

## Obituaries & Nation



### Miriam Benefield

Miriam Anne "Tiggy" Benefield died at her residence on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017, at the age of 86.

She was born in Mullins, S.C., to the late James C. and Bonnie Coward Hooks. She graduated from Mullins High School and Coker College in Hartsville, S.C., where she was an outstanding athlete. After graduation, she taught general science and girls' high school physical education, and coached at high schools in Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Tiggy met her husband, Dewey Benefield, at Sea Island, Ga., and they were married in 1960. She had a gift for organizing and was the driving force behind the founding of Frederica Academy. She was especially pleased that her son Jim was the first student registered at Frederica Academy and her daughter Helen was the second. She has generously supported Coker College and Frederica Academy. In the 1960s, she was twice chairman of the St. Simons Cotillion. She was an organizer of the MAP Ladies' Auxiliary when that group came to Brunswick and was one of the principal fund raisers for CASA Glynn. She was also one of the organizers of the Sea Island Skimmers where she served as the first chairman.

As a member of the St. Simons Presbyterian Church, she was the first woman elder in the Savannah Presbytery.

Her hobbies included gardening, bridge, music, art and travel. She and her husband have visited all 50 states and five continents.

She was predeceased by her parents; and two brothers, James C. Hooks Jr. and William Thomas Hooks.

Survivors include her husband of 57 years, Dewey Benefield; a son, James "Jim" D. Benefield III and his wife Susie; a daughter, Helen Benefield Billings and her husband Don; her grandchildren, Elizabeth Riley Benefield Mattox (Dexter), Jackson Fitzgerald Benefield, Harrison Delaney Benefield (Ann) and Catherine Parker Benefield. Also surviving is her sister, Marjorie Hooks Bethea of Florence, S.C.; a sister-in-law, Ann Mace Hooks of Marion, S.C.; her two nieces, Bonnie Bethea Weeks and her husband Garner of Briarcliff, S.C., and Wellons Hooks Williams and her husband J.P. of Marion, S.C.; two nephews, Tom C. Bethea Jr. and his wife Dorothy of Dillon, S.C., and Dr. James Frank Bethea and his wife Linda from Isle of Palms, S.C. Four great-nieces and four great-nephews also survive.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the staff of Georgia NurseCare and Hospice of the Golden Isles.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 15, 2017, at St. Simons Presbyterian Church, with the Rev. Bob Bearley officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for memorial contributions made to Frederica Academy.

Arrangements are entrusted into the care of Edo Miller and Sons Funeral Home, [www.edomiller-andsons.com](http://www.edomiller-andsons.com).

### Leonard Pollane

Leonard Paul Pollane, of St. Simons Island, died Dec. 9 following a brief illness. He was 73.

Len was born June 10, 1944, in New York City, and raised in Miami Beach. He discovered his love of basketball when he attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. While there, he fell under the charms of the South and decided to make it his home. A math major and analytical by nature, he enjoyed using these abilities at the blackjack table when he was a young man. He also went on to earn an Ed.D in the area of applied statistics, research evaluation and design. In his professorial role at the University of Georgia he taught these subjects, supervised student research and published collaboratively with colleagues.

When he wasn't working on cerebral pursuits, Len would be swimming, running, biking, playing tennis or basketball. On the day he moved to St. Simons Island, he joined the health club and has exercised there almost daily ever since. "Embrace the sweat" was his encouraging advice to the unmotivated. In recent years, watches became a hobby. Len was known as the "Watch Guy" to many who came to him for help with repairs or band sizing or to locate a good quality watch. Len loved living in the village area where he could walk to the pier and to his regular table at Palm Coast. He enjoyed the give and take of an honest discussion, but was perfectly happy in his own company. March Madness was his favorite holiday. Having traveled enough in years past, he felt there was no better place to hang out than St. Simons Island. Len was a man who knew who he was and what he liked to do and he was living his good life right to the end.

Len is survived by his wife, Nancy Katherine Webb, who is sure goin' to miss him.

A gathering of friends is being arranged and will be announced.

Family-placed obituary  
The Brunswick News, December 14, 2017

### William West Sr.

Elder William "Buddy" West Sr., of Jones, died Dec. 3, 2017, at Coastal Manor.

The funeral service will be held at noon Saturday at First African Baptist Church Jones, with burial to follow in the First A.B. Cemetery. The body will lie in state one hour prior to the service at the church.

The family will receive friends from 2-7 p.m. Friday at Darien Funeral Home.

He is survived by his children Amanda Stevens, Betty (Leroy) Williams, Martha Johnson and Gail (Walter) Ross; 30 grandchildren; 44 great-grandchildren; 14 great-great-grandchildren; and other relatives.

Darien Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Family-placed obituary  
The Brunswick News, December 14, 2017

### Area deaths

Juelmarie Hill, of Brunswick, died Wednesday at Southeast Georgia Health System.

Arrangements will be announced by R.L. Jones and Sons Funeral Home.

### About obituaries

An American flag with an obituary indicates a veteran of the United States military.

If you have any questions, please call Alan Broz at 265-8320.

## Lt. Gov. Smith named to fill Franken seat

By KYLE POTTER  
Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton appointed Lt. Gov. Tina Smith on Wednesday to fill fellow Democrat Al Franken's Senate seat until a special election in November, setting up his longtime and trusted adviser for a potentially bruising 2018 special election.

Smith was widely seen as Dayton's top choice from the moment Franken announced his resignation last week. But her previous decision not to run for governor had raised questions about her appetite for a closely watched and expensive Senate campaign.

Smith said she is in and fully committed.

"I can tell you I shouldn't be underestimated and if I weren't confident I wouldn't be doing this," she said.

It's not clear when Smith will head to Washington. Franken, who resigned under pressure from his own party after he was accused of improper behavior by at least eight women, announced last Thursday that he would resign "in the coming weeks." His office hasn't set a final departure date yet; Smith indicated it would likely be in early January.

In a statement, Franken called his successor the perfect choice but didn't shed light on his formal resigna-



Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton listens to Lt. Gov. Tina Smith as she was named to replace fellow Democrat Al Franken in the U.S. Senate on Wednesday, in St. Paul, Minn. Franken announced his resignation last week amid growing sexual misconduct allegations.

tion plans, saying only that he would work with Smith to ensure "a speedy and seamless transition."

Smith will be the second Democrat on a path to the Senate in as many days, after Doug Jones' victory in Alabama in Tuesday's special election.

Smith, 59, served as Dayton's chief of staff for four years before ascending to become his No. 2 when his previous lieutenant chose not to join him in seeking a second term in 2014. Dayton has long treated Smith as an equal in the office, and it was that deference that fueled speculation she was being

groomed to succeed him.

Her path to politics was unconventional. A native of New Mexico, she graduated from Stanford and earned an MBA from Dartmouth. A marketing job with General Mills brought her to Minnesota, where she eventually started her own marketing and political consulting firm.

She managed Ted Mondale's unsuccessful campaign for governor in 1998, then ran the short-lived 2002 Senate campaign for his dad, former Vice President Walter Mondale. Smith served as chief of staff to Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak before eventually taking the same

job with Dayton in 2011.

Smith, a soft-spoken, smiling presence at the Capitol, is credited with quiet but key roles in the response to the 2007 bridge collapse in Minneapolis and in the building of a new Vikings stadium. Dayton made her his point person on a massive public-private partnership to work with Mayo Clinic on an ambitious expansion in Rochester.

Next year's race to fill the final two years of Franken's term is certain to be one of the nation's most closely watched and expensive, and Dayton was under pressure from fellow Democrats in Washington to ensure his pick would use the appointment as a springboard for that election.

Meanwhile, Republicans immediately floated former two-term Gov. Tim Pawlenty as a possible candidate, but many others were said to be weighing a race.

Republicans said Dayton's selection of Smith for the seat could upset voters.

"Minnesota voters deserve a senator who will look out for their best interests, not another DFL (Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party) insider handpicked by Mark Dayton," National Republican Senatorial Committee spokesman Michael McAdams said in a written statement.

## Justice Department confirms criminal probe in Uber case

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — A recent letter from the U.S. Attorney's office confirms the Justice Department has opened a criminal investigation connected to allegations that a former Uber executive stole self-driving car technology from a Google spin-off to help the ride-hailing service build robotic vehicles.

The letter unsealed Wednesday by a federal judge marks the Justice Department's first acknowledgement of the probe. The

criminal investigation was mentioned in court hearings two weeks ago, but the Justice Department had declined to comment. The U.S. Attorney's office in San Francisco unsuccessfully tried to keep its letter disclosing the investigation under seal to protect the probe's integrity.

The Nov. 22 letter didn't identify the targets of the investigation. Google spin-off Waymo has alleged former executive Anthony Levandowski stole its technology before he joined Uber last year.

## Fed rate increase is 3rd this year; foresees more in 2018

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve is raising its key interest rate for the third time this year and foresees three additional hikes in 2018, a vote of confidence that the U.S. economy remains on solid footing 8½ years after the end of the Great Recession.

The Fed said Wednesday that it's lifting its short-term rate by a modest quarter-point to a still-low range of 1.25 percent to 1.5 percent. It is also continuing to slowly shrink its bond portfolio. Together, the two steps could lead over time to higher loan rates for consumers and businesses and slightly better returns for savers.

The central bank said in a statement after its latest policy meeting that it expects the job market and the economy to strengthen further. Partly as a result, it expects to keep raising rates at the same incremental pace next year under the leadership of Jerome Powell, who will succeed Janet Yellen as Fed chair in February.

Chris Probyn, chief economist at State Street Global Advisors, said he was surprised that Fed officials upgraded their forecast for

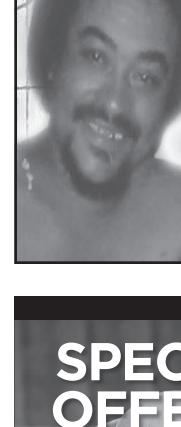
economic growth next year and lowered their forecast for unemployment yet signaled no additional rate hikes.

"They're saying, 'We're going to get more growth, we're going to get lower unemployment, but we're not going to respond to it with any more tightening,'" he said. "They are prepared to let the economy run a little hotter."

The Fed's action was approved 7-2, with Charles Evans, president of the Fed's Chicago regional bank, and Neel Kashkari, head of the Minneapolis Fed, voting no. Both preferred to keep the benchmark rate unchanged.

The central bank's message Wednesday departed little from its recent statements. It still stresses that it expects to keep raising rates gradually. Its projections for future hikes, based on estimates of 16 officials, showed that the median expectation remains three rate hikes in 2018, at least two in 2019 and two more in 2020.

By then, the Fed's target for short-term rates would have reached 3.1 percent — slightly above its estimate of a long-term neutral rate of 2.8 percent. That would mean the Fed would still be seeking to tighten credit three years from now.



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