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FINALLY SOME RAIN?

A storm or two possible today; a stray storm early tonight and cloudy
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Reports incorrect on Sumter child dying from COVID-19

BY KAYLA GREEN
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Reports that a Sumter County child died from COVID-19 were incorrect, officials said Tuesday.

Multiple TV and news outlets not based in Sumter reported a child from Sumter was among the 19 deaths announced on Labor Day by the state Department of Health and Environmental Control. *The Sumter Item* did not.

According to Sumter County Coroner Robbie Baker, the person's date of birth was recorded incorrectly. Baker said the COVID-19-related death, which occurred on Sept. 3, was an 81-year-old.

"We have not had a small child die from COVID-19 in Sumter," Baker said.

Baker told *The Sumter Item* last week that two of the COVID-19-related deaths his office has responded to were residents in their 50s. The rest were in their 60s through 90s.

According to DHEC, 14,301 Sumterites have been tested for the respiratory virus, of whom 2,918 have been confirmed to have COVID-19. Sumter has had 270 hospitalizations and 70 deaths.

"The last thing we need is for people to freak out with sending kids back to school," the coroner said.

Six schools in *The Item's* three-county coverage area — Sumter, Clarendon and Lee — have reported cases among faculty or students, according to DHEC's new school-level case reporting dashboard, which shows 233 confirmed cases among school-aged children and employees as of Tuesday. All of the schools have less than five total cases.

Attempts to reach a DHEC spokesperson Tuesday afternoon were not successful by press time.

Drive-in concert aims for community unity



PHOTOS BY TY CORNETT / THE SUMTER ITEM

Gospel in the Park was held for its 24th year at Bishop W.T. English Memorial Park as a drive-in event this year. Guests stayed in and near their cars because of the coronavirus to enjoy music from several groups on Monday.



Gospel event held for 24th year in Sumter

BY SHELBY GOULDING
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Honks replaced the sound of praising cheer at the 24th-annual Gospel in the Park when the Sumter community gathered in their vehicles for some positivity and gospel music on Labor Day amid the pandemic.

Usually, crowds would gather around the stage or picnic tables while children would play in the open field at Bishop W.T. English Memorial Park, but this year's concert turned more into a drive-in performance compared to past years.

Since the concert began in 1996, started by Bishop W.T. English, the founding pastor of Greater St. Paul Non-Denominational Church, it has never been canceled.

His daughter, now the event coordinator, Shonda English, had to

"This was the biggest turnout that we have ever had. Some people were kind of afraid of coming out, but they felt safer in their cars."

SHONDA ENGLISH

Gospel in the Park coordinator

make the decision whether to give up this year's concert because of COVID-19, but she didn't become part of the trend of local event cancellations and postponements.

SEE **CONCERT**, PAGE A8

Study: USC Sumter No. 2 two-year college in S.C.

Niche ranking marks 4th straight year in 2nd spot

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

For the fourth year in a row, a leading college rankings organization has ranked USC Sumter as the No. 2 community college in the state.

USC Sumter was also ranked No. 27 overall in the U.S. for this school year.

Niche, an online educational institutional data company, released

its 2021 College Rankings for both four-year and two-year colleges earlier this month. The rankings for public two-year institutions included junior colleges, community colleges and technical colleges.

According to its website, Niche ranks schools based on rigorous analysis of academic, financial and student life data from the U.S. Department of Education along with millions of reviews from students and alumni.

Niche gave USC Sumter an overall B+ grade in its rankings.

"I'm very proud we have maintained our ranking in the state for the past four years," USC Sumter Dean Michael Sonntag said. "It speaks volumes of the dedication of our campus, especially during the recent challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Being ranked highly and recognized by Niche for our hard



SEE **RANKINGS**, PAGE A7

District's first re-evaluation on move to hybrid is Friday

94% of teachers are delivering instruction from the classroom

BY BRUCE MILLS
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Attention parents of Sumter School District children: The kids will be doing virtual

"home schooling" for at least another two weeks.

A district spokeswoman told *The Sumter Item* on Tuesday that on Friday the district will conduct its first re-evaluation on whether COVID-19 conditions will allow for a transition to a hybrid/blended model of instruction. Whenever any shift is made, there will still be a two-week notice

to parents on the changes.

Sumter School District's virtual reopening plan approved last month by the state Department of Education called for the two entities to re-evaluate every two weeks whether an in-person option at schools is safe for children and adults. After starting fully virtual on Aug. 28, Friday is the initial two-week

mark on the calendar.

"This Friday, we will re-evaluate the data provided by DHEC," said Shelly Galloway, the district's executive director of communication and community engagement, "and continue to work closely with the state Department of Education to determine when it is appropriate to begin the transition phase to hybrid learn-

ing. When that determination has been made, we will give parents two weeks' notice."

That doesn't necessarily mean in-person, face-to-face instruction will begin later this month in the district. That is just a possible date for when it could begin, according to the district.

SEE **DISTRICT**, PAGE A8



SECOND FRONT

Call: (803) 774-1226 | E-mail: pressrelease@theitem.com

Teacher raises back on table as S.C. senators return for special session

Hazard pay bonuses for state workers making less than \$50K to also be discussed

BY JEFFREY COLLINS
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina senators will likely consider whether to restore the annual raises most teachers get each year to the state budget when they return to Columbia next week for a special session amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Senate Finance Committee is working on a proposal to spend \$40 million out of about \$775 million saved up during the past two years on what are called step increases — pay raises of usually about several hundred dollars a year given to teachers as they gain experience.

Lawmakers suspended the raises in the spring because of the uncertainty of what the COVID-19 pandemic might do to the economy.

Senators also will likely consider setting aside \$15 million in federal COVID-19 relief money for hazard pay bonuses for state workers who make under \$50,000 a year and whose jobs are more risky during the pandemic. The committee plans to discuss details on those bonuses later this week.

Much economic uncertainty still remains, and Senate budget writers discussed Tuesday setting aside \$500 million of the \$775 million South Carolina has in the bank as a hedge in case predictions by economists that the state should bring in about as much money in taxes and fees this fiscal year as it did last fiscal year turn out to be too rosy. “I cannot reconcile in my mind that we are out of this thing yet,” said Senate Finance Committee Chairman Hugh Leatherman.

The 89-year-old Florence Republican ran the meeting online from his home, demanding they wear ties and coats like they would if meeting in person. Leatherman told his colleagues he would not be on the Senate floor Sept. 15 when a two-week super-sized special session to deal with the budget and other matters begins to protect his health.

The Senate and the House agreed in

May to pass a resolution allowing the state to continue to spend at current levels when the 2019-20 budget year ended June 30 to give them more time to see what COVID-19 did to the economy. The House did pass a budget in March expecting the state’s boom times to continue, but the pandemic started.

In recent weeks, House leaders and the governor have suggested maintaining those spending levels at around \$9 billion until a new General Assembly begins its session in January, worried money they agree to spend might in a few months not be there if the economy worsens.

But Sen. Vincent Sheheen said that if lawmakers keep delaying action, they may never do anything.

“We have an obligation to pass the budget as legislators in the state of South Carolina. If we don’t pass a budget right now, we won’t pass one,” the Democrat from Camden said.

Senators also have a few other ideas for the extra state money, including \$4 million for additional school nurses, nearly \$4.2 million that would provide an extra \$135 for poll workers this November and \$40 million to promote tourism, which they said could be especially important next spring if the pandemic is under control.

Conservative senators plan to look over the spending carefully, worried about possible mid-budget-year cuts that can devastate state agencies.

“The conservative heart in me wants to save every nickel we can,” said Sen. Tom Corbin, a Republican from Greenville County.

Senators also plan to discuss how to spend \$668 million in federal relief money that has not been set aside. Leatherman and other leaders want \$425 million of it to go toward repaying unemployment benefits paid since the economy crashed. Lawmakers have already sent \$500 million in federal money to that fund.

Other items the Senate Finance Committee will likely suggest when they meet Wednesday are \$93 million for additional coronavirus testing, \$100 million for tutoring and other needs for virtual schools, \$100 million to help local governments and \$20 million to help food banks, provide utility payment relief and mental counseling for people struggling with the pandemic.



Flames burn at a home leveled by the Creek Fire along Highway 168 on Tuesday in Fresno County, California.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Helicopters pull more people from burning California forest

SHAVER LAKE, Calif. (AP) — Helicopters flew through dense smoke Tuesday to rescue scores more people from wildfires as wind-fanned flames kept chewing through bone-dry California after a scorching Labor Day weekend that saw a dramatic airlift of more than 200.

Rescue choppers pulled an additional 164 people from the Sierra National Forest through the morning and were working to rescue 17 others, said Gov. Gavin Newsom, who described pilots wearing night-vision goggles to find a place to land.

“It’s where training meets the moment, but it always takes the courage, the conviction and the grit of real people doing real work,” Newsom said.

California has already set a record with nearly 2.3 million acres burned this year, and the worst part of the wildfire season is just beginning.

“This is historic,” Newsom said in a briefing from Sacramento.

The previous acreage record was set just two years ago and included the deadliest wildfire in state history, which swept through the community of Paradise and killed 85 people.

That 2018 blaze was started by power lines amid strong winds and tinder-dry conditions. Liability from billions of dollars in claims from that and other fires forced the state’s largest utility, Pacific Gas & Electric, to seek

bankruptcy protection. To guard against new disasters, the company last year began preemptive power shutoffs when fire conditions are exceptionally dangerous.

That’s the situation now in Northern California, where high and dry winds are expected until today. PG&E said it has learned from past problems and will seek this year to make the outages “smaller in size, shorter in length and smarter for customers.”

During the weekend, the company cut power to 172,000 customers to try to prevent more blazes.

More than 14,000 firefighters are battling more than two dozen fires across the state. Two of the three largest blazes in state history are burning in the San Francisco Bay Area.

California was not alone: Hurricane-force winds and high temperatures kicked up wildfires across parts of the Pacific Northwest during the holiday weekend, burning hundreds of thousands of acres and mostly destroying the small town of Malden in eastern Washington.

In Southern California, fires burned in Los Angeles, San Bernardino and San Diego counties, and the forecast called for the arrival of the region’s notorious Santa Ana winds. The U.S. Forest Service on Monday decided to close all eight national forests in the region and to shutter campgrounds statewide.

Rochester police leaders retire after suffocation death

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) — Top police leaders in New York’s third-largest city are retiring en masse amid criticism of the city’s handling of the suffocation death of Daniel Prude, the mayor of Rochester said Tuesday.

La’Ron Singletary, the city’s police chief, is among those retiring, as is Deputy Chief Joseph M. Morabito and possibly other senior commanders, Mayor Lovely Warren said.

Warren made the surprise announcement of the retirements at a City Council briefing being held online. Council members had expected the chief to appear in person to discuss ongoing protests about the death of Prude, a 41-year-old Black man who

died several days after an encounter with police March 23.

“As you all know, this has been a very challenging time for the city of Rochester, and the chief was not asked to give his resignation because I do believe that he’s giving his very best,” Warren told council members.

In an emailed statement to WXXI, Singletary said Tuesday that “the events over the past week are an attempt to destroy my character and integrity.”

“The members of the Rochester Police Department and the Greater Rochester Community know my reputation and know what I stand for,” he said in the statement. “The mischarac-

terization and the politicization of the actions that I took after being informed of Mr. Prude’s death is not based on facts, and is not what I stand for.”

Singletary, who spent his entire career inside the Rochester Police Department, was appointed chief in April 2019. He said he looks forward to “continuing to serve our community in my next chapter.”

“This is great news,” said Iman Abid, speaking for Free the People ROC, which has held nightly protests since details of Prude’s death emerged. “It says to the people that people are able to move things and to shape things. The police chief

wouldn’t retire if it weren’t for something that he felt he was accountable to.”

But, she said, nightly protests will continue to push other demands, including the resignation of the mayor, defunding and demilitarizing of police and development of a state law barring police departments from responding to mental health crises.

Warren didn’t know when the retirements would take effect. It was unclear who would be in charge of police Tuesday night if demonstrators come out for a sixth straight night, as expected. Demonstrators have called for the resignations of both Singletary and Warren, who are both Black.

OSTEEN

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Bring in the experts: It's time to secure your home network

BY FRANK BAJAK
AP Technology Writer

Not all that long ago, managing your home network's security didn't involve much more than installing an anti-virus program on your PC. If only it were still so simple.

It's no longer just about protecting the computer on which you may be working from home and the laptops the kids may be using as on-line school starts. Odds are good you've got a few other internet-connected devices around the house — phones, tablets, game consoles, maybe a "smart" TV or thermostat or refrigerator or light bulb or kid's toy or security camera or video-streaming gadget or voice-activated digital valet.

The average U.S. home now has 11 such devices, according to Deloitte, many of which are vulnerable to hacking. If you don't want cyber cat burglars traipsing across them, potentially spreading malware or ransomware as they go, you'll want to secure your entire home network.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Home networks are a major target for cybercriminals, who use innocuous smart gadgets as stepping stones to loot data from PCs and phones. Or they may co-opt these simpler devices into much larger "bot-nets" that can be used to wreak havoc across the internet.

On average, one in three internet connections from home networks are made through devices other than computers or phones, so there's lots of opportunity for mischief if you don't lock your virtual windows to the networked world.

You can do it yourself, but that can be a lot of work, and the potential consequences of any mistakes could be significant. For most people, it makes better sense to pay for a network-protection service, whether offered by your internet provider or another business. Though it will cost you.

HOW DOES THIS WORK?

Think of your home network as a bunch of cans tied to each other with strings. Those are all your in-house devices and the data they share with each other.

Now picture each of those cans tied to thousands of other strings outside your home. They are data connections your devices routinely make to other devices on the global internet. It's beyond our capacity to constantly monitor all those connections. We need help.

A good network-security service sets up firewalls to block unwanted data traffic, but it doesn't stop there. Since firewalls are imperfect, it will also monitor network traffic using artificial intelligence to detect unusual patterns. It keeps an eye on both your devices and malicious internet domains, alerting you to potential threats and blocking suspicious websites.

Typically, you'll be able to configure your security and respond to alerts from a laptop or phone. Providers let you block unauthorized users and websites from connecting to your home gadgets. Parents can also often use these services to set rules on the websites kids can visit and limits on screen time.

HOW MUCH DOES THIS COST? IS IT WORTH IT?

Internet providers now frequently offer security suites if you rent your modem or router from them. From Comcast, it costs \$14 a month. Verizon charges fiber-optic FiOS subscribers \$25/month but provides it for free with its premium gigabit plan.

If you recently bought your own router, security may come as a free trial and then a subscription. Or you can buy a separate service or stand-alone security appliance. Figure on paying about \$100 a year.

"Most consumers don't have the necessary knowhow as to how to secure their home network," says Michael Philpott, a connected-home analyst with the Omedia tech research firm. "The only real option is to have a central solution that can monitor all connected devices."

Philpott says he's personally happy to pay a little extra for the peace of mind.

Start by checking out the service provided by your broadband provider or the maker of your router. Is the software easy to set up and to use? Check which security firm supplies the underlying security tools; Bitdefender, F-Secure, McAfee and Trend Micro are among industry leaders.

It's also possible to buy network-security kits directly from security companies, though you'll typically pay more for an extra monitoring device you'll add to your network. These often include anti-malware software for computers and phones.

Look for software that also lets you create two separate "virtual" home networks. Reserve one for work computers and networked data storage,

and use the other for smart TVs and speakers.

I'M NOT AFRAID OF TINKERING. WHAT CAN I DO MYSELF?

You're going to need to roll up your sleeves and get educated if you want to harden your home network's security on your own. Even then, if you do any kind of sensitive work at home, it probably pays to shell out for extra protection.

See the links below for basic details to get you started.

Basic network security: <https://bit.ly/2Zg8pou>

Protecting your router: <https://bit.ly/334JuWc>

U.S. guidelines: <https://bit.ly/2R2Enjp>

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House will investigate DeJoy for possible campaign law violations

BY MATTHEW DALY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Democrats said Tuesday they will investigate whether Postmaster General Louis DeJoy encouraged employees at his former business to contribute to Republican candidates and then reimbursed them in the guise of bonuses, a violation of campaign finance laws.

Five people who worked for DeJoy's former company, New Breed Logistics, say they were urged by DeJoy's aides or by DeJoy himself to write checks and attend fundraisers at his mansion in Greensboro, North Carolina, *The Washington Post* reported. Two former employees told the newspaper that DeJoy would later give bigger bonuses to reimburse for the contributions.

It's not illegal to encourage employees to contribute to candidates, but it is illegal to

reimburse them as a way of avoiding federal campaign contribution limits.

Rep. Carolyn Maloney, who chairs the House Oversight Committee, said in a statement Tuesday that if the allegations are true, "DeJoy could face criminal exposure — not only for his actions in North Carolina, but also for lying to our committee under oath."

She was referring to DeJoy's testimony before her committee last month, when he forcefully denied that he had repaid executives for contributing to Trump's campaign.

Maloney, a New York Democrat, urged the Postal Service Board of Governors to immediately suspend DeJoy, whom "they never should have selected in the first place."

Rep. Gerry Connolly, D-Va., chairman of the oversight panel's government operations subcommittee, said DeJoy has "repeatedly broken

the trust of the American people and must resign or be fired."

Monty Hagler, a private spokesperson for DeJoy, said in a statement that DeJoy was unaware any workers felt pressure to make donations. Hagler also said DeJoy thinks he has always complied with campaign fundraising laws and regulations.

President Donald Trump said Monday that DeJoy, a major donor to Trump and other Republicans, should lose his job if campaign finance irregularities are uncovered. "If something could be proven that he did something wrong," an official such as DeJoy should "always" lose his job, Trump told reporters.

But White House chief of staff Mark Meadows dismissed the allegations as political.

"Never underestimate Congress' ability to ratchet up an investigation 60 days out from



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy testifies before a House Oversight and Reform Committee hearing on the Postal Service on Capitol Hill on Aug. 24 in Washington.

a presidential election," he said Tuesday at the White House.

Meadows called DeJoy "an honorable man" and said he's sure DeJoy will cooperate with investigators. "We serve in a great country where you're innocent until proven guilty, especially when that guilt is thrown your way by members of Congress," said Meadows, who served in Congress for seven years before becoming chief of staff in March.

DeJoy already faces unrelated scrutiny from Congress for U.S. Postal Service changes that some fear will slow delivery of mail-in ballots for the Nov. 3 elections.

DeJoy was put in charge of the Postal Service in June after a career in logistics and set in motion a series of policy changes that have delayed mail and sparked concern about the agency's ability to process a flood of mail-in ballots expected this fall because of coronavirus fears.

McConnell proposes 'targeted' virus aid, Dems say it's not enough

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Tuesday the Senate would vote on a trimmed-down Republican coronavirus relief package, though it has a slim chance of passage in the face of Democrats' insistence for more sweeping aid.

The Kentucky Republican released the approximately \$500 billion measure as senators returned to Washington for an abbreviated pre-election session, as hopes are dimming for another coronavirus relief bill — or much else.

Republicans struggling to retain their Senate majority this fall have been divided, with some GOP senators in close races anxious to respond further to the pandemic, even as conservatives are firing of all the spending and passing legislation in concert with liberal House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

McConnell called the package "a targeted proposal that focuses on several of the most urgent aspects of this crisis, the issues where bipartisanship should

be especially possible." They included school aid, new money for vaccines and testing and a second round of the popular Paycheck Protection Program for smaller businesses.

Democrats are demanding a far larger bill, including hundreds of billions of dollars for state and local governments, more generous jobless benefits and help for renters and homeowners, along with other provisions in the House Democrats' \$3.5 billion relief bill that passed in May.

Republican senators such as Susan Collins of Maine are eager to show constituents they are continuing to work to ease the pandemic's disastrous impact on jobs, businesses and health. But many Senate Republicans are resisting more spending, and the scaled-back bill is roughly half the size of a measure McConnell unveiled earlier this summer.

McConnell's move Tuesday would clear the way for a Thursday test vote in

which Democrats are sure to block the legislation. Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said the bill "doesn't come close to addressing the problems and is headed nowhere."

McConnell's bill would provide \$105 billion to help schools reopen, enact a shield against lawsuits for businesses and others that are powering ahead to reopen, create a scaled-back \$300-per-week supplemental jobless benefit and write off \$10 billion in earlier debt at the U.S. Postal Service. There's \$31 billion for a coronavirus vaccine, \$16 billion for virus testing and \$15 billion to help child care providers reopen. There is additionally \$20 billion for farmers.

The package will also include a school choice initiative sought by Texas GOP Sen. Ted Cruz and others that would provide a tax break, for two years, for people who donate to nonprofit organizations offering private school scholarships.

It would also provide for a \$258 billion

second round of paycheck protection subsidies.

But it won't contain another round of \$1,200 direct payments going out under Trump's name. Pelosi, D-Calif., continues to demand a package totaling \$2.2 trillion, and while Trump's negotiators have signaled a willingness to inch further in her direction, a significant gap remains.

Talks between top Democrats and the Trump administration broke off last month and remain off track, with the bipartisan unity that drove almost \$3 trillion in COVID-19 rescue legislation into law this spring replaced by toxic partisanship and a return to Washington dysfunction.

Expectations in July and August that a fifth bipartisan pandemic response bill would eventually be birthed despite increased obstacles has been replaced by genuine pessimism. Recent COVID-related conversations among key players have led to nothing.

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Beachgoers enjoyed the sunny and hot day at Sunny Isles Beach as the coronavirus pandemic continues on Sunday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Summer of COVID-19 ends with health officials worried

BY JEFFREY COLLINS
The Associated Press

The Lost Summer of 2020 drew to a close Monday with many big Labor Day gatherings canceled across the U.S. and health authorities pleading with people to keep their distance from others so as not to cause another coronavirus surge like the one that followed Memorial Day.

Downtown Atlanta was quiet as the 85,000 or so people who come dressed as their favorite superheroes or sci-fi characters for the annual Dragon Con convention met online instead. Huge football stadiums at places like Ohio State and the University of Texas sat empty. Many Labor Day parades marking the unofficial end of summer were called off, and masks were usually required at the few that went on.

"Please, please do not make the same mistakes we all made on Memorial Day weekend. Wear your masks, watch your distance, and wash your hands," said Dr. Raul Pino, state health director in Orange County, Florida, which includes the Orlando area.

The U.S. had about 1.6 million confirmed COVID-19 cases around Memorial Day, before backyard parties and other gatherings contributed to a summertime surge. It now has more than 6.2 million cases, according to the count kept by Johns Hopkins University. Deaths from the virus more than doubled during the summer to nearly 190,000.

In New Orleans, which had one of the largest outbreaks outside of New York City this spring, city officials reminded residents that COVID-19 doesn't take a holiday after they re-

ceived 36 calls about large gatherings and 46 calls about businesses not following safety rules on Friday and Saturday.

"This is not who we are, and this is not how we — as a community — get back to where we want to be," the city said.

In South Carolina, which was a hot spot of contagion during the summer before cases started to decline in early August, 8,000 fans, including Gov. Henry McMaster, were allowed to attend the NASCAR race at the Darlington Raceway on Sunday. State officials approved a socially distant attendance plan at the track, which can hold 47,000 people.

It was the biggest gathering in the state since the outbreak started six months ago. Many rows and seats were kept empty to keep groups of fans apart, and people were asked to wear masks.

Debbie Katsanos drove down from New Hampshire with her husband, her father and a friend. It was their first trip out of state since COVID-19 started spreading. They had time off because the Labor Day weekend fair where they typically sell concessions canceled this year.

Katsanos said they wore masks at all times when they were away from their motor home, ate in a restaurant only once on the way down and tried to stay socially distant when visiting with other people at their campground.

"It's probably our only chance to get somewhere before the summer ends," Katsanos said Monday as she sat in traffic on Interstate 95 in North Carolina on the long trip home. "I saw it as the turning of the corner. We survived this. Let's live life a little."

Boeing discovers new problem with 787 that will delay deliveries

BY DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer

Inspections triggered by production flaws in Boeing's 787 jetliner are further slowing deliveries of the two-aisle planes, compounding Boeing's struggle to recover from the grounding of its 737 Max and the coronavirus pandemic.

Boeing said Tuesday it was inspecting separate issues that have been found where rear sections of the 787 fuselage are joined together and on part of the tail called the horizontal stabilizer.

The affected planes haven't been delivered to customers yet, and "We expect these inspections to affect the timing of 787 deliveries in the near term," spokesman Peter Pedraza said in a statement.

The Federal Aviation Administration said it is investigating the matter.

"It is too early to speculate about the nature or extent of any proposed Airworthiness Directives that might arise from the agency's investigation," said the spokesman, Lynn Lunsford, referring to potential safety orders that could be imposed on Boeing.

The Chicago-based company, which builds planes

in Washington state and South Carolina, said it delivered 13 airliners last month, including four 787s, which Boeing calls the Dreamliner. It is a popular plane among airlines for international routes.

Boeing's slow pace of deliveries since early 2019 has robbed the company of much-needed cash.

During production of the horizontal stabilizer at a Boeing plant, some parts were clamped together with too much force, resulting in improper gaps between sections. Boeing doesn't think it is an immediate safety issue but could lead to premature aging of the fuselage, and it is delaying some 787 deliveries while determining whether repairs are needed on planes that have already been delivered.

Boeing is still working with U.S. and foreign regulators to clear the Max for return to flying after two deadly crashes. Nearly 400 Max jets were in use when the fleet was grounded worldwide in March 2019 after crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia killed 346 people. The Max was Boeing's best-selling plane.

Boeing dispatched a Max to Vancouver on Tuesday for flight tests this week with European regulators.

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Doctors studying why obesity may be tied to serious COVID-19

BY CANDICE CHOI
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — In the early days of the pandemic, doctors noticed something about the people severely ill from COVID-19: Many were obese.

The link became more apparent as coronavirus swept across the globe and data mounted, and researchers are still trying to figure out why.

Excess weight increases the chances of developing a number of health problems, including heart disease and diabetes. And those are among the conditions that can make COVID-19 patients more likely to get very sick.

But there's some evidence that obesity itself can increase the likelihood of serious complications from a coronavirus infection. One study of more than 5,200 infected people, including 35% who were obese, found that the chances of hospitalization rose for people with higher BMIs, even when taking into account other conditions that could put them at risk.

Scientists are still studying the factors that might be at play — the way obesity affects the immune system may be one — but say it's another example of the pandemic illuminating

existing public health challenges.

Obesity may be one reason some countries or communities have been hit hard by the virus, researchers say. In the United States, the obesity rate among adults has climbed for decades and is now at 42%. The rate is even higher among Black and Hispanic Americans.

A person who is 5 feet, 7 inches tall is considered obese starting at about 190 pounds, or a body mass index of 30. The increased risk for serious COVID-19 illness appears more pronounced with extreme obesity, or a BMI of 40 or higher.

Researchers say multiple factors likely make it harder for people who are obese to fight a coronavirus infection, which can damage the lungs. Carrying around a lot of extra weight strains the body, and that excess fat could limit the lungs' ability to expand and breathe.

Another issue is chronic inflammation, which often comes with obesity. Inflammation is a natural way our bodies fight harmful intruders like viruses. But long-lasting inflammation isn't healthy and could undermine your body's defenses when a real threat arises.

"It's like pouring gasoline on a smol-

dering fire," said Dr. Dariush Mozaffarian, an obesity researcher and dean of Tufts University's school of nutrition science and policy near Boston.

And even if people who are obese aren't diagnosed with diabetes or heart disease, Mozaffarian notes their health may not be optimal.

How fat is distributed in the body may play a role, too. One study found an increased risk for death from COVID-19 for people with severe obesity, but only among men. The findings could reflect that men tend to carry fat around the stomach, said Sara Tartof, a co-author of the study who researches infectious diseases at Kaiser Permanente in Southern California. That type of fat is more associated with the production of a hormone that could be contributing to more severe illness, she said.

Scientists are also exploring whether there's something specific about the coronavirus itself that makes the obese more susceptible to getting very sick.

For example, the virus infects cells by attaching to receptors on the surface of certain cells. That receptor is abundant on fat cells, and scientists are studying whether that makes them "a good nest for the virus," said

Dr. Francois Pattou at the University of Lille in France, who has co-authored research on the link between obesity and severe COVID-19 illness.

Complications in care can arise once hospitalized, too. To help with breathing, for example, doctors have been putting patients hospitalized with COVID-19 on their stomachs. But that can be difficult for the obese, making it more likely they're put on ventilators.

"They need a machine to help just do the work," said Dr. David Kass of Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University, who has co-authored a study on obesity and severe COVID-19 illness.

Yet another concern: A COVID-19 vaccine may not be as effective for the obese, as seems to be the case with the flu and other vaccines.

Why that might be isn't known, but one possibility is that obesity impairs an aspect of the immune system that needs to be activated for vaccines to work, said Dr. Nancie MacIver, who researches how weight affects the immune system at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. And she said whatever factors are at play would likely be applicable to a COVID-19 vaccine but added that it is still important to get it.

What should I look for in a hand sanitizer, and when to use it?

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pick one that contains mostly alcohol and has few other ingredients.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says hand sanitizers should be at least 60% ethyl alcohol or 70% isopropyl alcohol. Other approved ingredients may include sterile distilled water, hydrogen peroxide and glycerin, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

You should avoid anything with methanol or 1-propanol, both of which can be highly toxic. The FDA also warns people to watch out for hand sanitizers packaged in food and drink containers, since accidentally ingesting them could be dangerous.

Health officials also say to avoid hand sanitizers that replace alcohol with benzalkonium chloride, which is less effective at killing certain bacteria and viruses. Making

your own sanitizers isn't encouraged either; the wrong mix of chemicals can be ineffective or cause skin burns.

And you should only use hand sanitizer when you can't wash your hands with soap and water, says Barun Mathema, an infectious disease researcher at Columbia University. Hand washing is better at removing more germs.

The AP is answering your questions about the coronavirus in this series. Submit them at: FactCheck@AP.org.

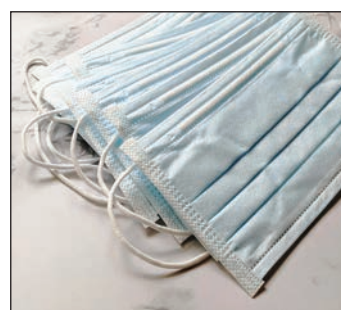
Can I use a face shield instead of a mask?

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No. Health officials don't recommend the clear plastic barriers as a substitute for masks because of the lack of research on whether they keep an infected person from spreading viral droplets to others.

However, those who want extra protection may want to wear a face shield in addition to a mask.

Face shields have the added benefit of protecting your eyes and discouraging you from touching your face by acting as a physical barrier,



venting viral spread are hooded or wrap around the sides and bottom of the face, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That's because those shields leave less space for droplets from sneezing, coughing and talking to escape.

If you do wear a reusable face shield in addition to a mask, the CDC notes the importance of cleaning it after each use. The agency also says you should wash your hands before and after taking it off, and avoid touching your face while removing it.

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RANKINGS

FROM PAGE A1

work further demonstrates our value to Sumter, our larger service area and the state.”

USC Sumter is one of four two-year USC campuses — also known as Palmetto College campuses — that also offer online four-year bachelor’s degrees through the University of South Carolina system.

Niche ranked fellow Palmetto College campus USC Lancaster as the No. 1 community college in the state and No. 2 nationally in its 2021 rankings. USC Lancaster received an A-overall grade from Niche. The No. 1 community college in the nation — New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, New Mexico — also received an A-overall grade from Niche.

Rounding out the top five two-year colleges in the state in Niche’s 2021 rankings were USC Union, Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College and USC Salkehatchie in Allendale and Walterboro.

NICHE 2021 COLLEGE RANKINGS

Best community colleges in S.C.

1. University of South Carolina Lancaster
2. University of South Carolina Sumter
3. University of South Carolina Union
4. Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College
5. University of South Carolina Salkehatchie

Trump announces expansion of ban on new offshore oil drilling sites in Atlantic

BY ZEKE MILLER
The Associated Press

JUPITER, Fla. — President Donald Trump sought to claim the mantle of environmental steward on Tuesday as he announced an expansion of a ban on offshore drilling and highlighted conservation projects in Florida. But his administration has overturned or weakened numerous regulations meant to protect air and water quality and lands essential for imperiled species.

Trump spoke beside the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, lambasting Democrat Joe Biden’s agenda at the taxpayer-funded event. The trip comes as Trump steps up his travel to battleground states eight weeks before the election. From Florida, he was headed for a campaign rally in North Carolina, another must-win state for his reelection.

Trump announced he was extending and expanding a ban on new offshore drilling sites off the Florida coast as well as Georgia and South Carolina. The existing moratorium covers the Gulf of Mexico, and Trump said the new one would also cover the Atlantic coast — a significant political concern in coastal states like Florida.

“My administration’s proving every day that we can improve our environment while creating millions of high-paying jobs,” Trump said. He claimed Biden’s environmental plans would “destroy America’s middle class while giving a free pass to the world’s worst foreign polluters.”

The announcement could open the president up to charges of an election-year flip-flop given that he acted in January 2018 to vastly expand offshore drilling from the Atlantic to the Arctic oceans.

Trump offered himself as the greatest environmental president since Theodore Roosevelt.

“Who would have thought. Trump is the great environmentalist?” the president said. “You hear that? That’s good, and I am. I am. I believe strongly in it.”

Trump, though, has rolled back numerous regulations meant to protect the environment, from power plant emissions to auto fuel standards to clean water. He withdrew the U.S. from the Paris Climate Accord, a global agreement to address the emission of heat-trapping greenhouse gases.

The Trump administration has made the environment a primary target of his deregulatory push, elimi-

nating or weakening dozens of rules that protect the nation’s air and water quality and lands essential for imperiled species while reversing Obama-era initiatives to fight climate change.

Trump replaced Obama’s Clean Power Plan aimed at slashing greenhouse gas pollution from electric plants and eased automobile fuel economy standards. Under Trump, the Environmental Protection Agency stripped federal protection from millions of acres of streams and wetlands. He lifted restrictions on oil and gas exploration in sensitive areas and shortened environmental reviews of construction projects such as highways and pipelines.

South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster, a longtime Trump ally who has opposed the administration’s drilling exploration expansion plans, applauded Tuesday’s announcement as “good news” but warned “we must remain vigilant in the conservation and preservation of our coastline.”

“South Carolina is blessed with the most beautiful and pristine beaches, sea islands and marshes in the nation,” McMaster said. “Seismic testing and offshore drilling threatens their health and jeopardizes the future of our state’s \$24 billion tourism industry.”

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Kid Scoop

SEPTEMBER 13 IS UNCLE SAM DAY

UNCLE SAM

You may have seen pictures of Uncle Sam and heard his name. Did you know he is based on a real person? Read the story, then number the pictures on this page in the correct order.

When Samuel Wilson was 14, the American colonies declared their independence from British rule. Samuel ran away to join the revolutionary army. But he was too young to fight, so he took care of the cattle that were the meat supply for the revolutionary army.

After the war, Samuel and his brother Ebenezer, moved to Troy, New York and started a meat business. They salted and packed meat into barrels so that the meat would keep on the pioneers’ long journey traveling west.

This 1917 poster is the most famous image of Uncle Sam.

In 1812, a second war broke out with England. The army stationed six thousand troops in Fort Crailo, just a few miles from Troy. Those 6,000 men had to eat.


A man named Elbert Anderson ordered meat from the Wilson brothers for the army. Samuel checked each meat shipment very carefully to be sure it was good. Once a shipment met with his approval, he stamped EA-US on it. EA stood for Elbert Anderson and US stood for United States.

One story says that a man working in the kitchen saw the EA-US label and asked what it meant. Someone joked that EA means ‘eat away’ and US are Uncle Sam’s initials to show that he inspected the meat. The joke caught on and was repeated over and over by other soldiers.

When Elbert Anderson visited the fort, he saw the labels and asked what they meant, and a dockhand answered, “They stand for Uncle Sam. It’s his meat that feeds the army.”

An American Symbol is Born

Newspapers wrote about this story. Cartoonists drew pictures of the Uncle Sam character wearing clothing with stars and stripes—like our flag! Before long, Uncle Sam became a symbol of the United States itself.

How many stars can you find on this page in two minutes. Have a friend try. Who found the most?

Extra! Extra!

First Letters

Look through the newspaper for a word that starts with every letter in the word **NEWSPAPER**. Try to pick words that say something about your newspaper. For example, N could be a word like “New.”

N
E
W
S
P
A
P
E
R

Standards Link: Writing applications.

Look carefully. Can you find each matching hat?



Kid Scoop Puzzler

The Statue of Liberty is a famous American symbol of freedom and hope. A gift from France, it has stood on a pedestal in New York Harbor since 1886. A poem written for the Statue by Emma Lazarus has a famous line that is quoted often. Fill in the missing vowels, then talk with your family about what this quote means.

“G_ ve m_ y_ r_ t_ red,
y_ r_ p_ r_ , y_ r_ r_ h_ dded m_ sses
ye_ rning to br_ _ the fr_ _.”

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

EMPLOYEES	R	S	E	E	Y	O	L	P	M	E
COLONIES	T	A	E	M	E	W	E	S	T	A
INITIALS	L	M	P	I	O	N	E	E	R	S
PIONEERS	O	U	N	I	Y	M	R	A		
LEGEND	L	E	O	D	N	E	G	E	L	L
SAMUEL	I	L	S	O	C	A	L	E	S	T
WILSON	A	S	L	A	I	T	I	N	E	
SYMBOL	R	O	I	S	Y	M	B	O	L	D
CRAILO	C	A	W	A	Y	S	D	E	E	F
FEEDS										
MEAT										
ARMY										
AWAY										
WEST										
EAT										

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Neighborhood Symbol

Look through the newspaper for a word or an image that you think could be a symbol of your neighborhood. Write a letter to the editor explaining why you think it would be a good symbol.

Standards Link: Use the newspaper to locate information.

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CONCERT

FROM PAGE A1

“I couldn’t not do it because we’ve come so close to 25 years,” English said. “People were hungry for some good gospel music and fellowship, and I just asked God how to make this happen.”

At their first Gospel in the Park, English said, it rained nonstop, causing the groups to play in the small building at the park. They continued to perform while spectators sat in the field with their umbrellas.

“At the end of the event, a huge rainbow appeared out of nowhere,” English said. “My father took that as that’s God’s sign, and he’s going to bless this event as long as we do it.”

With all the chaos and negativity going on in the world right now, English looked to God for answers on how to make Gospel in the Park happen this year while also spreading positive vibes in Sumter. That’s when she was given the vision of a drive-in concert.

“This was the biggest turnout that we have ever had,” English said. “Some people were kind of afraid of coming out, but they felt safer in their cars.”

Attendees were still able to walk around freely and enjoy the warm weather while wearing face coverings, but

the majority stayed in their vehicles. Children were given ribbons and bubbles to blow outside of their vehicles because they couldn’t run around like they normally would.

Her overall goal was to celebrate unity in the community with this year’s concert. The park was to be a place with no preaching, no racial discrimination, no protests and no fear of the coronavirus.

She said her father would have done the same thing if he were alive today and that he was probably cheering her on throughout this year’s planning process.

“As far as the racial tension, everybody just enjoyed each other,” English said. “It shows that this can be done. To look beyond the skin and that we’re all one. We’re all the same.”

English was glad people of all races, backgrounds and church affiliations could attend this year’s event to show that everyone can stand together in unison and pray for a common good.

“Different races and denominations serving one God,” English said. “That’s what it’s all about, right?”

The concert featured multiple artists and groups, such as Jordan Varner from Moncks Corner, Sumter’s Elijah Bradford and Purpose Driven, Sue Collins from Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church, The Brooklyn AllStars, Cindy Collins Pierson, The Gospel Lyr-



PHOTOS BY TY CORNETT / THE SUMTER ITEM

Guests and performers enjoy the annual Gospel in the Park concert on Labor Day.

ics, Flossie Boyd Johnson and Family, Minister Lee Burgess and Resurrection, The New Boys of Sumter, Ken Hargrove and Dave Sims, Stephanie Sims McCormick and more.

English said she felt blessed to work with all the perform-

ers who made this concert so special, including 96-year-old the Rev. Thomas Spann, who is known as a 76-year gospel legend.

It truly was a day of unity to English, and she was thankful for all of the church-

es, pastors, groups and community members who helped push her to keep the event going this year.

She has plans to make next year her final Gospel in the Park, but she doesn’t know for sure yet.

DISTRICT

FROM PAGE A1

Friday’s decision will likely be a joint one between the district and the state department, according to a state department spokesman.

Whenever Sumter does move to a hybrid model, student instruction will consist of two days of face-to-face learning at school per week with another two days of live virtual instruction. There will also be a fifth day for instruction — each Wednesday — that will be independent and online but not in real-time. That is how Wednesdays are structured in the fully virtual model as well.

Even when the transition to a hybrid model begins, students can continue with virtual learning only if their families desire remote instruction.

The district’s desire is to shift to full, regular classroom attendance when it is feasible and safe.

OTHER DISTRICT NEWS AND NOTES

- Sumter began the year last week with 959 certified classroom teachers, and 904 delivered virtual instruction from their school classrooms, according to the district. About 55, or 5.7%, received accommodations to teach remotely, and that was from their homes.

- As of Friday, the district had 31 teaching vacancies.

Patrick Kelly of the Palmetto State Teachers Association said Monday the organization is concerned about teacher vacancies across the state. He said the agency is hearing from members weekly who are considering leaving the profession because of the strains of teaching during COVID-19.

6 face federal charges in May protests that turned violent

COLUMBIA (AP) — Federal prosecutors charged six people for their roles in property damage or other crimes during late May protests against racial injustice that turned violent in two South Carolina cities.

Two of the men are charged with burning police cars — one in a protest in Columbia and the other in Charleston, U.S. Attorney Peter McCoy said in a statement Tuesday.

The other charges include civil disorder and being a

felon in possession of a firearm, prosecutors said. Five of the six men have agreed to plead guilty, McCoy said.

While these are the first federal charges in the unrest in Columbia and Charleston after the killing of a Black man, George Floyd, by a police officer in Minnesota, about 100 people are charged in state court in both cities for damaging buildings, stealing items and assaulting police officers and other people.

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COMMENTARY

Today and yesterday

In matters of race and other social phenomena, there is a tendency to believe that what is seen today has always been. For Black people, the socioeconomic progress achieved during my lifetime, which started in 1936, exceeded anyone's wildest dreams. In 1936, most Black people lived in gross material poverty and racial discrimination. Such poverty and discrimination is all but nonexistent today. Government data, assembled by Robert Rector of the Heritage Foundation, shows that "the average American family ... identified as poor by the Census Bureau, lives in an air-conditioned, centrally heated house or apartment ... They have a car or truck. (Indeed, 43% of poor families own two or more cars.)" The household "has at least one widescreen TV connected to cable, satellite or a streaming service, a computer or tablet with internet connection and a smartphone. (Some 82% of poor families have one or more smartphones.)" On top of this, Blacks today have the same constitutional guarantees as everyone else, which is not to say that every vestige of racial discrimination has been eliminated.



Walter Williams

The poverty we have today is spiritual poverty. Spiritual poverty is an absence of what traditionally has been known as various human virtues. Much of that spiritual poverty is a result of public and private policy that rewards inferiority and irresponsibility. Chief among the policies that reward inferiority and irresponsibility is the welfare state. When some people know they can have children out of wedlock, drop out of school and refuse employment and suffer little consequence and social sanction, one should not be surprised to see the growth of such behavior. Today's out-of-wedlock births among Blacks is over 70%, but in the 1990s, it was 11%. During the same period, out-of-wedlock births among whites was 3%; today, it is over 30%. It is fashionable and politically correct to blame today's 21% Black poverty on racial discrimination. That is nonsense. Why? The poverty rate among Black husband-and-wife families has been in the single digits for more than two decades. Can anyone produce evidence that racists discriminate against Black female-headed families but not Black husband-and-wife families?

For most people, education is one of the steppingstones out of poverty, and it has been a steppingstone for many Black people. Today, decent education is just about impossible at many big-city public schools where violence, disorder, disrespect and assaults on teachers are routine. The kind of disrespectful and violent behavior observed in many predominantly Black schools is entirely new. Some have suggested that such disorder is part of Black culture, but that is an insulting lie. Black people can be thankful that double standards, and public and private policies rewarding inferiority and irresponsibility, were not broadly accepted during the 1920s, '30s, '40s and '50s. There would not have been the kind of intellectual excellence and spiritual courage that created the world's most successful civil rights movement.

Many whites are ashamed, saddened and guilt-ridden by our history of slavery, Jim Crow and gross racial discrimination. They see that justice and compensation for that ugly history is to hold their fellow Black Americans accountable to the kind of standards and conduct they would never accept from whites. That behavior and conduct is relatively new. Meet with Black people in their 70s or older, even liberal politicians such as Charles Rangel (age 90), and Reps. Eddie Bernice Johnson (85), Alcee Hastings (83) and Maxine Waters (82). Ask them whether their parents would have tolerated their assaulting and cursing of teachers or any other adult. I bet you the rent money their parents and other parents of that era would not have accepted the grossly disrespectful behavior seen today among many Black youngsters who use foul language and racial epithets at one another. These older Blacks will tell you that, had they behaved that way, they would have felt serious pain in their hind parts. If Blacks of yesteryear would not accept such self-destructive behavior, why should today's Blacks accept it?

Black people have made tremendous gains over the years that came as a result of hard work, sacrifice and a no-nonsense approach to life. Recovering those virtues can provide solutions to many of today's problems.

Walter E. Williams is a professor of economics at George Mason University.

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COMMENTARY

Our highest quest is to know God

The Christian worldview of life is about learning what God requires and willingly accepting the call to become a devoted disciple of Christ. This life-changing decision has everything to do with yielding mind, body and soul to the Creator of heaven and earth. It's definitely worth considering since He has promised with all certainty that He is the way, the truth and the life. Most Bible scholars are convinced there are two categories of judgment and are commonly referred to as the saved and the unsaved. Even though there are levels of good and bad behavior, the basic concept describes a certain number of souls who are spiritually born again and are declared as being a child of the Most High, and on the other side of the fence, there are those who willingly reject the invitation to become a member of God's family and thus are referred to as spiritually lost. The deeds that were committed or omitted are known to God, but the book of life will declare the eternal destination that only God has the perfect wisdom to address.



William Holland

I consider myself as a student of God's truth and much of the time a philosopher as well as a minister. It's humbling to wade into the deeper waters of reason and purpose, and helping others in their relationship with Christ is a serious responsibility. I've listened to spiritual leaders and noticed that individuals who are committed to being His messengers are sincere, bold and disciplined, yet at the same time, they are rational thinkers filled with sorrow over a fallen humanity. Christ was filled with compassion and mercy while also being honestly blunt, and the huge difference is that He was not a hypocrite as humans tend to be. I've made mistakes and taken some hard falls, and it's only with His endless mercy and grace that I live and move and have my being. I do not want to be remembered as someone who could talk about God but could not live for Him. What do you desire to be known for? I realize my righteousness is as a dirty rag, and if I have accomplished anything in my life that has eternal value, it was manifested through me by the one and only holy God. What is my message? To cry from the rooftops and stand in the middle of a busy highway if need be to warn a world being held in bondage about how Jesus Christ can set them free. To plead with all whom God will arrange with divine appointments about the dangers of accepting the default life and becoming satisfied to trade 70 or 80 years on Earth for an eternity of terrible disappointment. The red devil with a pitchfork might be portrayed as a joke, but the holiness of the Almighty God who demands honor, reverence and respect is very real.

It is no secret that seekers of spiritual truth have lots of difficult questions. Beliefs are reference points within our learning

process, and as we dig deeper for God's wisdom throughout our spiritual journey, the more likely we are to add and subtract within our understanding. It has been said that knowledge is merely the accumulation of informational facts, but wisdom is the understanding of knowledge. Again, we use the idea of levels to describe just how far and how deep we will venture in our quest to know the Alpha and Omega and the meaning of our existence. We are warned that earthly communication can be mixed with opinionated commentary which attempts to explain knowledge from a human perspective. May we be careful to not be conformed to the world's interpretations of truth. Things are not always the way they seem, which reveals the critical need for spiritual discernment. Unfortunately, the passion to discover these heavenly revelations seems to only matter to a small amount of the population, and that is peculiar in itself; nevertheless, we can agree, as the fictional X-file agent Fox Mulder used to say, "The truth is out there." One of the most essential questions at the end of life is how much truth did the seeker find, and even more important is how much of it did they comprehend and demonstrate? To sum up the meaning of life, we can say that, "God is absolute truth, and our highest quest is to know Him, love Him and obey Him."

Read more about the Christian life and watch Billy Holland's new video at billyhollandministries.com.

COMMENTARY

Simple principles for having a great day

Work hard. You feel better and have more money working than if you are doing nothing. Your job is not forever. Visualize the work you want to do, and then move your life toward that kind of work. This may require training. Working a low-level paying job in the profession or industry of interest to gain knowledge will help. Be flexible, realizing the work you are doing now is preparing you for other opportunities. Working jobs you don't enjoy will still provide valuable lessons for wherever you want to be later in life. You will also have some money while figuring it out.



Glenn Mollette

Save money. This is never easy or pain free. Saving money means sacrificing today in order to have some money later in life. Life passes by quickly. Millions of Americans cannot come up with \$5,000 for an emergency. An old

rule for saving money is give 10% away to your church or favorite charity, save 10% to 20% percent, and live on the rest. Those percentages and numbers can be tweaked to fit your life, but the idea of having discipline will help you establish a plan of action. Don't spend more than you make. If your outgo is more than your income, then your upkeep will be your downfall.

Keep learning. Training is more available than ever before. Online education is accessible if you have internet. If you don't, try to find your way to the public library. They have computers. Community colleges and trade schools are within financial reach of most Americans. Utilize your time efficiently. Do you really have time to piddle two or three years just taking classes? Make your class time financially reasonable and useful. Online education opportunities have exploded. Taking a class that adds to your skills and life is better than aimless hours of television or social media.

Be healthy today. Health, like a retirement account, is not some-

thing you can put off to another day. Have annual blood work done. Keep moving. Live an active lifestyle. Sitting in a house all day is not good for anyone. Find safe places to walk and move. Eat your vegetables and fruit every day, and cut way back on your fried foods and red meat.

Don't give up. As long as you have life, you have hope. You may have gone through job loss, divorce, life devastation, disease and more. Here is a word for you today. I believe in the power of a good word applied to a person's life. "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11. Will this work for you? Prosperity, hope and a future? Take hold of these words, and have a great day.

Dr. Glenn Mollette is the author of 12 books including Uncommon Sense. His column is published weekly in more than 600 publications in all 50 states. Contact him at GMollette@aol.com. Learn more at www.glennmollette.com.

SUPPORT GROUPS

AA, AL-ANON, ALATEEN:

AA — Monday-Friday, noon and 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., 1 Warren St., (803) 775-1852.

AA Women's Meeting — Wednesday, 7 p.m., 1 Warren St., (803) 775-1852.

AA "How it Works" Group — Monday and Friday, 8 p.m., 1154 Ronda St., (803) 494-5180.

441 AA Support Group — Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 8 p.m., Hair Force, 2090-D S.C. 441.

C/A "Drop the Rock" Group — Thursday, 9:30 p.m., 1154 Ronda St., (803) 607-4543.

Al-Anon "Seekers of Serenity" — Monday, 7 p.m., 1 Warren St., (803) 720-1747

MONDAY MEETINGS:

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

TUESDAY MEETINGS:

Celebrate Recovery — Tuesday, 6:45 p.m. coffee/snacks, 7 p.m. meeting, Alice Drive Baptist Church, Studio 4.3 (youth building), 1305 Loring Mill Road. For struggles of addiction, family problems, anxiety, etc.

Heroin Anonymous — Tuesday, 9:30-10:30 p.m., 4742 Broad St., (803) 494-5180.

Sumter Connective Tissue Support Group — First Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November, 7 p.m., 180 Tiller Circle, (803) 773-0869.

Sumter Combat Veterans Group Peer to Peer — Tuesday, 11 a.m., South HOPE Center, 1125 S. Lafayette Drive. Veterans helping veterans with PTSD, coping skills, claims and benefits.

"The Gathering" — Second Tuesday, 5:30-6:30 p.m., North HOPE Center, 904 N. Main St. For teens and adults with special needs. Call (803) 972-0051 or (803) 468-5745. Email thegathering23@aol.com.

Sumter Amputee Prosthetic Support Group — Second Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital (private dining next to cafeteria), SAPSG@yahoo.com.

Sumter Chapter Parents of Murdered Children (POMC) — Third Tuesday, 5:30-7 p.m., Birnie HOPE Center, 210 S. Purdy St.

Mothers of Angels (for mothers who have lost a child)

— Third Tuesday, 6 p.m., Wise Drive Baptist Church, (803) 469-6059, (803) 979-4498 or (803) 316-4506.

EFMP Parent Exchange Group — Last Tuesday, 11 a.m.-noon, Airman and Family Readiness Center. Support to service members who have a dependent with a disability or illness. Call (803) 895-1252/1253 or (803) 847-2377.

WEDNESDAY MEETINGS:

Sickle Cell Support Group — Last Wednesday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., South Sumter Resource Center, 337 Manning Ave., (803) 774-6181.

Divorce Care and Grief Share — Two separate groups that meet Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., Bethel Baptist Church, 2401 Bethel Church Road, (803) 481-2160.

THURSDAY MEETINGS:

TOPS S.C. No. 236 (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) — Thursday, 9 a.m., Spectrum Senior Center, 1989 Durant Lane, (803) 481-2505 or (803) 905-3268.

Alzheimer's Support Group through S.C. Alzheimer's Association — First Thursday, 6-8 p.m., National Health Care, 1018 N. Guignard Drive, (803) 905-7720 or the Alzheimer's Association at (800) 636-3346.

Journey of Hope (for family members of the mentally ill), Journey to Recovery (for the mentally ill) and Survivors of Suicide Support Group — Each group meets on the first Thursday, 7 p.m., St. John United Methodist Church, 136 Poinsett Drive, (803) 905-5620.

FRIDAY MEETINGS:

Celebrate Recovery — Friday, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. program, Salt & Light Church, 360 Miller Road. For struggles of addiction, family problems, etc.

SATURDAY MEETINGS:

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

SUNDAY MEETINGS:

Sumter MS Support Group — First Sunday, 3 p.m., Wise Drive Baptist Church fellowship hall, 2751 S. Wise Drive, (803) 481-5344 or (803) 464-6440. Email I.am.me.not.ms@gmail.com or msmiles013@gmail.com.

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2020

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
A thunderstorm or two	A stray t-storm early; cloudy	Cloudy, a t-storm; humid	A shower and t-storm around	A shower and t-storm around	Cloudy with a t-storm in spots
81°	71°	86° / 73°	86° / 71°	84° / 71°	88° / 72°
Chance of rain: 65%	Chance of rain: 40%	Chance of rain: 50%	Chance of rain: 60%	Chance of rain: 60%	Chance of rain: 30%
NE 7-14 mph	NE 4-8 mph	NE 6-12 mph	NE 6-12 mph	E 7-14 mph	NNE 4-8 mph

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

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

IN THE MOUNTAINS

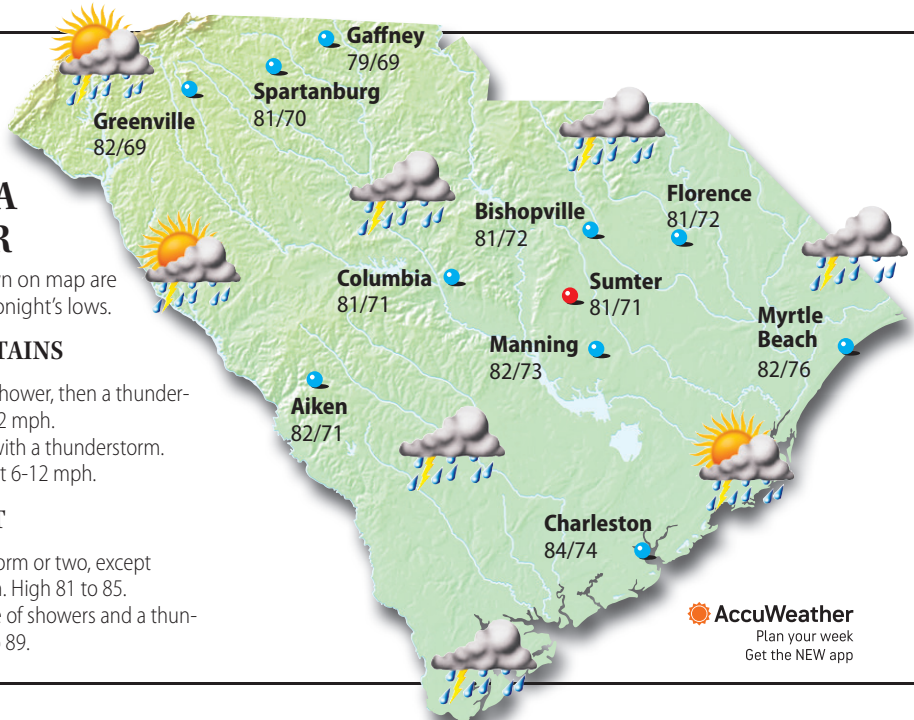
Today: A morning shower, then a thunderstorm. Winds NE 6-12 mph.

Thursday: Humid with a thunderstorm. Winds east-northeast 6-12 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: A thunderstorm or two, except showers in the south. High 81 to 85.

Thursday: A couple of showers and a thunderstorm. High 85 to 89.



LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THROUGH 2 P.M. YESTERDAY

Temperature	High	Low	Normal high	Normal low	Record high	Record low
	87°	60°	86°	65°	97° in 1954	53° in 1965

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
	0.00"	0.00"	1.06"	39.98"	27.22"	34.58"

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	357.18	-0.06
Marion	76.8	75.47	-0.03
Moultrie	75.5	75.06	-0.13
Wateree	100	97.21	+0.21

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	6.84	-0.44
Congaree River	19	3.49	none
Lynches River	14	6.74	+0.37
Saluda River	14	2.61	-0.18
Up. Santee River	80	78.05	+0.02
Wateree River	24	7.38	-0.82

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	7:01 a.m.	Sunset	7:36 p.m.
Moonrise	11:57 p.m.	Moonset	1:37 p.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Sep. 10	Sep. 17	Sep. 23	Oct. 1

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH				
	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	2:07 a.m.	2.7	8:51 a.m.	0.8
	2:33 p.m.	3.0	9:38 p.m.	1.3
Thu.	2:57 a.m.	2.6	9:41 a.m.	0.9
	3:27 p.m.	3.1	10:37 p.m.	1.3

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 BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS Today, 3 p.m., first floor, Sumter Opera House theater, 21 N. Main St.

SUMTER COUNTY VOTER REGISTRATION / ELECTION COMMISSION

Thursday, 5:30 p.m., registration / election office, 141 N. Main St.

CLARENDON SCHOOL DISTRICT 3 Thursday, 7:30 p.m., district office, Turbeville

The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Let the past be the barometer that helps you

move forward without hesitation. New beginnings are overdue, and having a positive, forward-thinking attitude will make whatever transition you pursue easier. Love and romance are on the rise.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll second-guess the decisions you make if you are impulsive. You have more options than you realize. Take a moment to discover the possibilities. Slow down, and follow the path that leads to peace of mind and long-term happiness.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone will play with your emotions if you are gullible or too accommodating. Take a step back, and question the motives behind any requests that someone makes. Use your intelligence, and you will recognize what's best for you. Romance is encouraged.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look for the right moment to make a change. Be direct regarding your plans to deter anyone from intervening at an inconvenient moment. Someone from your past will entice you to consider something that isn't in your best interest.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll capture interest with your charm. Present and market your idea to those who are in a position to help you reach your goal. Pick up the pace, stay in shape and pay attention to your health and well-being. Romance is favored.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Someone will raise issues, suggesting you reconsider your options. The insight provided will lead to an emotional moment that requires honesty and the need to put the past behind you. Embrace the future wholeheartedly.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can

resolve sensitive issues if you have a positive attitude. Offer alternatives that will benefit everyone and compromises that accommodate your suggestions. Personal improvements will lift your spirits. Intellectual and emotional connections look promising.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let a change of plans ruin your day. Take precautions when dealing with situations that have a risk factor involved. Make your health and well-being priorities. Someone who has helped you will ask for a favor. Pay it forward.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make professional moves or form a partnership. Review money matters to ensure you are financially stable before making an expenditure that may not be necessary. Someone will take advantage of you if you are gullible. Make romance a priority.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take time to explain yourself and your actions to someone you love. Unfinished business needs to be dealt with openly and honestly. A change at home will give you a new lease on life. Consider the possibilities, and put a strategy in place.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll face uncertainty regarding personal matters, relationships and domestic issues. Refuse to let an outsider interfere in your business or your decisions. Protect your position, health and reputation. Focus on self-improvement and nurturing meaningful relationships. Romance is encouraged.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): An emotional debate will be debilitating. Take a step back from a situation you face with a friend, lover or relative, and consider the consequences before you say something you regret. Compassion will be necessary to avoid a dispute.

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Thu.
Atlanta	86/72/t	86/72/t
Chicago	65/59/c	68/59/pc
Dallas	82/66/t	77/66/t
Detroit	73/58/pc	70/52/pc
Houston	93/75/t	94/75/pc
Los Angeles	88/67/s	89/65/s
New Orleans	92/78/pc	93/78/pc
New York	82/72/c	82/66/sh
Oriando	91/75/t	89/75/t
Philadelphia	84/68/c	84/68/sh
Phoenix	92/69/s	95/73/s
San Francisco	80/61/s	76/59/pc
Wash., DC	81/74/sh	82/70/t

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Thu.	City	Today	Thu.
Asheville	79/65/sh	81/66/t	Florence	81/72/t	86/73/t
Athens	84/70/t	86/71/t	Gainesville	88/73/t	89/73/t
Augusta	84/72/t	86/73/t	Gastonia	80/71/sh	83/72/t
Beaufort	85/75/t	89/75/t	Goldsboro	81/72/t	85/73/t
Cape Hatteras	85/77/t	85/77/t	Goose Creek	84/74/t	86/74/t
Charleston	84/74/t	88/74/t	Greensboro	75/67/sh	79/70/t
Charlotte	80/69/sh	83/71/t	Greenville	82/69/sh	84/71/t
Clemson	83/71/t	85/72/t	Hickory	77/69/sh	81/69/t
Columbia	81/71/t	85/74/t	Hilton Head	84/76/t	86/75/t
Darlington	81/72/t	85/73/t	Jacksonville, FL	86/73/t	87/74/t
Elizabeth City	85/76/t	86/74/t	La Grange	89/72/pc	89/71/t
Elizabethtown	81/72/t	84/73/t	Macon	87/70/t	87/71/t
Fayetteville	81/72/t	86/73/t	Marietta	86/69/t	86/70/t
Marion	78/66/sh	81/67/t	Mt. Pleasant	84/76/t	88/75/t
Myrtle Beach	82/76/t	85/76/t	Orangeburg	81/73/t	86/73/t
Port Royal	84/76/t	86/75/t	Raleigh	78/70/t	82/72/t
Rock Hill	80/71/sh	84/72/t	Rockingham	80/71/t	86/72/t
Savannah	86/75/t	86/74/t	Spartanburg	81/70/sh	84/71/t
Summerville	83/74/t	86/74/t	Wilmington	83/74/t	86/75/t
Winston-Salem	76/68/sh	80/70/t			

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SUMTER ANIMAL CONTROL PETS OF THE WEEK



TOP: Sammy is a handsome, lanky fella. He ended up at animal control because he was roaming in a neighborhood. Sammy is a little shy when you first meet him. Once you gain his trust, though, he's your best friend. He is getting along with other dogs and is submissive to them. He will do well in a home with another dog who can help him with his confidence and socialization. Sammy weighs 47 pounds and is approximately 1-2 years old. This very sweet, gentle guy will blossom out of the shelter.

BELOW: Simon, approximately 1-3 years old and neutered, is a perfect boy. He's very friendly and loving to all the volunteers. We were sure someone would come to claim him. Sadly, we now need to find this adorable fella a new home. Simon is the perfect combination of cute and cuddly. He likes nothing better than to be held and petted. He loves people and begs for attention. His precious face waits by his kennel door every morning to say hello. Simon would be a sweet addition to any family looking for an indoor kitty.

If you are interested in meeting Ella or Laurel at Sumter Animal Control, 1240 Winkles Road, call (803) 774-3232 or email rescuesumtersc@gmail.com. With all of our adoptable dogs, a spay/neuter agreement is required, and it is strictly enforced. Proof of spay/neuter after adoption will be required. We have many other adoptable dogs as well as animals who were found and are waiting for their owners to claim them. Check Sumter Animal Control on Facebook.

SUMTER ANIMAL CONTROL NEEDS YOUR HELP. The animal control volunteers are looking for people to help walk dogs, foster or help with transport. We desperately need 9 a.m. Monday – Friday walkers. Message us if interested. Must be at least 18 years old. Don't have extra time to be a volunteer? We gladly accept donations of the following: newspapers, puppy pads, canned and dry puppy food, paper towels, Clorox wipes and heavy duty slip leashes. You can also donate from our Amazon Wishlist under Saving Sumter's Strays at <https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/10Q422KA0MI19>. All donations go toward helping Sumter dogs. Our all-volunteer organization is making a big difference in the lives of so many homeless pets. Please help us continue to save animals.

Barons' bruising running game leads this week's 5 Friday Night Takeaways

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

There were four local SCISA football game last week with Wilson Hall hosting Lee Academy, Laurence Manning hosting First Baptist, Thomas Sumter hosting Carolina Academy and Clarendon Hall facing Cathedral Academy. Here are our five biggest takeaways from the slate of games.

1. WILSON HALL FOOTBALL SETS THE TONE ON THE GROUND

After not playing an official game in Week 1, Wilson Hall was a somewhat unknown commodity. The Barons had some returning starters from last year's 2-7 team.

If Wilson Hall's 40-6 is any indication, it is taking a big leap forward in 2020. The Barons racked up a staggering 328 yards on the ground against Lee, which entered the matchup with a 1-0 record.

2. TURNOVERS CONTINUE TO



Wilson Hall's Doc Walker (6) rushed for 113 yards in the Barons' 40-6 win over Lee on Friday.

BITE THE SWAMPCATS

The Laurence Manning football team is just two games into the 2020 season, but the Swampcats have already turned the ball over eight times. The defending SCISA 3A State runners-up now sit at 0-2 after a 17-14 loss to First Baptist on Friday. LMA turned the ball over four times in the loss with two in-

terceptions and two fumbles, while also committing 14 penalties for 124 yards. One of those penalties was a roughing the kicker penalty, which set up the eventual game-winning field goal.

3. CLARENDON HALL FINDS CONDITIONING EN ROUTE TO BLOWOUT WIN

Clarendon Hall had the

worst luck of the 2020 pre-season, as a positive coronavirus case sidelined the Saints for two weeks just before the start of the season. Clarendon Hall had just one full practice before their first game and it showed, as the Saints were under-conditioned in a 62-20 loss to Palmetto Christian.

The Saints were a whole new football team on Friday, as they pulled off a rout of their own. Clarendon Hall cruised to a 44-28 win over Cathedral Academy to provide a much-needed bounce back win. A week of conditioning proved to be crucial for the Saints.

4. KYLIC HORTON READY TO SHOULDER THE LOAD AT CLARENDON HALL

The biggest reason for Clarendon Hall's Week 2 turnaround was Kylic Horton. The junior was an absolute monster, needing just five catches to rack up 185 yards and three touchdowns. He also returned two kickoffs for scores, going for 80 and 95 yards, respective-

ly. Feeding Horton the football as much as possible will no doubt play a major role in the amount of success the Saints enjoy.

5. GENERALS LOSE ANOTHER KEY LINEMAN IN BLOWOUT LOSS

Thomas Sumter was riding high after a dramatic 20-14 win over The King's Academy, but that positivity was short-lived when the Generals faced off with Carolina Academy on Friday. TSA couldn't get anything going offensively in a 42-6 loss. The injury bug also didn't do the Generals any favors. The team's starting center and defensive leader, Preston Houser, went out with a hand injury. He was the second Thomas Sumter lineman to go down with an injury already this season. If Houser misses any more time, the Generals will have to make some big adjustments up front to make some room for quarterback Ethan Lisenby and running back Ayden Allen.

Start of football practice met with excitement by players, coaches alike

BY DENNIS BRUNSON
dennis@theitem.com

Even though Sumter School District football players have only had to go through conditioning and weightlifting workouts for less than a month, there was a lot of anticipation to gather together on Tuesday at Sumter, Crestwood and Lakewood.

No more workouts. It was time to practice some football.

"We were ready to get back here," Sumter offensive guard Jairen Rogers said on Tuesday during a break in practice. "There was definitely a lot of anticipation. We were ready to get out here and start practicing."

"I know I was ready, and I know everybody else was ready just to get back on the field, just so we could get back out here," said Gamecock defensive back Anteon China.

The South Carolina High School League allowing its football-playing schools to begin practice on Tuesday was a major step

forward in getting the season started on Sept. 25 after dealing with the coronavirus pandemic shutting high school sports down in the spring. The SCHSL allowed schools to begin workouts early in June, but Sumter School District didn't allow any of its fall athletic teams to begin conditioning until Aug. 17.

Needless to say, the players weren't the only ones anticipating "practice" on Tuesday. The teams were able to do 7-on-7 drills and some other drills in helmets and shoulder pads, but contact won't be allowed until Thursday.

"We're ready to get started," said Crestwood head coach Roosevelt Nelson. "We've got a plan in place as to how we're handling this. We're still going to be working on our conditioning, but we're obviously going to start to focus on football."

Lakewood head coach Larry Cornelius said one of the big challenges is making sure to get players to practice with them not at school because Sumter School

District is only doing virtual classes and getting them back home at a reasonable hour.

"We've been trying to figure out how to get all of our players to practice because you've got a lot of parents working," Cornelius said. "Then we're having to worry about starting practice early enough where they're able to get home before dark."

China said this is just another obstacle with which he and his fellow players have had to overcome.

"It's definitely way more difficult than just being at school, obviously," he said. "It's an opportunity we just have to adjust to and prepare ourselves for as we do what we have to do as

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The Sumter (above), Lakewood, left, and Crestwood football teams had their first official practices of the season on Tuesday.

PHOTOS BY MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

No. 10 Notre Dame joins ACC race to unseat No. 1 Clemson

BY AARON BEARD
The Associated Press

The goal has long been simple for football independent Notre Dame: win big against a coast-to-coast schedule and earn a shot to play for a national championship without having to be tied to a league.

Things have changed amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The 10th-ranked Fighting Irish's drive to reach this year's College Football Playoff will come as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference, with the program giving up its cherished independence for the first time in the program's 133-year history in exchange for a guaranteed slate of games and a shot at ending top-ranked Clemson's five-year run as league champion.

"It's never been a part of our goals because this is the first time for us," coach



Quarterback Trevor Lawrence (16), running back Travis Etienne (9) and the rest of the top-ranked Clemson Tigers will have some new competition in the Atlantic Coast Conference this season with No. 10 Notre Dame joining the conference as a member due to COVID.

Brian Kelly said. "We didn't have a column on the goal chart, so we'd have to go back and redo it. Our players are excited though, quite honestly, that they get a chance to play for a championship —

an ACC championship."

Notre Dame has competed in all other ACC sports since the 2013-14 season. But it signed on for a run at the

SEE **ACC**, PAGE B2

Panthers' offense may resemble Saints with Bridgewater at QB

BY STEVE REED
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE — If you can't beat 'em, borrow from them.

The Carolina Panthers' offense could look a lot like the division champion New Orleans Saints this season. That means short, quick-hitting passes underneath and creating catch-and-run opportunities for receivers.

New starting quarterback Teddy Bridgewater spent two seasons working behind Drew Brees in New Orleans, including one year there with Joe Brady, now Carolina's offensive coordinator. Both have extensive knowledge of how the Saints' system works.

"Teddy, for us, is exactly what we want," said energetic first-year coach Matt Rhule, who inherits a major rebuilding project in Carolina. "This offense in general, when you look at in New Or-

leans, that iteration of it where Joe first learned it, is not necessarily a vertical, down-the-field passing game as much as it is a catch-and-run, underneath, matchup-type passing game."

The Panthers would seem to have the personnel to pull it off.

They've compiled a track team of sorts on offense with running back Christian McCaffrey and wide receivers D.J. Moore, Curtis Samuel and newcomer Robby Anderson all with big-time playmaking ability. They all can beat you deep, and Rhule wouldn't rule out the Panthers often testing those waters, saying "Teddy's got a great arm."

Bridgewater replaces Cam Newton and is hoping to complete a comeback of sorts and cement his role as a full-time NFL starter.

He started his first two

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York Yankee pitcher Jordan Montgomery delivers during a 12-7 loss to the Toronto Blue Jays in Buffalo, New York, on Monday.

Montgomery gets no-decision in Yankees' 12-7 loss to Blue Jays

BY MIKE HAIM

The Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Chad Green and Adam Ottavino were routed during a 10-run sixth inning that included Danny Jansen's grand slam, and the Toronto Blue Jays rallied to beat the Yankees 12-7 Monday night and send skidding New York to its sixth loss in seven games.

New York has lost four straight and 14 of 19, dropping into third place in the AL East, two games behind second-place Toronto and 6 1/2 back of Tampa Bay. At 21-20 overall following a 16-6 start, the Yankees have dropped into the AL's eighth and final playoff position.

Sumterite Jordan Montgomery started on the mound for the Yankees. The left-hander got a no-decision, but not because of the 10-run explosion by the Blue Jays. Instead, Montgomery didn't last long enough to qualify for a victory.

Montgomery pitched 3 1/3 innings, giving up two runs and six hits. He only had one strikeout and walked two.

Montgomery's win-loss record remains at 2-2. He did see his earned run average drop slightly from 5.76 to 5.72.

With general manager Brian Cashman making a rare road trip, New York led 6-2 when Green re-

placed Jonathan Holder going to the bottom of the sixth. Green, Ottavino and Luis Cessa needed 67 pitches and 43 minutes to get three outs.

"It's the worst feeling in the world," Ottavino said. "You let your team down. It's always tough when you feel like you're the reason why you lost the game."

Toronto loaded the bases with a pair of walks and Randal Grichuk's one-out single, and first baseman Luke Voit charged Rowdy Tellez's two-hopper but allowed the ball to bounce off the palm of his glove and into foul territory for an error as a run scored.

Ottavino (2-3) relieved, and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit a two-run, opposite-field single that bounced past Voit and down the right-field line. Guerrero stole second and Lourdes Gurriel Jr., who had three hits, lined a fastball into left for a tying single.

Gurriel stole second, Jonathan Villar walked and Travis Shaw lined a fastball up the middle for a two-run single and an 8-6 lead after Ottavino shook off catcher Kyle Higashioka three times.

"He was just having a tough time seeing signs," Higashioka said. "It was pretty dark there."

Joe Panik walked, and Jansen chased Ottavino when he drove a fastball to left-center for his first career slam for a 12-6 lead.

cle spasm in his lumbar spine. Anthopoulos said he hopes Fried can return from the IL as soon as he is eligible on Sept. 16.

Fried said his velocity "was definitely down" after he allowed three runs in five innings against the Washington Nationals on Saturday night. He is 6-0 with a 1.98 ERA after not taking a decision in the 10-4 loss.

Before the injury, Fried excelled as the team's top starter, filling the void left when the Braves lost opening day starter Mike Soroka to a torn right Achilles tendon suffered

Watson's week includes huge deal, book and date with Chiefs

BY KRISTIE RIEKEN

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Deshaun Watson is having quite a week.

The 24-year-old signed a four-year, \$160 million extension with the Houston Texans on Saturday, has a book coming out Tuesday and will lead his team against Patrick Mahomes and the Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs to open the NFL season on Thursday night.

Despite all this, Watson has plenty more he wants to do and accomplish.

Watson said he is working with German soccer club FC Bayern Munich on something, without providing any details. He is also the executive producer of a movie called "National Champion" loosely based on his career at Clemson and is delving into projects in the art world.

"We're doing it all but at the same time making sure that my career and my main focus is being the quarterback of the Houston Texans and doing whatever I can to be able to win games," he said. "What comes first is football, but I feel like I can do a lot of different things."

Watson, who wore an \$1,100 bold leopard print Versace sweater during his news conference on Monday, also hopes to get involved in the fashion industry and thinks his new contract will help him to elevate his style.

"Fashion is definitely going to continue to grow especially now with a little more money in the bank," he said. "Being able to try to go to Paris, London, different things, Milan, Italy. So, we've got some things cooking in the future."

The quarterback's new deal will keep him with the Texans through the 2025 season, giving them continuity at position after the franchise has had QB woes for much of its short history.

"To be able to have a quarterback and a person of the cali-



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Houston quarterback Deshaun Watson (4) signed a 4-year \$160 million extension on Saturday ahead of the Texans' season opener against the defending champion Kansas City Chiefs on Thursday.

ber of Deshaun Watson under contract for multiple, multiple years is just great ... we always talk about the type of people that we want on this team and in this organization," coach and general manager Bill O'Brien said. "Deshaun Watson is a shining example of that. He's just a tremendously hard-working young man, a very bright guy. He's a winner and he's a winner at the most important position in football."

Watson's book is titled "Pass It On" and recounts the seven qualities he used to navigate a tough childhood and his mother's battle with cancer to rise from high school football star to national champion at Clemson before becoming a first-round NFL pick.

"It was definitely an opportunity for me to tell my testimony, tell my family story and just the things I've learned over the past 24 years," Watson said. "Just being able to touch other people."

He hopes the motivational book will be able to reach those who aren't football fans or don't know about his life so that he can expand his footprint and help more people.

"I want to use this platform ...

not just to be national and local but also be global and touch people across the world," he said. "I want to be more than just a football player."

While he spent some of his offseason looking to increase his brand and delve into other interests, now that the season is about to begin, he's focused on helping the Texans finally win their first championship.

The first test will be a big one when they open the season where they closed the last one with their trip to Arrowhead Stadium on Thursday night. Houston built a 24-0 lead in the first quarter against the Chiefs in last season's playoffs before Kansas City orchestrated the biggest comeback in franchise history to get a 51-31 win.

Watson said he still thinks about that loss from time to time but tries not to dwell on it.

"I didn't get upset about it or constantly think about it all the time (but) it's definitely a motivational factor," he said.

"But what I wanted to work on this offseason was to get my craft down and continue to be ready for big-time moments like that and figure out what happened for that situation to change."

PANTHERS

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seasons with the Vikings before a devastating knee injury during training camp in 2016 essentially sidelined him completely for two years. He's spent the past two years backing up Brees in New Orleans, going 5-0 as a starter in 2019 after Brees injured his thumb.

Though the Panthers run a scheme similar to the Saints, Bridgewater said he plans to do things his way.

"One of the biggest problems I had my first year in New Orleans was I wanted to be like Drew. I had to do everything Drew did in order to have success like Drew," Bridgewater said. "But eventually, I learned that Drew Brees is Drew Brees. I'm Teddy Bridgewater. Cam Newton is Cam Newton."

"So I can't go out there and try to be something that I'm not. I play the game the way I play it. I carry myself the way I carry myself, and I'm going to live and die by that."

LEADERS NEEDED

The Panthers have parted with several familiar high-profile players as part of a rebuilding project including Newton, perennial Pro Bowl

linebacker Luke Kuechly (early retirement), defensive end Mario Addison, safety Eric Reid, defensive tackle Gerald McCoy, cornerback James Bradberry and guard Trai Turner, among others. That means Rhule will be looking for new leaders to emerge and guide a young team into the future.

MCCAFFREY'S ENCORE

One player the Panthers didn't get rid of was All-Pro McCaffrey, now clearly the face of this franchise. He became only the third player in NFL history with 1,000 yards rushing and receiving in 2019, and earned himself a four-year, \$64 million extension. He's been used extensively over the first three seasons, so will Brady limit his reps to cut down on wear and tear? The Panthers don't seem to be backing off McCaffrey's workload as Rhule said he is considering using him as a punt returner in special situations. McCaffrey said he doesn't care how much he plays; he just wants to win.

YOUNG DEFENSE

The Panthers are expected to have the youngest defense in the league with an average age of slightly more than 23 years

old. So it's quite possible they will struggle under first-year coordinator Phil Snow, especially given they're playing in a division with quarterbacks Tom Brady, Brees and Matt Ryan. Carolina gave up the second-most points in the league last season (29.4), so it might be wrong to expect a dramatic turnaround. This will be more a work in progress.

That said, Rhule is hoping the foundation is set with two big defensive tackles in two-time Pro Bowler Kawann Short and first-round draft pick Derrick Brown setting the tempo up front. "They're going to take up a lot of attention, and hopefully I'm going to have a lot of one on ones on the outside," said second-year defensive end Brian Burns.

VERSATILE PLAYERS

The Panthers used all seven draft picks on defense, knowing they needed an infusion of youth on that side of the ball. There was one common element throughout that process: versatility.

Rhule purposely drafted players such as defensive back Jeremy Chinn, who has the ability to cover tight ends, add run support as a linebacker and even line up on the defensive line.

Braves' rotation takes another hit as ace Fried placed on IL

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Atlanta Braves' season-long rotation woes continued Tuesday when Max Fried, the top healthy starter, was placed on the 10-day injured list.

The latest blow to the rotation could accelerate the team's plans to have Cole Hamels rushed into action for his 2020 debut.

Fried had been the only current healthy member of the projected rotation before the season began.

Braves general manager Alex Anthopoulos said Fried has a left-side mus-

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league football title game this December as the pandemic threw college sports into uncertainty, with games against Wisconsin, Stanford and Southern California canceled as the Big Ten and Pac-12 first went to league-only schedules before eventually passing on fall football altogether.

Notre Dame and the ACC reached an agreement for what might be merely a one-year cameo in the league's football standings. Instead of its annual batch of five or six games against ACC teams, Notre Dame would go all-in on the league's 10-

game schedule while also sharing revenue from its own NBC TV deal with the ACC as part of the arrangement.

That added a new contender for the Tigers, who have gone 29-1 over the past two seasons while winning the 2018 national title before losing to LSU in last season's final.

Clemson and Notre Dame were already scheduled to meet Nov. 7 in South Bend, Indiana., before the Irish's move. That game could be a preview of the league championship game in Charlotte, North Carolina, in December.

"Obviously Notre Dame is an incredible program with

a rich history and brand," Tigers coach Dabo Swinney said. "For them to be all in is good for them and good for our league."

THE FAVORITES

Clemson: The Tigers have won 22 straight against league teams since losing at Syracuse in October 2017. Their past three ACC title-game victories have come by 35, 32 and 45 points.

Notre Dame: The Fighting Irish return eight offensive starters, including quarterback Ian Book (34 touchdowns, six interceptions).

North Carolina: Mack Brown turned things around quickly in Year 1 with the Tar Heels, who start this year at

No. 18 with 10 returning offensive starters and have a big home date with Notre Dame (Nov. 27).

TOP PLAYERS

Trevor Lawrence, Clemson: The junior quarterback is a strong candidate for both the Heisman Trophy and to become the No. 1 overall NFL draft pick.

Travis Etienne, Clemson: The senior running back was last year's ACC player of the year after running for 1,614 yards and 19 touchdowns while averaging 7.8 carries.

Sam Howell, UNC: He threw a school-record 38 touchdown passes last year, the most by a true freshman in Bowl Subdivision history and fourth-

most in the country.

NEW FACES

Jeff Hafley, Boston College: Hafley takes over for Steve Addazio after working as Ohio State's defensive co-coordinator last year and spending seven seasons as an NFL assistant.

Mike Norvell, Florida State: Norvell had spent the previous four seasons at Memphis, going 38-15 and winning last year's American Athletic Conference title before replacing Willie Taggart.

NO COASTAL CHAOS THIS TIME

The league will be doing away with its two-division format this season.

PREP SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY

Varsity Cross Country
Laurence Manning at Trinity Collegiate, 4 p.m.
B Team Football
Wilson Hall at Ben Lippen, 6 p.m.
Varsity Girls Tennis
Carolina Forest at Sumter, 5 p.m.
Thomas Sumter at Orangeburg Prep, 4 p.m.
Lee at Palmetto Christian, 4 p.m.
Varsity and JV Girls Tennis
Ben Lippen at Laurence Manning, 4 p.m.
Varsity Volleyball

Lakewood, Marlboro County, Lake City at Camden, 5:30 p.m.
Varsity and JV Volleyball
South Florence at Sumter, 5:30 p.m.
Ben Lippen at Laurence Manning, 5 p.m.
Thomas Sumter at Williamsburg, 4 p.m.
Lee at Trinity Collegiate, 4 p.m.
Junior Varsity Volleyball
Crestwood, Marlboro County at Manning, 6 p.m.
B Team Volleyball
Thomas Sumter at Wilson Hall, 6 p.m.

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young men to prepare for the season."

Sumter head coach Mark Barnes said not having spring practice because of the shutdown will definitely play a role in how he prepares his squad once contact work begins.

"We've never been a heavy-contact team in preseason practice," Barnes said. "We do most of our heavy hitting in spring practice, but we didn't get to do that this year. So

we're going to have to be a little more physical in practice than we'd normally be to get ready for the season."

Rogers said he is ready for the man-to-man battles that come when playing along the line.

"It's going to be good," said the 6-foot-2-inch, 255-pound Rogers. "Definitely, we'll get some competition and will be getting back out there. All of us are ready."

China said it's kind of hard to realize that, as long as things continue to go well in regards to coronavirus,

that he and his teammates will be playing a regular-season football game two weeks from Friday.

"It's been real, real dramatic, looking back to where we were and where we are now," he said. "I was really kind of worried about it because I didn't know if we were going to have a season, but now that we're back out here I feel a little better about the way everything is going."

I feel ready. I feel like I'm getting back to where I want to be in getting prepared for that first game."

OBITUARIES

CRAIG MICHAEL SMITH

LYNCHBURG — Craig Michael Smith, 58, husband of Kris Player Smith, died on Sunday, Sept. 6, 2020, at MUSC Hospital in Charleston.

Born in Savannah, Georgia, he was a son of the late Charles LaVerne Smith and Caroline JoAnn "Kay" Etchison Smith. Mr. Smith was a member of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church and American Legion Post 140. He was employed as a real estate appraiser with the Sumter County Assessor's Office. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran of Desert Storm.

Surviving are his wife of Lynchburg; a son, Michael Smith of Lynchburg; a daughter, Caroline Green Smith of Lynchburg; a brother, the Rev. Todd Smith (Michelle) of Charlotte, North Carolina; two sisters, Cheryl Clark (Charlie) of Camden and Michele Southerd (Gary) of Bloomington, Illinois; a sister-in-law, Paige Moore of Landrum; his in-laws, Al and June Graham of Lynchburg; and several nieces and nephews.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, 1000 Pleasant Grove Road, Lynchburg, SC 29080 with the Rev. James Melton and the Rev. Todd Smith officiating.

The family will receive friends from 10 to 11 a.m. Thursday at the Family Life Center of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Lynchburg.

Online condolences may be sent to www.sumterfunerals.com.

Elmore Hill McCreight Funeral Home & Crematory, 221 Broad St., Sumter, is in charge of the arrangements, (803) 775-9386.



KENNETH CARL SCHMIDT

Kenneth Carl "Ken" Schmidt, 82, beloved husband of F. Delores "Dee" Lowder Schmidt, died on Monday, Sept. 7, 2020.

Born on Aug. 24, 1938, in North Tonawanda, New York, a son of the late Kenneth George Schmidt and Elaine

Broeker Schmidt, he was a retired United States Air Force senior master sergeant and a Vietnam veteran.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Dee; a brother, L. Paul Schmidt and his wife, Cella, of Williamsburg, Virginia; three sisters, Patricia S. Barlow and her husband, Tom, of Bradenton, Florida, Pauline S. Eshelman and her husband, Roger, of Mannington, West Virginia, and Jill S. Tong of Reno, Nevada; a sister-in-law, Sheila Lowder Purkey and her husband, Rob Baen, of Westmont, New Jersey; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Janice S. Buzie and Marcia S. Gentry; two brothers, Vernon L. Schmidt and Daryl Schmidt; paternal grandparents, George Carl Schmidt and Mabel Morgan Schmidt; maternal grandparents, his mother's much loved adopted parents, Gustave Carl Broeker and Meta Klingbeal

Broeker, and his mother's biological mother, Louise Busch; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, who loved him like a son, Allen Ludlow Lowder and Ella Mae McClard Lowder Carter; and a sister-in-law, Linda Lowder Alsbrooks Tidwell.

According to his wishes, he will be cremated and there will be no visitation or funeral services. Burial will be at Fort Jackson National Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the SPCA, 1140 S. Guignard Drive, Sumter, SC 29150 or the DAV Gamecock Chapter 5, 5578 Oakcrest Road, Sumter, SC 29154.

You may go to www.bullock-funeralhome.com and sign the family's guest book.

The family has chosen Bullock Funeral Home for the arrangements.



ROBERT D. STEELE JR.

Private family services with military honors for Robert D. Steele Jr., 90, who entered into rest on Sunday, Sept. 6, 2020, will be held on Saturday in the chapel of Hancock-Elmore-Hill Funeral Home. The Rev. Kathy Carr will officiate with burial to follow at St. Matthew United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Hancock-Elmore-Hill Funeral Directors are caring for the family.

Memorials may be made in his honor to St. Matthew United Methodist Church Cemetery Fund in c/o Ralph Baker, 230 Roundup Drive, Bishopville, SC 29010.

Mr. Steele, widower of Vivian Irene Steele, passed away on Sunday, Sept. 6, 2020, at his home.

He was born on Aug. 18, 1930, in Lancaster, a son of the late Robert Dudley Steele and Emma Almetta Hinson Steele. He was a member of St. Matthew United Methodist Church. He was a veteran, a mason and a Shriner. He retired from the South Carolina Highway Patrol as a sergeant after 33 years of service. He was an avid hunter. He enjoyed spending time with his family, his cat, working in his yard and helping his neighbors.

He is survived by one daughter, Linda Baker (Ralph) of Bishopville; granddaughter, Kerri Baker (Roddy) of Camden; grandson, Dr. Dustin Baker of St. Louis, Missouri; great-grandchildren, Noah and Matthew Baker of Camden; sisters, Elizabeth Glenn and Brenda Richardson (Bob) of Lancaster; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents and his wife, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Charles Steele, Harold Steele and Darwin Steele; and his sister, Joyce Pierce.

EBONEY T. WILLIAMS

Eboney T. Williams, 43, was born on Sept. 22, 1976, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a daughter of Terrence B. Haynesworth and the late Alfred C. Williams.

She departed this life on Thursday, Sept. 3, 2020, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital.

Public viewing will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. today at Job's

Mortuary.

Ms. Williams will be placed in the church at 10 a.m. on Thursday for viewing until the hour of service.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday at Salem Chapel & Heritage Center, 101 S. Salem Ave., Sumter, SC 29150. Interment will follow at Evergreen Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends at the home of her mother, 447 S. Guignard Drive, Sumter, SC 29150.

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

Online memorials may be sent to the family at jobsmortuary@sc.rr.com or visit us on the web at www.jobsmortuary.net.

ANN MILLER KELLEY

SUMMERTON — Ann Miller Kelley, wife of Alfred Hoyt Kelley Sr., died on Sunday, Sept. 6, 2020, at McLeod Regional Medical Center.

Born on July 14, 1940, in Hartsville, she was a daughter of the late James Wesley Miller and Mildred Taylor

Miller. She was a member of West Hartsville Baptist Church and the former owner and operator of Goat Island Restaurant. She was also a founding member and past president of the Goat Island Boat Club. She enjoyed camping and celebrating on the lake with her boat club friends and spoiling her dogs, Anni and Tippy.

She is survived by her husband of Summertown; a son, A. Hoyt Kelley Jr. (Stephanie) of Mount Pleasant; three sisters, Gayle Morrison of Hartsville, Patricia Newsome (John) of Palm Beach, Florida, and Jennie Hilderbrand of Hartsville; five nieces and nephews, Rebecca Freeman, Johnny Newsome, Taylor Coates (Sammie), Wesley Hilderbrand (Aurieli) and Ernest Hilderbrand (Heather); several great-nieces and great-nephews; and several stepnieces and stepnephews.

A funeral service will be held at 4 p.m. today in the chapel of Stephens Funeral Home with the Rev. Patrick Goodwin and the Rev. Bobby McDonald officiating.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the service from 3 to 4 p.m. at Stephens Funeral Home and other times at the residence, 1033 Joyner Drive, Summertown.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday at Magnolia Cemetery, 140 S. Cedar Lane, Hartsville.

Memorials may be made to the Goat Island Boat Club Scholarship Fund, 306 Broad Drive, Santee, SC 29142.

Stephens Funeral Home & Crematory, 304 N. Church St., Manning, is in charge of arrangements, (803) 435-2179. www.stephensfuneralhome.org

STEVE JEFFORDS

Steve Jeffords, 63, died on Monday, Sept. 7, 2020.

Born on June 27, 1957, in Sumter, he was a son of Mae Scott Davis. He was a member of Bible Baptist Church in Landrum.

Steve was an avid bass fisherman.

Survivors include his mother of Lexington; a son, Scott Jeffords (Ashley) of Moyock, North Carolina; three grandchildren, James Jeffords, Logan Jeffords and Waylon Jeffords; and a sister, Dianne Temple of Lexington.

He was preceded in death by a son, James Jeffords; and his maternal grandmother, Elmar Scott.



JEFFORDS

A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. Friday at the Pocalla Holiness Church Cemetery with the Rev. Dr. Tommy Turner officiating.

The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. to noon Friday at Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home.

Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home and Crematorium of Sumter is in charge of the arrangements.

GLENN EDWARD SHANNON

Glenn Edward Shannon, 54, died on Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020, in Easley.

Graveside services will be held at noon today at Fort Jackson National Cemetery, 4170 Percival Road, Columbia.

Visitation was held Tuesday at Kingdom Builders Church, 621 W. Liberty St., Sumter.

The family is receiving visitors from 3 to 8 p.m. at the home, 6845 Moody Road, Rembert.

Please adhere to all COVID-19 precautions.

Online condolences may be sent to www.simmonsfuneralhome.com.

Services are entrusted to Simmons Funeral Home and Crematory of Orangeburg.

ETHEL R. GREENE

Ethel R. Greene, 97, widow of Harvey Greene, departed this life on Sunday, Sept. 6, 2020, at Family Residential Care Home.

Born on Dec. 19, 1922, in Sumter, she was a daughter of the late Rev. Derry and Victoria Taylor Richardson.

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

CALVIN ROBINSON JR.

Calvin "Camp" Robinson Jr., 79, husband of Johnnie C. Williams Robinson, departed this life on Monday, Sept. 7, 2020, at his residence.

He was born on July 3, 1941, in Sumter, a son of the late Ruby and Rosa Johnson Robinson.

The family will receive friends at the home, 641 W. Liberty St., Sumter, SC 29510.

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

GLORIA SIMON FERGUSON

BISHOPVILLE — Gloria Simon Ferguson, 71, wife of Wayne Lonnie Ferguson, passed away on Monday, Sept. 7, 2020, at McLeod Regional Medical Center, Florence.

Born in Bishopville, she was a daughter of the late Annie Lee Simon and A B Bradley.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Square Deal Funeral Home, Bishopville.

RICHARD T. CORLEY

Richard T. Corley, 89, of Sumter, passed away on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020, at Prisma Health Richland Heart Center in Columbia.

Born in 1931, in Shelbyville, Illinois, he grew up on a farm and was a son of Harold and Edith Corley.

He is survived by his wife, Doreen, of 69 years; and three children, Steven Corley (Virginia) of Sumter, Timothy Corley (Tammie) of Cudjoe Key, Florida, and Ruth Foreman (Brad) of Turkey. He is also survived by eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his parents; brother, Donald; sister, Eileen; and a son, David Corley (Kathy) of Syracuse, New York.

He was educated in the public schools of Illinois. He attended Milliken University, Decatur, Illinois, Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, and graduated from Tennessee Temple University (1953) and Tennessee Temple Seminary (1955). He was called to the mission field in 1955 and spent the

next 25 years in Iran. He worked with orphans for more than 20 years. He started a Farsi radio program (which is still sending daily broadcasts) to reach Muslims and, with his wife, boarded missionary children in Tehran, Iran. After the Iranian Revolution in 1979, he pastored the Iranian church in Istanbul, Turkey, for eight years. He also taught part time for five years at Columbia International University. Until recently, he had served Iranian refugees living in Turkey on a part-time basis. He had a heart and passion for reaching out to Iranians and Muslims for more than 60 years with the Gospel of Christ.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday at Harmony Church, 1021 Sterling St. Sumter. In accordance with COVID-19 guidelines, the family is requesting all in attendance wear masks and observe social distancing.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to Voice of Christ Ministries, P.O. Box 2161, Beaverton, Oregon or Charstar, 1500 International Parkway, Suite 300, Richardson, TX 75081.

Barr-Price Funeral Home and Crematorium, Lexington Chapel, is assisting the family.

Everyone is invited to please share their stories of Mr. Corley online at Barr-Price.com.

WILLIE VANCE

Willie Vance, 81, husband of Annie White Vance, died on Sunday, Sept. 6, 2020, at Sumter Health and Rehab Facility.

Born on Jan. 3, 1939, in Sumter County, he was a son of the late George and Elizabeth Vance.

In accordance with COVID-19 guidelines, the family is requesting face masks and social distancing be observed by all home visitations, 3002 Prosser Ave.

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

GREGORY SHARPER

Gregory Sharper, 63, husband of Robertha Hill Sharper, was born on Dec. 8, 1956, in Sumter, a son of the late John and Edna Harvin Sharper.

He departed this life on Thursday, Sept. 3, 2020, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital, Sumter.

Public viewing will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. today at Job's Mortuary.

Mr. Sharper will be placed in the church at 1 p.m. on Thursday for viewing until the hour of service.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday at Salem Chapel & Heritage Center, 101 S. Salem Ave., Sumter, SC 29150. Interment will follow at Bradford Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 3 to 7 p.m. at the home, 813 S. Main St., Sumter, SC 29150.

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

Online memorials may be sent to the family at jobsmortuary@sc.rr.com or visit us on the web at www.jobsmortuary.net.

CHARLES ALFRED GIBBS

Retired U.S. Air Force Col. Charles "Chuck" Alfred Gibbs, age 88, beloved husband of the late Joan Pollock Gibbs, died on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020, at National Health Care in Sumter.

Arrangements will be announced by Bullock Funeral Home of Sumter.



the Sumter ITEM CLASSIFIEDS

To Place Your Classified Ads, Please call

803-774-1200

OR TO PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE GO TO WWW.THE ITEM.COM/PLACEMYAD

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

11:30 a.m. the day before for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday edition.
11:30 a.m. Friday for Sunday's edition.

We will be happy to change your ad if an error is made; however we are not responsible for errors after the first run day. We shall not be liable for any loss or expense that results from the printing or omission of an advertisement. We reserve the right to edit, refuse or cancel any ad at any time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Ads

Queen Esther Rembert celebrates her 90th birthday! Join her family in a drive-by parade at 986 Dover Circle, Sumter SC 29154 on Thursday September 10th at 6:30 pm. Decorate your vehicles. Please Wear Masks!

Announcements

November 3-6, 2020 Sumter Beauty College is applying with the Commission of the Council on Occupational Education. Persons wishing to make comments should either write to the Executive Director of the Commission, Council on Occupational Education, 7840 Roswell Road, Bldg. 300, Suite 325, Atlanta, GA 30350, or submit comments on the Council's website (www.council.org). Persons making comments must provide their names and mailing addresses.

Are you a black or minority business owner in need of resources to scale your business? Take the survey today www.sumterbcc.org

\$1200 STIMULUS CHECK FILE YOUR TAX YEAR WE CAN HELP!
Tesco
507 Broad St
803-773-1515

BUSINESS SERVICES

Business Opportunities

Home Based Ad Agency. Clients are established Nets \$47k PT. Will train. Retiring. \$24,900. 828-633-6382.

Home Improvements

H.L. Boone, Contractor: Remodel paint roofs gutters drywall blown ceilings ect. 773-9904

Tree Service

Tree removal & stump grinding. Jenkinson Tree Service, LLC. Fully insured. Call 803-847-8014 for a free estimate.

A Notch Above Tree Care Log pickup available. Full quality service low rates, lic./ins., free est BBB accredited 983-9721

Ricky's Tree Service Tree removal, stump grinding, Lic & ins, free quote, 803-435-2223 or cell 803-460-8747.



MERCHANDISE

Garage, Yard & Estate Sales

Sumter United Ministries Super Yard Sale
Sept. 11th - 12th
8am-2pm
215 Pine St.
(off Church St)

For Sale or Trade

Will pay cash for used golf carts. Any condition running or not. Will pick up 803-491-4248

SALE - 2 plots - Evergreen or Hillside Cemetery. \$2,200.00 each. Call 803-499-9271

4 burial plots in Hillside Memorial Park, 2531 Cains Mill Rd. Cost \$2200 per plot (below appraised value). Call 803-614-7596

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted Full-Time

Sparrow & Kennedy Tractor Co. is looking to fill a parts counter sales position at the Manning location. Please contact Jeff for details. 803-435-8807

The Sparrow and Kennedy Tractor Co. John Deere location in Manning is looking to hire an experienced diesel technician. Call Robin 803-435-8807

Part time warehouse person needed. Apply at Wally's Hardware 1291 Broad St.

Luv N Care Daycare has 4 Care Giver positions available. Must have a HS diploma & at least 1 yr. exp. Apply in person at 48 Inglewood Dr.

Full time Cashier needed. Apply at Wally's Hardware 1291 Broad St.

Help Wanted Part-Time

Caregiver needed for home health. Must pass background check. Call 803-236-3603.

WANTED PART TIME. Must have some experience in roofing and roofing repairs. Drivers License Preferred. Call 803-478-3063 or 803-460-0927



RENTALS

Unfurnished Apartments

Carolina Crossings Apartments
(803)773-2518
Newly Remodeled:
4 BR w/Bonus Rm / 2 BA \$895
5 BR / 2 BA \$995
OPEN: Mon. Wed. Fri. 8:30 - 5:30.
Walking Distance to Morris College
861 Carolina Ave. #40 Sumter 378 Near Hwy 15, Behind Shoney's
*Housing Vouchers Accepted

LEGAL NOTICES

Beer & Wine License

Notice Of Application
Notice is hereby given that **Fuel Energy, LLC DBA Golden Grocery** intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license permit that will allow the sale and OFF premises consumption of Beer & Wine at 3909 Camden Hwy. Datzell, SC 29040. To object to the issuance of this permit / license, written protest must be postmarked no later than **September 11, 2020**. For a protest to be valid, it must be in writing, and should include the following information: (1) the name, address and telephone number of the person filing the protest; (2) the specific reasons why the application should be denied; (3) that the person protesting is willing to attend a hearing (if one is requested by the applicant); (4) that the person protesting resides in the same county where the proposed place of business is located or within five miles of the business; and (5) the name of the applicant and the address of the premises to be licensed. Protests must be mailed to: S.C. Department of Revenue, ABL, P.O. Box 125, Columbia, South Carolina 29214-0907; or Faxed to: (803) 896-0110.

Abandon Vehicle / Boat

Abandoned Vehicle Notice:
The following vehicle was abandoned at **3610 Rhododendron St. Sumter, SC 29154**. Described as a **1992 Chevy Caprice, VIN # 1G1BN53E2NR107917**. Total Due for storage is \$1,075.00 as of July 17, 2020 plus \$30.00 per day thereafter. Described as a **1972 Chevy Caprice, VIN # 1N47RD216745**. Total Due for storage is \$1,500.00 as of July 17, 2020 plus \$30.00 per day thereafter. Owner is asked to call 803-316-5429. If not claimed in 30 days, it will be turned over to the Magistrate's Office for public sale.



Summons & Notice

SUMMONS AND SUMMARY OF COMPLAINT

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
C/A NO:
2019-CP-43-02271

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF SUMTER

Edwin Mayhew, Plaintiff,

vs.
William McCullough, Darnell Cogdell, their heirs, personal representatives, administrators, successors and assigns, if any, and all other persons or entities entitled to claim through them and all persons claiming any right, title, estate interest in or lien upon the real estate described herein; any unknown adults and those persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America, all of them being a class designated as John Doe, whose true name is unknown; any unborn infants or persons under disability being a class designated as Richard Roe, whose true name is unknown, Capital One Enterprises, Inc., Sandy R. Williams Gerald, a/k/a Sandy Gerald, Milton Q. Gerald, a/k/a Milton Gerald, and James Wilson, Defendants.

TO THE DEFENDANT ABOVE-NAMED:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer to said Complaint on the subscriber at 814 West Evans Street, Post Office Box 1317, Florence, South Carolina, 29503 within thirty (30) days from the service hereof, exclusive of the date of such service; and in case of the failure to do so, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the original Summons and Complaint were filed with the Clerk of Court for SUMTER County on November 15, 2019, for purposes of quieting title, as described in the Complaint.

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINT

The subject of this action involves two parcels of real property located in Sumter, South Carolina (collectively referred to herein as the "Subject Properties"), which are more particularly described as Tax Map Numbers 379-00-01-009 and 207-07-02-009. Florence, South Carolina

PATRICK B. FORD
S.C. Bar No.: 102521
PINKLEA LAW FIRM
814 West Evans Street
Florence, SC 29503
(843) 317-4900
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

ORDER APPOINTING GUARDIAN AD LITEM

It appearing unto the satisfaction of this Court upon reading Plaintiff's Petition to Appoint Guardian ad Litem Nisi, and Michele Dahl Sturkie, Esquire, Sturkie Law Firm, Post Office Box 2260, Florence, SC 29503, having consented to act as Guardian ad Litem Nisi and to represent the Defendants including all unknown persons with any right, title or interest in and to the real property located in Sumter County,

Summons & Notice

South Carolina, and designated as TMS #: 379-00-01-009 and 207-07-02-009 any unknown adults and those persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America, all of them being classes designated under the fictitious names of John Doe and Richard Roe, hereinafter referred to as "Defendants," and that the said Michele Dahl Sturkie, Esquire, is a suitable and competent person to understand and protect the rights and interests of such Defendants and has no interest herein adverse to the interest of said Defendants and is not connected in business with the Plaintiff in this action or with their counsel.

IT IS THEREFORE, ORDERED that the said Michele Dahl Sturkie, Esquire, Sturkie Law Firm, Post Office Box 2260, Florence, SC 29503, be and he is hereby designated and appointed Guardian ad Litem Nisi for said Defendants and she is hereby authorized to appear in and defend such action on behalf of said Defendants and to protect their interests, unless said Defendants, or any of them, shall within thirty (30) days of the service of a copy of this Order upon them, exclusive of the day of service as herein provided, apply to this Court for the appointment of another competent and discreet individual of their choice to serve as Guardian ad Litem for them, for the purposes of this action. Upon the failure of such application, within the specified time, this Order shall automatically become final and absolute.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Kristi F. Curtis,
Circuit Court Judge, No. 2762
Sumter, South Carolina
August 26, 2020

SUMMONS

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
C/A NO.:
2020-CP-43-00860

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF SUMTER

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company,

Plaintiff,

vs.
Warren Simon, Lakesha Johnson, Roderick Johnson, Shequila Pearson
Defendants.

TO THE DEFENDANTS HEREIN:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action, of which a copy is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer to the said Complaint on the undersigned attorneys at their offices, 2530 Devine Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29205, within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day

Summons & Notice

of such service, and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, judgment will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

NOTICE OF FILING

NOTICE that the Complaint, Declaratory Judgment, Non-Jury in the above captioned matter was filed in the office of the Clerk of Court for Sumter County on the 3rd day of June 2020.

SMITHROBINSON

Smith Robinson Holler DuBose and Morgan, LLC
J. Alexander Hooks
(SC Bar No. 102889)
Jonathan M. Robinson
G. Murrell Smith, Jr.
2530 Devine Street
Columbia, SC 29205
(803) 254-5445
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION DESIGN REVIEW

The Historic Preservation Design Review Committee will meet on **Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.** in the Sumter Opera House Theater located on the First Floor of the Sumter Opera House (21 North Main Street, Sumter, South Carolina). Each person including staff, board members and the public will be required to wear a face mask and have their temperature taken to enter the meeting. This is a public hearing.

HP-20-17, 112 N. Main St. (City)

Request for Historic Preservation Design Review approval for the construction of a +/- 300 sq. ft. metal horizontal awning attached to the rear of the building. The property is located at 112 N. Main St. and represented by Tax Map #22B-12-04-030.

Documents pertaining to the proposed request(s) are on file in the Office of the Sumter City-County Planning Department and are available to be inspected and studied by interested citizens.

Joseph T. McElveen, Jr.
Mayor

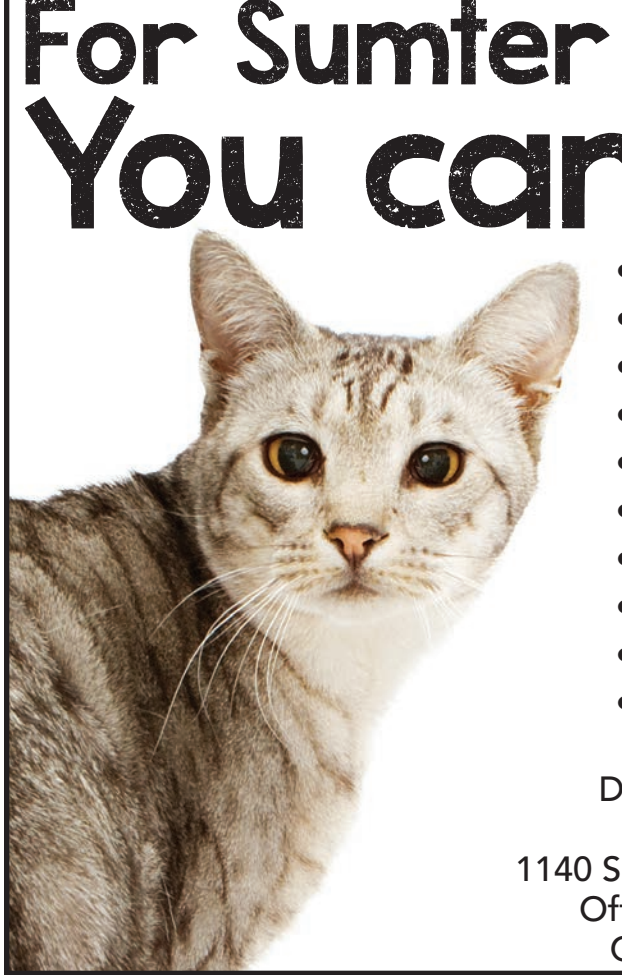


the Sumter ITEM
36 W. Liberty Street • Sumter, SC • 803-774-1200

ASE certified mechanic experienced in front end, brakes, general auto mechanics.
Send resume to:
BLIND BOX #P483
C/O The Item
PO Box 1677
Sumter, SC 29151

Maintenance position full time opening for Manning, Santee, Summerton.
We have excellent paid time off, Medical Insurance, Paid Holiday off.
Please call 843-354-7925 or 803-435-4492

Donations Needed For Sumter SPCA You can help

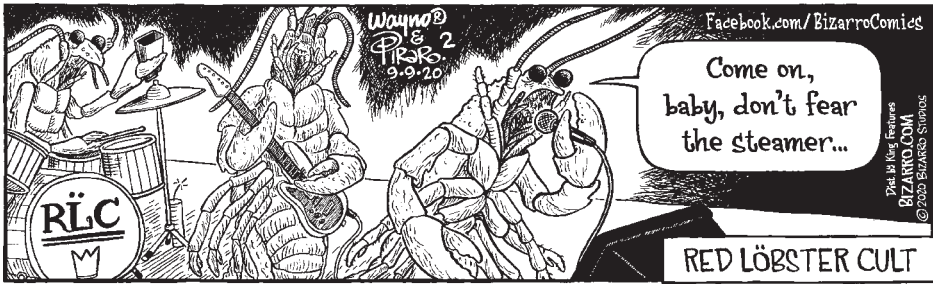


- Cat Litter
- Canned Cat Food
- Soft treats and Hard Treats
- Dry Dog Food
- Cleaning Supplies
- Lysol
- Bleach
- Dawn Dishwashing Soap
- Laundry Deyergent
- Towels and Blankets (new and used)

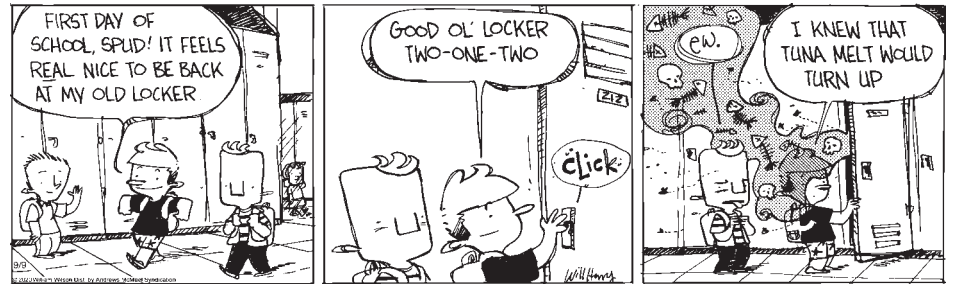


Donations can be dropped off at Sumter SPCA
1140 S. Guignard Drive • Sumter, SC 29150
Office Hours: 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Closed Wednesdays & Sundays

BIZARRO



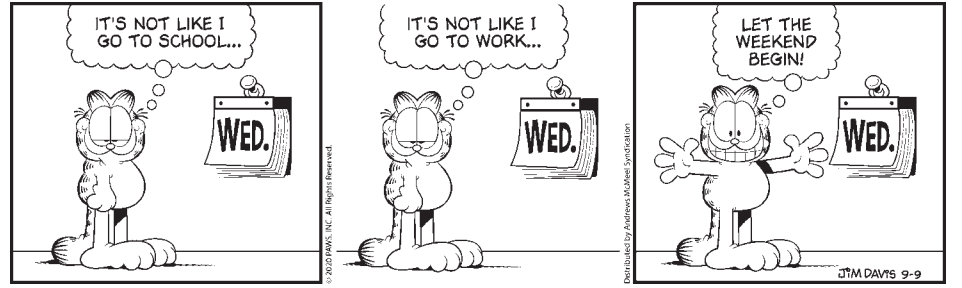
WALLACE THE BRAVE



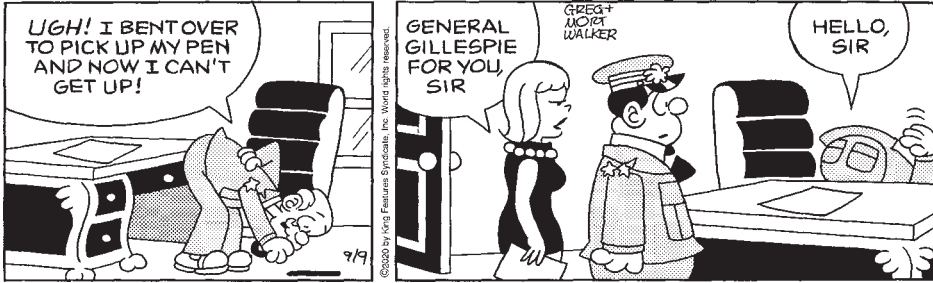
ANDY CAPP



GARFIELD



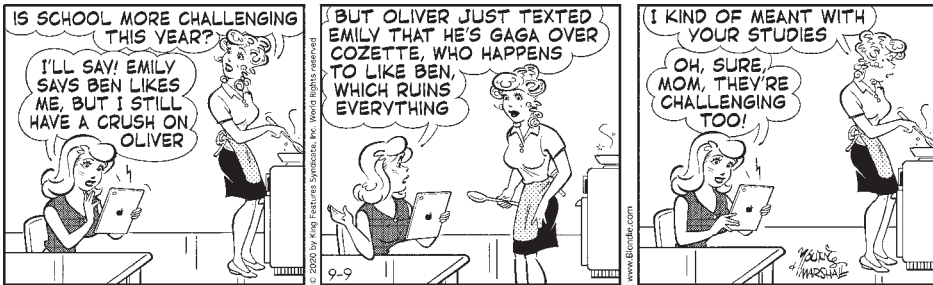
BEETLE BAILEY



BORN LOSER



BLONDIE



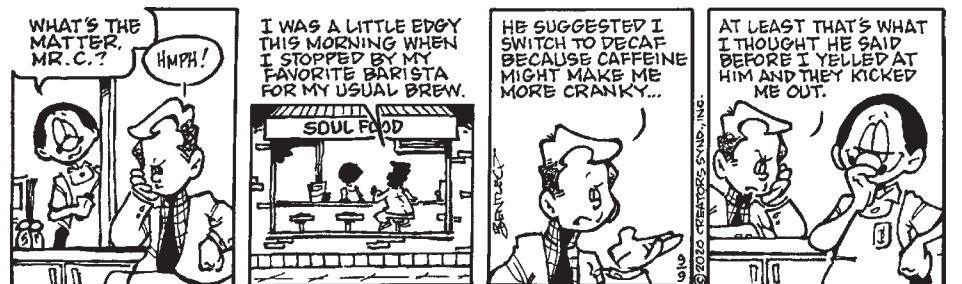
ZITS



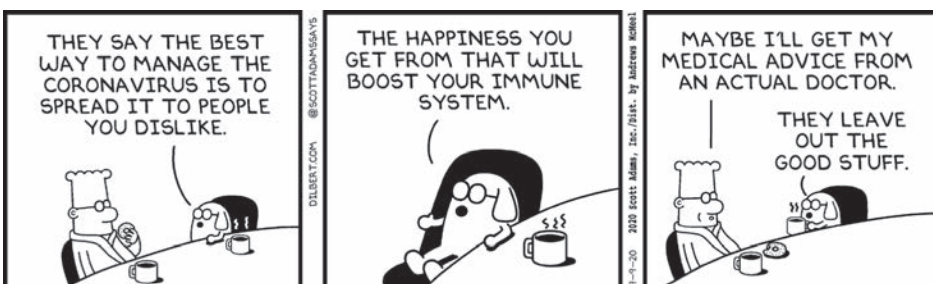
MOTHER GOOSE



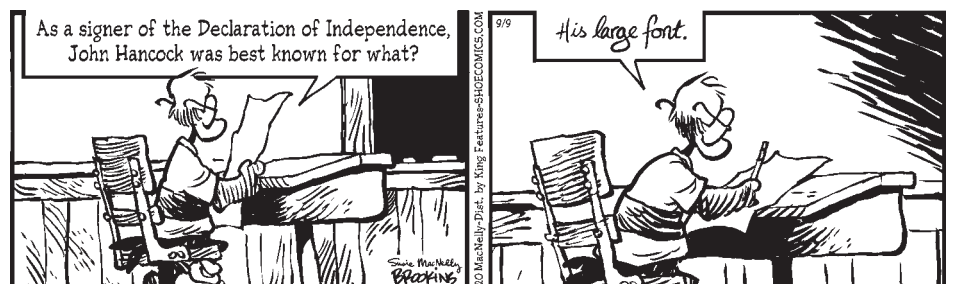
HERB AND JAMAAL



DILBERT



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE



Attention paid to ex-fiancée angers wife for 20 years



Dear Abby
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY — My wife and I were married 30 years when we ran into an old girlfriend (and ex-fiancée) of mine at a function. I spent a good part of the evening dancing with her and ignoring my wife. My wife says I was "indecent" with the girlfriend, and it hurt her badly. It was 20 years ago, but my wife lets me hear about it every day. I can't take it any longer. She refuses to get help or forgive me. Our marriage has gone downhill ever since. What do you rec-

ommend I do to make it up to her? I've tried a few things, to no avail.
Past isn't in the past

DEAR PAST — Your performance at that function must have been deeply humiliating to your wife. Was your regrettable behavior with your ex-fiancée a one-time thing or has it happened since? You stated this happened 20 years ago and you have attempted to make amends to no avail. Unless there's more to this story than you have written, it appears your wife enjoys carrying a grudge and punishing you -- which is, in my opinion, worse than what you did. Please quit allowing her to continue to punish you. Get counseling if you need

to, and offer her the option of counseling again. Understand that if she refuses, you have important decisions to make about your future. Discuss with your therapist what emotionally healthy options there may be for you, but don't continue to settle for the status quo.

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

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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.

METTP

GRTIE

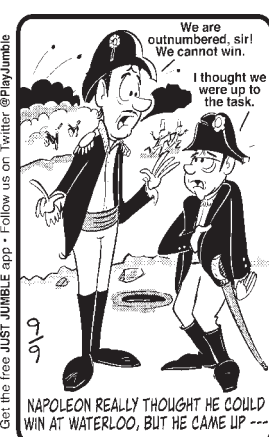
OAHLP

SOLONE

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

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: UPEND ONION HUBCAP METHOD
Answer: The winner of the dog bone eating contest was the "CHOMPION"



Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @JustJumble

SUDOKU

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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

THE DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14					15				16					
17				18					19					
			20					21		22				
23	24	25						26		27				
28					29	30	31		32					
33					34				35			36	37	
38					39				40			41		
42				43					44			45		
				46					47			48		
49	50							51				52		
53					54			55	56	57				
58					59			60				61	62	63
64								65				66		
67								68				69		

Susan Gelfand

- ACROSS**
- 1 "The Grapes of Wrath" family name
 - 5 Pay attention to
 - 9 Havana houses
 - 14 Court legend Arthur
 - 15 On the ocean
 - 16 Pixel pattern
 - 17 *Feature of Santa Claus' beard
 - 19 Kind of wave
 - 20 Colorful birds
 - 22 Woodworking tool
 - 23 Arouse
 - 26 Enjoys now and then, with "in"
 - 28 __ hand
 - 29 Skater's surface
 - 32 Auditioner's aim
 - 33 Santa __: dry winds
 - 34 Chess pieces
 - 35 Peaks
 - 38 Polite address
 - 39 *Out-of-control guy
 - 41 Primitive dwelling
 - 42 Bothers quite a bit
 - 44 Tiny ammo
 - 45 Rocky Road holder
 - 8 Took a risk
 - 9 Op. __: footnote abbr.
 - 10 Friendly
 - 11 *Bobbysoxer's footwear
 - 12 Staring intently
 - 13 Monica of tennis
 - 18 Bard's "before"
 - 21 Cutting talk
 - 23 Temporary stage
 - 24 Ancient Greek region
 - 25 *Football field director
 - 27 Partner of raised, in bios
 - 29 Copy
 - 30 Cartoon frame
 - 31 Finish no later than
 - 36 Long, loose top
 - 37 Courtroom staple, for short
 - 39 Ebb
 - 40 Corp. VP's degree
 - 43 Metal marble
 - 45 Lettuce keeper
 - 49 Grey Goose rival
 - 50 Shroud city
 - 51 The "u" sound in "census"
 - 52 "__ Day": 1993 rap hit
 - 55 Circuit
 - 56 Slow-moving boats
 - 57 "Now it's clear"
 - 59 Normal: Abbr.
 - 61 Put down
 - 62 Hail, to Hadrian
 - 63 Cry of success

DOWN

- 1 Word with bone or breaker
- 2 __Kosh B'gosh
- 3 Tuna type
- 4 Routes that contain the letters in "routes"
- 5 Half a food fish
- 6 Golfer Aoki
- 7 Actor Patrick Harris

Previous Puzzle Solved

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

SP	FT	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM		
LOCAL CHANNELS														
WIS	10	3	10	WIS News 10 at 7 (N)	Entertainment Tonight (N)	America's Got Talent "Results Show 5" Five acts move on to the finals. (N)	Inspire Change: NFL creates positive change in communities across America.	Chicago Fire "51's Original Bell" One of 51's own gets injured on a call. (DVS)	WIS News 10 at 11 (N)	(:34) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon "Kevin Hart; Josh Charles; Chika" Kevin Hart; Josh Charles; Chika.				
WLTX	19	9	9	News 19 at 7pm (N)	Inside Edition (N)	Big Brother Houseguests vie for the power of veto. (N)	Love Island The Islanders must couple up. (N)	48 Hours: Suspicion (Series Premiere) (N)	News 19 at 11pm (N)	(:35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert				
WOLO	25	5	12	Wheel of Fortune "America's Game"	Jeopardy!	The Goldbergs Adam has doubts about college.	black-ish Diane redecorates her room.	The Conners Darlene spends the night in jail.	American Housewife "In My Room"	The Goldbergs "The Fake-Up" Lainey is forced to confront Darlene.	The Conners Harris is forced to confront Darlene.	ABC Columbia News at 11 (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live!	(12:06) Nightline (N)
WRJA	27	11	14	Weekends With Yankee "To the Top"	Expeditions With Patrick McMillan	NOVA "Human Nature" Scientists study implications of CRISPR. (N) (DVS)		Hacking Your Mind "Living on Auto-Pilot" (Series Premiere) Going through life on auto-pilot. (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)		NOVA Scientists study implications of CRISPR.			
WACH	57	6	6	The Big Bang Theory "The Gothowitz Deviation"	The Big Bang Theory	MasterChef "London Calling -- Pt. 1; London Calling -- Pt. 2" The top six chefs travel to London. (DVS)		WACH FOX News at 10 (N) (Live)		Sports Zone	DailyMailTV (N)	TMZ (N)		
WKTC	63	4	22	Last Man Standing Ryan winds up impressing Mike.	Last Man Standing Mandy is accepted by two colleges.	The Doctors Spicing up a sex life; celebrity news.	Judge Jerry Man blames COVID-19 for failure to pay.	Judge Jerry One roommate abandons another.	Dateline "Nightfall" A woman's body is found miles from home.		Dateline "Burning Suspicion" A man claims his wife killed herself.		The Game The Sabers walkout crisis.	
CABLE CHANNELS														
A&E	46	130	The First 48 "Escape Plan; Path of Terror" A mother is stabbed to death.	The First 48 "Soldier Down; Blood Vengeance" Possible gang-related shooting.	The First 48 "Jacked; Fallen Idol" A Miami rapper is gunned down.	(:02) The First 48: The Case That Haunts Me "Deadly Morning" (N)		(:06) The First 48 "Life Interrupted; Lucifer" A thief kills a man in his home.		(:12:03) The First 48				
AMC	48	180	(5:30) ** "I, Robot" (2004) Will Smith, Bridget Moynahan.	** "Bad Boys II" (2003, Action) Martin Lawrence, Will Smith, Jordi Mollà. Two detectives battle a drug kingpin in Miami.	** "Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit" (2014) Chris Pine. Ryan uncovers a Russian plot to collapse the U.S. economy.									
ANPL	41	100	Lone Star Law "Stray Bullets"	Lone Star Law: Uncuffed Deer remains found on private property. (N)	North Woods Law: Still Hunting (N)	North Woods Law "Weed Whackers"	Lone Star Law							
BET	61	162	(5:30) ** "Just Wright" (2010) Queen Latifah, Common.	Tyler Perry's House of Payne	Tyler Perry's Assisted Living (N)	Tyler Perry's Assisted Living (N)	Tyler Perry's House of Payne	Tyler Perry's Assisted Living	Tyler Perry's Assisted Living	The Cleveland Show				
BRAVO	47	181	The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills Denise is a no-show at Dorli's party.	The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills Virtual sit-down with the ladies.	The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills Teddi reflects on parenthood. (N)	Watch What Happens Live	** "Tyler Perry's Boo! A Madea Halloween" (2016, Comedy) Tyler Perry, Cassi Davis. Madea fends off ghosts, ghouls and zombies on Halloween.							
CNBC	35	84	Shark Tank (DVS)	Shark Tank	Shark Tank (DVS)	Jay Leno's Garage (N)	(:02) Jay Leno's Garage	Jay Leno's Garage						
CNN	3	80	Erin Burnett OutFront (N) (Live)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N) (Live)	Cuomo Prime Time (N) (Live)	CNN Tonight with Don Lemon (N) (Live)	CNN Tonight with Don Lemon (N) (Live)	Anderson Cooper						
COM	57	136	(-1:10) South Park	(-4:5) South Park Animated. Boys want to lose baseball game.	(-2:0) South Park	(8:55) South Park "Guitar Queer-O"	South Park "Margarettaville"	South Park "Crème Fraiche"	South Park "Sarcas-taball"	The Daily Show With Trevor Noah	(-4:5) South Park	(12:15) South Park		
DISN	18	200	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Big City Greens	Big City Greens	The Owl House	Amphibia	Big City Greens	Big City Greens	Big City Greens	Jessie Jessie tries to unglue hands.		
DSC	42	103	Expedition Unknown: Uncovered (N)	Expedition Unknown (N)	Dodgeball Thunderdome (N)	(9:58) Kaplan America (N)	(10:58) Bad Chad Customs	Expedition Un.						
ESPN	26	35	(6:30) NBA Basketball Conference Semifinal: Teams TBA.	NBA Basketball Los Angeles Clippers vs Denver Nuggets. Conference Semifinal action, Game 4. (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (N)									
ESPN2	27	39	2020 U.S. Open Tennis Men's and Women's Quarterfinals. (N) (Live)											
FOOD	40	109	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games "Grocery Rush"	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	NFL Live		NFL's Greatest				
FOXN	37	90	The Story With Martha MacCallum (N)	Tucker Carlson Tonight (N) (Live)	Hannity (N) (Live)	The Ingraham Angle (N) (Live)	Fox News at Night With Shannon	Tucker Carlson						
FREE	20	131	*** "Despicable Me" (2010, Children's) Three orphans challenge one of Earth's greatest villains.	Voices of Steve Carell, Jason Segel. Animated.	*** "Despicable Me 2" (2013) Voices of Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig. Animated. Gru and his new partner hunt the perpetrator of a spectacular heist.	The 700 Club High-tech air purification system. (N)	"Willy Wonka & Chocolate"							
FSS	21	47	MLB Baseball Miami Marlins at Atlanta Braves. From Truist Park in Atlanta. (N) (Live)	Braves Live! Post.	Inside	MLB Baseball Miami Marlins at Atlanta Braves.								
HALL	52	183	(6:00) "Love Takes Flight" (2019) Nikki DeLoach, Jeff Hephner.	"Love in the Forecast" (2020, Romance) Cindy Busby, Christopher Russell. Sparks fly between an aspiring meteorologist and a neighbor.	The Golden Girls "Triple Play"	The Golden Girls	The Golden Girls	The Golden Girls	The Golden Girls	The Golden Girls	The Golden Girls "72 Hours"			
HGTV	39	112	Property Brothers: Forever Home	Property Brothers (N) (DVS)	Brother vs. Brother	House Hunters (N)	Hunters Int'l	House Hunters	Hunters Int'l	Brother vs. Brother				
HIST	45	110	Forged in Fire "The Barbarian Spatha"	Forged in Fire "The Musketeer Rapier"	Forged in Fire (DVS)	(-03) Forged in Fire (DVS)	(-03) Forged in Fire "The Qinglong Ji"	Forged in Fire						
ION	13	18	Law & Order "Dining Out" A TV network executive is killed.	Law & Order "Sects" Detectives uncover a perverted cult.	Law & Order "Tombstone" Detectives investigate a bludgeoning.	Law & Order "Publish and Perish" A porn actress is killed.	Law & Order "Sport of Kings" A jockey is shot.							
LIFE	50	145	(6:00) Married at First Sight	Married at First Sight (N)	Married at First Sight "Opening Up Is Hard To Do" The couples settle into married life. (N)	(-03) Marrying Millions "Mother's Point of View" Bill is in the dog house. (N)	(-03) Married at First Sight Beth and Jamie fight the coronavirus.	(12:01) Married at First Sight						
MSNBC	36	92	The ReidOut (N) (Live)	All In With Chris Hayes (N) (Live)	The Rachel Maddow Show (N)	The Last Word	The 11th Hour With Brian Williams (N)	Rachel Maddow						
NICK	16	210	The Loud House	The Loud House	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends		
PARMT	64	153	Two and a Half Men	** "The Longest Yard" (2005, Comedy) Adam Sandler, Chris Rock, Burt Reynolds.	** "Taken 2" (2012, Action) Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace, Famke Janssen. Premiere. A vengeful father abducts Bryan Mills and his wife.	** "Skyfall" (2012, Action)								
SYFY	58	152	(5:26) ** "Inferno" (2016, Suspense) Tom Hanks, Felicity Jones.	WWE NXT	** "Taken 2" (2012, Action) Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace, Famke Janssen. Premiere. A vengeful father abducts Bryan Mills and his wife.	** "Skyfall" (2012, Action)								
TBS	24	156	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	Conan "Beth Stelling"	Full Frontal With Samantha Bee (N)	Conan "Beth Stelling"	Full Frontal With Samantha Bee	New Girl "The Landlord"		
TCM	49	186	(6:30) ** "Beyond a Reasonable Doubt" (1956) Dana Andrews.	** "Mr. Belvedere Goes to College" (1949) Clifton Webb, Shirley Temple. Know-it-all crams four years into one.	(-45) *** "Mother Is a Freshman" (1949, Romance-Comedy) Loretta Young, Van Johnson, Rudy Vallee. Widow in college goes to head of professor's class.	My 600-Lb. Life "Nicole & Ashley D." Ashley has hit an emotional wall.	*** "Flight" (2012)							
TLC	43	157	My 600-Lb. Life "Ashley D.'s Story"	My 600-Lb. Life "Nicole's Story"	All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite (N) (Live)	*** "The Bourne Supremacy" (2004, Action) Matt Damon, Franca Potente, Brian Cox. Jason Bourne fights back when the CIA tries to kill him. (DVS)	*** "Flight" (2012)							
TNT	23	158	(5:30) *** "The Bourne Ultimatum" (2007, Action) Matt Damon. (DVS)											
TRUTV	38	129	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program		
TV LAND	55	161	Andy Griffith Show	Andy Griffith Show	Love-Raymond	(-45) Everybody Loves Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	King of Queens	King of Queens	King of Queens		
USA	25	132	NCIS "Neverland" The team suffers an emotional loss. (DVS)	NHL Hockey (N) (Live)										
WE	68	166	Law & Order "Darwinian"	Law & Order "Payback"	Law & Order "Married With Children"	Law & Order "City Hall"	Law & Order "Veteran's Day"	Law & Order						
WGNA	8	172	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	NewsNation (N) (Live)	NewsNation (N) (Live)	NewsNation (N) (Live)	NewsNation						

'Woke' is funny as well as thought-provoking

BY KEVIN McDONOUGH

Can a sitcom channel rage? If it did, would it still be a "comedy"? Those and other questions are the main subject of **"Woke,"** an amusing comedy streaming on Hulu beginning today.

Lamorne Morris stars as Keef Knight, a nice enough guy and a cartoonist seemingly on the verge of syndication and success. His strip, "Toast and Butter" is so innocuous that when a white guy sees Keef drawing his strip on a San Francisco transit train, he blurts out, "I love 'Toast and Butter.' I had no idea you were black." Later, Keef is asked to contribute to a political newspaper and submit to an interview about being a black cartoonist in America in 2020. He declines and declares that he just likes to "keep it light."

Keef lives with slacker roommates, Clovis (T. Murph), a seemingly unemployed "player" who picks up women by passing himself off as a parade of professional athletes, and Gunther (Blake Anderson, "Workaholics"), an earnest white dude with a peculiar entrepreneurial streak. Keef's lawyer girlfriend wants Keef to grow up and join her in the kind of condo they "deserve."

It's not giving too much away to reveal that Keef's path to mass success is interrupted by a confrontation with police, who mistake him for another "6-foot tall black man." Once he is roughed up and thrown to the ground, the "keepin' it light" Keef vanishes and a "woke" cartoonist is born. A more traditional cartoonist might draw images of dollar bills flying away.

His metamorphosis is revealed as psychosis. Suddenly, he's not just drawing "funny" breakfast cereal. All manner of intimate objects start talking to him, urging him to embrace his new consciousness. They range from the mildly absurd (an angry talking trash can that has witnessed the gentrification of a black neighborhood) to the really outrageous (an object for sale on "Antiques Roadshow" that was present at the slaughter of an Indian tribe).

"Woke" does a pretty good job of modulating between madness and humdrum distraction, much of it between



JOE LEDERER / HULU

When up-and-coming cartoonist Keef Knight (Lamorne Morris) has a traumatic run-in with the police, he begins to see the world in a whole new way in the "Rhymes with Broke" episode of "Woke," now streaming on Hulu.

Keef and his roomies. Gunther is ready to "fight the man," but Clovis warns Keef to "maintain," and suppress his rage because, "woke" often "rhymes with broke."

A meditation on race, "Woke" makes the most of its San Francisco setting, playing up "enlightened" white boys who think nothing of appropriating the style of an old black barber shop for their fancy beard salon and other "liberals" who obsess about the fate of a koala bear while ignoring police brutality.

"Woke" will make you laugh and may make you think. Balancing those two goals is never easy.

For all of the show's absurdity, Morris does a good job depicting Keef struggling with his awakening while coping with the day-to-day. In the pilot, he suffers a very public meltdown that reminds this viewer of Dave Chappelle's erratic reaction to sudden fame some years back. Balancing humor and rage can drive you to distraction.

TONIGHT'S OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Five acts proceed on **"America's Got Talent"** (8 p.m., NBC, TV-PG).
- **"Nova"** (8 p.m., PBS, TV-PG, check local listings) explores the gene-editing capabilities of "CRISPR" technology.
- **"Inspire Change"** (9 p.m., NBC) showcases the civic-minded actions of NFL players.
- The new spin-off **"48 Hours: Suspicion"** (10 p.m., CBS) profiles characters who may not be what they seem.
- A fireman down on **"Chicago P.D."** (10 p.m., NBC, r, TV-14).

CULT CHOICE

Director Stanley Kubrick casts his chilly eye on a writer's (Jack Nicholson) descent into madness in the 1980 adaptation of Stephen King's "The Shining" (8:45 p.m., IFC, TV-MA).

SERIES NOTES

Julie Chen Moonves hosts

"Big Brother" (8 p.m., CBS, TV-PG) * London calling on a two-hour **"MasterChef"** (8 p.m., Fox, r, TV-14) * On two helpings of **"The Goldbergs"** (ABC, r, TV-PG): spring break (8 p.m.); a fake breakup (10 p.m.) * Eclipsed by the red sun on **"The 100"** (8 p.m., CW, TV-14) * Rainbow's status irks Dre on **"black-ish"** (8:30 p.m., ABC, r, TV-PG) * Couples cavort on **"Love Island"** (9 p.m., CBS, TV-PG) * On two helpings of **"The Conners"** (ABC, r, TV-PG): Dan emotes (9 p.m.); Harris confronts Darlene (10:30 p.m.) * A police shooting investigation rankles some on **"Coroner"** (9

p.m., CW, TV-14) * Nostalgic design on **"American Housewife"** (9:30 p.m., ABC, r, TV-PG).

LATE NIGHT

Chris Christie and Gregory Porter appear on **"The Late Show With Stephen Colbert"** (11:35 p.m., CBS, r) * Jimmy Fallon welcomes Kevin Hart, Josh Charles and Chika on **"The Tonight Show"** (11:35 p.m., NBC) * John Cleese and Glenn Howerton visit **"Late Night With Seth Meyers"** (12:35 a.m., NBC).

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