

School trustees OK plan to keep Mayewood closed

Canty: Board is shifting focus for 'greater mission'

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

Mayewood Middle School will remain closed next year. That decision was included in the Sumter School District Board of Trustees' 5-3-1 vote late Monday to approve a new

district administration fiscal recovery plan, and the board's chairman said he thinks the trustees decided conclusively now to close the East Brewington Road campus.

Board Chairman the Rev. Ralph Canty told *The Sumter Item* on Tuesday the dis-

cussion of reopening Mayewood created conflict in the community, an issue he said he feels the trustees want to move beyond.

"To achieve our goal of ensuring we develop a premier school district,

SEE **PLAN**, PAGE A8

Lee inmates charged with blackmail in sextortion of veteran before suicide

BY KIRK BROWN
The Greenville News

Two South Carolina prison inmates were charged Friday with blackmail in connection with a sextortion scam that targeted Army veteran Jared Johns of Greenville shortly before he killed himself on Sept. 11, 2018.

The charges against John William Dobbins, 59, of North Charleston, and Carl Richard Smith, 43, of Simpsonville, were announced by Greenville Police Chief Ken Miller after what he described as a lengthy investigation.

Dobbins is serving a 25-year

sentence on a third methamphetamine conviction in Laurens County. Smith was convicted in 2015 of assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature in Greenville County, and he is serving a 15-year sentence.

"We now know that at the time of his death, Jared was the victim of a blackmail scheme that was created by inmates in a South Carolina prison, which created sufficient mental anguish to cause Jared to believe that he was going to be accused of serious crime with lifelong implications," Miller said.

SEE **INMATES**, PAGE A8

Sumter honors fallen officers at annual breakfast

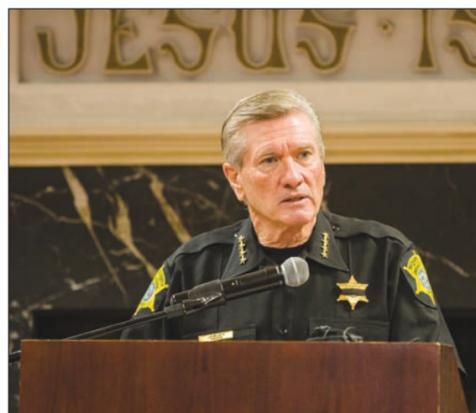


PHOTOS BY MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

A member of the Sumter County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard participates during a memorial for fallen officers at Tuesday's National Police Week Prayer Breakfast at Church of the Holy Comforter. The annual event honors officers who died in the line of duty. Members of the community shared prayers, and Richland County Sheriff's Department Sheriff Leon Lott spoke to the crowd before the reading of The Final Inspection, a poem written by Sumter County Chief Deputy Hampton Gardner that honors fallen officers. Three Sumter County deputies have died in the line of duty, and eight total have died while serving the sheriff's office, police department and highway patrol.



A Sumter County Sheriff's Office Detention Center officer bows her head along with others at the prayer breakfast.



LEFT: Sheriff Leon Lott with the Richland County Sheriff's Department speaks at the breakfast.

BELOW: Maj. Daryl McGhane says a prayer for the Sumter County Sheriff's Office Detention Center.



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Laura Jean Reynolds McCathern
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WEATHER, A10

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INSIDE

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SECOND FRONT

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Trial postponed for autism project co-founder

Government has more than 100,000 documents

BY KAYLA ROBINS
kayla@theitem.com

A federal trial for the co-founder of a Sumter-based autism behavioral therapy center has been pushed back to the beginning of next year to account for more than 100,000 documents related to the case.

United States District Judge Joseph F. Anderson Jr. issued the order at the end of April to postpone the trial of Susan Butler until January 2020. Butler has pleaded not guilty to accusations of defrauding Medicaid and Tricare by more than \$9 million while running Early Autism Project Inc., which serves children and young adults with autism, by reportedly over-billing the medical insurance providers for therapist services that were partially or not provided

between January 2007 and June 2016.

Anderson said in the scheduling order through the United States District Court in the District of South Carolina that this is a “complex case involving voluminous discovery” and that Butler and her attorneys have been informed the government, as plaintiff in the case, will produce more than 100,000 documents.

A “significant amount” of evidence has already been produced in the form of witness statements and interviews.

“The court is confident that both sides are proceeding in good faith and as expeditiously as possible given the volume of documents that have and will be produced,” Anderson wrote in the order.

There is also evidence

being produced that is in the possession of a law firm related to a qui tam action associated with this case, which means a private citizen has brought evidence against Butler under the False Claims Act. A provision in the act allows persons or entities with evidence of fraud against federal programs or contracts to sue the accused wrongdoer on behalf of the government. The government has the right to intervene and join the action, and the private citizen receives a share of the award if the defendant is found guilty.

EAP was bought by ChanceLight Inc. in 2013, after billing policies were already under investigation. Once the new ownership learned about the accusations, ChanceLight has “reformed every policy and procedure to make sure this will not happen under [the

parent company’s] ownership,” said Sarah Vega, senior vice president for operations of EAP.

EAP settled its False Claims Act case in August 2018 by entering a Corporate Integrity Agreement with the government, requiring an independent review organization to conduct annual claims reviews and \$8,833,615 in restitution.

The former employee who filed the lawsuit as a whistleblower in July 2015 received \$435,000 of the restitution.

The new timeline for Butler’s trial begins with the government producing expert witness discovery, or evidence, by Aug. 30. Butler has until Sept. 30 to do so.

Pretrial motions will be filed by November before a pretrial conference in December. A jury will be selected in January.

If convicted, Butler will be required to repay the full amount involved in the alleged fraud.

Both sides asked to postpone the trial. Until the case is tried, Butler cannot leave the state without the court’s permission and must avoid contact with anyone who may be a victim or witness in the investigation.

That includes former EAP director of clinical services Angela Keith and co-founder Ann Eldridge. They both pleaded guilty in January to making false statements to Medicaid for services that were partly or never rendered between January 2009 and June 2016.

Part of their guilty plea is a \$1,000 fine, imprisonment for up to one year with one year of supervised release and a requirement to testify during any related trial.

AAA Carolinas reminds motorists to obey Move Over Law

SUBMITTED

National Police Week is this week, and AAA Carolinas is reminding motorists of the Move Over Law, which requires that drivers, who deem it safe to do so, move a lane away from any law enforcement or emergency vehicle on the side of the road. Emergency vehicles should be stopped with lights flashing to alert drivers to move over.

The list of emergency vehicles protected by this law includes roadside assistance personnel, such as AAA tow trucks and service vehicles. It is also extended to highway workers in temporary work zones.

“The Move Over Law is in place to protect both the emergency crews that are stopped on the road to help someone else and motorists driving on the road,” Tiffany Wright, AAA Carolinas spokeswoman, said. “Adhering to this



law will keep everyone safe.”

Failure to adhere to the Move Over Law in South Carolina is considered a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of

not less than \$300 nor more than \$500. Failure to adhere to the Move Over Law in North Carolina will result in a \$500 fine along with the possibility of

being charged with a felony if a crash occurs.

Drivers approaching a stopped emergency vehicle, law enforcement vehicle, utility vehicle or temporary work zone should:

- Significantly reduce their vehicle speed and keep vehicle under control;
- Approach the scene cautiously;
- If there is a second lane, motorists are required to change lanes away from the stopped vehicle; and
- Maintain the reduced speed until fully clear of the situation.

AAA Carolinas, an affiliate of the American Automobile Association, is a not-for-profit organization that serves more than 2.2 million members and the public with travel, automobile and insurance services while being an advocate for the safety and security of all travelers.

Business news

New plasma donation center will open June 19 in Sumter

Donors are paid, can donate twice in 7-day period

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

Even though a blood plasma donation center is a little different from a traditional blood bank, there is the same critical need for its products.

Chuck Richard, vice president of operations for Immunotek Bio Centers, based in New Orleans, Louisiana, spoke Tuesday on his company’s new blood plasma donation facility set to open June 19 at 236 S. Pike, next to Shoney’s.

Plasma collected at an Immunotek center goes into making medications for critically ill people, Richard said.

“And there’s only one source for that plasma, and that’s plasma donors,” Richard said. “So, it’s just as vital to the health of our country as is blood donation; it’s just a little different.”

Unlike a unit of blood donation that can generally be transfused directly into a recipient, plasma requires further manufacturing. Ac-

ording to Richard, it takes a large volume of plasma to create a small amount of medication. That’s one reason plasma donation is so critical, he said.

In plasma donation, only the plasma is collected from a donor.

“We’re not really taking your blood at all,” Richard said. “We’re simply taking the plasma, and we’re returning all red [blood] cells, which are critical to carry oxygen to your body.”

Plasma is 90% water and 10% proteins, and those proteins are then manufactured into medications, he said.

The human body quickly replaces the water and proteins within 24 hours, according to Richard; therefore, it’s safe to donate plasma twice in a seven-day period.

For blood donors, it takes longer for the body to recoup. A blood donor can donate once about every six weeks.

The plasma-donation process takes an hour to 90 minutes, Richard said,



BRUCE MILLS / THE SUMTER ITEM

Immunotek Bio Centers’ new facility at 236 S. Pike is about 12,000 square feet and is scheduled to open June 19.

and donors are paid generally \$25 to \$45 per donation. Donors will be paid \$50 for their first donations, he said. As

they go through the process, donors can watch TV or movies that are being played.

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(803) 774-1200

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

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

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

Kathy Stafford
CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER
CLASSIFIEDS, SUBSCRIPTIONS AND
DELIVERY
kathy@theitem.com
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Sandra Holbert
OBITUARY / NEWSROOM CLERK
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PHOTOS PROVIDED

Sumter Council of Garden Clubs names 2 landscapes as Yards of the Month

SUBMITTED

The Sumter Council of Garden Clubs has designated two landscapes as Yards of the Month.

The home of Wendy and Kirby Brinson, 136 Tucson Drive, is graced with blooms from brightly colored Knockout Roses on all sides of the home. The home is set upon a slight hill, and the placement of the rose bushes enhances the natural landscape while allowing the eye to also focus on additional garden greens — especially the shapely Palmetto tree located next to the driveway.

Homeowners entering The Cove, the business Yard of the Month, and those passing by on Loring Mill Road will see an abundance of roses in bloom in all directions. The brilliant blooms are flanked by plantings of Loropetalum



and many other bushes of supporting colors and textures. Not only is the area attractive, but also as the land elevation lowers, the natural flow of rainwater is allowed to continue moving under a small walking bridge. Where the water puddles, it provides habitat for butterflies, bees and other pollinators.

Jury to decide: Dad kills 5 in rage or is he mentally ill?

COLUMBIA (AP) — A South Carolina father facing a death penalty trial in the slayings of his five children exploded in a selfish rage after his son ruined an electrical outlet and then spent days driving around with their bodies, trying to figure out how to hide the crime, prosecutors said Tuesday.

But in the defense's opening statement, Timothy Jones Jr.'s lawyer said the computer engineer had schizophrenia and was insane — his thin grasp on reality broken by his ex-wife's infidelity, the struggle of raising five young children on his own and a feeling he was failing God.

Jones, 37, is charged with five counts of murder. Prosecutors said he killed 6-year-old Nahtahn in a rage after finding the boy, fascinated by electricity, had broken an outlet in their home near Lexington in August 2014.

Jones then strangled 8-year-old Mera and 7-year-old Elias with his hands and 2-year-old Gabriel and 1-year-old Abigail with a belt, prosecutor Shawn Graham said.

"A father is supposed to love his children. Tim Jones loved himself more," Graham said in his opening statement, halting briefly when he appeared to choke up.

Authorities pieced together the case using Jones' own words to police, bizarre web searches on his smartphone and handwritten notes found in his SUV nine days after the killings, after he dumped the bodies on a rural hillside near Camden, Alabama, and a police officer at a Smith County, Mississippi, traffic checkpoint arrested Jones as his vehicle smelled "like death," Graham said.

But Jones' lawyer compared the father's mental state to a forest. He said there were some healthy trees, like a high-paying job, but almost all the other trees were diseased and fragile and exploded in a

raging fire because of all the stress.

The problems started when Jones' ex-wife had an affair with a neighbor around the time she was pregnant with their fifth child and Jones won full custody of the children, defense lawyer Rod Madsen said.

Jones turned to drugs to medicate himself, which made his schizophrenia worse. He made bad financial decisions and took his kids' problems processing their parents' divorce as his own failings as a dad, Madsen said.

Jones was deeply religious, but while he could memorize verses of Scripture, he could not explain their application to life or what they meant, Madsen said.

"For him, it was a failure of faith. He must not be doing what the Bible told him to do," Madsen said.

After killing his children, wrapping their bodies in plastic and putting them in his SUV, Jones drove around aimlessly, listening to voices in his head, his lawyer said.

"He wasn't ready to let them go. He thought that was his way to spend time with them. He even played them songs," Madsen said.

Jones finally left their bodies after a voice told him to cut off one of his son's legs and he couldn't do it.

"He said a prayer and said goodbye," Madsen said. Graham said prosecutors are convinced that Jones knew right from wrong. He asked the jurors to listen carefully to the parade of mental health experts who will testify as the trial will likely stretch into June.



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State briefs

Arson suspected at 2 rental homes owned by Gov. McMaster

COLUMBIA (AP) — Authorities suspect arson in a fire that damaged two Columbia rental properties owned by South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster.

Fire officials said crews were called to the scene just before 6:30 a.m. Tuesday. The fire was out just more than an hour later, but officials said it caused hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage to both properties and displaced at least a dozen residents.

Columbia Fire Chief Aubrey Jenkins said the fire has been deemed “suspicious,” and police have released images of a possible suspect.

McMaster and his wife, Peggy, own 20 homes across Columbia and rent many to students at the University of South Carolina. Tax records show the couple earns about \$300,000 a year from the rentals.

E-cigarette company will bring 500 jobs to Lexington County

LEXINGTON (AP) — A major e-cigarette manufacturer has announced plans to expand operations to South Carolina.

Gov. Henry McMaster’s office said in a news release Monday that JUUL Labs Inc. plans to invest more than \$125 million to build a new as-

sembly facility in Lexington County. JUUL is expected to create more than 500 new jobs.

The company plans to open the assembly and packaging operation center in Lexington this summer. JUUL said a third party will be operating the facility.

CEO Kevin Burns said JUUL launched in 2015 and was established to help adult smokers make the switch from combustible cigarettes.

Hunting, boat permits now issued at S.C. Farmers Market

WEST COLUMBIA (AP) — South Carolina’s wildlife agency is moving where it issues permits such as hunting licenses and boat registrations out of downtown Columbia.

The Department of Natural Resources said all those permits will now be issued from the agency’s office at the State Farmers Market in West Columbia.

The agency has offered permits for four decades at the Rembert Dennis Building on the Statehouse grounds. But officials said it is getting harder to find parking in downtown Columbia.

The agency is also considering moving all its offices from the Statehouse, but no decision has been made.

The new offices are at the State Farmers Market about 9 miles south of downtown Columbia near where Interstate 77 ends at Interstate 26.

Westside academy praise choir sings for Brookdale residents



PHOTO PROVIDED
The Westside Christian Academy School Praise Choir visited Brookdale Sumter Senior Living on Monday to sing for residents.

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PHOTOS PROVIDED

Central Carolina Technical College pins 38 nurses at a ceremony held on May 9 at the Sumter Opera House.



Central Carolina Technical College pins 13 massage therapists at a ceremony held on May 9 at the Sumter Opera House.

Central Carolina pins a total of 61 nurses, massage therapists, pharmacy technicians

SUBMITTED

Central Carolina Technical College's Health Sciences Division pinned 13 massage therapists, 38 nurses and 10 pharmacy technicians during two pinning ceremonies held May 9 at Sumter Opera House.

The Massage Therapy program prepares graduates to work in direct client care settings to provide manipulation (massage) of the soft tissue structures of the body to prevent and alleviate pain, discomfort, muscle spasm and stress and to promote health and wellness. Members of this year's Massage Therapy Program graduating class are listed by county:

- Clarendon — Erin Bacote and Kynedy Mills;
- Darlington — Anissa McElveen;
- Sumter — Karen Bradley; Clarissa Chestnut; Imani Crawford; Hailey Duke; Terrence DuPree; Michael Fadden; Whitney Graham; Jacqueline Washington; and Angela Wright.

Graduates of the Associate Degree in Nursing Program are prepared for careers as technical nurses in acute care, long-term care or home health settings. Upon completion of the program, students are eligible to take the National Council Licensing Examination for Registered Nurses and are approved by the South Car-

olina Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation Board of Nursing. The program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. Members of this year's Associate Degree in Nursing graduating class are listed by county:

- Brevard — Shannon Roecker;
- Calhoun — Lauren Wilson;
- Clarendon — Victoria Gamble and Susan Lyda;
- Florence — Jessica Alford; Jessica Coker; Sabrina McWhite; Sarah Duncan; LaToya Lawhorn; and Christopher Solis;
- Horry — Summer Watts;
- Kershaw — Raley Jackson; Amanda Lee; McKenzie Moor-er; Krista Phillips; and Derrick Wood;
- Lee — Shatavia Sumpter;
- Marion — Arlisa Epps;
- Richland — Meredith Jones and Erin Walter;
- Sumter — Eric Capell; Sabrina Collins; Shawna Combs; Morgan Comstock; Margaret Goodson; Taire Hallier; Hannah Hodge; Jessica Johnson; Sarah Kibbey; Amanda Poston; Shannie Pressley; Michael Reid; Aubrey Rivers; Cadedra Rose; Marva Ross; Jessica Simmons; and Joy Sims.

Pharmacy technicians are allied health professionals who assist and support licensed pharmacists in providing pharmaceutical services directly

and indirectly to patients. Members of this year's Pharmacy Technician Program graduating class are listed by county:

- Clarendon — Alice Moore and Taylor Parsons;
- Sumter — Brittany Atkinson; Natalie Hallman; Tracy Holmes; Davida Major; Keirria McKelvie; Torijuana Raymond; Michelle Regan; and Regina Wright; and
- Williamsburg — Erin Owens.



Central Carolina Technical College pins 10 pharmacy technicians at a ceremony held on May 9 at the Sumter Opera House.

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Is sea rise wrecking coastal home values?

BY PHILIP MARCELO
Associated Press

SALISBURY, Mass. — For sale: waterfront property with sweeping views of the Atlantic Ocean. Waves erode beach regularly. Flooding gets worse every year. Saltwater damage to lawn.

Asking price: anyone's guess. Some research suggests rising sea levels and flooding brought by global warming are harming coastal property values. But other climate scientists note shortcomings in the studies, and real estate experts say they simply haven't seen any ebb in demand for coastal homes.

So how much homeowners and communities should worry — and how much they should invest in remedies — remains an open question.

Nancy Meehan, 71, is considering putting her coastal condo in Salisbury up for sale this year, but she worries buyers will be turned off by the winter storms that churn the seas beside the summer resort town. Her home has been largely spared in the nearly 20 years she's lived there, she said, but the flooding appears to be worsening along roads and lower properties.

"All my life savings is in my home," Meehan said of the four-bedroom, two-bathroom condo, which she bought for \$135,000. "I can't lose that equity."

Nearby, Denis Champagne can't be sure that rising seas are hurting his waterfront home's value. The three-story, four-bedroom home has views of a scenic marsh, has been renovated and is blocks from the ocean — yet was assessed at only around \$420,000.

"Do I feel that it should be worth more than that?" Champagne said recently in his sun-soaked living room. "I mean, I'm biased, but where can you find this for that price — anywhere?"

A drop in home values could shatter a community like Salisbury, which relies almost exclusively on beachfront real estate taxes to fund schools, police and other basic services, researchers warn. And, they say,



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Real estate agent Tom Saab stands on a oceanfront deck at a condo he developed in Salisbury, Massachusetts. Academic researchers say concerns over rising sea levels and increased flooding are having subtle but significant impacts on coastal property values.

families could face financial ruin if they've been banking on their home's value to help foot the bill for pricey college tuitions or even retirement.

"People are looking at losing tens of thousands of dollars of relative value on their homes," said Jeremy Porter, a data scientist for the First Street Foundation, an advocacy group that seeks to raise awareness about sea level rise. "Not everyone can sustain that."

Still, home prices in coastal cities have been rising faster than those of their landlocked counterparts since 2010, according to data provided by the National Association of Realtors.

And waterfront homes are still generally more expensive than their peers just one block inland, said Lawrence Yun, the association's chief economist.

"The price differential is still there," he said. "Consumers are clearly mindful that these climate change impacts could be within the window of a 30-year mortgage, but their current behavior still implies that to have a view of the ocean is more desirable."

A nationwide study by the First Street Foundation suggests climate change concerns have caused nearly \$16 billion in lost appreciation of property values along the Eastern Seaboard and Gulf Coast since 2005.

The study singles out Salisbury as the hardest-hit community in Massachusetts. Coastal homes there would be worth \$200,000 to \$300,000 more if not for frequent tidal flooding and powerful coastal storms, the study suggests. Champagne's property, for example, would be worth about \$123,000 more, according to Flood IQ, a property database the group has developed.

In another recent study, researchers at the University of Colorado Boulder's School of Business found coastal properties most exposed to sea level rise sold, on average, for 7 percent less than equivalent properties the same distance from shore but not as threatened by the sea.

And in Florida's Miami-Dade County, higher-elevation properties are appreciating faster than lower ones as companies and deep-pocketed buyers increasingly consider climate change

risks, a study in the publication Environmental Research Letters found last year.

The three studies are laudable because they attempt to quantify what the insurance industry and federal government had long suspected: that climate change is having tangible harm on home values, said S. Jeffress Williams, a scientist emeritus with the U.S. Geological Survey in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, who wasn't involved with any of the research.

But Williams and other researchers note the First Street Foundation study uses sea-level rise predictions from the Army Corps of Engineers that are more dire than figures from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which usually provides the go-to numbers for such studies.

The other two studies largely rely on data from Florida, which is so low and highly developed that in many ways it is an outlier, unaffiliated researchers point out. They also focus only on single-family homes, leaving out huge numbers of condos, high-rises and other multi-family properties.

In Salisbury, real estate broker Thomas Saab insists something is happening with home prices but is not sure whether climate change is behind it.

Two clients in the otherwise strong real estate market, he said, were recently forced to lower their asking prices by tens of thousands of dollars when prospective buyers voiced concerns about storm damage and risks.

"Do I worry prices are coming down? Sure," Saab said. "Fewer buyers are willing to take the risk. People don't want to live through nor'easter after nor'easter with no protection."

He argues there's a simple solution: Invest in sturdy seawalls as Hampton Beach, the lively resort town just over the border in New Hampshire, did generations ago.

"We can overcome any kind of rising seas if you just let us protect our properties," Saab said. "Who cares about the climate change? You build a seawall, and this whole discussion goes away."

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'Zombie cells' buildup in your body may play role in aging

BY MALCOLM RITTER
AP Science Writer

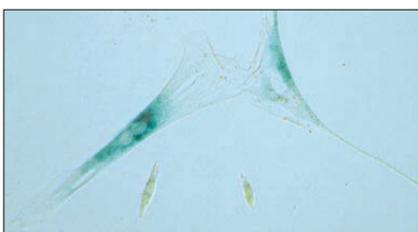
NEW YORK — Call them zombie cells — they refuse to die.

As they build up in your body, studies suggest, they promote aging and the conditions that come with it like osteoporosis and Alzheimer's disease. Researchers are studying drugs that can kill zombie cells and possibly treat the problems they bring.

Basically the goal is to fight aging itself, which hopefully will in turn delay the appearance of age-related disease and disabilities as a group, says geriatrics specialist Dr. James Kirkland of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. That's in contrast to playing a "whack-a-mole game" of treating one disease only to see another spring up, he said.

The research has been done chiefly in mice. Earlier this year, the first test in people was published and provided some tantalizing results.

Zombie cells are actually called senescent cells. They start out normal but then encounter a stress, like damage to their DNA or viral infection. At that point, a cell can choose



This microscope photo shows two senescent human fibroblast cells (zombie cells), above, next to normal ones.

MATTHEW YOUSEFZADEH, MARIAH WITT / UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA VIA AP

to die or become a zombie, basically entering a state of suspended animation.

The problem is that zombie cells release chemicals that can harm nearby normal cells. That's where the trouble starts.

What kind of trouble? In mouse studies, drugs that eliminate zombie cells — so-called senolytics — have been shown to improve an impressive list of conditions, such as cataracts, diabetes, osteoporosis, Alzheimer's disease, enlargement of the heart, kidney problems, clogged arteries and age-related loss of muscle.

Mouse studies have also shown a more direct tie between zombie cells and aging. When drugs targeting those cells were given to aged mice, the animals showed better walking speed, grip strength and endurance on a treadmill. Even when the treatment was

applied to very old mice, the equivalent of people ages 75 to 90, it extended lifespan by an average of 36 percent.

Researchers have also shown that transplanting zombie cells into young mice basically made them act older: Their maximum walking speed slowed down, and their muscle strength and endurance decreased. Tests showed the implanted cells converted other cells to zombie status.

Kirkland and colleagues this year published the first study of a zombie-cell treatment in people. It involved 14 patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, a generally fatal disease that scars the lining of the lungs. Risk rises with age, and the lungs of patients show evidence of zombie cells.

In the preliminary experiment, after three weeks of treatment, patients improved on some measures of physical

fitness, like walking speed. Other measures did not show improvement.

Overall, the results are encouraging, and "it really raises enthusiasm to proceed with the more rigorous studies," said Dr. Gregory Cosgrove, chief medical officer of the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation, who played no role in the study.

The field of zombie cells is still young. But Kirkland estimates at least a dozen companies have formed or have launched efforts to pursue treatments. He holds shares in one.

Apart from age-related diseases, anti-zombie drugs might be useful for treating premature aging among cancer survivors that brings on the early appearance of some diseases, said Laura Niedernhofer of the University of Minnesota.

Some of these drugs have been approved for other uses or are even sold as supplements. But Niedernhofer and Kirkland stress that people should not try them on their own, nor should doctors prescribe them, for the uses now under study because more research has to be done first. Niedernhofer said the best

drugs may be yet to come. The goal is not to prevent stressed cells from turning into zombies, she said, because they may become cancerous instead. The aim is to trigger death of cells that have already transformed, or to limit the harm they do.

And what about giving them to healthy people who want to ward off aging? That's possible but a long way off, after studies have established that the drugs are safe enough, she said.

"We may not get there," Kirkland said.

In any case, experts are impressed by the research so far.

"I think this is very exciting," said Dr. George Kuchel of the University of Connecticut Center on Aging in Farmington. The results from animal studies are "very spectacular. It's very compelling data."

Nir Barzilai, a researcher of aging at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, said he thinks targeting zombie cells will play a role in the overall effort to delay, stop and maybe reverse aging.

So much research suggests they promote aging that "we know that it should be true," he said.

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INMATES FROM PAGE A1

Miller said investigators determined that Dobbins and Smith carried out the scam by using contraband cellphones from inside Lee Correctional Institution.

The maximum-security facility near Bishopville is the only state prison equipped with a managed-access system that is designed to prevent inmates from using contraband cellphones, and state Department of Corrections Director Bryan Stirling on Friday acknowledged the system's failure.

"We believe that Jared had no idea that he was being blackmailed," Miller said.

Johns' parents, Kathy Bowling and Kevin Johns, told *The Greenville News* in February that they learned in the weeks after his suicide that he was the victim of an extortion attempt based around allegations of an exchange of sexually explicit photographs. Johns' parents said people posing as the parents of a 17-year-old girl who had purportedly sent their son illicit photos said they would report Johns to police unless he paid them \$1,189.

Bowling provided *The Greenville News* with copies of texts from her son's cellphone showing that the people posing as the girl's parents contacted him on the evening of Sept. 10. The person claiming to be the girl's father sent Jared Johns a final threatening text message at 11:59 a.m. on Sept. 11.

Within minutes of that exchange, Johns died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, according to Greenville County Deputy Coroner Kent Dill.

Bowling said data from her son's Apple Watch showed that his heart stopped beating at 12:03 p.m.

Bowling and Kevin Johns, who are divorced, said their son suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder after serving in Afghanistan, and they said the condition left him unable to cope with the threats that he received.

"It didn't have to happen, and it shouldn't have happened," Bowling said after Friday's news conference. "Jared was holding the gun, but to us it feels like they might as well have been holding it; they might as well have pulled the trigger."

Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins said his office looked into charging Dobbins and Smith with murder, voluntary manslaughter or involuntary manslaughter. A decision was made not to pursue those charges, he said, because "we can't prove that it was foreseeable that he (Johns) would commit suicide."

Under state law, blackmail is a felony that carries a maximum punishment of 10 years in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

Miller said an informant contacted Johns' family after his death "with specific knowledge of a dating app scam."

"This individual provided detailed information about the scam and the persons involved," he said.

The blackmail scam that the inmates

are accused of carrying out is similar to the tactics allegedly used by five other South Carolina inmates and 10 accomplices who were indicted by a federal grand jury last fall. That scheme victimized 442 military servicemen from the across the nation and netted more than \$500,000 between 2015 and early 2018, according to federal authorities.

Authorities said those inmates used contraband cellphones to visit online dating sites posing as women. They sent servicemen nude photos and asked for naked pictures of the men. Then people posing as irate fathers contacted the servicemen and told them the women that they had sent photos to were juveniles. The alleged schemers threatened to contact law enforcement officials unless they were paid off.

One of the inmates who was indicted, Jimmy Dunbar, pleaded guilty in March and is awaiting sentencing. Charges are pending against the other four inmates.

PLAN FROM PAGE A1

we need the backing of the community," Canty said. "We are working to get beyond this confrontation so that the greater mission can be achieved."

A little after 9 p.m. Monday — after a two-plus-hour executive session — board member Johnny Hilton made the motion to approve the administration's new financial recovery plan to include middle school students remaining at this year's newly minted K-8 R.E. Davis College Preparatory Academy.

Those supporting Hilton's motion included Canty, Frank Baker, Shawn Ragin and Sheril Ray. The three board members voting against the motion were Brian Alston, Matthew "Mac" McLeod and the Rev. Daryl McGhaney. Barbara Jackson, in whose district Mayewood sits, abstained.

In passing the motion and budget plan, the trustees followed financial recommendations received last week from the state Department of Education. Canty said one of those recommendations was to not reopen Mayewood.

Earlier in the meeting, when district Chief Financial Officer Jennifer Miller addressed the district's fiscal emergency re-

covery plan process, she reiterated the state Department of Education continues to say it wants to work with the district in providing "technical assistance" and doesn't anticipate taking over the district's finance department.

Miller's financial report lasted about one minute in the open session, and there were no questions from board members. Later, the trustees went into executive session behind closed doors.

The board meeting at Lake-wood High School's media center also started with a one-hour executive session at 5 p.m.

Monday night's vote ends a three-and-a-half-month debate that started Jan. 28 with a surprise board vote — later determined to be illegal according to state Freedom of Information Act laws — to reopen Mayewood for next year.

MAY 1 WAIVED FOR STUDENTS

The trustees voted unanimously to waive the day of school that was missed on May 1 for students because of a state teacher rally in Columbia. Students will not have to make up that day of school. June 7 will remain a workday for teachers and staff.

After the trustees officially voted 6-3 to reopen Mayewood at a six-hour board meeting in early February, state Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman declared a fiscal emergency in Sumter because the trustees diverted from their own fiscal caution financial recovery plan from last year.

In April 2018, the full board at the time — albeit consisting of five different trustees who changed over in the November

midterm election — voted to close Mayewood and F.J. DeLaine Elementary School in Wedgefield at the end of last school year because of what it said was low enrollment and as an effort to save money. The district is still coming out of a financial crisis from when it was revealed through the fiscal 2016 audit there was \$6.2 million in overspending and the district's fund balance had drained to \$106,449.

This year, Mayewood students — about 1% of the district-wide student enrollment — have moved to the former R.E. Davis Elementary School, which is 1.3 miles away, and the school has been renamed R.E. Davis K-8 College Preparatory Academy and operates with a magnet curriculum.

After Spearman's declaration, the board voted 7-2 to appeal it to the state Board of Ed-

ucation. On April 9, the state board voted unanimously to uphold the state superintendent's declaration and did not approve a district/trustees' financial recovery plan at the time that included reopening Mayewood.

The district spent more than \$26,000 in attorney fees alone in its appeal process.

The rejected financial budget plan for next year factored annual operating costs for Mayewood Middle at \$295,000.

During the last two years, the district has built its fund balance back up. According to Miller's calculations, it is projected to be about \$9.4 million as of June 30. According to a 2017 state law, the district is required to have one month's operating expenditures in its fund balance by June 30, 2020. Miller estimates that to be about \$10.7 million.

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COMMENTARY

United Way is making a difference

May is Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month, and it's an opportunity to take a moment to reflect on the accomplishments of prevention educators in our community. Since the year 2000, Sumter County's teen births have decreased from 387 per thousand to 125 per thousand, according to the county data report from the South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. This is a direct reflection of a concerted effort to educate and discourage early sexual exploration of youth between the ages of 9 and 19 in our county.



Melanie Dees

You may say teens should not be having sex, and we agree. While we all would love for youth to abstain from sexual exploration before marriage, not every young person will get that memo. Some think once they have finished high school their actions don't matter or nothing will happen to them. However, one student getting pregnant or getting a sexually transmitted disease prior to adulthood is one too many, and it impacts the economic stability of the county and could send the teen into a life of poverty. A premature pregnancy often begins or continues a cycle of poverty.

Children born to teen mothers experience a wide range of problems. They are more likely to:

- Have a higher risk for low birth weight and infant mortality;
- Have lower levels of emotional support and cognitive stimulation;
- Have fewer skills and be less prepared to learn when they enter kindergarten;
- Have behavioral problems and chronic medical conditions;
- Rely more heavily on publicly funded health care;
- Have higher rates of foster care placement;
- Be incarcerated at some time during adolescence;
- Have lower school achievement and drop out of high school;
- Give birth as a teen; or
- Be unemployed or underemployed as a young adult.

(<https://bit.ly/2BFoIFB>)
For example, Jane became a single parent at age 16 (age of consent in South Carolina) and did not finish school. Upon dropping out of school to take care of her child, Jane does not have a job, and thus she has no income. Therefore, she has to rely on public assistance such as public housing if she needs a place to stay and food from the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Women, Infants and Children program for her and the baby. Because she does not have insurance, she will receive Medicaid for health care services. If Jane's life continues on the current cycle, when her child is enrolled in school she may not be prepared and could fall behind academically, leading to repeating a grade or two. Once Jane's child reaches high school, she may be older than her peers, and the potential for dropping out increases, as does teen pregnancy. The cycle of poverty continues.

This equation is often one sided. Most often young men are not considered nor encouraged to participate when discussing teen pregnancy, but they contribute to the issue. The female gets pregnant and has the responsibility to care for the baby. The father may go on to father other children without any real consequences unless he has had a DNA test (at a private cost of \$600 or more) and has been required to pay child support.

In 2015 in the United States, teen fatherhood occurred at a rate of 10.4 births per 1,000 to men in the 15- to 19-year-old age group (<https://bit.ly/2HK5jQZ>). Young men are vital factors when discussing teen pregnancy and early parenting, which can lead to poverty. Males should be included in contraceptive decision-making conversations, which will lead to a decrease in pregnancies and STDs.

Fatherhood is not for the faint of heart. Prior to the child being born or while the mother is still in the hospital giving birth, the unmarried father can sign a Paternity Acknowledgement Affidavit, and the mother must sign as well stating he is the biological father. At this time, the father has a say in the naming of the child. If he signs the birth certificate but does not sign the Paternity Acknowledgement Affidavit, this does not declare him as the biological father. If the affidavit is not signed in the hospital and the father wishes to

sign it later, there is a \$15 charge. If the mother is unwilling to sign the paternity affidavit, the father can complete a Non-Custodial Parent Application for Services at the Department of Social Services for a \$25 fee, and the DNA test is free and is accurate. It is in the best interest of a teen father to establish paternity when possible (<https://bit.ly/2Hj6s1W>).

- As a teen father, the young man is:
- Legally responsible for any child fathered.
 - Able to get a DNA test at no cost anytime up to age 18.
 - In some cases able to get custody of the child.
 - Going to pay child support even if the father thinks he can't afford it, is a student or joins the military.
 - To pay child support even if he doesn't want to, or the money can be taken out of his paycheck, income taxes or any other sources of income.
 - Legally responsible to pay and by failing to pay child support his credit may be damaged, and he could lose professional driving privileges.

Being a father is a joy when you are financially and emotionally ready for the responsibility.

(Men, Babies and the Law Brochure, JourneyWorks Publishing; Santa Cruz, California).

Currently, young adults 18-19 years old are the cause for high rates of teen pregnancy in Sumter County. Many of these young people have finished high school and see themselves as adults, but they are financially immature. For the year 2017, 77 pregnancies were in Sumter County youth 18-19 years old who may require federal, state or local assistance, which increases the burden on taxpayers. At the highest rate of teen pregnancy (2000), South Carolina paid \$570 million in public assistance for families started by teens, resulting in \$824 million lost as a result of an uneducated workforce (S.C. Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy).

In 2015, Sumter County could have seen \$998,000 in public savings if the 114 unplanned pregnancies resulting in births among teens were avoided (<https://bit.ly/2paGmUF>).

Each May during Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and the S.C. Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy join organizations

across the country to raise awareness about teen pregnancy prevention. National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month highlights the historic declines in the rates of teen pregnancy and births in the United States. While South Carolina teen birth rates have declined by 70% from 1991-2017, our state still has the 16th-highest teen birth rate in the United States (2017) (<https://www.teenpregnancysc.org/theissue>).

United Way of Sumter, Clarendon and Lee Counties has invested in pregnancy prevention and youth development for the past 19 years. United Way continues to find ways to reach the youth of the county while working with Sumter School District and local colleges through community health fairs and celebrations, including the faith-based community. When teens are given proper information, encouragement and counseling, the pregnancies will continue to decrease while increasing the financial savings to Sumter County. United Way is attempting to avert the pregnancies for the undecided youth with information and resources. In 2015, teen pregnancy for the state was down by more than 7,444 pregnancies, a \$8.5 million savings in public funding (<https://bit.ly/2LCXQHE>).

An investment in teen pregnancy prevention is an investment in the sustainability of the community, which is achieved through improved educational attainment and employment and a decrease in STDs and pregnancies. It is to the benefit of parents, youth, the faith community, schools and businesses to pull together to prevent teen pregnancy; we cannot do it alone.

If you would like more information or to donate to this cause, send your check or money order to United Way of Sumter, Clarendon and Lee Counties, 215 N. Washington St., Sumter SC 29150. If you are a male and would love to make a difference in a child's life as a volunteer mentor, call (803) 773-7935, extension 113, or visit the above address.

Creating a brighter future for children and the community is an investment on the front end.

Melanie Dees is the director of the Diamonds Youth Development Program with United Way of Sumter, Clarendon and Lee Counties.

WHO REPRESENTS YOU

SUMTER COUNTY COUNCIL
DISTRICT 1
Christopher F. Sumpter II
1200 Broad St., PMB 180
Sumter, SC 29154
(803) 305-9375 (cell)
csumpter@sumtercountysc.org

DISTRICT 2
Artie Baker
3680 Bakersfield Lane
Dalzell, SC 29040
(803) 469-3638 (home)

DISTRICT 3, VICE CHAIRMAN
James Byrd Jr.
PO Box 1913
Sumter, SC 29151
(803) 468-1719 (cell)
(803) 436-2108 (fax)
jbyrd@sumtercountysc.org

DISTRICT 4
Charles T. Edens
3250 Home Place Road
Sumter, SC 29150
(803) 775-0044 (home)
(803) 236-5759 (cell)
charlestedens@gmail.com

DISTRICT 5
Vivian Fleming-McGhane
9770 Lynchess River Road
Lynchburg, SC 29080
(803) 437-2797 (home)
(803) 495-3247 (office)
vmcghane@sumtercountysc.org

DISTRICT 6, CHAIRMAN
James T. McCain Jr.
317 W. Bartlette St.
Sumter, SC 29150
(803) 773-2353 (home)
(803) 607-2777 (cell)
jmccain@sumtercountysc.org

DISTRICT 7
Eugene Baten
PO Box 3193
Sumter, SC 29151
(803) 773-0815 (home)
council@sumtercountysc.org

SUMTER CITY COUNCIL MAYOR
Joseph T. McElveen Jr.
20 Buford St.
Sumter, SC 29150
(803) 436-2580
jmcelveen@sumtersc.gov

WARD 1
Thomas J. Lowery
829 Legare St.
Sumter, SC 29150
(803) 773-9298
tlowery@sumtersc.gov

WARD 2
Ione Dwyer
PO Box 1492
Sumter, SC 29151
(803) 481-4284
idywyer@sumtersc.gov

WARD 3
Calvin K. Hastie Sr.
810 S. Main St.
Sumter, SC 29150
(803) 774-7776
chastie@sumtersc.gov

WARD 4
Steven Corley
115 Radcliff Drive
Sumter, SC 29150
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Colin Davis
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District 67
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(803) 469-4416

murrellsmith@chouse.gov

Rep. J. David Weeks, D-Sumter
District 51
330C Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 775-5856 (business)
(803) 734-3102 (Columbia)

Sen. Gerald Malloy, D-Darlington
District 29
513 Gressette Bldg.
Columbia 29201
(843) 332-5533
(803) 212-6172 (Columbia)

Sen. Kevin L. Johnson, D-Manning
District 36
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(803) 435-8117 (home)
(803) 212-6024 (Columbia)

Sen. J. Thomas McElveen III, D-Sumter
District 35
508 Gressette Building
(803) 775-1263 (business)
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NATIONAL LAWMAKERS

Rep. Ralph Norman — 5th District
2350 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-5501
1115 Little St.
Camden, SC 29020

Rep. Jim Clyburn — 6th District
242 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-3315
1225 Lady St., Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 799-1100
jdyburn@hr.house.gov

Sen. Lindsey Graham
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-5972
Midlands Regional Office
508 Hampton Street, Suite 202
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 933-0112 (main)

Sen. Tim Scott
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-6121
(202) 228-5143 (fax)
1901 Main St., Suite 1425
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 771-6112
(803) 771-6455 (fax)



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.

SUPPORT GROUPS

AA, AL-ANON, ALATEEN:

AA — Monday-Friday, noon and 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., 1 Warren St., (803) 775-1852.

AA Women's Meeting — Wednesday, 7 p.m., 1 Warren St., (803) 775-1852.

AA Spanish Speaking — Sunday, 4:30 p.m., 1 Warren St., (803) 775-1852.

AA "How it Works" Group — Monday and Friday, 8 p.m., 1154 Ronda St., (803) 494-5180.

441 AA Support Group — Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 8 p.m., Hair Force, 2090-D S.C. 441.

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

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

Al-Anon "Seekers of Serenity" — Mondays, 7 p.m., 1 Warren St., (803) 720-1747

MONDAY MEETINGS:

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

TUESDAY MEETINGS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mothers of Angels (for mothers who have lost a child)

— Third Tuesday at 6 p.m., Wise Drive Baptist Church, (803) 469-6059, (803) 979-4498 or (803) 316-4506.

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

WEDNESDAY MEETINGS:

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

Divorce Care and Grief Share — Two separate groups that meet Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., Bethel Baptist Church, 2401 Bethel Church Road, (803) 481-2160.

THURSDAY MEETINGS:

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

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

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

Women (Only) Support Group "Moving from Bitter to Better" — Third Thursday, 7-8:30 p.m., Next Generation Church, 741 Bultman Drive, Unit 8. For ages 18 and older. Call (843) 327-0393 or email joeannaiken@yahoo.com.

FRIDAY MEETINGS:

Celebrate Recovery — Fridays, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. program, Salt & Light Church, 360 Miller Road. Help with struggles of addictions, family problems, etc.

SATURDAY MEETINGS:

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

SUNDAY MEETINGS:

Sumter MS Support Group — First Sunday, 3 p.m., Wise Drive Baptist Church fellowship hall, 2751 S. Wise Drive, (803) 481-5344 or (803) 464-6440. Email I.am.me.not.ms@gmail.com or msmiles013@gmail.com.

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2019

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly sunny and nice	Mainly clear	Mostly sunny and pleasant	Mostly sunny	Sunny to partly cloudy	Mostly sunny and warm
76°	58°	84° / 64°	91° / 67°	93° / 68°	91° / 66°
Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 5%	Chance of rain: 15%
NNE 4-8 mph	SSE 2-4 mph	WSW 6-12 mph	WSW 6-12 mph	W 4-8 mph	S 4-8 mph

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

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

IN THE MOUNTAINS

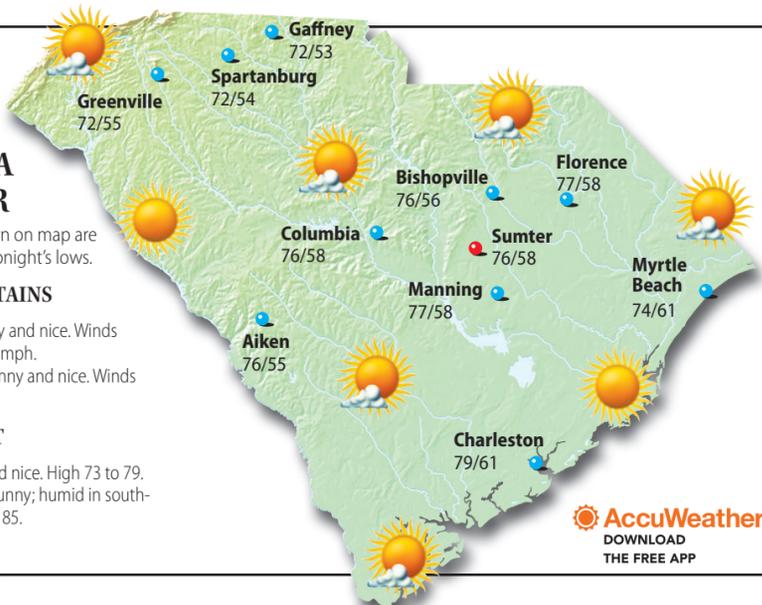
Today: Mostly sunny and nice. Winds south-southeast 4-8 mph.

Thursday: Partly sunny and nice. Winds southwest 3-6 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: Sunshine and nice. High 73 to 79.

Thursday: Mostly sunny; humid in southern parts. High 79 to 85.



AccuWeather
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LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THROUGH 2 P.M. YESTERDAY

Temperature	High	Low	Normal high	Normal low	Record high	Record low
71°	71°	55°	81°	57°	97° in 1956	44° in 1960

Precipitation	24 hrs ending 2 p.m. yest.	Month to date	Normal month to date	Year to date	Last year to date	Normal year to date
0.00"	0.00"	2.30"	1.36"	11.99"	9.47"	15.71"

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	357.98	-0.01
Marion	76.8	75.64	+0.01
Moultrie	75.5	74.95	none
Wateree	100	98.74	+0.22

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	7.10	-0.15
Congaree River	19	6.69	-1.36
Lynchies River	14	7.55	-0.34
Saluda River	14	6.91	+1.53
Up. Santee River	80	79.35	+0.23
Wateree River	24	16.79	+1.08

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	6:21 a.m.	Sunset	8:16 p.m.
Moonrise	4:58 p.m.	Moonset	4:32 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
May 18	May 26	June 3	June 10

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH				
	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	6:43 a.m.	3.2	1:19 a.m.	-0.1
	7:27 p.m.	3.4	1:43 p.m.	-0.3
Thu.	7:39 a.m.	3.1	2:18 a.m.	-0.2
	8:20 p.m.	3.6	2:34 p.m.	-0.5

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Thu.
Atlanta	77/62/s	83/66/pc
Chicago	73/54/pc	79/56/pc
Dallas	85/66/pc	85/69/pc
Detroit	72/49/pc	70/60/sh
Houston	84/64/pc	84/67/t
Los Angeles	72/60/pc	65/53/r
New Orleans	84/68/s	86/69/s
New York	65/54/pc	68/55/pc
Orlando	84/65/pc	87/64/pc
Philadelphia	70/55/pc	72/57/pc
Phoenix	100/72/pc	91/61/pc
San Francisco	66/53/r	61/53/r
Wash., DC	73/58/pc	75/60/pc

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Thu.	City	Today	Thu.
Asheville	69/50/s	77/53/pc	Florence	77/58/s	85/64/s
Athens	75/57/s	83/63/pc	Gainesville	88/64/pc	90/66/pc
Augusta	80/57/s	86/64/s	Gastonia	73/54/s	80/59/pc
Beaufort	79/64/s	85/69/s	Goldboro	75/55/s	82/63/s
Cape Hatteras	71/62/s	78/70/pc	Goose Creek	78/59/s	83/67/s
Charleston	79/61/s	83/68/s	Greensboro	72/53/s	78/60/pc
Charlotte	74/55/s	81/62/pc	Greenville	72/55/s	81/60/pc
Clemson	71/56/s	81/59/pc	Hickory	71/52/s	78/56/pc
Columbia	76/58/s	84/64/s	Hilton Head	76/64/s	81/71/s
Darlington	77/57/s	84/63/s	Jacksonville, FL	82/61/s	86/64/s
Elizabeth City	74/59/s	81/63/pc	La Grange	81/60/s	85/63/pc
Elizabethtown	76/56/s	83/64/s	Macon	81/57/s	85/63/s
Fayetteville	77/55/s	84/62/s	Marietta	76/59/s	82/62/pc
			Marion	70/49/s	78/53/pc
			Mt. Pleasant	77/63/s	82/70/s
			Myrtle Beach	74/61/s	80/69/s
			Orangeburg	76/56/s	84/63/s
			Port Royal	78/64/s	83/70/s
			Raleigh	73/54/s	79/60/s
			Rock Hill	74/54/s	81/60/s
			Rockingham	75/54/s	82/60/s
			Savannah	80/62/s	86/66/s
			Spartanburg	72/54/s	80/58/pc
			Summerville	78/57/s	83/65/s
			Wilmington	76/58/s	82/67/pc
			Winston-Salem	72/54/s	78/60/pc

PUBLIC AGENDA

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

CLARENDON SCHOOL DISTRICT 3
Thursday, 7:30 p.m., district office, Turbeville

The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Personal changes can be made if you

delve into something you've been contemplating for some time. Pay close attention to your relationships with others, and do something nice for someone you love. Romance is highlighted and will improve your personal life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Live and learn. How you deal with peers and relatives will make a difference to the response you receive. Use charm and common sense to guide others to see things your way. Don't share secrets or personal information.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Everyone has problems, but that doesn't mean you should let others bring you down or treat you poorly. Look for opportunities that will encourage you to be with positive people. Walk away from emotional manipulation and unsavory situations.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep moving forward, regardless of what's going on in your personal life. Concentrate on helping others and doing your best to achieve goals. A partnership should be helpful, not destructive. Aim to make the most with what you've got.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take care of responsibilities before someone complains. Once your chores are out of the way, find a way to relax or get involved in something you feel passionate about. Avoid joint ventures, and don't jeopardize a good friendship.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Set your sights on what you want, and don't look back. How you handle your past or intertwine it into the present and the future will be crucial to the way things unfold at work and at home.

Question indulgent behavior.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Ask questions of older relatives or people who may have knowledge of your ancestors or family background. What you discover will open up a world of new interests and opportunity. Understanding your past will help you appreciate the present.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep a lid on your plans until you have everything in place. A personal change you want to make can be initiated. How you go about your business will reflect your financial future. Fair play will encourage less resentment and opposition.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Honesty and integrity will be essential when dealing with personal relationships. State facts, and refuse to get into an argument with someone who uses emotional tactics or excessive behavior to pressure you. Don't let upset affect your efficiency.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Listen carefully. You'll have to read between the lines when dealing with a peer, friend or relative. Listen for any discrepancy that can alert you to underhandedness. Make alterations at home that will ease stress.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look over your investments or any dealings you have with courts, banks or other institutions. By taking action, you will make your position clear. Someone from your past will offer an interesting alternative. Verify the plausibility before taking action.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep life simple. Follow through with promises, and avoid arguments with loved ones, bosses or anyone who could affect your reputation or status. Someone you've worked with will suggest an interesting option.

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SUMTER ANIMAL CONTROL PETS OF THE WEEK



SUMTER ANIMAL CONTROL NEEDS YOUR HELP. The animal control volunteers are looking for people to help walk dogs, foster or help with transport. We desperately need 9 a.m. Monday – Friday walkers. Message us if interested. Must be at least 18 years old. Don't have extra time to be a volunteer? We gladly accept donations of the following: newspapers, puppy pads, canned and dry puppy food, paper towels, Clorox wipes and heavy duty slip leashes. You can also donate from our Amazon Wishlist under Saving Sumter's Strays at <https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/100Q422KAOMI19>. All donations go toward helping Sumter County dogs. Our all-volunteer organization is making a big difference in the lives of so many homeless pets. Please help us continue to save animals.

Calling all puppy lovers. These two cuties, approximately 4 to 6 months old, are brother and sister. Tanner weighs 18 pounds and Trudy weighs 15 pounds. They are a little underweight and appear to have been neglected. Both were a little afraid and shy when they arrived at the shelter but have quickly learned to trust the volunteers. They have blossomed into friendly and happy puppies who enjoy spending time outside the kennel with the other dogs. It did not take long for Tanner and Trudy to learn to walk on a leash. They love to sit and snuggle with the volunteers. These two adorable babies will make perfect additions to any family. Tanner is in kennel 18 and Trudy is in kennel 34 at Sumter Animal Control, 1240 Winkles Road. As with all of our adoptable dogs, we do require a spay or neuter agreement, and it is strictly enforced. Proof of spay/neuter after adoption will be required. We have many other adoptable dogs as well as animals who were found and are waiting for their owners to claim them. Check Sumter Animal Control on Facebook. Call the adoption coordinator at (803) 774-3232 to set up a meet and greet or email at rescuemtersc@gmail.com.

PREP SOFTBALL

Winner takes all for SCISA 3A title

Cardinal Newman tops Wilson Hall 7-0 to force Game 3 today at USC

BY DENNIS BRUNSON
dennis@theitem.com

Wilson Hall and Cardinal Newman will play a third and deciding game for the SCISA 3A softball state title on Wednesday after the Lady Cardinals picked up a 7-0 win on Tuesday at the CN field in Columbia to even the best-of-3 series.

The deciding game will be played today at 6 p.m. in Columbia, but at the University of South Carolina's Beckham Field.

Cardinal Newman will bring a 22-4 record into the contest, while the Lady Barons will be 12-16.

On Monday at Patriot Park SportPlex, Sophie Greene dropped a bases-loaded single into left field after fouling off six pitches with two strikes to put the Lady Barons on top in a 3-run bottom of the sixth inning in a 4-2 win.

"It was a little bit stressful up there," said Greene, an eighth-grade shortstop. "I was just focused on getting a hit. I wasn't trying to hit it out. I was just trying to help my team."

"I'd say we're doing a good job of staying the course that we set over the weekend (in the state tournament)," said Wilson Hall head coach Tere-



MARK MORGAN / SPECIAL TO THE SUMTER ITEM

Wilson Hall's Carly Allred tries to get down a bunt in the Lady Barons' 4-2 victory over Cardinal Newman in the opening game of the SCISA 3A state championship series on Monday in Sumter. Cardinal Newman won Game 2 on Tuesday 7-0 to force a deciding game that will be played at the University of South Carolina's Beckham Field in Columbia on Wednesday beginning at 6 p.m.

sa Alexander. "I think we're just a team that is confident in what we can do right now."

The Lady Barons, who beat Cardinal Newman 16-13 on Friday, trailed 2-1 going into

its at-bat in the sixth. Lady Cardinals pitcher Carsten Puckett retired Caitleigh Bryant to start the inning. However, Sydney Jarecki was able to drop a single into center field between the in-

fielders and outfielders to start the WH rally because the outfield was playing so deep.

Andie Grae Wingate followed with a single to send Jarecki to third. Ellie Stone

then one-hopped a double to the fence in left, easily scoring Jarecki to tie the game and sending Wingate to third.

SEE HALL, PAGE B6

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

PGA a new major challenge for Woods with a familiar look

BY DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. — Tiger Woods, the Masters champion, going for the second leg of the Grand Slam on a long, wet course at Bethpage Black.

It all sounds so familiar. For Woods, it feels entirely different.

The PGA Championship now occupies the second slot in the major championship schedule given its move to May for the first time since 1949, and with only a month between majors, Woods chose not to play a tournament since winning his fifth green jacket.

He is every bit the global superstar he was in 2002 when he followed a Masters victory with a U.S. Open title at Bethpage Black, but he is not No. 1 in the world. And along with being 43, he is two years removed from fusion surgery on his lower back, and some days he doesn't move as well as others.

"There's more days I feel older than my age than I do younger than my age," Woods said.

The new version of an older Tiger is more than capable.

He showed that last September



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tiger Woods will be going for his second straight major title when the PGA Championship begins on Thursday in Farmingdale, New York. Woods won The Masters last month.

when he won the Tour Championship at East Lake, his first victory since going through four back surgeries. And he showed in April, with his 15th major, that he was capable of challenging the Jack Nicklaus standard of

18 majors.

Still to be determined is whether Woods can be the dominant force he had been for a dozen years.

"I'm not looking at it like that," Woods said. "Whether I'm dominant or

not going forward, that remains to be seen. What I know is I need to give myself the best chance to win the events I play in, and sometimes that can be taking a little bit more breaks here and there, and making sure that I am ready to go and being able to give it my best at those events."

Of the top 10 players in the world, Woods (No. 6) and Bryson DeChambeau (No. 8) are the only ones who have not played since the Masters.

This will be only the seventh time that Woods has gone major to major without having played somewhere in between, with mixed results. The most famous was in 2008 when he showed up at Torrey Pines for the U.S. Open on a shattered left leg and won in a playoff.

What held him back this time was emotional exhaustion from a moment in golf that won't be soon forgotten. Lucas Glover had gone to the movies, taped the final round and was teary-eyed at the end, especially when Woods hugged his son. Brooks Koepka, whose last hope ended when he missed a 10-foot birdie putt on the 18th, recalls being in the scoring area, unable to keep his eyes off the TV.

SEE PGA, PAGE B4

PREP BASEBALL

Cavaliers ride on in 2A playoffs

BY EDDIE LITAKER
Special to The Sumter Item

BISHOPVILLE — Total obliteration.

The bottom of the first inning of Monday's SCISA 2A baseball game between Robert E. Lee Academy and Colleton Prep seemed more like an extended batting practice than the first game of a best-of-3 state championship series as the Cavaliers sent 17 men to the plate and put up 12 runs on the way to a 15-0, 3-inning dismantling of the Warhawks.

The series was slated to continue on Tuesday at Colleton Prep's home field in Walterboro. A third game, if necessary, to be played on Thursday at a neutral site as the Cava-

liers looked to take the title after finishing as runners-up the past two seasons.

Monday's game lasted just 1 hour, 5 minutes, and many were still

searching for a parking spot around the packed REL campus when Keaton Price launched a grand slam home run that put the Cavaliers up 5-0 and seemingly opened the floodgates.

Price would add an RBI single in his second plate appearance for a rare 5-RBI inning.

"The first inning we said we were going to come out strong, come out thinking to win the ball game and



RANKIN

SEE REL, PAGE B6

PREP TRACK AND FIELD

Scott's Branch's Wimberly wins titles

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Mary Wimberly of Scott's Branch High School won both the 800- and 1,600-meter runs in the SCHSL 1A girls track and field state meet on Friday and Saturday at Spring Valley High's Harry Parone Stadium in Columbia.

Malik Richardson of Lakewood and Kardaisha Brunson of Crestwood both had second-place finishes in the 100- and 200-meter dashes in the respective boys and girls 4A state meets as well.

Wimberly won the 800 in a time of 2 minutes, 40.81 seconds while claiming the 1600 in 6:05.24. She helped the Lady Eagles to finish in a 3-way tie for seven out of 20 teams scoring points with 38. Governor's School won with 73 points.

In the 4A boys meet, Richardson finished second in the 100 in a time of 10.73 seconds and was second in the 200 in 21.61. Jalen Clea, who won the 4A state title in the high jump as a junior, finished fifth with a jump of 6 feet, 2 inches.



WIMBERLY

The Gators finished ninth out of 33 teams with 23.50 points.

Crestwood was 18th with 13 points, while Beaufort won with 93.

Crestwood was led by Terrance McClain, who finished third in the shot put with a toss of 47-07.25.

In the girls 4A meet, Brunson had a second-place time of 12.01 in the

SEE TRACK, PAGE B6

AUTO RACING

IndyCar and NASCAR roar into showcase month of May

BY JENNA FRYER

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE — The most prolific month in motorsports arrived with two strong races with IndyCar and NASCAR both opening May with momentum-grabbing entertaining events that should carry the series through their Memorial Day showcases.

Simon Pagenaud, his future with Team Penske shaky because of a 21-race losing streak, stalked five-time IndyCar champion Scott Dixon in the rain around Indianapolis Motor Speedway in the closing laps of its road course race. Then the Frenchman completed a phenomenal late pass to win the Grand Prix and prove he's fighting hard for his job.

Hours later at Kansas Speedway, Brad Keselowski closed out one of the more entertaining NASCAR races of the season with an overtime victory that gave team owner Roger Penske a sweep of the day. More specifically, six different Penske drivers tallied five victories in four series spanning nine days to open May — The Captain's favorite time of the year.

Penske, a 17-time winner of the Indianapolis 500, this year celebrates the 50th anniversary of his first Indy entry.

This is a celebratory month for motorsports, a time for series to shine leading into the Sunday before Memorial Day, considered the biggest single



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brad Keselowski celebrates his Monster Energy Cup Series victory at Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Kansas, on Saturday. The month of May is a big month for both NASCAR and the Indy Racing League.

day of racing in the world. Formula One will scream through the streets of Monaco early May 26, then IndyCar and "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing" take the stage at IMS. NASCAR closes the day with the Coca-Cola 600, a grueling race of attrition and one of the few remaining crown jewel events on the schedule.

The stage is set for IndyCar and NASCAR to dazzle a new audience, make new fans, and prove racing isn't a dying sport.

Both series got strong starts with last Saturday's doubleheader, a Pagenaud and Keselowski sweep, and the anticipation carries into Tuesday when Indianapolis officially opens for the 500. IndyCar is enjoying a

resurgence and slow, steady growth in both the series and its spotlight event.

McLaren is entering the 500 as an independent entry — the first McLaren at Indy since 1976 — and Fernando Alonso, the popular retired Formula One champion, is back for a second attempt at winning the "Triple Crown." Oriol Servia was expected to become the 36th entrant, which means real bumping in this weekend's qualifying. Three drivers won't make the 500, and Penske has joined Michael Andretti and Chip Ganassi among the heavyweight owners wondering if IndyCar's full-time teams should be exempt from bumping.

SCOREBOARD

TV, RADIO

TODAY

1 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Los Angeles Angels at Minnesota (MLB NETWORK).

2:30 p.m. — International Soccer: Italian Serie A Match — Atlanta vs. Lazio (ESPN2).

4 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Toronto at San Francisco or Pittsburgh at Arizona (MLB NETWORK).

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

7 p.m. — Major League Baseball: St. Louis at Atlanta (ESPN, WWFN-FM 100.1, WPUB-FM 102.7).

8 p.m. — International Soccer: Chelsea at New England (FOX SPORTS 1)

8 p.m. — NHL Hockey: Stanley Cup Playoffs Western Conference Finals Series Match 3 — San Jose at St. Louis (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).

8:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Eastern Conference Playoffs Finals Series Game 1 — Toronto at Milwaukee (TNT).

10 p.m. — Major League Baseball: San Diego at Los Angeles Dodgers or Texas at Kansas City (MLB NETWORK).

NBA PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE FINALS

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

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Toronto vs. Milwaukee

Wednesday, May 15: Toronto at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.

Friday, May 17: Toronto at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 19: Milwaukee at Toronto, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 21: Milwaukee at Toronto, 8:30 p.m.

x-Thursday, May 23: Toronto at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.

x-Saturday, May 25: Milwaukee at Toronto, 8:30 p.m.

x-Monday, May 27: Toronto at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Portland vs. Golden State

Tuesday, May 14: Portland at Golden State, 9 p.m.

Thursday, May 16: Portland at Golden State, 9 p.m.

Saturday, May 18: Golden State at Portland, 9 p.m.

Monday, May 20: Golden State at Portland, 9 p.m.

x-Wednesday, May 22: Portland at Golden State, 9 p.m.

x-Friday, May 24: Golden State at Portland, 9 p.m.

x-Sunday, May 26: Portland at Golden State, 9 p.m.

NHL PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE FINALS

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

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Boston 2, Carolina 0

Thursday, May 9: Boston 5, Carolina 2

Sunday, May 12: Boston 6, Carolina 2

Tuesday, May 14: Boston at Carolina, 8 p.m.

Thursday, May 16: Boston at Carolina, 8 p.m.

x-Saturday, May 18: Carolina at Boston, 7:15 p.m.

x-Monday, May 20: Boston at Carolina, 8 p.m.

x-Wednesday, May 22: Carolina at Boston, 8 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

San Jose 1, St. Louis 1

Saturday, May 11: San Jose 6, St. Louis 3

Monday, May 13: St. Louis 4, San Jose 2

Wednesday, May 15: San Jose at St. Louis, 8 p.m.

Friday, May 17: San Jose at St. Louis, 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 19: St. Louis at San Jose, 3 p.m.

x-Tuesday, May 21: San Jose at St. Louis, 8 p.m.

x-Thursday, May 23: St. Louis at San Jose, 9 p.m.

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	24	15	.615	—
New York	24	16	.600	½
Boston	22	19	.537	3
Toronto	16	24	.400	8½
Baltimore	14	26	.350	10½

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	25	15	.625	—
Cleveland	22	19	.537	3½
Chicago	19	22	.463	6½
Detroit	18	21	.462	6½
Kansas City	14	27	.341	11½

West Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	27	15	.643	—
Los Angeles	20	21	.488	6½
Seattle	21	23	.477	7
Texas	17	21	.447	8
Oakland	19	24	.442	8½

MONDAY'S GAMES

Baltimore at N.Y. Yankees, p.p.d.

Houston 8, Detroit 1

L.A. Angels 5, Minnesota 4

Chicago White Sox 5, Cleveland 2

Seattle 6, Oakland 5, 10 innings

TUESDAY'S GAMES

Baltimore at N.Y. Yankees, p.p.d.

Cleveland 9, Chicago White Sox 0

Colorado at Boston, 7:10 p.m.

Houston at Detroit, 7:10 p.m.

Tampa Bay at Miami, 7:10 p.m.

L.A. Angels at Minnesota, 7:40 p.m.

Texas at Kansas City, 8:15 p.m.

Toronto at San Francisco, 9:45 p.m.

Oakland at Seattle, 10:10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

L.A. Angels (Cahill 2-3) at Minnesota (Odorizzi 5-2), 1:10 p.m.

Baltimore (TBD) at N.Y. Yankees (German 7-1), 3:05 p.m., 1st game

Toronto (TBD) at San Francisco (TBD), 3:45 p.m.

Baltimore (Straily 1-3) at N.Y. Yankees (TBD), 6:35 p.m., 2nd game

Colorado (Marquez 4-2) at Boston (Rodriguez 4-2), 7:10 p.m.

Houston (Verlander 6-1) at Detroit (TBD), 7:10 p.m.

Tampa Bay (TBD) at Miami (Urena 1-5), 7:10 p.m.

Texas (Minor 3-3) at Kansas City (Lopez 0-4), 8:15 p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Oakland at Detroit, 1:10 p.m.

Texas at Kansas City, 1:15 p.m.

Baltimore at Cleveland, 6:10 p.m.

Toronto at Chicago White Sox, 8:10 p.m.

Minnesota at Seattle, 10:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	24	16	.600	—
Atlanta	21	20	.512	3½
New York	19	20	.487	4½
Washington	16	24	.400	8
Miami	10	29	.256	13½

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	24	14	.632	—
Milwaukee	22	19	.558	2½
St. Louis	22	19	.537	3½
Pittsburgh	20	18	.526	4
Cincinnati	18	23	.439	7½

West Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	27	16	.628	—
Arizona	23	19	.548	3½
San Diego	22	19	.537	4
Colorado	19	21	.475	6½
San Francisco	17	23	.425	8½

MONDAY'S GAMES

Philadelphia 7, Milwaukee 4

Arizona 9, Pittsburgh 3

TUESDAY'S GAMES

Chicago Cubs at Cincinnati, 6:40 p.m.

Milwaukee at Philadelphia, 7:05 p.m.

N.Y. Mets at Washington, 7:05 p.m.

Colorado at Boston, 7:10 p.m.

Tampa Bay at Miami, 7:10 p.m.

St. Louis at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.

Pittsburgh at Arizona, 9:40 p.m.

Toronto at San Francisco, 9:45 p.m.

San Diego at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

Pittsburgh (Archer 1-2) at Arizona (Greinke 5-1), 3:40 p.m.

Toronto (TBD) at San Francisco (TBD), 3:45 p.m.

Chicago Cubs (Darvish 2-3) at Cincinnati (Gray 0-4), 6:40 p.m.

Milwaukee (Gonzalez 1-0) at Philadelphia (Arrieta 4-3), 7:05 p.m.

N.Y. Mets (Font 1-0) at Washington (Corbin 3-1), 7:05 p.m.

Colorado (Marquez 4-2) at Boston (Rodriguez 4-2), 7:10 p.m.

Tampa Bay (TBD) at Miami (Urena 1-5), 7:10 p.m.

St. Louis (Wacha 3-0) at Atlanta (Soroka 3-1), 7:20 p.m.

San Diego (Strahm 1-2) at L.A. Dodgers (Maeda 4-2), 10:10 p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Milwaukee at Philadelphia, 1:05 p.m.

N.Y. Mets at Washington, 1:05 p.m.

Chicago Cubs at Cincinnati, 6:40 p.m.

St. Louis at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.

Pittsburgh at San Diego, 10:10 p.m.

MLB LEADERS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BATTING_Devers, Boston, .336; Brantley, Houston, .333; LeMahieu, New York, .333; Andrus, Texas, .327; Polanco, Minnesota, .327; Springer, Houston, .323; Anderson, Chicago, .320; Dozier, Kansas City, .318; Mancini, Baltimore, .318; Reddick, Houston, .315.

RUNS_Springer, Houston, 36; Haniger, Seattle, 34; Betts, Boston, 33; Merrifield, Kansas City, 30; Bogaerts, Boston, 29; Encarnacion, Seattle, 29; Moncada, Chicago, 29; Garcia, Chicago, 28; Trout, Los Angeles, 28; 3 tied at 27.

RBI_Springer, Houston, 38; Santana, Seattle, 37; Abreu, Chicago, 36; Bregman, Houston, 33; Mondesi, Kansas City, 33; Rosario, Minnesota, 32; Agordon, Kansas City, 31; Voit, New York, 30; Brantley, Houston, 29; Moreland, Boston, 29.

HITS_Brantley, Houston, 53; Springer, Houston, 53; Simmons, Los Angeles, 51; Andrus, Texas, 50; Devers, Boston, 50; Polanco, Minnesota, 49; Anderson, Chicago, 48; Merrifield, Kansas City, 48; Santana, Seattle, 48; 2 tied at 47.

DOUBLES_Buxton, Minnesota, 17; Healy, Seattle, 16; Mancini, Baltimore, 13; Castellanos, Detroit, 12; Correa, Houston, 12; Devers, Boston, 12; Haniger, Seattle, 12; Polanco, Minnesota, 12; Simmons, Los Angeles, 12; 7 tied at 11.

TRIPLES_Merrifield, Kansas City, 6; Mondesi, Kansas City, 6; Kiermaier, Tampa Bay, 4; Polanco, Minnesota, 4; Castellanos, Detroit, 3; Dozier, Kansas City, 3; 12 tied at 2.

HOME RUNS_Springer, Houston, 15; Bregman, Houston, 13; Rosario, Minnesota, 13; Bruce, Seattle, 12; Davis, Oakland, 12; Encarnacion, Seattle, 12;

Gallo, Texas, 12; Moreland, Boston, 12; Sanchez, New York, 11; 8 tied at 10.

STOLEN BASES_Anderson, Chicago, 13; Mondesi, Kansas City, 13; DGordon, Seattle, 11; Ramirez, Cleveland, 10; Hamilton, Kansas City, 9; Andrus, Texas, 8; Buxton, Minnesota, 8; DeShields, Texas, 8; Smith, Seattle, 8; Villar, Baltimore, 8.

PITCHING_German, New York, 7-1; Berrios, Minnesota, 6-2; Glasnow, Tampa Bay, 6-1; Verlander, Houston, 6-1; Chirinos, Tampa Bay, 5-1; Gonzales, Seattle, 5-2; Means, Baltimore, 5-3; Odorizzi, Minnesota, 5-2; Perez, Minnesota, 5-1; Walden, Boston, 5-0.

ERA_Glasnow, Tampa Bay, 1.86; Odorizzi, Minnesota, 2.32; Turnbull, Detroit, 2.42; Verlander, Houston, 2.51; Morton, Tampa Bay, 2.64; Minor, Texas, 2.68; German, New York, 2.70; Montas, Oakland, 2.78; Bauer, Cleveland, 3.02; Berrios, Minnesota, 3.05.

STRIKEOUTS_Cole, Houston, 86; Bauer, Cleveland, 72; Verlander, Houston, 68; Boyd, Detroit, 65; Carrasco, Cleveland, 62; Snell, Tampa Bay, 62; Morton, Tampa Bay, 56; Sale, Boston, 56; Glasnow, Tampa Bay, 55; 2 tied at 54.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BATTING_Bellinger, Los Angeles, .407; McNeil, New York, .360; Martinez, St. Louis, .339; Yelich, Milwaukee, .338; Cabrera, Pittsburgh, .327; Peralta, Arizona, .326; Bell, Pittsburgh, .324; Baez, Chicago, .323; DeJong, St. Louis, .321; Arenado, Colorado, .319.

RUNS_Bellinger, Los Angeles, 37; DeJong, St. Louis, 34; Story, Colorado, 34; Yelich, Milwaukee, 34; Arenado, Colorado, 31; Bryant, Chicago, 31; Baez, Chicago, 31; Ozuna, St. Louis, 30; Albies, Atlanta, 29; Blackmon, Colorado, 29.

RBI_Bellinger, Los Angeles, 38; Yelich, Milwaukee, 38; Bell, Pittsburgh, 35; Hoskins, Philadelphia, 35; Ozuna, St. Louis, 34; Arenado, Colorado, 33; Alonso, New York, 32; Baez, Chicago, 29; KMarte, Arizona, 29; Rizzo, Chicago, 29.

HITS_Bellinger, Los Angeles, 59; Peralta, Arizona, 56; Baez, Chicago, 52; Arenado, Colorado, 51; Blackmon, Colorado, 50; DeJong, St. Louis, 50; McNeil, New York, 50; Freeman, Atlanta, 48; Albies, Atlanta, 47; 2 tied at 46.

DOUBLES_Peralta, Arizona, 16; DeJong, St. Louis, 15; Walker, Arizona, 15; Baez, Chicago, 14; Ahmed, Arizona, 13; Bell, Pittsburgh, 13; Blackmon, Colorado, 12; Cain, Milwaukee, 12; Rendon, Washington, 12; 8 tied at 11.

TRIPLES_Blackmon, Colorado, 4; Tapia, Colorado, 4; Rosario, New York, 3; Swanson, Atlanta, 3; 16 tied at 2.

HOME RUNS_Yelich, Milwaukee, 16; Bellinger, Los Angeles, 14; Alonso, New York, 12; Pederson, Los Angeles, 12; Suarez, Cincinnati, 12; Baez, Chicago, 11; Hoskins, Philadelphia, 11; Ozuna, St. Louis, 11; Reyes, San Diego, 11; 8 tied at 10.

STOLEN BASES_Dyson, Arizona, 9; Robles, Washington, 8; Story, Colorado, 8; Yelich, Milwaukee, 8; Bellinger, Los Angeles, 7; Puig, Cincinnati, 7; SMarte, Pittsburgh, 6; Tatis Jr., San Diego, 6; Wong, St. Louis, 6; Eaton, Washington, 5.

PITCHING_Eflin, Philadelphia, 5-3; Fried, Atlanta, 5-2; Greinke, Arizona, 5-1; Ryu, Los Angeles, 5-1; Woodruff, Milwaukee, 5-1; 9 tied at 4.

ERA_Lester, Chicago, 1.16; Davies, Milwaukee, 1.54; Ryu, Los Angeles, 1.72; Castillo, Cincinnati, 1.76; Lyles, Pittsburgh, 2.10; Smith, Miami, 2.11; Eflin, Philadelphia, 2.47; Weaver, Arizona, 2.98; Hamels, Chicago, 3.08; Ray, Arizona, 3.14.

STRIKEOUTS_Scherzer, Washington, 79; Strasburg, Washington, 75; Castillo, Cincinnati, 70; deGrom, New York, 64; Ray, Arizona, 61; Marquez, Colorado, 59; Bumgarner, San Francisco, 58; Corbin, Washington, 58; Wheeler, New York, 58; Greinke, Arizona, 57.

TRANSACTIONS

TUESDAY

NBA PLAYOFFS

Bucks have Milwaukee dreaming of first title since '71

BY IVAN MORENO
The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Hunter Trimmel couldn't give away his season tickets to Milwaukee Bucks games five years ago.

Losing season after season made the Bucks almost an afterthought in Wisconsin, where most teams live in the shadow of the Green Bay Packers. But now the Bucks are the hottest ticket in town, with a glittery new arena and a young superstar that has the team knocking on the door of the NBA Finals. Game 1 of the Eastern Conference final against Toronto is Wednesday night.

Trimmel, 37, was among hundreds of fans flocking to the plaza outside Fiserv Forum last week before the Bucks faced Boston in Game 5 of the conference semifinals. The plaza, with plenty of bars and jumbo TV screens for fans who can't get inside, is part of an atmosphere that Trimmel — a Bucks fan since 1992 — said is a new experience.

"I hate to say it but we felt like a minor league team for a while," Trimmel said.

It's a golden era in Milwaukee: The Bucks are in contention just a year after the Brewers came within one game of going to the World Series, shifting the focus of this sports-crazed state from the beloved Packers to two long-neglected teams suddenly on the rise.

The last Wisconsin professional sports team to win it all was the Packers in 2011.

The Bucks' success has been a long time coming. Their only NBA title came in 1971, when a team featuring legends Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Oscar Robertson beat the Baltimore Bullets.

The Bucks were solid in the 1980s, putting up several 50-win seasons behind stars like Sidney Moncrief, Marques Johnson and Junior Bridgeman before things got brutal in the '90s — six losing seasons, including four where they didn't win more than 30 games.

"There was a generation when they stumbled through the wilderness, and a lot of fans lost interest," said Drew Olson, a longtime Milwaukee sports reporter who now hosts a sports talk radio show on 97.3's The Game. "It was almost to the point that people went to the Bucks games



Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) and the rest of the Bucks open their Eastern Conference Finals Series against Toronto on Wednesday in Milwaukee. The Bucks are looking for their first NBA title since 1971.

to see the other team."

Olson traced the turnaround to Herb Kohl selling the team in 2014 to Wes Edens and Marc Lasry, two hedge fund managers from New York, and said it paralleled the Selig family's sale of the Brewers to Los Angeles investor Mark Attanasio in 2005.

"In both cases the locals were skeptical whether we should trust these guys — whether they're buying the team to move the team," Olson said. "As it turns out, they've been really good stewards of these franchises."

Leading the Bucks' resurgence is MVP candidate Giannis Antetokounmpo, a fan favorite and a source of pride for Milwaukee's Greek community. Antetokounmpo was born in Athens, Greece. He is just 24.

"It's important for the Greek community to be able to gather together as a unit and celebrate him. And he in turn celebrates us," said Tim Stasinoulis, 61, a Bucks fan since the team came to Milwaukee in 1968.

The Bucks host an annual "Greek Night" event where fans get a Q&A session with Antetokounmpo. Since his arrival in Milwaukee in 2013, Antetokounmpo's been known to sing the Greek national anthem during those events.

"It's a bit of a renaissance in Mil-

waukee sports, just in general with the success recently of the Brewers and now we have the Bucks," said Stasinoulis. "Who would have thought that the Packers would be third on the totem pole at this point?"

Rather than ranking each team's success, others take another view.

"This is the best Wisconsin sports has ever been as a whole," said Steven Slack, 35, a resident of Sun Prairie who was waiting for the game outside the arena.

"We've never had three teams actually in contention before simultaneously. Because we have, we literally have the MVP in all three leagues," he said, referring to reigning National League MVP Christian Yelich, Antetokounmpo's potential to win it this year, and Aaron Rodgers, the Packers quarterback who has won two MVPs and is in frequent contention.

The Bucks' success is also a financial boon for the city. Each playoff game is estimated to have a \$3 million economic impact on downtown businesses — everything from hotels to transportation and food and beverage, according to Visit Milwaukee, an agency that promotes tourism to the city. It only helps that the Bucks are playing in their new half-billion-dollar arena for the first time this year, attracting dedicated and casual fans alike to the restaurants and bars in the plaza outside the stadium. Taxpayers contributed about \$250 million to the arena's construction.

Away from the arena, the city has been expressing its pride for the team, too, with buses and streetcars flashing "Fear the Deer" and "Go Bucks" on their digital displays. The city's Public Market has a banner under its name with the same phrase, which is the team's rallying cry. Billboards on the highway are counting down the number of victories needed to win the championship.

Longtime season-ticket holder Rod Johnson, 55, went to games with his father back when tickets cost \$5 and the Bucks played in what was called the MECCA Arena. He saw Abdul-Jabbar play and remembers the 1971 championship season. It's been an agonizing wait for another title.

"We're hoping for one more now," he said. "This could be the year."

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PGA CHAMPIONSHIP



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brooks Koepka is feeling confident as he prepares to defend his title in the PGA Championship, which begins on Thursday in Farmingdale, New York.

Defending PGA champ Koepka has confidence of an elite player

BY BARRY WILNER
The Associated Press

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. — Tiger Woods spent a half-hour answering all sorts of questions at a packed news conference Tuesday. As he walked out, so did more than half of the media members who gathered to hear his every word. Brooks Koepka then immediately entered the room. Koepka is the titleholder of the PGA Championship and has won the last two U.S. Opens. To use a phrase familiar in these parts of Long Island, he is not exactly chopped liver.

That's the way it goes for one of the favorites at long and, for now, very wet Bethpage Black.

Not that Koepka cares much about the attention, at least not until folks are cheering for the guy lifting the Wanamaker Trophy. Just the way they did last June about 60 miles east of Bethpage when he outlasted everyone at Shinnecock Hills for his second

straight U.S. Open victory. He is trying to join Woods as the only back-to-back winners of the PGA Championship in stroke play; Woods did it twice.

"It's always nice to defend, but being in New York, I've got good memories," Koepka said. "It's a fun place to play in front of the fans. They're all energetic, and you come back and you've got good feelings this week and just kind of hopefully you ride that momentum."

No one has more momentum in the big tournaments, not even Woods, who dramatically won his 15th major at Augusta National in April. Koepka was right there challenging Woods for the green jacket.

"I get Tiger was back, so it's a little bit different," Koepka said of where the focus went at the Masters — and always will go with Woods around. "You know, a lot of the attention was going to be there. But some of it was a little bit man-

ufactured on myself. But I think you've got to find a chip or you've got to find something to motivate yourself and give you that extra little something going into a tournament or going into an event, whatever it might be, to really want to push you over that line."

In fact, Koepka has said for a while that getting over that line in majors is easier than winning regular PGA Tour events, of which he has only two. His reasoning reveals a level of confidence that only the elite of their sport own.

"The easiest way I can break it down is there's ... 156 in the field, so you figure at least 80 of them I'm just going to beat," he explained. "From there, the other, you figure about half of them won't play well, so you're down to about maybe 35. And then from 35, some of them just, pressure is going to get to them. It only leaves you with a few more, and you've just got to beat those guys."

Thomas out of PGA with wrist injury

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. — Justin Thomas withdrew from the PGA Championship on Monday, saying he was not willing to risk more pain in his right wrist by returning before it's fully healed.

Thomas, who won the PGA Championship two years ago at Quail Hollow, will miss a major for the first time since his rookie season in 2015.

He is dealing with a bone bruise first suffered in the Honda Classic when he intentionally struck a tree on his follow-through. He felt he aggravated it during the final round of the Masters, though he said it wasn't on any particular shot.

"I've seen too many people come back too early," Thomas said from his home in Jupiter, Florida. "I plan on doing this successfully for a long time, and I don't want a dumb deci-

sion to set me back." He said he could have played the PGA Championship this week at Bethpage Black, but without guaranteeing there wouldn't be a setback.

Thomas, the No. 5 player in the world, was replaced by Kelly Kraft.

Thomas tied for 12th at the Masters, where he made a hole-in-one on the 16th hole in the final round. He had not hit balls since then and withdrew from the Wells Fargo Championship two weeks ago to give his wrist every chance to heal.

He started hitting 50 balls a day over the weekend and was up to a 5-iron on Sunday. His plan was to try to driver on Monday, play a full 18 holes at home on Tuesday and then fly up to Bethpage on Wednesday.



THOMAS

"It hurt on a couple of shots and I felt like it wasn't worth it," he said.

Thomas believes if his club had snapped in half when he hit the tree at Honda that he would have been fine, but that he felt a shock up his right arm when it didn't break.

"I guess I should have chipped out," he said with a laugh. "I still made bogey, which is worse."

He did not know when he would return and has not ruled out Colonial next week, depending on how his wrist reacts to rest and rehab. He also has the Memorial on his schedule, and the next major is June 13-16 at Pebble Beach for the U.S. Open.

In the meantime, he is doing plenty of putting, but not much else.

"I figured out there's not a lot to do in South Florida if you don't play golf," he said.

Woods played amid a six-player logjam on the back nine.

"He closed it out like he was only interested in winning that tournament," Harrington said. "He wasn't interested in proving to the world that he's a good driver of the ball or anything like that. I think he just was interested in getting the job done. That's a tough Tiger to beat when he's in that frame of mind."

Woods declared himself "rested and ready" after his month away from competition. He says he spent time in the gym and didn't get back to the grind until he was ready, which was just over two weeks ago.

He came to Bethpage Black last week for 18 holes, a long round that tried to cover every detail of how to handle the course. He figured out quickly that driving will be paramount because of the elevated green and the lush, wet rough. Woods played nine holes Monday, spent Tuesday practicing on the range and chipping area, and planned to play nine holes Wednesday.

"This is not only a big golf course, but this is going to be a long week the way the golf course is set up and potentially could play," he said. "This could be a hell of a championship."

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP TEE TIMES

By The Associated Press
At Bethpage State Park (Black Course)
Farmingdale, N.Y.
Purse: TBA
Yardage: 7,459; Par: 70
All Times EDT
Thursday-Friday
First hole-10th hole
6:45 a.m.-12:10 p.m. — Rob Labritz, United States; Beau Hossler, United States; J.J. Spaun, United States.
6:56 a.m.-12:21 p.m. — Sam Burns, United States; Jeffrey Schmid, United States; Keith Mitchell, United States.
7:07 a.m.-12:32 p.m. — Byeong Hun An, South Korea; Jason Caron, United States; Andrew Putnam, United States.
7:18 a.m.-12:43 p.m. — John O'Leary, United States; Harold Varner III, United States; Kyle Stanley, United States.
7:29 a.m.-12:54 p.m. — Mike Lorenzo-Verá, France; Justin Harding, South Africa; Richy Werenski, United States.
7:40 a.m.-1:05 p.m. — J.T. Poston, United States; Jason Dufner, United States; Jimmy Walker, United States.
7:51 a.m.-1:16 p.m. — Graeme McDowell, Northern Ireland; Chez Reavie, United States; Brendan Jones, Australia.
8:02 a.m.-1:27 p.m. — Tyrrell Hatton, England; Russell Knox, Scotland; Haotong Li, China.
8:13 a.m.-1:38 p.m. — Lee Westwood, England; Shaun Norris, South Africa; Charles Howell III, United States.
8:24 a.m.-1:49 p.m. — J.B. Holmes, United States; Lucas Bjerregaard, Denmark; Troy Merritt, United States.
8:35 a.m.-2 p.m. — Joost Luiten, Netherlands; Brian Mackey, United States; Matt Wallace, England.
8:46 a.m.-2:11 p.m. — Casey Russell, United States; Luke List, United States; Abraham Ancer, Mexico.
8:57 a.m.-2:22 p.m. — Craig Bowden, United States; Adam Long, United States; Joaquin Niemann, Chile.
12:10 p.m.-6:45 a.m. — Michael Thompson, United States; Danny Lee, New Zealand; Justin Bertoch, United States.
12:21 p.m.-6:56 a.m. — Cameron Champ, United States; Rich Berberian Jr., United States; Lucas Glover, United States.
12:32 p.m.-7:07 a.m. — Emiliano Grillo, Argentina; Daniel Berger, United States; Paul Casey, England.
12:43 p.m.-7:18 a.m. — Tony Finau, United States; Billy Horschel, United States; Ian Poulter, England.
12:54 p.m.-7:29 a.m. — Matt Fitzpatrick, England; Rafa Cabrera-Bello, Spain, Gary Woodland, United States.
1:05 p.m.-7:40 a.m. — Padraig Harrington, Ireland; Martin Kaymer, Germany; Keegan Bradley, United States.
1:16 p.m.-7:51 a.m. — Jon Rahm, Spain; Dustin Johnson, United States; Jordan Spieth, United States.
1:27 p.m.-8:02 a.m. — Pat Perez, United States; Kevin Kisner, United States; Bryson DeChambeau, United States.
1:38 p.m.-8:13 a.m. — Rory McIlroy, Northern Ireland; Phil Mickelson, United States; Jason Day, Australia.
1:49 p.m.-8:24 a.m. — Satoshi Kodaira, Japan; Matt Kuchar, United States; Cameron Smith, Australia.
2 p.m.-8:35 a.m. — Corey Connors, Canada; Jim Furyk, United States; Marc Leishman, Australia.
2:11 p.m.-8:46 a.m. — Jorge Campillo, Spain; Stuart Deane, United States; Chesson Hadley, United States.
2:22 p.m.-8:57 a.m. — Dylan Frittelli, South Africa; Andrew Filbert, United States; Kurt Kitayama, United States.
Thursday-Friday
10th hole-First hole
6:45 a.m.-12:10 p.m. — Ben Cook, United States; Scott Piercy, United States; Brian Gay, United States.
6:56 a.m.-12:21 p.m. — Thomas Pieters, Belgium; Patton Kizzire, United States; Adam Hadwin, Canada.
7:07 a.m.-12:32 p.m. — Brandt Snedeker, United States; Kiradech Aphibarnrat, Thailand; Max Homa, United States.
7:18 a.m.-12:43 p.m. — Henrik Stenson, Sweden; David Lipsky, United States; Richard Sterne, South Africa.
7:29 a.m.-12:54 p.m. — Shane Lowry, Ireland; Erik Van Rooyen, South Africa; Tommy Fleetwood, England.
7:40 a.m.-1:05 p.m. — Sergio Garcia, Spain; Kelly Kraft, United States; Adam Scott, Australia.
7:51 a.m.-1:16 p.m. — Charley Hoffman, United States; Louis Oosthuizen, South Africa; Patrick Reed, United States.
8:02 a.m.-1:27 p.m. — Rickie Fowler, United States; Bubba Watson, United States; Justin Rose, England.
8:13 a.m.-1:38 p.m. — Xander Schauffele, United States; Hideki Matsuyama, Japan; Alex Noren, Sweden.
8:24 a.m.-1:49 p.m. — Brooks Koepka, United States; Francesco Molinari, Italy; Tiger Woods, United States.
8:35 a.m.-2 p.m. — Aaron Wise, United States; Ryan Fox, New Zealand; Shugo Imahira, Japan.
8:46 a.m.-2:11 p.m. — Julian Suri, United States; Marty Jertson, United States; Martin Trainer, United States.
8:57 a.m.-2:22 p.m. — Lucas Herbert, Australia; Cory Schneider, United States; Sungjae Im, South Korea.
12:10 p.m.-6:45 a.m. — Ryan Vermeer, United States; Adrian Otaegui, Spain; Jason Kokrak, United States.
12:21 p.m.-6:56 a.m. — Alex Bjork, Sweden; Rod Perry, United States; Ross Fisher, England.
12:32 p.m.-7:07 a.m. — Eddie Pepperell, England; Branden Grace, South Africa; Ryan Palmer, United States.
12:43 p.m.-7:18 a.m. — Ryan Moore, United States; Joel Dahmen, United States; Thorbjorn Olesen, Denmark.
12:54 p.m.-7:29 a.m. — Y.E. Yang, South Korea; Rich Beem, United States; John Daly, United States.
1:05 p.m.-7:40 a.m. — Steve Stricker, United States; Brian Harman, United States; Patrick Cantlay, United States.
1:16 p.m.-7:51 a.m. — Sung Kang, United States; Shaun Micheel, United States; Alex Beach, United States.
1:27 p.m.-8:02 a.m. — C.T. Pan, Taiwan; Kevin Na, United States; Ryan Armour, United States.
1:38 p.m.-8:13 a.m. — Danny Willett, England; Webb Simpson, United States; Zach Johnson, United States.
1:49 p.m.-8:24 a.m. — Kevin Tway, United States; Brandon Stone, South Africa; Bronson Burgoon, United States.
2 p.m.-8:35 a.m. — Si Woo Kim, South Korea; Danny Balin, United States; Tom Lewis, England.
2:11 p.m.-8:46 a.m. — Jazz Janewattananond, Thailand; Tyler Hall, United States; Michael Kim, United States.
2:22 p.m.-8:57 a.m. — Mikko Korhonen, Finland; Craig Hocknull, United States; Jhonattan Vegas, Venezuela.

Keeping Sumter Beautiful

Katie Altman, Water Resources Extension Agent

4-H2O: Exploring Sumter

Summer is the perfect time to supplement your student's education with hands-on experiences specific to their interests. The South Carolina 4-H Youth Development Program is a great resource for young people throughout the state, which uses a learn-by-doing approach. It empowers youth to improve themselves through a variety of activities. If you're looking for some educational summer fun for your 9-14 year old, check out our upcoming 4-H2O camp. 4-H2O is a partnership between Clemson Extension's 4H and Natural Resources teams. It gets kids outside (and out of their parents' hair!) for a few days and allows them to experience the natural world first hand. I am so excited to be working with Sumter's 4-H agent, Terri Sumpter, to provide our 4-H2O day camp for Sumter area youth ages 9-14. Participants will learn about our local watershed and water pollution through fun, interactive activities during this 3-day camp held July 8-10 from 9 am to 1 pm daily. We will spend each day at Central Carolina Technical College's Natural Resource Management facility. Participants will learn all about the wildlife and plants that call Sumter home. We will go on a hike, learn how to fish, make take-home crafts, and collect

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

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

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PGA FROM PAGE B1

"I think it's something that any player, any fan, any golfer was probably glued to the TV at that moment watching it," Koepka said. "It was pretty neat, pretty special for all of us. I was a little bit disappointed. But at the same time, that's what our sport needed. We needed him to win a major."

How about another? Koepka, listed among the betting favorites, isn't about to concede. Bethpage Black, which figures to play even longer than its 7,459 yards in soft conditions, is suited for good drivers like Koepka, Dustin Johnson and Rory McIlroy.

Woods couldn't reach the green on the par-4 seventh hole with a 3-wood on Monday. Johnson got there with a 3-iron, though he gave it all he had.

Woods now relies as much on his experience as brute strength, though he remains long enough. Padraig Harrington noticed watching the final round of the Masters. Harrington suspects Woods has lost a little ball speed off the club. What got his attention was how

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COMMENTARY

Heavyweights step up, just not against each other

BY TIM DAHLBERG
The Associated Press

Tyson Fury, the big British heavyweight who breaks into song at the most unexpected moments and would be fun to meet for a beer, will be fighting next month. So will his countryman, Anthony Joshua, who will venture across the pond to make his Garden debut.

And then there's Deontay Wilder, who kicks things off Saturday night with another chance to press his case that he is, like Mike Tyson liked to say, the baddest man on the planet.

No, they're not fighting each other, for reasons both as old as boxing itself and as new as the DAZN streaming service. Still, the three top heavyweights in the world — all of whom can legitimately claim the title of champ — will be in action in New York and Las Vegas within a four-week stretch.

And should things go as planned, that's just enough time to bring some clarity to a heavyweight division that is suddenly must-see TV once again.

"The excitement is back in the heavyweight division," Wilder said. "The fire is lit."

That's somewhat true, even if Fury is fighting a relatively unknown German named Tom Schwarz instead of a rematch with Wilder while Joshua is defending his titles against a late substitute in Andy Ruiz Jr. Wilder might be taking the biggest risk in his title defense against Dominic Braezeale, whose loss to Joshua is the only blemish on his pro record.

Just how long the fire is expected to smolder, though, may be of most concern to boxing fans.

Joshua and Wilder should have been made by now, even if it might be even bigger next year because of the wait. Wilder and Fury should be fighting a rematch this summer, but money and boxing politics put a quick end to those plans.

So the three fight on, and the wait goes on.

Wilder says Joshua is ducking him and that Fury wants no part of a rematch after almost being knocked silly only to get back up in the final round of their fight in December that ended in a draw.

Fury and Joshua say that's nonsense and that Wilder shouldn't talk so much.

"I am ready for Wilder, I've been ready for Wilder," Joshua said last week after arriving in New York and inspecting Madison Square Garden for his American debut June 1 against Ruiz, who got his shot at Joshua's titles after Jarrell Miller tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs. "I've done a good job maintaining my place and he is the guy I want. He has a lot to live up to. I've got confidence flowing now."

That confidence could get another boost against Ruiz, a roly-poly fighter out of Southern California who doesn't look like a world beater but has lost only once in 33 fights. Ruiz fought just last month, and was eager to get the call to replace Miller.

Perhaps just as important for Joshua's confidence is a big performance while venturing outside his native Britain for the first time. Joshua drew 90,000 for his fight last year with Wladimir Klitschko at Wembley Stadium and is wildly popular at home, but largely unknown in the U.S. and is looking to make a dramatic debut.

"I know the history that has been here and the sports that have been here," he said at his Garden visit. "When I come in here to fight June 1, it will be very special."

In a perfect world, Joshua, Wilder and Fury would be fighting each other, of course. Any thoughts of a quick rematch after the draw between Wilder and Fury went out the window when Fury signed with Top Rank, which has a deal for fights with ESPN.

Wilder, meanwhile, is sticking for now with Showtime for his fight Saturday night. And Joshua has a contract

with DAZN, a streaming service that touts access to big fights for \$100 a year.

Between the competing broadcasting interests and promoters, that means the top fights will be difficult to make. Each fighter has his own interests to protect, and each fighter has his own story to tell.

"Go back and study it. Go back and see, who really is the king of the division?" Wilder said. "Who really tried to make these fights?"

Boxing fans really don't care, because all they want is to see the fights.

Until that happens, the next month is about as good as it gets in the heavyweight division.



Anthony Joshua is one of the top three heavyweight boxers in the world who will be fighting within the next four weeks. However, none of them will be fighting the other.

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How many reading glasses can you find on this page?

Reading isn't just for reading books, it is also reading recipes, directions, games, letters and more.

Silly Book Puns

A pun is a play on words. Read the book titles below and then draw a line from the book title to the author's name that makes a funny pun. For example: *The Arctic Ocean* by I.C. Waters.

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by Duncan Under
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Scrambled Book Titles

Unscramble the titles of these famous books. Have you read any of them? You can find them at your local library.

HAARS, NAPLI DAN LATL
by Patricia MacLachlan

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L _ _ _ _
N _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ L

REWEH HET ADEWSILK SEND
by Shel Silverstein

H _ _ _ _
I _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ D L

MAJSE NDA HTE TAGIN CHEAP
by Roald Dahl

A _ _ _ _ H _ _
_ _ _ _ A _ _
_ _ _ _ A _ _

YARDI FO A PIWYM DKI
by Jeff Kinney

_ _ _ _ _ R
_ _ _ _ _
I _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _

What's black and white and READ all over?

Look at one page of the newspaper. Circle every word you can read in red. Pretty soon your newspaper page will be black and white and red all over — just like the riddle!

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

Double Double Word Search

CHARACTERS Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

READING

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WHITE

PLACE

MONTH

GAMES

PAGE

PUNS

WORD

GET

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

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

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Scrambled Stories

Select three articles in the newspaper and cut them out. Cut apart the article from the headlines. Then give to a friend or family member to read each article and find the matching headline.

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REL FROM PAGE B1

not take it lightly," Price said. "My (grand slam) at-bat, the first two pitches weren't really my pitches. I waited for mine, put a good swing on it and I guess it just worked out the way it worked out. That's just how it goes sometimes, the first one (grand slam) of my high school career. It doesn't happen a lot, and it's a blessing (to get 5 RBI in one inning), very unheard of. I'm just glad I've got a team like this right here that's got my back all the way through, supporting me, and I'm glad we got the win. Hopefully we'll get the win tomorrow and come back home as state champs."

Colleton Prep starter Brad Strickland struggled with control issues right out of the gate, walking the first two batters he faced before giving up a Hunter McGee infield single to load the bases. Strickland then plunked Austin Windham to force home the game's first run and reload the bases for Price's blast.

Strickland had a few chances to minimize the damage but ran into tough luck each time. He retired Josh Burns on an RBI groundout just ahead of the Price slam and struck out Evan Jackson just after Price's first at-bat of the frame, only to see Jackson reach after a passed ball on the third strike. Strickland would then issue two more walks wrapped around RBI singles from Drew Watson and Jenkins McCullum before being pulled with two outs and trailing 7-0.

Hewitt Rowe came to the mound from right field and did not fare much better than Strickland, allowing four consecutive RBI singles to Windham, Burns, Price and Jackson before finally striking out Jet Smith to end the marathon half-inning.

After striking out two of the three batters he faced in the top of the first, Windham gave REL a shutdown follow-up to the big inning by striking out the side in the top of the second. After McGee added a 2-run home run in the bottom of the second to push the lead to 14-0, Windham once again struck out two of the three batters he faced in the third to close out a perfect three innings. The only balls put in play by Warhawk batters

against Windham were an infield grounder from Charlton Griffith and a fly ball by Dylan Kinard that Smith chased down and gloved in center field.

"Not many," Windham said of how many times he's taken the mound in the top of the second with a 12-0 lead. "It feels good, like you've got a straight shot. Everybody came pumped. (My mindset was) don't let them get a hit, don't let them get a run and win the game."

REL head coach David Rankin was not surprised by Windham's dominant effort on the mound.

"We've been great on the mound all year," said Rankin, whose team improved to 24-3 overall and kept an unblemished mark in SCISA games. "When you throw 10 pitchers and our ERA (earned run average) is 1.77, you've got pitchers. Windham has been special for three years, and we can't ask for him to do much more than he's done. He's lost two games in three years, and both of them were in the first game of the state championship (series), so we got that off of his back tonight. He had lost to Pee Dee (Academy) by a run in both games, so we're super proud of him to get that off his back a little bit.

"We just played well, we hit the ball hard. They couldn't find the strike zone early and then we come up and get the grand slam to go up 5-0, and then it kind of snowballed from there. We almost batted around twice. That's why you play three games, so we have to come out tomorrow and play again."

While the Cavaliers have had other fast starts at the plate this season, McGee said to have it happen like this in a state championship series was special.

"We have had some 10-, 12-run first innings earlier in the year, but nothing quite like this," McGee, one of five seniors, said of an inning that saw five REL batters reach base twice and three of those five score twice. "Everyone was killing the ball. First, Windham goes three up, three down in the first, second and third. Can't get much better than that, can't get any better than that. I got the pitch in a good spot (on his home run), lifted it and it was out of here."

TRACK FROM PAGE B1

100 and 24.50 in the 200. Sedajah Rembert finished third in the triple jump with a jump of 37-02.00.

The Lady Knights were 10th out of 28 teams with 25 points. Travelers Rest won with 72.50.

In the 3A girls meet, Manning's 4x100 relay team of Ja'Lencia Griffin, Ariyonia Busby, Delaney Frierson and Measha Jones won in a time of 49.38. Jones also had a second-place finish in the 200 at 25.46.

Manning finished in a tie for 10th out of 31 teams with Woodruff with 30 points. Bishop England won with 73 points.

In the boys 3A meet, Manning finished 14th out of 31 teams with 22 points. May River won with 70.

The Monarchs were led by the third-place finish of the 4x100 relay team of Allen Ben-

jamin, Chandler Brunson, Damonte Dennis Keilah Dupree in 43.61.

In the 1A boys meet, Scott's Branch finished fifth out of 21 teams with 48 points. Military Magnet won with 120.

Antayvius Stukes led the Eagles with a second-place finish in the high jump at 5-10.00. The 4x800 relay team of Montrez Sinkler, Cornell Hickman, Sean Swearingner, and Tyler Kind finished third in 9:21.31.

Lee Central finished 17th out of 29 teams in the 2A girls meet with 12 points. Woodland won with 113.50.

Chardona Hickman led Lee Central, finishing third in the 200 in a time of 25.87 after finishing eighth in the qualifier the previous week. She was fourth in the 100 in 12.59 after finishing seventh in the qualifier.

SCHSL TRACK AND FIELD STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

LOCAL FINISHERS

GIRLS

- 4A
 - Crestwood
 - Kardaisha Brunson 100 12.01 (2nd); 200 24.90 (2nd)
 - Sedajah Rembert triple jump 37-02.00 (3rd)
 - 4x100 relay 49.76 (6th) (Anthonique Harris, Sedajah Rembert, Ayana English, Kardaisha Brunson, Kiana Pack, Jamiya Lindsey)
- 3A
 - Manning
 - Ja'Lencia Griffin 100 12.28 (4th); 200 26.23 (6th)
 - Measha Jones long jump 15-06.25 (6th); 200 25.46 (2nd)
 - Delaney Frierson 400 hurdles 1:13.16 (8th)
 - Myisha Smiling discus (4th)
 - 4x100 relay 49.38 (1st) (Ja'Lencia Griffin, Ariyonia Busby, Delaney Frierson, Measha Jones)
- 2A
 - Lee Central
 - Chardona Hickman 100 12.59 (4th); 200 25.87 (3rd)
 - Nyaisha Henry discus 100-05.00 (8th)
- 1A
 - Scott's Branch
 - Mary Wimberly 1600 6:05.24 (1st); 800 2:40.81 (1st)
 - Chanika Monroe shot put 30-11.75 (6th)
 - Janyha Brown shot put 31-00.75 (5th)
 - Xamaquia Jackson shot put 29-03.50 (7th)
 - Shonell Dukes-Pearson discus 71-05.00 (6th)
 - 4x100 relay 53.99 (3rd) (Alexus Belle, Mary Wimberly, Keonna Felder, Janyha Brown, Xamaquia Jackson, Tierra Parson)

BOYS

- 5A
 - Sumter

- Ja'Kheem Heyward long jump 24 feet, 02.25 inches (2nd)
- 4x100 relay (2nd) 41.46 ()
- 4x400 relay 3:25.20 (6th) ()
- 4A
 - Crestwood
 - Neveill Wright 100 11.04 (7th)
 - Montrel White long jump 22-02.00 (5th)
 - Terrance McClain shot put 47-07.25 (3rd)
- Lakewood
 - Malik Richardson 200 21.61 (2nd); 100 10.73 (2nd);
 - Jalen Clea high jump 06-02 (5th)
 - Jamal Anderson discus 136-11.00 (7th)
 - 4x400 relay 3:33.93 (8th) (Justin Anderson, Taron Wilson, Malik Richardson, Tre'Varus Davis, Colin Smith)
- 3A
 - Manning
 - Keilah Dupree 200 22.21 (4th)
 - Zion Phillips 400 hurdles 59.52 (6th); 110 hurdles 16.01 (6th)
 - Emmery Mouzan 110 hurdles 16.07 (7th)
 - Domonique Bell high jump 05-10.00 (5th)
 - Aaron Smith triple jump 42-10.00 (6th)
 - 4x100 relay 43.61 (3rd) (Allen Benjamin, Chandler Brunson, Damonte Dennis, Keilah Dupree)
- 1A
 - Scott's Branch
 - JeShawn Green shot put 43-00.00 (4th)
 - Kendrick Lesesne shot put 43-02.00 (4th)
 - Alexander Keitt shot put 38-02.50 (7th)
 - Treyshawn Moore 400 54.11 (6th)
 - Sean Swearingner discus 118-01.00 (4th)
 - Tyler Kind 1600 5:42.87 (7th)
 - Antayvius Stukes high jump 5-10.00 (2nd); 400 hurdles 1:09.37 (6th)
 - 4x400 relay 3:41.19 (4th) (Treyshawn Moore, Montrez Sinkler, Syah Little, Cornell Hickman, Tyler Kind, Joakeem Stevens)
 - 4x800 relay 9:21.31 (3rd) (Montrez Sinkler, Cornell Hickman, Sean Swearingner, Tyler Kind, Jeremiah China, Treyshawn Moore)



MARK MORGAN / SPECIAL TO THE SUMTER ITEM

Wilson Hall centerfielder Carly Allred makes a catch in the Lady Barons' 4-2 victory over Cardinal Newman in the opening game of the SCISA 3A softball state championship series on Monday at Patriot Park SportPlex.

HALL FROM PAGE B1

CN head coach Dwayne Jones chose to intentionally walk Dani Hanley to load the bases with one out and put on the force at each base. Greene got into a 1-2 hole and started to foul off pitches before she dropped a single into left to score Wingate and make it 3-2.

"They had been pitching me inside," Greene said. "That pitch was more over the middle of the plate."

Alexander was not surprised by Greene's at-bat.

"That at-bat shows Sophie's personality; she's just a gritty player," Alexander said. "She just fights and never gives up."

Wilson Hall got an insurance run when Mary Claire Lee grounded back to Puckett, who chose to throw to first instead of going home to try and get the force. Stone scored to make it 4-2.

Lady Barons pitcher Kailee Poston followed with her only 1-2-3 inning in the seventh to secure the win.

Poston allowed five hits and hit one batter while striking out three.

"Kailee knows what her role is as a pitcher," Alexan-



MARK MORGAN / SPECIAL TO THE SUMTER ITEM

Wilson Hall's Kailee Poston prepares to deliver a pitch in the Lady Barons' 4-2 victory over Cardinal Newman in the opening game of the SCISA 3A softball state championship series on Monday at Patriot Park SportPlex.

der said. "She knows she's not an overpowering pitcher. Her strength is her consistency."

Puckett had allowed just two hits through the first five innings before giving up four in the sixth.

Wilson Hall took a 1-0 lead in the second. Hanley reached on an infield single to start the inning and eventually scored on an error.

Cardinal Newman took a 2-1 lead in the fourth.



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HORSE RACING

Baltimore politicians, track owners duel over Pimlico future

BY DAVID GINSBURG
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Aptly nicknamed Old Hilltop, antiquated Pimlico Race Course has finally reached the point where its illustrious past might not be enough to assure a vibrant future.

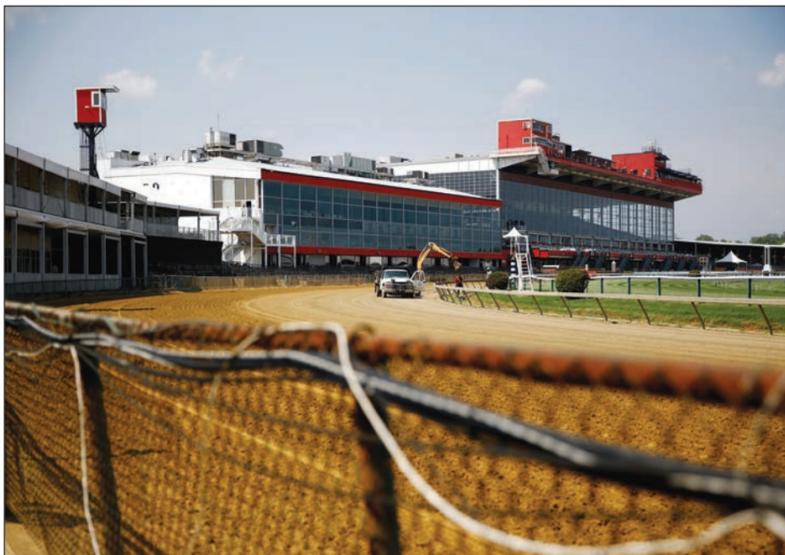
The 144th Preakness will be run Saturday at Pimlico, and will be back next year, too. After that, well, nobody can predict the fate of a track where Man o' War, Seabiscuit, Secretariat and many others pranced to the winner's circle. There continues to be a push to have Laurel Park host the second leg of the Triple Crown.

Pimlico is in need of a major overhaul, and Baltimore city officials, the owners of the track and many trainers disagree on whether it's smart to spend nearly a half-billion dollars in upgrades. But while they are haggling, the track falls into further disarray.

Citing the "safety and security of all guests and employees," the Maryland Jockey Club closed off 6,670 seats in the Pimlico grandstand last month. Many of the barns are dilapidated, and no amount of paint can mask the decrepit facade. It's not a good look for horse racing, which is reeling from horse deaths, an unprecedented Kentucky Derby disqualification and no Derby winner in the Preakness for the first time in 23 years.

Despite Pimlico's problems, the landmark still has its supporters. "The Preakness belongs to Baltimore, and we're going to do everything we can to make sure Preakness stays right here," said new Baltimore Mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young, who's seeking state funding to redevelop Pimlico and the surrounding Park Heights neighborhood.

Meanwhile, the Stronach Group —



Pimlico Race Course is in the middle jewel of the Triple Crown and will stay put in 2019, but there's a chance that the 145th running of the Preakness in 2020 will be held within the state at newer, fresher Laurel Park.

which owns Pimlico and Laurel Park, as well as a training facility in Bowie, Maryland, and California tracks Santa Anita Park and Gulfstream — believes turning Laurel Park into a state-of-the-art facility worthy of hosting the Preakness is a better option.

Located just 27 miles southwest of Pimlico, Laurel Park already gets the lion's share of racing dates in Maryland — 168 to 12 for Pimlico — and the owners believe it's time for Maryland to choose one track or the other.

"Both of the facilities need pretty substantial upgrades in order to be competitive in sports entertainment," Bill Hecht, CEO, U.S. real estate for the Stronach Group, told The Associated Press. "We just don't see there

being any state, city or private interest in fully upgrading two. It's clear to us that the cost of the upgrades is not comparable. It's approximately \$80-100 million at Laurel."

Opened in 1870, Pimlico is the second-oldest track in America behind iconic Saratoga in upstate New York. Pimlico hosted the first Preakness Stakes in 1873 and has been the annual home of the second jewel of the Triple Crown since 1909. It's going to take an estimated \$425 million to rebuild the facility and infrastructure, according to a study released last year by the Maryland Stadium Authority.

Hecht's argument for Laurel Park over Pimlico begins with finances, but doesn't end there.

"First and foremost, we are immensely supportive of a facility that would not only deliver the best experience, but also a facility that allows for the horses to be run and trained year round," Hecht said. "We have ability to be able to do that at Laurel with our barn space and land. When we accompany it with the sister Bowie track for training, that's really the perfect situation for the long term sustainability of the horse racing industry in Maryland."

Trainer Mark Casse finds it hard to put a price on tradition.

"Baltimore's one of our favorite places and we love the Pimlico people," said Casse, who saddled War of Will in the Kentucky Derby on May 4 and intends to enter the horse in the Preakness.

Linda Gaudet, a member of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horseman's Association board since its inception, understands tradition but sees where the standoff is going.

"It all comes down to money. Do horsemen love tradition? Of course we do, or we wouldn't be doing this for hundreds of years," she said. "But in reality, if they redo Pimlico for nostalgia or history, there'll be nothing of history left. What will they save? They can't save any part of the grandstand because it's so old. The whole thing needs to be redone."

One plan for the redevelopment of Pimlico includes a multi-faceted facility that would feature a track and have the potential to stage outdoor public concerts, festivals and markets during the non-racing season. The proposals were done according to specifications identified by The Stronach Group and Maryland Jockey Club, but the source of funding was not specified in the report.

OBITUARIES

LAURA JEAN R. MCCATHERN

Laura Jean Reynolds McCathern, 88, widow of Chalmers O. McCathern Jr., died on Monday, May 13, 2019, at The Gardens at Sumter.

Born in Sumter, she was a daughter of the late Pleasant Gee Reynolds and Sarah Ruth Lambert Reynolds. Mrs. McCathern was a member of Dalzell Baptist Church. She was retired from Craig Industries.

Surviving are two sons, Chalmers Edward McCathern (Gretchen) of Elliott and Christopher Bryan McCathern of Manning; one daughter, Sandra M. Callender of Columbia; one brother, Everett Reynolds of Olympia, Washington; one sister, Diane Galaway of Sumter; and one grandchild, Leslie Anne McCathern.

She was preceded in death by a son, Michael O. McCathern; two brothers, Bruce Reynolds and Pleasant G. Reynolds Jr.; and two sisters, Evelyn Bowers and Florence Bailey.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday in the chapel of Elmore Hill McCreight Funeral Home with the Rev. Mark Barnett officiat-

ing. Private burial will be at Evergreen Memorial Park cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 10 to 11 a.m. on Friday at Elmore Hill McCreight Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to Dalzell Baptist Church, 3645 Camden Highway, Dalzell, SC 29040 or to a charity of one's choice.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to all of the caregivers of Homestead Hospice and The Gardens at Sumter.

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.



EDNA DAISY GREGG

Edna Daisy Gregg, 81, widow of James Gregg Sr.,

departed this life on Monday, May 13, 2019, at her residence.

She was born on Oct. 24, 1937, in Mayesville, a daughter of the late David Sr. and Nelli Clyburn Commander.

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

MANNING LEE BRISBANE

Funeral services for Manning Lee Brisbane, who died on Friday, April 26, 2019, will be held at 11 a.m. today at Wayman Chapel AME Church, 160 N. Kings Highway, Sumter, with the Rev. Dr. Dennis W. Broughton Jr. officiating.

Palmer Memorial Chapel is in charge of arrangements.



TYRONE R. MILLER

Tyrone R. "Ron" Miller, age 37, transitioned on Monday, May 13, 2019, in Sumter.

He was born on Feb. 27, 1982, in Sumter, to George and Sylvan Griggs Miller.

The family is receiving

friends at 540 S. Sumter St.

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

EVERETT A. RENDELL JR.

SUMMERTON — Everett A. Rendell Jr., 90, died on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at his residence, 34 Mayland Drive, Summerton.

He was born on July 24, 1928, a son of Everett A. Rendell Sr. and Esabell Rendell.

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

THELMA RICHARDSON

Thelma Richardson, 87, wife of Elijah Richardson, died on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at KershawHealth Medical Center at Camden.

Born on Aug. 29, 1931, in Durham, North Carolina, she

was a daughter of Eugene Barrell and Ethel Lee.

The family will receive relatives and friends at the home, 5275 Burrows Road.

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

WILLIE F. JAMES

Willie F. James, 90, husband of Barbara Epps James, departed this life on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at Sumter Health & Rehab Center.

He was born on Aug. 28, 1928, in Sumter, a son of the late Mackie James and Mary Peterson.

The family will receive friends at the home, 2625 Converse St., Sumter, SC 29153.

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

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One Grave Plot For Sale: Evergreen Cemetery Park, grave number 4 lot 29C, in Love section. \$2,400 Call 803-481-2330

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted Full-Time

Spring Hill Suites by Marriott, Broad St is seeking a front desk clerk, housekeeper, breakfast hostess, and maintenance engineer. Please apply in person at: 2645 Broad St. Sumter, SC

Experience trailer repair driver with CDL and clean driving record. Must be able to switch trailers in yard with Jockey truck. Call 803-938-2708 leave mess. with experience.

FAMILY FARM on old manning road in Sumter county in need of ft employee - want a quality employee who is interested in working with a small dedicated crew. Experience a plus. willing to train the right person. Must have own transportation to work & a valid driver's license. A clean driving record is also a must. Please call 803-481-9444 and leave a message for an appointment to interview.

Georgio's Pizza now taking applications for FT/PT waitstaff positions. **\$4.25 an hour +tips**. Apply in person from 2-5 at 344 Pinewood Rd. Must have some exp. Must be 18 or older.

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Hiring part time as needed landscaping and tree service help. Drivers license is a must. Call Newman's Tree Service at 803-316-0128

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LEGAL NOTICES

Beer & Wine License

Notice Of Application Notice is hereby given that Family Dollar Stores of South Carolina, LLC intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license permit that will allow the sale and OFF premises consumption of Beer & Wine at Family Dollar Store #30967, 3340 Highway 15 South, Sumter, SC 29150. To object to

Beer & Wine License

the issuance of this permit / license, written protest must be postmarked no later than **May 24, 2019**. For a protest to be valid, it must be in writing, and should include the following information: (1) the name, address and telephone number of the person filing the protest; (2) the specific reasons why the application should be denied; (3) that the person protesting is willing to attend a hearing (if one is requested by the applicant); (4) that the person protesting resides in the same county where the proposed place of business is located or within five miles of the business; and (5) the name of the applicant and the address of the premises to be licensed. Protests must be mailed to: S.C. Department of Revenue, ABL, P.O. Box 125, Columbia, South Carolina 29214-0907; or Faxed to: (803) 896-0110.

Bid Notices

INVITATION TO BID May 13, 2019
PUBLIC WORKS FENCING PROJECT

OPENING DATE AND TIME: May 23, 2019, 11:00AM

Furnish and install galvanized chain link fence at the Public Works, 1289 North Main St., Sumter, SC 29153.

Subject to the conditions and all provisions set forth herein and the general conditions of the contract, sealed bids will be received at the office of the Purchasing Director until the stated opening date and time and then publicly opened.

ADDRESS MAILED BIDS TO: Mr. Bobby Galloway County of Sumter Purchasing Department 13 East Canal Street Sumter, SC 29150

HAND DELIVER BIDS TO: Mr. Bobby Galloway Sumter County Administration Building 2nd floor, Purchasing Department 13 East Canal Street Sumter, SC 29150

Furnish all necessary labor, equipment, and materials to install galvanized fencing according to the attached layout. All work to be accordance with general conditions, specifications and layout drawings contained in this Bid Notice.

Summons & Notice

SUMMONS

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS CIVIL ACTION NO: 2019-CP-43-00746

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF SUMTER

Summons & Notice

Rickey Lee Wright, PLAINTIFF, vs. David Bryan Tyler, DEFENDANT.

TO THE DEFENDANT HEREIN NAMED:

You are hereby summoned and required to answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your answer to the said Complaint on the subscribers at their offices at 17 East Calhoun Street, Sumter, South Carolina, within thirty (30) days of such service; and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

NOTICE OF FILING COMPLAINT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Complaint was filed in the above entitled action in the Sumter County Clerk of Court's Office on April 11, 2019, for the purpose of instituting an action against the Defendant as a result of an auto wreck which occurred April 12, 2016.

BRYAN LAW FIRM OF SC, L.L.P.

John R. Moorman Attorney for the Plaintiff 17 East Calhoun Street P. O. Box 2038 Sumter, SC 29151 (803) 775-1263

SUMMONS (CLAIM AND DELIVERY) (NON-JURY)

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS C/A No: 2019-CP-43-00612

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF SUMTER

21st Mortgage Corporation Plaintiff,

vs. Kelly M. Brian and Cynthia M. Tarantini Defendant,

Summons & Notice

TO THE DEFENDANT NAMED ABOVE:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your answer on the subscribers at their offices, 1640 St. Julian Place, Columbia, South Carolina 29202, within thirty (30) days after the service hereof; exclusive of the day of such service; except that the United States of America, if named shall have sixty (60) days to answer after the service hereof; exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, the Plaintiff in this action will apply to the Court for a judgment by default granting the relief demanded in the Complaint.

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

NOTICE OF FILING COMPLAINT

YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Summons and Complaint in the above-captioned were filed on March 26, 2019, in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Sumter County, South Carolina.

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Where's the beef? You won't even miss it with these 2 burgers

BY AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN

Portobello mushroom burgers are no longer just a sad substitute for beef burgers; they are legitimately delicious choices on their own.

For charry grilled portobellos that wouldn't leak moisture and make the buns soggy, we decided to try scoring them, a technique that works well with oven-roasted mushrooms. It worked like a charm on the grill.

We lightly scored the mushrooms on the smooth, non-gill side in a cross-hatch pattern. This helped expedite the release of moisture, which dripped out and evaporated on the grill, ensuring intense mushroom flavor and toasty, non-soggy buns. The crosshatching also allowed the mushrooms to absorb more marinade — a flavorful mix of olive oil, red wine vinegar and garlic.

Once they were cooked, we filled the portobello caps with a savory mixture of feta, sun-dried tomatoes and roasted red peppers before stacking them on grilled buns with basil mayo, baby arugula and sweet grilled onions.

If your mushrooms are larger or smaller than 4 to 5 inches, you may need to adjust the cooking time accordingly. If the mushrooms absorb all the marinade, simply brush the onions with olive oil before grilling.

GRILLED PORTOBELLO BURGERS

Servings: 4

Start to finish: 50 minutes

4 portobello mushroom caps (4 to 5 inches in diameter), gills removed

1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil

3 tablespoons red wine vinegar

1 garlic clove, minced

1 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon pepper

4 ounces feta cheese, crumbled (1 cup)

1/2 cup jarred roasted red peppers, patted dry and chopped

1/2 cup oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes, patted dry and chopped

1/2 cup mayonnaise

1/2 cup chopped fresh basil

4 (1/2-inch thick) slices red onion

4 kaiser rolls, split and toasted

1 ounce (1 cup) baby arugula

Cut 1/16-inch deep slits on top of mushroom caps, spaced 1/2 inch apart, in crosshatch pattern. Combine mushrooms, oil, vinegar, garlic, salt and pepper in 1 gallon zipper-lock bag, seal bag and turn to coat. Let sit for at least 30 minutes or up to 1 hour.

Combine feta, red peppers and sun-dried tomatoes in bowl. Whisk mayonnaise and basil together in separate bowl. Push 1 toothpick horizontally through each onion slice to keep rings intact while grilling.

• For a charcoal grill: Open bottom vent completely. Light large chimney starter filled with charcoal briquettes (6 quarts). When top coals are partially covered with ash, pour evenly over grill. Set cooking grate in place, cover, and open lid vent completely. Heat grill until hot, about 5 minutes.

• For a gas grill: Turn all burners to high, cover, and heat grill until hot, about 15 minutes. Turn all burners to medium-high.

Clean and oil cooking grate. Remove mushrooms from marinade, and brush onions all over with remaining mushroom marinade. Place onions and mushrooms, gill side up, on grill. Cook (covered if using gas) until mushrooms have released their liquid and are charred on first side, 4 to 6 minutes. Flip mushrooms and onions, and continue to cook (covered if using gas) until mushrooms are charred on second side, 3 to 5 minutes.

Transfer onions to platter, and discard toothpicks. Transfer mushrooms to platter, gill side up, and divide feta mixture evenly among caps, packing down mixture. Return mushrooms to grill, feta side up, and cook, covered, until heated through, about 3 minutes.

Return mushrooms to platter and tent with aluminum foil. Spread basil mayonnaise evenly over roll bottoms, and top each with 1 mushroom and 1 onion slice. Divide arugula evenly among burgers, then cap with roll tops. Serve.



JOE KELLER / AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN VIA AP

BY AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN

A veggie burger sounds good in theory. So why do so many taste like hockey pucks, fall apart in the pan, or require a hodgepodge of ingredients? Well, not this burger.

Starting with black beans (dried on paper towels to eliminate moisture) gave us a substantial base. To avoid a crumbly burger we minimized starchy binders, finding help in ground tortilla chips, which worked as a binder (along with eggs and a tiny bit of flour) and added toasty corn flavor.

Pulsing our beans only coarsely prevented the burgers from becoming gummy. To ensure they held together, we refrigerated the mixture for at least an hour, allowing the starches to absorb additional moisture. (Prepare the patties a day ahead for a faster meal.)

To build a Southwestern flavor, we added scallions, cilantro, garlic, cumin and coriander, plus hot sauce for zip. When forming the patties, it is important to pack them firmly together. Serve with Chipotle Mayonnaise (recipe follows) and your favorite toppings.



CARL TREMBLAY / AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN VIA AP

BLACK BEAN BURGERS

Servings: 6

Start to finish: 40 minutes (plus 1 to 24 hours chilling)

2 (15-ounce) cans black beans, rinsed

1 ounce tortilla chips, crushed coarse (1/2 cup)

4 scallions, cut into 1-inch lengths

1/2 cup fresh cilantro leaves

2 garlic cloves, peeled and smashed

2 large eggs

2 tablespoons all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon ground cumin

1 teaspoon hot sauce

1/2 teaspoon ground coriander

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon pepper

1/4 cup vegetable oil

6 hamburger buns

Line rimmed baking sheet with triple layer of paper towels, and spread black beans over towels. Let stand for 15 minutes.

Process tortilla chips in food processor until finely ground, about 30 seconds. Add scallions, cilantro and garlic, and pulse until finely chopped, about 15 pulses, scraping down sides of bowl as needed. Add beans, and pulse until beans are roughly broken down, about 5 pulses.

Whisk eggs, flour, cumin, hot sauce, coriander, salt and pepper together in large bowl until well combined. Add bean mixture, and mix until just combined. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour or up to 24 hours.

Adjust oven rack to middle position, and heat oven to 200 F. Set wire rack in rimmed baking sheet. Divide bean mixture into 6 equal portions. Firmly pack each portion into tight ball, then flatten to 3 1/2-inch-wide burgers.

Heat 1 tablespoon oil in 12-inch nonstick skillet over medium heat until shimmering. Carefully place 3 burgers in skillet and cook until bottoms are well browned and crisp, about 5 minutes. Flip burgers, add 1 tablespoon oil, and cook second side until well browned and crisp, 3 to 5 minutes. Transfer burgers to prepared rack, and keep warm in oven. Repeat with remaining 3 patties and remaining 2 tablespoons oil. Transfer burgers to buns and serve.

Chipotle Mayonnaise

Makes about 1/2 cup

You can vary the spiciness of this sauce by adjusting the amount of chipotle.

Whisk 3 tablespoons mayonnaise, 3 tablespoons sour cream, 2 tablespoons minced canned chipotle chile in adobo sauce, 1 minced garlic clove and 1/8 teaspoon salt together in small bowl. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour. (Sauce can be refrigerated for up to 24 hours.)

Nutrition information per serving: 385 calories; 115 calories from fat; 13 g fat (2 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 72 mg cholesterol; 751 mg sodium; 51 g carbohydrate; 11 g fiber; 5 g sugar; 15 g protein.

BIZARRO



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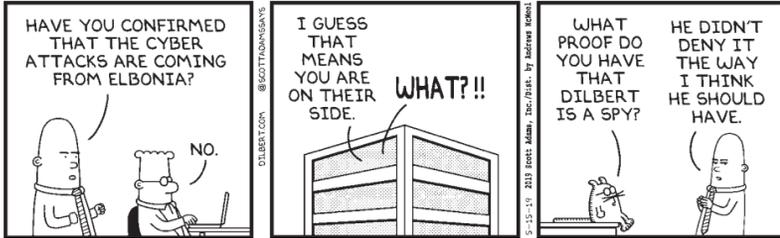
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JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE



Easy cheesecake recipe is a no-fail family classic



Dear Abby
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY — Years ago, you published a recipe for cheesecake, which you said was very good. Well, it was not only “good” — it was terrific. As a native New Yorker, I know cheesecake.

I've moved and lost my recipe. Can you republish it? It's the best!

Cheesecake lover in Deland, Florida

DEAR LOVER — Thank you for the compliment. I'm glad to oblige. My mother made it and I have fond memories of raiding the refrigerator with her again and again for “just a smidgen” more! I have many

delightful memories of her dinner and dessert recipes, which comprise the Dear Abby cookbooklet set. For readers interested in ordering the set, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 to Dear Abby — Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. In addition to the recipes, there are tips on entertaining.

ABBY'S CHEESECAKE CRUST:

- 1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1/2 cup butter, melted (1 stick)
- 1/3 cup powdered sugar

CHEESECAKE:

- 3 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 pint dairy sour cream (at room temperature)
- 1 (21-ounce) can prepared cherry, blueberry or strawberry pie filling

- Heat oven to 350 degrees.
- Combine graham cracker crumbs, powdered sugar and melted butter. Press into bottom of 8-inch springform pan.
- In a large bowl, beat cream cheese, eggs, sugar and vanilla until smooth. Pour mixture over prepared crust.
- Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes (until center is set).
- Remove from oven and spread sour cream on top of cheesecake. Return to oven and bake an additional 5 minutes.
- Remove from oven and allow to cool. Spread desired topping on cheesecake.
- Chill overnight. Before serving, carefully remove sides from pan. Serves 16.

Tip: To minimize cracking, place shallow pan half full of hot water on lower rack of oven during baking. And be sure the sour cream is at room temperature when you spread it on.

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.

ICALL

NYMEO

DIGINS

XONVCE

Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's Jumbles: LIMIT CAULK LIMBER ENTITY

Answer: The lawyer picked up new business because her happy customers were — “CLIENT-TELL”

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

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									59	60			62
63						64				65			
66						67				68			

Chuck Deodene

ACROSS

- 1 Passport stamps
- 6 Improvised knife
- 10 MRI output
- 14 Capital of Ghana
- 15 “Say Anything...” actress Skye
- 16 “and Abel”: Jeffrey Archer novel
- 17 Sports page table
- 20 Plaza payment
- 21 Feel remorse over
- 22 Winter hrs. in St. Louis
- 23 Blog entry
- 25 Dissociative condition
- 29 “Who to complain?”
- 30 Woman college basketball coach
- Summitt with an NCAA record 1,098 career wins
- 31 Nairobi's country
- 32 Insulin-producing gland
- 36 Left or right ending
- 37 Makes a case for, with “of”
- 42 Knot-tying vow

- 9 Playhouse, say slopes
- 11 High-kicking dance
- 12 Showing insecurity
- 13 Snapple rival
- 18 Wee toymaker
- 19 Matching office accessories
- 23 Dad
- 24 Shortstop
- Vizquel with 11 Gold Glove Awards
- 26 the crack of dawn
- 27 House-warming option
- 28 Aquarium beauty
- 33 Stage prompting
- 34 Singer from County Donegal
- 35 That, in Toledo

DOWN

- 1 Actor Kilmer
- 2 Floe makeup
- 3 Perform like Ella
- 4 Insider lingo
- 5 TV lawyer
- 6 54-Across' sib
- 7 Trending
- 8 Going nowhere, career-wise

- 36 Online chats, briefly
- 38 Subdued hue
- 39 “Simple as can be”
- 40 torch: luau light
- 41 What a tattoo may cover
- 44 Mark of shame
- 45 Kitchen toppers
- 46 Put into power
- 47 2019 Pebble Beach event
- 50 Wipe
- 51 “Weeds” law org.
- 52 Moth attractor
- 56 Units of energy
- 58 Poke: retro candy
- 59 Settle
- 60 Time to remember
- 61 “Homeland” org.
- 62 Turn in the plumbing

Previous Puzzle Solved

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

SP	FT	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM
LOCAL CHANNELS												
WIS	10	3	10	WIS News 10 at 7 (N)	Entertainment Tonight (N)	Chicago Med "Forever Hold Your Peace" Dr. Charles makes a serious decision. (N) (DVS)	Chicago Fire "The White Whale" A serial arsonist cold case is reopened. (N) (DVS)	Chicago P.D. "Confession" Antonio struggles with his conscience. (N) (DVS)	WIS News 10 at 11 (N)	(:34) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon Howard Stern; Of Monsters and Men. (N)		
WLTX	19	9	9	News 19 at 7pm (N)	Inside Edition (N)	Survivor "I See the Million Dollars" (Season Finale) One castaway is crowned the winner. (N)		Survivor "Reunion Special" (N)	News 19 at 11pm (N)	(:35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert "BTS" BTS performs. (N)		
WOLO	25	5	12	Wheel of Fortune "America the Beautiful" (N)	Jeopardy! "Teachers Tournament" (N)	**** "Toy Story 2" (1999, Children's) Voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Joan Cusack. Animated. Toys rescue Woody from a collector. (DVS)		Whiskey Cavalier "Two of a Kind" A mission to take down a drug operation. (N) (DVS)	ABC Columbia News at 11 (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live		
WRJA	27	11	14	Coastal Kingdom "Nature's Classroom"	Expeditions With Patrick McMillan	Nature "Equus: Story of the Horse: Origins" Relationship between humans and horses. (Part 1 of 2) (DVS)	NOVA "First Horse Warriors" The world's first riders of wild horses. (N)	Breakthrough: The Ideas That Changed the World "The Rocket" The history of the rocket. (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)		Nature Relationship between humans and horses.	
WACH	57	6	6	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory The guys compete for tenure.	MasterChef Celebrity Family Show-down: Johnny Weir; Tara Lipinski; Snooki. (Part 1 of 2) (DVS)	Paradise Hotel "Episode 103" One unlucky single goes home. (N) (DVS)	WACH FOX News at 10 (N) (Live)	Sports Zone	DailyMailTV (N)	TMZ (N)	
WKTC	63	4	22	Last Man Standing Eve surprises Mike and Vanessa.	Last Man Standing Vanessa starts a lending library.	Riverdale "Chapter Fifty-Seven: Survive the Night" (Season Finale) Edgar makes a chilling announcement. (N)	Jane The Virgin "Chapter Eighty-Nine" Rogelio turns to Jane for help. (N)	Dateline "Miami Heat" A woman claims self-defense.	Dateline "After Midnight" A weekend visit goes horribly wrong.	The Game Janay's ex-boyfriend comes to town.		
CABLE CHANNELS												
A&E	46	130	130	Wahburgers A freak ice storm threatens an opening.	Wahburgers: Wahl of Fame "Balls to the Wah" Memorable athletic moments.	Wahburgers (Season Premiere) Alex Rodriguez works a shift for Mark. (N)	(:01) The Employables Experts give advice to James and Jeff.	Inside Story: Caddyshack: The making of the film.	Inside Story: Caddyshack			
AMC	48	180	180	(5:30) ** "Escape Plan" (2013, Action) Sylvester Stallone.	** "Moneyball" (2011, Drama) Brad Pitt, Jonah Hill, Philip Seymour Hoffman. A baseball manager challenges old-school traditions.	** "The Sandlot" (1993) Thomas Guiry. The new boy in town falls in with neighborhood ballplayers.						
ANPL	41	100	100	Northwest Law	Northwest Law: Uncuffed People who don't want to be found. (N)	Northwest Law "Poacher Pursuit"	Northwest Law "Shrimping Ain't Easy"	Law: Uncuff				
BET	61	162	162	(6:30) *** "Beverly Hills Cop" (1984, Comedy) Eddie Murphy, Judge Reinhold, John Ashton. A Detroit cop goes west to avenge his friend's death.	(:05) ** "Beverly Hills Cop II" (1987, Comedy) Eddie Murphy, Judge Reinhold, Brigitte Nielsen. A Detroit cop tangles with a vicious gang in California.	Best Room Wins "Bleeding Color" Megan faces off against Mat. (N)		Watch What Happens Live	Southern Charm "RSVPeeved" Charleston reels over Thomas' arrest.			
BRAVO	47	181	181	(6:30) Southern Charm "Reunion Part 2" Austen and Chelsea dish.	Southern Charm "RSVPeeved" Charleston reels over Thomas' arrest.	The Real Housewives of New York City The ladies head upstairs. (N)	Shark Tank	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon (N)	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank
CNBC	35	84	84	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank
CNN	3	80	80	Erin Burnett OutFront (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	Cuomo Prime Time (N)	Cuomo Prime Time (N)	Cuomo Prime Time (N)	Cuomo Prime Time (N)	Cuomo Prime Time (N)	Cuomo Prime Time (N)	Cuomo Prime Time (N)
COM	57	136	136	(6:50) South Park	(:25) South Park "Grey Dawn"	South Park "The Hobbit"	South Park "Smug Alert!"	South Park "Eat, Pray, Queef"	South Park "Ass Burgers"	The Daily Show With Trevor Noah	(:31) South Park	(12:01) South Park "Erection Day"
DISN	18	200	200	Jessie	Jessie Mrs. Kipling becomes famous.	Sydney to the Max	Sydney to the Max	Sydney to the Max	Coop & Cami Ask the World	Miraculous: Tales of Ladybug	Bunk'd	Bizaardvark
DSC	42	103	103	Expedition Unknown "Mahogany Ship"	Expedition Unknown: Unearthed (N)	Expedition Unknown (N)	Expedition Unknown (N)	Expedition Unknown (N)	Expedition Unknown (N)	Expedition Unknown (N)	Expedition Unknown (N)	Expedition Un.
ESPN	26	35	35	MLB Baseball St. Louis Cardinals at Atlanta Braves.	MLB Baseball St. Louis Cardinals at Atlanta Braves.	MLB Baseball St. Louis Cardinals at Atlanta Braves.	MLB Baseball St. Louis Cardinals at Atlanta Braves.	MLB Baseball St. Louis Cardinals at Atlanta Braves.	MLB Baseball St. Louis Cardinals at Atlanta Braves.	MLB Baseball St. Louis Cardinals at Atlanta Braves.	MLB Baseball St. Louis Cardinals at Atlanta Braves.	MLB Baseball St. Louis Cardinals at Atlanta Braves.
ESPN2	27	39	39	NFL Live	Jalen & Jacoby	Overwatch League 2019 All-Stars. (N) (Live)	Overwatch League 2019 All-Stars. (N) (Live)	Overwatch League 2019 All-Stars. (N) (Live)	Overwatch League 2019 All-Stars. (N) (Live)	Overwatch League 2019 All-Stars. (N) (Live)	Overwatch League 2019 All-Stars. (N) (Live)	Overwatch League 2019 All-Stars. (N) (Live)
FOOD	40	109	109	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Games
FOXN	37	90	90	The Story With Martha MacCallum (N)	Tucker Carlson Tonight (N)	Hannity (N)	The Ingraham Angle (N)	The Ingraham Angle (N)	The Ingraham Angle (N)	The Ingraham Angle (N)	The Ingraham Angle (N)	Tucker Carlson
FREE	20	131	131	Family Guy (DVS)	Family Guy "Dog Bites Bear"	Pretty Little Liars: The Perfectionists Dana exposes a critical secret. (N)	(:01) * "This Means War" (2012, Action) Reese Witherspoon, Chris Pine, Tom Hardy. Two CIA agents battle over the same woman.	Reese Witherspoon, Chris Pine, Tom Hardy. Two CIA agents battle over the same woman.	Reese Witherspoon, Chris Pine, Tom Hardy. Two CIA agents battle over the same woman.	Reese Witherspoon, Chris Pine, Tom Hardy. Two CIA agents battle over the same woman.	Reese Witherspoon, Chris Pine, Tom Hardy. Two CIA agents battle over the same woman.	*** "Pretty in Pink" (1986)
FSS	21	47	47	(:15) MLB Baseball St. Louis Cardinals at Atlanta Braves.	Atlanta Braves. From SunTrust Park in Atlanta. (N) (Live)	Atlanta Braves. From SunTrust Park in Atlanta. (N) (Live)	Atlanta Braves. From SunTrust Park in Atlanta. (N) (Live)	Atlanta Braves. From SunTrust Park in Atlanta. (N) (Live)	Atlanta Braves. From SunTrust Park in Atlanta. (N) (Live)	Atlanta Braves. From SunTrust Park in Atlanta. (N) (Live)	Atlanta Braves. From SunTrust Park in Atlanta. (N) (Live)	Atlanta Braves. From SunTrust Park in Atlanta. (N) (Live)
HALL	52	183	183	(6:00) "Summer Love" (2016, Romance) Rachael Leigh Cook, Lucas Bryant.	"A Feeling of Home" (2019, Romance) Jonna Walsh, Nathan Parsons, Mary-Margaret Humes. A woman helps her father recover from an accident.	Blue Bloods "The Bullitt Mustang" A car from a classic film is stolen.		Blue Bloods "Unsung Heroes" An elusive serial killer taunts Danny.	Blue Bloods "Hold Outs" Erin must take a case from a colleague.	Blue Bloods "Hold Outs" Erin must take a case from a colleague.	Blue Bloods "Hold Outs" Erin must take a case from a colleague.	Blue Bloods "Hold Outs" Erin must take a case from a colleague.
HGTV	39	112	112	Property Brothers: Buying & Selling	Property Brothers "Nutty and Proud"	Property Brothers (N)	Property Brothers (N)	Property Brothers (N)	Property Brothers (N)	Property Brothers (N)	Property Brothers (N)	Property Brothers
HIST	45	110	110	Forged in Fire (DVS)	Forged in Fire: Cutting Deeper (N)	Forged in Fire (N) (DVS)	Forged in Fire (N) (DVS)	Forged in Fire (N) (DVS)	Forged in Fire (N) (DVS)	Forged in Fire (N) (DVS)	Forged in Fire (N) (DVS)	Forged in Fire
ION	13	18	18	Blue Bloods "Rush to Judgment" Jamie's behavior is questioned.	Blue Bloods "Rush to Judgment" Jamie's behavior is questioned.	Blue Bloods "Rush to Judgment" Jamie's behavior is questioned.	Blue Bloods "Rush to Judgment" Jamie's behavior is questioned.	Blue Bloods "Rush to Judgment" Jamie's behavior is questioned.	Blue Bloods "Rush to Judgment" Jamie's behavior is questioned.	Blue Bloods "Rush to Judgment" Jamie's behavior is questioned.	Blue Bloods "Rush to Judgment" Jamie's behavior is questioned.	Blue Bloods "Back in the Day"
LIFE	50	145	145	(5:30) ** "August Rush" (2007) Freddie Highmore, Kerl Russell.	*** "Secretariat" (2010, Drama) Diane Lane, John Malkovich, Dylan Walsh. The story of the 1973 Triple Crown winner.	*** "Secretariat" (2010, Drama) Diane Lane, John Malkovich, Dylan Walsh. The story of the 1973 Triple Crown winner.		*** "Secretariat" (2010, Drama) Diane Lane, John Malkovich, Dylan Walsh. The story of the 1973 Triple Crown winner.	*** "Secretariat" (2010, Drama) Diane Lane, John Malkovich, Dylan Walsh. The story of the 1973 Triple Crown winner.	*** "Secretariat" (2010, Drama) Diane Lane, John Malkovich, Dylan Walsh. The story of the 1973 Triple Crown winner.	*** "Secretariat" (2010, Drama) Diane Lane, John Malkovich, Dylan Walsh. The story of the 1973 Triple Crown winner.	*** "Secretariat" (2010, Drama) Diane Lane, John Malkovich, Dylan Walsh. The story of the 1973 Triple Crown winner.
MSNBC	36	92	92	Hardball With Chris Matthews (N)	All In With Chris Hayes (N)	The Rachel Maddow Show (N)	The Rachel Maddow Show (N)	The Rachel Maddow Show (N)	The Rachel Maddow Show (N)	The Rachel Maddow Show (N)	The Rachel Maddow Show (N)	Rachel Maddow
NICK	16	210	210	The Substitute	Henry Danger	** "Spy Kids 3: Game Over" (2003, Children's) Antonio Banderas.	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
PARMT	64	153	153	Mom	Mom	** "Hercules" (2014) Dwayne Johnson. Hercules helps defend Thraace from a powerful warlord.	** "Walking Tall" (2004, Action) The Rock, Johnny Knoxville.	** "Walking Tall" (2004, Action) The Rock, Johnny Knoxville.	** "Walking Tall" (2004, Action) The Rock, Johnny Knoxville.	** "Walking Tall" (2004, Action) The Rock, Johnny Knoxville.	** "Walking Tall" (2004, Action) The Rock, Johnny Knoxville.	** "Walking Tall" (2004, Action) The Rock, Johnny Knoxville.
SYFY	58	152	152	(:03) ** "John Carter" (2012, Science Fiction) Taylor Kitsch, Lynn Collins, Willem Dafoe. A human soldier becomes embroiled in a conflict on Mars.	Happy! "A Friend of Death" Sax hits rock bottom. (N)	Happy! "A Friend of Death" Sax hits rock bottom. (N)	Happy! "A Friend of Death" Sax hits rock bottom. (N)	Happy! "A Friend of Death" Sax hits rock bottom. (N)	Happy! "A Friend of Death" Sax hits rock bottom. (N)	Happy! "A Friend of Death" Sax hits rock bottom. (N)	Happy! "A Friend of Death" Sax hits rock bottom. (N)	Happy! "A Friend of Death" Sax hits rock bottom. (N)
TBS	24	156	156	Bob's Burgers (DVS)	Bob's Burgers (DVS)	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory
TCM	49	186	186	(6:30) **** "The Magnificent Ambersons" (1942, Drama) Joseph Cotten.	**** "Hud" (1963, Drama) Paul Newman, Melvyn Douglas, Patricia Neal. A hard-drinking womanizer rebels against his father.	**** "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" (1969, Western) Paul Newman. An encroaching posse in Wyoming prompts outlaws to try out Bolivia.		**** "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" (1969, Western) Paul Newman. An encroaching posse in Wyoming prompts outlaws to try out Bolivia.	**** "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" (1969, Western) Paul Newman. An encroaching posse in Wyoming prompts outlaws to try out Bolivia.	**** "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" (1969, Western) Paul Newman. An encroaching posse in Wyoming prompts outlaws to try out Bolivia.	**** "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" (1969, Western) Paul Newman. An encroaching posse in Wyoming prompts outlaws to try out Bolivia.	
TLC	43	157	157	(6:00) My 600-Lb. Life	My 600-Lb. Life "Vianey & Allen's Story" Vianey and Allen look to lose weight.	NBA Tip-Off (N) (Live)	NBA Basketball TBA at Milwaukee Bucks. Eastern Conference Final, Game 1. (N Subject to Blackout) (Live)	Inside the NBA (N) (Live)	My 600-Lb. Life "Charity's Story"	My 600-Lb. Life "Charity's Story"	My 600-Lb. Life "Charity's Story"	My 600-Lb. Life "Charity's Story"
TNT	23	158	158	(5:45) ** "Point Break" (2015) Edgar Ramirez, Luke Bracey. (DVS)	Impactical Jokers	Impactical Jokers	Impactical Jokers	Impactical Jokers	Impactical Jokers	Impactical Jokers	Impactical Jokers	Impactical Jokers
TRUTV	38	129	129	Impactical Jokers	Impactical Jokers	Impactical Jokers	Impactical Jokers	Impactical Jokers	Impactical Jokers	Impactical Jokers	Impactical Jokers	Impactical Jokers
TV LAND	55	161	161	Andy Griffith Show	Andy Griffith Show	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond
USA	25	132	132	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Artist's death uncovers more murders.	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Self-ish" A 2-year-old girl goes missing.	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Self-ish" A 2-year-old girl goes missing.	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Self-ish" A 2-year-old girl goes missing.	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Self-ish" A 2-year-old girl goes missing.	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Self-ish" A 2-year-old girl goes missing.	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Self-ish" A 2-year-old girl goes missing.	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Self-ish" A 2-year-old girl goes missing.	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Self-ish" A 2-year-old girl goes missing.
WE	68	166	166	(6:00) Love After Lockup	** "Maid in Manhattan" (2002, Romance-Comedy) Jennifer Lopez, Ralph Fiennes.	** "Maid in Manhattan" (2002, Romance-Comedy) Jennifer Lopez, Ralph Fiennes.	** "Maid in Manhattan" (2002, Romance-Comedy) Jennifer Lopez, Ralph Fiennes.	** "Maid in Manhattan" (2002, Romance-Comedy) Jennifer Lopez, Ralph Fiennes.	** "Maid in Manhattan" (2002, Romance-Comedy) Jennifer Lopez, Ralph Fiennes.	** "Maid in Manhattan" (2002, Romance-Comedy) Jennifer Lopez, Ralph Fiennes.	** "Maid in Manhattan" (2002, Romance-Comedy) Jennifer Lopez, Ralph Fiennes.	** "Maid in Manhattan" (2002, Romance-Comedy) Jennifer Lopez, Ralph Fiennes.
WGNA	8	172	172	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Married ... With

A&E show celebrates triumph over challenges

BY KEVIN McDONOUGH

"The Employables" (10 p.m., A&E, TV-PG) puts the accent on the heartwarming. It follows job-seekers with autism and Tourette's syndrome as they seek to overcome their social awkwardness and reveal often remarkable talents to would-be employers.

In the pilot, we meet a former pre-med student from Tennessee who went from the dean's list to being expelled after he was overcome by Tourette's syndrome. Seemingly overnight, a thoughtful, brilliant student would begin repeatedly blurted out odd phrases and jerk his head spasmodically. And the more he tried to control his condition, the more his anxieties would fuel his tics and outbursts.

We also meet a young man on the autism spectrum who lives with his supportive parents. Painfully slow to express himself verbally, he fills his notebooks with thoughts and drawings inspired by his meticulously catalogued collection of horror movies.

In the first act of "Employables," we see both men looking for work, often on their own, with rather sad results. In the second, they meet with experts and doctors who test their intelligence and counsel them on how they can best present their skills. In the third act, they're set up with potential employers.

Every aspect of this show, from the music, to the interstitial sound effects and its narrative structure, follow the reality TV playbook. Get ready for the big reveal! But the characters and their stories transcend the series' predictable format.

Dogs may be human-kind's best friends, but no animal has impacted civilization quite like the horse. So say the experts on tonight's "NOVA" (9 p.m., PBS, TV-PG, check local listings).

"First Horse Warriors" follows anthropologist Niobe Thompson as he travels throughout Europe and Central Asia to study prehistoric links between animals and humans, and to explore the mysteries of the first people who learned to use horses as transportation and not only as food.



DEAN BUSCHER / THE CW

After receiving mysterious invitations, Archie (KJ Apa), Betty (Lili Reinhart), Veronica (Camila Mendes) and Jughead (Cole Sprouse) band together to confront the evils of their past once and for all in the "Chapter Fifty-Seven: Survive the Night" season finale episode of "Riverdale," airing at 8 p.m. today on CW.

How important were horses? They appear in cave drawings, the very first recorded works of human art. Scientists explore areas in France where thousands of horse bones point to a place where they were slaughtered for food. Discovering evidence of horse riding is more difficult, but scientists study horse teeth, thousands of years old, that suggest the use of bridles and bits.

One of the strangest things about our relationship with the horse is how quickly we "broke up." It took less than a century to replace the horse as transport and agricultural workhorse.

Only a generation ago, horses like "Mr. Ed" and "My Friend Flicka" were still TV stars. Today, so few viewers live with horses in their lives, we have to settle for "My Little Pony."

On a related note, Diane Lane and John Malkovich star in the 2010 profile of the champion thoroughbred "Secretariat" (8 p.m., Lifetime, TV-PG).

TONIGHT'S SEASON FINALES

A winner emerges and receives a cash prize on "Survivor" (8 p.m., CBS, TV-PG), followed by a season retro-

spective (10 p.m.).

- The gang confront the town's past on "Riverdale" (8 p.m., CW, TV-14).

TONIGHT'S OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Caroline confronts Dr. Charles on "Chicago Med" (8 p.m., NBC, TV-14).
- Buzz and the gang rescue Woody in the 1999 sequel "Toy Story 2" (8 p.m., ABC).
- The salon fire may be linked to a serial arsonist on "Chicago Fire" (9 p.m., NBC, TV-14).
- Nadja mentors Jenna on "What We Do in the Shadows" (10 p.m., FX, TV-MA).

CULT CHOICE

Hollywood geniuses took Edgar Rice Burroughs' alluringly titled book "A Princess of Mars" and renamed it "John Carter" (7 p.m., Syfy). The 2012 adventure lost millions. Lesson: Don't let the marketing department mess with a pulp classic!

SERIES NOTES

Jane can't handle Rafael's cold shoulder on "Jane the Virgin" (9 p.m., CW, TV-PG) * Antonio wrestles with his conscience on "Chicago P.D." (10 p.m., NBC, TV-14) *

Frankie's tender side emerges on "Whiskey Cavalier" (10 p.m., ABC, TV-14).

LATE NIGHT

Ron Funches is booked on "Conan" (11 p.m., TBS) * BTS appears on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" (11:35, CBS) * Jimmy Fallon welcomes Howard Stern and Of Monsters and Men on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC) * Margo Martindale, PKEW PKEW PKEW and Johnny Radelat visit "Late Night with Seth Meyers" (12:35 a.m., NBC) * Octavia Spencer, Henry Winkler and Sarah Tollemache appear on "The Late Late Show with James Corden" (12:37 a.m., CBS).

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Wu clarifies her reaction to renewal of sitcom

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Constance Wu said she was initially unhappy that "Fresh Off the Boat" was renewed for a sixth season because it meant she had to give up another project she was passionate about.



WU

In a lengthy statement posted on her Twitter page Saturday, the actress said she loves her ABC sitcom but she was "temporarily upset yesterday" because the other project "would have challenged me as an artist."

When ABC announced the renewal Friday, Wu said in a series of tweets that it was not welcome news.

On Saturday, she clarified that she loves working on the TV show and that her disappointment had more to do with losing another role.

"My words and ill-timing were insensitive to those who are struggling, especially insensitive considering the fact that I used to be in that struggle too," her statement said.

Wu stars in "Fresh off the Boat" playing the mother in a Taiwanese-American family in Florida in the 1990s.

Wu's star rose considerably in 2018 with her lead role in "Crazy Rich Asians," a major hit that got her a Golden Globe nomination.

Subscribe today, and stay in the loop (803) 774-1200

the Sumter ITEM

These kebabs have a sweet, smoky flavor

BY AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN

In theory, barbecued chicken kebabs sound pretty great: char-streaked chunks of juicy meat lacquered with sweet and tangy barbecue sauce. But without an insulating layer of skin, even the fattiest thigh meat can dry out and toughen when exposed to the blazing heat of the grill — and forget about ultra-lean skinless breast meat.

Our goal was simple: juicy, tender chicken with plenty of sticky-sweet, smoke-tinged flavor. Brining is one common way to safeguard against dry meat, but in this case the brine made the meat so slick that the barbecue sauce refused to stick.

A salt rub worked much better; the rub crisped up on the chicken's exterior as it cooked, forming a craggy surface that the sauce could really cling to.

For incredible depth of flavor as well as juicy meat, we turned to an unusual technique: grinding bacon to a paste and applying it to the salted meat. Combined with both sweet and smoked paprika and a little sugar, our bacon-y rub created chicken that was juicy, tender, and full-flavored, with a smoky depth that complemented the barbecue sauce.

BARBECUED CHICKEN KEBABS

Servings: 6

Start to finish: 1 hour, 45 minutes

Use the large holes of a box grater to grate the onion for the sauce. We prefer flavorful dark thigh meat for these kebabs, but white meat can be used. Whichever you choose, don't mix white and dark meat on the same skewer, since they cook at different rates. If you have thin pieces of chicken, cut them larger than 1 inch, and roll or fold them into approximate 1-inch cubes. Turbinado sugar is commonly sold as Sugar in the Raw. Demerara sugar can be substituted. You will need four 12-inch metal skewers for this recipe.

Sauce:

1/2 cup ketchup
1/4 cup molasses
2 tablespoons grated onion
2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
2 tablespoons cider vinegar
1 tablespoon packed light brown sugar

Chicken:

2 tablespoons paprika
4 teaspoons turbinado sugar
2 teaspoons kosher salt
2 teaspoons smoked paprika
2 slices bacon, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken thighs or breasts, trimmed, cut into 1-inch chunks



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For the sauce: Bring all ingredients to simmer in small saucepan over medium heat and cook, stirring occasionally, until reduced to about 1 cup, 5 to 7 minutes. Transfer 1/2 cup sauce to small bowl, and set remaining sauce aside for serving.

For the chicken: Combine paprika, sugar, salt and smoked paprika in large bowl. Process bacon in food processor until smooth paste forms, 30 to 45 seconds, scraping down sides of bowl as needed. Add bacon paste and chicken to spice mixture and mix with your hands or rubber spatula until ingredients are thoroughly blended and chicken is completely coated. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 1 hour. Thread

chicken tightly onto four 12-inch metal skewers.

• For a charcoal grill: Open bottom vent completely. Light large chimney starter three-quarters filled with charcoal briquettes (4 1/2 quarts). When top coals are partially covered with ash, pour evenly over half of grill. Set cooking grate in place, cover, and open lid vent completely. Heat grill until hot, about 5 minutes.

• For a gas grill: Turn all burners to high, cover, and heat grill until hot, about 15 minutes. Turn all burners to medium-high.

Clean and oil cooking grate. Place skewers on hotter part of grill (if using charcoal), and cook (covered if using gas), turning kebabs

every 2 to 2 1/2 minutes, until well browned and slightly charred, 8 to 10 minutes. Brush top surface of skewers with 1/4 cup sauce, flip, and cook until sauce is sizzling and browning in spots, about 1 minute. Brush second side with remaining 1/4 cup sauce, flip, and continue to cook until sizzling and browning in spots, about 1 minute longer.

Transfer skewers to serving platter, tent with aluminum foil, and let rest for 5 to 10 minutes. Serve, passing reserved sauce separately.

Nutrition information per serving: 282 calories; 108 calories from fat; 12 g fat (3 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 84 mg cholesterol; 771 mg sodium; 25 g carbohydrate; 1 g fiber; 22 g sugar; 18 g protein.

Artichoke, navy beans make tasty, creamy dip

BY AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN

Most artichoke dips could justifiably be called mayonnaise and cheese dips, given what goes into them.

To create a more nutritious rendition, we looked to bean dip to provide a creamy base that contributed protein and fiber instead of saturated fat. We thought that the vegetal artichokes (high in vitamins K and C and various minerals) would partner well with the earthy-sweet but mild beans, adding some needed character.

We chose navy beans for their velvety texture, rinsing them to remove excess sodium. Using canned beans and jarred artichoke hearts kept the recipe easy. To increase the creaminess of our dip and add a filling burst of protein, we incorporated Greek yogurt.

Finally, a healthy dose of lemon juice, garlic, parsley and scallion added fresh flavor and brightness. Serve with vegetables, whole-grain crackers or whole-grain chips.

NAVY BEAN AND ARTICHOKE DIP

Servings: 6-8

Start to finish: 50 minutes

1 teaspoon grated lemon zest plus 2 tablespoons juice
1 small garlic clove, minced
1 (15-ounce) can navy beans, 2 tablespoons liquid reserved, beans rinsed



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1 cup jarred whole artichoke hearts packed in water, rinsed and patted dry, 2 tablespoons chopped

1/4 cup fresh parsley leaves
1 scallion, white and light green parts cut into 1/2-inch pieces, dark green part sliced thin on bias

Salt
1/4 teaspoon ground fennel
Pinch cayenne pepper
1/4 cup organic plain 2 percent Greek yogurt
Cold-pressed extra-virgin olive oil
Combine lemon zest and juice and garlic in bowl and let sit for 15 minutes.

Pulse garlic-lemon juice mixture, beans, their reserved liquid, whole artichoke hearts, parsley, white and light green scallion pieces, 3/4 teaspoon salt, fennel and cayenne

in food processor until finely ground, 5 to 10 pulses, scraping down bowl as needed. Continue to process until uniform paste forms, about 1 minute, scraping down bowl as needed.

Add yogurt and continue to process until smooth, about 15 seconds. Transfer to serving bowl, cover, and let stand at room temperature for 30 minutes. (Dip can be refrigerated for up to 1 day; bring to room temperature before serving.) Season with salt to taste. Sprinkle with reserved chopped artichokes and dark green scallion parts, and drizzle with oil to taste before serving.

Nutrition information per serving: 109 calories; 34 calories from fat; 4 g fat (1 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 0 mg cholesterol; 328 mg sodium; 14 g carbohydrate; 5 g fiber; 1 g sugar; 5 g protein.

Braising can maximize freshness of spring veggies

BY AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN

While raw and roasted vegetables certainly have their place, braising is a great technique for cooking even the most delicate vegetables.

You may think braising would turn verdant spring vegetables drab and watery but, in fact, braising can maximize their freshness and make them taste more like themselves.

To turn early season produce into a warm side dish, we started by softening a minced shallot in olive oil with additional aromatics for a savory base. To build a flavorful braising liquid, we poured in water and lemon and orange zest and dropped in a bay leaf.

Adding the vegetables in stages ensured that each cooked at its own rate and maintained a crisp texture. Peppery radishes, which turned soft and sweet with cooking, were nicely complemented by the more vegetal notes of asparagus and peas (frozen peas were reliably sweet, and adding them off the heat prevented overcooking).

In no time at all, we had a simple side of radiant vegetables in an invigorating, complex broth — proof positive that braising can bring out the best in even the most delicate flavors. A toss of chopped fresh tarragon gave a final nod to spring. Look for asparagus spears no thicker than 1/2 inch.

BRAISED SPRING VEGETABLES WITH TARRAGON

Servings: 4-6

1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
1 shallot, sliced into thin rounds
2 garlic cloves, sliced thin
3 sprigs fresh thyme
Pinch red pepper flakes
10 radishes, trimmed and quartered lengthwise
1 1/4 cups water
2 teaspoons grated lemon zest
2 teaspoons grated orange zest
1 bay leaf
Salt and pepper
1 pound asparagus, trimmed and cut into 2-inch lengths
2 cups frozen peas
4 teaspoons chopped fresh tarragon

Cook oil, shallot, garlic, thyme sprigs and pepper flakes in Dutch oven over medium heat until shallot is just softened, about 2 minutes. Stir in radishes, water, lemon zest, orange zest, bay leaf and 1 teaspoon salt, and bring to simmer. Reduce heat to medium-low, cover and cook until radishes can be easily pierced with tip of paring knife, 3 to 5 minutes. Stir in asparagus, cover and cook until tender, 3 to 5 minutes.

Off heat, stir in peas, cover, and let sit until heated through, about 5 minutes. Discard thyme sprigs and bay leaf. Stir in tarragon and season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve.

Nutrition information per serving: 162 calories; 81 calories from fat; 9 g fat (1 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 0 mg cholesterol; 433 mg sodium; 16 g carbohydrate; 6 g fiber; 6 g sugar; 5 g protein.