

SLED arrests Sumter County detention officer Wednesday

A Sumter County detention officer was taken into SLED custody Wednesday afternoon, according to Sumter County Sheriff's Office. Details about the arrest were not available by press time. More info will be released online at theitem.com and in Friday's edition.

Bush celebrated with high praise, humor during state funeral

BY CALVIN WOODWARD, LAURIE KELLMAN and ASHRAF KHALIL
 The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — George H.W. Bush was celebrated with high praise and loving humor Wednesday as the nation bade farewell to the man who was America's 41st president and the last to fight for the U.S. in wartime. Three former presidents looked on at Washington National Cathedral as a fourth — George W. Bush — eulogized his dad.

"To us," the son said of the father, "his was the brightest of a thousand points of light."

SEE **FUNERAL**, PAGE A5



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former President George W. Bush speaks at the state funeral for his father, former President George H.W. Bush, at the National Cathedral on Wednesday in Washington.

Sumter's Smith elected budget committee chair

Ways and Means members get 1st crack at state budget beginning in early January

BY KAYLA ROBINS
 kayla@theitem.com

One of Sumter's representatives in the Statehouse was chosen on Wednesday for one of the most powerful positions in the state government.

Rep. Murrell Smith, R-Sumter, was elected without opposition by fellow committee members as the new chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, the group that writes the first draft of the state's \$8 bil-



SMITH

lion-plus budget. He is replacing Rep. Brian White, R-Anderson, who was removed from the position by state Speaker

Jay Lucas on claims of Republican unease with White's leadership and being able to carry out the party's agenda.

"I wish it was under

SEE **COMMITTEE**, PAGE A5



Santa Claus came to town at Sunday's parade



PHOTOS BY ADRIENNE SARVIS / THE SUMTER ITEM

Despite the cloudy skies, hundreds lined the streets of downtown Sumter to celebrate the official start of the Christmas season with the annual Sumter Christmas Parade on Sunday. Local schools; dance studios; bike, car and horse clubs; and other organizations gave holiday joy and candy as they walked down Main Street with the big man himself as the finale.

Sumter delegation highlights next year's priorities

Chamber of Commerce holds annual legislative breakfast to hear from lawmakers ahead of session starting in January

BY KAYLA ROBINS
 kayla@theitem.com

With a new legislative session starting in the Statehouse in January, Sumter's elected officials spent breakfast Tuesday hearing from their community about priorities for the upcoming year.

The Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce held its annual legislative breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at Central Carolina Technical College's South Main Street campus, where local government officials, businesses and community leaders gathered to hear about the Sumter delegation's goals for this next session and to ask questions

about certain bills and topics, ranging from local school district objectives to statewide medical marijuana.

Sen. Thomas McElveen, D-Sumter, and Reps. Murrell Smith, R-Sumter, David Weeks, D-Sumter, and Will Wheeler, D-Lee, attended the event, where they emphasized the ability for Sumter's seven legislators to work to-

gether in the best interests of their constituents, regardless of political leaning.

Smith and McElveen both said the ongoing fallout from the collapse of a state-owned Santee-Cooper utility and SCE&G nuclear plant construction

SEE **PRIORITIES**, PAGE A5

<p>VISIT US ONLINE AT theitem.com</p>	<p>CONTACT US Information: 774-1200 Advertising: 774-1246 Classifieds: 774-1200 Delivery: 774-1258 News and Sports: 774-1226</p>	<p>DEATHS, B3 Martha Amos Schoolfield Christopher Alonzo Taylor Alexander Johnson Jr. Eddie Darling Christopher Thomas Geddings Irvin Jefferson Sr. Junior Sinkler</p>	<p>WEATHER, A8 ANOTHER SUNNY DAY Partly sunny and cool; mainly clear and chilly HIGH 51, LOW 26</p>	<p>INSIDE 2 SECTIONS, 14 PAGES VOL. 124, NO. 36</p> <p>Classifieds B6 Sports B1 Comics B4 Television A5 Opinion A7</p>
---	--	--	--	---

Give a gift that grows in value.

The Bank of Clarendon Holiday CD Special: What better way to teach a young person the value of saving money? What better way to show someone just how much they mean to you?

14 Month: 2.40% APY **25 Month: 2.65% APY**

*CD Annual Percentage Yield (APY), rates and terms accurate as of Dec. 3, 2018 and subject to change without notice. Minimum deposit \$1,000 to open and earn the APY. Maximum deposit \$250,000. Fees could reduce earnings. Limited time offer.

Bank of Clarendon
 Sumter: 803.469.0156 Manning: 803.433.4451 bankofclarendon.bank
 MANNING • SUMTER • SANTEE • SUMMERTON • WYBOO

Member
FDIC



SECOND FRONT

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

Hootie drummer to speak to Celebrate Recovery group

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

The perfect Christmas gift is different for each person, and for some, the best present is seeking a brighter path in life.

Anyone who needs help finding his or her way should attend Celebrate Recovery's next meeting at 7 p.m. Friday at Salt and Light Church, 360 Miller Road.

An added gift for attending the meeting this week will be live music and testimony from Jim Sonefeld, drummer for Hootie and the Blowfish.

At one point, Hootie and the Blowfish was the biggest band, said John Sellar, ministry leader.

But addiction got hold of Sonefeld and there was a lot of turmoil in his life, he said, like most people.

"Here was a guy who kind of had it all," he said.

The importance of Sonefeld's story is that no matter where you are in life, addiction can still get to you, Sellar said.

"The best day is today," Sonefeld said, "not tomorrow to begin working on the solution."

Sonefeld's cycle of addiction started in the early 2000s with heavy alcohol and drug use.

"I got sick and tired of being sick and tired," he said about his "white light moment" when he decided to seek help in 2004.

Sonefeld said the most im-

portant thing he realized on his journey to recovery is that he needed help.

"I always wanted to believe I held the answers and could save myself," he said.

It's important to tap into a group that can help you, he said.

Celebrate Recovery, a faith-based 12-step program, is a special home because the doors are open to people suffering from life's hang ups, Sonefeld said.

After finding his way, he said the best way to continue on a peaceful path in life is to share a peaceful solution with others.

So a few times a month, Sonefeld performs music and speaks at various Celebrate Recovery meetings throughout the state.

You don't need prior beliefs, and there is no commitment to come out, Sonefeld said.

"Don't let anything deter you," he said.

Celebrate Recovery is a unique group, Sellar said.

He originally thought the 12-step program was only for Alcoholics Anonymous but realized the steps are just a decent way to live.

The group addresses addiction and chemical dependency as well as other unhealthy things such as eating disorders and co-dependency, Sellar said.

Celebrate Recovery offers ways to live a more peaceful life, he said.

Dinner will be served at 6:15 p.m. on Friday, and the meeting will start at 7 p.m.



SONEFELD



The congregation of Salem Black River Presbyterian Church invites the public to its service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, Dec. 16. The church, built in 1846 in the Greek Revival style, is on the National Historic Register. A reception in the Meeting House will follow the 3 p.m. service.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Celebrate Christmas at Brick Church on Dec. 16

Congregation invites public to Lessons and Carols

BY IVY MOORE
Special to The Sumter Item

The congregation of Salem Black River Presbyterian Church invites the public to attend its Christmas service at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16. Church organist William Scobee, who is also choir director and organist for St. James Lutheran Church in Sumter, will direct the St. James choir and friends in a service of Lessons and Carols. Carols will alternate with readings from the Bible.

The historic church is undergoing some renovations in order to preserve it for many more years, but Martha Greenway, member of the Session and church treasurer, said, "Although the interior looks pretty rough, I'm sure the Christmas spirit will prevail!"

She said the plaster walls and ceilings have had the paint sanded off, so that the congregation can decide what steps should be taken next to deal with a moisture concern. None of this should interfere with the service or the acoustics in the sanctuary.

Among the carols on the program will be "Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts," from Camille Saint-Saëns' Christmas Oratorio; "O Come, Divine Messiah!," arranged by Hal Hopson; Charles McCartha's arrangement of "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns," with accompaniment by Michael Baier on cello; "What Can I Give Him?" with text by Christina Rossetti and music by Timothy Sharp; and "Glory to God in the Highest" by G.B. Pergolesi and Philip W.J. Stopford.

Scobee said, "The congregation and choir will sing together the carols 'Once in Royal David's City,' 'Silent Night' and

'O Come All Ye Faithful.' (These) beloved carols of the season will be augmented by soprano descants by Philip Stopford and Mark Andrews."

The Christmas service will be led by the Rev. David Cozad, now retired and living in Montreat, North Carolina, with his wife, Dana. A graduate of Eckerd College, he also holds a Master of Science in Planning degree in Urban Planning and Social Policy from Florida State University, a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in Virginia and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Columbia Seminary in Atlanta, with an emphasis in Stewardship. Cozad is Pastor Emeritus of First Presbyterian Church of Aiken, from which he retired in 2012. In 2014, he came out of retirement temporarily to serve for two years as senior pastor and head of staff at Shandon Presbyterian Church in Columbia and then for another two years in the same position at Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta.

Salem Black River Presbyterian Church, also known as Brick Church, was built in the Greek Revival style in 1846 and has stood as a noted example of the architectural style since, although the architect, if there was one, is unknown. Scobee noted that "the early settlers and their descendants were refined, educated folk, who had at their disposal classical knowledge of architecture and the wherewithal to employ a capable builder."

Brick Church was built by J. Lomas & Co. of Columbia for \$5,620 using locally produced clay bricks.

The public is invited to attend the 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, service of Lessons and Carols at Salem Black River Presbyterian Church. A reception will follow in the Meeting House. The church is on S.C. 527 about 2 miles east of U.S. 378.



LESSONS AND CAROLS

WHERE: Salem Black River Presbyterian Church (Brick Church), S.C. 527.

WHEN: 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16. Reception will follow in the Meeting House.

Poll of the week

This week's question: Where do you get your Christmas tree from?

Answers combined from poll on www.theitem.com, Facebook and Instagram. Have a question you want us to ask? Email pressrelease@theitem.com.



- From a box, aka, the same one I've had for years **64% | 211 votes**
- Lowe's or Walmart's Garden Center **14% | 46 votes**
- I don't get a tree **11% | 35 votes**
- From a local tree farm **10% | 32 votes**
- It's my first Christmas in Sumter, and I am still trying to figure it out. **1% | 4 votes**

Infographic created with Piktochart

Next week's question: What will you most remember the late former President George H.W. Bush for?

His foreign policy

"Read my lips. No new taxes."

His character.

I will not remember him fondly.

I am too young to remember him.

Vote on our poll of the week, and look for what our readers answered for this and other polls at www.TheItem.com, our Facebook and Instagram pages and in *The Sumter Item*.

Have a question you want us to ask? Email pressrelease@theitem.com.

OSTEEN

PUBLISHING COMPANY
Established 1894

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

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

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

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

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

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

HOW TO REACH US

IS YOUR PAPER MISSING? ARE YOU GOING ON VACATION?

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

TO PLACE A NEWSPAPER AD

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

TO PLACE AN ANNOUNCEMENT

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

TO BUY A SUBSCRIPTION

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

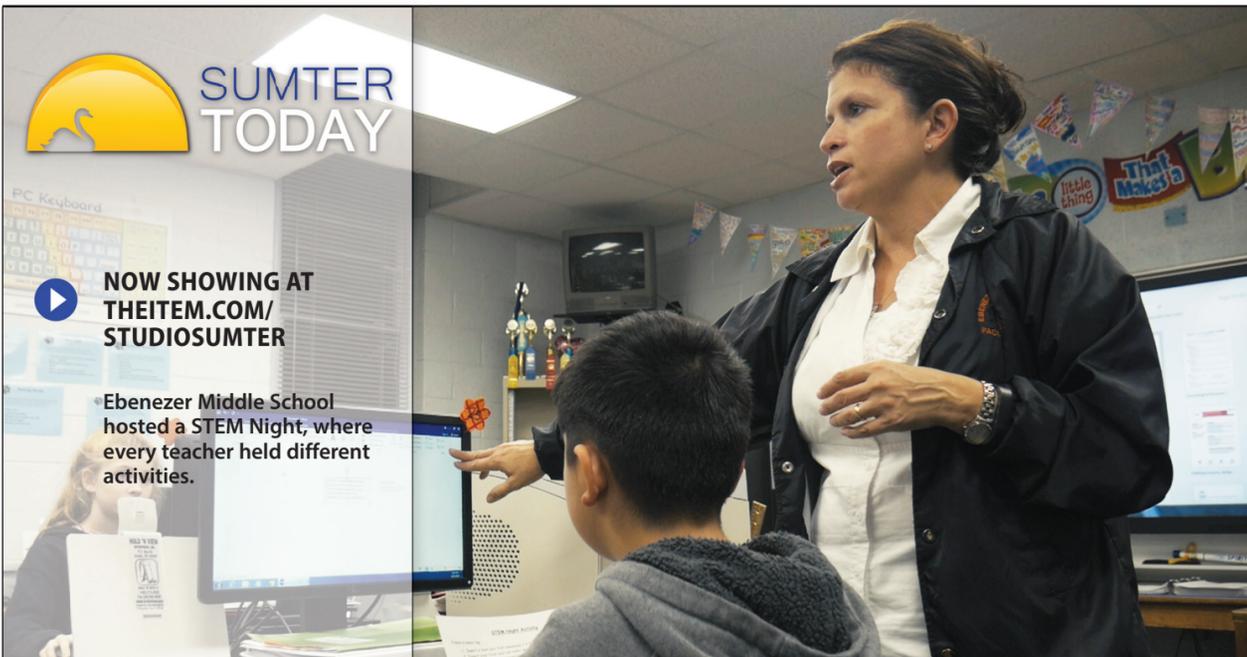
Mail Delivery

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

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

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

Publication No. USPS 525-900



SUMTER TODAY

NOW SHOWING AT THEITEM.COM/STUDIOSUMTER

Ebenezer Middle School hosted a STEM Night, where every teacher held different activities.

PRESENTED BY



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA SUMTER

A Palmetto College Campus



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. MARK C. OLSEN / SPECIAL TO THE SUMTER ITEM

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds perform the delta burst at the Wings Over Homestead Air and Space Show at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida, on Nov. 4.

U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds to headline 2020 Shaw AFB Expo

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Some of us are planners, and if you are one of them, mark your calendar for May 15-16, 2020.

Shaw Air Force Base 20th Fighter Wing Public Affairs has announced the United States Air Force Thunderbirds will headline the 2020 Shaw Air Expo on those dates.

According to a news release, the Thunderbirds are the premier air demonstration

squadron for the U.S. Air Force. Consisting of 12 officers and more than 120 enlisted personnel, representing 30 career fields, the team combines years of training and experience to provide hour-long demonstrations showcasing the USAF's advanced capabilities.

Additional information on air show displays, aircraft and vendor requests will be provided at a later date.

Sumter attorney John Derrick elected to serve on Presbyterian College Board of Trustees

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Attorney John Derrick Clark has been elected to serve on the Presbyterian College Board of Trustees, according to a news release from the college.

Clark, a Sumter native, graduated from Sumter High School in 1982 and from Presbyterian College in 1986.



CLARK

After graduating from Presbyterian, Clark taught high school in Lamar, before attending the University of South Carolina School of Law. He graduated with a Juris Doctor degree in 1991.

While in law school, Clark served as an associate justice of the Moot Court Bar and won the J. Woodrow Lewis Appellate Advocacy Competition.

Upon admittance to the South Carolina Bar in 1991, he was an associate with the law firm of Johnson, Toal & Battiste in Columbia, where he practiced in the areas of civil litigation and criminal law.

In 1992, Clark joined the staff of Justice Ernest A. Finney Jr. of the Supreme Court of South Carolina as a judicial law clerk. From 1994 to 1996, Clark was a public de-

fender in Sumter County. Since 1998, Clark has been the managing partner of Clark Law Firm LLC in Sumter and concentrates on personal injury and workers' compensation cases.

He is a member of the S.C. Association of Justice, American Association of Justice, American Board of Trial Advocates and the SC Injured Workers' Advocates.

Clark is married to the former Sharon Baker. Sharon is also a partner with Clark Law Firm LLC. They have three children: Ashley Brianna, Andrea Renee and John Derrick Clark II.

Do you know...

Most cat or dog bites can be prevented.



Sponsored by: KAT's Special Kneads



Sumter, SC



Through this garden beautiful gifts await you

BRUNSON NURSERY & DESIGN

3000 Plowden Mill Road • 495-2391
Open: Tuesday - Saturday 9am-5pm

SHONEY'S Holiday Dinner

Half Ham Dinner \$95
2 Side Items
12 Rolls
1 Pumpkin Pie
1 Gallon of Tea
Feeds 12

Whole Turkey Dinner \$95
2 Side Items
2 Cups of Cranberry Sauce
12 Rolls
1 Pumpkin Pie
1 Gallon of Tea
Feeds 12 -18

Half Ham - Sliced \$50
Chicken - Baked or Fried \$1.20 per piece
Free gallon of Tea with 25 Pieces
Whole Turkey - Sliced \$50

Side Items: Small \$17
Mac & Cheese • Green Beans
Mashed Potatoes • Corn
Rice • Baked Beans • Green Limas
Sweet Potato Souffle • Dressing
Potato Salad • Collards

Small Gravy \$6 • Rolls 35¢ each
Cranberry Sauce \$8
Gallon of Tea \$2.99

Whole Pies:
Pumpkin \$10.99 • Pecan \$11.99
Sweet Potato \$10.99

226 S. Pike West • 378 Bypass, Sumter • (803)773-3321
2742 Paxville Hwy. • Exit 119 off I-95, Manning (803)696-4481 visit us at Shoneys.com

Cash in a FLASH!

We Buy: Gold & Silver Jewelry, Silver Coins & Collections, Sterling/.925, Diamonds, Pocket Watches, Antiques & Estates

Lafayette Gold and Silver Exchange
Inside Vestco Properties

480 E. Liberty St. Sumter, SC 29150
(Inside Coca-Cola Building)
Mon. - Fri. 8:30 - 5:30 PM • Sat: 8 - 2 PM

803-773-8022

Genesis Power Tools 2 YEAR WARRANTY OVER-THE-COUNTER REPLACEMENT

7 1/2" Variable Speed Reciprocating Saw

- Quick Change Blade System
- Adjustable Pivoting Show
- Die-Cast Aluminum Gear Housing

NOW \$49.75

20V Lithium-Ion Drill/Driver **\$78.26**

- Always Ready Up to 18 Months
- Up to 350 in.-lbs of Torque
- 2 Variable Speed Ranges for Versatility
- More power & Double the run time of NI-CAD Drills

Wally's Hardware

1291 Broad St. Ext. • Sumter, SC Open: Mon-Fri: 8am - 5:30pm • Sat: 8am - 2pm **469-8531**

Sassy Girl Boutique

Vinyl Lettering on T-Shirts, Cups & More...

61 W. Wesmark Blvd.
803-316-7408
stephanie.bishop4@yahoo.com

"Where Quality Matters"

Brown's FURNITURE & BEDDING

31 West Wesmark Blvd • Sumter, SC

803-774-2100

www.BrownsOfSumter.com



China promises action on U.S. trade deal but gives no details

BEIJING (AP) — China issued an upbeat but vague promise Wednesday to carry out a tariff cease-fire with Washington but gave no details that might dispel confusion about what Presidents Xi Jinping and Donald Trump agreed to in Argentina.

China has yet to confirm Trump's claim that Beijing committed to cut auto tariffs and buy more American farm exports. That, coupled with conflicting statements by Trump and U.S. officials, helped trigger a tumble in U.S. stock prices Tuesday amid doubt about the chances for a lasting settlement of a battle over technology that threatens to chill global economic growth.

"China will start from implementing specific issues on which consensus has been reached, and the sooner, the better," the Commerce Ministry said on its website.

The two sides have a "clear timetable and road map" for talks, the ministry said, but gave no details. The ministry didn't respond to questions by phone and fax.

The Chinese silence prompted questions about what Trump said was a promise by Beijing to buy more American exports and negotiate over U.S. complaints that it steals American technology.

Stock markets rose Monday after U.S. officials touted the agreement as a historic breakthrough. But they plunged Tuesday after Trump called

himself "Tariff Man" on Twitter and renewed threats of penalty duties.

Be patient, said Ma Hong, a trade expert at Tsinghua University in Beijing. He said Chinese leaders are right to move carefully as they deal with contentious details.

The delay in talking "isn't a sign of rejection, but of cautiousness," said Ma.

"The United States has put forward many demands, not all of them reasonable," he said. Negotiations will proceed "step by step, not based on the rhythm of the United States."

Trump is pressing Beijing to roll back plans for state-led development of Chinese technology champions that Washington says violate its market-opening commitments.

Chinese leaders have offered to change some details of plans such as "Made in China 2025." They have rejected pressure to scrap strategies they see as a path to prosperity and global influence, but foreign analysts say they might be starting to understand the depth of foreign opposition to their plans.

Beijing has tried without success to recruit Europe, South Korea and other countries as allies against Trump. They criticize Washington's tactics but share its complaints.

This week's confusion highlights the clash between the secrecy and measured pace of the ruling Communist Party and Trump, who fires off dozens

of Twitter comments a day and cultivates an image as a fast-paced, unpredictable deal-maker.

Chinese leaders routinely use delays of months or years to pressure negotiating partners.

Even on routine matters, with no voters to placate and total control of Chinese media, they can frustrate other governments by leaving them waiting weeks or months for a response.

Beijing is less informative than Washington, which "might sometimes be too transparent," with officials issuing conflicting statements, Louis Kuijs of Oxford Economics said.

Despite the Chinese silence, the "atmosphere is more constructive," and Beijing might be more willing to negotiate, Kuijs said. He noted all the major American players attended the Argentina meeting, giving a sign of "buy in" on a U.S. position. China has responded to Washington's list of demands, though it is unclear what Beijing said.

The Hong Kong newspaper *South China Morning Post*, citing unidentified sources, said Beijing was preparing to send a 30-member negotiating team to Washington.

"I think there is a higher likelihood that we get meaningful discussions now than in much of the last six months," Kuijs said.

Questions began to swirl after China's foreign minister read a statement

Saturday in Buenos Aires that said Washington agreed to halt tariff hikes. Wang Yi failed to mention industrial policy or Trump's demand that Beijing make progress in changing it or face renewed duty increases.

That prompted some economists to ask whether Beijing was presenting a positive image for Chinese audiences or didn't understand the depth of American opposition to its technology plans.

On Tuesday, China's government issued a pledge that appeared to be aimed at mollifying U.S. complaints about rampant violations of patents and copyrights. It promised to create a list of violators that would make it harder for them to do business or get government support.

Analysts noted, however, there were no additional enforcement efforts.

"The notice won't convince President Trump that China is taking a serious stance on the matter," Irene Pang of ING said in a report.

Meanwhile, Rabobank suggested a simpler explanation Wednesday for China's silence: Xi has yet to return to Beijing to approve official statements.

The president, China's most powerful leader since at least the 1980s, flew from Argentina to Panama for an official visit and on Wednesday was in Portugal.

"Talk about one-man rule!" Rabobank researchers said in a report. "(And does the man not have email?)"



CHRISTOPH REICHWEIN / DPA VIA AP

Masked police stand in a parlor in Duisburg, western Germany, on Wednesday as authorities conduct coordinated raids in Germany, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands in a crackdown on the Italian mafia.

Police arrest 84 in European crackdown on Italian mob

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Hundreds of police in Germany, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands arrested at least 84 suspected mobsters and seized about \$2.3 million Wednesday in a series of coordinated raids targeting a powerful Italian organized crime syndicate.

"Today we send a clear message to organized crime groups across Europe," said Filippo Spiezia, vice president of Eurojust, the EU prosecution agency that coordinated the raids. "They are not the only ones able to operate across borders; so are Europe's judiciary and law enforcement communities."

It was the second significant mob takedown in as many days. On Tuesday, Italian authorities said they had dismantled the rebuilt upper echelons of the Mafia in the Sicilian capital of Palermo by arresting 46 people, including the man presumed to have taken over as provincial kingpin.

Wednesday's raids were the culmination of a two-year investigation codenamed Pollino against the powerful 'ndrangheta criminal group on allegations of cocaine trafficking, money laundering, bribery and violence, said Eurojust.

The 'ndrangheta is Italy's most powerful criminal organization, eclipsing by far Sicily's Cosa Nostra or the Naples area Camorra.

The Hague-based agency said the massive probe was the biggest of its kind in Europe. Some 4 tons of cocaine were traced during the investigation. Cocaine and ecstasy pills also were seized in Wednesday's raids.

Italian police hailed the cooperation between European police forces and Eurojust's coordination, saying it was an important new crime-fighting tactic that allowed investigators in different countries to share information in real time.

But Italy's top Mafia prosecutor, Federico Cafiero de Raho, also sounded a note of caution, saying the raids only scratched

the surface of the powerful 'ndrangheta, whose tentacles and illicit activities, including huge cocaine trafficking operations, were spread all over the world.

Speaking in The Hague, Cafiero de Raho said the arrests "are nothing for 'ndrangheta. There are thousands of people who should be arrested and billions of euros that should be seized."

A leading expert on the 'ndrangheta, Catanzaro-based Prosecutor Nicola Gratteri, recently said the Calabrian-based 'ndrangheta syndicate has for years been buying up hotels, restaurants and other properties in Belgium, the Netherlands, France and Germany to both launder some of the billions of dollars it rakes in through cocaine trafficking, as well as invest that money to start "clean" businesses and earn even more revenue.

Eurojust said Italian authorities arrested 41 suspects, mainly in Calabria.

In Germany, federal police said there had been multiple arrests in the early morning raids on premises linked to the southern Italy-based organized crime group. The focus was on the western state of North Rhine-Westphalia, which borders the Netherlands and Belgium, and Bavaria to the south.

Five suspects were arrested in the Netherlands, where prosecutors got the ball rolling for the investigation in 2014 with probes into two Italian restaurants, and more suspects were detained just over the border in Belgium.

1st baby born using uterus transplanted from deceased donor

LONDON (AP) — Brazilian doctors are reporting the world's first baby born to a woman with a uterus transplanted from a deceased donor.

Eleven previous births have used a transplanted womb but from a living donor, usually a relative or friend.

Experts said using uteruses from women who have died could make more transplants possible. Ten previous attempts using deceased donors in the Czech Republic, Turkey and the U.S. have failed.

The baby girl was delivered last December by a woman born without a uterus because of a rare syndrome. The woman — a 32-year-old psychologist — was initially apprehensive about the transplant, said Dr. Dani Ejzenberg, the transplant team's lead doctor at the University of Sao Paulo School of Medicine.

"This was the most important thing in her life," he said. "Now she comes in to show us the baby and she is so happy."

The woman became pregnant through in vitro fertilization seven months after the transplant. The donor was a 45-year-old woman who had three children and died of a stroke.

The recipient, who was not identified, gave birth by cesarean section. Doctors also removed the womb, partly so the woman would

no longer have to take anti-rejection medicines. Nearly a year later, mother and baby are both healthy.

Two more transplants are planned as part of the Brazilian study. Details of the first case were published Tuesday in the medical journal *Lancet*.

Uterus transplantation was pioneered by Swedish doctor Mats Brannstrom, who has delivered eight children from women who got wombs from family members or friends. Two babies have been born at Baylor University Medical Center in Texas and one in Serbia, also from transplants from living donors.

In 2016, doctors at the Cleveland Clinic transplanted a uterus from a deceased donor, but it failed after an infection developed.

"The Brazilian group has proven that using deceased donors is a viable option," said the clinic's Dr. Tommaso Falcone, who was involved in the Ohio case. "It may give us a bigger supply of organs than we thought were possible."

The Cleveland program is continuing to use deceased donors. Falcone said the fact that the transplant was successful after the uterus was preserved in ice for nearly eight hours demonstrated how resilient the uterus is. Doctors try to keep the time an organ is without blood flow to a minimum.



This Dec. 15, 2017, photo shows the baby girl born to a woman with a uterus transplanted from a deceased donor at the Hospital das Clinicas of the University of Sao Paulo School of Medicine, Sao Paulo, Brazil, on the day of her birth. Nearly a year later, mother and baby are both healthy.

COURTESY OF DR. WELLINGTON ANDRAUS VIA AP

Need Grass?
WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

Smoak Irrigation Company
Serving Sumter and Surrounding Communities Since 1986

Joey Smoak 803-773-3400 Michael Rowell

**BUYING
GOLD
EVERY DAY**
Paying Top Dollar in Sumter

**JEWELRY
WHOLESALE**
41 E. Wesmark Blvd. • 778-1031

FUNERAL FROM PAGE A1

George W. Bush broke down briefly at the end of his eulogy while invoking the daughter his parents lost when she was 3 and his mother, Barbara, who died in April. He took comfort in knowing “Dad is hugging Robin and holding Mom’s hand again.”

For all the somber tributes to the late president’s public service and strength of character, laughter filled the cathedral time after time. The late president’s eulogists — son included — noted Bush’s tendency to tangle his words and show his goofy side.

He was “the last great-soldier statesman,” historian Jon Meacham said in his eulogy. “our shield” in dangerous times. But he also said that Bush, campaigning in a crowd in a department store, once shook hands with a mannequin. Rather than flushing in embarrassment, he simply cracked, “Never know. Gotta ask.”

After the service, the hearse and a long procession of cars headed for Joint Base Andrews and the flight to Texas — but first down to the National Mall to pass by the World War II Memorial.

The congregation at the cathedral, filled with foreign leaders and diplomats, Americans of high office and others touched by Bush’s life, rose for the arrival of the casket, accompanied by clergy of faiths from around the world. In their row together, President Donald Trump and former Presidents Barack Obama, Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton stood with their spouses, and all placed their hands over their hearts.

Meacham also praised Bush’s call to volunteerism — his “1,000 points of light” — placing it alongside Abraham Lincoln’s call to honor “the better angels of our nature” in the American rhetorical canon. Meacham called those lines “companion verses in America’s national hymn.”

Former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney praised Bush as a strong world leader who helped oversee the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union and set the stage for the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico, achieved under his successor, Clinton.

With Trump, a NAFTA critic, seated in the front row, Mulroney hailed the “largest and richest free trade area in the history of the world.” The three countries have agreed on a revised trade agreement pushed by Trump.

Alan Simpson, former Republican senator from Wyoming, regaled the congregation with stories from his years as Bush’s friend in Washington. More seriously, he recalled that when he went through a rough patch in the political game, Bush conspicuously stood by him against the advice of aides. “You would have wanted him on your side,” he said.

The national funeral service capped three days of remembrance in Washington before Bush’s remains return to Texas on Wednesday for burial Thursday. He died Friday at age 94.

Bush will lie in repose at St. Martin’s Episcopal Church before burial at his family plot on the presidential library grounds at Texas A&M University in College Station. His final resting place will be alongside Barbara Bush, his wife of 73 years, and Robin Bush, the daughter they lost to leukemia in 1953.

On Wednesday morning, a military band played “Hail to the Chief” as Bush’s casket was carried down the steps of the U.S. Capitol, where he had lain in state. Family members looked on as servicemen fired off a cannon salute.

His hearse was then driven in a motorcade to the cathedral ceremony, slowing in front of the White House. Bush’s route was lined with people much of the way, bundled in winter hats and taking photos.

Waiting for his arrival inside, Trump shook hands with Obama and former first lady Michelle Obama, who greeted him by saying “Good morning.” Trump did not shake hands with Bill and Hillary Clinton, who looked straight ahead.

Bill Clinton and Mrs. Obama smiled and chatted as music played. Carter was seated silently next to Hillary Clinton in the cavernous cathedral.

Obama cracked up laughing at someone’s quip. Vice President Mike Pence shook Carter’s hand.

Trump tweeted Wednesday that the day marked “a celebration for a great man who has led a long and distinguished life.” Trump and his wife took their seats after the others, briefly greeting the Obamas seated next to them.

Trump ordered the federal government closed Wednesday for a national day of mourning. Flags on public buildings are flying at half-staff for 30 days.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The flag-draped casket of former President George H.W. Bush is carried by a military honor guard during his state funeral service at Washington National Cathedral in Washington on Wednesday.



Rep. Murrell Smith, R-Sumter, talks with friends and constituents on election night on Nov. 6. He handily beat the first opponent he has had since being elected to the House in 2001, securing 82 percent of the votes in District 67 against Libertarian Brandon Humphries. Smith will serve as the chairman of the S.C. House Ways and Means Committee.

MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

COMMITTEE

FROM PAGE A1

different circumstances, but I’m honored he would ask me to serve,” Smith said Wednesday.

The ways and means chairman can influence who does and does not get spending requests approved from state agencies, including state educational institutions.

Smith said he has not had time yet to determine specific budgeting priorities. He will be spending the next month appointing representatives to chair eight subcommittees, including the health care subcommittee that he has chaired since 2011 but has to step away from to chair the entire ways and means group.

“We need to make sure the committee is ready to begin its work on Jan. 8. Then we have budget hearings and deadline of March to have a budget to the Senate. So it’s a short window,” he said.

Committee reassignments are done by the speaker after House elections every two years, but surprises are not common. Changes are usually to put fresh-

man legislators in committees and to promote veterans by seniority to upward vacancies.

White had been in charge of the committee since 2011, when he was appointed by the previous House Speaker Bobby Harrell, who resigned in 2014 after pleading guilty to spending campaign money for personal expenses.

Before Smith was voted in Wednesday, the last Sumterite to hold the position was R.J. Aycock in the ‘60s.

As chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Smith will also sit on the State Fiscal Accountability Authority and the Joint Bond Review Committee, which review and approve expensive state projects, according to The Associated Press.

The Sumter lawyer, who was first elected to the House in 2001, also sits on the Ethics Committee with Rep. David Weeks, D-Sumter. He was elected to chair that committee on Tuesday, but he told his committee members he would have to resign from that position once session begins in January.

He sat on the House Judiciary Committee for eight years before

joining ways and means in 2009 and served as the criminal laws subcommittee chairman for those final three years. He has served on the Commission of Indigent Defense since 2005 and has been a member of the South Carolina Military Base Task Force since 2009.

“I assume this chairmanship, but it’s also the people of Sumter who have supported me over the years who have given me this opportunity,” Smith said. “Of late, there has really been a lot of city and county government working well with the delegation. They make us successful over here in Columbia in the way they work with us.”

He said legislators at the Statehouse don’t often move up into leadership roles without support back home. He said after Lucas asked him to chair the committee that he spoke with Sumter’s city manager and county administrator, thanking them for their support.

White was reassigned to the Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee and did not get a leadership position.

The General Assembly starts a new session on Jan. 8 and runs through May 9.

PRIORITIES FROM PAGE A1

project that left \$9 billion in costs with taxpayers took up a large portion of last year and will continue to be a major focus.

“Last year was probably the toughest year since I’ve been there,” said McElveen, who was first elected to the Senate in 2013 to represent District 35, which covers the western half of Sumter County and goes into portions of Kershaw, Lee and Richland counties. “We spent a lot of time on that.”

Weeks and Wheeler said the education budget will also be a focus this year, dealing with issues ranging from school safety to teacher pay to reforming the budgeting formulas and making sure rural districts are not left out.

In the Chamber’s legislative priorities for 2019 that it distributed at the breakfast, bringing South Carolina teachers’ salaries equal to the 16-state Southeast average was included with other educational and workforce development items such as bringing a technical high school to Sumter and focusing on soft skills development in middle and high schools.

While all representatives and senators must look at the state as a whole, Sumter’s lawmakers also know there is a major decision to be made in the educational realm this year.

“Choosing the next superintendent is probably the most important decision that will be made for the next decade in Sumter,” McElveen said.

He said the nine-member school board must continue to build on the success made in the last year and a half when it comes to recruitment and retention and morale by choosing a district leader who “understands the old stigmas of the two districts and the community and where we are since consolidation.”

Sumter School Districts 2 and 17 consolidated into one in 2011. After a financial crisis was revealed to the public that involved \$6.2 million in overspending, an interim superintendent has since helped lead the district to a small surplus. The board is aiming to select a new full-time superintendent by March.

Moving away from education, Smith answered a question about whether a bill will finally get passed to exempt military retirees from income tax, which the Chamber supports.

“The House has his-

torically passed it,” he said, but it has not been able to get through the Senate. He did say Sumter’s senators are not the ones who continue to block it.

“I don’t see it as giving away money. It’s an attraction ... these veterans are retiring at the peak of their work career, and we could help resolve some workforce issues by welcoming retirees, but they’re going to Tennessee or Florida,” said Smith, who was elected on Wednesday without opposition to chair the House Ways and Means Committee, which gets the first crack at the state budget. He was first elected to the House in 2001.

Weeks fielded a question about the possibility of medical and recreational marijuana becoming legal in South Carolina, hedging against it passing as a recreational form but saying a bill allowing medical marijuana will likely be discussed again this year. He said the main obstacle is ensuring controls are in place for law enforcement.

The Chamber opposes the passage of medical marijuana, reasoning it could lead to “additional issues relating to work-

force retention and hiring.”

When asked about funding to fix roads through tax on gas that was put into place last year, Smith said projects started in rural areas are incrementally coming in. In year two of a five-year phase-in, he implored residents to be patient because simply getting the money in is only the first step. Projects need to be planned and properly distributed, and contractors need to be signed.

OTHER LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES EXPRESSED BY THE CHAMBER

Some other points the Chamber supports as a focus for 2019 include:

- Adopting a uniform business license application process to expedite permitting for companies across local jurisdictions without negatively impacting municipal revenue;
- Reviewing the South Carolina tax code to find an alternative to Act 388, removing the undue tax burden on local businesses;
- Reauthorizing the Angel Investment Tax Credit to encourage South Carolinians to invest in startup businesses; and
- Approving reciprocal licensing for military spouses allowing occupational or professional licenses to be honored from other states providing original license is maintained and kept current.



MCELVEEN



SMITH



WHEELER



WEEKS

Prosecutors ramp up foreign lobbying probe in New York

WASHINGTON (AP) — Spinning off from the special counsel’s Russia probe, prosecutors are ramping up their investigation into foreign lobbying by two major Washington firms that did work for former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort, according to people familiar with the matter.

The investigation had been quiet for months since special counsel Robert Mueller referred it to authorities in Manhattan because it fell outside his mandate of determining whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia.

But in a flurry of new activity,

Justice Department prosecutors in the last several weeks have begun interviewing witnesses and contacting lawyers to schedule additional questioning related to the Podesta Group and Mercury Public Affairs, the people familiar with the inquiry said. They spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the ongoing work.

The New York work underscores the broad effects of Mueller’s investigation, extending well beyond the central question of President Donald Trump and collusion. Mueller has made

clear he will not turn away if he discovers alleged crimes outside the scope of his inquiry; instead, he refers them out in investigations that may linger on even after the special counsel’s work concludes. Other Justice Department referrals from Mueller have ended in guilty pleas, including the hush money payment case of Trump’s former lawyer Michael Cohen.

The investigation reflects how Mueller, in latching onto an obscure law, has shined a light on high-dollar lobbying practices that have helped foreign governments find powerful allies and advocates in Washington.

**up to 40% off
Recliners**
"Where Quality Matters"
Brown's
 Furniture & Bedding
 31 West Wesmark Blvd.
 Sumter, SC
803-774-2100
 www.BrownsofSumter.com



We're in it for the long haul, try SWRTA's Columbia Commuter Routes, your public transportation provider at 803-934-0396 for information.

Newman's Automotive
 1109 Florence Hwy. Sumter
 803-773-3379
 newmansautomotive53@aol.com
\$25.00 OFF
 all two wheel brake jobs
\$50.00 OFF
 all four wheel brake jobs
 Every brake job comes with a FREE tire rotation and a complimentary complete vehicle inspection.
 **ALL parts will be furnished through Newman's Automotive

We have the **PERFECT** Christmas gift at *Sumter Auto Mall*
 3625 BROAD STREET • SUMTER, SC
803-494-5900
 WWW.SUMTERAUTOMALLSC.COM
FINANCING FOR EVERYONE!
 SPANISH SPEAKING SALES STAFF

Links at Lakewood
 Sumter, South Carolina
Monday - Friday Seniors \$18
9 holes \$14
18 holes \$23
Weekend rates 18 holes \$29
 We will be open Christmas Day, New Years Eve and New Years Day
 Best Overseeded Greens in Sumter

Merry Christmas
 Check out these GREAT DEALS from local businesses

Keep this coupon for
25% off
 ANY REGULAR PRICED ITEM
 ANY SUNDAY IN DECEMBER
 DECEMBER 9, 1-5PM • DECEMBER 16, 1-7PM
 DECEMBER 23 • 12-8PM

 HARDWARE & SPORTS
*Certain exceptions apply. Limit 1 per household. Max price merchandise only. Item \$100 or less will receive 25% off. Any item over \$100 will receive \$25 Off. Must present coupon for deal. SUNDAY25

Come See **Ca\$Well Financial**
 for All your Christmas Needs
Loans from \$601 to \$2000
Apply and register for 55" Color TV and A Christmas Dinner for 6
 663 Bultman Drive
 Sumter, SC
 803-774-3016



Ashley HOMESTORE
Customer Appreciation Night
 Thursday, December 6th
 4pm - 7pm
 As we celebrate our valued customers
Deep Discounts
Catered Hors d'oeuvres
Door Prizes
Sip and Shop
 2850 Broad St., Sumter, SC 29150
 803.469.7283

Outdoor UpGrades
 SUMTER & MANNING
803-460-0840
 www.OutDoorUpGrades.com
 ALSO SEE OUR BUILDINGS AT ACE PARKER TIRES | J&J TOWING
ORDER NOW FOR CHRISTMAS

The Retreat
 AT SUMTER
 LUXURY APARTMENTS
\$99
 ONLY TO APPLY
 3330 Broad Street
 803-494-1500

the **Sumter ITEM**
\$49.50 for 6 months
 print/digital subscription
51% off regular subscription rate
 Use promo code "Turkey" at TheItem.com/Subscribe or call 803.774.1200 during regular business hours to subscribe. Offer good for new subscribers only.
Get print delivery five days per week and 24/7 complete digital access at TheItem.com. Must live within Sumter Item delivery area.

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

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

H.D. Osteen 1904-1987
THE ITEM

Margaret W. Osteen 1908-1996
THE ITEM

the
**Sumter
ITEM**

OPINION

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

Graham Osteen CO-OWNER

Kyle Osteen CO-OWNER

Jack Osteen CO-OWNER

Vince Johnson PUBLISHER

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

COMMENTARY

For just a few days, let's be the nation Bush wanted us to be

WASHINGTON — President George H.W. Bush called on us to be a “kinder, gentler nation.” Sadly, we are far from that ideal. Our politics has never been that kind and gentle, to be sure, even in Bush’s day. Still, it has been unseemly to watch how some on both the right and the left have pounced on Bush’s passing as an opportunity to get in a dig at the current occupant of the Oval Office. Already he is being used as a political cudgel.

No one would be more appalled by this than Bush himself. During the 1992 campaign, he faced personal attacks that he no doubt considered unfair. Yet, on his last day as president, Bush left a note for the man who defeated him that read, “You will be our President when you read this note. I wish you well. I wish your family well. Your success now is our country’s success. I am rooting hard for you.” It is a sentiment that the 41st president would surely have applied not just to his immediate successor but also to all those who succeeded him as president. Today, many are praising Bush for this gesture, but too few seek to imitate it.



Marc Thiessen

This week of mourning should be a time to hit the pause button on the politics of contempt. It should be a time, instead, to celebrate George H.W. Bush and educate a new generation about the world they inherited from America’s last leader from the Greatest Generation. Like all presidents, Bush had his flaws. He made his share of mistakes. But he was also a consequential president whose single term in office profoundly shaped the world we inhabit today. We take the peaceful collapse of the Soviet Union for granted now, but it didn’t have to end that way. The U.S.S.R. was the most heavily armed empire in human history. Yet it fell without a shot fired. Its bloodless demise was no easy task. The same is true of the unification of Germany, the reality of a Europe whole, free and at peace, and a Pax Americana that has protected the advance of freedom in the post-Cold War world.

Yes, Bush set an example of civility in office — and we should celebrate that, too. But it is better for us to shine a light on his example than to use it as a tool in our current wars of incivility. Bush was not naive. In his day, he was accused of racism, lying about his role in Iran-Contra, “coddling dictators” in Beijing and war-mongering in the Middle East.

And long before there was the fiasco of the Brett Kavanaugh hearings, we had the fiasco of the Clarence Thomas hearings. Bush spent decades in the corridors of power — from Capitol Hill to the United Nations, the Republican National Committee, the Central Intelligence Agency and finally the Oval Office — so he knew Washington too well to expect us to be kind and gentle. What he asked of us was to strive to be kinder and gentler. We seem to have stopped even trying.

Perhaps, for just a few days, we can be the America he wanted us to be. Perhaps we can spend just a few days without the partisan bickering, the personal insults, the nonstop outrage and resistance — and celebrate the grace, generosity and gentleness of this good man. In his inaugural address, Bush declared, “This is a day when our nation is made whole, when our differences, for a moment, are suspended.” The same should be true of the day when we lay him to rest.

With his passing, George H.W. Bush has given us an opportunity to put aside our contempt and come together as a nation. That is his parting gift to us. The best way we can honor him is by emulating him, if but for a few brief moments.

May he rest in peace.

Follow Marc A. Thiessen on Twitter, @marcthiessen.

© 2018, The Washington Post Writers Group



COMMENTARY

#MeToo's unintended consequences

WASHINGTON — A recent Bloomberg News headline came as no surprise: “Wall Street Rule for the #MeToo Era: Avoid Women at All Cost.”

In a word, it was inevitable. Some men are so concerned about the possible repercussions of what they might say or do that they’re steering clear of women in the workplace altogether. And as a result, according to Bloomberg, Wall Street “risks becoming more of a boys’ club, rather than



Kathleen Parker

less of one.”

The article focused on the various ways some senior executives in finance have been “spooked” by #MeToo and are “struggling to cope” — resorting to staying on different hotel floors from women when on business trips, not dining alone with any woman 35 or younger, leaving an office door open when meeting one on one with a junior female. Generally speaking, these might not be such bad rules but for the fact that, as Bloomberg pointed out, young women often need mentors to advance, and female executives are far scarcer than men on Wall Street. And as one wealth adviser said, simply hiring a woman has become “an unknown risk.”

The story called these collateral adjustments the “Pence Effect,” referring to Vice President Mike Pence’s personal rule of not dining alone with a woman who isn’t his wife.

As a cultural aside, many men, especially the religiously devout, as Pence is, try to avoid potentially compromising situations involving the opposite sex. Perception more than temptation is often the driving force.

In many ways, this is all-new terrain for us societally: How do we balance the right of every individual to be believed innocent until proven otherwise, while also giving accusers a platform to be heard?

Further, to be fair, these newly devised workplace protocols are not primarily a function of paranoia but of reality. Everyone has seen or experienced how fraught workplace relationships can be — and even casual interactions can seem unnecessarily risky.

And this new reality isn’t limited to the world of finance. Many men across all industries now fear being alone with a female colleague.

This probably goes without saying, but it’s also true that fewer women of the baby boomer generation were likely to think of themselves as victims in instances of workplace harassment, barring sexual assault as opposed to sophomoric buffoonery, or a misinterpretation of context or intent. Perceptions have changed significantly the past several decades, for the good, but we still have much work to do in defining what is and isn’t “abuse.”

In many ways, this is all-new terrain for us societally: How do we balance the right of every individual to be believed innocent until proven otherwise, while also giving accusers a platform to be heard? The recent Supreme Court confirmation hearings for Brett Kavanaugh highlighted the impossible position of being forced to prove one’s innocence against accusations backed by no verifiable evidence. We should sleep uneasily in the wake of such an abuse of due process, not as a legal matter but as a time-honored principle of fairness.

We’ve yet to see the full spec-

trum of collateral damage to come, but we’ve gotten a sense of their scope. Already, some men are silencing themselves rather than engaging in a losing battle. Several have told me that, like the wealth adviser Bloomberg interviewed, they’re more hesitant to hire women or even to be alone with them. My orthopedist tells me he’s no longer comfortable hugging his patients, as he’d always done.

I’ve had a similar discussion with my dentist. (Apparently, my social life revolves around doctors.) We were chatting about the Kavanaugh hearings and he was visibly tense until I voiced my concerns about the erosion of due process. Relieved to sense a sympathetic point of view, he relaxed and chimed in.

Many men are so intimidated by the #MeToo movement and the plausibility that they, too, could be ruined on the basis of a single woman’s misinterpretation of an innocent gesture that they’re essentially shutting down and stepping away. Suffice it to say, this side effect won’t serve women well in the long run. Indeed, it seems obvious that they’ll suffer.

There surely is a balance to be found lest the sexes further alienate and segregate. We should seek it with a sense of urgency.

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

© 2018, Washington Post Writers Group

EDITORIAL PAGE POLICIES

EDITORIALS represent the views of the owners of this newspaper.

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are written by

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

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

AROUND TOWN

The Sumter Police Department's Cram-A-Cruiser Toy Drive will accept donations of new, unwrapped toys from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Walmart, 1283 Broad St., on the following Saturdays: Dec. 8 and Dec. 15. Call (803) 436-2700 for more information.

Clarendon School District One will conduct free vision, hearing, speech and developmental screenings as part of a child find effort to identify students ages 3-5, who may need special education services and are not enrolled in a public school. Screenings will be conducted from 9 a.m. to noon at the Summerton Early Childhood Center, 8 South St., Summerton, on the following Tuesdays: Dec. 11; Jan. 8, 2019; Feb. 12, 2019; March 12, 2019; April 9, 2019; and May 14, 2019. Call Robert Collar at (803) 574-2117.

The Town of Mayesville will hold its annual Christmas parade on Saturday, Dec. 8. Line-up will begin at 10 a.m. with the parade beginning at 11 a.m. Call Nancy Williams at (803) 453-5037 or Jeanie Jefferson at (803) 495-8181 for information.

Christmas at Patriot Hall, featuring shopping, music, food, fun and pictures with Santa, will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 8, 135 Haynsworth St.

Connect: Special Needs Support Group will offer Christmas pictures with Santa and Christmas cookie decorating 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 8, at Bible Fellowship Church, 227 Broad St. If visiting Santa is difficult for your special needs family, this is the perfect opportunity because our Santa is a special needs professional who will be patient and loving with your little one. Pictures are complimentary. Leave your email address or Facebook information and you will receive a free digital copy of your photo. Stick around after the photos and decorate a cookie to take home. If you would like to donate sugar cookies or cookie decorating materials, contact Autumn Parnell at (803) 316-4627 or adparnell@yahoo.com.

The Sumter County Museum's annual Carolina Backcountry Christmas will be held 2-4

p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 8, at 122 N. Washington St. Experience Christmas in the year 1800 as costumed interpreters demonstrate blacksmithing, spinning and weaving, and other traditional skills of the early 19th century. This free event will feature chestnuts roasting over an open fire and cider and cookies in the log cabin.

Sumter Civic Chorale's Fire-side Christmas concert will be held from 3 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 9, at Patriot Hall, 135 Haynsworth St. Cookies and cider will be served after the concert.

The Lee County Branch of the NAACP will meet at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 9, at the Dennis Community Center, 410 W. Cedar Lane, Bishopville. Lee County Council Chairman R. Travis Windham will speak. The public is encouraged to come out and learn from our councilman about the changes, progress and programs in the making for our community.

Jingle with the Arts, presented by Sumter Civic Dance Company and the Sumter High School Show Choir, will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 14, and 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 15, at Patriot Hall, 135 Haynsworth St. Tickets available at the Patriot Hall box office or online at www.freed-school.com.

The Evening Optimist Club will host Breakfast with Santa from 8 to 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 15, at Sonic Drive-In, 2022 McCrays Mill Road. Regular breakfast items will be available for purchase with a special pancake breakfast also available. Be sure to bring your camera. Pictures with Santa are free, but donations to the Optimist International Foundation are welcomed.

The Voorhees College Alumni Chapter (Sumter) will meet at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 15, at the Sumter County Library. Contact Joan Coaxum at jcoaxum@hotmail.com with any questions.

The South Carolina Education Association (Sumter) will meet at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 19, at Willie Sue's. Call Brenda at (803) 469-6588 for information.

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2018

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly sunny and cool	Mainly clear and chilly	Partly sunny	Rain	Breezy and cold with rain	A couple of showers possible
51°	32°	56° / 35°	42° / 34°	46° / 36°	46° / 33°
Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 10%	Chance of rain: 75%	Chance of rain: 90%	Chance of rain: 30%
S3-6 mph	VAR 3-6 mph	NE 3-6 mph	NE 7-14 mph	ENE 12-25 mph	WNW 7-14 mph

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

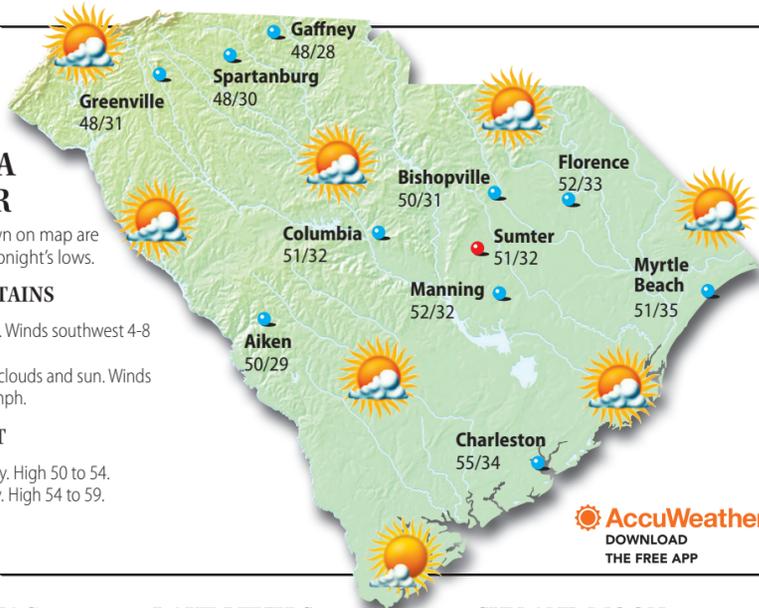
Temperatures shown on map are today's highs and tonight's lows.

IN THE MOUNTAINS

Today: Partly sunny. Winds southwest 4-8 mph. Partly cloudy.
Friday: Intervals of clouds and sun. Winds east-northeast 3-6 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: Mostly sunny. High 50 to 54.
Friday: Partly sunny. High 54 to 59.



AccuWeather
DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP

LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THROUGH 2 P.M. YESTERDAY

Temperature	High	Low	Normal high	Normal low	Record high	Record low
High	52°					
Low	35°					
Normal high	60°					
Normal low	36°					
Record high	77° in 1982					
Record low	20° in 1969					

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
24 hrs ending 2 p.m. yest.	0.00"					
Month to date	0.60"					
Normal month to date	0.51"					
Year to date	41.76"					
Last year to date	33.56"					
Normal year to date	44.11"					

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	8.96	-0.08
Murray	360	353.11	-0.24
Marion	76.8	76.44	+0.03
Moultrie	75.5	75.13	+0.09
Wateree	100	95.86	-0.08

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	8.96	-0.08
Congaree River	19	6.58	-5.72
Lynches River	14	8.33	-0.30
Saluda River	14	3.15	-5.16
Up. Santee River	80	81.26	+0.28
Wateree River	24	17.84	-0.41

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	7:13 a.m.	Sunset	5:13 p.m.
Moonrise	6:22 a.m.	Moonsset	5:04 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
Dec. 7	Dec. 15	Dec. 22	Dec. 29

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH				
	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	8:14 a.m.	3.5	2:26 a.m.	-0.2
	8:19 p.m.	3.0	3:06 p.m.	-0.1
Fri.	8:56 a.m.	3.5	3:08 a.m.	-0.2
	9:01 p.m.	2.9	3:50 p.m.	0.0

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	50/36/pc	53/38/pc
Chicago	29/16/c	25/18/s
Dallas	53/41/sh	48/39/r
Detroit	37/23/sf	32/22/c
Houston	68/60/c	71/61/r
Los Angeles	60/50/r	67/49/s
New Orleans	63/54/pc	68/58/c
New York	40/32/pc	38/26/s
Orlando	69/49/s	74/58/pc
Philadelphia	40/31/pc	39/25/s
Phoenix	60/53/sh	65/50/r
San Francisco	59/46/s	58/44/pc
Wash., DC	44/33/pc	42/27/s

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Asheville	45/28/pc	46/29/c	Florence	52/33/pc	56/35/pc
Athens	49/32/pc	54/36/pc	Gainesville	62/38/s	67/49/pc
Augusta	53/31/pc	59/37/pc	Gastonia	49/29/pc	53/33/pc
Beaufort	54/35/s	59/41/s	Greensboro	49/33/pc	53/30/pc
Cape Hatteras	48/40/s	52/40/pc	Goose Creek	53/32/s	58/40/pc
Charleston	55/34/s	59/40/pc	Greensboro	46/30/pc	48/27/pc
Charlotte	49/31/pc	53/31/pc	Greenville	48/31/pc	51/34/c
Clemson	47/32/pc	52/36/pc	Hickory	46/28/pc	49/27/pc
Columbia	51/32/pc	55/35/pc	Hilton Head	54/38/s	59/44/s
Darlington	50/31/pc	55/35/pc	Jacksonville, FL	60/38/s	63/48/s
Elizabeth City	47/34/pc	50/31/pc	La Grange	52/34/pc	56/43/c
Elizabethtown	50/32/s	55/34/pc	Macon	53/31/s	58/39/pc
Fayetteville	50/34/s	54/32/pc	Marietta	48/32/pc	51/36/pc
			Marion	47/27/pc	49/32/c
			Mt. Pleasant	54/37/s	58/42/pc
			Myrtle Beach	51/35/pc	56/37/s
			Orangeburg	51/32/pc	55/40/pc
			Port Royal	54/36/s	59/42/s
			Raleigh	48/32/pc	51/28/pc
			Rock Hill	49/28/s	53/34/c
			Rockingham	50/30/pc	53/34/pc
			Savannah	55/34/s	60/41/s
			Spartanburg	48/30/pc	51/35/c
			Summerville	53/31/s	58/39/pc
			Wilmington	50/33/s	55/34/pc
			Winston-Salem	45/30/pc	47/28/pc

PUBLIC AGENDA

CLARENDON COUNTY COUNCIL
Monday, 6 p.m., Administration Building, Council Chambers, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning

SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Monday, 6 p.m., 1345 Wilson Hall Road

The last word in astrology

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look for a way to make your money

grow. Get your investments in order before the end of the year. Don't let someone mislead you when dealing with your financial affairs. Take care of personal business yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Let the changes going on around you inspire you to get things done. Taking action now will lead to greater stability as you head into next year. Make improvements to important relationships by extending a helping hand, good advice and honesty.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't be anyone's fool. Assess situations and do your due diligence to ensure you have your facts straight. Situations will spin out of control easily if you aren't current on what's true and what isn't.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stay on course and get things done. Once you feel satisfied with what you've accomplished, you'll enjoy downtime with friends. A change of pace toward the end of the day will be relaxing and give you something to look forward to.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can get your gift-buying out of the way if you hit the online shops or head to the mall. Have a budget in mind and a well-thought-out list that will please all the people you want to spoil.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Problems at home will mount if someone is overspending or playing emotional mind games with you. Ask someone you know you can confide in for suggestions, and you'll find a solution that works well for you. Positive change is apparent.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Learn from mistakes, and don't fall for a

sales pitch that is built on empty promises. If you want to make physical improvements, start with revising your diet and exercise routine. Good health leads to greater vitality.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Love is on the rise, but that doesn't mean you don't have to be careful. Emotional vulnerability can put you in an awkward position. Don't be too revealing or move too fast. Make romance meaningful and lasting.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Look over your options carefully and decipher what's fact and what's fiction. Don't let emotions interfere with the decisions you make about what you should be doing. Listen to reason and avoid indulgent behavior. A change of attitude is apparent.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Evaluate what's transpired and consider what you would like to see unfold. An unexpected change will turn out to be in your best interest. Keep a close watch over what others do, and if something doesn't feel right, distance yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Focus on getting things done. How you earn your living should be your priority. Don't make physical changes or back yourself into a corner when dealing with someone who is manipulative. Put your responsibilities and your health first.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stick close to work or home. Travel will be met with unexpected expenses or delays. If you want to do business, use technology to converse. A problem with an authority figure, institution or government agency will set you back.

We have a NOSE for NEWS

Call us at (803) 774-1200 or visit us at 36 W. Liberty St.

PICTURES FROM THE PUBLIC



Perry Register shares a photo he took of a writing spider in his storage shed.

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

PREP BASKETBALL

Sumter boys fall 79-70 to Hartsville



DANNY KELLY / THE SUMTER ITEM

Sumter's Cardrelle Cooper dribbles around a Hartsville defender during the Gamecocks' 79-70 loss to the Red Foxes on Tuesday at the Sumter High gymnasium. Sumter, ranked 7th in the preseason among the state's 5A teams, fell to 1-2 on the season with the loss.

Gamecocks drop second consecutive game after season-opening win

BY DANNY KELLY
danny@theitem.com

The Sumter High School varsity boys basketball team came up a little short at home on Tuesday against Hartsville, falling 79-70 due in large part to Red Fox senior point guard Trae Hannibal.

The University of South Carolina signee dropped 21 points on the Gamecocks. "Our rotation was terrible on defense," Sumter head coach Shawn Jones said. "They're a good team; we split with them one and one." The Gamecocks beat the Red Foxes 88-77 in Hartsville

last week. Sophomore guard/forward Cesare Edwards scored 16 points for the Red Foxes, senior guard/forward Ray O'Neal dropped 12 and junior power forward Demonte Capehart and senior guard Shaquez Pendergrass both scored 11.

For the Gamecocks, senior power forward Calvin Felder scored 21 points and senior shooting guard Jalen Johnson dropped 14. "We shot terrible from the free throw line," Jones said. "We have football guys who haven't been with us, so we're trying to find chemistry."

Hartsville was up 22-19 after the first quarter, and the Gamecocks took a 38-36 lead at the half. However, Hartsville went on a 7-0 run halfway through the third quarter on a free throw from Capehart, a basket from

SEE SHS, PAGE B3

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Clemson's Tee Higgins pulls in a pass during the Tigers' 56-35 victory over South Carolina earlier this season. Clemson is set to face 12-0 Notre Dame in the semifinal round of the College Football Playoff on Dec. 29 in Dallas.

Brunson Championship Series would solve playoff problems

Oh my gosh! If only Georgia had held on and beaten Alabama, the College Football Playoff committee would have had an easy go of it. Those two teams along with Clemson and Notre Dame would have been playing in the national semifinals. The only question would have been if Clemson would have had to play Alabama or Georgia in a semifinal since it is unlikely those two teams



Dennis Brunson

were so happy. They knew the

would have been forced to face off in the very next game.

No wonder the Clemson fans in Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte on Saturday

SEE BCS, PAGE B3

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

No. 25 Furman tops Elon 98-77

ELON, N.C. (AP) — Alex Hunter scored all of his 18 points in the second half, and No. 25 Furman won its first game since the program's debut in the AP Top 25, 98-77 over Elon on Tuesday night. Matt Rafferty also scored 18 points and Clay Mounce added 17 for the Paladins (9-0), who cracked the rankings this week thanks to an early-season resume that includes road victories over defending national champion Villanova and Loyola-Chicago, which made the Final Four last season.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Elon's Steven Santa Ana (22) reaches in on Furman's Matt Rafferty (32) in the first half of the Paladins' 98-77 victory over Elon on Tuesday in Elon, N.C.

SEE TOP 25, PAGE B3

PREP BASKETBALL

Barons host hoops tournament

The varsity basketball teams from Wilson Hall, Laurence Manning Academy and Thomas Sumter Academy will all take part in the Baron Classic to be held on Friday and Saturday at Wilson Hall's Nash Student Center. Five other schools — Orangeburg Prep, Carolina Academy, Augusta Christian School Pinewood Prep and Heathwood Hall — will be playing in the event as well. There will be eight games — four in the main gymnasium and four in the new gym — on both days. The games will start at 4 p.m. on Friday and 11:30 a.m. on Saturday. Wilson Hall and Thomas Sumter will face off on Friday in the main gym beginning with the girls game at 7 p.m. and followed by the boys contest. Laurence Manning will

BARON CLASSIC SCHEDULE

- Friday, Dec. 7th** — Main Gym — First gym
4 p.m. — V Girls — Orangeburg Prep vs. and Carolina Academy
5:30 p.m. — V Boys — Orangeburg Prep vs. Carolina Academy
7 p.m. — V Girls — Wilson Hall vs. Thomas Sumter
8:30 p.m. — V Boys — Wilson Hall vs. Thomas Sumter
- Friday, Dec. 7th** — Practice Gym (New Gym)
4 p.m. — V Girls — Laurence Manning vs. Augusta Christian
5:30 p.m. — V Boys — Laurence Manning vs. Augusta Christian
7 p.m. — V Girls — Pinewood Prep vs. Heathwood Hall
8:30 p.m. — V Boys — Pinewood Prep vs. Heathwood Hall
- Saturday, Dec. 8th** — Main Gym — First gym
11:30 a.m. — V Girls — Heathwood Hall vs. Thomas Sumter
1 p.m. — V Boys — Heathwood Hall vs. Thomas Sumter
2:30 p.m. — V Girls — Wilson Hall vs. Pinewood Prep
4 p.m. — V Boys — Wilson Hall vs. Pinewood Prep
- Saturday, Dec. 8th** — Practice Gym
11:30 a.m. — V Girls — Augusta Christian vs. Orangeburg Prep
1 p.m. — V Boys — Augusta Christian vs. Orangeburg Prep
2:30 p.m. — V Girls — Carolina Academy vs. Laurence Manning
4 p.m. — V Boys — Carolina Academy vs. Laurence Manning

SEE CLASSIC, PAGE B3

GIRLS AREA ROUNDUP

East Clarendon beats Lake City 40-24; LMA remains unbeaten

LAKE CITY — Talayshia Cooper scored 20 points to lead East Clarendon High School's varsity girls basketball team to a 40-24 victory over Lake City on Tuesday at the LCHS gymnasium.

Rhamey Floyd added eight points for the Lady Wolverines, who improved to 2-1 on the season.

EAST CLARENDON
Anderson 3, Cooper 20, Floyd 8, McElveen 4, Dyer 3, Wilson 2.

LAKE CITY
Montgomery 3, Dickson 2, T. Burgess 6, Alford 3, Davis 4, S. Burgess 2, Singletary 4.

ANDREW JACKSON 41
CLARENDON HALL 31

SUMMERTON — Clarendon Hall lost to Andrew Jackson Academy 41-31 on Tuesday at the CH gymnasium.

Whitney Avins led the Lady Saints with nine points. Hannah Johndrow and Sarah Henning had seven points apiece, and McKenzie Bagnal grabbed nine rebounds while scoring two points.

LAURENCE MANNING 52
CAROLINA 35

MANNING — Laurence Manning Academy remained

undefeated with a 52-35 win over Carolina Academy on Monday at Bubba Davis Gymnasium.

Brenna Boykin led the 4-0 Lady Swampcats with 16 points. Katherine Burns added 11.

CAROLINA
Burgess 3, Timmons 2, Lee 16, Weaver 14.
LAURENCE MANNING
Bennett 4, Bryant 4, Boykin 16, Rickenbaker 2, Burns 11, Erickson 2.

JUNIOR VARSITY

THOMAS SUMTER 24
ROBERT E. LEE 16
BISHOPVILLE — Thomas

Sumter Academy defeated Robert E. Lee Academy 24-16 on Tuesday at the REL gymnasium.

Mary Lenior Hoge led TSA with seven points and six rebounds. Libby Gore, Logan Scruggs and Savanna Price each score four points.

FIRST BAPTIST 26
LAURENCE MANNING 23

MANNING — Laurence Manning Academy dropped to 2-2 with a 26-23 loss to First Baptist on Tuesday at Bubba Davis Gymnasium. Madison Truett and Paisley

Anderson both scored six points to lead LMA. Callie Thompson added five.

WILSON HALL 43
NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN 12

LEXINGTON — Wilson Hall improved to 3-1 with a 43-12 triumph over Northside Christian Academy on Tuesday at the NCA gymnasium.

Gracyn Coker led the Lady Barons with 14 points. Sarah Sonntag and Lucy Matthews both had five.

From staff reports

BOYS AREA ROUNDUP

Barons get first win of 2018 season, 53-33 over Northside; TSA beats REL

LEXINGTON — Wilson Hall's varsity boys basketball team picked up its first win of the season on Tuesday with a 53-33 triumph over Northside Christian at the NC gymnasium.

Grey Holler led the Barons, who improved to 1-3 on the season, with 10 points. Graham Van Patten had nine while Landon VanPatten and Grant DeVarona both had seven.

THOMAS SUMTER 47
ROBERT E. LEE 45

BISHOPVILLE — Josh Fugate scored 13 points and Tyler Millwood had a double-double to lead Thomas Sumter Academy to a 47-45 win over Robert E. Lee Academy on Tuesday at the REL gymnasium.

Millwood had 11 points and 10 rebounds for 3-2 TSA, while Fugate also had our steals.

Matthew Johnson led REL with 14 points. Nick Adelman added 10.

CLARENDON HALL 78
ANDREW JACKSON 66

SUMMERTON — Clarendon Hall remained undefeated with a 78-66 victory over Andrew Jackson Academy on Tuesday at the CH gymnasium.

Kylic Horton led the 3-0 Saints with 27 points. Traveon Davis added 20 and Tyrese Mitchum had 15.

Zyan Gilmore led in rebounding with eight.

FIRST BAPTIST 93
LAURENCE MANNING 62

MANNING — Laurence Manning Academy fell to 2-3 with a 93-62 loss at the hands of First Baptist on Tuesday at Bubba Davis Gymnasium.

Umar Lawson led the Swampcats with 22 points. Justus Boone added nine.

DENMARK-OLAR 55
SCOTT'S BRANCH 52

DENMARK — Scott's Branch High School fell to 0-5 with a 55-52 loss to Denmark-Olar on Tuesday at the D-O gymnasium.

Antayvius Stukes led the Eagles with a double-double of 11 points and 12 rebounds.

LAKE CITY 73
EAST CLARENDON 62

LAKE CITY — East Clarendon fell to 0-3 with a 73-62 loss to Lake City on Tuesday at the LCHS gymnasium.

Jalen Bryant led the Wolverines with 18 points, while Tyjhai Calvin added 12.

EAST CLARENDON
Calvin 12, Sheriod 7, Wilson 6, Bryant 18, Harrison 2, Bowen 5, Green 4, Cooper 6.

LAKE CITY
McIntosh 6, Hailey 13, McClam 2, Fryson 12, Bailey 7, Harrison 8, Rose 17.

WEST FLORENCE 56

CRESTWOOD 40

FLORENCE — Crestwood High School lost to West Florence 56-40 on Tuesday at the WF gymnasium.

Crestwood fell to 0-3.

JUNIOR VARSITY

LAURENCE MANNING 39
FIRST BAPTIST 36

MANNING — Laurence Manning Academy defeated First Baptist 39-36 on Tuesday at Bubba Davis Gymnasium.

Mickey Jordan led the Swampcats with 13 points, while Bryce Acord had 12 and Davis Campbell seven.

On Monday in Manning, LMA defeated Carolina Academy 37-26. Jordan led the way with 12 points, while Jaden Sanders had nine and Austin Geddings eight.

WILSON HALL 42
NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN 32

LEXINGTON — Wilson Hall improved to 3-1 with a 42-32 victory over Northside Christian on Tuesday at the NC gymnasium.

Jackson Duvall led the Barons with 11 points, while Hunter Ives added seven.

From staff reports

SCOREBOARD

TV, RADIO

TODAY
5 a.m. — Professional Golf: European PGA Tour South African Open First Round from Johannesburg (GOLF).
6:05 p.m. — Talk Show: Sports Talk (WDXY-FM 105.9, WDXY-AM 1240).
7 p.m. — College Football: College Football Awards Show from Atlanta (ESPN).
7 p.m. — Women's College Basketball: Texas A&M at Houston (ESPN2).
8 p.m. — NFL Football: Jacksonville at Tennessee (WACH 57, NFL NETWORK, WNKT-FM 107.5).
8 p.m. — College Basketball: Iowa State at Iowa (FOX SPORTS 1).
8 p.m. — NBA Basketball: New York at Boston (TNT).
9 p.m. — High School Basketball: San Joaquin Memorial (Calif) vs. Pinnacle (Ariz.) from Scottsdale, Ariz. (ESPN2).
10:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Houston at Utah (TNT).
5 a.m. — Professional Golf: European PGA Tour South African Open Second Round from Johannesburg (GOLF).

PREP FOOTBALL

SCHSL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

5A
Friday
At Williams-Brice Stadium
In Columbia
T.L. Hanna vs. Dutch Fork, 7:30 p.m.

4A
Friday
At Williams-Brice Stadium
In Columbia
Greer vs. Myrtle Beach, 1 p.m.

3A
Friday
At Williams-Brice Stadium
In Columbia
Chester vs. Dillon, 4 p.m.

2A
Friday
At Charlie W. Johnson Stadium
In Columbia
Abbeville vs. Barnwell, 8 p.m.

1A
Friday
At Charlie W. Johnson Stadium
In Columbia
Lamar vs. Green Sea-Floyds, 5 p.m.

PREP SCHEDULE

TODAY
Junior Varsity Basketball
Sumter at Crestwood, 6 p.m.
Middle School Basketball
Alice Drive at Furman, 5 p.m.
Bates at Manning, 5 p.m.
R.E. Davis at Chestnut Oaks, 5 p.m.
Ebenezer at Hillcrest, 5 p.m.
Lee Central at Ronald E. McNair, 5:30 p.m.
Varsity and JV Equestrian
Wilson Hall in SCISA Event (at Tally Ho Equestrian Center in Timmonsville), TBA

FRIDAY
Varsity Basketball
Sumter at Crestwood, 6 p.m.
Thomas Sumter at Wilson Hall (in Baron Classic), 7 p.m.
Laurence Manning vs. Augusta Christian (in Baron Classic), 4 p.m.
Varsity and JV Basketball
Lakewood at Lee Central (No JV Girls), 5 p.m.
Manning at C.E. Murray, 4 p.m.
Robert E. Lee at Williamsburg, 4 p.m.
Clarendon Hall at St. John's Christian, 4 p.m.
Junior Varsity Basketball
Sumter Christian at Step of Faith Christian, 5 p.m.

SATURDAY
Varsity Basketball
Pinewood Prep at Wilson Hall (in Baron Classic), 2:30 p.m.
Carolina vs. Laurence Manning (in Baron Classic), 11:30 a.m.
Heathwood Hall vs. Thomas Sumter (in Baron Classic), 11:30 a.m.
Varsity and JV Basketball
Lakewood at Sumter, 3 p.m.
East Clarendon at Manning, 3 p.m.
Varsity Wrestling
Sumter in Dutch Fork Invitational, TBA

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE
East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	9	3	0	.750	331	259
Miami	6	6	0	.500	244	300
Buffalo	4	8	0	.333	178	293

N.Y. Jets	3	9	0	.250	243	307
South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	9	3	0	.750	302	235
Indianapolis	6	6	0	.500	325	279
Tennessee	6	6	0	.500	221	245
Jacksonville	4	8	0	.333	203	243
North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	7	4	1	.625	346	282
Baltimore	7	5	0	.583	297	214
Cincinnati	5	7	0	.417	286	371
Cleveland	4	7	1	.375	266	312
West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	10	2	0	.833	444	327
L.A. Chargers	9	3	0	.750	340	249
Denver	6	6	0	.500	276	262
Oakland	2	10	0	.167	220	367

NATIONAL CONFERENCE
East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	7	5	0	.583	247	223
Philadelphia	6	6	0	.500	258	266
Washington	6	6	0	.500	233	257
N.Y. Giants	4	8	0	.333	267	315
South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	10	2	0	.833	419	269
Carolina	6	6	0	.500	304	306
Tampa Bay	5	7	0	.417	318	355
Atlanta	4	8	0	.333	296	333
North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	8	4	0	.667	344	241
Minnesota	6	5	1	.542	275	270
Green Bay	4	7	1	.375	281	287
Detroit	4	8	0	.333	254	316
West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-L.A. Rams	11	1	0	.917	419	298
Seattle	7	5	0	.583	319	259
Arizona	3	9	0	.250	175	310
San Francisco	2	10	0	.167	255	336

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Jacksonville at Tennessee, 8:20 p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES
New Orleans at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Washington, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Houston, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
New England at Miami, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at L.A. Chargers, 4:05 p.m.
Denver at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.
Detroit at Arizona, 4:25 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 4:25 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Oakland, 4:25 p.m.
L.A. Rams at Chicago, 8:20 p.m.

MONDAY'S GAMES
Minnesota at Seattle, 8:15 p.m.

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	20	5	.800	—
Philadelphia	17	8	.680	3
Boston	13	10	.565	6
Brooklyn	8	17	.320	12
New York	8	17	.320	12

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	12	12	.500	—
Charlotte	11	12	.478	½
Washington	10	14	.417	2
Miami	9	14	.391	2½
Atlanta	5	19	.208	7

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	15	7	.682	—
Detroit	13	8	.619	1½
Indiana	14	10	.583	2
Cleveland	5	18	.217	10½
Chicago	5	20	.200	11½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	13	9	.591	—
Dallas	12	10	.545	1
New Orleans	12	13	.480	2½
Houston	11	12	.478	2½
San Antonio	11	13	.458	3

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	16	7	.696	—
Oklahoma City	15	7	.682	½
Portland	13	11	.542	3½
Minnesota	12	12	.500	4½
Utah	12	13	.480	5

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Clippers	16	7	.696	—
Golden State	16	9	.640	1
L.A. Lakers	14	9	.609	2
Sacramento	12	11	.522	4
Phoenix	4	20	.167	12½

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

Denver at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Golden State at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Dallas at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Detroit at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Philadelphia at Toronto, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES

New York at Boston, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Portland, 10 p.m.
Houston at Utah, 10:30 p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Denver at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Sacramento at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
Memphis at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Chicago, 8 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Miami at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Golden State at Milwaukee, 9:30 p.m.

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	20	5	.800	—
Philadelphia	17	8	.680	3
Boston	13	10	.565	6
Brooklyn	8	17	.320	12
New York	8	17	.320	12

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	12	12	.500	—
Charlotte	11	12	.478	½
Washington	10	14	.417	2
Miami	9	14	.391	2½
Atlanta	5	19	.208	7

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	13	9	.591	—
Dallas	12	10	.545	1
New Orleans	12	13	.480	2½
Houston	11	12	.478	2½
San Antonio	11	13	.458	3

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	16	7	.696	—
Oklahoma City	15	7	.682	½
Portland	13	11	.542	3½
Minnesota				

TOP 25 FROM PAGE B1

Steven Santa Ana led the Phoenix (3-6) with 21 points and Tyler Seibring scored 17 of his 19 points in the second half for Elon, which pulled within 55-52 on Simon Wright's 3-pointer with 12:22 left. But the Paladins responded with a 13-2 run to take a 79-61 lead on Jaylon Pugh's 3-pointer with 6:29 remaining.

The Paladins made 10 of 16 3-pointers in the second half.

(2) KANSAS 72 WOFFORD 47

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Detric Lawson had 20 points and eight rebounds, and Kansas beat Wofford after center

Udoka Azubuike left with a right high-ankle sprain.

Azubuike was injured after landing awkwardly on a block attempt midway through the first half, and coach Bill Self said the 7-footer will be out indefinitely.

Devon Dotson had 16 points for Kansas (7-0).

With Azubuike out, Wofford (6-3) won the rebounding battle 45-36, including 19 on the offensive glass. Cameron Jackson led Wofford with 15 points and 10 boards. Leading scorer and star senior Fletcher Magee had just seven points and was 0 for 9 from behind the arc.

(5) MICHIGAN 62 NORTHWESTERN 60

EVANSTON, Ill. — Ignas Brazdeikis

scored 13 of his 23 points in the second half and Jordan Poole made two big plays in the last 2½ minutes to help Michigan hold off Northwestern.

Poole finished with 15 points as the Wolverines (9-0, 2-0 Big Ten) added to their best start since they opened the 2012-13 season with 16 straight victories. Zavier Simpson scored 10 points, and Jon Teske had eight points and 10 rebounds.

Dererk Pardon led the Wildcats (6-3, 0-2) with 20 points on 9-for-10 shooting. Vic Law shook off a slow start and finished with 19.

It was a second straight tough defeat for Northwestern, including a 68-66 loss at Indiana on Saturday.

(8) AUBURN 67

UNC ASHVILLE 41

AUBURN, Ala. — Austin Wiley scored 14 points, Samir Doughty added 13 and Auburn won despite a season low in points.

The Tigers (7-1) forced 25 turnovers and blocked 12 shots to overcome their offensive struggles.

Wiley was 5 of 7 from the field and blocked five shots. Malik Dunbar helped spark the Tigers off the bench with eight points, seven rebounds and five steals.

UNC Asheville (1-7) was led by Luke Lawson's nine points off the bench on 3-of-4 3-point shooting. Leading scorer DeVon Baker struggled his way to four points, 11 below his season average. He made 2 of 10 shots and committed nine turnovers.

BCS FROM PAGE B1

Tigers would get to play Notre Dame in one of the semifinals as long as they could Pittsburgh. Ha ha ha ha!!

Now you have Georgia out, Oklahoma in, Ohio State saying it should be in, Central Florida getting ready to declare itself national champion once again. The College Football Playoff has not done a good job of determining the four teams that will do battle for the national championship.

That's why we need to bring back the Brunson Championship Series, the ingenious 16-team playoff format that would bring an end to all of this bickering.

So here it is once again. For you longtime readers, just soak it all in. For those seeing this for the first time, be enthralled in the genius, yet the simplicity, of it all:

- Take the champion from each of the 10 football-playing Football Bowl Subdivision conferences — the Power 5 conference champions going auto-

matically and the champions from the American Athletic, Mid-American, Sun Belt and Mountain West conferences and Conference USA with at least 10 victories entering their respective conference championship games qualifying as well.

The 10 champions are Clemson (Atlantic Coast) Central Florida (American Athletic), Ohio State (Big 10), Oklahoma (Big 12), Northern Illinois (MAC), Fresno State (Mountain West), Washington (Pac-12), Alabama (Southeastern), Appalachian State (Sun Belt) and Alabama-Birmingham (Conference USA). With Appalachian State and UAB sitting on nine wins before their respective conference championship games and Northern Illinois having just eight wins, those teams would not make the field.

- With seven champions eligible, each of the runners-up from the Power 5 conferences would be eligible to make the field; the second-place team would be either the title game loser or the second-place team in the standings for the con-

ferences that don't have title games. Also, to make the Brunson Championship Series, the runner-up needs to be above .500 in overall record entering the conference title game.

However, if all 10 conferences are represented and Notre Dame - through a stipulation which says if it wins nine games while playing at least eight games against Power 5 conference schools - makes the field, the runner-up with the worst record among the six would not get in.

The five runners-up are Utah (Pac-10), Northwestern (Big 10), Georgia (SEC), Pittsburgh (ACC) and Texas (Big 12). Each of the runners-up are in because all five were easily above .500. Undefeated Notre Dame is easily in the field.

- With seven conference champions, five runners-up and Notre Dame, you have 13 teams. Since you're short three teams, go with the highest-ranked remaining teams in The Associated Press poll from the Power 5 conferences. The three teams would be No. 8

Michigan No. 10 Florida and No. 11 Louisiana State.

- Seed the teams, making sure that no conference runner-up is seeded above its conference champion and that teams from the same conference do not face each other in the first round. That would give you eight first-round games with those games played on the second Saturday in December at the site of the higher-seeded team.

That would lead to eight nice little paydays. There might be a clunker or two, but you could have some great games.

Here would be the first-round games with the above-mentioned teams: Pittsburgh (16) at Alabama (1); Fresno State (15) at Clemson (2); Utah (14) at Notre Dame (3); Northwestern (13) at Oklahoma (4); Washington (12) at Georgia (5); LSU (11) at Ohio State (6); Florida (10) at Central Florida (7) and Texas (9) at Michigan (8).

- Starting with the four quarterfinal games, the four BCS bowls — Sugar, Fiesta, Orange and Rose — along with

the longstanding Cotton Bowl, could be worked into the mix where these sites still could get the big games and the big-dollar fans into their cities.

Rotate the current bowl sites with two quarterfinal cities, two semifinal cities and a championship game city. Also, two major cities, preferably in the Northeast and Midwest because of the lack of bowl sites, could host a quarterfinal game each year.

And, assuming the higher seeds all win their first-round games, here would be the quarterfinal matchups: Alabama vs. Michigan, Clemson vs. Central Florida, Notre Dame vs. Ohio State and Oklahoma vs. Georgia. Again, packed houses should rule, just as there would be for two semifinal games and the national championship game on New Year's Day.

Of course, the television networks would be standing in line with gobs of money so the country could see the games.

You could still have the smaller bowls for the teams that didn't make the top 16. Everyone needs to be happy.

SHS FROM PAGE B1

Edwards and two baskets from Hannibal, including an electrifying alley-oop he threw off the backboard to himself to put the Red Foxes up 49-45 with around 4:30 to go in the quarter.

Hartsville was up 60-57 after the third quarter.

Sumter cut Hartsville's lead to 66-64 with two free throws from Johnson with 5:39 to go in the game, but two free throws from Hannibal and a basket from Pendergrass put the Red Foxes in front 70-64 with 4:17 left.

After a dunk from Felder, the Game-

cocks cut the lead to 70-66, but an 8-2 run to Hannibal that included two 2-pointers from Capehart and baskets from Hannibal and O'Neal put the Red Foxes up 78-68 with 1:10 to go in the game.

"We played well in spurts, but bad decisions gave the momentum back," Jones said. "(I liked our) fight, we just have to be more patient on offense. I'm excited about these guys, it's still early."

With the loss, the Gamecocks fell to 1-2 on the season, while Hartsville improved to 2-2.

The Lady Gamecocks fared much better against Hartsville, blowing out the Red Foxes 56-33.

"We had a decent game on de-

fense," Sumter head coach Jeff Schaffer said. "We found the shooters and rotated. They have three girls that can shoot."

Sophomore forward Layken Cox led Sumter in scoring with 20 points and grabbed 12 rebounds.

"Layken Cox did a good job cleaning up the glass in the third quarter," Schaffer said. "We crashed the offensive glass."

Senior guard Ki'ari Cain scored 13 for the Lady Gamecocks and junior guard Cece Wells added 10.

"We didn't turn it over in the first half and we worked well together," Schaffer said. "We're a work in progress. We had good, solid fundamen-

tals and we'll continue to work on fundamentals."

Hartsville junior guard Jazolyn Pendergrass led the Lady Red Foxes in scoring with 10 points, senior point guard Teasia McPhail added nine and junior point guard Tarewyn Dawson had eight.

The win improved Sumter's record to 5-1, while Hartsville fell to 2-3.

"We're in a much tougher region this year, it's a lot more competitive," Schaffer said. "We need to be better by the region schedule."

Both Sumter's girls and boys teams will be back in action on Friday night at Crestwood with the girls game starting at 6 p.m.

OBITUARIES

MARTHA A. SCHOOLFIELD

Martha Amos Schoolfield, 77, wife of Henry Schoolfield II, departed this life on Monday, Dec. 3, 2018, at her residence.

She was born on Aug. 20, 1941, in Sumter, a daughter of the late John and Vermell Hastie Amos.

Public viewing will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. today at Job's Mortuary.

Funeral services will be held at noon on Friday at St. Jude Catholic Church, 611 W. Oakland Ave., Sumter, SC 29150. Interment will follow at Bradford Cemetery.

The family will receive friends at the home of her niece, 3150 Storestreet Road, Sumter, SC 29153.

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

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

CHRISTOPHER A. TAYLOR

Christopher Alonzo Taylor, "CL" as he was affectionately known, was born on April 1, 1952, in Sumter, to the late Rufus and Ida Mae Seymore Davis. CL entered eternal rest on Monday, Dec. 3, 2018, in Varnville.

CL received his education at Eastern High School in Sumter. He was employed at Korn Industries for many years, until his health failed.

He leaves to cherish his fond memories: three daughters, Teresa Sessions of Charlotte, North Carolina, Christa Taylor Wright of Columbia and Courtney (Tony) Jabobs of Sumter; six grandsons, TJ Wright, Tequan McCoy, Ra'Sean Laurant, Cody McCoy, Derrick Johnson and Tony Jacobs Jr.; two great-grandchildren, Khari and Kaloni Laurant; brothers, Harry (Ilelease) Davis of Philadelphia, Charles Taylor, Rufus Davis Jr. of Buena, California, Vernard (Sweet hazel) Davis and Thomas (Jane) Davis; sisters, Jannet (Ellison) McBride, Rebecca (Larrie) Jenkins of Brandon, Florida, Delphine (Jerel) Moses and Gail (Jeffrey) Sharp of Columbia; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his son, Xavier McCoy; his parents; a sister and brother-in-law, Olivia and Buster Williams; and a special aunt, IZONA MAE ROBERTS.

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

Mr. Taylor will be placed in the church at 1 p.m. on Friday for viewing until the hour of service.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday at Salem Chapel & Heritage Center, 101 S. Salem Ave., Sumter, SC 29150 with Pastor Ellison McBride officiating.

The family will receive friends at the home of sister and brother-in-law, Dephine and Jerel Moses, 25 Pebblebrook Drive, Sumter, SC 29153.

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

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

ALEXANDER JOHNSON JR.

Alexander Johnson Jr., 62, entered into eternal rest on Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018.



JOHNSON

Born on Dec. 26, 1955, in Clarendon County, he was the eldest son of the late Alex and Mary A. Burgess Johnson, the grandson of the late Dais F. and Lydia Witherpoon Burgess, and Charlie and Emma B. Johnson. He attended public schools in District 17 and District 2 of Sumter County. His high school endeavors were football, marching band and bus driver. He enlisted in the United States Army in 1976 and, after years of service to his country, he received an honorable discharge. Alexander was known as "Apple Jack" during his career as a tractor trailer operator for Burlington Trucking Co., Mickens Trucking Co., Burgess and Brogdon Cement Co., where he retired. He attended Oak Grove AME Church in his early years, where he accepted Christ as his personal Savior.

He leaves to cherish his memories: a daughter, Tonya V. Johnson of Paterson, New Jersey; a son, Alexander Johnson III and Chris (Antoinette) Johnson, who he took as a son, both of Sumter; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; two sisters, Lydia J. (George) Mickens of Dalzell and Lillarweise J. (Joe) Seymore of Sumter; two brothers, Wayne Johnson and

Clarence Johnson, both of Sumter; two uncles, Henry Johnson and Wesley Johnson, both of Brooklyn, New York; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The family will receive relatives and friends at the home, 2500 Brogdon Circle, Sumter.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday at Oak Grove AME Church, 271 Burnt Branch Road, Olanta, with the Rev. Oliver Davis, pastor, eulogist.

The remains will be placed in the church at noon.

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

Burial will be at Evergreen Memorial Park, 802 N. Guignard Drive, Sumter.

These services are a courtesy announcement entrusted to the management and staff of Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter. Online memorial messages may be sent to the family at www.williamsfuneralhome.com. Visit us on the web at www.williamsfuneralhomeinc.com.

EDDIE DARLING

Eddie Darling passed away on Friday, Nov. 30, 2018.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday at the JP Holley Chapel.

Professional and courteous services have been entrusted to JP Holley Funeral Home, Bishopville Chapel.

CHRISTOPHER T. GEDDINGS

Christopher Thomas Geddings, 45, died on Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018, at his home.

Born in Sumter, he was a son of the late Walter and Martha Parker Geddings. Mr. Geddings was an avid NASCAR racing fan.

Surviving are two sons,

John Geddings and Timmy Geddings, both of Sumter; and two brothers, Tommy Geddings (Michelle) of Wedgefield and Jason Geddings of Sumter.

Services will be private.

Online condolences may be sent to www.sumterfunerals.com

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



IRVIN JEFFERSON

Irvin Jefferson Sr., 71, widower of Sue Bell Jefferson, departed this life on Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018, at his residence. He was born on Dec. 22, 1946, in Sumter, a son of the late Harry Sr. and Sarah Lou S. Jefferson.

The family will receive friends at the home, 40-A Somerset Drive, Sumter, SC 29150.

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

JUNIOR SINKLER

DALZELL — Junior Sinkler, 80, departed this life on Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018, in Sumter.

He was born on March 6, 1938, in Sumter to the late Dawson Sr. and Virginia Canty Sinkler.

The family is receiving friends at the home of her daughter, Victoria Crowder, 2735 Gallishaw Drive, Dalzell.

Services are incomplete and will be announced later by Whites Mortuary LLC.

BIZARRO



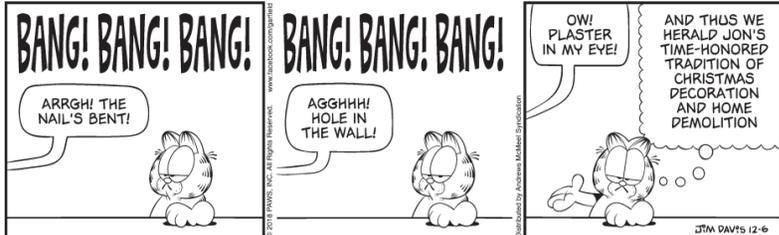
WALLACE THE BRAVE



ANDY CAPP



GARFIELD



BEETLE BAILEY



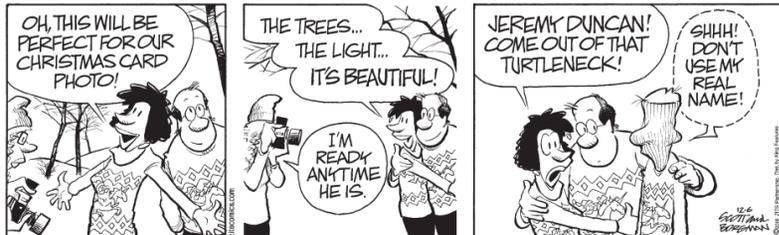
BORN LOSER



BLONDIE



ZITS



MOTHER GOOSE



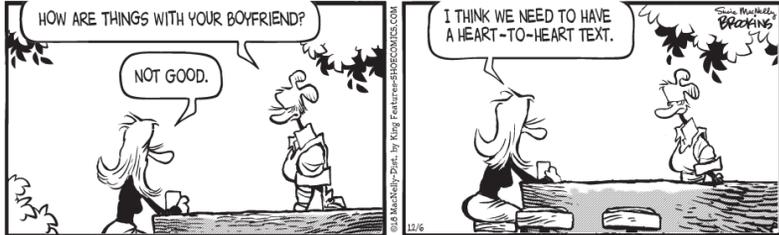
DOG EAT DOUG



DILBERT



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE



Mom makes travel plans without invitation to visit



Dear Abby
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY — I gave birth to my daughter three months ago, after 44 grueling hours of labor. My mother, assuming I would want her in the delivery room, booked her flight, flew

across the country and stayed at my house without asking when I'd like her to come to help me. During her stay, she made comments about how she had flown 2,000 miles to "dog-sit" for me, that she knew she wasn't wanted, and had she known my daughter wasn't going to come on time (I was

induced), she wouldn't have "wasted her vacation" to fly in early. The entire visit was miserable. Without consulting my husband and me, she has now booked a flight to come and stay with us for Christmas. Christmas is my favorite holiday, and I'm dreading the thought of her being here and worried this visit will be just as awful as the last. I'd like my daughter's first Christmas to be a happy occasion.

I asked my mother to change her flights and come in after the holiday, only to be met with the accusation "you're being selfish" from her and my stepfather. How do I tell them that I don't want them here for Christmas while minimizing hurt feelings? *Pushed too far in Pennsylvania*

DEAR PUSHED — It appears you not only have a pushy mother, but also one who has no filter. When she made the comments she did when she came to "help" after the delivery, did you tell her how offended you were? Or were you so weak from the struggle to give life that you wilted? If you didn't tell her how you felt, you have a communication problem. Give your mother one more chance. Welcome her and your stepfather at Christmas and, if she makes a demeaning or unkind comment, CALL her on it! And when you do, tell her that in the future you and your husband prefer to invite your houseguests rather than have them descend upon you.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CNAIP

NTTEH

LBPBEE

RULLAP

©2018 Tribune Content Agency, LLC
All Rights Reserved.



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

Yesterday's Jumbles: GRIME PILOT JAGGED PIGEON
Answer: He didn't want to pay much for the off-road vehicle and was trying to get it — DIRT "JEEP"

SUDOKU

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

©2018 Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UPS

THE DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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

Ed Sessa 12/6/18

- ACROSS**
- 1 Free-speech inhibitor
 - 7 Rep.'s opponent
 - 10 Southwest art colony
 - 14 From the beginning
 - 15 Blood type letters
 - 16 Palindromic French pronoun
 - 17 Heist that really puts a burglar on the map?
 - 20 Seeded
 - 21 Corrida cheer
 - 22 Cable network that airs vintage sitcoms
 - 23 Place for rest and exercise
 - 24 AFL partner
 - 25 Retro renege?
 - 32 "Me too"
 - 33 Word with goal or detail
 - 35 Remote power sources
 - 36 Bucks
 - 38 Top of le corps
 - 39 Purplish reds
 - 41 Oil
 - 42 Unexpected visit from a hippie?
 - 45 Two for dinner?
 - 46 Made a getaway
 - 47 Performer with a record
 - 21 Oscar nominations
 - 51 ESPN broadcaster
 - 52 Energy units
 - 56 Scene-stealing understudy?
 - 59 Sushi seaweed
 - 60 Trauma ctrs.
 - 61 Delicate
 - 62 Did 90, say
 - 63 Took a load off
 - 64 Relaxed
 - 18 Bator
 - 19 Call to mind
 - 23 Master moguls
 - 24 Fenway great
 - Yastrzemski
 - 25 Corporate body
 - 26 Red who put out fires
 - 27 Jerry's neighbor
 - 28 Help for a child at a parade
 - 29 Like some bar offerings
 - 30 Development sites
 - 31 Grand National Park
 - 32 bunt: productive
 - MLB out
 - 34 Mink lair
 - 36 Marshmallow-filled treats
 - 37 Burden
 - 40 Clip
 - 41 "appétit!"
 - 43 "Shoot!"
 - 44 Wyndham-owned chain
 - 47 Taxpayer IDs
 - 48 Firebird roof option
 - 49 More than pink
 - 50 City near Vance Air Force Base
 - 51 Hissed attention-getter
 - 52 Pop singer
 - Brickell
 - 53 "Mazes and Monsters" novelist
 - Jaffe
 - 54 Inner workings
 - 55 Lid problem
 - 57 FDR agency
 - 58 King Cole

Previous Puzzle Solved

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

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 Golden Globe nominations. (N)	Superstore Amy and Jonah go to a conference. (N)	The Good Place Janet(s) Michael hatches a plan. (N)	Will & Grace "Anchor Away" (N) (DVS)	(:31) I Feel Bad Emet is caught in a culture war. (N)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Zero Tolerance" A child is separated at the border. (DVS)	WIS News 10 at 11 (N)	(:34) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon Jason Momoa; J.K. Simmons; Joe Machi. (N)		
WLTX	19	9	9	News 19 at 7pm (N)	Inside Edition (N)	The Big Bang Theory "The VCR Illumination" (N)	(:31) Young Sheldon Sheldon tries to act like a kid. (N)	(:01) Mom Bonnie helps Tammy prepare for a date. (N)	Murphy Brown (N)	S.W.A.T. "1000 Joules" DNA evidence kits are stolen from a lab. (N)	News 19 at 11pm (N)	(:35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert "Bernie Sanders; Emma Willmann" Bernie Sanders; Emma Willmann. (N)		
WOLO	25	5	12	Wheel of Fortune "Winter Break" (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	A Charlie Brown Christmas Animated. Charlie and Linus ponder Christmas.	The Great American Baking Show: Holiday Edition "Cake and Pastry Week" (Season Premiere) Cakes and sweet and savory pastries. (N) (DVS)	The Great American Baking Show: Holiday Edition "Cake and Pastry Week" (Season Premiere) Cakes and sweet and savory pastries. (N) (DVS)	ABC Columbia News at 11 (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live "Gwen Stefani; Jimmy Tatro" Gwen Stefani performs; Jimmy Tatro. (N)				
WRJA	27	11	14	The Adrenal Thyroid Revolution-Aviva Romm	Neil Diamond: Hot August Night III: Neil Diamond performs in Los Angeles.			Sarah Brightman: Hymn: Sarah Brightman performs.		Rick Steves Special: European Festivals: The top 10 festivals in Europe.		Peter, Paul and Mary at Newport 1963-65		
WACH	57	6	6	The Big Bang Theory	NFL on FOX Pre-game (N) (Live)	NFL Football Jacksonville Jaguars at Tennessee Titans. Tennessee hosts Jacksonville. The Titans bested the Jaguars in their first shutout win of the season in Week 13. (N) (Live)		Legacies "Mombie Dearest" Penelope tries to help MG with Lizzie. (N)		The Good Wife "Unplugged" The winner of the competition.	The Good Wife "Hybristophilia" Alicia defends an accused wife killer.	The Game Malik's reading challenges are revealed.		
WKTC	63	4	22	Last Man Standing Competing in a sports competition.	Last Man Standing Mike's father moves to town.	Supernatural "Byzantium" Sam and Dean work with an unlikely ally. (N)								
CABLE CHANNELS														
A&E	46	130		Live PD: Police Patrol	Live PD: Police Patrol	Live PD: Police Patrol	Live PD: Police Patrol	Live PD: Police Patrol (N)	Live PD: Police Patrol (N)	(:01) Live PD Presents: PD Cam (N)	(:32) Live PD Presents: PD Cam	(:04) Live PD Presents: PD Cam	(:34) Live PD Presents: PD Cam	(12:03) Live PD: Police Patrol
AMC	48	180		(6:00) *** "Elf" (2003, Children's) Will Ferrell, James Caan.	*** "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" (1989) Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo. A traditional Griswold yuletide backfires in comic fashion.					(:15) *** "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" (1989, Comedy) Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, Randy Quaid. A traditional Griswold yuletide backfires in comic fashion.				
ANPL	41	100		The Zoo "Training Dragons"	Cricket! It's the Irwins			The Secret Life of the Zoo		The Secret Life of the Zoo				The Secret of
BET	61	162		(6:30) *** "Menace II Society" (1993, Drama) Tyrin Turner, Jada Pinkett, Vonte Sweet. The saga of a ghetto teen in East L.A.				*** "Standoff" (2016, Suspense) Laurence Fishburne, Thomas Jane, Ella Ballentine. A veteran protects a young murder witness from an assassin.						Carl Weber's The Family Business Winnie Dash is still on the loose.
BRAVO	47	181		Top Chef "Last Supper" The chefs design a challenge.	Top Chef "Finale" The final two chefs battle it out.			Top Chef "The Fastest 2 Minutes in Cooking" Fifteen new chefs compete.		(:15) Top Chef "The Fastest 2 Minutes in Cooking" Fifteen new chefs compete.			Watch What Happens Live	(:45) Dirty John The newlyweds celebrate in secret.
CNBC	35	84		Shark Tank A three-in-one nail polish.	Shark Tank A mobile wedding service.			Shark Tank (DVS)		Shark Tank (DVS)			Shark Tank	Shark Tank
CNN	3	80		Erin Burnett OutFront (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)			Cuomo Prime Time (N)		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)			CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)	Anderson Cooper
COM	57	136		(6:50) The Office "Safety Training"	(:25) The Office "Product Recall"	The Office "Women's Appreciation"	The Office "Beach Games"	The Office "The Job Part 1"	The Office "The Job Part 2"	The Office "Fun Run"	The Office "Fun Run"	The Daily Show With Trevor Noah	(:31) The Office "The Surplus"	(12:01) South Park
DISN	18	200		Bunk'd Finn fears public speaking.	Bunk'd	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Coop & Cami Ask the World	Stuck in the Middle	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Bizaardvark
DSC	42	103		Expedition Unknown	Expedition Unknown			Expedition Unknown "Lost Aircrafts" Amelia Earhart; D.B. Cooper. (N)				Legendary Locations		Expedition Un.
ESPN	26	35		College Football Awards (N) (Live)				Championship Drive (N) (Live)		The Herbie Awards (N)		SportsCenter (N) (Live)		SportsCenter
ESPN2	27	39		Women's College Basketball Texas A&M at Houston. (N) (Live)				High School Basketball		Championship Drive (N)			The Herbie Awards (N)	
FOOD	40	109		Christmas Cookie Challenge	Christmas Cookie Challenge			Christmas Cookie Challenge	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Christmas Cookie
FOXN	37	90		The Story With Martha MacCallum (N)	Tucker Carlson Tonight (N)			Hannity (N)	The Ingraham Angle (N)			Fox News at Night with Shannon	Tucker Carlson	
FREE	20	131		(6:55) **** "Toy Story" (1995, Children's) Voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Don Rickles. Animated. Toys come to life when people are absent.				(8:55) **** "Toy Story 2" (1999, Children's) Voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Joan Cusack. Animated. Toys rescue Woody from a collector.				The 700 Club Alveda King shares her family legacy.	** "Call Me Claus" (2001)	
FSS	21	47		Braves Season Rewind From March 29, 2018. (N)				Driven				Braves Season Rewind From April 21, 2018. (N)		
HALL	52	183		(6:00) "A Majestic Christmas" (2018) Jerrika Hinton, Christian Vincent.	"A Shoe Addict's Christmas" (2018, Romance) Candace Cameron Bure, Luke MacFarlane. Noelle meets the ghosts of past, present and future.			"Christmas in Evergreen" (2017, Romance) Ashley Williams, Teddy Sears, Barbara Niven. A veterinarian wishes upon a snow globe for romance.		"Christmas in Evergreen" (2017, Romance) Ashley Williams, Teddy Sears, Barbara Niven. A veterinarian wishes upon a snow globe for romance.			"The Nine Lives of Christmas" (2014)	
HGTV	39	112		Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop At	Flip or Flop At	House Hunters (N)	Hunters Int'l	House Hunters	House Hunters	Flip or Flop At
HIST	45	110		American Pickers "Junkyard Wizard"	American Pickers "Pickers Like It Hot"			American Pickers "Pickin' the '60s" (N)		(:11) American Pickers (DVS)	(:07) American Pickers (DVS)	(:07) American Pickers (DVS)	(:07) American Pickers (DVS)	American Pickers
ION	13	18		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Who & What" A New York boy disappears.	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation A suspect from Sara's past returns.			CSI: Crime Scene Investigation Hodges stages hypothetical murders.		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation War- rick's addiction affects work.			CSI: Crime Scene Investigation Dog fighting may relate to murder.	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation
LIFE	50	145		(6:00) "Dear Secret Santa" (2013) Tatyana Ali, Lamorne Morris.	"Jingle Belle" (2018, Romance) Tatyana Ali, Obba Babatundé, Tempestt Bledsoe. A songwriter returns home to help with a Christmas pageant.			(:03) "A Twist of Christmas" (2018, Romance) Vanessa Lachey, Brendon Zub, Lina Renna. Two single parents mix up their children's Christmas toys.					(12:01) "Jingle Belle" (2018)	
MSNBC	36	92		Hardball With Chris Matthews (N)	All In With Chris Hayes (N)			The Rachel Maddow Show (N)		The Last Word		The 11th Hour With Brian Williams (N)	Rachel Maddow	
NICK	16	210		The Loud House	Henry Danger	Henry Danger	SpongeBob	** "Cheaper by the Dozen 2" (2005) Steve Martin, Bonnie Hunt.				Friends	Friends	Friends
PARMT	64	153		Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	** "Men in Black" (1997, Action) Tommy Lee Jones, Will Smith, Linda Fiorentino.				** "Men in Black II" (2002)		
SYFY	58	152		(:10) *** "Iron Man 3" (2013, Action) Robert Downey Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow, Don Cheadle. A powerful enemy tests Tony Stark's true mettle. (DVS)				Nightflyers "Greywing" Lommie's talents come in handy. (N)				(10:55) ** "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest" (2006) Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom. (DVS)		
TBS	24	156		Seinfeld "The Stock Tip"	Seinfeld "The Trip"	Seinfeld "The Trip"	Seinfeld "The Pitch"	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	Seinfeld "The Wallet" (DVS)
TCM	49	186		(6:30) ** "College Coach" (1933, Comedy) Dick Powell, Ann Dvorak.	** "Blessed Event" (1932) Lee Tracy. A newspaperman writes a spicy column that causes problems.			**** "42nd Street" (1933) Ruby Keeler, Warner Baxter. An injury gives an understudy a shot at stardom. (DVS)				(:15) ** "Footlight Parade" (1933) James Cagney. A publicity leak hampers a director's attempted comeback.		
TLC	43	157		(6:00) 90 Day Fiancé "Ready to Run"	Return to Amish "Leaving Everything Behind" Mary must make a decision.			Return to Amish "Donut Season"		Return to Amish "Donut Season"		Return to Amish "Sabrina's Surprise"	Return to Amish	
TNT	23	158		Bones "The Sense in the Sacrifice" The team devises a plan to catch Pelant.	NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Boston Celtics. (N Subject to Blackout) (Live)			NBA Basketball		NBA Basketball		Houston Rockets at Utah Jazz. (N Subject to Blackout) (Live)		
TRUTV	38	129		Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	The guys celebrate. (N)			Laff Mobb Laff	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers
TV LAND	55	161		M*A*S*H	(:36) M*A*S*H	(:12) Everybody Loves Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Two and Half Men	Two and Half Men	King of Queens	King of Queens	King of Queens
USA	25	132		NCIS "The Good Son" The team investigates a murder. (DVS)	**** "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946, Comedy-Drama) James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore. An angel saves a dis- traught businessman from suicide. (DVS)							Modern Family "Moon Landing" (DVS)	Modern Family "Fears"	
WE	68	166		Growing Up Hip Hop Atlanta	Growing Up Hip Hop Atlanta			Growing Up Hip Hop Atlanta (N)	(:01) Growing Up Hip Hop Atlanta	(:01) Growing Up Hip Hop Atlanta	(:01) Growing Up Hip Hop Atlanta	Braxton Family		
WGNA	8	172		Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Married ... With

Beloved 'Charlie Brown Christmas' airs tonight

BY KEVIN McDONOUGH

Not every Christmas television special holds up for more than half a century. First broadcast on CBS on Dec. 9, 1965, "A Charlie Brown Christmas" (8 p.m., ABC, TV-G) remains one of the most beloved and anticipated holiday specials.

"Charlie Brown" debuted on CBS opposite "The Donna Reed Show" on ABC and "Daniel Boone" on NBC, popular series that left the air in 1966 and 1970, respectively, relics of another era.

The week "Charlie Brown" aired, the No. 1 song in America was "Turn! Turn! Turn!" by the Byrds. Written by folk singer and activist Pete Seeger, it was adapted from the Book of Ecclesiastes, making it a rare pop hit with lyrics taken from the Bible.

Perhaps there was something in the air in December 1965, as "A Charlie Brown Christmas" also lifted biblical lines when Linus quotes from the Gospel of Luke.

The makers of the Christmas special delivered their production at the last minute, so network big shots and sponsors couldn't change it. Some anticipated controversy or disaster.

Any worries that the special's biblical references would offend or divide viewers were brushed aside when it attracted a 45 percent share of all working TV sets and near unanimous critical acclaim.

Harriet Van Horne of the *New York World-Telegram* called Linus' invocation of the Nativity scene "the dramatic highlight of the season." So "Charlie Brown" has endured more than 50 years after that paper ceased publication in 1966.

TONIGHT'S OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- The Jacksonville Jaguars and Tennessee Titans meet on "Thursday

Night Football" (8 p.m., Fox) action.

- A shopping obsessive is locked overnight in a department store in the 2018 holiday comedy "A Shoe Addict's Christmas" (8 p.m., Hallmark, TV-G).

- "The Great American Baking Show: Holiday Edition" (9 p.m. ABC, TV-PG) returns for a fourth season.

- Contestants travel to Churchill Downs to prepare a feast for 200 Kentucky Derby attendees as "Top Chef" (9 p.m., Bravo, TV-14) returns for a 16th season.

- Brandi Carlile, Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit, Margo Price and others perform at **Nashville's 2018 AmericanaFest** (9 p.m., CMT).

- "Baroness Von Sketch Show" (9 p.m., IFC, TV-14) compares work friends and social media friends.

- Detectives hunt down evidence to convict a known serial killer as "Cold Valley" continues (9 p.m., ID, TV-14).

- A child taken from her parents at the border lands in a prostitution ring on "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" (10 p.m., NBC, r, TV-14).

- New evidence inspires a theory about alien life on "Nightflyers" (10 p.m., Syfy, TV-MA).

CULT CHOICE

Hopeless cowpokes (Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy) seek their fortune in a gold mine in the 1937 comedy "Way Out West" (12:30 p.m., TCM).

SERIES NOTES

Sheldon consults someone who knows him best on "The Big Bang Theory" (8 p.m., CBS, TV-PG) * Amy and Jonah undergo management training on "Superstore" (8 p.m., NBC, TV-14) * Lives change on "Supernatural" (8 p.m., CW, TV-14) * The birth of "Bazinga" on "Young Sheldon" (8:30 p.m.,



© 1965 UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE / ABC

"A Charlie Brown Christmas," created by the late cartoonist Charles M. Schulz in 1965, airs at 8 p.m. today on ABC.

CBS, TV-PG) * Outer-body experiences offer insights to Michael and Janet on "The Good Place" (8:30 p.m., NBC, TV-PG) * Bonnie helps Tammy celebrate her new freedom on "Mom" (8 p.m., CBS, TV-14) * To land a shallow man, Will consults Jack for tips on "Will & Grace" (9 p.m., NBC, TV-14) * A major milestone on "Legacies" (9 p.m., CW, TV-14) * Corky guilt-trips Murphy into adopting a dog on "Murphy Brown" (9:30 p.m., CBS, TV-PG) * Emet puts on a festival of (gas)lights on "I Feel Bad" (9:30 p.m., NBC, TV-PG) * Stolen DNA evidence on "S.W.A.T." (10 p.m., CBS, TV-14).

LATE NIGHT

Julia Roberts is booked on "The

Daily Show With Trevor Noah" (11 p.m., Comedy Central) * Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Emma Willmann are booked on "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" (11:35 p.m., CBS) * Jimmy Fallon welcomes Jason Momoa, J.K. Simmons and Joe Machi on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC) * Gwen Stefani and Jimmy Tatro appear on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" (11:35 p.m., ABC) * Alec Baldwin, Bazzi and Nikki Glaspie visit "Late Night With Seth Meyers" (12:35 a.m., NBC) * Jennifer Aniston, Dolly Parton and Leon Bridges appear on "The Late Late Show With James Corden" (12:35 a.m., CBS).

Copyright 2018 United Feature Syndicate

Actor-comedian Kevin Hart selected to host 2019 Oscars

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kevin Hart has a new job — he will host the 2019 Academy Awards, a role the prolific actor-comedian says fulfills a longtime dream.



HART

Hart announced his selection for the 91st Oscars in an Instagram statement Tuesday. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences followed up with a tweet that

welcomed him "to the family."

The announcement came hours after trade publication The Hollywood Reporter posted a story calling the Oscars host position "the least wanted job in Hollywood."

Hart clearly doesn't feel that way, writing on Instagram that it has been on his list of dream jobs for years. The 2019 Oscars will be broadcast Feb. 24 on ABC.

"I am blown away simply because this has been a goal

on my list for a long time ... To be able to join the legendary list of host that have graced this stage is unbelievable," Hart wrote. "I know my mom is smiling from ear to ear right now."

"I will be sure to make sure this years Oscars are a special one," Hart wrote.

Hart takes over hosting duties from Jimmy Kimmel, who presided over the last two ceremonies, including 2016's flub that resulted in the wrong best picture win-

ner being announced. Last year's ceremony was an all-time ratings low, and the film academy has announced a series of changes to the upcoming show.

Those include shortening the broadcast to three hours, and also presenting certain categories during commercial breaks and broadcasting excerpts of those winners' speeches later in the show.

The 39-year-old Hart has become a bankable star with films such as "Ride Along,"

"Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" and "Night School."

Celebrities including Martin Lawrence and Chris Rock, who hosted the ceremony in 2005 and 2016, posted congratulatory messages about Hart's selection Tuesday night.

"Damn I've lost another job to Kevin Hart," Rock posted on Instagram, echoing a joke he told during his 2016 opening monologue. "They got the best person for the job."

the Sumter ITEM CLASSIFIEDS

To Place Your Classified Ads, Please call

803-774-1200

OR TO PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE GO TO WWW.THEITEM.COM/PLACEMYAD

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

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

BUSINESS SERVICES

Roofing

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

Tree Service

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

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

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

PETS & ANIMALS

Pets

Angel fish, fresh water, silver & black. \$4, \$5 & \$7. Buy 5/Get one Free. Call between 3pm-7pm 803-452-6728.

Cute cuddly kittens, 1m, 1f. Call 803-773-5719

MERCHANDISE

Want to Buy

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



Auctions

PUBLIC AUCTION

SUMTER EAST SELF STORAGE 800 MYRTLE BEACH HWY. AUCTION December 15, 2018 10:00 A.M.

UNITS FOR AUCTION

- A-1 - Paula B. Richardson
- A-32 - Travis McDonald
- A-51 - Travis McDonald
- A-53 - Hallie McCray
- B-5 - Mary Miller
- C-6 - James Byrd
- C-8 - James Byrd
- C-15 - Tony L. Lee
- C-22 - Daquila Blanchett
- C-35 - Ebony M. Washington
- E-11 - Joseph W. Brown, Jr.
- F-26 - Jacqueline Kimes
- G-7 - Earl Bradley, Jr.
- G-31 - Natasha McEadden
- H-29 - Sonja H. Ray

Firewood

TONS & TONS of fire wood premium seasoned oak. U haul \$50 per pick up load, delivered 1 cord \$130. Collins Tree Service 803-499-2136

Garage, Yard & Estate Sales

Huge Inside/Outside Sale: Fri. 7-1 at 1040 Stonecroft Dr. Books, jewelry, fishing, children's items, & much, much more!

Ideal Auction Special Event Fri. Dec. 7th 6:30-??
Seller retiring, all must go! 1012 Pocalla Rd. Alton Meeler #4571

For Sale or Trade

Golden Kernel Pecan Co. 1200 C Pocalla Rd 968-9432
We buy pecans, sell Pecan halves, Chocolate & all flavors & Fruit cake mix. Gift Pkgs avail. M-F 9-5 Sat 9-1

For Sale or Trade

Today's Value

3 spaces \$2195ea., 3 vaults \$2395ea., 3 opening closing \$1695ea., for all \$15,000 at Hillside Dogwood Call 803-464-2243

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted Full-Time

Truck Driver

Helena Chemical Company, a national agricultural-chemical company, has an opening for a truck driver with CDL A Class or B Class. A hazmat endorsement would be a plus. This person will make deliveries, load and unload products, ability to use forklift and perform various warehouse duties. Requires a high school diploma or GED equivalent. We offer an excellent compensation and benefits package

Applications will be taken Monday-Thursday, during the hours of 8am-2pm, at Helena Chemical Co., 5055 Florence Hwy 76, Mayesville, SC, 29104. You can also apply online on AgCareers.com. Pre-employment drug screen required. EOE M/F/V/H

Full Time or Part Time Sales position available. Some experience preferred but will train. No calls. Apply at Wally's Hardware 1291 Broad St.

Park it in the **CLASSIFIEDS** and watch it go fast!

Help Wanted Full-Time

Sumter Habitat ReStore seeking individual to drive donation truck & warehouse duties. Some heavy lifting required. Must have valid SC drivers license with a clear 5 year record & pass background check. Apply in person at Sumter Habitat ReStore, 30 Bridge Ct., Tues-Fri 10-5 & Sat 9-3.

Cashier needed full time. Must have some computer knowledge, be self-motivated, dependable & energetic. Apply at Wally's Hardware 1291 Broad St.

HVAC Service Tech & Installer needed. Great hourly pay, medical & retirement avail. Exp. preferred. Apply in person Gene's Heating & Air, LLC, 4035 Raccoon Rd, Manning

NOW HIRING 5 TECHS Sub-Contract Spectrum work, Clean Bkgrd & Drug Need Truck/Van, Apply in person 911 E Liberty St, Sumter M-F 8 to 12

Experienced carpenter needed for framing & siding. Must provide own transportation. 803-473-4246 leave your name & phone number. There is no caller I.D.

RENTALS

Unfurnished Apartments

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

Mobile Home Rentals

Sumter/Scenic Lake

2 Br/2 ba, No pets, housing accepted (1 child). 469-6978/499-1500 betw. 9am-5pm

Commercial Rentals

1000 sq. ft. retail, former beauty shop, McCrays Mill Rd. Call Bobby Sisson at 803-464-2730.

Autos For Sale

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

TRANSPORTATION

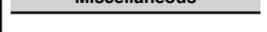


Autos For Sale

2011 Chevrolet Impala LT, fully equipped, 78,300 miles in excellent condition. \$7000. Call 803-840-7556

Miscellaneous

Refurbished batteries as low as \$45. Golf cart batteries \$65. Auto Electric Co. 102 Blvd Rd. 803-773-4381



I've never seen so many cars and people! What do you think is going on over there?

Well, I was told she's having one of those 'Garage Sales.' Can you imagine?!

Do you think we should have one and place an ad? It sure would help with Spring Cleaning!

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



The Perfect Housewarming Gift

The Sumter Item is locally owned and run. We're part of this community and we believe in Sumter.

the Sumter ITEM

36 W. Liberty St. | Sumter, SC
803.774.1200
www.theitem.com