

# A unifying moment in Sumter

With door open, action must be next step to heal past injustice

BY KAYLA GREEN  
kayla@theitem.com

In the ever-evolving protests against racism both systemic and individualized, when a gathering of different groups, different people and different agendas is often defined by the most dramatic moment, Sunday's march in Sumter achieved something different. The crowd came from different backgrounds, different denominations. From different ranges of the groups that have been in the news cyclically when a black person is killed by a white police officer and constantly since witnesses' videos revealed the final 8 minutes and 46 seconds of George Floyd's life as he pleaded for air under the knee of an officer who has since, after public outcry, been charged with second-degree murder.

They were preachers. They were police. They were young and old, black and white, and they stretched along Calhoun Street from Grace Baptist Church and swelled to cover the grounds in front of the old Sumter County courthouse on North Main Street for a short program after a largely quiet march. Most wore masks.

The mix of people across ages and races stood out to Robin Todt. She especially liked how many white people showed up.

A white woman herself and member of St. Jude's Catholic Church on West Oakland Avenue, Todt said it was her first time participating in a march or protest. Her mother heard about it and wanted to go, so Todt brought her and her 86-year-old Air Force veteran father.

"Things have just got to be different," she said.

Approaching the courthouse, one group conversationally chanted "No justice, no peace" during the march while most of the hundreds of participants chatted at inside-voice level. They seemed physically, spiritually, mentally as one. It was calm. Focused.

"George Floyd's death," Sumter Police Chief Russell Roark said during his turn to address the crowd, "was murder."

Many held signs. Kids played with forward momentum up Calhoun. A man walked as he flew a kite.

"It was just so great. That was just a really nice program," said Pommetha McGill-Rice of Worldwide International



SEE ACTION, PAGE A6

## Churches rally against racism



Candace and Arriel Smalls hold their fists in the air with others on Sunday outside the old Sumter County courthouse. Hundreds marched from Grace Baptist Church to the courthouse on Main Street to show solidarity and protest the killing of George Floyd, with church leaders emphasizing unity, the example of Jesus Christ and nonviolence.

PHOTOS BY MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

## Hundreds attend Sunday march led by Sumter pastors, police

BY BRUCE MILLS  
bruce@theitem.com

Spurred by recent events across the nation, a crowd of Christians rallied with police Sunday at the old Sumter County courthouse against racism and for non-violence.

At least 500 attendees — a mix of mostly black and white churchgoers

from numerous denominations across Sumter County — took part in the march from Grace Baptist Church on Calhoun Street to the downtown courthouse steps. It was there where several pastors emphasized all churches' unity and following Biblical principles and

the example of Jesus Christ as the solution to racial inequality and police brutality.

The march comes amid ongoing protests across the world and locally following the death of George Floyd, a black man who died at the hands and under the knee of a white police officer three weeks ago on May 25 in Minneapolis. The four officers in-



Hundreds marched from Grace Baptist Church to the old Sumter County courthouse.

involved in the incident were fired the next day. It took days and public outcry for Derek Chauvin, the officer who knelt on Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes as the handcuffed man pleaded for air, to be charged. The other three officers have also been charged, and Chauvin's murder charge has been upgraded from third- to second-degree.

The local march was an outcome of an impromptu gathering about two weeks ago of 68 Christian preachers from across Sumter County.

Longtime pastors the Rev. Marion Newton, senior pastor of Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church, and the Rev. Clay Smith, lead pastor at Alice

Drive Baptist, were conveners of the march and initially spoke at the rally, which lasted about 25 minutes after the march. Jehovah's congregation on South Harvin Street is predominantly black. Alice Drive Baptist, at the corner of Loring Mill Road and Wise Drive, is multicultural but majority white.

After singing from Shonda English, the Rev. Nick Cheek, senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church, led the program's prayer, and three younger pastors followed with brief messages. Sumter Police Chief Russell Roark and Sheriff Anthony Dennis also

SEE MARCH, PAGE A6

# Police disciplinary records are largely kept secret in U.S.

BY CLAUDIA LAUER  
and COLLEEN LONG  
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Officer Derek Chauvin had more than a dozen misconduct complaints against him before he put his knee on George Floyd's neck. Daniel Pantaleo, the New York City officer who seized Eric Garner in a deadly chokehold, had eight. Ryan



CHAUVIN

Pownall, a Philadelphia officer facing murder charges in the shooting of David Jones, had 15 over five years.

But the public didn't know about any of that until after the victims' deaths.

Citizen complaints against police across the U.S. are

largely kept secret, either under the law or by union contract — a practice some criminal justice experts say deprives the public of information that could be used to root out problem officers before it's too late.

In recent years, there have been dozens of examples of

### CONGRESS ACTS

Senate GOP to restrict police chokeholds in emerging bill A4

officers who had numerous complaints against them of excessive force, harassment or other misconduct before they were accused of killing someone on duty.

Confidentiality "makes it really tough for the public to know just who it is they are dealing with and to

know whether their department or any particular officer is one they would want out in the streets," said David Harris, a University of Pittsburgh law professor who studies police behavior.

While the U.S. considers ways to reform American policing following the sometimes violent protests that erupted

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Grace Barton Jordan  
Evelyn Lee Ihmle  
Milton Ortiz-Velez  
Johnna Elizabeth Thomas  
Brunhilde Loth Colclough  
Guelda Cortner Bryan  
Frances Ann Servance

Charron Rose  
Jenerette Phillip Dickson Jr.  
Bertie Mae LeGrant Cooper  
Merian E. Johnson Rose  
Vernon Lee Diggs Jr.  
Issa Farmer  
Bessie G. Mashore

Ethel Wright  
Deloris G. White  
John E. Singleton  
Annie H. McJunkin  
Ralph A. House Jr.  
Doris Deas Jones  
Curtis LeGrande Reed

Shamya Siani Randolph  
Elease McDuffie Gibson  
Calvin Davis  
Robin Yvonne I. Peterson

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## Study: Americans in their 30s most at risk for identity theft

### City of Sumter had 15 cases reported in 2019, 12 reported in county

BY SHELBY GOULDING  
shelbie@theitem.com

Near the beginning of the pandemic, coronavirus-related scams increased, and common scams included robocalls and fraudulent online vendors claiming to sell in-demand goods such as hand sanitizers and masks.

A major consequence for victims of these scams is money loss and identity theft, which has been on the rise for the past few years. According to an

analysis conducted by Construction Coverage, South Carolina was rated ninth in the country for most identity theft reports in the U.S. for loan and lease fraud, with neighboring states Georgia rated first and North Carolina rated 14th for loan and lease fraud.

The analysis showed that South Carolina recorded 10,851 identity theft reports in 2019. For every 100,000 residents, there were 213 identity theft reports in the state. The year-over-year change in identity theft reports was 71.2%.

In the city of Sumter, there were 15 identity theft cases reported in 2019, said Tonyia McGirt, public information officer for the Sumter Police Department. Since May 31, there have been five cases reported.

#### VIEW STUDY ONLINE

<https://constructioncoverage.com/research/identity-theft-reports-by-state>

The Sumter County Sheriff's Office has seen two cases reported so far this year, according to Deputy Adrienne Sarvis, public information officer for the sheriff's office. Last year, the county had a total of 12 cases reported.

Georgia leads the nation for identity theft reports with about 427 identity theft reports per 100,000 people and a total of almost 45,000 identity theft reports for 2019, according to Construction Coverage. All of the top 15 states

experienced an increase in identity theft reports from 2018 to 2019 with an average increase of about 58%.

Credit card fraud and loan or lease fraud were the most common forms of identity theft for states on the list, Construction Coverage said.

The analysis also showed that while people of all ages are at risk for identity theft, the FTC received the most identity theft reports for Americans aged 30-39. The ITRC said millennials are more willing to share their personal data online and are less fearful of their information being compromised than other age groups.

While other ages are also at high risk, there's a possibility that many cases of identity theft can go unreported or unnoticed.

## Sumter garden clubs deliver 550 begonias to Tuomey nurses

### SUBMITTED

Each year, the Council of Garden Clubs of Sumter and the Azalea and Poinsett-Bland garden clubs eagerly anticipate the first week in June, National Garden Week, which includes great community engagement. This special week is a time when garden clubs focus on education, resources and national networking opportunities for members to promote the love of gardening, floral design and civic and environmental responsibility.

For many years, these Sumter clubs have designed and placed flower arrangements and educational displays at various locations including Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital's lobby. When the coronavirus impacted visitor policy at the hospital, garden club members chose to "embrace the unwelcome change by sharing our love of gardening in a different manner: by giving a nurse a plant," said Catherine Blumberg, president of the Poinsett-Bland club. "We learned there are nearly 550 nurses at Tuomey, so we prepared 550 begonias and delivered them to the hospital."

"We feel very honored that the Sumter garden clubs took the time to recognize the entire nursing team at Tuomey, which is 550 nurses strong!" said Nurse Executive Terrie Carlton. "We are so grateful that they wanted to provide such a thoughtful and generous act of kindness. It has been such an eventful and unprecedented year, and these flowers put a smile on our faces!"

"We wanted to convey our appre-

ciation for those who are giving to our community by giving back to them," Blumberg said. "Knowing that our health care professionals are facing enormous strain on a daily basis, we thanked them with a gift of flowers. Preparing these gifts lifted our spirits, and it is our desire that these flowers feed the soul and express compassion for all those so severely impacted by coronavirus."

Garden clubs in Sumter are members of the Garden Club of South Carolina, an organization with 4,767 members, 192 clubs and 18 governing councils. Clubs support and sponsor flower shows, landscape design schools, backyard habitats, beautification projects, youth education, environmental studies, schools and more.

In the Sumter area, the garden clubs are best known for the annual Holiday House Tour and Tea, but the clubs do much more. Club members are Arbor Day participants, flower show sponsors at the American Legion Fair and at the Iris Festival. They plant flowers at Washington Place, sponsor youth at Camp Wildwood and provide a number of other community services.

If you are interested in learning about Sumter's garden clubs, call (803) 983-2126 or (803) 469-6509. Find the Council of Garden Clubs of Sumter on Facebook. Information about the Garden Club of South Carolina can be found at <https://gardenclubofsc.org> and the National Garden Club at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org).



PHOTOS BY TRACI QUINN / PRISMA HEALTH TUOMEY HOSPITAL

The Council of Garden Clubs of Sumter and the Azalea and Poinsett-Bland garden clubs showed their appreciation for Prisma Health Tuomey nurses by sharing their love of gardening through a donation of begonias.



## Electronic option available for amending 2019 individual income tax returns

### BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Because of COVID-19-related tax relief, South Carolina is still more than a month away from the Individual Income Tax due date. More than 2 million South Carolina Individual Income Tax returns have already been filed.

If you already filed your South Carolina Individual Income Tax return and realize you need to fix an error, the South Carolina Department of Revenue encourages you to amend your return electronically, a new option available through many

tax software providers. Filing electronically using a reputable vendor is your safest and fastest filing option. Learn more about filing South Carolina Individual Income Taxes online at [dor.sc.gov/iit-filing](http://dor.sc.gov/iit-filing).

The IRS also recently announced that for the first time it will begin accepting 2019 federal amended returns online this summer.

#### AMENDING RETURNS BY PAPER

To amend your South Carolina Individual Income Tax return by paper, file a new 2019 SC1040, and check the Amended Return box.

Complete the return as it should have been filed, including all schedules and attachments, plus an Amended Return Schedule (Sch. AMD).

To amend a return from 2018 or older, use the SC1040X. The SC1040X will not be accepted for tax years 2019 and after. The SC1040X cannot be filed electronically.

#### COVID-19-RELATED TAX RELIEF REMINDER

South Carolina Income Tax, Franchise Tax, Estimated Tax and Corporate License Fee filings and pay-

ments originally due between April 1 and July 15 are due July 15, 2020. Individuals, corporations, partnerships, banks, savings and loans, utilities, trusts and estates and tax-exempt organizations qualify.

For details about state tax relief, visit [dor.sc.gov/emergencies](http://dor.sc.gov/emergencies).

For federal tax relief information, visit [irs.gov/coronavirus](http://irs.gov/coronavirus).

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36 W. LIBERTY ST., SUMTER, S.C. 29150  
(803) 774-1200

**Vince Johnson**  
PUBLISHER  
[vince@theitem.com](mailto:vince@theitem.com)  
(803) 774-1201

**Kayla Green**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR  
[kayla@theitem.com](mailto:kayla@theitem.com)  
(803) 774-1235

**Rhonda Barrick**  
NEWSROOM MANAGER  
[rhonda@theitem.com](mailto:rhonda@theitem.com)  
(803) 774-1264

**Kathy Stafford**  
CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER  
CLASSIFIEDS, SUBSCRIPTIONS AND  
DELIVERY  
[kathy@theitem.com](mailto:kathy@theitem.com)  
(803) 774-1212

**Sandra Holbert**  
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# Red Cross blood drives testing for COVID-19 antibodies

**BY KAYLA GREEN**  
kayla@theitem.com

Beginning Monday and for a limited time, the American Red Cross started testing all blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies.

Antibodies testing gives donors insight into whether they have been exposed to the coronavirus that continues to impact the world and that in South Carolina has seen an increase in confirmed cases and the percentage of people testing positive. While the antibody testing offers that knowledge, there is also a continued urgent need for blood donations as hospitals resume surgeries that were put on hold to prioritize treating virus patients as well as treatments that require blood products.

Antibody testing will indicate if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to the coronavirus, regardless of whether he or she developed

symptoms. Donations will be tested using samples pulled at the time of donation and sent to a lab where they will also undergo routine infectious disease testing. A positive antibody test result does not confirm infection or immunity.

COVID-19 antibody test results will be available within seven to 10 days in the Red Cross Blood Donor app or donor portal at [www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org). The test has been authorized for emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

"If you are feeling healthy and well, please schedule an appointment to not only help save lives, but also learn about your potential exposure to COVID-19," said Dr. Erin Goodhue, executive medical director of direct patient care with Red Cross Biomedical Services.

The Red Cross is not testing donors to diagnose illness, referred to as a diagnostic test.

Donation appointments can be made by downloading the free Blood Donor

app, visiting [www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

All those who donate in June will receive a \$5 Amazon.com gift card via email.

### ABOUT BLOOD DONATION

All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

### BLOOD DRIVE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

To protect the health and safety of Red Cross staff and donors, individu-

als who do not feel well or who think they may be ill with COVID-19 should postpone their donation.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows precautions including temperature checks, social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff.

Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive and are required to wear a face covering or mask while at the drive, in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance.

### UPCOMING DONATION OPPORTUNITIES IN SUMTER

**Wednesday, June 17:** 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Palmetto Health Tuomey, 129 N. Washington St.

**Monday, June 22:** 2-7 p.m., Veritas Church, 822 S. Guignard Drive

**Wednesday, June 24:** 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sumter Utilities, 1151 N. Pike Road

**Thursday, June 25:** 2-7 p.m., Grace Baptist Church, 219 W. Calhoun St.

# State Farm agents donate fresh produce, farm products to Sumter Senior Services

**BY SHELBY GOULDING**  
shelbie@theitem.com

With COVID-19 cases still on the rise, the senior population remains at risk of developing serious complications from the virus.

Sumter Senior Services, a focal point for programs, services and information for older adults throughout Sumter County, teamed up with five of Sumter's State Farm agents to help the local seniors stay safe during the pandemic.

According to the Department of Health and Environmental Control, South Carolina has reported about 600 COVID-19-related deaths and more than 18,700 COVID-19 cases as of Monday.

Sumter has had 19 COVID-19-related deaths and about 626 positive cases as of Monday, according to DHEC.

Seniors in rural areas and with underlying health issues have become more isolated and unable to secure many food items necessary for good nutritional health, so Sumter Senior Services distributed nearly 200 boxes of fresh fruit, vegetables, dairy products and more to Sumter County seniors.

"Our local seniors and our organization greatly appreciate the kind generosity of our local State Farm agents," Sumter Senior Services Executive Director Gail Wilson said. "Their spirit and willingness to reach out and to lend a helping hand is precisely what

you'd expect from a neighbor who recognizes a need unfulfilled. Thanks to their gift, more seniors are impacted, and more nutritional lives are enhanced."

Sumter State Farm Agents Ben Griffith, Bill Denny, Charles Bostic, Tammy Kelly and Gary Herlong collectively contributed to help the process proceed.

"As State Farm agents, one of our goals is to always be a good neighbor in the community," Griffith said. "When you are fearful of this virus or you don't have adequate transportation, those food items are a lot more difficult to come by. We thought that would be a great project and great effort for us to support during this period of time."



Local State Farm agents gave about 200 boxes of fruit, vegetables, dairy products and more to Sumter seniors through Sumter Senior Services.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

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# Senate GOP to restrict police chokeholds in emerging bill

BY LISA MASCARO  
AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Driven by a swift-moving national debate, Senate Republicans are on the brink of introducing an extensive package of policing changes with new restrictions on police chokeholds and other practices as Congress rushes to respond to mass demonstrations over the deaths of George Floyd and other black Americans.

It's a sudden shift of GOP priorities with President Donald Trump signaling support. The White House is set to announce its own executive actions on law enforcement procedures in a matter of days, a crush of activity that shows how quickly police violence and racial prejudice are transforming national politics.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell opened the chamber Monday declaring that Senate Republicans are developing "a serious proposal to reform law enforcement."

While the emerging GOP package isn't as extensive as the sweeping Democratic proposal, which is headed for a House vote next week, it is perhaps the most far-reaching proposed changes to policing procedures from the party long aligned with a "law and order" approach. Confronted with a groundswell

of public unrest over police violence, in cities large and small nationwide, even the most conservative senators are joining the effort.

Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, the sole African-American Republican in the Senate, has been crafting the package set to roll out Wednesday. He said the chokehold, in particular, "is a policy whose time has come and gone."

During the weekend, the shooting death of Rayshard Brooks by a white officer in Atlanta led to a renewed public outcry, more street protests and the police chief's swift resignation.

Democrats have said the GOP package doesn't go far enough to match the outpouring of support for reforms. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer warned Republicans not to settle for minor changes.

"Now is the time to seek bold and broad-scale change, not change around the margins," Schumer said Monday.

With the political debate fluid, it is unclear whether the parties will be able to find common ground. The proposals share many similar provisions but take different approaches to address some of the issues. Neither bill goes as far as

some activists want in their push to "defund the police" by fully revamping departments.

The debate is changing almost daily, complicated by the fall election, with the Senate Republican majority at risk. McConnell, who is also up for reelection in November, is backing the GOP effort after the death of Breonna Taylor when police entered her home in Louisville. It's a dynamic political environment in the aftermath of the killing of black Americans and the outpouring of protests and Black Lives Matter demonstrations that have overwhelmingly altered the national conversation.

The Senate Judiciary Committee is scheduled to consider policing issues at a hearing today.

Central to the Republican package would be the creation of a national database of police use-of-force incidents, a way to improve transparency so law enforcement officers cannot transfer from one department to another without public oversight of their record. The Democrats have a similar provision.

The GOP bill would encourage police body cameras and include a long-stalled effort to make lynching a feder-

al hate crime.

Additionally, the Republican package is expected to restrict the use of chokeholds by withholding certain federal funds to jurisdictions that continue to allow the practice, according to a Senate Republican unauthorized to discuss the pending bill and granted anonymity.

While chokeholds have become a symbol of police brutality — and a ban is included in the Democrats' bill — the maneuver is already banned in many departments. Police nationwide are far more likely to kill someone by shooting.

Yet, the Republican bill does not go as far as the Democratic proposal, particularly on the issue of "qualified immunity," which aims to enable those injured by law enforcement personnel to sue for damages. The White House has said that is a line too far. As an alternative, Scott has suggested a "decertification" process for officers involved in misconduct.

Still, Democrats signaled a willingness to look at the Republican approach for areas of common ground.

"Nothing is a non-starter," said Rep. James Clyburn of South Carolina, the House's third-ranking Democrat and a Sumter native, on a conference call with reporters.



SCOTT



CLYBURN

## Trump moved rally date after learning about Juneteenth

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE  
The Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. — President Donald Trump didn't know the significance to black Americans of the date and location he chose for his first campaign rally since the coronavirus pandemic more than three months ago, key Republican supporters of the president in Congress said Sunday.

Trump had scheduled the rally for June 19, known as Juneteenth because it marks the end of slavery in the United States. Tulsa, Oklahoma, the location for the rally, was the scene in 1921 of one of the most severe white-on-black attacks in American history.

Black community and political leaders denounced the move and called on Trump to reschedule. He resisted until late Friday when, in a rare turnabout, Trump tweeted that he had moved the rally to this Saturday, June 20, out of respect for the view of supporters and others who had asked him to.

"There's special sensitivities there in Tulsa, but Juneteenth is a very significant day, so my encouragement to the president was to be able to pick a day around it," Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla., said Sunday. Lankford said he was among several people who had spoken with Trump.

Lankford said he had called Trump on an unrelated matter and that Trump broached the issue. He said Trump told him he was thinking about rescheduling and asked Lankford's opinion.

"I suggested, 'Yes, I think that would be a great idea. It would be very, very respectful to the community,'" Lankford said. He said Trump immediately said he didn't want to do anything that would show disrespect to the black community.

"He didn't see it as disrespectful to be able to do it on Juneteenth," Lankford said.

"Other people interpreted it differently, and so he moved the rally date."

Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., said he was "thankful" that Trump rescheduled the rally.

"The president moving the date by a day once he was informed on what the Juneteenth was, that was a good decision on his part," said Scott, the only black Republican senator.

Housing Secretary Ben Carson said he was "pleasantly surprised" at how much Trump knew about Juneteenth by the time they talked about it. He said "it's probably good" the rally was rescheduled.

Carson, who is black, suggested Trump was considering delivering remarks to "acknowledge what had happened there and why we don't want that kind of situation to ever occur in this country again."

Scott said it wasn't clear to him that Trump's planners understood the significance of June 19.

But Trump's campaign was aware, according to two campaign officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to disclose internal discussions.

## As Europe reopens, Beijing virus outbreak shows need for vigilance

BERLIN (AP) — European countries reopened borders Monday after a three-month coronavirus shutdown, although international visitors are still being kept away and there was uncertainty over whether many Europeans will quickly embrace travel outside their home countries.

Reopening continued in Mexico and Brazil despite cases continuing to climb in the two largest nations in Latin America, where authorities struggled to handle the pandemic's effect on already-weak medical systems.

The need for constant vigilance came into sharp focus as China, where COVID-19 first emerged last year, rushed to contain an outbreak in the capital of Beijing.

The head of the World Health Organization said more than 100,000 confirmed cases of coronavirus have been reported globally each day in the last two weeks, and countries that have curbed transmissions "must stay alert to the possibility of resurgence."

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus noted that it took more than two months to reach 100,000 reported cases, now a daily norm. Each day, nearly three-fourths of the new cases come from 10 countries — mostly in South Asia and the Americas, he said.

Germany and France dropped border checks nearly two weeks after Italy opened its frontiers. Greece welcomed visitors Monday with passengers on flights from other European countries not having to undergo compulsory coronavirus tests.

The European Union's 27 nations and other European states aren't expected to start re-

opening to visitors from outside the continent until at least the beginning of July and possibly later.

Spain allowed thousands of Germans to fly to its Balearic Islands without a 14-day quarantine in a pilot program designed to help authorities gauge what's needed against possible virus flare-ups.

Martin Hofman was delighted to board a flight from Dusseldorf to the island of Mallorca because he said his vacation couldn't be postponed.

"To stay in Germany was not an option for us," Hofman said. "We are totally happy that we can get out."

Slovenia lifted travel restrictions with Italy, and the mayors of two towns on opposite sides of the border jointly removed a traffic sign that barred movement from one to the other. The towns of Nova Gorica in Slovenia and Gorizia in Italy are closely linked culturally and economically.

Mexico City residents were free to drive without restrictions, and subway and bus stations that had been closed resumed service Monday as the city of 9 million continued its gradual return. Most of the stations had stayed open all along.

Mexico City's graduated reopening is based on hospital occupancy levels. As of Saturday, the capital and the surrounding state had 74% of their hospital beds occupied.

Construction, auto manufacturing, mining, bicycle sales and beer production already had been allowed to resume. Parks were allowed to open at 30% of their capacity.

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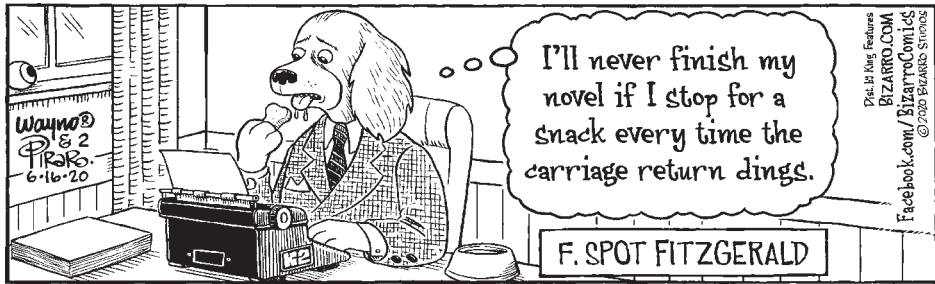
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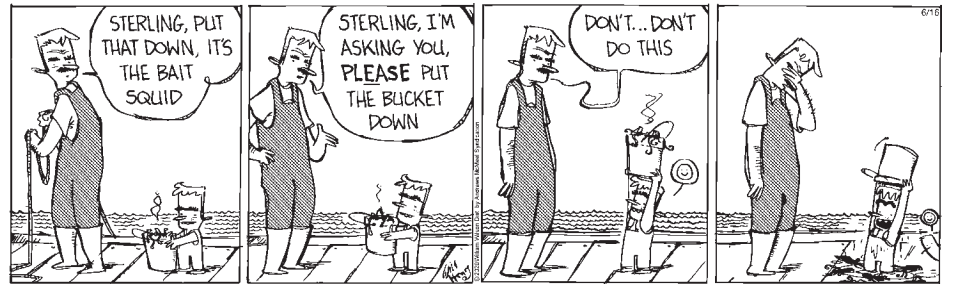
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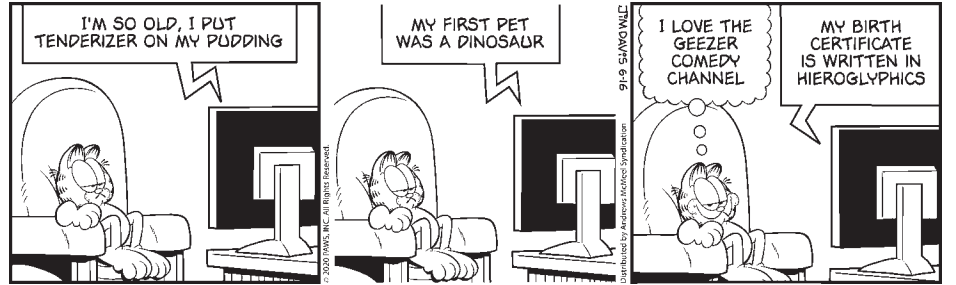
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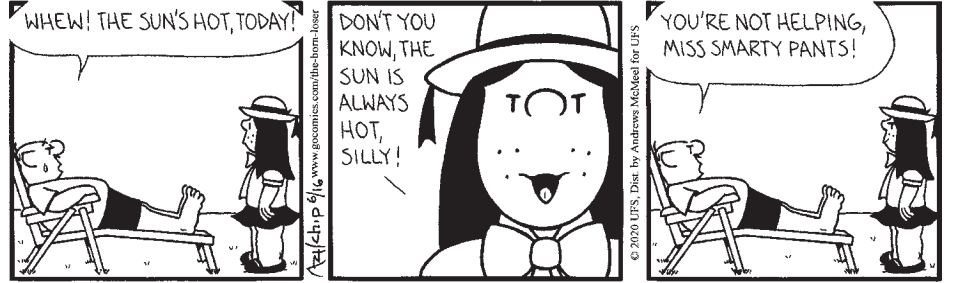
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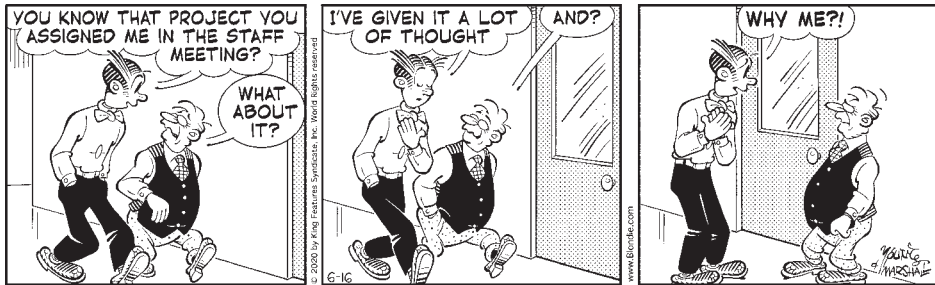
BETLE BAILEY



BORN LOSER



BLONDIE



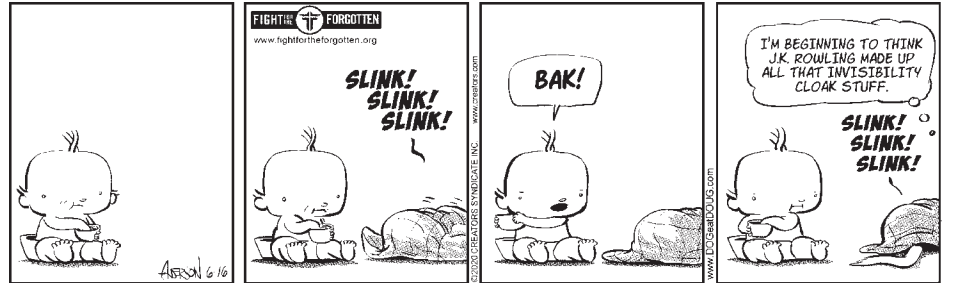
ZITS



MOTHER GOOSE



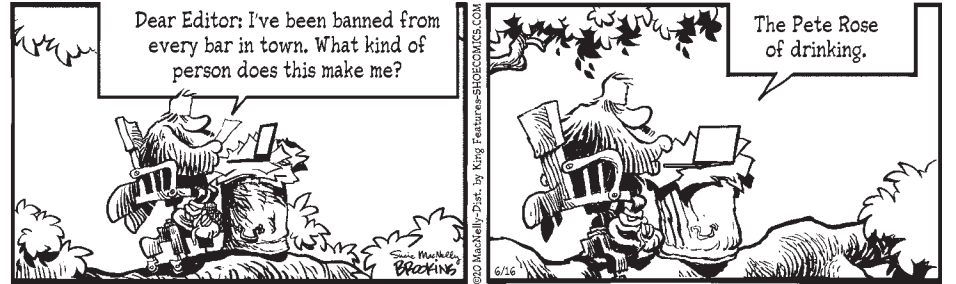
DOG EAT DOUG



DILBERT



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE



Brother's run for office finds no support from sibling



Dear Abby ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY — My oldest brother is running for a state office. Unlike me, he does not like animals. He has "hailed" litters of puppies off and shot at cats. In addition, he refuses to help our elderly parents.

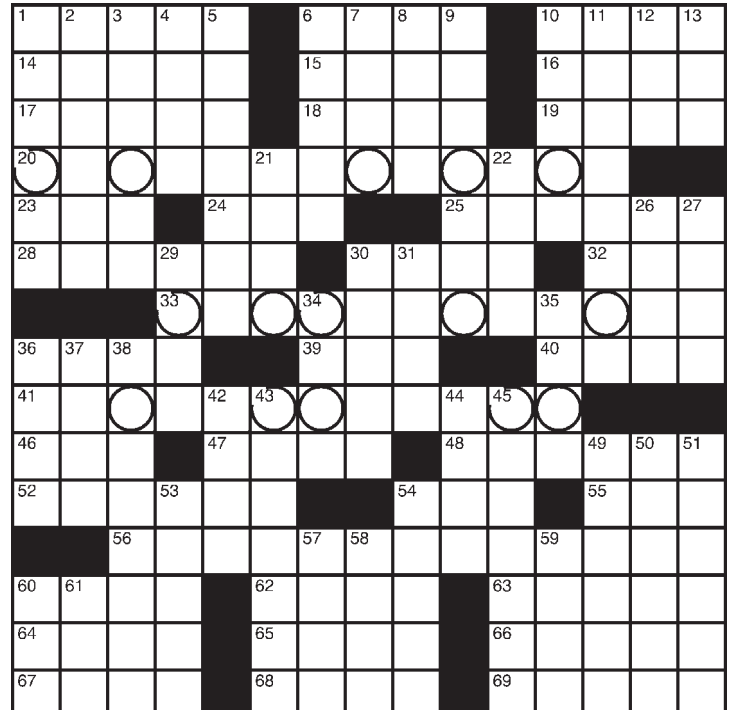
water," and that I "must" vote for him regardless of his behavior. Of course, behind the curtain I can vote for whoever I want, but should I cave to the pressure to show up in support of him at public events? Even my husband said I should donate money to his campaign because he's family. What is your opinion? Non-supporter in the South

at a defenseless animal and neglect his aged parents ("Honor thy father and thy mother") really doesn't belong in any of fice. DEAR ABBY — We have a neighbor whose adult son has gotten into trouble with the law. His mom and dad are devastated and have withdrawn from all of us. How do we handle it when we see them around the neighborhood? Do we ignore "the elephant" and just say hi? Do we ask them how their son is doing? It's so sad to see them suffer, and we don't know what to do. What to do in the East

DEAR NON-SUPPORTER — If you don't support a candidate, keep your checkbook closed. And as to showing up to endorse your brother's run for office, continue to refrain and cross your fingers that your absence won't be noticed amidst all the excitement. If your husband wants to donate to your morally degenerate brother's campaign, it's his choice, and he has a right to it just as you have a right to yours. P.S. Anyone who would shoot

Family or not, I don't want someone to be a leader in our state capital who exhibits such poor moral and unethical behavior. He's been married several times, and I know for a fact he cheated on one of his wives. I avoid attending his fundraisers and asking for votes, but other family members keep telling me that "blood is thicker than

THE DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

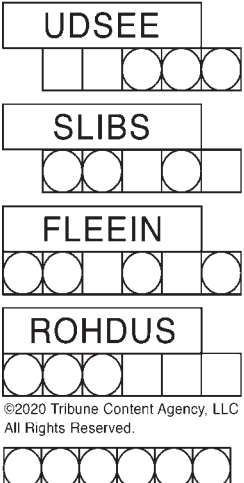


Frank Virzi 6/16/20
ACROSS
1 Single-celled creature
6 Cab
10 alternative
14 Partner of aid
15 Disinterested
15 Georgetown athlete
16 Hot under the collar
17 Pricey violin, for short
18 Did some weeding
19 Start of a spell
20 Tenderloin often served with Béarnaise sauce
23 Prince Valiant's boy
24 Highest degree
25 Kindergarten art item
28 Squeaked by
30 Smeltery refuse
32 Inc. kin
33 Rockies resort town
36 Rifle range supply
39 Federation in OPEC
40 Les \_\_\_ les autres: one another
41 Sub on a plate
46 Court players' gp.
47 Disapproving sounds
48 Like a one-lane bridge
52 Topiary tool
54 "http" often begins one
55 Lemon finish?
56 Biblical phrase in Lincoln's historic 6/16/1858 speech, and what each set of circled letters contains
60 River seen from the Leaning Tower
62 Old bread problem
63 Breezing through
64 Rain cats and dogs
65 "Do it, or \_\_\_!"
66 Eco-friendly word
67 Falafel holder
68 Letter opener
69 Those in favor
7 Blockhead
8 Watcher
9 Politically extreme
10 Yoga posture
11 "Blowin' in the Wind" singer/songwriter
12 Make a mistake
13 Sri Lanka export
21 Yours, to Yves
22 Legendary Greek ship
26 Ye \_\_\_ Shoppe
27 Some mil. drillers
29 Cruet filler, to Rachael Ray
30 Tons
31 MGM co-founder Marcus
34 Blockhead
35 German industrial region
36 Cries of insurrection
37 Protestant denom.
38 Monocled food mascot
42 Houston MLBer
43 Took as a given
44 45-Down inscription
45 Site of the Crucifixion
49 The "r" in pi-squared
50 Danish seaport
51 Wood-splitting tools
53 Now, in Nogales
54 Cow's milk source
57 Only
58 Film lioness
59 Slushy drink brand
60 iPhone purchase
61 French king
Previous Puzzle Solved
MATH MEALS BOLD
ERIE ARROW EBAY
SCRAP VALUE DOZE
SHELL OVERSEES
EASE ETA
PRINTERS PROOF
CFO DOCS SAVOR
HULL WHICH GIZA
TSAAC GAOL NET
PERMANENT WAVE
KOA SEMI
SUBGENRE ASHES
IGOR AFTERSHOCK
ALOE MUSTY NEHI
MYMY ELYSE UDON

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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



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

Yesterday's Jumbles: CAMEO SOUPY INJURE STANZA
Answer: Going for a stroll by the town's famous clock was a great way to — PASS TIME

SUDOKU

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

Table with 9 columns and 9 rows showing a previous Sudoku solution.

A 9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers pre-filled and empty cells for solving.



MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

The Rev. Dr. Clay Smith, lead pastor at Alice Drive Baptist Church, bows to the Rev. Marion Newton, senior pastor of Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church, whom he called the Bishop of Sumter.

## MARCH FROM PAGE A1

provided remarks.

An emphasis by all the pastors throughout the program was prayer and also taking intentional action toward racial reconciliation and unity in Sumter.

Both Zack Somerville of Trinity Missionary Baptist Church and Caleb Yoder of Christ Community Church referenced Micah 6:8 from the Bible's Old Testament. There, the prophet Micah tells God's people that the Lord desires the primary forms of love — justice, mercy and faithfulness — from them in response to His redemptive work in salvation.

Racial reconciliation is an example of "doing justice," Yoder said, and justice is at the heart of God.

"Tonight, we are gathered collectively to say we are unified under the essential thing of 'doing justice' together," he said.

"This is a great start. Rallies and gathering like this are a great start, but it can't be just a check box and then we walk out and go back to living how we did previously. We must change, and we must use the life of Jesus Christ as an example."

Another common theme was that the church has been silent too long on racism and injustice.

Pastors also mentioned that the rally looked much like heaven will look; Jesus died for all people, not just one race.

Yoder called on pastors in attendance to lead the charge toward racial reconciliation and justice locally.

The formation of a taskforce was another outcome of the recent pastoral meeting. That group is working on a larger strategy to include coming up with a unified statement against racism and for non-violence from all Sumter clergy. That taskforce is scheduled to meet again on Thursday.

## ACTION FROM PAGE A1

Works. "It was great to see nobody tried to cause a ruckus."

The Rev. Dr. Clay Smith, lead pastor at Alice Drive Baptist Church on Loring Mill Road and one of the main organizers of the event, called the audience a "pre-view of heaven." Multiracial, cross-denominational, multigenerational.

"I personally have never seen anything like it," he said.

He said Monday he had just listened to an anonymous voicemail from someone who, paraphrasing, said, "I'm not racist, but I think this march is awful." If you have to start with "I'm not racist, but," he said. He said he wished he could call the person back and tell them that's not what Jesus would say.

Smith, who walked the 0.6 miles from Grace Baptist, which is next to Patriot Hall, to the courthouse, which is across from the emergency entrance to Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital, a week after undergoing knee surgery for his meniscus, said racism is a "people issue." People, especially white people, need to listen and learn. Then, they need to go to their businesses and homes and change attitudes.

Sunday's march stemmed from a pastoral meeting of 68 clergy in Sumter and a series of panels held on Facebook Live and a rally last week led by who Sunday's organizers have deemed the next generation of faith-based leadership in Sumter's African-American community. Smith said the pastoral committee has another meeting scheduled in June to discuss next steps.

"We want this to be a begin-

ning," he said.

Now, it's about what can we do to keep this community as "one community and not a divided one. How can we continue to lead in that direction?"

Sumter County Sheriff Anthony Dennis said he thinks his agency is poised to be proactive rather than reactive. He said the diversity of the crowd showed a positive message.

In his speech and on Monday, Dennis, a black man, said the sheriff's office promised an intolerance for racism within his staff. He said Monday he plans to initiate more sensitivity training within the agency and go through the S.C. Sheriff's Association to increase training on use of deadly force. Deputies train on it every year, he said, but he wants to go more in-depth.

He also said citizens need to continue speaking out against injustice they see or encounter. Just as recent changes in law enforcement policies across the country and arrests of those involved in Floyd's death have been fueled by public protest against anything otherwise, it takes everyone to incite change.

Next steps are what Breanna Moore is hoping to come out of Sumter's rallies and marches and promises. Next steps that aren't a one-time act just for appearances.

The 27-year-old stood in the back with a sign that read, "Racism is the real pandemic."

A systemic pandemic that has been enslaving, silencing, jailing and killing African-Americans for hundreds of years, she said. It's great for everyone to come together, but that's just the call to action. A beginning.

## RECORDS FROM PAGE A1

nationwide over Floyd's death in Minneapolis, complaint data is getting renewed attention as a way to track and correct rogue officers and perhaps head off more serious instances of brutality.

Both Democratic and Republican reform bills in Congress would make officers' disciplinary records public and create a national database of allegations — a shift in political will that didn't exist just a few years ago.

Police advocates argue that withholding allegations is necessary to protect officers' privacy and keep them safe. Police unions have fought in contract negotiations and in state legislatures for confidentiality. In some cases, records are erased after as little as two years.

"The unfettered release of police personnel records will

allow unstable people to target police officers and our families for harassment or worse," said Patrick Lynch, head of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association in New York City. "A dangerous cop-hater only needs a police officer's name, linked to a few false or frivolous complaints, to be inspired to commit violence."

Personal information on officers is already being leaked online, according to an intelligence document from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, obtained by The Associated Press.

Police unions argue, too, that the overwhelming majority of complaints are deemed unsubstantiated after internal investigations. But that argument carries no weight with the many activists who say police departments tend to protect their own.

Out of about 5,000 complaints brought against New York City officers last year and more than 2,000 so far this year for

offenses such as discourtesy, excessive force and abuse of authority, only about 9% were substantiated, according to the city's independent Civilian Complaint Review Board.

Bowling Green State University criminologist Phil Stinson, who has collected data on thousands of police charged, investigated or convicted of crimes, said that most officers go through their careers with few complaints against them and that generally a small percentage of officers account for an outsize share of complaints.

Stinson recalled an Atlanta officer who had a personnel file full of "frightfully similar" complaints from women of sexual misconduct. It wasn't until his file was leaked to a TV station that he faced discipline.

About 40% of current New York City police officers have never received a civilian complaint, while 32% have one or two, and one officer has 52, the highest, according to the review board.

In New York, Pantaleo, the officer who put Garner in a chokehold in 2014 but was not

indicted in his death, had eight disciplinary cases of abuse and excessive force, four of which were substantiated. But his record was secret until a staff member at the review board leaked it. The staffer later resigned.

New York legislators this week voted to repeal the law that kept officers' names secret along with specifics about complaints made against them. The repeal passed largely along party lines, and Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed it Friday.



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## COMMENTARY

# Demand strong federal police oversight *now*

BY HENRY LEVENTIS

Overcoming racism in police departments and addressing acts of police brutality aren't simple tasks but necessary ones. Doing so requires strong oversight by an independent and fully engaged Justice Department. Its Civil Rights Division was created to protect our constitutional rights, including the right to be free from discrimination and excessive force by police. There is no agency better equipped to tackle these insidious problems. George Floyd's tragic death is the latest reminder that without the Justice Department's best efforts, the institutional racism lurking within many police departments will remain unchecked. We should all be appalled by that prospect and demand that the DOJ heed its mandate to hold everyone, including the police, equally accountable under the law.

Effective federal oversight means using all available tools to identify and address discriminatory practices, prosecute police brutality and earn the confidence of communities of

color. The DOJ has broad jurisdiction in this area and many tools at its disposal, including sections of highly qualified civil and criminal attorneys who focus exclusively on police misconduct. In criminal prosecutions, this is absolutely necessary because successfully prosecuting a police officer is incredibly difficult. Many local prosecutors' offices are not equipped to effectively handle police brutality cases. Nor do victims of discriminatory policing expect fair treatment from prosecutors who work every day alongside some of the very police departments that violate their rights.

In addition to the Civil Rights Division, DOJ also has a Community Relations Service meant to build relationships with communities of color before flashpoint events occur. To be effective, the DOJ must prioritize the work of both of these groups and fully empower them to do their jobs.

While no administration has handled police oversight perfectly, the current administration is suffering from a number of self-inflicted wounds. Most notably, it severely lim-

ited the use of consent decrees — legally enforceable agreements with police departments — that have been used under previous administrations with great success to curb discriminatory policing practices. Limiting the use of decrees essentially surrenders one of the DOJ's most effective tools for addressing systemic racism in police departments. At the same time, this administration has not prioritized building relationships with communities of color, making it more difficult to conduct investigations and respond effectively in times of crises. And many of the president's statements suggest he has taken sides in the current protests, making it harder for DOJ attorneys to be perceived as independent.

The administration should reverse course in these areas immediately. Further, it should support the Justice in Policing Act of 2020, which would require police departments to report any use of force to a national database. This would allow the DOJ to use data analytics to quickly identify problem departments and officers — an

approach that has been wildly successful in other enforcement areas.

This robust approach to federal oversight would incentivize police departments to remove problematic officers before a tragedy occurs. It would protect the good officers who are placed at greater risk by the bad ones. It would protect taxpayers who pay millions of dollars each year for police brutality lawsuits. And, most importantly, it would provide communities of color greater confidence that the system works for them. We should demand as much from our government, and now.

*Henry Leventis is a 1993 graduate of Sumter High School and graduated from the College of Charleston and Washington and Lee Law School. He worked in Charleston as a prosecutor and for 10 years with the Department of Justice prosecuting civil rights cases, specifically against public officials, police and corrections officers, across the country. He is now in private practice. He is the son of former Sen. Phil Leventis, who served District 35.*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### EVERYONE SHOULD CHIP AWAY AT HATRED

"Why are you crying, Delaine?" My younger sister responded,

"Why is there so much hate?"

Watching George Floyd's memorial service, Delaine and I respectfully stood in silence for 8 minutes and 46 seconds reflecting on Floyd's last words, "I can't breathe!"

George Floyd could not breathe because a law enforcement officer pressed his knee on Floyd's neck, blocking his airway. Taking his last breath, he cried out, "Mama."

As Delaine and I stood in solidarity with those who had gathered for Floyd's memorial service, Delaine started crying uncontrollably, "Why is there so much hatred?"

Unable to give her a definitive answer, I said, "Delaine, God can take the most horrendous situation and use it for His glory."

Floyd's death was the catalyst that galvanized the worldwide family to abandon passivity. We became advocates for the voiceless and those who are victims of systemic racism.

We marched and highlighted our

issues on homemade signs, but that is not enough. Planning, building coalitions, seeking advice from the elders and maintaining focus are also required.

Hatred can not be eradicated by the collective actions of the masses. Releasing tension and assuaging guilt by participating in rallies and Zoom conferences help us confront our prejudices; however, I challenge you to adopt a personal response.

Chip away at hatred every time you encounter it. Embrace opportunities to advocate for the least of these. Then you become an effective instrument of authentic change.

BEVERLY DIANE  
FRIERSON  
Columbia

## CORRECTION

In a letter published Saturday, June 13, the date that Benji was put to sleep should have read June 2.



## COMMENTARY

# The confirmation of coming together to make a change

"Anger without a new assignment is wasted rage!" — Dr. John Adolph

Last week we witnessed an amazing show of solidarity across the country in the form of protests in regards to the George Floyd murder, police brutality and racism. These demonstrations happened internationally, in all states of the United States, and even locally here in Sumter. Two of the most memorable quotes from the gathering on the steps of the old courthouse in Sumter, organized by David Simmons, Kenneth Har-



**Napoleon Bradford**

grove, Pastor James Goodman and several others, were made by two senior statesmen. Dr. Marion H. Newton said, "Get angry; get so angry that you go out and vote!" Dr. Ralph Canty said, "Protest must lead to progress, and confrontation must lead to change." Canty went on to say, "We can't apologize for protesting, but we can't just protest for the sake of protesting!"

No truer sentiment has ever been spoken. The fact that the tension of America's injustice has bubbled over into these acts of protest is all well and good, but if there is no change, if there is no transformation, then these acts could simply be written off as temper tantrums, and eventually after the smoke settled and the protesters went home, things would return to normal, and the systems that have been allowed to fester would remain in place.

However, seemingly that is not the case in this instance. No, because the people are coming together in protest,

and we are seeing evidence of the start of change. Within the first 10 days of protest: Minneapolis has banned the use of chokeholds by police; Dallas adopts a "duty to intervene" policy requiring officers to stop other officers they see engaging in inappropriate behavior; Louisville, Kentucky, signed the "Breonna Taylor Act," stopping the ability of police to issue no-knock warrants; and police departments everywhere are reevaluating unjust practices. All because the people came together in protest. Because the people came together to protest, sports leaders are speaking out against racist practices, Confederate statues are being removed, NASCAR and the United States Marines have banned the displaying of the Confederate flag.

While many of us are asking, "Why did it take so long for these measures to be taken?" the reality is, at least they are being taken, for this means at least our voices are being heard. There are so many other steps that need to be made, and I am in no way suggesting that we have gotten to the place where the protests need to stop, but I am also encouraging all of us to pause and see the blooming of the fruit that has grown out of the manure of social injustice. And this is all a result of us coming together and allowing our voices to be heard. Small steps, but steps nonetheless.

Those of us who have a relationship with God understand that this has always been God's preferred position for His creation. In fact, many preachers when talking about racial reconciliation quote Jesus' pre-Passion prayer in John 17:20-21, "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are

in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me." While this is a powerful prayer, Jesus was simply encouraging those who heard Him, His disciples, to move to create a movement of unity. Why unity? Well, Jesus knew the power of coming together. Jesus knew that the trauma that was going to be caused by His wrongful arrest, trial and crucifixion had the power to scatter those who had dedicated their lives to Him, and He needed them together to birth a movement. That togetherness was recently celebrated by the Lord's church on Pentecost Sunday (50 days after the resurrection of Jesus) where Luke in Acts 2 records that 120 persons gather together in an upper room praying and with one accord experience the filling of the Holy Spirit which led to the birthing of the First Century church and the immediate growing from 120 to 3,120 after one protest message challenging the misbeliefs and improper practices of a Jewish legal system that wrongly put a man named Jesus to death.

Jesus knew that if they came together, real change could occur. But the question is how did He know. Well, He had seen it before. This wasn't the first time that persons came together and saw immediate change. They saw change in 2 Chronicles chapter 20 when Jehoshaphat called a national prayer as a result of the threats of Ammon, Moab and Mt. Seir. They saw change in 1 Samuel chapter 7 when Samuel told the House of Israel to "return to the Lord with all their hearts, put away their foreign gods and prepare their hearts for the Lord and the Lord would rescue them from the Philistines." They saw change in Joshua chapter 6 when the people came together and marched

around the impenetrable walls of Jericho once for six days in silence and seven times on the seventh day when the walls fell down flat with a community blasting of the horns. They saw change in Exodus when one million Israelites walked out of Egyptian captivity together led by Moses, and even at the threat of Pharaoh approaching from the rear, together they marched until the Red Sea was changed into a paved highway for them to cross and a burial ground for Pharaoh's army.

Coming together had always been the catalyst for change in the Old Testament, and Jesus wanted it to be the testimony of the New Testament and beyond, but not just because He wanted it, but because that is what God wanted. How do I know? Well because that is what God said God's self in Genesis chapter 11. There Moses records that the whole earth had one language and one speech and decided to come together to build a tower, and when God came to see their work, this is what God said, "Indeed the people are one, and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them."

So it is God's mandate for us to come together, for when we come together we will consistently see change, not just surface-level change, but systemic change. Change that will be unlike what we have ever witnessed. Change that will make the world better for our children and our children's children. Change that will make God pleased and the enemy angry.

*Napoleon A. Bradford, D.Min., is the lead shepherd of The L.I.F.E. Center: A Cyber Community of CHRIST Followers.*

## We Ball 4 Destin Foundation hosts annual 7-on-7 despite pandemic

BY TIM LEIBLE  
tim@theitem.com

For the last five summers, a group of locals have gotten to play football together to celebrate the life of Destin Wise, a Sumter High School graduate who passed away from injuries suffered in a car accident on June 14, 2015. Over those five years, the event has taken on many different looks and this year was no different.

The first year started with a 7-on-7 game played by a handful of friends, a fitting way to celebrate a young man that thrived on the football field and in track and field for the Gamecocks. After that, Wise's half-brother, Mariel Cooper, formed a charity called We Ball 4 Destin in his memory and has organized an annual game of 7-on-7. That game ballooned into a tournament and barbecue, but that wasn't in the cards this year.

With the coronavirus pandemic still in full swing in South Carolina, Cooper had to get creative this year. Cooper made the decision to still hold the annual game on Saturday, but everything was scaled back.

Instead of a tournament, it went back to just one game, while adding in some one-on-one competitions afterwards. Cooper didn't want the event to garner too much attention ahead of time to keep the numbers down, so he waited until last Wednesday to announce it.

"It's a challenging time. You have to be so strategic and make sure you're under all the guidelines, and you're taking those precautionary measures. I'm for sure not taking anything lightly," said Cooper of hosting an event during the pandemic. "It wasn't an easy deal, but every year I'm going to honor my brother. We're going to keep balling for Destin and keep his legacy



Mariel Cooper, center, speaks at We Ball 4 Destin Foundation's annual 7-on-7 event on Saturday. Cooper, the foundation's founder, had to scale back this year's event due to the coronavirus pandemic.

MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

going."

Saturday was about more than football. Cooper also wanted to make sure that the organization took advantage of the light that is currently shining on the black community in response to the death of George Floyd. With the voice of the Black Lives Matter movement louder than ever, Cooper wanted to make sure that voice will continue to be heard in November. The organization welcomed members from the League of Women Voters to help register people to vote who weren't already registered. Cooper, a former professional football player, used football to

put into words how important it is to keep this conversation alive.

"I'm just doing my part and using my platform, using my following for a positive reason," said Cooper. "I'm thinking about the solution, what's the touchdown? We're not going to be able to score the touchdown overnight. This change that we're seeking isn't going to happen overnight. It's a process, but we've gotta start somewhere.

"Getting people to vote is the first down. The first down to the touchdown in November."

The We Ball 4 Destin Foundation also gives out an annual scholarship

to graduating seniors as a way to honor Wise, who died just nine days after graduating from high school. This year, that scholarship was awarded to Gabby Kirkman of Sumter High. She was thrilled to accept the scholarship and be welcomed into the community that Cooper has built with the foundation.

"It means a lot to me because it's coming from an organization that looks like me and people that look like me and support me in everything that I do," said Kirkman. "This really helps my confidence and gives me confidence, being a black athlete, having people behind me of all sorts of races, especially a black organization."

Cooper said that Kirkman was the perfect example of what the organization is looking for in a scholarship recipient.

"Gabby is just an amazing kid," said Cooper. "The thing that stuck out about Gabby is her genuine heart and her passion for her community, family and God. In her interview, all she talked about was giving back and her work with special needs kids. She already does a lot and she just reminded me a lot of myself and my brother. We're looking forward to getting to work with her."

While the day wasn't exactly what Cooper originally planned for this year, he was overwhelmed by the support from the community.

"I just wanted to make sure we did something to honor Destin. Like I told the crowd of people, 'Thank you for risking your life to come out and honor my brother.' It was beautiful, man," said Cooper. "I'm just appreciative and grateful that 50-plus people came out here. It turned out amazing. The energy on the field, I mean football always does it. It was more than what I expected."



Locals came out to a play a 7-on-7 at Dillon Park to honor the memory of Destin Wise at an event sponsored by the We Ball 4 Destin Foundation on Saturday.

PHOTOS BY TIM LEIBLE / THE SUMTER ITEM



## Mintz comes back to win Late Model feature

BY CODY TRUETT  
Sports Contributor

The second week of Sumter Speedway's 2020 season on was highlighted Justin Mintz picking up a hard-earned victory in the Late Model division feature.

Mintz started from the pole position after posting a blistering qualifying lap of 14.874 seconds. As the green flag flew, however, last week's winner, Scott Shirey, rocketed into the lead from the outside pole.

Shirey opened up a small lead over Mintz under green flag racing before Mintz began to chase Shirey down. As Shirey began working his way around lapped traffic, Mintz closed the gap and pulled within half-a-car link of Shirey.

Coming to the halfway point of the race, Shirey continued to show the way, but in the exit of Turn 4, he closed up on a lapped car on the low side of the track. Mintz powered to the outside, using the lapped car to set a pick on Shirey to take over the lead. Shirey battled back on the inside, but couldn't get around Mintz.

Mintz opened up a comfortable lead and cruised on to pick up the win. Shirey settled for second with Zach Cox third, Tom Egner fourth. Garrett Shurling fifth, Eddie Mor-

ris sixth, Gene Kinard seventh, Wesley Hooks eighth, David Pack Jr. ninth and Tony Ayers 10th.

The Stock V8 feature got the night started, and Walter Anderson jumped into the lead as the green flag flew with Timmy Kimsey on his heels. Terrell Holloway joined the battle, making his way around Kimsey to take over second. While Kimsey and Holloway battled for second, Anderson opened up a sizable lead over the rest of the field.

As the race stayed green, Anderson continued to show the way, but Holloway was slowly closing the gap. It seemed Anderson had the race well in hand, but a late caution flag bunched the field up for a green/white/checkered finish. As the green flag waived, Anderson shot back out front and held off Holloway to pick up the win.

Holloway came home second with Dalton Hodge third, Charles Nicholson fourth. Kimsey fifth, Allen Jones sixth, Marty Horne seventh and Willie Hill eighth.

Brad Amerson jumped into the lead from the state in the SHARP Mini Late Model feature and never looked back, leading flag to flag. Joey Scheon came home second with Mike Wolfe Jr. third, William Horton fourth, Dustin Snider fifth. Keith Thompson

sixth Tyler Keel seventh, Bryan Funk eighth, Mike Green ninth, Steven Smith 10th, Tyler Davis 11th, Jody Sparks 12th and Justin Veal 13th.

Bobby Oglesby made his first trip to Sumter Speedway this season and made the best of it by picking up a dominant win in the Super Street division

Oglesby shot into the lead as the race began and cruised on to the checkered flag and the win. Terrell Holloway came home second with Daulton Dabbs third, Ronnie Anderson fourth, Austin Rodonis fifth, Dusty Collins sixth, Ryan Winn seventh, Andrew Stone eighth, Ricky Hair ninth, Joey Wilkes 10th and Drew Shealy 11th.

The Mid East Modified division put on a show for the fans in attendance as three drivers swapped the lead throughout the feature. As the checkered flag flew, it was Jeff Robinson leading the field. However, Robinson was light on the scales after the race and as a result was disqualified.

As a result, Andrew Durham, who led 14 laps of the 20-lap feature, was the winner. Case Daniels came home second with Chris Stowe third and AJ Belanger fourth. Tommy Hadden was fifth, Rick Brand sixth, Knuckles

Shurling seventh, Paul Martinez eighth. Jason Floyd ninth, Preston Blalock 10th, James Hunter 11th, Greg Brown 12th and Don Hillis 13th.

The biggest feature of the night was that of the Extreme-4 division. Eighteen divers lined up for the start of an exciting feature.

Kyle Jenks grabbed the early lead with Keith Sikes and Joseph Thompson on his heels. Jenks slipped high in turns 3 and 4 and allowed Sikes to take over the top spot with Thompson and Michael Bruner following suit. Sikes had problems in turns 1 and 2, losing power that ended his night.

Thompson took over the lead from there and led the remainder of the feature to pick up the win. Bruner gave Thompson a fight, but had to settle for second with Derek Kemper third, Ben Hinson fourth and Alex Myers fifth.

Jenks came home sixth and was followed by Lisa Glasscock, Drake Williamson, Jaden Locklear, Joe Green, Ronnie Perritt, Ben Barrett, Sikes, Jerry Johnson, Taylor Hussey, David Burch, Kyle Brown and Scott Upton.

Terry Caples originally planned not to compete in Sumter on Saturday as his team took a trip to Lancaster Speedway instead. After fin-

ishing second there, Caples realized he had time to get back to Sumter in time to make the feature.

Caples started in the rear, but wasted little time making his way to the front. He passed Bubba Kolb on Lap 4 to take the lead. Caples led the remaining laps, picking up his second straight win.

Kolb was second with Allen Ridgeway third, JR Warren fourth, Josh Carter fifth, Bubba Miller sixth, Russell Lamberth seventh, David Johnkin eighth and Lee Mintz ninth.

The always exciting Street Stock division closed out the night with Cameron Holloway taking home the win. He took over the lead on Lap 2 after leaders Michael Butler and Robbie Disher got tangled up in turns 3 and 4 and led the rest of the way.

Adam Hill powered his way to a second-place finish with William Disher, Dalton Coursey fourth. LJ Shonemann fifth, Kevin Roark sixth, Buddy Stephen seventh, Brady England eighth and Clay Sims ninth.

There will be no racing at Sumter Speedway on Saturday in observance of Father's Day weekend. The season will continue on June 27 with the Blue Ridge Outlaw Late Models division on the schedule.









YOUR COVID-19 RESOURCES

Online resources including monitoring cases, virtual screenings, what has been closed or altered locally, and more.

GENERAL RESOURCES

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
DHEC county-by-county map of cases
Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center
Johns Hopkins COVID-19 global cases map
The President's Guidelines for America
Gov. Henry McMaster's Executive Orders
Gov. Henry McMaster's Twitter
U.S. Department of Defense
FEMA's Coronavirus Rumor Control

LOCAL RESOURCES

- The Sumter Item's FREE coronavirus coverage
Contact The Sumter Item's staff
Sumter County's local restaurants offering takeout, curbside, delivery service
Closures, cancellations and changes, updated daily
Sumter County government buildings, services closed
Sumter County website
City of Sumter website
Shaw Air Force Base
Clarendon County website
Lee County website

MEDICAL RESOURCES

- What are the symptoms? A guide from the CDC
A list of telehealth options for free virtual screening
Prisma Health
MUSC
McLeod Health

- Colonial Healthcare
Dr. Clay Lowder's (of Colonial Healthcare) Facebook page
Sandhills Medical Foundation is conducting drive-thru testing in Camden

JOBLESS BENEFITS AND RESOURCES

- Information about unemployment benefits with the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce
If you need to sign up for unemployment benefits, start here
DEW answers questions about filing for unemployment
Advice for laid-off workers from DEW

EDUCATION

- Chromebook tech support
Resources and accounts for parents with at-home children
USC updates
Morris College
Central Carolina Technical College FAQ and student resources available during shutdown
Online enrollment application for Central Carolina Technical College

MENTAL HEALTH/ WELLNESS/FITNESS

- The National Suicide Prevention Hotline provides 24/7, free, confidential support for anyone in distress.
Resources from the S.C. Department of Mental Health to help find free potential emotional support tools, includes articles about helping children cope

- Managing anxiety during COVID-19
What you should be buying at the grocery store during the coronavirus outbreak
Staying fit at home: Ideas from a Sumter Family YMCA health leader

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2020

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

Table with 6 columns: TODAY, TONIGHT, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY. Includes weather icons, temperature forecasts, and wind speeds.

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER. Map of South Carolina showing weather conditions for various cities like Greenville, Spartanburg, Florence, Myrtle Beach, etc.

LOCAL ALMANAC

Table with 4 columns: Temperature (High, Low, Normal high, Normal low, Record high, Record low), Precipitation (24 hrs ending 2 p.m. yest., Month to date, Normal month to date, Year to date, Last year to date, Normal year to date).

LAKE LEVELS

Table with 4 columns: Lake, Full pool, 7 a.m. yest., 24-hr chg. Lists lakes like Black River, Congaree River, etc.

SUN AND MOON

Table with 4 columns: Sunrise, Moonrise, Sunset, Moonset. Includes moon phase icons for June 21, 28, July 5, 12.

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 corresponding times for Today and Wednesday.

NATIONAL CITIES

Table with 4 columns: City, Today Hi/Lo/W, Wed. Hi/Lo/W. Lists cities like Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, etc.

REGIONAL CITIES

Table with 4 columns: City, Today Hi/Lo/W, Wed. Hi/Lo/W. Lists regional cities like Asheville, Athens, Augusta, etc.

PUBLIC AGENDA

EDITOR'S NOTE: Please note that due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, some of the following meetings/events may be cancelled, rescheduled or held virtually.

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

CLARENDON SCHOOL DISTRICT 2 Today, 5:30 p.m., district office, 15 Major Drive, Manning

CLARENDON COUNTY PLANNING & PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION Today, 6 p.m., planning commission office, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning

The Jewelry Doctors advertisement. Expert on-site jewelry repairs & appraisals. Computer-Aided Custom Design (CAD) & resetting. Pearl & bead restringing. Watchbands & watch repairs. Batteries installed. We buy gold. Markides Jewelers. 692 Bultman Drive 803 775-9145.

The last word in astrology EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Slow down, and take a moment to look around and see what everyone is doing. The more you observe, the greater leverage you'll have when it comes time for you to step into the spotlight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Question any relationship that is too demanding. Concentrate on what makes you happy and how you see yourself moving forward. Don't buy into a plan that you don't feel passionate about or that will deter you from following your heart.

PICTURES FROM THE PUBLIC



Sandra Holbert spotted this deer in her backyard enjoying a breakfast of blackberries.

HAVE YOU TAKEN PICTURES OF INTERESTING, EXCITING, BEAUTIFUL OR HISTORICAL PLACES? Would you like to share those images with your fellow Sumter Item readers? E-mail your hi-resolution jpegs to sandra@theitem.com, or mail to Sandra Holbert c/o The Sumter Item, P.O. Box 1677, Sumter, SC 29150.