

Sumter Item sister company splits

Current Item leadership expanding roles

FROM STAFF REPORTS

OPC News LLC, formed by Graham, Kyle and Jack Osteen and a sister company to *The Sumter Item*, has split into two companies, the Osteens announced this week.

In the agreement, Graham Osteen, his wife, Julie, and their son, Hugh, now own two weekly newspapers based in the Jacksonville, Florida, area and another in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Jack and Kyle Osteen co-own



JOHNSON



K. GREEN



M. GREEN

a variety of weekly newspapers making up Gulf Coast Media in Baldwin County, Alabama.

Osteen Publishing Company, which owns *The Sumter Item* and has been

GULF COAST MEDIA

owned by five generations of the Osteen family since its creation in 1894, remains in the Osteen family.

Several members of *The Sumter Item's* leadership team are taking on expanded roles within Gulf Coast Media as part of the company reorganization.

Item Publisher Vince Johnson has been named group publisher of *The*

Sumter Item and Gulf Coast Media, Jack and Kyle Osteen announced Monday.

In corresponding moves, the *Item's* executive editor, Kayla Green, will serve as executive editor of both organizations, and Micah Green has been named chief digital officer of both.

"In a challenging time for local newspapers across the nation, *The Item* has been able to survive and remain an important part of the community in the last several years, and we're looking to expand on that success," Jack and Kyle

SEE LEADERSHIP, PAGE A7



'Do you like or dislike wearing a mask? Why or why not?'

Third-graders at Shaw Heights Elementary School respond in class writing prompt

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

In the great school mask debate, parents and school leaders often weigh in on the subject, but what about student perspectives?

Sumter School District implemented a mask mandate in all its schools Monday, and to hear and get the thoughts

from the under-10 crowd, *The Sumter Item* went to Shaw Heights Elementary School on Tuesday and spoke to a class of third-graders.

Teacher Adrienne Kennedy recently had her students do a writing prompt on whether they liked or disliked wearing a mask — and why or why not. On Tuesday morning, they reviewed the exercise together.

Kids seemed split on the subject at the second- and third-grade school, which is located on Shaw Air Force Base. Some said they like face masks because they come in various colors and are comfortable. Others said they dislike masks because they are uncomfortable to them.

Zaiden, 8, who sits in the front row of Ms. Kennedy's class, said he does not like wearing a mask because it hurts his ears. But his mom, who is in the U.S. Air Force at Shaw, makes him wear it.

A few rows over, Kaydence — also 8 — said she has learned that masks "keep your body safe." She said she has also learned to wash her

hands a lot.

'When you are wearing a mask at recess or at gym, you sweat. Then a lot of things are going to stick to you, like masks. Basically, I don't really have a choice because I don't want to have the COVID-19.'

CECILIA

Third-grader at Shaw Heights Elementary School

Kaydence said her mask is comfortable. She takes it off during recess at times but puts it back on when she is around somebody, she added.

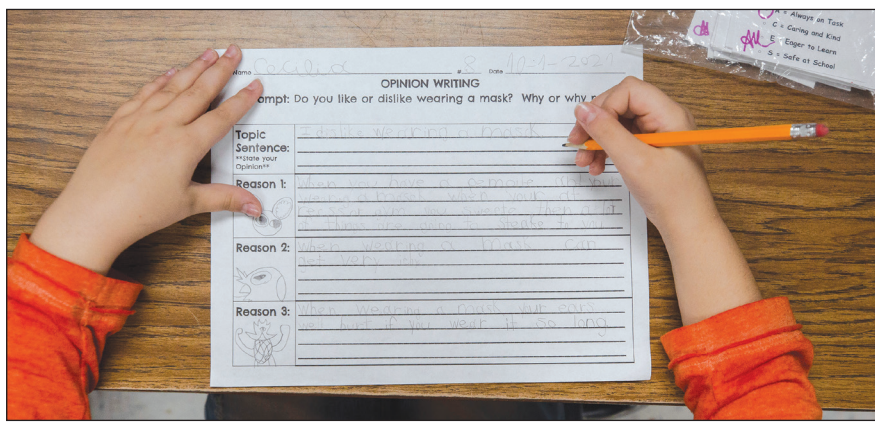
Another 8-year-old, Caleb, said his dad is in the Air Force and that he has lots of masks, but his favorites are his two camouflage masks.

Others said they dislike wearing a mask because it is "itchy," but most everyone said that masks keep them and others safe.

According to Shaw Heights teachers, wearing masks in school was an outlandish concept just a couple years ago, if it was a concept at all, but the COVID-19 pandemic

SEE MASKS, PAGE A7

Third-graders at Shaw Heights Elementary School wrote recently about whether they like or dislike wearing a mask and why, and they shared their responses with *The Sumter Item*.



PHOTOS BY MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Court keeps South Carolina school mask mandate ban on hold

BY MEG KINNARD
The Associated Press

South Carolina districts can continue to require face coverings to protect against the coronavirus in the state's schools under an appellate court's decision this week.

On Tuesday, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals denied state Attorney General Alan Wilson's request that

South Carolina's law prohibiting school mask mandates be allowed to take effect while a lawsuit about the COVID-19 pandemic measure goes forward.

Last month, a federal judge suspended the state from enforcing its rule banning school districts from requiring masks for students. Wilson and Gov. Henry McMaster, both Republicans, had ap-

pealed that temporary restraining order, asking the 4th Circuit to restore the ban to avoid changing mask policies across the state now that students are back at school.

The back-and-forth stems from a lawsuit filed by parents of disabled children, represented by the American Civil Liberties Union, arguing that South Carolina's ban discriminated against medically

vulnerable students by keeping them out of public schools as the pandemic continues.

According to state health data, about 75,000 students, teachers and school staff have been infected with COVID-19 this school year, and nearly 200,000 have had to quarantine because of close exposure.

The Republican-dominated state House put the provision

into the budget in June, when the state was seeing an average of about 150 new virus cases a day. Not long afterward, the delta variant caused a spike in cases similar to last winter before vaccines were widely available.

The budget provision didn't outright ban districts from requiring masks but said that

SEE COURT, PAGE A7

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DEATHS, B3

Audrey A. White
Myles S. Thames Jr.
Barbara Oliver Moffatt
Margaret Parker Tobias

Eugene Rhinehart III
Frandrigo Evans
Keith Weary
Gwendolyn Lee Hodge

WEATHER, A10

MAYBE MORE RAIN

Humid with a storm possible today and tonight

HIGH 84, LOW 69

INSIDE

3 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES
VOL. 126, NO. 251

Classifieds B4 Sports B1
Comics C1 Television C2
Opinion A9



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SECOND FRONT

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

USC Sumter, Liberty STEAM partnership promotes men of color in teaching

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com

USC Sumter's Education Program announced the addition of the Call Me MiSTER program to its campus. Last week, the inaugural cohort of MiSTERS started its journey with its first seminar.

The Call Me MiSTER program, developed and supported by Clemson University, aims to bring more men of color into the education profession. The overall program focuses on mentoring and providing academic and financial support for these future teachers. The goal of the USC Sumter program is also to foster a commitment with students to become educators within the

Sumter community, so they've partnered with Liberty STEAM Charter School to further that goal.

"Nationally, over half of students are students of color, while approximately 85% of teachers are white women," said Christina Lunsmann, coordinator and instructor of teacher education at USC Sumter. "It is vitally important for all children to see people like them in professional roles. Call Me MiSTER helps meet that need because it encourages more exceptional men of color to enter into teacher education."

In partnership with USC Aiken, USC Sumter offers a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education and a

Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. Students who desire one of these degrees complete all four years of courses on the Sumter campus.

In addition to aiding in professional development and mentorship, the Call Me MiSTER participants will be part of a living learning community. They will live together, study together and meet with a site coordinator and mentor, local teacher Micah Vaughn.

USC Sumter's Call Me MiSTER program is supported by Liberty STEAM Charter School, where Vaughn teaches first grade, which will provide an annual stipend for the site coordinator and a \$5,000 scholarship toward housing for each student.

In return, MiSTER candidates will provide one year of teaching service at Liberty for each year he receives funding.

"I personally believe that it's important for children to see Black males in their lives who are in respectable positions to give them something to glean from, even outside of the teaching profession," Vaughn said. "As the site coordinator, it is my goal to provide the campus MiSTERS valuable tools such as public speaking, lesson planning/implementation, classroom community, mentorship and networking skills to help them become game-changing leaders in the education system."

Liberty opened this fall as the county's first-ever public

charter school and enrolls students based on a lottery, not by zoning. It currently serves kindergarten and first grade and will eventually build out to K-12.

"We know the single greatest impact on our scholars' outcome is the adults we put in front of them," said Trevor Ivey, chief of staff for Liberty. "The Liberty STEAM Charter mission is directly aligned with the principles of the Call Me MiSTER program to prepare our scholars for success in college, career and life."

For more information on Call Me MiSTER or the education program at USC Sumter, contact Christina Lunsmann at (803) 938.3786 or lunsmann@mailbox.sc.edu.

City receives \$3.7 million in ARPA funds, allocates portion to 3 categories

BY SHELBY GOULDING
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The City of Sumter received a portion of its American Rescue Plan Act funds and plans to distribute some to premium pay for certain city employees, public places security and connections and water and sewer infrastructure.

During Sumter City Council's regular meeting Tuesday, the City of Sumter was informed that it will receive \$7,565,586 through the American Rescue Plan Act, which was created to assist with economic losses from the COVID-19 pandemic.

On June 17, the City of Sumter received \$3.7 million.

City Manager Deron McCormick brought a resolution before council proposing where to allocate a portion of the funds. Three categories were mentioned:

- Premium pay for essential and support employees within the City of Sumter, totaling \$932,500;

- Public places security/WiFi and cyber connections by lease at an initial 18 sites, including public buildings and designated parks, at a total of \$575,000; and

- Water and sewer infrastructure, totaling \$846,262.

"It's a pretty big down payment on a master plan that would do this. This initial plan actually connects facilities in every ward of the city," McCormick said about the public places category. "Certainly not all the places we'd like to see, but I'm pretty excited about the opportunity to connect all the places around the city."

McCormick said if this plan succeeds, they hope to expand connections opportunities in other places across the city.

Councilman Colin Davis made a motion to amend the resolution to reduce the funding categories by removing a water and sewer line item and adding an additional site to the public places category with additional allocations to be determined in the near future.

Council unanimously approved to add an additional site, making the total 19 for public places. Then council unanimously approved the amended resolution. Councilman Thomas Lowery was absent.

LANDSCAPE LANE PROPERTY TO BE USED FOR BOAT STORAGE

Council unanimously approved the final reading of applicant Don Herlong's request to rezone a 1.1-acre portion of a 3.65-acre parcel at 1250 Landscape Lane from residential-15 to general commercial for two warehouse facilities.

Herlong plans to construct the warehouses to store boats, and it will not be a high-traffic business with lots of noise.

The warehouses will also be developed on the side of the property that's closer to general commercial developments off West Wesmark Boulevard, away from neighboring residential developments.

MORE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS TO POP UP NEAR PATRIOT PARK

The final reading of Jay Davis' request to annex 32.54 acres of undeveloped property at 685 Deschamps Road to receive city services to support an anticipated townhouse residential development was unanimously approved by council.

The proposed development will house about 120-130 individual townhouse units behind

Patriot Park and nearby other single-family residential subdivisions. The townhome structure will be similar to Landmark Pointe off Loring Mill Road, but it will be single-family residential homes in accordance with residential-6 zoning.

Councilman Davis recused himself from the final reading and vote on the rezoning request.

BROAD TRACE APARTMENTS TO EXPAND

Applicant APM LLC received a thumbs up for its expansion project after council unanimously approved the final reading of a request to rezone 9.11 acres at 1250 Alice Drive from planned development to general commercial.

The property, located behind TJ Maxx and adjacent to Broad Trace Apartments, will expand Broad Trace's footprint with additional units on half the proposed property, as the other half is within the flood plain, according to Planning Director Helen Roodman.

An existing easement from Alice Drive may be developed as an access point once construction begins, which could trigger traffic studies on Alice Drive, Roodman said.

CONTRACT AUTHORIZED FOR ALICE DRIVE TANK REFURBISHING PROJECT

Council unanimously approved a procurement resolution authorizing a contract for the Alice Drive Elevated Tank Refurbishing Project with Utility Services Company Inc. from Perry, Georgia, for the price of \$100,500.

According to Assistant City Manager Al Harris, the project covers rehabilitation work, cleaning and inspections of the system.

Cedar Creek Haunted Trails returns to Bishopville with more spooky characters

BY KAREEM WILSON
kareem@theitem.com

Halloween season is here, and it's time again for residents to get some scares at Cedar Creek Haunted Trails in Bishopville.

Cedar Creek Haunted Trails will host its 15th-annual attraction for participants to explore the scary

walk-through trail to get into the Halloween spirit.

Connie Brown, organizer of the event, said patrons

will encounter familiar Halloween film characters as they try to navigate through the dark maze at 2681 Camden Highway.

The trail is open every Friday and Saturday and on Halloween night from 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Tickets cost \$10 per person, and all proceeds benefit people in need in the community.

The attraction will be open Oct. 8-9, 15-16, 22-23 and 29-31. To purchase tickets, call (803) 459-8270 or (803) 428-7452.



Restaurant news

Following are restaurant inspections done by the state Department of Health and Environmental Control in Sumter County and Lee County the week of Sept. 28-Oct. 1, 2021. A "C" grade is failing. For detailed reports, visit www.dhec.sc.gov.

SUMTER

Burger King #7864, 208 E. Calhoun St., Sumter: **A**
Fishin Fellas LLC, 1335 Peach Orchard Road, Sumter: **A**
Jeffrey Lampkin's KBC Bistro, 118 S. Main St., Sumter: **A**
Johnny's Garden Juice Bar, 504-A Miller Road, Sumter: **A**
Sweets By Six, 1335 Peach Orchard Road, Sumter: **A**

LEE

Big Cheese Pizza, 507 S. Main St., Bishopville: **A**
Food Lion #398 Deli/Bakery, 517 S. Main St., Bishopville: **A**
Get Down Pound, 620 Sumter Hwy., Bishopville: **A**
Laney's Pit Stop LLC, 679 Highway 15 N., Bishopville: **A**
Pizza Hut #22513, 1070 Sumter Hwy., Bishopville: **A**
Subway, 101A S. Main St., Bishopville: **A**
TNT 341 Diner, 1438 Wisacky Hwy., Bishopville: **A**

CORRECTION

On page A3 of Tuesday's paper about a fatal shooting at a Waffle House in Bishopville, it incorrectly stated the location was off Exit 16 of Interstate 20. It is off Exit 116 of I-20.

OSTEEN

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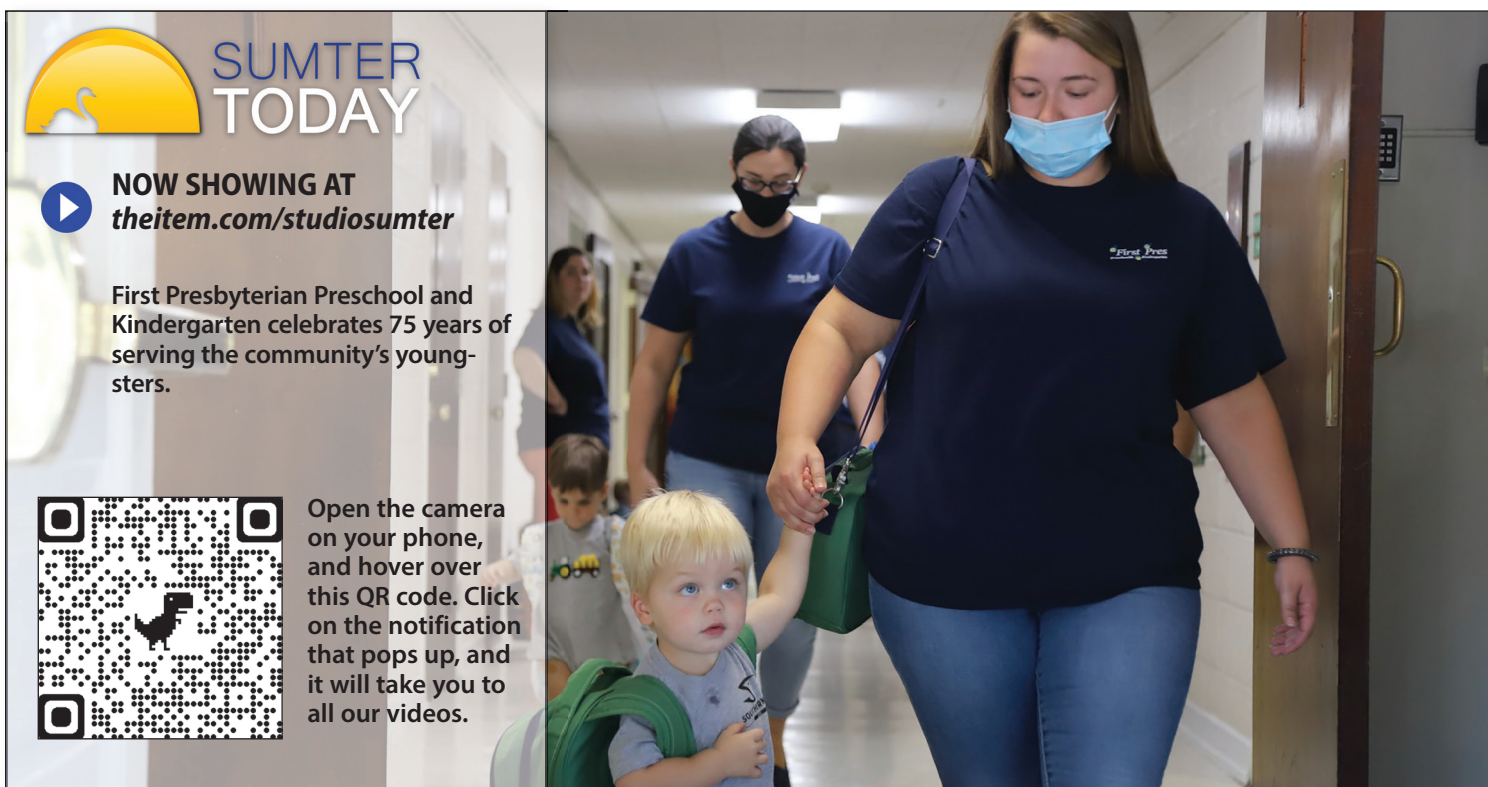
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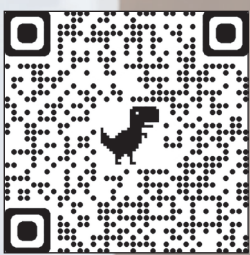
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Sumter community band concert marks 40th anniversary

Varied performance also salutes local veterans

BY IVY MOORE
 Arts and culture contributor

The Sumter Community Concert Band will officially begin its 40th season with Sunday's 3 p.m. concert at Patriot Hall. Band spokesman, trumpet player and charter member Rick Mitchum said band members are looking forward to once again taking the stage to entertain a live audience.

The 3 p.m. concert program is representative of the genres of music the SCCB is known for, Mitchum said. The band will also honor area veterans, as Sunday marks the eve of Veterans Day.

As is customary, the band will open the concert with the national anthem, The Star Spangled Banner, adapted by composer and arranger Henry Fillmore, whose compositions are com-

munity concert band favorites. It will be followed by an unnamed march by John Philip Sousa, known as America's March King.

Mitchum said there is a mystery surrounding the Sousa piece. While it was written in 1930, it was never performed during Sousa's lifetime. He died in 1932, after which his daughters found the composition, along with many other works by him, while they were compiling the John Philip Sousa Collection for the Library of Congress. The unnamed march was not recognized as a discrete work by his daughters and ended up in a stack with other incomplete scores.

When the scores were shipped to the Library of Congress, in "fancy trunks," they were taken by thieves who kept the trunks and discarded the scores. They were not restored until 1989, when conductor and Sousa specialist Keith Brion presented it on a national television show in Stockholm, Sweden, performed by the Stockholm Symphonic Wind Orches-

tra. The Yale University Band played the American premier the following year.

Mitchum said the march has the characteristics of Sousa's marches for which he is celebrated.

Alfred Reed arranged Gypsy Dance, which Mitchum described as "lively and enjoyable. It features the different sections of the band."

Turkish March, a Robert Longfield arrangement of a Mozart composition, is written in the Turkish style. Its rhythmic patterns are particular to Turkish music and feature piccolo, cymbals, bass drums and triangles.

Irish music is exemplified in Gaelic March by composer Elliot A. Del Borgo.

The SCCB's Emmett Anglin arranged composer E.L. King's Excelsior Galop, and the trumpet solo in Glenn Miller's A String of Pearls will be played by Robert Berry. The mellow "I Left My Heart in San Francisco," best known in the version by Tony Ben-

nett, will represent SCCB's nod to popular music, and selections from the Broadway musical "Cats" by Andrew Lloyd Webber recognizes the composer Mitchum thinks is the best composer working on Broadway today.

As part of its salute to veterans, the band will play the Missing Man Salute, a K.L. King composition arranged by Anglin. This piece features the band's trumpet section. The Armed Forces Salute will recognize veterans from five branches of the U.S. military — Army, Marines, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard.

Guest conductors Sean Hackett and George Gray will lead the band.

The Sumter Community Concert Band performance is free and open to the public. Patriot Hall personnel will mark some seats in the auditorium to remain vacant in order to facilitate social distancing during the concert. Ample parking is available for the approximately one-hour concert.

Leaked records open a 'Pandora' box of financial secrets

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE
 and JONATHAN MATTISE
 The Associated Press

Hundreds of world leaders, powerful politicians, billionaires, celebrities, religious leaders and drug dealers have been hiding their investments in mansions, exclusive beachfront property, yachts and other assets for the past quarter-century, according to a review of nearly 12 million files obtained from 14 firms around the world.

The report released Sunday by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists involved 600 journalists from 150 media outlets in 117 countries. It's being dubbed the "Pandora Papers" because the findings shed light on the previously hidden dealings of the elite and the corrupt and how they have used offshore accounts to shield assets collectively worth trillions of dollars.

The more than 330 current and former politicians identified as beneficiaries of the secret accounts include Jordan's King Abdullah II, former U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair, Czech Republic Prime Minister Andrej Babis, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, Ecuador's President Guillermo Lasso and associates of both Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The billionaires called out in the report include Turkish construction mogul Erman Ilıcak and Robert T. Brockman, the former CEO of software maker Reynolds & Reynolds. Many of the accounts were designed to evade taxes and conceal assets for other shady reasons, according to the report.

"The new data leak must be a wake-up call," said Sven Giegold, a Green party lawmaker

in the European Parliament. "Global tax evasion fuels global inequality. We need to expand and sharpen the countermeasures now."

Oxfam International, a British consortium of charities, applauded the Pandora Papers for exposing brazen examples of greed that deprived countries of tax revenue that could be used to finance programs and projects for the greater good.

"This is where our missing hospitals are," Oxfam said in a statement. "This is where the pay-packets sit of all the extra teachers and firefighters and public servants we need. Whenever a politician or business leader claims there is 'no money' to pay for climate damage and innovation, for more and better jobs, for a fair post-COVID recovery, for more overseas aid, they know where to look."

The Pandora Papers are a follow-up to a similar project released in 2016 called the "Panama Papers" compiled by the same journalistic group.

The latest bombshell is even more expansive, porting through nearly 3 terabytes of data — the equivalent of roughly 750,000 photos on a smartphone — leaked from 14 different service providers doing business in 38 different jurisdictions in the world. The records date back to the 1970s, but most of the files span from 1996 to 2020.

In contrast, the Panama Papers culled through 2.6 terabytes of data leaked by one now-defunct law firm called Mossack Fonseca that was located in the country that inspired that project's nickname.

The latest investigation dug into accounts registered in familiar offshore havens, including the British Virgin Islands, Seychelles, Hong Kong and

Belize. But some of the secret accounts were also scattered around in trusts set up in the U.S., including 81 in South Dakota and 37 in Florida.

Some of the initial findings released Sunday painted a sordid picture of the prominent people involved.

For instance, the investigation found advisers helped King Abdullah II of Jordan set up at least three dozen shell companies from 1995 to 2017, helping the monarch buy 14 homes worth more than \$106 million in the U.S.

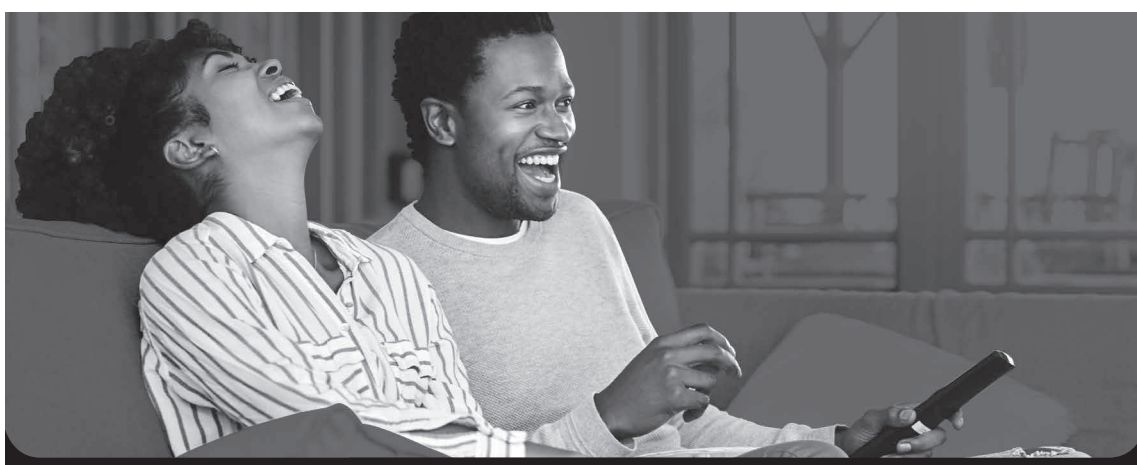
and the U.K. One was a \$23 million California ocean-view property bought in 2017 through a British Virgin Islands company. The advisers were identified as an English accountant in Switzerland and lawyers in the British Virgin Islands.

There was no immediate comment from Jordan's Royal Palace.

The details are an embarrassing blow to Abdullah, whose government was engulfed in scandal this year when his half brother, former

Crown Prince Hamzah, accused the "ruling system" of corruption and incompetence. The king claimed he was the victim of a "malicious plot," placed his half brother under house arrest and put two former close aides on trial.

U.K. attorneys for Abdullah said he isn't required to pay taxes under his country's law and hasn't misused public funds, adding that there are security and privacy reasons for him to have holdings through offshore companies, according to the report.



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Poll shows most people in U.S. favor Afghan ally refugees

BY ELLEN KNICKMEYER, HANNAH FINGERHUT and NATHAN ELLGREN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Most people in the U.S. want to see Afghans who worked with Americans offered resettlement in the United States, a new poll shows, confirming support across political divides for former military translators and others struggling to escape Taliban rule.

The survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds 72% of Americans say they favor the U.S. granting refugee status to people who worked with the U.S. or Afghan governments during the war in Afghanistan, if they pass security checks.

For officials of refugee resettlement groups, veterans and others working to get Afghan allies on planes out of Afghanistan, the poll findings bear out what they are seeing on the ground: Large numbers of Americans regard giving the Afghans a refuge from any Taliban retaliation as a duty and a necessary coda of the nearly 20-year war.

Patrick Raglow, a local Catholic Charities executive director in Oklahoma City preparing for at least 1,800 Afghan refugees in the state, said he is fielding hundreds of community offers of help and support for the Afghan immigrants.

Oklahoma farmers and ranchers have even volunteered to donate a few acres for the Afghan families to homestead, Raglow said.

"I see this very much as a continuation of the mission of those brave 13 Americans who gave their lives, protecting and sheltering and bringing to safety these very people," Raglow said of the resettlement, invoking the U.S. service members killed when a suicide bomber targeted the U.S.-run evacua-

tion at Kabul's airport on Aug. 26, an attack that also killed 169 Afghans. "It is a way to continue that mission."

Matt Zeller, an Afghanistan war veteran and founder of the veterans group No One Left Behind, said he has also seen widespread support for Afghan refugees.

"I don't think there's any more unified issue that the American public has had since 9/11," said Zeller, whose group is part of a civil society effort encompassing veterans, liberal suburbanites and hardcore conservatives, Democratic and Republican lawmakers and others that has mobilized to get more at-risk Afghans out of the Taliban-held country.

Zeller and others are frustrated that U.S. airlifts and subsequent private flights — handicapped by the Taliban and by U.S. bureaucracy — have evacuated only a fraction of the thousands of Afghans potentially eligible for special immigrant visas.

In a time of sharp political divide, about three-quarters of both Republicans and Democrats support granting refugee status to Afghans who worked with the U.S. or Afghan governments. Overall, just 9% of Americans say they are opposed.

"We owe it to them," said Andrew Davis, a 62-year-old Republican and Army veteran in Galloway, Ohio. "It'd be dangerous for them to stay there, I think, if they helped us."

More favor than oppose the U.S. taking in other Afghans if they pass security checks, the survey showed. Still, fewer than half, 42%, support that category of refugees, while 26% are opposed. An additional 31% say they're neither in favor nor opposed.

More Democrats than Republicans support refugee status for others who fear living in the Taliban-ruled country, 57% to 27%. Twenty percent of Democrats are opposed, while 23% are



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A member of the military puts her arms around two female Afghan refugees after they spoke with Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin as he visited an Afghan refugee camp at Joint Base McGuire Dix Lakehurst, New Jersey, on Sept. 27. A survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds 72% of Americans favor granting refugee status to people who worked with the U.S. or Afghan governments during the war, if they pass security checks.

neither in favor nor opposed. Among Republicans, 38% are opposed and 35% hold neither opinion.

Davis said he supported accepting former Afghan employees of the U.S. or Afghan governments and was open to doing the same for other Afghans who felt in danger from the Taliban. But he stressed the importance of security vetting for all Afghan refugees to screen out any security risks.

"If we can do that ... I do think we should take them in," he said. "I mean, they're obviously at threat."

Bill Cronin, a 74-year-old retiree and Republican in the San Francisco Bay area, said he supported helping Afghan interpreters and others who went out of their way to aid American service members and civilians.

While he spoke with dismay of im-

migration across the U.S.-Mexico border, he made clear he put former Afghan colleagues of Americans in a special category.

"Those people stuck their neck out knowing, or maybe not knowing, that they could be killed by the Taliban," Cronin said. "So why would you not want to take care of those people?"

Lauren Schulman, a 63-year-old bookstore worker and Democrat in Florida who said she strongly approves of granting the special immigrant visas, said the knowledge that only a small number of desperate Afghan allies has escaped Taliban rule so far makes their plight all the more compelling.

Americans have "been watching them for days and weeks now — trying to get out," Schulman said.

S.C. elections head resigns post early

COLUMBIA (AP) — The executive director of the South Carolina Election Commission has left her position several months earlier than planned, with the agency saying she's taking a new job at a nonprofit that provides cybersecurity resources to election-related entities.

Marci Andino had planned to step away from her role Dec. 31 but left office on Friday to take over as director of the Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center, part of the nonprofit Center for Internet Security, commission spokesman Chris Whitmire told *The State* newspaper.

Until a permanent replacement is found, Voter Services Director Howard Knabb is taking over the helm in an interim role, Whitmire said.

Leading the agency since 2003, Andino implemented a new statewide voter registration system, South Carolina's new voter ID law and candidate filing process.

Her departure follows tension with state Republican leaders in the runup to the 2020 election. She recommended stricter safety measures amid the COVID-19 pandemic, including expanding absentee voting.

"I have dedicated most of my life's work to ensuring my fellow South Carolinians had the opportunity to vote in fair and impartial elections," Andino wrote in a resignation letter that surfaced earlier this year. "As I near the fulfillment of the duties of my current post, I stand proud of our accomplishments. And as I plan for future opportunities, I will always remain steadfast in my dedication to the preservation of our democracy."

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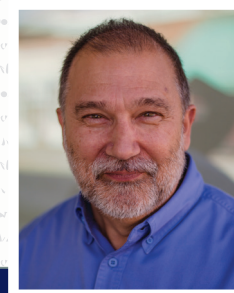
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Former Facebook employee says products hurt kids, fuel division

BY MARCY GORDON

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON — A former Facebook data scientist told Congress on Tuesday that the social network giant's products harm children and fuel polarization in the U.S. while its executives refuse to make changes because they elevate profits over safety.

Frances Haugen testified to the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Protection. She is accusing the company of being aware of apparent harm to some teens from Instagram and being dishonest in its public fight against hate and misinformation.

Haugen has come forward with a wide-ranging condemnation of Facebook, buttressed with tens of thousands of pages of internal research documents she secretly copied before leaving her job in the company's civic integrity unit. She also has filed complaints with federal authorities alleging that Facebook's own research shows that it amplifies hate, misinformation and political unrest, but the company hides what it knows.

Haugen says she is speaking out because of her belief that "Facebook's products harm children, stoke division and weaken our democracy."

"The company's leadership knows how to make Facebook and Instagram safer but won't make the necessary changes because they have put their astronomical profits before people," she says in her written testimony prepared for the hearing. "Congressional action is needed. They won't solve this crisis without your help."

After recent reports in *The Wall Street Journal* based on documents she leaked to the newspaper raised a public outcry, Haugen revealed her identity in a CBS "60 Minutes" interview aired Sunday night. She insisted that "Facebook, over and over again, has shown it chooses profit over safety."

The ex-employee challenging the social network giant with 2.8 billion users worldwide and nearly \$1 trillion in market value is a 37-year-old data expert from Iowa with a degree in computer engineering and a master's degree in business from Harvard.



DREW ANGERER / POOL VIA AP

Former Facebook employee and whistleblower Frances Haugen listens to opening statements during a Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation hearing on Capitol Hill on Tuesday in Washington.

Prior to being recruited by Facebook in 2019, she worked for 15 years at tech companies including Google, Pinterest and Yelp.

The panel is examining Facebook's use of information from its own researchers on Instagram that could indicate potential harm for some of its young users, especially girls, while it publicly downplayed the negative impacts. For some of the teens devoted to Facebook's popular photo-sharing platform, the peer pressure generated by the visually focused Instagram led to mental health and body-image problems, and in some cases, eating disorders and suicidal thoughts, the research leaked by Haugen showed.

One internal study cited 13.5% of teen girls saying Instagram makes thoughts of suicide worse and 17% of teen girls saying it makes eating disorders worse.

"The company intentionally hides vital information from the public, from the U.S. government and from governments around the world," Haugen says in her written testimony. "The documents I have provided to Congress prove that Facebook has repeatedly misled the public about what

its own research reveals about the safety of children, the efficacy of its artificial intelligence systems and its role in spreading divisive and extreme messages."

As the public relations debacle over the Instagram research grew last week, Facebook put on hold its work on a kids' version of Instagram, which the company says is meant mainly for tweens aged 10 to 12.

At issue are algorithms that govern what shows up on users' news feeds and how they favor hateful content. Haugen, who focused on algorithm products in her work at Facebook, said a 2018 change to the content flow contributed to more divisiveness and ill will in a network ostensibly created to bring people closer together. Despite the enmity that the new algorithms were feeding, Facebook found that they helped keep people coming back — a pattern that helped the social media giant sell more of the digital ads that generate most of its revenue.

Haugen's criticisms range beyond the Instagram situation. She says that Facebook prematurely turned off safeguards designed to thwart misinformation and incitement to violence

after Joe Biden defeated Donald Trump last year, alleging that contributed to the deadly Jan. 6 assault on the U.S. Capitol.

After the November election, Facebook dissolved the civic integrity unit where Haugen had been working. That, she says, was the moment she realized "I don't trust that they're willing to actually invest what needs to be invested to keep Facebook from being dangerous."

Haugen says she told Facebook executives when they recruited her that she wanted to work in an area of the company that fights misinformation because she had lost a friend to online conspiracy theories.

Facebook maintains that Haugen's allegations are misleading and insists there is no evidence to support the premise that it is the primary cause of social polarization.

"Even with the most sophisticated technology, which I believe we deploy, even with the tens of thousands of people that we employ to try and maintain safety and integrity on our platform, we're never going to be absolutely on top of this 100% of the time," Nick Clegg, Facebook's vice president of policy and public affairs, said Sunday on CNN's "Reliable Sources."

That's because of the "instantaneous and spontaneous form of communication" on Facebook, Clegg said, adding, "I think we do more than any reasonable person can expect to."

By coming forward, Haugen says she hopes it will help spur the government to put regulations in place for Facebook's activities. Like fellow tech giants Google, Amazon and Apple, Facebook has for years enjoyed minimal regulation in Washington.

Separately Monday, a massive global outage plunged Facebook, Instagram and the company's WhatsApp messaging platform into chaos, only gradually dissipating by late Monday Eastern time. For some users, WhatsApp was working for a time, then not. For others, Instagram was working but not Facebook, and so on.

Facebook didn't say what might have caused the outage, which began about 11:40 a.m. EDT and was still not fixed more than six hours later.

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California pipeline may have been hooked by anchor, dragged

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif. (AP) — The pipeline that leaked tens of thousands of gallons of oil into the water off Southern California was split open and apparently dragged more than 100 feet along the ocean floor, possibly by a ship's anchor, officials said Tuesday.

The segment of the pipe that was dragged was three-quarters of a mile long, and the gash was over a foot wide, the Coast Guard said.

Preliminary reports suggest the failure may have been "caused by an anchor that hooked the pipeline, causing a partial tear," federal transportation investigators said.

The break in the line occurred about 5 miles offshore at a depth of about 98 feet beneath the surface, the investigators said. Those findings were included in an order from the Department of Transportation that blocks the company that operates the pipeline from restarting it without extensive inspections and testing.

The order did not identify the source of the investigators' information, and agency officials did not immediately respond to a request for further comment.

Coast Guard Capt. Rebecca Ore said divers determined about 4,000 feet of the pipeline was "laterally displaced" by about 105 feet. She did not say what might have caused it to move. In addition, the pipeline had a 13-inch gash in it, Ore said. The head of the company that operates the line said the pipe was displaced into "almost a semicircle."

"The pipeline has essentially been pulled like a bow string. And so at its widest point, it is 105 feet away from where it was," Amplify CEO Martyn Willsher said at a news conference.

Officials said Monday that they were considering whether a ship's anchor might have caused the oil spill that has fouled beaches in Orange County. There was no confirmation Tuesday that the leak was caused by an anchor.

The Coast Guard did not investigate initial reports of an oil spill for nearly 12 hours because it did not have enough corroborating evidence and was hindered by darkness and a lack of technology, an official told The Associated Press earlier Tuesday.



PHOTO PROVIDED

One person was killed and four more injured during a drive-by shooting at the Waffle House in Lee County on Oct. 3. Police are searching for the occupants of the white sedan seen in this surveillance tape of the incident.

Waffle House offering \$3,000 reward after fatal shooting

BY KAREEM WILSON
kareem@theitem.com

BISHOPVILLE — Waffle House is offering a \$3,000 reward for any information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for Sunday's drive-by shooting at the breakfast chain in Lee County.

The reward is being offered as Lee County authorities continue to investigate the fatal shooting that took place at the restaurant about 4 a.m. on Oct. 3 off Exit 116 of Interstate 20. The shooting resulted in one death and four injuries.

According to Lee County Sheriff Daniel Simon, investigators have conducted multiple interviews and collected surveillance footage in which a small white sedan can be seen entering and exiting the parking lot during the incident.

Surveillance footage shows the sedan pulling out of the parking lot and heading north on U.S. 15 toward Bishopville, according to Simon. As of Tuesday, no arrests have been made.

Anyone with any information is asked to call the sheriff's office at (803) 484-5353. Callers can remain anonymous by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-888-CRIME-SC.

LEADERSHIP FROM PAGE A1

Osteen, both Sumter natives and residents, said in a joint statement. "We're excited to ensure leadership continuity at *The Item* that will serve our readers and advertisers for years to come."

Launched in 1894, *The Item* has been the primary news source of Sumter, Clarendon and Lee counties for more than a century, and it is South Carolina's oldest continuously family owned newspaper. Since 2017, *The Item* has revamped its Best of Sumter readers' choice and launched other community contests; its Studio Sumter video department that features its Sumter Today online news show; The Item Podcast Network; daily email newsletters; and more, earning national accolades each year for local media growth and innovation.

"The Sumter region has

been receptive to the seemingly constant changes we've made over the last several years, and we're a stronger community and local media organization today because of it," Johnson said. "Our staff cares deeply about this community and serving it as well as we can, and we're excited about this opportunity to expand on so much of what we continue to learn about our readers and advertisers in Sumter."

Gulf Coast Media was purchased by the Osteens in 2014 and serves Baldwin County, Alabama's fastest-growing county and the largest county by area in the state. In addition to *The Baldwin Times* and three other community newspapers, Gulf Coast Media owns numerous magazines, event publications and *Gulf CoastNewsToday.com*.

COURT FROM PAGE A1

state money couldn't be used to enforce a mask requirement. State money is tied into most regular school funding, although some lawmakers told school boards they could require masks and hire employees to enforce the requirement with federal COVID-19 relief money.

Under pressure from parents and some districts, the General Assembly has refused to come back in special session to reconsider its rules.

McMaster, while urging people to talk to their doctors and get vaccinated, has repeated for months that parents should decide whether their children wear masks at school, calling the lawsuit's arguments "totally inaccurate."

Earlier this year, he said it was "the height of ridiculousness" for a school district to require a mask over any parent's wishes that their child go without one.

Joined by state health officials, doctors, teachers and school administrators, Republican state Education Superintendent Molly Spearman — also a defendant in the lawsuit — has urged giving school districts flexibility.

In her ruling halting the measure from taking effect, U.S. District Judge Mary Geiger Lewis compared the General Assembly preventing mask requirements to telling schools they can no longer install wheelchair ramps.

"No one can reasonably argue that it is an undue burden to wear a mask to accommodate a child with disabilities," she wrote.

MASKS FROM PAGE A1

has changed all that.

Jennifer Bishop, a second-grade teacher, said visualizing how to wear a mask to students and the importance of mask wearing helps to get the concepts across.

At the school, all teachers have explained to the children the reasons for wearing masks — to keep others safe and to limit who gets sick.

Bishop added kids at this age are good at following instructions.

"At this age, they love to

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be helpers," she said. "I really have seen a lot of involvement with the kids reminding the other kids to wear their mask or put it over their nose and mouth. So, that really helps."

Back in the third-grade class, Cecilia was hard to miss for an interview, given her friendly personality.

Unlike others, she is not 8. She is "8-and-a-half."

She dislikes wearing a mask because when you are active, it can stick to you, she said.

"Because when you are wearing a mask at recess or at gym, you sweat. Then a lot of things are going to stick to you, like masks," Cecilia said. "It can be uncomfortable."

However, she added that she has lots of masks and that she has taken the approach to wear a mask for her safety.

"Basically," she said, "I don't really have a choice because I don't want to have the COVID-19."



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Australia won't welcome foreign tourists until at least next year

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Foreign tourists won't be welcomed back to Australia until at least next year, the prime minister said Tuesday as he outlined plans for lifting some of the toughest and longest COVID-19 travel restrictions imposed by any democracy.

The country will instead prioritize the return of skilled migrants and students after it hits Prime Minister Scott Morrison's benchmark for reopening its external borders: the full vaccination of 80% of the population aged 16 and older. It was expected to reach that point Tuesday.

The news comes just days after Morrison announced plans to allow vaccinated citizens and permanent residents to fly overseas from November for the first time since March 2020.

The severe travel restrictions, which have trapped most Australians at home and kept most foreigners out, have led to the lowest level of immigration since World War II. Australian universities, which rely heavily on fees paid by international students, have been particularly hard hit, and many fear students will go elsewhere if they are not allowed in soon.

While many countries imposed strict lockdowns that shut down large portions of the economies, Australia's travel restrictions have kept life fairly normal for much of the pandemic — though it is now experiencing shutdowns in the biggest cities, Sydney and Melbourne, as well as the

capital Canberra. The rules imposed a high emotional burden in a country where half the population was born overseas or has at least one immigrant parent. Families were separated, and some grandparents have been barred from meeting grandchildren in Australia who are now approaching 2 years old.

After lifting restrictions on Australians, Morrison said the next priority would be skilled migrants and international students — before tourists. He did not specify when those groups would be allowed in.

"We will get to international visitors as well, I believe next year," Morrison said.

The Australian Tourism Export Council, which represents a sector that made 45 billion Australian dollars (\$33 billion) a year from international tourists before the pandemic, wants international visitors to return by March. Australian tourism operators — which have suffered not only from the ban on international tourism but also frequent internal pandemic border restrictions — are frustrated that there aren't more details of how leisure travel will resume.

"International tourist arrivals have to be part of the plan," said Daniel Gschwind, chief executive of the Queensland Tourism Industry Council, Queensland state's peak advocacy group. "Even if they're not the first priority, we'd like to see how this is going to be worked out. There are many businesses that are just

hanging on." Gschwind said his sector needed to plan for how the COVID-19 risk could be managed, perhaps through rapid testing and self-isolation.

There are a few exceptions to Australia's travel ban — and tourism has never been accepted as a reason to cross the border. Those who have been able to enter must spend two weeks in hotel quarantine. That would represent a major obstacle if it remains even after tourists are allowed.

Morrison said last week that his government would work toward "complete quarantine-free travel for certain countries, such as New Zealand, when it is safe to do so." He did not elaborate on the timing.

Australia and New Zealand briefly shared a quarantine-free travel bubble when both countries were essentially free of COVID-19 transmission.

But New Zealand reintroduced quarantine after Australian authorities lost control of an outbreak of the highly contagious delta variant, which was brought to Sydney in June by a U.S. air crew.

The delta variant has changed the game in many countries that previously were able to largely keep the virus at bay with very strict travel rules, including New Zealand. On Monday, that country's government acknowledged for the first time that it can no longer completely get rid of the coronavirus.

Australia is continuing to battle outbreaks, while also racing to inoculate its population.

J&J seeks U.S. clearance for vaccine booster doses

BY MATTHEW PERRONE
AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON — Johnson & Johnson asked the Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday to allow extra shots of its COVID-19 vaccine as the U.S. government moves toward expanding its booster campaign to millions more vaccinated Americans.

J&J said it filed a request with the FDA to authorize boosters for people 18 and older who previously received the company's one-shot vaccine. While the company said it submitted data on several different booster intervals, ranging from two to six months, it did not formally recommend one to regulators.

Last month, the FDA authorized booster shots of Pfizer's vaccine for older Americans and other groups with heightened vulnerability to COVID-19. It's part of a sweeping effort by the Biden administration to shore up protection amid the delta variant and potential waning vaccine immunity.

Government advisers backed the extra Pfizer shots, but they also worried about creating confusion for tens of millions of other Americans who received the Moderna and J&J shots. U.S. officials don't recommend mixing and matching different vaccine brands.

The FDA is convening its outside panel of advisers next week to review booster data from both J&J and Moderna. It's the first step in a review process that also includes sign-off from the leadership of both the FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. If both agencies give the go-ahead, Americans could begin getting J&J and Moderna boosters later this month.

J&J previously released data suggesting its vaccine remains highly effective against COVID-19 at least five months after vaccination, demonstrating 81% effectiveness against hospitalizations in the U.S.

But company research shows a booster dose at either two or six months revved up immunity even further. Data released last month showed giving a booster at two months provided 94% protection against moderate-to-severe COVID-19 infection. The company has not yet released clinical data on a six-month booster shot.



AP FILE PHOTO

Johnson & Johnson has asked U.S. regulators to allow booster shots of its COVID-19 vaccine as the U.S. government moves toward shoring up protection in more vaccinated Americans.

FDA's advisers will review studies from the company and other researchers next Friday and vote on whether to recommend boosters.

The timing of the J&J filing was unusual given that the FDA had already scheduled its meeting on the company's data. Companies normally submit their requests well in advance of meeting announcements. A J&J executive said the company has been working with FDA on the review.

"Both J&J and FDA have a sense of urgency because it's COVID and we want good data out there converted into action as soon as possible," said Dr. Mathai Mammen, head of research for J&J's Janssen unit.

The vaccine from the New Brunswick, New Jersey, company was considered an important tool in fighting the pandemic because it requires only one shot. But its rollout was hurt by a series of troubles, including manufacturing problems at a Baltimore factory that forced J&J to import millions of doses from overseas.

Additionally, regulators have added warnings of several rare side effects to the shot, including a blood clot disorder and a neurological reaction called Guillain-Barré syndrome. In both cases, regulators decided the benefits of the shot still outweighed those uncommon risks.

Rival drugmakers Pfizer and Moderna have provided the vast majority of U.S. COVID-19 vaccines. More than 170 million Americans have been fully vaccinated with the companies' two-dose shots while less than 15 million Americans got the J&J shot.

Kids Corner

Private eye

Which two are exactly alike?

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

ANSWER: 2 AND 8

Why is the sky blue?

The sky is blue because of the way sunlight interacts with the atmosphere. Light is actually made up of all the colours of the rainbow. Once combined, these colors are transformed into white light, which travels in a straight line through the atmosphere until it hits an obstacle.

There are billions of tiny molecules floating around in the atmosphere. When white light hits them, it splits into different colors. However, instead of appearing orange, green or purple, the sky looks blue. This is because the oxygen molecules in the sky only absorb and diffuse blue light, making the sky appear blue to the human eye.

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COMMENTARY

Biden policies need better arguments than 'orange man bad'

"First you win the argument, then you win the vote." That advice from Margaret Thatcher has been ignored by President Joe Biden and Democratic Party leaders to their detriment.

Democrats, aided by former President Donald Trump's denigration of Georgia's electoral system, which gifted them the state's two Senate seats, were gifted by voters with the narrowest of legislative majorities: 51 to 50 in the Senate and 220 to 212 (with three current vacancies) in the House. Biden himself won the crucial three swing states by just 42,918 popular votes.

Incautiously, Democrats plunged into policymaking without making anything like cognizable policy arguments. Trump had reduced illegal immigration by extending walls on the Mexican border and persuading Mexico's president to hold asylum-seekers in Mexico until their (usually baseless) claims could be ruled on. Both policies were ditched on day one of the Biden administration. The policy argument: "Orange man bad."

Now, we see the easily predictable results. Border apprehensions are headed toward 2 million this year — the highest since the 1998-2000 boom years. So-called asylum-seekers from Central America have been joined by Middle Easterners, Africans and, most recently, by some 20,000 Haitians, previously settled in Chile and Brazil, huddled under a bridge heading to Del Rio, Texas.

Vice President Kamala Harris's pathetic plea, "Don't come," has been overwhelmed by the evidence that most of those who do come illegally are ushered into the United States and told to meet court dates that everyone knows most won't.

The likely result is something like one million new illegal immigrants in the United States this year. This represents a reversal of the trend. The Pew Research Center says the illegal immigrant population peaked at 12.2 million in 2007, declined as post-recession net immigration from Mexico plunged to zero and leveled off at 10.5 million in 2017.

During that time, immigration has been shifting from Latin America to Asia and from low-skill to relatively high-skill newcomers. What's the policy argument for that?

The best that Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas could summon up on Fox News Sunday was, "We do not agree with the building of the wall," i.e., "Orange man bad," and, "the law provides that individuals can make a claim for humanitarian relief," i.e., asylum.

But as my *Washington Examiner* colleague Byron York points out, the same law allows the government to require illegal border-crossers to remain in another country pending resolution of their asylum claims. What's the policy argument for dispersing them, without being tested for COVID-19, through

all corners of the United States?

Now, consider the Biden proposals for \$3.5 trillion of additional spending on "infrastructure." The case for some adjustment is obvious: Gas tax revenue is headed down, existing roads and bridges need maintenance, and some new ones should be built. Other arguments are dubious. Biden and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg are enthusiasts for high-speed passenger rail which, as transportation analyst Randal O'Toole explains, is as relevant today as electric typewriters, rotary telephones and steam locomotives.

Much news coverage is given to the interesting questions of whether the Senate-passed bipartisan infrastructure bill that House

Speaker Nancy Pelosi promised a vote on by Monday will get a majority of House votes later, and whether Sens. Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema will agree to support parts of the \$3.5 trillion bill.

Much less attention has been given to the obviously noninfrastructure provisions of the "infrastructure" bill and the arguments for them.

For example, the bill includes a rollout of federally funded universal preschool education. That sounds like a good idea, and if you put it on a poll, you'll get a favorable response.

But the policy argument for it is thin. Advocates like to cite lasting positive results from two expensive pilot programs, Perry Preschool and Abecedarian. But those experimental programs were conducted 50 and 60 years ago, respectively, and in the very many years since, no one has been able to replicate their results.

Or consider the stealth section essentially repealing the 1996 welfare reform law and its work requirements. Here we have actual results: Welfare rolls fell sharply after 1996, child wellness criteria improved, teenage pregnancies nosedived and the number of welfare-raised children committing violent crime decreased. Why do we want to reverse these results now? Just because "orange man bad?"

The answer seems to be that Biden subcontracted policy development to Bernie Sanders, and that "Bernie Bros" love policies that spread money around but lack any curiosity about the effects.

Now, those programs may get ditched in midnight Capitol Hill bargaining or if the "infrastructure" bill gets as bollixed up as the Biden withdrawal from Afghanistan. The administration might have done a better job of winning the vote if it had bothered to win the argument first.

Michael Barone is a senior political analyst for the Washington Examiner, resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and long-time co-author of The Almanac of American Politics.

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COMMENTARY

All can be saved by the grace of God

I want to say "thank you" for allowing our ministry to serve your heart today! Our devotional thought for today is "The Blessing of a Whosoever Salvation," and my text is in Revelation 22:17, where we read, "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." (KJV) This is considered the last invitation in all of the Word of God to anyone who would want to know Jesus Christ as their Savior. This verse says "And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." There are those today who feel as though the gift of salvation is only available to a select few, that only the "predestined elect" can enter heaven and all of the rest have no hope.

I'm so glad to report to you that such is not the case according to the Scriptures. I believe the Lord Jesus would say to those who hold such an opinion the same thing that He told the Sadducees in Matthew 22:29. "Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of

God." (KJV)

Those who feel that salvation is not to the "whosoever" in this world "err" or are in error because they attempt to apply the "elect" only to the church in this dispensation of the grace of God, which shows that they have simply not studied the Scriptures and they limit the power of God.

There is no doubt that election, foreknowledge and predestination are Bible doctrines, but in order to rightly divide God's Word, we must correctly interpret and apply God's Word, and in so doing, there will be no contradiction. For instance, John 3:16 states "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (KJV)

The "elect," or those who can be saved and not perish but have everlasting life, are contained in the word "whosoever." Isn't that an amazing blessing? The

word "whosoever" literally means "all, any, every, the whole, anyone, everyone."

God's Word brings out in multiple Scriptures that salvation is offered to the "whosoever" of mankind. It also states that it is not the will of God that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. I have read my Bible through many times, and there is not one verse of Scripture in all of God's Word that says only the "predestined elect" can be saved and all the rest cannot.

I am so blessed when I preach a salvation message, because there is no one that it will not apply to. All people, any person, every man, woman, boy or girl, the whole of humanity, anyone and everyone can be saved by the amazing grace of God with no one excluded. It is such a blessing that you and I and "everyone" are included in the word "whosoever!"

Dr. Joey Durham is pastor at Open Bible Baptist Church at 180 Old Manning Road in Sumter. You can contact Pastor Durham at durham.joey@yahoo.com or call the church office at (803) 481-9315.



Joey Durham

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

OUR COUNTRY WILL NEVER PAY OFF OUR \$28.43 TRILLION DEBT

This letter is in reference to Wallie Jones' letter on Sept. 23, 2021. I hope that you read it.

He is talking about "free everything that is given to people who have not earned it by working for it." Some people think that they have earned it by having lots of babies. Some people think that they have earned it because they don't feel like working. I can come up with a lot more reasons, but then I would hurt some people's feelings. Oh yea, lawyers can make some people rich because of their own foolishness and actions.

Unless things change drastically, "the hard working people who are a shrinking breed" will not be enough to take care of those who "complain" because they aren't getting enough free stuff. I predict it will all come to a head and happen within the next three-and-a-half years.

We are so close to not even being able to pay the principal of our national debt. (Principal only means payments — are a way to potentially shorten the length of a loan and save on interest.) According to *www.nytimes.com* from two days (Sept. 28, 2021) ago, our national debt now stands at

\$28.43 trillion. The Peter G. Peterson Foundation's live tracker provided that information.

I did my best to find out how long it would take to pay off that debt if we never borrowed any more money (HA HA). Maybe someone can figure it out. Of course, anyone with a brain knows that isn't going to happen in America today. With all the world flooding our borders, with all the free handouts, with government paying people not to work, must I go on, where does that leave our country? We will never pay that debt off.

What happens when China calls in the loan? (A call loan is a loan that the lender can demand to be repaid at any time.) How are we going to pay them? Goodbye USA. That will be the end of all the free stuff. We will become their slaves. Can I say that?

Now I know that half the country doesn't know this, so it's going to be interesting to see what happens. I am almost 77 years old, so I hope that I get all of my "free stuff" before I die. Good luck, America. I hope that half of our country is still happy with the way things are going and who they voted for.

JACQUELINE HUGHES
Sumter

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

AA, AL-ANON, ALATEEN:

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

AA Women's Meeting

— Wednesday, 7 p.m., 1 Warren St., (803) 775-1852.

AA "How it Works" Group

— Monday and Friday, 8 p.m., 1154 Ronda St., (803) 494-5180.

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

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

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

MONDAY MEETINGS:

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

TUESDAY MEETINGS:

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

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

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

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

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

Sumter Amputee Prosthetic Support Group — Second Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., Prisma Health Tuom-

ey Hospital (private dining room next to cafeteria), SAPSG@yahoo.com.

Sumter Chapter Parents of Murdered Children (POMC) — Third Tuesday, 5:30-7 p.m., Birnie HOPE Center, 210 S. Purdy St. Open to anyone who has lost a loved one to murder in a violent way.

Mothers of Angels (for mothers who have lost a child) — Third Tuesday, 6 p.m., Wise Drive Baptist Church, (803) 469-6059, (803) 979-4498 or (803) 316-4506.

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

THURSDAY MEETINGS:

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

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

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

FRIDAY MEETINGS:

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

SATURDAY MEETINGS:

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

SUNDAY MEETINGS:

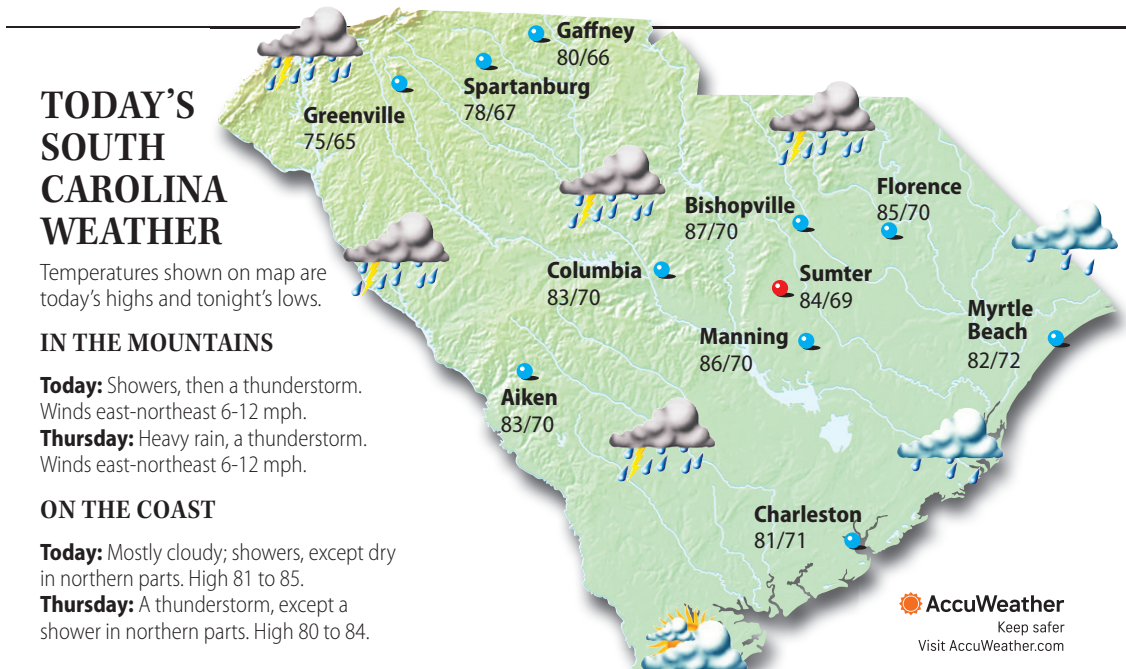
Sumter MS Support Group — First Sunday, 3 p.m., Wise Drive Baptist Church fellowship hall, 2751 S. Wise Drive, (803) 481-5344 or (803) 464-6440. Email I.am.me.not.ms@gmail.com or msmiles013@gmail.com.

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Humid; a stray p.m. t-storm	Overcast with a thunderstorm	Humid with rain and a t-storm	Humid; a few afternoon showers	Cloudy and humid with a shower	Humid with clouds and sun
84°	69°	80° / 67°	78° / 64°	78° / 65°	82° / 64°
Chance of rain: 40%	Chance of rain: 50%	Chance of rain: 65%	Chance of rain: 70%	Chance of rain: 60%	Chance of rain: 25%
E 6-12 mph	E 4-8 mph	ENE 6-12 mph	NE 4-8 mph	NE 6-12 mph	NNE 6-12 mph



LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THROUGH 2 P.M. YESTERDAY

Temperature	High	Low	Normal high	Normal low	Record high	Record low
High	86°		78°	56°	100° in 1954	32° in 1974
Low	65°		56°	32°		
Normal high	78°					
Normal low	56°					
Record high	100° in 1954					
Record low	32° in 1974					

Precipitation	24 hrs ending 2 p.m. yest.	0.01"
Month to date	0.01"	
Normal month to date	0.82"	
Year to date	29.58"	
Last year to date	48.88"	
Normal year to date	39.00"	

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	357.43	-0.02
Marion	76.8	74.77	-0.05
Moultrie	75.5	74.58	none
Wateree	100	97.20	+0.35

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	3.78	-0.26
Congaree River	19	3.17	-0.04
Lynches River	14	3.34	-0.04
Saluda River	14	2.20	-0.32
Up. Santee River	80	75.90	+0.07
Wateree River	24	5.33	-0.56

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	7:20 a.m.	Sunset	6:59 p.m.
Moonrise	7:21 a.m.	Moonset	7:26 p.m.
New	Oct. 6	First	Oct. 12
Full	Oct. 20	Last	Oct. 28

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH				
	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	9:31 a.m.	3.6	3:57 a.m.	0.0
	9:46 p.m.	3.6	4:25 p.m.	-0.1
Thu.	10:18 a.m.	3.8	4:41 a.m.	-0.1
	10:32 p.m.	3.5	5:15 p.m.	-0.1

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Thu.
Atlanta	74/68/t	76/67/r
Chicago	72/64/c	72/62/sh
Dallas	85/61/s	89/67/s
Detroit	74/63/c	75/64/sh
Houston	87/63/s	88/64/s
Los Angeles	74/59/pc	69/61/c
New Orleans	83/70/pc	84/70/s
New York	72/62/pc	74/61/pc
Orlando	90/75/t	90/74/t
Philadelphia	75/63/c	77/62/pc
Phoenix	90/71/s	90/69/pc
San Francisco	68/56/c	67/55/pc
Wash., DC	72/65/c	75/66/c

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Thu.	City	Today	Thu.
Asheville	69/63/t	68/62/r	Florence	85/70/t	82/67/t
Athens	76/68/t	77/65/r	Gainesville	85/71/t	89/70/t
Augusta	82/69/t	84/66/r	Gastonia	83/68/c	76/66/sh
Beaufort	85/72/sh	84/69/t	Goldsboro	86/68/c	80/67/c
Cape Hatteras	82/72/c	79/70/c	Goose Creek	82/72/sh	79/68/t
Charleston	81/71/sh	82/69/t	Greensboro	78/65/c	74/64/sh
Charlotte	81/67/c	77/65/c	Greenville	75/65/t	73/64/r
Clemson	75/67/t	72/65/r	Hickory	76/66/sh	73/64/sh
Columbia	83/70/t	82/66/r	Hilton Head	82/74/sh	81/70/t
Darlington	85/70/t	80/68/sh	Jacksonville, FL	85/70/sh	88/70/t
Elizabeth City	82/68/c	79/68/c	La Grange	76/69/t	78/68/t
Elizabethtown	86/68/c	80/67/c	Macon	79/68/t	82/65/r
Fayetteville	86/68/c	80/67/c	Marietta	73/67/t	73/65/r
			Marion	73/64/t	71/61/r
			Mt. Pleasant	82/73/sh	81/69/t
			Myrtle Beach	82/72/sh	81/70/t
			Orangeburg	86/71/t	81/67/r
			Port Royal	84/73/sh	85/69/t
			Raleigh	84/66/c	77/65/c
			Rock Hill	83/67/t	79/64/r
			Rockingham	86/68/c	81/66/c
			Savannah	82/72/sh	83/69/t
			Spartanburg	78/67/t	73/64/r
			Summerville	82/71/c	80/68/t
			Wilmington	83/71/c	81/67/c
			Winston-Salem	79/67/c	74/64/sh

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

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.

TOWN OF LYNCHBURG PLANNING COMMISSION

Today, 4 p.m., town hall

The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Draw on your experience and what you

know to get what you want. Call on those you trust to come through for you without supervision. Say what's on your mind, and explore avenues that fit your qualifications. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make "steady and ready" your motto. It's essential to stick to a path and show responsibility if you want others to take you seriously. Consistent behavior will mark the sign of a leader and encourage others to look up to you. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Get out and share your sparkling personality with others. You'll attract attention, and if you use your words wisely, you will gain support and respect moving forward. Offer suggestions and help to your peers and friends, and good things will happen. 5 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Monitor what's going on around you. Problems at home will leave you confused if you are too close to the situation. Don't show anger or upset; remain calm, and you will find it easier to manipulate the outcome. Choose love over discord. 2 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Set the pace. Speak up, be brave and back your words with action. Keep your circle small, and execute your plans with precision. You will accomplish plenty if you stay on track. Refuse to let a personal matter interrupt your goals. 4 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Concentrate on your responsibilities, and map out a plan to ensure you use your time and energy wisely. Your discipline and hard work will not go unnoticed. You'll get a clue on how to navigate yourself into a prime position. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't get bogged down by your to-do list. Take a systematic approach to

knock off one chore after another. Rewarding yourself for your time, effort and patience will ensure that you don't fall behind or give up. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Think matters through; don't take on more than you can handle. Home improvements will end up costing more than anticipated. Be innovative, and you'll find a way to cut corners. You are overdue for a change. Share your plans with someone special. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You've got some good ideas. Don't hold back; reiterate what you want to do, and you'll find out quickly who is supportive and who isn't. Handle those you live with carefully, or someone will take advantage of you. 4 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be a good listener, and you'll find out information that will help you avoid getting into something questionable. Say little, and keep everyone guessing until you are ready to reveal your next move. Secrecy is in your best interest. 2 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): An exaggerated opinion someone has will interfere with your plans. Look beyond what's right in front of you, and you'll know what to do to avoid getting involved in someone's plan. Do your own thing, regardless of what others do. 5 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You are on the right path. Do your research, and stick to a plan you can afford. Verify what's required to reach your goal without interference. Take care of details personally, and you won't be disappointed. Self-improvement is favored. 3 stars

1 star: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. 2 stars: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. 3 stars: Focus and you'll reach your goals. 4 stars: Aim high; start new projects. 5 stars: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

"Where Quality Matters"
Brown's Furniture & Bedding
31 West Wesmark Blvd.
Sumter, SC
803-774-2100
BrownsFurnitureSumter.com

SUMTER ANIMAL CONTROL PETS OF THE WEEK



SUMTER ANIMAL CONTROL NEEDS YOUR HELP. The animal control volunteers are looking for people to walk dogs, foster or help with transport. We desperately need 9 a.m. Monday – Friday walkers. Message us if interested. Must be at least 18 years old. Don't have extra time to be a volunteer? We gladly accept donations of the following: newspapers, puppy pads, canned and dry puppy food, paper towels, Clorox wipes and heavy duty slip leashes. You can also donate from our Amazon Wishlist under Saving Sumter's Strays at <https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/10Q422KAOMI19>. All donations go toward helping Sumter County dogs. Our all-volunteer organization is making a big difference in the lives of so many homeless pets. Please help us continue to save animals.

TOP: Pip, approximately 6 weeks old, is a cutie-pie and ready to find his forever home. Although he's small in size, he has a big personality. He's super sweet, loves to cuddle and play and gets along great with other kittens. If you're looking for a new family member, Pip is waiting to meet you.

BELOW: Tinsley is a 48-pound beauty. She is sweet as sugar and loves snuggles. This loving girl is gentle and easygoing. Tinsley is best friends with everyone she meets and always has a smile on her face. She will make a perfect pet for any family. Tinsley is approximately 3-5 years old.

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



“That’s what I’m gonna keep doing, watering my flower.”

Jefferson goes from Sumter semi-pro ball to signing with league in Mexico

PHOTOS BY MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

Trayvon Jefferson, who most recently spent time playing semi-pro basketball for the Perseverance Panthers in Sumter, signed his first professional contract to play in Mexico this fall.

BY TIM LEIBLE tim@theitem.com

Like many Sumter residents, Trayvon Jefferson is a transplant. Born and raised in North Charleston, Jefferson didn’t have a straight line to Sumter, but he’s glad to have ended up here.

Jefferson bounced around from junior college basketball in Illinois to Morris College, only to never play for the Sumter school as he battled ineligibility and a season erased by COVID-19. That’s when he found Perseverance. Not the virtue, the team. Sumter’s semi-pro basketball team helped bring Jefferson’s skill into the spotlight and now he’s headed down to play for Guerros Chatinos De Yaitepoc Oaxaca, in one of Mexico’s top professional leagues, CiprodeBaco.

“I’m not from Sumter, but Sumter is home to me. Sumter gave me an opportunity. An opportunity that my city didn’t give me,” Jefferson said. “I love Sumter. It means a lot to me. This is always going to be my second home. I’m going to show the same love as I show my own city.”

Jefferson’s basketball career was far from simple. After a career at North Charleston, he went to go play junior college basketball in Illinois. After his two years there were up, he started looking for a four-year school. On the advice of his cousin, Raekwon McFadden, he decided to come to Sumter and play at Morris College.

Unfortunately, that never quite worked out. Jefferson was academically ineligible as a junior but spent the year working on his grades so he could return to the court for his senior season. Then COVID-19 hit. Morris College didn’t play basketball and he was left wondering if he’d ever play the sport again.

“I got out of the concrete, I got out of the mud for real for real,” Jefferson said about his struggles on and off the court. “There was nothing handed to me. I got everything from the ground up. Going through all of that, it was worth it, because I just signed my first pro contract.

“90% of the players, if they went through what I went through, they would’ve just given up. I didn’t give up. I fought through adversity and I kept fighting.”

Jefferson wasn’t even thinking about picking up a basketball when a friend approached him about playing for the Perseverance Panthers, a semi-pro team in Sumter that plays in the American Basketball Association. Jefferson agreed to give it a shot. In his first game, he was productive. He realized that his dream of basketball was still alive and well in Sumter.

“I hadn’t been playing for a while. I had to regroup. It wasn’t easy,” Jefferson said. “Before that, I wasn’t in the gym, honestly. Me coming on this team and seeing that I still can go

gave me my hunger. I got back in the gym, I got bigger and I worked on my game.”

Playing for Team Perseverance opened some doors for Jefferson, most notably the chance to take part in some professional camps. The biggest camp was Coast-2Coast, an international basketball showcase that allows players to be seen by teams across the world. He took part in that showcase twice, playing on the championship-winning team each time.

It didn’t take long for teams to notice the standout from South Carolina. He started playing in March and

this fall he got a call from Guerros Chatinos De Yaitepoc Oaxaca offering him the opportunity to come and play in Mexico. As September came to a close, he signed the contract. He’ll begin his season in Mexico in November. He credits Team Perseverance and head coach Junko Allen for giving him the opportunity to keep his dream alive.

“I made a lot of bad decisions, and I blew a lot of opportunities. I knew when I got put on the team that this was my last straw, but I also knew that this was the best opportunity for



Trayvon Jefferson had a winding path in his basketball career, playing junior college basketball before transferring to Morris College, where he was never able to play as ineligibility took his junior season and COVID-19 erased his senior year.

SEE JEFFERSON, PAGE B3

Sumter stays at No. 8 in latest S.C. Media Polls

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Sumter football team maintained its No. 8 ranking in the latest South Carolina Prep Football Media Polls that were released on Tuesday.

Sumter kept its position at No. 8 after defeating Socastee 23-10 for Homecoming and Senior Night on Friday. The Gamecocks remain undefeated in Region VI-5A. They are the only team in the region to earn a place in the top 10.

S.C. PREP FOOTBALL MEDIA POLLS

CLASS 5A

1. Dutch Fork (17)
2. Fort Dorchester
3. Gaffney
4. T.L. Hanna
5. Northwestern
6. Dorman
7. Spring Valley
8. Sumter
9. Riverside
10. Lexington

Others receiving votes: Chapin, Hillcrest, Goose Creek, Cane Bay, Spartanburg

CLASS 4A

1. A.C. Flora (17)
2. Greenville

3. Myrtle Beach
4. South Pointe
5. Greenwood
6. South Florence
7. Beaufort
8. York
9. West Florence
10. Catawba Ridge

Others receiving votes: Hartsville, Indian Land, May River, North Myrtle Beach, Irmo, South Aiken

CLASS 3A

1. Daniel (17)
2. Dillon
3. Clinton
4. Camden
5. Chapman
6. Brookland-Cayce

7. Gilbert
8. Powdersville
9. Lower Richland
10. Aynor

Others receiving votes: Hanahan, Chester, Fairfield Central, Seneca

CLASS 2A

1. Abbeville (17)
2. Gray Collegiate
3. Silver Bluff
4. Marion
5. Barnwell
6. Saluda
7. Timberland
8. Christ Church
9. Phillip Simmons
10. Wade Hampton

Others receiving votes: St. Joseph’s,

Andrews, Andrew Jackson, Cheraw, Newberry

CLASS A

1. Southside Christian (17)
2. Bamberg-Ehrhardt
3. Ridge Spring-Monetta
4. Lamar
5. Hannah-Pamplico
6. Whale Branch
7. Baptist Hill
8. Lake View
9. Great Falls
10. Dixie

Others receiving votes: Blackville-Hilda, Lewisville, Green Sea-Floyds, Carvers Bay, Denmark-Olar, Calhoun County

Pass protection woes continue to plague Panthers

BY STEVE REED

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE — No matter where he goes, Sam Darnold can't seem to find pass protection.

The Panthers quarterback was sacked five times and hit 11 times in a 36-28 loss to the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday. He's now been sacked 11 times this season — tied for fifth most in the league — and hit 27 times through four games.

Yes, the Panthers are 3-1, but pass protection continues to be a problem. Darnold is experiencing the same constant pressure he endured playing for the New York Jets when he was sacked 98 times in 38 starts.

"Any time Sam has time, he's going to make a lot of really good decisions," Panthers coach Matt Rhule said after the game. "If he doesn't have time, it's not quite as good. Dak (Prescott) had a lot of time and Sam didn't."

Darnold handled the pressure well in the first half, but the Cowboys began dialing up more complicated blitz packages in the second half and started to get to Darnold.

Not only did they get him on the ground and deliver timely hits, but two of the pressures resulted in two Trevon Diggs interceptions — and led to 10 Dallas points.

"They did a lot of stuff. A lot of stunts," Panthers center Matt Paradis said. "They are a multiple-style defense. They do stunts, they're going to just do straight rush, bring pressure, mug them up, drop them back, they do a lot of stuff. It has got some complexity to it. It's nothing I haven't seen before (but) we have to protect better."

Darnold's job was a little more difficult Sunday with running back Christian McCaffrey out with a hamstring



Carolina quarterback Sam Darnold scrambles out of the pocket during the Panthers' 36-28 loss to the Dallas Cowboys in Arlington, Texas, on Sunday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

injury. He said he expects other teams to follow the Cowboys' defensive game plan moving forward.

"I'm sure teams will try to do the same thing, the same games and all that stuff," Darnold said. "We just gotta be ready for it, we gotta watch the tape and grow from it."

One of the moves the Panthers made to counteract the blitzes was go to a no-huddle offense, resulting in two Carolina touchdowns in the fourth quarter, although the comeback ultimately fell short. Darnold still finished with four touchdowns — two rushing and two passing.

WHAT'S WORKING

Darnold is emerging as a threat in the running game of all places. He ran for two scores on Sunday, giving him five on the season — the most

of any QB through four games in the Super Bowl era. Darnold's athletic ability and willingness to run the zone read option has been a pleasant surprise for the Panthers.

He's on pace to rush for more than 20 touchdowns this season, which would shatter the NFL record for most TDs rushing in a season by a quarterback currently held by former Panthers QB Cam Newton, who had 14 in 2011.

WHAT NEEDS HELP

Tight end production. The Panthers traded tight end Dan Arnold to Jacksonville last week to acquire cornerback C.J. Henderson and the move certainly didn't pay immediate dividends. Carolina tight ends Ian Thomas and Tommy Tremble were only targeted a combined four times and managed just three catches

for 15 yards — all of those by Thomas.

One of the reasons the Panthers dealt Arnold is because they were encouraged about the emergence of Tremble, but he played just 27 snaps on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Henderson allowed a TD pass to Amari Cooper in his first game in Carolina.

STOCK UP

Wide receiver D.J. Moore. Moore is solidifying himself as one of the top wide receivers in the league, excelling against the Cowboys for 113 yards and two touchdowns on eight catches. Moore has emerged as Darnold's favorite playmaker and is tied for second in the league in receptions (30) and is fourth in yards receiving (398). Part of the reason Moore has excelled

this season is because of his route-running, which has dramatically improved over last season.

STOCK DOWN

Kicking game. The Panthers continue to struggle to find stability at kicker with Zane Gonzalez missing a costly 54-yard field goal early in the third quarter. That appeared to turn the momentum as the Cowboys went on a 23-0 run to blow the game open. Gonzalez is no longer guaranteed a roster spot after previously being claimed off waivers, so the Panthers could make a move.

INJURED

Rhule said McCaffrey is going to try to practice Wednesday after missing the Cowboys' game with a hamstring injury. Rhule said the team will evaluate where McCaffrey is before making any decisions on whether he might play Sunday against the Philadelphia Eagles. ... Panthers LB Shaq Thompson is expected to have an MRI on his foot injury that kept him out for a few plays Sunday. ... DE Haason Reddick said Monday he suffered a neck stinger but expects to be ready for the Eagles.

KEY NUMBER

245 — Yards rushing allowed by the Panthers on Sunday against the Cowboys, the sixth most in franchise history. Carolina's defense had only allowed 135 yards rushing in its first three games.

NEXT STEPS

The Panthers will look to improve to 3-0 at home when they host the Eagles on Sunday. This will be the first time this season Phil Snow's defense will face a mobile quarterback in Jalen Hurts.

Coastal QB McCall ready to 'rock and roll'

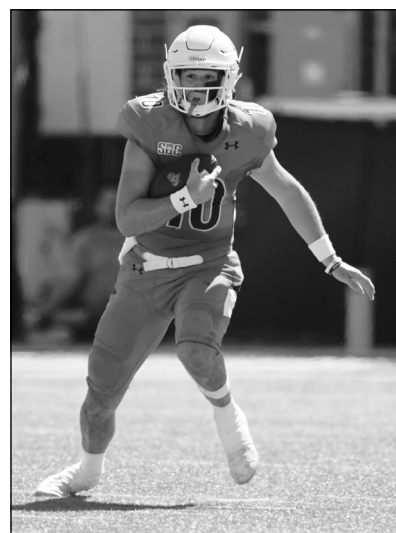
CONWAY (AP) — Coastal Carolina coach Jamey Chadwell said quarterback Grayson McCall is ready "to rock and roll" when the 15th-ranked Chanticleers head to Arkansas State to play Thursday night.

McCall's status was in doubt when he came out of halftime with a walking boot on his left foot last week in a 59-6 win over Louisiana Monroe. But Chadwell said the move was just a precaution after McCall suffered a lower leg injury in the game.

The quarterback went 13 of 13 passing for 212 yards and two touchdowns, all in the first half, in beating the Warhawks. Chadwell said McCall would not have played the final two quarters with Coastal Carolina ahead 38-3 at the break.

McCall is a 6-foot-3 sophomore who leads the FBS in completion percentage (80.2%) and passing efficiency. He's completed 69 of 86 passes this season for 1,113 yards, 10 touchdowns and one interception.

The Chanticleers (5-0, 1-0 Sun Belt Conference), who play at Arkansas State (1-4, 0-1), have won 16 of 17 games the past two seasons — including nine straight league games.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Coastal Carolina quarterback Grayson McCall (10) is expected to return to the lineup when the No. 15 Chanticleers face Arkansas State on Thursday.

Atlanta Braves' Austin Riley (27) is one of the young stars who is primed to breakout this postseason.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



With MVPs out, new stars set to shine in postseason

BY JAKE SEINER

The Associated Press

A funny thing about this year's likely MVPs — none were valuable enough to push their teams into the postseason.

Shohei Ohtani, Bryce Harper, Fernando Tatis Jr., Juan Soto, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. — all contenders for the individual prize, and all set to watch from home while a champion is crowned.

Other big names remain — Freddie Freeman, Mookie Betts, Jose Altuve and Aaron Judge are plenty familiar to fall audiences. Of course, they were all there last year, too, when Tampa Bay rookie Randy Arozarena stole the show.

Arozarena set postseason records with 10 homers and 29 hits, winning the AL Championship Series MVP, and made a wild scramble home to help the Rays push the Dodgers to six games in the World Series. It was a remarkable rise for a then-25-year-old who had just 42 regular-season games under his belt, propelling him from no-name rookie to a standout on baseball's biggest stage.

Stars are cemented in October. Here are five budding ones that might stick in the spotlight this month:

WANDER FRANCO, SS, TAMPA BAY RAYS

An AL Rookie of the Year candidate despite playing just 70 games, Franco successfully transformed from a minor league phenom to a big league contributor. The 20-year-old switch-hitter batted .288 with seven

homers and an .810 OPS, matching Hall of Famer Frank Robinson's 43-game on-base streak in 1956 for the longest by a player 20 or younger. Flashy yet polished, Franco looks destined for stardom regardless of this postseason, but it could speed his ascent into the conversation for best player in baseball.

Another Ray to watch: rookie right-hander Shane Baz, who was 2-0 with a 2.03 ERA in his first three big league starts in September to potentially force his way into Tampa Bay's postseason rotation.

TYLER O'NEILL, OF, ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

The son of a champion body builder, the stoutly built O'Neill muscled the Cardinals to a franchise-record 17-game winning streak in September. He clubbed 13 homers over the final 31 games with an NL-most 30 RBIs in that time. After hitting 21 homers combined in his first three big league seasons, the 26-year-old Canadian had 34 to form a dangerous mid-order trio with All-Stars Paul Goldschmidt and Nolan Arenado.

AUSTIN RILEY, 3B, ATLANTA BRAVES

Riley stepped up bigger than any other Braves player after Ronald Acuña Jr.'s season-ending knee injury in July. The 24-year-old slugged his way into NL MVP consideration with 33 homers, 107 RBIs and an .898 OPS, production fueled by a .333 batting average in the second half. Riley slumped in the spotlight last October, hitting .143 while Atlanta lost the NLCS to Los Angeles in seven games.

He came back for 2021 showing his best form yet for the four-time defending NL East champs. A redemptive postseason could translate to Atlanta's first World Series appearance since 1999.

LUIS GARCIA, RHP, HOUSTON ASTROS

The Astros are still led by many of the same stars as their tainted 2017 title team — Altuve, Carlos Correa, Alex Bregman and Yuli Gurriel — but their 2021 aspirations rely largely on the 24-year-old Garcia. A 6-foot-1 rookie with tree-trunk legs, Garcia was 11-8 with a 3.30 ERA over 30 games, including 28 starts. With Justin Verlander out for the year following Tommy John surgery and Zack Greinke likely pushed to the bullpen following a late-season injury, Garcia might slot behind Lance McCullers Jr. in a critical spot for a young rotation.

LAMONTE WADE JR., 1B/OF, SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

Late Night LaMonte — pronounced "lah-MONT" — has been the feel-good, breakout star for surprising San Francisco. A castoff by the Minnesota Twins, Wade worked his way into regular duty and contributed several big hits as the Giants ended the Dodgers' reign as eight-time defending NL West champs. Wade went 13 for 23 with 12 RBIs in ninth-inning at-bats, including a walk-off hit to sink Arizona on Friday night. A day later, he was given the team's Willie Mac Award, an honor voted on by players, coaches, staff and fans to recognize the club's most inspirational player.

JEFFERSON

FROM PAGE B1

me,” Jefferson said of joining Team Perseverance. “I just knew that if I took advantage of this opportunity, I would go somewhere with this. I started out in March and we’re here now in October and I’m signed. That’s how fast time goes. I knew I was going to do it, I just had to get my mind right.

“This team plays a lot of good people and puts you in front of the right people. You have to make the opportunity. You have to go out there and showcase your game. The program is giving you the opportunity to do what you need to do, but you need to get it in your head that you’re going to take advantage of it.”

This opportunity in Mexico is going to come with a lot of change. For one, Jefferson doesn’t speak Spanish. He knows it won’t be easy, but Jefferson’s life hasn’t been simple to this point, so he’s ready for the next challenge.

“I’ve got to take whatever opportunities come for me. This is not the last one either,” Jefferson said. “Just like I took the semi-pro team and took advantage of it and went somewhere with it, I have to do the same thing when I go Mexico. I’m going to go with that same grind and same mindset and when I finish there, who knows? I may be in the G League, I may be in the Euro League.”

Jefferson also knows that his opportunity in Mexico is about more than just basketball. As a professional athlete, you have to treat the game like it’s a business.

“I knew that it was bigger than dribbling the basketball and putting it in the hoop. A lot of players don’t know this is a business for real,” Jefferson said. “You have to be focused and you have to be very business-minded. Everything is a process. You’ve got to plant the seed, but it isn’t going to grow right away. You have to give it time. The ones that stay patient and work hard win at the end of the day.”

He’s also looking to give back to the community around him in Mexico. Jefferson is passionate about helping the communities that helped him along the way. In fact, he spent Monday in Sumter volunteering at the North Hope Center, talking to the next generation about the importance of persevering and working hard.

“I’m about helping. Some players go pro and tell you to find your way. I’m not that kind of dude,” Jefferson said. “I want to reach out, like I’m doing right now, talking to kids, doing stuff for the community. I know God is going to bless me to go further and I’m ready for it.”

Jefferson hopes people can take a simple lesson away from his story. Take advantage of any opportunity given to you. So far, that mindset has taken him to a professional basketball league in Mexico. Next? Who knows?

“Anyone that’s here, I don’t care how small (the opportunity) is, take it,” Jefferson said. “It’s like a seed, you plant that seed, you water that seed and it’s going to grow. As long as you water it, it’s going to grow.”

“That’s what I’m gonna keep doing, watering my flower.”



Trayvon Jefferson speaks with kids at North Hope Center on Monday. Jefferson wants to provide life lessons to children because he lacked that voice growing up.

PHOTOS BY MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

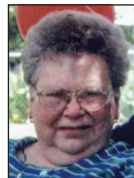


Trayvon Jefferson finally found a basketball home here in Sumter this year. He played for the Perseverance Panthers, a local semi-pro team, on his way to signing his first professional contract with Guerros Chatinos De Yaitepec Oaxaca in Mexico.

OBITUARIES

AUDREY A. WHITE

Audrey A. White, age 85, beloved wife of the late James D. White, died on Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital.



WHITE

Born in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, she was a daughter of the late John A. and Hazel Sowers Owens. Mrs. White retired from *The Sumter*

Item as an independent carrier and was a homemaker. She will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother. She was respected and loved by all who knew her. Mrs. White was a member of New Salem Baptist Church.

Surviving are two sons, John Steven White and his wife, Cindie, of North Augusta and Scott Lee White and his wife, Toni, of Fort Worth, Texas; two daughters, Martha Carter and her husband, Rickey, and Brenda Mettetal, both of Sumter; eight grandchildren, Shawna Bell, Jill Winter, Christina Carter, Kimberly Champagne, Rebecca Mettetal, Katie Mettetal, Jeffery White and Michael White; six great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by four brothers and one sister.

A private service will be held at Evergreen Memorial Park cemetery with the Rev. Kevin Massey officiating.

Due to COVID-19, the family will not be receiving friends at the residence.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, KS 66675-8516.

You may go to www.bullockfuneralhome.com and sign the family's guest book.

The family has chosen Bullock Funeral Home of Sumter for the arrangements.

MYLES S. THAMES JR.

Myles S. Thames Jr., 82, husband of Susie G. Thames, died on Monday, Oct. 4, 2021, at his home.



THAMES

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. today at Liberty Hill Baptist Church Cemetery. The Rev. James E. Beck will officiate.

The family will receive friends following the service. Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Directors are caring for the family.

Born in Sumter, Myles was a son of the late Myles Thames Sr. and Susie Weatherly Thames. He was a retired truck driver and was a kind-hearted person who dearly loved his family and friends and always loved talking to them. He loved working in his yard, always feeding the birds, fishing and especially lifting weights.

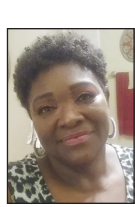
He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Susie Gilbert Thames; daughter, Pam Griggs of Hartsville; granddaughters, Lindsey Griggs and Maegan Griggs of Hartsville; sister, Deloris McCoy of Sumter; numerous nephews and nieces of Sumter.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, Julius Thames and W.R. Thames.

The family would like to express their appreciation for the loving care that was provided by Agape Care of South Carolina Sumter.

Memorials may be made to Agape Care of South Carolina, Sumter Office, 8 Law Range, Sumter, SC 29150.

BARBARA OLIVER MOFFATT



MOFFATT

Barbara Oliver Moffatt was born on Dec. 15, 1958, in Mayesville, the youngest daughter of the late Carrie Smith. She was called to eternal

rest on Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital in Sumter.

Barbara was a faithful member of Bethany Mission-

ary Baptist Church in Sumter, where she also was a member of the church choir. Singing and cooking gave her great pleasure, along with seeing her grandchildren.

She is survived by her two daughters, Antoinette Oliver and Carrie Oliver; three sons, Shannon Oliver, Vincent Speed and Adrian Oliver Moffatt; two sisters, Sandra Benjamin and Ruby Tomlin; two brothers, Ronnie Smith and Tony Smith; six granddaughters; four grandsons; three great-grandchildren; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

In accordance with COVID-19 guidelines, the family is requesting no visitation at the home.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday in the John Wesley Williams Sr. Memorial Chapel of Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter, with the Rev. Daryl F. McGhaney, eulogist, and the Rev. Dr. David McGhaney Jr., pastor emeritus, officiating.

The procession will leave at 10:30 a.m. from the home.

Burial will be at Mayesville Cemetery, Mayesville.

Services directed by the management and staff of Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter.

Online messages will be sent to the family at www.williamsfuneralhome.com. Visit us on the web at www.williamsfuneralhomeinc.com.

MARGARET PARKER TOBIAS

Margaret Parker Tobias, 51, died on Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital.

Born on July 29, 1970, in Sumter, she was a daughter of Hoyt L. Parker and the late Hermine Brandner Parker.

Survivors in addition to her father include two daughters, Amber Noui (Tefera) and Sarah Tobias (Zack Elmore); one grandchild, Jaxton Noui; one sister, Jan Groner (Alan); and one brother, Rodney Parker.

A private family service will be held at a later date.

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

EUGENE RHINEHART III

Eugene Rhinehart III, 31, departed this life on Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021, in Sumter.

He was born on Nov. 12, 1989, in Sumter, a son of Jennifer Brunson Jones and the late James Major.

The family will receive friends at the home, 455 New Castle St., Sumter, SC 29154.

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

FRANDRIGO EVANS

BISHOPVILLE — Frandrigo Evans entered eternal rest on Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021, at MUSC Health Kershaw Medical Center, Camden.

The family is receiving relatives and friends at 420 Levy St., Bishopville.

Funeral arrangements will be announced by Wilson Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St., Bishopville.

KEITH WEARY

CAMDEN — Keith Allen Weary, 59, of Camden, died on Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021.

Born in Westfield, New York, he was a son of Patricia Alexander Heilman of Westfield and the late James Robert Weary Sr. Keith was a member of St. John's United Methodist Church in Rembert and worked for the City of Sumter Water Department. He was an avid hunter and loved his family.

In addition to his mother, Keith is survived by his wife, Wendy Jane Tubbs Weary; stepmother, Beverly Weary of Asheboro, North Carolina; son, Dillon Allen Weary of Camden; and brothers, James Weary of Westfield, Kevin Weary of Westfield, Steven Weary of Camden and Robert Weary of Seagrove, North Carolina.

Keith was predeceased by his father; infant son, Cody Jay Weary; and sisters, Sandra Weary Kelly and Sheri Weary.

Family and friends will gather for a private memorial service at 10 a.m. on Saturday at St. John's United Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers, donations will be accepted in Keith's memory by St. John's United Methodist Church, c/o Karen White,

3480 Leach Drive, Sumter, SC 29154.

Kornegay Funeral Home, Camden Chapel, is assisting the family.

Online condolences may be sent to the Weary family by visiting www.kornegayfuneral.com.

GWENDOLYN LEE HODGE

Gwendolyn Lee Hodge, 63, widow of Henry B. Hodge Jr., died on Monday, Oct. 4, 2021, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital.

Born on June 10, 1958, in Sumter, she was a daughter of the late Howard and Esther White Lee. Mrs. Hodge was a member of Providence Baptist Church, where she enjoyed singing with the choir. Along with her Lord, she loved her husband and family with all of her heart. She always had a smile for everyone.

Survivors include three children, Henry B. Hodge III (Tiffany) of Sumter, Deborah J. Confer of Richlands, North Carolina, and Mary A. Hodge of Sumter; 11 grandchildren, Devin Hodge (Bethany), Chase Hodge (Bailey), Alexis Hodge (Cole), Samantha Hodge, Aaron Hodge, Gabriella Hodge, Bethany Hodge, Daniel Hodge, Zalen Confer, Jasmine Hodge and Jaxton Cappell; and two great-grandchildren, Layla Jean Hodge and Paisley Hodge.

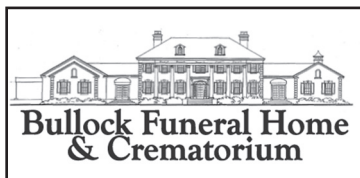
She was preceded in death by a grandson, Gage Hodge; three sisters, Georgette Ives, Margaret Lee and Betty Ann McKenzie; and one brother, Johnathan Lee.

A funeral service will be held at 4 p.m. on Thursday at Providence Baptist Church with the Rev. Leroy Burke, Pastor Pat Coffey and Wayne McElveen officiating.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. today at Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home and other times at the home.

Memorials may be sent to Providence Baptist Church, 2445 Old Manning Road, Sumter, SC 29150.

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



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

In Memory

In loving Memory Of
Sandra W. Robinson
1954-2001



It's been 20 years since God took you home to be with him. We remember the laughing, smiling, talking, caring, sharing & loving like it was yesterday. Your love & memories will always live within our hearts, you will never be forgotten. A loving mother & faithful wife - whom we all love and miss very much.

Your Loving Husband Doug;
Children: Chad, Shannon & Whitney;
Grandchildren: Abbey, Liza, & Jenna & Family

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Antique Stuff Octoberfest Sale. Lots of new items. Big discounts up to 75% off thru **Oct. 16,** 2726 Cleveland St, Elloree, Wed-Sat, 10:30-4:30, **downtown Elloree, October 2nd trash to treasure town-wide sale.** Vendors on sidewalk. **Oct. 15 Food Truck Friday, 4-8 pm.** Eat, drink, shop!

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RENTALS

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Offices & event space for lease, 187 S. Lafayette Dr., Sumter, SC. Contact Kiz, 803-397-3357.

LEGAL NOTICES

Summons & Notice

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
IN THE FAMILY COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
2021-DR-43-682
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF SUMTER
JEFFREY W. ECKLER, Plaintiff,
vs.
CHRISTINA MARIE ECKLER,

Summons & Notice

Defendant.
TO: CHRISTINA MARIE ECKLER, THE DEFENDANT ABOVE NAMED
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this matter, the original of which has been filed in the office of the Clerk of Court for Sumter County, South Carolina, on the 27th day of July, 2021, a copy of which will be delivered to you upon request; to serve a copy of your answer to said Complaint upon the undersigned attorney for the Plaintiff at 5 Law Range, Post Office Box 1268, Sumter, South Carolina 29151-1268, within thirty (30) days following the date of service upon you, exclusive of the day of such service; if you fail to answer said Complaint within the time stated, Plaintiff will apply for judgment by default against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

JONES SETH & JONES, LLP
Richard T. Jones
Attorney for Plaintiff
5 Law Range Post Office Box 1268
Sumter, South Carolina 29151
(803) 773-8676

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS FOR THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
C/A NO.: 2021-CP-43-01462

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF SUMTER

Teddy Charles Davis, Plaintiff,

vs.
John Davis, and if John Davis be deceased then any children and heirs at law to the Estate of John Davis, distributes and devisees at law to the Estate of John Davis, and if any of the same be dead, any and all persons entitled to claim under or through them; also all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, interest, or lien upon the real estate described in the Complaint herein; any unknown adults, any unknown infants or persons under a disability being a class designated as John Doe, and any persons in the military service of the United States of America being a class designated as Richard Roe, Defendants.

SUMMONS (NON-JURY) (QUIET TITLE ACTION)

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to Answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your answer to the said Complaint on the attorney for the aforesaid Plaintiff, on the law offices of McCabe, Trotter and Beverly, P.C., 4500 Fort Jackson Boulevard, Suite 250, Columbia, South Carolina, 29209, within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid,

Summons & Notice

judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

NOTICE OF FILING

YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the 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 August 24, 2021.

Dean A. Hayes, SC Bar No. 66066 MCCABE, TROTTER & BEVERLY, P.C.
4500 Fort Jackson Blvd., Suite 250
Columbia, South Carolina 29209
Phone: (803) 724-5000
Fax: (803) 724-5001
Email: dean.hayes@mccabetrotter.com
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

ORDER APPOINTING GUARDIAN AD LITEM NISI AND APPOINTING ATTORNEY

It appearing to the satisfaction of the court upon reading the Petition for Appointment of April L. Gremillion as guardian ad litem nisi for all unknown adults, unknown minors, and persons who may be under a disability, and appointment as attorney for all persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America, that April L. Gremillion should so be appointed, therefore,

IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to Rule 17 of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure, April L. Gremillion be and hereby is appointed guardian ad litem nisi on behalf of all unknown adults, unknown minors and all unknown persons under a disability who may have or may claim to have some interest in or claim to the real property at issue in this action, and that April L. Gremillion is

Summons & Notice

empowered and directed to appear on behalf of and to represent said defendants unless said defendants, or someone on their behalf, shall procure the appointment of a guardian ad litem for the said defendants.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that should the defendants fail to procure the appointment of a guardian ad litem within thirty (30) days from the last date of service by publication, the appointment of April L. Gremillion as guardian ad litem will be made absolute without further action by Plaintiff.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that April L. Gremillion be and hereby is appointed as attorney for any persons, known or unknown, who may be in the military service of the United State of America and who may have or may claim to have some interest in or claim to the real property at issue in this action.

IT IS SO ORDERED!
James C. Campbell,
Sumter County Clerk of Court



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WEDNESDAY EVENING OCTOBER 6

	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)	Chicago Med "Be the Change You Want to See" Scott and Halstead treat a patient. (N) (DVS)	Chicago Fire "Counting Your Breaths" Griffin learns the truth. (N) (DVS)	Chicago P.D. "The One Next to Me" Halstead's past resurfaces. (N) (DVS)	WIS News 10 at 11 (N)	(:34) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon Anthony Anderson; Charli XCX performs. (N)			
WLTX	19	9	9	News 19 at 7pm (N)	Inside Edition (N)	Survivor (N)	Tough as Nails "Ready for Battle" (Season Premiere) Twelve new contestants arrive. (N)	CSI: Vegas "Legacy" (Series Premiere) An attack on Jim Brass. (N)	News 19 at 11pm (N)	(:35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert			
WOLO	23	5	12	Wheel of Fortune "National Parks" (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	The Goldbergs Barry plots to save a local water park. (DVS)	The Wonder Years "The Club" (N) (DVS)	The Conners Darlene visits with Pastor Phil. (N)	(:31) Home Economics (N) (DVS)	A Million Little Things "Game Night" Maggie is blindsided by some news. (N) (DVS)	ABC Columbia News at 11 (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live!	
WRJA	27	11	14	Hidden Poland: Unique destinations in Poland.	Impossible Builds "Skinny Skyscraper" Ultra-thin skyscraper in New York. (N)	NOVA "Particles Unknown" The neutrino. (N) (DVS)	Life From Above "Colorful Planet" Viewing Earth's kaleidoscope of colors.	Amanpour and Company (N)	Impossible Builds "Skinny Skyscraper"				
WACH	57	6	6	The Big Bang Theory "The Veracity Elasticity"	The Big Bang Theory "The Veracity Elasticity"	The Masked Singer "House Party" The Group A members return. (N) (DVS)	(:01) Alter Ego "The Final Auditions" Five contestants go head-to-head. (N)	WACH FOX News at 10P (N) (Live)	Sports Zone (N)	The National Desk	Nick Cannon (N)		
WKTC	63	4	22	Last Man Standing Mike gets a history of the house.	Last Man Standing "Baxter & Sons"	Dateline "Deadly Secret" Pamela Smart's husband is murdered.	Dateline "At the Edge of Town" A college student is found dead.	Chicago Fire "Under the Knife" Casey deals with family issues.	The Carbonaro Effect Corks made of cheese.	Impactical Jokers "Dover and Out"	Pawn Stars "Spacing Out" A Space 2005 wristwatch.		
CABLE CHANNELS													
A&E	46	130		Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam (N)	(:01) Neighborhood Wars The top 10 neighbor confrontations.	(:04) Court Cam A killer's outburst.	(:34) Court Cam	(12:03) Court Cam
AMC	48	180		(5:30) ** "The Hills Have Eyes" (2006, Horror) Aaron Stanford.	** "House of Wax" (2005, Horror) Elisha Cuthbert, Chad Michael Murray, Brian Van Holt. Murderous twins entomb their victims in wax.	** "The Last House on the Left" (2009) Tony Goldwyn, Monica Potter. Parents take revenge on the strangers who harmed their daughter.							
ANPL	41	100		Lone Star Law "Fawn Stars"	Lone Star Law: Uncuffed Wardens investigate a suspected poacher. (N)	(:01) Lone Star Law "Trashed"	Lone Star Law "Deadly Conduct"	Lone Star Law					
BET	61	162		(6:00) *** "American Gangster" (2007, Crime Drama) Denzel Washington, Russell Crowe. A chauffeur becomes Harlem's most-powerful crime boss.	"Big Fifty: The DelRhonda Hood Story" (2021, Drama) Remy Ma, Durrell "Tank" Babbs, Pretty Yee. Premiere. The story of Delrhonda Big Fifty Hood. (N)	American Gangster: Trap Queens "Delrhonda Big Fifty Hood" Detroit hustler.							
BRAVO	47	181		The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills Featuring never-before-seen content. (N)	The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills "New Year, Old Grudges" Issues between Lisa and Garcelle rise. (N)	The Real Housewives of Salt Lake City Bonus footage and extended scenes.	The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills Issues between Lisa and Garcelle rise.	The Real Housewives of Potomac					
CNBC	35	84		The News With Shepard Smith (N)	Shark Tank	Shark Tank (DVS)	Jay Leno's Garage "Versatility" (N)	Jay Leno's Garage	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)	Anderson Cooper				
COM	57	136		South Park "Ass Burgers"	South Park	South Park "The Return of Cheff!"	South Park "Crème Fraîche"	South Park "Margaritaville"	(:45) South Park "Dead Kids"				
DISN	18	200		Big City Greens	Big City Greens	Big City Greens	Big City Greens	Big City Greens	Miraculous: Tales of Ladybug	Miraculous: Tales of Ladybug	Miraculous: Tales of Ladybug	Miraculous: Tales of Ladybug	
DSC	42	103		Expedition Unknown	Expedition Unknown (N)	Lost Relics of the Knights Templar (N)	(:02) Expedition Unknown	(:02) Expedition Unknown	Expedition Un.				
ESPN	26	35		SportsCenter (N) (Live)	WNBA Basketball Connecticut Sun at Chicago Sky. (N) (Live)	WNBA Basketball Las Vegas Aces at Phoenix Mercury. (N) (Live)	SportsCenter (N) (Live)	SportsCenter (N) (Live)	SportsCenter (N)				
ESPN2	27	39		NFL Live	Somos Afro-Latinos	PTI 20	ESPN Original Documentaries	SportsCenter (N) (Live)	NFL Live				
FOOD	40	109		Guy's Grocery Games "Island Eats"	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Games				
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		(6:30) *** "Tim Burton's Corpse Bride" (2005) Voices of Johnny Depp.	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	
FSS	21	47		3 Wide Life	NBA Preseason Basketball Cleveland Cavaliers at Atlanta Hawks. From State Farm Arena in Atlanta.	3 Wide Life	Racer H20	NBA Preseason Basketball: Cavaliers at Hawks					
HALL	52	183		(6:00) "Love on Harbor Island" (2020, Romance) Morgan Kohan. (DVS)	"The Sweetest Heart" (2018, Romance) Julie Gonzalo, Chris McNally. Maddie is doing everything she can to save her business. (DVS)	The Golden Girls (DVS)	The Golden Girls (DVS)	The Golden Girls (DVS)	The Golden Girls (DVS)	The Golden Girls (DVS)	The Golden Girls (DVS)	The Golden Girls (DVS)	
HGTV	39	112		HGTV Urban Oasis 2021	Curb Appeal Xtreme (N)	Houses With History (N)	House Hunters (N)	Hunters Int'l	House Hunters	Hunters Int'l	Houses With His		
HIST	45	110		Counting Cars "Alice Cooper Returns"	Counting Cars "Continental Flip"	Counting Cars "The Coolest Cutlass"	Counting Cars: Un	(:33) Counting Cars	(:03) Counting Cars	(:33) Counting Cars	(:33) Counting Cars	Counting Cars	
ION	13	18		Blue Bloods "Ghosts of the Past" Frank is forced to honor a conspirator.	Blue Bloods "Out of the Blue" A detective is killed before testifying.	Blue Bloods "The Forgotten" A search for a single mother's murderer.	Blue Bloods "Brushed Off" A basketball player is found dead.	Blue Bloods "Common Ground" Danny tries to protect a nurse. (DVS)	Blue Bloods "Pick Your Poison"				
LIFE	50	145		Rizzoli & Isles "Cold as Ice" Frankie Jr. is brought in to help.	Married at First Sight "Is There Someone Else?" The couples settle into everyday life. (N)	(:03) Married at First Sight "Couples' Cam" (N)	(:03) Married at First Sight "Chatting with Bao, Rachel and Ryan. (N)	(:12:01) Married at First Sight					
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		NFL Sliptime (N)	Nick News: Kid	That Girl Lay Lay	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	
PARMT	64	153		** "Along Came Polly" (2004) Ben Stiller, Jennifer Aniston.	** "Along Came Polly" (2004) Ben Stiller, Jennifer Aniston.	** "Grown Ups" (2010, Comedy) Adam Sandler, Kevin James.	** "Along Came Polly" (2004) Ben Stiller.	** "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" (2009, Action) Hugh Jackman.	The Postseason Show (N)				
SYFY	58	152		** "Men in Black II" (2002, Action) Tommy Lee Jones, Will Smith, Rip Torn. Agents Jay and Kay defend Earth from a sultry alien enemy.	MLB Baseball NL Wild Card Game: Teams TBA. (N) (Live)	MLB Baseball NL Wild Card Game: Teams TBA. (N) (Live)	MLB Baseball NL Wild Card Game: Teams TBA. (N) (Live)	MLB Baseball NL Wild Card Game: Teams TBA. (N) (Live)	MLB Baseball NL Wild Card Game: Teams TBA. (N) (Live)	MLB Baseball NL Wild Card Game: Teams TBA. (N) (Live)	MLB Baseball NL Wild Card Game: Teams TBA. (N) (Live)	MLB Baseball NL Wild Card Game: Teams TBA. (N) (Live)	
TBS	24	156		(6:15) ** "Deadly Friend" (1986, Horror) Matthew Laborteaux.	*** "All About Eve" (1950, Drama) Bette Davis, Anne Baxter, Celeste Holm. An ambitious actress connives her way to stardom.	*** "How Green Was My Valley" (1941, Drama) Walter Pidgeon, Maureen O'Hara. A boy sees his coal-mining family fall in circa-1900 Wales.							
TCM	49	186		Dr. Pimple Popper	Dr. Pimple Popper	Dr. Mercy Tiffany has a rare condition.	(:01) My Feet Are Killing Me	(:02) Dr. Mercy	Dr. Pimple Popper				
TLC	43	157		Dr. Pimple Popper	Dr. Pimple Popper	Dr. Mercy Tiffany has a rare condition.	(:01) My Feet Are Killing Me	(:02) Dr. Mercy	Dr. Pimple Popper				
TNT	23	158		(6:00) ** "Central Intelligence" (2016) Dwayne Johnson. (DVS)	All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite (N) (Live)	Rhodes to the Top "Off the Rails" (N)	Rhodes to the Top (N)	Rhodes to the Top "Off the Rails"	Rhodes to the Top	** "Money Talks" (1997)			
TRUTV	38	129		Impactical Jokers	Impactical Jokers	Impactical Jokers	Impactical Jokers	Impactical Jokers	Impactical Jokers	Impactical Jokers	Impactical Jokers	Impactical Jokers	
TV LAND	55	161		Andy Griffith Show	Andy Griffith Show	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	
USA	25	132		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Ripped" A suspect attacks Fin.	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit The detective investigate a coach.	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit A student plans a hookup with a teacher.	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit A female athlete is sexually assaulted.	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit An old kidnapping case is reopened.	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit				
WE	68	166		NCIS "Patriot Down"	NCIS "Rule Fifty-One"	NCIS "Spider and the Fly"	NCIS A girl is kidnapped.	NCIS A female bomb-tech is attacked.	NCIS				
WGNA	8	172		On Balance With Leland Vittert (N)	Dan Abrams Live (N) (Live)	NewsNation Prime (N) (Live)	Banfield (N)	On Balance With Leland Vittert	Dan Abrams Live				

Familiar faces return as 'CSI: Vegas' debuts

BY KEVIN MCDONOUGH

"CSI" lasted so long and launched so many spinoffs that it now returns as its own sequel. "CSI: Vegas" (10 p.m., CBS, TV-14) debuts to remind us that the show itself began in Las Vegas.

Look for some familiar faces in the regular cast, including Gil Grissom (William Petersen), Sara Sidle (Jorja Fox) and David Hodges (Wallace Langham). Not to give too much away, but the action kicks off when some mysterious knife-wielding stranger tries to kill Jim Brass (Paul Guilfoyle). He's been taken off active duty because of his failing sight, but is still handy with a gun and able to dispatch the intruder while simultaneously cooking his grilled cheese sandwich.

It's not all old-home week. The veterans meet new faces as bodies pop up related to a sicko whose exploits date back to the 1990s. Character types rarely deviate in these procedurals. The new boss is crisply efficient in her ability to spout technical jargon; there's the hot new scientist as well as a socially challenged morgue geek with hidden depths.

The real star is the technology and the buildings that house it. "CSI" has always existed in a fantasy world where law enforcement knows no budget restrictions and every bit of gadgetry is gleaming, shiny and new.

Also returning is the show's penchant for casual morbidity. Desiccated body parts are treated with all the reverence of stuff left in the back of the refrigerator.

The return of "CSI," a show dating back to 2000, demonstrates just how risk-averse networks have become. CBS is hardly alone — just last week, NBC announced it was reviving the original version of "Law & Order," a chestnut dating back to 1990.

Disney+ streams all six episodes of its new docuseries "Among the Stars." It's not about Hollywood, but stars of a more celestial nature, following veteran astronaut Chris Cassidy as he and his colleagues prepare for their mission on the International Space Station, a multibillion-dollar science experiment to discover more about the ori-



SONJA FLEMMING / CBS

William Petersen, left, stars as Gil Grissom and Jorja Fox as Sara Sidle in the "Legacy" episode of "CSI: Vegas," airing at 10 p.m. today on CBS.

gins of the universe. "Stars" offers several familiar stories, beginning with Cassidy, the not-so-young veteran approaching his third trip into space fully knowing that it might be his last. He's not so old that his launch doesn't leave his mother in tears. The other emphasis is on the international nature of the crew and their endeavor. For viewers who recall the Space Race between the United States and the USSR, it's still a bit of a shock to see astronauts launched into the heavens on a Russian rocket. Look for plenty of scenes explaining the nuts and bolts of the space station as well as glorious views of the solar system and glances back at our blue planet. You really can't beat the view. • Because the '90s never go out of style: Sarah Michelle Gellar, Ryan Phillippe, Reese Witherspoon, and Selma Blair star in the 1999 melodrama "Cruel Intentions" (8 p.m., Cinemax), an adaptation of the 1782

French novel "Les Liaisons Dangereuses," set in the bratty society of upper-crust Manhattan teens. Developed as an independent movie, it became a surprise hit, and spawned two spinoff films and even a Broadway musical. **TONIGHT'S OTHER HIGHLIGHTS** • A patient can't handle the truth on "Chicago Med" (8 p.m., NBC, TV-14). • "Tough as Nails" (9 p.m., CBS, TV-PG) enters its third season. • The truth about Griffin's dad on "Chicago Fire" (9 p.m., NBC, TV-14). • Tales from Halstead's army days on "Chicago P.D." (10 p.m., NBC, TV-14). • A hockey game breaks out during girls' night out on "A Million Little Things" (10 p.m., ABC, TV-14). **CULT CHOICE** Fans of Apple TV+'s "The Morning Show" should watch the 1950 classic "All About Eve" (8 p.m., TCM, TV-PG), starring

Bette Davis as the aging star undone by a seemingly worshipful ingenue (Anne Baxter). **SERIES NOTES** Waterpark woes on "The Goldbergs" (8 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) * It happened at Pop's on the season finale of "Riverdale" (8 p.m., CW, TV-14) * A brush with smut on "The Wonder Years" (8:30 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) * One last round on "Alter Ego" (9 p.m., Fox, TV-PG) * Becky's 12-step shuffle on "The Conners" (9 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) * The truth about Jess emerges on the season fi-

nale of "In the Dark" (9 p.m., CW, TV-14) * Dating woes on "Home Economics" (9:30 p.m., ABC, TV-PG). **LATE NIGHT** Jimmy Fallon welcomes Anthony Anderson and Charli XCX on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC) * Blake Shelton, Brett Goldstein, Cuco and Barrett Martin visit "Late Night With Seth Meyers" (12:35 a.m., NBC). *Copyright 2021 United Feature Syndicate*

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