FROM PAGE B1

Singleton had a huge senior season, helping the Gators to an 18-10 overall record, a 7-1 region record and the third round of the state playoffs, the deepest run in program history.

Singleton, the son of former Sumter High School great and Wake Forest player Wilbert Singleton, led in scoring at 15.8 points a contest and assists at 4.0. He also grabbed five rebounds a contest and averaged 1.5 steals. He was 74-for-89 from the free throw line, good for 83.2 percent.

Along with being the Region VI player of the year, Singleton was also named to the South Carolina Basketball Coaches Association 4A All-State team.

He capped his career by earning most valuable player honors in the 70th North-South All-Star Basketball Game. He scored 17 points in helping the South to an 84-79 victory.

Singleton said Anderson is looking for the same player he saw here up north.

"He told me to continue to do what I do," Singleton said. "He said for me to bring the same skill level and the same work ethic with me. He wants me to bring the energy on both ends of the court."

Lakewood head coach Bryan Brown has nothing but praise for Singleton.

"He's a joy to coach," Brown said. "You can't appreciate enough what he's done to build this program. He's been a leader in this program every year. He's a phenomenal kid."

Singleton said he decided on St. Thomas Aquinas over Morehead State for one reason.

"Since I'm looking at being there for four years, I want to go to a winning program," he said.

STAC was 26-7 last season, won the ECC title and reached the Division II national tournament.

And while Grant will be far from his Sumter home, he won't be far from family. His 22-year-old brother, Bradley, lives in Harlem.

Kid Scoop THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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Fun Days in May!

Check out some of these unusual holidays that you can celebrate in May.

MAY 7 National Lost Sock Day
You throw your dirty socks in the hamper. (You do, don't you?) But after washing, not every sock is found! Where do they go? It's one of life's great mysteries. While thinking about the fate of those lost socks, look below to find each sock's match. Can you find the one sock that has no match?

MAY 10 Clean Your Room Day
If your room has gotten out of control, spend this May 10 cleaning up your messy room. But first, help Chloe find the following things in this big pile of stuff from her room:

- 1 hairbrush
- 2 sneakers
- 3 pencils
- 6 books
- 6 baseballs
- 2 cups
- 4 paint brushes
- 2 Teddy bears
- 3 basketballs
- 8 crayons
- 2 dominoes
- 3 pans

MAY 14 Dance Like a Chicken Day
Fold your arms like wings, play your favorite music and dance like a funky chicken! Sure, it's silly. But it's really good eggs-ercise! With some friends, try to stand in these crazy chicken dance poses for 30 seconds without getting the giggles.

MAY 18 National Pizza Party Day
Gather friends and family and order some pizzas. Or, make your own! Find your way through this maze to grab your slice of yummy pizza.

MAY 30 National Water a Flower Day
Go on a hike with your family. Bring along some extra water and give it to a wildflower you find along the way. Draw the flower that should come next to complete the pattern in each row.

May is National Hamburger Month!
Survey 15 friends to find out what topping they prefer on a hamburger. Create a graph to show the results.

Standards Link: Math/Probability: Identify and extend simple patterns.

Standards Link: Math/Data Analysis: Display results using a graph.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

MAY 5 Free Comic Book Day
Most comic book shops offer customers a free comic book the first Saturday in May. Visit your local comic book store and be sure to say a mighty, "Thank you!"
How many differences can you find between these two comics?

Kid Scoop Word Search

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

CHICKEN UNUSUAL PIZZA FATE FLOWER SILLY COMIC SOCK HIKE MESSY WATER MAY DANCE ROW FUN

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

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognizing identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

May is Teacher Appreciation Month

Design a newspaper ad telling your teacher how much you appreciate him or her. Look at some ads in your newspaper for ideas.

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

Carolina Children's Dentistry
We Make Smiles
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SPORTS ITEMS

Trump honors Army football team

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is honoring Army's football team at the White House and predicting the service branches of the military could have a new addition: the space force.

Trump saluted the Black Knights with the annual Commander-in-Chief's Trophy on Tuesday, recounting their victory over Navy on a snowy day in Philadelphia. He received a white Army jersey. It's the first Commander-in-Chief Trophy for West Point since 1996.

BRAVES CALL UP SOROKA

NEW YORK — The Atlanta Braves just keep getting younger.

The Braves called up another of their top prospects, pitcher Mike Soroka, who was scheduled to start Tuesday against the New York Mets.

The 20-year-old right-hander from Canada gives the Braves the three youngest players in the major leagues. He joined outfielder Ronald Acuna Jr., who is about four months younger than Soroka, and 21-year-old second baseman Ozzie Albies.

Soroka was a first-round pick by Atlanta in 2015 and quickly rose through the minor league ranks. Last year, he went 11-8 with a 2.75 ERA for Mississippi in the Double-A Southern League.

POST 68 MEETING SATURDAY

The Manning-Santee American Legion Post 68 baseball program will have an organizational meeting for both its junior and senior teams on Saturday beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting will take place at the American Legion hut located at 552 Sunset Drive in Manning.

All young men interested in playing are asked to be at the meeting.

For more information, contact G.G. Cutter at (803) 225-2929.

DALZELL MEETING THURSDAY

The Dalzell-Shaw Post 175 American Legion baseball program will hold an organizational meeting on Thursday at 7 p.m.

The meeting will take place at the American Legion post located at 3625 Camden Highway in Dalzell.

All boys ages 13-19 at Ebenezer and Hillcrest middle schools, Crestwood High School and Thomas Sumter Academy might be eligible to participate and are encouraged to attend the meeting.

For more information, contact Dalzell athletic director J Wrenn at baseball@p175.org or jwrenn1@sc.rr.com.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump is presented with a jersey by Ahmad Bradshaw, right, and John Voit, center, during a ceremony to present the Commander in Chief trophy to the U.S. Military Academy football team in the Rose Garden of the White House on Tuesday in Washington.

ball@p175.org or jwrenn1@sc.rr.com.

P-15'S HOME SCRIMMAGES SET

The Sumter P-15's have set their home scrimmage schedule at Riley Park for the upcoming American Legion baseball season.

The first scrimmage will take place on Monday, May 7 at 7 p.m. followed by a May 9 scrimmage, also at 7. There will also be single-game scrimmages on May 11 and May 15, both at 7 p.m. On May 19, Sumter will have a double-header scrimmage beginning at 10 a.m.

FORMER PACKER GRAY DEAD

PINSON, Ala. — Authorities say a former Green Bay Packers player has been found shot to death in his home in Alabama.

The Jefferson County Coroner's Office says former Packers defensive lineman Carlos Gray was found shortly before 10 p.m. Monday near Birmingham, Alabama. The 25-year-old is a native of

Pinson, Alabama.

AL.com reports that sheriff's deputies and Center Point Fire and Rescue were dispatched to the house after a friend found Gray wounded and unresponsive.

Gray played at North Carolina State University and signed with the Packers as a free agent in 2014.

MARINERS, A'S TO PLAY NEXT SEASON'S MLB OPENER IN JAPAN

NEW YORK — The Oakland Athletics and Seattle Mariners will play an opening two-game series in Tokyo on March 20 and 21, the fifth time Major League Baseball will start its season in Japan.

Major League Baseball said Oakland will be the home team for both games. Both the Athletics and Mariners will play Japanese teams in exhibitions on March 17 and 18.

From staff and wire reports

WHIFF FROM PAGE B1

Home runs dipped slightly from last year's record level. There were 912 long balls in 419 games through Monday, an average of 2.18, down from 863 in 369 games through the first full month last year, an average of 2.34. Scoring dropped slightly to 8.93 runs per game from 8.96.

Strikeouts have set a record for 10 consecutive seasons, and the average of 17.5 per game in April was a major league record for a calendar month, according to Elias. This year's rate projects to 42,539 — which would shatter last year's mark of 40,104. The total was 32,884 in 2008.

"I think more specialized use of the bullpen — bullpen arms, bullpen power, bullpen strikeouts," Colorado manager Bud Black said. "It is not surprising, yet alarming at the same time. I think you will see in time a correction in amateur baseball where putting the ball in play will become more of a priority."

Joe DiMaggio never struck out more than 39 times in a season. Among those who already topped that this season are Yoan Moncada of the Chicago White Sox (47), Carlos Gomez of Tampa Bay (40), and Giancarlo Stanton of the New York Yankees and Yoenis Cespedes of the Mets (43).

"Maybe we're accepting the strikeout now. We're accepting it in high school and college and Little League," said Miami manager Don Mattingly, whose strikeout high was 43. "It's really different from when I first came up. It was embarrassing to strike out."

San Diego batters lead the majors with 309 strikeouts, and Kansas City and Seattle are tied for the fewest at 200.

"Added velocity, data information, really knowing where to attack a hitter in the zone, really presents a big hole unless you're exceptionally talented," Chicago Cubs manager Joe Maddon said.

Just 11 teams have more hits than strikeouts, and Boston has the top differential (270 hits and 214 strikeouts). The Padres, with 235 hits, have the worst.

OBITUARIES

AMELIA MAE S. FRANKLIN

Funeral services for Amelia Mae Sanders Franklin will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday at Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church, 675 S. Lafayette Dr., Sumter, with Pastor Marquis Jackson officiating and Pastor Michael Miller presiding. The public may view from 3 to 7 p.m.

today at Palmer Memorial Chapel, 304 S. Main St. Interment will follow in the Hillside Memorial Park. Mrs. Franklin will be placed in the church for further viewing at noon until the hour of service.

Amelia transitioned on Wednesday, April 25, 2018, at Providence Hospital in Columbia. Born and raised in Sumter County, she was a daughter of the late Robert and Louella Atkins Sanders. Amelia attended Lincoln High School, graduated from the former Morris College High School and attended Morris College of Sumter. She was the wife of the late Samuel Jerome Franklin. They were married for 57 years and resided in New Haven, Connecticut, where she privately owned and operated "Amelia's Dress Makings and Alterations." Amelia did further studies at Gateway Community College and became a paraprofessional in the New Haven Public School System until retiring.

Mrs. Franklin was a former member of the Mount Zion Seventh-day Adventist Church in New Haven. After moving to Sumter, she transferred her membership to Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church, Sumter.

In addition to her parents, Robert and Luella Atkins Sanders, and her husband, Samuel J. Franklin, she was

preceded in death by five brothers: Carlisle, Ernest, Robert, Iree and Lafayette Sanders; and four sisters, Mary Lou Benjamin, Mattie Bowman, Beulah Brooks and Gertie Mae Stewart.

Survivors include: a daughter, Beverly Ann Franklin of Sumter; many nieces and nephews and several great-nieces and nephews; three sisters-in-law, Mattie White, Frances Sanders and Virginia Sanders; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Please visit our website for more details at www.Palmer-MemorialChapel.com.

Professional services rendered by Palmer Memorial Chapel Inc.



GEORGE LOWERY

Mr. George Lowery of Pine-wood died Tuesday, May 1, 2018. Plans will be announced by JP Holley Funeral Home, Garners Ferry Road Chapel.

ALBERT "POW WOW" CONYERS

MANNING — Albert "Pow Wow" Conyers, 63, husband of Faye Zeigler Conyers, died April 30, 2018, at McLeod Health Clarendon. He was born Sept. 20, 1954, in Manning, a son of the late John Conyers and Elizabeth Richburg Conyers.

The family will receive friends from 3 to 7 p.m. daily at his residence, 1260 Connor Road, Manning.

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

MACON O. MOSES

Macon O. Moses, 53, died Monday, April 30, 2018, at his

home in Sumter. Born Sept. 17, 1964, in Sumter, he was the son of the late Frank Moses Jr. and Delores Harding Moses.

The family is receiving relatives and friends at 103 Harris St., Sumter.

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

MICHAEL L. EDWARDS SR.

Mr. Michael Lee Edwards Sr., husband of the late Elouise Hannibal Edwards, made his transition from earth to heaven on Thursday, April 26, 2018, at Carolinas Hospital System in Florence. He was born on Dec. 13, 1947, in Lee County to the late Prince Edwards Sr. and Rosa Williams Edwards. Michael was reared in Lee County and attended the public schools of Sumter County. He was employed by Black River Electric Coop. for 33 years as a first class lineman. After retirement he enjoyed watching Westerns and doing yard work. Michael attended Galilee Missionary Baptist Church in Mayesville, where he served as a trustee.

He leaves to cherish his memories and continues his legacy: his loving daughters, Tonya (Johnny) Pugh of Sumter and Stacy (Timothy) Joyner of Dalzell; a step-daughter, Deloris Davis, and step-granddaughters, Kaylonda and Courtney Davis, all of Sumter; sisters, Mary Moses and Rosa Jefferson of Mayesville and Mahalia "Dee" Benbow of Providence, Rhode Island; sisters-in-law, Mary Lou Hannibal and Henrietta Wilson of Mayesville; brothers-in-law, Robert (Rosetta) Hannibal and Elijah (Bessie) Hannibal of Mayesville and John (Betty) Hannibal of Lynchburg; a special friend, Marilyn Andrews of Sumter; Isabella Wilson, whom was affectionately seen as one of his own; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Elouise Hannibal Edwards; infant daughter, Brenda Lousie Edwards; son, Deacon Michael Lee Edwards Jr.; grandsons, Timothy Michael Joyner Jr. and Malachi Lee Joyner; parents, Prince Sr. and Rosa Edwards; brothers, Prince Edwards Jr., Franklin Roosevelt Edwards and Paul Edwards; mother-in-law, Evelina Hannibal; and daughter-in-law, the Rev. Angela Conyers Edwards.

Public viewing will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. today at Job's Mortuary.

Mr. Edwards will be placed in the church on Thursday at noon for viewing until the hour of service.

Funeral services will be held at 1p.m. on Thursday at Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, 126 E. Sumter St., Mayesville, with the Rev. Eugene Myers officiating.

Interment will follow in Mayesville Community Cemetery.

Family will receive friends at the home of his daughter, 102 McQueen St., Sumter.

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

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

WILLIAM NEAL

Deacon William Neal, 68, died Saturday, April 28, 2018. Funeral service will be held Friday at 1 p.m. at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Sumter, with the Rev. Dr. James Blessingame officiating. Burial will be in the Neal Cemetery on U.S. 15 South. Viewing will be Thursday from 1 to 7 p.m. at Crawford Funeral Home, Lancaster. The family will be receiving friends from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. today and Thursday at 2230 Nettles Road, Sumter.

Deacon Neal, a son of the late Harrison and Ruth Green Neal, was born Aug. 12, 1949, in Sumter. He was married to Sheila Blackmon Neal.

Survivors include his wife of Sumter; one son, Samuel Blackmon of Fort Mill; three daughters, Brandi Neal of Myrtle Beach, Sheena Brunson of Boston, Massachusetts, and Shameka Neal of Greenville; one sister, Debra Jones of Myrtle Beach; two brothers, James Neal of Pinewood and Rutherford Neal of California; mother-in-law, Wilma Blackmon of Lancaster; and five grandchildren.

Crawford Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences can be sent to crawfth@comprium.net

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lost & Found

Found tool bag full of tools on Cains Mill Rd. in Sumter. Call to identify, 803-481-4790.

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MERCHANDISE

Auctions

Coming Soon I-deal Auction 256 S. Pike W. Sumter, SC Auction will be held every Sat., Starting May 12th. Kenny Flack will be the seller on opening night. Alton Meeler SCAL#4571

Garage, Yard & Estate Sales

Beech Creek Golf Course Community Yard Sale. Sat. 7- 1. Super huge. Multi Family.

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Camp Bob Cooper, Summerton, SC is now hiring a Waterfront/Aquatics Director.

Minimum Qualifications and Experience: *Previous experience in residential camping. *Current certification in first aid and CPR and Lifeguarding. *Prior experience in the development and delivery of recreational programs.

*Experience in supervising others, specialist peers, is desirable. Submit resumes to: helm@clemson.edu

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Camp Bob Cooper, Summerton, SC is now hiring Lifeguards for Residential Camp.

Lifeguards needed for waterfront at a residential camp. Lifeguard, CPR, and First Aid certification REQUIRED. Experience as a Summer Camp Counselor preferred. Submit resumes to helm@clemson.edu

Clemson University is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Counter Sales position available. Must have some heating and air background along with computer skills. Fork-lift experience a must. Apply in person at 1155 S. Guignard Dr. No phone calls!

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PT MAINTENANCE personnel needed at local apt. complex. Must have drivers license & own tools. HVAC exp. a plus. Apply in person at 625 S. Mill St. Manning or call 803-435-2751.

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Camp Bob Cooper (Clemson University Youth Learning Institute), Summerton, SC is now hiring for Part-Time Food Service Workers, no more than 28 hours per week, shifts vary, some weekends. Must have a valid ID, reliable transportation, and be able to pass a background check. Please Call: 803-478-2105.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

To satisfy the owner's storage lien, PS Orange Co. Inc. will sell at public lien sale on May 10, 2018, the personal property in the below-listed units, which may include but are not limited to: household and personal items, office and other equipment. The public sale of these items will begin at 09:30 AM and continue until all units are sold.

PUBLIC STORAGE # 08604.

1277 Camden Hwy Sumter, SC 29153 (803) 469-4434 Time: 02:00 PM B012 - Betha, Eugenia; B024 - Wilds, Michelle; B025 - Yarbrough, Ronald; B077 - Spencer, James; B087 - Goodman, Frances; C065 - Tumbleston, Norma; F012 - Edwards, Devin; F022 - Bledsoe, Christopher; F028 - Wheeler, Jacqueline; F033 - Brown, Delvlyn; F046 - Grant, Vernica; G012 - McDuffie, Rannie; G016 - Wright, Shwanda; H005 - Webb, Mary; I003 - Walker, Holly; I007 - Baptist, Debra; J005 - Joye, Aaron; J015 - Mconico, Christopher; K001 - Littlewood, Latoya; K005 - Miller, Letekka

PUBLIC STORAGE # 25924.

1145 N Guignard Dr, Sumter, SC 29150 (803) 773-4161 Time: 02:00 PM 115 - McLeod, Richard; 201 - Rembert, Domique; 239 - Simmons, Willie; 335 - Jenkins, Jami; 413 - Green, Troy; 423 - Cox, David; 440 - Jackson, Fabian

PUBLIC STORAGE # 25925.

3785 Broad St, Sumter, SC 29154 (803) 494-9001 Time: 02:00 PM 0338 - Prioleau, LaShawn; 0341 - Starks, Katrina; 0422 - Hilton, Omar; 0448 - Kind, Raymond; 0501 - Smith, Terrette; 0749 - King, Kaecynthia; 0854 - Marbury, Simone Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available prior to the sale. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be in cash or credit card-no checks. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks. To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By PS Orangeco, Inc., 701 Western Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201. (818) 244-8080.

Sumter Treatment Specialists plans to submit a certificate of need application to South Carolina DHEC to establish an outpatient narcotic treatment program. In Sumter County. The estimated cost of this project is \$156,500.00.

Summons & Notice

NOTICE OF HEARING

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT CASE NO.: 2013-CP-43-153

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF SUMTER

Donna Erickson, Plaintiff, vs. Felicia Ruff, Defendants.

TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED:

YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing will be held on the above captioned matter before Thomas E. Player, Jr., Special Referee, at 10:00 a.m. on May 22, 2018 in the office located at 305 N. Main Street, Sumter, South Carolina 29150.

COFFEY & MCKENZIE, P.A. Joseph K. Coffey, Esquire 2 N. Brooks Street Manning, SC 29102 803-435-8847

SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF FILING COMPLAINT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT Case No. 2017-CP-43-02031

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF SUMTER

Founders Federal Credit Union, Plaintiff, vs. Kenneth T. Gatlin, Charleston Auto Group, LLC a/k/a Proactive Auto and Finance, LLC, Defendants.

TO: DEFENDANT KENNETH T. GATLIN:

SUMMONS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to answer the Complaint in the above entitled action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer upon the subscribers at their offices located at 1230 Main Street, Suite 700, Columbia, South Carolina 29201 within thirty (30) days after the date of service; and if you fail to answer the said Complaint within the time aforesaid, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT

Summons & Notice

the original Summons and Complaint in the above-entitled action were filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Sumter County, South Carolina on the 26th day of October, 2017, at 2:25 p.m.

Kyle A. Brannon, Esquire NEXSEY PRUET, LLC 1230 Main Street, Suite 700 (29201) PO Box 2426 Columbia, SC 29202 Phone: (803) 540-2168 Fax: (803) 727-1447 Attorneys for the Plaintiff

SUMMONS AND NOTICES IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS CASE NO. 2018-CP-43-00589

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF SUMTER

Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Champion Mortgage Company, PLAINTIFF, VS.

Any Heirs-at-Law or Devises of the Estate of Lillian Mitchell a/k/a Lillian P. Mitchell a/k/a Lillian Pernice Mitchell a/k/a Lillian P. Mitchell, Deceased, their heirs, Personal Representatives, Administrators, Successors and Assigns, and all other persons entitled to claim through them; all unknown persons with any right, title or interest in the real estate described herein; also any persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America, being a class designated as John Doe; and any unknown minors or persons under a disability being a class designated as Richard Roe; and The United States of America by and through its agency, the Department of Housing and Urban Development a/k/a Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, DEFENDANT(S).

TO THE DEFENDANT(S) ABOVE-NAMED: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend by answering the Complaint in this action, of which a copy is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer on the subscribers at their offices, 2712 Middleburg Drive, Suite 200, Columbia, Post Office Box 2065, Columbia, South Carolina, 29202-2065, within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; except that the United States of America, if named, shall have sixty (60) days to answer after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to do so, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

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

TO MINOR(S) OVER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND/OR 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, Plaintiff will apply to have the appointment of the Guardian ad Litem Nisi, Anne Bell Fant, made absolute.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the order appointing Anne Bell Fant, whose address is PO Box 796, Simpsonville, SC 29681, as Guardian Ad Litem Nisi for all persons whomsoever herein collectively designated as Richard Roe, defendants herein whose names and addresses are unknown, including any thereof who may be minors, incapacitated, or under other legal disability, whether residents or non-residents of South Carolina; for all named Defendants, addresses unknown, who may be infants, incapacitated, or under a legal disability; for any unknown heirs-at-law of Lillian Mitchell a/k/a Lillian P. Mitchell a/k/a Lillian Pernice Mitchell a/k/a Lillian P. Mitchell, including their heirs, personal representatives, successors and assigns, and all other persons entitled to claim through them; and for all other unknown persons with any right, title, or interest in and to the real estate that is the subject of this foreclosure action, was filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Sumter County on the 12th day of April, 2018.

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Downtown opens at night for Microbrew Festival

BY IVY MOORE
Special to The Sumter Item

One of spring's most popular events returns to downtown Sumter Friday, May 11, with more venues to visit, more craft beers to sample, hors d'oeuvres and a variety of music.

The Downtown Sumter Microbrew Festival will be from 6 to 9 p.m. The event presented by the nonprofit Sumter Senior Services benefits its Meals on Wheels program for needy elderly citizens. "We've expanded Microbrew to 13 venues this year," Sumter Senior Services Executive Director Dana Strock said, "thanks to longtime and new businesses who remain open during the evening to take part. Not only do they remain after normal business hours, each one will provide hors d'oeuvres to accompany the beers offered for tasting."

Microbrew Festival offers a great opportunity to see the improvements made to the downtown area and to learn about the businesses, new and established, along Main Street and adjoining streets, said Leigh Newman, a member of the nonprofit's fundraising committee and downtown development coordinator for the City of Sumter.

Two microbrews will be available for sampling at each of the participating venues. Provided by the Yahnis Company of Florence, the 26 beverages, made by 11 breweries, include Dogfish Head, Not Your Father's Mountain Ale, Going Coastal, Carolina Draft, Grapefruit Shandy, Scattered Sun, Electric Peel, Flagship and more. Styles of beer vary and will include ales, porters, pilsners, lagers and more.

Venues for the tastings are Main Street Tavern; Law Range Barber Shop; Berenyi; Clark Law Firm; Naomi & Warner-19 Acres Candles, Bath and Body; Thompson Industrial Services; Sumter Board of Realtors; la bella vita; F45 Training Studio; Sumter Habitat for Humanity; Jersey Joe's; James Formal Wear; and Pedi Parlor.

All venues are downtown. Participants will receive a map of the participating venues, which will also have signs identifying them. The map cards also have entry forms attached for the door prize drawing at the end of the evening. Prizes have traditionally

included such items as electronics, gift cards and cases of the microbrews offered during the festival.

Strock said DJ Lady Diamond will be playing from her station at Rotary Centennial Plaza.

"She's been very popular at several of our past fundraisers," she said.

T-shirts from past Microbrew festivals will be on sale for \$5 each, and Jersey Joe's will print the 2018 T-shirts on demand during the evening.

Sponsors are Sumter County Cultural Commission, The Yahnis Company, Frasier Tire Service and Jackson and Sims Architects.

Security will be provided, and free parking is available.

Tickets are now on sale online at <https://bit.ly/2vPAXJ4>, at Sumter Senior Services at 119 S. Sumter St. or by calling (803) 773-5508. Tickets purchased before May 11 are \$25 each, \$20 for seniors 60 and older and military with valid ID, and \$10 for designated drivers 18 and older, who may have soft beverages and hors d'oeuvres but no alcohol. All tickets purchased on May 11, including at the door, will be \$35.

Participants should check in at the Sumter Opera House, 21 N. Main St., where they can exchange tickets for wristbands. Valid ID is required.



Event benefits Sumter's elderly

While Sumter Microbrew Festival is a fun event, Sumter Senior Services Executive Director Dana Strock said it is also one of the most important funding sources for Meals on Wheels, which currently supplies nutritious hot or frozen meals to elderly residents in Sumter County who cannot cook or shop for food and have no one to do so for them.

All proceeds from Microbrew go directly to the program. Around 260 are currently on the waiting list to receive meals.

"For many, it's the only meal they get each day," Strock said.

In addition to the meals, the volunteers who deliver them do a "wellness check. Often, the volunteers are the only social contacts the meal recipients see."

Volunteers often become attached to the seniors, Strock said. She gave the example of a recent intern in her 20s.

"She completed her internship but is continuing



to volunteer," she said.

The volunteer told Strock, "It's not all about delivering meals. I walk in, and they say, 'Honey, thank you so much.' I just know what I'm doing matters more than just a meal. They want to talk, socialize. They don't see anyone else."

Strock encourages other volunteers to ride with Meals on Wheels volunteers "to see what impact Sumter Senior Services and meals mean to our community."

Eligibility for the free program is based on a

needs assessment, health status, inability to get a meal or make one themselves or not being able to be safe at the stove, Strock said.

Meals must meet the nutrition standards set by the Lieutenant Governor's Office of Aging's guidelines for senior nutritional meals. Strock said two typical meals include meatloaf and gravy, mashed potatoes, a green vegetable, cornbread, chocolate milk or white milk; and chicken, tossed salad or broccoli salad, wheat bread, carrot jello and milk. Fruit is included with each delivery.

Anyone who wishes to purchase meals for someone may do so, Strock said. The charge is \$6.10 per meal, \$30.70 for a week, or \$122.80 for a month.

"I love to hear people say, 'Hey, that's a meal at (a fast food restaurant)," Strock said.

For more information about volunteering for Sumter Senior Services, contact Rebecca Sears, director of the RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program), at (803) 773-5508. Contact Strock at the same number.

SP	FT	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM
LOCAL CHANNELS												
WIS	10	3	10	WIS News 10 at 7 (N)	Entertainment Tonight (N)	The Blacklist "Nicholas T. Moore (No. 110)" An unidentified young girl reappears. (N)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "The Book of Esther" A girl is being held captive by her dad. (N)	Chicago P.D. "Allegiance" Halstead and Atwater go under cover. (N) (DVS)	WIS News 10 at 11 (N)	(:34) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon		
WLTX	19	9	9	News 19 at 7pm (N)	Inside Edition (N)	Survivor "The Finish Line Is in Sight" (N)	(:01) SEAL Team "Enemy of My Enemy" The team goes on a risky mission. (N)	Code Black "Better Angels" A patient is a self-proclaimed psychic. (N)	News 19 at 11pm (N)	(:35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert		
WOLO	25	5	12	Wheel of Fortune "Walt Disney World Orlando" (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	The Goldbergs "The Opportunity of a Lifetime" (N)	Alex, Inc. Rooni enlists Ben's help. (N) (DVS)	Modern Family The family has bad news for Claire. (N)	(:31) American Housewife "Sliding Sweaters" (N)	Designated Survivor "Bad Reception" Ethan West continues his investigation. (N)	ABC Columbia News at 11 (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live (N)
WRJA	27	11	14	Travels With Darley	Expeditions With Patrick McMillan	Nature "Natural Born Rebels: Survival" Scoundrels of the animal world. (N)	NOVA Wonders "What's Living in You?" Bacteria, viruses and fungi in the body. (N)	NOVA "Search for the Super Battery" How batteries work. (DVS)	Amanpour on PBS (N)	BBC World News	NHK Newslines	
WACH	57	6	6	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	Empire "A Lean and Hungry Look" Eddie fights for his place at Empire. (N) (DVS)	Star "Let the Good Times Roll" The artists go to New Orleans. (N) (DVS)	WACH FOX News at 10 (N) (Live)	Sports Zone	DailyMailTV (N)	TMZ (N)	
WKTC	63	4	22	Last Man Standing "The Road Less Driven"	Last Man Standing "Halloween" Kyle dresses up as Ed.	Riverdale "Chapter Thirty-Three: Shadow of a Doubt" The town's mayoral race heats up. (N)	The Originals "Ne Me Quitte Pas" Elijah doesn't know who he is. (N)	Dateline "Return to Manitowoc County" Steven Avery murder investigation.	Dateline "Haunting Images" A woman is violently murdered.	The Game Romantic complications arise.		
CABLE CHANNELS												
A&E	46	130	Storage Wars	Storage Wars "The Daneurysm"	Storage Wars "The Wild Wild Vests"	Storage Wars	Storage Wars: Northern	Storage Wars: Northern	(:01) Flip Wars "Dirt to Dollars" Complete gut renovation for a bungalow. (N)	(:03) Storage Wars	(:33) Storage Wars	(12:03) Storage Wars
AMC	48	180	(4:55) *** "The Rock" (1996) Sean Connery, Nicolas Cage, Ed Harris.	*** "Fury" (2014, War) Brad Pitt, Shia LaBeouf, Logan Lerman. A sergeant takes his men on a mission behind enemy lines.			*** "The Lone Ranger" (2013) Johnny Depp. An Indian warrior and a lawyer unite to fight corruption.					
ANPL	41	100	Tanked "Prince Fielder's Big Hit"	Tanked "Mel's Drive In Tank"			(:01) Tanked: Supersized "Roadtrippin'" Tanks' Brett and Wayde go off-road. (N)			Supersized		
BET	61	162	(5:25) *** "This Christmas" (2007) Delroy Lindo, Idris Elba.	The Real Housewives of New York City "War and P.O.S." Tensions boil over.			The Real Housewives of New York City Tinsley gets a surprise delivery. (N)			Sell It Like Serhant "In Big Tub-ble" A hot tub saleswoman lands in hot water.		
BRAVO	47	181	The Real Housewives of New York City "The Ladies Head to the Hamptons."	Shark Tank			Shark Tank (DVS)			Staten Island Hustle "The Herbidior"		
CNN	3	80	Erin Burnett OutFront (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)			Anderson Cooper 360 (N)			CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)		
COM	57	136	(6:50) South Park "God God Go I & XII" Animated. Cartman freezes himself.	(7:55) South Park "Soul Plane" (2004, Comedy) Kevin Hart, Tom Arnold, Method Man. Passengers and crew party aboard an airliner.			South Park "Tweek vs. Craig"			South Park "Tweek x Craig"		
DISN	18	200	(6:20) ** "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days" (2012) Zachary Gordon.	DuckTales (DVS)			** "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days" (2012) Zachary Gordon. Greg's summer plans go awry.			(:10) Stuck in the Middle		
DSC	42	103	Misfit Garage: Strike Three	Misfit Garage: Fired Up (N)			Misfit Garage "Episode 1"			Sticker Shock (N)		
ESPN	26	35	MLB Baseball Atlanta Braves at New York Mets. From Citi Field in Flushing, N.Y. (N) (Live)	Welcome/NFL			Welcome/NFL			SportsCenter Special		
ESPN2	27	39	NFL Live	Welcome/NFL			Welcome/NFL			SportsCenter Special		
FOOD	40	109	Iron Chef: Behind the Battle	Iron Chef Gauntlet "Ingenuity"			Iron Chef Gauntlet Three chefs remain.			Iron Chef America		
FOXN	37	90	The Story With Martha MacCallum (N)	Famous in Love "The Goodbye Boy" (N)			** "Bring It On" (2000, Comedy) Kirsten Dunst, Eliza Dushku, Jesse Bradford. High-school cheerleaders vie for a coveted national title.			The 700 Club		
FREE	20	131	(6:00) * "Zookeeper" (2011) Kevin James, Rosario Dawson.	Mets. From Citi Field in Flushing, N.Y. (N) (Live)			Braves Live! Post.			SportsMoney		
FSS	21	47	MLB Baseball Atlanta Braves at New York Mets. From Citi Field in Flushing, N.Y. (N) (Live)	The Middle "The Concert"			The Middle "The Sit Down"			The Middle "Leap Year"		
HALL	52	183	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing "Educating Boyd"			The Middle "The Concert"			The Middle "The Sit Down"		
HGTV	39	112	Property Brothers: Buying & Selling	Property Brothers			Property Brothers (N)			House Hunters (N)		
HIST	45	110	American Pickers "Concrete Jungle"	American Pickers "Pedal Pushers"			American Pickers (N)			(:03) American Pickers (DVS)		
ION	13	18	Law & Order "Bodies" The detectives investigate a murder.	Law & Order "Bounty" Famous fugitive eludes capture.			Law & Order "Patient Zero" Preventing an outbreak.			Law & Order "Shrunk" Songwriter suspected.		
LIFE	50	145	Little Women: LA "Injections and Rejections" Christy throws a Botox party.	Little Women: LA Tonya questions her recent breakup. (N)			Little Women: LA "Sober Celebration" Christy celebrates her sobriety. (N)			(:02) My Partner Knows Best Testing parenting and teamwork skills. (N)		
MSNBC	36	92	Hardball With Chris Matthews (N)	All In With Chris Hayes (N)			The Rachel Maddow Show (N)			The Last Word		
NICK	16	210	Henry Danger	** "Journey 2: The Mysterious Island" (2012) Dwayne Johnson.			Fresh Prince			Fresh Prince		
PARMT	64	153	Friends	Friends			** "Happy Gilmore" (1996) Adam Sandler, Christopher McDonald.			** "Jack and Jill" (2011, Comedy) Adam Sandler.		
SYFY	58	152	** "Men in Black II" (2002, Action) Tommy Lee Jones, Will Smith, Rip Torn. Agents Jay and Kay defend Earth from a sultry alien enemy.	The Expanse "Reload" The Rocinante tends to wounded soldiers. (N)			Krypton "Transformation" Lyta and Dev go in search of Jayna. (N)			** "Men in Black II" (2002) Tommy Lee Jones. Agents Jay and Kay defend Earth from a sultry alien enemy.		
TBS	24	156	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory			The Big Bang Theory			The Big Bang Theory		
TCM	49	186	(6:30) ** "Four Mothers" (1941) The Lane Sisters, Gale Page.	** "Maisie" (1939, Comedy) Robert Young. An ex-con falls for the showgirl who clears him of murder.			** "Congo Maisie" (1940) Ann Sothern, John Carroll. A chorus girl stows away on a steamer in West Africa.			* "Gold Rush Maisie" (1940, Comedy) Ann Sothern. An entertainer helps a poor family search for gold.		
TLC	43	157	(:03) My 600-Lb. Life (Part 2 of 2)	My 600-Lb. Life "One Ton Family, Part 1" The Perrio siblings travel to Houston.			(:02) Skin Tight (N)			(:03) My 600-Lb. Life The Perrio siblings travel to Houston.		
TNT	23	158	NBA Basketball Conference Semifinal: Teams TBA. (N Subject to Blackout) (Live)	NBA Basketball Conference Semifinal: Teams TBA. (N Subject to Blackout) (Live)			NBA Basketball Conference Semifinal: Teams TBA. (N Subject to Blackout) (Live)			Inside the NBA (N) (Live)		
TRUTV	38	129	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers			Impractical Jokers			Comedy Knockout (N)		
TV LAND	55	161	M*A*S*H	(:36) M*A*S*H			Love-Raymond			Love-Raymond		
USA	25	132	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	*** "Captain America: The First Avenger" (2011, Action) Chris Evans, Hayley Atwell, Sebastian Stan. Captain America battles the evil HYDRA organization. (DVS)			Colony "Maquis" (Season Premiere) A sudden arrival changes everything. (N)			(:01) *** "Captain America: The First Avenger" (2011, Action) Chris Evans, Hayley Atwell. (DVS)		
WE	68	166	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	** "Bringing Down the House" (2003, Comedy) Steve Martin, Queen Latifah, Eugene Levy.			** "Bringing Down the House" (2003) Steve Martin, Queen Latifah.					
WGNA	8	172	Cops	Cops			Last Man Standing			Cops		

'Being Serena' offers intimate look at tennis great

BY KEVIN McDONOUGH

Are sports stars interesting outside of the arena? The five-part documentary series "Being Serena" (10 p.m., HBO, TV-PG) follows one of the most dominant athletes of her generation. It begins tonight with her sudden discovery that she had become pregnant, her decision to play through the Australian Open and win her 23rd Grand Slam event, and her efforts to balance life as an expectant mother with the demands of training as an elite athlete.

Along the way, we hear from her longtime agents and fiancé, watch her with her trainers and doctors and listen as she shares her private side.

A thoughtful woman who has conducted press conferences in fluent French, Serena Williams is spectacularly composed and focused, admirable and even inspirational. But if you expect "Being Serena" to be as exciting as her work on the court, you are in for a disappointment.

If it's Wednesday, it must be paranoid. "The Americans" (10 p.m., FX, TV-MA) ticks down toward the end of the Cold War and its series finale.

"Colony" (10 p.m., USA, TV-14) returns for a third dystopian season, set in a world after an alien invasion. As the season begins, intrepid resistance fighters Will (Josh Holloway) and Katie (Sarah Wayne Callies) have escaped the prison state of Los Angeles and are living in the woods along with their kids and their former collaborator, Alan Snyder (Peter Jacobson).

As both an alien-placating weasel and now as an ever-complaining hanger-on, his character often offers a bit of cynical comic relief.

Ever wondered, "What's my car worth?" "Sticker Shock" (10 p.m., Discovery, TV-14) features a scrum of experts on car maintenance and history who explore the provenance of exceptional vehicles.

The subscription YouTube Red service offers "Cobra Kai," a follow-up to "The Karate Kid," starring Ralph Macchio, more than 30 years after the original.

CULT CHOICE

You could probably write a dissertation on the changes in attitudes toward corporations and employment that have



Tennis star Serena Williams holds her daughter, Alexis Olympia Ohanian Jr. The five-part documentary series "Being Serena" begins at 10 p.m. today on HBO.

taken place between the 1999 comedy "Office Space" (8:28 p.m., Starz) and the current HBO series "Silicon Valley," both created by Mike Judge.

TONIGHT'S OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- The mayoral race between Fred (Luke Perry) and Hermione (Marisol Nichols) heats up on "Riverdale" (8 p.m., CW, TV-14).

- Eddie (Forest Whitaker) fights for control on "Empire" (8 p.m., Fox, TV-14).

- "NOVA Wonders" (9 p.m., PBS, TV-PG, check local listings) ponders the trillions of microbes that live in our bodies.

- A patient and self-styled psychic has happy visions on

"Code Black" (10 p.m., CBS, TV-14).

- Halstead and Atwater worry that arms of war may flood the streets on "Chicago P.D." (10 p.m., NBC, TV-14).

- Still dogged by Ethan (Michael J. Fox), Kirkman negotiates a hostage's release on "Designated Survivor" (10 p.m., ABC, TV-14).

SERIES NOTES

A mystery woman resurfaces on "The Blacklist" (8 p.m., NBC, TV-14) * Between the lines on "The Goldbergs" (8 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) * A moment of doubt on "Alex, Inc." (8:30 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) * A rescue mission may be a trap on "SEAL Team" (9 p.m., CBS, TV-14) * A father takes his daughter captive on "Law &

Order: Special Victims Unit" (9 p.m., NBC, TV-14) * A Crescent City celebration turns dark on "Star" (9 p.m., Fox, TV-14) * Dede (Shelley Long) drops by on "Modern Family" (9 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) * Elijah wakes up without memories on "The Originals" (9 p.m., CW, TV-14) * Parallel lives on "American Housewife" (9:30 p.m., ABC, TV-PG).

LATE NIGHT

Gen. Michael Hayden is on "The Daily Show With Trevor Noah" (11 p.m., Comedy Central) * Aubrey Plaza and Marlon Williams appear on "Conan" (11 p.m., TBS) * Jim Gaffigan, Michael Avenatti and David Chang are on "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" (11:35 p.m., CBS) * Jimmy Fallon wel-

comes Savannah Guthrie, Hoda Kotb, Robert Irwin and Jaden Smith on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC) * Mike Myers, Zazie Beetz and Sugarland on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" (11:35 p.m., ABC) * Priyanka Chopra, Mike O'Brien, Lord Huron and Carter McLean visit "Late Night With Seth Meyers" (12:35 a.m., NBC) * Will Ferrell, Eva Longoria and Jo Koy visit "The Late Late Show With James Corden" (12:35 a.m., CBS).

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PHOTOS BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients used in marinade match well with other foods, too

BY KATIE WORKMAN
The Associated Press

Oregano, lemon, garlic, glugs of olive oil ... these are just a few of the ingredients that make Greek food so appealing. They match up well with all sorts of other hero ingredients, from potatoes to chicken to seafood.

In this recipe, chicken gets a nice soak in a Greek marinade with all of those delicious flavors and then is simply roasted in the oven. You can use that time to putter around making a salad and trying to get someone else to set the table.

Try serving them up with some simply cooked millet or orzo and a very lightly dressed baby greens salad.

Boneless chicken breasts with the skin left on have a few really good things going for them. One, the skin keeps the chicken moist as it cooks. Two, the skin crisps up in the hot oven, and I know of few chicken-loving people who don't covet the crispy skin. Three, the absence of the bone allows the chicken to cook more quickly than bone-in chicken.

Boneless chicken breasts with the skin are not always easy to find pre-packaged in the supermarket, but you can ask the butcher to cut the bones out for you. You can also, of course, do it yourself with a steady hand and a very sharp knife, but feel no shame if this isn't within your comfort zone. Boneless, skinless chicken breasts are also just fine, and if you want to use bone-in chicken breasts, just add another 15 to 20 minutes of cooking time.

You could serve these with some wedges of lemon in case people want one last hit of fresh, tart citrus.

GREEK ROASTED CHICKEN BREASTS

Serves 4

Start to finish: 30 minutes plus marinating time

1/4 cup olive oil
1 teaspoon minced garlic
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
2 teaspoons dried oregano
2 teaspoons kosher or coarse salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
4 boneless skin-on chicken breasts (6 to 8 ounces each)
Lemon wedges to serve

In a large bowl, container or sturdy zipper-top bag, combine the olive oil, garlic, lemon juice, vinegar, oregano, salt and pepper. Stir or shake to combine thoroughly. Add the chicken, turn it to coat well, and then cover or seal and refrigerate for 12 to 24 hours (or even up to 2 days).

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with aluminum foil and spray with non-stick cooking spray. Remove the chicken from the marinade and place on the baking sheet skin side up. Roast for about 25 minutes until cooked though. Serve hot, warm or cold, with lemon wedges if desired.

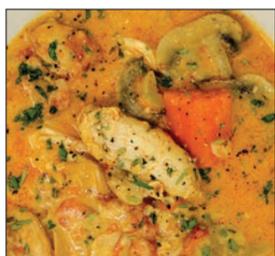
Nutrition information per serving: 221 calories; 103 calories from fat; 12 g fat (2 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 86 mg cholesterol; 654 mg sodium; 1 g carbohydrate; 0 g fiber; 0 g sugar; 27 g protein.

INSTANT DIJON CHICKEN

Servings: 6

Start to finish: 40 minutes

1 14-ounce can diced tomatoes
1/4 cup dry white wine
2 teaspoons dried tarragon (or 1 teaspoon fresh, chopped)
1/2 large yellow onion, chopped, about 3/4 cup
4 garlic cloves, minced
2 pounds boneless skinless chicken thighs, trimmed of excess fat
1/2 pound white button mushrooms, wiped clean and halved
2 medium carrots, peeled and cut into 1 1/2-inch pieces
1/4 cup Dijon mustard
Additional tarragon or chopped parsley for garnish, optional
salt and pepper
Special equipment: Electric Pressure Cooker (such as Instant Pot or Multi-Pot)



thighs with salt and pepper, and cut each thigh twice (into three pieces), and place on top of the tomato mixture. Place the halved mushrooms and cut carrot pieces on top of the chicken. Place the lid on, secure, and close the pressure valve. Set the timer to 10 minutes at high pressure.

Once the cooking is done, allow the pressure cooker to sit for 10 minutes, allowing the pressure to release slowly (without moving the valve). Then, carefully turn the pressure valve to open, releasing any remaining pressure. Spoon about 1/2 cup of the cooking liquid into a small bowl and whisk in the Dijon mustard until creamy. Whisk the mustard mixture into the pot of

cooked chicken.

Top with parsley or additional tarragon, if desired. Serve with cooked cauliflower rice, spaghetti squash, quinoa or brown rice.

Chef's Note: The dish can be made in a conventional pot on a stove. Simmer, covered, on low heat until meat is tender, about 60-75 minutes.

Nutrition information per serving: 246 calories; 57 calories from fat; 6 g fat (2 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 142 mg cholesterol; 941 mg sodium; 11 g carbohydrate; 2 g fiber; 4 g sugar; 32 g protein.

Spray the inside of an electric pressure cooker with an olive oil mister for easy cleanup. Place the canned diced tomatoes, wine, tarragon and garlic at the bottom of the pot and stir with a wooden spoon to blend. Sprinkle the chicken

Cooking under high pressure

BY MELISSA D'ARABIAN
Associated Press

Not a day goes by that I don't get a recipe request or question about the Instant Pot. So, dear readers, today is the day for my starter recipe for you Instant Pot (Multi-Pot, etc.) fans.

I'll start by pointing out that we are really talking about here is an automated, easy-to-use electric pressure cooker. I hear a collective sigh of recognition from a whole generation of home cooks who have relied on a pressure cooker for years to deliver stews, chilis and braises to their families in quick order.

But for the rest of us who were freaked out by managing the pressure on the stovetop ourselves, fearing exploding hot liquids or bursts of scalding steam, an automated pressure cooker welcomes us into the fold. Cooking under high pressure speeds up the process quite a bit, meaning you can have tender braised meat in minutes instead of hours, which can be a boon for weeknight meals.

In case you decide to get an electric pressure cooker, here are a few tips. First, read the entire manual before you start cooking anything. Even if

you are one to put an entire Ikea living room set together with nary a glance at the instructions, read the manual.

My second tip is to start with something easy that can't be overcooked: stock, for example. Load up the pressure cooker with bones and a few hunks of onion and celery, cover with water (don't overfill), and set the timed cooker (exactly how long is in — you guessed it — your manual).

Next tip: Use less liquid than you would use stovetop as evaporation is eliminated, and don't overcook. High pressure means you can't easily open the lid to check on food's progress and texture as you would with a typical stovetop braise. Be extra aware of the possibility of overcooking if you are cooking tougher meat with tender vegetables.

Finally, be aware that "instant" is a bit of a misnomer. While "cook time" in any recipe is relatively short, don't forget to add the time it takes to come to pressure (about 5-15 minutes) plus time for pressure release, if you aren't manually releasing the pressure (which I don't recommend for a newbie). Just in case any of you thought that dinner would be done in an actual instant.