



Health&Fitness
How to reach that finish line. Page D4

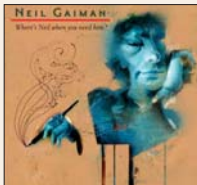
The State
COLUMBIA • SOUTH CAROLINA

LIFE & STYLE

TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2006 • SECTION D

MEDIA DAY

What's new in movies, DVDs, music and games



Tuesday's Tunes

Voltaire, Razed in Black and 15 other acts deliver songs inspired by the work of contemporary writer **Neil Gaiman** in "Where's Neil When You Need Him?" Singer/multi-instrumentalist **Lisa Germano** offers intense confessionals in "In the Maybe World." The U.K.'s **Ozric Tentacles** merge space-rock and techno in "The Floor's Too Far Away." Eighties dance-club hits "I Want Candy," "C30, C60, C90, Go" and "W.O.R.K." are collected on **"We Are the '80s: Bow Wow Wow."** An influential Jamaican dance-hall producer gets his due in **"King at the Controls: King Jammy's Essential Hits from Reggae's Digital Revolution (1985-89)."**

Tuesday's DVDs

"Tsotsi," the South African movie that won the Oscar for best-foreign language film of the year, tells the story of the violent life of a young Johannesburg gang leader. **Warner Bros. Pictures Tough Guys Collection** has films starring James Cagney, George Raft, Jane Bryan, George Bancroft, Edward G. Robinson and Humphrey Bogart. In its **"Film Noir Classic Collection, Vol. 3,"** you'll find the likes of Robert Mitchum, Robert Montgomery and Jane Russell. HBO's **"Camille — The Complete Second Season"** was as strange and interesting as its subject matter — a Depression-era carnival. Steven Spielberg was behind **"Amazing Stories — The Complete First Season."** The 1985 **"An Early Frost"** was the first television drama to tackle the subject of AIDS, while **"Sybil — 30th Anniversary Two-Disc Special Edition,"** starring Sally Field and Joanne Woodward, is the true story of a woman with 16 different personalities.

Video gaming

Mortar explosions, overhead aircraft and warning sirens help create the immersive **"WWII Combat Two Jims."** (XB) Use big plays, defensive stops and trick moves in **"NCAA Football 2007."** (XB360, XB, PSP) Gather the magical knowledge you need in **"Summon Night: Swordcraft Story."** (GB) Satisfy your thirst for combat as you explore the countryside in **"Blade Dancer: Legacy of Light."** (PSP) Experience key moments of the movie **"Monster House."** (GC, PS2)

— Los Angeles Daily News

Inside: Of a Certain Age

An opportunity to rejoice as a garden withers in the summer sun, **Page D2**



Coming Wednesday

Recipes for making the most out of a bountiful harvest in your herb garden, **LifeStyle.**

AT THIS MOMENT

They just click

Needles in hand, new friends fashion a close-knit group

By **ROBIN NALEPA**
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UNDER FUNKY paintings with titles like "Red Headed Snake Woman" and "Woman with Silver Comb," seven women sit in a loosely formed circle around three cafe tables. Yarn from bulging tote bags loops onto needles held chest high by each woman. Seven pairs of hands entwine both needles and yarn at varying speeds and combinations. Some in fits. *Knit, purl. Pause. Knit, purl. Knit, purl. Pause.* Others more rhythmically. *Knit, knit, knit. Purl. Knit, knit, knit. Purl.* Into one lap flows the beginnings of a tawny afghan. A green scarf with raised leaves takes shape in another. The movement stops only when stitches need counting or conversation becomes animated. "Congratulations," says Michelle Miller Shutt to Gao Williams, seated two chairs away. "Oh, thank you," Williams says. "What's that for?" asks Allison LoCicero, looking toward Williams and away from the sweater sleeve she's crafting. "I'm expecting" replies the petite young woman, flashing a big smile. Knitting stops. Congratulations follow.



Gao Williams, 31, works on a basic scarf during her second visit to the sewing circle.

PHOTOS BY JILL RICHARDS/JRICHARDS@THESTATE.COM

Then the rhythm begins again. *Knit, purl. Talk. Knit, purl. Talk.* And so it goes inside the cool bricked walls of House Coffee in West Columbia, where friends and friends of friends gather on Saturdays to "Stitch 'n Bitch" — which also is the group's official name.

LoCicero, 29, a skilled knitter, started the group in January after she unsuccessfully searched the Internet for a local knitters group.

Since then, the group has continued to grow. Miller Shutt, 38, discovered the group when she read LoCicero's blog (Web log), www.frecklesandpuris.com, which is dedicated to knitting.

Williams, 31, had been looking for friends since moving to Columbia from Chicago a year ago. She accompanied another stitcher, Amy Grossberg, 31, to the group on her first visit. And now Williams hopes to be a regular.

Sara Barber of Columbia is an original group member. Barber, 38, has two children and finds the group an enjoyable escape.

"A toddler and knitting don't go together very well," she says. Barber stitches rainbow-colored thread into a sweater for her 6-year-old daughter.

"She jokes that I've been making it since she was 4." The skill levels of the members vary. Some glance at patterns and memorize their stitches.

Roz McConaughy, 29, glances at index cards printed with stitching cues to keep her rows straight.

LoCicero reaches into a bag to show the group another project she is working on — an intricately stitched shirt.

"It makes me feel so inadequate," Miller Shutt says. "I have a dish cloth in my bag." Sometimes you take simple knitting so you can talk, Miller Shutt says.

Talking and knitting takes a certain level of skill, too, they all agree.

"Other times I

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Jennifer Falvey, 41, knits at House Coffee on State Street in West Columbia.



Michelle Miller Shutt, 38, discusses techniques and types of yarns.

Getting the zoo all ready for prime time

IF YOU FOLLOW TELEVISION AT all, you know the hottest show going is "Meerkat Manor," Animal Planet's breakout hit. The show details the lives of a meerkat family called the Whiskers, who live in Africa's Kalahari Desert.

While piling up rave reviews, the show, which airs Fridays at 8 p.m., has been called a cross between "Wild Kingdom" and "Dynasty" as well as a "soap opera with fur."

Heck, we'd call it a mix of "Survivor" and "The Osbournes" since it focuses on the things the meerkats



Talk of the Town
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eat, their struggles against rival clans, their family bickering, how they look out for one another and even their sexual hookups.

At any rate, it has us thinking about the possibilities for Riverbanks Zoo, especially given that the zoo

already has a couple of Web cams detailing animal activity. For a few years, the focus was on the koalas, but, apparently, their ratings hit the skids — sort of like those of "Joley" (the "Friends" character, not the kangaroo). So the zoo decided to put the spotlight on other animals that didn't sleep all day, starting with the penguins.

Zoo director Satch "Palmer" Krantz conceded the koala cam was "like watching paint dry," although a few dedicated koala watchers howled in protest when the koala cam was canceled.

The penguins, however, have been such a huge hit that they have their own Web cam devoted to them, with another camera now in place to showcase the other animals on a rotating basis for one month at a time.

"We have literally heard from people around the world who have stumbled onto this Web cam," said Krantz, who talked about a letter from a woman in Hawaii who had been awakened from her sleep by the screams of the penguins when she left her computer on one night.

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