

Firing squad now an execution method

New S.C. law makes death row inmates choose between electric chair, gunshots

BY JEFFREY COLLINS
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster has signed into law a bill that forces death row inmates for now to choose between the

electric chair or a newly formed firing squad in hopes the state can restart executions after an involuntary 10-year pause.

South Carolina had been one of the most prolific states of its size in putting inmates

to death. But a lack of lethal injection drugs brought executions to a halt.

McMaster signed the bill Friday with no ceremony or fanfare, according to the state Legislature's website. It's the first bill the governor decided to deal with after nearly 50 hit his desk Thursday.

"The families and loved ones of victims are owed clo-

sure and justice by law. Now, we can provide it," McMaster said on Twitter on Monday.

Last week state lawmakers gave their final sign-offs to the bill, which retains lethal injection as the primary method of execution if the state has the drugs but requires prison officials to use the electric chair or firing squad if it doesn't.

Prosecutors said three inmates have exhausted all their normal appeals but can't be killed because under the previous law, inmates who don't choose the state's 109-year-old electric chair automatically are scheduled to die by lethal injection. They have all chosen the method

SEE EXECUTIONS, PAGE A8

City of Manning, McLeod Health Clarendon honor lives lost to COVID-19 during service



Dr. Catherine Rabon, chief medical officer at McLeod Health Clarendon, recognizes her staff and community members for their prayers and support at Thursday's commemoration service for those who lost their lives to COVID-19.

PHOTOS BY KAREEM WILSON / THE SUMTER ITEM

Commemoration held Thursday at Manning Fire Department

BY KAREEM WILSON
kareem@theitem.com

Manning Mayor Julia Nelson and McLeod Health Clarendon took time Thursday to recognize the lives lost during the coronavirus pandemic and honor those who were affected by the pandemic.

During the service inside the Manning Fire Department, a prayer was offered by Delaney "Kay" Frierson, pastor at Lovely Hill Baptist Church in Holly Hill, Libby Anderson and Dr. Brenda Canty Clark sang songs of praise and community members bowed their heads for a moment of silence as the First Baptist Church of Manning bells rang 10 times at 4:15 p.m. to represent the 104 lives lost in Clarendon County to COVID-19.

Nelson spoke emotionally to people recognizing those who lost friends and family members because of the coronavirus.

"We know there are a lot of people impacted by this and there are a lot of people who provided care and service during this time. We choose today to honor you all," Nelson said.

For Carrie Trebil, Regina Wright and Dr. Catherine Rabon, they know firsthand how the pandemic can af-



Regina Wright recalls her frightening experience of being a survivor of COVID-19 and losing her father to coronavirus last year. The City of Manning and McLeod Health Clarendon held a commemoration ceremony on Thursday at Manning Fire Department to honor all the lives lost because of the pandemic.

fect lives.

Each woman gave a powerful testimony of her time during the pandemic. Trebil was able to speak about her father, who died from complications from COVID-19 last year.

"It affects us all," Trebil said, holding back tears. "Since that day, I have had to make the choice to find joy and sorrow. I had to make the choice to praise during the storm. I've had to make the choice to tell Satan 'Not today' — I've had the choice to honor and remember him in a variety of ways."

Trebil thanks the nurses at McLeod Health Clarendon for their care of her father.

"My prayer for us today is that we

also choose kindness above all else. We find joy wherever we are and that we are all brave enough to keep going even when we feel like giving up," she said.

Wright, a survivor, emotionally remembered her own frightening experience contracting the coronavirus in mid-March of last year and landing in the hospital with what she first thought was an allergic reaction but became something more.

She also lost her father from COVID-19 in the beginning of the pandemic.

"I ended up being in the hospital for 55 days. I went into the emergency

SEE SERVICE, PAGE A8



SHELBY GOULDING / THE SUMTER ITEM

Mixed Sistaz United passes out hundreds of food boxes to Sumterites in a Broad Street parking lot on Friday.

Mixed Sistaz United want to end hunger, feed Sumter

BY SHELBY GOULDING
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Hunger is one problem that goes unnoticed across the United States and can unknowingly occur right in your backyard.

Knowing this, a new nonprofit in Sumter is on a mission to end hunger in not only its community, but also across the state.

"We would like to build our soup kitchen right here in Sumter. The largest soup kitchen in South Carolina," Mixed Sistaz United founder Brittany Martin said. "Once we reach that goal, we hope to open up all across America."

Mixed Sistaz United was created to bring awareness and enlighten the community about family improvement while teaching how to overcome systemic racism, according to the nonprofit's website. It began in January and continued to grow into the community food bank, soup kitchen and connection system it is today.

"I've always been an activist, and plus, I mixed my activism with my culinary skills and brought it together to start this nonprofit," Martin said. "I just wanted to create more opportunities in our community for unification and liberation in my community."

Martin is a certified executive chef and was raised in the industry thanks to her father, who ran a barbecue stand for low-income community members in her hometown, Peoria, Illinois. The idea to run a nonprofit soup kitchen came from her love for cooking and serving the underserved.

"One thing that I learned from going to school, I learned the science of cooking and the business and quantity cooking," she said. "That's why I'm able to run a soup kitchen with no problem because

SEE HUNGER, PAGE A8

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DEATHS, A7

Bettie J. Wilder Logan
DeAndre M. Funchess-McClam
Willie Mae Dinkins
James Trevin Champagne
Rosa L. Pearson
Gloria Jean Green Skinner
Shaquilla Sherrele June

Dorothy Ann Howell Williams
Darrell Eugene Davis
Richard G. Champey
Jervie Singleton
John Lewis Cousar
Walter Lee Chestnut

WEATHER, A16

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INSIDE

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SECOND FRONT

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Sumter man, 74, dies in motorcycle wreck on Sunday

BY SHELBY GOULDING

shelbie@theitem.com

A 74-year-old motorcyclist died in a two-vehicle wreck on U.S. 15 North near Lewis Road on May 16.

Allen Moffitt, of Sumter, died at Prisma Health Richland Hospital, said Sumter County Coroner Robbie Baker. He was not wearing a helmet.

The incident occurred at about 10:50 a.m., when both a motorcycle and Infiniti vehicle were traveling north. According to South Carolina Highway Patrol Sgt. Sonny Collins, Moffitt made an unlawful lane change and struck the Infiniti vehicle.

The driver of the Infiniti was not injured.

Next of kin has been notified, and an autopsy will be performed at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

The South Carolina Highway Patrol and the Sumter County Coroner's Office are investigating.

34-year-old dies in single-vehicle wreck Saturday

BY SHELBY GOULDING

shelbie@theitem.com

A 34-year-old Sumter man died in a single-vehicle wreck on U.S. 378 near the Wateree Swamp area on May 15.

Brian Hough II was pronounced dead on scene, said Sumter County Coroner Robbie Baker.

According to South Carolina Highway Patrol Sgt. Sonny Collins, the incident occurred at about 5 a.m. Hough was the driver of a 2019 Dodge Challenger traveling east and ran off the road and struck a tree. He was wearing a seatbelt. A passenger was transported to an area hospital, Collins said.

Next of kin has been notified, and an autopsy will be performed at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

The South Carolina Highway Patrol and the Sumter County Coroner's Office are investigating.

Sumter man, 77, dies 1 week after wreck in Rimini

BY SHELBY GOULDING

shelbie@theitem.com

A 77-year-old Sumter man died at Prisma Health Richland Hospital on May 10 after succumbing to his injuries from a wreck in early May.

The wreck occurred on May 3 on Camp Mac Boykin Road in the Rimini portion of Sumter County. Carl Barkley was the driver of a vehicle that attempted to avoid hitting a deer, according to Sumter County Coroner Robbie Baker. He ran off the road and struck a tree.

Next of kin has been notified.

The South Carolina Highway Patrol and the Sumter County Coroner's Office are investigating.

S.C. WIC participants get benefit increase for fruits, vegetables

FROM STAFF REPORTS

COLUMBIA — South Carolina families enrolled in a statewide nutrition program will be able to buy more fruits and vegetables for the next few months because of a law recently signed by President Joe Biden.

South Carolina's Women, Infant and Children Nutrition Program is making it easier for program participants to purchase more healthy produce by temporarily increasing the Cash Value Benefit for fruit and vegetable purchases beginning June 1. All CVBs for eligible women and children will in-

crease from \$9 to \$11 per month to \$35 per month through Sept. 30, 2021.

This increase comes after President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 into law on March 11, 2021. The law allows the United States Department of Agriculture to temporarily raise the amount of CVBs available for purchasing fruits and vegetables.

South Carolina's WIC program is managed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

"This increase allows some families to purchase nearly three times

the fruits and vegetables for three consecutive months," said Berry Kelly, state WIC director. "We are excited to provide the opportunity for our WIC families to fill up on extra fruits and vegetables."

In South Carolina, WIC families can shop for nutritious foods at more than 600 authorized WIC retailers statewide. S.C. WIC serves eligible women, infants and children up to age 5, and the program provides quality nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion and support, nutritious foods and referrals to health services.

Learn more at www.scdhec.gov/wic.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Rep. Murrell Smith, R-Sumter, was honored with the 2021 Golden Apple Award by South Carolina Public School Options.

Rep. Smith given award for defending S.C. school choice

SUBMITTED BY KENSLEY LEONARD

Coalition manager, Public School Options
North Carolina and South Carolina

South Carolina Public School Options is excited to announce that S.C. Rep. Murrell Smith, R-Sumter, was recently honored with the 2021 Golden Apple Award. Each year, SC PSO honors select members of the South Carolina Legislature who champion and defend school choice in our state. Rep. Smith continues to advocate for parents' rights to access the best public school options for their student. Smith was presented his award virtually this year

via Zoom by constituent Anabel Kubacz. Kubacz is a fifth-grader at South Carolina Connections Academy and resides in Sumter.

South Carolina Public School Options supports the creation of public school options, including charter schools, online schools, magnet schools, tuition scholarship programs, open enrollment policies and other innovative education programs. We are an alliance of parents and advocates from across the state, with chapters nationwide. Additionally, we advocate for free and equal access without restrictions to these public schools for all children.

Prisma Health's Community Care program assists vulnerable patients after hospital stay

Program trains volunteers to give nonmedical help

SUBMITTED BY PRISMA HEALTH

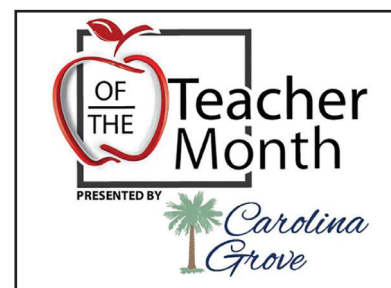
Prisma Health is seeking service volunteers for Community Care, a program providing assistance to recently discharged patients who are vulnerable or with chronic conditions needing non-medical help to remain safe and well at home. Volunteers are needed in Midlands communities. Both individuals and groups may receive training to provide volunteer service hours and ongoing support to participate in a variety of ways. COVID-19 safety precautions are required to protect volunteers and patients.

"Social isolation adds to the challenges for vulnerable patients and those with chronic conditions. This was also true before the pandemic and we are committed to

addressing this unmet need in our communities," said Suzanne Young, Prisma Health Community Care program coordinator. "We're excited to offer this fulfilling service opportunity for community organizations, faith groups and individuals." This Prisma Health program receives grant support from The Duke Endowment.

Community Care pairs recently discharged Prisma Health patients who qualify for assistance with trained volunteers for help with specific needs, such as phone check-ins, errands, household chores, meals, transportation, visits and yardwork. Volunteers must complete training and a background check.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities with Community Care, visit PrismaHealth.org/CommunityCare or call (864) 884-3792 or email CommunityCare@PrismaHealth.org.



Vote for Carolina Grove Teacher of the Month

Vote now for your favorite educator to give him or her a chance to be named May's Carolina Grove Teacher of the Month. Four finalists have been chosen by *Item* staff from nominations submitted by the public. To vote daily through May 24, go to www.theitem.com/teacher. The winner, announced on May 26, will receive a \$50 gift card to the Alice Drive restaurant.

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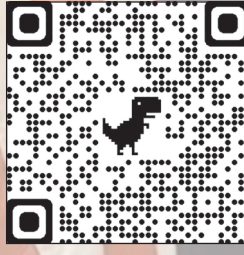
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It has been more than a year since Sumter-based U.S. Army Central held a retirement ceremony for one of its soldiers because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but on Friday, it honored a 30-year sergeant major with an official ceremony. Sgt. Maj. Rebeca Kennedy is a native of Puerto Rico raised in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. She enlisted into the U.S. Army in September 1991 as an administrative specialist and officially retired after 30 years of service as a human resources specialist.



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Breakfast held in honor of National Police Week



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY SUMTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sumter County Sheriff's Office and Sumter Police Department attended Shaw Air Force Base's Security Forces Police Week Breakfast on Monday, May 10, in recognition of National Police Week. Local law enforcement speakers for the event included Sumter Assistant Chief of Police Jeffery Jackson and Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott.



Annual Myrtle Beach Bike Week rebounds from pandemic slump

MYRTLE BEACH (AP) — A South Carolina motorcyclists' event attracted large numbers of bikers from across the United States this year, after the 2020 gathering was diminished by the coronavirus pandemic.

Myrtle Beach Bike Week began May 7 and wrapped up Sunday. *The Sun News* reported that hundreds of bikers were out Friday in Murrells Inlet, listening to music and shopping during the spring Harley-Davidson motorcycle rally. A bar was surrounded by motorcycles with license plates from across the U.S.

Michelle Jamison told the newspaper that she got her first motorcycle 12 years ago when she was 42. Now, she

rides one decorated with more than 15,000 Swarovski crystals. She said she decided to bedazzle it to let people know it's a woman's bike.

"Women don't want to be put on the back (of motorcycles) anymore," Jamison said.

Jamison, who is from Minnesota, is one of many woman bikers who attended Myrtle Beach Bike Week. She said she hopes to inspire women to do everything they want to accomplish.

Hannah Guerra, who was out Friday with her mother, Helen Owens, said there seemed to be many more people this year than last year. Guerra and Owens traveled to Myrtle Beach from Rock Hill to attend their sixth Bike Week.

Try HIIT in your next workout

If you are making the commitment to become more fit but are not sure you can dedicate the amount of time and energy, you are not alone. Hours spent in the gym or taking the time to get there can be difficult to squeeze in an already busy day.

During the last several decades, research has shown that shorter, more intense workouts can be just as effective, if not more effective, than moderate, hour-long sweat sessions. Fitness experts suggest that you can save time and increase energy levels with High Intensity Interval Training, no matter where you are, what equipment you choose or type of activity you do.

HIIT does not mean higher impact, so even individuals with injuries can train at a higher intensity within their own limits. Higher intensity means working at a faster pace or increasing the workload in order to increase the heart rate to a higher than normal level. Most exercisers work out at a pace around 60-70% of their maximum heart rate. HIIT encourages individuals to perform the exercises up around 85% of their maximum heart rate.

Adding HIIT not only adds

variety to the workouts, but it can also help improve aerobic fitness, burn more calories, reduce resting heart rate, blood pressure and blood sugar, enhance performance and support better

cardiovascular health. This type of workout can be applied to walking, swimming, cycling or any other cardio-type activity or even weight training and body weight work.

Not only are these types of workouts shorter in duration, but studies have shown that the "afterburn," or Excess Post-exercise Oxygen Consumption, is greater.

The body's metabolism stays elevated as the body recovers, which can translate into a more effective and efficient workout. Even though the majority of the calories are used during the activity itself, the metabolic rate has shown to be greater post workout for up to 24 hours. Research supports that exercise intensity enhances the EPOC effect, more so than duration, and may be more effective for individuals who want to lose weight.

HIIT is highly recommended for conditioned exercisers and is not something anyone should jump into. While HIIT can be very

effective, it can also place a lot of stress on the body and cause some adverse effects for non-conditioned individuals, like an increase in blood pressure and core body temperature.

To calculate your maximum heart rate, subtract your age from 220. Multiply that number by .85 to get that high-intensity interval heart rate number. For example, for a 50-year-old: 220 - 50 = 170 maximum heart rate (MHR); 170 MHR x .85 = 144. The heart rate during the high-intensity intervals for a 50-year-old should reach close to 144. Fitness trainers suggest working up to this number gradually no matter how conditioned you are.

Performing HIIT, the working interval, or "sprint," should never be any longer than 30 seconds, and the interval rest period should be 1 to 5 times greater than the working interval, allowing the heart rate to drop down. For individuals who are exercising regularly and doing mostly steady state, start by adding one 10-minute HIIT session per week. Benefits can be obtained by performing HIIT 1-3 times per week even for the most conditioned individuals.

Missy Corrigan is executive of community health for Sumter Family YMCA. She can be reached at mcorrigan@ymcasumter.org or (803) 773-1404.

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Some Americans aren't ready to give up masks despite new CDC guidance

BY JAY REEVES

The Associated Press

Like more than 120 million other Americans, Jan Massie is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and can pretty much give up wearing a mask under the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But she's still covering her face, even as the temperature rises in her native Alabama, because of benefits she says are too great to give up.

The retired educator didn't catch the illness caused by the new coronavirus, and she also didn't get the flu or her twice-yearly colds while masked during the pandemic. Unlike some, she's not gotten any hostile blowback in public for wearing a mask. So why quit now?

"I've worn a mask where it really wasn't required," Massie, who lives in suburban Birmingham, said Saturday. "Many people, more than I expected, still are, too."

With COVID-19 cases on the decline after more than 580,000 deaths and with more than a third of the U.S. population fully vaccinated, millions are deciding whether to continue wearing face masks, which were both a shield against infection and a point of heated political debate over the last year. People have myriad reasons for deciding to stop, or continuing to wear, a mask.

Many are ready to put aside the sadness, isolation and wariness of the pandemic. Ditching face masks — even ones bedazzled with sequins or sports team logos — is a visible, liberating way to move ahead. Yet others are still worried about new virus variants and the off-chance they might contract the virus and pass it along to others, though the risks of both are greatly reduced for those who are fully vaccinated.

Denise Duckworth was among the unmasked as she strolled through a revived French Quarter in New Orleans, where jazz musicians and tourists have returned to the streets.

"I've always been against masks, and I think all their rules have been hypocritical, and they've been confusing," said Duckworth, visiting from Kansas City, Missouri.

Like most others, Duckworth wasn't wearing a face mask on an upbeat Friday that made the Quarter feel more normal than it had in months. Alex Bodell of Ithaca, New York, stood out in the crowd because of the black mask covering his nose and face, but he was more at ease that way.

"I certainly feel a lot more comfortable, and I think I'm enjoying myself a lot more here being fully vaccinated and feeling that, you know, kind of regardless of my mask that I'm covered," he said.

The CDC last week said fully vaccinated people — those who are two weeks past their final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine — can quit wearing masks outdoors in crowds and in most indoor settings and give up social distancing. Partially vaccinated or unvaccinated people should continue wearing masks, the agency said.

The guidance still calls for masks in crowded indoor settings including buses, airplanes, hospitals, prisons and homeless shelters. But it clears a path toward reopening workplaces, schools and other venues that went dark during the pandemic.

Maskless during an outdoor event in Fargo, North Dakota, college student An-

Director says easing of mask wearing based solely on science

BY KIMBERLEE KRUESI

The Associated Press

The head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Sunday defended the decision to ease mask-wearing guidance for fully vaccinated people, stressing that increasing political pressure had nothing to do with the abrupt shift in guidelines.



WALENSKY

"I'm delivering the science as the science is delivered to the medical journals. And it evolved," CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said on FOX News Sunday. "I deliver it as soon as I can when we have that information available."

Under the new guidelines released last week, fully vaccinated people — those who are two weeks past their final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine — can quit wearing masks outdoors in crowds and in most indoor settings and give up social distancing.

However, partially vaccinated or unvaccinated people should continue wearing masks, the agency said. The guidance also still calls for masks in crowded indoor settings including buses, airplanes, hospitals, prisons and homeless shelters.

The sudden change sparked praise from those eager to return to pre-pandemic life.

Yet concerns have been raised from those who say

there's no easy way for businesses and others to determine who is fully vaccinated and who is not. Instead, many will have to rely on an honor system as many states and communities have already been lifting mask mandates amid improving virus numbers and as more Americans have been shedding face coverings after getting shots.

"I would imagine within a period of just a couple of weeks, you're going to start to see significant clarification of some of the actually understandable and reasonable questions that people are asking," Dr. Anthony Fauci, the face of the U.S. government's pandemic response, said on Face the Nation.

The timing of the change has also faced questions. Just days earlier, Walensky had defended the agency's strict mask guidance in front of a Senate committee where some Republicans on the panel described the CDC's guidance as "unworkable."

When pressed about the quick turnaround on mask wearing, Walensky said the agency was not giving in to pressure but instead needed time to review evolving science.

"I can tell you it certainly would have been easier if the science had evolved a week earlier and I didn't have to go to Congress making those statements. But I'm delivering the science as the science is delivered to the medical journals," she said.

drew Kodet said he's been immunized and will follow the CDC guidelines.

"If you've been vaccinated and you've put the effort into it to avoid spreading the disease, it's about time to begin this rebuilding process," said Kodet, 20. "There is nothing political about it with me."

Near Boston in Cambridge, Massachusetts, epidemiologist Vanessa Li isn't past the two-week point of her second vaccine dose and is continuing to wear her mask even outside, particularly when lots of other people are around.

"I guess I am hesitant to take it off because it's been such a habit and internationally there's been different strains and different risk levels," said Li, 25, of Somerville. "Global travel is picking up and it's still prevalent, so I'm not really sure how at risk everyone is at the moment."

Wearing a mask as he made an espresso at his coffee shop in San Francisco, Justin Lawrence said he's got to comply with local rules that mandate facial coverings for indoor activities.

"It puts small businesses in the place of having to police people all over again, and you can't tell by looking at somebody that they've been vaccinated," said Lawrence, who co-owns Fayes Coffee in the

Mission District.

The decision to continue wearing a mask came down to uncertainty for Evan Mandel. Both vaccinated and masked as he waited outside to enter the Art Institute of Chicago, Mandel said there are enough questions that he avoids joggers who are breathing heavily and could send particles carrying the virus that much further.

"I still hold my breath or get off to the side," he said.

And then there are rules. Andy Lamparter wore a mask at Saturday's Preakness Stakes in Baltimore, where Pimlico Race Course required them amid a sharply reduced crowd of 10,000 people, but he wasn't too happy about it. "It's annoying because I do have my shots," he said.

Raquel Mitchell recovered from a bout of COVID-19 in December and is adamant against getting a vaccine, which she doesn't trust because of the quick development. She's still wearing a mask and taking other precautions, like dining outdoors at restaurants near her home in New York's East Harlem area and either asking for plastic utensils or bringing her own.

When will she feel it's safe enough to ease up?

"I don't know. Never," said Mitchell. "It's going to be really difficult for me."

Some families with kids are about to get checks that can make a difference

Starting in July, most families with kids will start getting monthly payments of up to \$300 per child as part of the American Rescue Plan's expansion of the child tax credit.

The payments are scheduled to end in December, and it's unclear whether they will be extended. But even six months of payments could make a big difference in many families' finances.

For some, the money will be a lifeline to pay rent, food and other essential expenses. For others, the cash could be a chance to make lasting changes that could help them become more financially stable.

A BIGGER, BETTER CREDIT

The child tax credit dates back to 1997 and started as a \$500 credit designed to provide some tax relief to middle- and upper-middle-income families. Over the years, Congress expanded the size of the credit and made it available to lower-income people, too. In 2017, the maximum credit was raised to \$2,000 and income limits were increased to \$200,000 for single filers and \$400,000 for married couples, after which the credit phases out.

The American Rescue Plan increases the maximum credit, but not for everybody. The new law adds \$1,000 for children ages 6 to 17 and \$1,600 for children under 6. But the extra amounts begin to phase out for single filers with adjusted gross incomes over \$75,000 and married couples at over \$150,000. The credit is reduced \$50 for every \$1,000 of income over those limits.

Taxpayers who are phased out of the extended credit may still qualify for the original \$2,000 credit, although again the credit is reduced \$50 for each \$1,000 of income over the 2017 income limits.

The new law makes two other important changes. The credit is now fully refundable, which means more families can get money back if their credit amount is more than the tax they owe. Also, half of the credit will be paid out in monthly installments from July to December. The other half can be claimed on the taxpayer's 2021 return, to be filed next year.

The IRS will determine if people are eligible for the monthly payments using their 2020 tax returns or, if those haven't yet been filed, their 2019 returns, says financial planner Robert Westley, a member of the American Institute of CPAs' Financial Literacy Commission.

HOW TO USE THE MONEY

You know best what your family needs, but anyone who doesn't have an emergency fund should consider starting one, says Jennifer Tescher, founder and CEO of the Financial Health Net-

work, a nonprofit that promotes financial stability for lower- and middle-income people.

A savings account with just a few hundred dollars is often enough to break the paycheck-to-paycheck cycle.

"Most unexpected expenses that people face are really in the few hundred dollar range," Tescher says.

Most low- to middle-income families make enough money to cover their expenses, but there's often a cash flow mismatch between when they need money and when it comes in, Tescher says. That can lead to late fees, bank overdrafts, utility shut-offs and other unpleasant consequences.

"Then, digging yourself out of the mess is time-consuming and expensive," Tescher says. Drawing from an emergency account, then replenishing it can smooth out those gaps.

OTHER WAYS TO INCREASE YOUR FINANCIAL HEALTH

Once you have a starter emergency fund, you may want to pay down payday loans, credit cards and other expensive debt, Westley says. The less interest you have to pay on debt, the more money you have for uses that you choose.

People also could start or increase their retirement savings, either by contributing to an individual retirement account or boosting their contributions to a workplace plan such as a 401(k). While the tax credit money can't be directly placed into a workplace plan, you could use it to replace the contributions that come out of your paycheck.

You may want to save money for a down payment, since homeownership is a common way to build wealth. You also could help your children's future financial health by saving for their education. Contributing to a 529 college savings plan can provide tax-free money for schooling, and many states offer a tax break or other incentives.

If you don't already have health insurance, the monthly payments could help you pay the premiums for policies purchased on the Affordable Care Act exchanges at HealthCare.gov. The American Rescue Plan passed in March also increased subsidies, and other improvements have reduced the cost of most policies. Health insurance can help you avoid potentially bankrupting medical bills if someone in your family gets sick or injured.

Having a plan for the money before it arrives can help ensure the cash goes where you most want it, Tescher says.

"Financial Health Network research has consistently shown that planning ahead and identifying specific financial goals is highly correlated with improved financial health regardless of income," Tescher says.



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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this April 30 photo, former Afghan interpreters hold placards during a protest against the U.S. government and NATO in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Afghans who helped U.S. now fear being left behind

BY RAHIM FAIEZ and BEN FOX
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — He served as an interpreter alongside U.S. soldiers on hundreds of patrols and dozens of fire-fights in eastern Afghanistan, earning a glowing letter of recommendation from an American platoon commander and a medal of commendation.

Still, Ayazudin Hilal was turned down when he applied for one of the scarce special visas that would allow him to relocate to the U.S. with his family. Now, as American and NATO forces prepare to leave the country, he and thousands of others who aided the war effort fear they will be left stranded, facing the prospect of Taliban reprisals.

"We are not safe," the 41-year-old father of six said of Afghan civilians who worked for the U.S. or NATO. "The Taliban is calling us and telling us, 'Your step-brother is leaving the country soon, and we will kill all of you guys.'"

The fate of interpreters after the troop withdrawal is one of the looming uncertainties surrounding the withdrawal, including a possible resurgence of terrorist threats and a reversal of fragile gains for women if chaos, whether from competing Kabul-based warlords or the Taliban, follows the end of America's military engagement.

Interpreters and other civilians who worked for the U.S. government or NATO can get what is known as a special immigrant visa, or SIV, under a program created in 2009 and modeled after a similar program for Iraqis.

Both SIV programs have long been dogged by complaints about a lengthy and complicated application process for security vetting that grew more cumbersome with pandemic safety measures.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken told reporters last month that the U.S. is committed to helping interpreters and other Afghan civilians who aided the war effort, often at great personal risk. The Biden administration has also launched a review of the SIV programs, examining the delays and the ability of applicants to challenge a rejection. It will also be adding anti-fraud measures.

Amid the review, former interpreters, who typically seek to shield their identities and keep a low profile, are becoming increasingly public about what they fear will happen should the Taliban re-

turn to power.

"They absolutely are going to kill us," Mohammad Shoaib Walizada, a former interpreter for the U.S. Army, said in an interview after joining others in a protest in Kabul.

At least 300 interpreters have been killed in Afghanistan since 2016, and the Taliban have made it clear they will continue to be targeted, said Matt Zeller, a co-founder of No One Left Behind, an organization that advocates on their behalf. He also served in the country as an Army officer.

"The Taliban considers them to be literally enemies of Islam," said Zeller, now a fellow at the Truman National Security Project. "There's no mercy for them."

Members of Congress and former service members have also urged the U.S. government to expedite the application process, which now typically takes more than three years. State Department spokesperson Ned Price said May 10 that the U.S. Embassy in Kabul had temporarily increased staff to help process visas.

In December, Congress added 4,000 visas, bringing the total number of Afghans who can come with their immediate family members to 26,500, with about half the allotted amount already used and about 18,000 applications pending.

Critics and refugee advocates said the need to relocate could swell dramatically if Afghanistan tumbles further into disarray. As it is, competing warlords financed and empowered by U.S. and NATO forces threaten the future along with a resurgent Taliban, which have been able to make substantive territorial gains against a poorly trained and poorly equipped Afghan security force largely financed by U.S. taxpayers.

"While I applaud the Biden administration's review of the process, if they are not willing to sort of rethink the entire thing, they are not going to actually start helping those Afghans who are most at need," said Noah Coburn, a political anthropologist whose research focuses on Afghanistan.

Coburn estimates there could be as many as 300,000 Afghan civilians who worked for the U.S. or NATO in some form during the past two decades.

"There is a wide range of Afghans who would not be tolerated under the Taliban's conception of what society should look like," said Adam Bates, policy counsel for the International Refugee Assis-

tance Project.

Those fears have been heightened by recent targeted killings of journalists and other civilians as well as government workers. The Islamic State affiliate in Afghanistan has claimed responsibility for several, while the Taliban and government blame each other.

Biden raised the nation's overall cap on refugee admissions to 62,500 this month, weeks after facing bipartisan blowback for his delay in replacing the record low ceiling set by his predecessor, Donald Trump.

The U.S. is not planning to move civilians out en masse, for now at least. "We are processing SIVs in Kabul and have no plans for evacuations at this time," a senior administration official said.

The White House is in the beginning stages of discussing its review with Congress and will work with lawmakers if changes in the SIV program are needed "in order to process applications as quickly and efficiently as possible, while also ensuring the integrity of the program and safeguarding national security," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

Former interpreters have support in Congress, in part because many also have former American troops vouching for them.

Walizada, for example, submitted a letter of support from an Army sergeant who supervised him in dozens of patrols, including one where the interpreter was wounded by Taliban gunfire. "I cannot recall a linguist who had a greater dedication to his country or the coalition cause," the sergeant wrote.

Walizada was initially approved for a visa, but it was later revoked, with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services telling him that it had "adverse information you may be unaware of," in a letter he provided to The Associated Press. Walizada said he has appealed the decision and hasn't received a response.

Hilal, who translated from Dari and Pashto to English for the Army from June 2009 to December 2012, was rejected by the U.S. Embassy, which said he did not meet the requirement for "faithful and valuable service," because he was fired by the contracting firm that hired him after 3 1/2 years of service.

It was a stinging response, considering the dangers he faced. "If I haven't done faithful and good service for the U.S.

Army, why have they given me this medal?" he says, holding the commendation, in an AP interview at an office in Kabul used by the former interpreters to meet with journalists.

Why he was fired by the U.S.-based contractor, Mission Essential, is unclear. Hilal said he had a conflict with supervisors that started with a dispute over a work assignment. The company says it does not discuss current or former employees and declined to comment.

But whatever happened eventually, a November 2019 letter of support from his platoon commander was highly complimentary of "stellar" service that "rivals that of most deployed service members."

Hilal was by his side on hundreds of patrols and dozens of firefights, monitoring enemy radio traffic and interpreting during encounters with locals, Army Maj. Thomas Goodman said in the letter.

"He was dependable and performed admirably," Goodman wrote. "Even in firefights that lasted hours on end, he never lost his nerve, and I could always count him to be by my side."

As it happens, an AP journalist was embedded with the unit for a time, amid intense fighting in eastern Afghanistan, and captured images of Hilal and Goodman, surrounded by villagers as American forces competed with the Taliban for the support of the people.

Goodman said he stands by his recommendation but declined to comment further.

Coburn, who interviewed more than 150 special immigrant visa recipients and applicants for a recently released study of the program, said Hilal's denial reflects a rigid evaluation process. "There is no nuance to the definition of service," he said. "You either served or you didn't serve."

The special immigration visa program allows applicants to make one appeal, and many are successful. Nearly 80% of 243 Afghans who appealed in the first quarter of 2021 were subsequently approved after providing additional information, according to the State Department. Hilal says his appeal was rejected.

Bates, of the International Refugee Assistance Project, says the fact that there is a U.S. Army officer willing to support should count for something. "Even if he doesn't qualify for the SIV program, this plainly seems like someone who is in need of protection," he said.

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Marely, 12, of El Salvador, cries as she stands as she waits to be processed by authorities after turning herself in upon crossing the U.S.-Mexico border on May 11 in La Joya, Texas. Growing numbers of migrant families are making the heart-wrenching decision to separate from their children and send them into the U.S. alone.

PHOTOS BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



'There was no going back'

Desperate migrants send children into U.S. alone

BY ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON
The Associated Press

LA JOYA, Texas — Marely had traveled for 13 days, trekking with her mother from Central America to the busiest corridor for illegal U.S.-Mexico border crossings. Then, as the 12-year-old Salvadoran girl got on an inflatable raft to cross the Rio Grande in Texas in the middle of the night, she discovered her mom wasn't coming with her.

Her mom told her that she loved her very much right before the boat got pushed into the water.

"I thought she had already gotten on, but she hadn't," Marely told The Associated Press this week, tears rolling down her cheeks.

But she didn't scream or ask the smugglers to go back and get her mother.

"I knew she was on the other side. There was no going back. They told us to run, to keep going," said Marely, who turned herself over to Border Patrol agents in La Joya, Texas.

The AP is not using the girl's last name. It does not normally name children without permission from their parents, and the identity of her parents could not be obtained.

Growing numbers of migrant families are making the heart-wrenching decision to separate from their children and send them into America alone. Many families with kids older than 6 have been quickly expelled from the country under federal pandemic-related powers that don't allow migrants to seek asylum. But they know that President Joe Biden's administration is allowing unaccompanied children to stay in the U.S. while their cases are decided.

Forced out of the country, they are sending their older children, like Marely, back to cross alone. These self-separations mean children arrive in the United States confused and in distress. Many have traveled hundreds of miles with their parents without understanding why they can't cross the last stretch together.

Once in the U.S., Marely joined two teenagers traveling without their parents and a larger group of families fleeing poverty, storm devastation and violence in their homelands. For two hours, the girl from a village south of San Salvador walked as a thunderstorm brewed overhead in the vast Texas Rio Grande Valley, a busy stretch for river crossings.

Marely's mother had her memorize the full name and number for her grandmother in Washington, D.C., who told the AP she was expecting to receive her granddaughter.

As more families decide to send their children alone, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas has been pressed by lawmakers about the possi-



Emely, 8, of Honduras, waits at an intake area after turning herself in upon crossing the U.S.-Mexico border on May 12 in La Joya, Texas.

bility that expulsions could be a "new source of family separation." It follows widespread outrage over former President Donald Trump's "zero tolerance" policy that forced apart families on the border, some of whom still haven't been reunited.

Mayorkas has defended speedy family expulsions, saying they protect both the American public and migrants. He said officials are "hearing anecdotally" of families who self-separate and added that about 40% of unaccompanied children have a parent or legal guardian in the U.S. and 50% have other relatives who can take care of them after they are released from government custody.

April was the second-busiest month on record for unaccompanied children encountered at the border — 17,171 were stopped — following March's all-time high of 18,960, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

This week, Border Patrol agents found five unaccompanied migrant girls, ranging from 7 years to 11 months old, near the border town of Eagle Pass, Texas.

Agents about 250 miles south in La Joya, Texas, late Wednesday came across an 8-year-old Honduran girl named Emely, who had been walking in the brush for six hours with a group of strangers and had lost a shoe in the mud. She was sobbing uncontrollably because she lost the number of her mother who she says was expecting her in the U.S. and didn't know where she lived.

Emely had lost sight of a fellow migrant who had her contact information, but the mother saw an AP photograph of her arrival on the Spanish-language broadcast Univision and contacted the network.

out, and if you have heart disease, you may die. It is very hard."

His wife, who stayed behind in Honduras with their 1-year-old, initially opposed sending Jordyn to cross the border alone, but Rodriguez persuaded her. He told her their lives in Honduras would only get worse, with the threat of gangs and the economy hard hit by the coronavirus pandemic and two tropical storms.

To pay the smugglers' fees for his son's solo attempt, Rodriguez washed dishes at a taco stand near the encampment for a month and a half. It also took some convincing to get Jordyn to go.

"You have to keep going. You will have the best clothes, the best computer and tennis shoes, and toy cars that light up," Rodriguez said he told his son when they said goodbye.

For four days, Rodriguez says he walked around the plaza, stopping every couple of steps to cry, until he received a recorded audio message from a cousin in the U.S. whose number he had written on Jordyn's birth certificate.

"I have good news for you. They have the boy in a home for children his age," the cousin said.

Social workers now call Rodriguez from a shelter in Chicago twice a week to see if there is anyone Jordyn can stay with in the U.S. Relatives said they could not take care of Jordyn because they also were recent immigrants and had their own children to support.

"To this day, I do not sleep. The food doesn't taste of anything because I think of this every single moment," Rodriguez said.

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Supreme Court to weigh rollback of abortion rights

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court agreed Monday to consider a major rollback of abortion rights, saying it will decide whether states can ban abortions before a fetus can survive outside the womb.

The court's order sets up a showdown over abortion, probably in the fall, with a more conservative court seemingly ready to dramatically alter nearly 50 years of rulings on abortion rights.

The court first announced a woman's constitutional right to an abortion in the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision and reaffirmed it 19 years later.

The case involves a Mississippi law that would prohibit abortions after the 15th week of pregnancy. The state's ban had been blocked by lower courts as inconsistent with Supreme Court precedent that protects a woman's right to obtain an abortion before the fetus can survive outside her womb.

The justices had put off action on the case for several months. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, an abortion-rights proponent, died just before the court's new term began in October. Her replacement, Justice Amy Coney Barrett, is the most open opponent of abortion rights to join the court in decades.

The other two, Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, voted in dissent last year to allow Louisiana to enforce restrictions on doctors that could have closed two of the state's three abortion clinics.

Chief Justice John Roberts, joined by Ginsburg and the other three liberal justices, said the restrictions were virtually identical to a Texas law the court struck down in 2016.

But that majority no longer exists, even if Roberts, hardly an abortion-rights supporter in his more than 15 years on the court, sides with the more liberal justices.

The Mississippi law was enacted in 2018 but was blocked after a federal court challenge. The state's only abortion clinic remains open. The owner has said the clinic does abortions up to 16 weeks.

The case is separate from a fight over laws enacted by Mississippi and other states that would ban most abortions as early as six weeks — when a fetal heartbeat may be detected.

A central question in the case is about viability — whether a fetus can survive outside the woman at 15 weeks. The clinic presented evidence that viability is impossible at 15 weeks, and the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said that the state "conceded that it had identified no medical evidence that a fetus would be viable at 15 weeks."

The Mississippi law would allow exceptions to the 15-week ban in cases of medical emergency or severe fetal abnormality. Doctors found in violation of the ban would face mandatory suspension or revocation of their medical license.

Sharks use Earth's magnetic field as a GPS, scientists say

BY PATRICK WHITTLE

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — Sharks use the Earth's magnetic field as a sort of natural GPS to navigate journeys that take them great distances across the world's oceans, scientists have found.

Researchers said their marine laboratory experiments with a small species of shark confirm long-held speculation that sharks use magnetic fields as aids to navigation — behavior observed in other marine animals such as sea turtles.

Their study, published this month in the journal *Current Biology*, also sheds light on why sharks are able to traverse seas and find their way back to feed, breed and give birth, said marine policy specialist Bryan Keller, one of the study authors.

"We know that sharks can respond to magnetic fields," Keller said. "We didn't know that they detected it to use as an aid in navigation ... You have sharks that can travel 12,427 miles and end up in the same spot."

The question of how sharks perform long-distance migrations has intrigued researchers for years. The sharks undertake their journeys in the open ocean, where they encounter few physical features such as corals that could serve as landmarks.

Looking for answers, scientists based at Florida State University decided to study bonnethead sharks — a kind of hammerhead that lives on both American coasts and returns to the same estuaries every year.

Researchers exposed 20 bonnetheads to magnetic conditions that simulated locations hundreds of miles away from where they were caught off Florida. The scientists found that the sharks began to swim north when the magnetic cues made them think they were south of where



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRYAN KELLER VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this photo taken by Colby Griffiths on the North Edisto River in South Carolina, scientist Bryan Keller holds a bonnethead shark. Keller is among a group of scientists that found sharks use the Earth's magnetic field as a sort of natural GPS when they navigate journeys that take them thousands of miles across the world's oceans.

they should be.

That finding is compelling, said Robert Hueter, senior scientist emeritus at Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium, who was not involved in the study.

Hueter said further study is needed to find out how the sharks use the magnetic fields to determine their location and whether larger, long-distance migrating sharks use a similar

system to find their way.

"The question has always been: Even if sharks are sensitive to magnetic orientation, do they use this sense to navigate in the oceans, and how? These authors have made some progress at chipping away at this question," he said.

Keller said the study could help inform management of shark species, which are in decline. A study this

year found that worldwide abundance of oceanic sharks and rays dropped more than 70% between 1970 and 2018.

Researchers say the bonnethead's reliance on Earth's magnetic field probably is shared by other species of sharks, such as great whites, that make cross-ocean journeys. Keller said it's very unlikely bonnetheads evolved with a magnetic sensitivity and other traveling sharks did not.

OBITUARIES

BETTIE J. WILDER LOGAN

PINEWOOD — Bettie J. Wilder Logan, 58, wife of William Logan Jr., died on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at McLeod Health Clarendon, Manning.

She was born on May 17, 1962, in Sumter, a daughter of the late Melvin Sr. and Estelle Conyers Wilder.

Graveside services for Mrs. Logan will be held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday at Calvary Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery, 10075 Calvary Church Road, Pinewood, with the Rev. E.L. Sanders, pastor, officiating, and the Rev. Mose Dingle Jr. and the Rev. John Johnson assisting.

The family is receiving friends at her residence, 6480 Brakel Lane, Pinewood.

Samuels Funeral Home LLC of Manning is in charge of arrangements.

DEANDRE M. FUNCHESS-MCCLAM

DeAndre Markell Funchess-McClam was born on May 26, 2000, in Sumter, to Samantha Funchess and Darrell McClam. He departed this life on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at his residence.

Reared by his mother and late grandmother Linda Ann W. Funchess, he received his formal education in the public schools of Sumter County.

Loving memories will be cherished by his parents, Samantha (Gene) Funchess and Darrell (Liekita) McClam; two daughters, Ziarah and Zyniah Funchess (mother, Shydiasha Bell); three brothers, Daquan (Meria) Funchess-Johnson, Darius Funchess McClam and Kavon Cobia; grandparents, Samuel (Mary) Funchess and Louis (Emma) Dargan; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Public viewing will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. today at Sumter Funeral Service.

Graveside services will be held at 3 p.m. on Wednesday at Walker Cemetery with Minister Sheldon Holland delivering words of comfort.

Online memorials may be sent to SumterFuneralService2@gmail.com.

Sumter Funeral Service is in charge of arrangements.

WILLIE MAE DINKINS

Willie Mae Dinkins, 79, wife of Albert Dinkins Jr., was born on Sept. 10, 1941, in Sumter; a daughter of the late Willie and Gardenia Willis Rembert. She departed this life on Thursday, May 13, 2021, at Sumter Health & Rehab Center.

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

Graveside services will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday at Canty-Harvin Cemetery in Sumter.

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

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

JAMES TREVIN CHAMPAGNE

On Thursday, May 13, 2021, our beloved James Trevin Champagne transitioned from his life on Earth. Trevin slipped away with the angels to a peaceful, everlasting home.

Trevin was born on Sept. 10, 1980, in Sumter, to Buelah Baker Green of the home and the late James Champagne. Trevin was educated in the public schools of Sumter County and graduated from Sumter High School Class of 1998. Trevin was a very loyal, friendly and outgoing person. He had a great sense of humor, always sharing his jokes. He was a huge sports fan. His favorite professional teams were the Dallas Cowboys and the Atlanta Braves. Trevin loved his community, often donating his time and monetary expenses as needed.

Trevin has one son, Jair Trevontae Champagne. He demonstrated a fatherly relationship, sharing in his baseball games, football games and basketball and spending quality time with him.

He leaves to cherish his memories: a loving and devoted mother, Buelah Baker Green of the home; one loving son, Jair T. Champagne of Manning; three brothers, Anthony (Alice) Green of Sumter, Timothy (Jacqueline) Green of Atlanta and Craig Green of Sumter; his loving and caring fiancée, Deborah R. Swanigan; four uncles, Moses (Clara) Baker, Albertis (Deloris) Baker, John (Edna)

Baker and Herman (Ruth) Green; six aunts, Clarence (Edna) Edwards, Mary Champagne, Loretta Johnson, Beverly Baker, Nora L. Benbow and Victoria G. Felder; his special godmother, Minister Cynthia Moses Nedd; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. He also had childhood friends, Keive Williams, Demaal Lane, Eric Bowman, Lionel Bradley and Minister Marlon Charles.

In accordance with COVID-19 guidelines, the family is requesting that face masks and social distancing be observed during visitations at the home, 55 Mickens St.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday at White's Cemetery, Airport Road, Sumter, with Pastor H.T. Champagne officiating and the Rev. Jerome McCray, eulogist.

The procession will leave at 10:30 a.m. from the home. Services directed by the management and staff of Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter.

Online messages may be sent to the family at williamsfuneral@sc.rr.com. Visit us on the web at www.williamsfuneralhomeinc.com.

ROSA L. PEARSON

Rosa L. Pearson, 85, beloved wife of Taft Pearson, died on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at her place of residence in Summerton.

Born on Oct. 2, 1935, in Clarendon County, she was a daughter of the late Willie and Lizzie Gibson-James.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. on Monday at New Light Baptist Church, 4390 Moses Dingle Road, Summerton, with the Rev. Johnny Lawson presiding.

Funeral services have been entrusted to Summerton Funeral Home LLC.

GLORIA JEAN GREEN SKINNER

Gloria Jean Green Skinner, 59, wife of Reed H. Skinner, departed this life on Friday, May 14, 2021, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital.

She was born on Oct. 2, 1961, in Sumter, a daughter of the late Richard Johnson and Susan Emma Green Thompson.

The family will receive friends at the home, 1837 Fletcher Drive, Sumter, SC 29153.

Job's Mortuary Inc. of Sumter is in charge of arrangements.

SHAQUILLA SHERRELE JUNE

Shaquilla Sherrele June, 29, departed this life on Sunday, May 16, 2021, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital.

She was born on Aug. 13, 1991, in Sumter, a daughter of Lashon June.

The family will receive friends at the home, 1180 Pulpit St., Sumter, SC 29150.

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

DOROTHY ANN HOWELL WILLIAMS

Dorothy Ann Howell Williams, 85, widow of Thomas Williams, died on Monday, May 17, 2021, at Sumter Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Born in Sylva, North Carolina, she was a daughter of the late David G. and Janie Mae Norman Howell.

The family will receive friends at the home, 6430 Meetinghouse Road, Dalzell. Due to COVID-19, face masks and social distancing will be required, per the family.

Funeral arrangements are in progress and will be announced by Palmer Memorial Chapel.



DARRELL EUGENE DAVIS

Darrell Eugene Davis, 62, died on Saturday, May 15, 2021, at his residence in Wedgefield.

Born in Germany, he was a son of the late Roland Howard Davis Jr. and Lottie Brown Davis.

The family will receive friends at the home, 5080 Cane Savannah Road, Wedgefield. Due to COVID-19, face masks are required, per the family.

Funeral arrangements are in progress and will be announced by Palmer Memorial Chapel.



RICHARD G. CHAMPEY

Richard G. "Jerry" Champey, son of the late Richard C. and Louise Ward Champey, passed away on Friday, May 14, 2021.

He is survived by his loving wife, Eleanor W. Champey; and his children, Catherine C. Sumrell and Richard "Clay" Champey. He has three grandchildren, Joshua D. Sumrell, Ashley Sumrell Crider and Matthew K. Champey; one great-grandchild, Rayna Grace Sumrell; and many extended loving

family members.

Mr. Champey was an active leader in the Boy Scouts of America Troop 125. He mentored many young men during his more than 25 years with the troop and assisted many with achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. He served in the United States Air Force. He graduated from Georgia State University and retired as assistant manager from the Federal Reserve Bank in Atlanta.

A memorial service will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday in the chapel of Carmichael Funeral Home in Smyrna.

JERVIE SINGLETON

COLUMBIA — On Thursday, May 13, 2021, Jervie "Jerry" Singleton departed this life at Prisma Health Richland Hospital, Columbia.

Born on Sept. 15, 1947, in Clarendon County, he was a son of the late Fred and Winnie Francis Singleton.

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

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

JOHN LEWIS COUSAR

John Lewis Cousar, 68, husband of Sandra Billie Cousar, departed this life on Monday, May 17, 2021, at the Dorn VA Medical Center, Columbia.

He was born on May 15, 1953, in Manning, a son of the late James and Ruth Burgess Cousar.

The family will receive friends at the home of his daughter, 213 Cedars Ave., Sumter, SC 29150.

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

WALTER LEE CHESTNUT

Walter Lee Chestnut, 71, husband of Vivian Taylor Chestnut, died on Monday, May 17, 2021, at his home.

Born on April 9, 1950, in Sumter County, he was a son of Joseph Sr. and Mable McLeod Chestnut.

Visitation will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. at the home, 5765 Opal Lane, Wedgefield. In accordance with COVID-19 guidelines, the family requests that face masks and social distancing be observed.

Funeral services will be directed by Williams Funeral Home Inc.

EXECUTIONS FROM PAGE A1

that can't be carried out.

How soon executions can begin is up in the air. The electric chair is ready to use. Prison officials have been doing preliminary research into how firing squads carry out executions in other states but are not sure how long it will take to have one in place in South Carolina. The other three states that allow a firing squad are Mississippi, Oklahoma and Utah, according to the Death Penalty Information Center.

Three inmates, all in Utah, have been killed by firing squad since the U.S. reinstated the death penalty in 1977. Nineteen inmates have died in the electric chair this century, and South Carolina is one of eight states that can still electrocute inmates, according to the center.

Lawyers for the men with potentially imminent death dates are considering suing over the new law, saying the state is going backward.

"These are execution methods that previously were replaced by lethal injection, which is considered more humane, and it makes South Carolina the only state going back to the less humane execution methods," said Lindsey Vann of Justice 360, a nonprofit that represents many of the men on South Carolina's death row.

From 1996 to 2009, South Carolina executed close to an average of three inmates a year. But a lull in death row inmates reaching the end of their appeals coincided a few years later with pharmaceutical companies refusing to sell states the drugs needed to sedate inmates, relax their muscles and stop their hearts.

South Carolina's last execution took place in May 2011, and its batch of lethal injection drugs expired in 2013.

Supporters of the bill said the death pen-

alty remains legal in South Carolina, and the state owes it to the family of the victims to find a way to carry out the punishment.

Democrats in the House suggested several changes to the bill that were not approved, including livestreaming executions on the internet and requiring lawmakers to attend executions.

"We must be willing to look at the faces of the individuals we are voting on today to kill," said Rep. Jermaine Johnson, a Democrat from Hopkins.

Opponents brought up the case of 14-year-old George Stinney, who South Carolina sent to the electric chair in 1944 after a one-day trial in the deaths of two white girls. He was the youngest person executed in the U.S. in the 20th century. A judge threw out the Black teen's conviction in 2014.

Stinney's case is a reminder the death penalty in South Carolina has always been "racist, arbitrary and error-prone" and continues to be, said Frank Knaack, executive director of the state chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

"In the midst of a national reckoning around systemic racism, our governor ensured that South Carolina's death penalty — a system rooted in racial terror and lynchings — is maintained," Knaack said in a statement.

Nineteen of the 37 inmates currently on the state's death row are Black.

Seven Republicans in the House voted against the bill, most of them saying it did not make moral sense to approve sending people to their deaths, when three months ago, many of those same lawmakers approved a bill outlawing almost all abortions, saying all life is sacred.

"If you're cool with the electric chair, you might as well be cool with burning at the stake," said Rep. Jonathon Hill, a Republican from Townville.



KAREEM WILSON / THE SUMTER ITEM

Residents bow their heads in silence as the First Baptist Church of Manning rang its bells to recognize all the lives lost to COVID-19.

SERVICE

FROM PAGE A1

room thinking I had allergies, they were going to give me a shot, patch me up and send me home," she said.

However, when she got into the emergency room, the doctors told her she had double pneumonia. She was tested for COVID-19 and put on a ventilator.

"I didn't think I was that sick," she said.

She was sent to Florence Regional Medical Center, where she learned from doctors she contracted COVID-19.

"When she told me that, I was like, 'This has got to be a dream or nightmare,' so I closed my eyes, and I went back to sleep," she said. "The next morning I woke up, and I was still there."

She said when doctors took her off the ventilator, she was surprised to find she couldn't move her hands and legs.

"I had to go on a journey on how to walk again, and when I got off the ventilator, much to my surprise, I was also on dialysis for two months. The coronavirus pretty much just came in and shut my body down."

At one point, she said she thought she was going to die. She eventually got better and started to regain her strength,

but her father, who was on the same floor as she was, passed away from the coronavirus.

"He died two weeks before I got out of the hospital," she said. "At first, I was conflicted, and I was thinking we were going to celebrate together when we got home because he sounded so strong, but God said that I came home, but he went home — God is still so amazing even during all of this."

Rabon, chief medical officer at McLeod Health Clarendon, remembers the tiresome efforts of her staff as they treated patients who succumbed to COVID-19 during the past year. Rabon said they have not had a COVID-19 patient in the hospital as an in-patient in the last week and a half.

"I think it's been tough all around for everybody, and we appreciate y'all's prayers and the support," Rabon said.

Rachel Gainey, McLeod Clarendon health administrator, and Rabon thanked all their staff and those who risked their lives to keep everyone healthy and safe as possible in the community.

Sam Livingston, pastor at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, also gave words of hope, knowing that this pandemic has forever changed lives but hoping that God will get them through this storm.



PHOTOS BY SHELBY GOULDING / THE SUMTER ITEM

Mixed Sistaz United volunteers help serve community members a hot meal at the South Sumter Farmers Market on Saturday.

HUNGER FROM PAGE A1

it's nothing for me to feed 500 people."

According to Martin, Mixed Sistaz United is run on a volunteer basis with six chefs on the team who help make free hot meals for anyone and everyone in Sumter every Saturday afternoon at the South Sumter Farmers Market. On average, they serve about 40-50 plates of home-cooked meals like pasta salad, baked spaghetti and more.

Martin and the Mixed Sistaz United team like to call it a "community bonding" event because they also focus on building relationships with those who pick up the meals, like a Sumter caseworker who picks up meals every Saturday for her clients who lack transportation.

The caseworker, who wished to remain anonymous, picked up four meals for her clients on Saturday, and Mixed Sistaz United threw in another meal for the caseworker herself.

"It is really great because a lot of the people we work with, if they have no income but a disability check, that's pretty tight," the caseworker said.

Martin said she understands the unseen hunger problem in the community because she experienced it firsthand while she was attending two colleges and raising three children.

"For 90 days, we went through a struggle," Martin said. "Even though I was doing my thing and had a nice car, you wouldn't even think that I was struggling for food. You can't judge a book by its cover."

On top of serving meals every Saturday, the nonprofit also teamed up with partners and sponsors across the state to provide food boxes to Sumter, Columbia and soon Charleston.

In March, Mixed Sistaz United partnered with FEMA in Myrtle Beach to serve hundreds of food boxes every Friday at various locations in Sumter, and it has only grown more each month, according to Rashad "Simba" Hilton, president of the nonprofit.

Hilton said he's not a chef, but he has a heart for giving back to his community, which is why they expanded to delivering food boxes while still providing hot meals.

"Our passion is cooking and serving the people," Hilton said. "It's a beautiful thing every weekend. I'm deeply grateful for the opportunity that me and Brittany were able to provide for the people."

"Simba, he works so hard. He puts everything into this community," Martin said. "People really do look forward to these boxes."

The food boxes are passed out every Fri-



The group distributes food boxes to those in need on Broad Street on Friday.

day about 4 p.m., and the locations vary.

"We try to be pretty mobile at a lot of places," Hilton said. "We're trying to do everything we can to feed the community."

Mixed Sistaz United is still a growing nonprofit organization with set goals to become the largest soup kitchen in the state. However, it also has a goal to provide shelter for Sumter's homeless.

"Not only are we focusing on the food portion of things," Martin said, "we're also trying to tackle the homelessness agenda."

Currently, the nonprofit has three churches that gave Martin a verbal confirmation to use their property to house the homeless population on one night of the week.

According to Martin, they need four more churches on board to provide shelter throughout the week.

"My whole plan is to help our whole community," Martin said. "The food is just our state. We try to push a message to the community as far as unity and love and to stand. To stand against injustice, to stand up for one another, to care and to get more involved with each other. That's our goal."

Mixed Sistaz United is asking the public to donate whatever they can to help keep the community's stomachs full. Martin said a \$1 donation can go a long way.

To donate or learn more about Mixed Sistaz United, visit the nonprofit's Facebook page or online at mixedsistazunited.org.

Governor's signature means state allows open carry of guns

BY JEFFREY COLLINS

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Gov. Henry McMaster said Monday he signed into law a bill allowing people with concealed weapons permits from the state to carry their guns in the open.

McMaster posted on Twitter that he was keeping his promise to sign any bill that protects or expands gun rights.

The proposal allows so-called open carry of guns for people who undergo training and background checks so they can keep guns hidden under a jacket or other clothing or in their vehicle anywhere there isn't a sign prohibiting it.

The law takes effect in 90 days. Thus, in mid-August, South Carolina will no longer be with California, Florida, Illinois and New York to prohibit any type of open carry.

The law eliminates a \$50 permit fee to get a concealed weapons permit and lowers the number of bullets that someone must fire at a target in an accuracy test to get a permit from 50 to 25 shots. Requirements remain that a permit holder be 21 or over, take eight hours of training and pass a background check that includes fingerprinting.

The state had about 425,000 people with an active permit at the end of 2020, according to the State Law Enforcement Division.

The proposal also made South Carolina a "Second Amendment Sanctuary," which orders states and local governments to refuse to enforce any federal law or executive order that limits gun rights.

Similar resolutions have been adopted by Virginia,

Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas, Illinois and Florida as well as about 1,200 other local governments across the U.S., according to Shawn Fields, an assistant professor of law at Campbell University who tracks them. The idea is facing its first court challenge in Columbia County, Oregon.

The open carry gun law was a bookend set of proposals sought for years by conservatives in South Carolina. The addition of five Republicans to the General Assembly in the 2020 elections finally brought about the political strength for the measure to pass.

Opponents of the open carry proposal included a number of current law enforcement leaders. Among them were State Law Enforcement Division Chief Mark Keel as well as police chiefs and sheriffs in some of the state's largest population centers.

Some conservatives wanted the state to go even further and allow anyone legally allowed to own a gun to carry one without training or a permit. That proposal passed the House but not the Senate.

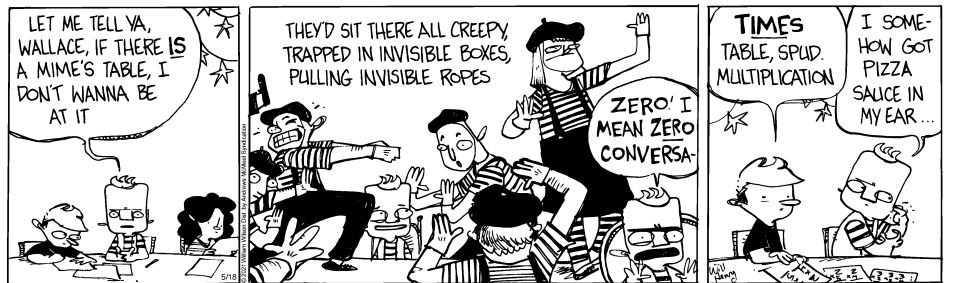
While Republicans cheered another victory, Democrats asked as the General Assembly's regular session ended last week why they didn't tackle issues like Medicaid expansion or improving education, especially in poorer areas of South Carolina.

"I expected us to be better than where we are. I didn't expect us to be having the kind of discussions that have taken up our time so far," said Rep. Marvin Pendarvis, a Democrat from North Charleston.

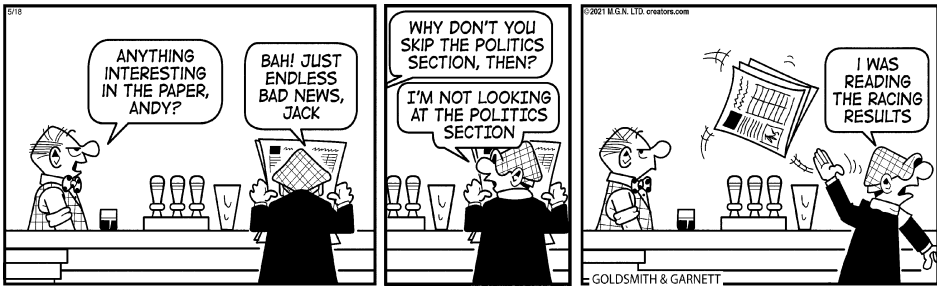
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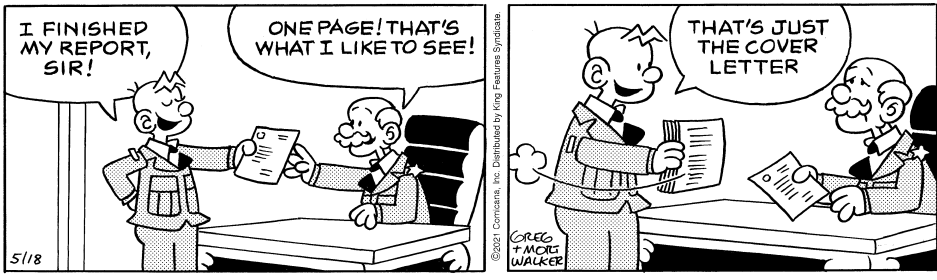
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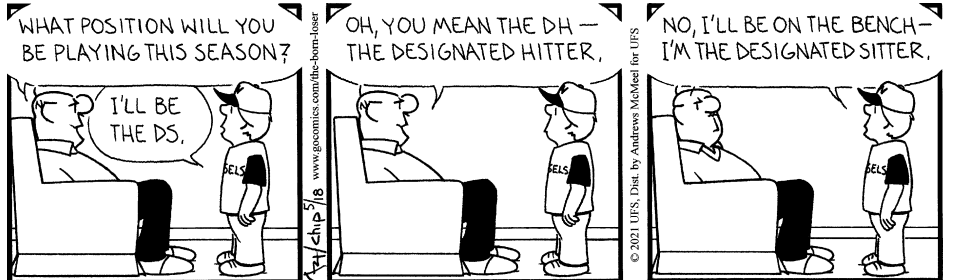
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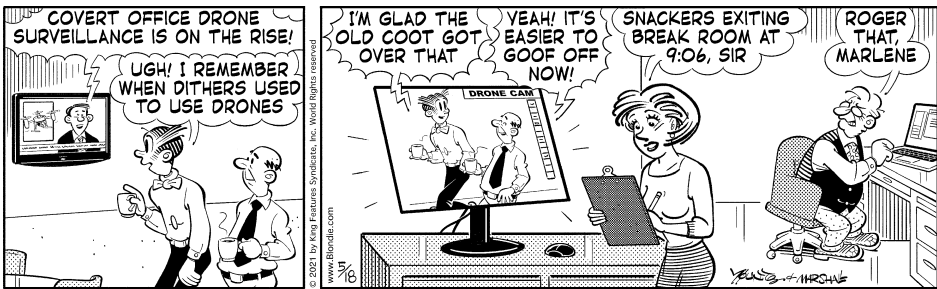
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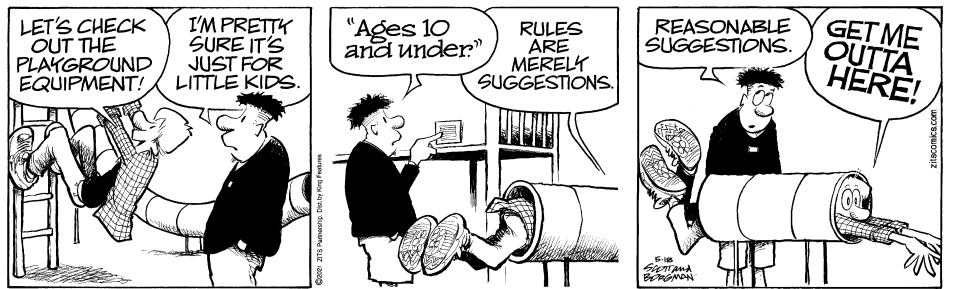
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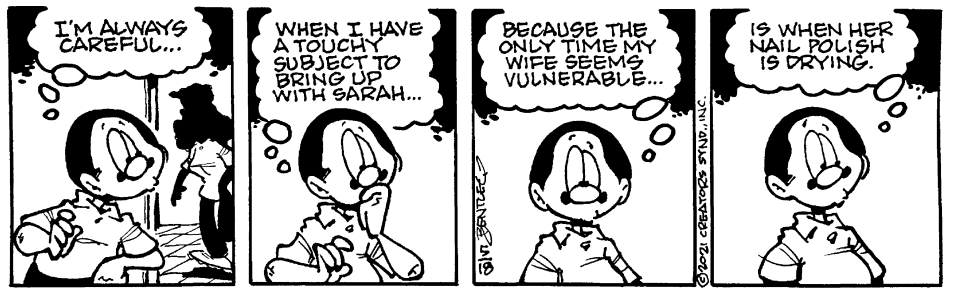
ZITS



MOTHER GOOSE



HERB AND JAMAAL



DILBERT



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE



Cat rescue leads to tension between neighbors



Dear Abby
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY — I am a lover of and rescuer of cats (and dogs). I rescued a beautiful and loving cat with horrible wounds on his neck. I got him neutered, his wounds cleaned and sewn up, and became attached to him. I had asked my elderly neighbor if she wanted him. She said she'd think about it. She visited him at my house as his wounds healed, and a few months later she took the cat. When I visited her a few months after that, I saw she was feeding him so many treats that he was (I'm not ex-

aggerating) morbidly obese. When I told her so, she got insulted. She didn't believe me so she took the cat for a checkup at the local veterinarian. The vet told her the same thing in no uncertain terms, and to feed the cat no treats and a certain low-fat dry cat food. With my help she ordered the food and I measured it into bags to make it easier for her, as she gets a bit confused. I weigh the cat every Monday and he has lost a bit of weight already. Slowly is the best way. But she's not pleasant to work with and is fighting me all the way. I'm a patient person and do my best, but sometimes it's hard not to lose my temper. Any suggestions?

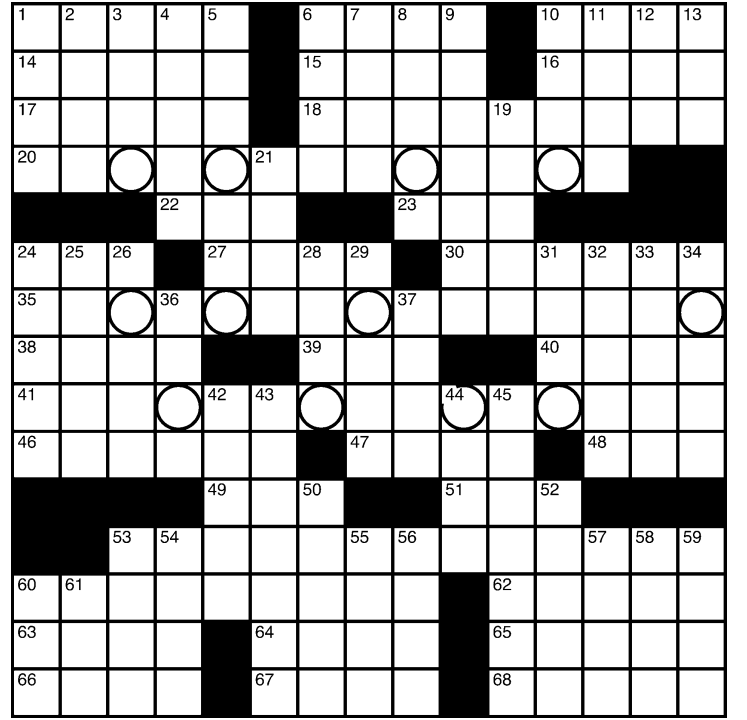
Cares about fur babies

DEAR CARES — Unfortunately, we don't always get to know people until we see them in action, as you are now doing with this neighbor. For that cat's sake, hang onto your temper and continue to help her and her fur baby. If she's becoming increasingly confused, it is important that someone not only keep an eye on the feline in that household, but also her — to ensure that she is able to take care of herself.

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

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

THE DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Jesse Goldberg

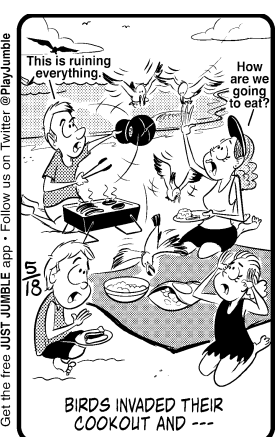
- ACROSS**
- 1 Sousa specialty
 - 6 Show appreciation for the performance
 - 10 Montreal World's Fair
 - 14 Amtrak speedster
 - 15 Hand-up command
 - 16 Really funny sort
 - 17 Food truck fare
 - 18 McDonald's slogan since 2003
 - 20 Go ballistic
 - 22 Bogey on a par 5
 - 23 Homer's TV neighbor
 - 24 Tough H.S. exams
 - 27 Take the sloop out
 - 30 Self-indulgent period
 - 35 2002 biopic about con man Frank Abagnale
 - 38 Opera highlight
 - 39 Jimono sash
 - 40 First female attorney general
 - 41 Cleaner of teeth
 - 46 Takes care of
 - 47 Hammett pooch
 - 48 Kickoff aid
 - 49 Balaam's mount
 - 51 Unit of heat: Abbr.
 - 53 Overextended ... and what's literally in each set of circles
 - 60 In exact terms
 - 62 Optimist's phrase
 - 63 Chef's flavoring
 - 64 Ensnare
 - 65 "Take a load off"
 - 66 Uncertain
 - 67 "This round's"
 - 68 Romantic rendezvous
 - 12 Hawaiian staple
 - 13 MLB Hall of Famer Mel
 - 19 The "v" in vlog
 - 21 Midterm, e.g.
 - 24 USMA and USNA: Abbr.
 - 25 "Gay" capital of song
 - 26 "Mostly Ghostly" series writer
 - 28 The "I" in I.M. Pei
 - 29 Niger neighbor
 - 31 Chance to play
 - 32 Ensure the win
 - 33 Minister's house
 - 34 Cybermessage
 - 36 Musical with the song "Memory"
 - 37 Newton fruit
 - 42 Gaming brand since 1972
 - 43 Is bested by
 - 44 The Beatles' "Let ..."
 - 45 Offer a humble retraction
 - 50 Back of the boat
 - 52 Pendragon, King Arthur's father
 - 53 Medieval laborer
 - 54 Frozen dessert chain
 - 55 Dig for quahogs, say
 - 56 Flashy promotion
 - 57 Sacred
 - 58 Hopy brews, briefly
 - 59 "Whose turn is it?" shout
 - 60 Letter before chi
 - 61 Ump's NBA counterpart
- DOWN**
- 1 Course with operations
 - 2 Trendy berry
 - 3 Four-sided fig.
 - 4 Stops bleeding
 - 5 Cannabiz concentrate
 - 6 Stylish
 - 7 Poor, as an excuse
 - 8 Make-or-break poker bet
 - 9 Ancient Greek astronomer
 - 10 Activist Brockovich
 - 11 Ped ___: street sign
- 5/18/21**
- Previous Puzzle Solved**
- | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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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.

- ETLFE
- BTAEA
- DPTUAE
- SPIRCT



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

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(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DICEY POUCH TRENDY EMBARK
Answer: The sea creatures' TV news program featured stories that were reported on — IN-DEPTH

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

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| 6 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 7 |
| 2 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| 5 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 1 |
| 1 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 5 |
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

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

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

Graham Osteen CO-OWNER

Kyle Osteen CO-OWNER

Jack Osteen CO-OWNER

Vince Johnson PUBLISHER

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COMMENTARY

How not to give a commencement address at USC

It's well-known by now that Bob Caslen, the suddenly former president of the University of South Carolina, resigned following a commencement address that he, well, flubbed pretty badly.

He welcomed the graduates as the new alumni of the "University of California." Ouch.

More important, he plagiarized.

When someone within stage-whispering distance reminded Caslen where he was, he quickly corrected himself, saying "Carolina," but not "South Carolina."

Then, with an embarrassed chuckle, he said to the audience of graduates, "I owe you push-ups."

Caslen, you see, is a push-up kind of guy, a career military man who regularly invited students to join him at the gym, where he put himself — and those who showed up — through a grueling workout.

His plagiarism consisted of two paragraphs he borrowed without attribution from another commencement address by, of all people, retired Adm. William H. McRaven, possibly the best-known military man in the United States, who planned the takedown of Osama bin Laden. Caslen was deeply apologetic, saying he added the words at the last minute and "failed to cite" him.

It's not the worst crime in the world — but it is certainly less than ideal if you happen to be the president of a university where academic rules apply. Among those rules: Do not crib from another's work without credit.

Caslen's resignation, after almost two years as president, was an unfortunate end to a job he probably never should have been offered — or accepted.

A retired U.S. Army general and former superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Caslen's candidacy was met with protests by students who objected to his suggestion, in a stream-of-consciousness talk, that sexual assault and binge drinking go hand-in-hand. Caslen failed to put a period at the end of one sentence before beginning another, making it sound like he was blaming victims.

Caslen wasn't a first choice for the University of South Carolina's board of trustees, either. He was approved after a nudge from

Republican Gov. Henry McMaster, who is also a board member. That bit of pressure earned the school an inquiry from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

For a state such as South Carolina, rich in military installations, it might have seemed to some that a military bigwig is just what we needed to run our biggest university. If so, that was obviously flawed thinking.

Almost from the start, people didn't like the cut of his jib, his lack of social graces or his inability to speak in ways that made people feel good and want to write checks. He didn't have a PhD or a research background, weaknesses that may explain his lack of attention to attribution and certainly earned him the suspicion of some faculty members.

He had friends in high places — he was once a contender for a top job in Donald Trump's White House. And Caslen's military training — including tours in Iraq and Afghanistan — proved invaluable during the pandemic. He tightened the school's cyber defenses and ran a tight ship during the shutdown that kept many students in classes and infections on the low side.

If he hadn't stepped on his tongue so many times, or if he'd mastered the manners required to run an institution of more than 30,000 students, he would still be at his post. Caslen's skills were tailor-made to manage a deadly health crisis that scared everybody else to death. Even his critics give him that much.

Caslen's fast rise and fall suggest a mini-commencement address of its own:

We are right to push ourselves to try new things. We are also sometimes slow to recognize our own limitations. Managing this tug of war with ourselves is a lifetime challenge. I like to tell young people to "try big." Because it is better to try big and fail big than not to try at all.

More important than that, though, we are all more than our worst mistake. The now-departed Caslen spent more than 40 years in uniform and fought in three wars. That is accomplishment enough.

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



Kathleen Parker



REP. RALPH NORMAN - REVISIONIST. S.C.

COMMENTARY

Are the halcyon days over for Biden?

On taking the oath of office Jan. 20, Joe Biden may not have realized it, but history had dealt him a pair of aces.

The COVID-19 pandemic had reached its apex, infecting a quarter of a million Americans every day. Yet, due to the discovery and distribution of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, the incidence of infections had crested and was about to turn sharply down.

By May, the infection rate had fallen 80%, as had the death toll.

Thanks to the Operation Warp Speed program driven by President Donald Trump, the country made amazing strides in Biden's first 100 days toward solving the major crises he inherited: the worst pandemic since the Spanish flu of 1918-1919 and the economic crash it had engendered.

But Biden's pace car has hit the wall.

Where economists had predicted employment gains of a million new jobs in April, the jolting figure came in at about a fourth of that number.

One explanation: The \$300-a-week in bonus unemployment checks the Biden recovery plan provides may have been a sufficient inducement for workers to stay home until their benefits ran out.

Workers might reasonably ask: Why go back to work when we can take the summer off, with full unemployment, plus \$300 a week?

After the crushing jobs report came the inflation figure from April.

Consumer prices had risen 4.2%, the highest rate in a dozen years.

April's combination of inflation and near-stagnant job growth recalls the "stagflation" of the Jimmy Carter years, which led to the Democratic rout of 1980 at the hands of Ronald Reagan.

And while we may not be suffering from stagflation just yet, the present symptoms in the U.S. economy are certainly consistent with it.

The bad news from the in-

flation front also sent the Dow and other markets plunging and raised fears of future Fed intervention to raise interest rates to choke off the inflation.

Moreover, rising prices, driven in part by our historic federal deficits, stiffened the spines of Republicans in their resistance to Biden's \$2.3 trillion infrastructure and jobs program, his \$1.8 trillion in added domestic spending and his \$4 trillion in taxes to pay for it all.

Sen. Mitch McConnell came out of Wednesday's White House meeting with Biden to say that any tampering with the Trump tax cuts crosses a "red line" for him and Senate Republicans.

The odds on Biden getting any of his taxes has just fallen dramatically. And he may be forced to come down closer to the GOP proposal if he hopes to get any of his infrastructure package through.

At present, Biden does not have a single sure Republican vote for his spending proposals — and even some Democrats in the evenly divided Senate oppose his plans for social spending and higher taxes.

Added to this economic news was a stunning ransomware attack on Colonial Pipeline, which feeds fuel to states from Texas to New Jersey. Within days, the shutdown of the pipeline had induced panic buying of gas at the pumps, resulting in a sweeping closure of gas stations from Delaware to the Gulf Coast.

As alarming as the ransomware attack was, more alarming is what it portends if cybercriminals abroad can, with the flick of a switch, inflict such instant damage on the U.S. economy.

If cybercriminals can pull this off, what cannot our adversaries, with their sophisticated and superior weapons of cyberwarfare, do to

the United States?

But that was not the end of the bad news for Biden last week.

A shooting war erupted between Hamas and Israel after a dispute over ownership of homes in East Jerusalem led to clashes between Arab protesters and Israeli police at the al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount.

The clashes brought barrages of over 1,000 rockets directed at Israeli towns and cities including Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. The Ben Gurion International Airport was forced to shut down.

Those who believed Trump's Abraham Accords, where Israel was recognized by the UAE, Bahrain and Morocco, had ensured a more tranquil future suddenly seemed to have been as wrong as previous generations of optimists.

Today, even inside Israel, Arabs and Jews, both Israeli citizens, are battling in the streets.

Meanwhile, in Kabul, three bombs outside a high school killed 50 people and wounded scores more, many of them teenage girls — a portent of what may be coming when the Americans and allied troops are gone from the country by the 20th anniversary of 9/11.

But the defining crisis of the Biden presidency may be the crisis on America's southern border, where another 170,000 illegal immigrants entered the country in April after an equally high number in March.

That is an annual rate of 2 million people walking into our country uninvited, the advance guard of a Third World invasion that will change the character and composition of the United States.

The America we grew up in is disappearing — without our consent.

Patrick J. Buchanan is the author of "Nixon's White House Wars: The Battles That Made and Broke a President and Divided America Forever."

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

THANKS TO REP. NORMAN FOR COST ACT AND TRANSPARENCY

Kudos to Congressman Ralph Norman, R-S.C., for introducing the common-sense COST Act to ensure taxpayers are made aware of how the federal government is spending our money.

Most South Carolinians would likely be shocked that experimenters at Clemson and their collaborators wasted nearly \$1 million of taxpayer funds in recent years to study what happens when you put turtles — including dead ones — on treadmills. Is this really how you want your money spent?

Rep. Norman's Cost Openness and Spend-

ing Transparency Act — which is also being cosponsored fellow S.C. Congresswoman Nancy Mace — would ensure that all federal grant recipients publicly disclose exactly how much taxpayer money they're spending and would withhold funds from rogue facilities that keep their spending a secret.

Taxpayers have a right to know who's paying the bills and who's cashing the checks, and our 3 million members in S.C. and beyond are grateful to Rep. Norman for leading the charge to ensure we do.

JUSTIN GOODMAN
Vice President, Advocacy and Public Policy
White Coat Waste Project
Washington, D.C.

EDITORIAL PAGE POLICIES

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COLUMNS AND COMMENTARY are the personal opinion of the writer whose byline appears. Columns from readers should be typed, double-spaced and no more than 850 words. Send them to *The Sumter Item*, Opinion Pages, P.O. Box 1677, Sumter, S.C. 29151, or email to *letters@theitem.com*.

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They should be no more than 350 words and sent via e-mail to *letters@theitem.com*, dropped off at *The Sumter Item* office, 36 W. Liberty St. or mailed to *The Sumter Item*, P.O. Box 1677, Sumter, S.C. 29151, along with the full name of the writer, plus an address and telephone number for verification purposes only. Letters that exceed 350 words will be cut accordingly in the print edition, but available in their entirety at *www.theitem.com*.

Wells, Mouzan, Washington each qualify for three events in state meets

BY DENNIS BRUNSON
dennis@theitem.com

Sumter High School's Nicole Wells, Manning's Emmery Mouzan and DeSane Washington of Scott's Branch will each be competing for three state championships this weekend in the South Carolina High School League track and field championships following their performances in their respective qualifying meets over the weekend.

Wells was one of the top eight finishers in the 5A girls state qualifier held at Spring Valley on Friday. The qualifier brings all of the region qualifiers from throughout the state to compete for the eight slots in each event in the state meet.

Wells' best finish was sixth in the long jump. She was seventh in the 400-meter dash and eighth in the 200 dash.

Wells will be joined by girls teammate Alicia Spann and boys teammates Barbanas Sumpter, Jaymar Ludd, Davin Jackson and Malik McKinzie in the state meet, which will be held on Saturday, also at Spring Valley.

Spann had the best finish for an SHS athlete, finishing fourth in the discus.



Ludd led the boys on Saturday with a fifth-place finish in the discus. Davin Jackson finished eighth in the same event.

Barbanas Sumpter finished seventh in the high jump, and Malik McKinzie finished eighth in the shot put.

Mouzan led a strong effort for both Manning teams in the 3A lower state

meet on Saturday at Camden High School. He finished second in both the 110 hurdles and the 400 hurdles and was fourth in the triple jump.

Ja'Lencia Griffin and Xavier Evans both won individual events for Manning. Griffin won the lower state title in the 200-meter dash in a time of 25.37 seconds for the Lady Monarchs. Evans

Sumter's Nicole Wells qualified for the SCHSL 5A state track and field meet in three events.

SUBMITTED

won the boys high jump with a height of 6 feet, 2 inches.

The top four finishers in each event qualified for the 3A state meet, which will be held on Friday at Lower Richland High in Hopkins.

Griffin also qualified in the 100 with a second-place finish. The Lady Monarchs' Delaney Frierson qualified for two events, finishing second in the 100 hurdles and third in the 400 hurdles.

Crestwood and Lakewood both qualified for three events in the 3A state meet. Zalyn Myers led the Crestwood boys with a second-place finish in the 100-meter dash. Parris Lowery was fourth in the shot put.

The Crestwood girls 4x100 relay team finished second. The team includes Nia English, Joelle Gillins, Seniya Hairston and Gariann Scott.

For Lakewood, Bridget Donovan finished fourth in the girls 100 hurdles, Jordyn Miller finished fourth in the girls high jump, and Brandon Cisse finished fourth in the boys 400 dash.

Washington won the long jump in the 1A lower state meet on Saturday in Seabrook.

Along with winning the long jump with a distance of 20-08, Washington

SEE TRACK, PAGE A12

ATHLETE of THE WEEK

Presented by **Hines**

Furniture and bedding

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

ANDI GRAE WINGATE - WILSON HALL

Wingate limited Cardinal Newman to four runs in the Lady Barons' 14-4 win in the championship game of the SCISA 3A state championship series. She was 4-for-11 with a homer, three runs and three RBI.



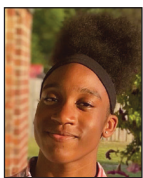
DESANE WASHINGTON - SCOTT'S BRANCH

Washington qualified for three events in the 1A state meet. He won the long jump in the lower state meet, finished second in the 100 and third in the 200.



JA'LENCIA GRIFFIN - MANNING HIGH

Griffin qualified for the 3A state meet, winning the 200-meter dash in the lower state meet and finishing second in the 100 dash.



GRANT BARRINEAU - EAST CLARENDON

Barrineau went 3-for-3 with two RBI and pitched three innings of 1-hit ball in the Wolverines' 10-0 win over Charleston Math & Science.



Fourth inning sinks Gators in playoff opener against Gilbert

BY DENNIS BRUNSON
dennis@theitem.com

The Lakewood High School baseball team looked to be in good position in the fourth inning of its District 3 tournament opener against Gilbert in the 3A state playoffs.

The Gators had just scored a run in the bottom of the third to cut their deficit to 2-1. On top of that, LHS starting pitcher Hunter Hoff retired the first two Indians in the fourth in quick fashion. However, both of them, Jackson Lineberry and Preston Price, would eventually bat again in the same inning.

The Indians ended up scoring six runs to break the game open and go on to an 11-1, 5-inning victory on Saturday at The Swamp.

LHS, which fell to 15-11 on the season, played to keep its season alive on Monday. It was at home in an elimination game against Aynor. If Lakewood won that game, it will be at home on



TIM LEIBLE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Lakewood's Hunter Hoff delivers a pitch during the Gators' 11-1 loss to Gilbert to open the SCHSL 3A playoffs on Saturday at The Swamp.

Wednesday in another elimination game against the loser of Monday's winners bracket game between Gilbert and Hanahan.

"It was just like bang-bang," Lakewood head coach Bill DeLavan said. "That's tough. We've

got two outs, but unfortunately in this game you've got to get three. We get it to 2-1, get two outs, and I thought, 'OK, here we go.' But it was then bang-bang;

SEE GATORS, PAGE A12

PLAYOFF ROUNDUP



East Clarendon's Raulston McKenzie slides into second base for a steal during the Wolverines' 10-0 win over Charleston Math & Science on Saturday at Shad Hall Field. McKenzie would go on to score as the throw soared into center field.

TIM LEIBLE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Wolverines roll past Charleston Math & Science 10-0 to kick off playoff run

The East Clarendon High School baseball team needed just five innings to win its opening game in the District 3 tournament of the 1A state playoffs on Saturday, beating Charleston Math & Science 10-0 at Shad Hall Field in Turbeville.

The Wolverines, who improved

to 17-9 on the season, played host to Green Sea-Floyds on Monday in the winners bracket contest. If EC won, it will advance to the championship round on Friday where it will be at home needing just one win to advance to the lower state championship series while needing to be beaten twice.

With a loss on Monday, East Clarendon will play at home on Wednesday in an elimination game against the winner of Monday's elimination game between CMS and Branchville.

Grant Barrineau had a big

SEE PLAYOFFS, PAGE A12

Once a contender in majors, Fowler now needs help getting in

BY DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

There was a time when being side-by-side with Tiger Woods at a major was a good sign. That wasn't the case for Rickie Fowler, mainly because they were nowhere near a golf course.

Woods was watching the Masters from home in Florida while recovering from broken bones in his legs, the worst of more than a decade of injuries. Fowler was watching with him because for the first time in a decade he wasn't eligible to play.

At least he gets a chance in the PGA Championship at Kiawah Island, courtesy of a special invitation that received more attention than it warranted, mainly because of who he is.

Still to be determined is whether Fowler will be at Torrey Pines next month for the U.S. Open. He hasn't missed it since his rookie year when he didn't make it through qualifying.

"It's been humbling," Fowler said. "For someone who's been positive, when you go this long through a low point, it tests all facets of life."

How long?
He has gone 49 tournaments



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rickie Fowler goes into the PGA Championship at Kiawah Island this week in the most pronounced slump of his career.

worldwide since he last won, the Phoenix Open, moving him to No. 8 in the world. He has gone 29 tournaments since he last finished in the top 10, at The American Express, that one moving him back into the top 25.

He now is No. 122, his lowest ranking in more than 11 years. He goes into the PGA Championship having missed his last two cuts. Now it's a matter of finding his way back from what can either be described as a process, a journey or a grind.

"You can pick them all. It's been a bit of everything," Fowl-

er said. "A big part of it was playing too much golf swing, which needed to be done early on. But I think it went on for too long. Now it's back to playing golf and hitting shots."

The invitation to the PGA Championship was not surprising. The PGA of America takes players from the last Ryder Cup team if they're still among the top 100 in the world — Fowler was just outside it at the time — and any player just outside the top 100 as it tries to make sure no one cracks the top 100 at the last minute. Fowler stands out mainly

because of his popularity, which has led to some of the biggest endorsement deals, along with no shortage of commercials. Fowler makes people notice. That's not always a good thing.

Jordan Spieth can relate. He went three full seasons without winning as he coped with the first real struggle he's had in golf. Spieth finally turned it around early this year, and he capped it with a victory in the Texas Open.

"For him — and I think for me, too — the most difficult thing about struggling is when you've had a lot of success and it's then almost impossible to struggle in silence, in darkness," Spieth said. "There's just going to be so much noise around and so much emphasis on results versus the true understanding of what your end goal is and how much time that can take in golf."

The change began toward the end of 2019 when Fowler decided to change coaches from Butch Harmon to John Tillery, who also works with Kevin Kisner. It didn't help that golf shut down for three months during the COVID-19 pandemic. The farther he fell, the greater the struggle.

"It's not like he's giving me bad information or we're work-

ing on the wrong things," Fowler said. "We're all out here to try to be better. Sometimes it doesn't work out as quickly as you want. It's unfortunate that it has taken this long. As the same time, it's been humbling. You learn a lot when you're at tough points. These are things that can make or break you. They test you."

"I'm still upright and moving forward."

Nick Faldo took a jab at Fowler when he didn't make it to the Masters, suggesting in a tweet that he would have more time to shoot commercials with his many sponsors.

Faldo later said he was trying to motivate him. Fowler didn't bother to respond, even when pressed. With nine worldwide wins, including The Players Championship and a FedEx Cup playoff event, perhaps the greatest trait of the 32-year-old Californian is being unfailingly polite.

That stems from growing up in a family that rarely spoke negative words. His father, Rod, says one of the early influences for his son was seven-time Supercross champion Jeremy McGrath. "Rickie grew up around him. Jeremy was very humble. He let his bike do the talking," Rod Fowler said.

TRACK

FROM PAGE A11

finished second in the 100 and third in the 200. Teammate Tariq Coard qualified for the state meet as well, finishing fourth in the 800.

East Clarendon has five qualifiers for the state meet. The boys 4x400 relay team of Brandon Lee, Jeremy Baker, Landon Barnett and Chris Barringer won with a

time of 3 minutes, 50.69 seconds.

Barringer finished second in the 800 run, and the 4x800 team of Lee, Jonrobert Hoover, Barrett and Barringer finished third. Lee was fourth in the 400 dash.

The EC girls 4x800 team of Alyzabeth Floyd, Andee Beard, Gracie Williamson and Mary McKenzie qualified by finishing third.

The 1A meet will be held on Saturday at LR.

PLAYOFFS

FROM PAGE A11

game for ECHS, both on the mound and at the plate. He started and picked up the victory, working three innings and allowing just one hit. He struck out six. He went 3-for-3 with two runs batted in as well.

Caleb Coker pitched the final two innings. He struck out four and allowed just one hit.

Raulston McKenzie went 2-for-3 with a triple, a walk, and an RBI. Phillip Black had two hits, Blake Lee had a hit and two RBI, and Kyler Odom had a double.

The Wolverines finished with 11 hits. They scored a run in the first and two in both the second and third to go up 5-0. EC posted five in the bottom of the first to push the lead to 10-0.

VARSITY SOFTBALL

EAST CLARENDON 21 LOWCOUNTRY LEADERSHIP 0

East Clarendon scored 17 runs in the second inning on the way to a 21-0, 3-inning win over Lowcountry Leadership on Saturday in its District 3 tournament opener in the 1A state playoffs in Turbeville.

The Lady Wolverines, who improved to 9-3 on the season, played host to Lake View in a winners bracket game on Monday.

If EC won, it will advance to the championship round on Friday where it will be at home needing just one win to advance to the lower state championship series while needing to be beaten twice.

With a loss on Monday, East Clarendon will play at home on

Wednesday in an elimination game against the winner of Monday's elimination game between Branchville and Lowcountry Leadership.

ECHS had 14 hits. Hope Azurdia led the way, going 2-for-3 with two doubles and two runs batted in. Katie Lee was 2-for-2 with a double and two RBI, Ansley Brown was 2-for-2 with a triple and two RBI, and Hannah Hickman was 2-for-4 with two doubles and an RBI.

Maddie Newsome had a hit and two RBI, and Charlie Floyd had a triple.

Newsome tossed a 1-hit shutout. She struck out seven and didn't walk a batter.

GILBERT 14 LAKEWOOD 2

The Lakewood High School softball team lost to Gilbert 14-2 in four innings in the opening game of the District IV tournament of the 3A state playoffs on Saturday in Gilbert.

The Lady Gators, who fell to 9-4 on the season, played host to Oceanside Collegiate on Monday in an elimination game. The winner of that game will be on the road on Wednesday against the loser of Monday's winners bracket game between Gilbert and Dillon.

Cakhi Fowler was unable to pitch for LHS after suffering an injury in Monday's regular-season finale against Sumter.

GHS scored four runs in each of its first three at-bats.

Lakewood scored two runs in the top of the fourth. Morgan Christmas and Makayla Cooper both had singles and scored runs. Bayleigh Ruighaver and Cooper both drove in runs.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

STATE TRACK MEET QUALIFIERS

5A Sumter

GIRLS
Nicole Wells 6th long jump 17 feet, 2 inches
Nicole Wells 7th 400 58.21 seconds
Nicole Wells 8th 200 25.77
Alicia Spann 4th discus 109-10.50

BOYS
Barbanas Sumpter 7th high jump 6-2
Jaymar Ludd 5th discus 141-07
Davin Jackson 8th discus 134-01
Malik McKinzie 8th shot put 46-01.50

3A

GIRLS
Manning
Ja'Lencia Griffin 1st 200 25.37
Delaney Frierson 2nd 100 hurdles 16.96
Ja'Lencia Griffin 2nd 100 12.58
Delaney Frierson 3rd 400 hurdles 1 minute, 10.33 seconds

Lakewood
Bridget Donovan 4th 100 hurdles 17.52
Jordyn Miller 4th high jump 4-10

Crestwood
4x100 relay (Nia English, Joelle Gillins, Seniya Hairston, Gariann Scott) 2nd 4x100 51.33

BOYS

Manning
Xavier Evans 1st high jump 6-2
Emmery Mouzan 2nd 110 hurdles 15.26
Emmery Mouzan 2nd 400 hurdles 59.53
Emmery Mouzan 4th triple jump 41-9

Crestwood
Zalyn Myers 2nd 100 10.96
Parris Lowery 4th shot put 44-2

Lakewood
Brandon Cisse 4th 400 51.92

1A

GIRLS
East Clarendon
4x800 relay (Alyzabeth Floyd, Andee Beard, Gracie Williamson, Mary McKenzie) 3rd 14:24.50

BOYS
Scott's Branch
Desane Washington 1st long jump 20-08.00
Desane Washington 2nd 100 11:56;
Desane Washington 3rd 200 23.34
Tariq Coard 4th 800 2:20.73

East Clarendon
4x400 relay (Brandon Lee, Jeremy Baker, Lahdon Barnett, Chris Barringer) 1st 3:50.69
Chris Barringer 2nd 800 2:18.52
4x800 relay (Brandon Lee, Jonrobert Hoover, Landon Barnett, Chris Barringer) 3rd 10:04.64
Brandon Lee 4th 400 54.56

GATORS

FROM PAGE A11

the wheel's came off a little bit."

The left-handed Hoff retired Lineberry and Price on groundouts to second baseman Tydarian Frierson to open the inning. Austin Waters dropped a single into right-center field, stole second base and scored when Cooper Burkett dropped a single just in front of oncoming rightfielder Dayven McLeod to make it 3-1.

With the top of the order coming up for Gilbert, which improved to 18-8, the floodgates opened up for the Indians. Connor Camp-Smith drew a walk before designated hitter Nathan Reynolds singled to left to score Burkett.

That ended Hoff's time on the mound, as he was replaced by Daniel Young. Ashby Vining drew a walk to load the bases and Dylan Massey promptly cleared them with a triple that one-hopped the fence in right field and make it 7-1. Joseph Parker's single made it 8-1.

GHS reloaded the bases before Jonathan Bryant came

to the mound and recorded the final out.

Gilbert put the 10-run mercy rule into effect in the fifth, scoring three runs, again with two outs. Ten of its runs scored after two were out.

Alex Dinkins walked with one out and Vining drew a 2-out walk from Bryant. The left-handed swinging Massey ripped another shot, this one to left for a 2-run double. He scored on a single by Parker that pushed the lead to 11-1.

Parker retired the Gators in order in the bottom of the inning to close out the game. The right-hander scattered three hits while striking out seven and walking none.

Hoff went 3 2/3 innings. The left-hander allowed seven hits while walking two and hitting a batter against one strikeout. DeLavan was pleased with Hoff's effort.

"I thought Hunter competed his tail off," DeLavan said. "I really thought he pitched well. I really thought if we could have made a couple of defensive plays, the game changes."

Hoff retired the first two batters of the game in easy fashion with a 3-pitch strikeout and weak grounder to

first. It looked as though the left-hander would have a 1-2-3 first inning when Vining hit a line drive to right. McLeod looked to have a beat on the ball as he slowly drifted back. The ball ended up getting over his head though, and Vining went digging for third. Not only did Vining get a triple, but he got home because of a bad relay throw from Frierson and Hoff failed to back up the throw at third.

"We made three mistakes there," DeLavan said. "It's just a domino effect, one two and three. It's a perfect storm of what not to do there."

The Indians pushed the lead to 2-0 with another run in the second. Price, who was hit by a pitch for the first of three times, scored on a 2-out single back through the middle by Waters.

The Gators used some 2-out magic of their own to get on the board in the third against Parker. Young legged out an infield single and then was on the move on a perfectly executed hit-and-run to right by the lefty-swinging Victor Brown. Young didn't stop at third, instead coming all the way home from first base to cut the lead to 2-1.

LOCAL BASEBALL, SOFTBALL PLAYOFF SCHEDULES

BASEBALL

3A
District 3 Tournament

SATURDAY
Game 1 - (1) Hanahan 8, (2) Aynor 0
Game 2 - (2) Gilbert 11, (1) Lakewood 1

MONDAY
Game 3 - (2) Gilbert at (1) Hanahan
Game 4 - (2) Aynor at (1) Lakewood

WEDNESDAY
Game 5 - Game 4 Winner vs. Game 3 Loser

FRIDAY
Game 6 - Game 5 Winner at Game 3 Winner
Game 7 - If Necessary
The Higher Region Finish Team will host in game 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. If two teams finish in the same position in the

region, the bracket will determine the host. Game 6 will be hosted by the undefeated team. If Game 7 is played it will be at the site of Game 6, but a coin toss will determine the home team.

1A
District 3 Tournament

SATURDAY
Game 1 - (1) East Clarendon 10, (2) Charleston Math & Science 0

FRIDAY
Game 2 - (1) Green Sea-Floyds 5, Branchville 3

MONDAY
Game 3 - (1) Green Sea-Floyds at (1) East Clarendon
Game 4 - (2) Branchville at (2) Charleston Math & Science

WEDNESDAY
Game 5 - Game 4 Winner at Game 3

Loser

FRIDAY
Game 6 - Game 5 Winner at Game 3 Winner
Game 7 - If Necessary
*The team with the highest region finish will host. If two teams have the same region finish, the bracket will determine the host school
**Game 5: The Loser from Game 3 will host due to coming out of the winner's bracket.

SOFTBALL

3A
District 4 Tournament

SATURDAY
Game 1 - (1) Gilbert 14, (2) Lakewood 2
Game 2 - (1) Dillon 11, (2) Oceanside Collegiate 1

MONDAY

Game 3 - (1) Dillon at (1) Gilbert
Game 4 - (2) Oceanside Collegiate at (2) Lakewood

WEDNESDAY
Game 5 - Game 4 Winner vs. Game 3 Loser

FRIDAY
Game 6 - Game 5 Winner at Game 3 Winner
Game 7 - If Necessary
The Higher Region Finish Team will host in game 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. If two teams finish in the same position in the region, the bracket will determine the host. Game 6 will be hosted by the undefeated team. If Game 7 is played it will be at the site of Game 6, but a coin toss will determine the home team.

1A
District 3 Tournament

SATURDAY

Game 1 - (1) East Clarendon 21, (2) Lowcountry Leadership 0
Game 2 - (1) Lake View 12, (2) Branchville 0

MONDAY
Game 3 - (1) Lake View at (1) East Clarendon
Game 4 - (2) Branchville at (2) Lowcountry Leadership

WEDNESDAY
Game 5 - Game 4 Winner at Game 3 Loser

FRIDAY
Game 6 - Game 5 Winner at Game 3 Winner
Game 7 - If Necessary
*The team with the highest region finish will host. If two teams have the same region finish, the bracket will determine the host school
**Game 5: The Loser from Game 3 will host due to coming out of the winner's bracket.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Charlotte guard LaMelo Ball (2) shoots between Washington Wizards forward Davis Bertans, left, and center Robin Lopez (15) during the Hornets' 115-110 loss on Sunday in Washington.

Hornets drop to 10th seed after 115-110 loss to Wizards

BY HOWARD FENDRICH

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It wasn't until about 30 minutes before tipoff that Bradley Beal told coach Scott Brooks he could play for the Washington Wizards in their regular-season finale.

It wasn't until the second half Sunday against the Charlotte Hornets that Beal really got going in his return from missing three games with a strained left hamstring.

The Wizards finished eighth in the Eastern Conference standings and set up a play-in matchup against the No. 7 Boston Celtics by coming back to beat Charlotte 115-110 as Beal poured in 20 of his 25 points after halftime.

"He chews nails for breakfast," Brooks said about Beal, who entered Sunday averaging 31.4 points, second in the NBA to two-time MVP Stephen Curry's 31.8. "I cannot say enough about his toughness."

The Hornets closed the regular season on a five-game

losing streak to drop to the 10th spot in the East and will play at the Indiana Pacers in a win-or-go-home game in the play-in round. That game and Wizards-at-Celtics are both Tuesday.

"This one stings, but Tuesday night's a new season. ... That's the beauty of it," Hornets coach James Borrego said. "We've got a young group that is experiencing this for the first time."

Beal's backcourt partner Russell Westbrook heard "M-V-P!" chants from the fans while contributing 23 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists for his 184th career triple-double — three more than Oscar Robertson's previous NBA record — and 38th this season alone, the most in the league.

Charlotte, Washington and Indiana all entered the final day of the regular season at 33-38, essentially tied for eighth in the East. All were assured of getting into the play-in portion of the postseason; Sunday's results determined exact placing and opponents.

Warriors take down Morant, Grizzlies to claim 8th seed

BY JANIE MCCAULEY

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Stephen Curry lifted his jersey to celebrate Baron Davis-style in an ode to that old "We Believe" Warriors playoff team of more than a decade ago. He flung a game-worn bracelet into the stands that sent fans chanting "M-V-P!" scrambling for the souvenir from another stellar performance by No. 30.

Curry became the oldest scoring champion since Michael Jordan at age 35 in 1998, finishing with 46 points as Golden State held off the Memphis Grizzlies 113-101 on Sunday in a regular-season finale that determined the play-in tournament's eighth and ninth spots.

"Shoutout to Baron Davis," Curry said — and BD might say the same for Steph.

Curry is still playing his best basketball in his 12th NBA season, and the two-time MVP and his Golden State supporting cast still have a chance at making a splash in the playoffs the way the underdog Davis-led group did in 2007.

The Warriors wrapped up the No. 8 seed and will visit LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers on Wednesday. Memphis finishes at No. 9 and will host the Spurs on Wednesday.

At 33, Curry and Jordan are the only scoring champions age 33 or older. Curry also joins Jordan, Wilt Chamberlain and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar as the only players with multiple scoring titles, MVPs and championships.

"He's like the Picasso of our time," teammate Juan Toscano-Anderson said. "You can't have a knock on him. He's the best doing it right now."

Curry locked up his first scoring title since 2015-16 with his second basket of the game late in the first quarter. He made 9 of 22 3s and also contributed nine assists and seven rebounds in Golden State's sixth straight win. Curry averaged 32 points during his second 2,000-point season.

"I've been blessed to be back healthy and be able to just play night in, night out at a high level, and the work that goes into it, it pays off, and it's something that I really, really rely on, especially at this point in my career," Curry said. "As the years go on, that is the difference-maker for me."



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Former Crestwood star and current Memphis guard Ja Morant, right, is defended by Golden State Warriors forward Andrew Wiggins during the Grizzlies' 113-101 loss in San Francisco on Sunday.

After a slow start, Curry finished with key 3-pointers with 3:17, 2:12 and 1:35 left. He wound up with 337 3-pointers after making 96 in April alone for an NBA record in a single month.

He had help again, too. Jordan Poole hit a go-ahead baseline 3 with 4:28 remaining. Wiggins dunked off a miss by Curry from deep the next time down and scored 21.

Jonas Valanciunas had 29 points and 16 rebounds for the Grizzlies. Former Crestwood star Ja Morant fell just shy of a double-double with 16 points and nine assists.

Dillon Brooks started the fourth quarter on an 8-0 run all by himself to pull Memphis within 86-77 — and Curry immediately returned, hitting a 3 with 8:23 to go.

"He's never been better, I can say that," coach Steve Kerr said.

Brooks converted a tying three-point play with 6:32 left. Draymond Green drew Brooks' sixth foul moments later, sending the Grizzlies star to the bench for the final 6:12 with 18 points.

"Draymond pretty much turned that water off using his IQ," Toscano-Anderson said.

Brooks regretted a couple of his costly fouls.

"I should've not fouled. I feel like the outcome would've been different," Brooks said. "I play as hard as I can and leave the chips where they fall."

Both teams entered with identical 38-33 records and five-game win streaks. They split a back-to-back set March 19-20 in Memphis.

It marked quite a special day for outgoing Warriors President and COO Rick Welts, who is departing the position after 10 years with

the franchise. He led the construction plans for second-year Chase Center and will stay on in an advisory role. Kerr spoke on the court before tip-off, both thanking the fans and honoring all that former Seattle SuperSonics ball boy Welts has done for the NBA and Warriors.

Curry missed his first four shots and initial three 3s before a layup with 3:45 remaining in the opening quarter. He then hit a jumper the next time down to become scoring champion — drawing raves and a standing ovation.

TIP-INS

Grizzlies: Shot 2 for 12 on 3-pointers in the first half and 6 of 25 overall. ... Memphis finished 20-16 on the road, the third-highest road winning percentage in franchise history (.585 in 2012-13 and 2014-15).

Warriors: G/F Kelly Oubre Jr. missed his 10th straight game with an injured left wrist. He was re-evaluated and showed progress in his recovery, but is not cleared to practice and won't be re-examined for another week to 10 days. ... Golden State won 10 of the last 11 at home to finish with a 25-11 record at Chase Center. ... The Warriors signed G Gary Payton II, who previously had a pair of 10-day contracts with the team.

UP NEXT

Grizzlies: Return home to face 10th-seeded San Antonio, with that winner advancing to take on the loser of the 7 vs. 8 play-in game for the No. 8 playoff seed.

Warriors: Visit the reigning NBA champion Lakers in the play-in tournament to determine the seventh seed for the playoffs.

NBA PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

Play-in First Round

Eastern Conference

TUESDAY, MAY 18

Charlotte at Indiana, 6:30 p.m.
Washington at Boston 9 p.m.

Western Conference

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

San Antonio at Memphis, 7:30 p.m.
Golden State at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.

Play-in Second Round

Eastern Conference

THURSDAY, MAY 20

Indiana-Charlotte winner at Boston-Washington loser, 8 p.m.

Western Conference

FRIDAY, MAY 21

San Antonio-Memphis winner at Golden State-L.A. Lakers loser, TBA

FIRST ROUND

(Best-of-7)

BEGINS SATURDAY, MAY 22

Times TBA

Eastern Conference

Philadelphia vs. TBD
Atlanta at New York
Miami at Milwaukee

Brooklyn vs. TBD

Western Conference

Utah vs. TBD
Dallas at L.A. Clippers

Portland at Denver
Phoenix vs. TBD

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

(Best-of-7)

TBD

CONFERENCE FINALS

(Best-of-7)

Conference Semifinals winners, TBA

NBA FINALS

(Best-of-7)

Conference Finals winners, TBA

Montgomery bumpy as Yankees fall to O's 10-6

BY TODD KARPOVICH

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Maikel Franco homered and drove in three runs, rookie Bruce Zimmermann came out of the bullpen to hold down the Yankees and Baltimore Orioles avoided a three-game sweep by rallying to beat New York 10-6 Sunday.

"It was a great comeback from our guys," Orioles manager Brandon Hyde said. "We had a lot of tough losses here in the last week to two weeks."

Aaron Judge homered for the third straight game and went 6 for 10 with four home runs and five RBIs in the series.

But former Sumter High pitcher Jordan Montgomery failed to hold leads of 4-0 in the first inning and 5-2 in the third, and New York dropped to 1-6 this season when trying to complete a series sweep.

"He had a hard time putting some guys away," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "I thought they had some good at-bats off him. A couple of times he tried to show them the fastball late in the count, two strikes, he didn't get it where he wanted to. There were some mistakes with that."

Baltimore is 6-15 at Camden Yards, the worst home record in the major leagues.

Montgomery gave up five runs and six hits in three innings, raising his ERA to 4.75. He had allowed two runs over 11 innings in two previous starts against the Orioles this season.

"I am going to have to a look at it



Former Sumter High star and current New York Yankees starting pitcher Jordan Montgomery throws a pitch against the Baltimore Orioles during the Yankees' 10-6 loss on Sunday in Baltimore.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

tomorrow and make it better," Montgomery said. "A lot of things could have gone differently today."

Baltimore went ahead for good at 6-5 in the fourth on Trey Mancini's two-out RBI double off Michael King (0-1). Mancini has 32 RBIs in 40 games.

Franco had three hits, including a two-run homer off Wandy Peralta in the seventh that opened an 8-5 lead. Rookie Ryan Mountcastle added a two-run single against Luis Cessa in the eighth and finished with a season-high four RBIs.

New York is 6-4 against the Orioles, but the teams won't meet again until Aug. 2-4 in the Bronx.

Zimmermann (2-3), recalled from Triple-A Norfolk prior to the game, allowed one run and two hits over 5 2/3 innings with six strikeouts and one walk after Adam Plutko gave up four runs in the first inning in his first start this season after 15 relief appearances. Pluto's ERA

rose from 1.27 to 2.82.

"That was the idea to kind of get through the top of the lineup once so I hopefully only had to face them twice," Zimmermann said. "I was prepared to go the starter amount of innings and get back to bearing down in the zone."

Gary Sánchez and Clint Frazier hit consecutive homers in the first. The Yankees have hit 63 homers in 23 games in Baltimore since 2019.

"We go out and get four in that first inning and obviously, you feel good about it," Boone said. "We just were not able to add on and they chipped away."

Mountcastle hit an RBI double in the bottom half and score on Pedro Severino's single. Judge homered in the second — seven of his 12 homers this season have come against Baltimore.

Baltimore tied the score 5-5 in the third on Mountcastle's sacrifice fly, Franco's RBI double and Freddy Galvis' run-scoring single.

Bowman parks 48 in familiar spot in victory lane at Dover

BY DAN GELSTON

The Associated Press

DOVER, Del. — Moments after he smoked the field at Dover, Alex Bowman channeled fictional goofball NASCAR driver Ricky Bobby as flames simmered under the left rear of his Chevy.

"Help me Tom Cruise, I'm on fire," he said, quoting a popular line from "Talladega Nights."

At Hendrick Motorsports, if you ain't first, you're, well, at Dover it was second, third and fourth.



BOWMAN

Bowman parked the No. 48 Chevrolet in its familiar spot in victory lane at Dover International Speedway, leading a 1-2-3-4 finish for Hendrick Motorsports on Sunday.

Bowman — who described himself as a "race car driver slash weirdo" — led Hendrick to only the fourth top-four sweep by a single team in NASCAR Cup Series history. Kyle Larson led a race-high 263 laps and finished second, Chase Elliott was third and William Byron fourth.

The milestones kept coming at the Monster Mile. Hendrick Motorsports won its 267th career NASCAR race, one shy of the team record held by Petty Enterprises.

"I want to be the guy that get those wins for Mr. H," Bowman said.

Not so fast, said Larson.

"I hope I'm the driver to do it," Larson said.

TUESDAY EVENING MAY 18

| | SP | FT | 7 PM | 7:30 | 8 PM | 8:30 | 9 PM | 9:30 | 10 PM | 10:30 | 11 PM | 11:30 | 12 AM |
|-----------------------|----|-----|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|------------------------|------------------------|
| LOCAL CHANNELS | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| WIS | 10 | 3 | 10 | WIS News 10 at 7 (N) | Entertainment Tonight (N) | The Voice "Live Top 9 Results" Five artists advance to the finale. (N) (Live) | This Is Us "Jerry 2.0" Kevin has his bachelor party. (N) (DVS) | (-01) New Amsterdam "Things Fall Apart" A burst pipe plunges the ED into chaos. (N) (DVS) | WIS News 10 at 11 (N) | (-34) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon "Chris Rock; Willow" Chris Rock; Willow talks and performs. (N) | | | |
| WLTX | 19 | 9 | 9 | News 19 at 7pm (N) | Inside Edition (N) | NCIS "Blown Away" Members of a react team are killed. (N) (DVS) | FBI "Trigger Effect" A mass casualty incident. (N) | FBI: Most Wanted "Hustler" A former informant must be protected. (N) | News 19 at 11pm (N) | (-35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert | | | |
| WOLO | 23 | 5 | 12 | Wheel of Fortune (N) | Jeopardy! "Tournament of Champions" (N) | Pooch Perfect "The Grand Fur-nale" (Season Finale) One team is crowned Pooch Perfect. (N) (DVS) | black-ish Junior has to deal with the twins. | mixed-ish Alicia's worst fear comes true. | Big Sky "Love Is a Strange and Dangerous Thing" (Season Finale) Cassie and Jenny head home. (N) | ABC Columbia News at 11 (N) | (-35) Jimmy Kimmel Live! | | |
| WRJA | 27 | 11 | 14 | Making It Grow Host Amanda McNulty and Clemson Extension Agents answer viewers' gardening questions. | Extra Life: A Short History of Living Longer "Medical Drugs" Medicine that combats illness directly. (N) | Philly D.A. Krasner's unorthodox plans. (N) | (-01) Prodigal Son "The Last Weekend" (Season Finale) A search for The Woodsman. (N) (DVS) | WACH FOX News at 10P (N) (Live) | Amanpour and Company (N) | Extra Life: A Short History of Living Longer | | | |
| WACH | 57 | 6 | 6 | The Big Bang Theory | The Big Bang Theory Meeting Stephen Hawking. | The Resident "Past, Present, Future" (Season Finale) Raptor's life begins to fall apart. (N) (DVS) | (-01) Prodigal Son "The Last Weekend" (Season Finale) A search for The Woodsman. (N) (DVS) | WACH FOX News at 10P (N) (Live) | Sports Zone (N) | Two and a Half Men Kandi moves in with Alan. | Schitt's Creek Johnny finds a potential buyer. | | |
| WKTC | 63 | 4 | 22 | Last Man Standing Vanessa learns a secret. | Last Man Standing "Girls Rock" (DVS) | The Doctors (N) | Judge Jerry Former couple feud over an all-expenses-paid trip. | Judge Jerry Men feud over an all-expenses-paid trip. | Chicago P.D. "Conventions" SVU agents help with a case. | Chicago P.D. "The Price We Pay" Ruzek helps Burgess get retribution. | Law & Crime Daily (N) | | |
| CABLE CHANNELS | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A&E | 46 | 130 | Storage Wars "Lets Make a Dill!" | Storage Wars "Queen-bayal" | Storage Wars | Storage Wars "Bits and Pizzas" | Storage Wars lvy schools lvy Jr. | Storage Wars (N) | (-01) Hustle & Tow (N) | (-32) Hustle & Tow (N) | (-04) Storage Wars "Rules 1" | (-34) Storage Wars | (12:03) Storage Wars |
| AMC | 48 | 180 | *** "U.S. Marshals" fugitive case. | (1998, Action) Tommy Lee Jones, Wesley Snipes, Robert Downey Jr. | Sam Gerard gets caught up in another | *** "Moneyball" (2011, Drama) Brad Pitt, Jonah Hill, Philip Seymour Hoffman. A baseball manager challenges old-school traditions. | | | | | | | |
| ANPL | 41 | 100 | Treehouse Masters | Treehouse Masters: Ultimate Builds An adventure-style treehouse. (N) | Cricket! It's the Irwins "Crocodile Chaos" The Irwins relocate an ornery croc. (N) | Treehouse | | | | | | | |
| BET | 61 | 162 | (6:30) *** "The Wedding Ringer" (2015, Comedy) Kevin Hart, Josh Gad, Affion Crockett. A groom must hire a best man for his upcoming nuptials. | Carl Weber's The Family Business "Back To Life" (Season Premiere) (N) | Carl Weber's The Family Business "Put A Ring On It" (N) | Carl Weber's The Family Business "Put A Ring On It" (N) | | | | | | | |
| BRAVO | 47 | 181 | The Real Housewives of New York City Ramona visits Luann's new apartment. | The Real Housewives of New York City "Never Before Scene 1302" (N) | The Real Housewives of New York City The ladies take a day trip to a winery. | Watch What Happens Live | The Real Housewives of New York City The ladies take a day trip to a winery. | Chrisley Knows Best | Chrisley Knows Best | | | | |
| CNBC | 35 | 84 | The News With Shepard Smith (N) | Shark Tank | Shark Tank A decadent breakfast treat. | Shark Tank (Part 1 of 2) | Shark Tank (N) (Live) | Shark Tank | Shepard Smith | | | | |
| CNN | 3 | 80 | Erin Burnett OutFront (N) (Live) | Anderson Cooper 360 (N) (Live) | Cuomo Prime Time (N) (Live) | Don Lemon Tonight (N) (Live) | Don Lemon Tonight (N) (Live) | Don Lemon Tonight (N) (Live) | Anderson Cooper | | | | |
| COM | 57 | 136 | (-10) The Office "Initiation" | (-45) The Office "Diwali" Staff attends a Hindu festival. | (-20) The Office "Branch Closing" | The Office "The Merger" | The Office "The Convict" | The Office "Back From Vacation" | The Office "Traveling Salesmen" | The Daily Show With Trevor Noah | (-44) South Park "Sarcastaball" | (12:14) South Park | |
| DISN | 18 | 200 | Jessie | Jessie | Big City Greens | Big City Greens | Big City Greens | Bunk'd | Bunk'd | Sydney to the Max | Raven's Home | | |
| DSC | 42 | 103 | Deadliest Catch: On Deck (N) | Deadliest Catch "Force Majeure" (N) | Undercover Billionaire "The Closers" (N) | Undercover Billionaire: Comeback City | Deadliest Catch | | | | | | |
| ESPN | 26 | 35 | SportsCenter (N) (Live) | MLB Baseball New York Yankees at Texas Rangers. From Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas. (N) (Live) | SportsCenter (N) (Live) | SportsCenter (N) (Live) | SportsCenter (N) (Live) | | | | | | |
| ESPN2 | 27 | 39 | E60 | WNBA Basketball Phoenix Mercury at Washington Mystics. (N) (Live) | WNBA Basketball Las Vegas Aces at Seattle Storm. (N) (Live) | DC & Helwani | | | | | | | |
| FOOD | 40 | 109 | Chopped "Deadly Catch" | Chopped "Quail Without Fail" | Chopped "Taco Brawl" (N) | Chopped "Pancake Panic" | Chopped "Holy Bologna" | Chopped | | | | | |
| FOXN | 37 | 90 | FOX News Primetime (N) (Live) | Tucker Carlson Tonight (N) (Live) | Hannity (N) (Live) | The Ingraham Angle (N) (Live) | Gutfeld! (N) | Fox News at Night | | | | | |
| FREE | 20 | 131 | (6:00) *** "Matilda" (1996) Mara Wilson, Danny DeVito. | *** "Mulan" (1998, Children's) Voices of Ming-Na Wen, Eddie Murphy, B.D. Wong. Animated. A Chinese maiden disguises herself as a man. | Cruel Summer "An Ocean Inside Me" Cindy's suspicions reach new heights. | The 700 Club | The Simpsons | | | | | | |
| FSS | 21 | 47 | Boat Racing | MLS Soccer CF Montreal at Atlanta United FC. | Postgame | SportsMoney | College Baseball Texas Tech at Oklahoma. | | | | | | |
| HALL | 52 | 183 | Reba Kyra passes her driving test. | Reba Jake tries out for football. | Reba "Help Wanted" | Reba | Reba Reba's party for her clients. | Reba "Reba and the One" | The Golden Girls (DVS) | The Golden Girls "All That Jazz" | The Golden Girls "Ebb Tide" | The Golden Girls (DVS) | The Golden Girls (DVS) |
| HGTV | 39 | 112 | Property Brothers: Forever Home | Unsellable Houses | Unsellable Houses (N) | House Hunters (N) | House Hunters Int'l | House Hunters | Hunters Int'l | Unsellable Houses | | | |
| HIST | 45 | 110 | The Curse of Oak Island: Drilling Down | The Curse of Oak Island: Drilling Down | The Secret of Skinwalker Ranch (N) | (-03) America's Book of Secrets (N) | (-05) The Secret of Skinwalker Ranch | Drilling Down | | | | | |
| ION | 13 | 18 | NCIS: New Orleans Investigating a Russian sleeper agent. (DVS) | NCIS: New Orleans "Undocumented" A staged suicide turns out to be murder. | NCIS: New Orleans Pride and Mayor Hamilton are abducted. (DVS) | NCIS: New Orleans "No Man's Land" A man disappears after saving a life. | NCIS: New Orleans "Second Chances" A domestic drug ring is uncovered. | NCIS: New Orleans "Radio Silence" | | | | | |
| LIFE | 50 | 145 | Rizzoli & Isles "Somebody's Watching Me" Jane's career is jeopardized. | Rizzoli & Isles "All for One" A popular high-school teacher is killed. | Rizzoli & Isles "Cold as Ice" Frankie Jr. is brought in to help. | (-03) Rizzoli & Isles Jane and Maura make a discovery. | (-03) Rizzoli & Isles "Built for Speed" An amateur drag race turns deadly. | (12:01) Rizzoli & Isles "All for One" | | | | | |
| MSNBC | 36 | 92 | The Reid Out (N) (Live) | All In With Chris Hayes (N) (Live) | The Rachel Maddow Show (N) | The Last Word | The 11th Hour With Brian Williams (N) | Rachel Maddow | | | | | |
| NICK | 16 | 210 | The Casagrandes | The Loud House | SpongeBob | SpongeBob | Friends | Friends | Friends | Friends | | | |
| PARMT | 64 | 153 | *** "Saving Private Ryan" (1998, War) Tom Hanks, Edward Burns. U.S. troops look for a missing comrade during World War II. | *** "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" (2009, Action) Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox, Josh Duhamel. Sam Witwicky holds the key to defeating an ancient Decepticon. | *** "Big" (1988, Children's) Tom Hanks, Elizabeth Perkins. | Futurama "Rebirth" | | | | | | | |
| SYFY | 58 | 152 | (6:30) *** "The Chronicles of Riddick" (2004, Science Fiction) Vin Diesel, Colm Feore, Thandie Newton. A fugitive fights an invading ruler and his army. | *** "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" (2009, Action) Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox, Josh Duhamel. Sam Witwicky holds the key to defeating an ancient Decepticon. | Futurama "Rebirth" | | | | | | | | |
| TBS | 24 | 156 | The Big Bang Theory | The Big Bang Theory | The Big Bang Theory | The Big Bang Theory | Chad "Lakehouse" (N) (DVS) | Conan (N) | Chad "Lakehouse" (DVS) | Seinfeld "The Shoes" | | | |
| TCM | 49 | 186 | (6:15) *** "The Little Hut" (1957) Ava Gardner, Stewart Granger. | *** "Fats" (1980) Dom DeLuise, Anne Bancroft. Love inspires a portly shopkeeper to try losing weight. | (-45) *** "The Honeymoon Killers" (1969, Crime Drama) Shirley Stoler, Tony Lo Bianco. Two killers prey on lonely widows in the 1940s. | (-45) *** "Precious" (2009) Gabourey Sidibe, Mo'Nique. Premiere. | | | | | | | |
| TLC | 43 | 157 | Doubling Down With the Derricos | Little People, Big World (N) | Little People, Big World (N) | Born With Albinism (N) | Seeking Sister Wife | Little People | | | | | |
| TNT | 23 | 158 | NBA Pregame (N) (Live) | NBA Basketball Play-In Tournament: Teams TBA. (N Subject to Blackout) (Live) | NBA Basketball Play-In Tournament: Teams TBA. (N Subject to Blackout) (Live) | | | | | | | | |
| TRUTV | 38 | 129 | Impractical Jokers | Impractical Jokers | Impractical Jokers | Impractical Jokers | Impractical Jokers | Impractical Jokers | Impractical Jokers | | | | |
| TV LAND | 55 | 161 | Andy Griffith Show | Love-Raymond | (-45) Everybody Loves Raymond | Love-Raymond | Love-Raymond | King of Queens | King of Queens | King of Queens | | | |
| USA | 25 | 132 | NCIS "Berlin" Investigating a Mossad officer's murder. (DVS) | WWE NXT The next generation of WWE Superstars showcase their talent. (N) (Live) | (-09) Young Rock "Good vs. Great" | (-39) Young Rock "Election Day" | (-09) Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Squad faces off against a drug cartel. | Law & Order: Special Victims Unit | | | | | |
| WE | 68 | 166 | Law & Order "Shadow" | Law & Order "Burned" | Law & Order "Ritual" | Law & Order "Under the Influence" | Law & Order "Expert" | Law & Order | | | | | |
| WGNA | 8 | 172 | The Donlon Report (N) | NewsNation Prime (N) (Live) | NewsNation Prime (N) (Live) | Banfield (N) | The Donlon Report | NewsNation Prime | | | | | |

Several network TV shows air season finales tonight

BY KEVIN McDONOUGH

BritBox streams season six of "Line of Duty." For the uninitiated, "Duty" is among the most popular series in the U.K., a police drama that puts a lot of emphasis on office politics and bureaucracy. Not unlike American police dramas, much of the dialogue consists of acronyms and jargon, and many of their operations resemble the kind of semi-military procedures seen on "S.W.A.T." and virtually every drama on CBS.

It also resembles "Law & Order" in its use of talent familiar from other movies and series. Among its stars is Kelly Macdonald, familiar to fans of "Boardwalk Empire," "Nanny McPhee," and "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2." Early in her career, she also appeared in "Train-spotting" and "Gosford Park," director Robert Altman's 2001 take on a British country house murder mystery written by Julian Fellowes, who later created "Downton Abbey." A native of Glasgow, Macdonald's accent is on full display here, so you might consider closed captioning.

Also starring in this season of "Line," Northern Irish actor Adrian Dunbar was recently seen in the excellent Irish psychological thriller "Blood," which streams on Acorn. He reminds me of American character actor James Cromwell ("L.A. Confidential"), a ruggedly handsome man great at playing the father figure hiding dark secrets or buried malice.

- Two amoral schemers (Tony Lo Bianco and Shirley Stoler) pass themselves off as brother and sister to swindle and murder rich women who respond to letters in the "lonely hearts" column in the 1970 shocker "The Honeymoon Killers" (9:45 p.m., TCM, TV-14). This has to be one of my all-time favorite movies! One that truly lives up to cult classic status.

- Still shocking after half a century, it makes jarring use of "bad" acting to give the couple's predatory behavior a documentary feel. There's a scene of a deluded victim singing a patriotic ditty in her bathtub, shot years before Little Edie's flag-waving number in the Maysles Brothers' disturbing 1975 documentary "Grey Gardens." And look for Doris Roberts in a brief role, decades before "Everybody Loves Raymond."



CHRISTOPHER WILLARD / ABC

Host Rebel Wilson, right, watches as Gabriel Feitosa grooms a dog in "The Grand Fur-nale" season finale episode of "Pooch Perfect," airing at 8 p.m. today on ABC.

Stoler would later star in Lina Wertmuller's art house favorite "Seven Beauties" (1975), on her way to becoming a regular (Mrs. Steve) on "Peewee's Playhouse." This was Lo Bianco's second film. He would become a fixture on TV police dramas, from the original "N.Y.P.D." to "Law & Order." Breathtaking and original, "Killers" was based on a true story and inspired an unnecessary remake, "Lonely Hearts," in 2006, starring James Gandolfini, Salma Hayek, John Travolta, Laura Dern and Jared Leto. You can't improve on a classic!

TONIGHT'S SEASON FINALES

- The stork arrives on "The Resident" (8 p.m., Fox, TV-14).
- Rebel Wilson hosts "Pooch Perfect" (8 p.m., ABC, TV-PG).
- The search for the Woodsman on "Prodigal Son" (9 p.m., Fox, TV-14).
- Dre mulls a career change on "black-ish" (9 p.m., ABC, TV-PG).
- Back in the day on "mixed-ish" (9:30 p.m., ABC, TV-PG).
- Time to leave the ranch on "Big Sky" (10 p.m., ABC, TV-14).

TONIGHT'S OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- "Extra Life: A Short History of Living Longer" (8 p.m., PBS, TV-PG, check local listings) looks at the antibiotics revolution.
- A restaurant shooting on "FBI" (9 p.m., CBS, TV-14).
- The big day approaches on "This Is Us" (9 p.m., NBC, TV-14).

- A split-level abused by its hoarder owners gets a facelift on "Unsellable Houses" (9 p.m., HGTV).
- An informant feels threatened on "FBI: Most Wanted" (10 p.m., CBS, TV-14).
- A burst pipe spews disaster on "New Amsterdam" (10 p.m., NBC, TV-14).
- A deposition upends Jeanette's case on "Cruel Summer" (10 p.m., Freeform, TV-14).

CULT CHOICE

Jeff Daniels stars in the 1990 shocker "Arachnophobia" (6:30 p.m., IFC, TV-14), which puts the fear of spiders right into the title.

SERIES NOTES

Navy casualties on "NCIS" (8 p.m., CBS, TV-14) * Iris takes it to the max on "The Flash" (8 p.m., CW, TV-PG) * Troubles on the gridiron on "Superman & Lois" (9 p.m., CW, TV-PG).

LATE NIGHT

Morgan Freeman and Tig Notaro drop by "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" (11:35 p.m., CBS) * Jimmy Fallon welcomes Chris Rock and Willow on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC) * Nick Jonas, Sam Jay, Deb Haaland and Brian Frasier-Moore visit "Late Night With Seth Meyers" (12:35 a.m., NBC).

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this photo provided by Chris Loomis, Alice Cooper stands beside his Andy Warhol canvas "Little Electric Chair" at the Larsen Gallery in Scottsdale, Arizona, recently.

Rocker Alice Cooper to auction off canvas by Andy Warhol

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — An Andy Warhol canvas found years ago in the garage of rocker Alice Cooper could become the highest selling artwork ever in Arizona.

The music legend, who has a home in metro Phoenix, announced Thursday that he would auction off "Little Electric Chair."

It will be up for bidding on Oct. 23 at an auction organized by the Larsen Gallery in Scottsdale. The gallery estimates it could fetch anywhere from \$2.5 million to \$4.5 million.

The red acrylic and silkscreen on canvas was part of Warhol's "Death and Disaster" series between 1964 and 1965. The pop artist often collected images from newspapers and magazines to use as inspiration for his work. Among them were images of the electric chair.

According to Cooper, the artwork was a birthday gift in the '70s from a girlfriend who was friends with Warhol.

Cooper also plans to make the canvas available for public viewing.

The gallery owners say they will donate part of any commission to Cooper's nonprofit, Solid Rock, which works to bring music, dance and other forms of art to teens.

Cooper is known for outrageous makeup and performances and such hits as "School's Out."



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LEGAL NOTICES

Summons & Notice

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
 C/A NO.: 2021-CP-43-00181

SUMMONS AND NOTICE (Non-Jury) FORECLOSURE (Deficiency Waived)

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF SUMTER

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
 C/A NO.: 2021-CP-43-00181

United States of America acting through the Rural Housing Service or successor agency, United States Department of Agriculture, Plaintiff,

vs.

Melissa Lynn Taylor, and Personal Representatives, if any, whose name is unknown, of the Estate of Thelma B. Rogers; Any Heirs-at-Law or devisees of Thelma B. Rogers, deceased, their heirs, personal representatives, administrators, successors and assigns, and all other persons or entities entitled to claim through them; all unknown persons or entities with any right, title, estate, interest in or lien upon the real estate described in the complaint herein; also any persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America, being a class designated as John Doe; and any unknown minors, incompetent or imprisoned person, or persons under a disability being a class designated as Richard Roe, Defendants

TO THE DEFENDANT(S): Personal Representatives, if any, whose name is unknown, of the Estate of Thelma B. Rogers; Any Heirs-at-Law or devisees of Thelma B. Rogers, deceased, their heirs, personal representatives, administrators, successors and assigns, and all other persons or entities entitled to claim through them; all unknown persons or entities with any right, title, estate, interest in or lien upon the real estate described in the complaint herein; also any persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America, being a class designated as John Doe; and any unknown minors, incompetent or imprisoned person, or persons under a disability being a class designated as Richard Roe

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend by answering the Complaint in this action, of which a copy is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer on the subscribers at their offices, 135 Columbia Avenue, Post Office Box 1000, Chapin, South Carolina 29036, within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; except that the United States of America, if named, shall have sixty (60) days to answer after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to do so, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

TO MINOR(S) OVER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE, AND/OR TO MINOR(S) UNDER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND THE PERSON WITH WHOM THE MINOR(S) RESIDES, AND/OR TO PERSONS UNDER SOME LEGAL DISABILITY:

YOU ARE FURTHER SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to apply for the appointment of a guardian ad litem within thirty (30) days after the service of this Summons and Notice upon you. If you fail to do so, application for such appointment will be made by the Plaintiff.

YOU WILL ALSO TAKE NOTICE that under the provisions of South Carolina Code 29-3-100, effective June 16, 1993, any collateral assignment of rents contained in the attached mortgage is perfected and Plaintiff hereby gives notice that all rents shall be payable directly to it by delivery to its undersigned attorneys from the date of default. In the alternative, Plaintiff will move before a judge of this Circuit on the

Summons & Notice

10th day after service hereof, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, for an Order enforcing the assignment of rents, if any, and compelling payment of all rents covered by such assignment directly to the Plaintiff, which motion is to be based upon the original note and mortgage and the Complaint which was filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Sumter County on February 5, 2021.

NOTICE

YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Notice of Right to Foreclosure Intervention, Certificate of Exemption/Withdrawal from Arbitration and Mediation, Amended Lis Pendens, Summons and Complaint, of which the foregoing is a copy of the Summons, were filed with the Clerk of Court for Sumter County, South Carolina on February 5, 2021.

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an action will be commenced within twenty (20) days of the filing of this Notice upon Complaint of the above-named Plaintiff against the above-named Defendant for the foreclosure of a Mortgage dated October 6, 2004 given by Thelma B. Rogers ("Mortgage"), said Mortgage having been recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Court or Register of Deeds for Sumter County on October 12, 2004 in Book 956 at Page 508. The said mortgaged premises affected by the foreclosure are situate in Sumter County, in the State of South Carolina, and described in said Mortgage as follows:

All that piece, parcel or lot of land with the improvements thereon, situate, lying and being in Privateer Township, Sumter County, South Carolina as shown and designated as Lot No. 2, containing .69 acres, more or less, on that certain plat of Joseph R. Edwards, R.L.S., dated March 28, 1991, and recorded in the Office of the R.O.D. for Sumter County in Plat Book 91, page 866. Reference is directed to said plat for a more complete description of metes, courses, distances, boundaries and measurements.

This being the same property conveyed to Thelma B. Rogers by deed of Kelton C. Harrell dated October 6, 2004 and recorded October 12, 2004 in Book 956 at Page 504 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County, South Carolina.

TMS No.: 214-00-01-021
 Address: 1625 Poole Road,
 Sumter, South Carolina 29154

HARRELL, MARTIN & PEACE, P.A.
 Taylor A. Peace #100206
 135 Columbia Avenue
 Post Office Box 1000
 Chapin, South Carolina 29036
 (803) 345-3333
 ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

Estate Notice Sumter County NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

Persons having claim against the following estates are required to deliver or mail their claims to the indicated Personal Representatives, appointed to administer these estates, and to file their claims on Form #371PC with the Probate Court of Sumter County Courthouse, N. Main Street, Sumter, SC, 29150, on or before the date that is eight months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors, (unless previously barred by operation of Section 62-3-803), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements, indicating the name and the address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the amount claimed and the date when due, and a description of any security as to the claim.

Estate:/Michael Ray Cox #2021ES4300103
 Personal Representative:
 Ginger B. Cox
 420 Mallard Dr.
 Sumter, SC 29150
 Michael Sgobbo
 852 Orleans Rd. #203
 Charleston, SC 29407

Estate Notice Sumter County NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

Persons having claim against the following estates are required to deliver or mail their claims to the indicated Personal Representatives, appointed to administer these estates, and to file their claims on Form #371PC with the Probate Court of Sumter County Courthouse, N. Main Street, Sumter, SC, 29150, on or before the date that is eight months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors, (unless previously barred by operation of Section 62-3-803), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements, indicating the name and the address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the amount claimed and the date when due, and a description of any security as to the claim.

Estate:/Jesse Walker #2021ES4300334
 Personal Representative:
 Tiara Walker
 3030 Evenwood Lane
 Wedgefield, SC 29168
 Garryl L. Deas
 PO Box 1211
 Sumter, SC 29151

Estate:/Joyce Nealey #2021ES4300341
 Personal Representative:
 O'Brien Rowland, Jr.
 228 Church St. Apt. 4
 Sumter, SC 29150
 John S. Keffer
 10 Law Range
 Sumter, SC 29150

Estate:/Curtis Lester Freeland #2021ES4300384
 Personal Representative:
 Emily Freeland
 592 Brushwood Dr.
 Sumter, SC 29154

Estate:/Samuel Sanders, Jr. #2021ES4300343
 Personal Representative:
 Valerie A. Wells
 117 Lincoln St.
 Sumter, SC 29150

Estate:/Leroy Holmes #2021ES4300380
 Personal Representative:
 Terry Holmes
 1185 Grey Pine Drive
 Blythewood, SC 29016

Estate:/Bernice Jenkins Pitts #2021ES4300385
 Personal Representative:
 Sharolyn Pitts Gregg
 90 Lucky Court
 Sumter, SC 29154

Estate:/Linda C. Timmons #2021ES4300375
 Personal Representative:
 Julie T. Bettencourt
 3280 Butterworth Circle
 Sumter, SC 29154

Estate:/Myrtis Charlene Buddin #2021ES4300381
 Personal Representative:
 Candace R. Bethea
 4355 Furman Cove
 Sumter, SC 29154
 Joseph A. Buddin, Jr.
 4395 Furman Cove
 Sumter, SC 29154

Estate:/Earline Walker Kelly #2021ES4300386
 Personal Representative:
 Roblena E. Walker
 6200 Oakdale Ridge Court SE
 Mableton, GA 30126

Estate:/Robert Cecil Hayes #2021ES4300360
 Personal Representative:
 James E. Hayes
 117 Baucom Park Dr.
 Greer, SC 29630
 William A. W. Buxton
 Attorney at Law
 PO Box 3220
 Sumter, SC 29151

Estate:/Adam Clayton Gavin #2021ES4300376
 Personal Representative:
 Kenjeta T. Gavin
 40 Watermark Cove
 Dazzell, SC 29040

Estate:/Velda Deloris Workman #2021ES4300383
 Personal Representative:
 David Dawawn Johnson
 1726 Horne Rd.
 Sumter, SC 29154

Estate:/Stephen Francis Letempt #2021ES4300391
 Personal Representative:
 Christopher J. Letempt
 505 SW Duke Ave.
 Bentonville, AR 72712

Estate Notice Sumter County NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

Persons having claim against the following estates are required to deliver or mail their claims to the indicated Personal Representatives, appointed to administer these estates, and to file their claims on Form #371PC with the Probate Court of Sumter County Courthouse, N. Main Street, Sumter, SC, 29150, on or before the date that is eight months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors, (unless previously barred by operation of Section 62-3-803), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements, indicating the name and the address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the amount claimed and the date when due, and a description of any security as to the claim.

Estate:/Shirley R. Jones #2021ES4300361
 Personal Representative:
 Tonya Fort
 5581 Oakcrest Rd.
 Sumter, SC 29154
 Timothy L. Griffith
 Attorney at Law
 2338 Mounty Vernon Dr.
 Sumter, SC 29154

Estate:/Bessie McCutchen Lowder #2021ES4300368
 Personal Representative:
 Marvin Dewitt Lowder
 416 S. Willow Dr.
 Surfside Beach, SC 29575

Estate:/Charles Milton Hodgkin #2021ES4300366
 Personal Representative:
 Marian Hodgkin Carnes
 945 Oakbrook Blvd.
 Sumter, SC 29150

Estate:/Jody Allen Truett #2021ES4300344
 Personal Representative:
 Wanda Truett
 230 Macy Street
 Sumter, SC 29153

Estate:/Joeretha McElveen #2021ES4300371
 Personal Representative:
 Joe N. McElveen
 1732 North Bethel Road
 Scranton, SC 29591

Estate:/Timothy B. Cain, Jr. #2021ES4300353
 Personal Representative:
 Catherine Cain
 938 Friske St.
 Columbia, SC 29203

Estate:/John Denman Prince, Jr. #2021ES4300379
 Personal Representative:
 Jeanne Prince
 253 Keels Rd.
 Sumter, SC 29154

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements

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

MERCHANDISE

Garage, Yard & Estate Sales

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

For Sale or Trade

Washer for sale. Whirlpool WtW500dw3, no agitator, lightly used. Asking for \$500 but willing to negotiate. Please call 803-960-3269.

Two Evergreen Cemetery Lots. \$1800 O.B.O. Fountain lot 3B 1&3. Melanie 803-847-1648.

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted Full-Time

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

Hiring all positions: sheet metal roofing carpentry- top pay. Drivers license preferred. Apply at Roofco, 1345 N. Pike East, Sumter, SC.

Help Wanted Part-Time

Manning warehouse workers/supervisor needed immediately. Call 803-473-0620.

REAL ESTATE

Real Estate Wanted

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

TRANSPORTATION

Miscellaneous



Refurbished batteries as low as \$45. Golf cart batteries \$65. Auto Electric Co. 102 Blvd Rd. 803-773-4381



PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CLERK'S OFFICE

NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING AND PREFILE TESTIMONY DEADLINES

DOCKET NOS. 2021-89-E and 2021-90-E

Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC's 2021 Avoided Cost Proceeding Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-41-20(A) and Duke Energy Progress, LLC's 2021 Avoided Cost Proceeding Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-41-20(A)

Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC ("DEC") and Duke Energy Progress, LLC ("DEP") (the "Companies"), pursuant to S. C. Code Ann. § 58-41-20(A) and Commission Order No. 2021-257, file its Application with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") for approval of the following:

- The Companies' continued application of the peaker methodology to calculate DEC's and DEP's avoided cost rates, as approved in Order No. 2019-881(A) ("2019 Avoided Cost Order");
- DEC's and DEP's updated Standard Offer, as defined in S. C. Code Ann. § 58-41-10(15), which includes the Companies' respective Schedule PP (SC) Purchased Power tariffs ("Standard Offer Tariff" or "Schedule PP"), Terms and Conditions for the Purchase of Electric Power ("Standard Offer Terms and Conditions") or "Terms and Conditions"), and Standard Offer power purchase agreement ("Standard Offer PPA") available to all qualifying cogenerators and small power production facilities ("QFs") up to 2 megawatts ("MW") in size;
- DEC's and DEP's updated form of power purchase agreement available to small power producer QFs that are not eligible for the Standard Offer ("Large QF PPA") and Large QF Tariff; and
- DEC's and DEP's updated notice of commitment to sell form ("Notice of Commitment Form").

If the Application or Petition in this case contains a request for adjustment of rates, the rates are subject to potential modification by the Commission during the course of this case.

A copy of the company's Application can be found on the Commission's website at www.psc.sc.gov under Docket Nos. 2021-89-E and 2021-90-E. Additionally, a copy of the Application is available from the office of Rebecca Dulin, Esquire, Duke Energy Corporation, 1201 Main Street, Suite 1180, Columbia, South Carolina 29205, Frank R. Ellerbe, III, Esquire, Robinson Gray Stepp & Laffitte, P.C., Post Office Box 11449, Columbia, South Carolina 29211 and E. Brett Breitschwerdt, Esquire, McGuireWoods, LLP, 501 Fayetteville Street, Suite 500, Raleigh, North Carolina 27601.

Any person who wishes to participate in this matter as a Party of Record should file a Petition to Intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure on or before **June 11, 2021**, by filing the Petition to Intervene with the Commission, by providing a copy to the Office of Regulatory Staff and by providing a copy to all Parties of Record. For the receipt of future Commission correspondence, please include an email address in the Petition to Intervene. **Please refer to Docket Nos. 2021-89-E and 2021-90-E and mail a copy to all other Parties in this docket.** Any person who seeks to intervene and who wishes to testify and present evidence at the hearing should notify, in writing, the Commission; the Office of Regulatory Staff at 1401 Main Street, Suite 900, Columbia, South Carolina 29201; and the company at the above address, on or before **June 11, 2021. Please refer to Docket Nos. 2021-89-E and 2021-90-E.**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-817 and S. C. Code Ann. Section 58-41-20, on the above matter has been scheduled to begin on **Monday, August 02, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.**, before the Commission in the Commission's Hearing Room at 101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100, Saluda Building, Columbia, South Carolina 29210 for the purpose of receiving testimony and evidence from all interested Parties. The hearing may continue on **August 3, 2021**, if necessary and will continue for the remainder of the week(s) until completion.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL PARTIES OF RECORD (Applicant, Petitioners, and Intervenor only):

**** On or before 7/19/2021**, please provide the order of witnesses to be presented during the hearing, whether there is an objection to taking direct and rebuttal or surrebuttal testimony together during the hearing, and whether or not there is a desire to use panels of witnesses. **

All Parties of Record must prefile testimony with the Commission and with all Parties of record. Prefiled Testimony Deadlines: Applicant's **Direct Testimony** Due: **5/17/2021**; Other Parties of Record **Direct Testimony** Due: **6/11/2021**; Applicant's **Rebuttal Testimony** Due: **7/7/2021**; and Other Parties of Record **Surrebuttal Testimony** Due: **7/21/2021**. All Prefiled Testimony Deadlines are subject to the information as posted on www.psc.sc.gov under **Docket Nos. 2021-89-E and 2021-90-E.**

For the most recent information regarding this docket, including changes in scheduled dates included in this Notice, please refer to www.psc.sc.gov and **Docket Nos. 2021-89-E and 2021-90-E.**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any person who wishes to have his or her comments considered as part of the official record of this proceeding **MUST** present such comments in person to the Commission during the hearing.

Persons seeking information about the Commission's procedures should contact the Commission at **(803) 896-5100** or visit its website at www.psc.sc.gov. 5/4/21

Routes available delivering the Sumter Item

If you have good dependable transportation, a phone in your home and a desire to supplement your income, **APPLY IN-PERSON at The Sumter Item Circulation Department**

the Sumter ITEM 36 W. Liberty St. Sumter, SC 29150

AROUND TOWN

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

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

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

The S.C. NAACP "Get Out the Vaccination Campaign (GOT-VAC)" will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 22, at Eastern Community Center, 3675 E. Brewington Road. Pre-registration is not required. First come, first served.

The Sumter County Veterans Association Memorial Day flag distribution will be held at 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 29. All Sumter County churches with an active cemetery are asked to participate. The veterans association will provide flags for veteran graves in local church cemeteries. Churches are asked to have a representative present at 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 29, at the Sumter County Fairgrounds to receive flags for your church. If your church does not have an active cemetery, volunteers from your church are welcome to help us place flags on veteran graves throughout the county. Call or email Johnny Goodley at vnam6970@

yahoo.com or (803) 236-0488, Larry Huff at lhuff12975@aol.com or (803) 236-1203 or Peter St. Onge at ptstonge@gmail.com or (803) 236-0569.

The Sumter County Museum will offer the following: 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 8, free talk and book signing with Susan Cushman for the novel "John and Mary Margaret" and copies of the book will be available for purchase; 6 p.m. Thursday, June 17, a special themed book signing for "The Forgotten Kingdom" with Signe Pike, \$20 for members and \$25 for general public, signed paperback copy of the book included in ticket price and the first book in the series will also be available for purchase; 5:30 p.m. Thursday, July 8, free book signing and reception with Dianna Rostad with hardback copies of her book "You Belong Here Now" available for purchase; and 5:30 p.m. Thursday, July 15, book signing and reception for Kristin Harmel for her latest novel "The Forest of Vanishing Stars," \$30 for members and \$35 for general public, signed copy of the book included in ticket price. Visit www.sumtercountymuseum.org or call (803) 775-0908. The museum is located at 122 N. Washington.

The 23rd Annual Black Cowboy Festival will be held Friday-Saturday, July 30-31, at Greenfield Farm, 4585 Spencer Road, Rembert. Featuring competitive rodeo events, demonstrations, music, line dancing, trail rides, entertainers, horseback rides, wagon rides, artifacts and food vendors, the festival is sure to provide adventure and fun for all attendees. For camper package or information, call (803) 499-9658. Visit www.blackcowboyfestival.net for schedule information. To purchase tickets, visit www.carolinaboxoffice.com.

PUBLIC AGENDA

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

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

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

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

CENTRAL CAROLINA TECHNICAL COLLEGE AREA COMMISSION Thursday, 4:30 p.m., Building 400, Room M401 on Main Campus, 506 N. Guignard Drive

The last word in astrology EUGENIA LAST

in a new direction. You'll gain stability if you follow your heart and pursue something that makes you feel good about who you are and what you are doing. Self-improvement is featured. 5 stars
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A stalemate is likely if you aren't willing to compromise. Give others the freedom to do as they please, and you will dodge criticism. You'll gain the most if you pursue knowledge and new skills. Aim to stimulate your earning potential. 2 stars
GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Speak the truth, say what's on your mind and clear up any misconceptions. It will ease stress and open the doors necessary to excel. Personal growth, fitness and educational pursuits are favored. Simplify your life. A commitment will lead to stability. 4 stars
CANCER (June 21-July 22): Pay attention, ask questions, and don't commit to something without understanding what you'll have to do. Someone will take advantage of you by making tempting offers based on empty promises. Take control and do things yourself, and you'll avoid disappointment. 3 stars
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Emotions will spin out of control due to the changes going on around you. Participate if you want to ensure that you remain in a good position. Intellect and charm will help, but truth and living up to your promises will seal a deal. 3 stars
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't ignore what others do or say; make adjustments to avoid being trapped in someone's false claims. If you want something done correctly, do it yourself. A steady pace, honest opinion and hard work will pay off. 3 stars

ARIES (March 21-April 19): It's OK to change your mind or head
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Make today all about you. Concentrate on what makes you happy. It's time for a change, and doing something that lifts your spirits and gives you a new lease on life is encouraged. Embrace new beginnings, a healthier lifestyle and romance. 4 stars
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Explore; if you limit what's possible, regret will follow. Push yourself out of your comfort zone and into something that will challenge you to use your attributes differently. Being honest with yourself as well as others will eliminate uncomfortable situations and stress. 2 stars
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take control and deal with sensitive issues before it's too late. Decide on a commitment to someone or something, and it will help you move forward with confidence. Stop trusting others, and start believing in yourself. Romance is favored. 5 stars
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take charge, get things done and don't give in to someone trying to part you from your cash. A deal is good only if you get something of equal value in return. Make your world less stressful, more meaningful and convenient. 3 stars
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Stop waffling. Add up the negatives and positives, and consider adjustments that will make you happy. Personal improvements, fitness and romance will lead to a better frame of mind. Discuss your thoughts and intentions with someone you love. 3 stars
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You are better off observing, not retaliating. Channel your energy into something constructive. Make changes that improve your life. Participate in something that will make a difference. Face facts, and do what's best for you and your loved ones. 3 stars

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

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

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

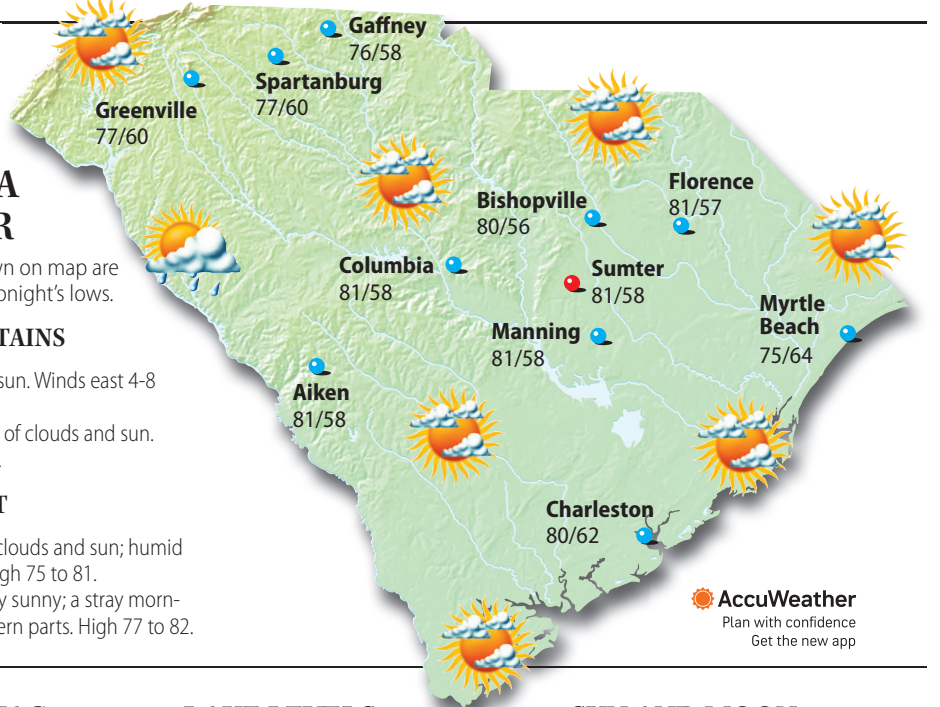
Temperatures shown on map are today's highs and tonight's lows.

IN THE MOUNTAINS

Today: Clouds and sun. Winds east 4-8 mph. Mostly cloudy.
Wednesday: Times of clouds and sun. Winds east 4-8 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: Intervals of clouds and sun; humid in southern parts. High 75 to 81.
Wednesday: Mostly sunny; a stray morning shower in southern parts. High 77 to 82.



LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THROUGH 2 P.M. YESTERDAY

Temperature table with columns for High, Low, Normal high, Normal low, Record high, Record low.

Precipitation table with columns for 24 hrs ending 2 p.m. yest., Month to date, Normal month to date, Year to date, Last year to date, Normal year to date.

LAKE LEVELS

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

RIVER STAGES

Table with columns for River, Flood stage, 7 a.m. yest., 24-hr chg. Lists Black River, Congaree River, Lynches River, Saluda River, Up. Santee River, Wateree River.

SUN AND MOON

Table with columns for Sunrise, Moonrise, Sunset, Moonset.

Table showing moon phases: First (May 19), Full (May 26), Last (June 2), New (June 10).

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH

Table with columns for High, Ht., Low, Ht. for Today, Wed., and Thu.

NATIONAL CITIES

Table with columns for City, Today, Wed. Hi/Lo/W. Lists Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Orlando, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Francisco, Wash., DC.

REGIONAL CITIES

Table with columns for City, Today, Wed. Hi/Lo/W. Lists 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

The Jewelry Doctors advertisement for Markides Jewelers, featuring jewelry images and contact information (692 Bultman Drive, 803 775-9145).

PICTURES FROM THE PUBLIC



Elaine Byrd comments on her photo submission, "The handiwork of one of God's creations, a huge lace spider web."

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