

Sentencing begins in 2015 slayings

Roof acting as his own lawyer for phase of trial

CHARLESTON (AP) — The same jury that last month unanimously found Dylann Roof guilty in the slayings of nine black parishioners at a South Carolina church is returning to

court to begin contemplating his punishment.

With the 22-year-old representing himself, the process is sure to be unconventional. But even if Roof is sentenced to death, it's highly unlikely he'd be executed anytime soon.

While prosecutors plan to call up to 38 people related to the nine people killed and three who survived the

June 2015 slaughter during Bible study at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, Roof said last week he plans on calling no witnesses and presenting no evidence.

Roof was found guilty last month on 33 federal charges, including hate crimes and obstruction of the practice of religion. A jury took less than three hours to return its verdict, and a judge

dismissed the jury for a break during the holidays.

Typically in what's known as the sentencing phase, defense attorneys call relatives and other witnesses to testify about their client's unsteady state of mind before and during the crimes. Given that background, the

SEE **ROOF**, PAGE A7

IS suicide bomber kills 36 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP) — A suicide bomber driving a pickup loaded with explosives struck a bustling market in Baghdad on Monday, killing at least 36 people in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group hours after French President Francois Hollande arrived in the Iraqi capital.

The bomb went off in a fruit and vegetable market that was packed with day laborers, a police officer said, adding that an additional 52 people were wounded.

During a news conference with Hollande, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said the bomber pretended to be a man seeking to hire day laborers. Once the workers gathered around, he detonated the vehicle.

IS claimed the attack in a statement circulated on a militant website often used by the extremists. It was the third IS-claimed attack in as many days in and around Baghdad, underscoring the lingering threat posed by the group despite a string of setbacks elsewhere in the country during the past year, including in and around the northern city of Mosul.

The attack took place in Sadr City, a vast Shiite district in eastern Baghdad that has been repeatedly targeted by Sunni extremists since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion.

Shiite militiamen loyal to Muqtada al-Sadr, the firebrand cleric for whose family the neighborhood is named, were seen evacuating bodies in their trucks before ambulances arrived. Bodies were scattered across the bloody pavement alongside fruit, vegetables and laborers' shovels and axes.

A minibus filled with dead

SEE **BOMBING**, PAGE A8

Manning man makes 'miraculous' recovery after Stage 4 colon cancer



KONSTANTIN VENGEROWSKY / THE SUMTER ITEM

Justin Shorter, far right, is seen with his wife, Caroline Shorter, and their children, Will, 5, and Thomas, 8. Shorter made a miraculous recovery after being diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer in January 2016. Shorter, who races late-model stock cars as a hobby, was recently voted TheFourthTurn's 2016 Most Popular Driver of the Year.

Survivor thanks community for its support during his treatment

BY KONSTANTIN VENGEROWSKY
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Manning resident Justin Shorter said he believes in miracles one year after a tumor was discovered in his colon.

Last January, Shorter, 36, was diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer. The cancer had metastasized to his liver, in which 10 tumors were found. In late December, Shorter's tests indicated the tumors were gone.

Doctors at Medical University of South Carolina Hollings Cancer Center and at Duke Cancer Institute told him that chemotherapy would be the best treatment option, but a positive out-

... You have to have your strength and faith and know that God will answer your prayers.'

JUSTIN SHORTER

come was not a guarantee, he said. "My wife, Caroline, and I decided early on, though, that I was not going to feel sorry for myself but keep going," he said. "I think that's the only way to do it; you have to have your

strength and faith and know that God will answer your prayers."

Shorter underwent eight treatments of aggressive chemotherapy. Each treatment drained his body of energy to the point that he would need about four days of rest to recover.

Nevertheless, Shorter continued doing what he loves the most, racing late-model stock cars. During his treatments, he participated in and won four competitions at Florence Motor Speedway, despite not having a lot of energy.

"Chemotherapy really knocks the breath out of you, but you have to keep going," he said. "I think doing things I

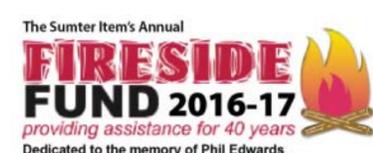
SEE **SURVIVOR**, PAGE A8

Bring warmth to the New Year for local families in need

BY JIM HILLEY
jim@theitem.com

As 2016 came to an end, many residents of the Gamecock City may remember it as the year Sumter lost one of its greatest residents, philanthropist Phil Edwards, whose contributions to Sumter and South Carolina are too many to mention.

With many people in Sumter struggling



to stay warm during the winter, what better way is there to honor such a generous man as by providing a gift of warmth to your neighbors by do-

nating to Fireside Fund?

Sumter United Ministries is managing the fund this winter, and Executive Director Mark Champagne said Fireside Fund had been a tremendous blessing for area residents.

"Through these funds, the staff and volunteers at Sumter United Ministries are able to serve Sumter citizens by providing assistance to those in need of heat during these winter

months," he said.

Champagne cited the example of an elderly woman who is raising her grandson and lives in an older house with poor insulation.

"Living with her is her grandson — who is diligent in his studies — but she maintains the household on a very small, fixed income," he said.

SEE **FIRESIDE**, PAGE A7

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DEATHS, B4

Cleveland China
Billy Joe Dinkins
Teosha Ford
Dorothy McGill
Tracey Morales

Bertha S. Royster
Courtney Gardner
Susie Mae Nelson
James A. Webster
Martha Mae Sweat

WEATHER, A10

MORE RAIN AHEAD

Showers and a heavier thunderstorm today; some clouds and mild tonight

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INSIDE

3 SECTIONS, 20 PAGES
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Comics C4

Opinion A9
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SECOND FRONT

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3 killed in wrecks in Clarendon, Lee counties

BY KONSTANTIN VENGEROWSKY
konstantin@theitem.com

Three wrecks in Clarendon and Lee counties on Sunday morning and Monday morning claimed the lives of three people.

A Sumter man was killed in a single-vehicle wreck about 4 a.m. Sunday near the intersection of U.S. 15 and J.W. Rhames Road in Clarendon County. The victim was traveling north on U.S. 15 in a 2012 Chrysler 300 when his vehicle ran off the left side of the roadway, according to S.C. Highway Patrol Cpl. Sonny Collins.

The victim's vehicle struck a ditch and a utility pole, Collins said.

William Edward Hilton, 56, of Sumter, died on the scene, according to Clarendon County Deputy Coroner Bucky Mock. An autopsy was conducted Monday at the Medical University of South Carolina, but autopsy results were not yet released as of Monday morning.

A Rembert woman was killed in a single-vehicle wreck about 10 a.m. Sunday near the intersection of St. James Road and Shiver Pond Road in Lee County.

The victim was traveling south on St. James Road when her 2015 Toyota ran off the left side of the roadway, hit a tree and overturned, Collins said.

Courtney Keirra Gardner, 24, of Rembert, died at the scene, according to Lee County Coroner Larry Logan.

Another individual was killed in a wreck on Gov. Richardson Road, about 5.8 miles from Pinewood, about 8 a.m. on Monday.

The incident was a head-on collision between two vehicles according to S.C. Highway Patrol Lance Cpl. Matt Southern.

A 2014 Ford Fusion, traveling eastbound, drove off the center line, striking a 2005 Chevrolet Tahoe, traveling westbound head on, Southern said.

Courtney Barrett, 29, of Summerton, died on the scene according to Clarendon County Deputy Coroner Bucky Mock. An autopsy will be performed today at MUSC.

Two victims in the 2005 Chevrolet Tahoe were taken to McLeod Health Clarendon for injuries sustained in the wreck, Southern said.

S.C. Highway Patrol is investigating.

CORRECTION

If you see a statement in error, contact the City Desk at 774-1226 or pressrelease@theitem.com.



KEITH GEDAMKE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Tim Sturdivant is the new owner-operator of the Volkswagen and Honda dealership in Sumter.

New Honda, Volkswagen owner is full speed ahead in Sumter

Sturdivant has 32 years' experience in industry

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

Tim Sturdivant's life has been about serving people, and he hopes that personal passion translates into success and growth as Sumter's new Honda and Volkswagen dealership owner.

While in college in North Carolina in the early 1980s, Sturdivant waited tables. He didn't know what he wanted to do for a career after college, but he liked customer service. Sturdivant then saw a local help-wanted ad for a car salesman and applied. The rest is history.

"I got the job in High Point, North Carolina, and I just took it one customer at a time," Sturdivant said. "If you stay put, then people will find you."

Sturdivant worked 32 years in High Point with Vann York Auto Group, starting in sales and learning all aspects of the car business. He has spent about the last 20 years in sales management, eventually becoming general manager. Vann York has four dealerships in High Point, including Vann York Honda, and represents at least 10 brands.

'If you stay put, then people will find you.'

TIM STURDIVANT

Owner-operator of Honda and Volkswagen dealership in Sumter speaking about his early career

On Dec. 1, Vann York officially took over the local dealership from Cliff Goodwin of Goodwin Auto Mall and named Sturdivant as owner/managing partner.

He thinks the local dealership's sales volume is similar to when he started with Vann York in 1984.

"It's in the 30s or 40s a month here for new Honda sales, which is very similar to my start," Sturdivant said. "We really grew the dealership in High Point over time to now about 110 Honda sales a month — that's 1,300 for a year."

The culture of the dealership that he has come to here is similar also to his experience with Vann York, he said.

"The gentleman that I partnered with at Vann York is a second-generation dealer — dad and then son — like they had here with Goodwin,"

Sturdivant said.

He said he has kept the staff of about 30 employees intact and wants to keep the culture the same.

According to Sturdivant, he chose to name the dealership Freedom Auto Group for two reasons. One, he has a son who is a naval officer and graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. Two, it relates well with the Shaw military community and patriotism in the local area.

He attributes Vann York's growth in the High Point and neighboring Greensboro areas to offering competitive prices and treating customers well.

"Our motto at Vann York is 'Building relationships that last,'" Sturdivant said. "As we did this, people came back again, again and again. I had folks I sold as many as 15 cars over a period of time. Relationships are a big focus, and we're serious about that."

He considers that Goodwin Auto Mall laid a great foundation, but there are certainly some things that can be improved on.

"We believe there is growth potential here in Sumter," Sturdivant said. "We feel this area deserves a great Honda store. Honda is a great product, and we believe we can grow and sell as many Hondas here as Toyota or any other brand in Sumter."

1 Sumter home destroyed, 2nd heavily damaged in separate fires

BY KONSTANTIN VENGEROWSKY
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Two separate structure fires in Sumter destroyed a house and left another partially destroyed on Sunday evening and early Monday morning.

Seventeen Sumter Fire Department firefighters responded to a fully in-

involved house fire in the 10 block of South Milton Street at 2:35 a.m. Monday, according to Sumter Fire Department spokesman Battalion Chief Joey Duggan.

The house was destroyed, with an estimated \$50,000 in structure lost and \$10,000 in contents lost, he said.

There was one occupant

in the house. No injuries were reported.

The cause of the fire was unknown but did not seem to be suspicious, Duggan said.

Sixteen firefighters responded to a fully involved house fire in the 400 block of East Charlotte Avenue at about 7:50 p.m. Sunday.

The house was heavily damaged but not de-

stroyed, receiving an estimated \$25,000 in structure damage and \$15,000 in contents lost, Duggan said.

About \$15,000 in structure was saved and \$5,000 in contents, he said.

The cause of the fire was accidental, Duggan said.

There were two occupants in the home. No injuries were reported.

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Medicare launches a revamp for heart attacks, hip fractures

WASHINGTON (AP) — Heart attacks and broken hips cause much suffering and worry as people grow older. This year, Medicare wants to start changing how it pays for treatment of these life-threatening conditions, to promote quality and contain costs. Beneficiaries and family members may notice a new approach.

Hospitals and doctors in dozens of communities selected for large-scale experiments on this front are already gearing up. The goal is to test the notion that better coordination among clinicians, hospitals and rehab centers can head off complications, prevent avoidable hospital re-admissions and help patients achieve more stable and enduring recoveries. If results back that up, Medicare can adopt the changes nationwide.

The cardiac and hip fracture experiments are the latest development in a big push under the Obama administration to reinvent Medicare, steering the program away from paying piecemeal for services, regardless of quality

and cost. It's unclear whether Donald Trump as president will continue the pace of change, slow down or even hit pause.

Trump's Health and Human Services nominee, orthopedic-surgeon-turned-congressman Tom Price, has expressed general concern that the doctor-patient relationship could be harmed by Medicare payment changes seeking to contain costs. And the Medicare division that designed the experiments — the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation — is itself under threat of being abolished because it was created by President Obama's 2010 health care law.

Some outside groups, including AARP, worry that Medicare may be moving too fast and that focusing on cost containment could lead to beneficiaries being short-changed on rehab care.

Innovation center director Patrick Conway, who also serves as Medicare's chief medical officer, is plowing ahead nonetheless. "Delivery system reform and paying for



Patrick Conway, director of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, is seen in the center's offices in Baltimore County, Maryland, in April.

better care are bipartisan issues," Conway said. And quality ranks ahead of cost savings in evaluating any results, he added.

The cardiac and hip fracture experiments focus on traditional Medicare, which remains the choice of nearly 7 in 10 out of Medicare's 57 million beneficiaries. The cardiac experiment involves both heart bypass and heart attack patients. The trials join similar ongoing tests involving surgery for hip and knee replacement, as well as care for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.

Under the old system, if a patient was discharged from the hospital after a heart attack, "they might hand you a piece of paper that said please follow up with your primary care doctor," Conway continued. "In this model, the hospital is going to have a strong incentive to make sure you follow up."

Overall, about 168,000 Medicare beneficiaries are treated for heart attacks in a given year, while 48,000 undergo heart bypass surgery for clogged arteries, and 109,000 have surgery for broken hips.

Across the country, hospitals in 98 metro areas will be involved in the cardiac experiment. The hip surgery experiment involves 67 areas that are also part of Medicare's ongoing test with hip and knee replacements.

Areas in the cardiac test include Boston, as well as Akron, Ohio; Charleston, South Carolina; Fort Collins, Colorado; Utica, New York; and Yuma, Arizona. A smaller group of communities will be involved in a related experiment that pays hospitals for coordinating rehab care for heart patients. Although the benefits of cardiac rehab are widely recognized, only a small share of patients receives it.

The hip fracture test includes the Miami, New York and Los Angeles metro areas, as well as Austin, Texas; Bismarck, North Dakota; Flint, Michigan; and New Orleans.

Authorities: 4 killed at home in apparent murder-suicide

LEXINGTON (AP) — Authorities in South Carolina said four people were found dead in a home in what appears to be a murder-suicide.

Lexington County Coroner Margaret Fisher said in a news release that the dead — a man, a woman and their two children — were found Sunday about 8 p.m. Fisher said it's thought all four died of gunshot wounds.

In a tweet from a verified Twitter account, the Lexington County Sheriff's Department said the deaths appear to be a murder-suicide, and the investigation is ongoing.

Fisher identified the dead as 26-year-old Marissa Hope Reynoso and two of her children, 4-year-old Elijah Chavez

and 1-year-old Ezra Chavez. Also dead was 25-year-old Jorge Luis Chavez, who's thought to be the father of the

two children. Fisher said an older child of Reynoso wasn't at the home at the time.

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ADA MEMBER

Immunotherapy offers hope to cancer patients

BY LAUREN SAUSSER

The Post and Courier of Charleston

CHARLESTON — Three months before physicians at Medical University Hospital discharged Madelyn Graf to hospice — some of them convinced that her cancer was incurable and her death was imminent — she came home from the gym perfectly healthy except for a stomach ache.

But the pain became progressively intense that afternoon, wrapping around her torso. It was hard to explain, different than a bug or a pulled muscle, she said. Worse. Graf shed her workout clothes, took a pain pill, then took another one a couple hours later when the pain wouldn't die down. Finally, she called her husband.

"Are you going to be coming home soon?" she asked Jim Graf. "I think I need to go to the hospital."

Madelyn Graf, a 67-year-old retired nurse, spent most of that night in the emergency room at MUSC, waiting for an available bed. She was sent home two days later, diagnosed with a tumor in her left lung that measured almost 9 centimeters. A biopsy in early June confirmed she had advanced, metastatic cancer. It was Stage 4. It had already spread to her adrenal glands and buttocks.

"Being a nurse, I looked at this and thought this doesn't look good at all," she said. "It was so big and so close to my heart."

But this was Graf's "third trip down the cancer road," as she called it, and she had no reason to suspect that the chemotherapy her doctors ordered to kill the tumor wouldn't work. She had already survived two bouts of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma many years earlier.

After two rounds of chemotherapy, Graf learned in July that the powerful drugs weren't working. Scans showed all the tumors had grown larger.

Seven rounds of radiation treatment failed, too. At the gym in mid-August, her vision became blurry. The next day, she felt the side of her face go numb. She caught herself drooling. On a Sunday morning, she woke up and couldn't talk to Jim, couldn't find the words she wanted to use. These were all classic symptoms of stroke. Chunks of her lung tumor had been breaking off and restricting blood flow to her brain.

Graf was admitted to the hospital again, where doctors told her the cancer had spread to her brain and that the lung tumor had grown so large it was pressing against her heart. They said she would probably have a major stroke and die. That, or the tumor would rupture her heart. Either way, the prognosis was catastrophic.

"She was actually sent to hospice," oncologist John Wrangle said. It was an appro-

"... I said, 'I'm going to be your first miracle.' When I think back that I said that, I can't believe it."

MADELYN GRAF

67-year-old cancer patient

priate decision, given the circumstances. "You can't imagine a more desperate scenario."

Wrangle recommended that Graf go home to James Island. He didn't want her making decisions in such a dark place. Surgery wasn't an option, but he asked Graf to return the following week to discuss what they might try next.

"I just kind of smiled and looked at him, thinking, 'Is he being unrealistic?' I mean, they've told me I'm going to die," Graf said. "I went home and basically slept a lot, and we planned my funeral."

She didn't realize that earlier last year, the FDA had approved a new, incredibly expensive immunotherapy drug called Opdivo to treat metastatic, squamous non-small cell lung cancer. Graf's cancer didn't quite fit the criteria for coverage, but Wrangle wanted to convince Medicare to greenlight her treatment.

"Let's keep going," he told her.

...

Immunotherapy is the newest way to treat cancer — and it's working miracles right here in Charleston.

Take Marvin Manuel, for example. He travels from Beaufort to the Charleston VA Medi-

cal Center once every three weeks for an immunotherapy infusion. Two years ago, he had dozens of tumors in his brain and stomach. Now, there's only one left.

"It went away, just kind of cured it," he said.

He's not alone. Sybil Russell and her husband split their time between Union and Charleston so that she can get an immunotherapy infusion at Charleston Hematology-Oncology Associates once every 10 days. A few years ago, Russell was taking four different chemotherapy drugs. Now, all she takes is Opdivo, and her liver cancer is under control. She feels a little tired after her infusions. Otherwise, no side effects.

"This is just unbelievable," she said. "It really is."

"It has dramatically changed the way we treat patients," said Dr. Gene Saylor, a Charleston oncologist.

Chemotherapy drugs, introduced more than a century ago, destroy cancer cells with chemicals. These drugs are trained to target fast-growing cells in the body because cancer cells typically divide much more quickly than healthy tissue. Of course, chemotherapy can affect healthy tissue, and the side effects can be debilitating.

Immunotherapy, by compar-

ison, works much differently. Doctors like to say that these drugs "take the brakes off" the body's immune system. Cancer often evades detection inside the body by disguising itself with pathways called "immune checkpoints." When immunotherapy drugs send the immune system into hyper-drive, cancer cells can't hide. The body's natural immune response destroys the dangerous tissue.

But they don't always work. Keytruda, for example, was five times more likely in a clinical trial of patients with advanced melanoma to reduce the size of their tumors. Still, only 21 percent of patients taking the drug in this trial saw their tumors shrink, and only 2 percent of patients saw all of their visible tumors disappear from any scan.

Some patients can't tolerate immunotherapy drugs. Occasionally, the drugs provoke a severe auto-immune response, resulting in potential toxicities including inflammatory lung, liver and thyroid disorders.

Then, of course, there's the cost. One infusion of Keytruda alone costs thousands of dollars. A physician at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center pointed out last year that another immunotherapy drug costs approximately 4,000 times the price of gold.

...

When Graf met Dr. Wrangle for the first time more than a year and a half ago, she asked him if he prayed. It wasn't an unusual question. She told him

she believed in the power of prayer and in miracles.

"And I said, 'I'm going to be your first miracle,'" she remembered. "When I think back that I said that, I can't believe it."

She received her first Opdivo infusion at Hollings Cancer Center on Sept. 1 last year.

At first, it didn't seem to work. She couldn't eat or sleep. Chills racked her body. She became so weak that she couldn't walk from the front door to the sidewalk. She honestly thought the drug was killing her.

"I really felt my body was at war with something," she said. "And it was. It was at war with my tumors."

But then, after her second infusion, her symptoms improved. Within three weeks of her first treatment, an MRI and PET scan showed that her tumors had shrunk by 50 percent. The lung mass wasn't dangerously pressed against her heart anymore, and the cancer had completely disappeared from her brain. It was literally miraculous. She couldn't believe the news.

"In fact, I said, 'Could you please show me on the scan?'" she remembered. "It was just amazing to see. I was like, 'Praise God. This is unbelievable.' We were just rejoicing."

And she kept improving. Sixteen months after her first infusion, Graf's lung tumor has been reduced to scar tissue. She recently had her infusion port removed. All told, she's had 32 Opdivo infusions, worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. Medicare, and her Medicare supplement plan, covered all of it.

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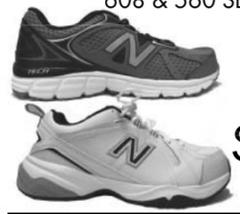
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Armless Syrian boy thrives in U.S., hopes family can join him

BY PHILIP MARCELO
The Associated Press

SHARON, Mass. — Ahmad Alkhalaf has had a busy year. He attended Democratic President Obama's final State of the Union address as a special guest of a congressman. He learned to bike and roller-blade, took martial arts and gymnastics classes and spent his summer playing soccer and swimming in a lake at a day camp in the Boston suburbs.

And he received his first pair of prosthetic arms after his were blown off three years ago in a refugee camp bomb blast that also killed three of his siblings.

But as the 11-year-old Syrian boy looks to another year in his adopted home, he says his dream is to be reunited with his mother and four surviving siblings, who are living in Istanbul.

"I want my mom to come here," he said on a recent Saturday as he kicked around a soccer ball in a park. "I feel like I'm losing her. It's been too long. I can't take it anymore."

Ahmad's father, Dirgam Alkhalaf, said those hopes largely hinge on whether Republican President-elect Donald Trump follows through on his pledge to curtail the flow of Syrians and Muslims to the U.S.

Alkhalaf has applied for asylum and hopes to petition for the rest of the family if he and Ahmad are permitted to stay.

"I can only be hopeful he'll do the right thing," Alkhalaf said of Trump through an interpreter. "No matter what people say, I'm optimistic."

Trump transition team officials didn't return emails seeking comment on the family's case.



Syrian refugee Ahmad Alkhalaf smiles, left, while playing with friends during a day camp for local Muslim children in Sharon, Massachusetts. "Anything is possible in this world. You just have to believe in yourself," says Ahmad, whose arms were blown off above the elbows in a refugee camp bomb blast in 2014, which also killed three of his brothers. Above, Ahmad draws a heart while making a card for refugee children displaced in Syria.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alkhalaf said he can't return to Turkey after renouncing his temporary residency status there. Returning to Syria, where the Sunni Muslim family lived just outside the battle-scarred city of Aleppo, also isn't an option.

"There is nothing left in Syria for us. Our home is destroyed; the government is out to get us," he said, referring to Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime, which he says conducted the 2013 bombing. "I've got nowhere to go if the U.S. doesn't want me."

The father and son have been living among a rotating group of Muslim families since their arrival in June 2015 on a medical visa for Ahmad.

Alkhalaf works as a securi-

ty guard at a mosque after receiving his work permit in July. He hopes to take his driver's license exam soon.

The emotional strain of separation has taken its toll on the family, Alkhalaf said.

His youngest son in Turkey has developed asthma-like problems, his wife is being treated for high blood pressure, and Ahmad doesn't always sleep well, a problem that started with night terrors following the bomb blasts.

"Emotionally, I'm drained," Alkhalaf said. "If we were all together, I think a lot of us would feel better. It's half the battle."

Ahmad talks with his mother often and knows she's struggling to provide for his siblings. The family largely

lives off the charity of the Muslim community in New England and what Alkhalaf can send from his wages.

Ahmad said he tries to perk his mother up by telling her about the new things he's experiencing.

"I try to make her happy, but it's hard," Ahmad said.

He enrolled in the fourth grade this past fall at a school in the Boston suburbs. He is awaiting a more advanced pair of prosthetic arms. And he hopes to join a soccer team this spring.

Officials at Heights Elementary say Ahmad's stresses haven't appeared to affect his schooling. If anything, they say, they're impressed with how quickly he has embraced his new environment, where

he is receiving physical and occupational therapy, one-on-one reading and math help and other support.

"He really wants to talk to people and understand things on many levels," said Holly Geiger, Ahmad's teacher. "He's not shy, and I think that's helped."

Supporters have purposely jam-packed Ahmad's schedule, said Nabil Jalal, a Sharon resident who is among those helping Ahmad and his father.

As Ahmad ran off to join an arts and craft session, Jalal worried what the new year might bring.

"You can't have one parent and not the other, no matter how good the life is here," Jalal said. "There's a big missing part."

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Obama in closing stretch of presidency

BY JOSH LEDERMAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — His last vacation behind him, President Obama is entering the closing stretch of his presidency, an 11th-hour push to tie up loose ends and put finishing touches on his legacy before handing the reins to President-elect Donald Trump.

Obama returned to Washington midday Monday from Hawaii with less than three weeks left. His final days will largely be consumed by a bid to protect his endangered health care law, a major farewell speech and the ongoing handover of power to Trump.

In an email to supporters on Monday, Obama said his valedictory speech on Jan. 10 follows a tradition set in 1796 when the first president, George Washington, spoke to the American people for the last time in office. The speech will take place at McCormick Place, a giant convention center in Obama's hometown of Chicago.

"I'm thinking about them as a chance to say thank you for this amazing journey, to celebrate the ways you've changed this country for the better these past eight years, and to offer some thoughts on where we all go from here," Obama said.

Obama's chief speechwriter, Cody Keenan, traveled with Obama to Hawaii and spent much of the trip working on the speech. The Chicago trip will likely be Obama's last outside Washington as president and will include a "family re-



President Obama speaks Dec. 16 during a news conference in the briefing room of the White House in Washington.

AP FILE PHOTO

two terms have reshaped American life is even more critical amid concerns that Trump may undo much of what he accomplished, including the health law.

As Trump and Republicans vow to gut the Affordable Care Act, Democrats are working to devise a strategy to protect the law by exploiting GOP divisions about how to replace it. To that end, Obama will travel Wednesday to the Capitol to meet with House and Senate Democrats, likely his last meet-

union" for Obama's former campaign staffers.

Obama is also planning last-minute commutations and pardons, White House officials said, in line with his second-term effort to cut sentences for inmates given unduly harsh sentences for drug crimes. Though prominent offenders like Edward Snowden and Rod Blagojevich are also asking for leniency, Obama's final acts of clemency are expected to remain focused on drug offenders whose plight Obama tried but failed to address through criminal justice reform.

After taking office eight years ago, Obama and his aides were effusive in their praise for how Obama's predecessor, George W. Bush, helped his team take over the massive federal bureaucracy. Obama has vowed to pass on the favor to Trump. But the transition hasn't been without incident.

The two teams have clashed about the Trump team's re-

quests for information Obama aides fear could be used to eliminate government employees who worked on Obama priorities such as climate change and minority rights overseas. Trump's team, meanwhile, has been frustrated by Obama's attempts to box Trump in with parting moves to block ocean drilling, declare new monuments and further empty out the Guantanamo Bay prison.

While on his annual vacation in Oahu, Obama asserted himself forcefully on two foreign policy issues that put him in direct conflict with Trump. Obama directed the U.S. to defy tradition by allowing a U.N. Security Council resolution criticizing Israel on settlements to pass, then slapped Russia with sweeping penalties regarding U.S. allegations of hacking.

The final days are Obama's last chance to define his presidency before he loses the bully pulpit and cedes his legacy to historians. For Obama, helping Americans understand how his

ing with his party's lawmakers as president.

His administration is also working feverishly to finish up regulations in the pipeline that Obama hopes can be completed in the final days, perhaps increasing the likelihood his policies carry over. But the closer it gets to Trump's inauguration, the harder those tasks become.

Though Obama remains president until Jan. 20, the White House can't process the departure of all its staffers on a single day. So this week Obama aides will start "offloading," turning in their Blackberries and shutting down their computers for the last time, leaving a smaller staff on hand for the final days.



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FIRESIDE

FROM PAGE A1

During the winter months, her budget does not stretch to the end of the month.

"In order to keep the house warm and allow her grandson to do his homework, she came to Sumter United Ministries for assistance," Champagne said. "What an honor to be able to assist someone who can no longer work and yet is helping her grandson achieve his goal of a high school diploma."

It is never easy to have to decide between water, food, transportation or heat, Champagne said.

He said Fireside Fund donations made it possible for Sumter United Ministries to help her purchase heating fuel that will keep them warm for many weeks to come.

"This is not a unique case," Champagne said. "There are many needs in our community."

There is always the need for housing, utilities and food, Champagne said, but in the winter time, the need for heat is tremendous and critical.

"With the help of the Fireside Fund, the volunteers and staff of Sumter United Ministries were able to meet this woman's home heating needs," he said. "We are truly

thankful for everyone who shows their love for Sumter citizens by giving to the Fireside Fund."

Fireside Fund was established in 1969 to help needy families and individuals pay heating bills, buy firewood or heating fuels and stay warm during the winter months. Since its founding, Fireside Fund has brought in more than \$1.4 million in donations from generous readers.

Anyone in need of assistance with heating costs may call Sumter United Ministries at (803) 775-0757.

Donations can be mailed to *The Sumter Item*, P.O. Box 1677, Sumter, SC 29151 or dropped

off at the office, 36 W. Liberty St. Names, including groups, should be spelled completely.

When making a donation in someone's honor, the names will be printed as given.

From Dec. 19-22, Sumter United Ministries Crisis Relief Ministry financially assisted 21 families with \$1,723 in assistance.

During 2016, Sumter United Ministries served 738 clients with \$86,712 in heating and cooling assistance.

Donations ending week of Monday, Jan. 2, 2017:

Dotty and Dan Lyles, \$300; Jimmy and Eunice Bradshaw, \$300; in memory of Daniel C. Reeves by Patsy L. Reeves,

\$200; The Evening Pilot Club of Sumter, \$198; in memory of Bud Rivers by Connie and J. J. Britton, \$100; Crusaders Sunday School Class at Dalzell Baptist Church, \$100; in honor of my parents Mr. and Mrs. Luke Rogers by Terri (Rogers) Seignious \$100; Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, \$100; in honor of Billy C. Wheat by Emily and Carl Beck, \$50; The Johnson-McIntosh Trust, \$50; and Judith Abernathy, \$50.

Total combined anonymous: \$300
Total this week: \$1,848
Total this year: \$37,161.18
Total last year: \$52,959.60
Total since 1969: \$1,530,149.24

ROOF

FROM PAGE A1

defense hopes, a jury might be more likely to spare the defendant's life and opt against the death penalty.

But Roof, who is acting as his own attorney, has said he plans to do no such thing.

In his journal, which was read in court during his trial, Roof said he doesn't believe in psychology, which he called "a Jewish invention" that "does nothing but invent diseases and tell people they have problems when they don't."

Roof also seems to be determined to try to keep evidence embarrassing to him or his family out. Not only did he take over his own defense, but he also asked the judge at a hearing Wednesday if he could file a motion limiting what prosecutors can introduce.

Roof also was adamant that a transcript of a hearing where he was found mentally competent not be released to the public.

"I know this is not a legal argument, but the unsealing of the competency hearing defeats the purpose of me representing myself," Roof said at last week's hearing.

Neither Roof nor U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel nor prosecutors have given specifics on the evidence Roof is objecting to.

On Thursday, Gergel ordered another competency evaluation of Roof "in an abundance of caution" after his standby counsel filed a

sealed motion again questioning Roof's mental ability to proceed. The judge's order specified he saw no reason to delay Tuesday's start of the penalty phase.

On Monday, over the objection of an attorney representing media outlets including The Associated Press, Gergel ordered the competency hearing to be closed to the public. Saying he'd have to sequester jurors if he opened up the proceedings, the judge promised to release a transcript after Roof is sentenced.

"This is an incredibly sensitive moment in this proceeding," Gergel said. "We are putting in the hands of 12 people the life and death of a person."

Roof's lawyers tried repeatedly both to stop him from being his own lawyer and to work mental health-related evidence into the first phase of his trial, saying they feared Roof fired them because he feared the attorneys would present evidence that would embarrass him when trying to save his life.

Prosecutors objected at every turn, and Gergel wouldn't allow any of it into court, ruling mitigation evidence is allowable during sentencing and not before.

Court papers show prosecutors are expected to present evidence showing that Roof picked his victims because of their race, killed them to incite more violence, showed no remorse and killed three particularly vulnerable people who were 70 years old or older.

Thanks for a great 2016!

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SURVIVOR

FROM PAGE A1

enjoy such as racing and helping to coach my son's baseball team really helped."

He said he was able to race because of the assistance of two of his friends, Henry Lucas and Averitt Lucas, who prepped his racecar and assisted with anything that needed to be fixed during the races.

Shorter was recently voted TheFourthTurn's 2016 Most Popular Driver of the Year, presented by Milligan's Painting Co.

TheFourthTurn's website's inaugural Most Popular Driver of the Year poll featured more than 200 drivers who competed at Florence Motor Speedway, Dillon Motor Speedway and Myrtle Beach Speedway in the 2016 season.

More than 40,000 votes total were cast, with Shorter receiving the most votes.

Shorter said he prayed for God to give him the strength to get through the battle. He used his mother-in-law Celia Richardson's battle with breast cancer 10 years ago as an inspiration for his own fight.

Chemotherapy helped shrink the size of his tumors, with one tumor decreasing from 11.3 centimeters to 4.6 centimeters, though Shorter's battle against cancer was far from over.

Then in July, a doctor at MUSC told Shorter he wanted to try an alternative treatment called Selective Internal Radiation Therapy.

The treatment is considered an effective way to battle liver cancers or tumors, according to The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists website, www.insideradiology.com.au/sirt/.

The process works by delivering millions of tiny radioactive "microspheres" or "beads," also known as "SIR-Spheres," directly to the liver tumors, according to the website.

A small puncture or incision is made, and a catheter is placed in the artery and guided into the liver using X-ray pictures or images.

The spheres release a type of radiation energy called "Beta" radiation. It is delivered through the catheter and is then carried by the bloodstream directly to the tumors in the liver. It has a destructive effect on the tumor and the vessels feeding the tumor, according to the website.

"After three rounds of the SIRT treatment, doctors told us they could no longer detect the tumor in the liver," Shorter said.

In late October, doctors also removed a small section of his colon for tests.

On Dec. 21, Shorter learned that all of his tests came back negative for cancer.

"It was unbelievable; we simply had no words," Caroline Shorter said.

"Doctors told us, 'You must have had a lot of prayers,'" Justin Shorter said. "And I truly believe that God had intervened. It really humbles you to have all of the prayers and support we received."

Many fundraisers were held for Shorter during his battle with cancer and countless prayers and random acts of kindness. One such act included a hot meal being sent to his house once a week.

"It would be impossible to list every single person or organization who stepped forward to help, but I truly am thankful for all of them," he said. "The support was huge."



Residents inspect the scene after a car bomb explosion at a crowded outdoor market in the Iraqi capital's eastern district of Sadr City, Iraq, on Monday.

BOMBING

FROM PAGE A1

passengers was on fire.

Asaad Hashim, an owner of a mobile phone store nearby, described how the laborers pushed and shoved around the bomber's vehicle, trying to get hired.

"Then a big boom came, sending them up into the air," said the 28-year old, who suffered shrapnel wounds to his right hand. He blamed "the most ineffective security forces in the world" for failing to prevent the attack.

An angry crowd cursed the government, even after a representative of al-Sadr tried to calm them. Late last month, Iraqi authorities started removing some of the security checkpoints in Baghdad in a bid to ease traffic for the capital's 6 million residents.

"We have no idea who will kill at any moment and who's supposed to protect us," said Ali Abbas, a 40-year old father of four

who was hurled over his vegetable stand by the blast. "If the securities forces can't protect us, then allow us to do the job," he added.

Several smaller bombings elsewhere in the city on Monday killed an additional 20 civilians and wounded at least 70, according to medics and police officials. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters.

Hollande meanwhile met with al-Abadi and President Fuad Masum and later traveled to the self-governing northern Kurdish region to meet with French troops and local officials. He pledged support for helping displaced Iraqis return to the city of Mosul, where Iraqi forces are waging a massive offensive against IS.

"We must also prepare a political solution for Mosul's post-liberation so that its inhabitants can live together," he said.

Hollande also visited a military outpost on the outskirts of the city.

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Big and white, fluffy and furry, these are adjectives that describe a polar bear!
Can you think of other adjectives that would describe this animal?

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How Polar Bears Stay Warm

Polar bears live on ice near the North Pole in the Arctic, which is covered in ice and surrounded by very cold water. But that doesn't bother a polar bear.

In each box, write the letter that comes before the letter at the bottom of each box to find a couple of cool ways these fluffy fellows stay warm.

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Average Temperatures in the Arctic

	JANUARY	JULY
30°C		
20°C		
10°C		
0°		
-10°C		
-20°C		
-30°C		
-40°C		
-50°C		

In January, the average temperature in the Arctic ranges from a chilly 0°C to -34°C (32°F to -40°F).

In July, the average temperature range is from -10°C to 10°C (14°F to 50°F).

Color the graph to show the temperature range in each month using Celsius.

Very Special Fur

Polar bears have two types of fur: long oily guard hairs and short insulating hairs.

The long, oily guard hairs are tiny, hollow tubes that trap warmth and hold it close to the skin. Their oily surface keeps polar bears dry.

Under the guard hairs is a layer of dense, short, soft hairs that trap heat close to the skin, like thermal underwear.

Polar Bear Paws

Polar bear paws can grow to be 12 inches across (31 centimeters) and help distribute weight when treading on thin ice.

When swimming, their broad forepaws act like large paddles and the hind paws serve as rudders for steering.

Black footpads on the bottom of each paw are covered by small, soft bumps known as papillae. Papillae grip the ice and keep the bear from slipping. Tufts of fur between their toes and footpads may help with purchase as well as can their claws.

Verbs and Adjectives

Look through the newspaper and find five adjectives that describe a polar bear. Then find five verbs that describe how a polar bear moves. Write one or more sentences about a polar bear using your adjectives and verbs.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

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

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

News Article Mix-Up

Cut out an article from the newspaper. Cut the article into four pieces. Give the pieces to a friend to see if he or she can put the article back together in the right order.

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COMMENTARY

School budget cuts have consequences for students, system

In light of the recent news that Sumter School District went \$6.2 million over budget this past fiscal year, it is important that we remind ourselves why we began funding public education to begin with and consider the impact that public pressure to balance the budget has on students and the system as a whole.

Throughout history, education has only been available to those with the resources to afford it or the luck to be born into a family with enough influence to acquire it. Right around the end of the 20th century, public schools became widespread and commonplace. Literacy rates soared, and some of the most important inventions ever made were invented in the decades following.

Since then, public education has been held in high regard by most voters. A Public Opinion Strategies/Communities In Schools 2015 poll found that 68 percent of voters believe that “improving education should be a priority.”

There are many different ways that one could critique the public education system, but the most compelling and moving charge is that the system costs entirely too much.

Education is uniquely vulnerable to the austerity that results from the public finding out that a government agency is spending more than the amount originally allotted. Financial cuts in most areas of public spending — infrastructure, public transit, law enforcement and health care — don’t have much of an immediate impact on the general public. While the consequences ultimately are still severe and wide-reaching, they do not compare to the brutal instantaneity that accompanies slashing public education funds.

Cutting spending in public education oftentimes translates to docking the pay of teachers or firing them outright, which is detrimental to a school’s ability to properly educate its students. Teacher shortages are a problem in many districts that are not actively trimming their budgets — the situation only grows worse when public pressure forces schools to try to do more with less.

Fortunately, in Sumter School District’s case, Superintendent Dr. Frank Baker has indicated that so far, such cuts have not been a part of his efforts to rectify the overage and that the nature of teacher pay in the district, which derives from contracts based on certification and experience, prevents teacher pay from heading to the chopping block.

Still, all across the country, self-proclaimed “budget hawks” wait for any opportunity to pounce on public schools and strip away funding. For many state legislatures with an electoral mandate to balance the budget, education is the most obvious target as it is usually one of

the three largest expenditures and can be subtly defunded without raising red flags from voters.

It’s a part of a thinly veiled assault on the foundations of education in our society and demonstrative of the fact that many quietly view public education as a naïve, quixotic and money-grubbing system.

Part of the reason behind the complicity of voters when public education sees its funding curtailed comes from an issue that is much more complex than any debate on government expenditures — the

idea that today’s students have a false sense of entitlement and that public education is not equipping them with practical skills. Many older voters feel that public education is no longer a worthwhile expenditure and that perceived lack of common sense in modern youth is evidence. We’ve all seen the articles claiming that so-called “millennials” are “overeducated” and that they lack interpersonal interaction skills. Regardless of the veracity of these claims, the weight of these perceptions is still evident, and the consequences they have for public education are grim. A 2010 Gallup poll asked people to compare today’s education system to education when they were in school. A stunning 54 percent of respondents said that it’s worse today than it was when they graduated.

Some of these sentiments are no doubt rooted in verifiably bad changes to our education system in modern times. One of my earlier columns on test scores is one of many ways that our education system has changed and the focus of the classroom has shifted.

Any money spent over budget demands an immediate evaluation and a quick solution. Debt, while far more complex in government than it is anywhere else, is something that should be avoided whenever possible. I’m sure that a fair portion of Sumter School District’s overage in particular comes from oversight and unnecessary spending that can be cut without harming students. It’s even more true, however, that the district is constantly growing and that the more funding that schools get, the better they are going to be able to equip their students for the workforce.

Yes, the district needs to assess the causes of its overage and do what is necessary to correct them — Dr. Baker and the board are doing just that.

However, it’s important for the public to be wary of the impact that making cuts has on students and the long-term effects that will come of being hesitant to give schools the funding that they truly need.

Christian Compton is a senior at Lakewood High School. He is editor-in-chief of the school yearbook as well as the student body president.



Christian Compton



COMMENTARY

The measure of Trump’s presidency

BY PETER MORICI

Donald Trump must scale huge barriers to accomplish 3 to 4 percent economic growth. Sweeping measures must be implemented, and that will prove no mean task.

George W. Bush slashed personal income taxes without fundamentally altering corporate incentives to create tax dodges and offshore production. Barack Obama expanded entitlements — partially financed with higher taxes on Americans who invest and create jobs. Both relied on big deficits and accomplished only anemic growth.

House leaders are working on corporate tax reform that will close loopholes, lower rates to internationally competitive levels and shift part of the tax burden onto imports. It has a decent chance of winning enough bipartisan support in the Senate, but much more needs to be done.

Trade deficits with China and on oil directly subtract \$500 billion annually from the demand for American-made goods and services, kill millions of jobs and stifle R&D. Confronting China on trade with a 45 percent tariff alone won’t get Beijing to stop undervaluing its currency, subsidizing exports and cease blocking market access for American-made goods and services.

It can push back by harassing U.S. companies with operations in China and imposing new barriers on U.S. products and more broadly by squeezing Taiwan, upping the ante on militarization of the South China Sea and further enabling North Korea.

Mr. Trump must gird for a broad crisis with China, deploy the full range of America’s geopolitical and economic assets and compel Beijing to reckon with the fact that its shaky economy cannot

withstand an all front confrontation with the United States without risking the Communist Party’s grip on power.

Energy and Interior Departments committed to opening up drilling in the eastern Gulf and off the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts — and ending the endless federal harassment of shale producers — could make America energy independent. However, as with many other issues, the lack of 60 Republican votes in the Senate will require guerrilla warfare to accomplish the results American voters deserve for awarding Trump the presidency.

On the supply side, it’s a lot more expensive to start a business and make things in America than in the 1980s and ’90s because of the growth of the regulatory state. Just compliance with labor market, health care, financial, environmental regulations and the like require hundreds of thousands of employees and cost businesses billions of dollars.

Imposing an efficacy test on regulations — requiring just what is absolutely needed to accomplish legitimate goals for protecting workers, the environment, consumers and financial stability and then jettisoning the rest should be the overarching objective as Mr. Trump’s Cabinet goes to work at Labor, EPA, Treasury and elsewhere in the far-flung federal regulatory apparatus.

A good deal of what President Obama imposed was by fiat — executive orders that can now be repealed.

However, he also imposed overly aggressive and burdensome regulations established under statutes, and those are more difficult and time consuming to nix.

Just as the law required the Obama administration to publish and take public comment on proposed regulations before impos-

ing new rules — and then endure legal challenges from businesses and Republican state officials — the Trump administration will have to repeat those steps and face litigation from environmental groups, labor unions and Democratic governors.

All can be axed or reshaped by Congress, but the Trump administration can expect a pitched battle from progressive Senate Democrats dedicated to remaking the American economy in the low-growth, high-unemployment model of continental Europe.

After losing the presidential election, muffing the opportunity to capture the Senate and managing to hold only 18 state governorships — not to mention their minority standing in the House and most state legislatures — we likely won’t be hearing Mr. Obama pontificating on the sidelines that elections have consequences. Instead, we can expect the only remaining consequential Democrats — those who can filibuster against the popular will in the Senate — to rely on the 60-vote rule to try to run out the clock until the 2020 presidential elections.

In the end, Republicans in Congress may have to resort to a grand budget reconciliation bill to push through a panoply of reforms, and Trump will have to marshal public support for radical measures to overcome a barrage of criticism and protests from liberal politicians and the media. Bigger than his vision and knack for picking competent executives will be his salesmanship.

America’s first dealmaker is not a man inclined to small deeds, and these will be the measure of his presidency.

Peter Morici is an economist and business professor at the University of Maryland.

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 hubert@theitem.com or graham@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, 20 N. Magnolia 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/opinion/letters_to_editor.

SUPPORT GROUPS

AA, AL-ANON, ALATEEN:
AA — Monday-Friday, noon and 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., 1 Warren St. (803) 775-1852.
AA Women's Meeting — Wednesdays, 7 p.m., 1 Warren St. (803) 775-1852.
AA Spanish Speaking — Sundays, 4:30 p.m., 1 Warren St. (803) 775-1852.
AA "How it Works" Group — Mondays and Fridays, 8 p.m., 1154 Ronda St. Call (803) 494-5180.
441 AA Support Group — Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, 8:30 p.m., Hair Force, 2090-D S.C. 441.
AA Summerton Group — Wednesday, 8 p.m., town hall.
Manning Al-Anon Family Group — Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Behavioral Health Building, 14 Church St., Manning. Call (803) 435-8085.
C/A "Drop the Rock" Group — Thursdays, 9:30 p.m., 1154 Ronda St. Call (803) 607-4543.

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

TUESDAY MEETINGS:
Heroin Anonymous — Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30 p.m., 4742 Broad St. Call (803) 494-5180.
Sumter Connective Tissue Support Group — First Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November, 7 p.m., 180 Tiller Circle. Call (803) 773-0869.
Mothers of Angels (for mothers who have lost a child) — First Tuesday at noon and third Tuesday at 6 p.m., Wise Drive Baptist Church. Call (803) 469-6059, (803) 979-4498, (803) 469-4506 or (803) 938-8544.
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. A community support group for teens and adults with special needs. Call Joan at (803) 972-0051 or Carrie at (803) 468-5745 or email thegathering23@aol.com.
Parkinson's Support Group — Second Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., Carolinas Rehabilitation Hospital, 121 E. Cedar St., Florence. Call (843) 661-3746.
Sumter Amputee Support Group — Second Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Sumter Prosthetics & Orthotics, 259 Broad St. Call (803) 883-4356.
Sumter Chapter Parents of Murdered Children (POMC) — Third Tuesday, 5:30-7 p.m., Birnie

HOPE Center, 210 S. Purdy St. Open to anyone who has lost a loved one to murder in a violent way.
Multiple Sclerosis Support Group — Third Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., Carolinas Rehabilitation Hospital, 121 E. Cedar St., Florence. Call (843) 661-3746.
EFMP Parent Exchange Group — Last Tuesday, 11 a.m.-noon, Airman and Family Readiness Center. Support to service members who have a dependent with a disability or illness. Call Dorcus at (803) 895-1252/1253 or Sue at (803) 847-2377.

WEDNESDAY MEETINGS:
Sickle Cell Support Group — Last Wednesday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., South Sumter Resource Center, 337 Manning Ave. Call (803) 774-6181.
Divorce Care — Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., Bethel Baptist Church, 2401 Bethel Church Road. Call (803) 481-2160.
Grief Share — Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., Bethel Baptist Church, 2401 Bethel Church Road. Call (803) 481-2160.

THURSDAY MEETINGS:
TOPS S.C. No. 236 (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) — Thursdays, 9 a.m., Spectrum Senior Center, 1989 Durant Lane. Call Diane at (803) 775-3926 or Nancy at (803) 469-4789.
Alzheimer's Support Group through S.C. Alzheimer's Association — First Thursday, 6-8 p.m., National Health Care, 1018 N. Guignard Drive. Call (803) 905-7720 or the Alzheimer's Association at (800) 636-3346.
Journey of Hope (for family members of the mentally ill), Journey to Recovery (for the mentally ill) and Survivors of Suicide Support Group — Each group meets every first Thursday, 7 p.m., St. John United Methodist Church, 136 Poinsett Drive. Call (803) 905-5620.
Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group — Fourth Thursday each month, 10-11:30 a.m., Palmetto Health Tuomey Hospice, 500 Pinewood Road, Suite 2. Call (803) 773-4663.

FRIDAY MEETINGS:
Celebrate Recovery — Fridays, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. program, Salt & Light Church, Miller Road (across from Food Lion). For help with struggles of alcohol, drugs, family problems, smoking, etc.
Wateree AIDS Task Force Support Group — Third Friday, 11:30 a.m., 508 W. Liberty St. Call Kevin at (803) 778-0303.

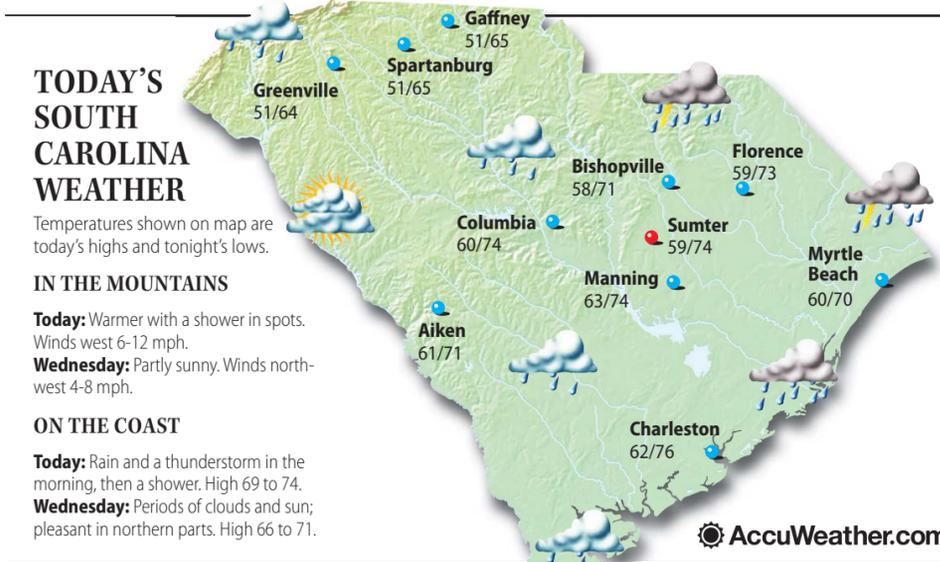
SATURDAY MEETINGS:
Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy/Complex Regional Pain Syndrome Support Group — Third Saturday, 1:30 p.m., 3785 Blackberry Lane, Lot 7. Call Donna at (803) 481-7521.

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2017

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
74°	55°	68° / 41°	52° / 36°	50° / 30°	44° / 25°
Chance of rain: 70%	Chance of rain: 5%	Chance of rain: 10%	Chance of rain: 10%	Chance of rain: 30%	Chance of rain: 25%
SW 8-16 mph	WSW 6-12 mph	W 7-14 mph	ENE 6-12 mph	WSW 6-12 mph	N 7-14 mph



LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER YESTERDAY

Temperature	High	Low	Normal high	Normal low	Record high	Record low
	56°	43°	54°	32°	80° in 1997	15° in 1984

Precipitation	Yesterday	Month to date	Normal month to date	Year to date	Last year to date	Normal year to date
	0.17"	0.17"	0.12"	0.17"	0.01"	0.12"

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	354.32	+0.05
Marion	76.8	73.80	-0.16
Moultrie	75.5	74.18	none
Wateree	100	98.43	-0.01

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	7:28 a.m.	Sunset	5:25 p.m.
Moonrise	10:57 a.m.	Moonset	10:51 p.m.

First	Full	Last	New
Jan. 5	Jan. 12	Jan. 19	Jan. 27

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	9.39	-0.22
Congaree River	19	3.30	+0.30
Lynches River	14	6.38	-0.18
Saluda River	14	3.79	-0.07
Up. Santee River	80	75.04	+0.14
Wateree River	24	4.84	-2.19

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH

	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	12:14 p.m.	3.0	6:39 a.m.	0.0
Wed.	12:34 a.m.	2.8	7:33 a.m.	0.1
	1:04 p.m.	2.9	8:13 p.m.	-0.1

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Tue. Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	69/51/c	57/34/pc
Chicago	41/16/c	21/8/pc
Dallas	62/35/pc	47/31/pc
Detroit	47/28/c	31/19/sf
Houston	74/47/s	62/46/pc
Los Angeles	62/50/c	62/54/sh
New Orleans	72/53/pc	63/47/pc
New York	48/43/r	50/31/pc
Orlando	84/64/pc	79/54/c
Philadelphia	51/44/r	52/29/pc
Phoenix	64/45/pc	65/48/pc
San Francisco	55/53/r	58/48/r
Wash., DC	52/45/r	55/32/pc

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Tue. Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Asheville	65/49/c	53/32/s
Athens	69/52/c	62/37/pc
Augusta	75/57/sh	69/44/pc
Beaufort	74/56/c	70/47/pc
Cape Hatteras	65/56/r	61/41/pc
Charleston	76/57/r	71/46/c
Charlotte	65/53/t	65/36/pc
Clemson	67/54/c	64/39/pc
Columbia	74/58/t	68/42/pc
Darlington	71/56/t	68/39/pc
Elizabeth City	65/53/t	63/36/pc
Elizabethtown	70/58/t	68/39/pc
Fayetteville	70/55/t	67/39/pc

City	Tue. Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Florence	73/56/t	68/41/pc
Gainesville	80/55/pc	75/49/pc
Gastonia	65/53/t	65/36/pc
Goldboro	68/56/t	66/39/pc
Goose Creek	75/58/r	71/45/pc
Greensboro	58/51/r	62/34/pc
Greenville	64/52/r	64/36/pc
Hickory	60/52/r	59/34/pc
Hilton Head	72/58/sh	70/47/pc
Jacksonville, FL	80/55/pc	73/48/pc
La Grange	70/55/c	61/36/pc
Macon	72/53/c	66/40/pc
Marietta	68/50/sh	55/33/pc

City	Tue. Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Marion	64/48/r	58/32/pc
Mt. Pleasant	74/59/r	71/47/c
Myrtle Beach	70/57/r	68/44/pc
Orangeburg	73/57/r	68/42/pc
Port Royal	73/58/sh	70/48/pc
Raleigh	63/52/t	64/36/pc
Rock Hill	67/52/t	65/35/pc
Rockingham	68/54/t	67/36/pc
Savannah	77/56/sh	71/48/pc
Spartanburg	65/51/r	62/36/pc
Summerville	74/58/r	70/44/pc
Wilmington	71/55/r	69/41/pc
Winston-Salem	58/48/r	61/34/pc

PUBLIC AGENDA

SUMTER CITY COUNCIL
 Today, 5:30 p.m., Sumter Opera House, 21 N. Main St.

BISHOPVILLE CITY COUNCIL
 Today, 6:30 p.m., Colclough Building

The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take note of what others do and say.

Take care of responsibilities quickly and without complaining or making a fuss. How you handle people will determine the way you're treated in return. Don't reveal personal information.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Give back and the rewards you receive will lead you in a new and interesting direction. Getting together with people from your past will be a reminder to enjoy life and to reach out to others more often. Romance is on the rise.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone you thought you could count on will disappoint you. Look for alternative ways to get what you want. A partnership based on equality can help you turn your life around. Don't make unrealistic promises or share personal information.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Partnerships will help you reach goals faster. Collaborate with someone who is heading in a similar direction as you. Express your thoughts and don't be afraid to do things differently. Personal improvements are encouraged.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Size up what's going on around you. Listen carefully and make a point to align yourself with people who share your point of view. Taking a new direction or changing the way you do things will help you bypass a no-win situation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Deal with personal financial, domestic or relationship issues that require your attention. It's best to smooth things over quickly and move on to the

activities and decisions that will improve your home, family and love life. A romantic gesture will pay off.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep an open mind and be willing to listen to suggestions, but don't feel pressured to make a hasty decision if you aren't thoroughly convinced it's in your best interest.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Bring about positive changes at home and your relationships with the people you care about will improve. A lifestyle change will improve your disposition and give you something to look forward to. Follow your intuition and heart.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stick close to home. Don't do anything to aggravate a situation that is out of control. Focus on your professional gains and avoid discord with peers, friends, neighbors or relatives. Now is not the time to get into a debate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It's OK to dream. As long as you stick to what you know and do your best without going over budget, you will come out a winner. Delays or hidden costs will be an issue if you aren't well prepared and organized.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make personal changes that will help build your confidence and prepare you to bring about the changes that will improve your life. Romance is on the rise and planning something special for your loved ones will pay off.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take advantage of any opportunity that enables you to use charm, insight and past experiences to get what you want. Avoid any deal that has underlying exceptions. Find out what's expected of you before you move forward.

PICTURES FROM THE PUBLIC



Amanda Hitchcock pets a monarch butterfly at Riverbanks Zoo and Garden in Columbia. Photo taken by Amanda's mother, Mary Hitchcock.

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

PREP BASKETBALL

Area teams move toward region play

BY DENNIS BRUNSON
dennis@theitem.com

After two weeks of holiday tournaments, local high school basketball teams begin their final preparations for region play with non-region contests today.

Sumter, Lakewood, Manning and Scott's Branch all open their region schedules

on Friday.

Sumter will play at Hartsville today before traveling to Florence for its Region VI-5A opener against South Florence. Lakewood will be at home against Camden today and will then play host to Darlington in its Region VI-4A opener.

Manning will be at home against Berkeley today before

hitting the road on Friday to face Hanahan to open Region VII-3A play. Manning will also play Clarendon County rival Scott's Branch on Saturday in Summerton.

Scott's Branch will play at Timmonsville today before hitting the road against Bethune-Bowman on Friday to begin Region V-1A play.

Crestwood plays Lower

Richland twice this week. The schools play at The Castle on Wednesday before facing off in Hopkins on Saturday.

Lee Central actually began its Region IV-2A schedule before Christmas and it continues region play this week with two home games. LC meets North Central today and Pageland Central on Fri-

day.

Wilson Hall and Laurence Manning Academy continue their non-region schedule this week. Wilson Hall travels to St. Matthews today to face Calhoun Academy while going to Charleston on Friday to meet Porter-Gaud. LMA plays at Hammond today before playing host to Palmetto Christian on Friday.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

What's next?



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clemson wide receiver Mike Williams (7) runs away from Ohio State cornerback Denzel Ward (12) during the Tigers' 31-0 victory in the Fiesta Bowl on Saturday in Glendale, Ariz. Clemson will meet Alabama for the national title on Monday in Tampa, Fla.

New characters, plot lines for CFP sequel

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — As with any sequel, Alabama-Clemson II will have some new characters and fresh plot lines.

The top-ranked Crimson Tide and No. 3 Tigers will meet in Tampa, Florida, on Jan. 9 in the College Football Playoff national championship game. Last year they played a wild 45-40 game won by 'Bama. It gave Nick Saban a fourth national title with the Tide and fifth overall.

The rematch is a chance for Saban and Alabama to add to an already unprecedented run of four national championships in seven

years. For Clemson coach Dabo Swinney, it is another opportunity to beat his beloved alma mater and snap a title drought for the Tigers that stretches back more than three decades.

Deshaun Watson is back. The Clemson quarterback was so good last season against the Tide that Saban was comparing him to Cam Newton.

O.J. Howard returns for Alabama, the tight end who had a career game in last year's final. Both teams once again feature fearsome defensive lines, even though some of the stars have changed.

But there's plenty new this time around:

SEE TITLE, PAGE B4

Alabama OC Kiffin leaving before national title game

BY JOHN ZENOR
The Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Lane Kiffin isn't sticking around to run Alabama's offense in the national championship game, bringing an end to a successful but sometimes tense three-year pairing with Crimson Tide coach Nick Saban.

Saban said Monday that Kiffin will leave to focus on his new job as Florida Atlantic's head coach. Incoming offensive coordinator Steve Sarkisian will replace him for the Jan. 9 game against Clemson in Tampa, Florida.

Kiffin and Saban said they made the decision after meetings following the Peach Bowl win over Washington.

"We appreciate all that Lane has done for our football program over the last three years," Saban said. "We sat down following the Washington game and talked about the time demands of



KIFFIN

managing both jobs, and we recognized that it is best for our players, and for Lane, that we allow him to turn his full attention

to his new head coaching role at FAU. "This wasn't an easy decision and we appreciate the way Lane handled this in terms of doing what is best for our team."

SEE KIFFIN, PAGE B4

CAROLINA BASKETBALL

USC guard Thornwell reinstated, apologizes

BY PETE IACOBELLI
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina guard Sindarius Thornwell apologized to his teammates and fans after his reinstatement Monday without shedding light on why he was suspended for the past six games for an unspecified violation of athletic department policy.



THORWELL

Thornwell, the team's top scorer and rebounder, will return when the Gamecocks (10-3) open Southeastern Conference play at Georgia on Wednesday night.

"I don't want to go into details about it," he said when asked about the reason for his suspension.

Thornwell was arrested last May and charged with marijuana possession and driving with a suspended license. His suspension was announced Dec. 4.

"I accept full responsibility for my actions," he said. "I am humbled and excited to be back on the court with my brothers and excited about conference play."

So is South Carolina, which was 7-0 with wins over Michigan and Syracuse and ranked No. 20 with Thornwell in the lineup. The Gamecocks have gone 3-3, including a loss at Memphis last Friday, and have fallen from the rankings in his absence.

Thornwell should be in the starting lineup when the Gamecocks face Georgia, coach Frank Martin said.

Martin said he and athletic director Ray Tanner reviewed Thornwell's suspension and found that the player had done everything he was asked and deserved reinstatement.

Thornwell's absence speeded up the learning curve for Martin's roster, which features nine first-year players. Martin said sophomore PJ Dozier, the starting point guard, and sophomore Chris Silva, starting forward, had to raise their games with Thornwell on the bench.

Newcomers like guards Rakym Felder and Hassani Gravett also have benefited from increased playing time with Thornwell out.

"I really, really like what I've seen from our guys there the last six games," Martin said.

Thornwell has averaged 18.7 points and 6.7 rebounds in seven games. With the senior in the lineup, the Gamecocks defeated then-ranked opponents Michigan and Syracuse in the same week. Without Thornwell, South Carolina lost tight games to Seton Hall (67-64) at Madison Square Garden, rival Clemson (62-60) at home and to Memphis (70-54).

SEE KIFFIN, PAGE B2

SCOREBOARD

TV, RADIO

TODAY
2:40 p.m. – International Soccer: English Premier League Match – Arsenal vs. Bournemouth (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
6 p.m. – College Basketball: Buffalo at Toledo (TIME WARNER 1250).
6:05 p.m. – Talk Show: Sports Talk (WDXY-FM 105.9, WDXY-AM 1240).
6:30 p.m. – College Basketball: Arkansas at Tennessee (SEC NETWORK).
7 p.m. – College Basketball: St. Joseph's at Rhode Island (CBS SPORTS NETWORK).
7 p.m. – College Basketball: Wisconsin at Indiana (ESPN).
7 p.m. – College Basketball: North Carolina at Clemson (ESPN2, WWBD-FM 94.7, WPUB-FM 102.7).
7 p.m. – College Basketball: Mississippi at Florida (ESPN).
7 p.m. – NHL Hockey: New Jersey at Carolina (FOX SPORTS SOUTHEAST).
7 p.m. – College Basketball: Boston College at Wake Forest (FOX SPORTS SOUTH).
7 p.m. – NHL Hockey: Buffalo at New York Rangers (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
7:15 p.m. – College Basketball: East Carolina at Central Florida (ESPN2).
7:30 p.m. – NBA Basketball: Utah at Boston (NBA TV).
8 p.m. – NFL Football: Pro Football Hall of Fame Gold Jacket Finalists (NFL NETWORK).
8 p.m. – College Basketball: Dayton at St. Bonaventure (TIME WARNER 1250).
8:30 p.m. – College Basketball: Alabama at Mississippi (SEC NETWORK).
9 p.m. – College Basketball: Texas A&M at Kentucky (ESPN).
9 p.m. – College Basketball: Kansas State at Kansas (ESPN2).
9 p.m. – College Basketball: Oklahoma at Texas Christian (ESPN).
9:15 p.m. – College Basketball: West Virginia at Texas Tech (ESPN2).
10 p.m. – NHL Hockey: Los Angeles at San Jose (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
10:30 p.m. – NBA Basketball: Memphis at Los Angeles Lakers (NBA TV).

EASTERN CONFERENCE

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal	37	22	9	6	50	113
Ottawa	36	20	12	4	44	93
Boston	39	20	15	4	44	95
Tampa Bay	38	19	15	4	42	109
Toronto	36	17	12	7	41	108
Florida	38	16	14	8	40	92
Detroit	37	16	16	5	37	107
Buffalo	36	13	15	8	34	101

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Columbus	35	26	5	4	56	123
Pittsburgh	38	25	8	5	55	133
N.Y. Rangers	39	26	12	1	53	135
Washington	35	21	9	5	47	97
Philadelphia	38	20	14	4	44	113
Carolina	36	16	13	7	39	94
N.Y. Islanders	36	15	15	6	36	104
New Jersey	37	14	16	7	35	86

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	39	23	11	5	51	108
Minnesota	36	23	9	4	50	113
St. Louis	37	19	13	5	43	104
Dallas	38	16	15	7	39	97
Nashville	36	16	14	6	38	102
Winnipeg	39	17	19	3	37	103
Colorado	36	12	23	1	25	74

PACIFIC DIVISION

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
San Jose	37	23	13	1	47	94
Edmonton	38	19	12	7	45	110
Anaheim	38	18	12	8	44	103
Calgary	39	20	17	2	42	105
Los Angeles	37	18	15	4	40	92
Vancouver	38	17	18	3	37	94
Arizona	37	11	21	5	27	82

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

SATURDAY'S GAMES

Boston 3, Buffalo 1
 Washington 6, New Jersey 2
 Columbus 4, Minnesota 2
 Tampa Bay 3, Carolina 1
 N.Y. Islanders 6, Winnipeg 2
 Pittsburgh 4, Montreal 3, OT
 N.Y. Rangers 6, Colorado 2
 Florida 3, Dallas 1
 Vancouver 3, Edmonton 2, SO
 Calgary 4, Arizona 2
 Los Angeles 3, San Jose 2

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Toronto 5, Detroit 4, OT
 Ottawa at Washington, 7:30 p.m.
 Philadelphia at Anaheim, 8 p.m.

MONDAY'S GAMES

Chicago at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
 Boston at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
 Colorado at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

TUESDAY'S GAMES

New Jersey at Carolina, 7 p.m.
 Edmonton at Columbus, 7 p.m.
 Toronto at Washington, 7 p.m.
 Buffalo at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
 Winnipeg at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
 Montreal at Nashville, 8 p.m.
 Los Angeles at San Jose, 10 p.m.

MEN'S TOP 25

By The Associated Press
 The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 1, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking:

Rank	Team	Record	Pts	Prv
1.	Villanova (59)	14-0	1619	1
2.	Baylor (6)	13-0	1532	4
3.	Kansas	12-1	1503	3
4.	UCLA	14-1	1406	2
5.	Gonzaga	14-0	1357	7
6.	Kentucky	11-2	1280	8
7.	West Virginia	12-1	1179	11
8.	Duke	12-2	1090	5
9.	Louisville	12-2	1063	6
10.	Creighton	13-1	1015	10
11.	Virginia	11-2	954	12
12.	Florida St.	14-1	902	20
13.	Wisconsin	12-2	865	14
14.	North Carolina	12-3	785	9
15.	Oregon	12-3	771	21
16.	Xavier	12-2	634	17
17.	Arizona	13-2	613	18
18.	Butler	12-2	477	13
19.	Saint Mary's (Cal)	12-1	416	19
20.	Purdue	12-3	405	15
21.	Virginia Tech	12-1	293	—
22.	Cincinnati	12-2	258	23
23.	Notre Dame	12-2	250	24
24.	Florida	10-3	193	25
25.	Indiana	10-4	74	16
25.	Southern Cal	14-1	74	22

Others receiving votes: Minnesota 56, Clemson 23, Miami 16, Maryland 6, Kansas St 5, Iowa St 3, Seton Hall 3, Northwestern 2, VCU 2, UNC Wilmington 1.

WOMEN'S TOP 25

By The Associated Press
 The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 1, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking:

Rank	Team	Record	Pts	Prv
1.	UConn (33)	13-0	825	1
2.	Baylor	13-1	781	3
3.	Maryland	13-1	739	4
4.	Mississippi St.	15-0	714	5
5.	South Carolina	11-1	691	6
6.	Florida St.	13-1	654	7
7.	Notre Dame	12-2	651	2
8.	Louisville	13-2	610	8
9.	UCLA	11-2	551	10
10.	Stanford	12-2	497	13
11.	Ohio St.	12-4	440	14
12.	Washington	14-2	418	9
13.	Duke	12-1	415	15
14.	Miami	11-2	405	11
15.	Texas	8-4	324	16
16.	Oregon St.	13-1	304	22
17.	West Virginia	13-1	289	12
18.	Virginia Tech	13-0	282	19
19.	Arizona St.	10-3	256	18
20.	Oklahoma	11-3	160	24
20.	California	13-1	160	21
22.	South Florida	11-1	146	23
23.	DePaul	10-4	88	—
24.	Kentucky	9-5	71	17
25.	Kansas St.	11-3	54	—

Others receiving votes: Tennessee 42, Colorado 38, Syracuse 37, NC State 26, Texas A&M 11, Utah 10, Mississippi 6, Green Bay 5, Michigan 5, Southern Cal 5, Boise St 5, Northwestern 4, Marquette 3, Oklahoma St. 2, Georgia Tech 1.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Duke coach Krzyzewski takes leave to have surgery

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DURHAM, N.C. — Hall of Fame Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski is stepping away from the team to have lower back surgery.

The school announced Monday that the procedure is scheduled for Friday, with an anticipated recovery time of four weeks.

Krzyzewski will coach Wednesday night's game against Georgia Tech before handing off to associate head coach Jeff Capel for Saturday's home game against Boston College.

Krzyzewski, 69, will have a fragment of a herniated disk removed at Duke University Hospital. The school says Krzyzewski tried several treatment options during the past month before deciding on surgery.

Krzyzewski said in a statement that he consulted with the university's medical team and "together, we have determined that surgery is the best course of action at this time." He says the Blue Devils will "be in the capable hands" of Capel and assistants Nate James and Jon Scheyer.

"As soon as the doctors clear me to do so, I look forward to returning and giving our team 100 (percent)

of my energy and attention, which is certainly something that they deserve," he said.

The winningest men's coach in Division I history had four surgeries during the off-season to replace his left knee, repair his left

ankle and fix a hernia. He squeezed those procedures into a busy summer in which he also led the U.S. Olympic team to the gold

medal in Rio de Janeiro. "To be sure, the entire Duke community is supportive and eager to get Mike back as soon as possible," Duke athletic director Kevin White said.

"His health is paramount, and he will get the best possible care in the world by the Duke medical team. With the proper recovery time, we look forward to Mike doing what he does best — leading and teaching — very soon."

Capel — a former Duke guard who went 175-110 in nine years coaching at Virginia Commonwealth and Oklahoma — previously took over for Krzyzewski when he missed a trip to

Georgia Tech last February because of dehydration and high blood pressure.

That victory in Atlanta marked the first time Krzyzewski did not travel with his team since the 1994-95 season, when he missed the final 19 games due to back surgery and exhaustion. Those Blue Devils went 4-15 during that span and became the last Duke team to miss the NCAA Tournament.

Monday's announcement marks the latest twist in an already drama-filled season for a team voted No. 1 in the preseason on the strength of a lineup led by preseason AP All-American guard Grayson Allen and four immediate-impact freshmen.

On Saturday, the Blue Devils (12-2) were routed at Virginia Tech in the first game of Allen's indefinite suspension for tripping yet another opponent. And those freshmen — Harry Giles, Jayson Tatum, Marques Bolden and Frank Jackson — have played in the same game only three times because of various injuries.

The Blue Devils dropped three spots to No. 8 — their lowest ranking of the season — in the AP Top 25 released Monday.

Clemson's Brownell keeping UNC contest in perspective

BY BRAD SENKIW
 Brad.senkiw@independentmail.com

CLEMSON — Despite building momentum and facing an opponent that gives Clemson a shot at a marquee win in the early part of the Atlantic Coast Conference schedule, head coach Brad Brownell isn't letting today's 7 p.m. home showdown with No. 14 North Carolina be more than what it is.

"It's another game against one of the name brands in college basketball, but it's still only worth one," Brownell said. "There's 16 after that. You've just got to be ready to play, get your best guys out there, be excited about the opportunity."

Clemson (11-2, 1-0 ACC) enters the contest on a nine-game winning streak. The Tigers have won every game since point guard Shelton Mitchell's debut after missing the first four games with a knee injury.

"That shows that we're a tough team and that we can compete and our competitive spirit is at a high level right now," said Clemson guard Marquise Reed, who's scoring 10.4 points per game. "Everybody is confident in their

game."

Since Dec. 21, Clemson's beaten South Carolina on the road, UNC Wilmington and Wake Forest the first ACC game of the season. The Tigers' latest victory was one of the most impressive of the season. They trailed the Demon Deacons on the road all game until they closed with a 15-0 run to escape with a 73-68 victory.

"Certainly we're enjoying the momentum we've built here the last month or so," Brownell said. "We've played good basketball. We've competed hard. Hopefully it gives us confidence, but we're not going to make this game into more than it is."

Clemson hasn't beaten UNC anywhere since 2010, but this Tiger team might be more well equipped to play with the Tar Heels (12-3, 0-1), at least in terms of style, than previous squads. Roy Williams' bunch, which is coming off a 75-63 loss in its ACC opener at Georgia Tech, plays the same fast-paced, transition style as usual.

Brownell, though, has more offensive weapons this season, and Clemson is averaging 77.7 points per game.

USC

FROM PAGE B1

"It was difficult for me to watch," said Thornwell, who continued practicing with the team during his suspension. "But the team grew and I grew from the sidelines."

With Thornwell back, the Gamecocks once more have the reigning SEC defensive player of the year, who was voted a first-team all-SEC preseason co-former by league coaches. Thornwell is South Carolina's best at driving to the basket, Martin said, something that was lacking at times in a few of their losses.

Thornwell's return should also open up some space for South Carolina's outside shooters like fellow senior Duane Notice, who was 0-for-8 in the Memphis loss. Notice is averaging 10 points a game this season.

"He's able to penetrate and get so much attention," Notice said of Thornwell. "It kind of helps our game tremendously."

Thornwell believes his practicing the past month with teammates should keep the rust from lack of playing to a minimum. He also knows it helped him maintain his leadership role with his younger teammates. "I made a mistake. I take responsibility for it," he said. "But during these past six games, I still led from the sidelines. I still remained positive. I still let my voice be heard."

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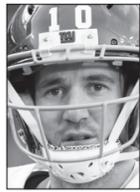
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PRO FOOTBALL

Rodgers-Manning matchup headlines wild-cards

BY ROB MAADDI
The Associated Press

Aaron Rodgers vs. Eli Manning will headline the NFL's wild-card weekend. Rodgers tossed four touchdown passes to help the Green Bay Packers capture the NFC North title with a 31-24 victory over the Detroit Lions on Sunday night. The Packers (10-6) will host the Giants (11-5) next Sunday while the Lions (9-7) visit Seattle (10-5-1) on Saturday night.



MANNING



RODGERS

New York's 19-10 win at Washington eliminated the Redskins (8-7-1) and allowed the Packers and Lions to secure playoff spots before their game kicked off. But

the teams are heading in opposite directions. The Packers have won six in a row while the Lions lost three straight. Earlier in the day, Matt Ryan and the Atlanta Falcons (11-5) secured a first-round bye with a 38-32 win over New Orleans. The Seahawks beat San Francisco 25-23 and earned the No. 3 seed. The Cowboys (13-3) already locked up the NFC's No. 1 seed before they played last week.

In the AFC, Tom Brady and the Patriots (14-2) beat Miami 35-14 to secure the No. 1 seed and home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. The Chiefs (12-4) clinched a first-round bye thanks to Denver's win over Oakland coupled with their victory over San Diego. The Raiders (12-4) fell from No. 2 to the fifth spot and will open the playoffs on the road at Houston (9-7). That matchup could feature rookie quarterback Connor Cook making his first career

start for the Raiders after they lost Derek Carr last week and backup Matt McGloin went down in the second quarter against the Broncos. The Texans also have uncertainty at quarterback. Tom Savage sustained a concussion in a loss at Tennessee and was replaced by former starter Brock Osweiler. The Steelers (11-5) will host the Dolphins (10-6) in the AFC's other wild-card game.

AREA ROUNDUP

Brunson's double-double leads AD boys past Mayewood

Trevonte Brunson had a double-double of 12 points and 12 rebounds to lead Alice Drive Middle School to a 38-17 boys basketball victory over Mayewood on Monday at the MMS gymnasium. Marcus Lane added nine points and five steals for the Hawks, who improved to 7-0 on the season. Anteon China and Javien Lowery-Isaac both had six points. AD plays host to Chestnut Oaks on Thursday.

CHESTNUT OAKS 56
FURMAN 38

Timothy Vaughn scored 16 points and had five steals to

lead Chestnut Oaks to a 56-38 victory over Furman on Monday at the FMS gymnasium. Montell McCoy had a double-double of 12 points and 10 rebounds for the Falcons. Jimmy Golden added 10 points and eight rebounds. Chestnut Oaks plays at Alice Drive on Thursday.

BATES 36
EBENEZER 33

Bates defeated Ebenezer 36-33 on Monday at the BMS gymnasium. Justus Boone led the Bantams with nine points. Cameron Jenkins

added eight.

GIRLS
BATES 26
EBENEZER 17

Bates improved to 4-3 with a 26-17 win over Ebenezer on Monday at the BMS gymnasium. Alicia Spann led the Lady Bantams with 10 points while pulling down seven rebounds. Maliasa Rhodes had eight points, 10 rebounds and three assists. Bates plays host to Furman on Thursday.

ALICE DRIVE 51

MAYEWOOD 20

Alice Drive had three players score in double figures in a 51-20 victory over Mayewood on Monday at the MMS gymnasium. Tajanique Johnson led the Lady Hawks with 16 points to go along with five assists and five steals. Stevie Sinkler had 14 points, three assists and four steals while Jada Sawyer had a double-double of 10 points and 10 rebounds. Inga Colclough had nine points, 12 rebounds and three steals. AD plays host to Chestnut Oaks on Thursday.

From local reports

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the Sumter ITEM

TODAY

VARSIY BASKETBALL
Sumter at Hartsville, 6 p.m.
Camden at Lakewood, 6 p.m.
Berkeley at Manning, 6 p.m.
North Central at Lee Central, 6 p.m.
East Clarendon at Aynor, 6 p.m.
Scott's Branch at Timmonsville, 6 p.m.

VARSIY AND JV BASKETBALL
Wilson Hall at Calhoun Academy, 4 p.m.
Laurence Manning at Hammond, 4 p.m.
Holly Hill at Clarendon Hall, 4 p.m.
Carolina Christian at Sumter Christian (No JV Girls), 4 p.m.

JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL
Lower Richland at Crestwood, 6 p.m.

B TEAM BASKETBALL
Laurence Manning at Cardinal Newman, 4:30 p.m.

VARSIY WRESTLING
Sumter at Spring Valley, 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

VARSIY BASKETBALL
Lower Richland at Crestwood, 6 p.m.

LOCAL PREP SCHEDULE

B TEAM BASKETBALL
Sumter at Orangeburg-Wilkinson (Boys Only), 6 p.m.
Cardinal Newman at Wilson Hall, 5 p.m.
Calhoun Academy at Thomas Sumter, 5 p.m.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL
Kingstree at East Clarendon, 5:30 p.m.

VARSIY BOWLING
Laurence Manning, Thomas Sumter at Wilson Hall (at Gamecock Lanes) 5 p.m.

VARSIY WRESTLING
Sumter at Carolina Forest, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY

JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL
South Florence at Sumter, 6 p.m.
Lakewood at Darlington, 6 p.m.

B TEAM BASKETBALL
Wilson Hall at Thomas Sumter, 5 p.m.
Heathwood Hall at Laurence Manning, 5 p.m.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL
Chestnut Oaks at Alice Drive, 5 p.m.
Furman at Bates, 5 p.m.

EBENEZER at Manning, 5 p.m.
Mayewood at Hillcrest, 5 p.m.
Lee Central at Hannah-Pamplico, 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

VARSIY BASKETBALL
Sumter at South Florence, 6 p.m.
Darlington at Lakewood, 6 p.m.
East Clarendon at Timmonsville, 6 p.m.
Bethune Bowman at Scott's Branch, 6 p.m.

VARSIY AND JV BASKETBALL
Manning at Hanahan, 4 p.m.
Pageland Central at Lee Central (No JV Girls), 5 p.m.
Wilson Hall at Porter-Gaud, 4 p.m.
Palmetto Christian at Laurence Manning, 4 p.m.
Clarendon Hall at Dorchester, 4 p.m.
Sumter Christian at South Pointe Christian (No JV Girls), 4 p.m.

SATURDAY

VARSIY AND JV BASKETBALL
Crestwood at Lower Richland, 3 p.m.
Manning at Scott's Branch, 4 p.m.

Keeping Sumter Beautiful

By Katie Altman-Goff,
Water Resources Extension Agent

Grinding of the Greens

Happy New Year Sumter! The 2016 holiday season is over and I hope yours was merry and bright. Santa Claus has come and gone, the presents have been unwrapped, and it's time to start taking down our holiday décor. If you're like me, you probably love putting up the Christmas tree and covering it with ornaments and lights. Taking it down is never as much fun. Maybe it will lift your spirits to know that your Christmas tree can serve an important purpose long after your decorations have been packed away, in the form of mulch.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Americans put 169 million tons of waste into landfills every year. About 28.2% of that waste is yard trimming and food, which could be used for compost and mulch. Turning your Christmas tree into mulch is simple in Sumter! You can take your live Christmas tree to Dillon Park by January 20th and it will be ground up. You can even go back on January 21 and pick up free mulch to use in your garden.

Mulch may not seem that important but it provides a whole host of benefits in your yard. Here's a list of ways mulch can benefit you yard and garden:

- Reduce evaporation of water from the soil
- Improve absorption of water into the soil
- Suppress weed growth
- Regulate soil temperatures
- Reduce erosion
- Add nutrients to the soil as it decays
- And much more!

If you'd like to learn more about mulch, check out HGIC fact sheet 1604 at www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic.

And if you'd like to participate in this year's Grinding of the Greens, drop off your live Christmas trees (no wreaths, garland, ornaments, or tree stands please) at Dillon Park by Jan 20. The grinding of the trees will take place on January 21. Bring your own bag to Dillon Park to pick up your free mulch January 21 from 7:00 am to 10:00 am. Mulch is given out on a first come, first serve basis. For more information contact Sumter County Public Works at 803-436-2241.

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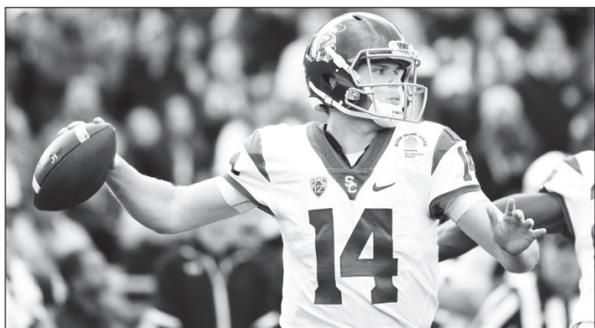
Trojans hit FG at gun to beat Penn State

PASADENA, Calif. — Matt Boermeester kicked a 46-yard field goal as time expired, and No. 9 Southern California rallied from a 14-point deficit in the fourth quarter for a spectacular 52-49 victory over No. 5 Penn State on Monday night in the highest-scoring Rose Bowl ever played.

Freshman Sam Darnold passed for 453 yards and five touchdowns while leading a jaw-dropping comeback for the Trojans (10-3), who won their ninth consecutive game.

Deontay Burnett caught a tying 27-yard TD pass from Darnold with 1:20 to play, capping an 80-yard drive in 38 seconds with no timeouts available.

Leon McQuay III then intercepted a long pass by Penn State's Trace McSorley and returned it 32 yards to



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Southern California quarterback Sam Darnold passed for 453 yards and five touchdowns in the Trojans' 52-49 victory over Penn State in the Rose Bowl on Monday in Pasadena, Calif.

the Penn State 33 with 27 seconds left to set up Boermeester, who missed two earlier field goals.

The junior confidently drilled the Rose Bowl winner, sprinting away to celebrate amid pandemonium in the packed stadium.

OUTBACK BOWL

(20) FLORIDA 30

(21) IOWA 3

TAMPA, Fla. — Austin Appleby threw for 222 yards and two touchdowns, helping No. 20 Florida end a two-game losing streak with a

30-3 rout of No. 21 Iowa in the Outback Bowl on Monday.

Mark Thompson scored on an 85-yard pass play in the first half and Appleby, a graduate transfer who spent the past four seasons at Purdue, tossed a 6-yard TD pass to DeAndre Goolsby to break the game open late in the third quarter.

COTTON BOWL

WISCONSIN 24

WESTERN MICHIGAN 16

ARLINGTON, Texas — Wisconsin tight end Troy Fumagalli made a leaping 8-yard touchdown catch in the fourth quarter and the Badgers won 24-16 in the Cotton Bowl on Monday to deny Western Michigan an undefeated season.

From wire reports

TITLE

FROM PAGE B1

HURTS SO GOOD

Alabama's Jalen Hurts is a victory away from becoming the first true freshman quarterback to lead a team to a national championship since Jamelle Holieway did it with Oklahoma in 1985. Last season Jake Coker was the Tide's quarterback, a more conventional drop-back passer who threw for 335 yards on 16 completions, including five for 208 to Howard.

With Hurts, the Tide has become far more reliant the quarterback running game. Hurts is still a work in progress in the passing game. He went 7 for 14 for 57 yards in Alabama's 24-7 victory against Washington in the Peach Bowl on Saturday. He did run 19 times for 50 yards and on the season he is up to 891 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Hurts is a more talented player than Coker, but if AL-

abama needs to trade scores with Clemson again, can the 18-year-old make the plays in the passing game that Coker did last year? Then again, Hurts' mobility will come in handy against a Clemson pass rush that ranks right up there with Alabama's.

TOP TARGET

Welcome to the national title game, Mike Williams.

Clemson's top wide-receiver is 6-foot-3, 225 pounds and a few months away from becoming an NFL millionaire. He missed just about all of last season while recovering from a neck injury and returned this year to become Watson's favorite target.

Alabama has NFL-caliber talent everywhere, of course, but Williams is a matchup nightmare even for good corners such as Marlon Humphrey and Anthony Averett. Williams had six catches for 96 yards against Ohio State in a 31-0 victory Saturday night. He has 90 receptions for 1,267 yards and 10 touchdowns on the

season.

The Tigers will also add Deon Cain to its receiving corps this time around. As a freshman last year, he was suspended for the championship game. He has been a big-play guy for Watson with nine touchdowns and a 19.4-yard average on 32 catches.

MEN IN THE MIDDLE

The newest defensive line terror for Clemson is also the biggest. Freshman Dexter Lawrence checks in at 6-5 and 340 pounds and he has played like an All-American this season.

He did not record a tackle against Ohio State but the Buckeyes seemed to shy away from even running in the middle of Clemson's defense because of Lawrence and second-team All-America Carlos Watkins.

At least partially responsible for moving Lawrence will be 319-pound center Bradley Bozeman, who stepped in for first-round pick Ryan Kelly this season to lead Alabama's

offensive line.

The Tide has not lost much at center with Bozeman, but Clemson's line and Lawrence in particular, will be his toughest test.

BO-DOZER

That huge tailback wearing a single-digit jersey number for Alabama probably reminds you of Derrick Henry.

The Heisman Trophy winner who ran for 158 yards and three touchdowns on 36 carries against Clemson last season is gone, but Bo Scarbrough, listed at 6-foot-2 and a questionable 228 pounds, does a pretty good Henry impersonation.

The Tide unleashed Scarbrough on Washington for 19 carries and 180 yards. Technically, he is Alabama's third option in the backfield. Damien Harris leads the team with 1,013 yards rushing and a 7.2 average per carry and freshman Josh Jacobs has 551 yards and 6.6 average. None of them carried the ball last season against Clemson.

OBITUARIES

CLEVELAND CHINA

Cleveland "Tommy" China, 69, husband of Annietti McCray China, departed this life on Thursday, Dec. 29, 2016, at Sumter Health and Rehab Center, Sumter. Born in Sumter County on Aug. 9, 1947, he was the son of the late Lawson China Sr. and Doretha Jackson China. He attended the public schools of Sumter County.

He leaves to cherish his memories: his wife, Annietti McCray China; his children, Pastor Sonji C. Benjamin (Theodore), Evangelist Tanjo C. Lonon (Terence), Evangelist Gwen L. China, all of Sumter, and Capt. Cleveland Levar China of Pooler, Georgia; 10 grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Homegoing celebration will be held Wednesday at 1 p.m. at Mulberry Baptist Church, 1400 Mulberry Church Road, Sumter, with the Rev. Nate Brock, pastor, and Pastor Sonji Benjamin, eulogist.

The family is receiving relatives and friends at the home, 1266 Manning Road, Sumter.

The remains will be placed in the church at noon.

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

Burial will be in Evergreen Memorial Park, Sumter.

Services are directed by management and staff of Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter. Online memorial messages may be sent to the family at www.WilliamsFuneralHomeInc.com.

BILLY JOE DINKINS

Billy Joe Dinkins, 64, departed his life on Thursday, Dec. 29, 2016, at McLeod Hospice House, Florence. Born Sept. 21, 1952, in Lee County, he was the son of the late Harry Dinkins Sr. and Alzora Wesley Dinkins. He was educated in the public schools of Lee County.

He leaves to cherish his memories: three daughters, Joann Baker of Camden, Patricia (Kayvester) Baker of Bishopville and Cindy Baker of Jacksonville, Florida; three sons, Micheal White, Micheal Baker and Walter Baker of Bishopville; two sisters,

Helen Bradley of Queens, New York, and Emma (Clifton) Hargrove of Houston, Texas; five brothers, Harry Dinkins, Hosie Dinkins and Elijah Dinkins, all of Bishopville, Gene Dinkins of Greenville, and Jack Dinkins of Winston-Salem, North Carolina; 18 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday at noon at John Wesley Williams Sr. Memorial Chapel, Williams Funeral Home, Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter, with the Rev. Norman Price, officiating, eulogist.

The family is receiving relatives and friends at the home of Elijah Dinkins, 513 Dogwood Drive, Bishopville, and at the home of Patricia Baker, 1170 Westvaco Road, Camden.

The procession will leave from the home of Patricia Baker at 11:10 a.m. Burial will be in Boone Cemetery, Elmore Road, Bishopville.

Services are directed by the management and staff of Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter.

Online memorial messages may be sent to the family at www.WilliamsFuneralHomeInc.com.

TEOSHA FORD

Teosha Rachel Latoya Ford, 33, departed her life on Thursday, Dec. 29, 2016, at Palmetto Health Tuomey, Sumter. Born May 5, 1983, in Columbia, she was the daughter of Johnnie Porcher and Sylvia Ann Ford. She attended the public schools of Sumter County.

She leaves to cherish her memories: one son, Jon'maine Ford; her parents, Johnnie Porcher (Lorraine) and Sylvia Ann Ford (Bobby); two sisters, Latoya D. Porcher and Santia Davis; three brothers, Brandon Ford, Zechariah Johnnie Porcher Jr. and Sterling Porcher; two nieces, Koraanna Ford and Paris Sky'e Porcher; seven uncles; eight aunts; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held today at 3 p.m. at John Wesley Williams Sr. Memorial Chapel, Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter, with the Rev. Frank Williams Jr., offi-

ciating, eulogist.

The family is receiving relatives and friends at the home, 1036 Dibert St., Sumter.

The procession will leave from the home at 2:30 p.m.

Online memorial messages may be sent to the family at williamsfuneralhome@sc.rr.com.

Services directed by staff and management of Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter.

DOROTHY MCGILL

Dorothy McGill, widow of the late David McGill and daughter of the late Willie Singleton and Queen Levine, died on Dec. 27, 2016, at Palmetto Health Tuomey. Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced later by Sumter Funeral Service Inc.

TRACEY MORALES

It is with profound sorrow that we announce the passing of Tracey Morales, husband of Patricia Simon Morales. Tracey Morales died Saturday morning, Dec. 31, 2016, at Palmetto Health Tuomey in Sumter.

He was born on Nov. 9, 1963, in Bronx, New York, a son of Gracie Hilton Haynesworth and John Ralph Morales, and was reared by the late John Westley and Louise Billups and grand-aunt Ella Hilton Shuler and stepfather, Arthur Haynesworth.

The family is receiving friends at the residence, 900 Mordred St., Sumter.

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

BERTHA S. ROYSTER

Mrs. Bertha Sabb Royster, 91, entered into eternal rest on Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017, at McLeod Health-Clarendon, Manning.

Born in Summerton, she was a daughter of the late Nero Sabb and Eddie Thames Sabb. She was the widow of Frank Royster.

The family will receive friends at the home of her niece, Darlene Sabb, 1060 Evening Shade Drive, Summerton.

Professional services entrusted to

KIFFIN

FROM PAGE B1

"At the end of the day, both of us wanted to put our players in the best position to be successful."

Sarkisian, who was fired from USC last season, had already been announced as Kiffin's successor. He's been working as an offensive analyst for the Tide since the week after the opener against the Trojans and now has only a week to prepare for the national title game.

Kiffin said it became apparent over the last couple of weeks that it would be better for both programs if he focused solely on the Florida Atlantic job. After meeting with Saban Sunday night and Monday morning, "we mutually decided that it was in everyone's best interests for the players and the program for Coach Sarkisian to take over all responsibilities as offensive coordinator for the championship game."

"This was a very difficult decision, but it's a decision made in the best interests of the program," Kiffin said. "I look forward to helping Alabama win another championship, and would like to thank Coach Saban, the staff, and all the players and fans for the past three years at UA for an unforgettable time and championship run. Roll Tide!"

Saban hired Kiffin months after his firing at USC — famously at the airport after a late-night flight back from a game. The position gave him the chance to revitalize his career.

The pairing worked well on the field, when the Tide won three Southeastern Conference titles and earned a shot at a second national championship. But it was often tense.

Saban could be seen a number of times on the sidelines giving Kiffin an earful during games.

Kiffin was asked before the Peach Bowl if he could recall the happiest moment with Saban in a game.

"I don't recall a happy moment," he said, adding that he only remembers the many times he was chewed out. "I won't take that part of the process with me, though."

Dyson's Home for Funerals, 237 Main St., Summerton, (803) 485-4280.

COURTNEY GARDNER

Courtney Gardner, 24, died Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017, in Lee County. Born Nov. 4, 1992, in Richland County, she was the daughter of Sammie Peter and Martha Ferguson Gardner.

The family is receiving relatives and friends at the home, 6505 Spring Hill Road, Rembert.

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

SUSIE MAE NELSON

Susie Mae Nelson, 95, widow of Hodges Nelson and daughter of the late Isiah and Lucretia Freeman Johnson, was born on May 24, 1921, in Ambrose, Georgia. She departed this life on Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017, at her residence.

Family will receive friends at the home, 3300 Southern Hills Drive, Sumter.

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

JAMES A. WEBSTER

James Alexander Loper Webster, 5, son of Bridget Brunson Webster, was born on June 13, 2011, in Columbia. He departed this life on Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017, at Palmetto Health Tuomey, Sumter.

Family will receive friends at the home, 380 E. Emerald Lake Drive, Sumter.

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

MARTHA MAE SWEAT

It is with profound sorrow that we announce the passing of Martha Mae Sweat at Blue Ridge of Sumter Nursing Facility on Jan. 1, 2017. She was born Feb. 25, 1943, in Manning to Willie Mae Blanding and the late Lucious Sweat.

The family is receiving friends at her residence, 1048 Sweetwater Road, Manning.

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

TW	FT	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM
LOCAL CHANNELS												
WIS	10	3	10	WIS News 10 at 7:00pm Local news update.	Entertainment Tonight (N) (HD)	The Wall: Mike and Shana (N) (HD)	Chicago Fire: Some Make It, Some Don't Dawson and Casey face legal issues. (N) (HD)	Chicago P.D.: Dont Bury This Case Severide is brought to the station. (N) (HD)	WIS News 10 at 11:00pm News and weather.	(:35) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon Comedy skits and celebrity interviews. (HD)		
WLTX	19	9	9	News 19 @ 7pm Evening news update.	Insider Edition (N) (HD)	NCIS: Willoughby Team tries to take down businessman. (N) (HD)	Bull: E.J. Bull uncovers a secret that could ultimately sabotage a trial win for his case. (N) (HD)	NCIS: New Orleans: Follow the Money Pride's friend is engaged to suspect. (N) (HD)	News 19 @ 11pm The news of the day.	(:35) The Late Show with Stephen Colbert Oprah Winfrey; Pretty Yende. (N) (HD)		
WOLO	23	5	12	Wheel of Fortune (N) (HD)	Jeopardy! (N) (HD)	The Middle: Escape Orson (N) (HD)	American Housewife: The Playdate (N) (HD)	Fresh Off the Boat Jessica's past. (N) (HD)	The Real O'Neals: The Real Sin (N) (HD)	ABC Columbia News at 11 (HD)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live Celebrities and human-interest subjects. (HD)	
WRJA	27	11	14	Making It Grow		American Masters: Sidney Lumet (N) (HD)		Frontline: President Trump (N) (HD)		Tavis Smiley (HD)	BBC World News International news.	Charlie Rose (N) (HD)
WACH	57	6	6	The Big Bang Theory (HD)	The Big Bang Theory Wolowitz pitches. (HD)	New Girl: Raisin's Reagan returns. (N) (HD)	(:31) The Mick: Grandparents (N) (HD)	(:01) Bones: The Final Chapter: The Hope in the Horror Brennan is captured by Zack Addy. (N) (HD)	WACH FOX News at 10 Local news report and weather forecast.	The Huddle	2 Broke Girls Gathering at Deke's. (HD)	Mike & Molly: Carl Meets a Lady (HD)
WKTC	33	4	22	Last Man Standing: Taser (HD)	Last Man Standing: Stud Muffin (HD)	The Flash: Killer Frost Caitlin's inner Killer Frost. (HD)	No Tomorrow: No Woman No Cry Evie is torn by her feelings for both Timothy and Xavier. (N) (HD)	Bones: The Perfect Pieces in the Purple Pond Disembodied body found in purple pool. (HD)	Bones: The Crank in the Shaft Office manager in elevator shaft. (HD)	Hot in Cleveland: Hot for Lawyer (HD)		
CABLE CHANNELS												
A&E	46	130		Intervention: Robby Man becoming a woman drinks heavily. (HD)	Intervention: Katie S. Katie abuses drugs after losing kids. (HD)	Intervention: Jasmine Ex-addict rebounds. (N) (HD)	Leah Remini: Scientology and the Aftermath: Auditing (N) (HD)	Leah Remini: Scientology and the Aftermath: Golden Era (HD)	Intervention: Katie S. (HD)	Enter the Dragon (73, Action) Bruce Lee. Martial arts fight. (HD)		
AMC	48	180		(4:30) The Departed ('06, Crime) ★★★★★ Leonardo DiCaprio. (HD)	Gladiator ('00, Drama) ★★★★★ Russell Crowe. In ancient Rome, a deposed yet courageous general becomes a successful gladiator and seeks revenge against the man who had his wife and son murdered. (HD)					Enter the Dragon (73, Action) Bruce Lee. Martial arts fight. (HD)		
ANPL	41	100		I Shouldn't Be Alive (HD)	(:01) Monsters Inside Me (N)	(:01) Monsters Inside Me (N)	The Day I Almost Died (HD)	(:01) Monsters Inside Me (HD)	Monsters (HD)			
BET	61	162		Love Don't Cost a Thing ('03, Comedy) ★★ Nick Cannon. Teenage boy convinces a pretty cheerleader to pretend to be his girlfriend.			Lip Sync Battle	Lip Sync Battle	Martin DJ's attitude.	Martin DJ's attitude.	The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air	
BRAVO	47	181		The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills: Going Commando	Beverly Hills Social (N)	The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills: Amnesia Appetizers (N)	Ladies of London (N)	What Happens (N) (HD)	The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills: Amnesia Appetizers			
CNBC	35	84		Billion Dollar Buyer (HD)	Shark Tank (HD)	Shark Tank Gourmet meat. (HD)	Billion Dollar Buyer (N) (HD)	Shark Tank Five invest. (HD)	Shark Tank			
CNN	33	80		Erin Burnett OutFront (HD)	Anderson Cooper 360° (N) (HD)	Anderson Cooper 360° (N) (HD)	CNN Tonight with Don Lemon	CNN Tonight with Don Lemon	360° (HD)			
COM	57	136		(:54) Futurama (HD)	Futurama Bender is a ghost.	Tosh.O Internet artist. (HD)	Tosh.O: Queenzflip (HD)	Tosh.O: Makeup Jake (HD)	Tosh.O London guard. (HD)	Daily Show with Trevor (N)	(:31) @midnight (N) (HD)	(:01) Futurama: Neutopia
DISN	18	200		K.C. Undercover (HD)	Good Luck Charlie (HD)	Stuck in the Middle (HD)	Good Luck Charlie (HD)	Liv and Maddie (HD)	Liv and Maddie (HD)	BUNK'D: Camp Rules (HD)	BUNK'D Bad luck curse. (HD)	Jessie: 101 Lizards (HD)
DSC	42	103		Moonshiners (HD)	Moonshiners: Outlaw Cuts (N)	Moonshiners (N) (HD)	Killing Fields (N) (HD)	(:02) Moonshiners (HD)	Killing (HD)			
ESPN	26	35		College Basketball: Wisconsin Badgers at Indiana Hoosiers (HD)	College Basketball: Texas A&M Aggies at Kentucky Wildcats (HD)	College Basketball: Kansas State vs Kansas (LIVE) (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	NFL Live (HD)	SC (HD)			
ESPN2	27	39		College Basketball: North Carolina vs Clemson (LIVE) (HD)	Chopped Junior (N) (HD)	Chopped: Healthy Rivalry (HD)	Chopped: Clean Eatin' (N) (HD)	Chopped (HD)	Chopped (HD)			
FOOD	40	109		Chopped Sea creatures.	The O'Reilly Factor (N) (HD)	The Kelly File News updates.	Hannity (N) (HD)	The O'Reilly Factor (HD)	The Kelly File			
FOXN	37	90		Tucker Carlson Tonight (N)	(6:30) National Lampoon's Vacation ('83, Comedy) ★★★★★ Chevy Chase. Disastrous trip. (HD)	Coming to America ('88, Comedy) ★★★★★ Eddie Murphy. An African prince flees an arranged marriage to find his own American queen. (HD)	The 700 Club (HD)	European Vacation ('85) (HD)	Basketball			
FSS	31	42		College Basketball: Boston College vs Wake Forest (LIVE)	Driven (HD)	UFC Main	Insider (HD)	Big East	World Poker Tour (R) (HD)			
HALL	52	183		Last Man Standing (HD)	Last Man Standing (HD)	Last Man Standing (HD)	The Middle (HD)	The Middle Sue wins trip. (HD)	The Middle (HD)	Golden Girls: The Triangle	Gold. Girl: On Golden Girls	Gold. Girl: The Competition
HGTV	39	112		Fixer Upper Next to Waco. (HD)	Fixer Upper (HD)	The Curse of Oak Island: Dig (N)	Fixer Upper (N) (HD)	Hunters (N)	Hunters (N)	Fixer Upper (HD)	Hunting Hitler (HD)	Fixer Uppr
HIST	45	110		The Curse of Oak Island (HD)	Criminal Minds: The Return Mass murder teens. (HD)	Criminal Minds: The Sandman Children kidnapped. (HD)	Criminal Minds: Inner Beauty Mutilated bodies. (HD)	Criminal Minds: Devil's Backbone Kidnapped boys. (HD)	Saving Hope: Shine a Light Keep patient alive. (HD)	Saving Hope (HD)		
ION	13	160		Criminal Minds: The Return Mass murder teens. (HD)	Dance Moms: Winner Takes All (HD)	Dance Moms: Dance & Chat: New Kid on the Block (N) (HD)	Dance Moms: No Clowning Around Mothers clash. (N) (HD)	Celebrity Wife Swap: Sean Lowe; Jason Mesnick (HD)	Celebrity Wife Swap: Angie Everhart; Pat and Gina Neely (HD)	(:02) Dance Moms (HD)		
LIFE	50	145		Dance Moms: Winner Takes All (HD)	All in with Chris Hayes (HD)	The Rachel Maddow Show (N)	Lawrence O'Donnell (HD)	11th Hour (HD)	Hardball (HD)	Maddow (HD)		
MSNBC	36	92		Hardball with Chris (N) (HD)	Thunderman	Nicky	Full House	Full House	Full House	Friends (HD)	Friends (HD)	Friends (HD)
NICK	16	210		Paradise (N)	Cops (HD)	Cops (HD)	Cops (HD)	Cops (HD)	Cops (HD)	Cops (HD)	Cops (HD)	Jail (HD)
SPIKE	64	153		Cops (HD)	Cops (HD)	Cops (HD)	Cops (HD)	Cops (HD)	Cops (HD)	Cops (HD)	Cops (HD)	Jail (HD)
SYFY	58	152		(5:30) Quantum of Solace ('08, Action) ★★★★★ Daniel Craig. (HD)	Lost in Space ('98, Science Fiction) Gary Oldman. In 2058, an intrepid family is sent into space with a pilot and a doctor in the hopes of finding a habitable planet for the residents of an overcrowded Earth.	The Darkest Hour ('11, Science Fiction) ★★★★★ Emile Hirsch. Aliens harvest energy to hunt humans. (HD)	Conan Writer, actor, producer and director Louis C.K. (HD)	2 Broke Girls (HD)				
TBS	24	156		Seinfeld Hockey fanatic. (HD)	Screen Director: Markheim	Cool Hand Luke ('67, Drama) ★★★★★ Paul Newman. A man sentenced to serve a term on a prison farm clashes with the authorities. (HD)	(:15) Burt Lancaster. An inmate makes plans to escape a brutal prison and its sadistic chief guard.	Riot in Cell Block 11 ('54) ★★★★★				
TCM	49	186		Dial M for Murder ('54) (HD)	Little People, Big World (N)	(:01) OutDaughtered (N) (HD)	Kate Plus 8: Sweet 16 (N) (HD)	(:02) OutDaughtered (HD)	Kate Plus (HD)			
TLC	43	157		Little People, Big World (N)	Good Behavior: For You I'd Go with Strawberry (N) (HD)	Good Behavior: For You I'd Go with Strawberry (N) (HD)	Adam Ruins	Adam Ruins	Adam Ruins	Billy On (N)	Jokers (HD)	Jokers (HD)
TNT	23	158		(6:00) The Help ('11, Drama) ★★★★★ Emma Stone. In Mississippi during the 1960s, three women form an unlikely friendship. (HD)	A Griffith (HD)	(:48) Loves Raymond (HD)	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Queens (HD)	Queens (HD)	Queens (HD)
TRUTV	38	129		Jokers (HD)	Jokers (HD)	Jokers (HD)	Jokers (HD)	Jokers (HD)	Jokers (HD)	Jokers (HD)	Jokers (HD)	Jokers (HD)
TVLAND	55	161		A Griffith (HD)	WWE SmackDown (LIVE) (HD)	Law & Order: Manhood (HD)	Law & Order: Benevolence (HD)	Law & Order: Sweeps (HD)	Law & Order: Volunteers (HD)	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	Law & Order: SVU (HD)
USA	25	132		NCIS: Kill Screen NCIS called when fingerprints are found. (HD)	Law & Order: Securitade (HD)	Get Smart ('08, Comedy) Steve Carell. Quirky analyst helps agent fight crime. (HD)	Get Smart ('08, Comedy) ★★★★★ Steve Carell. Spies fight crime. (HD)	Get Smart ('08, Comedy) ★★★★★ Steve Carell. Spies fight crime. (HD)	Get Smart ('08, Comedy) ★★★★★ Steve Carell. Spies fight crime. (HD)			
WE	68	166		Law & Order: Securitade (HD)	Law & Order: Securitade (HD)	Law & Order: Securitade (HD)	Law & Order: Securitade (HD)	Law & Order: Securitade (HD)	Law & Order: Securitade (HD)	Law & Order: Securitade (HD)	Law & Order: Securitade (HD)	Law & Order: Securitade (HD)
WGN	8	172		Cops (HD)	Cops (HD)	Cops (HD)	Cops (HD)	Cops (HD)	Cops (HD)	Cops (HD)	Cops (HD)	Cops (HD)

'American Masters' profiles director Sidney Lumet

BY KEVIN McDONOUGH

"American Masters" (8 p.m., PBS, TV-14, check local listings) premieres "By Sidney Lumet," a profile of a director who "graduated" from television to direct 44 films in 50 years. He worked during television's first "Golden Age" in the mid-1950s.

Before Hollywood started churning out Westerns and sitcoms for the new medium, networks and sponsors produced many teleplays from New York that featured up-and-coming talents like James Dean, who did his earliest work on TV.

Some of the most prestigious films of the 1950s and '60s, including "Marty" and "Days of Wine and Roses," were adapted from teleplays. Lumet directed more than 200 plays and episodes of early dramatic TV for "Playhouse 90," "Kraft Television Theatre" and "Studio One."

Lumet made his film debut directing Henry Fonda in "12 Angry Men," an adaptation of a teleplay written by Reginald Rose and directed by Franklin Schaffner for "Studio One."

Lumet's films were often gritty and realistic, exploring outsiders at odds with society. His most notable movies include "Serpico" and "Dog Day Afternoon," both starring Al Pacino at the peak of his career. The television veteran directed "Network" in 1976, arguably the wildest and perhaps the most prophetic satire ever made about the medium.

This "American Masters" makes extensive use of a 2008 interview with Lumet about his life and work. He died in 2011.

• "The Mick" (8:30 p.m., Fox, TV-14) assumes its regularly scheduled slot after debuting on New Year's Day. Kaitlin Olson stars as Mickey, a degenerate alcoholic shoplifter who thinks nothing of using and abusing friends. She inherits a posh setting and the care of three spoiled children when her sister and rich brother-in-law become fugitives from justice.

If Mickey were merely a rebellious free spirit like "Uncle Buck," this class-conscious comedy might be bearable. But there are no characters to root for, except perhaps Alba (Carla Jimenez), the maid. She is shown bonding with Mickey, presumably because she is less uptight than her former bosses. But it hardly follows that a woman who cares for children would side with a selfish, drunken woman who puts the children's lives in danger. Just because Alba is working class, it doesn't follow that she'd find common cause with someone like Mickey.

Like the Jane Lynch comedy "Angel From Hell," this comedy treats a serious drinking problem as a laughing matter. "Angel" bombed on

CBS and I see no reason why "The Mick" won't tank on Fox.

• The new series "Kiss Bang Love" (10 p.m., FYI, TV-14) follows people who submit to "a social experiment" (a fancy name for a reality show) that calls for them to kiss strangers while blindfolded. Apparently, the reality TV version of "Spin the Bottle" has not yet been created.

TONIGHT'S OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

• A tech tycoon faces a difficult jury on "Bull" (9 p.m., CBS, TV-14).

• "Bones" (9 p.m., Fox, TV-14) enters its 12th and final season with the gang searching for Brennan, last seen kidnapped by her former assistant, Zack Addy (Eric Millegan).

• A friend of Pride is engaged to a major suspect on "NCIS: New Orleans" (10 p.m., CBS, TV-14).

• An illusionist wows celebrities on "David Blaine: Beyond Magic" (10 p.m., ABC, r, TV-14).

• "Frontline" (10 p.m., PBS, TV-PG, check local listings) presents "President Trump," expanding on a profile presented

in "The Choice" that aired in October.

• The Discovery documentary series "Killing Fields" (10 p.m.) enters a second season.

CULT CHOICE

An impressive cast (William Hurt, Mimi Rogers, Heather Graham, Lacey Chabert, Jack Johnson, Gary Oldman and Matt LeBlanc) appears in the 1998 adaptation of the 1960s fantasy "Lost in Space" (8 p.m., Syfy).

SERIES NOTES

A businessman profits from terror on "NCIS" (8 p.m., CBS, TV-14) * Reagan (Megan Fox) moves in on "New Girl" (8 p.m., Fox, TV-14) * Zombie avoidance on "The Middle" (8 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) * Chris Hardwick hosts "The Wall" (8 p.m., NBC, TV-PG) * Caitlin's very bad cold on "The Flash" (8 p.m., CW, r, TV-14) * A question of discipline on "American Housewife" (8:30 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) *

Dawson and Casey fight for custody of Louie on "Chicago Fire" (9 p.m., NBC, TV-14) * Jessica's past revealed on "Fresh Off the Boat" (9 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) * Evie feels torn on "No Tomorrow" (9 p.m., CW, TV-14) * Eileen confronts a post-divorce reality on "The Real O'Neals" (9:30 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) * Severide faces questioning on "Chicago P.D." (10 p.m., NBC, TV-14).

LATE NIGHT

Louis C.K. on "Conan" (11 p.m., TBS, r) * Oprah Winfrey and Pretty Yende are booked on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" (11:35 p.m., CBS) * Jimmy Fallon welcomes Justin Timberlake, Tracey Ullman and Stanaj to "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC, r) * Casey Affleck, Rebecca Romijn and Michael Che visit "Late Night With Seth Meyers" (12:35 a.m., NBC, r).

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7 Gerald St 3BR 1BA \$525 mo + \$350 Dep. (Deposit required with application) 803-775-2590 between 8am-5pm

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LEGAL NOTICES

Summons & Notice

NOTICE OF ORDER APPOINTING GUARDIAN AD LITEM NISI AND ATTORNEY

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT C/A #: 2016-CP-43-02106

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF SUMTER

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff,

Summons & Notice

vs. CHARLOTTE ELLIS, AND IF SHE BE DECEASED, THEN HER HEIRS AT LAW, AND ANY OTHER HEIRS-AT-LAW OR DISTRIBUTIBLES OR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND THEIR SPOUSES, IF ANY THEY HAVE, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS UNKNOWN WITH ANY RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, INTEREST IN OR LIEN UPON THE REAL ESTATE DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT HEREIN; ALSO ANY UNKNOWN ADULTS AND THOSE PERSONS WHO MAY BE IN THE MILITARY SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ALL OF THEM BEING A CLASS DESIGNATED AS JOHN DOE; AND ANY UNKNOWN MINORS OR PERSONS UNDER A DISABILITY BEING A CLASS DESIGNATED AS RICHARD ROE and CITY OF SUMTER HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, Defendants.

TO: THE DEFENDANTS HEREIN, NAMES AND ADDRESSES UNKNOWN, INCLUDING ANY THEREOF WHO MAY BE MINORS, IMPRISONED PERSONS, INCOMPETENT PERSONS, UNDER OTHER LEGAL DISABILITY OR IN THE MILITARY SERVICE, IF ANY, WHETHER RESIDENTS OR NON-RESIDENTS OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO THE NATURAL GENERAL TESTAMENTARY GUARDIAN OR COMMITTEE, OR OTHERWISE, AND TO THE PERSON WITH WHOM THEY MAY RESIDE, IF ANY THERE BE:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Motion for an order appointing Kelley Y. Woody, Esquire, as Guardian ad Litem Nisi, for all persons whomsoever herein collectively designated as Richard Roe or John Doe, defendants herein, names and addresses unknown, including any thereof who may be minors, imprisoned persons, incompetent persons, or under other legal disability, and as Attorney for said parties who may be in the military service, whether residents or non-residents of South Carolina, was filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Sumter County.

YOU WILL FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that unless the said minors or persons under other legal disability, if any, or someone in their behalf or in behalf of any of them, shall within thirty (30) days after service of notice of this order upon them by publication, exclusive of the day of such service, procure to be appointed for them, or either of them, a Guardian ad Litem to represent them for the purposes of this action, the appointment of said Guardian ad Litem Nisi and Attorney shall be made absolute.

SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF FILING COMPLAINT

TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE 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 upon the subscribers, at their office, 1703 Laurel Street, Post Office Box 11682, Columbia, South Carolina 29211, within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer the Complaint in the time aforesaid, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the original Complaint in the above entitled action was filed in the office of the Clerk of Court for Sumter County on November 8, 2016.

AMENDED LIS PENDENS

TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an action will be commenced in this Court upon the Complaint of the above-named Plaintiff against the above-named Defendants for the foreclosure of that certain Mortgage of Real Estate given by the Defendant Charlotte Ellis to Preferred Mortgage Co., LLC, its successors and assigns, dated January 31, 2006, and recorded on February 1, 2006, in the office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County, South Carolina in Book 1099 at Page 2715 (the "Mortgage").

By Mortgage Assignment (the "Assignment"), Preferred Mortgage Co., LLC assigned the Mortgage to the Plaintiff, and the Assignment was recorded February 1, 2008, in Book 1099 at Page 2730 in the office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County, South Carolina.

At the time of the filing of this notice, the premises affected by the said action were situated in the County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, and are described as follows:

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land with the improvements thereon, if any, situate, lying and being in the City and County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, being shown and delineated as Lot No. 1, as shown on that certain Plat of Joseph R. Edwards, P.L.S., dated September 7, 2007 and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County in Plat Book 2007 at Page 438, and having such boundaries, metes, courses and distances as are shown on said plat, reference to which is hereby made pursuant to authority contained in § 30-50-250 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended. This property is known as

Summons & Notice

113 King Street, Sumter, SC. This being the same property conveyed to Charlotte Ellis by deed of City of Sumter Housing and Economic Development Corporation dated January 25, 2008 and recorded February 1, 2008 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County, South Carolina in Book 1099 at Page 2712.

TMS#: 227-12-04-024

For a complete description of the property encumbered by the Mortgage, the undersigned craves reference to the Mortgage, the terms of which are incorporated herein by reference.

GRIMSLEY LAW FIRM, LLC P. O. Box 11682 Columbia, South Carolina 29211 (803) 233-1177 Edward L. Grimsley Benjamin E. Grimsley Attorneys for the Plaintiff

IN THE JUVENILE COURT FOR SUMNER COUNTY, TENNESSEE

STATE OF TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

PETITIONER

IN THE MATTER OF: KEYSHON ROBINSON NELSON, DOB: 06/29/99 FILE NO. 2012-JV-590 A CHILD UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

It appearing to the Court from the allegations of the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights, Motion for Service by Publication and the Affidavit of Diligent Search that the whereabouts of the Respondent, TAMIKO ROBINSON, Mother of KEYSHON ROBINSON NELSON, is unknown and cannot be ascertained by diligent search, therefore, the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon Respondent, TAMIKO ROBINSON, Mother of KEYSHON ROBINSON NELSON.

It is, therefore, ORDERED that said TAMIKO ROBINSON, Mother of KEYSHON ROBINSON NELSON be served by publication of the following notice for four (4) consecutive weeks in THE SUMTER ITEM, a weekly newspaper of general circulation printed in the State of South Carolina and distributed throughout Sumter County, South Carolina and by publication of the following notice for four (4) consecutive weeks in The Sumter Item, a weekly newspaper of general circulation printed in the State of South Carolina.

It is further ORDERED that if the TAMIKO ROBINSON, Mother of KEYSHON ROBINSON NELSON does not enter an appearance or otherwise Answer the Petition, further personal service or service by further publication shall be dispensed with and service of any future notices, motions, orders or other legal documents in this matter may be made upon the TAMIKO ROBINSON, Mother of KEYSHON ROBINSON NELSON, by filing same with the Juvenile Court Clerk of Sumter County, Tennessee.

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT, TAMIKO ROBINSON The State of Tennessee, Department of Children's Services, has filed a petition against you seeking to terminate forever your parental rights to KEYSHON ROBINSON NELSON, who was born to TAMIKO ROBINSON on June 29, 1999, in Charleston County, South Carolina. The birth certificate is silent as to the identity of the biological father. It appears that ordinary process of law cannot be served upon you because your whereabouts are unknown. You are hereby

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT, TAMIKO ROBINSON

The State of Tennessee, Department of Children's Services, has filed a petition against you seeking to terminate forever your parental rights to KEYSHON ROBINSON NELSON, who was born to TAMIKO ROBINSON on June 29, 1999, in Charleston County, South Carolina. The birth certificate is silent as to the identity of the biological father. It appears that ordinary process of law cannot be served upon you because your whereabouts are unknown. You are hereby

Summons & Notice

ORDERED to appear in the Juvenile Court of Sumner County, Tennessee in Gallatin, Tennessee on the 21st day of December, 2016 at 9:00 a.m., to personally to answer the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights. Failing to appear for the hearing on this date and time, without good cause, pursuant to Rule 39(c)(3) of the Tenn. R. Juv. P. will result in the loss of your right to contest the petition to terminate your parental rights to the child listed above. You may view and obtain a copy of the Petition and any other subsequently filed legal documents at the Sumner County Juvenile Court Clerk's Office, 225 East Main Street, Gallatin, TN 37066.

IT IS SO ORDERED. Entered this 18th day of October, 2016.

BARRY BROWN, JUDGE APPROVED FOR ENTRY:

STATE OF TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES Robyn L. Taylor, BPR#026922 Assistant General Counsel 393 Maple Street, Suite 201 Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 451-5818

Estate Notice Sumter County

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

Persons having claim against the following estates are required to deliver or mail their claims to the indicated Personal Representatives, appointed to administer these estates, and to file their claims on Form #37IPC with the Probate Court of Sumter County Courthouse, N. Main Street, Sumter, SC, 29150, on or before the date that is eight months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors, (unless previously barred by operation of Section 62-3-803), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements, indicating the name and the address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the amount claimed and the date when due, and a description of any security as to the claim.

Estate:/Robert Frank D'Amato #2016ES4300682 Personal Representative John B Duffie Jr C/O J Cabot Seth PO Box 1268 Sumter, SC 29151

Estate:/Susie Mae Porter #2016ES4300685 Personal Representative Suzanne Annette Porter 1039 Wellington Road Sumter, SC 29153

Estate:/Sammie L. Robinson, Sr. #2016ES4300712 Personal Representative Annette Robinson 240 Lois Lane Sumter, SC 29150

Estate:/Robert Edward Weissmann #2016ES4300711 Personal Representative Christopher E. Weissmann 3435 McCrays Mill Road Sumter, SC 29154

Estate:/Fred Davis #2016ES4300681 Personal Representative Margaret Ingram 6340 Rhodes Drive Rembert, SC 29128

Estate:/David Douglas Hickman #2016ES4300706 Personal Representative Gayle O. Hickman 1370 Pudding Swamp Rd. Lynchburg, SC 29080

Estate:/Angela Edwards #2016ES4300696 Personal Representative Michael A. Conyers 870 Manchester Road Sumter, SC 29154

Estate Notice Sumter County

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Estate:/Gladys Carter Clark #2016ES4300709 Personal Representative Larry Carter 207 Adams Avenue Sumter, SC 29150

Estate:/Gennie Kennedy #2016ES4300679 Personal Representative Shelina Price 775 Radical Road Sumter, SC 29153

Estate:/Joshua Neal, Jr. #2016ES4300702 Personal Representative Eula Mae Neal 4680 Highway 15 South Sumter, SC 29150

Estate:/Angela Edwards #2016ES4300696 Personal Representative Michael A. Conyers 870 Manchester Road Sumter, SC 29154

Estate:/Emmy M Palka #2016ES4300690 Personal Representative Michael Palka C/O John Keffer 10 Law Range Sumter, SC 29150

Estate:/William D. McJunkin #2016ES4300701 Personal Representative Kelly McJunkin 1590 Judy Drive Wedgefield, SC 29168

Estate:/Helen M. Burke #2016ES4300694 Personal Representative Glenn F. Reese 2079 Gion Street Sumter, SC 29150

Estate:/Joan Mathis Shirley #2016ES4300687 Personal Representative John C Shirley 245 John Linder Road Chapin, SC 29036

Estate:/Charles Roswell Bovee #2016ES4300700 Personal Representative Michael J. Riddick 4365 Brabham Drive Dalzell, SC 29040

Estate:/Ferdinand Burns, Jr. #2016ES4300713 Personal Representative Lulu M. Burns 20 Neal Street Sumter, SC 29150

Estate:/Robert Frank D'Amato #2016ES4300682 Personal Representative John B Duffie Jr C/O J Cabot Seth PO Box 1268 Sumter, SC 29151

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CHRIS DILLMANN, VAIL DAILY, VIA AP

Ski instructors in Vail, Colo. some dressed up for the holiday, help celebrate the New Year after the Torchlight Parade on Golden Peak.



LIONEL BONAVENTURE, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A laser and 3-D mapping display illuminates the Arc de Triomphe on the Champs Élysées during New Year celebrations Sunday in Paris.



NARINDER NANU, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A Sikh devotee pays his respects in prayer on New Year's Day at the Golden Temple in Amritsar, India on Sunday.



AULD LANG SIGNS

LEO CORREA, AP

Celebrants take to the water to watch fireworks explode over Copacabana beach on New Year's Eve in Rio de Janeiro.



ERIC HARTLINE, USA TODAY

In Philadelphia, a security guard with the Philadelphia Eagles celebrates the new year before the game against the Dallas Cowboys at Lincoln Financial Field.

Kaitlin Olivi of Yonkers, N.Y., and Lucas Pereira, of Sayreville, N.J., kiss as confetti falls in New York's Times Square.



CRAIG RUTTLE, AP



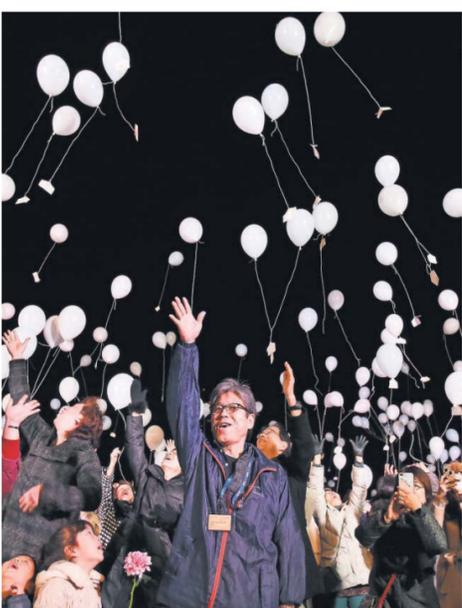
AHN YOUNG JOON, AP

A woman prays in front of lanterns to celebrate the new year at Chogye Buddhist temple in Seoul on Saturday.



SAEED KHAN, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Fireworks light up the sky above the iconic Opera House and Harbour Bridge in Sydney.



KOJI SASAHARA, AP

People release balloons to celebrate the new year during a celebration at a hotel in Tokyo.



MOHAMMED ABED, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Palestinian artist Osama Sbeata, 26, lights the words "2017 Happy New Year" written in the sand in Gaza City on Saturday.

ECONOMISTS PREDICT:

Paul Davidson
@Pdavidsonusat
USA TODAY

The U.S. economy is expected to strengthen next year, in part because of the government stimulus proposed at by President-elect Donald Trump, but job growth is likely to slow as the recovery approaches its eighth anniversary, according to a recent survey of economists.

The economy is projected to grow at a 2.3% annual rate in 2017, up from an estimated 1.6% this year, according to the average forecast of 53 economists surveyed earlier this month by Blue Chip Economic Indicators. That's modestly above the tepid 2.1% average that has prevailed since the Great Recession ended in June 2009.

The big wild card: the Trump effect. Quick congressional passage and implementation of his plan to sharply increase infrastructure and defense spending and slash taxes could mean faster growth. But Trump's threats to slap big tariffs on China and Mexico risk trade wars that could roil the economy.

"There's a significant downside risk from trade," says Richard Moody, chief economist of Regions Financial.

Average monthly job growth is projected to slow to 160,000 from 180,000 so far this year and 229,000 in 2015, according to the economists' average estimate. That's largely because the low, 4.6% unemployment rate is providing employers a smaller pool of available workers, says Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody's Analytics.

Also, the tandem of solid job gains and a sluggish economy has resulted in anemic increases in productivity, or output per worker hour. Both Zandi and Moody expect businesses to invest in more labor-saving technology next year to bolster productivity, but that likely would curtail hiring.

Yet the tight labor market should juice wage increases as employers bid up to attract workers, Zandi says. He predicts average annual earnings growth — which was 2.5% in November — will reach 3% to 3.5% by the end of 2017.

The higher pay, he says, should draw more discouraged workers back into the labor force, keeping the unemployment rate — which many economists say now represents full employment — roughly flat next year.

Consumers, meanwhile, are poised to underpin economic growth again as a result of those



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

2017 GROWTH ESTIMATES

- Inflation-adjusted GDP **2.3%**
- Consumer spending **2.6%**
- Consumer prices **2.4%**
- Business investment **2.7%**
- Corporate profits **4.2%**
- Industrial production **1.6%**

SOURCE: Survey of 53 economists by Blue Chip Economic Indicators in early December
VERONICA BRAVO, USA TODAY

fatter paychecks, steady job gains, record housing and stock prices, reduced debt and still-cheap gasoline. The economists surveyed by Blue Chip expect consumption to increase a solid 2.5%, in line with gains in 2016.

"Consumer spending is still going to be the main driver," Moody says.

The difference next year is that business investment is likely to rise and contribute to the economy after falling 0.6% this year. Business capital spending and stockpiling were hammered by myriad factors in the first half of the year, including low oil prices, China's economic slowdown, volatile markets and a strong dollar that hurt exports.

But oil prices have doubled since bottoming out early this year, coaxing producers to revive shuttered wells and order steel

pipes and other materials from U.S. factories. The greenback had leveled off until a recent rally, bolstering exports. China's economy has stabilized. The Dow is on the cusp of 20,000. And U.S. companies are replenishing inventories that shrank well below normal levels, partly because patty sales in the energy sector left little reason to bulk up.

"All of the headwinds are blowing less hard," Zandi says.

The economists surveyed expect business investment to increase 2.7% next year. Michael Englund, chief economist of Action Economics, says Trump's stimulus, combined with his plan to reduce regulations and cut taxes for U.S. companies, already has buoyed business confidence, and that alone could spur more capital spending. Meanwhile, he says, Trump can begin to ease regula-

tions for energy and other firms through executive action to further increase corporate profits and investment.

"Businesses have been gun shy" until now, he says. He expects all those effects to increase growth by two-tenths of a percentage point.

Zandi forecasts a similar bump based on his belief that some increased military spending and tax cuts for households could take effect by the second half of next year. He expects the economy to grow a healthy 2.8% in 2017.

But Moody, who forecasts 2.1% growth, hasn't factored any of those positive Trump effects into his forecast, adding it's not clear how much Congress will approve and how long negotiations will drag out. All those developments are likely to temper the economy's gains.

Apple's 2016 report card: **A** for operations, **B-** for innovation

Some customers upset by removal of features from popular products

Jefferson Graham
@jeffersongraham
USA TODAY



LOS ANGELES Apple continued its winning ways in 2016, with one product that sold more units than any other competitor, the top-selling iPhone.

But the year was controversial, as the company angered longtime customers by removing popular features from products and falling further behind Amazon, Google and Facebook in innovation.

KTLA-TV tech reporter Rich DeMuro joined USA TODAY for a Facebook Live video chat, as we compared notes on Apple's year.

"Apple didn't blow us away with anything brand new, but they delivered on what they do best," said DeMuro.

That said, I find the latest iPhone, the 7 Plus, to be Apple's best ever, with water resistance and a terrific camera with two lenses. Two big issues didn't get



PICASA APPLE

There's a lot more you can do with your new iPhone than simply take photos, listen to music and make calls.

fixed, though: a longer-lasting battery and screens that won't crack.

Grade: After a string of new products that were more updates than anything new, I give Apple a B- in innovation in 2016, with an

A for running the company efficiently. DeMuro offers a C+ for innovation and A+ for operations. That leaves my grade at B and his at B+.

The company generated more than \$200 billion in revenue

"Apple didn't blow us away with anything brand new, but they delivered on what they do best."

Rich DeMuro, KTLA-TV

from the fourth quarter of 2015 through the first three quarters of 2016.

First Apple gave us a new iPhone without a headphone jack, saying it took courage to ditch the standard port we've grown accustomed to all these years.

Then it brought us new Macintosh laptops a few months later with a headphone jack, but minus all the accessory slots we pros live on such as an SD memory card slot to import photos, and videos and USB slots to plug in external hard drives and charge the iPhone.

Apple introduced smaller versions of the iPhone and iPad, put a smartphone like TouchBar on new MacBook Pros and gave us some odd-looking wireless headphones, called AirPods, which were recently released.

Apple did do a good job upgrading the iMessages program in September, bringing in apps and stickers to greatly enhance our texts with more visuals.

USA SNAPSHOTS®

Average home-equity rates



Home-equity lines of credit	
Now	4.74%
6 months ago	4.67%
Year ago	4.57%
Home-equity loans	
Now	5.58%
6 months ago	5.43%
Year ago	5.46%

SOURCE: Informa Research Services (www.informars.com/bestrates)
JAE YANG AND VERONICA BRAVO, USA TODAY

USA TODAY LIFE

LIFELINE

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

GOOD DAY
ED SHEERAN FANS

The singer took to social media Sunday writing 'Hello 2017' and posted a video of him holding a sign teasing new music coming Friday.



JASON MERRITT, GETTY IMAGES

BAD DAY
MARIAH CAREY

The singer ushered in 2017 with a botched performance on 'Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve With Ryan Seacrest,' appearing to have technical difficulties during her live performance. Carey took to Instagram after the performance saying, "Here's to making more headlines in 2017."



NOAM GALAI, FILMAGGI

CAUGHT IN THE ACT

Recording artist and actress Kristin Chenoweth spent her New Year's Eve in Oklahoma watching the Oklahoma City Thunder and the L.A. Clippers at Chesapeake Energy Arena.



MARK D. SMITH, USA TODAY SPORTS

IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY
WHO'S CELEBRATING TODAY?



GETTY IMAGES

Kate Bosworth is 34. **Taye Diggs** is 46. **Cuba Gooding Jr.** is 49.

Compiled by Mary Cadden

USA SNAPSHOTS®

Happier in 2017



SOURCE: Poll of 1,005 U.S. adults for DieHappy app
TERRY BYRNE AND PAUL TRAP, USA TODAY

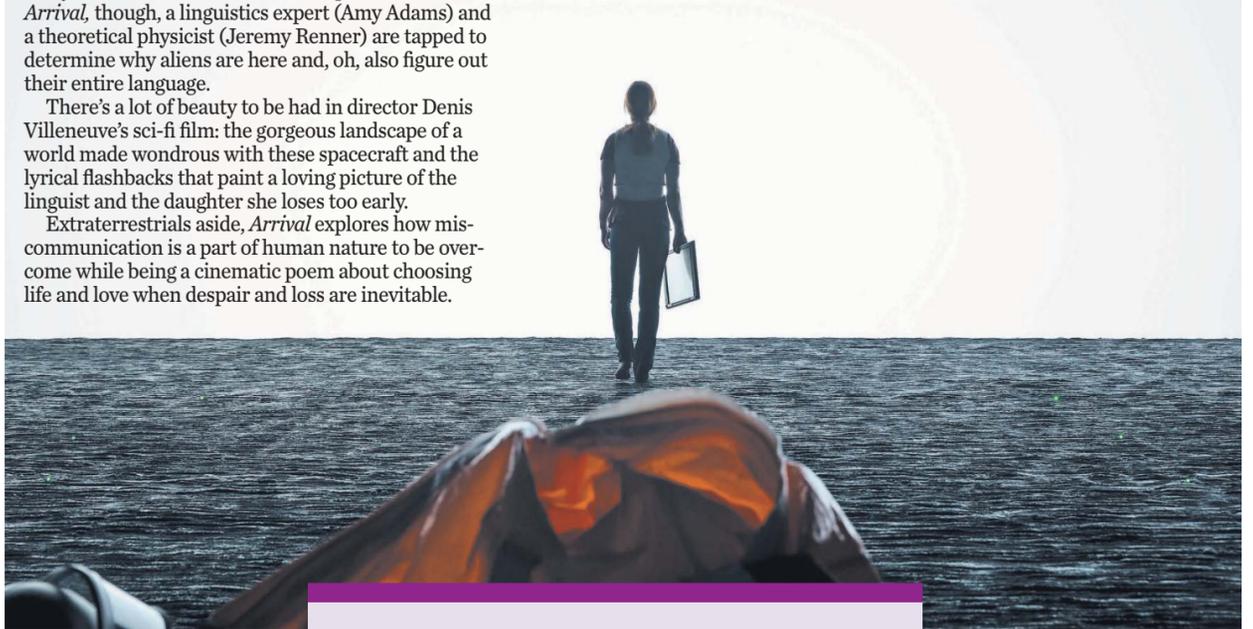
MOVIE OF THE YEAR

ARRIVAL

If giant flying orbs suddenly scooted into our atmosphere and randomly hovered over a dozen cities, most likely we'd freak out first, ask them questions later. In *Arrival*, though, a linguistics expert (Amy Adams) and a theoretical physicist (Jeremy Renner) are tapped to determine why aliens are here and, oh, also figure out their entire language.

There's a lot of beauty to be had in director Denis Villeneuve's sci-fi film: the gorgeous landscape of a world made wondrous with these spacecraft and the lyrical flashbacks that paint a loving picture of the linguist and the daughter she loses too early.

Extraterrestrials aside, *Arrival* explores how miscommunication is a part of human nature to be overcome while being a cinematic poem about choosing life and love when despair and loss are inevitable.



JAN THUIS

Amy Adams communicates with aliens in *Arrival*.

THE REST OF THE TOP 10
(in alphabetical order)

CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR.

Marvel is again the class act of the comic-book ranks, with the superhero battle to end all superhero battles involving an airport, a Spider-Man, a Giant-Man and a *Star Wars* reference. But the movie at its core is a powerful narrative about personal freedoms and one man having the back of his best pal.



CHRIS EVANS BY MARVEL

EVERYBODY WANTS SOME!!

Just as Richard Linklater introduced the world to Matthew McConaughey and Ben Affleck in *Dazed and Confused*, the filmmaker debuts a stable of future stars — including Glen Powell, Tyler Hoechlin and Wyatt Russell — in a baseball comedy with more deep thoughts than double plays.

HIDDEN FIGURES.

The 1960s space-race drama is as important as it is feel-good with Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer and Janelle Monáe combining talents as a trio of black mathematicians who helped America reach for the stars and put in place anybody

10 BEST MOVIES OF 2016

USA TODAY film critic **Brian Truitt** tackled a year full of unnecessary sequels, talking animals and countless mediocre projects with A-list actors to put together his top 10. Let's start with 2016's best movie, which happens to be a thought-provoking work that involves talking to aliens.

who dared to underestimate their talents.

LA LA LAND.

Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone are luminous in the old-school Hollywood musical done magically right in modern day. *La La Land* is a grand love story boosted by a moving soundtrack, a dreamer's heart and a bittersweet epilogue that shows how one kiss can affect an entire life.

MANCHESTER BY THE SEA.

The ticket should come with a warning label: "This film causes extreme crying and laughter."

The drama taps a spectrum of emotions as it explores a family dealing with death in the present but also in its tragic past. Casey Affleck and Michelle Williams are phenomenal, but Lucas Hedges is the kid who makes it special.

MOANA.

Thanks to my 4-year-old daughter, I've seen Disney's musical adventure at least 25 times now, and it's still just as good as the first because of Auli'i Cravalho's spunky title adventurer, Dwayne Johnson's cocky demigod sidekick and Lin-Manuel Miranda's instant classic show tunes.

MOONLIGHT.

Director Barry Jenkins' stunning movie experiments with conventions of a three-act narrative as it explores the maturation of a gay black man from lost child to bullied teenager to intimidating drug dealer. It's impossible not to root for the character, and the film earns its ending like perhaps no other in 2016.

SING STREET.

Irish eyes are smiling and singing in John Carney's sparkling coming-of-age musical tale. Boy meets girl, boy puts a band together to impress girl, and both find themselves broken in ways they never knew. The young romance and a bunch of '80s-influenced tracks make the film a smile-inducing delight.



ANYA TAYLOR-JOY BY A24

THE WITCH.

Only in this Puritan horror movie would the disappearance of a young baby be the least scary thing about it. Anya Taylor-Joy proves herself a female force as a teenage girl struggling as her family crumbles, and the goat Black Phillip joins the likes of Freddy and Jason as a fright-fest icon.

TELEVISION

What sizzled — and fizzled — in 2016

Gary Levin
@garymlevin
USA TODAY

TV was tumultuous in 2016: More streaming apps, more delayed viewing, and more shows led to a dizzying year. Our take on some noteworthy trends:

TRUE-CRIME RISE

Decades-old crimes came to the fore. FX's *American Crime Story: The People v. O.J. Simpson* offered a fictionalized account of the NFL star's murder trial while ESPN's documentary *O.J.: Made in America* painted a detailed portrait of Simpson's life, career and the case. The case of JonBenet Ramsey was revisited by three TV projects on the 20th anniversary of her death; CBS' version pointed the finger at her brother. Netflix's *Making a Murderer*, released last December, reverberated when its subjects, accused murderers Brendan Dassey and his uncle, Steven Avery, fought for acquittals. And the all-crime Investigation Discovery net-



PRASHANT GUPTA, FX

Cuba Gooding Jr. and Taye Diggs star in *The People v. O.J. Simpson*.

work ranked among cable's top 12.

MUSIC'S MIXED BAG

It was a tune-filled year on television. Four splashy musicals — Fox's *Grease Live!*, *The Passion and Rocky Horror Picture Show* remake, along with NBC's *Hairspray Live!* — had mixed results. HBO's *Vinyl* and Showtime's *Roadies* bombed with one-and-done seasons. Fox's *Empire* crumbled 27%, but remained broadcast's top drama among young adults. Netflix's costly Baz Luhrmann series, *The Get Down*, led to budget fights. And ABC canceled *Nashville*, but CMT revived the series for a fifth season.

TIME TRAVEL TEST

It was a clever conceit in *Back to the Future* and TV's 50-year-old drama *The Time Tunnel*, but this year's crop of time-travel dramas fizzled. NBC's *Timeless* and CW's *Frequency* will finish out their short runs early next year. Come spring, two more tries, ABC's *Time After Time* and Fox sitcom *Making History*, will try to make viewers forget the past.

SUPERHERO STARS

Just when you thought the Marvel and DC universes couldn't expand further, TV found a way. Netflix has premiered *Marvel's Luke Cage*, its third of five planned Marvel series, joining ABC's *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* (though *Agent Carter* was canceled), and made plans for FX's *Legion*, Freeform's *Cloak and Dagger* and ABC's *The Inhumans*, due next year. CW picked up its fifth DC Comics series, *Supergirl*, from parent CBS, and AMC's *Preacher* and



Melissa Benoist

ROBERT FALCONER, CW

Fox's *Lucifer* surfaced. NBC will try a half-hour comedy, *Powerless*, in 2017.

DIVERSITY DEVELOPMENTS

In a year that saw the #Oscars-SoWhite campaign criticize Hollywood for movies that were too lily-white, TV painted a different picture with a record number of major roles played by a diverse array of actors. Eighteen series had diverse leads this fall, up from six in 2011. But the progress wasn't entirely altruistic: Programmers say they recognized the economic value of reaching a growing audience of minority viewers.

AWARDS SHOW FATIGUE

Continuing a recent trend, awards shows are losing viewers. In 2016, the Oscars, Emmys, American Music Awards, Country Music Association Awards and MTV's Video Music Awards were at or near record lows.

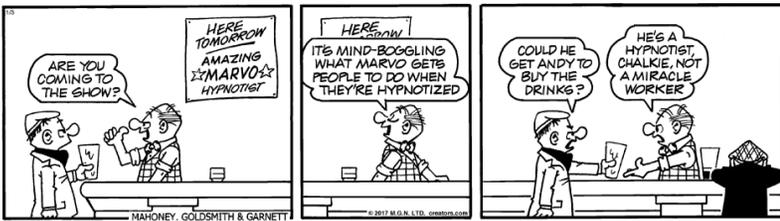
BIZARRO



SOUP TO NUTZ



ANDY CAPP



GARFIELD



BETLE BAILEY



BORN LOSER



BLONDIE



ZITS



MOTHER GOOSE



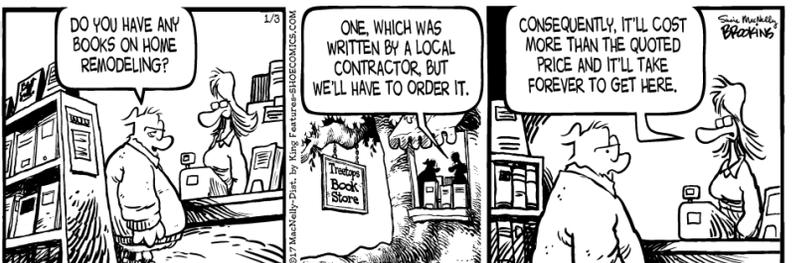
DOG EAT DOUG



DILBERT



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE



Secret baptism for baby is scheme that's all wet



Dear Abby
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: My niece has a 1-year-old son. Neither my niece nor the baby's father is religious, and they have chosen not to have the baby baptized. My sister, the baby's grandmother, while not wanting to impose her beliefs on the parents, comes from a generation when even couples who were not demonstrably religious usually had their baby baptized.

I know it would comfort my sister to know this ancient ceremony had been performed. Since my sister watches the baby at her house, would it be wrong for us to organize an informal baptism — just holy

water and a couple of prayers? We don't feel we need to have an officiant of any religion present and, of course, we wouldn't tell the baby's parents. Would this be appropriate?

Mortified in Montana

DEAR MORTIFIED: No, it would not. If you were sure that it would be, you wouldn't have written to me about it. My advice is not to do anything like this behind the parents' backs, because if you do, there will be hell to pay. Consider this: Not all denominations baptize their members as infants.

DEAR ABBY: After a year together, my boyfriend recently proposed. We plan to wed in two years. During this time, he intends to move into my home so we can save for the wedding. My parents, however, are completely against our living to-

gether before we get married. Abby, I'm 30 years old and so is my fiancé. I own my own home and my boyfriend currently rents. My parents are very traditional and may not help with the wedding if we move in together. We can't afford to pay for much if we don't do it and save. On top of that, we're excited to start our lives together. Do I honor my parents' wishes or do what I feel is right for me and my fiancé?

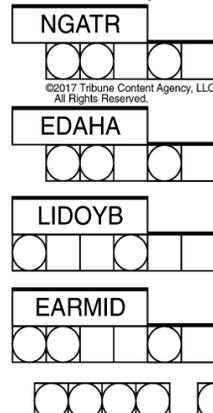
Rock and a hard place

DEAR ROCK AND HARD PLACE: You and your fiancé are both 30, which means you are well into adulthood. Don't you think it's time for you both to start becoming and thinking like independent adults? By that I mean deciding which is more important to you — living your lives the way your parents want, or the way you want.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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



Yesterday's Jumbles: FLUID SPURN MISFIT PARADE
Answer: He promised her he'd shovel and salt the walkway, but it — SLIPPED HIS MIND



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

(Answers tomorrow)

SUDOKU

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

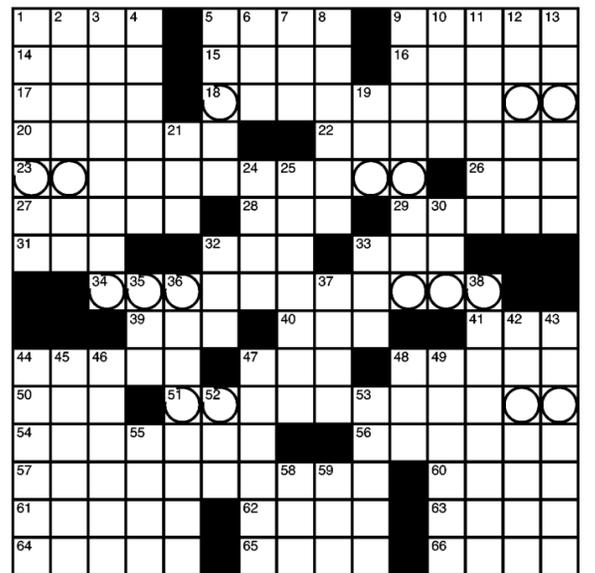
PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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

THE DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



By Gerry Wildenberg

1/3/17

- ACROSS**
- 1 "C'mon, be _" Jack
 - 5 Flightless South American bird
 - 9 Clay pigeon hurlers
 - 14 Cookbook author Rombauer
 - 15 Brand at Petco
 - 16 Highest-ranking Boy Scout
 - 17 Flutist Herbie or novelist Thomas
 - 18 Darning evidence
 - 20 Heavy hammer
 - 22 Gives holy orders to
 - 23 Angler's end-of-line item
 - 26 Scratch (out)
 - 27 Burger topper
 - 28 Currently popular
 - 29 Martini's partner in vermouth
 - 31 "The Crying Game" actor Stephen
 - 32 Sign between Cancer and Virgo
 - 33 Sunday bench
 - 34 Birchbark mover
 - 39 "That's amazing!"
 - 40 Wyo. neighbor
 - 41 Musician's deg.
 - 44 Big strings in the orchestra
 - 47 TV's Arthur
 - 48 "24" superagent
 - 50 Half a patriotic cheer
 - 51 Underground violent-weather refuge
 - 54 Garb for the slopes
 - 56 "Fideles": Christmas carol
 - 57 Bits of extra information ... and a hint to this puzzle's circles
 - 60 Aptly named pope
 - 61 Chihuahua lady friend
 - 62 Conception
 - 63 Coastal city
 - 64 So far
 - 65 Brewpub pours
 - 66 Snack machine inserts
 - 8 Invite to a movie, perhaps
 - 9 Offered in payment
 - 10 Sitar music
 - 11 Texas A&M team
 - 12 Plops (down)
 - 13 Martial arts instructor
 - 19 Like some outlet store mdse.
 - 21 Bombay Sapphire, e.g.
 - 24 Clarified butter
 - 25 More eccentric
 - 30 Big-eyed bird
 - 32 Feeling blue
 - 33 High-tech appt. book
 - 35 Hole-making tool
 - 36 Legal deterrent to loud neighbors
 - 37 Podcast comic Carolla
 - 38 Liquid-in-liquid suspension
 - 42 Main movie
 - 43 Puts the cuffs on
 - 44 Verbally abuse, informally
 - 45 _ Pie: ice cream treat
 - 46 Stocked for future use
 - 47 Noble Italian house that produced two popes
 - 48 Sleeping spot
 - 49 Embattled Syrian city
 - 52 Mai _
 - 53 Spanish homes
 - 55 "And away _!"
 - 58 Good cholesterol, for short
 - 59 Three-way intersection
- Monday's Puzzle Solved**
- | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | L | S | O | C | O | B | S | R | O | B | E | S |
| S | O | O | N | U | P | O | N | E | X | I | L | E |
| T | S | L | E | R | E | N | O | D | E | N | S | E |
| D | E | A | D | R | E | C | K | O | N | I | N | G |
| E | R | R | A | T | A | P | A | R | O | C | D | |
| Y | E | L | L | S | R | E | S | C | U | E | | |
| C | A | D | S | L | U | C | K | Y | C | H | A | R |
| A | R | E | A | S | A | A | T | O | R | S | O | |
| S | I | L | L | P | U | T | T | Y | E | D | E | N |
| C | E | T | E | R | A | S | E | A | L | S | | |
| A | L | A | A | R | E | N | O | T | Y | E | T | |
| D | U | C | K | D | U | C | K | G | O | O | S | E |
| K | E | A | N | U | G | L | E | A | N | U | R | S |
| L | E | W | I | S | A | N | N | E | E | V | E | N |
| M | O | N | T | E | R | A | T | S | E | X | Y | |