



KAREEM WILSON / THE SUMTER ITEM

Newly appointed board members for Clarendon County's consolidated school district, excluding Alex Craven, raise their hands as they are sworn into office by Rep. Kimberly Johnson on Friday.

## Delegation swears in 9 trustees for consolidated Clarendon board

### County's school districts will merge into 1 in 2022

BY KAREEM WILSON  
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Clarendon County's legislative delegation appointed and swore in nine new members on Friday to create the board of trustees for Clarendon County's consolidated school district next year.

This decision comes after Gov. Henry McMaster approved a bill introduced by state Sen. Kevin Johnson, D-Manning, earlier this month that called for the merging of two remaining Clarendon school districts. The Democrat's bill called for the consolidation of Manning-based Clarendon School District 2 and Clarendon School District 4 — the newly formed consolidated district of Clarendon 1 in Summerton and Clarendon 3 in Turbeville that goes into effect this summer — into the unified Clarendon County School District by July 2022.

"This is such a historic and momentous occasion for Clarendon County," said Rep. Kimberly Johnson, D-Manning.

The delegation, consisting of Manning's father-daughter Johnsons and state Sen. Cezar McKnight, D-Kingstree, had a task of

SEE **CONSOLIDATED**, PAGE A8

## Sumter High parents organize 'Prom Part Two'

May 13 event for seniors and dates is in addition to the school's prom held Saturday; masks not required

BY BRUCE MILLS  
bruce@theitem.com

In an effort to provide as many memories as possible for the Class of 2021, a group of Sumter High School senior parents are organizing an additional prom for the school's seniors.

Kipper Ackerman, a parent of a Sumter High senior, spoke recently on "Prom Part Two," to be held on Thursday, May 13, at The O'Donnell House, 120 E. Liberty St., in the downtown area for seniors and their dates if they choose to have one.

The indoor/outdoor event will have a capacity of 250, and masks are not required but will be up to the individuals, she said. If school seniors choose to bring a date, the person must at least be in high school or no older than 19.

Dessert and drinks will be served, and without mask and social distancing requirements, "Prom Part Two" will have more of a regular prom feel to it than the high school's official prom on Saturday — which followed COVID-19 protocol — but Ackerman said organizers only planned for it to be in addition to the school's prom and not in lieu of it.

"This is simply an addition to help provide

SEE **PROM**, PAGE A8

# 1 hurt in Pilgrim's Pride parking lot shooting

1 arrested; police say incident stemmed from argument

BY SHELBBIE GOULDING  
shelbbie@theitem.com

The Sumter County Sheriff's Office was on scene Monday at a large chicken production plant off U.S. 15 in response to a shooting incident.

One man sustained serious injuries and was transported to an area hospital for treatment, said Deputy Adrienne Sarvis, public information officer for the sheriff's office. She said he is expected



GREEN

to recover.

The call about the shooting came in at about 10:45 a.m. Based on preliminary information, it appeared the incident started as a fight in the parking lot of Pilgrim's Pride, Sarvis said. It appeared the three individuals involved in this incident are acquaintances, according to initial reports from law enforcement.

An 18-year-old, Jeffrey Laverne Green Jr., of West Oakland Avenue, was taken into custody in connection with the incident. He faces charges of attempted murder and possession of a weapon during a violent crime.

All three people involved in the incident were employees at Pilgrim's Pride at the time of the incident, Sarvis said. According to Sumter Economic Development

SEE **SHOOTING**, PAGE A8

## USC Sumter gives away books to celebrate literacy, mental health awareness on World Book Day

BY SHELBBIE GOULDING  
shelbbie@theitem.com



Children filled USC Sumter's lawn at the Sumter Farmers Market on Friday for a World Book Day event celebrating literacy and mental health awareness.

USC Sumter, along with community partners, hosted the event to provide children free readings, free books, treats, activities and a book sale.

"This is really our first event back after the pandemic," said Alethia Hummel, director of marketing and public relations for USC Sumter. "It started off as a partnership with the Sumter Behavioral Health group, and they wanted a way to promote mental health awareness, especially right now. A lot of children are suffering, especially with the pandemic and being home and not being able to be social with their friends."

Young participants received a free book provided by the Kiwanis Club of Sumter and UBI Southeast National Telesales Division: "Ruby Finds a Worry" for elementary students, "Sometimes I'm Anxious" for upper

SEE **BOOK DAY**, PAGE A8



PHOTOS BY SHELBBIE GOULDING / THE SUMTER ITEM



### DEATHS, A10

Reginald Eugene Daniels  
Donald Lawrence Petty  
Doris Jean Hillman  
Donald Lynn Beasley  
Rebecca Heriott  
Edna Mae McLeod  
Wendell W. Ottley

Howard W. Sumter  
Minister Melvin Sapp  
Roslyn Blanding  
Laticia Shavonne Zimmerman  
LaTonya Chakirah Capers  
Regina Wells  
John Edward Capers

### WEATHER, A16

#### HEATING UP AGAIN

Mostly sunny and pleasant today; mainly clear tonight  
**HIGH 85, LOW 58**

### INSIDE

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# SECOND FRONT

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

## 20 area nonprofits participating in Midlands Gives

May 4 event boasts record number of nonprofits, searchable by county, COVID-19 impact, Black-led, Black-benefiting

BY KAYLA GREEN  
kayla@theitem.com

An annual giving campaign next week offers the opportunity to support a record-breaking number of nonprofits, including 20 in the tri-county, in a year when the road to recovery from the pandemic is still long ahead and nearly two-thirds of the state's nonprofits have indicated they will only survive six months without additional funding.

There are 480 nonprofits participating in Midlands Gives on May 4 from 6 a.m. to 11:59 p.m., an online giving campaign that asks for contributions of \$10 or more at [www.MidlandsGives.org](http://www.MidlandsGives.org) to support the continuation of critical services in health, arts and culture, human services and more.

In 2020, the day of giving raised a record-breaking \$3.3 million for 416 nonprofits, and the record-breaking number of participating nonprofits this year showcases the critical need for funding.

According to Central Carolina Community Foundation, the organization that organizes and runs the campaign, a March survey of the state's nonprofits by Together SC found that 59% think they can only survive six months or less without additional funding.

"The pandemic has forced many local nonprofits to expand or redesign their services while dealing with reduced revenue," said JoAnn Turnquist, president and CEO of the community foundation. "They have displayed remarkable resilience, and the dollars they received from our community during Midlands Gives 2020 contributed to their resilience. Although we are at a turning point in the pandemic, the nonprofits that have served us well this year still need our ongoing support and partnership."

Since its inception in 2014, Midlands

### Who is participating in our community?

There are 20 nonprofits participating from the tri-county, including 20 in Sumter County, four in Clarendon County and one in Lee County.

#### Sumter

- Sumter County Museum
- Sumter Pregnancy Center
- Ragin Preparatory Christian Academy
- SC Rural Community and Workforce Development Inc.
- Central Carolina Technical College Foundation
- Sumter United Ministries
- Sumter County Gallery of Art
- Jake Koenigsdorf Foundation Inc.
- Citizens Center for Public Life

- Sumter Salvation Army
- Sumter Family YMCA
- #WeBall4Destin Foundation
- Sumter Habitat for Humanity Inc.
- Saving Sumter's Strays
- CART Fund (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust)

#### Clarendon

- Bella Tail Waggin' Rescue
- RBA Corporation
- JCMC-Haven of Rest
- Clarendon County Community Development Corporation

#### Lee

- Life Empowerment Community Outreach

Gives has raised \$12.6 million for hundreds of local nonprofits, helping them amplify their impact, administer vital public services and boost the quality of life in the foundation's 11-county service area of the Midlands.

In 2020, more than \$16,400 was raised for nonprofits in Sumter County, and Clarendon County nonprofits were gifted more than \$5,500.

At [MidlandsGives.org](http://MidlandsGives.org), you can search for participating nonprofits by county or filter for nonprofits that provide critical COVID-19 needs; are Black-led and Black-benefiting; or have matching dollars available.

### HOW TO GIVE

The Midlands Gives platform, [www.MidlandsGives.org](http://www.MidlandsGives.org), is hosted through Neon One and can be accessed on a mobile device or desktop. It features a leader board, prize tracker and searchable profiles of all participating nonprofits.

Donors can search to find their favorite causes or discover new nonprofits by

browsing categories such as Black-led and Black-benefiting, animals, youth development, veterans and more. Then, donors add multiple organizations to an online "shopping cart" with donation sizes of their choice.

One hundred percent of each contribution, less a 2.2% credit card fee and 2.8% Neon One technology fee, will go directly to the donor's selected nonprofit. Donors have the option to cover these fees at checkout. The foundation does not profit from any donations made during Midlands Gives.

If you don't want to wait until May 4 to give, early giving is open, and all donations will count toward leader board totals.

### JOIN THE VIRTUAL FUN AT THE MIDLANDS GIVES ONLINE HEADQUARTERS

Midlands Gives Day will be livestreamed on the foundation's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/CentralCarolinaCommunityFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/CentralCarolinaCommunityFoundation). Community

members are invited to join the virtual celebration and cheer for local nonprofits by commenting and sharing.

More than \$155,000 in prizes are available, and surprise challenges will be announced during the day, giving viewers the opportunity to help their favorite nonprofits win additional dollars.

### INCREASE YOUR IMPACT: CREATE A CHAMPION PAGE

Individuals are sharing their philanthropic passions through Champion Pages, an online tool where users create a personal giving campaign to raise money for a local nonprofit, similar to Facebook Giving.

After selecting a nonprofit and a fundraising goal, individuals can customize their page with a personal story and banner image. On May 4, users are encouraged to share their Champion Page on their social networks and send the link directly to friends and family to fundraise on behalf of the nonprofit. View Champion Pages and find more information at [www.MidlandsGives.org/Champion](http://www.MidlandsGives.org/Champion).

### YOUR GIFT GOES FURTHER WITH \$155,000 IN PRIZE INCENTIVES

In Good Company Network Members — including Dominion Energy, Aflac, Nephron Pharmaceuticals Corporation, BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina, Truist and more — are providing financial incentives, matching gifts and prizes for nonprofits on May 4.

In addition, many nonprofits have secured matching gifts from generous donors throughout the community. The impact of individuals' contributions of \$10 or more will be amplified through these sponsored prize incentives and matching funds. The full list of prizes can be found at [www.MidlandsGives.org/Prizes](http://www.MidlandsGives.org/Prizes).

## Federal document submission deadline looming for some receiving UI benefits

BY BRUCE MILLS  
bruce@theitem.com

Thousands of unique unemployment insurance claimants in the state have a May 5 deadline for submitting a federal documentation requirement as outlined in the Continued Assistance Act or risk losing their benefits.

The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program provides weekly assistance for self-employed workers, freelancers, independent contractors and part-time workers, but a substantial number have not completed the

documentation requirement task, according to Heather Biance, media relations specialist, with the state Department of Employment and Workforce.

Those workers are not ordinarily eligible for unemployment insurance but have been in the pandemic if they can show they are unemployed, unable to work or unavailable to work as a direct result of COVID-19.

If PUA claimants do not comply with the requirement, the state agency is federally required to stop unemployment benefits and establish an overpayment. "That means they would have

to pay back any UI benefits received in 2021 to the agency," Biance said.

She added the documents needed are those a person would have readily available, such as: W-2 forms, business license, state or federal tax returns for a business or a letter from a company offering a job.

Claimants are urged to upload documents to their online portal as soon as possible to avoid their benefits being turned off.

More information can be found at DEW's homepage, [www.dew.sc.gov](http://www.dew.sc.gov), and under the "How Do I" tab.

## Georgia park with giant Confederate carving proposes changes

STONE MOUNTAIN, Ga. (AP) — A park near Atlanta with a giant carving of Confederate leaders would publicly acknowledge that it was a gathering spot for the Ku Klux Klan, relocate Confederate flags and remove the carving from its logo

under proposals unveiled Monday to address criticism of its Confederate legacy.

Stone Mountain Memorial Association CEO Bill Stephens presented the proposals to the park's board, saying Stone Mountain needed to change to remain financially viable but couldn't "cancel history." The board did not immediately vote on any of them.

The park 15 miles northeast of downtown Atlanta is a popular hiking and tourist destination but is replete with Confederate imagery, including a colossal sculpture of Gen. Robert E. Lee, Confederate President Jefferson Davis and Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson on the mountain's northern face. It is the largest Confederate monument ever crafted.

## 2 die in separate weekend wrecks

BY SHELBY GOULDING  
shelbie@theitem.com

The Sumter County Coroner's Office responded to two unrelated vehicle wrecks over the weekend.

On Saturday, a single-vehicle wreck occurred on Packs Landing Road in the Rimini portion of Sumter County at about 2:53 a.m.

The driver of the vehicle, Lynwood Cox, 24, of Dalzell, was pronounced dead on scene, according to Coroner Robbie Baker.

According to South Carolina Highway Patrol Lance Cpl. David Jones, Cox was traveling east on Packs Landing Road before running off the roadway and striking a tree. Cox was partially ejected from the vehicle.

Next of kin has been notified, and an autopsy was scheduled for Monday at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

Cox was not wearing a seatbelt. A passenger was wearing a seatbelt and was transported to an area hospital for non-life-threatening injuries, Jones said.

On Sunday, a two-vehicle wreck occurred on Pitts Road at Hope Court at about 1:25 a.m.

Laticia Zimmerman, 35, of Sumter, was pronounced dead on scene, according to Baker. She was not wearing a seatbelt.

Zimmerman was traveling north on Pitts Road when she crossed the center line and struck another vehicle head on, according to Jones. Occupants of the other vehicle were not injured.

Next of kin has been notified, and an autopsy will be performed Wednesday morning at MUSC.

# OSTEEN

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## Doing their part: Sumter High School Key Club members plant tree on Earth Day



PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER EDGE, SUMTER HIGH SCHOOL / SPECIAL TO THE SUMTER ITEM

Sumter High Key Club International celebrated Earth Day on April 22. The Key Club members, along with their adviser, Sharon Butler McQuiller; Principal Nicholas Pearson; and Key Club sponsors Chuck Wilson and Lisa Rosdail of the Sumter Kiwanis Club joined together to plant a Japanese maple tree on the grounds of Sumter High School. The tree is planted in honor of the Sumter High Key Club 2020-21. The theme for this year's Earth Day is "Restore Our Earth," which focuses on natural processes and emerging green technologies that can restore the world's ecosystems.



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**Parent As Teacher Team**  
 Pictured (left to right): Toni Brew, Phatisha Pitts, Arlene McCloud, Beverly Davis, Gina Grant and Kimberly Singleton

## S.C. grows by double digits again, tops 5M people in 2020

BY JEFFREY COLLINS  
 The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina's population grew by double-digit percentage points for the fifth decade in a row, but that wasn't enough for the state to add another U.S. House seat, according to U.S. census data for 2020 released Monday.

South Carolina had 5,118,425 people as of April 1, 2020. The state grew by 10.7% from 2010, adding 493,041 people, according to the census data.

South Carolina added its seventh U.S. House seat in 2010 but was not one of the six states to gain an additional seat in Congress in 2020.

The Census Bureau only released state population data Monday. Breakdowns by race, gender and age as well as county-by-county and neighborhood figures will be released later.

Estimates over the past 10 years indicate much of South Carolina's growth has come from people moving into the state, especially

older residents who are retired or close to retirement.

The sharpest growth has happened along the coast, especially in Horry County and in York and Lancaster counties, just south of Charlotte, North Carolina.

The census data will be used to redraw borders for U.S. House, state Senate, state House and local districts.

South Carolina's population was enough to move past Alabama's 5 million people to become the 23rd most populous state in the U.S. Minnesota is the 22nd most populous state at 5.7 million people.

The U.S. census is conducted every 10 years, and South Carolina has added people in every decade since the first count in 1790. The smallest growth came in the decade during the Civil War when the state added 1,898 people.

South Carolina's has grown by at least 10% in each decade 1980, when the state grew by 20.5% and topped 3 million people for the first time.

## Updated bridge across Harbor River to connect sea islands to Beaufort County

BEAUFORT (AP) — Officials are opening a replacement bridge that will connect Beaufort County's mainland with nearby sea islands.

Local media reported a ribbon-cutting ceremony was being held Monday for the bridge across the Harbor River.

The state Department of Transportation says the

new structure replaces an 82-year-old swing-span bridge. It's along U.S. Highway 21, or the Sea Island Parkway, which serves as a designated hurricane evacuation route for coastal Beaufort County.

The project is part of the agency's 10-year plan to replace hundreds of structurally deficient bridges across the state.



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AP FILE PHOTO

Marcel Schmetz raises the U.S. flag next to a World War II American Sherman tank at his Remember Museum 39-45 in Thimister-Clermont, Belgium. Tourists from the United States who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 could be able to travel across the European Union this summer, officials from the 27-nation bloc said Monday.

## Continental Europe could allow U.S. tourists back this summer

BY SAMUEL PETREQUIN  
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS — American tourists could soon be visiting continental Europe again, more than a year after the European Union restricted travel to the 27-nation bloc to a bare minimum to contain the coronavirus.

EU officials said Monday they are completing plans to allow Americans back this summer, depending on the course of the outbreak on both sides of the Atlantic.

The EU Commission, the EU's executive arm, will make a proposal soon to its member states but didn't say when exactly leisure travel could resume or whether a reciprocal approach will apply to Europeans wanting to visit the U.S., which has closed its doors to tourists from the continent.

Also, it was not immediately clear whether all U.S. tourists would have to produce proof of vaccination for entry or whether a negative test for the coronavirus or proof of recent recovery from COVID-19 would be acceptable instead.

"These are among the questions we'll still need to figure out," European Commission spokesman Adalbert Jahnz said. Jahnz said the EU's executive body is hoping to restore trans-Atlantic leisure travel "as soon as it is safe to do so."

On Sunday, *The New York Times* quoted Commission President Ursula von der Leyen as saying that fully vaccinated Americans will be able to visit EU countries this summer because all coronavirus vaccines used in the U.S. have also been approved by the EU's regulator, the European Medicines Agency.

"This will enable free movement and the travel to the European Union," she said. "Because one thing is clear: All 27 member states will accept, un-

conditionally, all those who are vaccinated with vaccines that are approved by EMA."

With more than 15 million Americans a year visiting Europe before the crisis, the prospect of U.S. travelers once more flocking to such attractions as the Eiffel Tower, the canals of Venice or Germany's Brandenburg Gate is welcome news for the continent's hard-hit tourism industry.

But EU member states will have the final say on whether to adopt the guidelines.

The International Air Transport Association, a trade group that represents 290 airlines in 120 countries, applauded the news.

"This is a step in the right direction," IATA General Director Willie Walsh said in a statement. "It gives hope to people for so many reasons — to travel, to reunite with loved ones, to develop business opportunities or get back to work."

The group said people who test negative for COVID-19, not just those who get vaccinated, should be allowed to travel freely. IATA also said it is critical to develop globally recognized standards for vaccine certification. IATA is among groups testing a vaccine passport system.

Jahnz said the EU has been following closely the vaccination drive in the U.S., where more than 94 million people 18 or older, or about 36.5% of the adult population, have been fully vaccinated.

The slow rollout of vaccines in the EU has left the bloc lagging well behind the U.S. But Von der Leyen said Monday that the region, home to around 450 million people, has already passed 123 million vaccinations and is on track to have vaccinated 70% of all adults by July.

The EU is putting the finishing touches to a system of certificates that would allow EU

residents to travel freely across the region by the summer as long as they have been vaccinated, tested negative or recovered from the disease.

Under the plan discussed with their U.S. counterparts, certificates issued in the United States could be integrated into the program.

As for Britain, no longer an EU member, Americans visiting the United Kingdom have to isolate for 10 days and take coronavirus tests before and after travel.

Travel to the EU is extremely limited, confined mostly to a few countries with low infection rates, such as Australia and New Zealand. But Greece, which is heavily reliant on tourism, has already lifted quarantine restrictions for the U.S., Britain, the United Arab Emirates, Serbia, Israel and non-EU members Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland that are part of a European travel pact.

"Unilateral approaches from our perspective should be avoided," Jahnz said. "The objective is to continue to have a coordinated approach on the European level."

Meanwhile, the EU said Monday it has launched legal action against AstraZeneca, accusing it of failing to meet its vaccine delivery commitments under its contract with the bloc. The slow pace of the EU vaccination campaign has been blamed in part on the delays.

The British-Swedish drug-maker had hoped to deliver 80 million doses in the first quarter of 2021, but only 30 million were sent. According to the EU, the company is set to provide 70 million in the second quarter, rather than the 180 million it had promised.

AstraZeneca said in a statement that it will "strongly defend" itself in court.

## Ex-U.S. congressman mounts Democratic bid for S.C. governor

CHARLESTON (AP) — Former Democratic U.S. Rep. Joe Cunningham has announced he will vie for his party's nomination for the 2022 South Carolina governor's race.

Cunningham made his announcement to *The Post and Courier* on Sunday.

So far, he joins Democratic activist Gary Votour. The winner will face an uphill challenge to defeat Republican Gov. Henry McMaster. No Republicans have currently filed to take on the incumbent.

McMaster defeated Demo-

crat James Smith in 2018 with 54 percent of votes cast. A Democrat hasn't been elected to a statewide office in South Carolina for 15 years.

In last year's U.S. Senate race, current Democratic National Committee Chairman Jaime Harrison smashed na-

tional fundraising records in his challenge to U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham.

Graham won by a double-digit margin.

Cunningham served one term in the U.S. House before losing his 2020 reelection bid to Republican Nancy Mace.

## Listing your home in 2021? Here's what you need to know

BY ELIZABETH RENTER  
of NerdWallet

It's a good time to be a home seller — homes are selling fast and for a premium — but that doesn't mean you can jump into the market ill-prepared. Knowing what to expect can position you to make the most of this seller's market.

Roughly 1 in 6 (17%) homeowners plan on selling their home in the next 18 months, according to a new NerdWallet survey conducted online by The Harris Poll among 2,127 homeowners. Those listings will be a welcome sight to buyers currently competing for a limited number of homes commanding top dollar.

The March survey found that this current market is playing a role in many of these home sellers' motivations. In fact, 45% of those planning to sell in the next 18 months say recent changes to the housing market, including higher asking prices and lower inventory, have spurred them to sell earlier than initially planned. If you're among the homeowners preparing to be on the favored side of this strong seller's market, here's what you need to know.

### 1. YOU MAY BE ABLE TO SKIP PRESALE HOME IMPROVEMENTS

In addition to cleaning your house for showings, preparing to sell your home often means doing minor (or major) repairs and upgrades. But homebuyers are stalking real estate listings and jumping on those that even get close to checking all the boxes, so sellers could likely save some money by limiting or forgoing expensive projects altogether.

More than 4 in 5 (81%) homeowners planning to sell in the next 18 months say they plan to spend money on major repairs or renovations to make their home more appealing to potential buyers prior to selling, typically planning to spend \$2,000. But 17% of those planning to sell in the next 18 months who will spend money on repairs and renovations prior to selling say they'll spend \$15,000 or more.

"You really can get away without doing renovations and minor repairs," says Holden Lewis, NerdWallet mortgages expert. "Unless the house has a major problem like a leaky roof, you're probably better off selling as-is. Make it a priority to declutter and depersonalize the home so it's easy for buyers to imagine themselves living there. The buyers can fix it up and renovate it on their own dime and schedule."

### 2. IT WILL ALL MOVE VERY QUICKLY

If you list your home in this market, there's little question of the outcome.

*'The trickiest part of navigating today's market is finding a home to replace the one you're selling.'*

HOLDEN LEWIS

NerdWallet mortgages expert

Barring any significant defaults or dramatic overpricing, you'll sell your home. It will happen quickly, and you could receive multiple offers over listing price.

Nearly half (45%) of homeowners planning to sell in the next 18 months say recent changes to the housing market have spurred them to sell earlier than initially planned, according to the survey. Single-family homes are in high demand, so selling now means you'll sell faster and for a higher price than you would under other conditions.

Existing homes are only on the market for an average of 20 days, according to the most recent data from the National Association of Realtors — that's listed and under contract in less than three weeks. So be prepared to sell the moment you hang that "For Sale" sign. It's ideal to have your next home already lined up, but that may be easier said than done.

### 3. YOU'LL FACE STIFF COMPETITION SHOPPING FOR A REPLACEMENT HOME

The very things that make it a good time to sell make it a tough time to buy a house. Just 10% of those planning to sell in the next 18 months say one of their primary motivations for selling is that they no longer want to be a homeowner, according to the survey. For the rest of these sellers, entering the crowded pool of homebuyers will present challenges.

Whether it's the location — such as moving closer to family, outside of the city or for a new job — or the home features, every item on your list of must-haves will make finding your next home a greater challenge.

Given the likely ease with which you'll sell and the difficulty you might have finding a replacement home, it may make sense to be under contract on a purchase when or soon after your home hits the market.

"The trickiest part of navigating today's market is finding a home to replace the one you're selling," Lewis says. "You can make the buyer's purchase contingent on your finding suitable housing. In other words, you can make your buyer wait. Normally, buyers are reluctant to accept that condition, but we're in a seller's market, and sellers make the rules."

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# SOS messages, panic as virus breaks India's health system

BY SHEIKH SAALIQ  
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Dr. Gautam Singh dreads the daily advent of the ventilator beeps, signaling that oxygen levels are critically low, and hearing his critically ill patients start gasping for air in the New Delhi emergency ward where he works.

Like other doctors across the country, which on Monday set another record for new coronavirus infections for a fifth day in a row at more than 350,000, the cardiologist has taken to begging and borrowing cylinders of oxygen just to keep his most critical patients alive for one more day.

On Sunday evening, when the oxygen supplies of other nearby hospitals were also near empty, the desperate 43-year-old took to social media, posting an impassioned video plea on Twitter.

"Please send oxygen to us," he said with folded hands and a choked voice. "My patients are dying."

India was initially seen as a success story in weathering the pandemic, but the virus is now racing through its massive population of nearly 1.4 billion, and systems are beginning to collapse.

SOS messages like the one Singh sent reveal the extent of panic in a country where infections are hitting new peaks daily.

In addition to oxygen supplies running out, intensive care units are operating at full capacity, and nearly all ventilators are in use. As the death toll mounts, the night skies in some Indian cities glow from the funeral pyres, as crematoria are overwhelmed and bodies are burned outside in the open air.

On Monday, the country reported an additional 2,812 deaths, with roughly 117 Indians succumbing to the disease every hour — and experts say even those figures are likely an undercount. The new infections brought India's total to more than 17.3 million, be-



People perform rituals next to a funeral pyre for a family member who died of COVID-19 at an area that has been converted into a crematorium for mass cremation of COVID-19 victims in New Delhi, India, on Saturday.

hind only the United States.

Doctors like Singh are on the front lines, trying to get the supplies they need to keep their patients alive.

Singh received 20 oxygen cylinders on Monday, only enough to limp the hospital through the day until the ventilators start sending out their warning beeps again.

"I feel helpless because my patients are surviving hour to hour," Singh said in a telephone interview. "I will beg again and hope someone sends oxygen that will keep my patients alive for just another day."

As bad as the situation is, experts warn it is likely to get worse.

Krishna Udayakumar, founding director of the Duke Global Health Innovation Center at Duke University, said it would be impossible for the country to keep up with needs over the coming days as things stand.

"The situation in India is tragic and likely to get worse for some weeks to months," he said, adding that a "concerted, global effort to help India at this time of crisis" is desperately needed.

The White House said the U.S. is "working around the

clock" to deploy testing kits, ventilators and personal protective equipment, and it would seek to provide oxygen supplies as well. It said it would also make available sources of raw material urgently needed to manufacture Covishield, the Oxford-Astrazeneca vaccine made by the Serum Institute of India.

"Just as India sent assistance to the United States as our hospitals were strained early in the pandemic, we are determined to help India in its time of need," President Joe Biden said in a tweet.

Help and support were also offered from archrival Pakistan, which said it could provide relief including ventilators, oxygen supply kits, digital X-ray machines, protective equipment and related items.

Germany's Health Ministry said it was "urgently working to put together an aid package" for India consisting of ventilators, monoclonal antibodies, the drug Remdesivir, as well as surgical and N95 protective masks.

Stung by criticism of its lack of preparation ahead of the wave of infections, the federal government has asked industrialists to increase the production of oxygen and

life-saving drugs in short supply.

But many say it is too late — the breakdown a stark failure for a country that boasted of being a model for other developing nations.

Only three months ago, the country's leaders were boisterous, delivering messages that the worst was over.

In January, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared victory over the coronavirus, telling the virtual gathering of the World Economic Forum that India's success couldn't be compared with anywhere else.

A little less than a month later, his Bharatiya Janata Party passed a resolution hailing Modi as a "visionary leader" who had already "defeated" the virus.

By the second week of March, India's health minister declared that the country was "in the endgame" of the pandemic.

At the same time, the patients arriving at India's hospitals were far sicker and younger than previously seen, prompting warnings by health experts that India was sitting on a ticking timebomb, which went either unnoticed or ignored.

Millions of Hindu devotees celebrated the festival of Holi across the country at the end of March, foregoing social distancing guidelines and masks. Politicians, including Modi, spearheaded mammoth election rallies where tens of thousands participated without masks. And millions more gathered by the Ganges River for special Hindu prayers as recently as last week.

Now it's suspected all these events might have accelerated the unprecedented surge India is seeing now.

"Many people across India are paying with their lives for that shameful behavior by political leaders," Udayakumar said.

In a radio address on Sunday, Modi sought to deflect the criticism and said the "storm" of infections had left the country "shaken."

"It is true that many people

are getting infected with corona," he said. "But the number of people recovering from corona is equally high."

India's government said last week it would expand its vaccination program to make all adults eligible, something long urged by health experts.

But vaccinations take time to show their effect on the numbers of new infections, and there are questions of whether manufacturers will be able to keep up with the demand. The pace of vaccination across the country also appears to be struggling.

Meantime, ordinary citizens are taking matters into their own hands, doing what they say the government should have done a long time ago.

Volunteers, from students to technology professionals, nonprofit organizations and journalists, are rallying to circulate information on the availability of hospital beds, critical drugs and oxygen cylinders.

Like Dr. Singh, many have taken to social media, particularly Twitter, to crowdsource lists of plasma donors and oxygen cylinder supplies.

The system's imperfect, but some are getting badly needed help.

Rashmi Kumar, a New Delhi homemaker, spent her Sunday scouring Twitter, posting desperate pleas for an oxygen cylinder for her critically ill father.

At the same time, she made countless calls to hospitals and government helpline numbers, to no avail.

By evening her 63-year-old father was gasping for breath.

"I was prepared for the worst," Kumar said.

But out of nowhere, a fellow Twitter user reported an available oxygen cylinder some 37 miles away. Kumar drove to the person's house where she was handed over the oxygen cylinder by a man.

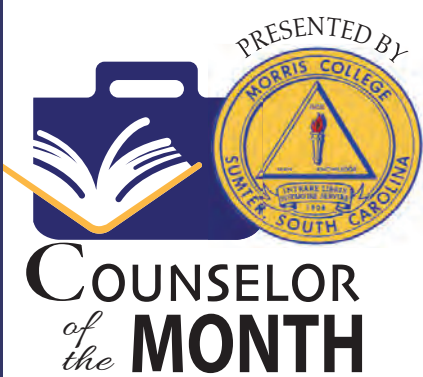
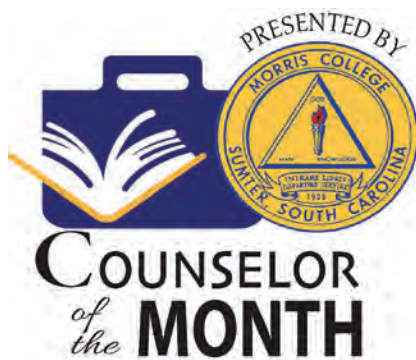
"I was helped by a stranger when my own government continues to fail thousands like me," she said. "Unfortunately, everyone is on their own now."

## Crestwood's Cassandra Breland named Morris College Counselor of the Month for April

This is the first in a new contest series called Counselor of the Month. Presented by Morris College, the public is asked to nominate their favorite high school guidance counselor in public and private schools throughout Sumter, Clarendon and Lee counties. After the nomination period, the public votes between four finalists determined by *The Sumter Item* staff. The Counselor of the Month will be announced in *The Sumter Item*'s newspaper and online at [www.theitem.com/counselor](http://www.theitem.com/counselor) on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The winner receives a \$50 gift certificate to a different local business each month and Morris College swag.

### April 2021 Counselor of the Month – Cassandra Breland, Crestwood High School

"Mrs. Cassandra Breland is the lead guidance counselor at Crestwood High School. From the death of students, loved ones, runaway students, Mrs. Breland has always been there during the time of need. Mrs. Breland's students are her first priority. She is always willing to assist the other counselors when she sees the need is there. She is not only a great guidance counselor for students, she is also a very good encourager for the faculty and staff of Crestwood High School. Mrs. Breland was recently nominated as school teacher of the year, a title that is awarded to one certified staff member (teacher, counselor, media specialist, etc.) in each school. Although she did not win the title, she continues to serve her students with care and compassion. During this pandemic, Mrs. Breland has continued to be a listening ear for many of the students, parents and staff members of Crestwood High School. She is the strongest and most positive person I know."



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# Student's Snapchat profanity leads to high court speech case

BY MARK SHERMAN  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Fourteen-year-old Brandi Levy was having that kind of day where she just wanted to scream. So she did, in a profanity-laced posting on Snapchat that has, improbably, ended up before the Supreme Court in the most significant case on student speech in more than 50 years.

At issue is whether public schools can discipline students about something they say off-campus. The topic is especially meaningful in a time of remote learning because of the coronavirus pandemic and a rising awareness of the pernicious effects of online bullying.

Arguments are on Wednesday, via telephone because of the pandemic, before a court on which several justices have school-age children or recently did.

The case has its roots in the Vietnam-era case of a high school in Des Moines, Iowa, that suspended students who wore armbands to protest the war. In a landmark ruling, the Supreme Court sided with the students, declaring students don't "shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate."

Ever since, courts have wrestled with the contours of the decision in *Tinker v. Des Moines* in 1969.

Levy's case has none of the lofty motives of *Tinker* and more than its share of teenage angst.

Levy and a friend were at a convenience store in her hometown of Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania, when she took to social media to express her frustration at being kept on her high school's junior varsity cheerleading squad for another year.

"F—— school f—— softball f—— cheer f—— everything," Levy wrote, in a post that also contained a photo in which she and a classmate raised their middle fingers.

The post was brought to the attention of the team's coaches, who suspended Levy from the cheerleading team for a year.

Levy, now 18, is finishing her freshman year in college. "I was a 14-year-old kid. I was upset, I was angry. Everyone, every 14-year-old kid speaks like that at one point," she said in an interview with *The Associated Press*.

Her parents knew nothing about the Snapchat post until she was suspended, she said. "My parents were more concerned on how I was feeling," Levy said, adding she wasn't grounded or otherwise punished for what she did.

Instead, her parents filed a federal lawsuit, claiming the suspension violated their daughter's constitutional speech rights.

Lower courts agreed and restored her to the cheerleading team. The 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia held that "*Tinker* does not apply to off-campus speech." The court said it was leaving for another day "the First Amendment implications of off-campus student speech that threatens violence or harasses others."

But the school district, education groups, the Biden administration and anti-bullying organizations said in court filings that the appeals court went too far.

"The First Amendment does not categorically prohibit public schools from disciplining students for speech

## Supreme Court to take up right to carry gun for self-defense

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court agreed on Monday to hear an appeal to expand gun rights in the United States in a New York case over the right to carry a firearm in public for self-defense.

The case marks the court's first foray into gun rights since Justice Amy Coney Barrett came on board in October, making a 6-3 conservative majority.

The justices said Monday they will review a lower-court ruling that upheld New York's restrictive gun permit law. The court's action follows mass shootings in recent weeks in Indiana, Georgia, Colorado and California.

The case probably will be argued in the fall.

The court had turned down review of the issue in June, before Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death.

New York is among eight states that limit who has the right to carry a weapon in public. The others are: California, Delaware, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Rhode Island.

In the rest of the country, gun owners have little trouble legally carrying their weapons when they go out.

Paul Clement, representing challengers to New York's permit law, said the court should use the case to settle the issue once and for all. "Thus, the nation is split, with the Second Amendment alive and well in the vast middle of the nation, and those same rights disregarded near the coasts," Clement wrote on behalf of the New York State Rifle & Pistol Association and two New York residents.

Calling on the court to reject the appeal, the state said its law promotes public safe-

ty and crime reduction and neither bans people from carrying guns nor allows everyone to do so.

Federal courts have largely upheld the permit limits. Last month an 11-judge panel of the federal appeals court in San Francisco rejected a challenge to Hawaii's permit regulations in an opinion written by a conservative judge, Jay Bybee.

"Our review of more than 700 years of English and American legal history reveals a strong theme: government has the power to regulate arms in the public square," Bybee wrote in a 7-4 decision for the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The issue of carrying a gun for self-defense has been seen for several years as the next major step for gun rights at the Supreme Court, following decisions in 2008 and 2010 that established a nationwide right to keep a gun at home for self-defense.

In June, Justice Clarence Thomas, joined by Justice Brett Kavanaugh, complained that rather than take on the constitutional issue, "the Court simply looks the other way."

But Barrett has a more expansive view of gun rights than Ginsburg. She wrote a dissent in 2019, when she was a judge on the federal appeals court in Chicago, that argued that a conviction for a nonviolent felony — in this case, mail fraud — shouldn't automatically disqualify someone from owning a gun.

She said that her colleagues in the majority were treating the Second Amendment as a "second-class right, subject to an entirely different body of rules than the other Bill of Rights guarantees."

that occurs off campus," acting Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar wrote on behalf of the administration.

Philip Lee, a University of District of Columbia law professor who has written about regulation of cyberbullying, said it makes no sense to draw the line on policing students' speech at the edge of campus.

"Most cyberbullying content is created off campus on computers, iPads, all kinds of electronic devices," said Lee, who joined a legal brief with other education scholars that calls for a nuanced approach to regulating student speech in the internet age.

"But at same time, you don't want situation where schools are monitoring everyone's speech at home," he said.

The Mahanoy Area School District declined to comment on the case, its lawyer, Lisa Blatt, said.

But in her brief for the district, Blatt wrote, "This case is about how schools address the bad days."

Schools should not be forced "to ignore speech that

disrupts the school environment or invades other students' rights just because students launched that speech from five feet outside the schoolhouse gate," Blatt wrote.

The school's approach would allow educators to police what students say round the clock, said Witold "Vic" Walczak of the American Civil Liberties Union, which is representing Levy.

"And that is super dangerous. Not only would students like Brandi not be able to express non-threatening, non-harassing bursts of frustration, but it would give schools the possibility of regulating important political and religious speech," Walczak said.

An unusual alliance of conservative and liberal interest groups has formed behind Levy, all pointing to the dangers of expanding school regulation of students' speech.

The Alliance Defending Freedom and Christian Legal Society urged the court to affirm the appellate ruling because of "the perils of schools regulating off-campus speech.

Religious speech, in particular, provokes debate and inflames passions."

Mary Beth and John Tinker, the siblings at the center of the 1969 case, also are on Levy's side. Their protest, updated for the digital age, would have included a social media component, perhaps a black armband digitally imposed on their school's logo, they wrote in a high-court brief.

The outcome proposed by the school district would have left them subject to discipline, the Tinkers wrote.

Walczak, the ACLU lawyer, acknowledged that the "speech here is not the most important in the world. This isn't political or religious speech."

But Levy's outburst has made her a potential successor to the Tinkers and their antiwar protest from the 1960s.

"I'm just trying to prove a point that young students and adults like me shouldn't be punished for them expressing their own feelings and letting others know how they feel," Levy said.

## Apple announces 1st East Coast campus in N.C.

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Apple is expanding spending in the U.S. and announced plans Monday to build its first East Coast campus, in North Carolina.

The iPhone maker is boosting U.S. spending to \$430 billion over the next five years and doubling its hiring plans by 20,000 jobs. It had said it would spend \$350 billion in January 2018, just after Congress approved a big tax overhaul that cut corporate taxes.

Apple says it is stepping up investment as the U.S. begins rebuilding from the COVID-19 pandemic. The company for years has emphasized its role in the U.S. economy to help counter criticism about its reliance on overseas factories, often taking advantage of local tax breaks.

Apple will invest \$1 billion in North Carolina, and the campus in the Raleigh-Durham area's Research Triangle Park is expected to bring at least 3,000 new jobs to the state in machine learning, artificial intelligence, software engineering and other fields. The workers will have an average annual salary of about \$185,000.

Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper said that once Apple creates the jobs, the tech giant will be eligible for incentives he considers "transformational." Apple is slated to receive nearly \$846 million in tax reimbursements in the next 39 years. Cooper thinks Apple's announcement will encourage other companies to move to North Carolina and have a positive ripple effect on local businesses in the Raleigh area.

"Once this campus is up and running, it's expected to generate more than \$1.5 billion a year in economic impact to our state," Cooper said in a news conference Monday morning.

The construction timeline is not yet clear, though state officials said Apple has told them it wants to get the new campus up and running as soon as possible.

"This is an important milestone that strengthens our position as a tech hub," said Michael Haley, executive director of Wake County Economic Development.

Apple also said it plans to establish a \$100 million fund to support schools and community initiatives in the Raleigh-Durham area and contribute more than \$110 million in North Carolina infrastructure spending.

The company is also expanding its teams in Colorado, Massachusetts, Texas, Washington, New York, California and other states.

State Commerce Secretary Machel Sanders said the 3,000 positions Apple will create will be in addition to the company's existing 1,100-worker footprint in the state.

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# Feds fund mental health crisis teams to stand in for police

BY RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When police respond to a person gripped by a mental health or drug crisis, the encounter can have tragic results. Now a government insurance program will help communities set up an alternative: mobile teams with mental health practitioners trained in de-escalating such potentially volatile situations.

The effort to reinvent policing after the death of George Floyd in police custody is getting an assist through Medicaid, the federal-state health insurance program for low-income people and the largest payer for mental health treatment. President Joe Biden's recent coronavirus relief bill calls for an estimated \$1 billion over 10 years for states that set up mobile crisis teams, currently locally operated in a handful of places.

Many 911 calls are due to a person experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis. Sometimes, like with Daniel Prude in Rochester, New York, the consequences are shocking. The 41-year-old Black man died after police placed a spit hood over his head and held him to the pavement for about two minutes on a cold night in 2020 until he stopped breathing. He had run naked from his brother's house after being released from a hospital following a mental health arrest. A grand jury voted down charges against the officers.

Dispatching teams of paramedics and behavioral health practitioners would take mental health crisis calls out of the hands of uniformed and armed officers, whose mere arrival

may ratchet up tensions. In Eugene, Oregon, such a strategy has been in place more than 30 years, with solid backing from police.

The concept "fits nicely with what we are trying to do around police reform," Eugene Police Chief Chris Skinner said. The logic works "like a simple math problem," he adds.

"If I can rely on a mechanism that matches the right response to the need, it means I don't have to put my officers in these circumstances," Skinner explained. "By sending the right resources, I can make the assumption that there are going to be fewer times when officers are in situations that can turn violent. It actually de-conflicts, reducing the need for use of force."

Eugene is a medium-size city about 100 miles south of Portland, known for its educational institutions. The program there is called Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets, or CAHOOTS, and is run by the White Bird Clinic. CAHOOTS is part of the local 911 emergency response system but operates independently of the police, although there's coordination. Crisis teams are not sent on calls involving violent situations.

"We don't look like law enforcement," White Bird veteran Tim Black said. "We drive a big white cargo van. Our responders wear a T-shirt or a hoodie with a logo. We don't have handcuffs or pepper spray, and the way we start to interact sends a message that we are not the police, and this is going to be a far safer and voluntary interaction."

CAHOOTS teams handled 24,000 calls in the local area in 2019, and Black said the vast



WILLIAM HOLDERFIELD VIA AP

Crisis Workers, Emergency Medical Technicians Henry Cakebread and Ashley Barnhill-Hubbard with CAHOOTS, a mental health crisis intervention program, discuss their last encounter during their night shift in Eugene, Oregon.

majority would have otherwise fallen to police. Many involve homeless people. The teams work to resolve the situation that prompted the call and to connect the person involved to ongoing help and support.

At least 14 cities across the country are interested in versions of that model, said Simone Brody, executive director of What Works Cities, a New York-based nonprofit that tries to promote change through effective use of data.

"It's really exciting to see the federal government support this model," Brody said. "I am hopeful that three years from now we will have multiple models and ideally some data that shows this has actually saved people's lives." Portland, Oregon, launched its own crisis teams in February, and the program has already expanded to serve more areas of the community.

About 1,000 people a year are shot dead by police, according to an analysis by the Treatment Advocacy Center, which examined several publicly available

estimates. Severe mental illness is a factor in at least 25% of such shootings, it estimated. The center advocates for improved mental health care.

Mobile crisis teams found their way into the COVID-19 relief bill through the efforts of Oregon Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden, who chairs the Finance Committee, which oversees Medicaid.

"Too often law enforcement is asked to respond to situations that they are not trained to handle," Wyden said. "On the streets in challenging times, too often the result is violence, even fatal violence, particularly for Black Americans."

Wyden's legislation includes \$15 million in planning grants to help states get going. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the program could take a couple of years to fully implement. The \$1 billion will be available to states for five years, beginning next April. Wyden said it's a "down payment" on what he hopes will become a permanent part of Medicaid.

The idea may be well-timed,

said Medicaid expert MaryBeth Musumeci, of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation. The coronavirus pandemic has worsened society's pervasive mental health and substance abuse problems. At the same time, protests about police shootings of Black people have created an appetite for anything that could break the cycle.

"All of those things coming together are putting increased focus on the need for further developing effective behavioral health treatment models," Musumeci said.

In Rhode Island, nurse turned malpractice lawyer Laura Harrington is helping coordinate a grassroots campaign to incorporate crisis teams into the state's 911 system. She said she's been surprised at the level of interest.

"I don't want to get into blaming," Harrington said. "We could blame social services. We could blame people who don't take their medications. We could blame the police. I want to move forward and solve problems."

# Summer food program expanding for 34M schoolchildren

BY JOSH BOAK

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration is expanding a program to feed as many as 34 million schoolchildren during the summer months, using funds from the coronavirus relief package approved in March.

The Agriculture Department announced Monday that it will continue through the summer a payments program that replaced school meals because the pandemic left many children with virtual classes. Families of eligible children would receive \$6.82 per child for each weekday. That adds up to \$375 per child during the summer months.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack called the summer benefits a "first-of-its-kind, game-changing intervention to reduce child hunger in the United States."

The program reflects the Biden administration's attempts to nearly stamp out child poverty — an unprecedented push with money for parents, child care centers and schools that could revamp the social safety net. Conservative critics have warned that the spending, if made permanent, could undermine the willingness of poorer Americans to work.

Stacy Dean, deputy undersecretary for food, nutrition and consumer services at Agriculture, said that Congress previously approved limited funding for pilot programs to test the effectiveness of the payments. But the coronavirus relief package allowed it to be rolled out nationwide.

Besides the food aid, the relief package allowed parents to receive roughly \$250 a month starting in July for each child between the ages

of 6 and 17. Qualifying families with a child under 6 would receive \$300 monthly. The payments are part of an enhanced child tax credit that would expire at the end of this year, according to the terms of the most recent coronavirus relief package.

President Joe Biden plans to extend the monthly payments through 2025. The extension would be part of a multitrillion-dollar plan that he intends to announce Wednesday in a joint address to Congress.

Democratic lawmakers have called for making the enhanced tax credit permanent, with Sens. Michael Bennet of Colorado, Sherrod Brown of Ohio and Cory Booker of New Jersey and Reps. Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut, Suzan DelBene of Washington state and Ritchie Torres of New York issuing a statement last week.

"Expansion of the child tax credit is the most significant policy to come

out of Washington in generations, and Congress has a historic opportunity to provide a lifeline to the middle class and to cut child poverty in half on a permanent basis," the April 20 statement said.

When the school year ends, children have traditionally shifted to other forms of food aid such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP. Yet administration officials said that summer feeding programs tend to reach less than 20% of the number served during the school year.

Children could qualify for the new summer benefit if they are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals during the school year or if they are under age 6 and live in a SNAP household. Children already on SNAP would get the benefits as a supplement to what they already receive.

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# Attorney: Black man killed by deputies shot in back of head

BY BEN FINLEY and JONATHAN DREW  
The Associated Press

ELIZABETH CITY, N.C. — A Black man killed by deputies in North Carolina was shot in the back of his head and had his hands on the car steering wheel when they opened fire, attorneys for the family said Monday after body camera video was shown to his relatives.

Attorney Chantel Cherry-Lassiter watched a 20-second portion of body camera video with the family of Andrew Brown Jr. on Monday. She said Brown did not appear to be a threat to officers as he backed his vehicle out and tried to drive away.

"He was not threatening them in any kind of fashion," she told reporters at a news conference.

When asked whether Brown was shot in the back, attorney Harry Daniels said, "Yes, back of the head."

An eyewitness account and emergency scanner traffic had previously indicated Brown was shot in the back as he tried to drive away.

Lassiter, who watched the video multiple times and took notes, said shooting started as soon as the video started. She said she counted as many as eight deputies in the video, some wearing tactical uniforms and some in plainclothes.

"They're shooting and saying 'let me see your hands'

at the same time," she said.

The family's lawyers also criticized local authorities for only showing 20 seconds of the video and only showing them footage from a single body camera.

"They're trying to hide something," attorney Benjamin Crump said.

Earlier Monday, a search warrant was released saying deputies obtained the warrant that brought them there after investigators recorded him selling small amounts of cocaine and methamphetamine to an informant. Crump argued the authorities were trying to release negative information about Brown while shielding themselves by holding back the video.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kirk Rivers addresses demonstrators outside City Hall as they await members of the city council, who held an emergency meeting on Friday in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, regarding the death of Andrew Brown Jr., who was shot and killed by a Pasquotank County deputy sheriff earlier in the week.

Brown's fatal shooting last Wednesday in Elizabeth City has prompted days of protests, calls for the public release of deputy body camera video and civil rights leaders decrying that warrants should not lead to a fatal

shooting. Signs including emergency scanner traffic and an eyewitness account had already indicated Brown was shot in the back as he was trying to drive away. Authorities have released few details.



KAREEM WILSON / THE SUMTER ITEM

Dr. Falecia Miller from Clarendon School District 2's board of trustees is sworn into office by Rep. Kimberly Johnson at Friday's meeting.

## CONSOLIDATED

FROM PAGE A1

dwindling down from 16 candidates — nine who currently serve on Clarendon 2 and seven from Clarendon 4 — to find the nine school board members for the consolidated district board. The delegation selected each candidate with "veteran leadership" from existing boards to serve as a trustee for the consolidated district.

The delegation appointed five members from Clarendon 2's board and four from Clarendon 4. These nine members are Ceth Land, Robert Fleming, Falecia Miller, Linda Lemon and Arthur Moyd Sr. from Clarendon 2 and Ron Wingard, Luther Faulk, Tony Junious and Alex Craven, who was absent at Friday's swearing-in, from Clarendon 4.

Because each member is now appointed to this board, his or her vacated position will be replaced by more appointed members of the community by the delegation. Joseph Postell, Kathleen Gibson, John Hardy and Amanda McConnell were appointed to Clarendon 4, and King Cutter, Sharmane Anderson, Quadri Bell and Kevin Lemon were appointed to Clarendon 2, with the delegation still trying to find a fifth candidate to sit on the Clarendon 2 board.

Each of the nine members will serve on the Clarendon County School District Board of Trustees until board members are elected by the public by the beginning of 2024.

## BOOK DAY

FROM PAGE A1

elementary and "My Anxious Mind" for middle school students.

All three books were themed around mental health.

"It's a celebration of not only literacy but mental health awareness," Hummel said. "Our education program wanted to promote literacy for World Book Day, so they just figured it was a really good combination to have the two come together."

According to Hummel, the two partners provided 100 copies of each book, providing 300 students with literature and a resource for mental health.

"We invited the school district, we invited the new Liberty STEAM charter, pretty much any kid in the community," said Christina Lunsmann, program coordinator and instructor of teacher education at USC Sumter.

This was Lunsmann's first event since joining USC Sumter in March 2020, and she had a goal to provide the students with a sense of normalcy on top of providing free books to the children in the community.

"Because of COVID and the increase in anxiety and loneliness with students, we wanted to give them some resources for managing those emotions and for talking about the things they're dealing with," she said. "I hope they feel that literacy is important and that their mental health is important as well."

There was also a book sale for readers of all levels to help fund the Student Professional Education Association of Sumter.

According to Hummel, the event had a great turnout.

"We're really hoping this will be an annual event for us," she said. "We love inviting the community on our campus."

## SHOOTING

FROM PAGE A1

data, the chicken plant, which produces and packages fresh and fro-

zen poultry products, is the second-largest industrial employer in Sumter County.

Pocalla Springs Elementary School, Furman Middle School and Lakewood High School were under

lockdown until about 12:30 p.m. in response to this incident, which is being deemed isolated, including securing exterior doors and locking students and teachers in their classrooms.

## PROM

FROM PAGE A1

as many memorable opportunities as possible for the Class of 2021," Ackerman said.

Local DJ Howie D will be handling the entertainment, and a photographer will also be on hand. Prom Part Two is scheduled for 8 to 11 p.m.

Tickets are \$30, Ackerman said, and community donations are welcomed to offset event costs.

Any extra funds after expenses are covered will be donated to the Sumter High School Memorial Scholarship Fund, she added.

Ackerman complimented Sumter High officials for their efforts in putting together "Prom-ish, The 2021 Promdemic Experience," amid safety protocols on Saturday on the school's campus. The high school's principal, Nicholas Pearson, said Monday that about 100 students attended the event, which was planned to be held in a grassy area in front of

the building but was moved inside because of rain.

According to school data, there are 512 seniors enrolled at Sumter High.

"We just wanted to do some extra with 'Prom Part Two,' almost like a 'bonus prom' for the seniors since they missed their junior year's prom as well last year," Ackerman said.

The deadline to purchase tickets is May 10, but they are going quickly, and space is limited, she added. According to Ackerman, "Prom Part Two" was pushed

back on the calendar to not interfere with Sumter School District's other two high school prom events Saturday at Crestwood High and May 8 at Lakewood High.

Tickets can be purchased online by sending \$30 per ticket to @prompart2tickets (Beth Ann Young) on Venmo. The Venmo receipt will serve as students' tickets on the night of the event.

No tickets can be purchased at the door.

Donations can also be made on Venmo, she said.

### PROM PART TWO - FOR SUMTER HIGH SENIORS

**WHEN:** Thursday, May 13, 8 to 11 p.m.

**WHERE:** The O'Donnell House, 120 E. Liberty St.

**TICKETS:** Venmo \$30 to @prompart2tickets (Beth Ann Young)



PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER EDGE / SPECIAL TO THE SUMTER ITEM

Students pose in front of Sumter High School on Saturday for a COVID-19-impacted prom, dubbed Prom-ish. The event featured refreshments and decorated spaces to take photos. Parents of Sumter seniors are planning a "Prom Part Two" to supplement the year-end festivities offered to students. Find more photos from Sumter's Prom-ish this week in *The Sumter Item*.



Spaces inside the school were decorated for students to use to take photos.

## Where to get a COVID-19 vaccine, free test in Sumter, Clarendon, Lee counties: April 27-May 2

All South Carolinians aged 16 and older are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and can schedule appointments. Currently, Pfizer is the only vaccine available to those aged 16-18. Moderna is available to those aged 18 and older.

Visit [scdhec.gov/vaxlocator](https://scdhec.gov/vaxlocator) to see the locations accepting vaccination appointments. To register for a DHEC-sponsored clinic, call the vaccine line at 1-866-365-8110 or visit <https://cvas.dhec.sc.gov>.

At this time, DHEC-sponsored clinics only administer Moderna vaccines.

Clinics open for appointments:

### SUMTER COUNTY

• **Wednesday, April 28** – Tandem Health, 370 S. Pike West, Sumter, SC 29150. Visit <https://www.tandemhealthsc.org/covid-19-vaccine/> and click "Start Your Vaccine Request." Call (803) 774-7894 for help and leave a voicemail. Open 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

• **Thursday, April 29** – Morris College, 100 W. College St., Sumter, SC 29150. Call 1-866-365-8110 or visit <https://cvas.dhec.sc.gov> to register in advance.

• **Thursday, April 29** – Tandem Health, 370 S. Pike West, Sumter, SC 29150. Visit <https://www.tandemhealthsc.org/covid-19-vaccine/>

and click "Start Your Vaccine Request." Call (803) 774-7894 for help and leave a voicemail. Open 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

• **Friday, April 30** – Tandem Health, 370 S. Pike West, Sumter, SC 29150. Visit <https://www.tandemhealthsc.org/covid-19-vaccine/> and click "Start Your Vaccine Request." Call (803) 774-7894 for help and leave a voicemail. Open 8:30 a.m.-noon.

### LEE COUNTY

• **Tuesday, April 27** – Chappell Park, 397 Chappell Drive, Bishopville, SC 29010. Call 1-866-365-8110 or visit <https://cvas.dhec.sc.gov> to register in advance.

• **Wednesday, April 28** – Bethlehem UMC, 115 W. Church St., Bishopville, SC 29010. This is a drive-up unit. Walk-ins welcome. No appointment necessary. Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m., closed noon-12:45 p.m.

• **Friday, April 30** – Mt. Olive AME Church, 2738 Woodrow Road, Sumter, SC 29153. Call 1-866-365-8110 or visit <https://cvas.dhec.sc.gov> to register in advance.

• **Friday, April 30** – New Zion AME Church, 78 Elliott Hwy., Bishopville, SC 29010. This is a drive-up unit. Walk-ins welcome. No appointment necessary. Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m., closed noon-12:45 p.m.

### TESTING INFORMATION

Free community testing sites for COVID-19 scheduled for this week:

#### SUMTER COUNTY

Central Carolina Technical College

• Where: 506 N. Guignard Drive, Sumter, SC 29150

• When: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily

• Sponsored by Tour Health

• Go to [www.tourhealth.com](http://www.tourhealth.com) to schedule an appointment.

#### LEE COUNTY

DHEC-sponsored COVID-19 testing will be open on weekdays at the Lee County Health Department, 810 Brown St., Bishopville, SC 29010, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Preregistration encouraged: visit <https://scdhec.gov/gettested>.

#### CLARENDON COUNTY

DHEC-sponsored COVID-19 testing will be open on weekdays at the Clarendon County Health Department, 110 E. Boyce St., Manning, SC 29102, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Preregistration encouraged: visit <https://scdhec.gov/gettested>.

*Editor's note: This is not an exclusive list and was provided by DHEC. For a complete list, call DHEC's vaccine hotline at 1-866-365-8110, or go to <https://vaxlocator.dhec.sc.gov/> for an interactive map.*







**N.G. Osteen 1843-1936**  
THE WATCHMAN AND SOUTHRON

**H.G. Osteen 1870-1955**  
FOUNDER, THE ITEM

**H.D. Osteen 1904-1987**  
THE ITEM

**Margaret W. Osteen 1908-1996**  
THE ITEM

**Hubert D. Osteen Jr. 1936-2020**  
THE SUMTER ITEM



# OPINION

36 W. LIBERTY ST., SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA 29150 • Founded October 15, 1894

**Graham Osteen** CO-OWNER

**Kyle Osteen** CO-OWNER

**Jack Osteen** CO-OWNER

**Vince Johnson** PUBLISHER

## COMMENTARY

# Killing capital punishment

**W**ASHINGTON — The death of capital punishment in the United States is not only desirable but also paradoxical. Attempts to make this practice constitutional have enveloped it with ever-more-refined procedural safeguards intended to make it compatible with the Eighth Amendment's proscription of "cruel and unusual punishments." But the safeguards have made it increasingly like then-Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart's 1972 description of it as "cruel and unusual in the same way that being struck by lightning is cruel and unusual."

Maurice Chamham in "Let the Lord Sort Them: The Rise and Fall of the Death Penalty" says, "In 1959, there had been 124 murders in Harris County, Texas, which encompassed Houston, but only three people sentenced to death." Arbitrariness was one reason the Supreme Court, in a 1972 case that generated opinions from all nine justices (cumulatively, 233 pages), ruled that capital punishment in all 41 states that administered it was unconstitutional.



**George Will**

By 1976, states accommodated enough of the court's criticisms to revive capital punishment under laws that would prevent arbitrariness by requiring consideration of "aggravating" or "mitigating" factors about a murderer (e.g., youth, low IQ). And of particular kinds of murders (e.g., if the victim was a child or a police officer). And whether the crime was especially "depraved" or "cruel." But these complexities lengthened trials and multiplied grounds for appealing the capital sentences of those living on death rows. This increased the lightning-strike appearance of randomness of the few executions of murderers after an average (in 2018) of 19.8 years from sentencing to death. Today's capital punishment regime bears no resemblance to practices when the Eighth Amendment was written in the 18th century: Then death was not inflicted decades after the crime.

In 2015, in a 41-page dissent in a capital punishment case, Justice Stephen G. Breyer argued for revisiting, on the basis of experience since 1976, the question of whether capital punishment is incurably cruel and unusual. He cited evidence that "innocent people have been executed." He noted 115 exonerations in capital cases since 2002, including six death row inmates exonerated in 2014 based not on flawed trials but "on actual innocence." He said that researchers estimate that flawed forensic testimony and other factors indicate that 4 percent "of those sentenced to death are actually innocent." "Numerous studies," he said, conclude that "individuals accused of murdering white victims, as opposed to Black or other minority victims, are more likely to receive the death penalty." And: Why "does one defendant who participated in a single-victim murder-for-hire scheme ... receive the death penalty, while another defendant does not, despite having stabbed his wife 60 times and killed his 6-year-old daughter and 3-year-old son while they slept?"

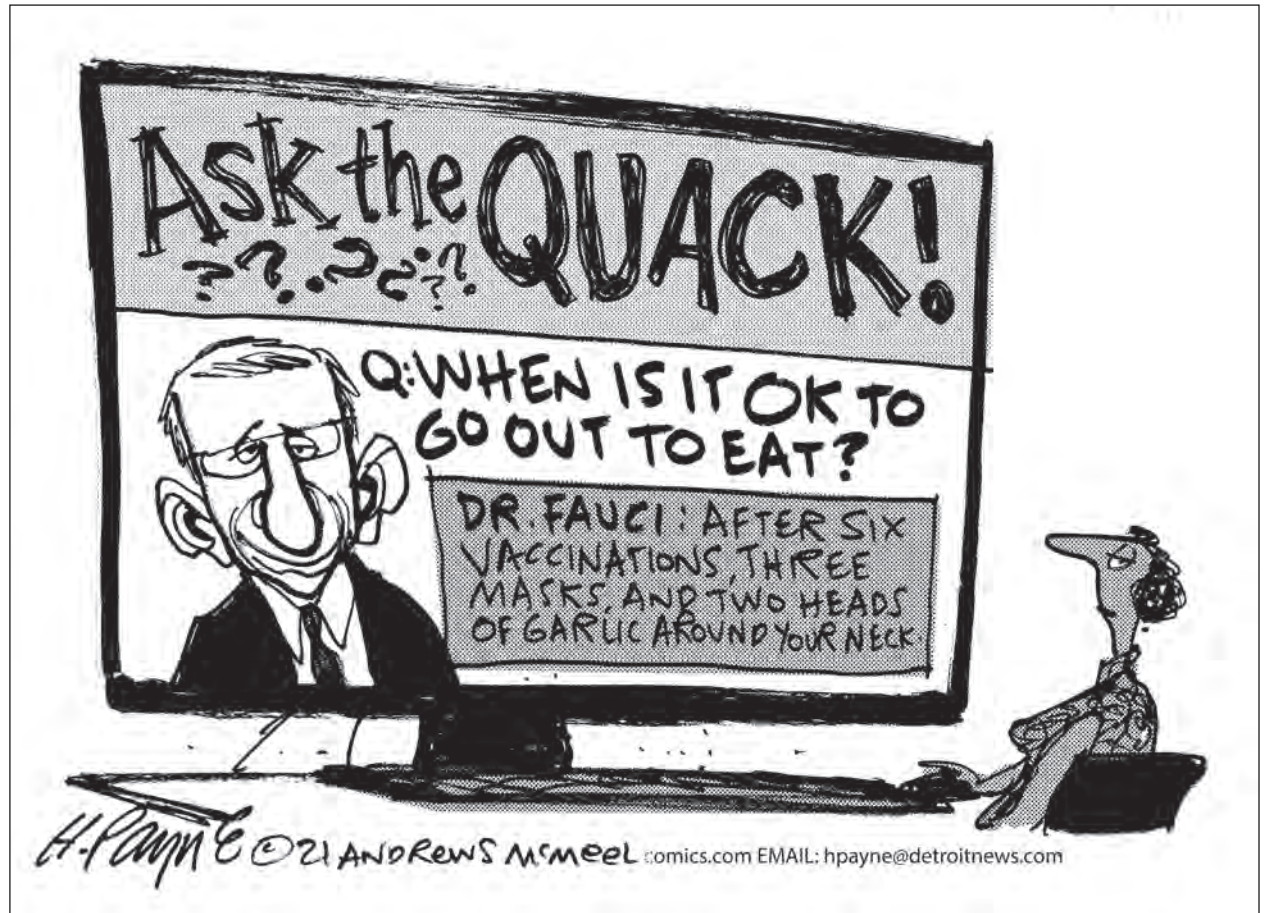
Chamham notes that George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams read Cesare Beccaria's 1764 essay "On Crimes and Punishments," whose arguments against capital punishment inspired the Philadelphia doctor Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, to suggest that capital punishment "lessens the horror of taking away human life and thereby tends to multiply murders." Today, the conservative case against capital punishment is fourfold:

The power to dispense death cloaks government with dangerous majesty. (In "Hitler's First Hundred Days," Peter Fritzsche reports sudden German enthusiasm for capital punishment by hand-held ax because its "swift, direct action" emphasized the "superiority of the state.") Because government-inflicted death cannot later be reconsidered on the basis of new evidence, it must be administered with extraordinary competence, but do not count on this: Capital punishment is a government program. The labyrinthine legal protections surrounding the death penalty guarantee that it will be too infrequent to serve the penological purpose of deterrence. And the argument that there are especially heinous crimes for which death is the morally proportionate punishment collides with the disproportionate drain — millions of dollars — on communities' and states' resources.

Last month, Virginia became the first Southern state to abolish capital punishment. Today, 53 percent of Americans live either in the 23 states that have abolished it or the three others where governors have imposed a moratorium on executions. Twelve states with death penalty laws have not executed anyone for at least a decade. And a majority of Americans oppose capital punishment for murder when prompted to consider the alternative of life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Capital punishment is ending because of a wholesome squeamishness that reflects (in Chief Justice Earl Warren's words) society's "evolving standards of decency." And because attempts to make it neither cruel nor unusual have made its implementation increasingly capricious, and hence morally absurd.

George Will's email address is [georgewill@washpost.com](mailto:georgewill@washpost.com).



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### BLOCK GRANT MONEY NOT BEING USED TO HELP MOBILE HOME OWNERS WITH REPAIRS

The City of Sumter, South Carolina, and its Community Development Block Grant Program adamantly refuse to spend any money whatsoever, including that received from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, on helping low- to moderate-income owners of mobiles do

essential mobile home repairs!

This message has been reiterated by The Family Unit Inc. and by a few Sumter City Council members but is being totally ignored by the Sumter City Administration and by the Sumter City Council.

BRENDA C. WILLIAMS, M.D.  
*The Family Unit Inc., a 501(c)(3), nonprofit, charitable organization*  
Sumter

## COMMENTARY

# Castros are finally gone. U.S. should end the Cuba embargo and open the gates.

**A**ll hail: The wicked Castros are finally gone.

With the official retirement of Raúl Castro as head of Cuba's Communist Party, the last of the revolutionary brothers has relinquished control of the tiny, redoubtable island-state. The Communist Party remains in place. The president and new party boss, Miguel Díaz-Canel, vows continuation and unity. But the official end of the 62-year rule of the Castro family proffers a glimmer of hope that things could change.

And none too soon. Cuba's economy, thanks in large measure to the long-standing U.S. embargo, has long been a shambles. But the pandemic has made life in Cuba even more challenging. Gross domestic product dropped 11% last year. Basic necessities, including food, toiletries, cleansers and medicine, are subject to continuing shortages, though widespread hunger was eliminated long ago.

Díaz-Canel, 61, was born a year after the revolution. As a rising leader in the Communist Party, he oversaw some modest free-market reforms. Will Cuba's direction change with a new party leader? That seems unlikely. Still, the departure of the Castros after more than six decades gives both Washington and Havana a chance to reconsider their failed relationship.

It is revealing that Raúl's departure received only modest coverage here at home; even 10 years ago, we might have heard about little else. But in Cuba and elsewhere, were

born long after the 1959 revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed government of Fulgenio Batista and put Fidel, the young rebel, in charge. The fatigue-clad leader wasn't a communist when he traded his rifle for a microphone, but the Soviet Union's early financial support convinced him of the unifying power of state control.

Fidel's legacy, continued by brother Raúl with some minor modifications, has meant continued misery for the island's 11 million people. These days, COVID-19 restrictions have exacerbated circumstances that can only be described as dire.

It's easy to romanticize Cuba. Tourists love the colorful if decaying architecture, the sight of 1950s Fords and Chevys chugging along Havana's streets, having a drink at Ernest Hemingway's favorite bar and visiting his 38-foot fishing boat, Pilar, and his Finca Vigia (Lookout Farm), now a museum. But only tourist hotels and government offices have air conditioning, assuming reliable electricity.

In contrast to these images is a booming biotechnology industry prompted by the blockade, as well as an exemplary state-run medical system. Not only has Cuba kept COVID-19 infections remarkably low, but Cuban researchers are also developing five vaccines, two of which seem promising. Cuba says it plans to export its vaccine for free to South America and Central America.

Meanwhile, every Cuban citizen receives an annual medical checkup, wanted or not, while the state maintains health profiles, categorizing people according to healthy, not-so-healthy, elderly (one in five is over 60) or predisposed to illness because of obesity, diabetes and so on. So, yes, a state-run system focused on

prevention can boast enviable health outcomes, but the trade-off is a loss of privacy and freedom, which is no choice at all.

With Raúl stepping aside at 89, now would seem a good time for President Joe Biden to ask Congress to lift the embargo once and for all, allow for expanded tourism and remittances and reestablish more formal diplomatic relations. That would end the absurdly long standoff between the United States — a superpower, after all — and the beleaguered little nation that lies 90 miles from Key West.

Surely, the big dog can afford to let the little dog eat.

The embargo is an aging farce perpetuated in the spirit of a folie à deux — a shared delusional disorder. Fidel, who reportedly owned many homes, a yacht and a private island where he entertained countless guests, has never shared his countrymen's fate. Like any run-of-the-mill dictator, he lived a big life at the expense of the oppressed and used the embargo as an excuse for his fundamentally failed policies.

The United States, meanwhile, has clung to the embargo largely out of habit. It has given hard-line Cuban Americans some measure of revenge against the regime that drove the capitalists and landowners out of Cuba and enabled the United States to complain about the Cuban government's disregard for basic freedoms. But it has changed nothing.

Two generations post revolution, it is a propitious time to end the madness. Open the gates, flood Cuba with U.S. goods and goodwill, and trust that freedom will speak for herself.

Kathleen Parker's email address is [kathleenparker@washpost.com](mailto:kathleenparker@washpost.com).

**HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?** Send your letter to [letters@theitem.com](mailto:letters@theitem.com), drop it off at *The Sumter Item* office, 36 W. Liberty St., or mail it to *The Sumter Item*, P.O. Box 1677, Sumter, SC 29151, along with the writer's full name, address and telephone number (for verification purposes only). Letters that exceed 350 words will be cut accordingly in the print edition, but available in their entirety at [www.theitem.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor](http://www.theitem.com/opinion/letters_to_editor).



The Sumter Item is opening the polls for the Athlete of the Week, where we have four nominees based on the previous week in games. You can vote once per day at [theitem.com/athlete](http://theitem.com/athlete) through Wednesday. The winner will be announced in Thursday's paper.

**NICOLE WELLS -  
SUMTER HIGH SCHOOL**

Wells won four individual events and ran a leg of Sumter's winning 4x100 relay team in the Sumter School District Meet. She won the 100m, 200m and 400m dashes, while also winning the long jump.



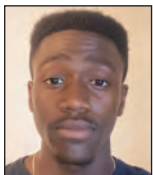
**MANDY WELLS -  
CLARENDON HALL**

Wells pitched 16 innings in four games last week, earning three wins. She struck out 21 batters, allowing five hits and four earned runs. She also batted .533 with three doubles, a triple, 5 RBI and scored eight runs.



**LOUIS WRIGHT -  
THOMAS SUMTER ACADEMY**

Wright won two events at the SCISA Region 1-2A meet, claiming first in both the 100m dash and triple jump. He also ran a leg on TSA's first place 4x100 relay team and finished second in the 200m dash.



**JAYDIS WILLIAMS -  
CRESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

Williams was 3-6 with two runs scored and two RBI, while pitching 2/3 of an inning for a save in Crestwood's 6-3 win over Manning. He also earned the win in an 11-1 victory over Camden Military Academy, allowing three hits, walking one and striking out six in four innings.



SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE MEDIA

Former Sumter High running back Nathan Harris-Waynick (26) fights through tacklers during the South Carolina Garnet and Black Spring Game on Sunday at Williams-Brice Stadium.

## Sumter School District quartet performs in USC spring game

BY DENNIS BRUNSON  
dennis@theitem.com

The University of South Carolina football program held its annual Garnet & Black Spring Game on Sunday at Williams-Brice Stadium. Four former Sumter School District players each played a part in the game.

Former Sumter High School players O'Donnell Fortune, Jahkeem Green and Nathan Harris-Waynick and former Lakewood High School standout Tyreek Johnson had varying degrees of success in the first public viewing of new head coach Shane Beamer's team in front of 13,325 fans. The Black beat the Garnet 14-10.

Fortune, second-year cornerback playing in his freshman season, led the Black in tackles with six. Five of them were solo stops and all of his snaps came with the Black squad.

Green, a redshirt senior defensive lineman, and Johnson, a redshirt sophomore edge rusher, took snaps with both teams.

Green, who joined South Caro-

lina after the first of the year after entering the transfer portal after one season at Nebraska, had one assisted tackle.

Johnson, who has been hampered by a string of injuries since graduating from Lakewood in 2017, had tackles with both squads. On Team Garnet, Johnson had a quarterback sack. He had a solo stop and an assist for Team Black.

Harris-Waynick, who is a preferred walk-on who enrolled at USC in January, had a good opportunity to play as Beamer chose to sit scholarship running backs Kevin Harris, Marshawn Lloyd and Rashad Amos due to small injuries.

Harris-Waynick had eight carries for 33 yards with no loss yards for Team Black. He had a long run of 12 yards.

The scrimmage was limited to just one half due to a rash of injuries that kept a number of players on the sidelines. The second half was comprised of situational competitions between the offense and defense.

ZaQuandre White showed why he was named the Most Im-

proved Player on the offensive side of the ball this spring, as he rushed 14 times for 95 yards with a touchdown to lead the Garnet. He also caught a pass for 19 yards.

White got the scoring started for Garnet when he went over from one yard out on the first drive of the game. After defensive tackle Zacch Pickens recovered a fumble, placekicker Mitch Jeter booted a 47-yard field goal to get Black on the board late in the first quarter.

Garnet went up 14-3 when Jahheim Bell, who is listed as a tight end but played running back on Sunday, punched it in from two yards out midway through the second stanza. Bell had a combined total of seven carries for 42 yards.

As the half was nearing its end, transfer quarterback Jason Brown teamed up with his running mate from Football Championship Subdivision St. Francis, (Pa.), wide receiver E.J. Jenkins, for an 11-yard scoring strike to pull Black within 14-10.

Luke Doty, who comes out of the spring as the likely starter at quarterback, completed 5 of 7 passes for 54 yards.

Overall, the Garnet team, led by Doty, ran 31 plays for 175 yards, including 121 on the ground, controlling the clock for 15:48 of the 24 minutes played.



## Clarendon Hall, LMA Lee open playoffs Tuesday

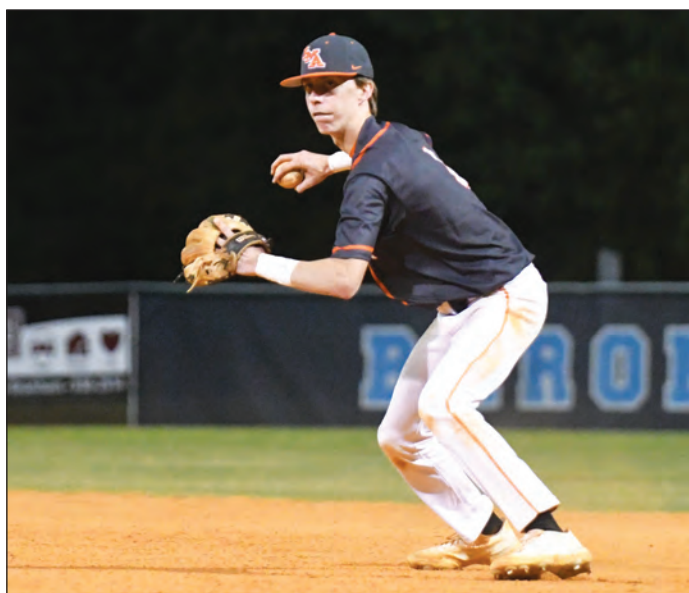
BY DENNIS BRUNSON  
dennis@theitem.com

Clarendon Hall won the SCISA Region II-1A baseball title with an 8-7 victory over Holly Hill Academy on Friday at the HHA field.

The Saints also earned the No. 1 seed in the lower bracket of the 1A state playoffs with the win. CH, which is 9-3 on the season, will play host to the winner of Monday's playoff game between Andrew Jackson Academy and Newberry Academy on Tuesday. The game is scheduled for a 6 p.m. start.

Laurence Manning Academy and Lee Academy will also begin play in their respective state playoff tournaments.

Laurence Manning will play host to Hilton Head Prep at 6 p.m. on Tuesday in its opening game in the 3A state playoffs. The Swampcats are 14-2 on the



TIM LEIBLE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Laurence Manning's Davis Campbell and the Swampcats open the SCISA 3A playoffs against Hilton Head Prep on Tuesday.

season and the No. 2 seed in the lower bracket. Swampcats head coach Barry Hatfield believes HHP is 23-0 and is the No. 3 seed.

Lee is the No. 2 seed in the lower bracket of the 2A playoffs. The 15-2 Cavaliers will play host to No. 3 seed

SEE SCISA, PAGE A13

## Keselowski claims 6th win at Talladega with OT pass

BY JOHN ZENOR  
The Associated Press

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Brad Keselowski made exactly the right final move this time, winning again at Talladega Superspeedway and demonstrating a painful lesson well learned.

Keselowski's overtime victory made him the ninth driver to win through 10 NASCAR Cup races this season and avenged an embarrassing Team Penske gaffe in the season-opening Daytona 500. He and teammate Joey Logano triggered a last-lap crash as Keselowski tried to pass Logano for the victory.

"Daytona, that's a big one. Oh man, it stings still," Keselowski said. "But this is a good one. We'll take it. Beggars can't be choosers. I certainly learned some lessons from that race and I tried to apply them, and it all came together there at the end."

"Michael McDowell gave me a good push like he did at Daytona, and I was a little bit smarter with how I han-



dled it." Keselowski led just one lap, the last one, in a race that featured 35 lead changes among 27 drivers.

"The whole race I had a couple opportunities to take the lead, but I just kept thinking, 'Man, keep your car in one piece,'" Keselowski said.

Logano was involved in an airborne wreck and called on NASCAR to change the dangerous racing conditions at Daytona and Talladega.

"On one hand, I am mad about being in the crash and on the other, I am happy to be alive," Logano said. "On another hand, I am wondering when we are going to stop because this is dangerous doing what we are doing. I got a roll bar in my head. That is not OK."

"I am one hit away from the same situation Ryan

SEE NASCAR, PAGE A13



TUESDAY EVENING APRIL 27

Table with columns for local channels, cable channels, and program details including channel, time, and description.

Don't miss disturbing, compelling 'Cruel Summer'

BY KEVIN MCDONOUGH

Told in a series of flashbacks, the smart teen melo-drama 'Cruel Summer' (10 p.m., Freeform, TV-14) recalls Jeanette's (Chiara Aurelia) metamorphosis from 1993 to 1995...



BILL MALLOCK / FREEFORM

Jeanette's reckless behavior causes her friends and family to question her further on the 'Off With a Bang' episode of 'Cruel Summer,' airing at 10 p.m. today on Freeform.

When Kate returns, she accuses Jeannette of stealing her friends and "her life." Tabloids and TV media all but accuse Jeannette of cooperating in Kate's gruesome kidnapping.

'Summer' plays with time-shifting narratives and keeps viewers guessing about distinctions between victim and aggressor while exploring media obsessions about missing pretty teenage white girls.

Executive producer Jessica Biel presented audiences with similar questions on her USA series 'The Sinner.' It's hard to watch 'Cruel Summer' and not wonder whether Biel's own story informed the plot...

From 1996 to 2006, Biel played Mary Camden on '7th Heaven,' the popular family-friendly WB series and Aaron Spelling production.

Not to give too much away, but central to 'Cruel Summer' is the story of a trusted young middle-school principal who turns out to be a predator and Kate's abductor.

In 2014, some years after the conclusion of '7th Heaven,' Stephen Collins, who played the show's wholesome patriarch, Eric Camden, confessed to multiple incidents of sexual misconduct with young girls.

If 'Cruel Summer' showcases the media's obsession with young girls, the new Netflix thriller 'Fatma' explores the anonymity of middle-aged women, particularly

those on the bottom of the income ladder.

Turkish actress Burcu Biricik plays the title character, a grief-stricken, recently widowed woman and house cleaner who accidentally commits homicide while searching for her late husband's killer.

- TONIGHT'S OTHER HIGHLIGHTS
• A bodyguard (Gerard Butler) with a blemished reputation steps up to save the president (Aaron Eckhart) in the 2016 thriller 'London Has Fallen'

'Pooch Perfect' (8 p.m., ABC, TV-PG), hosted by Rebel Wilson.

- Audra McDonald and Mandy Patinkin explore their family histories on 'Finding Your Roots With Henry Louis Gates, Jr.'
• An explosive parcel on 'FBI'
• Kevin gets misty on 'This Is Us'

check local listings) concludes its two-part series 'The Virus That Shook the World.'

CULT CHOICE
Billy Bob Thornton stars in the 2004 adaptation of 'Friday Night Lights'...

- SERIES NOTES
Torres meets his father on 'NCIS'
Recovering from a football injury on 'Young Rock'

'mixed-ish' (9:30 p.m., ABC, TV-PG).

LATE NIGHT
Kenan Thompson is on 'Conan' (11 p.m., TBS, r) \* Jimmy Fallon welcomes Michael Che, Roger Daltrey, Nicki Nicole and Lunay on 'The Tonight Show'

Advertisement for The Sumter Item newspaper with contact information and a subscription offer.



AROUND TOWN

EDITOR'S NOTE: Please note that due to the threat of COVID-19, some events may be cancelled or re-scheduled unexpectedly.

Santee-Waterree Regional Transportation Authority (SWRTA) is offering free rides to COVID-19 vaccinations and COVID-19 testing sites. Contact SWRTA from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday at (803) 934-0396.

The Levi Pearson Scholarship Fund will offer free tax help from 3 to 6 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Harvin Clarendon County Library, 215 N. Brooks St., Manning, or from 3 to 5 p.m. on Mondays at Clarendon County NAACP Branch Office, 21 Railroad Ave., Summerton. The service is courtesy of the IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. IRS-certified volunteers will be on hand to inform taxpayers about special tax credits for which they may qualify. To have a return prepared, bring valid photo identification; Social Security card for yourself, spouse and dependents; wage and earnings statements (W-2); interest and dividend statements (1099); a copy of last year's return; and any other information concerning income and expenses for the tax year. For joint returns, both spouses must be present.

The AARP Tax-Aide Foundation is offering free tax preparation services in Sumter and Manning. Because of COVID-19, appointments will be required; no walk-ins allowed. No weekend or holiday services will be offered. Appointments in Sumter will be held at South Sumter Resource Center, 337 Manning Ave., and Birnie HOPE Center, 210 S. Purdy St. Call Pat at (803) 651-1714 or Emmly at (803) 651-1714.

983-2514 to schedule. In Manning, appointments will be held at First Baptist Church, 49 W. Boyce St. Call Lula at (803) 316-0772. Virtual tax preparation with limited direct contact with taxpayers will also be offered. For additional information or to make an appointment, call between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The Sumter NAACP "Get Out The Vaccination Campaign (GOTVAC)" will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 1, at Delaine Community Center, 5400 Cane Savannah Road, Wedgefield. First come, first served.

Carolina Backcountry Spring-time will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 8, at the Sumter County Museum, 122 N. Washington St. Visitors will journey back in time to the year 1800 to see what life was like for settlers in the area. Costumed interpreters will demonstrate blacksmithing, spinning and weaving, butter churning and more. Kids will have the chance to play 19th century games like quoits, hoop and stick and graces. There will also be a Backcountry and Barns Scavenger Hunt complete with a special prize. This event is free and open to the public.

The Sumter County Museum will host a talk and book signing with author Mary Alice Monroe at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 122 N. Washington St. Cost is \$30 for members or \$35 for the general public and includes a hardback copy of Monroe's new novel "The Summer of Lost and Found." Light refreshments will be served. Registration is required. Visit http://www.sumtercountymuseum.org/events.html or call (803) 775-0908.

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

Table with 6 columns: TODAY, TONIGHT, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY. Includes weather icons, temperature forecasts (e.g., 85°, 58°, 86°/61°), and chance of rain.

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

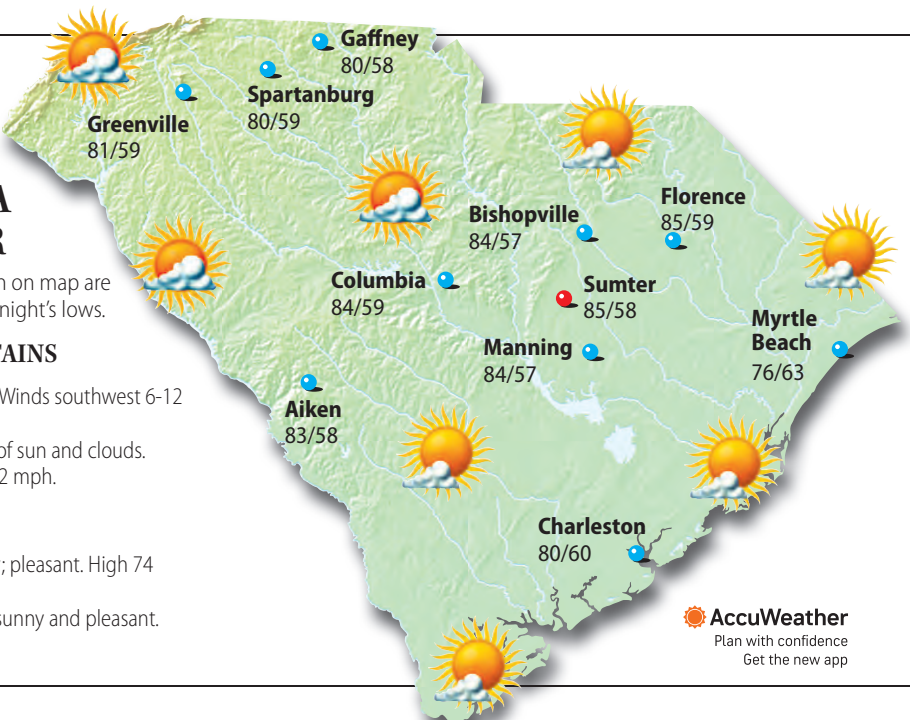
Temperatures shown on map are today's highs and tonight's lows.

IN THE MOUNTAINS

Today: Partly sunny. Winds southwest 6-12 mph. Wednesday: Times of sun and clouds. Winds southwest 6-12 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: Mostly sunny; pleasant. High 74 to 80. Wednesday: Partly sunny and pleasant. High 73 to 80.



LOCAL ALMANAC

Table with 2 columns: Category (Temperature, Precipitation) and Value (High 75°, Low 48°, etc.).

LAKE LEVELS

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

SUN AND MOON

Table with 4 columns: Sunrise, Moonrise, Sunset, Moonset. Includes moon phase icons for Last, New, First, Full.

RIVER STAGES

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

TIDES

Table with 4 columns: High, Ht., Low, Ht. for AT MYRTLE BEACH.

PUBLIC AGENDA

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

- SUMTER COUNTY DISABILITIES & SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD... CREATIVE ENVIRONMENTS INC. INDEPENDENT LIVING INC. ADAPTIVE LIFESTYLES INC. MAGNOLIA MANOR INC. FIRST FLIGHT INC. MID-CAROLINA COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION QUARTERLY MEETING

University of South Carolina Sumter, 200 Miller Road

MCLEOD HEALTH CLARENDON BOARD OF TRUSTEES Today, 6 p.m., hospital board room, 10 E. Hospital St., Manning

SUMTER COUNTY COUNCIL Today, 6 p.m., Sumter County Council Chambers

GREATER SUMTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS Wednesday, noon, chamber office

SUMTER CITY-COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION Wednesday, 3 p.m., fourth floor, Sumter Opera House, Council Chambers

NATIONAL CITIES

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

REGIONAL CITIES

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

Weather(W): s—sunny, pc—partly cloudy, c—cloudy, sh—showers, t—thunderstorms, r—rain, sf—snow flurries, sn—snow, i—ice

The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take care of your responsibilities before someone reminds you to. Dig in and get something done that makes you proud and fulfilled. Don't get angry over something you cannot change. Find a way to work around any obstacle you encounter. 3 stars TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Address issues that can hold you back or cost you emotionally, mentally or physically. Set high standards and work hard, and you'll gain the respect of those you live or work alongside. Add a personal touch to whatever you pursue. 3 stars GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Ponder what's possible. Check out what's required to move forward with something you want to pursue. Show discipline and patience when dealing with people you find challenging. Leave nothing to chance or incomplete. Don't count on anyone but yourself. 3 stars CANCER (June 21-July 22): Say no to a joint venture. Use your skills and knowledge to your advantage. You can make a difference if you take a leadership position. Take control, and you'll get the results you desire. Personal improvements will pay off. 5 stars LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Show discipline, stick to your plan, and say no to temptation, excessiveness and overspending. Stop worrying about what others do, and concentrate on what you are doing. Partnership problems will arise if you let your emotions interfere with how you behave. 2 stars VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Learn from the best, follow through with your plans and don't be afraid to do things your way. Take a unique approach. Opportunities to use your skills diversely and to connect with people who share your sentiments will unfold. 4 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Refuse to let your emotions interfere with your financial matters. Live up to your promises, take care of your personal and professional responsibilities, and aim to stabilize your life. Avoid getting involved in joint ventures or agreeing to share expenses. 3 stars SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Concentrate on what you are trying to achieve. Take the path that leads to personal growth and a change of scenery. Focus on decluttering your life and letting go of situations holding you back or limiting your freedom. 3 stars SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep life simple, be moderate and avoid letting others dictate what you can do. Spend more time at home altering your space to accommodate what you want to do next. Don't trust anyone with personal information, possessions or passwords. 3 stars CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You've got what it takes to excel. Put your energy where it counts, and don't stop until you reach your destination. Look at obscure propositions and adjust them to fit into your lifestyle and dreams. Romance will enhance your life. 4 stars AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Dealing with a friend, colleague or relative will be difficult. Give others the freedom to do as they please, and redirect your energy into something that will benefit you personally. Fitness, health and personal growth are in your best interest. 2 stars PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Invest time and money in your surroundings, skills and plans to get ahead. A change in direction will be rejuvenating and give you something to embrace. Follow your heart, and take the initiative to make your dreams come true. Romance is favored. 5 stars

PICTURES FROM THE PUBLIC



Sterling Boyd comments on his photo submission, "The Aga Khan III died at Aswan, Egypt, in 1957. His tomb sits above the Nile River. Every morning at precisely 8 a.m., until her death in 2000, his widow walked to his tomb from the white villa on the right carrying one red rose, which she placed on his bier. Following her death, the villagers have continued this ritual to the present day."

HAVE YOU TAKEN PICTURES OF INTERESTING, EXCITING, BEAUTIFUL OR HISTORICAL PLACES? Would you like to share those images with your fellow Sumter Item readers? E-mail your hi-resolution jpegs to sandra@theitem.com, or mail to Sandra Holbert c/o The Sumter Item, P.O. Box 1677, Sumter, SC 29150. Include clearly printed or typed name of photographer and photo details. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of your photo. Amateur photographers only please. Photos of poor reproduction quality may not publish. With the exception of pictures that are of a timely nature, submitted photos will publish in the order in which they are received.