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2 teens arrested in store owner's killing

Police chief credits media, community effort leading to tip

BY KAYLA ROBINS
kayla@theitem.com

The family of the man who was gunned down inside his own business' walls last week may now find

some solace on the day they bury their father, husband and staple of the Manning Avenue community.

Sumter Police Department announced two arrests in the case.

Sumter Police Chief Russell F. Roark III on Thursday at a news conference credited the media, his officers' efforts in distributing fliers and



DINKINS



HAGOOD

community word of mouth for a Crime Stoppers tip that led to the arrest of Sincere Dinkins, 17, of Walsh Grove and Larenzo Hagood, 19, of Curtis Drive in the killing of Vijaykumar Patel at Save-Mart Grocery on Nov. 24.

SEE **ARRESTS**, PAGE A13

A day in the life ...



MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Lefford Fate takes questions from Stephanie Joye's kindergarten class on Thursday. Fate served as principal for a day at Alice Drive Elementary School.



BRUCE MILLS / THE SUMTER ITEM

Tracy Harrington of Continental Tire the Americas looks on Thursday as eighth-grader Nikole Weeden solves problems in a math class at Hillcrest Middle School in Dalzell.

Professionals from different occupations take part in district's Principal for the Day program

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

Community leaders from various fields had the opportunity to walk a mile in the shoes of a principal Thursday through Sumter School District's annual Principal for the Day program.

Twenty-six professionals from local businesses and industries, the military, law enforcement, the state Legislature and other fields participated in the seventh-annual event, which offers a unique hands-on opportunity to see both the strengths and challenges of the district and helps to forge community partnerships, according to district staff.

Many leaders said they hadn't

stepped into a classroom in a long time, and most said they walked away excited by what they saw.

Lefford Fate, support services director with the City of Sumter, visited Alice Drive Elementary School and Principal Suzanna Foley. He got to see Promethean boards and Chromebooks on display and in use and said he was pleased with his visit with the students, teachers and staff.

"I met a lot of kids who are very bright, articulate and polite," Fate said. "You hear a lot of negative stuff about kids today, but these were great kids, and it was a lot of fun. The teachers were happy and working hard, and it wasn't fake."

A former command chief in the 20th Fighter Wing at Shaw Air Force Base, Fate said he was amazed when he heard of many kids' favorite subjects in school.

SEE **PRINCIPALS**, PAGE A13

Army probes criticism of Green Beret training

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Army's Special Warfare Center and School has launched an investigation into an anonymous email that accused its leaders of "moral cowardice" for ditching training standards and allowing undeserving soldiers to become members of elite Green Beret teams.

The sharply critical message was sent earlier this week to a wide

swath of the Army's Special Forces community. The nearly 6,300-word message declared that the school's senior officers and enlisted leaders are primarily interested in advancing their careers by meeting demands for greater numbers of Green Berets and enforcing "political agendas."

Maj. Gen. Kurt Sonntag, commanding general of the school lo-

cated at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, on Thursday defended the process for selecting Green Berets and rejected a number of the claims in the email. He said he stands firmly behind the "quality of every soldier we are sending to the operational force," in a statement delivered to "men and women" of the

SEE **TRAINING**, PAGE A13



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SECOND FRONT

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LOCAL BRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Congressional Gold Medal to be awarded

The Lincoln High School Preservation Society will host a ceremony at 11 a.m. Saturday at the school, 26 Council St., to present a Congressional



WRIGHT

Gold Medal to the family of the late John Paul Wright, who was a U.S. Marine from June 30, 1943, through Feb. 20, 1946. The public is invited to attend.

Wright, a Sumter native, was a member of the Montford Point Marines, a segregated unit to train marines of African-American descent.

In 2012, the U.S. Congress awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to those Montford Point Marines or their family members. Wright was not included in the list at that time.

Accepting the medal for Wright will be his sister, Margaret Davis, a former board member of Sumter School District No. 17.

For more information, call James Felder at (803) 261-0167 or Gloria Neal Showers at (803) 905-3289.

Sumter man dies in wreck on U.S. 521

A 36-year-old Sumter man died during a single-vehicle wreck on U.S. 521 on Thursday afternoon.

The deceased has been identified as Joshua Neville, according to Sumter County Coroner's Office.

Neville was pronounced dead at Palmetto Health Tuomey.

South Carolina Highway Patrol is investigating the wreck, and an autopsy is scheduled for today in Newberry.

CORRECTION

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



PHOTOS BY ADRIENNE SARVIS

May Baird, standing, thanks Senior Investigator Jennifer Thomas of Sumter County Sheriff's Office for returning her son's golf cart after it was stolen on Thanksgiving. Baird's son saved his money for seven years to purchase the golf cart.

Christmas comes early for Sumter family when son's stolen golf cart is returned

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS

adrienne@theitem.com

On Tuesday, a local family rolled into the holiday spirit when Sumter County Sheriff's Office investigators returned their golf cart after it was stolen on Thanksgiving.

May Baird said her son Tait Hefferman, 23, is non-verbal and was diagnosed with autism at a young age.

Riding in the golf cart gives Tait leisure entertainment, she said.

The family rode in the golf cart multiple times a day, every day, until Thanksgiving.

The family went outside that Thursday morning expecting to go on a ride and saw that the golf cart was gone.

Tait saved his money for seven years to purchase the golf cart, and it was taken not more than two months later, she said.

He loves to ride in the car and listen to music, and the golf cart allows him to do that in a more cost efficient way, she said.

Baird said the incident is concerning for her family because it means the



Baird hugs Investigator Thomas.

suspects "cased" the neighborhood, spotted the golf cart and returned to take it the night before or the morning of Thanksgiving.

When the golf cart was reported stolen, Baird and her family received help from the owner of Ricochet Custom Golf Carts — the Columbia store where the golf cart was purchased — who called around about the theft. He was very helpful, she said.

Senior Investigator Jennifer Thomas, with Sumter County Sheriff's Office, said it was not difficult to identify the stolen golf cart because of its custom upholstery and paint job — Carolina Panthers colors. She recognized the golf cart as one stolen from Sumter County while working with an investigator in Lexington County.

Thomas remembered reading a local incident report about a stolen golf cart matching one that was photographed by Lexington investigators.

After identifying the golf cart, Thomas and Investigator Nelson Rosario — also with Sumter County Sheriff's Office — retrieved the golf cart from Lexington.

Thomas and Rosario then took the vehicle to East Coast Scooter on Broad Street in Sumter where the store owner changed the ignition switch and provided new keys, free of charge.

Tait had undergone a medical procedure on Tuesday morning and missed the initial surprise, but Baird assured the investigators that he would be excited when he saw it later.

Donate a bicycle or tricycle to make a child's holiday bright

Bike repair days set for Dec. 2, 9

BY JIM HILLEY

jim@theitem.com

During the Christmas season, members of the Evening Optimist Club of Sumter and other volunteers refurbish used bicycles to give to underprivileged children for Christmas.

According to Tom Lawrence, an Optimist Club member, the "Cycles for Christmas" project has resulted in

more than 3,500 "like new" bicycles being provided to children since 1997. He said organizers plan to give away at least 200 bicycles this year.

Donations of bicycles and tricycles, both new and used, can be made at any Sumter-area fire station, Lawrence said. Financial contributions are also accepted and will be used to purchase parts and supplies to repair the bikes. Contributions can be made to the Evening Optimist Club of Sumter, c/o Cycles for Christmas, PO Box 2883, Sumter SC 29150.

Lawrence said two more

bike repair days are scheduled: from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 2 and 9, at 926 Club Lane.

Children who will receive the bikes have completed an application process and will be invited to a giveaway event at a date and time to be announced, he said.

The Evening Optimist Club of Sumter meets at 6:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at Angel's Mexican Food, 246 S. Pike West.

For more information, call Tom Lawrence at (803) 983-2875.



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

The Evening Optimist Club of Sumter hopes to give away at least 200 bicycles to Sumter children this year for Christmas.



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Year-long supply of lubricants donated

College will use supplies for auto tech program

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A Sumter lubricant distributor and a national lubricant manufacturer have partnered in making a gift of lubricants to the automotive technology program at Central Carolina Technical College.

Brewer-Hendley Oil Co. of Sumter and Mystik Lubricants provided the lubricants used in CCTC's Automotive Technology program for the 2017-18 academic year.

The gift was a collaboration between Brewer-Hendley, a local distributor of automotive and industrial lubricants, and Mystik, one of the nation's leading manufacturers of motor oils, gear oils, transmission fluids and greases.

"We are delighted to have an opportunity to supply the lubricants used in this outstanding automotive technology program. By providing premium lubricant to the CCTC students, we play a contributing role in the education of the newest generation of South Carolina's automotive technicians," Daly Ward, general manager for Brewer-Hendley's Sumter operation, said.



Brewer-Hendley Oil Co. of Sumter and Mystik Lubricants recently gave a year's worth of lubricants to Central Carolina Technical College for use in its Automotive Technology program.

PHOTO PROVIDED

"We appreciate this combined effort between a local enterprise and its principal supplier. Mystik lubricants have an excellent reputation, and Brewer-Hendley has been a strong community partner. This donation al-

lows us to expand our resources and continue to provide one of the best automotive technology programs in the state," David Moore, CCTC Automotive Technology program manager, said.

Brewer-Hendley Oil Co. of Sumter is

one of the largest distributors of Mystik, Clarion and CITGO lubricants in South Carolina. Brewer-Hendley also maintains operations in Florence; Monroe and Goldsboro, North Carolina; and Lithonia, Georgia.

Sand being added to S.C. beach damaged in storm

NORTH MYRTLE BEACH (AP) — Work has started on rebuilding sand dunes at a South Carolina beach damaged by Hurricane Matthew last year.

Trucks filled with sand started rolling into North Myrtle Beach earlier this week under the project expected to take about three months, *The Sun News* of Myrtle Beach reported.

"The dunes were largely destroyed and totaled by Hurricane Matthew; he dealt the death blow, but prior storms had eaten away at those dunes," said Pat Dowling, a spokesman for the city of North Myrtle Beach.

The plan calls for 60,000

cubic yards of sand to be trucked in from the Little River area. The work should be finished by March 1.

Between five and 15 dump trucks will work each day hauling sand, which will be bulldozed into place. Because of the small number of trucks being used in the effort, there are not expected to be any traffic impacts.

Parts of the beach will be closed temporarily during

the work.

"As far as blocking beach lots, there won't be the degree that it was during re-nourishment," Dowling said.

The Army Corps of Engineers conducted a nearly \$11 million beach nourish-

ment project in October.

The city is paying \$616,000 to get the dunes rebuilt to protect ocean-front buildings from storm surges, Dowling said. The new dune berm will be about 7 feet high and about 35 feet wide.

There should be no problem with lights and night work, Dowling said.

"It's a probability there won't be a lot of night work, unless they get behind the eight-ball and they have to," he said.

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Rise of 'hobby farms' means more growers are maimed, killed

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Phil Jacobs was just a teenager when his parents bought a scenic Kentucky farm with hayfields, forests, creeks, trails and a view of the Ohio River. Decades later, he still spent time there, maintaining the property as a second job and using its campsite for family getaways.

The Lawrenceburg, Indiana, anesthesiologist was removing dying ash trees in June 2015 when his tractor overturned as he was pulling a tree up a hill. He died instantly, at age 62. The tractor, which dated to the early 1960s, had no rollover protections.

"The farm was a very important part of my husband's life," said Jacobs' widow, Joyce. "If he had any time off, we went to the farm."

The risk of serious injury or death has always been a part of farming. But the nation's growing embrace of small-scale production of local and organic crops is drawing more amateurs into the field, and inexperienced growers are increasingly getting maimed and even killed, often by old, unsafe machinery. Experts say some novices have little appreciation of the occupation's dangers.

Up to a quarter of Indiana's 115 farm fatalities over the past four years have been on small operations that include so-called hobby or lifestyle farms, which are often run by people who entered farming from other lines of work, according to research by Purdue University farm-safety expert Bill Field, who has tracked farm fatalities for nearly four decades.

Those deaths — nearly 30 between 2013 and 2016 — represent a disproportionately high percentage of Indiana's total farming deaths, given the state's

widespread commercial farming operations, Field said.

Over the years, Field has served as an expert witness in more than 100 lawsuits that included the deaths of a surgeon, an FBI agent, a lawyer and several other professionals who traded white-collar careers for farming. Many were rookie farmers killed in accidents that people raised on farms and mindful of farming dangers would likely have avoided.

That includes the death of a man who entered retirement with dreams of starting a Christmas tree farm in the Northeast. He bought a brand-new tractor and began clearing land, seemingly oblivious to the dangers posed by farm equipment. Two months into retirement, the man was killed in a grisly accident when he was pulled into the tractor's power takeoff shaft — a rapidly spinning device at the rear end of the tractor that sends power to attachments.

"He retired on Sept. 30 from a government job and was dead by Thanksgiving. I don't think he had a clue what he was doing with that equipment," said Field, who investigated the death as part of a lawsuit filed by the man's widow. He declined to disclose the man's name.

Chris Holman moved to Wisconsin from Oregon nearly a decade ago to pursue a PhD in world languages. He ended up ditching academia for the farming life even though neither he nor his then-girlfriend, Maria, had any agricultural experience.

The couple, now married with a young daughter, bought 41 acres and founded Nami Moon Farms, which spe-



In this Jan. 1, 2014 photo, Madison Houdek watches as her father, Jamie, demonstrates tools he uses to eat and use a computer tablet since losing his right hand to a corn picker in 2013 on the 60-acre hobby farm where he raises beef cattle near Little Falls, Minnesota.

DAVE SCHWARZ / ST. CLOUD TIMES VIA AP

cializes in pasture-raised hogs and chickens, as well as eggs, honey and vegetables.

They knew full well that agriculture can be dangerous, so Holman repeatedly screened farm-safety videos. But he still nearly had a serious accident the first time he tilled a field.

As his tractor was rolling along, the tiller trailing behind it snagged on a boulder hidden in the soil. The tractor's front end immediately began rising off the ground and came a split-second away from flipping over onto the cab where he was seated.

"Maybe it was just dumb luck, but right in the heat of the moment, I hit the clutch and had just enough time to bring the front end back down," recalled Holman, 40.

His tractor had some protections — a rollover bar and a reinforced cab. But hobby farms are among the only places in the U.S. where cheaper, older tractors without such safety features are still in use, said Frank Gasperini, executive vice president of the National Council of Agricultural Employers.

Jacobs' tractor was one example. He had researched buying a new, safer machine, his widow said.

Tractor rollovers are the leading cause of death on smaller farms, Gas-

perini said, and some beginning farmers who buy older tractors have little or no safety training. They often toil alone at odd hours — sometimes while weary from working at off-farm jobs.

Even seasoned farmers sometimes make mistakes in a moment of haste.

That was the case for Jamie Houdek, who lost his right hand to a corn picker on the 60-acre hobby farm where he works part-time raising beef cattle in Little Falls, Minnesota.

The father of three was harvesting corn for cattle feed in November 2013 when he stopped his tractor and climbed down from the pattering machine to make sure the corn picker it was pulling was functioning properly.

Houdek then reached to grab a dried ear of corn from the still-operating machine to check its moisture content. His gloved right hand was swiftly pulled inside, crushed to the wrist by metal rollers and eventually shorn off. His left hand suffered nerve damage when it also became entangled in the picker.

"I was born and raised on farms, so I knew better," said Houdek, 36. But he was hurrying and trying to take advantage of good weather. "I just thought I would jump off real quick, check on stuff and jump back on and keep going."

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What Mama taught me about giving thanks

God never meant for children to receive underwear for Christmas. The Wise Men did not bring Jesus underwear as one of their gifts. Christmas is for toys and joys. Underwear falls into neither category.

Yet, every year of childhood, one of my aunts seemed designated to give me underwear. One year it might be Aunt Mildred, another year Aunt Lola. At least those years were better than Aunt Bill's year; she would give hand-me-downs from her son Bob (and yes, I have an Aunt Bill. Her name is Billie Jean. It's a Southern thing). I never knew if this was orchestrated by my mother or not.

There was less money those days. Mama knew I needed



SMITH

underwear more than toys. I already knew enough Bible to know Adam and Eve didn't wear underwear. I told Mama I didn't need any either, but she told me they sinned and God made them wear underwear. Then she informed me I had sinned also, so I needed to wear underwear, too ("Let him who is without sin among you not wear underwear?").

One Christmas, my underwear frustration reached its peak. I think it was Aunt Iris' turn to buy me underwear. I opened the package and saw six pairs of white Fruit of the Looms. In disgust, I threw

down the box and exclaimed, "I hate getting underwear for Christmas!"

The crowded room of aunts, uncles and cousins went quiet. In a low lethal voice, my mother approached. Hissing through clenched teeth, she told me to go outside with her.

My previous experience taught me going outside would be detrimental to my backside, since last year's Christmas gift was not padded in that particular area. I shook my head "no" whereupon my mother seized my ear, twisted it and led me through the living room and the kitchen and onto the back porch. Parents were more direct then.

Once the door closed, my

mother began to instruct me on the finer points of etiquette. She told me Aunt Iris didn't have to give me a present, underwear was something I needed, and it was kind of Aunt Iris to spend her hard-earned money on me. Then to drive the lesson home, she applied her hand to my bottom and sent me back into the living room to tell Aunt Iris "Thank you."

My face was flushed red as the entire family watched me approach Aunt Iris, head lowered, ready to mumble my "thank you." Before I could stammer out any words, Aunt Iris said in her no-nonsense voice, "Look me in the eye, son, when you talk to me." Apparently, she was in on me learning this lesson, as well.

I lifted my head, looked at her steely eyes, and said, "Thank you Aunt Iris for the underwear." Then, she smiled, and said, "You are welcome." I thought I saw her throw a conspiratorial wink at my mother, but I'm not certain.

Mama and Aunt Iris taught me one of my most important life lessons about Christmas: Give thanks to the giver, not thanks for the gift.

Remember to look God in the eye and say, "Thank you." Still your soul long enough, and you might hear, "You are welcome."

Maybe you'll catch God winking.

Clay Smith is the lead pastor of Alice Drive Baptist Church.

Let's anticipate the celebration

Counting down to Christmas is much different as an adult than it was as a child. Every year, my grandmother would buy us a chocolate advent calendar — the kind that had a little paper door you would pry open and get a little chocolate, molded in the shape of a Christmas decoration.

Indeed, life then was sweet, as many parents will attest, as compared with the rapid pace of Christmas now. Somewhere in adulthood, the pace of Christmas quickens, and the anticipatory spirit of the holiday is exchanged for the relief of having completed the endless list of holiday obligations. The Christmas lunches, dinner and parties fill the calendar. The gift exchanges with their many spoken and unspoken expectations. The family gatherings that make you grateful Christmas comes but once a year. Sometimes, Dec. 26 can't come soon enough.

Great, you're probably thinking, another column about how we need to slow down during the holidays and realize what's important. Yes, you do need to do that, but I want to focus on something else.

For hundreds of years, the Israelites had been waiting for a Savior, a champion, someone to liberate them from oppression. They were frustrated, to put it mildly, and ached for relief. Their expectations, however, were that of a leader that would come and quell their earthly disappointments. This leader would vindicate them and restore them, they thought. What they got — a child born to peasants — was hardly what they



Faith Matters

JAMIE H. WILSON

thought they needed, much less the man that baby grew into. He offered them peace when they wanted vengeance and eternal security rather than earthly comfort.

They were frustrated. Christmas was a bit of a letdown.

My own children will open their own little doors today with great anticipation. Their excitement will manifest itself in dozens of drawings and crafts centering on the Christmas story. They'll rearrange our nativity scene a hundred times and role play the stories they've heard from their teachers. Every day they will ask me, "Is it Christmas yet?"

I can't help but conclude that they are on to something. Rather than wallow in my frustrations, why not live in anticipation of the celebration? Why not rejoice in the birth of the Savior? Jesus came to give us life more abundant (John 10:10), to give us peace (John 16:33) and to liberate me from the consequences of my many mistakes (Luke 19:10).

Nowhere in Scripture does it tell me that he came so I could rush around, feeling frustrated in the days leading up to the celebration of his birth, then shortchanged once the holiday was over.

There will likely be dozens of opportunities to view the countdown to Christmas as a dash to the finish line, but there are more and better opportunities to rejoice in the reason for the season. You and I have just 24 days to do so. Let the countdown begin.

Email Jamie H. Wilson at faithmatterssumter@gmail.com.



Pope Francis gestures as he visits the National Martyrs' Memorial of Bangladesh in Savar, outskirts of Dhaka, Bangladesh on Thursday. Pope Francis arrived in Bangladesh for the second leg of his six-day trip to Asia.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pope demands 'decisive measures' to resolve Rohingya mass exodus

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Pope Francis demanded Thursday that the international community take "decisive measures" to resolve the causes of the mass exodus of Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar, breaking his recent silence over what the United Nations has declared to be a textbook case of "ethnic cleansing."

Arriving in Bangladesh from Myanmar, Francis said it also was "imperative" for world governments to immediately provide assistance to help the Bangladeshi government cope with Asia's worst refugee crisis in decades.

In a speech before Bangladesh President President Abdul Hamid, government officials and ambassadors from around the world, Francis praised Bangladesh's sacrifice and generosity in welcoming in so many refugees "before the eyes of

the whole world." He didn't identify the Rohingya by name, ethnicity or faith, referring only to "refugees from Rakhine state."

But his words were sharp. "None of us can fail to be aware of the gravity of the situation, the immense toll of human suffering involved and the precarious living conditions of so many of our brothers and sisters, a majority of whom are women and children, crowded in the refugee camps," he said.

"It is imperative that the international community take decisive measures to address this grave crisis, not only by working to resolve the political issues that have led to the mass displacement of people, but also by offering immediate material assistance to Bangladesh in its effort to respond effectively to urgent human needs."

CHURCH NEWS

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

* Saturday — Outreach ministry "Day of Warmth" soup and sandwich from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open to the community. Mary Ruth Cook will speak.

Church of Christ, 313 Mooneyham Road, announces:

* Saturday, Dec. 9 — Family and friends night at 6 p.m., hosted by the China and Harvin families. The Rev. Leroy Blanding, of New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, will speak.

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

* Sunday, Dec. 10 — The 148th church anniversary will be celebrated at 4 p.m. The Rev. Dr. George Payton, pastor of St. Zion Elizabeth Baptist Church of Aynor, will speak.

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

* Sunday — Holy communion will follow the 10:15 a.m. worship service.
* Saturday, Dec. 16 — Christmas program / fellowship dinner at noon.
* Sunday, Dec. 31 — Watch night service at 10:30 p.m.

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

* Wednesday-Friday, Dec. 13-15 — Pastoral Elder Leroy Dingle's fourth anniversary celebration will be held at

7:30 nightly Wednesday-Friday with speakers as follows: Wednesday, Pastor Renel Trevol of Goodwill Baptist Church of Manning; Thursday, Apostle Cravon Smith of New Dimension of Faith of Fayetteville, North Carolina; and Friday, Elder Sampson Pearson of the Triumph Church and Kingdom of God in Christ.

* Sunday, Dec. 17 — Pastoral Elder Leroy Dingle's fourth anniversary celebration will continue at 4 p.m. at the Breedin Room, 312 Pine St., Manning (behind Weldon Auditorium). Elder Eric Virgil Briggs, of the Triumph and Kingdom of God in Christ of Columbia, will speak.

Knitting Hearts Ministry, meets at Bethesda Church of God, 2730 Broad St., announces:
* Saturday, Dec. 9 — Knitting Hearts will meet from 10 a.m. to noon. Derrick and Sabrina Fort, of Great Commission Ministries of Lake City, will share "A Message for the Season." All ladies, all ages, are invited. A love offering will be received. Visit knittingheartsministry.wordpress.com.

Mount Pisgah AME Church, 217 W. Bartlette St., announces:
* Sunday, Dec. 17 — Christmas program at 4 p.m.

Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 325 Fulton St., announces:
* Saturday — Indoor garage sale from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Mount Zion Enrichment Center, 315 W. Fulton St. Tables available for \$20 each.

Call (803) 565-5967.

* Sunday — The Rev. Joseph D. Ricks will speak at 6 p.m.

* Sunday, Dec. 10 — The hospitality ministry anniversary and new members fellowship will be celebrated at 10:45 a.m.

* Sunday, Dec. 17 — Annual Christmas program, sponsored by the church school, at 4 p.m.

* Sunday, Dec. 31 — Youth worship celebration at 10:45 a.m.

New Testament Lighthouse Church, 1114 Boulevard Road, announces:

* Saturday-Wednesday, Dec. 6 — Revival and special singing as follows: 3:30 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday; and 7:30 nightly Monday through Wednesday. The Rev. Scott Eadie will speak.

Pinewood Baptist Church, 10 E. Fulton St., Pinewood, announces:

* Sunday, Dec. 10 — The adult choir will present "The Story of Christmas" at 6 p.m. Refreshments will follow.

* Sunday, Dec. 17 — The adult choir will present "The Story of Christmas" at 11 a.m. There will be community-wide Christmas caroling at 5 p.m.

* Wednesday, Dec. 20 — The children's Christmas program "Sing a Song of Christmas" will be held at 7 p.m. followed by the Christmas tree gift exchange and a visit from Santa.

* Sunday, Dec. 24 — Christmas Eve services will be held at 11 a.m. and we invite all families to "come as you are" to worship together and ob-

serve the Lord's Supper.

* Nursery provided for all events. Call (803) 452-5373 or visit www.pinewoodbaptist.org.

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

* Sunday — St. Mark Brotherhood fashion show during 10 a.m. worship.

* Sunday, Dec. 17 — Christmas cantata at 3 p.m.

* Sunday, Dec. 31 — Watch Night service at 10 p.m.

Triumph Ministries, 3632 Broad St. Ext., announces:

* Today — Birthday celebration service for Prophetess Stephanie Mathis at 7 p.m.

Apostle Micheal Ripley will speak.

Union Hall, 1171 Old Pocalla Road, announces:

* Sunday, Dec. 10 — Gospel singing at 4 p.m. featuring Palmetto Gospel Singers, Ricky and the Soulful Messengers, Sumter Violinaires, Heavenly Angels and more.

Victory Healing Temple announces:

* Saturday — Evening of praise and worship at 6 p.m. at the North HOPE Center, 904 N. Main St., featuring the gospel group Kingdom Voices, spoken word artist / author Tameka Walker Ewing, poet Felicia Ragin and musicians Troy Bolden and Lee McFadden.

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What North Korean photos say about new ballistic missile

Bigger, more advanced weapon might not be light enough to travel to the U.S. West Coast

BY ERIC TALMADGE
The Associated Press

TOKYO — North Korea released dozens of photos Thursday of the Hwasong-15, a new intercontinental ballistic missile it claims can reach any target in the continental United States.

The photo dump, published in the paper and on-line editions of the ruling party's official daily, is a gold mine for rocket experts trying to parse reality from bluster.

Their general conclusion is that it's bigger, more advanced and comes with a domestically made mobile launcher that will make it harder than ever to preemptively destroy. But there's a potentially major catch: It might not have the power to go much farther than the West Coast if it is loaded down with a real nuclear warhead, not a dummy like the one it carried in its test launch on Wednesday.

Here's a closer look:

THE MISSILE

The North's new missile appears to be significantly bigger than the Hwasong-14 ICBM it tested twice in July.

Note how it dwarfs North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who stands about 5 feet



7 inches tall.

In a tweet just after the photos were published, Michael Duitsman, a researcher at the Center for Nonproliferation Studies in Monterey, California, said: "This is very big missile ... And I don't mean 'Big for North Korea.' Only a few countries can produce missiles of this size, and North Korea just joined the club."

Size is important because a missile targeting the United States would have to carry a lot of fuel. Duitsman also suggested the new ICBM appears to have a different engine arrangement and improved steering.

THE LAUNCHER

North Korea boasted repeatedly in its announcement of the launch Wednesday that the Hwasong-15 was fired from a domestically made erector-launcher vehicle. Its photos back that up.

Being able to make its own mobile launch vehicles, called TELs, frees the North from the need to get them from other countries, such as China, which is crucial considering the tightening of international sanctions that North Korea faces.

TELs make it easier to move missiles around and launch them from remote, hard-to-predict locations.

That makes finding and destroying the Hwasong-15 before a launch more difficult.

THE PAYLOAD

North Korea claims the Hwasong-15 can carry a "super-heavy" nuclear payload to any target in the mainland United States. The re-entry vehicle, that nose cone in the photo, does indeed look quite large. But the heavier the load, the shorter the range.

Michael Elleman, a leading missile expert, has suggested in the respected 38 North blog that Hwasong-15's estimated 8,100-mile range assumes a pay-

This image provided by the North Korean government on Thursday shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, third from left, and what the North Korean government calls the Hwasong-15 intercontinental ballistic missile in North Korea. Independent journalists were not given access to cover the event depicted in this image distributed by the North Korean government. The content of this image is as provided and cannot be independently verified.

KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY / KOREA NEWS SERVICE VIA AP

load of about 330 pounds, which is probably much lighter than any real nuclear payload the North can produce. To get to the West Coast, the North needs to keep that weight down to 1,100 pounds. Whether it can do that remains questionable. "Kim Jong Un's nuclear bomb must weigh less than 800 pounds if he expects to strike the western edges of the U.S. mainland," Elleman estimated. "A 1,300-pound payload barely reaches Seattle."

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Hands blown off by a convict, man writes of 'Justice and Luck'

BY DAVID LAUDERDALE
The Island Packet of Hilton Head

HILTON HEAD ISLAND — Pat Graybeal of Hilton Head Island starts his new memoir with this:

"I think of myself as one of the luckiest men alive."

That seems odd from an 84-year-old man whose "hands" are two metallic clamp hooks, daily reminders for 44 years that he was wronged by an ex-con who tried to kill him with a home-made bomb.

Graybeal's life was defined that night, near midnight, in the quiet town of Christiansburg, Virginia.

He was the Montgomery County prosecutor and he'd pushed 20 cases through court that day — Dec. 4, 1973. He stayed late at the office preparing seven more cases for the next day. Then he stopped by a victory party for a new state senator.

When he pulled into his driveway, he noticed that someone had left a can of potato chips on the roof of his wife's car. He leaned over the side of the car to pick it up and take it inside.

It was a bomb. The explosion shattered windows in the house, where his wife, Jill, and their two little girls, ages 11 and 9, were sleeping.

It blew away both his hands.

"My hands felt like they were frozen, extremely cold," he writes. "I swung back around to put my elbows on the fender of the car and started leaning my hands together trying to touch them, and I couldn't feel a thing."

It left him temporarily blind

I swung back around to put my elbows on the fender of the car and started leaning my hands together trying to touch them, and I couldn't feel a thing.

PAT GRAYBEAL

Former prosecutor of Montgomery County in Virginia

and deaf.

They had to put more blood in him that night than a body holds.

Jill said: "The rescue squad man told me he was within 1 minute of not making it."

Yet his memoir is called "Justice and Luck."

Luck, you might say, that the man in the rescue squad lived down the street and was there in a minute.

Luck that Graybeal was leaning against the car, so it screened the explosion from his shoulders down.

Luck that a prisoner in the county jail could instantly tell police who did it. It was a man who'd talked in jail about killing Graybeal, who prosecuted the case five years earlier when he was convicted of beating and strangling to death his wife. A week after

he was paroled, the bomb went off.

Luck, as Graybeal sees it, that specialists could pick from his eyes most of the metal shards of that can, and he regained his sight.

Luck that, with the help of hearing aids, he can hear.

Lucky that the towns of Christiansburg and Blacksburg, hugging the beautiful mountains of southwest Virginia, pulled together to support the Graybeals like their beloved Virginia Tech Hokies.

Neighbors took the girls to their home, and a friend took the new puppy, Freddie, as Jill went off to the hospital.

Jill, a school teacher, was joined there by the superintendent, who waited up all night with her.

In this life full of luck, Graybeal was back at work four months later, driving himself with strings rigged to the steering wheel. He even had his sense of humor. Freddie the puppy ended up staying a while in a veterinarian's home. Graybeal called him "Freddie the freeloader."

Graybeal worked as an elected prosecutor for 25 years and then was appointed a district judge. He became chief judge, then a visiting judge after retiring to Hilton Head 20 years ago.

He never felt sorry for himself. People in the book say he and Jill showed a whole village, especially the little friends of their girls, how one responds to setbacks in life.

And that's the crux of his book, and his life.

"I couldn't see what being mad, or bitter, or upset, or vengeful would accomplish

for me," he said.

"I had two daughters.

"Jill was still with me.

"The best thing I could do was to get on with what I needed to do."

I got to know the Graybeals through a story. It was when a small package arrived in the mail at their Sea Pines home in early December 2004. They recognized the address. It was where they used to live in Christiansburg, and where they'd stopped in a couple years earlier to take pictures of the rhododendrons in bloom.

In the package was Pat's wedding ring.

The man who lived there, a pastor, was out raking leaves by the carport when he saw a flash of gold under a holly shrub. The inscription survived the bombing: "JEL to JPG, 7-18-53."

Pat couldn't wear the ring, of course, so Jill suggested he put it on a chain around his neck. He laughed. She got Adrienne Lively to frame it at Camellia Art, and it was a true Christmas surprise that year.

After 31 years, the ring "came full circle," Jill said.

Graybeal describes a lot of luck in his memoir, edited and pulled together by Alex Cruden in a 92-page paperback that isn't for sale. The Graybeals have ordered two batches of 50 books to give to friends and acquaintances.

It was lucky when he was offered a college scholarship to play tuba at Morehead State University, across the mountain from home in Radford, Virginia. It was lucky when he transferred to the

University of Richmond and on the first day saw young Jill Lobach, his future bride. It was lucky that he got into the Navy after officer candidate school because he almost flunked the physical exam. He tells the story in the book:

"We can't take this man," the doctor told an officer. "He's had too much dental work."

The officer snapped back: "Take him. We want him to shoot the enemy, not bite 'em."

He was lucky to be reared in a family of faith, with a heavy emphasis on education. His father was a physics professor at Emory & Henry College, where his four older brothers went to school. Of the six children in that family, one got a doctorate in divinity from Yale University, one became a doctor, two became lawyers and two were educators.

"Our parents had high expectations of us," Graybeal said.

He remembers well an odd saying from his mother. Whenever one of them needed to buck it up, she'd say, "Remember, you're a McGill."

Nobody knew any McGrills. But they knew what she meant.

The Graybeals were forced to buck it up when their daughter, Sally, died of breast cancer in 2007 at age 46.

And, of course, after the bombing.

Why no bitterness?

The way Graybeal figures it, the assailant wanted to kill him, and he had taken from him all he was going to get. He was not going to get his heart, or joy, or peace of mind.

Or, I guess, his luck.

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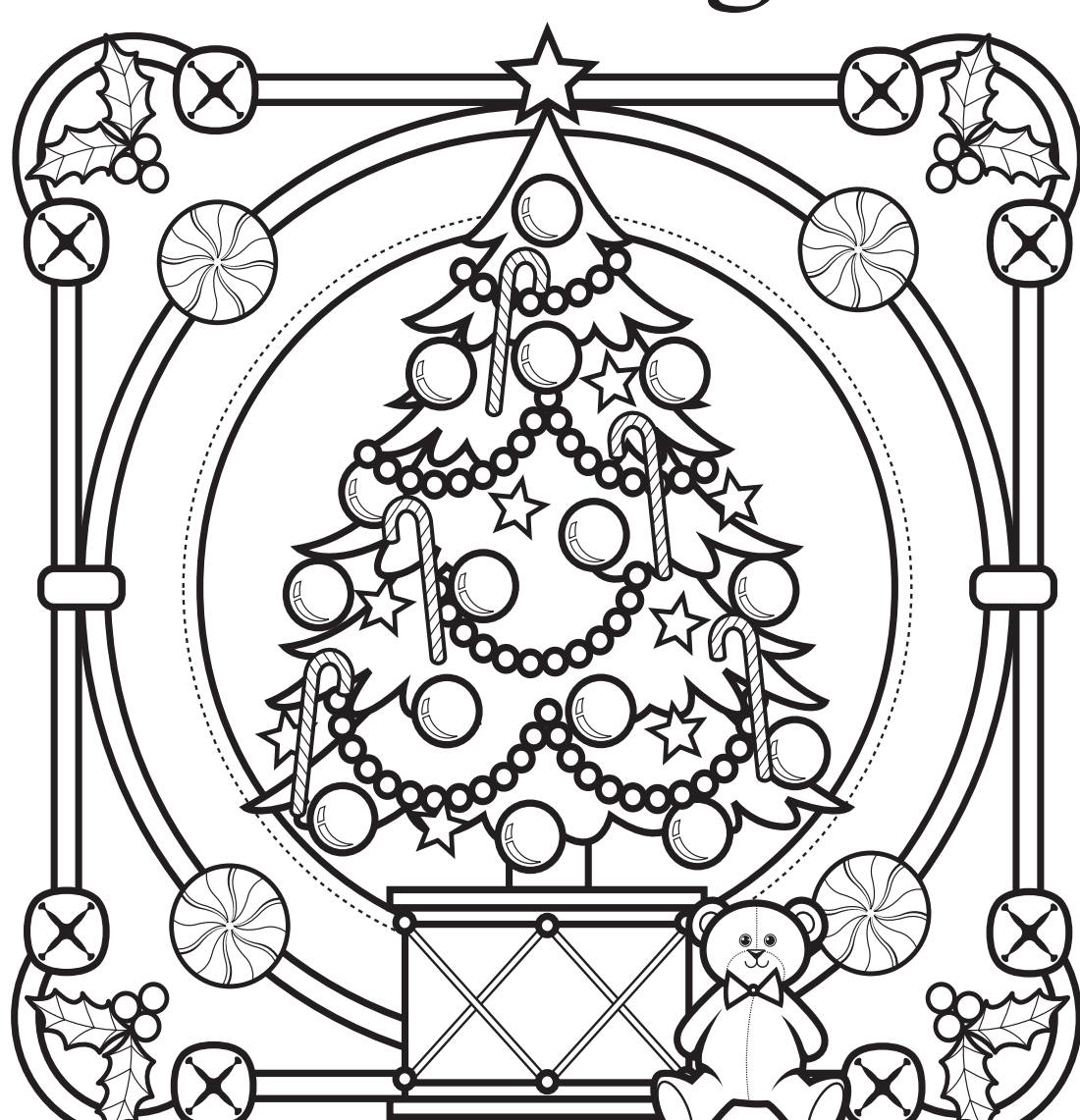
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THE CLARENDON SUN

Call: (803) 774-1211 | E-mail: jim@theitem.com

Office will hold active-shooter training

Session offered for the county's church leaders

BY SHARRON HALEY
Special to The Sumter Item

MANNING — The morning of Nov. 5, 2017, forever changed the lives of the 600 residents of the sleepy rural Texas community of Sutherland Springs.

Located at the intersection of U.S. 87 and Farm Road 539, just 21 miles east of San Antonio, Sutherland Springs is little more than a crossroads. On that fall Sunday morning, many folks had gathered for Sunday morning worship services at The First Baptist Church when the unthinkable occurred.

A lone gunman entered the church spraying bullets throughout the congregation of families including many small children. When it was over, 27 lives were lost and 20 more

were injured. In just a matter of minutes, everyone in that small, close-knit community was scarred for life.

Clarendon County is very similar to Sutherland Springs with communities and towns spread throughout its borders. Paxville in western Clarendon County is at the intersection of U.S. 15 and S.C. 261. That small crossroads is home to 185 residents. A little south of there at the intersection of U.S. 15 and U.S. 301 lies Summerton with 966 residents. Toward the northern end of Clarendon County is Turbeville and its 803 residents. The county seat of Manning which is at the intersections of U.S. 301, S.C. 261 and S.C. 521 has 4,042 residents. On any given Sunday morning, visitors could find hundreds of county residents attending dozens of places of worship spread throughout the county.

Could what happened in Texas happen in Clarendon County?

Not if the Clarendon County Sheriff's Office can help it.

On Saturday, Dec. 16, from 10 a.m. to noon, the Clarendon County Sheriff's Office is offering an active-shooter training program for all the county's church leaders, pastors, ushers and support personnel at Weldon Auditorium. The program is free to local individuals in hopes that what happened in Texas could be thwarted in Clarendon County.

"We don't have a crystal ball," said Lt. Eric Rosdail with the Clarendon County Sheriff's Office. "We don't know. We want to train everyone ahead of time in order to mitigate the number of victims if someone does attempt to do that here."

Rosdail is a senior active shooter instructor with the South Carolina state program. He and CCSO's Chief Deputy Gene Morris returned recently from the biggest active-shooter training program in the nation, which is 30 to 40 miles from Sutherland Springs.

"The biggest training program is right in (Sutherland Springs') backyard," Rosdail

said. "Right in the backyard of the most prepared location in the area, and it didn't stop the shooter."

Rosdail said that local first responders, city and county fire departments as well as law enforcement officers from the various agencies in the county have been invited to participate in the program.

"While we hope that nothing like that occurs here," he said, "we're certainly not immune to it."

Rosdail said domestic violence has been known to escalate into incidents where there are multiple victims.

"Acts of violence are unfortunate," he said. "It's becoming more and more commonplace than it used to be. That's why we need to prepare now."

Rosdail said individuals can't be "too prepared, too vigil or too aware."

Whether you're sitting in church, shopping in a mall or walking through the parking lot of a superstore, individuals need to be "aware of their sur-

roundings," he added.

Some churches in the county have plans in place to counter different acts of violence, Rosdail said.

"It's good to reinforce their training," he said. "That's why we, law enforcement officers, retrain every year."

Rosdail said the focus of the training exercise is not to scare communities.

"We want to help them become better prepared to address different situations," he said.

Rosdail said he's taught many courses throughout the county on security awareness.

"People need to be aware of their surroundings," he urged. "Look around. Observe what's around you. Being observant could alert you to potential problems before they can escalate into violence."

If you want to represent your church at the program, contact Rosdail at Clarendon County Sheriff's Office by calling (803) 435-4414 or emailing erosdail@clarendoncountygov.org.

Enjoy plenty of Christmas celebrations in Clarendon

BY SHARRON HALEY
Special to The Sumter Item

MANNING — You don't have to leave Clarendon County to celebrate the holidays.

On Saturday, head over to Barrineau for the annual Barrineau Christmas Parade which kicks off at 11 a.m. The folks at Barrineau Pentecostal Holiness Church have been hosting the annual parade for years, and they really know how to bring in the big crowds. The proceeds are donated to the church's missions program. Mr. and Mrs. Claus visit from the North Pole. Dozens of floats, trucks, cars and the occasional golf cart are festooned in garland and lights, and don't forget the bands and warmly dressed beauty pageant winners. The folks from the church haven't forgotten the food either. The crowd can enjoy everything from homemade cookies to sandwiches and lots more.

At 7 p.m. Saturday and at 5 p.m. Sunday, East Clarendon Community Choir led by Pastor Brian Sargent of Horse Branch Baptist Church in Turbeville will take Weldon Auditorium's stage. More than 80 choir members representing as many as 10 area churches along with eight to nine musicians will present Christmas Makes Everything New! The event is free.

"We've been practicing for months now," Sargent said recently. "We've put a lot of work and time into the presentation."

At 6:30 p.m. Dec. 8 at Weldon Auditorium, the Back Porch Singers will present A Christmas Concert. Tickets are \$10 each.

At 3 p.m. Dec. 9, Turbeville Business Association will host the annual Turbeville Christmas Parade.

"Of course, we start with the parade," said Turbeville Mayor Dwayne Howell. "After the parade, we'll have music and games for the children and, of course, Santa will drop by. We'll also light the tree."

Howell said food vendors would be on hand selling lots of delicious goodies.

At 6 p.m. Dec. 9 at Weldon Auditorium, the Clarendon County Community Development Corp. will present The Christmas Festival of the Arts. According to Paulette King with the CDC, the event will feature local artwork displayed in the lobby, dancing, singing and more. Tickets are \$5. The event is a fundraiser for the CDC.

During the Dec. 10 morning worship service at Manning United Methodist Church, the church's choir will present its annual Christmas Cantata.

Also on Dec. 10 during the morning worship service at Bethlehem Methodist Church, the church's choir will present its annual Christmas Cantata.

At 6 p.m. Dec. 11 at Weldon Auditorium, students from Manning Primary School will take the stage in a performance of "Frosty the Snowman." The play is free.

At 6:30 p.m. Dec. 14 at Weldon Auditorium, dancers from Clarendon Dance Academy will present a Clarendon Christmas Spectacular. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door.

During the Dec. 24 morning worship service at Turbeville Southern Methodist Church, the church's choir will present its annual Christmas Cantata.

At 6 p.m. on Dec. 24, Presbyterian Church in Manning will hold its annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.



PHOTOS BY SHARRON HALEY / SPECIAL TO THE SUMTER ITEM
Harvin Clarendon County Library, 215 N. Brooks St., is ready for St. Nick. On Tuesday, members of Manning Garden Club used lots of red ribbon, bows, wreaths and twinkling lights to transform the library into a festive scene for the holidays. Vicki Ouzts, Kay Kirkpatrick, Barbara Morris and Margaret Robinson are seen with just one of the many wreaths the garden club used in its decorations.

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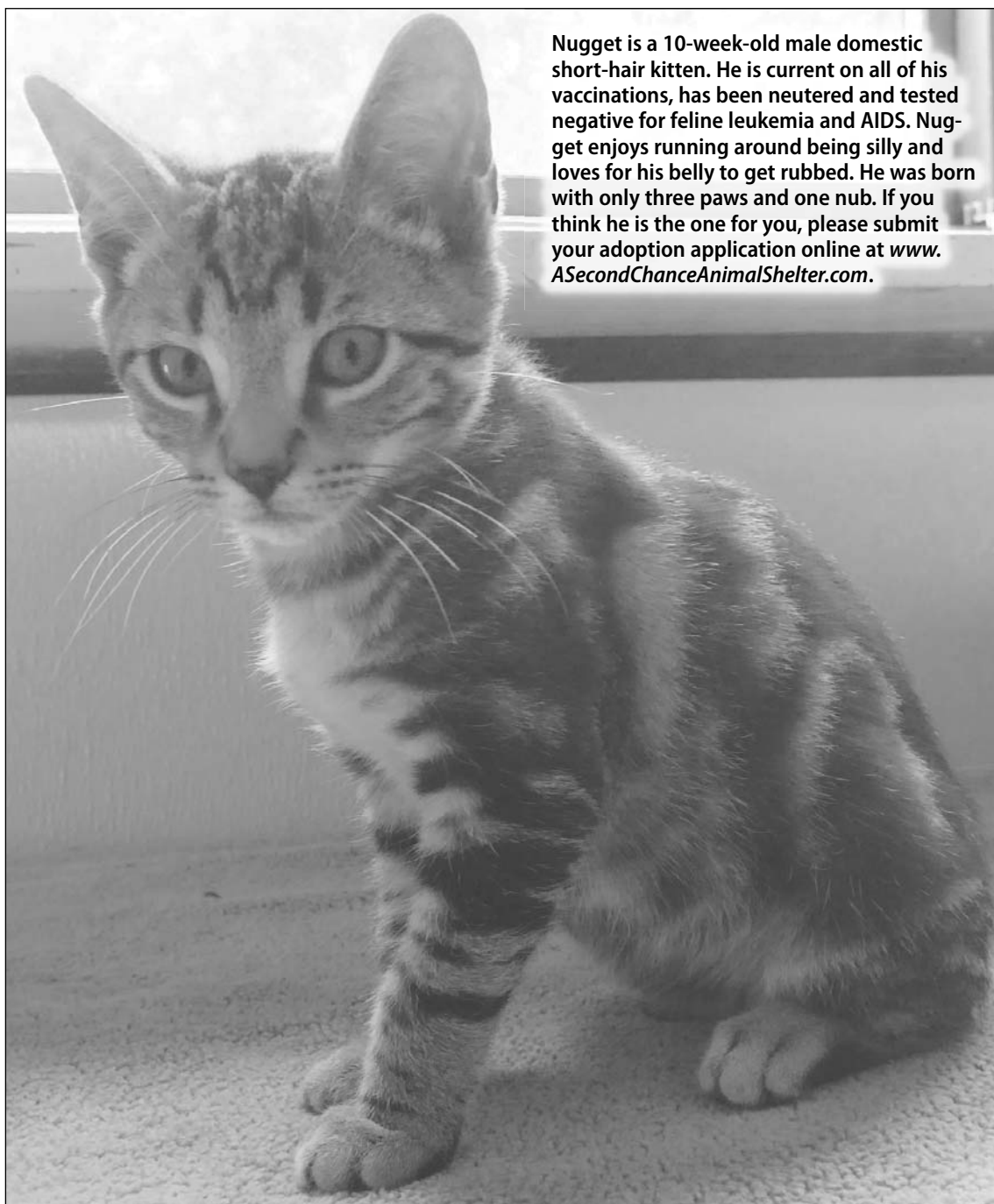
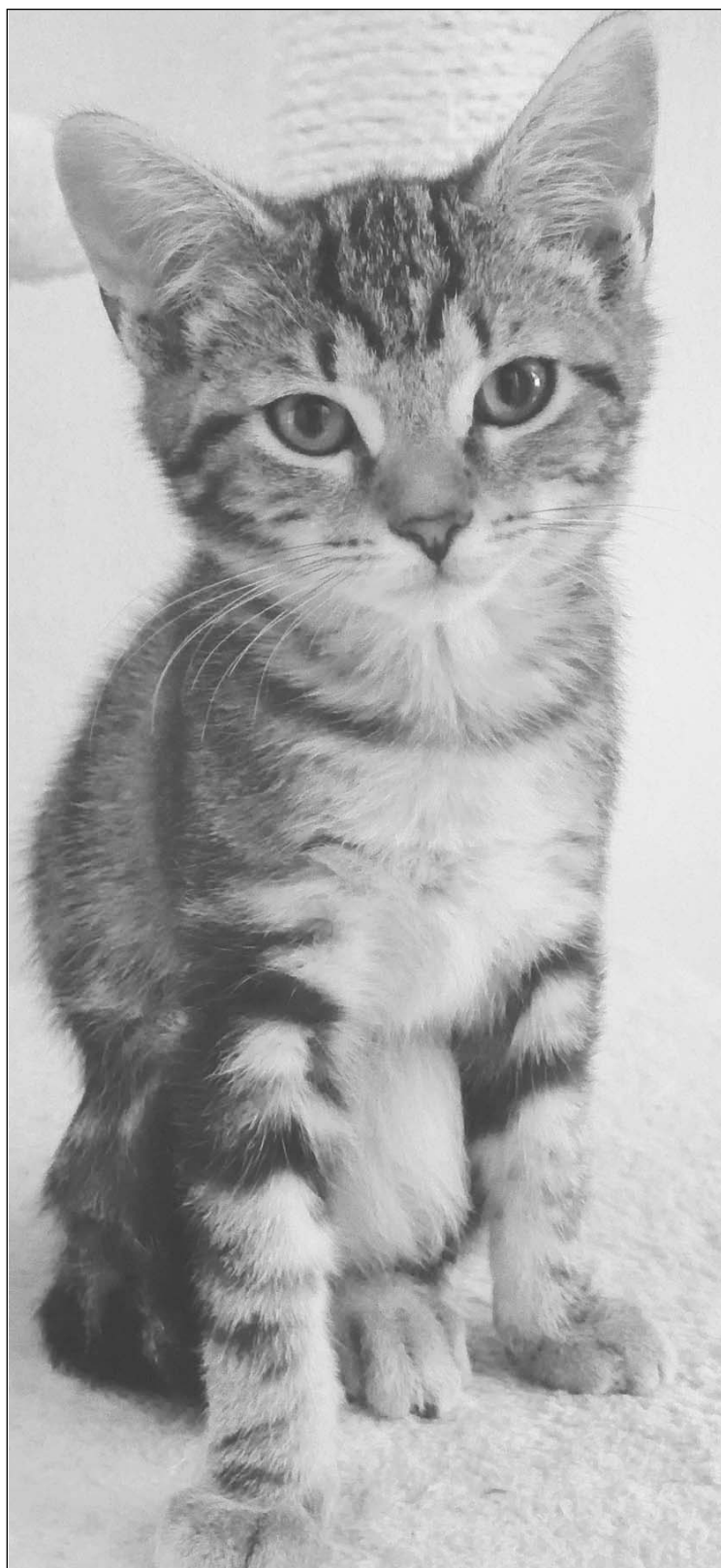
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Pets of the week



Nugget is a 10-week-old male domestic short-hair kitten. He is current on all of his vaccinations, has been neutered and tested negative for feline leukemia and AIDS. Nugget enjoys running around being silly and loves for his belly to get rubbed. He was born with only three paws and one nub. If you think he is the one for you, please submit your adoption application online at www.ASecondChanceAnimalShelter.com.

LEFT: Gracie is a 10-week-old female domestic short-hair kitten. She is current on all of her vaccinations, has been spayed and tested negative for feline leukemia and AIDS. Gracie enjoys playing with shoestrings and brooms and loves lots of attention. If you think she is the one for you, please submit your adoption application online at www.ASecondChanceAnimalShelter.com.

Third-grade class wins Big Game Contest



PHOTO PROVIDED

The South Carolina Department of Education has announced the winners of the 2017 Read Your Way to the Big Game Contest, a reading competition that promotes literacy in schools through the Gamecock and Tiger athletic programs. Meg Martin, a third-grade teacher at Laurence Manning Academy, was the recipient of \$500 to use in her classroom.

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- Feb. 9-17, 2018** **CARIBBEAN CRUISE - Carnival Magic** \$150 pp deposit \$1525 pp
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- March 4-18, 2018** **AUSTRALIA, HONOLULU AND SAN FRANCISCO (14 DAYS)** \$6283 pp (PASSPORTS) **SOLD OUT**
- *May 6-12, 2018** **NIAGARA FALLS, CANADA** Passport Book Needed \$834 pp
\$100 pp deposit. Boat Ride to Falls, Free Day in Niagara, City & Area tour. 6 breakfasts, 4 dinners (one in SKYLON TOWER overlooking the Falls)
- *June 4-7, 2018** **NOAH'S ARK AND CREATION MUSEUM - Kentucky** \$492 pp
\$85 pp dep osit. Tickets to Ark and Museum, hotel lodging for 3 nights, 3 dinners, 3 breakfasts included. No one under the age of 14. **SOLD OUT. Waiting List started.**
- *August 20-25, 2018** **BEAUTIFUL VERMONT**
Deposit: \$100 pp \$875pp
10 meals, Trapp Family Lodge at Stowe, Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream, Woodstock, Killington, Weston areas, Maple Sugar Farm, Quechee Gorge. Local guide.
- *Sept. 18-30, 2018** **NOVA SCOTIA AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND (13 days, 12 nights)**
\$2500 pp 24 meals, Acadia Nat'l Park in Maine, House of Anne of Green Gable, Digby Ferry to St. John, Halifax/The Citadel, Peggy's Cove, Hopewell Rocks, Campobello, Cabot Trail, Cape Breton, Titanic Cemetery. Deposit: \$200 pp to book. **PASSPORTS NEEDED**
- *Oct. 15-19, 2018** **PENNSYLVANIA AMISH** \$622 pp
Sight & Sound Production of "JESUS", Amish Farms, Strasburg, Lititz and Columbia as well as Bird-In-Hand areas visited. 4 buffet breakfasts, 4 dinners, Deposit: \$85 pp
- Nov. 4-16, 2018** **PANAMA CANAL CRUISE-plus**
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* indicates pickup in Florence also

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LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Sale

NOTICE OF SALE CIVIL ACTION NO. 2017-CP-14-00238

BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of: United States of America, acting through the Farmers Home Administration, United States Department of Agriculture v. Billy R. Elms, Jr., and Barbara C. Jordan, as Personal Representative of the Estate of George W. Jordan, Jr., I, the undersigned Special Referee for Clarendon County, will sell on December 4, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. at the Clarendon County Admin Building, 411 Sunset Dr., Manning, South Carolina to the highest bidder:

All that piece, parcel or lot of land lying, being and situate in the Town of Manning, School District No. 2, County of Clarendon, State of South Carolina containing 0.36 acres and being designated as Lot No. 7 according to a plat hereinafter described and measuring and bounding as follows: On the North measuring thereon 81.30 feet; on the East by Lot No. 8 and measuring thereon 188.72 feet; on the South by Gib Gibbons Drive and measuring thereon 80 feet; and on the West by Lot No. 6 and measuring thereon 199.53 feet. For a more particular description, reference may be had to a plat by R.G. Mathis Land Surveying dated May 9, 1989 and recorded in Plat Book 140, at page 176, records of Clarendon County. Derivation: A163-181.

TMS No.: 168-15-01-026-00
Property Address:
602 Gib Drive,
Manning, South Carolina 29102

SUBJECT TO ASSESSMENTS, CLARENDON COUNTY AD VALOREM TAXES, EXISTING EASEMENTS, EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD, AND OTHER SENIOR ENCUMBRANCES.

TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the Plaintiff, will deposit with the Special Referee for Clarendon County at conclusion of the bidding, five percent (5%) of his bid, in cash or equivalent as evidence of good faith, same to be applied to purchase price in case of compliance, but to be forfeited and applied first to cost and then to Plaintiff's debt in the case of

Notice of Sale

non-compliance. Should the last and highest bidder fail or refuse to make the required deposit at time of bid or comply with the other terms of the bid within twenty (20) days, then the Special Referee for Clarendon County may resell the property on the same terms and conditions on some subsequent Sales Day (at the risk of the said highest bidder). For complete terms of sale, attention is drawn to the Judgment of Foreclosure and Order for Sale on file with the Clerk of Court for Clarendon County. A personal deficiency judgment being waived, bidding will not remain open. The successful bidder will be required to pay interest on the amount of the bid from date of sale to date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 6.500% per annum. Should the Plaintiff, Plaintiff's attorney or agent fail to appear on sales day, the property shall not be sold, but shall be readvertised and sold at some convenient sales day thereafter when the Plaintiff, Plaintiff's attorney or agent is present. Plaintiff does not warrant its title search to purchasers at foreclosure sale or other third parties, who should have their own title search performed on the subject property. Purchaser is responsible for the preparation and filing of their deed.

William T. Geddings, Jr.
Special Referee
for Clarendon County

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Taylor A. Peace #100206
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Chapin, South Carolina 29036
(803) 345-3353
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

ORDER AND NOTICE OF SALE DEFICIENCY JUDGMENT REQUESTED AS TO DEFENDANT MARGARET D. MOODY A/K/A MARGARET DINGLE MOODY NOT ELIGIBLE FOR LOAN MODIFICATION UNDER THE HOME AFFORDABLE MODIFICATION PROGRAM STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA CLARENDON COUNTY IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT 2017-CP-14-00147 FIRST-CITIZENS BANK & TRUST COMPANY, AS SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST BY MERGER TO FIRST CITIZENS BANK AND TRUST COMPANY, INC., Plaintiff, vs. MARGARET D. MOODY A/K/A MARGARET DINGLE MOODY, Defendant(s). BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of First-Citizens Bank & Trust Company, as successor in interest by

Notice of Sale

merger to First Citizens Bank and Trust Company, Inc. v. Margaret D. Moody a/k/a Margaret Dingle Moody, case number 2017-CP-14-00147, I, the undersigned Benjamin D. Moore, Special Referee for Clarendon County, will hold a sale on December 4, 2017 at 12:00 PM at the Clarendon County Courthouse, 3 Keitt Street, Clarendon, SC 29102, and sell .46 acres, Lot A of the following described property to the highest bidder, due to a subsequent conveyance of .58 acres, Lot B: All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land with improvements thereon, containing 1.03 acres, more or less, lying, being and situate on the west side of Church Street in the Town of Summerton, County of Clarendon, State of South Carolina, having such shapes, metes, courses and distances, as will more fully appear by reference unto a plat thereof by J. B. Floyd, Surveyor, dated August 31, 1939 and recorded in Plat Book 10 at Page 28 of the records of Clarendon County Pursuant to § 30-5-250 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina (1976, as amended), reference to said plat is hereby craved for the metes, bounds, courses and/or distances of the property delineated thereon. Said property being the same conveyed to Dorothy Davis Dingle, Claude T. Dingle, III, and Margaret Dingle Moody by deed of Estate of Claude Treadwell Dingle, Jr. dated June 14, 2004 and recorded August 12, 2005 in Deed Book A-542 at Page 173 of the records of Clarendon County. Thereafter, Dorothy Davis Dingle conveyed all of her interest in the same property to Margaret Dingle Moody by deed dated February 22, 2007 and recorded February 27, 2007 in Deed Book A-650 at Page 174 of the records of Clarendon County. Thereafter, Claude T. Dingle, III conveyed all of his interest in the same property to Margaret Dingle Moody by deed dated February 22, 2007 and recorded February 27, 2007 in Deed Book A-650 at Page 178 of the records of Clarendon County. 20 South Church St., Summerton, SC 29148 TMS#: 078-11-01-007-00 (Lot A) **TERMS OF SALE:** The successful bidder, other than Plaintiff, will deposit with the Clarendon County Special Referee at the conclusion of the bidding five percent (5%) of its bid, in cash or equivalent, as evidence of good faith, same to be applied to the purchase price in case of compliance, but to be forfeited and applied first to costs and then to Plaintiff's debt in the case of noncompliance. Should the last and highest bidder fail or refuse to make the required deposit at time of bid or comply with the other terms of the bid within thirty (30) days, then the

Notice of Sale

Special Referee may resell the property on the same terms and conditions at the risk of the said highest bidder. Purchaser to pay for documentary stamps on the conveying deed. The successful bidder will be required to pay interest on the amount of the bid from the date of sale to the date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 4.000% per annum. Should Plaintiff or one of its representatives fail to be present at the time of sale, the property shall be automatically withdrawn from said sale. As a deficiency judgment is being demanded, the bidding will remain open thirty (30) days after the date of sale. **THIS SALE IS ALSO MADE SUBJECT TO ALL CLARENDON COUNTY TAXES AND EXISTING EASEMENTS, RESTRICTIONS, AND SENIOR LIENS AND/OR**

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OTHER ENCUMBRANCES OF RECORD. Benjamin D. Moore, Special Referee Clarendon County Florence, South Carolina **ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF:** Samuel D. Fleder Jeriel A. Thomas Smith Debnam Narron Drake Santsing & Myers, LLP P.O. Box 26268 Raleigh, NC 27611 Attorneys for Plaintiff JAT 15799155

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Estate Notice Clarendon County

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Clarendon County, the address of which is 411 Sunset Dr. Manning, SC 29102, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and 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 claim, and a description of any security as to the claim.

Estate: **Jeanne Baker Mathis AKA Alice Jeanne Mathis #2017ES140029'**

Personal Representative: Justin T. Mathis 1631 Homeward Way Summerton, SC 29144 William H. Johnson PO Box 137 Manning, SC 29102 11/17/17 - 12/01/17

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ARRESTS FROM PAGE A1

“He was a father. He was a husband. He was a critical part of our community. He was a beloved business owner in the community that is still a neighborhood environment, a neighborhood store,” Roark said. “Many individuals came to us and told us and described to us how, oftentimes, Mr. Patel would allow them credit or would take a check in advance of the deposit going in so they could receive the things they needed in order to survive.”

Both suspects are charged with murder, attempted armed robbery, possession of a weapon during a violent crime, criminal conspiracy and two counts of kidnapping, Roark said.

“Because of our reaching out to the community, but I think more importantly because of the publicity we received of this — for lack of a better term — of this terrible event, this very violent act and crime ... Crime Stoppers received [an] overwhelming amount of support and information from the community,” Roark said.

Dinkins and Hagood are accused of entering the store just before 7 p.m. that Friday, donning masks and armed with handguns, and reportedly ordering two customers — warranting the kidnapping charge — to



Sumter Police Chief Russell F. Roark III addresses media Thursday at a news conference announcing the arrests of two teens charged in the shooting death of Vijaykumar Patel.

the ground before at least one of them began firing.

Law enforcement and EMS found Patel unresponsive with several apparent gunshot wounds to the chest, according to an incident report. He was pronounced dead at the business he had run for at least seven years.

The customers — two females who told officers, according to the report, they had stopped by the store to buy “a drink and something to eat” — were not injured.

Both suspects have prior juvenile

records that involved violent crimes, Roark said.

He said it is not being released whether it is thought one or both fired shots that struck Patel. There are no other suspects expected to be detained “at this time.”

They are being held in Sumter-Lee Regional Detention Center, pending bond.

Third Judicial Circuit Solicitor Ernest A. “Chip” Finney III said all the information and evidence has been passed over to his office, where it will be analyzed and studied to

aim for a “speedy” conclusion. “Getting the news out into the community so that everyone knew that we were looking to close the case quickly,” he said, was a key part to the initial investigation, “and I think we’ve done a fine job.”

Roark said this type of random shooting was unprovoked, isolated and rare in the community where many people must walk to receive essential items and that Patel’s store is the only access to those items within a normal walking distance.

“This is the individual we need to remember,” Roark said. “This is the person we need to continue to support — and the family — as we continue to go on in the coming days.”

He said the city police department has had “a lot of good luck” in using Crime Stoppers.

“Most of the people — the high majority of the people — that live within the city of Sumter are law-abiding citizens,” Roark said. “What we strive to do as a community and as a law enforcement agency, we strive to improve the quality of life for all citizens. To have a safe environment. What we cannot predict with any degree of certainty is the human factor, especially when it’s a person-on-person crime.”

The family, he said, is relieved an arrest has been made.

“That begins the closure,” he said, “but they have a long way to go because their father was taken so quickly and so senselessly.”

2017 PRINCIPALS FOR THE DAY

- Alice Drive Elementary**
Lefford Fate, City of Sumter
- Cherryvale Elementary**
Paul Robbins, First Citizens Bank
- Crosswell Drive Elementary**
Greg Thompson, Thompson Construction Group
- F. J. DeLaine Elementary**
Dr. Brenda Williams, The Family Unit
- High Hills Elementary**
Chief Master Sgt. Gordon Comerford, 20th Fighter Wing
- Kingsbury Elementary**
Vince Johnson, The Sumter Item
- Lemira Elementary**
Thomas Rhodes, Rhodes Graduation Services
- Manchester Elementary**
Victoria Bailey, CA Harler Trophies and Engraving
- Millwood Elementary**
William Croft, Curtis & Croft Law Firm LLC
- Oakland Primary**
Chief Master Sgt. Daniel L. Hoglund, 20th Fighter Wing
- Pocalla Springs Elementary**
Chris Spatola, Eaton
- Rafting Creek Elementary**
State Rep. David Weeks, D-Sumter
- Shaw Heights Elementary**
Pamela Brown, Children’s author

- Wilder Elementary**
Jay Montgomery, SAFE
- Willow Drive Elementary**
Susan Weston, Century 21 Hawkins & Kolb
- Alice Drive Middle**
Jay Schwedler, Sumter Economic Development/TheLINK
- Bates Middle**
Chuck Wilson, Universal Benefits Inc.
- Chestnut Oaks Middle**
Justin Rivers, Wells Fargo
- Ebenezer Middle**
State Sen. Kevin Johnson, D-Manning
- Furman Middle**
Chuck Ringwalt, WLTX
- Hillcrest Middle**
Tracy Harrington, Continental Tire
- Mayewood Middle**
Sheriff Anthony Dennis, Sumter County Sheriff’s Office
- Crestwood High**
W. Jason Phelps, Jostens
- Lakewood High**
Corp. Ernest McDowell Koty, S.C. Highway Patrol
- Sumter High**
David Merchant, Merchant Iron Works, Sumter City Council
- Brewington Academy**
Lt. Trevor Brown, Sumter County Sheriff’s Office

PRINCIPALS FROM PAGE A1

“A lot of kids said, ‘Oh, I really like math.’ ‘I really like science.’ ‘I really like history.’ And these were third- and fourth-graders,” Fate said. “I was like, ‘I liked P.E. and lunch.’ That was what I liked when I was a kid. So I loved what they were doing.”

William Croft, an attorney with Curtis & Croft LLC, toured Millwood Elementary School with its principal, Cornelius Leach. Croft said his visit was eye opening and that he was thankful for the opportunity.

“Sometimes, in my daily life, I tend to get cynical, and maybe it’s nice to step back and see all these children who have challenges of their own — far worse than any challenge I probably face in a regular day — but working hard and doing things with a great attitude,” Croft

said. “Everything was run so well and so smoothly. It helped me appreciate my own life a little bit more.”

Tracy Harrington, product industrialization manager at Sumter’s biggest industry, Continental Tire the Americas, spent the morning at Hillcrest Middle School in Dalzell with Principal Tarsha Staggers. He said it was nice to see all the technology in use in the classrooms and see students hone their math skills in a fun, game-like atmosphere.

Harrington said he was also able to meet a student whose father works at the Sumter plant.

“It’s always nice to see some of the family that Continental is bringing into the community,” Harrington said. “That’s how we look at it — as one big family; so it was good.”

TRAINING FROM PAGE A1

Special Warfare Center and School.

Sonntag also said comments in the email “warrant further evaluation” and that is being done through “formal inquiries and a number of existing institutional forums.” He

wasn’t more specific, however.

The anonymous email said the push to hit unrealistic quotas has led to a “dangerously less capable” force as dozens of flawed Green Beret candidates are nonetheless graduated.

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AROUND TOWN

The Campbell Soup friends lunch group will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2, at Golden Corral.

The Evening Optimist Club's annual Sumter Christmas Parade will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3. The parade will begin at the corner of North Main and Dubose streets and proceed southward on Main Street to Bartlette Street.

The Horatio community's 16th Christmas Lighting and Celebration will be held at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3, across from the Lenoir store at 3240 Horatio-Hagood Road in Horatio.

The Neighbors Reunion Committee will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 4, at 217 Pear St. If you are a past or present resident of Frazier Street, Hatfield Street, Harry Street, South Milton Road or Rainey Lane, text Diana Wells-Singleton at (803) 319-6280 for information.

The Sumter County Library will hold a 100th anniversary gala from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 4, in the main meeting room of the main branch of the library, 111 N. Harvin St. Refreshments will be served, and a speaker will hold a brief talk on the history of the library.

The Town of Mayesville Annual Christmas Parade will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9, in downtown Mayesville. Parade line up will begin at

10 a.m. at Mayesville School, 55 Pringle St., Mayesville. Call Jeannie Jefferson at (803) 495-8181 or Nancy Williams at (803) 453-5037.

The Lee County Christmas on Main will be held on Saturday, Dec. 9. Chicken bog plates will be available beginning at noon. At 2 p.m., there will be a car show as well as arts and crafts vendors. The lighted parade will begin at 6 p.m., featuring Mr. and Mrs. Claus as well as cookies and hot chocolate.

The Sumter Civil Air Patrol's annual Wreaths Across America ceremony will be held at noon on Saturday, Dec. 16, at Sumter Cemetery, 700 W. Oakland Ave., to remember, honor and teach about our fallen heroes, those currently serving and our U.S. military veterans. Retired Brig. Gen. Hugh Cameron will speak. If you would like to sponsor a wreath for this occasion, go to www.wreathsacrossamerica.org. Contact Denise Owen at owenmom@aol.com.

Sumter High School Class of 1978 will hold a 40th class reunion planning meeting at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 17, at the Sumter County Library, 111 N. Harvin St. Contact Sumter High Class of 1978 on Facebook or email sumterhigh1978@gmail.com.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 11078 of Summerton will meet at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 19, at the VFW Post on Cantey Street, directly behind First Citizens Bank. Dinner will be held at 6:30 p.m. Call Carl A. Farley at (803) 478-7593 or (803) 460-8910 for more information.

The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't overreact. Remain calm and offer

to offer. Take advantage of a unique opportunity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Domestic changes will bring about greater opportunities. Share your thoughts and feelings with someone you trust, and you will get sound advice. Money or a gift will come to you from an unexpected source. Romance is highlighted.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Rely on your instincts to help you see situations clearly. Partnerships will lead to greater opportunities. An open and honest conversation will help you address any issues that have been bothering you. A change in lifestyle looks inviting.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be responsible for your actions and stand tall when fighting for your beliefs. Refuse to let anyone take advantage of you or make you feel bad. Use your intelligence to get your way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): An opportunity to make positive changes to your living arrangements will be apparent. The time and energy you spend developing a creative strategy will help you save money. An interesting job posting will tempt you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll face opposition if you try to make personal changes. An opportunity could turn out to be disappointing. Be careful when dealing with sensitive issues. Avoid overindulgence and unnecessary spending. Positive change should begin within.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The way you handle money will make a difference to how you live in the future. A unique investment or savings plan will encourage you to stop spending and start preparing for your future. Money or a gift is heading your way.

accurate information and intelligent solutions. Communication will help you mend troubled relationships with an old friend or sibling. Your willingness to listen and compromise will make a difference.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Spend time with the people who mean the most to you. Plan a day trip or outing that is geared toward sharing the things you enjoy most. An opportunity to form a closer relationship with someone special looks promising. Express your feelings.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Do your best to live up to your responsibilities and to finish what you start. Someone will be eager to make you look bad if you aren't professional or willing to do your fair share. Stick to the truth and the facts.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): An opportunity to try something new will be offered if you attend a function, rally or fundraising event. The discussions you have or the ideas suggested will lead to a unique way of using your skills.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep your emotions out of the workplace. If someone upsets you, keep a poker face and take care of your responsibilities. Chances are someone is jealous of your charm and popularity. Aim to please and no one will undermine you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get involved in the things that interest you the most. Networking functions and business trips will pay off. Use your wits to convince others to try something you have

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2017

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

Table with 6 columns: TODAY, TONIGHT, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY. Includes weather icons, temperature forecasts (e.g., 69° today, 47° tonight), and wind speeds.

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

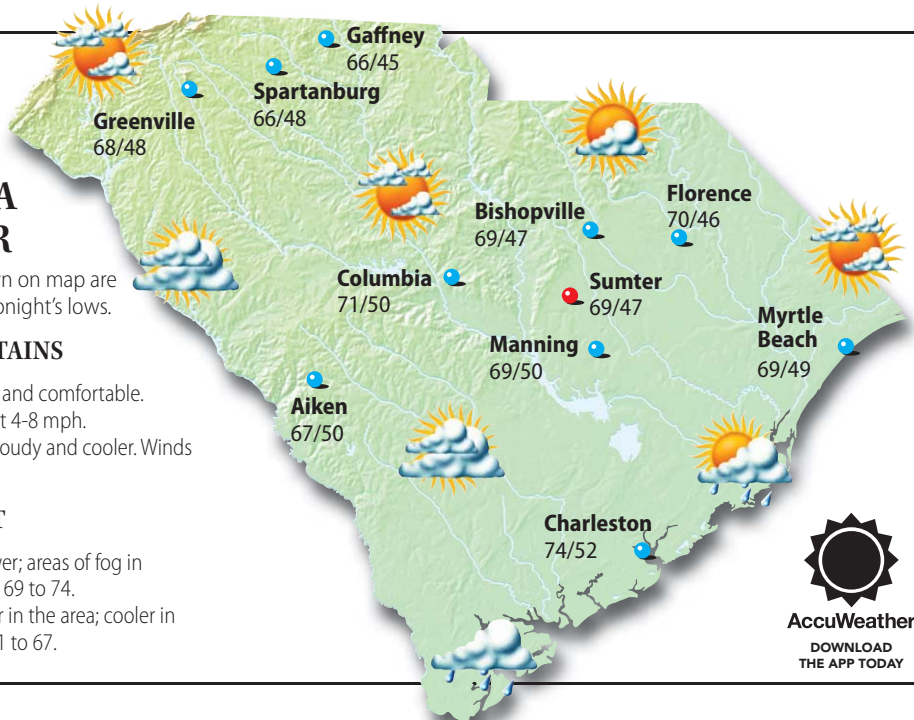
Temperatures shown on map are today's highs and tonight's lows.

IN THE MOUNTAINS

Today: Partly sunny and comfortable. Winds east-northeast 4-8 mph. Saturday: Mostly cloudy and cooler. Winds east 4-8 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: A stray shower; areas of fog in southern parts. High 69 to 74. Saturday: A shower in the area; cooler in central parts. High 61 to 67.



LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THROUGH 2 P.M. YESTERDAY

Table with 2 columns: Temperature (High 75°, Low 42°, etc.) and Precipitation (24 hrs ending 2 p.m. yest. 0.00").

LAKE LEVELS

Table with 4 columns: Lake, Full pool, 7 a.m. yest., 24-hr chg. Lists lakes like Murray, Marion, Moultrie, and Wateree.

SUN AND MOON

Table with 4 columns: Sunrise, Moonrise, Sunset, Moonset. Includes moon phase icons for Dec. 3, 10, 18, and 26.

RIVER STAGES

Table with 4 columns: River, Flood stage, 7 a.m. yest., 24-hr chg. Lists rivers like Black River, Congaree River, etc.

TIDES

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, and tide heights at Myrtle Beach for Today and Sat.

NATIONAL CITIES

Table with 3 columns: City, Today Hi/Lo/W, Sat. Hi/Lo/W. Lists cities like Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, etc.

REGIONAL CITIES

Table with 3 columns: City, Today Hi/Lo/W, Sat. Hi/Lo/W. Lists regional cities like Asheville, Athens, Augusta, etc.

Liberty Street Dental advertisement. Includes address (516 W. Liberty St.), phone (803.773.9300), website (dentistsumtersc.com), and services like dentures/partial starting at \$599.

ANSWERS TO TODAY'S PUZZLES

CROSSWORD

Crossword grid with letters filled in for today's puzzle.

SUDOKU

Sudoku grid with numbers filled in for today's puzzle.

JUMBLE

DITTO FRESH AROUND BEMOAN When Velcro was invented, people were — "FASTEN-ATED"

SUMTER SPCA PETS OF THE WEEK



Clint Eastwood, left, is a neutered and housebroken 1-year-old hound mix. He absolutely loves everyone he meets. Clint adores children and is a gentle, loving dog.

Sami, right, is a housebroken and spayed 7-month-old domestic medium hair. She is great with other cats. Sami is an exceptionally beautiful cat, who adores any kind of attention.

The Sumter SPCA is located at 1140 S. Guignard Drive, (803) 773-9292, and is open 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. every day except Wednesday and Sunday.

While shopping for Christmas gifts for your loved ones, don't forget to pick up a few items for the Sumter SPCA. The SPCA relies heavily on community support and donations. The following would be appreciated: Newspapers, stuffed animals, heavy duty trash bags (30 gallon or larger), dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, bleach, paper towels, sheets and comforters, baby blankets, canned dog and cat food, dry dog food, dry puppy and kitten food, wet cat food, cat litter, treats, leashes and collars, disinfectant spray, all-purpose cleaner, air freshener, no scratch scrubbers, two-sided sponges for dishes, litter freshener and, of course, monetary donations are also gratefully accepted.

PREP BASKETBALL



Offensive stalemate

MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Sumter's Zykiem Jackson (1) drives to the basketball during the Gamecocks' 50-46 overtime victory over Lakewood on Thursday at the SHS gymnasium.

Sumter, Lakewood struggle for points in Gamecocks' 50-46 OT win

BY DENNIS BRUNSON

dennis@theitem.com

Points were hard to come by in the varsity boys basketball game between Sumter and Lakewood high schools on Thursday at the SHS gymnasium.

The game went to overtime and the teams still weren't able to combine for 100 points. The Gamecocks rallied from a 6-point deficit early in the fourth quarter to force overtime and outscored the Gators 8-4 in the extra period to win 50-46.

So was it bad offense or good defense or a little bit of both. Both coaches insist it was outstanding defense.

"I really thought both teams played great defensive games," said Sumter head coach Shawn Jones, whose team improved to 2-0 on the season. "I mean what was it at halftime, 17-14? That's just two teams working really hard on defense."

"I thought we played a pretty good defensive game," said LHS head coach Bryan Brown, whose team fell to 1-1. "I think the difference in the game though was Sumter hit its shots when it got open looks and we didn't."

The Gamecocks' Omar Croskey



MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Sumter's Layken Cox, right, drives to the basket against Serena Choice of Lakewood in the Lady Gamecocks' 40-27 victory on Thursday at the SHS gymnasium.

nailed a 3-point basket to start the scoring on the evening, but then the points dried up quickly. SHS managed a 12-7 lead after one quarter, but didn't score

for the first six minutes of the second stanza. Fortunately for SHS, Lakewood

SEE SHS, PAGE B3

PREP FOOTBALL

Local players selected for SCISA all-star games

BY DENNIS BRUNSON

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Seventeen football players from the five local South Carolina Independent School Association schools have been selected to play in the two SCISA all-star football games scheduled for Saturday.

Fifteen players from Laurence Manning Academy, Wilson Hall, Thomas Sumter Academy and Robert E. Lee Academy will play in the 11-man game while two players from Clarendon Hall will play in the 8-man game.

LMA's Braydon Osteen, Dalton Holcomb, Brent Jordan, David Wilder and Taylor Lee will play for the North squad in the 11-man game. Those five helped lead the Swampcats to the SCISA 3A state championship game.

The all-stars from Wilson Hall, REL and TSA will play for the South squad. The Barons playing are Noah Harvin, Jackson Lemay and Jake Myers. Making the team from Thomas Sumter are Dante Linder, Richard Huntley, Mason Studer and Eli Kessinger.

The Robert E. Lee players are Bryce Barrett, Nick Laney and Billy Jackson. The head coach of the South squad is REL's David Rankin, and he will be assisted by one of his Cavalier assistants, Matt Nix.

Laurence Manning defensive coordinator Elmer Bench will serve on the North coaching staff.

Clarendon Hall's Ben Corbett and Dylan Way will play for the South squad in the 8-man game.

Both games will start at 11 a.m. The 11-man game will be played at Northwood Academy in Summerville. The 8-man game will be played at Cathedral Academy in Charleston.

PREP BASKETBALL

Barons looking to replace leadership

BY TREVOR BAUKNIGHT

trevor@theitem.com

The Wilson Hall varsity boys basketball team is working on building an identity of its own after graduation took team leaders and top scorers from last year's team, which itself lagged at times in productivity enroute to a 12-12 mark.

The Barons, at 1-2 with consecutive losses to The King's Academy and Heathwood Hall after opening with a victory over Williamsburg Academy, will tip off in Summerville today against 5-1 Pinewood Prep.

The Panthers are coming off an 85-41 dismantling of Laurence Manning on Tuesday and own victories over a pair of Charleston-area public school teams, Goose Creek and Hanahan, with their lone loss coming against Stall, 86-73, in the championship game of the State Farm Classic Thanksgiving tournament.

"We lost a good bit of leadership, along with a lot of point production and rebounding and everything from last year," said Wilson Hall head coach Eddie Talley, in his 11th season at the helm. "But we've got some returning players and they've got some experience now, and they've just got to step up into leadership roles this year instead of being support players. It's something that I think is going to be a process and something I think we're going to improve as the season goes on, but it's just going to take a little bit of time."



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Grey Holler (3) is one of several returnees Wilson Hall is counting on fill the void of players it lost from last season.

Talley will be trying to replace the leadership of Drew Talley and Easton Ward, counting on seniors Daulton Dabbs and Grayson Sonntag to step up into their roles. Dabbs

SEE BARONS, PAGE B3

PREP BASKETBALL

Barons ready to see where they stand

BY TREVOR BAUKNIGHT

trevor@theitem.com

At 3-0, the Wilson Hall varsity girls basketball team is in an enviable position. The Lady Barons are building on a successful season with many of the same players returning from last year. As a bonus, they still have plenty of time to develop as players with the advantage of years of experience.

They already own wins over Williamsburg Academy, The King's Academy and Heathwood Hall, and they'll resume their mission today on the road in Summerville, where they'll take on Pinewood Prep.

"They're a very solid girls program," Wilson Hall head coach Glen Rector said. "It'll be the first really strong test for our girls, and it's going to be interesting to see how they respond. (Pinewood Prep has) a very athletic team, and tall team, and I expect them to be one of the ones that does well in the Charleston region. It's a good early matchup for us."

"We want to see where we're at," Rector said. "So we've tried to schedule some tougher games in the next few weeks to see what we need to do to be successful in the region and the playoffs in February."

Last year's team went 16-7 and shared the regular-season SCISA Region II-3A title with Florence Christian. The Lady Barons made it to the region championship game before losing to FCS, and to the SCISA 3A quarterfinals where their season ended with a loss to Cardinal Newman.

"We only had two seniors on the team last year, and we're replacing three starters," said Wilson Hall head coach Glen Rector. "The girls



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Courtney Clark (12) is back to lead Wilson Hall after leading the Lady Barons in scoring and being selected as the SCISA Region II-3A Player of the Year.

that are starting are all girls that had a lot of varsity experience last year.

"We have a lot of girls that returned from the team last year, so we were able to start putting in our offenses and defenses," he said. "Having so many returning players, they're pretty used to the system. We try to run similar things with our (junior varsity) team, so the girls that came up are very familiar with

SEE STAND, PAGE B3

SCOREBOARD

TV, RADIO

TODAY
5:30 a.m. — Professional Golf: European PGA Tour Mauritius Open Second Round from Bel-Ombre, Mauritius (GOLF).
10 a.m. — International Soccer: 2018 FIFA World Cup Draw from Moscow (FOX SPORTS 1).

SATURDAY

7:25 a.m. — International Soccer: English Premier League Match — Newcastle United vs. Chelsea (NBC SPORTS NETWORK).
9:30 a.m. — College Basketball: Basketball Hall of Fame Belfast Classic Consolation Game from Belfast, Northern Ireland (CBS SPORTS NETWORK).

12:30 p.m. — PGA Golf: Hero World Challenge Third Round from New Providence, Bahamas (GOLF).
12:30 p.m. — International Soccer: English Premier League Match — Manchester United vs. Arsenal (WIS 10).

2 p.m. — College Basketball: Georgia at Marquette (CBS SPORTS NETWORK).
4 p.m. — College Basketball: Wichita State at Baylor (ESPN).
2 p.m. — College Basketball: St. Louis at Butler (FOX SPORTS 1).

PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

CHAMPIONSHIPS

SATURDAY
At Williams-Brice Stadium In Columbia
5A Dutch Fork vs. Dorman, noon
4A Hartsville vs. South Pointe, 6:30 p.m.

NFL STANDINGS

Table with columns: Conference, Team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA. Includes American and National conferences.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Table with columns: Team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA. Includes Philadelphia, Dallas, Washington, N.Y. Giants, etc.

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Cleveland at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Denver, 9 p.m.
Milwaukee at Portland, 10 p.m.
Utah at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

TODAY'S GAMES

Detroit at Washington, 7 p.m.
Golden State at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Miami, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES

Phoenix at Boston, 1 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Dallas, 2 p.m.
Atlanta at Brooklyn, 3 p.m.

NHL STANDINGS

Table with columns: Conference, Division, Team, GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA. Includes Eastern and Western conferences.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Table with columns: Team, GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA. Includes St. Louis, Winnipeg, Nashville, etc.

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

Montreal 2, Ottawa 1
Boston 3, Tampa Bay 2
Anaheim 3, St. Louis 2
Colorado 3, Winnipeg 2, OT

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Los Angeles at Washington, 7 p.m.
Montreal at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Nashville, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES

Boston at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
St. Louis at Minnesota, 6 p.m.
Buffalo at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Montreal, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Los Angeles at Chicago, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Winnipeg, 7 p.m.
Arizona at Vegas, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Colorado, 8 p.m.

PGA TOUR

HERO WORLD CHALLENGE SCORES
By The Associated Press

THURSDAY

Table with columns: Player, Score. Includes Tommy Fleetwood, Rickie Fowler, Matt Kuchar, etc.

TRANSACTIONS

THURSDAY
By The Associated Press

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE
CLEVELAND INDIANS — Agreed to terms with OF Brandon Barnes and RHPs Evan Marshall and Neil Ramirez on minor league contracts.
LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Traded LHP Justin Kelly to Atlanta for RHP Jim Johnson and international pool space.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Traded RHP Curtis Taylor to Tampa Bay for RHP Brad Boxberger.
COLLEGE
FLORIDA — Named Todd Grantham defensive coordinator.

PRO GOLF



Tiger Woods tees off from the 16th hole during the first round of the Hero World Challenge on Thursday in Nassau, Bahamas.

Woods returns with solid round, good start in Bahamas

BY DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

NASSAU, Bahamas — Tiger Woods looked a lot better in his return to golf than he did when he left.

Playing for the first time since his fourth back surgery, Woods returned from a 10-month layoff with a 3-under 69 on a breezy Thursday in the Bahamas that left him three shots behind Tommy Fleetwood after the opening round of the Hero World Challenge.

“For me, I thought I did great,” Woods said with a smile. And in a sign that he was ready to get back into the mix, he was far from satisfied.

Unlike a year ago, when Woods ended a 15-month hiatus from his ailing back, he didn’t show any fatigue at the end of his round or make any big numbers. His only regret was playing the par 5s at Albany Golf Club in 1-over par with two bogeys that stalled his momentum.

Coming off a 25-foot birdie putt on the par-3 eighth, Woods hit a 3-wood that rolled up on the green and then down a slope about 30 feet from the pin. It took him four shots from there, starting with a chip that didn’t reach the green and his first expletive loud enough for television to pick up.

After his best shot of the day — a pitching wedge he hit low from 95 yards that settled a foot behind the hole for birdie on No. 14 — he sent a drive well to the right into the native dunes. Woods had to take a penalty drop to get back in play and wound up making bogey.

But it was solid enough that Woods was far more interested in the leaderboard than the fact he felt strong physically.

“It was not only nice to get the first round out of the way, but also I’m only three shots out of the lead,” he said. “So to be able to put myself there after not playing for 10 months or so, it was nice to feel the adrenaline out there.”

He was tied for eighth in the 18-man field of this holiday exhibition that awards world ranking points but does not count as official on any tour. Rickie Fowler and Matt Kuchar were at 67, while Dustin Johnson, Jordan Spieth, Justin Rose and Kevin Chappell were at 68.

The buzz was back. Johnson noticed it when he was on the practice range and noticed a crowd around the putting green.

“Tiger must be there,” Johnson said. “Because there’s 40 people instead of four.” Golf Channel added an hour of coverage, and Twitter came alive with people curious about the latest return. That included Steph Curry, the Golden State Warriors’ two-time MVP who played a Web.com Tour event in August.

“The wait is over. The wait is over,” he tweeted.

Michael Phelps said he was “pumped to be watching” Woods on TV again.

This event doesn’t draw big crowds, but most of them were with Woods to see how he would fare in this latest comeback, this one from fusion surgery on his lower back on April 20. Given it was his fourth surgery in three years, coupled with a DUI arrest in the summer that exposed the struggles Woods was having with pain medicine, a day like this seemed a long way off.

Woods said he appreciated the moment Thursday morning.

“I was in my head thanking all the people who have helped me in giving me a chance to come back and play this round again,” he said. “There were a lot of people who were instrumental in my life — friends, outside people I’ve never met before, obviously my surgeon. I was very thankful.”

And he was as competitive as always. Woods delivered his first fist pump on par-4 fourth hole when he scooped a chip that didn’t reach the green, and then holed an 18-foot par putt.

While the field is short, the competition is strong with eight of the top in the world at Albany. Woods realizes they have spent the last couple of years playing at a high level that allows them to overcome a few mistakes.

“I don’t want to lose shots,” Woods said. “I haven’t played in a very long time and I can’t afford to go out there and make a bunch of bogeys and know that I can make nine, 10 birdies and offset them.”

Along with his five birdies — only two of them were tap-ins — Woods had an assortment of tough par saves, including a 10-footer that kept him dropping another shot on a par 5 at No. 11. He finished his round with a belly wedge from short of the 17th green because of mud on his ball, and holing a 6-foot par putt on the 18th.

A year ago, Woods made a pair of double bogeys over the last three holes for a 73 to finish nine shots behind. This time, he closed with pars and was three back.

PGA champion Justin Thomas, who also opened with a 69 in the same pairing with Woods, is among those who have played with him in recent weeks in Florida. Woods said he once played nine straight days.

HALL FROM PAGE B1

what we try to do defensively. Experience has been on our side so far in the first three games.

“We only have two seniors on the team, but my point guard has been on the varsity team since the ninth grade. We have several girls that have been on the varsity team for several years, so while we’re not senior-heavy, we have a lot of girls with good varsity experience.

In addition to the returning players, Rector said Natalie Jackson, a transfer student from Hawaii whose father is in the Air Force, will have an immediate impact.

“She is a very experienced player,” Rector said. “She was able to play with some of our girls before we started practicing, and she’s pretty familiar with them. She will come in and be a big asset. She’s had a sprained ankle and hasn’t started yet, but she probably will be before too long, and we’ll probably have a 6-person rotation in the starting lineup.”

Rector is counting on seasoned junior point guard Liza Segars, who joined the varsity team as a freshman and started as a sophomore, to be his floor general.

“She brings a lot of experience at the point guard position.”

Junior Susanna Hutson and sophomore Madison Elmore will start at guard. Rector said Elmore brings solid ball-handling to the court and Hutson is one of his top outside shooters. Both have been on the varsity squad since they were freshmen.

Cameron Duffy is a junior forward also starting her third year as a varsity player, and junior forward Courtney Clark, the Barons’ leading scorer from last year and the region player of the year, will be the sixth starter.

“With those six girls, we’re going to have a pretty solid rotation of starters,” Rector said. “We can go pretty tall with that group, or we can go quick with that group. We’re trying to play a little bit more up-tempo with more full-court pressure, but we will make adjustments based on what the other team has.”

Rector said he expects tough competition both in the early season and in region play.

“All of (the region) teams have a lot of good players returning, so it’s going to be a very competitive region,” Rector said.

BARONS FROM PAGE B1

missed much of last season with an injury, but returns as point guard, while Sonntag, along with junior Grey Holler, will provide a presence inside for the Barons.

“We’ve got some guys that can do it. But it’s just kind of early in the season, and they’ve got to get their feet wet in their new roles,” Coach Talley said. “The early part of our schedule is pretty tough, so we’re thrown into the fire and we’re going to have to find a way out. It’s going to be a work in progress.”

Talley said the problems his team has experienced in the early going this season are fixable.

“We’ve got to cut down on the turnovers,” Talley said. “Our half-court defense has been decent, but (we’ve had) too many turnovers on offense leading to easy baskets for the other team. We’ve got to cut those out. We’ve just got to find our way.”

“A lot of these guys are still coming off football, so they’re a little rusty right now,” Talley said.

Besides Dabbs, Sonntag and Holler, Talley said he’s looking for good things from the players that served as Dabbs’ replacements during his injury last year, Grant DeVarona and Chandler Scott.

“Both alternated at point guard for us last year when Dalton went down, so they’ve got experience and this year they’ve got to play in different positions,” Talley said. “So we’ve got some returning players and some new players we think are going to step in and be major contributors for us.”

“Patience is not one of my strengths,” Talley said. “But I’m trying to be patient with this group and I feel like we have a chance to get better.”

Talley said with the strength of the competition improving, things need to come along pretty quickly for his team to be successful in terms of its record.

“In the conference, I think we can be competitive,” Talley said. “I guess Laurence Manning is still the favorite until somebody knocks them off. Florence Christian and Orangeburg Prep should be better this year. So the competition is going to be good, and our non-conference schedule is very tough, so if we don’t get better our record isn’t going to be very good.”

After Pinewood Prep, the Barons return home to face Hammond, and Thomas Sumter next week.

“Our schedule in the early part of the season is tough, but I think that’s going to make us better in the long run,” Talley said.

USC WOMEN’S BASKETBALL



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Carolina forward Alexis Jennings (35) drives to the basket against Western Carolina forward Emily Hatfield (52) during the first half of the Gamecocks’ 101-43 victory on Thursday in Columbia.

No. 5 USC powers past WCU 101-43

BY PETE IACOBELLI

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A’ja Wilson’s performance at the Final Four has carried over into her senior season at No. 5 South Carolina.

The 6-foot-5 forward scored 29 points with seven rebounds and three steals to help the Gamecocks bounce back from their first loss of the season with a 101-43 pummeling of Western Carolina on Thursday night.

Alexis Jennings had 19 points and Tyasha Harris 10 points and 10 assists to get South Carolina (7-1) back on the winning track after losing 92-85 to No. 3 Notre Dame on Sunday night.

“This was good,” junior Doniyah Cliney said. “We had to show one loss wasn’t going to affect our game and we had to move on.”

Wilson lifted the Gamecocks to a national title last April, going for 36 points and 29 rebounds in wins over Stanford and Mississippi State to win the NCAA Tournament.

“That gave her wings,” South Carolina coach Dawn Staley said.

The Gamecocks will now move on to their third ranked opponent this season when No. 14 Duke, which defeated No. 8 Ohio State 69-60 on Thursday night, comes to town Sunday.

Cliney believes the team will use its lopsided victory as a boost of confidence heading into another ranked-vs.-ranked matchup.

“We’re working on us, no matter what the score was,” she said.

With Wilson in the lineup, the Gamecocks always have a chance.

The two-time defending Southeastern Conference player of the

year has scored 33, 17, 34 and 29 points her past four games. Staley said she’s gained confidence from last year’s performance and even without her high scoring teammates in Alaina Coates, Kaela Davis and Allisha Gray — all drafted into the WNBA after the championship run — Wilson has the space to show a broader, more polished and complete game.

“She knows she plays a big role in our success,” Staley said.

The Gamecocks fell behind 2-0, then broke off a 17-0 run powered by the 6-foot-5 Wilson and 6-2 Jennings that put the game out of reach for the Catamounts (1-5) of the Southern Conference.

Lauren Laplant, Sherae Bonner and Nikki Johnson had eight points each to lead Western Carolina, which has lost to SEC teams Georgia and South Carolina by a combined score of 177-93.

Catamounts coach Stephanie McCormick believes her team will take positive moments from both those games that will help them compete in the SoCon. “I like to give our team experiences and I hope they can really embrace” the bursts of solid play McCormick saw against the Gamecocks.

It was South Carolina’s first time hitting the century mark since last year’s NCAA Tournament run as it defeated Quinnipiac 100-58 in the round of 16. It was the Gamecocks’ biggest margin of victory since topping Savannah State 111-49 in December 2014.

THE BIG PICTURE

Western Carolina: The Catamounts were terribly outmatched against the Gamecocks and settled

for long, outside shots that they won’t once Southern Conference season rolls around.

South Carolina: The Gamecocks pushed their size advantage and athleticism on defense to make short work of Western Carolina. South Carolina outrebounded the Catamounts 28-10 the first 20 minutes and forced 15 turnovers. South Carolina needed a feel-good game after its loss to Notre Dame with No. 14 Duke ahead on Sunday.

INJURY BUG

South Carolina played without Penn State graduate transfer guard Lindsey Spann, who was out with a knee sprain. Spann had averaged nearly 14 points a game and started every game. With senior Bianca Cuevas-Moore unable to play so far this season with a knee injury, the Gamecocks are short on backcourt depth with just four games left before the start of Southeastern Conference play.

Staley said Spann will likely miss Sunday’s game with Duke. There’s a chance, though, Cuevas-Moore could see her first action this year.

MILESTONE WIN

Staley won her 400th game in 18 seasons coaching Temple and South Carolina. What was she thinking about after the milestone win? “401,” she said with a grin.

UP NEXT

Western Carolina returns home for the first time in more than two weeks when it plays Florida A&M on Saturday.

South Carolina takes on No. 14 Duke on Sunday.

SHS FROM PAGE B1

managed only seven second-quarter points as it had the 3-point halftime lead.

The Gators, ranked fourth among 4A schools in the South Carolina Basketball Coaches Association preseason poll, started getting its offense going in the third quarter, getting into the lane and forcing fouls. They scored 16 points, going 6-for-7 from the free throw line, to go up 30-29 entering the final stanza.

Grant Singleton hit a layup to start the fourth quarter and when Terrell Houston drilled a 3 LHS had a 35-29 lead. Brown called a quick timeout after the basket.

“I just wanted to give my players a breather,” he said. “They had been on the floor a long time and I wanted to let them catch their breath. I had four timeouts.”

Whether the timeout had anything to do with it, Sumter rolled off nine straight points to go up 38-35. The first five came from Tyree Smalls.

Lakewood rallied to go up 42-38, but Isiah Moore hit four of



MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Sumter’s Isiah Moore (11) tries to make a move on Lakewood’s Ahkeem Lawson in the Gamecocks’ 50-46 overtime victory on Thursday at the SHS gymnasium.

five free throws in the final minute to force the overtime.

Smalls canned a trey to start the overtime as Sumter pushed the lead out to 49-42. The Gators didn’t score until less than a minute remained.

“I’m proud of the way my guys responded,” said Jones, whose team is ranked fifth among 5A schools. “We didn’t panic at all.”

Smalls led Sumter with 14 points, while Moore had 13 and Calvin Felder nine.

Juwan Perdue led LHS with 14,

Singleton had 13 and Houston and Ahkeem Lawson both had eight.

In the girls game, Sumter outscored Lakewood 16-7 in the third quarter to open a 10-point advantage and went on to 40-27 triumph.

Nina Edlow led the 1-1 Lady Gamecocks, who led 19-18 at halftime, with 14 points. Layken Co and Tamerah Brown both had eight.

Ki’Ari Cain and Lashala Harvin both had eight for the Lady Gators.

PREP SCHEDULE TODAY

VARSITY BASKETBALL

Lee Central at Crestwood, 6 p.m.
Manning at C.E. Murray, 6:30 p.m.
East Clarendon at Lake City, 6 p.m.
Laurence Manning in Trinity-Byrnes

Tournament, TBA
Emmanuel Christian at Sumter Christian (Boys Only), 4 p.m.

VARSITY AND JV BASKETBALL

Wilson Hall at Pinewood Prep, 4 p.m.
Robert E. Lee at Pee Dee, 4 p.m.

VARSITY WRESTLING

Sumter in Irmo Individual, 6 p.m.
Sumter in Southern Slam (at East-side High in Greenville), 6 p.m.

SATURDAY

VARSITY BASKETBALL
Laurence Manning in Trinity-Byrnes Tournament, TBA

VARSITY AND JV BASKETBALL

Crestwood at Sumter, 3 p.m.
Lee Central at Lakewood, 3 p.m.
Mullins at East Clarendon, 6 p.m.

VARSITY WRESTLING

Sumter in Irmo Individual, TBA
Sumter in Southern Slam (at East-side High in Greenville), TBA

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PRO FOOTBALL

Panthers have injury concerns entering huge game vs. Saints

CHARLOTTE (AP) — The Panthers are heading into the biggest game of their season with some major injury concerns.

Carolina (8-3) is tied with New Orleans for first place in the NFC South entering Sunday's pivotal showdown at the Superdome. But just how many Panthers will be available to play remains a mystery.

Three starters — running back Christian McCaffrey (shoulder), wide receiver Devin Funchess (toe) and tight end Greg Olsen (foot) — did not practice on Wednesday as the team returned to work after a road win against the New York Jets on Sunday.

Also absent from practice was starting cornerback Daryl Worley (foot), while quarterback Cam Newton (thumb), center Ryan Kalil (neck), safety Mike Adams (knee) and linebacker Shaq Thompson (foot) were limited.

"It's always a concern," Panthers coach Ron Rivera said Wednesday of the injuries. "You just don't know. I'm like you guys — I won't know until tomorrow."

Newton is expected to play, although he's still wearing a glove during practice to protect his banged up right thumb. The seventh-year quarterback struggled this past Sunday against the Jets with his accuracy after injuring the thumb the week before.

Rivera offered little else about the prospect of Newton's top three targets in the passing game — McCaf-



Carolina running back Christian McCaffrey (22) stays in front of the Saints' Ken Crawley (20) during the second half of their game in September in Charlotte. The Saints won 34-13. The teams play again on Sunday.

frey, Funchess and Olsen — being ready for this week, although he suggested some players believed the turf at MetLife Stadium might have contributed to their injuries.

The Panthers have momentum on their side heading into Sunday's game having won four straight games.

The Saints had won eight straight prior to last week's loss to the Los Angeles Rams, which dropped them back into a tie with Carolina.

However, the Saints appear to match up well against the Panthers. They dominated Carolina in Week 3, winning 34-13. They came into

that game 0-2, but used it as a springboard for an eight-game win streak.

But Rivera said the Panthers are a better team than they were in September with Newton healthier following offseason shoulder surgery and the offense beginning to click.

"We struggled a lot, but I also felt like we were getting used to each other," Rivera said. "I think we're at a point now where our quarterback is healthier than he was at the start of the season and we have a better feel and understanding of the players we have — the playmakers. And our offense has settled in."

PRO FOOTBALL

Former Tiger Hopkins shines for Texans

HOUSTON (AP) — The right side of his No. 10 jersey was torn almost completely apart and white paint that had rubbed off the field peppered his long dreadlocks.

DeAndre Hopkins had a long day dealing with near-constant double teams and multiple defenders pulling and grabbing at him in Houston's loss to Baltimore on Monday night.

But everything he went through against the Ravens wasn't anything new to Houston's star receiver. He's accustomed to it and actually revels in the attention he garners from defenses every week.

In fact, the self-described best receiver in the league likes that teams put such an effort to attempt to slow him down.

And as the Texans (4-7) try to salvage a disappointing and injury-filled season with a strong finish, Hopkins is intent on doing everything he can to help.

"I'm the highest-paid player that's out there on the field for this organization, so of course I feel like it's on me if I'm double-teamed or triple-teamed to still come down with the play," he said.

"And I hold myself to that mindset every time I'm on the field. I feel like it's on me. I want the game to be on me ... I want that pressure."

Some receivers shy away from contact and complain when dealing with tight coverages and the kind of yanking and pulling that would cause the destruction of a jersey. Hopkins is not among them. It's a mindset that came from years of playing defensive back as a youngster in South Carolina.

"Just kind of getting down there in the trenches," he said. "And that's kind of how I play at wide receiver a little bit with that physicality of: 'I'm not going to let anyone out-tough me on that island.'"

He thinks that sets him apart from other receivers.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Auburn QB's wait nearly over after prediction

AUBURN, Ala. (AP) — Jarrett Stidham put his goal out there for the world to see after watching last year's Southeastern Conference championship game on TV.

"Can't wait to be playing on this day next year," Stidham posted on Twitter afterward.

That message proved prophetic and his wait is almost over.

The former Baylor quarterback who signed with Auburn (10-2, No. 2 CFP) has helped the fourth-ranked Tigers earn a spot in Saturday's game against No. 6 Georgia (11-1, No. 6 CFP) in Atlanta. He has emerged as one of the SEC's top quarterbacks after a shaky start for both him and his new team.

"I just felt like it was going to be a big opportunity for us in the future coming here and everything," Stidham said. "I knew what kind of team that we had. I just felt confident in it and was just really looking forward to having that opportunity."

The Tigers wouldn't be in this position — one win from a playoff berth — without him.

Stidham delivered an impressive performances in wins over Georgia and Alabama, the biggest games of the year before this next one against the Bulldogs. In fact, he has been steady and efficient ever since struggling in a loss to LSU, and it's no coincidence that Auburn hasn't lost again.

Stidham has passed for between 214 and 268 yards over the past five games. The most incompletions he has had: nine.

Not known as a runner, Stidham was smashing into Alabama defenders trying to get extra yards and ran 16 yards for a decisive touchdown.

That's part of the reason teammate Kerryon Johnson thinks Stidham should be considered one of the league's best quarterbacks.

"If you watch the Alabama



Auburn quarterback Jarrett Stidham (8) gets past Alabama linebacker Dylan Moses (18) to carry the ball in for a touchdown during the second half of the Iron Bowl last weekend in Auburn, Alabama. Auburn won 26-14 to claim a spot in this Saturday's SEC championship game, a rematch with Georgia.

game, there are some third down runs and his touchdown run that are just huge plays that might go unnoticed, but you've got to consider them," said Johnson, the SEC's leading rusher. "I mean, he's a

sneaky athlete, and he plays his heart out. I think that's what makes him so good."

In other words, Stidham is the quarterback Auburn coach Gus Malzahn has been looking for since Nick Mar-

shall left in 2014. While Marshall was a dangerous runner who set up the passing game off zone read plays, Stidham is a passer who runs occasionally.

He has passed for 2,682 yards and 16 touchdowns against just four interceptions. Stidham has completed an SEC-best 68.5 percent of his passes.

It didn't start off smoothly for a quarterback who spent last fall at a Texas junior college with no football program. He was sacked 11 times against Clemson in Game 2 and struggled in the LSU loss, too.

"Believe it or not, I actually felt pretty comfortable in the Clemson game, regardless of what happened that night," Stidham said. "Just kind of being back out there, being comfortable and that kind of thing, I actually felt like I was on the way to having success."

And so were the Tigers, the big hiccup at LSU notwithstanding.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Transfer QBs Mayfield, Hill face off in Big 12 title game

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Baker Mayfield was the first true freshman walk-on quarterback to start a season opener for an FBS team when he took his first snap in 2013. That same season, Kenny Hill began his college career behind a Heisman Trophy winner.

Four years later, both quarterbacks have a title shot at different Power Five schools. Mayfield is a Heisman front-runner for No. 2 Oklahoma, which faces Hill and No. 10 TCU in the Big 12 championship game.

"This final stretch of my college career is coming down to the wire. I try to enjoy every moment," Mayfield said. "But winning makes it a lot more fun and that has to be the focus."

The Sooners (11-1, 8-1 Big 12, No. 3 CFP) go into Saturday's game, a week before the Heisman winner is named, in position to make the four-team College Football Playoff for the second time in Mayfield's

three seasons if they beat TCU (9-2, 7-2, No. 11 CFP) for the second time in four weeks.

Mayfield has played his college career entirely in the Big 12 from his unprecedented debut and only season at Texas Tech to his standout tenure at Oklahoma. But had league officials not made a rule change in 2016, restoring a year of lost eligibility after his in-league transfer with no written scholarship offer from the Red Raiders, he would have been done after last year.

After four games as a freshman, Hill threw for 511 yards in Texas A&M's 2014 opener that was his first start succeeding Heisman winner Johnny Manziel. The Aggies started 5-0, but then lost three in a row while Hill struggled on the field in what would be his last games for them. He was suspended for violating team rules, his second suspension from the team in less than a year.

Hill went to TCU, after being encouraged by Horned Frogs coach Gary Patterson to first spend some time at a junior college out of the spotlight.

"It all sunk in when I was out there on the field with my family," Hill said after his four touchdowns in TCU's senior day victory over Baylor last week. "After everything that had happened, and to be at this point, I told Coach P, just thank you for just bringing me here and letting me have this opportunity. It's awesome."

Both quarterbacks had embarrassing off-field incidents, though Hill's came before he got to TCU.

Mayfield was arrested in February for public intoxication, disorderly conduct, fleeing and resisting arrest after an incident outside an Arkan-

sas bar. Oklahoma ordered him to complete 35 hours of community service and an alcohol education program.

He didn't start on Oklahoma's senior day last week following his lewd crotch-grabbing gesture and constant words toward the Kansas sideline the previous week.

Mayfield also nailed TCU safety Niko Small with a pass during pregame before the teams played three weeks ago in Norman. And Mayfield also planted an Oklahoma flag at midfield after winning at Ohio State in September, and there was the smack talk directed at Baylor players on the field be-

fore that game.

As for Hill, the spring before becoming A&M's starter as a sophomore he was arrested in College Station and charged with public intoxication and giving police a fake name. He was reinstated before training camp and allowed to compete for the starting job.

Both are now in a huge game with championship ramifications.

"In big games, you've got to relax and do your job," Mayfield said about the Big 12 title game. "In big games, you've got to keep your poise. In chippy, physical battles, you've got to do the same."



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AUTO RACING

Truex, Pollex win top award for contributions

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The career year for Martin Truex Jr. rolls on.

Truex and partner Sherry Pollex on Wednesday won the prestigious Myers Brothers Award — the top honor in NASCAR's season-ending awards celebration — for their charitable work. The award is presented by the National Motorsports Press Association and given as the final honor during a formal event that leads to Thursday night's champion celebration. Truex will be feted there for his first career Cup title, a presentation he is prepared for.

But winning the Myers Brothers Award was a shock to both Truex and Pollex, and both struggled to hold back tears as they received the honor.

"I didn't see this coming," Truex said.

"I didn't either, and I'm going to try not to cry," replied Pollex.

The award is named for NASCAR pioneers Billy and Bobby Myers and recognizes individuals and/or groups who have provided outstanding contributions to the sport of stock car racing. It has been presented annually since 1958.

The Martin Truex Jr. Foundation has raised funds for awareness on childhood and teenage cancer, even before Pollex was first diagnosed with ovarian cancer a little over three years ago. Pollex suffered a recurrence this year as Truex was putting together his championship season. The couple hosted their eighth annual Catwalk for a Cause, a charitable fashion show/benefit, this season and raised more



Driver Martin Truex Jr., right, and girlfriend Sherry Pollex won the prestigious Myers Brothers Award on Wednesday, the top honor in NASCAR's season-ending awards celebration, for their charitable work.

than \$500,000.

Truex didn't discuss his series-best eight victories this season, or the championship that came in his 12th season at NASCAR's top level. Instead, he touched on how pleased he and Pollex have been to assist those in need.

"I think Sherry and I have been very fortunate in our lives to have all the things we've needed," Truex said. "Great families, great parents that raised us right and taught us right from wrong. They probably deserve a lot of the credit for us being who we are and being able to give back to people."

Pollex's "Drive for Teal & Gold" campaign in September also raised funds and awareness for ovarian and child-

hood cancers.

"I'm so proud of her and her fight and her battle and what she's been able to pull through and get through, and at the same time, still willing to help others and give her time," said Truex. "We're humbled, we're very lucky to be here and we are very proud of this."

Truex was named on 82 percent of the ballots cast for this year's award. Others receiving votes were team owner Jack Roush and seven-time Cup Series champion Jimmie Johnson.

CREW CHIEF OF THE YEAR

Truex's crew chief, Cole Pearn, won the award after guiding Furniture Row Racing to its first title. The Canadian

recalled initial reluctance to move to Denver to work for a single-car NASCAR operation, and the early struggles the team faced. He credited team owner Barney Visser, who has been unable to enjoy any of the championship celebrations as he recuperates in Colorado from a heart attack and surgery two weeks before the season ended.

"They came up with the ridiculous idea of starting a NASCAR team in Colorado, and I went out there on a complete whim eight years ago, and I can't believe we are champions," Pearn said. "At one point it seemed like a top 10 was not even a pipedream."

CUP ROOKIE

Erik Jones was named rookie of the year in the Cup Series, and he became the first driver in NASCAR history to earn top rookie honors in all three national series.

"It was an incredible learning year," said Jones, who spent the season as a new second car with Furniture Row Racing. Jones was a development driver for Joe Gibbs Racing, and that team is pulling him inside its camp next year as a replacement for Matt Kenseth. Jones' No. 77 Toyota is going away, and NASCAR champion Martin Truex Jr. will be a one-car team again next season. Jones had 14 top-10 finishes and was 19th in the final standings.

BUDDY SHUMAN AWARD

The award for contributions to NASCAR went to Bruton Smith, owner of Speedway Motorsports Inc. The award honors those who have played vital roles in the growth of professional stock

car racing. Smith's contributions to NASCAR, through the race tracks he owns and the risks he took in promoting the series, were cited. But so was his commitment to Speedway Children's Charities, an organization that provides funding for nonprofits.

"I think raising \$500 million for children's charities is a big one," Smith said when asked about his accomplishments.

XFINITY SERIES: MOST POPULAR

Elliott Sadler was named most popular in NASCAR's second-tier Xfinity Series for the second straight year. Sadler was also the top vote-getter in 2011 and 2016 and becomes only the third driver to win the award three times. The others were Brad Keselowski and Kenny Wallace. Sadler continues a six-year run for JR Motorsports drivers winning the award. He follows Chase Elliott, Regan Smith, Danica Patrick and Keselowski.

TRUCK SERIES: MOST POPULAR

Chase Briscoe was named most popular driver in NASCAR's Camping World Truck Series. Briscoe won his first national series race in the season finale at Homestead-Miami Speedway. He finished sixth in the series standings and was also the series' top rookie. Briscoe was featured alongside Brad Keselowski Racing teammate Austin Cindric in an irreverent social media campaign to drum up balloting support. He becomes the third BKR driver to win the award in the last four years, following Tyler Reddick (2016) and Ryan Blaney (2014).

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

No. 1 Duke uses late run to pull away from Indiana 91-81

BY MICHAEL MAROT

The Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski saw how tired his team was Wednesday night.

He heard it, too.

Fortunately for the Blue Devils, Marvin Bagley III and Grayson Allen still had enough energy to persevere.

Bagley scored 23 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, Allen had 21 points and No. 1 Duke used a late scoring run to fend off pesky Indiana 91-81 in the Big Ten/ACC Challenge.

"When you're tired, especially guys when they're tired, they don't talk," Krzyzewski said. "They talk to themselves and that's how we played most of the game. We wanted to win but we were in 'This is what I have to do instead of what we have to do.'"

Eventually, Duke (9-0) figured it out and went on a decisive 17-4 run that sealed Indiana's fate.

But after logging nearly 8,500 miles



Duke's Wendell Carter Jr. dunks on Indiana's Collin Hartman during the first half of the Blue Devils' 91-81 victory over the Hoosiers on Wednesday in Bloomington, Indiana.

and playing nine times in 20 days, fatigue clearly was a factor.

In the first half, the teams traded the lead 10 times, had 11 ties and the Blue

Devils couldn't get any real separation.

Once they did, early in the second half, they couldn't maintain the momentum and got into foul trouble.

That's how college basketball's winningest coach drew it up, but he also understood.

"We're exhausted," Krzyzewski said. "They're dead right now, but they certainly played those 5 minutes at the end with an incredible will to win."

Indiana was led by Robert Johnson with 17 points and De'Ron Davis with 16 as its three-game winning streak came to an end.

Duke appeared to seize control with a 10-4 spurt to close the first half and another 10-4 run to start the second for a 52-42 lead.

Instead of pulling away, though, the Hoosiers scored seven straight, tied the score at 57 on Collin Hartman's long 3-pointer and took a 61-59 lead when Hartman made two free throws with 12:17 left.

For the next 10 minutes, the teams

essentially played to a draw. Neither team could take more than a two-possession lead until Gary Trent Jr. capped the big spurt with a three-point play that made it 86-77 with 2:24 left.

"I think it gave us kind of a baseline standard of where we've got to play every night," Johnson said of the Hoosiers' effort.

BIG PICTURE

Duke: Few teams could get through an opening stretch like this. The fact the Blue Devils may mean they're even better than advertised. But first they'll take advantage of a short, well-earned break.

Indiana: The Hoosiers fought valiantly. They played defense, took care of the ball and hung around most of the game. It was an impressive performance, a better effort and the first significant indication new coach Archie Miller has things on track in Bloomington.

OBITUARIES

CARTER JEAN FRIERSON

Carter Jean Cleaton Frierson was born on Jan. 19, 1944, and passed away peacefully



FRIERSON

on Nov. 26, 2017, at Palmetto Health Tuomey. She was born in St. Stephens to the late David Lee and Martha Cleaton. She was the first born of her

two siblings, the Angelene Cleaton Dingle and Odell Cleaton. Carter Jean, as she was affectionately called, was educated in Berkeley County at St. Stephens Elementary School and Russellville High School in St. Stephens. Carter Jean was active in high school as a majorette in the marching band and a standout on the girls' basketball team. Upon graduation, she moved to New York and continued her educational pursuits at City College, where she received training in secretarial studies. After receiving extensive training in secretarial studies, she began working for the JC Penney business of-

rice as a supervisor in the typing pool.

Before moving to New York, Carter Jean met the love of her life, William Roosevelt Frierson. They were married on July 3, 1964, and to this union her sons, Craig and Kelvin, were born. Carter Jean and William moved their family to Sumter in 1975, where she began a long and lucrative career at Morris College, where she worked faithfully until her retirement after 35 years of loyal service.

Carter Jean was very active and well-known in the Sumter community. She was an officer for the Russellville High School Class of 1961 and vice president of the Sumter High School Band Booster Club. Currently, she served as secretary for the Sumter chapter of the Sumterites Organization, secretary for the Neighborhood Beautification Organization and the board of Zoning Appeals for the Sumter City-County Planning Department. Carter Jean also enjoyed crafting and other artistic pursuits. She enjoyed creating crocheted pieces for

her friends and family. Her latest crochet pieces were on display at the Sumter County Fair. This was her first time entering her creations at the Sumter County Fair and she was awarded three blue ribbons, two red ribbons and two white ribbons for the intricate artistry of her crocheted designs.

Carter Jean was preceded in death by her siblings, the late Angelene (Buddy) Dingle and Odell (Naomi) Cleaton.

She leaves behind to cherish her memories and celebrate her life: her loving and devoted husband of 53 years, William Roosevelt Frierson; her two sons, Craig (Arischa) Frierson and Kelvin (Tammy) Frierson; brother-in-law, Joe (Toni) Frierson III; sisters-in-law, Francis Harris, Carrie Kirkman and Agnes (wife of the late Joseph W. Frierson) Frierson; nieces, Tonia (Timothy) Jones, Siomara Dingle and Beryl Cleaton; nephews, Shahid Cleaton and Bernard Jay Dingle; grandchildren, Corrine Frierson, Andrew Frierson and Dyneise Conner-Johnson; a special friend, Georthia M. Moses; and a

host of nieces, nephews, grandnieces, cousins, close friends and family.

There will be a celebration of her life at 1 p.m. on Saturday in the fellowship hall of Salem Chapel & Heritage Center, 101 S. Salem Ave.

The family will receive friends and family at their residence, 746 Maney St., Sumter. Job's Mortuary Inc. of Sumter is in charge of arrangements.

SHIRLEY M. ALLEN

Shirley Temple Manning Allen, 81, died on Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2017.

Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday at Taw Caw Missionary Baptist Church in Summerton, where Dr. W.T. Johnson serves as pastor.

Viewing will be held from 1 to 6 p.m. today.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Summerton Funeral Home LLC, 23 S. Duke St., Summerton, (803) 485-3755.

JO ELLEN C. BROOKS

Jo Ellen Maxson Combs Brooks, 82, widow of Richard T. Combs and Lindsay Brooks, died on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2017, at

Palmetto Health Tuomey.

Services will be announced by Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home and Crematorium of Sumter.

CHARLES E. BENNETT

Charles Earl Bennett, 53, departed this life on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2017, at his residence.

He was born on June 28, 1964, in Sumter County, a son of Mary Alice Williams Wilson and the late Alonzo Wilson. The family will be receiving friends from 2 to 7 p.m. daily at the home of his mother, 245 Woodlawn Ave., Sumter, SC 29150.

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

JANET ANN B. MEYER

BISHOPVILLE — Janet Ann Boone Meyer, age 60, beloved wife of Stanley John Meyer, died on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2017, at her residence. Plans will be announced by Bullock Funeral Home.



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IN BRIEF

Secretary of State Tillerson could be replaced by CIA chief

The White House is discussing a plan to oust Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and replace him with CIA Director Mike Pompeo in a major shake-up of President Trump's national security team, *The New York Times* reported Thursday, citing anonymous sources.

The move would put Pompeo, a former congressman who has grown close to Trump during his tenure atop the CIA, in charge of U.S. diplomacy. Tillerson, the former Exxon Mobil CEO, has had a rough first year, characterized by tensions with Trump in several foreign policy areas and negative publicity over Tillerson's planned overhaul of the State Department.

Trump may shrink two Utah monuments by two-thirds

According to leaked documents, President Trump plans to shrink two sprawling Utah national monuments by nearly two-thirds.

The Associated Press reported that the documents show Trump plans to shrink Bears Ears National Monument by nearly 85% and reduce Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument by almost half. The plan would cut the amount of protected land in the state's red rock country from more than 3.2 million acres to about 1.2 million acres.

Rep. Joe Barton, embarrassed by nude photo online, to retire

Republican U.S. Rep. Joe Barton, Texas' most senior member of Congress, announced Thursday that he won't seek re-election after a naked photo of him circulated online and a conservative activist released past messages of a sexual nature from him.

Barton, 68, apologized. He suggested he could be the victim of online exploitation.

Co-founder of 'Ice Bucket Challenge' dies after ALS battle

The man who co-founded the viral "Ice Bucket Challenge" of 2014, which filled social media with videos of people dumping buckets of ice and water on themselves and each other, died Saturday after a long battle with the condition known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Anthony Senerchia was 46.

Report: 400,000 to 700,000 African migrants in Libyan camps

There are 400,000 to 700,000 African migrants living in camps in Libya, often under "inhuman" conditions, Moussa Faki Mahamat, chairman of the African Union Commission, said Thursday at a summit of European and African leaders in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

The International Organization for Migration said more than 423,000 migrants had been identified in the North African country as of last month.

From staff and wire reports

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MIKE SMITH, PAUL TRAP/USA TODAY

Harassment long tolerated in world of big business

\$295 million in penalties part of bottom line

Nathan Bomey and Marco della Cava
USA TODAY

The floodgates have opened on sexual harassment claims against immensely powerful men, but high-profile dismissals, including the firing of NBC host Matt Lauer and media mogul Harvey Weinstein, remain the exception, not the rule, for companies facing harassment issues.

For many firms, paying fines for sexual harassment has been treated as a cost of doing business. In the past seven years, U.S. companies paid more

than \$295 million in public penalties over sexual harassment claims, according to Equal Employment Opportunity Commission records.

That sum does not count all the private settlements that typically are granted in exchange for alleged victims signing non-disclosure agreements.

Even those who were hit publicly with varying types of harassment charges managed to carry on with their careers in the aftermath. The highest-profile example is President Trump. There are many others.

In 2007, when he was president of basketball operations for the Madison Square Garden-owned Knicks, former

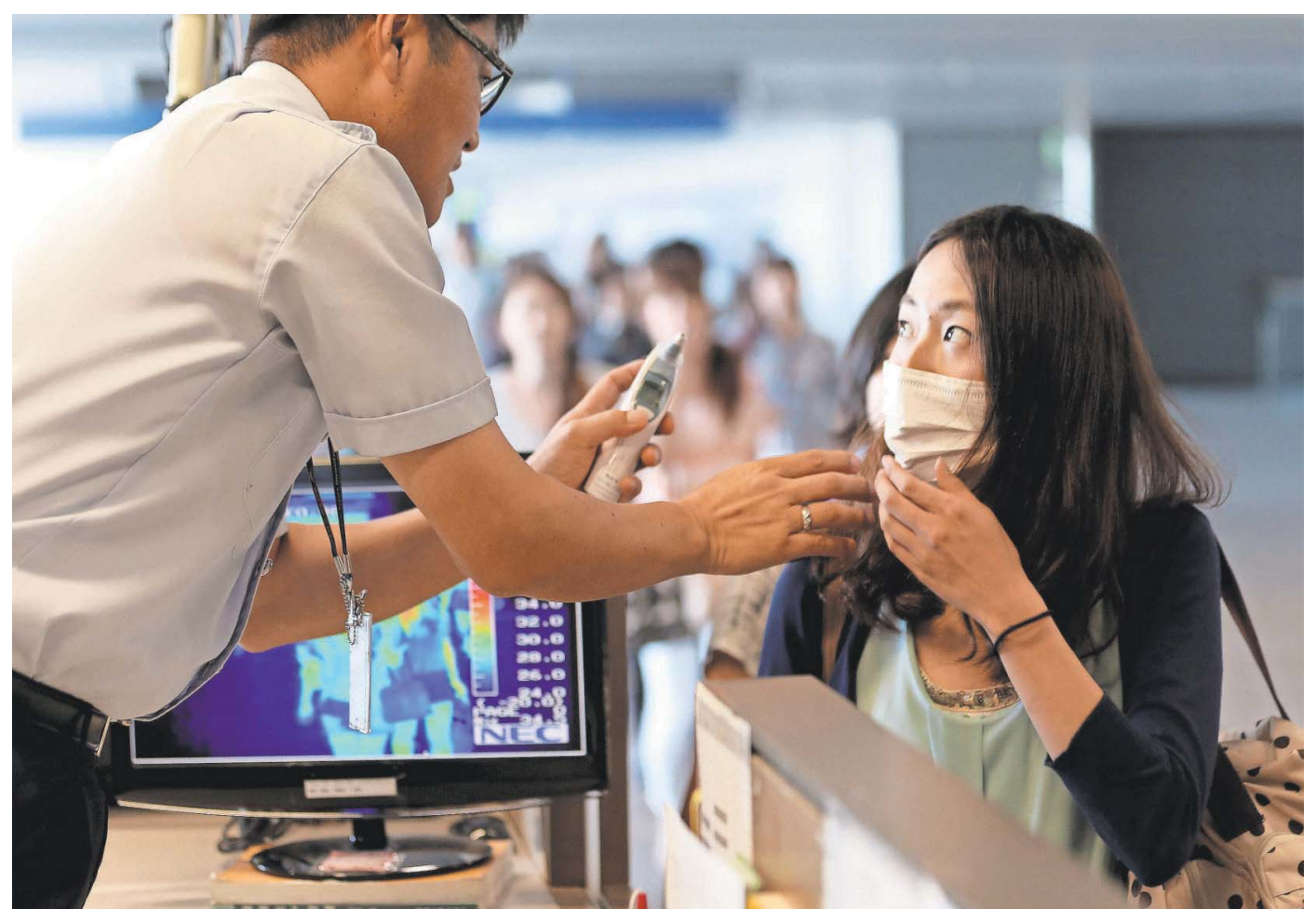
SEE HARASSMENT, C2



Isiah Thomas Mark Hurd Bill O'Reilly

"For decades, women found that this (harassing) behavior often was the price of coming to work. It was entrenched, with high performers getting a free pass."

Noreen Farrell
Equal Rights Advocates



A quarantine officer checks a traveler against possible infection of Ebola in South Korea in 2014. CHOE JAE KOO/AP

U.S. lacks plan to handle contagious diseases in the air

Mark Johnson and McKenna Oxenden Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

When it comes to a comprehensive plan to prevent and contain the spread of diseases through air travel, America is not ready. ■ That's the conclusion the U.S. Government Accountability Office reached in 2015. ■ It still holds true.

A series of outbreaks over the past 15 years hammered home the link between air travel and communicable diseases: Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003, swine flu in 2009 and Ebola in 2014, among others.

"If you're in aviation, you're in the infection control business. The volume of air travel is just so vast," said Mark Gen-

SEE CONTAGIOUS, C2

Rising seas could swamp historical landmarks

Doyle Rice
USA TODAY

Jamestown? Swamped. Cape Canaveral? Underwater. Charleston, S.C.? Gone.

Iconic locations from American history could be underwater by the end of the century because of sea-level rise from global warming, according to a study published Wednesday.

The study predicts that archaeological and historic sites, cemeteries and landscapes on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts of the southeastern USA will be lost to the sea by 2100 if projected sea-level rise trends continue.

"It is clear that small increases in

sea level will have great consequences on the coastal archaeological record," said study lead author David Anderson of the University of Tennessee.

Eventually, the memorials of Washington, D.C., could be at risk.

"The loss of archaeological sites will equate to a drowning of libraries full of information about over 15,000 years of human lives, including patterns of social and cultural change, demography, health, religion and (a bitter irony) lessons about past human experiences with climate change," said study co-author Joshua Wells of Indiana University at South Bend.

The study was published in *PLOS One*, a peer-reviewed journal.



The fort at the Jamestown Settlement, the living history museum in Virginia, remains above water for now.

MANNIE GARCIA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Harassment

CONTINUED FROM C1

NBA star Isiah Thomas was found by a jury to have aided and abetted a hostile work environment after being accused of sexual harassment. Thomas is president of the New York Liberty WNBA team, which also is owned by Madison Square Garden, and a commentator for NBA TV.

In 2010, hard-charging Hewlett-Packard CEO Mark Hurd was forced to resign after HP's board investigated his interactions with a female contractor and found inconsistencies in his expense reports. The investigation arose after that contractor claimed she was sexually harassed. One month after his resignation, Hurd landed a job at Oracle,

where he is now CEO.

Senior executives at firms including Starwood Hotels, American Apparel and Baker & McKenzie have all weathered sexual harassment allegations and moved on to other high-powered positions.

In January, Fox News re-upped host Bill O'Reilly to a \$25 million-a-year contract, according to *The New York Times*, though 21st Century Fox said later that it was aware of harassment allegations against him. O'Reilly had settled multiple cases, including one for \$32 million. Twenty-First Century Fox said O'Reilly, who was forced out in April, had assured the company he had "settled the matter personally."

O'Reilly denied allegations of sexual misconduct and said he settled to protect his children. Hurd denied harassment charges and noted HP never found any evidence of it. Thomas repeatedly denied the harassment allegations made against him.

What's different

"For decades, women found that this (harassing) behavior often was the price of coming to work. It was entrenched, with high performers getting a free pass," says Noreen Farrell, executive director of Equal Rights Advocates, a San Francisco-based legal support organization that focuses on women's issues.

The recent avalanche of sexual harassment accusations has hit men across an array of industries, including entertainment, tech, media and finance.

Social media helped fuel this revolution, allowing women to take their stories to the masses and often creating a public groundswell against some of the accused, said Wall Street veteran Sallie Krawcheck, CEO of female-focused financial planning and investment firm Ellevest.

"Women have a means today to tell these stories and to reinforce each other's stories and support each other's stories and support each other in a way that didn't exist when this happened to me," said Krawcheck, former CEO of Smith Barney and Merrill Lynch Wealth Management.

She recently described her experience with sexual harassment in her book *Own It: The Power of Women at Work*, describing how at Salomon Brothers, her investment bank colleagues placed photos of male genitalia

on her desk every day in the late 1980s. The harassers never faced any consequences for their behavior, she said.

Harassment and gender bias claims were common in high finance.

For example, Smith Barney paid out \$150 million to resolve disputes with women who were allegedly mistreated in the 1990s, several years before Krawcheck joined the company.

One Smith Barney employee was accused of constructing a party room in the basement of a New Jersey branch office that he dubbed the "Boom Boom Room," where male employees would joke about harassing women who complained about mistreatment.

The fact that many women have had their reputations smeared while men accused of harassment continued in their careers "just shows where women are in the power hierarchy," said Anne Vladeck, an attorney who represented Anucha Browne Sanders, the New York Knicks executive who accused Thomas of sexual harassment. "And that's why you see repeat offenders."

'Imbalance of power'

Faced with a potential he-said, she-said duel with powerful male superiors, as well as the potential for their careers to implode, many women in the workplace have taken cash in exchange for total silence sealed by non-disclosure agreements. In some cases, they were bound by arbitration clauses not to say anything.

"This is the definition of an imbalance of power," says Brad Hoylman, a New York state senator who is pushing legislation that would void contractual provisions when pursuing legal remedies for harassment.

"We've seen time and time again that in a sexual harassment case, it is the executive who benefits while the employee is often dismissed, leaving in their wake co-workers who then may face the same unacceptable behavior," he says.

In years past, allegations of misconduct or harassment against business executives often did not see the light of day.

Among those that did, it was not uncommon for the men involved to take a slight detour before continuing their careers — often to great success.

Contagious

CONTINUED FROM C1

dreau, chief medical officer of Beverly and Addison Gilbert Hospitals in Massachusetts and one of the first to study the spread of infectious disease on aircrafts.

When airlines serving the USA carried a record 932 million passengers, and the global total reached almost 3.7 billion, the GAO's report found numerous examples of poor coordination on communicable diseases.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officials complained that the information on sick passengers they receive from airlines and the control tower is often incomplete or inaccurate.

Cleaning crews said cabin staff sometimes fail to inform them when a plane has been contaminated by blood, vomit, feces, saliva and other potentially infectious bodily fluids.

Airline workers complained about the cleaners; one said, "Cabin cleaners sometimes use the same towels to clean potentially infectious materials and later to clean food service equipment such as coffeemakers."

Lisa Rotz, CDC associate director for global health and migration, conceded that stopping diseases from spreading via air travel is a huge challenge. Even passengers who know they are sick often board planes rather than postponing plans.

"I would say it's difficult to prevent completely," Rotz said, "but there are a lot of things we can do to mitigate."

ABOUT THIS PROJECT

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reporter Mark Johnson studied the growing threat posed by diseases that jump from animals to humans during a nine-month O'Brien Fellowship in Public Service Journalism at Marquette University. Marquette University and administrators of the program played no role in the reporting, editing or presentation of this project.

The Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, which funds international reporting on underreported topics, provided support for this series of stories.

Corrections & Clarifications



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Trump's Muslim retweets test 'special relationship' with U.K.

Gregory Korte
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — British Prime Minister Theresa May admonished her U.S. counterpart Thursday for promoting anti-Muslim videos on Twitter from a far-right political group she called "a hateful organization."

Speaking from Jordan during a trip to the Middle East, May said the United Kingdom has worked with the United States to combat terrorists "from whatever source they come."

"The fact that we work together does not mean that we're afraid to say when we think the United States have got it wrong, and to be very clear with them," May said. "And I'm very clear that retweeting from Britain First was the wrong thing to do."

May's comments were her most extensive since President Trump retweeted a series of unverified videos depicting what appeared to be violence carried out by Muslims.

Trump tweeted at May directly Wednesday night: "Don't focus on me, focus on the destructive Radical Islamic Terrorism that is taking place within the United Kingdom. We are doing just fine!"

The episode is the latest incident to test the close working relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom that has bound presidents and prime ministers of different political parties for decades.

The Cold War-era concept of a "special relationship" — a term coined by Prime Minister Winston Churchill in 1946 — was built around nuclear weapons, special operations forces and intelligence, said Tim Oliver, who studies trans-Atlantic relations at the London School of Economics.

"That core has long been protected from fallings-out between presidents and prime ministers," he said. "Trump, however, is pushing it to its limits."

London Mayor Sadiq Khan, a Muslim who has clashed with Trump, called on May to cancel her invitation for Trump to visit the U.K. "Many Brits who love



President Trump and British Prime Minister Theresa May speak at the NATO summit in Brussels on May 25. POOL PHOTO BY MATT DUNHAM

"The fact that we work together does not mean that we're afraid to say when we think the United States have got it wrong."

Theresa May
British Prime Minister

America and Americans see this as a betrayal of the special relationship between our two countries. ... It's increasingly clear that any official visit from President Trump to Britain would not be welcomed," he said on Twitter.

The videos originated with Jayda Fransen, the deputy leader of Britain First, who posted them with the captions "VIDEO: Islamist mob pushes teenage boy off roof and beats him to death!"; "VIDEO: Muslim Destroys a Statue of Virgin Mary!"; "VIDEO: Muslim migrant beats up Dutch boy on crutches!"

White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said she didn't think the president knew who Fransen was when he promoted her videos. "But he knew

what the issues were," she said.

"I think what he's done is elevate the conversation to talk about a real issue and a real threat, which is extreme violence and terrorism," Sanders said.

After the videos spread, the Netherlands Embassy in Washington protested that one of the videos is misleading: "Facts do matter. The perpetrator of the violent act in this video was born and raised in the Netherlands. He received and completed his sentence under Dutch law."

Muslim groups condemned the videos as hate speech and said they could lead to more violence against Muslim Americans who are targeted for hate crimes.

The conservative British prime minister again denounced Britain First on Thursday.

"It seeks to spread division and mistrust among our communities. It stands in fundamental opposition to the values we share as a nation: values of respect, tolerance and — dare I say — just common British decency," May said. "British Muslims are peaceful. They're law-abiding people who themselves have been victims of acts of terror by the far right."

Lawyers: Ex-Trump aide Paul Manafort strikes bail deal

Brad Heath
USA TODAY

Lawyers for President Trump's former campaign chairman Paul Manafort said Thursday that they reached an agreement with prosecutors to free him from house arrest until his trial on federal money laundering and conspiracy charges.

In exchange, Manafort would promise to give up \$11.65 million worth of real estate — including homes in the Hamptons and Palm Beach, Gardens Fla. — if he violates the conditions of his release, his lawyers wrote in a court filing on Thursday afternoon. The agreement, which still needs a judge's approval, would also allow Manafort to shed a GPS tracking device.

"This amount is a substantial portion of the Defendant's assets accumulated over a lifetime of work," wrote lawyers Kevin Downing and Thomas Zehnle.

Manafort and one of his associates, Rick Gates, have been largely confined to their homes since Oct. 30, when special counsel Robert Mueller unsealed indictments charging them with money laundering and conspiracy. The case was the second prosecution to come from Mueller's investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.

U.S. District Judge Amy Jackson still must approve the request. Jackson has said she was concerned that both men posed a flight risk because their extensive overseas connections.

In the days after they were charged, lawyers for both Manafort and Gates expressed confidence that they would quickly be freed on bail. But they ended up sparring with prosecutors for nearly a month over precisely how much money they would have to put up to secure their release pending trial, as well as where the money would come from.



Paul Manafort

TELEVISION

Burnett glad to have this time together

Icon is back with old friends in 50th anniversary special

Bill Keveney
USA TODAY

A good comedy bit is timeless, as *The Carol Burnett Show* has proven for a half-century.

The legendary performer offers a sampling of the iconic musical-comedy variety hour's greatest hits Sunday with *The Carol Burnett 50th Anniversary Special* (CBS, 8 ET/PT), a two-hour show taped in early October.

"When we were showing the clips, which are some 45, 50 years old, the studio audience was in hysterics," Burnett, 84, tells USA TODAY. "It holds up. Funny is funny."

That audience was dotted with celebrities, as was the stage, where Burnett was joined by co-stars Vicki Lawrence and Lyle Waggoner and performers who grew up as fans, including Amy Poehler, Kristin Chenoweth, Maya Rudolph and Bill Hader. (The comforting reminiscence bumped into today's news as Kevin Spacey, who performed in a musical segment, was edited out after accusations of sexual misconduct arose weeks later.)

Longtime fans of the Emmy-winning *Burnett*, which ran from 1967 to 1978, will enjoy rewatching the classics — including movie send-ups of *Gone With the Wind* and *The Postman Always Rings Twice*; "The Family," with Lawrence as Mama; and the farcical pairing of Mrs. Wiggins (Burnett) and Mr. Tudball (Tim Conway, who couldn't make the taping) — but Burnett was pleased with how well those clips played with first-time viewers.

"When we were rehearsing and showing clips, there were these young cameramen who were screaming with laughter, because they hadn't seen some of this stuff. I got the biggest kick out of that," says Burnett, whose show still draws viewers on DVDs, MeTV and YouTube.

The anniversary celebration also includes tributes to the late Harvey Kor-



Carol Burnett, center, is joined in the special by, from left, Bill Hader, Maya Rudolph, Amy Poehler and Tracee Ellis Ross.



"The Carol Burnett Show" cast featured Burnett, front center, and, left to right, Tim Conway, Vicki Lawrence and Harvey Korman. PHOTOS BY CBS

man and to costume designer Bob Mackie, who appears in the special. He came up with 65 outfits each week for everyone from Burnett to the show's dancers. "We did the math," she marvels. "He designed a little over 17,000 costumes in 11 years."

The shows elaborate costuming, dancers and extensive musical performances are one reason why Burnett thinks it has been so hard for more recent prime-time variety shows to replicate her success.

"You couldn't do what we did today, because of the costs," she says.

The idea of a woman fronting a musical-comedy variety show was unusual at the time, and Burnett only got the chance because of an unusual clause in her contract.

"They said it was a man's game — Sid Caesar, Dean Martin, Milton Berle — because it hadn't been done. But that doesn't mean it couldn't be done," the trailblazing performer says.

Burnett, who travels for fan Q&As and has an upcoming Netflix unscripted comedy series, *A Little Help With Carol Burnett*, got a kick out of singing her signature theme with Harry Connick Jr., who was born the day of the show's premiere: Sept. 11, 1967.

"I said, 'Will you join me?' And he said, 'I've been waiting 50 years to do this,'" she says. "How often does that happen?"

Probably about as often as we get a *Carol Burnett Show*, a program fans still enjoy spending time with nearly 40 years after it officially said "so long."

JIM NABORS, 1930-2017

Singer, 'Gomer Pyle' star dies in Hawaii at 87

Bill Keveney
USA TODAY

Goodbye, Gomer.

Jim Nabors, who created one of TV's beloved comedic characters, Gomer Pyle, died Thursday in Hawaii at the age of 87, his personal assistant, Charisse Gines, confirmed for USA TODAY.

The entertainer, who underwent a liver transplant in 1994 after contracting hepatitis B, died peacefully at his home after his health had declined for the past year, his husband, Stan Cadwallader, told The Associated Press.

"Everybody knows he was a wonderful man. And that's all we can say about him. He's going to be dearly missed," said Cadwallader, who married Nabors in early 2013 in Washington state.

The Alabama native had a long career that featured TV and movie roles, more than two dozen albums and numerous concert appearances, including long-running shows in Las Vegas and Hawaii, which became his home in the 1970s. He bought a 500-acre macadamia ranch there.

Nabors was best known for his role as the sweet, gentle Marine in the title role of *Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.*, a CBS comedy that was a top-five hit during its five-season run in the 1960s. Gomer's dust-ups with his hard-nosed superior, Sgt. Carter (Frank Sutton), were the heart of the show, and the character's trademark exclamations — "Well, Golllll-ly!" and

"Shazam!" — became familiar to millions.

The University of Alabama graduate moved to Los Angeles as a young man, taking a job as a film cutter at NBC. In his spare time, he acted and sang at a Santa Monica cabaret theater, The Horn. Andy Griffith saw him there and later offered him the chance to audition for the role of Pyle, the innocent gas station attendant on *The Andy Griffith Show*. The character's popularity led to the later spinoff.

After *Pyle* ended, Nabors hosted his own variety show, *The Jim Nabors Hour*, which ran for two seasons. He also was a guest on other variety hours, including *The Carol Burnett Show* and *The Sonny and Cher Show*.

On the big screen, Nabors had roles in three films starring his friend, Burt Reynolds: *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Stroker Ace* and *Cannonball Run II*. He received a star on The Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1991.

On the music side, Nabors launched a successful career with his distinctive baritone. The public got a taste of it when he sang on *Andy Griffith*. Over the years, he released 28 albums and had five gold and one platinum record.

He also lent his voice to the Indianapolis 500, making his rendition of *Back Home Again in Indiana* a staple of the annual race since 1972. He sang the song for the last time at the Indy 500 in 2014.



Jim Nabors released 28 albums and was a staple at the Indianapolis 500. MIKE FENDER/USA TODAY NETWORK

MUSIC REVIEW



Miguel is back with fourth album "War & Leisure," out Friday. FRED DUFOUR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Miguel mixes politics, pleasure on 'War & Leisure'

Patrick Ryan
USA TODAY

On his fourth and latest album, Miguel comes into his own.

Ever since his commercial breakout with second effort *Kaleidoscope Dream*, the silky-voiced 32-year-old crooner has drawn comparisons to Marvin Gaye, Babyface and Prince — artists he repeatedly has expressed admiration for while also trying to carve out his own sound, distinct from his R&B forefathers.

"Being a reminder of Prince is a huge compliment," he recently told the U.K.'s *The Sun*. "It's a bit of both being flattered, but like, 'Hey, there's more.' Hopefully that's enough to get you to listen more and go, 'OK, I see where he's different.'"

War & Leisure (★★★☆☆), out Friday, goes a long way in staking Miguel's claim as a singular artist, delivering more of the soulful, sultry jams that made *Adorn* and *How Many Drinks?* early hits, while also wading further into the Jimi Hendrix-inspired psychedelia that pervaded 2015's *Wildheart*.

Album opener *Criminal* is an intoxicating wash of slippery funk guitars and punchy drums, while stoner anthems *Told You So* and *Harem* coat thick bass lines with fuzzy electronics. Lyrically,

he lets loose on the knowingly goofy *Sky Walker*, throwing out references to *Star Wars* and *Top Gun*, and coyly reminding potential bedmates that he smiles "like a saint with a sinner's mind."

While these encapsulate the "leisure" part of the album's title, "war" also bleeds into the music, with political commentary sprinkled throughout its 12 tracks. The disarmingly breezy *Banana Clip* offsets its amorous lyrics with references to "missiles in the sky" and "terror on my mind," giving the song a tinge of gloom in light of recent news. Stopping in for *Come Through and Chill*, guest rapper J. Cole applauds Colin Kaepernick's national anthem protest while denouncing police brutality and political ignorance. ("Trump saying slick (expletive) / manipulating poor white folks 'cuz they ignunt.")

Miguel closes out *War & Leisure* with the most overtly political track, woozy guitar ballad *Now*. He explained to *Billboard* that it's his imagined conversation with President Trump about hurricane victims, Dreamers and immigrants — groups he's passionate about, having protested with immigrants rights advocates just last month. "CEO of the free world now / build your walls up high and wide," he sings, imploring the president to not teach children hatred but to instead sort through their differences.

It's equal parts stirring and uplifting, showing an artist who is unafraid to use his voice as he continues to evolve.

Table with columns for channel, time, and program details. Includes sections for LOCAL CHANNELS, CABLE CHANNELS, and various TV shows like 'Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.', 'The Walking Dead', and 'Blue Bloods'.

'Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.' begins 5th season

BY KEVIN McDONOUGH

Coulson and his team find themselves lost in space on a mysterious ship as 'Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.' enters its fifth season with a two-part story.

'S.H.I.E.L.D.' arrives after the departure of 'Marvel's Inhumans,' one of the worst-reviewed and least-watched series of the season.

Since the debut of 'S.H.I.E.L.D.' back in 2013, ABC has seen the arrival and departure of 'Marvel's Agent Carter' and the crash landing of 'Inhumans.'

Freeform begins its 25-day countdown to Christmas with 'National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation' (7:05 p.m.) and 'Elf' (9:15 p.m.).

The CW puts 'Jane the Virgin' and 'Crazy Ex-Girlfriend' on the shelf to offer the 2000 special 'Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer' (8 p.m.).

Raven-Symone and Issac Ryan Brown host 'Disney Parks' the subsequent unraveling of four families.



Chloe Bennet, left, stars as Daisy Johnson and Clark Gregg as Phil Coulson in the 'Orientation (Part One)' fifth season premiere episode of 'Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.' airing at 8 p.m. today on ABC.

Presents a Disney Channel Holiday Celebration (8:30 p.m.), featuring performances by Dove Cameron, Sofia Carson, Asher Angel, Milo Manheim and Meg Donnelly.

On the Hallmark Channel, where Christmas lasts three months a year, there are re-heated offerings of the 2017 romance 'The Mistletoe Inn' (8 p.m.) and 'The Most Wonderful Time of the Year' (10 p.m.) from 2008.

Netflix begins streaming the German-language supernatural mystery 'Dark' (TV-MA), a tale about the disappearance of two children and

the subsequent unraveling of four families. Netflix also begins streaming the 2017 documentary 'Voyeur' (TV-MA), based on a disturbing 2016 New Yorker article by Gay Talese.

CULT CHOICE

John Wayne, Geoffrey Deuel, Forrest Tucker, Christopher George and Ben Johnson star in the 1970 Western 'Chisum' (8 p.m., Outdoor).

Forrest Tucker, Christopher George and Ben Johnson star in the 1970 Western 'Chisum' (8 p.m., Outdoor).

TONIGHT'S OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Jane fights a demon from her past on 'Blindspot' (8 p.m., NBC, TV-14). The battle moves west on 'The Exorcist' (9 p.m., Fox, TV-14). Shedding skin sparks concerns on the fifth season

opener of 'Body Bizarre' (9 p.m., Discovery Life). Baez suffers an accidental overdose on 'Blue Bloods' (10 p.m., CBS, TV-14). A sordid tale of a Wyoming mother's disappearance opens the second season of 'Married With Secrets' (10 p.m., ID, TV-14). HBO premieres the six-episode stand-up showcase 'All Def Comedy' (10 p.m., HBO, TV-MA), produced by Russell Simmons.

LATE NIGHT

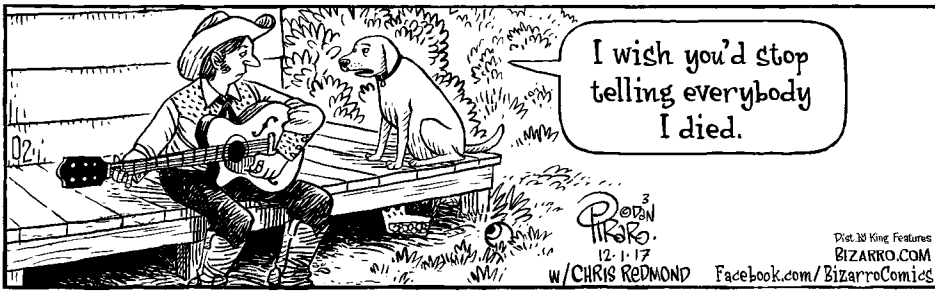
Carol Burnett and Lewis Black are on 'The Late Show With Stephen Colbert' (11:35 p.m., CBS). Jimmy Fallon welcomes Queen Latifah, Freddie Highmore and Sam Smith on 'The Tonight Show' (11:35 p.m., NBC). Mark Hamill, Andy Serkis, John Boyega, Oscar Isaac, Laura Dern, Adam Driver, Daisy Ridley, Gwen Christie, Kelly Marie Tran, Domhnall Gleeson and Rian Johnson appear on 'Jimmy Kimmel Live' (11:35 p.m., ABC). Amy Sedaris, Greta Gerwig and Jessie Reyez visit 'Late Night With Seth Meyers' (12:35 a.m., NBC, r). Kristen Bell, Dianna Agron and Gary Clark Jr. on 'The Late Late Show With James Corden' (12:35 a.m., CBS, r).

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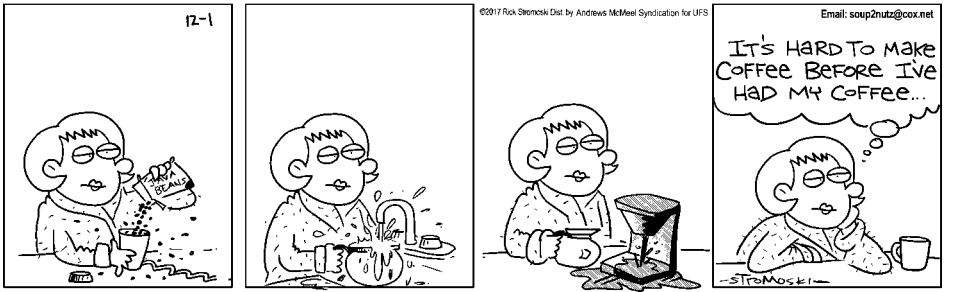
Southern Lakes Therapy advertisement including address (297 W. Boyce St., Manning, SC), phone number ((803) 433-9001), and a list of physical therapy services.

The Item's Annual Fireside Fund 2017-18 advertisement. Includes the text 'DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF TOMMY MIMS', a donation form with fields for name, address, phone, and amount, and checkboxes for 'IN MEMORY OF', 'IN HONOR OF', and 'ANONYMOUSLY'.

BIZARRO



SOUP TO NUTZ



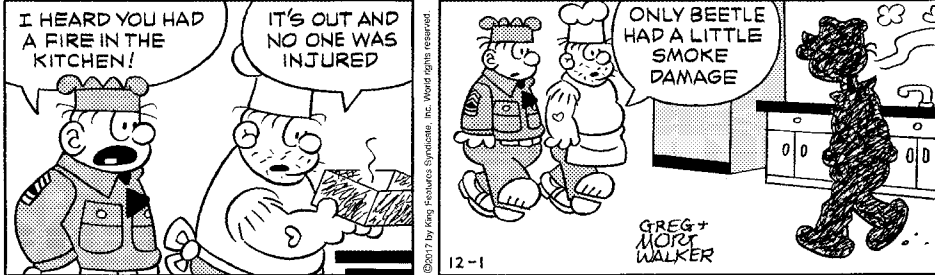
ANDY CAPP



GARFIELD



BEETLE BAILEY



BORN LOSER



BLONDIE



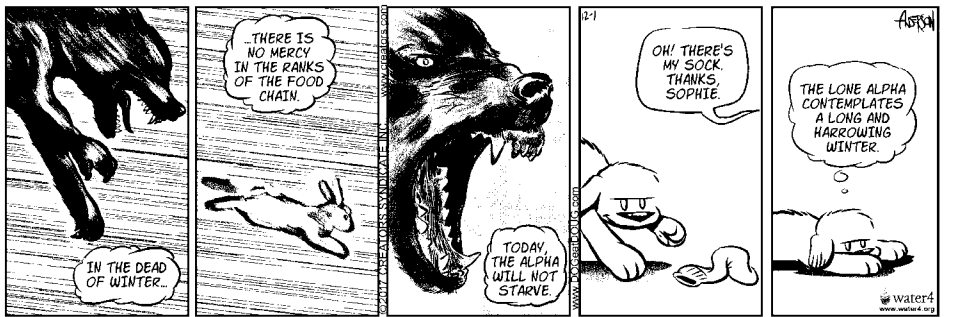
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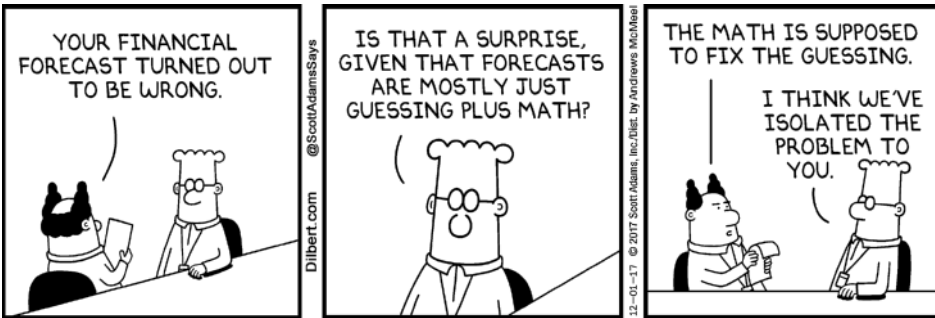
MOTHER GOOSE



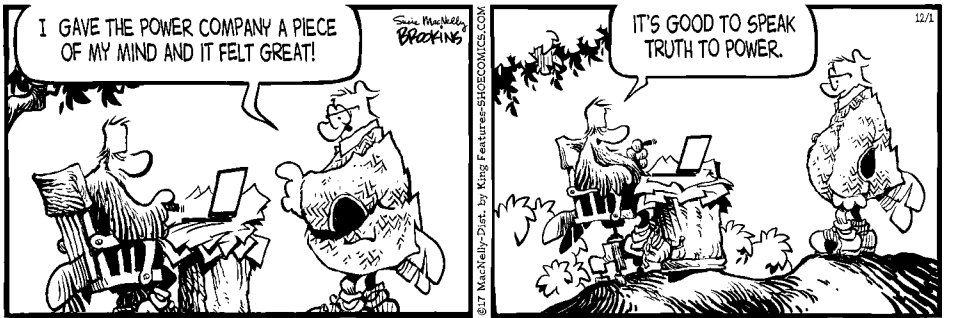
DOG EAT DOG



DILBERT



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE



Memories of molestation cloud thoughts of future



Dear Abby
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY — I'm almost an adult now, starting to think about having children and a good marriage of my own. But I have a disturbing childhood memory I have never been able to erase.

When I was 6 or 7 and staying at my grandparents' house and my grandmother would go outside to check the mail or water the flowers, my grandfather would try to put his hands on my private parts. He wouldn't speak a word to me EVER, even if she was around. In fact, I'm quite sure I never witnessed him say anything at

all to anyone. But as soon as Grandma was out of sight, well, that was his chance to put his hands on me, then laugh when I tried to wiggle away. Recently, after I remembered those episodes again, I tried to bring this up with my mom in order to get her support. Abby, she reacted as if there was something really wrong with ME or that I was lying!

Not surprisingly, I don't want that man around my future children. I have no real relationship with him. I know this memory isn't something I just imagined or made up "to embarrass the family." What should I do in reference to Mom's response?

Moving on from the past

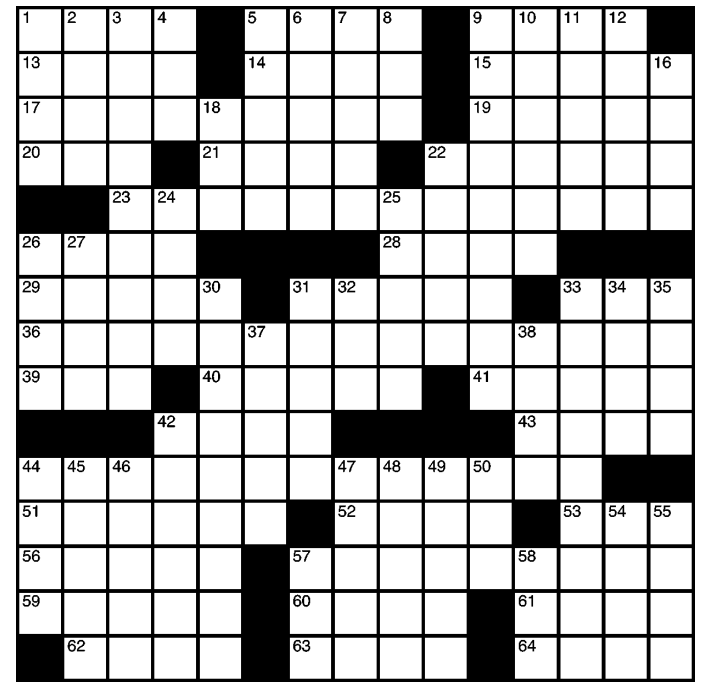
DEAR MOVING ON — In reference to your mother's response

when you told her her father molested you when you were little, conclude that the same thing likely happened to her. You should also conclude that, if that's the case, she knew what he was capable of and did nothing to protect you. For that reason, your grandfather should not be allowed to be around your children — or any children, for that matter.

Because of the seriousness of what happened to you, it would be a good idea for you to contact R.A.I.N.N., the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network. Its website is rainn.org and the toll-free phone number is 800-656-4673.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

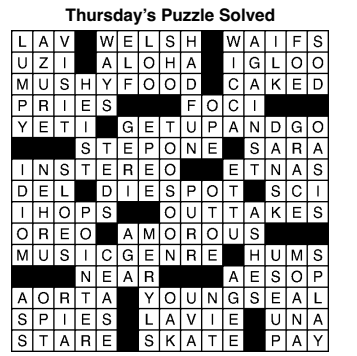
THE DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



By Jeffrey Wechsler

12/1/17

- ACROSS**
- 1 Qualifier for a hall entry?
 - 5 Excuse descriptor
 - 9 Med. recordings
 - 13 Over, in much Twain dialogue
 - 14 "___ my way"
 - 15 Relatives of windsocks
 - 17 Hugo character memorably portrayed by Charles Laughton
 - 19 Fuming
 - 20 Uncle ___
 - 21 Risk pieces
 - 22 Type of large TV
 - 23 With 36- and 44-Across, what 17-Across might have said when his job became too repetitious?
 - 26 Sitarist Shankar
 - 28 Metal sources
 - 29 Important part of a whale's diet
 - 31 Feigned
 - 33 Many an IRS employee
 - 36 See 23-Across
 - 39 "Got it now?"
 - 40 Parts of Walmart work uniforms
 - 41 Frodo's home, with "the"
 - 42 Gentlemen
 - 43 Actor Omar
 - 44 See 23-Across
 - 51 Lengthy account
 - 52 Participate in a race, maybe
 - 53 Fluoride-touting org.
 - 56 Blazing
 - 57 17-Across' workplace
 - 59 Problems electric razors should prevent
 - 60 Avoid getting into deep water?
 - 61 "Lobster Telephone" artist
 - 62 "___ who?"
 - 63 Monthly Roman calendar occurrences
 - 64 Turned yellow, perhaps
 - 9 What superheroes seek to thwart
 - 10 Gold fitness units
 - 11 Grind
 - 12 "They ___ up!": scapegoat's cry tone
 - 16 Alteration target
 - 18 Infamous Amin
 - 22 Intrinsicly
 - 24 Rank partner
 - 25 Doesn't do much
 - 26 Classic movie theaters
 - 27 "Alfred" composer
 - 30 Red state?
 - 31 Broadway choreographer for "Chicago"
 - 32 PC key
 - 33 Cuts into, with "at"
 - 34 Cop's collar
 - 35 Iowa college town
 - 37 Jones or Gilliam of Monty Python
 - 38 Passé pronoun
 - 42 Impertinent in tone
 - 44 PBS "Mystery!" host Cumming
 - 45 LP players
 - 46 Erie Canal city
 - 47 More than fear
 - 48 Circumflex cousin
 - 49 Doesn't do much
 - 50 Satisfied
 - 54 Editor's mark
 - 55 Like much of New Mexico
 - 57 Md. airport serving D.C.
 - 58 Not quite right

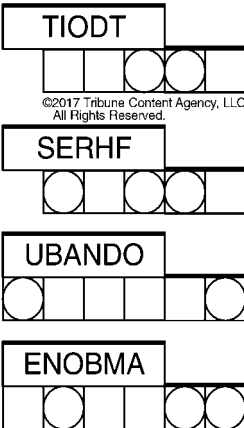


JUMBLE

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.



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

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CROAK SIXTY KERNEL RATHER
Answer: The stone wall would eventually get finished, in spite of the — ROCKY START

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

The answers to today's puzzles can be found on today's Daily Planner page.

the
Sumter ITEM

*Faith
Today*



Jesus can make this your best Christmas ever



I can remember growing up as a child and the anxiety that continued to build throughout the holiday season. The closer it got to Christmas, the more excited I became, until by Christmas Eve, I could hardly stand it.



David Day

Part of me wanted to go to bed that night, while the rest of me wanted to pull an all-nighter.

Finally, when Christmas morning arrived, I jumped out of bed and rushed to the den to see if all my waiting and anticipating had paid off. Some years it did, and at other times I was sorely disappointed. (Oh to be a child again and be able to relive those days, at least the ones when “Santa” showed up with the right toys.)

Without a doubt, Christmas is a time for waiting and anticipating. So, what are you waiting for and anticipating this Christmas? Are you expecting some-

thing special this holiday season? The Bible speaks of two who were longing to receive a particular blessing from the Lord. One was a man named Simeon; the other was a woman named Anna. Both of them were eagerly waiting and looking for something special.

Luke 2:25 says that Simeon “... was waiting for the consolation of Israel.” Things had not been going very well for Israel. They had lost their political independence and were living in fear of the Roman government, wondering if the Messiah would ever come. But Simeon had hope and for good reason. He had been assured that he would not die until he had seen the Lord’s Anointed One. No doubt this had to be comforting! Can any of you identify with Simeon?

Luke 2:36-38 says that Anna “... was looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.” Like Simeon, Anna was also waiting and anticipating. She was look-

ing for grace and forgiveness. Therefore, when Anna saw Jesus, she gave thanks to God. At last, the One who would save His people from their sins had arrived. How many of you can identify with Anna?

Perhaps you are troubled right now. Or maybe you’re feeling lonely, empty or afraid. It’s possible you are plagued with guilt because of something you’ve done or the way you’ve been living or feeling like you’re trapped in a pattern of sin that you can’t break out of. If so, then take heart and wait no longer because you can find what

you’re looking for in the Lord.

Yes, Christ came to comfort and console you, regardless of how you’re feeling or whatever your situation in life may be. So, beloved, if you need God’s grace and forgiveness, then look no further, because Jesus can give you such a gift and make yours the best Christmas ever.

Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas.

David W. Day is the pastor at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Sumter.

Jesus fits absolutely perfectly in today’s world

Like most of us, there’s a part of me that has lost a little faith in humanity over the past couple years. I know that’s not the best way to start a “faith” piece, especially over the Christmas season. But hold on — we’ll get to that.

In the real world, we as people have taken some significant steps backward in our simple capacity to just do life properly. I won’t belabor this, but here are a few examples. We’ve somehow lost much of our ability to disagree with people without calling them names or trying to humiliate them and their point of view. “Civil discourse” has become painfully uncivil. The recent instances of sexual harassment cases

by celebrities and politicians have made prime-time news almost unsuitable to watch with your family. It’s no longer even shocking.



Mike Yoder

Terrorism has tragically become a normal occurrence. We no longer gasp when we hear. Trust in government, and those who run it, is at the lowest it has been in my lifetime.

Depressed yet? Feeling that Christmas spirit? Well here’s some profound news — Jesus would fit absolutely perfectly here. How do I know? Be-

cause it’s exactly the kind of setting into which He chose to enter. Paul’s letter to the Galatians has this powerful statement: “But when the fullness of time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman...” Fullness of time? That means at just the right time. It was perfect.

Here’s just a tick of historical setting for you. First-century Israel looked a whole lot like we look now. The Zealots were a group of Jews who so violently opposed Roman thought and rule that they tossed “civil discourse” out the window. They wouldn’t even come to the table to talk. Sexual harassment? It was so commonplace and accepted that it wouldn’t even be called “harassment.” Middle-

school history taught us the Roman Empire was filled with rampant immorality. And the Jews who opposed Rome weren’t exactly Puritans! Terrorism? We’ve seen a lot, but not even close to the spectacle of Rome crucifying hundreds of criminals very publicly along the streets to attempt to shut down any threat of insurrection. And the trust in government — the Jews *hated* the government they were under and anyone who sided with Rome. Trust wasn’t even on the radar.

And *that* is the context Jesus chose to enter! It was just like here — only worse (for now). But it was perfect! Because hope, joy, peace and love were offered in abun-

dance by One who understands oppression and pain and heartache. He fit perfectly in first-century Israel because He brought light and truth and compassion, and the Way of Jesus literally changed our world. He fits perfectly here and now as well, and quite honestly I need to change, too. I can’t point a finger at a world I live in without recognizing my truth without God in it doesn’t look all that different. There is no darkness in the world or in my heart that the light of Christ cannot brighten. He’s perfect! For us! Right now!

Mike Yoder is the lead pastor of Christ Community Church in Sumter.

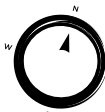


Real Christmas

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

at ALICE DRIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	SUNDAY
DEC 23	DEC 24	DEC 24
7 PM	4 PM	7 PM



ALICE DRIVE

baptist church



Taking the next step in my walk with Christ

“Suck it up, buttercup,” is what I told myself as I approached my pastor, Drew Choate, on a recent Sunday afternoon at an event at Harmony Church.

I wanted to be baptized, and the time was now. It had crossed my mind a few times in the past, but I guess this time, the Lord was trying to tell me something. After a brief conversation with Pastor Drew congratulating me on my decision to publicly declare my faith, I felt a wave of relief and joy sweep over me.

I've been a believer since I can remember. As a child, I spent Sunday mornings in church, usually with my head on my Granny's shoulder, drifting in and out of sleep. During my teenage years, I didn't go to church as much, but my faith never left me. When it was time to walk down the aisle, I wanted Pastor Drew to officiate, so he counseled me and my soon-to-be husband, and then we took the big jump.

Fast forward to about two

years ago. I've got two young children, a husband, a household to maintain, a full-time job and an internal battle with depression that I can't seem to get a grip on. What do I do? I bow my head and talk to God. And that was the best decision I could have made.

I got back in church. I got my kids in church. Sometimes, I get my husband in church. And this time around, I really listen. Now I pray for the Lord to guide me in the way He wants, not the way I want. Now I thank the Lord for all I have instead of just coming to him with my problems. And now, I don't worry as much because I put that energy into a conversation with God. It's a conscious decision, but it's in my conscience to make that decision because I have a relationship with the Lord, and I'm so much better for it.

But now I wanted to make it official, so to say.

So I sat in the tub of water in front of the congregation and talked about how I wanted to set an example for my family and prove to them that my relationship with Christ is the most important thing in my life. Because of that, I can be a loving and supportive wife, a fair mother and a good daughter. I wanted my church family to know that I will be in Heaven when my time comes because I know Jesus died for me on the cross and the blood he shed has washed my sin away.

Then I was under water, and

before I knew it, I was crawling out of the tub to the applause of church members.

And I was grinning from ear to ear. Without thinking, I hugged my pastor, even though there was not a dry spot on me. Somehow, I don't think he minded too much.

As nervous as I was to stand

in front of such a large group, I overcame that fear because it was something I was being called to do. And in the process, I've learned that prayer is powerful.

So now, at the age of 35, I'm a baptized woman who can hopefully show the world around me what it's like to live as a

Christian. I will fail, and there will be bad days, but with the love of Jesus in my life, I can't be defeated.

Jessica Stephens works as an editor and designer for The Sumter Item. She is a wife, mother of two boys and proud USC Gamecock.



Jessica Stephens



PHOTO PROVIDED
Pastor Drew Choate holds my hand right before baptizing me Nov. 5 as Pastor Lee Brown holds the microphone.

3 Christmas Programs

Dec. 10 (6:30 PM)
Christmas Music Service
 (various vocal & instrumental selections performed by members of Sumter Bible Church)

Dec. 17 (6:30 PM)
Cantata: The Journey of Christmas
 (performed by the church choir)

Dec. 18 (7:00 PM)
 performed by
Sumter Christian School

Elementary Choir All 3 Bands

AND MORE **Sumter Bible Church**



420 South Pike West
 Sumter, SC 29150
 Ron Davis, Pastor
 (803) 773-8339



SUNDAY SERVICES:
 10:00 Sunday School for all ages
 11:00 A.M. Worship hour
 6:30 P.M. Worship hour

Call 773-1902 about enrollment
www.sumterbiblechurch.org
www.sumterchristian.org

Trinity United Methodist Church

226 West Liberty Street; Sumter, SC 29150
 Senior Pastor: Reverend Joseph James, Jr.
 Minister of Education: Reverend Angela Marshall

Special Events

December 3rd	3:00 pm	Festival of Choirs presented by the Woman's Afternoon Music club
December 8th, 9th & 10th	6:00 - 8:00 pm	The Living Christmas Story (A Drive-Thru Bethlehem Experience)
December 17th	8:45 am	Bluegrass Christmas Worship
	11:00 am	Children's Music Ministry: Christmas Program (During 11:00 am Worship)
	5:00 pm	Trinity Choirs present: Classic Christmas followed by Lessons and Carols
December 24th	11:00 am	One Worship Service Sunday School at 9:45 am
Christmas Eve	5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Worship
December 31st	11:00 am	One Worship Service Sunday School at 9:45 am

JOIN THE JOURNEY

The Living Christmas Story
 December 8th, 9th & 10th
 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Morning Worship: Sunday at 8:45 am & 11:00 am | Sunday School at 9:45 am

Spread word of good news about Christ of Christmas

A little boy in a Christmas program at his church had but one sentence to say: "Behold, I bring you good tidings." After the rehearsal, he asked his mother what tidings meant. She told him it meant "news."

When the program was put on, he became stage-struck and forgot his lines. Finally, the idea came back to



James Blessingame

and retell it at Christmastime every year. It not only gives us purpose, but it also reminds us of the love of

him and he cried out, "Hey, I got news for you!"

In Luke 2:11, we read, "Unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." As believers, we cherish Luke's account of the birth of Christ

God, who gave his only begotten Son. It is a story of love, a story of giving, a story of sharing. People of faith find inspiration in the Shepherd's response.

It gives us guidance and suggestions on how we should act and react to divine inspiration.

As people of faith, we believe that the fulfillment of the promises of God is good news worthy of sharing. As the shepherds did on the cool, crisp night, we should likewise with energy and excitement be willing to engage others in the story of our

Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

In all of our busyness to prepare for the celebration of Christmas, we sometimes forget the real reason for the season. We can become guilty of crowding out the Christ in Christmas. May we spread the word like the shepherds did concerning the Good News about the Christ of Christmas.

The Rev. James Blessingame is pastor of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Sumter.

Make worship integral part of the season

FROM METRO

The hustle and bustle of the often hectic holiday season can make it easy to overlook religion during this special time of year.

Come the holidays, adherents of Judaism celebrate Chanukah while many Christians celebrate Christmas. Though different, the two holidays share some similarities.

In celebration of Chanukah, families gather for an eight-day commemoration to honor the rededication of the Second Temple of Jerusalem and a miracle in which a small amount of oil illuminated a menorah for eight days. Perhaps because it falls during the holiday season, Chanukah has become one of the most well-known Jewish celebrations, even for those who do not adhere to the Jewish faith.

For devout Christians, Christmas isn't about eggnog and Santa Claus. Christmas (Christ's Mass) is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, who Christians believe is the son of God. Christmas is a day of great joy in the Christian faith because it marks the beginning of Jesus' time on earth.

Both Chanukah and Christmas, while joyous celebrations, are laced with solemnity. The Second Jewish Temple was desecrated by Greek-Syrians, who had erected an altar



to Zeus and sacrificed pigs within its sacred walls. At this point, Jews had to practice their faith in secret, reading the Torah underground and using dreidels to simulate games and confuse Greek soldiers. However, the Jews, led by a small group of rebels known as the Maccabees, per-

severed, marking the joy of Chanukah for years to come.

The period leading up to Christmas known as Advent is a time for repentance and preparation for the grace and miracle of Jesus' birth. According to *Christianity.com*, the word "advent" is derived from the Latin word "adven-

tus," meaning "coming." Advent is a time to both reflect on the past and look forward to the future. Much like Lent, Advent is intended to be a season of fasting, prayer and reaching out to God.

During the holiday season, houses of worship customarily host prayer sessions and

special holiday-related events. The faithful are encouraged to participate in these events in celebration of their faith.

Prayer can help remove distractions during the holiday season, helping individuals reconnect with the true meaning of the holiday season.



Popular dreidels thought to be used to fool Greeks

FROM METRO

Dreidels are especially popular during the eight-day Jewish festival of Chanukah. Even though they may seem like novelty items for children, dreidels have a rich and interesting history.

In ancient times, Greek Syrians infiltrated areas where many practicing Jews resided. Over time, the Greek Syrians became more oppressive and tried to convert the Jewish people to their pagan beliefs. However, their efforts were not very successful.

As a result, the Greek Syrians established laws that outlawed ritual commandments and the study of the Torah.

It is widely believed that Jewish people used dreidels to fool the Greeks into thinking they were

just playing a game. Instead, rolls of the dreidel corresponded to numerical equivalents that could represent elements of the Jewish faith, according to *My Jewish Learning*.

Others say the dreidel was a distraction. Children of Israel would learn the Torah in outlying areas and forests. When Greek patrols were nearby, the children would hide their texts and take out dreidels instead, according to *Chabad.org*.

Today the dreidel is a token of the Chanukah miracle. In Israel, the letters upon the dreidel are Nun, Gimel, Hay and Pay, which stand for the Hebrew equivalent of "a great miracle happened here." Outside of Israel, the last letter is Shin, which transforms the phrase into "a great miracle happened there."

Add obedience, faithfulness, grace, humility, praise to your checklist

Christmas list: check. Travel plans made: check. Menu for Christmas dinner: check. Husband delegated to get tree: check. Kids' pictures with Santa: check. Party invitations mailed: check. Strategy for dealing with strange relatives: in process.

This time of year, Santa is not the only one making a list and checking it twice. Even kids have a list: "What can we buy for Mom and Dad at the Dollar Tree?" Right now, I have three lists on my desk: one for tomorrow, one for shopping, one for work.

Imagine Mary and Joseph's list for Christmas.

Unexpected messages from angels: check. Imagine being 14 and 16, the probable ages of Mary and Joseph. You're betrothed. An angel appears to Mary. It's the last thing she expected. "You're going to have a baby who will save the world," the angel says. In a moment of supreme trust, she says, "I'm God's servant. Let His will be done." Obedience: check.

Then she goes away for a few months. Joseph misses her until she comes back. She's got a baby bump he didn't put there. He's beyond hurt. He decides to quietly divorce her (the only way to break an engagement in those days). Then an angel appears to him. "Joseph," the angel said, "Don't divorce Mary. God's up to something in this baby. Call him Jesus." Jesus means "God saves." Joseph believes. Obedience, husband version: check.

Trip with pregnant woman: check. Just when things couldn't get any crazier, a far-off Roman emperor puts a whole empire in motion. Mary and Joseph knew, as did all Israel, that the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem, the city of David. Imagine them trying to figure out a reason for a trip to Bethlehem. Imagine them laughing when they heard the news an empire had been turned upside down just for them. Then imagine Mary walking to Bethlehem (no mention of a donkey in the real Bible story). Imagine any pregnant woman willing to walk 90 miles so the Son of God could be born in the right place. Imagine Joseph being a newlywed husband but under

instructions from God not to do what every newlywed husband wants to do. Faithfulness: check.

Place to stay: check, sort of. They tried to find a decent place for the Messiah to be born. Everything was jammed. The place they expected to stay couldn't even offer them a corner of the floor. Instead, they went out back to the barn. Jesus started as an outcast before he even made his entrance into the world. I wonder if Mary and Joseph felt like they were letting God down by not arranging things better? Humility: check.

Strangers dropping by to visit: check. The night Jesus was born, the shepherds stopped by. With wonder in their eyes, they described an angel speaking to them and then a heavenly choir of tens of thousands singing. The noise must have been thunderous. With a song ringing in their ears, they went to find Jesus. They praised God that the lowly and outcasts had been included. Grace: check.

The wise men showed up, too. No one is sure how much time had passed. It could have been anywhere from two weeks to two years. These were the brightest of the bright, the most scholarly of scholars. The shepherds brought their wonder. The wise men brought gifts of honor. Gold, frankincense and myrrh were gifts for a king. Praise: check.

What if God wanted you to have a Christmas list like the people of the first Christmas? What if on your list there were obedience, faithfulness, humility, grace and praise? Maybe Christmas wouldn't be just a holiday to complicate your life; maybe it would become an event to change your soul.

Clay Smith is lead pastor of Alice Drive Baptist Church of Sumter.



Clay Smith

Open yourself to the peace of God

Every year around this time, I overhear folks sharing these all-too-familiar words: "I'm so busy!" Although Christmas is supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year, we do our best making it the most frantic and exhausting time of year. As we prepare for the hope of Emmanuel to



Nick Cheek

visit us, I find it fascinating that we do so by rushing, overloading our calendars, spending a ridiculous amount of money and spreading ourselves so very thin. It's curious.

And he shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Prince of Peace."

When did Jesus ever say he wanted us to celebrate his birthday by adding a gazillion things to our calendar or by putting a significant dent into our checking accounts?

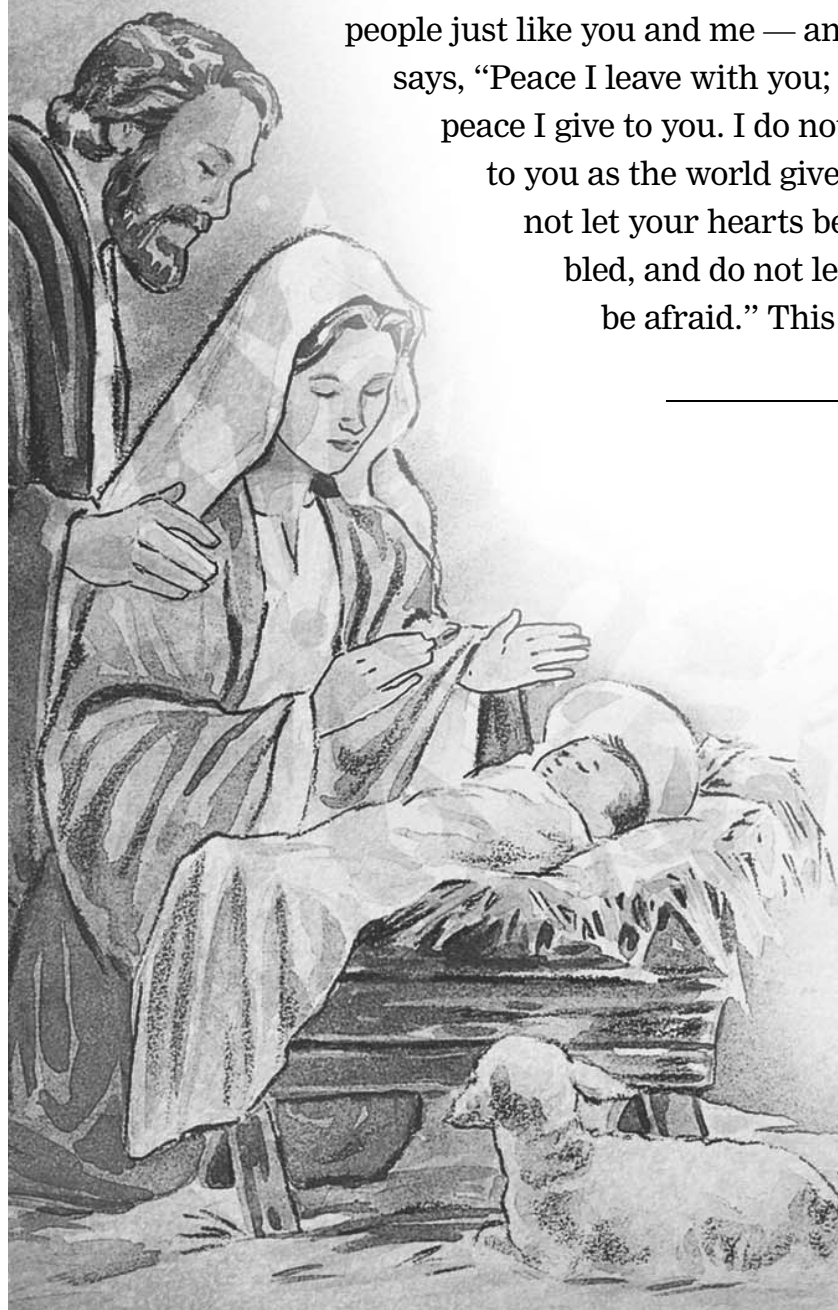
In the Gospel of John, Jesus reminds us of one of the most important reasons he came to earth in the first place. Toward the end of his earthly ministry, he turns to his disciples — to people just like you and me — and says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." This time

of year often brings with it anxiety and worry about many things. Getting everything accomplished while trying to please everyone in our lives is an impossible mission.

Maybe it doesn't have to be this way. In the middle of a hectic and consumer-driven season, the Prince of Peace invites us to embrace the exact opposite. Jesus summons us to slow down, pause and embrace the peace that comes through moments of stillness — cuddling with your children during a holiday movie, enjoying a date night with your spouse or partner, listening to grandma or grandpa read the Christmas story to your kids or even holding tightly onto the hand of a loved one who is feeling sick or alone. Reconnecting with loved ones while eating, drinking and being merry can also be a source of peace and joy during this season. There are countless moments of peace to experience this Christmas, but the truth is, we may need to make a little room here and there for the Prince of Peace to find his way into our lives.

As we walk closer and closer to the manger this Christmas, may you open yourself moment by moment to the peace of Emmanuel, God with us.

Nick Cheek is the pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Sumter.



Christians are the world's largest religious group

FROM METRO

According to the Pew Research Center, Christians were the largest religious group in the world in 2015. In the 2017 report, "The Changing Global Religious Landscape," the Pew Research Center states that there are roughly 2.3 billion Christians in the world. That figure translates to slightly more than 31 percent of the world's population. Muslims (1.8 billion) make up the world's second-largest religious group in 2015, accounting for nearly one-quarter of the world's overall population of 7.3 billion. Pew researchers project that Muslims will be the fastest-growing major religious group between 2015 and 2060, followed by Christians, Hindus and Jews, respectively. That might be because so many subscribers to the Muslim faith are young. In fact, Muslims have the youngest median age (24) of any of the world's major religions, meaning many Muslims have their child-bearing years ahead of them. The median age for Christians is 30, which could be why the Christian population is not expected to grow as significantly in the coming decades as the Muslim population.

What is Holy Communion?

FROM METRO

Some people, including young children preparing to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion, may be confused by what it is all about. Children may mistakenly think that receiving Holy Communion is a singular event. But First Holy Communion is only the beginning of a potential life-long commitment to Jesus Christ.

WHAT IS HOLY COMMUNION?

Christians believe that Holy Communion is the receiving of Jesus Christ through the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. The Eucharist is comprised of bread and wine, although some denominations believe that it is not necessary to receive the Lord's body and blood in each, instead feeling that Christ is present fully in either the bread or wine.

Catholics believe that through the process of transubstantiation the bread and wine before the priest be-

comes the body and blood of Christ. According to catechism and the liturgy, as soon as the Institution Narrative begins, the Lord is present in the elements of bread and wine.

The institution of Holy Eucharist occurred during the Last Supper. As stated in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Jesus instructed His followers to use bread and wine to remember the sacrifice He was going to make when He died on the cross for people's sins.

A CONTINUOUS ACT

While much fanfare is understandably afforded to First Holy Communion, Christians receive the Eucharist every day at church services all over the world. Receiving communion is not a singular act. People recognized that every time they gathered around a table to eat and drink, it provided an opportunity to recognize and thank Jesus.

Adults can reinforce this concept to children by explaining that receiving Com-

munion each week at Mass is just as special as receiving it that first time in spring.

CELEBRATION NOT AN OBLIGATION

Although the Church advises all Christians to receive communion when free from mortal sin and with the right intentions, Holy Communion should not seem like an obligation. Rather, individuals can view it as a celebration and an opportunity to reconnect with Jesus each time they receive the host. Make the process more exciting for children by explaining that Holy Communion is a party and a happy endeavor. According to the religious resource CatholicCity, the only time people are obligated to receive Holy Communion is during Easter and when in danger of death.

Holy Communion is an opportunity to enter into an intimate union with Jesus Christ, who Christians believe provides holiness and grace to all who are willing to receive Him.

High Hills Missionary Baptist Church

Invites you to Worship

Sunday School 9:00am
Worship Service 10:15am
Wednesday Prayer Service & Bible Study
7:00pm - 8:00pm

December Special Services

12/3 Holy Communion after 10:15 Morning Worship
12/16 Christmas Program/Fellowship Dinner at noon
12/31 Watch Night Service at 10:30pm

Everyone Welcome!

Pastor Donald Amis



6750 Meeting House Road
Dalzell, SC
499-2311



Beautiful stained-glass windows are visible from the exterior of Temple Sinai.

Rich Jewish history evident in Sumter

BY ELIZABETH MOSES
Special to The Sumter Item

Sumter has a rich Jewish history. Like many others, Jews arrived in South Carolina seeking the freedom to practice their faith without persecution. The 1669 Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina allowed “Jews, heathens and other dissenters” the right to do this. The first Jewish settlers moved to Sumter from Charleston about 1815 and by the mid-1800s were involved in a range of businesses as well as being active in civic and military service.

Before there was a synagogue building, the Jewish settlers had formed two organizations. The Hebrew Cemetery Society was formed and land purchased for a cemetery in 1874. The Sumter Hebrew Benevolent Society was organized by 1881. Shortly thereafter, the two groups merged, and in 1885, the group formally became known as The Sumter Society of Israelites, the official name of present-day Congregation Sinai. Congregation Sinai, or Temple Sinai, built in 1913, is on Church Street. The temple’s construction is unusual, with its Moorish design and large, uniquely crafted stained-glass windows.

There are three major branches of mainstream Judaism: Orthodox, Conservative and Reform. They share many beliefs but differ in some practices. They have services in English as well as Hebrew and include music in their services. Every synagogue and congregation worships differently. Shortly after its establishment, Congregation Sinai formally affiliated with the Reform Movement.

Jews believe in one God but not in a Holy Trinity. All three branches of Judaism share a common belief in mitzvahs (good deeds) and moral and ethical behavior. Judaism is founded on a belief in monotheism and that the Torah forms the basis of their way of life. The Torah contains the five books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. The Jewish Sabbath (Shabbat) begins on Friday at sundown and continues until Saturday after sundown. It is an important Jewish holiday.

In the past several decades, dwindling numbers in Temple Sinai’s congregation have led its members to consider long-term planning for the building itself, if the day comes when the congregation is no longer viable. In a new partnership with the Sumter County Museum, an ideal solution has been reached. Temple Sinai still has a small but active congregation. In the new partnership, the congregation members continue to use the temple sanctuary to conduct Friday night and holiday services. However, the museum will use the adjoining social hall to create a permanent exhibit about Jewish history in South Carolina and Sumter. This exhibit will also include a large section devoted to the Holocaust and Sumter’s ties to the Holocaust. The new facility is named the Temple Sinai Jewish History Center, Sumter County Museum, and is slated to open to the public in the spring of 2018.

Holidays around this time of year, including Hanukkah (also spelled Chanukah), the eight-day Jewish festival which

celebrates the Maccabean victory over the armies of Syria in 165 B.C.E.

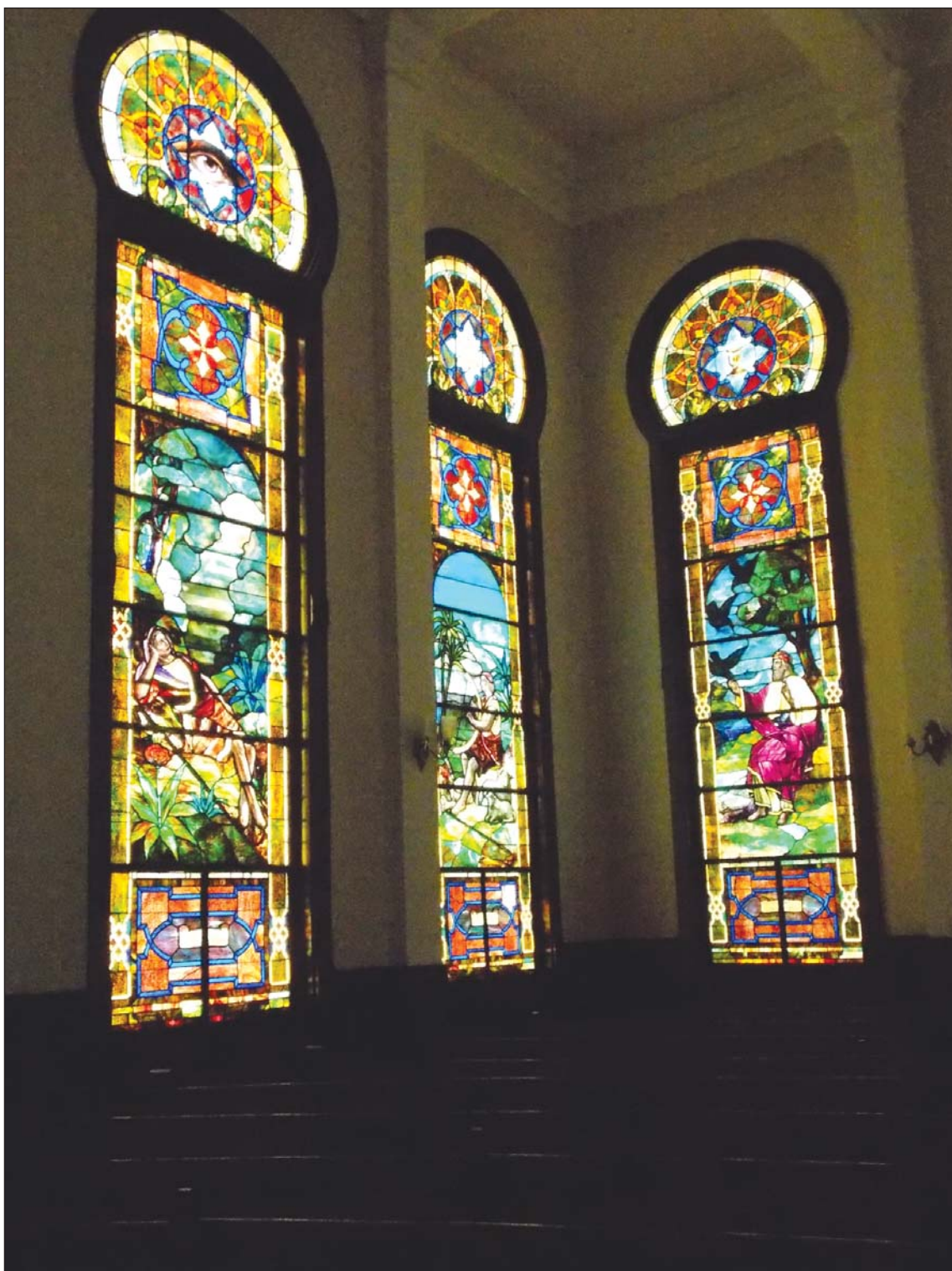
Understandably, Hanukkah receives a lot of attention because it often falls near Christmas. However, even though it is a much-beloved festivity, Hanukkah is actually considered a minor Jewish holiday. This year, Hanukkah is celebrated

from Dec. 12 through 20. Traditional foods eaten during Hanukkah include latkes (potato pancakes) and jelly doughnuts. Family and friends also gather to play

the game of Dreidel, which involves spinning a top (the dreidel) and players take a chance of winning the “kitty” — chocolate coins (called gelt), nuts, fruit and other small objects. It’s all for fun.

LEARN MORE

For further information contact Elizabeth Moses at emoses@sumtercountymuseum.org or (803) 775-0908, www.sumtercountymuseum.org and visit us on Facebook.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

This interior view shows some of the temple windows made of drapery glass, a special technique which shows 3-D effects. Temple Sinai is on Church Street and was built in 1913.

These sponsors of Faith Today, do so with the hope that more people will attend the church or synagogue of their choice on a weekly basis.

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Caroling can be a great way to spread holiday cheer. Although carols are often a blend of religious and secular tunes, many people find their faith is revitalized by joining their friends and neighbors to carol during the holiday season.

How to pray the rosary

FROM METRO

Religious milestones can be fun and memorable and are commonly celebrated with family and friends. Children typically receive gifts upon fulfilling the sacraments, such as First Holy Communion or the sacrament of confirmation.

Rosaries are popular religious gifts, and some churches or religious education departments give rosaries as part of their own commemorations of these significant events.

Devout Christians may amass quite a collection of rosaries — from simple plastic rosaries to more ornate gem-enhanced alternatives — and never really put them to use. But reciting the rosary is an important way for Christians to express their faith, and families can make such expressions by reciting the rosary together.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops says the rosary is a Scripture-based prayer that begins with the "Apostles' Creed," continues with the "Our Father" and then the "Hail Mary." "Glory Be" is prayed at the end. The first prayer summarizes the great mysteries of the Catholic faith. Praying the "Our Father" introduces each mystery from the Biblical Gospels. Finally, the "Hail Mary" announces the birth of Christ.

In addition to the prayers, saying the rosary includes announcing the Divine Mysteries of Contemplation. These include the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous mysteries. There are five mysteries for each cate-

gory. These mysteries are usually prayed on particular days of the week.

When getting started, you may not be familiar with the rosary. But with practice, you soon will have the repetition of prayers set to memory.

- To begin, hold the rosary in your hand at the crucifix. Make the Sign of the Cross and start with the "Apostles' Creed."

- At the first bead, say the "Our Father."

- The next three beads are where you recite the "Hail Mary."

- At this point on the chain, pray the "Glory Be."

- On the next bead announce the mystery; then say the "Our Father."

- Pray the "Hail Mary" for the next 10 consecutive beads, while also meditating on the recited mystery.

- At this point in the chain, pray the "Glory Be" again.

- After that prayer is complete, then recite "Hail, Holy Queen."

The 10 "Hail Marys" that follow the announcing of each mystery are called a decade. There are five decades that make up a Chaplet of the Rosary. You can choose to pray the five decades (including announcing all of the mysteries) in one sitting or do so on different days.

Reciting the rosary is intended to lead the faithful into calm, restorative and contemplative prayer. It can be an ideal way to remove stress and fully immerse oneself in faith while growing a stronger connection with God.



Faith plays role in Americans' desire to give, serve

BY DAVID KING

Indiana University-Purdue University
Indianapolis, The Conversation

After Thanksgiving, Americans turn their attention to shopping with Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday as well as holidays such as Hanukkah and Christmas. However, this is also the time for giving.

In recent years, nonprofits have sought to capitalize on this attention both on shopping and giving with Giving Tuesday. Last year, this global day of giving raised more than \$177 million online. The bulk of all giving — about 31 percent — comes at the end of the year, and individuals are likely to receive scores of requests on Giving Tuesday and through the end of the year.

HOW DO DONORS MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR GIVING?

For the majority of Americans, it turns out that faith plays a leading role in their desire to give and serve. This is where I focus my research.

Philanthropy and religion — Let's first look at available data to understand how much giving is tied to one's faith.

According to Giving USA, the leading annual report of philanthropy in America, religious contributions, narrowly defined as giving to houses of worship, denominations, missionary societies and religious media, made up 32 percent of all giving in America in 2016.

Another study found that 73 percent of all American giving went to a house of worship or a religiously identified organization.

Many of these organizations make up the world's largest NGOs. For example, three of the top 10 biggest charities by total revenue last year, the Catholic Charities, Salvation Army and National Christian Foundation, are explicitly religious. Religious agencies make up 13 of the top 50 charities in the U.S.

It is true that factors such as wealth, income, education and marital status are all predictors of giving. But religious belief and practice are one of the best predictors.

Overall, religious Americans volunteer more, give more and give more often, not only to religious but secular causes as well. Among Americans who give to any cause, 55 percent claim religious values as an important motivator for giving.

WHAT RELIGIONS TELL US

These values of giving are deeply rooted in the texts, traditions and practices of many faiths. Take, for example, the messages within the three Abrahamic faiths.



In Judaism, the Hebrew Scriptures refer to "tzedakah," literally meaning justice. Tzedakah is considered a commandment and a moral obligation that all Jews should follow. The commitment to justice places a priority on their giving to help the poor. Beyond giving just time and money, rabbis even spoke of "gemilut chasadim," literally meaning loving-kindness, or focusing on right relationship with one another as the prerogative of religious giving.

Even more broadly, an ancient Jewish phrase, "tikkun olam," meaning to repair or heal the world, has been adopted by many religious and secular causes. Former President Obama often referred to the phrase. So did past President Bill Clinton and 2016 presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. Former President George W. Bush hinted at a vision of tikkun olam in his second inaugural address.

Similarly, the Christian tradition has considered giving a key religious practice. Many Christians still look to the Hebrew Bible and the tithe, which involves giving one-tenth of an individual's income, as God's commandment.

In the New Testament, Jesus not only spoke of giving a tithe, but also challenged followers to give far beyond it. For instance, in the Gospel of Matthew Jesus told the rich

young ruler to sell all his possessions. Pursuing those values, a long monastic tradition has seen men and women taking vows of poverty to give themselves to the work of their faith. Today, while the tithe might not be practiced by a majority of Christians, most understand the practice of giving as a central part of their faith.

For Muslims, giving is one of the five pillars of Islam. "Zakat" (meaning to grow in purity) is an annual payment of 2.5 percent of one's assets, considered by many as the minimum obligation of their religious giving. A majority of Muslims worldwide make their annual zakat payments as a central faith practice.

Above and beyond the required zakat, many Muslims make additional gifts (referred to broadly as "sadaqa"). Interestingly, the word shares the same root as the Jewish "tzedakah," meaning justice. Muslim giving also focuses primarily on the poor.

Of course, charitable giving is not just for the rich. For those with no money to give, the Prophet Muhammad considered even the simple act of smiling to be charity, a gift to another.

BUILDING A COMMUNITY

Religious traditions are clear that the value of giving does not simply rest with those re-

ceiving the gift. Givers themselves benefit. As sociologist Christian Smith makes clear, there is a paradox to generosity — in giving we receive and in grasping we lose.

At the same time, the goal of religious giving is not just about what it brings to individuals. Rather, it is more a focus on human interaction and a vision of community.

Perhaps most famously, the 12th-century Rabbi Maimonides outlined eight levels of giving — the lowest being giving grudgingly and the highest to sustain, but also to empower a person to no longer need charity.

Maimonides made clear it is not so much the amount of giving but how one gives that is important in establishing a relationship between the giver and the recipient. Giving should avoid humiliation, superiority and dependence.

When it comes to much of humanitarian work and social services, religion is often the greatest asset. Whether fighting AIDS, malaria or poverty, the development and nonprofit community has realized that the success of local programs so often turns on the support of the local faith community. The engagement of the local religious leader and a willingness to interact with his or her religious vernacular is essential.

Just a few years ago, the hu-

manitarian industry was convinced of the truth of this view when it found that a majority of the health care workers left on the ground in the midst of the Ebola crises were missionaries. Faith is the chief motivator for those both funding and serving at home and in some of the most difficult parts of the world.

CONNECTING WITH VALUES

In working through the mandate of various religious traditions toward the healing of the world and individual motivations to give, people might understand that they have more in common than perhaps they realize.

This could also help them reflect more intentionally on their contributions at the end of this year. Instead of simply giving as part of their routine this December, perhaps people should take account how their faith and values motivate their giving and the work of the nonprofits that they support.

In doing so, many might find their giving and connection to their faith, the faith of others and the work to which they have given acquire more meaning for them — at this time of the year and in the years to come.

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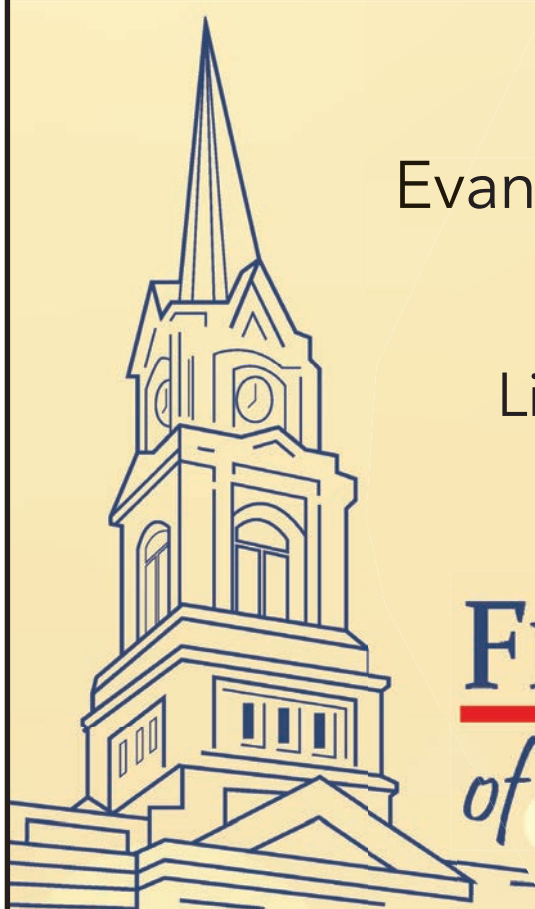
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