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**Sumter
ITEM**

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Sumter's Palmetto Tennis Center project's Phase 1 complete with expansion



SHELBY GOULDING / THE SUMTER ITEM

City of Sumter celebrates Phase 1 completion of the Palmetto Tennis Center on Friday with Sumter Mayor David Merchant and tennis center General Manager Sam Kiser as speakers.

Grand opening held on Friday

BY SHELBY GOULDING
shelbie@theitem.com

For more than a decade, tennis has been a growing staple in Sumter.

Today the racket sport stands as a pillar of Sumter's economic growth after completing Phase 1 of the Palmetto Tennis Center project, making the city a destination for elite and avid players in the country.

The community celebrated the grand opening of the newly expanded Palmetto Tennis Center, located in the center of Sumter, tucked within Palmetto Park, on Friday.

SEE TENNIS, PAGE A10



SHELBY GOULDING / THE SUMTER ITEM



TY CORNETT / THE SUMTER ITEM

Phase 1 — \$2.9 million
Addition of operations building, pro shop, 24 lighted deco turf tennis courts, 4 pickleball courts, hitting wall

TY CORNETT / THE SUMTER ITEM

Phase 2 — \$2.8 million
Installation of 8 red clay pro tennis courts and other site improvements

Vacancies cloud district's budget

Administration: Unfilled spots to increase in fiscal year 2022

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

Teacher vacancies have thrown a wrench in Sumter School District budget projections in recent years, and it appears that might be the case again in next year's budget.

In fiscal 2020 and also in the district's estimates for this year, vacancies have been relatively high, pushing required expenditures lower, and Trustee Johnny Hilton raised the issue Monday in discussion on the 2022 budget at the full board's regularly scheduled

SEE BUDGET, PAGE A7

Committee to be liaisons between the community, school district

24-member group had 1st virtual meeting Thursday

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

Sumter's school board has started a new effort to build community relations with the formation of a large Citizens Advisory Committee, and that 24-member group met for the first time on Thursday.

Board Chairwoman Barbara Jackson and district Superintendent Penelope Martin-Knox facilitated the COVID-19-era virtual meeting, and after personal introductions, the two shared the overarching goal for the committee is to be liaisons, or go-betweens, with the community for the board and district.

Committee meetings will occur two to three times per year, but Martin-Knox said additional meetings may be called if the school board deems them necessary.

SEE COMMITTEE, PAGE A7

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Jamie Montgomery
Hattie Vernell Spann Scarborough
Rashad Hudson
Olga Leach Campbell
Dorothy Ann Gividen Day
Carmell Ragin

WEATHER, A12

NICE WEEKEND AHEAD
Partly sunny and pleasant on Saturday; mainly clear tonight
HIGH 78, LOW 53

INSIDE

2 SECTIONS, 24 PAGES
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SECOND FRONT

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

S.C. social justice group will host march, vigil for Sumter's missing

BY KAREEM WILSON
kareem@theitem.com

A South Carolina social justice advocacy organization will host a march and prayer vigil for all missing persons in Sumter the Saturday before Mother's Day.

The South Carolina Chapter of P.O.S.T (Protect Our Stolen Treasures) is hosting the "Bring Our Missing Mothers Home for Mother's Day" march and vigil on Saturday, May 8.

Candace Brewer, a social justice activist and founder of the organization, said they are hoping to raise awareness about the dozens of people missing from the Sumter community, spanning

decades, which includes Barbara Jenkins, who was last seen around the 500 block of Sumter Street on Aug. 28, 2013; Jackson Brent Garcia, the 18-year-old who went missing on Dec. 26; and others who have not been located in the last several years.

"We're going to be focusing on the 20 people that went missing out of Sumter," Brewer said. "We just want to bring awareness to the small communities missing so many people."

The event will take place at the old Sumter County courthouse at 141 N. Main St.

If anyone wants to be a part of the event, contact Brewer at (864) 360-6391 or southcarolinachapterofpost@gmail.com.

RIGHT: Second Lt. Derrell Watson greets other service members after the U.S. Army ROTC Gamecock Battalion commissioning ceremony on Thursday at Morris College.

BELOW: Watson is pinned by his wife, Sharon Watson, at Thursday's ceremony.

PHOTOS BY KAREEM WILSON / THE SUMTER ITEM



Morris ROTC cadet commissioned as Army 2nd lieutenant

BY KAREEM WILSON
kareem@theitem.com

Thursday was a special day for Derrell Watson.

Watson was commissioned in a ceremony inside the Neal-Jones Auditorium of Morris College from a cadet to second lieutenant in the United States Army on Thursday.

Watson is the 55th cadet to be commissioned from Morris College and said it was a long journey to get to this day.

Watson enlisted in the U.S. Army active duty in 2009 and 10 years later decided to join ROTC to become a commissioned officer. He was selected for a two-year program to acquire his bachelor's degree from Morris College and then be commissioned.

"Here I am two years later about to be suited and booted again and ready to rock," he said. "I believe in a good support system and keeping my faith in God and keeping my faith in myself, and my opportunities are unlimited."

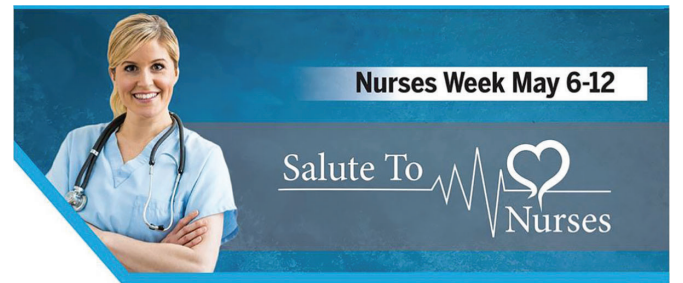
This support system includes his family, friends and other service members who attended the ceremony and watched as Watson took



the oath of office, which was read by Lt. Col. Louis Frketic, professor of military science at the University of South Carolina, and was pinned by Sharon Watson, his wife. She said she was proud to see her husband receive this achievement. She is fully confident he can handle the new challenges that lie ahead of him in the Army.

"He won't go in anything, any mission or assignment, without being fully prepared, and I know he's got it under control," Watson said. "I got his back."

Watson also plans to further his education by pursuing a Master's Degree in Cybersecurity Management at St. Leo University in Florida and will serve in the Army as a signal officer, and he will be responsible for the Army's entire system of communication. He will attend Basic Officer Training Course at Fort Gordon in Georgia.



Get your favorite nurse honored in Nurses Week special section

FROM STAFF REPORTS

They've been caring for us our entire lives, but it may be they've never been in the spotlight more since the COVID-19 pandemic reached our communities.

Nurses Week is celebrated each year starting May 6 and ending May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, a British nurse, social reformer and statistician known as the founder of modern nursing.

As of 1998, May 8 was designated as National Student Nurses Day to be celebrated annually. As of 2003, National School Nurse Day is celebrated on the Wednesday within National Nurses Week each year.

The Sumter Item, along with community partners Dreamworks Dance Academy, Sandhills Medical Foundation and CRW, is asking our readers and social media community to submit a photo and short essay of their favorite nurse to be featured online and in a special Nurses Week section, which will run in the newspaper on Wednesday, May 12.

On behalf of the staff at The Sumter Item, we thank all our nurses for their hard work, compassion and dedication to their profession.

To nominate a nurse to be featured in this publication, go to www.theitem.com/nurses. You do not have to be a subscriber to participate.

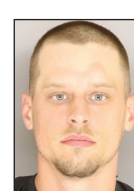
Deputies arrest 2 for separate accusations involving minors

BY SHELBIE GOULDING
shelbie@theitem.com

The Sumter County Sheriff's Office arrested two individuals on Tuesday and Wednesday for unrelated incidents involving minors.

APRIL 27

Jack Michael Wallace, 29, of Live Oak Road in Dalzell, was charged with



WALLACE

criminal sexual conduct with a minor, said Deputy Adrienne Sarvis, public information officer for the sheriff's office.

A warrant claims Wallace engaged in sexual activity with a 14-year-old victim while in Sumter County on April 26.

Wallace was transported to the Sumter County Sheriff's Office Detention Center, where he remains with a denied bond.

According to Sarvis, Wallace is a registered sex of-

fender who was previously convicted of criminal sexual conduct with a minor under 11 years of age.

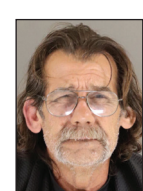
APRIL 28

Johnny Sander Ingram Jr., 63, of Gibbs Dairy Road, was charged with second-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor or attempt under 16 years of age and criminal solicitation of a minor, Sarvis said.

Warrants claim that, during an undercover law enforcement operation, Ingram communicated with a person

he thought to be a 15-year-old female with the expressed intent to meet for sexual activity.

Ingram was apprehended when he arrived at the meeting location and was transported to the Sumter County Sheriff's Office Detention Center, where he remains with a denied bond.



INGRAM

Free vaccine clinics next week in Pinewood, Summerton

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Two COVID-19 vaccine clinics are scheduled for next week and are taking appointments now.

The state's public health department is running the clinics, which will be held in Sumter County at the Pinewood Community Center, 130 Epperson Lane, on Thursday, May 6, and in Clarendon County at the Taw Caw Community Center, 1126 Granby Lane, in Summerton, on Tuesday, May 4.

To register, call 1-866-365-8110 or go to <https://cvas.dhec.sc.gov>.

All South Carolinians aged 16 and older are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and can schedule their appointments. Currently, Pfizer is the only vaccine available to those aged 16-18. However, all three vaccines — Pfizer, Moderna and J&J/Janssen — are available to those aged 18 and older. Visit [scdhec.gov/vaxlocator](https://cvas.dhec.sc.gov/vaxlocator) to see the locations accepting vaccination appointments.

CORRECTION

If you see a statement in error, contact the City Desk at (803) 774-1226 or pressrelease@theitem.com.

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Monday, May 3 - Saturday, May 8

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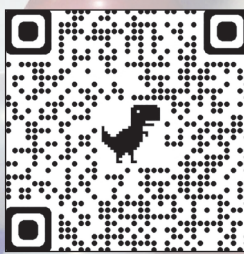
 
 
  

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U.S. officials: Anxiety drove vaccine reactions in 5 states

NEW YORK (AP) — It was anxiety — and not a problem with the shots — that caused reactions in dozens of people at coronavirus vaccine clinics in five states, U.S. health officials have concluded.

Experts say the clusters detailed Friday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are an example of a phenomenon that's been chronicled for decades from a variety of different vaccines. Basically, some people get so freaked out by injections that their anxiety spurs a physical reaction.

"We knew we were going to see this" as mass COVID-19 vaccine clinics were set up around the world, said Dr. Noni MacDonald, a Canadian researcher who has studied similar incidents.

The CDC authors said the reports came in over three days, April 7 to 9, from clinics in California, Colorado, Georgia, Iowa and North Carolina. The investigation was based on interviews with, and reports by, clinic staff.

Many of the 64 people affected either fainted or reported dizziness. Some got nauseous or vomited, and a few had racing hearts, chest pain or other symptoms. None got seriously ill.

All received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, and four of the five clinics temporarily shut down as officials tried to sort out what was happening. Health officials at the time said they had no reason to suspect a problem with the vaccine itself.

Of the three COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the U.S., only J&J's requires just one dose. That probably makes it more appealing to people who are nervous about shots and might leave them "more highly predisposed to anxiety-related events," the CDC report said.

Some of the sites advertised they were giving J&J shots, noted Dr. Tom Shimabukuro, who leads the CDC's COVID-19 vaccine safety monitoring work and is one of the study's authors.

The CDC found that about a quarter of the people reporting side effects had similar things

happen following past vaccinations.

The post-shot reactions differ from a very rare kind of side effect that led to a pause in administration of the J&J vaccine. At least 17 vaccine recipients have developed an uncommon kind of blood clot that developed in unusual places, such as veins that drain blood from the brain, along with abnormally low levels of the platelets that form clots.

Other types of side effects from the coronavirus vaccines are not unusual. Another CDC report released Friday looked at side effects reported by more than 300,000 J&J vaccine recipients. More than half said they experienced a sore arm, fatigue or headache. A third reported fever or chills, and about a fifth said they were nauseous.

But the clusters at the five clinics are thought to be stress-related.

MacDonald, a professor of pediatrics at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, said studies have indicated that 10% to 15% of adults are afraid of injections.

Many people who experience stress-related symptoms are younger, and past clusters from other shots have involved school students. Some hyperventilate, some experience nausea, some reported headaches. And some had what at first appears to be more severe, neurological symptoms, she said.

One cluster that MacDonald reviewed involved 14 U.S. military reservists who developed symptoms after getting flu shots in 2009. The first was a 23-year-old man who one day later reported progressive weakness in his arms and legs but fully recovered.

"Everybody thinks this is (only) young teenage girls" who experience this, MacDonald said. "Well, it isn't."

It can start with one person fainting that can set off a chain reaction of symptoms in anxious people who see or hear about that first person. These days, people also react to things they read or watch in Facebook posts or on other sites.

S.C. House eliminates mandatory minimum sentences for drug crimes

COLUMBIA (AP) — The South Carolina House passed a bill this week eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for drug crimes and reducing the amount of time drug offenders have to serve in prison for some offenses.

The bill passed 62-45 on Wednesday and will go on to the Senate. With six days left in the General Assembly's 2021 session, it will likely be next year before senators can take it up.

By eliminating the mandatory prison sentence for drug charges, including trafficking, the bill would bring

South Carolina laws in line with its neighbors and the federal government, said House Judiciary Chairman Chris Murphy, a Republican from North Charleston.

The bill also reduces the amount of time prisoners have to serve on drug offenses that do not offer parole to 65% of their sentence. Current law requires them to serve 85% of their sentences.

The proposal is retroactive, which means about 500 of the state's 20,000 inmates could have their sentences cut back over the next two decades, saving the prison

system about \$3.5 million.

A number of Republicans opposed the measure, including state Attorney General Alan Wilson, who wrote a letter to lawmakers saying the state remains in a crisis with methamphetamine, fentanyl and heroin and "it is not the time to send the message to drug traffickers and criminal gangs that South Carolina is open for business with the lightest penalties around."

Murphy said the elements of the bill have been debated for more than a decade and it was more a matter of fairness.

CAMPUS CORNER

COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

CONWAY — Coastal Carolina University held its annual Student Involvement and Leadership Awards ceremony on April 20 at Wheelwright Auditorium. During this year's ceremony, outstanding students, faculty and staff, as well as groups, were recognized and received a plaque, certificate or a coveted Chanticleer rooster trophy.

During the ceremony, President Michael T. Benson introduced and welcomed the newest members of the CCU Student Government Association. Among them is **Tykia Scott**, a Management Pre-Major major from Dalzell.

THE CITADEL

CHARLESTON — Gold stars are awarded to cadets and students at The Citadel who achieved a 3.7 GPA or

higher. Cadets and students who achieve gold star recognition are also placed on The Citadel's dean's list.

The following local students received gold stars:

- Sumter — **Thomas Aycock; Jackson Fuller; Christian Hines; Philip Newman; Gavin Otilio; Walker Barber; Ronald Flowers;** and
- Manning — **Christopher Jordan.**

WEST POINT ACADEMY

David M. Polaski, son of retired Lt. Col. Dennis and Mrs. Dolores Polaski of Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, and grandson of Mrs. Dolores Pearse McMunn of Sumter, has received an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He will be sworn in as a member of the Class of 2025 on June 28. He is a senior at Mascoutah High School.

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U.S. closes in on 100 million Americans fully vaccinated

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Disneyland reopened on Friday and New York's mayor predicted the big city will be up and running again at full strength by July 1, as the number of Americans fully vaccinated against COVID-19 closed in on 100 million.

Visitors cheered and screamed with delight as the Southern California theme park swung open its gates for the first time in 13 months in a powerful symbol of the U.S. rebound, even though the self-proclaimed Happiest Place on Earth is allowing only in-state guests for now and operating at just 25% capacity.

The reopening and similar steps elsewhere across the country reflect increasing optimism as COVID-19 deaths tumble and the ranks of the vaccinated grow — a stark contrast to the worsening disaster in India and Brazil and the scant availability of vaccines in many poor parts of the world.

While the overall number of lives lost to COVID-19 in the U.S. has eclipsed 575,000, deaths have plummeted to an average of about 670 per day from a peak of about 3,400 in mid-January.

As of Friday morning, more than 99 million Americans, or more than 38%

of all adults, had been fully vaccinated, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About 55% of adults had received at least one dose.

However, about 8% of those who have gotten one dose of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine have not returned for their second shot, officials said. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, said it is important to complete the course to gain maximum protection against the coronavirus.

"Make sure you get that second dose," he said at a White House briefing.

In New York, Mayor Bill de Blasio

said Thursday he expects to see COVID-19 restrictions lifted and the city "fully reopen" by July 1. He cited rising vaccination rates and decreasing hospitalizations.

"We are ready for stores to open, for businesses to open, offices, theaters, full strength," he said on MSNBC.

However, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo has maintained throughout the crisis that such decisions are his alone, and he said Thursday that he would like to lift restrictions even sooner if possible.

"I don't want to wait that long. I think if we do what we have to do, we can be reopened earlier," he said.

Israel mourns deaths of 45 in stampede at annual religious festival

BY JOSEF FEDERMAN and ISAAC SCHARF

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — The holiday of Lag BaOmer is one of the happiest days on the calendar for Israel's ultra-Orthodox community — a time of mass celebrations in honor of a revered sage. But in a split second Friday, the festive gathering in northern Israel turned into one of the country's worst-ever tragedies, with at least 45 people crushed to death and dozens injured in a stampede.

The disaster prompted a national outpouring of grief as devastated families rushed to identify their dead relatives and bury them ahead of the Jewish Sabbath. There was also anger toward authorities about an accident that experts had long feared, further clouding Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's hopes of remaining in office.

Netanyahu, who briefly visited Mount Meron at midday, offered his condolences.

"In these moments, our people unite, and that is what we are doing at this moment as well," he said.

He announced Sunday would be a day of national mourning and said he had joined the masses of people who donated blood for the victims. Israel's President Reuven Rivlin lit 45 candles in honor of the dead. Messages of condolences poured in from around the world.

President Joe Biden said he

was heartbroken and had called Netanyahu to offer support.

"The people of the United States and Israel are bound together by our families, our faiths and our histories, and we will stand with our friends," he said.

The stampede erupted about 1 a.m. as people began to leave and thronged a narrow, tunnel-like passage. According to witnesses, people began to fall on a slippery ramp, causing others to trip and sparking panic.

Avigdor Hayut, who survived the stampede, described slipping on the ramp and getting trapped in the crowd with his two sons, ages 10 and 13.

"My son screamed, 'I'm dying,'" he told Israel's public TV station Kan. A policeman tried to pull him and his younger son out of the crowd but couldn't move them.

"The policeman threw up and started crying, and I understood what he was looking at, what I couldn't see," said Hayut, 36, who suffered a broken ankle and ribs. "I thought this was the end." He said he began to pray and "simply waited."

Hours later, in the hospital with Shmuel, his 10-year-old, they learned that his other son, Yedidya, had died.

Lag BaOmer is very popular with Israel's ultra-Orthodox community. The main event takes place each year at Mount Meron. Tens of thousands, mostly ultra-Orthodox, celebrate to honor Rabbi Shi-



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israeli security officials and rescuers carry a body of a victim who died during a Lag BaOmer celebration at Mt. Meron in northern Israel on Friday. A stampede at the religious festival attended by tens of thousands of ultra-Orthodox Jews in northern Israel killed dozens of people and injured more than 100 others early Friday, medical officials said, in one of the country's deadliest civilian disasters.

mon Bar Yochai, a 2nd-century sage and mystic who is believed to be buried there. This year, authorities said some 100,000 people attended.

The crowds light bonfires, dance and have large festive meals as part of the celebrations. Across the country, even in secular areas, smaller groups gather in parks and forests for barbecues and bonfires.

Video footage from the scene of the disaster showed large numbers of people, most of them black-clad ultra-Orthodox men, squeezed in the tunnel. Witnesses complained that police barricades had prevented people from exiting properly.

"The officers who were there couldn't care less," said Velvel Brevda, a rabbi who witnessed the stampede. He blamed the government for the deaths of "beautiful holy Jews that were killed here for no reason whatsoever."

At least 45 people were

killed, according to the Israeli Health Ministry, with four people remaining in critical condition and dozens more hospitalized.

Bodies were later taken to Israel's central forensic institute for identification, where distraught families waited to identify their loved ones. Israel's Army Radio said some 40 people remained unaccounted for.

By Friday night, 32 victims had been identified. Israeli media earlier published a partial list of the victims, including a 9-year-old boy, a pair of brothers, 12 and 14, and a father of 11 children. An unknown number of American citizens, two Canadians and an Argentinian were also among the dead.

In a race against time, a number of funerals were held before sundown Friday, the start of the Jewish Sabbath when burials do not take place. The death toll at Mount Meron exceeded the 44 people

killed in a 2010 forest fire, previously thought to be Israel's deadliest civilian tragedy.

The Justice Ministry said the police were launching a probe into possible criminal misconduct by officers.

Experts have long warned that the Mount Meron celebrations were ripe for disaster because of the crowded conditions, large fires and hot weather. In a 2008 report, the state comptroller, a watchdog government office, warned conditions at the site, including escape routes, "endanger the public."

Last year, the celebrations were greatly scaled back because of coronavirus restrictions. But this year's event marked the first religious gathering to be held legally since Israel lifted most restrictions in the wake of its successful vaccination program.

According to Health Ministry guidelines, public gatherings continue to be limited to no more than 500 people. But Israeli media said that Netanyahu assured ultra-Orthodox leaders that the celebrations would take place, despite objections from public health officials. Netanyahu's office did not respond to requests for comment.

The deadly stampede was bound to have political reverberations at a time of great uncertainty following an inconclusive March election, the fourth in two years.

Netanyahu has so far been unsuccessful in forming a governing coalition. His time to do so runs out on Tuesday. If he fails, his political rivals will get a chance to try to cobble together an alliance.

Netanyahu has long relied on powerful ultra-Orthodox parties as allies and will need their support if he wants to keep faint hopes alive of staying in power.



Dotte McKenzie

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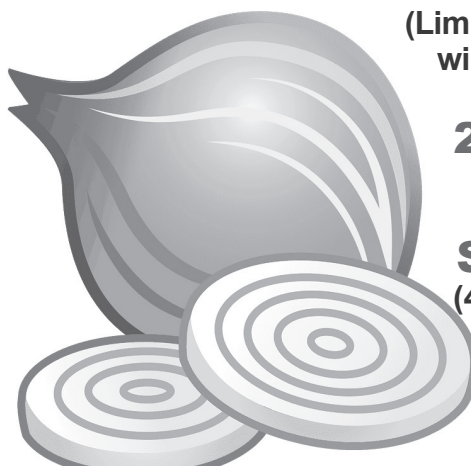
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Morey Hill speaks about his farming operation April 16 near Madrid, Iowa. In 43 years of farming, Hill had seen crop-destroying weather, rock-bottom prices, trade fights and surges in government aid, but not until last year had he endured it all in one season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



U.S. farmers finally see better outlook

BY SCOTT McFETRIDGE
The Associated Press

MADRID, Iowa — In 43 years of farming, Morey Hill had seen crop-destroying weather, rock-bottom prices, trade fights and surges in government aid, but not until last year had he endured it all in one season.

Now, as Hill and other farmers begin planting the nation's dominant crops of corn and soybeans, they're dealing with another shift — the strongest prices in years and a chance to put much of the recent stomach-churning uncertainty behind them. The return to something more akin to normal will be a welcome change from the last two seasons that likely will be remembered as among the most unusual in U.S. agricultural history.

"It will be nice to get out there and feel good about what you're doing," said Hill, who farms 400 acres near the small Iowa community of Madrid. "I don't have a black cloud hanging over me."

It's hard to overstate how bizarre the past two seasons have been for farmers, who for the previous six years had repeatedly produced near-record harvests but saw little profit because commodity prices were so low. The situation worsened after then-President Donald Trump launched a trade war with China that reduced demand and lowered prices, but Trump then blunted the impact with \$16 billion in agricultural aid.

Last spring, farmers' hopes for a more normal season were initially wiped out by the coronavirus pandemic, which disrupted domestic markets, slowed shipping to other countries and devastated demand for corn-based ethanol as people stopped driving. Hundreds of Midwest farmers last August also were hit by a devastating wind storm, called a derecho, that flattened 850,000 acres of crops, including 90% of Hill's corn and soybean crop.

The federal government then offset those hits with \$50 billion in various kinds of aid to farmers plus crop insurance payments.

That massive infusion of aid continued even as U.S. agricultural exports recovered midway through the year, eventually soaring to \$146 billion, the second-highest export total ever, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The main reason was big increases in exports of soybeans, corn and pork to China.

"So 2020 ended up being the best of both worlds," said Scott Irwin, a University of Illinois agricultural economist. "Huge government payment and unexpectedly high grain prices."

The USDA has forecast that those agricultural exports will remain strong later this year, and coupled with greater demand for livestock feed and ethanol, corn prices have roughly doubled from just over \$3 a bushel in spring 2020 to about \$6 a bushel now, the highest price in eight years.

Thanks to that good news and continued low interest rates, the value of farmland continued a long-term increase, with average prices in Iowa up 7.8% from September to March, according to the Realtors Land Institute's Iowa chapter.

"All this great news, it makes me nervous," said Wayne Humphreys, a farmer from Columbus Junction, who laughed as he contrasted the last two years with current trends.

Despite the positive signs, income actually could drop this year for some farmers because the federal government doesn't plan to continue the billions of dollars in special payments that offset tariffs and coronavirus problems, though generous programs like subsidized crop insurance will continue.

That means that even with strong prices, USDA Chief Economist Seth Meyer predicted in February that net farm income would decline about 8% because of a roughly \$20 billion drop in direct farm payments.

Humphreys, a board member of the export market-focused U.S. Grain Council, said he also worries that trade disputes started with China, Canada, Mexico and other nations during the Trump administration could hurt exports in the future because of damage to long-term relationships that agriculture groups built over decades.

"It is a matter of rebuilding trust in Americans' reliability around the world," Humphreys said. "That is a daunting task, and I'm not sure American agriculture or the American public realizes what a task we have before us."

Eyeing 2024, Pence says he'll push back on 'liberal agenda'

COLUMBIA (AP) — Former Vice President Mike Pence, positioning himself for a possible return to elected office, told an audience in early voting South Carolina that he will spend the coming months "pushing back on the liberal agenda" he says is wrong for the country.

"We've got to guard our values ... by offering a positive agenda to the American people, grounded in our highest ideals," Pence told an audience of several hundred on Thursday at a Columbia dinner sponsored by a conservative Christian nonprofit. "Now, over the coming months, I'll have more to say about all of that."

Pence, whose relationship with President Donald Trump frayed as Trump pressured Pence to block certification of the presidential election results, praised Trump's tenure as "four years of promises made, promises kept."

The choice of South Carolina for Pence's first public address since the end of the Trump administration has definite political overtones, helping him develop exposure for a potential 2024 presidential bid. The state holds the first presidential primaries in the South, and candidates of both major parties typically spend more than a year in South Carolina ahead of those votes, introducing themselves and trying to secure support.

Republican candidates use South Carolina as a proving ground to test their "pro-life" mettle. Thursday's event, hosted by Palmetto Family Council,

also gave Pence a backdrop for some of the issues for which he long advocated as an Indiana congressman-turned-governor, such as restrictions on abortion and support for the overturn of Roe v. Wade.

Palmetto Family — which lobbies for what it considers to be "biblical values," such as heterosexual marriage — most recently helped push through a ban on most South Carolina abortions, a law now being challenged in federal court.

"We will stand with the right of every American, of every faith, to live, to work, to speak and to worship according to the dictates of their conscience," Pence said.

Pence, who since leaving office has been doing work with the Heritage Foundation and Young America's Foundation, has not indicated if he plans a future run. As vice president, he made numerous trips to South Carolina, meeting several times with Gov. Henry McMaster for coronavirus-related forums and campaigning in the state for U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham and U.S. Rep. Nancy Mace.

But the question of whether Pence's former boss will run again still looms large for the possible Republican field. Trump has not explicitly stated his plans but has teased a possible bid, saying Thursday on Fox Business that he's "100%" thinking about running in 2024 — and would even possibly consider Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis as his running mate.



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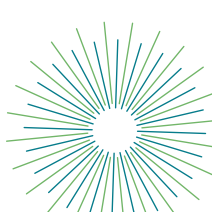
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PHOTO SUBMITTED

The 24-member Citizens Advisory Committee met for the first time Thursday virtually.

COMMITTEE

FROM PAGE A1

The superintendent and board chairwoman will develop the agenda based on matters that the full board would like to seek community input on. Jackson told committee members they also can provide suggestions on topics of interest for the agenda.

The committee's purpose is basically two-fold. One is for committee members to share district information from their meetings with the district's numerous stakeholders, and therefore the overall community will be better informed about the district.

Secondly, as an informed and representative group of citizens, committee members can provide input to the board on agenda topics.

As an important note, Martin-Knox said, the committee's role with the full board is advisory and non-binding on the trustees. Committee members can share their advice, recommendations and opinions in meetings that will be shared with the full board, but the trustees — as elected officials over the school district — will still act in whatever manner they deem best

and appropriate.

The nine-member, elected school board, plus its Shaw Air Force Base representative, nominated a broadly representative group of citizens who represent parents/guardians of district students, area business/industry, Sumter city and county government and the military, among other entities. District school representatives were also nominated. Then, earlier this spring, the full board voted on and approved the nominations.

Finally, district administration reached out to approved nominees on their willingness to serve in the volunteer role.

The result is the 24-member committee that includes four district school representatives.

Of the 20 non-district employees on the committee, 16 attended the virtual meeting via Zoom.

Goals and objectives for the committee were the main topics of discussion, and the meeting lasted about 45 minutes.

Jackson and Martin-Knox said they were extremely pleased with the full body of committee members and think it can help move the district forward.

The committee's next meeting will be in October, Jackson added.

BUDGET

FROM PAGE A1

monthly work session.

Based on total projected revenues and projected expenditures for next year, the district is currently projecting a \$705,306 shortfall, according to Chief Financial Officer Jennifer Miller and Superintendent Penelope Martin-Knox.

The district's budget is currently based on filling every staff position, and Hilton then asked about average vacancies this year during the pandemic.

Administration responded that the total has averaged about 30, and the Area 4 trustee then asked how does the district expect next year will be any different regarding staffing issues?

Martin-Knox actually said she expects the district will have more vacancies next school year.

Hilton then offered a rebuttal to the current budget.

"My point is that this budget is based on filling every position," Hilton said. "We know we are not going to fill every position. You are saying, 'We are going to have more empty positions next year than we got this year.' My point is we may not have a \$700,000 shortfall because we are not going to fill all these positions."

In later comments, other board members seemed to pick up on Hilton's logic.

The public will have to wait until at least the full board's next meeting to see if administration makes changes to its proposed budget, in light of the discussion. That meeting is May 10.

To put the vacancy issue in perspective, the district ended fiscal 2020 with \$11 million in net income, or net change in fund balance, and \$6.2 million of that total was directly tied to vacancies.

A bigger question is likely how will the vacancy budget issue affect the seven-member Sumter County Council if the district asks for a millage increase later this spring?

Because the district's fund balance has been growing in recent years due in large part to vacancies, county council may say if the district wants to extend employee raises to just pay for it out of its fund balance.

For the last four years, county council has turned down district millage rate requests.

The district currently projects its general fund balance as of June 30 will be \$30.3 million. That is about three months of spending in reserves for the district and represents major gains since the fund balance was basically depleted because of over-spending in fiscal 2016.

However, some auditors maintain as a "general rule of thumb" three to six months of expenditures is a proper amount to keep in a district's fund balance.

S.C. eye doctors' group, state law prevent glasses donations

CHARLESTON (AP) — A group of eye doctors in South Carolina and a state law that limits where mobile clinics can operate are preventing a national nonprofit from providing free prescription glasses to thousands of low-income students in Charleston.

Vision to Learn has donated 240,000 pairs of glasses to children across the U.S. since 2012 and has mobile clinics in 10 states, *The Post and Courier* reported. Eye doctors in other states have resisted the nonprofit's work, but a South Carolina statute that only allows these clinics outside health care facilities creates an added barrier.

Retired banker Henry Blackford has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars since 2018 to introduce Vision to Learn along the state's coast, according to the newspaper. Despite the

South Carolina Optometric Physicians Association asking lawmakers to keep the law in place, Blackford wants it changed.

"What gets me is the program is operating very successfully in Charlotte and in Atlanta. It's frustrating," he told *The Post and Courier*. "The optometrists have been a huge stumbling block. Then we ran into the pandemic."

The state optometrists' group said in a statement provided to *The Post and Courier* that it opposes the fact that Vision to Learn doesn't dilate students' eyes during exams.

"While we are not opposed to the idea of mobile clinics, it does raise serious concerns regarding the quality of care that would be provided," the association wrote.



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At the kettle

The full moon hung brightly in the western sky, and stars twinkled overhead. I could see my shadow in the soft blue light and did not need to use my small flashlight. The woodland road was carpeted in a cushion of pine needles, and I walked slowly with almost no sound. I was headed to the kettle.



Dan Geddings

Just ahead the road turned to the right, and my dim path led to the left. I slowed my pace even more and proceeded carefully down the path. I was very close and somewhat apprehensive. There is a threshold of darkness that will keep the quarry still, and with the coming dawn the end of that threshold was quickly approaching. I needed to get settled and still.

I stood in the dark and surveyed the woods around me. Loblolly pines and giant hardwoods towered overhead. I settled at the base of a big pine and got comfortable. The pine would offer a backstop to my silhouette and with my full camouflage help to conceal me. I pulled on my gloves and facemask. Only my eyes were uncovered, below the brim of my cap. I laid my Win-

chester across my lap.

Owls hooted and hollered out over the swamp. Some of the songbirds began calling softly. The sky was lighter now, and I could see a little more detail around me. I noticed a small dark object on the forest floor, out to my front. It was the kettle.

I had found the kettle back during the deer season while I was scouting for an area to relocate my nearby stand. It was tipped over and almost covered with soil and leaves. At first, I thought it was an old cast iron smudge pot, that was commonly used for traffic control, back in the old days. I turned it over and wiped away the dirt and leaves. It was undamaged but a little discolored. I sat it upright on a small moss-covered hump of soil. I was glad that it was still here.

It was early, but I knew the bird I was hunting would gobble early. He had gobbled early on the first day of the season, when I shot a gobbler nearby. Earlier scouting trips had shown me that he would gobble then fly down and go in a different direction every time. When the hardwoods were without leaves it was nearly impossible to approach him on the roost. No matter which way he went, he would eventually end up in a big cut-over that was nearby. I hunted him on the edges of



DAN GEDDINGS / THE SUMTER ITEM

An old cast iron kettle from days gone by sits in the woods.

the cut-over. He might have been the bird I missed so badly on an earlier hunt.

A loud gobble caught me by surprise. He was very close. I scanned the leafy trees but could not see him. I knew he had not seen or heard me, or he would not have gobbled. He gobbled more, and I sat quietly. A jake tried gobbling, and a hen called softly from the treetops between me and him. Other gobblers sounded off in the distance. He gobbled a few more times,

and in the quiet after he last gobbled, I yelped on my box call. He gobbled at my call. I smiled and put down the call.

The eastern sky was glowing yellow with blazes of the rising sun peeping through the trees to my front, and I looked over my shoulder at the western sky. The moon was an orb of bright yellow sinking below a glowing yellow horizon. I don't know if I've ever seen that before. It was truly amazing!

When I looked back, I saw the gobbler sail down from the hardwoods in front of me. I knew that he would almost certainly walk up the hill to the ridge top at my front. I got my gun up on my knee and made an effort to control my breathing. He had landed below the ridge, and I couldn't see him for a long moment. Then his head and neck came into view, and he was walking my way. When his whole body came into view, I could see he was a longbeard. When I shot, he rolled back down the hill. I jumped up and ran forward but could not see him.

I stood very still and listened. I heard a slight noise in the brush and looked down the hill. It was the big gobbler. He had flopped and rolled down the hill into the little green bushes where the swamp bottom flattens. He was mine. I walked down the hill and stood for several long minutes looking at the turkey, the emerald green woods around me and the blaze of colors in the sky. *Email Dan Geddings at cdgeddings@gmail.com.*

Contained Creations shares a photo of a window box in Richmond, Virginia.

CONTAINED CREATIONS VIA AP



Go beyond a traditional window-box garden

BY BETH HARPAZ

The Associated Press

The gardening world has a tried-and-true formula for the perfect window box: a thriller, a filler and a spiller. You simply can't go wrong with a tall red geranium amid a tranquil bed of white impatiens and cascading vines of ivy.

But maybe you're an experienced window box gardener looking to try something different. Or maybe you're sticking close to home this spring and summer and you need a new pandemic project. How about a window box filled with succulents like aloes and echeverias, or edibles like herbs and nasturtiums, or even carnivorous varieties like Venus fly traps and pitcher plants?

Whether you're a newbie or an old hand, here are some expert tips on window-box basics, as well as ideas for unusual themes.

LOCATION AND SAFETY

Window boxes aren't just for window sills. They can sit on porches, patios or front steps or even add color to the side of a drab shed.

For apartment-dwellers, window boxes are a wonderful way to garden without outdoor space. "But safety first: People do get killed by falling window boxes," says Nina Browne, community program manager at New York's Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Just as you would with an air conditioner, make sure your window boxes are secured so they can't fall or blow down in a storm. Because of these potential hazards, window boxes are sometimes prohibited by landlords, building associations and property insurers. An indoor window box makes a fine alternative.

LIGHT AND WATER

Before choosing plants, evaluate

your window box location for light and moisture. Window boxes dry out faster than in-ground plants, so they need a lot of watering, especially if south-facing. But a window box flush against an exterior wall may be more sheltered from rain than a flowerbed in your yard.

Browne says one of her greatest triumphs as a gardener is a beautiful window box in a north-facing, full-shade spot. She gets a lush, full look using coleus, caladium and oxalis, which all have foliage in burgundies and greens with interesting patterns and shapes. Sweet potato vines serve as spillers.

How about succulents? They do best in south- or west-facing windows, according to Matthew Pottage, curator of the Royal Horticultural Society Garden Wisley in Surrey, England. His window box full of drought-tolerant plants has "survived the wet and cold of London for some seven years."

THE CLASSIC APPROACH

Steph Green, owner of Contained Creations in Richmond, Virginia, is an advocate of the classic thriller-filler-spiller approach. "I love the layers of color and texture," she says.

Noting that window boxes are usually seen only from the front and sides, Green centers her tallest plant flush against the back of the box, then adds fillers to the left, right and front. Spillers are tucked along the perimeter, leaving room to "grow and cascade over the edges."

For a sunny spot, Green's favorite thrillers are Kimberly queen fern, dwarf Alberta spruce and sago palm; for fillers, boxwood, dusty miller, pentas, sunPatiens and dipladenia; and for spillers, sweet potato vine, mezzoo, dichondra silver falls, dwarf morning glory, fan flower and petunias.

For shade, she likes the Kimberly queen fern and Dracaena lemon lime

as thrillers; boxwood, coral bells, fancy leaf caladium and impatiens as fillers; and creeping Jenny, dead nettle, English ivy and variegated Swedish ivy for spillers.

NOT YOUR GRANDPARENTS' WINDOW BOX

You'll find 16 different window-box concepts in "How to Window Box," by Chantal Aida Gordon and Ryan Benoit, who also run The Horticult website. Their woodlands theme box uses bleeding heart, hosta and columbine; an indoor "jungle box" includes monstera and elephant's ear; and a "Southern belle" box mixes foxglove, snapdragon, sweet potato vines and dusty miller.

A "tiny island" design is "full of bromeliads, really colorful, like a little trip to Hawaii," Gordon said. "We even built a tiny trellis for air plants. It's definitely not your grandparents' window box."

THE 'WOW' FACTOR

What gives some window boxes their "wow" factor while others are just so-so? Maintenance is part of the difference, says Benoit. "People who have really nice window boxes are cutting off dead, spent leaves and blooms," Benoit said. They're also watering a lot and "changing things up a lot. Some plants are only going to look good for one season."

That means replacing spring tulips and hyacinths with petunias and zinnias in summer, followed by mums and flowering kale come fall. And don't let quick-growing plants like coleus and impatiens get too leggy.

To remedy window-box blahs, Benoit offers this hack: Take a bright cut flower from your backyard or a florist's bouquet, insert the stem in a slender tube filled with water, and tuck it in amid your window box plants.

Rabbit disease concerns S.C. wildlife officials

BY SCDNR

State wildlife biologists are concerned about a rabbit disease that is currently in Western states but has now also appeared in Florida.

Officials with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources are concerned about a rabbit disease that affects wild and domestic rabbits and is nearly always fatal.

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus-2 (RHDV2) is a highly contagious disease that affects all rabbits. Fortunately, humans are not susceptible to RHDV2, but they can inadvertently spread the virus.

"This is a highly contagious disease that can persist in the environment for a very long time," said Michael Hook, Small Game Project leader with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources. "These factors make disease control efforts extremely challenging once it is in wild rabbit populations."

An outbreak began in 2020 in the southwestern U.S. and is causing the deaths of some species of native wild rabbits. Wild rabbits at breeding facilities and pet rabbits may be also at risk. RHDV2 has been detected in Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Wyoming, Mexico, and most recently in Florida.

Symptoms displayed by rabbits infected with RHDV2 may include any of the following: loss of appetite, lethargy, high fever, seizures, jaundice, bleeding from the nose, mouth, or rectum, difficulty breathing and sudden death.

The virus is transmitted by direct and indirect contact, according to Hook. Direct contact occurs when a rabbit comes into physical contact with an infected rabbit or the urine or feces of an infected rabbit. Indirect contact occurs when a rabbit comes into contact with objects contaminated by the virus, including clothing worn by people who have handled contaminated objects or infected rabbits. Also, the virus can be spread through rabbit products such as fur, meat or wool. Insects, birds, rodents, predators and pets have also been known to spread RHDV2.

Hook said sick rabbits or rabbits found dead should not be collected or handled. If you find a dead rabbit in the wild or in a running enclosure, please leave the carcass and contact your local SCDNR biologist or conservation officer. If you have a sick or dead domestic rabbit, take it to your local veterinarian, who can send it to the Clemson Veterinary Diagnostic Center for examination.

"Educating yourself and others about RHDV2 is one of the best ways to help protect South Carolina's rabbits," Hook said.

Check <https://bit.ly/3eFBUHk> for more detailed information.

TENNIS FROM PAGE A1

The 400 Theater Drive facility is nationally ranked with a mission to serve Sumter by providing education, recreation, exercise and competitive tennis for all since 2004, but it looks different than it did back then.

It now has a spacious operations building, pro shop, 24 lighted deco turf hard tennis courts, four pickleball courts and a hitting wall that are free to the public, according to the City of Sumter. It also hosts the 17-year-long Conference Carolinas Championship Tennis Event and more than 25 events each year for more than 25,000 players across the country.

The Palmetto Tennis Center not only supported local, state, regional and national tennis players in the past years, but it has also provided economic growth to Sumter County.

“We talk about Team Sumter, and that’s what we are. We make a lot happen with a little bit here in Sumter,” City of Sumter Mayor David Merchant said. “When we all work together in Team Sumter, we can build world-class facilities.”

SPORTS TOURISM BOOM

With the help of the city and county governments, local businesses, the state Legislature and the residents of the community, the completion of Phase 1 will bring \$18 million to the Sumter economy, according to Merchant.

“Sports tourism is big,” he said. “What this center does is it continues to grow and continues to bring more sports tourism in our community.”

The idea of turning Sumter into a sports tourism destination came to life back in the 2000s, when former council members and former Mayor Joe McElveen had a vision to get Sumter to where it is today. However, it was also made possible through a partnership with the state.

“This has been a decades-in-the-making type of project,” South Carolina Rep. Murrell Smith, R-Sumter, said. “It was first pitched to us years ago.”

Smith remembers growing up and playing tennis at Palmetto Park, and he always knew the facility had potential to grow into something greater.

“This is going to be a huge win for Sumter because what this does is it brings people to our community,” Smith said. “They see Sumter and see what a gem we are here in Sumter and what a desirable place it is.”

South Carolina is known for its tourism along the coastline and Upstate, leaving rural communities unnoticed. Smith, along with other state delegates, fought to make sports marketing a new, innovative kind of tourism that focused primarily on rural communities like Sumter.

“This is a different type of tourism that we’ve been encouraging on the state level,” he said. “What we do is bring people to communities who come and play in a sports tournament.”

From there, tourists will stay in Sumter hotels and eat locally, boosting the economy and putting Sumter on the map.

“Rural South Carolina deserves the



PHOTOS BY TY CORNETT / THE SUMTER ITEM

Phase 1 of the Palmetto Tennis Center has been completed, and Phase 2 will add eight red clay pro tennis courts and more improvements to the complex at 400 Theater Drive in Sumter.



SHELBYE GOULDING / THE SUMTER ITEM

Palmetto Tennis Center General Manager Sam Kiser speaks to the crowd assembled at the center on Friday.

same opportunities as the metropolitan areas. We pour millions and millions of dollars into tourism in this state,” Smith said. “But why not rural South Carolina? Why cannot Sumter be a part of that?”

PHASE 2 — RED CLAY COURTS

As the Palmetto Tennis Center continues to grow, Smith said he thinks Phase 2 will play a tremendous part in

bringing more investment to the community and state.

Phase 2, which was authorized for construction by Sumter City Council in February, will consist of the installation of eight red clay pro tennis courts and other site improvements that will bring more elite players in the U.S. to South Carolina.

“These are desirable courts to come and have tournaments,” Smith said.



SHELBYE GOULDING / THE SUMTER ITEM

South Carolina Rep. Murrell Smith speaks during the opening ceremony for the tennis center.

“You’re going to see an expansion of more tournaments coming here, which is going to bring people from all over the country to Sumter, South Carolina.”

According to Palmetto Tennis Center General Manager Sam Kiser, the imported European red clay made from recycled red roof tile will be a vital piece in the Tennis Center’s economic impact because Sumter is slated to be the first installation of RedClay USA.

“There’s about six or eight private courses built around the country,” Kiser said. “This will be the first major installation in the United States. We will be the innovation center for RedClay USA.”

Red clay courts are soft and easier on the knees compared to hard surface courts, Kiser said. He thinks tennis players from across the country will be sent to play in Sumter for regional and national tournaments once the red clay courts are installed.

“Everything we do is geared toward economic impact,” he said. “It will be substantial when the clay is done.”

OBITUARIES

SIMUEL WILLIAMS

Funeral services for Simuel Williams will be held at noon Monday at Palmer Memorial Chapel-Columbia, 1200 Fontaine Place, 29223, with the Rev. Daniel Bennett



WILLIAMS

Jr. officiating. Interment will follow at Fort Jackson National Cemetery. Mr. Williams may be viewed on Monday from 11 a.m. at the Columbia location until

the hour of service. The family will receive friends at the Palmer Memorial Chapel-Sumter on Sunday from 3 to 5pm.

Simuel Williams, 82, beloved husband of Mary McGriff Williams, transitioned at his home on Thursday, April 22, 2021, in Sumter. Born in Hampton, Florida, he was a son of the late Dewitt Williams and Addie Wells Williams.

Mr. Williams was a graduate of Central High School in Palatka, Florida. He attended Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida, and was a graduate of Morris College, Sumter. He also completed studies at the University of South Carolina. Mr. Williams was a U.S. Army Veteran and a mason of the St. Paul No. 8 Masonic Lodge. He was employed as an educator by Sumter School District 17 for 28 years. He was known as

“Coach Williams” by Sumter High School’s ninth-grade B-team football and by the varsity football team, where he served as an assistant coach.

He was a faithful member of Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church of Sumter and served in many capacities including the Trustee Board, Sunday School, Usher Board, Men’s Choir and Senior Choir.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings, John Williams, Clara Wright, Ivory Williams, Donald Williams, Alonzo Williams, Willie T. Williams and Jimmie Lee Williams.

Survivors are his wife of the home, Mary McGriff Williams; daughters, Simetrice Williams of Myrtle Beach and Camille Williams-Shaw of Sumter; twin grandsons, Stacey Tirrell Shaw II and William Tirrell Shaw; sister, Deloris Purdy of Palatka, Florida; brother, Robert J. Williams of Oakland, California; and a host of nieces, nephews, in-laws and other relatives.

The family will receive friends at the home of his daughter from 4 to 8 p.m. at 15 Trailwood Drive, Sumter, S.C. In accordance with CDC guidelines, the family request that face masks and social distancing be observed during the visitations.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent

to: Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church Building Fund, PO Box 3032, Sumter, SC 29151

Condolences may be made on his tribute page found at www.PalmerMemorial-Chapel.com

Professional services will be rendered by the Palmer Memorial Chapel.

JAMIE MONTGOMERY

Jamie Montgomery, 46, son of Sam Major and Elease Montgomery, was born on Dec. 8, 1974, in Baltimore, Maryland. He departed this life on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 in Sumter.



MONTGOMERY

Public viewing will be held today from 2 to 6 p.m. at Job’s Mortuary. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday at Salem Chapel & Heritage Center, 101 S. Salem Ave., Sumter, SC 29150, with Pastor Glen Robinson, eulogist, and the Rev. Earnest Major officiating.

Interment will follow in Walker Cemetery. Family will receive friends at the home, 555 Pioneer Drive, Sumter, SC 29150.

Job’s Mortuary, Inc., 312 S. Main Street is in charge of arrangements.



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

HATTIE VERNELL SPANN SCARBOROUGH

Hattie Vernell Spann Scarborough, 74, beloved wife of Sam Scarborough, passed away on Thursday, April 29, 2021, at National Healthcare of Sumter.

The family will receive friends daily from 3 to 8 p.m. at the residence.

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

The family has chosen Bullock Funeral Home for the arrangements.



RASHAD HUDSON

Rashad Hudson entered eternal rest on Wednesday, April 21, 2021, at his residence, 4737 Salem St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Wilson Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St., Bishopville.

OLGA LEACH CAMPBELL

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida — Olga Leach Campbell, 100, beloved wife of the late David Campbell, passed away on Saturday, April 24, 2021, at Vitas Healthcare in West Palm Beach.

Arrangements will be an-

nounced by Bullock Funeral Home.



DOROTHY ANN GIVIDEN DAY

Dorothy Ann Gividen Day, 80, died on Friday, April 30, 2021, at NHC, Sumter.

Arrangements will be announced by Bullock Funeral Home.



CARMELL RAGIN

SUMMERTON — On Friday, April 30, 2021, Carmell Ragin departed this life at the Lake Marion Nursing Facility in Summerton.

Born on Sunday, Feb. 17, 1929, in the Panola section of Clarendon County, she was daughter of the late Abie and Mary Simon Bowman Ragin.

In accordance with the requirements given by the CDC in reference to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ragin family is not receiving relatives and friends at the residence.

Funeral services are incomplete and will be announced by the Fleming & Delaine Funeral Home and Chapel of Manning.

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

Earmarks are grease that lubricates congressional gears

WASHINGTON — The wary and partial revival of earmarks by congressional Republicans is, on balance, welcome. This is so partly because it illustrates how coping with the transaction costs of democracy is often a matter of balancing the admirable with the regrettable.

For those of you who sometimes forget things that once seemed unforgettable, long ago — about a decade ago — many in Congress, especially conservatives, decided that earmarks were a scandal, the elimination of which would make a mighty improvement in national governance. Earmarks are spending items directed by individual members of Congress to particular state or local projects.

Members became promiscuous with this practice, until it became notorious, thanks to one such project, the 2005 “bridge to nowhere,” which would have connected, at a cost of \$223 million, an Alaskan community of 8,900 to its airport on a nearby island with a population of 50, thereby sparing fliers a 15-minute commute by ferry and a cost of \$6 per car. Five years later, members of the tea party faction — speaking of forgotten phenomena — made the elimination of earmarks central to their quixotic crusade to shrink the cost of the federal government without touching actually important sources of federal

spending, the entitlement programs — Social Security, Medicare, etc. — that are inconveniently popular.

Like problem drinkers forswearing demon rum, Republicans banned earmarks. Bemused Democrats lacked enthusiasm for this political version of Prohibition: They argued, plausibly, that members of Congress know better than executive branch agencies do their states’ or districts’ needs. Besides, earmarks help incumbents ingratiate themselves with constituents. When critics of earmarks threatened to “expose” earmarkers by publicizing the bacon they bring home, the earmarkers exclaimed, like Br’er Rabbit, “Please don’t throw me into the briar patch.”

Since then, many Republicans have regretted their unilateral disarmament. Some of them reason, correctly, that banning earmarks has exacerbated the aggrandizement of the executive branch and the marginalization of Congress. When a political course-correction is deemed necessary, a language modification often seems prudent, so earmarks have been re-branded as “community-focused grants.”

House Republicans recently voted

102-84 to restore renamed earmarks. It will be interesting to see how many of the 84 stick to abstinence while the majority of their caucus returns to sinning. The Senate Republican caucus has voted to continue the ban on earmarks. The ban is, however, oxymoronic — a permissive prohibition: It is non-binding, and some Republican senators say they will begin requesting earmarks.

The kerfuffle about earmarks has supposedly been about controlling spending, concerning which it will have no noticeable effect. Rep. Tom Cole, an Oklahoma Republican who supports earmarks, notes that at its peak in the first decade of this century, the practice involved 1.3% of federal spending. He says that restoring earmarks is a “carve out” that will not increase spending because earmarks do not raise the cap on discretionary spending, which is only about 30% of the budget.

Cole, who studied at the University of London and who has a Yale master’s degree and a Ph.D. in British history from the University of Oklahoma, also has had the education that comes from 10 terms in the House. There he has seen how earmarks facilitate the lawmaking process. Legislative bargaining is additive: If you support my projects A and B, I will support your projects C and D. You might regret that this is a permanent driver of government

growth, but you might as well regret the law of gravity. Furthermore, Cole says that earmarks embedded in important legislation can give members parochial incentives to cast difficult votes for measures that are in the national interest.

It is an axiom of moral seriousness: If you will an end, you must will the means to that end. So, if you desire a less polarized Congress, one with a more collaborative and transactional ethos, you should at least tolerate earmarks as grease that lubricates congressional gears.

Sen. Josh Hawley, a Missouri Republican, opposes earmarks for an impeccably populist reason: “Voters hate them.”

He means, presumably, that voters hate earmarks that benefit voters other than themselves. When the steel tariffs imposed in 2018 by Hawley’s hero, the previous president, injured Missouri’s Mid Continent Nail Corp., Hawley told that company’s parent that he was seeking for Mid Continent an exemption from the national tariff policy: “I continue to urge the Department of Commerce to grant it quickly.” The ethical distinction between this request for special treatment and a request for an earmark is perhaps clear to Hawley.

George Will’s email address is george-will@washpost.com.



George Will

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES CAN BE FOUND AT MARKET

Back on March 29, I wrote a letter to the editor about “women-owned businesses.” I wrote that “I personally don’t know any ‘women-owned businesses.’” I didn’t realize, at that time, that I did know some women-owned businesses. I just didn’t think about them being women-owned businesses. I must be getting old.

I want to tell you about some of the ones I know. The ones I will tell you about are all at the Farmers Market at the fairgrounds and are there on Fridays from noon to 6 p.m. It’s about “making, growing and baking.”

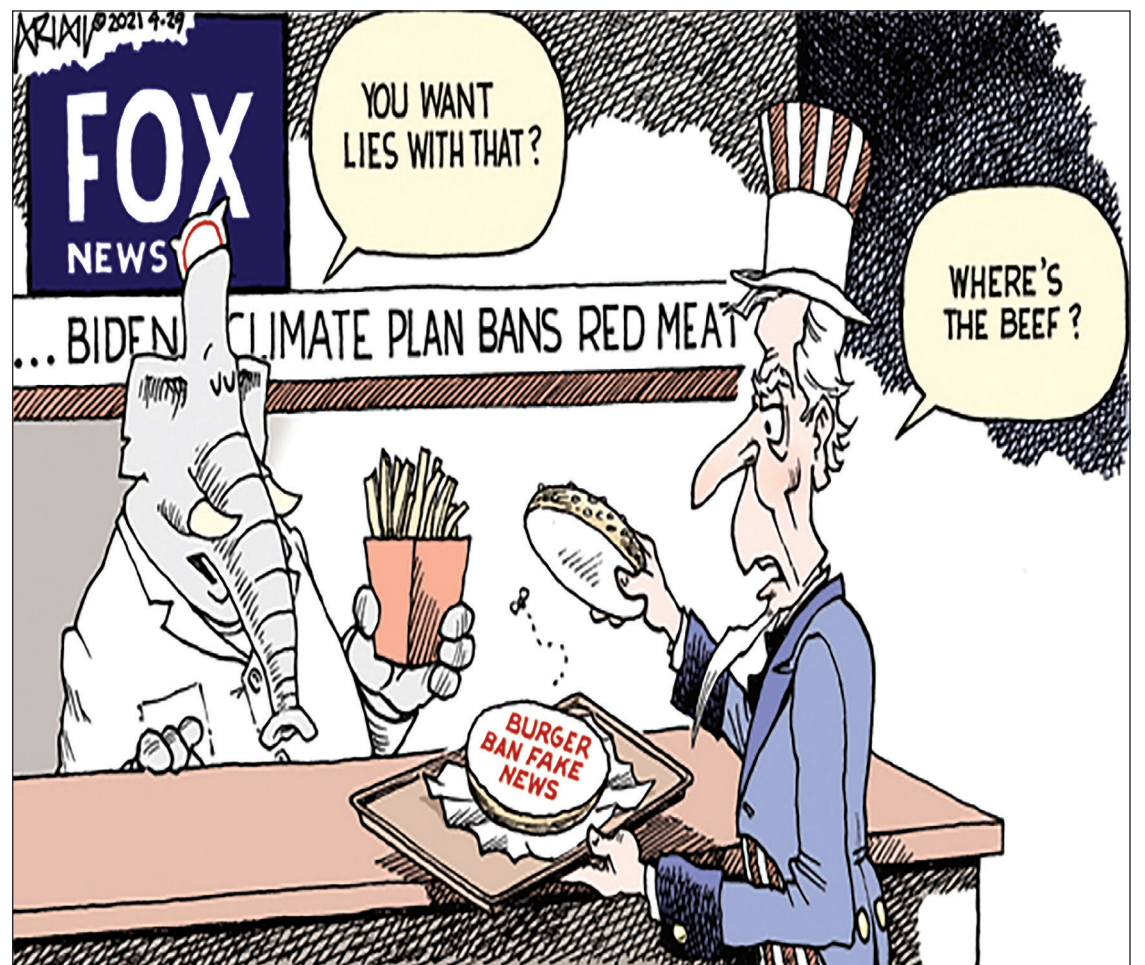
Here are several ones, but there are more. Oasis Handcrafter Soaps and More, to include salts, scrubs, lotions, shampoo, chapsticks, jams and jellies. Next, Two Seasons LLC, it’s about herbal products and apothecary. How about, Bottles Remodeled, about bottles and she also has lemon pound cake

and talked to me about herbs for my ailments. Another, Handcrafted by Nana & Me, beautiful earrings, bracelets, rosaries and so much more. Must see this one, Crafty Creations. Another one you must see, Dejo’s Art Dazzling Art and Jewelry. It’s unreal what you can do with old jewelry. Last to tell you about, Beth’s Creations, about Bells, Beads and Beyond.

That is only half of the ones that are there. There are several places to buy vegetables, wreaths, plants, pecan pies, eggs, soaps, candles, woodcrafts, meat, spices and even food, boiled peanuts, iced drinks on the outside of the building.

If you have never gone to the Farmers Market at the fairgrounds, try going one time. I love walking around and enjoy seeing people’s imaginations.

JACQUELINE K. HUGHES
Sumter



COMMENTARY

Court case on right to anonymity makes liberals, conservatives allies

It is rare these days to find anything that unites liberal and conservative groups in common cause, but a Supreme Court case may have done just that.

The justices heard oral arguments Monday in a case that’s been winding its way through the court system for years. The story began when the California attorney general’s office asked nonprofit charities to provide names and addresses of top donors — and the amount of their contributions — upon registering with the state.

The state attorney general at the time, Xavier Becerra — who is now President Joe Biden’s secretary of health and human services —

argued that the state needed the information to aid in charitable fraud cases, should they arise. The Americans for Prosperity Foundation and the Thomas More Law Center are now challenging the rule with the support of dozens of other nonprofits that have filed amicus briefs with the court.

To clarify, the AFPF is not the same as its more well-known sister organization, Americans for Prosperity, though both were created by billion-

aire libertarians Charles Koch and his late brother, David — peddlers of kryptonite to people on the left. The foundation isn’t a political entity — it doesn’t pay for political ads and donations are tax deductible — but was established as a 501(c)(3) and “has been educating and training citizens to be advocates for freedom” for more than 20 years.

Americans for Prosperity, on the other hand, is organized as a 501(c)(4) “social welfare” organization and can pay for political advertisements — and does with gusto.

The crux of the case is whether California’s demand for charities’ donors’ names — even when held confidentially by the state — violates the First Amendment’s free speech and association rights. The AFPF’s position is that donating to a cause is akin to gathering with like-minded citizens to have a conversation or stage a protest, and so cannot be limited.

What makes this case so interesting is that a number of liberal organizations that also rely on donors known and unknown — the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the ACLU and the Human Rights Campaign among them — have filed amicus briefs supporting the AFPF.

In a joint brief, the NAACP and the ACLU wrote that the right to join together is “fundamental to our democ-

racy,” and if “the State could categorically demand disclosure of associational information, the ability of citizens to organize to defend values out of favor with the majority would be seriously diminished.”

There is good reason to think so. The NAACP cut its teeth on a similar case decades ago, when Alabama demanded the organization’s membership list in hopes of shutting down the group’s activities. The civil rights group turned over its business records but refused to disclose its members’ identities to avoid violent repercussions. The fight for the group’s donors went to the Supreme Court in 1958.

Ruling unanimously in the NAACP’s favor, Justice John M. Harlan II explained that the First Amendment’s protection of the right of association and assembly is “an inseparable aspect of the ‘liberty’” that is protected by the due process clause of the 14th Amendment.

In so doing, the court expanded the scope of the rights of association. The NAACP had every reason to expect reprisals in Alabama had its donors been named. But so does the AFPF, which catalogues in its legal brief incidents of bomb threats, cyberattacks, violent protests, boycotts and other harassment and reprisals via phone, email and social media. During oral arguments, Justice

Samuel A. Alito Jr. noted this week that the plaintiffs in the California case had also “been subjected to threats, harassment or economic reprisals in the past.”

It’s little wonder that conservative charities aren’t the only groups quaking at the prospect of having to surrender donors’ identities. But they also worry that naming donors will stifle charity.

California argued that donor confidentiality can be protected even after the donors’ names are disclosed to the state. Unfortunately, this hasn’t been the case. The state agency that had collected the AFPF’s donors’ information in the past bungled the task, resulting in some names being briefly published online. Innocent citizens participating in a legal activity were harassed as a consequence. The AFPF’s case seeks to make certain it never happens again.

Philanthropic reports consistently show that Americans are the most charitable people in the world. In the United States, charity has been key to civic engagement and countless strides forward; anonymity, in many cases, makes people more likely to give. This seems to be something the right and left agree on.

Why would we want to “fix” that?

Kathleen Parker’s email address is kathleenparker@washpost.com.



Kathleen Parker

PUBLIC AGENDA

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

SANTEE-LYNCHES REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS Monday, noon, Central Carolina Technical College Advance Manufacturing Technology Training Center, 853 Broad St.

CLARENDON SCHOOL DISTRICT 1 MONTHLY BOARD MEETING Monday, May 3, 5:30 p.m., via

Zoom conference call. To join live, call 1-929-205-6099, meeting ID: 540 758 7290. https://zoom.us/j/5407587290. The agenda will be available at www.clarendon1.k12.sc.us and at the district office, 12 S. Church St., Summerton.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS BOARD MEETING Monday, 5:30 p.m., Sumter Sheriff's Office conference room

SUMTER CITY COUNCIL Tuesday, 1 p.m., Sumter Opera House, 21 N. Main St.

BISHOPVILLE CITY COUNCIL Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Colclough Building

TOWN OF LYNCHBURG PLANNING COMMISSION Wednesday, 4 p.m., town hall

The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Slow down, put

everything in its place and sit tight until you're ready to make your move. Keep your emotions under control, and choose peace over discord to avoid interference. You'll achieve the most if you work alone. 2 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Focus on your happiness. Refuse to let others dictate what you can and cannot pursue. Don't let doubt set in because someone doesn't agree with you or opts to take a different path. Do your own thing. 5 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take care of unfinished business before you start something new. If you take on too much at one time, you will end up spinning your wheels and going nowhere. Show discipline and fortitude, and you'll make a good impression. 3 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll attract attention with your creative ideas and the innovative way you deal with others. A change in a relationship will bring you closer to someone you enjoy being around. An investment you make will pay off. Romance is encouraged. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Overtime will help you stay on top of your responsibilities and put your mind at ease. An exciting job prospect will catch your eye. Before you get involved, consider what it will cost. Don't spend more than you can afford. 3 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You are in a much better position than you realize. Refuse to let someone's indecisiveness get in your way. Look at the logistics and make your move. Personal improvements will lead to exciting connections and potential partnerships. Romance is

in the stars. 5 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take care of your responsibilities before someone complains. An emotional spat will ruin your day. Keep the peace, be compassionate and understanding, and go about your business. Expand your mind, and make health and emotional well-being your priorities. 2 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take charge of whatever situation you face. Refuse to let anyone dictate what you can or cannot do. Focus on creative endeavors, meaningful partnerships and living life your way. Self-improvement will boost your confidence. Romance is on the rise. 4 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Listen carefully. Someone will feed you false information. Stick to what you know and do well, and avoid outside interference. Don't mix business with pleasure. Look at the big picture, summarize what's important to you and follow your heart. 3 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Spend more time at home and doing things that make you feel good. Make a change that will add to your comfort and bring your family unit closer. An opportunity to spice up your relationship with someone you love is favored. 3 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It's better not to share your opinions if you want to avoid getting into an argument. Don't feel the need to take a risk because someone else does. Give others the freedom to do as they please and go about your business. 3 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Develop an idea that excites you. Check out new job posts, and you'll come across something that interests you. Join an online group that will reunite you with people from your past. Romance is on the rise. 4 stars

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

Table with 6 columns: TODAY, TONIGHT, SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY. Includes weather icons, temperature forecasts (e.g., 78°, 53°, 85°/66°), and wind directions/speeds.

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

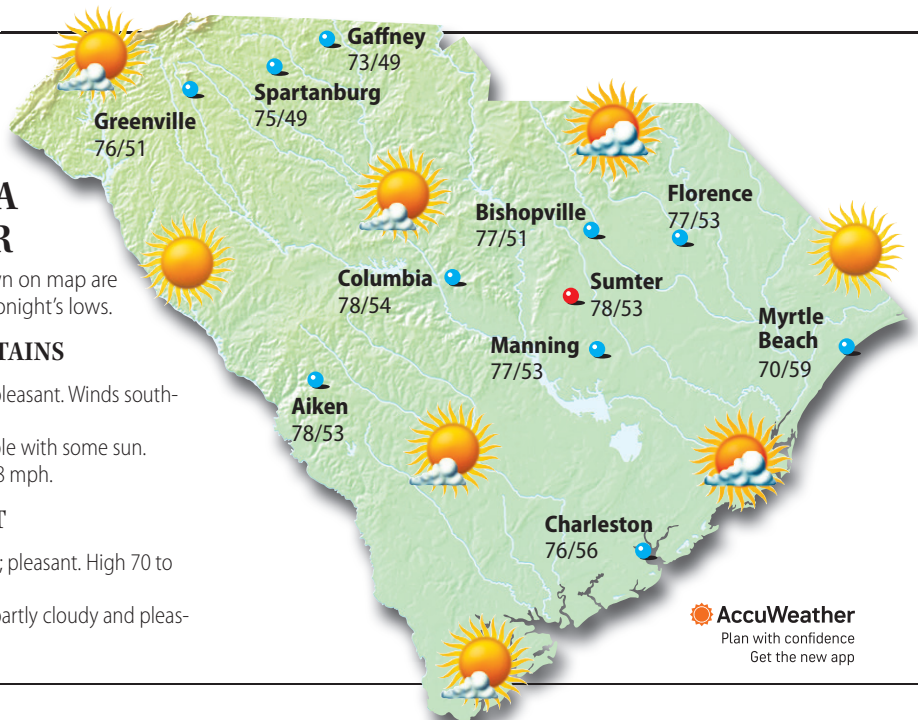
Temperatures shown on map are today's highs and tonight's lows.

IN THE MOUNTAINS

Today: Sunny and pleasant. Winds south-southeast 4-8 mph. Sunday: Comfortable with some sun. Winds southwest 4-8 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: Partly sunny; pleasant. High 70 to 77. Sunday: Sunny to partly cloudy and pleasant. High 77 to 81.



LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THROUGH 2 P.M. YESTERDAY

Table with 2 columns: Temperature and Precipitation. Values include High 81°, Low 72°, Normal high 78°, Normal low 53°, Record high 90° in 1974, Record low 38° in 1961.

LAKE LEVELS

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

SUN AND MOON

Table with 4 columns: Sunrise, Sunset, Moonrise, Moonset. Times for May 3, 11, 19, 26.



TIDES

Table with 4 columns: High, Lt., Low, Ht. for Today and Sun. at Myrtle Beach.

NATIONAL CITIES

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Sun. Lists cities like Atlanta, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Orlando, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Francisco, Wash., DC.

REGIONAL CITIES

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Sun. Lists regional cities like Asheville, Athens, Augusta, Beaufort, Cape Hatteras, Charleston, Charlotte, Clemson, Columbia, Darlington, Elizabeth City, Elizabethtown, Fayetteville, Florence, Gainesville, Gastonia, Goldsboro, Goose Creek, Greensboro, Greenville, Hickory, Hilton Head, Jacksonville, FL, La Grange, Macon, Marietta.

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

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.

Advertisement for 'We have a NOSE for NEWS' featuring a cartoon dog detective and contact information for The Sumter Item.

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

- goddess 73 Farsi speaker 74 Tortious material 77 Buttercup kin 78 Desktop image 79 Long-established 80 One, in Peru and Palermo 81 Owned by us 82 Book after Matthew 84 New Haven student 86 "Knowledge is power," but . . . 92 Legendary buccaneer 93 Fish that swims upright 94 Rations, for instance 95 Opposite of non 97 Pope during WWII 98 Hens and mares 99 Associates (with) 103 Major disorder 105 Attention-getter 106 Urban district 107 Get too personal 108 Royal Highness 109 "Everything in moderation," but . . . 115 Works on the wall 116 Second-smallest continent 117 Social activities 118 It means "averse to" 119 Low digit 120 Loved ones 121 Mentally adept 122 Greek cuisine staple

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbered starting points for clues.

- 1 sentiment 41 Boarding place 42 Workforce 43 Largest North African city 44 Birch relative 46 Landline or mobile 47 Relaxes 49 Twain's first name 55 Rooster on a rooftop 56 Counterfeit 57 Word on Irish euros 58 Capital on the Hudson 59 Come by honestly 61 Ending like -ule 62 Frozen reindeer 63 Prefix for space 65 Intensely competitive 66 Emerged 67 Idol champ Taylor 68 Garlicky sauce 69 Bona fide 70 Wound up, or wound down 74 San ___ Obispo, CA 75 Picnic playwright 76 Whom a French dessert is named for 77 Many names of hair salons 78 Garden perennial 81 Pair of propellers 82 Some Wharton grads 83 Maximum effort 85 Similar 87 17th state 88 Drove (out) 89 Arrival announcement 90 Terse written summons 91 As early as possible 96 Ridesharing service 98 Selling centers 99 Iliad byline 100 Express a view 101 Quarterback great Favre 102 Land south of Turkey 103 Casual conversation 104 Protagonist 105 Sentimiento romántico 106 Actress Catherine ___ Jones 110 Nuance of color 111 Significant stretch 112 NFL successes 113 Meat in a Cuban sandwich 114 Defence Ministry concern The LOON (18 Across), a common bird throughout Canada, has appeared on its \$1 coin since 1987. SEIJI Ozawa (36 Across) was music director of the Boston Symphony from 1973 to 2002. Eugenio Pacelli was the Vatican's Cardinal Secretary of State before being elected Pope PIUS XII (97 Across) in 1939.

SATURDAY'S ANSWERS

Crossword puzzle grid with the answers filled in.

SUDOKU

9x9 Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9.

JUMBLE

ELUDE SNOWY HIGHER CAVORT The stallion with the leg cramp had a — CHARLEY HORSE

Harris-Waynick making the most of his opportunity as a preferred walk-on

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

When Nathan Harris-Waynick stepped into the football locker room at Williams-Brice Stadium on Sunday, it felt almost like a dream come true. When the former Sumter High School running back with no major offers walked in the room before the University of South Carolina's Black and Garnet spring football game and saw his last name stripped across the jersey of his favorite school, it crystalized something he worked toward all spring: being a running back for the Gamecocks.

"Oh man, it was a blessing. All I can do is thank God and my family and my coaches and all the people that have helped me get there. All I can do is thank them," Harris-Waynick said. "Going into the locker room and seeing my last name on the back of a jersey and coming out to the smoke. It felt like, I don't want to say a dream, because in a dream, you wake up and you're still the same."

"I feel like I achieved a goal that I've been working toward for a long time."

That moment wasn't always promised for Harris-Waynick. After a strong junior season at Sumter, Harris Waynick took his game to the next level as a senior. In a pandemic-shortened season, Harris-Waynick was the centerpiece of the Gamecock offense, rushing for 1,168 and 18 touchdowns despite playing in just eight games. While he was a star on the football field, Harris-Waynick was not swarmed with of-



Former Sumter running back Nathan Harris-Waynick (26) cuts during the South Carolina Black and Garnet spring game on Sunday. Harris-Waynick led the Black team with eight carries despite his status as a preferred walk-on.

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE MEDIA

fers. He got attention from smaller schools, but his eyes were always set on South Carolina.

Then in a whirlwind, that all came together for Harris-Waynick. Shane Beamer was hired as USC's new head coach in early December. A couple of weeks later, Beamer offered Harris-Waynick the opportunity to be a preferred walk-on, but he'd have to be accepted into the school first. Most of the Sumter community -- and well over 300,000 people via social media platforms -- saw that moment come true in a viral video where Harold Way-

nick Jr., the running back's 73-year-old grandfather and South Carolina alum, read his acceptance letter. He immediately flung the letter into the air and rushed to hug the grandson that was adopted into his family as a teenager. From the moment of that acceptance, Harris-Waynick was ready to get to work.

"I knew it was going to be hard with me being a walk-on," said Harris-Waynick, who graduated early from SHS and entered USC in January. "I had to stay on my P's and Q's and do everything that they tell me to do, but other than

that everything has been well. I'm just staying focused and working hard to learn all the plays and everything."

For the rest of the spring, Harris-Waynick tried to keep his head down and worked as hard as he could. He wanted to do whatever he could to endear himself to the coaching staff.

"I just had to do my own thing and just do whatever the coaches told me to do," Harris-Waynick said. "Just listen to them and get out there and let them see my face and let them know I'm willing to work."

College football took some getting used to for him. On the field, the playing style was very different from what he was used to at Sumter. The biggest change was off the field, where suddenly his life was more heavily structured around football.

"This is very different. Now we practice in the mornings and then go to class right after practice and it's, I wouldn't say hard, it's just different because you're tired and everything," Harris-Waynick said. "You practice hard then you have to

SEE USC, PAGE B7

Wilson Hall track teams hope to close season in special way

DENNIS BRUNSON
dennis@theitem.com

Both track and field teams from Wilson Hall have had outstanding seasons. They will find out just special of a season it will be on Saturday.

Wilson Hall will be traveling to Charleston to compete in the SCISA 3A state meet with hopes of, if not bringing home a pair of titles, finishing in the upper echelon of the competition.

"I think we've got a good group of kids who have really been working hard," said WH head coach Rip Ripley. "If this were any other year, we'd be right there in the middle of it (fighting for a championship). There are just some elite national level runners at the top this year."



MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Wilson Hall's Aubrey Payne qualified for the SCISA 3A state meet in the shot put and discus.

"Our times are better than they have been over past few years," he added. "We have to fight to get points in where we

can. We've been working hard and hoping we peak this week."

SEE TRACK, PAGE B2

Jaguars open NFL draft, Meyer era by drafting Lawrence and Etienne

BY MARK LONG
The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The Jacksonville Jaguars waited more than four months to make the easiest and maybe most significant pick in franchise history.

As obvious as it was, fireworks and frivolity followed.

A sold-out draft party that included 8,000 fans celebrated wildly as NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell stepped to the podium and announced Trevor Lawrence's name as the first pick in the draft Thursday

night.



Former Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence holds up a jersey after being selected by the Jacksonville Jaguars with the first pick in the NFL draft on Thursday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Clemson star had a more subdued reaction in Seneca, South Carolina — probably because he knew, like everyone else, that he would be the first

pick in the NFL draft. "It was just a kind of a weight lifted off my shoulders," Lawrence said. "I'm going to do every-

SEE JAGS, PAGE B7

5 THINGS TO WATCH FOR THIS WEEK

1. SCISA SOFTBALL STATE TOURNEYS IN SUMTER

The teams to play for the three SCISA state softball titles will be determined at Palmetto Park and Patriot Park SportPlex on Friday and Saturday. Wilson Hall, Laurence Manning and Clarendon Hall.

2. SCISA BASEBALL PLAYOFFS CONTINUE

The SCISA baseball state playoffs continue with the teams for each of the three state championship series being determined by the end of the week. Lee and Clarendon Hall will still be playing, and either Wilson Hall or Laurence Manning will be playing as well.

3. CRESTWOOD IN 3A BOYS SOCCER PLAYOFFS

Crestwood High School will be playing in the 3A state playoffs on Tuesday. The Knights will play on the road in the first round against Region V champion Brookland-Cayce.

4. WILSON HALL BOYS SOCCER IN PLAYOFFS

Wilson Hall's boys soccer team will be playing in the SCISA 3A state playoffs beginning on Monday. The Barons, the No. 4 seed from Region II, will travel to Columbia on Monday to face Region I champion Cardinal Newman.

5. USC SUMTER IN REGION X BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

USC Sumter will be playing in the NJCAA Region X baseball tournament at Blowfish Stadium in Lexington beginning on Friday. The tournament winner will advance to the district tournament with a chance to earn a berth in the NJCAA World Series.

With fans and flowery hats, Derby is back at old home in May

BY BETH HARRIS
The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The bourbon is flowing again, flowery hats and humans are on the scene and 19 horses are ready to run the most chaotic race of their lives. After being disrupted by a pandemic, the Kentucky Derby is back with many of its traditions intact.

America's longest continuously held sporting event returns to its traditional spot on the calendar — the first Saturday in May. The 147th edition comes less than eight months after it was run without spectators last September because of COVID-19, making it the shortest time between Derbies in history.

“I was hoping to enjoy my Derby win a little longer,” joked trainer Bob Baffert, who earned his sixth last year with Authentic.

The eerie silence that settled over Churchill Downs last year when no spectators were allowed is being replaced by attendance of about 45,000 — some 100,000 less than usual. Masks are required. Food and drinks are all-inclusive to lessen long lines and separate payments for every transaction.

With the Derby restored to its usual day, last year's upside down Triple Crown has been righted. The Preakness follows on May 15 and the Belmont, which kicked off the series a year ago, concludes it on June 5.

Essential Quality is the early 2-1 favorite on Saturday and has the bona fides. The striking gray colt was last year's 2-year-old champion. He comes in undefeated in five career starts. The last unbeaten colt to win the Derby was Justify in 2018, and he went on to sweep the Triple Crown.

Essential Quality is owned and bred by Godolphin Racing, the stable of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed al Maktoum, who is 0-for-11 in his de-



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Essential Quality and jockey Luis Saez are the favorites to win the Kentucky Derby on Saturday.

cadec-long quest to win America's greatest race. A victory by Essential Quality would bring extra scrutiny of human rights issues involving the sheikh, who won't be among the limited fans in attendance.

The Kentucky Horse Racing Commission received a complaint this week from a group of human rights attorneys and students at the University of Louisville seeking to have Sheikh Mohammed banned from the Derby over alleged human rights abuses. A judge in England ruled that he orchestrated the abductions of two of his adult daughters.

Essential Quality's jockey, Luis Saez, is seeking his first Derby win after crossing the finish line first aboard Maximum Security in 2019 only to have his colt disqualified.

“Essential Quality is a deserving favorite,” trainer Todd Pletcher said, “but I think it's a wide-open race.”

Pletcher, a two-time Derby winner, saddles four starters, led by 6-1 shot Known Agenda. His others are listed at double-digit odds: 20-1 Dynamic One, 30-1 Bourbonic and 50-1 Sainthood.

The biggest question for these 3-year-olds is whether they can handle the 1 1/4 miles while getting jostled in a field of 19. King Fury spiked a fever on Friday and trainer Ken McPeck said he would be scratched. As a result, the four horses to the outside of the colt's No. 16 post will move in one spot in the starting gate. They'll be running in front of a noisy crowd for the first time since the pandemic forced tracks to close to the public last year.

Besides Essential Quality, the other undefeated horses in the field are 5-1 Rock Your World and 50-1 Helium, both 3-0. Rock Your World won his first two starts on turf before switch-

ing to dirt and winning the Santa Anita Derby.

Two-time Derby-winning trainer Doug O'Neill goes for another with 8-1 shot Hot Rod Charlie, a colt co-owned by his nephew Patrick O'Neill and four of his former Brown University football teammates. “It's going to be the race of a lifetime for these guys,” Doug O'Neill said.

For all its tradition, this year's Derby is one of firsts:

— It's the first to be run without Lasix. Previously allowed on race day, the anti-bleeding medication has been banned by Churchill Downs and the other Triple Crown tracks.

— Brad Cox attempts to become the first Louisville-born trainer to win. Besides saddling Essential Quality, he has 15-1 shot Mandaloun, whose Juddmonte Farms owner Saudi Prince Khalid bin Abdullah died in January. Cox says a victory would make him “a pretty good ‘Jeopardy!’ question that nobody will answer.”

— Kendrick Carmouche, aboard Bourbonic, could be the first Black jockey to win in 119 years. The Derby was won by Black riders in 15 of its first 28 editions.

— Vicki Oliver saddles 50-1 shot Hidden Stash in a bid to become the first female trainer to win. Shelley Riley finished second with Casual Lies in 1992.

— Baffert, tied with Ben Jones for the most Derby wins at six, goes for a record seventh with Medina Spirit, a 15-1 shot, after his other hopefuls were derailed along the Derby trail. “I'm coming in there quiet, but I need luck,” he said.

— Mike Smith, aboard 20-1 shot Midnight Bourbon, would be the oldest jockey to win at age 55.

Saturday's forecast calls for sunshine, low humidity and a high of 75 degrees Fahrenheit (23 Celsius). Post time is 6:57 p.m. EDT.

TRACK FROM PAGE B1

Wilson Hall will not be going into the meet with a shortage in events, athletes or qualifiers on either team. Both teams have at least a qualifier in each of the 17 events. The boys team has 15 athletes competing in at least one individual and a team in three relays, while the girls have 23 athletes and all three relay teams. Counting the relays, the boys will have 35 competitors, while the girls will have 45.

“That's not something overly emphasize,” Ripley said of having so many athletes qualified in multiple events. “We just have a well-rounded group of kids who are able to qualify in a number of events. It's always something nice to see.”

Based on times and distances from those competing in the events, the Lady Barons are projected to finish either third or fourth, while the boys are projected to finish either fifth or sixth.

The boys team has seven athletes competing in three individual events in Miles Van Patten, Sumter Cooper, Doc Walker, Connor Smith, Zuri Anderson and Graham Van Patten. The Van Pat-



Wilson Hall's Graham Van Patten qualified for the SCISA 3A state meet in the discus, long jump, triple jump and as a member of the 4x400 relay.

MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

tens, Walker, Cooper and Anderson will also run a leg on a relay team.

For the girls, Sarah Sonntag will be running in four individual events. Lori Flemming, Mary Jones, Emma Bradley and Natalie Ford will be in three individual events with Flemming and Bradley running a leg on a relay.

Molly Jones and Kaitlyn Smith will be competing in two individual events and running legs on two relay teams.

This will be Wilson Hall's second trip

to Charleston in the last couple of weeks. Both teams won the Porter-Gaud Invitational even though Ripley said P-G held back some of its athletes. WH did not.

“Anytime you go to Charleston and win a meet, that's a good thing,” he said. “We knew Porter-Gaud didn't show us everybody, but we used everybody. We wanted to everybody to run on the track, jump in the pits, to get as used to the place as possible (for the state meet).”

PREP SCHEDULE

MONDAY
Junior Varsity Baseball
Lakewood at North Central, 6 p.m.
Varsity Boys Golf
East Clarendon in Region VI-1A Tournament (Lake City Country Club), 1 p.m.
Varsity Softball
Sumter at Lamar, 6 p.m.
Manning at Timberland, TBA
Varsity and JV Softball
East Clarendon at Latta, 5:30 p.m.
Wilson Hall at Williamsburg, 4 p.m.
Laurence Manning at Carolina, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY
Varsity Baseball
Camden at Manning, 6 p.m.
B Team Baseball
Johnsonville at Sumter, 6 p.m.
Varsity Softball
Sumter at Crestwood, 6 p.m.
Clarendon Hall at Thomas Heyward, 6 p.m.
Varsity and JV Softball
Colleton Prep at Laurence Manning, 5 p.m.
Orangeburg Prep at Lee, 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
Varsity Baseball
Dreher at Sumter, 6:30 p.m.
JV and B Team Baseball
Sumter at Camden, 5:30 p.m.
Varsity and JV Softball
Sumter at Manning, 5:30 p.m.
Orangeburg Prep at Wilson Hall, 4 p.m.
Carolina at Laurence Manning, 5 p.m.
Varsity Track and Field
Crestwood, Lakewood, Manning in Region VI-3A Meet (at Camden), 1 p.m.

THURSDAY
Junior Varsity Baseball
Lakewood at Sumter, 6 p.m.
Varsity Softball
Brookland-Cayce at Lakewood, 5:30 p.m.
Aynor at East Clarendon, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY
Varsity Baseball
Crestwood at Sumter, 6 p.m.
Manning at Timberland, 6:30 p.m.
Lake City at East Clarendon, 6:30 p.m.
Varsity Softball
East Clarendon at Aynor, 6 p.m.
Varsity and JV Softball
Manning at Sumter, 5:30 p.m.
Junior Varsity Softball
Lakewood at East Clarendon, 5:30 p.m.

SATURDAY
JV and B Team Baseball
Sumter at Lugoff-Elgin, noon

SCISA 3A STATE MEET LOCAL QUALIFIERS

BOYS
WILSON HALL
Miles Van Patten 100, 200, triple jump
Sumter Cooper 110 hurdles, 400 hurdles, pole vault
Doc Walker 110 hurdles, 400 hurdles, long jump
Connor Smith 1,600, 3,200, 800
Gavyn Mathes 1,600, 800
Hugh McLaurin 200, 400
Zuri Anderson 200, high jump, long jump
Wilson Frerichs 400
Graham Van Patten discus, long jump, triple jump
4x100 relay (Caleb Howle, Kaleb Porrtter, Miles Van Patten, Zuri Anderson)
4x400 relay (Doc Walker, Wilson Frerichs, Graham Van Patten, Sumter Cooper)
4x800 relay (Gavyn Mathes, Jennings Frerichs, Alex McLeod, James Hiott)
James Hiott 800

Dohyen Kim discus, shot put
Daniel Burton high jump
Logan Kennedy shot put
Tate Sistare triple jump
LAURENCE MANNING
Jonathan Griffin 100, 200
Brody Secosky 3,200
Jarrett Poole discus, shot put
GIRLS
WILSON HALL
Lori Flemming 100, 200, long jump
Breland Jones 100 hurdles, 400 hurdles
Mary Jones 100 hurdles, 400 hurdles, high jump
Sarah Sonntag 100 hurdles, 400 hurdles, long jump, triple jump
Emma Bradley 100 hurdles, 400 hurdles, discus
Mary Margaret Griffin 100 hurdles
Abby Bradley 1,600, 800
Jordan Thornton 1,600, 3,200
Bailey McInerney 1,600, 3,200
Jordan McCart 3,200
Alli Reagan Fidler 400
Gracy Coker 400
Molly Jones 400, 800
Kaitlyn Smith 400 hurdles
4x100 (Sotm Owens, Madisen Galiano, Ellie Spencer, Lori Flemming)
4x400 (Molly Jones, Kaitlyn Smith, Emma Bradley, Gracy Coker)
4x800 (Owings Holler, Kaitlyn Smith, Molly Jones Abby Bradley)
Aubrey Payne discus, shot put
Natalie Ford high jump, long jump, triple jump
Maggie Norris high jump
Olivia Cogswell high jump
Ellie Spencer long jump, triple jump
Lucy Matthews long jump, triple jump
Ivey Edwards pole vault
Andi Grae Wingate shot put
Owings Holler triple jump

LAURENCE MANNING
Kaitlyn Best discus

SCISA BASEBALL STATE PLAYOFFS

3A
Upper Bracket
MONDAY
Game 1 – (5) Porter-Gaud 3, (4) Augusta Christian 2
TUESDAY
Game 2 – (3) Trinity Collegiate 6, (2) Pinewood Prep 3
Game 3 – (1) Hammond, Porter-Gaud 0
WEDNESDAY
Game 4 – Augusta Christian 7, Pinewood Prep 1 (Pinewood Prep eliminated)
FRIDAY
Game 5 – Porter-Gaud at Augusta Christian
Game 6 – Trinity Collegiate at Hammond
MONDAY, MAY 3
Game 7 – Game 6 Loser vs. Game 5 Winner
TUESDAY, MAY 4
Game 8 – Game 6 Winner vs. Game 7 Winner
THURSDAY, MAY 6
Game 9 – If Necessary
Lower Bracket
MONDAY
Game 1 – (4) Wilson Hall 6, (5) Ben

Lippen 5, 8 innings
TUESDAY
Game 2 – (3) Hilton Head Prep 3, (2) Laurence Manning 2
Game 3 – (1) Cardinal Newman 7, Wilson Hall 1
WEDNESDAY
Game 4 – Laurence Manning 8, Ben Lippen 3 (Ben Lippen eliminated)
FRIDAY
Game 5 – Wilson Hall at Laurence Manning
Game 6 – Hilton Head Prep at Cardinal Newman
MONDAY, MAY 3
Game 7 – Game 6 Loser vs. Game 5 Winner
TUESDAY, MAY 4
Game 8 – Game 6 Winner vs. Game 7 Winner
THURSDAY, MAY 6
Game 9 – If Necessary
2A
Upper Bracket
MONDAY
Game 1 – (5) Dillon Christian 15, (4) Thomas Heyward 0
TUESDAY
Game 2 – (2) Williamsburg 9, (3) Oakbrook Prep 2
Game 3 – (1) Northside Christian 9,

Dillon Christian 1
WEDNESDAY
Game 4 – Oakbrook Prep 11, Thomas Heyward 10 (Thomas Heyward eliminated)
FRIDAY
Game 5 – Dillon Christian at Oakbrook Prep
Game 6 – Williamsburg at Northside Christian
MONDAY, MAY 3
Game 7 – Game 6 Loser vs. Game 5 Winner
TUESDAY, MAY 4
Game 8 – Game 6 Winner vs. Game 7 Winner
THURSDAY, MAY 6
Game 9 – If Necessary
Lower Bracket
MONDAY
Game 1 – (5) Orangeburg Prep 9, (4) Greenwood Christian 4
TUESDAY
Game 2 – (2) Lee 12, (3) Colleton Prep 2
Game 3 – (1) Pee Dee 5, Orangeburg Prep 3
WEDNESDAY
Game 4 – Greenwood Christian 8, Colleton Prep 7 (Colleton Prep eliminated)

FRIDAY
Game 5 – Orangeburg Prep at Greenwood Christian
Game 6 – Lee at Pee Dee, 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY, MAY 3
Game 7 – Game 6 Loser vs. Game 5 Winner
TUESDAY, MAY 4
Game 8 – Game 6 Winner vs. Game 7 Winner
THURSDAY, MAY 6
Game 9 – If Necessary
1A
Upper Bracket
MONDAY
Game 1 – (4) Patrick Henry 12, (5) Holly Hill 11
TUESDAY
Game 2 – (2) St. John's Christian 4, (3) Laurens 3
Game 3 – (1) W.W. King 10, Patrick Henry 0
WEDNESDAY
Game 4 – Holly Hill 17, Laurens 4 (Laurens eliminated)
FRIDAY
Game 5 – Holly Hill at Patrick Henry
Game 6 – St. John's Christian at W.W. King
MONDAY, MAY 3
Game 7 – Game 6 Loser vs. Game 5

Winner
TUESDAY, MAY 4
Game 8 – Game 6 Winner vs. Game 7 Winner
THURSDAY, MAY 6
Game 9 – If Necessary
Lower Bracket
MONDAY
Game 1 – (4) Andrew Jackson 12, (5) Newberry 0
TUESDAY
Game 2 – (3) Dorchester 12, (2) Richard Winn 7
Game 3 – (1) Clarendon Hall 3, Andrew Jackson 2
WEDNESDAY
Game 4 – Richard Winn 22, Newberry 12 (Newberry eliminated)
FRIDAY
Game 5 – Andrew Jackson at Richard Winn
Game 6 – Dorchester at Clarendon Hall, 7 p.m.
MONDAY, MAY 3
Game 7 – Game 6 Loser vs. Game 5 Winner
TUESDAY, MAY 4
Game 8 – Game 6 Winner vs. Game 7 Winner
THURSDAY, MAY 6
Game 9 – If Necessary



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Carolina Panthers exercised newly acquired quarterback Sam Darnold's fifth-year option on Friday.

Darnold to make \$18.9 million after Panthers pick up option

BY STEVE REED
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE — The Carolina Panthers upped their commitment to Sam Darnold on Friday, picking up the fifth-year option on the quarterback's rookie contract. He will now make \$18.9 million for the 2022 season.

Darnold's contract would have expired after the 2021 season, and he would have become an unrestricted free agent if the Panthers had not picked up the fifth-year option. With the move, the Pan-

thers solidified their quarterback position for the next two seasons.

Carolina passed on Ohio State quarterback Justin Fields with the eighth pick in Thursday night's draft, instead taking cornerback Jaycee Horn from South Carolina, another indication of Darnold's standing.

"We brought Sam here for a reason and we are excited to see what he can do," Rhule said Friday night on the decision not to select Fields. "We traded for him because we believe in his potential."

The team also recently traded Teddy Bridgewater, last year's starting quarterback, to the Denver Broncos for a sixth round draft pick.

Carolina acquired Darnold from the New York Jets in April for a sixth-round pick in this year's draft and second- and fourth-round picks in 2022. Darnold was the third overall pick by the New York Jets in the 2018 draft.

The team also confirmed it has picked up wide receiver D.J. Moore's fifth-year option, which will pay him \$11.1 million in 2022.

Kansas hires Buffalo's Leipold as next head football coach

BY DAVE SKRETTA
The Associated Press



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kansas hired former Buffalo head coach Lance Leipold to replace Les Miles as its head football coach on Friday.

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Kansas hired Buffalo's Lance Leipold on Friday, turning over one of college football's worst programs to a longtime Division III coach with strong Midwestern roots.

Leipold signed a six-year contract and takes over for Les Miles, who won a national championship at LSU. Miles parted with Kansas after two losing seasons and amid sexual harassment allegations dating to his time with the Tigers.

"It is an exciting and humbling opportunity and this is a day I will never forget," Leipold said in a statement. "We are going to build this program through developing players, discipline and determination. The philosophies engrained in our programs along the way will be key as we turn this around. This is a program that has a lot of young talent on the roster and has the infrastructure in place to succeed. The best days for this program are ahead."

Leipold has been with the Bulls the past six years, building a downtrodden program into a perennial bowl contender. He is 37-33 with Buffalo, leading the school to its best seasons since joining the Mid-American Conference in 1999.

Before jumping to the Division I level, the 56-year-old Leipold won six national championships in eight seasons while going 109-6 as the head coach of his alma mater, Wisconsin-Whitewater. At one point, the Warhawks won three straight titles to cap perfect seasons, then after a seven-win "down year," put together two more undefeated seasons.

Now, new Kansas athletic director Travis Goff — who was hired away from Northwestern in April — hopes a coach with all those D-III championships on his resume can do what a coach who won a D-I title could not.

"His track record of sustained excellence is exactly what we were looking for in our next leader," Goff said in

a statement Friday, "and is what the University of Kansas and our fans deserve."

Miles was hired nearly three years ago by then-AD Jeff Long to turn around one of the worst Power Five programs in college football history. Instead, the Jayhawks went winless in nine games during the COVID-19-shortened 2020 season, the 12th straight in which they failed to hit the .500 mark or win more than one Big 12 game.

Miles was then let go in March after sexual misconduct allegations surfaced. A law firm's review of LSU's handling of sexual misconduct complaints campuswide described how Miles "tried to sexualize the staff of student workers in the football program" before he was fired four games into the 2016 season.

Leipold played quarterback for Wisconsin-Whitewater in the 1980s before beginning a long grind through college football's lower ranks. He spent time at Doane, an NAIA school in Nebraska, and several seasons coaching at Nebraska-Omaha, whose football team was later disbanded to save money.

His only Division I experience before Buffalo hired him in 2015 was a stint as a graduate assistant under Barry Alvarez at Wisconsin in the early 1990s and some time with Frank Solich at Nebraska in the early 2000s.

Leipold took over a Bulls team that had regressed

under Jeff Quinn and had played in only two bowl games before his arrival.

Leipold endured two losing seasons before winning at least six games each of the past four years, twice playing for a MAC title and going 6-1 during the pandemic-shortened 2020 season.

That put him on the radar for several high-profile openings earlier in the coaching carousel.

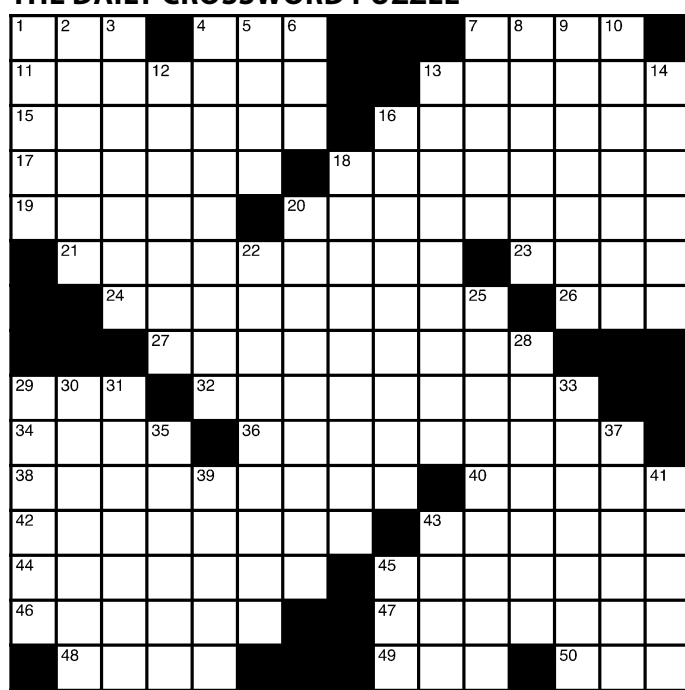
The Jayhawks certainly have higher hopes for Leipold than the last coach they hired from Buffalo. Turner Gill was just 5-19 over two seasons in Lawrence before he was fired, beginning a whirlwind of hirings and firings: Charlie Weis lasted parts of three seasons, David Beaty survived four and Miles was let go after two.

Along with the Jayhawks' history of losing, Leipold will have to overcome a substantial talent gap in the Big 12, fan apathy that has only grown over the past decade and facilities — despite a new indoor practice field — that are woefully outdated.

"I can't thank Lance enough for everything he has done for our football program," Buffalo athletic director Mark Alnutt said. "His vision and leadership helped elevate the UB football brand. We are grateful for what Lance has done here and we wish him and his family all the best as they embark on this new journey."

SATURDAY PUZZLES

THE DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Ryan McCarty 5/1/21

- ACROSS**
- 1 Mess up
 - 4 Traveler's reference
 - 7 Botanical garden adjective
 - 11 Fetid
 - 13 Dental facade
 - 15 Shoddily attached, usually
 - 16 Viagra alternative
 - 17 Affair VIPs
 - 18 1960s girl group named for its lead singer
 - 19 Opts for another tour
 - 20 Like some romantic dinners
 - 21 Benedict Cumberbatch superhero role, casually
 - 23 Sonic boom creator?
 - 24 Inflatable emergency transports
 - 26 Bobs and weaves
 - 27 Like some serious accidents
 - 29 vivant
 - 32 It was initially dubbed "Clinton's Big Ditch" by its critics
 - 34 Collectible Camaro
 - 36 Listen in
 - 38 Wood stove successors
 - 40 burger
 - 42 Just below par
 - 43 Jar
 - 44 Arouses
 - 45 Result of a certain property payment delinquency
 - 46 One getting checks for quarters
 - 47 Took part in an ugly campaign
 - 48 Spotted
 - 49 Beneficiaries of exercises called Russian twists
 - 50 Crack
 - 6 Compose, perhaps
 - 7 Stabilize, with "off"
 - 8 Associates
 - 9 Resolved, in a way
 - 10 "Wish me luck!"
 - 12 Slowly comes through
 - 13 Family feuds
 - 14 Jah worshippers
 - 16 Gloomy looks
 - 18 Broke 100, maybe
 - 20 Fairy tale ball arrivals
 - 22 Possible result of not knowing when to stop?
 - 25 Places to see small, colorful trucks
 - 28 Kelly, woman with the most
 - lifetime "Jeopardy!" winnings
 - 29 Group that includes Chevron and BP
 - 30 Florida harvest
 - 31 What poor instructions make
 - 33 Writing letters, some say
 - 35 Carnival offering
 - 37 Worker with many questions
 - 39 Composer Bruckner
 - 41 Poor
 - 43 Framing piece
 - 45 Org. with Behavior Detection Officers
- DOWN**
- 1 Emerge from the wings
 - 2 Racked up cellphone charges, perhaps
 - 3 Aptly named giant in surfing sportswear
 - 4 Amount that's sometimes larger than it sounds
 - 5 "A Sorta Fairytale" singer Tori
- Previous Puzzle Solved**
- | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | W | W | A | L | D | E | R | C | O | M | P | S |
| L | A | O | T | O | R | A | H | A | V | A | I | L |
| F | R | O | S | T | B | I | T | E | N | E | L | L |
| K | E | N | O | B | I | O | T | R | A | S | | |
| B | A | I | T | S | N | O | W | B | L | I | N | D |
| O | N | E | S | I | E | P | L | E | A | S | E | R |
| B | Y | E | P | E | A | C | E | P | E | R | T | |
| C | O | L | D | S | N | A | P | S | | | | |
| A | P | I | A | | A | I | S | L | E | | E | W |
| H | I | N | T | I | N | G | | P | A | C | M | A |
| I | C | E | S | H | E | E | T | S | | L | A | D |
| C | R | E | E | D | | S | H | A | K | E | N | |
| G | O | T | T | A | | S | L | U | S | H | F | U |
| S | L | I | E | R | | H | O | S | E | A | | E |
| T | O | A | S | T | | E | T | H | A | N | | L |

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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

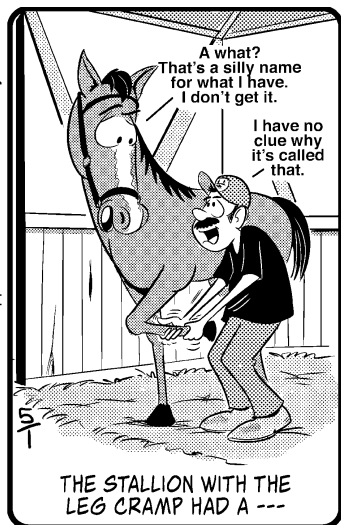
DUEEL

WYNOS

GRIEHH

TARCOV

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

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: STASH HENCE PAGODA PONCHO
Answer: When she unknowingly took a pic of the flexing bodybuilder, it was — HAPPENSTANCE

SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

THE ANSWERS TO THESE PUZZLES CAN BE FOUND ON TODAY'S DAILY PLANNER PAGE.

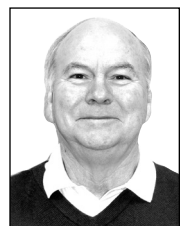


SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTOS

Sumter's baseball team is seen in 1900. Front row from left are: Ed Smith, Warren Moise, Julian Wilder and Warren Cuttino. Second row are: Sam Gillespie, Sam Osteen, (unknown) McRoy, Charlie Gallagher and Waverly Levy. Top row are: Charlton Durant, Willie Saunders, Pat Gallagher, Gene Wilder, Hamp Richardson and Emile Moses.

Baseball clubs: An important part of Sumter's early history

The origin of baseball, according to the Britannica Encyclopedia, occurred in "1845 when baseball legend Alexander J. Cartwright, as an amateur player in New York City, organized the New York Knickerbocker Base Ball Club, which formulated a set of rules for



Sammy Way
REFLECTIONS

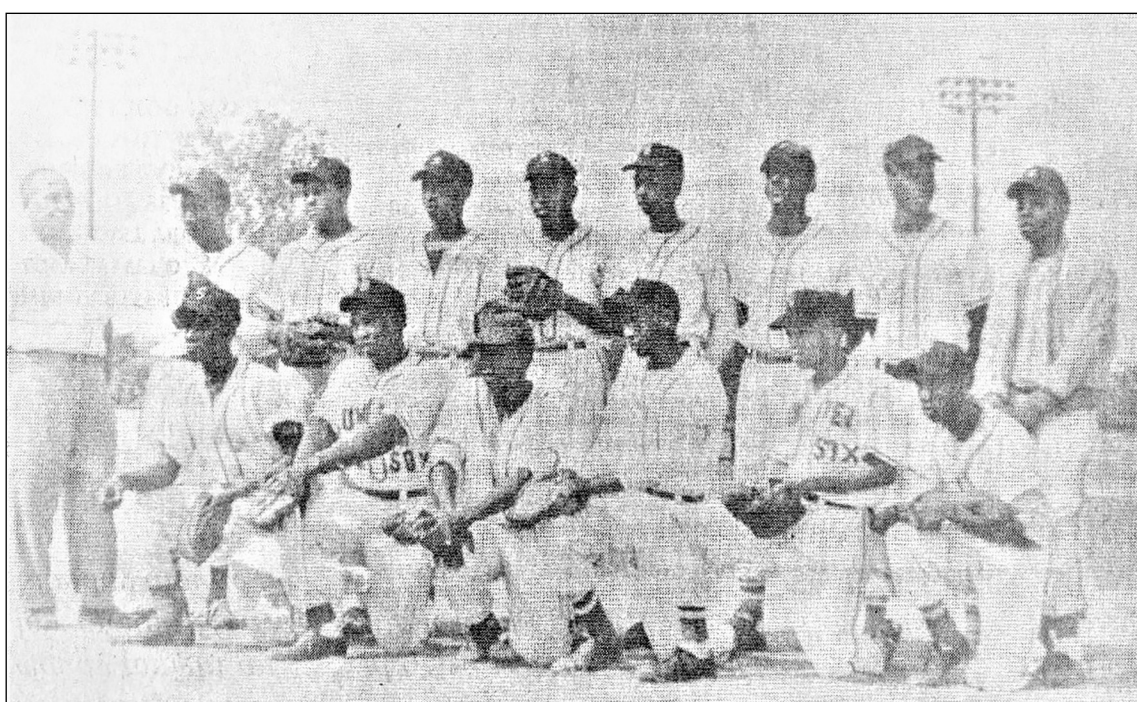
baseball, many of which still remain." Research reveals that numerous teams during the late 19th and early 20th centuries were created by both Black and white athletic associations.

The intent of this research is to bring to light several of the early baseball organizations that drew support from the Sumter community. The author regrets being unable to mention the vast number of ball clubs and players in existence in the Sumter community during this period of research.

The earliest reference found in *The Item* archives about the formation of a baseball team or club is noted in an article published in *The Watchman and Southron* dated May 30, 1881. According to the article, "The match game played between the Red Stockings of Camden and the Palmettoes of Sumter, on the grounds of the latter, was one of unusual interest, being closely contested by both clubs."

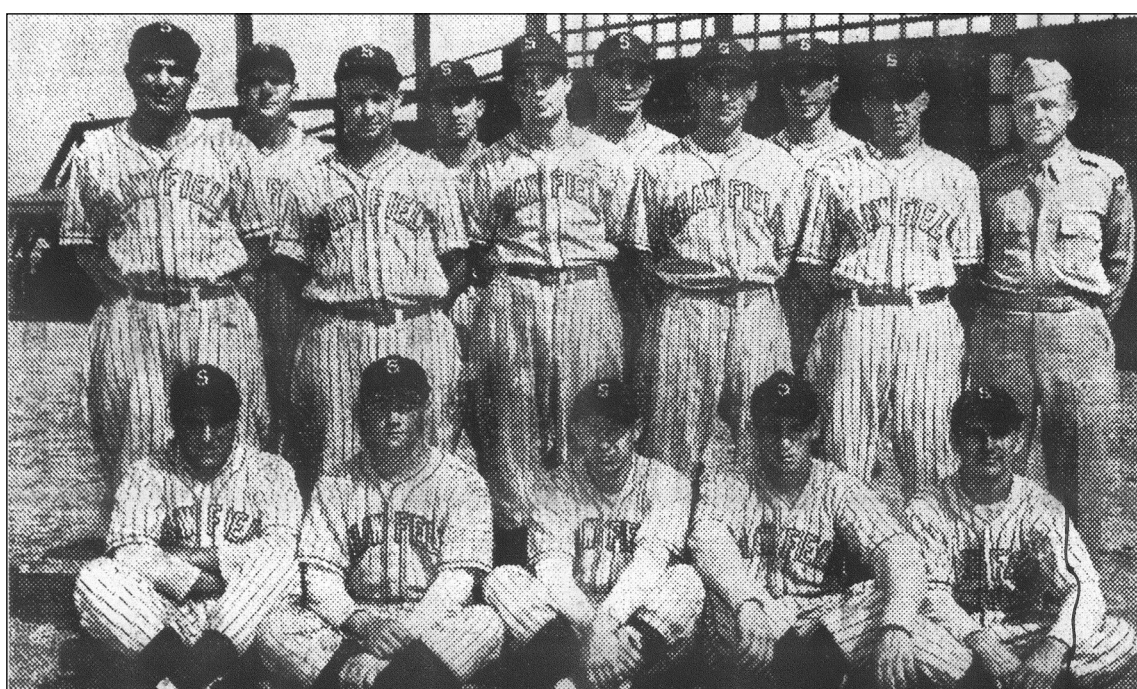
According to *The Watchman and Southron* on that same date, "re-organization of the Eureka Base Ball Club included the election of the following officers to guide the organization: R.S. Hood, captain; G.W. Reardon Jr., president; C.P. Osteen, secretary and treasurer. The club was listed as being in fine condition and ready to receive challenges from clubs in the state, from 17 years of age down."

These community-orga-



PROVIDED BY PAUL CHAPMAN AND JAMES WATSON

The Sumter White Sox team is seen circa 1950 at Riley Ball Park. Coach and manager Professor Ulysses Conyers is on the far left. Kneeling from left are: Ishmell Williams, John L. Alken, Ashby Davis, James Watson, Herman Pearson and Leroy White. Players standing from left are: Charlie "Gop" Pressley, James Pearson, Richard Singleton, Robert Graham, James A. Holland, Roland Wilder, Paul Chandler and Maxie McCray. Several team members were not present for the photo.



Seen are members of the Army Air Forces Basic Flying School team representing Shaw Field in the South Carolina Service League in April 1943.

nized baseball teams offered Sumter's athletes the opportunity to participate against other state teams before baseball squads were organized in the yet-undeveloped public schools.

A game played between Sumter and Darlington mentions the playing site as the Bicycle Park. Research has yet to determine where this park may have existed. It is important to note that the equipment and expenses for such teams were often borne by the participants. The first known photo to be listed in *The Watchman and Southron* was the Sumter High team of 1897. This team "had one of

the best baseball records in the state, winning a big majority of its games." The image shows the team at an old baseball park on North Main Street, near the current Crosswell Home location.

An article appearing in *The Sumter Daily Item* in May 1905 stated, "The baseball craze beginning to spread all over the country and the interest in the national game are becoming more manifest year by year. Last summer the people of Sumter were making all kinds of wild speculation for the organization of a home team and the formation of a small league

among the surrounding towns for the upcoming season. If anything was to be done in that direction, it had to be done immediately. When the long, tiresome summer afternoons, the lack of amusements in town and above all, the prominence that a good team would give the city were considered, few would raise a dissenting voice to the organization of the Gamecock city's baseball team."

Sadly, the Sumter High School baseball team was forced to disband in 1911 because of the lack of fan support. The team had played five games, losing three.

Speculation is that having only 31 boys in the graduating class numbers and lack of financing may have played a significant role in the disbanding. The team recovered to the extent that the once-disbanded program fielded one of its finest units and won the 1927 state crown with a superb performance.

Several Black baseball clubs were also to be found in the Sumter community. One of the well-known Black clubs was the Sumter White Sox, which played several exhibition games at Riley Ball Park. Another was the 1950 Salterstown baseball club, known as the Tigers, which won the Goodwill Larger Parish Baseball League Championship. In 1951, the Jacksonville Eagles tangled with the Cuban Stars at Riley Park. Several Black players who participated in these programs and later entered the major league circles were Monte Irvin, Larry Doby, Jackie Robinson, Roy Campanella, Luke Easter, Dan Bankhead, Don Newcombe and others.

During the early part of the 20th century, numerous high school, college and military teams began to play on a regular basis. Sumter High School was successful against Parker High School from Greenville in state competition with its 1927 team featuring former fire chief "Bit" Wilder; this team won the state championship before 1,200 fans. Both Sumter High and Lincoln High schools fielded competitive baseball teams as the public schools continued to expand.

Morris College began a baseball program, which grew as the college continued to expand its athletic program. The program experienced a high level of success and captured the 1925 State Championship. Shaw Air Force Base fielded an outstanding military ball club which featured George Turbeville, who won 16 games, had 200 strikeouts and pitched two no-hit, no-run games in 1943.

Led by the efforts of Coach John Riley, the construction of the Municipal Ball Park in 1926 afforded Sumter's legion and high school baseball programs the use of excellent playing facilities. Baseball has continued to be one of the mainstays of athletic pursuit by countless young athletes throughout Sumter's history.

the Sumter ITEM YESTERYEAR

Summer camp officially named Camp Logan; Palmetto Trail building continues

75 YEARS AGO — 1946

Oct. 8 - 14

• The 20th Fighter group, accompanied by an air service squadron, is expected to arrive at Shaw Field from Briggs Field, Texas, in the next two weeks, Col. T.W. Blackburn, Shaw Field commanding officer, said. Col. Blackburn said that the group and squadron comprised of approximately 300 officers and 500 enlisted men would be stationed here in addition to the night fighter squadrons already based at Shaw. Housing facilities for men in the new group will be needed as soon as possible, and all residents with rooms, apartments and houses are asked to register them with the Shaw Field housing office.

• Four new members of the American Legion Fair Committee were elected last night at a well-attended meeting of Sumter Post No. 15 at the Legion Hut. The four new members are: Vaughn Jennings, Werber Bryan and William Hodge for four-year terms and W.T. McCracken for a three-year term. The meeting was presided over by Commander F.B. Creech and featured an address by Congressman John J. Riley.

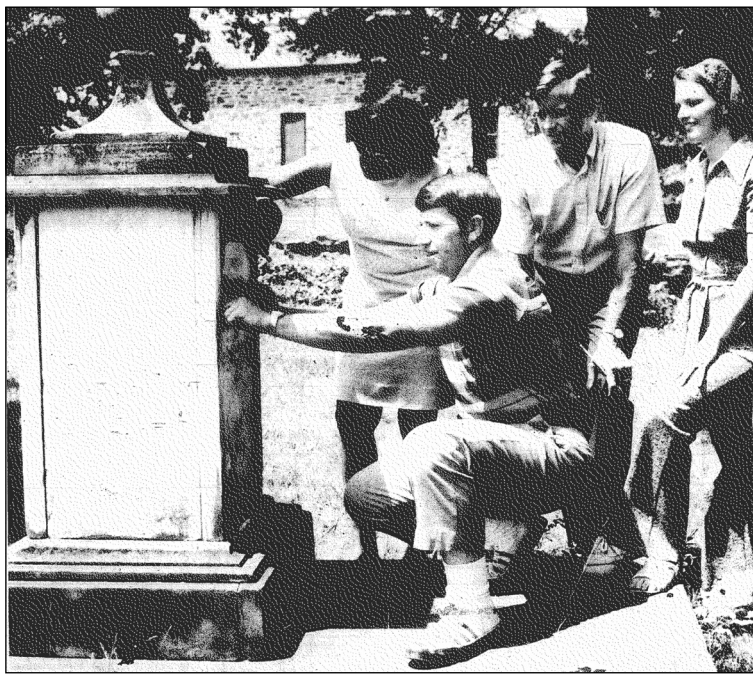
• Harry M. Ramsay, sales manager of the tractor and implement division of the U.S. Rubber Co., arrived in the city to be the guest of Edwin L. Freeman, general manager of the Industrial Equipment Co., Fisk tire distributors for South Carolina. This is Mr. Ramsay's second visit to Sumter. He came here last April with J. Chester Ray, sales manager of the Fisk Tire Co. It was at that time that Mr. Freeman announced plans for construction of a new warehouse building on Manning Avenue.

• The first showing in Sumter and this vicinity of the new Frazer automobile will be held at Cuttino Motor Co., 515 N. Main St., in the very near future, it was announced. The new Frazers are rated tops in beauty and design, having received wide acclaim from the larger cities which have already placed the new automobile on display.

• Certificates for completion of the Red Cross' standard first aid course will be given to 10 members of the Sumter Fire Department, Miss Priscilla Shaw, chairman of the local Red Cross first aid committee, said. Those receiving certificates after taking the course under William M. Norris are R.O. Amick, A.L. Ardis, J.C. Burns, J.L. Campbell, H.S. Jennings, Chief E.H. Lynam, V.E. Sims, Marshall Tobias, R.D. White and H.D. West.

• Billy Ward, a 4-H boy of the Miller Club, came by the office with a broad smile on his face exhibiting a feeling of confidence and reported that he had just harvested his 4-H acre of corn and sold it, making a profit of \$88. When asked what he had done with the money, he quickly replied, "I just put it in the bank to go to college some day." He was accompanied by his mother, showing that parent cooperation in 4-H work is fundamental to success.

• Announcement of the appointment of William M. "Boots" DeLorme of Sumter as special representative of the Liberty Life Insurance company in the ordinary divi-



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Three East Clarendon educators at a Clemson University workshop learn how a cemetery can be used to teach history, arithmetic and science on June 13, 1971. Making crayon rubbings from a tombstone at historic Old Stone Church are, kneeling, Charles McFadden, mathematics teacher, East Clarendon High School; and standing from left Ruby L. Johnson, social studies, East Clarendon Elementary; Martin Hutto, agriculture, East Clarendon High; and Professor Sarah Walker, workshop director. The course was conducted by Clemson's department of recreation and park administration to show educators how to use their total environment as a "classroom without walls."

sion here was made today. Son of Mrs. Katie Pitts DeLorme and the late William M. DeLorme, he graduated from Sumter High School and received his bachelor of science degree from the University of South Carolina.

• Members of the special gifts committee of the Sumter Community Chest began their solicitations this morning to formally open the campaign which has as its goal the raising of \$43,200. This committee has been assigned a goal of \$27,000, and the members set out today to raise this amount before the opening of the regular campaign. Fulton B. Creech, chairman of the committee, entertained the members with a chicken supper at Dave Cuttino's place, at which time cards were passed out and brief instructions issued.

• The YMCA gymnasium officially opened for the beginning of the fall and winter program. Considerable repairs have been completed and new basketball backboards installed, which makes the "Y" gym the most modern and up-to-date gymnasium in the state. Classes began yesterday and will run until the end of the school year. Jack Nantz, physical director, has planned a program of numerous activities to be conducted.

• W.C. Eldridge and Jack Evans are co-chairmen of the Retail Committee of the Sumter Community Chest. The colonels and lieutenant colonels of this division were announced as follows: Ward 1 - C.E. Bradham and Robert Moses; Ward 2 - J.G. Joiner and R.E. DuBose Jr.; Ward 3 - Oscar Kennedy and J. Cliff Brown Jr.; Ward 4 - Robert Palmer and Bill Harder; Ward 5 - Leland Dixon and I.D. Elmore Jr. Heading up the School Committees are Werber Bryan and Buford Mabry.

50 YEARS AGO — 1971

June 12 - 19

• The Sumter Jaycees will present their Key Man and Rookie of the Year Awards tonight at their annual Ladies Night Banquet. The event is scheduled at the American Legion hut. A dinner program and the awards presentation

called at the Sumter County Courthouse, City Police Chief L.W. Griffin and Sumter County Sheriff I. Byrd Parnell officially announced plans for a \$415,000 combined City-County Law Enforcement Building to be completed in the Civic Center within a year's time. According to D. Allen Thames, project director for the federal government's Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP), which is paying half of the \$330,000 construction cost, the completion of the building will mark the beginning of a new system of law enforcement in the state.

• Sumter P-15's head coach Bernard Jones said after his team demolished Turbeville 12-0 that his boys hit as well as could be expected. But that is an understatement, as the P-15's unloaded 15 hits, including a homerun, triple and double, to smother Post 132 and begin the 1971 American Legion campaign on a high winning note.

• A summer camp for emotionally disturbed children has been officially named Camp Logan, in honor of Mrs. Myrtis B. Logan of Sumter. The honor was made official in a dinner presentation to Mrs. Logan by C.M. Tucker Jr., chairman of the S.C. Mental Health Commission. A resolution passed by the commission effecting the name change recognized the long-time outstanding volunteer work done by Mrs. Logan in the field of mental health, "contributing countless hours to programs for children at the S.C. State Hospital."

• At least three persons were reported injured in the Trinity community south of Lynchburg when a tornado overturned their mobile home residence. The twister was accompanied by high winds, heavy rain and hail, which area residents said overturned trees, downed power lines and caused extensive damage to the newly planted crops, particularly tobacco.

• "We are living in perilous and traumatic times," Dr. William S. Hall, state commissioner of mental health, told a crowd attending groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Sumter-Clarendon-Kershaw Counties Mental Health Center. Dr. Hall, also president of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, noted in his remarks that citizens today are being "assaulted by the gory details of mass murder, rape, robbery, bombings, racial conflict, fish kills, oil spills, air pollution and water pollution. It seems that overnight America has fallen in love with the word — ecology."

25 YEARS AGO — 1996

April 24 - 30

• Horrifying winds; pitching control problems; 250-foot centerfield fences. Put that together, add in a few base hits, and you get a multitude of runs. At least for one team. That squad was Hudgens as it stockpiled runs on its home field to trounce Laurence Manning 15-5 in five innings. The Cougars finished with three home runs, including a grand slam by David Hanna.

• The first day of May will bring more than May flowers this year to Sumter, Lee and Dillon counties. The pen-

ny-per-dollar local option sales tax increase that voters approved last November goes into effect May 1. But local merchants don't appear concerned about the tax's impact or about any extra administrative work. "I voted for it because I think any type of tax everybody has to pay is fair," said William Davis, a co-owner of Williams' Sporting Goods on Sumter's Broad Street.

• Manning's Tufco Industries of South Carolina will break ground on a new \$1.4 million facility in the Clarendon County Industrial Park, plant officials announced. The paint sundries manufacturer will move from its 42,000-square-foot building on Cedar Street to a new 62,000-square-foot building, according to plant manager Gary Dymond. The move will add 19 positions to the plant's roster of 75 employees.

• Clarendon School District 2 students in kindergarten through sixth grade will attend school a little longer each day beginning this fall. Clarendon 2 trustees voted unanimously to increase the school day for primary and elementary school students by 45 minutes to one hour. The longer day is needed to give teachers more instructional time with their students.

• The Walker Bros. Circus will roll into town, and the public is invited to watch elephants and circus workers put up the big top. The one-ring circus will give two performances at the fairgrounds behind the Sumter County Exhibition Center on West Liberty Street. The free tent-raising exhibition begins at 9 a.m. Children and adults alike can tour the grounds and meet the show's sequined stars.

• Organizers of Shaw Fest '96 are expecting a crowd at Sumter's Shaw Air Force Base for the base's biennial open house. As many as 75,000 people are expected to attend the daylong air show, so heavy traffic is anticipated. Four Shaw gates — the main gate and contractor's gate on U.S. 76/378, and the Rhodes and hospital gates on S.C. 441 — will open at 8 a.m. The north gate, off Frierson Road, will not be opened.

• Passage by passage, the Palmetto Trail is gradually being built, linking the state's ocean shore with its western mountain range. Sumter County will join the numerous counties helping to create the 326-mile trail by opening its 8-mile contribution, called the High Hills of Santee Passage. S.C. First Lady Mary Wood Beasley and state Sen. Phil Leventis, D-Sumter, will be on hand at Mill Creek Park to officially open the passage.

• From the way I flew an F-16 Thunderbirds jet, U.S. Air Force Maj. Jim Harder had a strong hunch that I was probably a Delta Airlines pilot in a previous life. But I didn't care if I made lazy turns and slow ascents and descents when it was "my plane" in the sky over South Carolina's Pee Dee. Just the opportunity to be in an F-16 flying with one of the Air Force's premier pilots was enough of a thrill for me. To top it off, it was one of the red, white and blue Thunderbird jets.

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Panthers select USC's Horn with No. 8 pick in NFL draft

BY STEVE REED
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE — The Carolina Panthers wanted to add size at the cornerback position to keep up with the NFC South's big wide receivers, including those from the defending Super Bowl champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

So the Panthers selected 6-foot-1, 205-pound cornerback Jaycee Horn from South Carolina with the No. 8 pick in the NFL draft on Thursday night, passing on Ohio State quarterback Justin Fields to help upgrade their defense instead.

Horn was the first defensive player selected in the draft.

"When you look at the NFC South, the big receivers we have to face week in and week out — you have Mike Evans, you have Chris Godwin, you have Michael Thomas, Julio Jones and Calvin Ridley and now Kyle Pitts — it's going to take a lot of guys who can cover, and who can cover really big men," Panthers coach Matt Rhule said. "There is a size matchup in the NFC South that really matters. And Jaycee checks that box for us."

Horn said he's up to the task.

"I definitely feel like that is one of my strengths being able to matchup with big receivers because of my size," Horn said. "Also I got the speed to match with those receivers in (the division). I can definitely understand their thought process (in drafting me) and I'm ready to go prove them right."

Carolina spent all seven picks on defensive players last year and stayed on that side of the ball in round one.

Horn appeared in 30 games during his career for the Gamecocks and had 101 tackles and two interceptions while playing mostly in bump-and-run coverage. He is known for being an aggressive, attacking cornerback and fills an immediate need for the Panthers, who struggled in pass defense a year ago.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Carolina Panthers selected former South Carolina defensive back Jaycee Horn (1) with the eighth overall pick of the NFL draft on Thursday.

General manager Scott Fitterer said Horn is expected to start right away opposite Donte Jackson, the team's No. 1 cornerback. Carolina added veteran cornerback A.J. Bouye from Denver free agency, giving them the added depth at that position that Rhule covets.

"If you go back to last year, there were times we just couldn't get off the field," Rhule said.

Fitterer said Horn's athleticism "jumped off the tape" playing against Southeastern Conference foes, particularly in a game against Auburn.

"We saw someone who can come in and make an immediate impact as a starter," Fitterer said. "His potential is unlimited."

Rhule also likes that Horn has been around the game; his father Joe Horn was a wide receiver who played 12 seasons in the NFL, including seven for the New Orleans Saints.

"He understands what he means to be an NFL player — he has seen it his whole life," Rhule said.

The pick wasn't popular with all Carolina fans, with many taking to social media to express their frustration over the decision to pass on Fields.

Although the Panthers traded away a sixth round pick

this year and second- and fourth-round picks in 2022 to get Sam Darnold from the New York Jets, there was still plenty of speculation they would select a quarterback.

But the Panthers passed on Fields, and he was taken three picks later by the Chicago Bears.

"We brought Sam here for a reason and we are excited to see what he can do," Rhule said. "We traded for him because we believe in his potential."

Before the draft Fitterer said the team was ready to entertain all trade options for the No. 8 pick and did field some calls while on the clock. But Fitterer said the team didn't want to pass on Horn, saying he plays with an edge.

"That's who I am," Horn said. "I always played with it. I don't ever see myself losing that edge. I think it's part of my game."

The Panthers were also intrigued by Oregon's 6-foot-6, 339-pound tackle Penei Sewell to fill a major need, but the Lions took him at No. 7.

It marks the first time the Panthers have selected a cornerback in the first round since taking Chris Gamble in 2004.

The Panthers have one pick each in the second (39th overall) and third round (73rd overall) on Friday night.

JAGS FROM PAGE B1

thing in my power to get us back to where we need to be. I'm going to put in the work. No one's going to work harder than me."

The Jags added one of Lawrence's college teammates, standout running back Travis Etienne, with the 25th pick in the first round. The move pairs two of the most productive players in Clemson history as centerpieces of coach Urban Meyer's offense.

"I don't have to get to work on getting to know somebody else," Etienne said. "I know Trevor inside and out."

Lawrence and Etienne became the first QB-RB combination from the same school to go in the first round of the same draft in the modern era, according to the NFL. Together, they should help Jacksonville improve an offense that ranked last in the NFL in 2020 with just 16 explosive plays.

"I've always had a very strong belief in speed," Meyer said, making it clear that Etienne will be used as much as a receiver as a ball-carrier. "The idea for offense is to create matchup nightmares. He's as good outside as a receiver as he is as a running back."

Lawrence was the fourth quarterback drafted by the franchise in the first round in its 27 years of existence, joining Byron Leftwich (2003), Blaine Gabbert (2011) and Blake Bortles (2014).

The chance to draft Lawrence was one of the factors that lured Meyer out of the broadcast booth and got him back on the sideline. Jacksonville has five of the top 65 picks, including three in the second and third rounds Friday night.

No matter who else the Jaguars bring in, none of them will compare to Lawrence. He's now the face of the franchise for the foreseeable future. And Jacksonville is counting on him solving the team's decades-old problem at the all-important position.

"I don't have any expectations for anything other than myself," Lawrence said. "I'm not expecting anyone to hand me anything. I want to come in there and earn the respect and trust of my teammates and the right to lead the team."

Meyer spoke to Clemson coach Dabo Swinney, who initially had four words for his former college coaching colleague.

"Don't screw it up," Swinney said.

"This will be a very easy transition" for Lawrence, Swinney added. "What he's stepping into, the expectations, all those things, that his normal. And it has been for a long time. He's built the right way. ... He's the epitome of consistency. And if you know anything about Urban Meyer, he values consistency and toughness. I didn't have to sell him on his toughness."

Lawrence enjoyed a stellar college career, going 34-2 as Clemson's starter and leading the Tigers to three Atlantic Coast Conference titles and the 2018 national championship.

He completed 66% of his passes for 10,098 yards, with 90 touchdowns and 17 interceptions. He also ran for 18 scores.

The Jaguars locked up the No. 1 pick in the next-to-last week of the 2020 NFL regular season, and Lawrence was the target long before Meyer was hired to replace Doug Marrone.

Meyer, general manager Trent Baalke and owner Shad Khan never tipped the obvious pick, but they didn't try to disguise it, either.

Meyer said they made the decision in early February.

The Jaguars already gave Lawrence a playbook and held several Zoom sessions with him. Even Khan sat in on at least one, getting to know a player he's prepared to guarantee nearly \$40 million in a four-year deal.

Lawrence was the fourth quarterback Jacksonville drafted in the last four years, following Tanner Lee (2018), Gardner Minshew (2019) and Jake Luton (2020). Minshew and Luton remain on the roster, but Lawrence is expected to start from Day 1.

He should be a significant upgrade for a franchise that has endured Gabbert, Chad Henne, Blake Bortles, Cody Kessler, Nick Foles, Minshew, Luton and Mike Glennon as starters over the past decade.

"I'm just pumped," Lawrence said. "The best is yet to come."



SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE MEDIA

Former Sumter running back Nathan Harris-Waynick (26) tries to break away from defenders during South Carolina's Black and Garnet spring game on Sunday.

USC FROM PAGE B1

go jump into class and everything, but I'm getting through it."

Harris-Waynick said it's been an interesting transition, but it's been easier because the program has a good atmosphere under Beamer.

"The atmosphere is great. They're always asking how you're doing and everything and Coach Beamer, I love that guy. He's always at practice and always telling me to run the ball like I did in high school," the former Sumter running back said. "He's a really good coach and I'm looking forward to the rest of the year."

It also helps that Harris-Waynick has some familiar faces to make the transition into college football a little bit easier. There are a total of four Sumter School District alumni playing at South Carolina this season. Harris-Waynick is joined by fellow former Gamecocks O'Donnell Fortune and Keem Green, as well as Lakewood graduate Tyreek Johnson. The biggest help has been Fortune,

who graduated a year ahead of Harris-Waynick.

"It's been a real blessing having him here with me. He's really like a brother to me," he said. "We went to high school together and we were in elementary together, so it's really cool to have him here with me and showing me everywhere. He's shown me so much that I didn't really know. He's been a really big help. Him and Keem."

Seeing that group of athletes from Sumter sharing the field in Columbia is very special to Harris-Waynick. He wants to continue to see local athletes get their chance to shine on the biggest stage.

"It means everything, it's awesome. I see it as we're helping put Sumter on the map for our younger people, for people coming up," Harris-Waynick said. "We're doing good and hopefully we keep doing good and Sumter keeps on coming."

Despite just being a preferred walk-on, Harris-Waynick is starting to get his own chance in the spotlight. Sunday's Black and Garnet

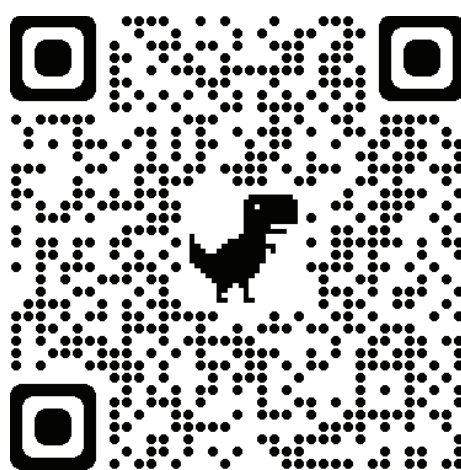
spring game wasn't just a chance to wear a South Carolina jersey. Harris-Waynick put it to use. With three running backs kept on the sidelines, the former Sumter star saw more playing time than expected. He led the Black team with eight carries, rushing for 33 yards. He said as soon as he learned he was going to see the field, he wanted to make the most of his opportunity.

"Honestly, with me being a preferred walk-on and everything, I really didn't expect to see the field that much, but I mean, Shawn (Marshawn Lloyd) and Kev (Kevin Harris) were out so I had to be the next man up to step up," Harris-Waynick said. "Coach (Patrick) DiMarco, he helped me out a lot, getting me prepared and Coach Mo (Montario Hardesty) always says to put it on tape, so I just felt like that was my day to put it on tape and I feel like I did so."

Harris-Waynick was happy with his performance, but also doesn't plan on having his first spring game be the highlight of his college football career.

"It was good, I just don't want to settle at that. I want to keep growing and hopefully the next time I touch the field, I do better than I did."

Of course, sharing the field with a close friend like Fortune also made the spring game feel special for the young running back.



Open the camera on your phone and hover over this QR code. Click on the notification that pops up, and it will take you straight to The Blitz.

"It means a lot. I feel like he's one of my brothers, so it means a lot knowing I can go to war with one of my brothers. I feel like we're blood, so that's how I look at it," Harris-Waynick said. "It means a lot being able to go to war knowing I've got my brother right beside me."

Now the former Sumter running back hopes that a strong showing in the spring game opens the door for more playing time and maybe even a chance to become a scholarship player. For now, he's focused on earning the trust of his coaching staff.

"They haven't said much about that yet, but I feel like if I keep working, letting them know I'm willing to take time to go up there and watch film and everything with the coaches, that they'll see potential in me to keep going and that might help. They haven't really said anything, but hopefully I hear something soon," Harris-Waynick said. "Hopefully the chances are pretty good. I just have to keep my head in the playbook and let the coaches know they can trust me and hopefully I'll be up there."

Sumter Item

Blitz

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NOW PLAYING:

A GAMECOCK AGAIN

Tim talks with former Sumter running back Nathan Harris-Waynick about his experience as a walk-on with the South Carolina football team this spring.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

SANDHILLS MEDICAL FOUNDATION

Proposed Construction of New Sandhill Medical Foundation Facility
30 Cuttino Road, Sumter, South Carolina 29150

HRSA CADRE GRANT
C14CS39949,
PROJECT 177423-01

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508) and the HHS General Administration Manual Part 30 Environmental Protection (February 25, 2000), HRSA has determined that the Proposed Construction of the new Sandhills Medical Foundation Facility in Sumter, South Carolina, will have no significant adverse impact on the quality of the human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provides discretionary grant and cooperative agreement awards to support health centers expand their capacity to provide primary and preventive health care services to medically underserved populations nationwide.

The Sandhills Medical Foundation has applied for this HRSA award. The applicant proposes to use HRSA funding to relocate its Sumter site and construct a new 12,500 square foot facility, with an additional 12,500 sf medical building to be constructed at a later date. It will have a generator, a drive-thru pharmacy, expanded capacity, and a large parking lot which will allow for outdoor screening for events such as COVID-19. The project will improve access for service area residents, particularly following or during a disaster event. The buildings are proposed to be located at 30 Cuttino Road, in Sumter County, Sumter, South Carolina 29150. Coordinates at an approximate central location for the site are: 33.944006, - 80.367416. The site will consist of two one-story buildings, as well as associated landscaped areas and parking lot. The extent of disturbance associated with this project would require the removal of trees in the project area on the 4.5-acre subject property, Sumter County Parcel No. 2290801004. The applicant has submitted an Environmental Assessment (EA) that documents impacts of the proposed action. This EA is incorporated by reference into this FONSI.

Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Assessment for this project, which is on file at the following address for public examination upon request between the hours of 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Sandhills Medical Foundation, Inc.
645 South 7th St.
McBee, SC, 29101
Attn: Bart Miles

Legal Notice

Phone: (843) 335-8291

No further environmental review of this project is proposed prior to final approval from HRSA.

Public Comments

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on these projects may submit written comments to the Sandhills Medical Foundation, Inc. Attn: Bart Miles, CFO, at the above referenced address.

HRSA will consider all comments received within 15 days of this "Notice" prior to final approval from HRSA.

Beer & Wine License

Notice Of Application

Notice is hereby given that **Shaina Singletary** intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license permit that will allow the sale and ON premises consumption of **Beer, Wine & Liquor at 65 Freedom Ave., Elliott, SC 29046.** To object to the issuance of this permit / license, written protest must be postmarked no later than **May 4, 2021.** For a protest to be valid, it must be in writing, and should include the following information: (1) the name, address and telephone number of the person filing the protest; (2) the specific reasons why the application should be denied; (3) that the person protesting is willing to attend a hearing (if one is requested by the applicant); (4) that the person protesting resides in the same county where the proposed place of business is located or within five miles of the business; and (5) the name of the applicant and the address of the premises to be licensed. Protests must be mailed to: S.C. Department of Revenue, ABL, P.O. Box 125, Columbia, South Carolina 29214-0907; or Faxed to: (803) 896-0110.

In Memory



In loving Memory of

my beloved husband, Edgard Wilson Sr. and beloved father of Min. Sandra Knight, Valarie Wilson, Edgard Michael, Janet, Wanda, Oscar and Sir Victor Wilson.
Love you always.



In Loving Memory of

Mary Lee Livingston
06/14/1941-05/03/2017
Love you and miss you.
Your children; Jerry, Charlie, Frances and Stephanie and your grand children and great-grand children.

In Memory

In loving memory of Andrew "Bo Bo" Stavis.



It's already been one year today. Those we love don't just go away. They walk beside us everyday and are forever in our hearts. Deloris, Valencia, children and grandchildren.

BUSINESS SERVICES

Lawn Service

Brinson's Lawn Care
Debris removal, cut shrubs & limbs, clean flower beds, straw or mulch, pressure wash 803-840-0322

Roofing

All Types of Roofing Repair Work. All work guaranteed. 30 yrs exp. SC lic. Virgil Bickley 803-316-4734.

MERCHANDISE

Garage, Yard & Estate Sales

1745 Camden Rd (on 521 about 1 mile from Hobby Lobby) HUGE sale! Furniture, lamps, dog crate, bikes, housewares, LOTS of stuff. Multi-family. You really don't want to miss this one!

Yard sale, Sat. 6:30-11:30am, 554 Sierra St. Furniture & more. Too much to list.

Huge Estate Auction
Estate of Barbara White
May 15th, 10 am.
Viewing @ 9 am.
2320 Lloyd Dr. Sumter SC.
Furniture, lawn equip., china, collectibles, grandfather clocks. Pictures of items on Alton Meeler's Facebook page.
Auctioneers Will Bryant #4176 Alton Meeler #4571

Garage, Yard & Estate Sales

30 Tuscon Dr. Large assortment of plants. Knock-out Roses, Climbing Roses, Hydrangeas, assortment of Day-lilies and shrubs. Open Mon.-Sat. from 8am to 7pm. Sun. 12pm-6pm

Multi-family, 3860 Pinewood Rd. Sat. 8-1. Chainsaw, riding lawnmower, utility trailer, tools, baby items, to many items to mention.

Beech Creek Community Yard Sale. 261 Racon Rd. Sat. May 1st, 8-1. Low prices! Super huge. Multi Family. 1810 Moorehill Estate Dr., 20 Francis Kinlock, 6480 Montpelier, J.J. Roberts Dr.

Yard sale, May 1st, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 809 Mathis St. Misc. items.

For Sale or Trade

LR convertible couch bed, love seat, table & lamps. DR set: 2 china closets, table & 6 chairs. 12 ft. long walnut entertainment unit. All exc. cond. 803-478-8366 / 803-460-4452

John Deere 790 tractor w/ trailing 60-in. mower deck, only 164 hours, \$9500 OBO. 803-478-3688

Antiques / Collectibles

Spring Fling downtown Elloree, Sat., May 1, 3-7pm. Eat-Drink-Shop! Exclusive discounts. Participate in **Shop Crawl** w/ chance to win spring basket w/ lots of goodies. Antique Stuff will continue 75% off sale thru May 15, Wed.-Sat., 10:30-4:30, 2726 Cleveland St.

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted Full-Time

Tru by Hilton. Please apply at TRU BY HILTON 2607 Broad St. Seeking front desk clerk, breakfast hostess, house keeping & supervisor, maintenance engineer, and night auditor.

Help Wanted Full-Time

Hiring full time & part time tree service help. Drivers license is a must. Call Newman's Lawn & Tree Service at 803-316-0128.

WANTED: Dependable FT taxi driver for Sumter, Wedgefield, Manning. Have good driving record. Everything provided. 803-720-2811

Camp Bob Cooper is hiring a Building/Ground Supervisor to direct staff to complete improvements and repairs at camp. 40 hours, full benefits, \$31,500/year. Send resume to ceharpe@clermson.edu.

RENTALS

Vacation Rentals

5BR 4BA house. Garden City SC, sleeps 12-14. Approx 100 yds. to beach, pier, pavilion. \$1500 per week. Available Bike Week, May 8-15. Call 803-505-2026.

FOR SALE REAL ESTATE

Real Estate Wanted

WE PAY CASH FOR HOMES. 803-469-6973.

TRANSPORTATION

Miscellaneous

Race car starters, alternators, batteries for sale. Sisson Auto Electric 803-773-4381.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements

INCOME TAXES

Any year
TESCO 507 Broad St
Office Open All Year.
803-773-1515



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We can help with that.

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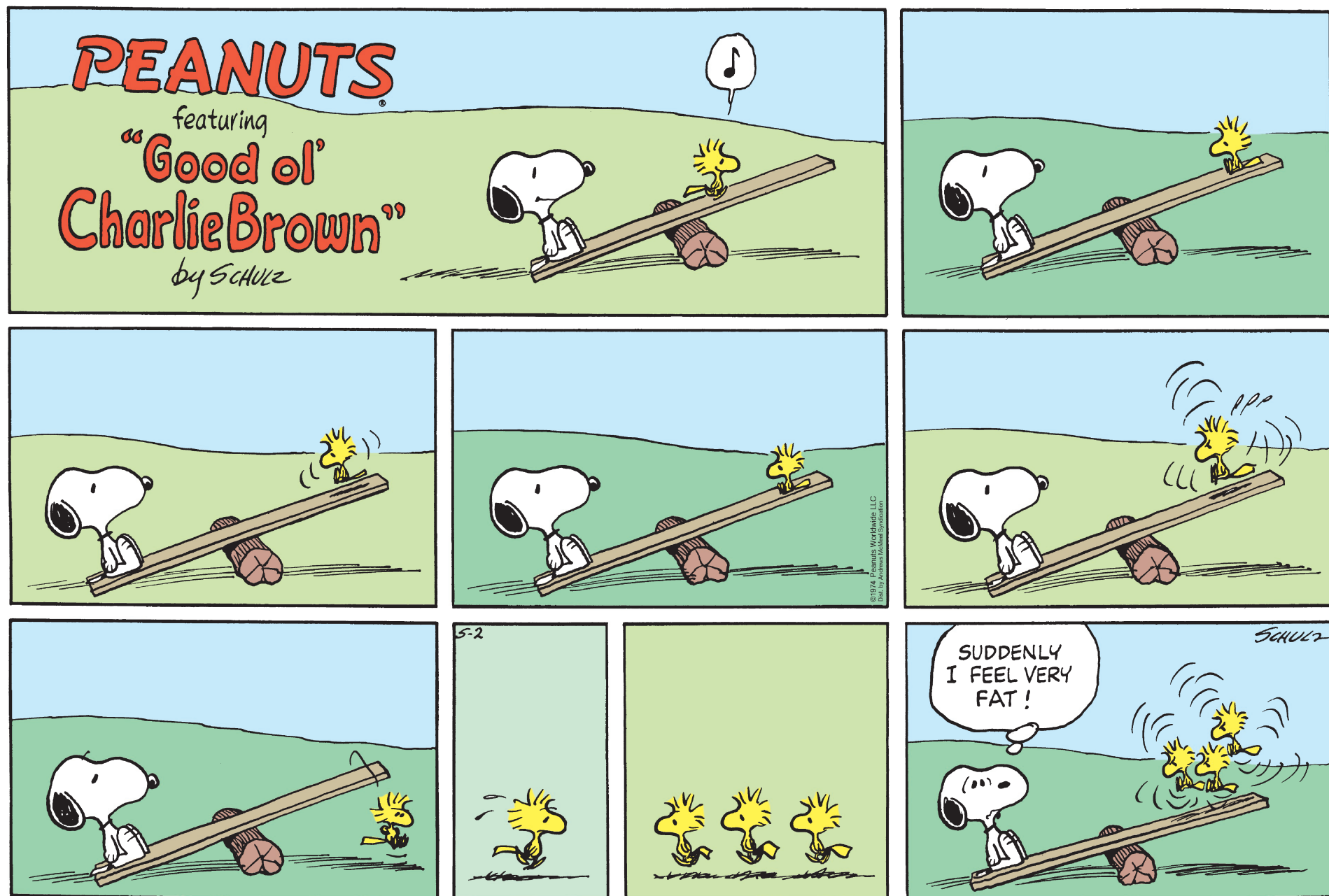
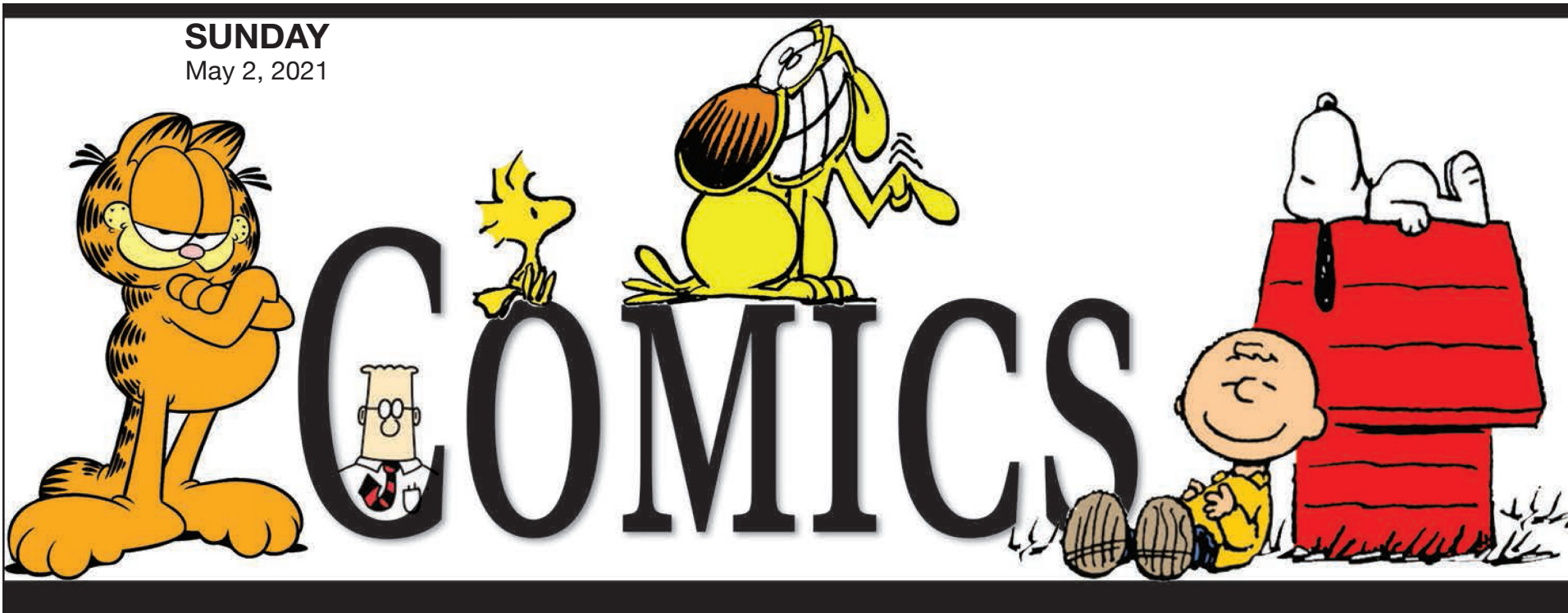
Donations Needed For Sumter SPCA You can help



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

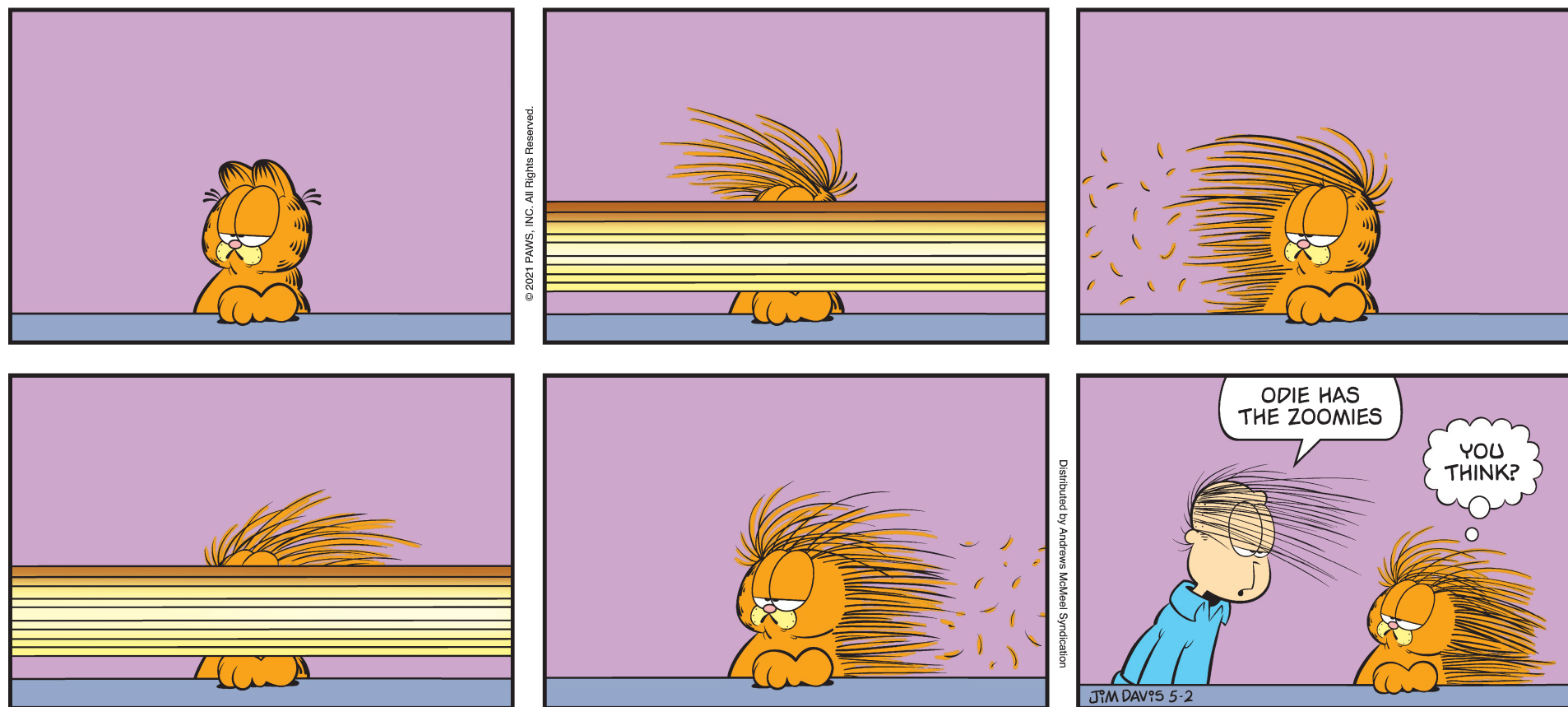
Donations can be dropped off at
Sumter SPCA
1140 S. Guignard Drive • Sumter, SC 29150
Office Hours: 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Closed Wednesdays & Sundays





GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



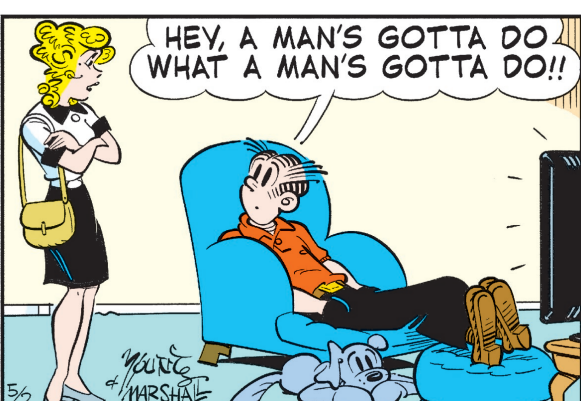
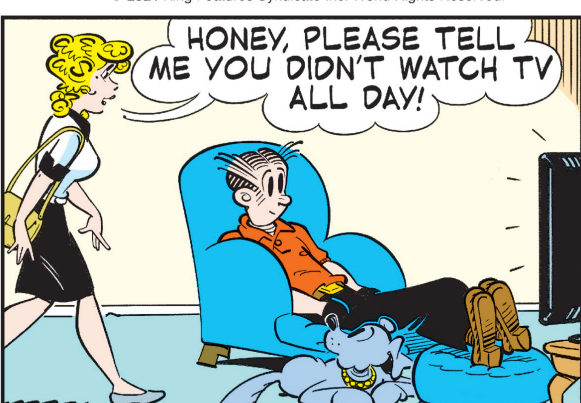
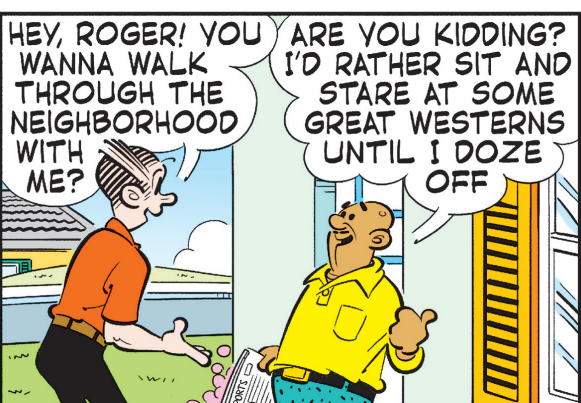
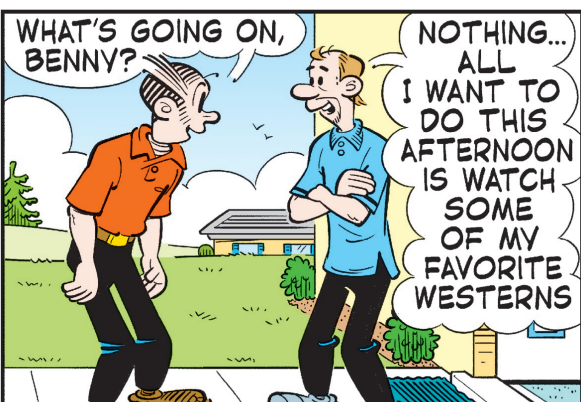
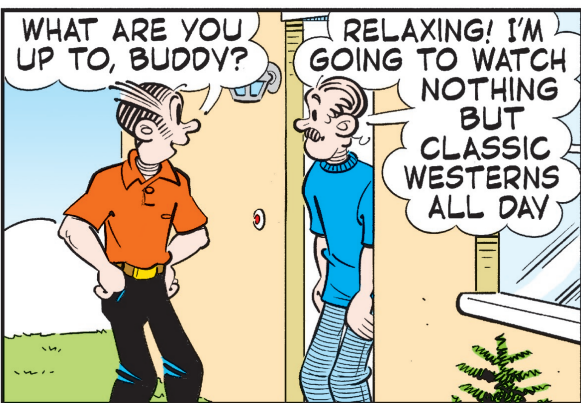
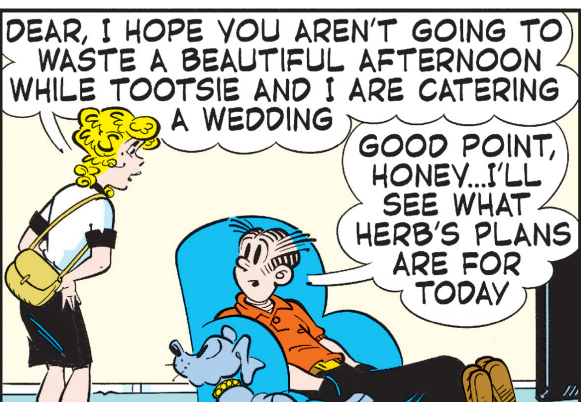
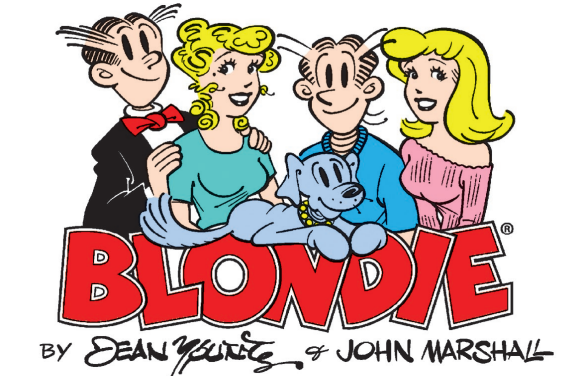
DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



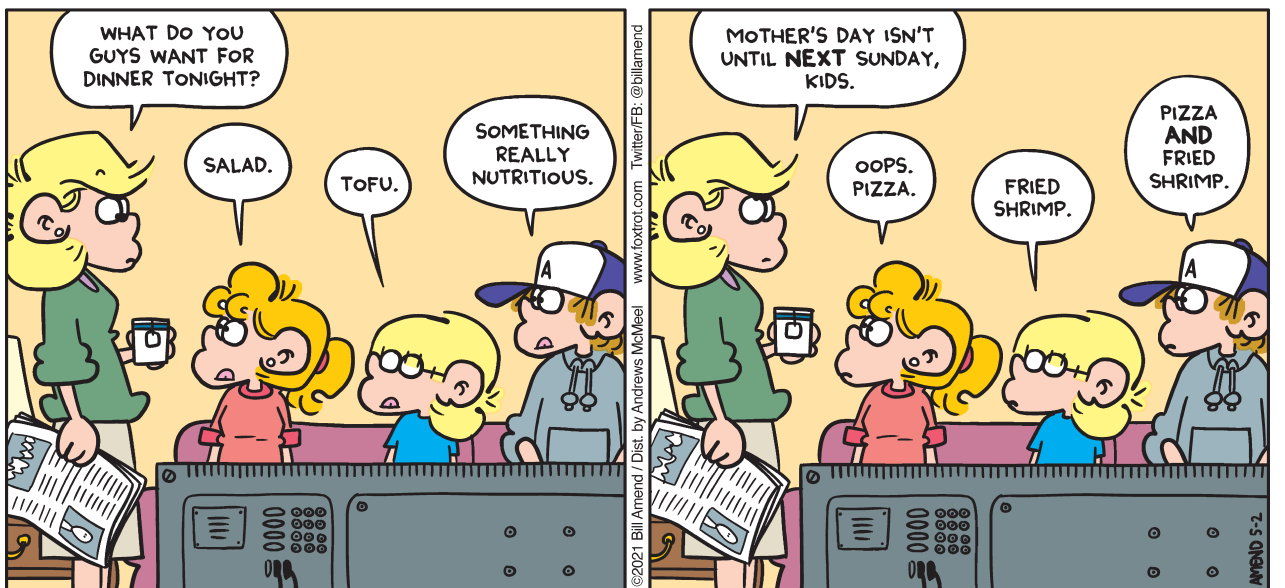
CLOSE TO HOME

BY JOHN McPHERSON



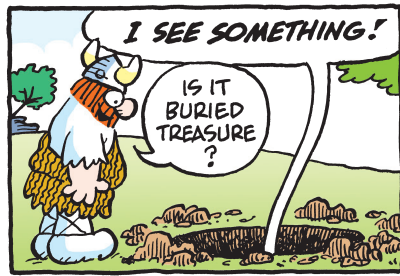
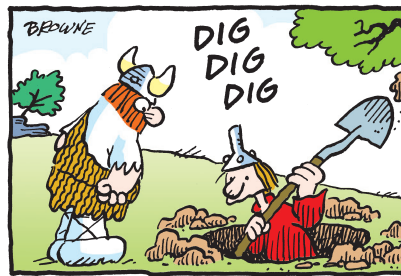
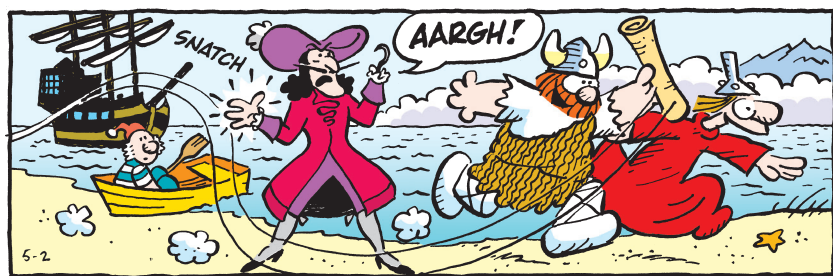
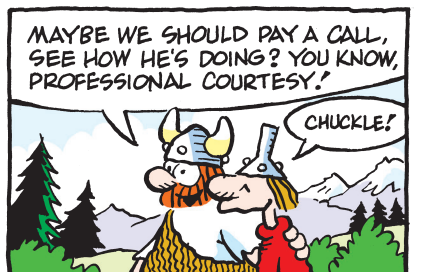
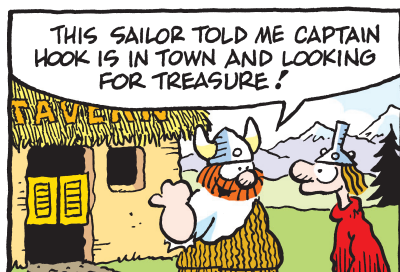
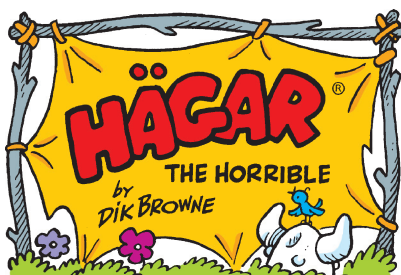
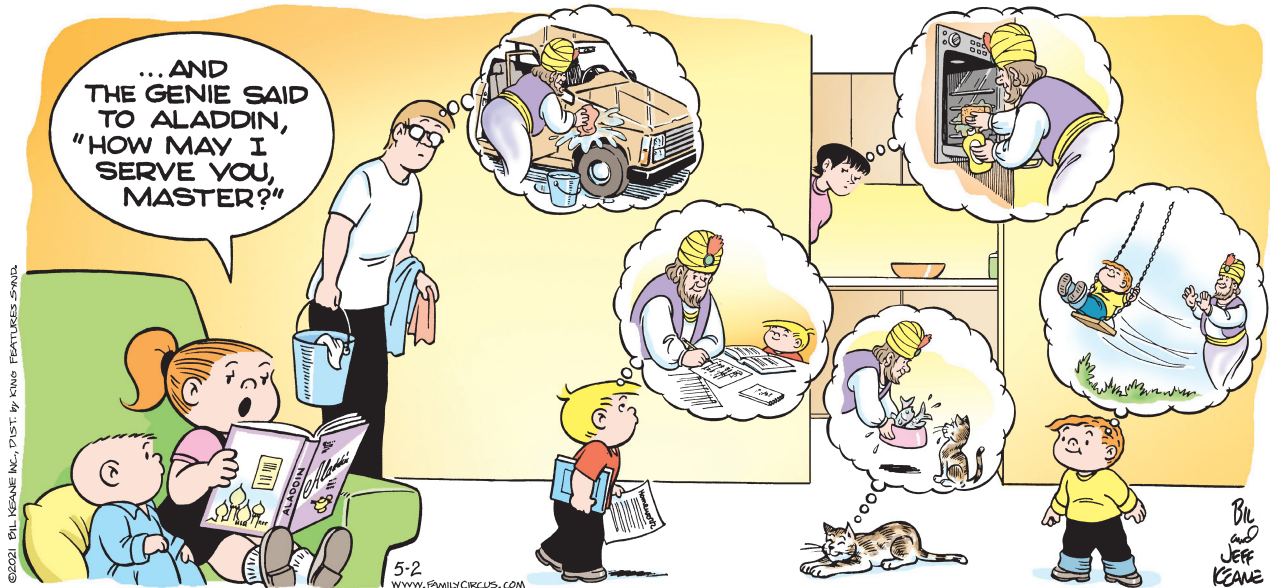
FoxTrot

by Bill Amend



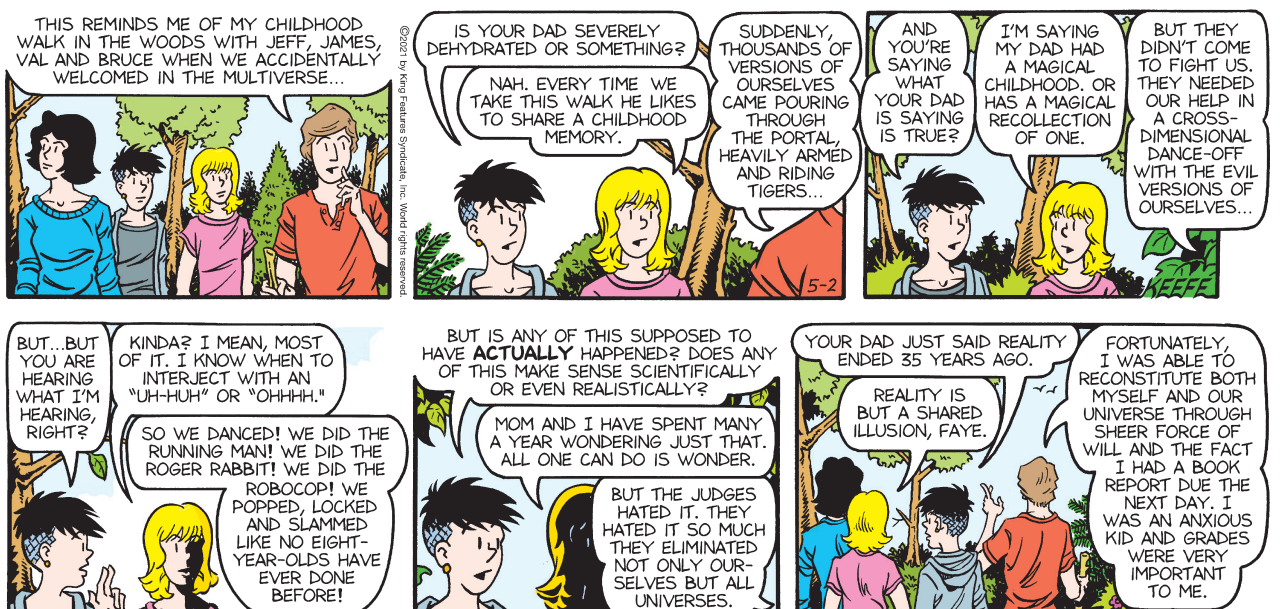
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

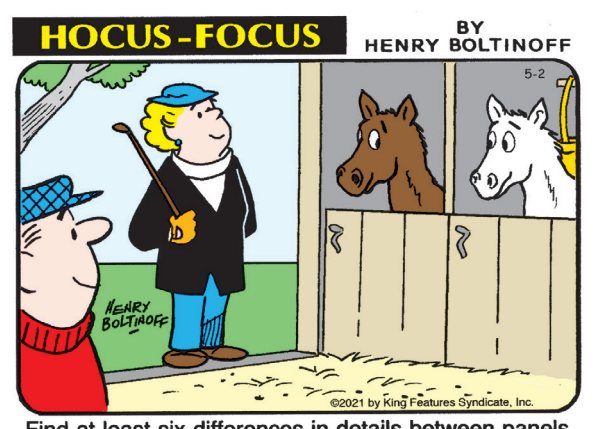
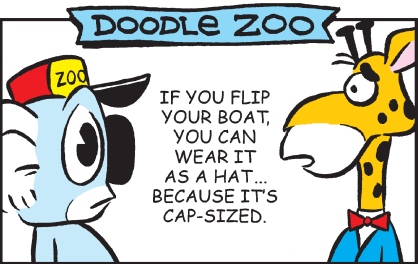
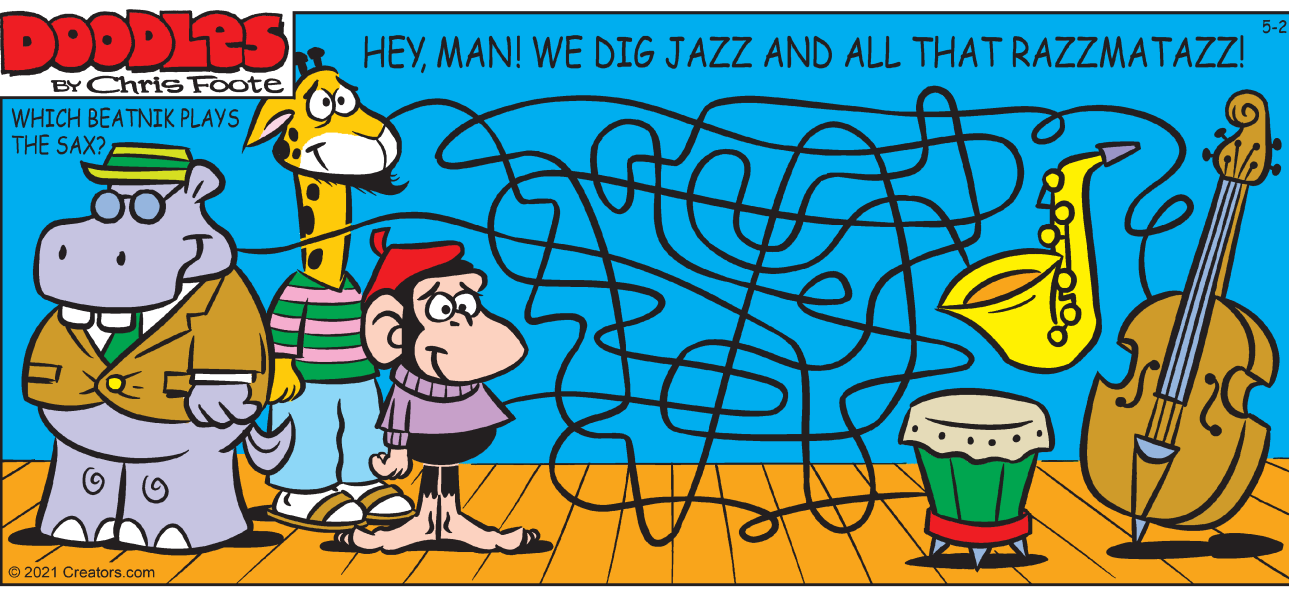
By Bill Keane



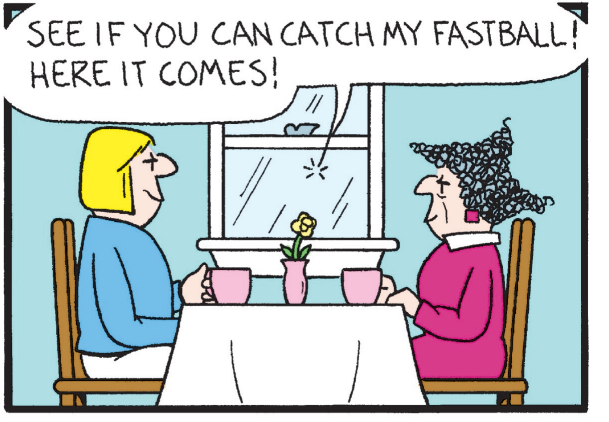
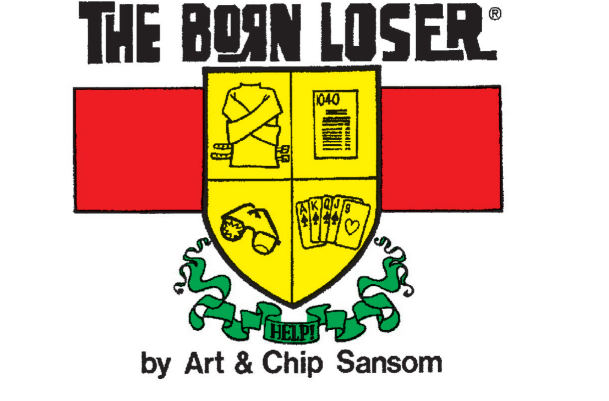
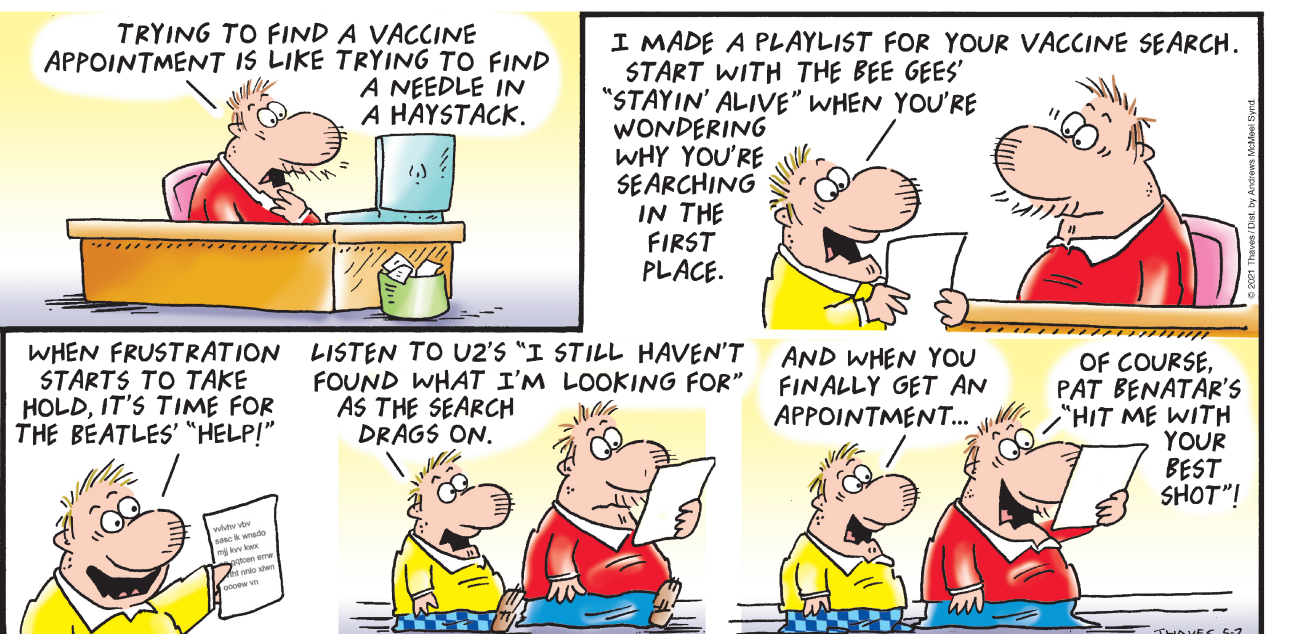
SALLY FORTH

BY FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & JIM KEEFE



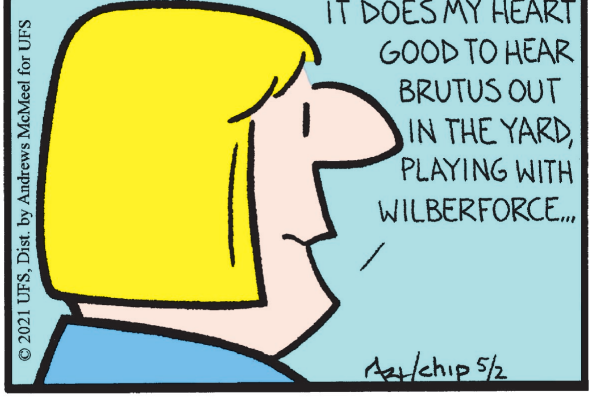


FRANK AND ERNEST



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS

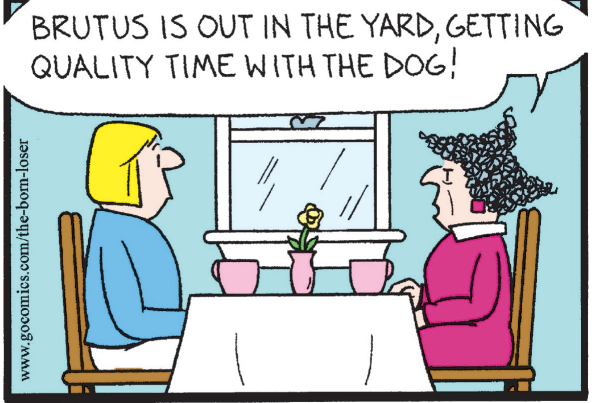
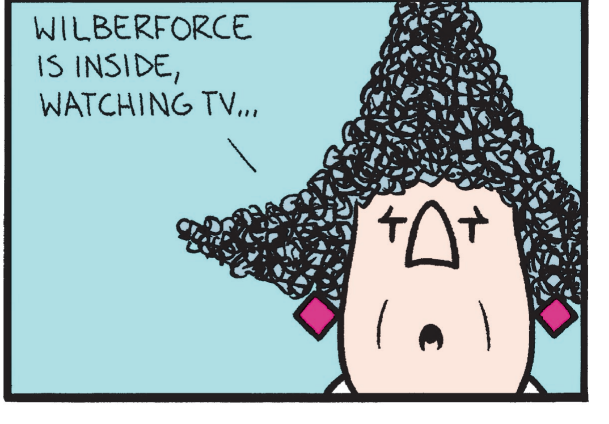
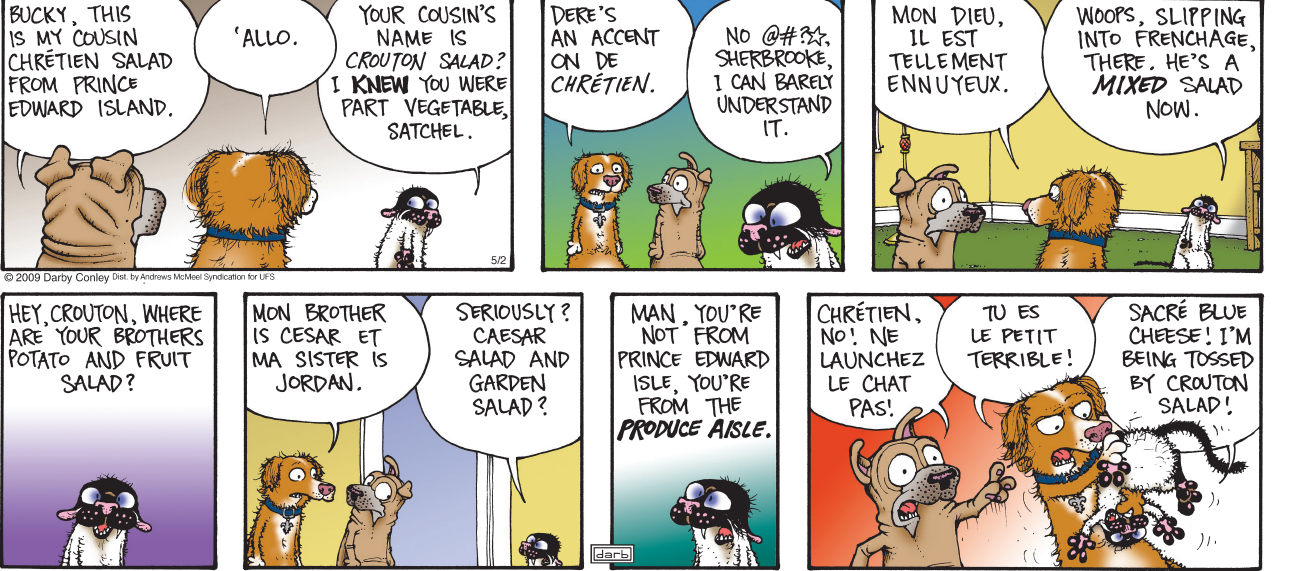


WIZARD OF ID
by Hart, Mastroianni and Parker



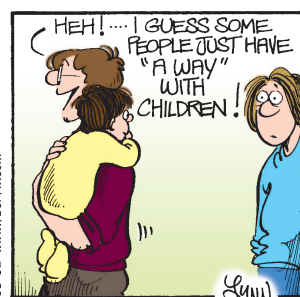
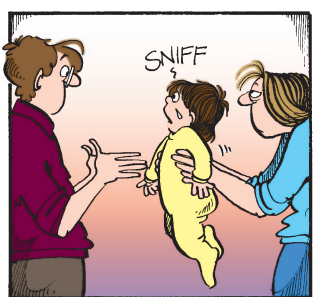
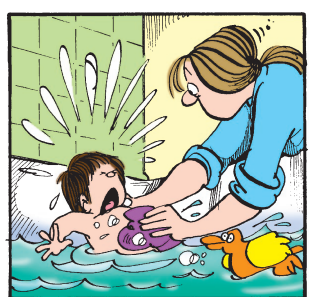
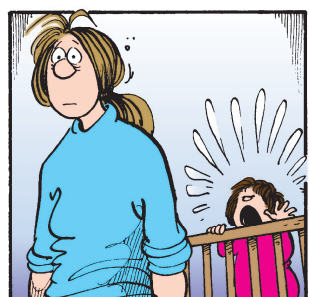
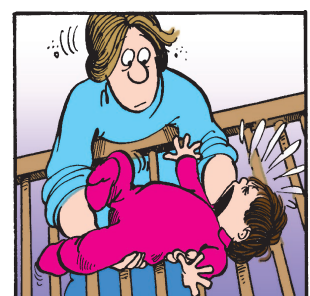
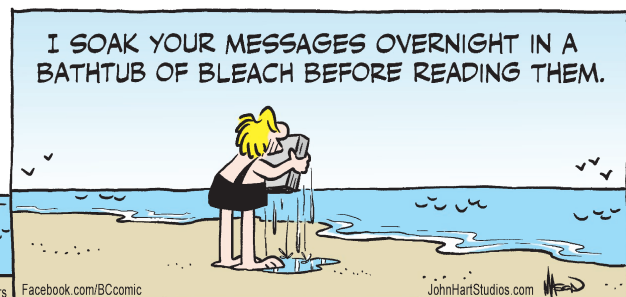
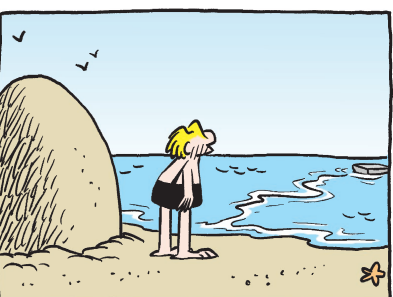
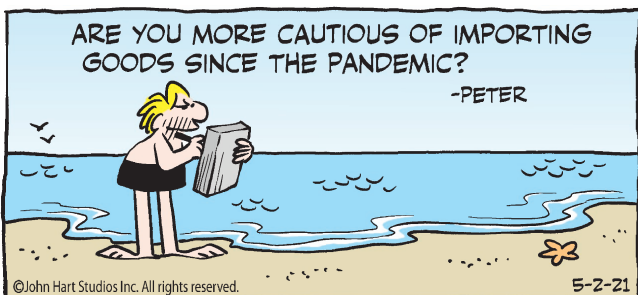
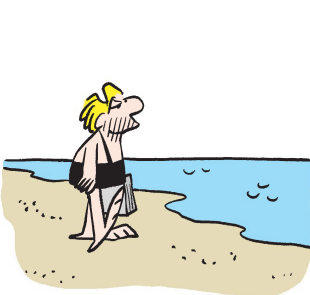
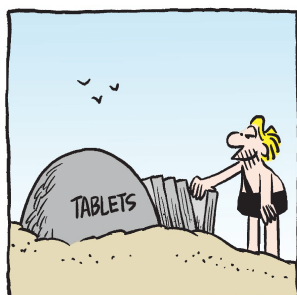
GET FUZZY

BY DARBY CONLEY



SHOE

BY GARY BROOKINS & SUSIE MACNELLY



DENNIS THE MENACE

BY HANK KETCHAM

