



# Crestwood and Lakewood battle with 2nd place in region on the line

B1

## HISTORY OF SHAW AIR FORCE BASE

### Aug. 7, 1941

Construction underway for the Shaw Army Air Field, named after Sumter County native Lt. Ervin David Shaw, who was among the first combat pilots to fly in World War I.

### Aug. 30, 1941

Shaw Air Field opens with a mission to train air cadets how to fly.

### October 1941

Flying activities over Shaw begin in Sumter.

### July 28, 1947

Headquarters Army Air Forces establishes the 20th Fighter Wing. Ninth Air Force (Air Forces Central) organizes the wing at Shaw Air Field three weeks later. Shaw Air Force Base also houses the 363rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, the 432nd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, the 4411th Combat Crew Training Group, the 66th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, the 363rd Fighter Wing and the 363rd Tactical Fighter Wing.

### Summer 1950

The outbreak of the Korean War spurs the deployment of the 20th Fighter Wing's flying units to Royal Air Force Station Manston, United Kingdom.

### Jan. 1, 1994

The 20th Fighter Wing returns as the host unit at Shaw Air Force Base.

### Sept. 11, 2001

The 20th Fighter Wing begins executing combat air patrol missions over major U.S. cities following the attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., and continues to perform in the homeland defense role to date.

### May 2005

The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission not only does not close Shaw, but also pushes U.S. Third Army to relocate its headquarters to Sumter.

### August 2009

The 20th Fighter Wing is allocated to the Ninth Air Force.

### June 2011

U.S. Army Central/Third Army Headquarters begins its transition to Patton Hall at Shaw Air Force Base.

### August 2020

Ninth Air Force units are reallocated under the Fifteenth Air Force at Shaw Air Force Base.

### 2021

The 20th Fighter Wing is tasked to support ongoing operations in Southwest Asia, to include Operation Freedom's Sentinel in Afghanistan and Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq and Syria.



Source: Shaw Air Force Base, Ninth Air Force and U.S. Army Central

# Air Force Ball commemorates Shaw's 80th year in Sumter



During the Air Force Ball on Wednesday night, celebrating 80 years of Shaw Air Force Base in the Sumter community, a toasting ceremony was held to honor the members of the six branches of the military who remain missing in action. See more photos on A8.

PHOTOS BY SHELBIE GOULDING / THE SUMTER ITEM

## Community celebrates history of Sumter military neighbors at civic center

BY SHELBIE GOULDING  
shelbie@theitem.com

Eighty years ago, military planes officially took flight over Sumter County for the first time.

Shaw Air Field, named after Sumter native Lt. Ervin David Shaw, only grew more as the years passed and continues to stand today as Shaw Air Force Base.

The Sumter community celebrated 80 years with our military neighbors at the Air Force Ball on Wednesday evening. A sea of blue surrounded the community members in attendance, who dressed in black tie attire at the Sumter County Civic Center to honor military personnel, commemorate Shaw's history and celebrate its current operations.

"To the Chief!"  
"Hear, hear!"  
"To South Carolina!"

Glasses were raised high for an array of toasts. The community cheered to the nation and U.S. Air Force before giving a silent toast for guests who could



not attend.

The crowd surrounded the center of the Civic Center where an empty table was reserved for the U.S. military's missing men and women in arms. Each

SEE 80 YEARS, PAGE A8



BRUCE MILLS / THE SUMTER ITEM

A student enters Liberty STEAM Charter School, 15 School St., on the first day of school in early August.

## Officials: Mitigation working at Liberty

0 students, staff out Thursday at Sumter charter school as COVID-19 cases fall

BY BRUCE MILLS  
bruce@theitem.com

With increased mitigation efforts in place since Labor Day, Sumter's first-year public charter school has seen reductions in new positive virus cases and quarantines, and Thursday marked a noteworthy day.

For Liberty STEAM Charter School, it was the first day in about five weeks with no students or staff out as a virus case or a quarantined "close contact," according to Chief of Staff Trevor Ivey. Liberty opened Aug. 9 as a K-1 school, serving 192 students with about 25 staff on site at the South Sumter school.

After a rough start to the school year in August with quarantines because of the COVID-19 surge of the delta variant and the school's instructional model, which had kindergarten and first-grade students sitting around large tables for collaboration, Liberty transitioned instruction to individual desks spaced 3 feet apart.

Before the change, basically whole classes of students were required to quarantine as a "close contact" with a single, positive virus case in a classroom, Ivey said. With a socially distanced classroom

SEE LIBERTY, PAGE A8

# Calling all ducks: Duckfest starts on Saturday morning in Summerton

BY SHARRON HALEY  
Clarendon contributor

SUMMERTON — It's that time. Time for all ducks to head over to Summerton for a day packed with all things duck; well, maybe not all things.

"Calling all ducks. We are super excited about this year's lineup of events," said

Ed Paul, chairman of the Duckfest committee. "We can't wait to see you tomorrow in downtown Summerton. Bring a chair and a blanket so you can spend the day with us. We'll have lots of games, activities and plenty of good food. I'll see you at Duckfest."

The gates open at 10 a.m. followed immediately by the

popular Ultimate Air Dogs Show. All dog owners are invited to give their pet a chance to see how far it can jump off a dock. No experience is needed for the dog dock jumping. Any size or breed of dog is invited to participate. There will be a lot of splashing and a lot of fun for the pets, the owners and everyone watching.

At 10:30 a.m., Paul will welcome everyone to Summerton and all the Duckfest festivities.

At 10:45 a.m., Summerton Mayor Mac Bagnal will welcome everyone on behalf of the Town of Summerton.

At 11 a.m., Lt. April Conyers, Clarendon County Fire Rescue's Public Education and Information Officer, will

outline what CCFR will be doing throughout the day.

Also at 11 a.m., you'll be hearing a lot of quacking from the right of the main stage as youths and adults compete in the Swamp Fox Regional Duck Calling Contest. The winner will go to Arkansas to compete in the

SEE DUCKFEST, PAGE A8

VISIT US ONLINE AT



## DEATHS, B2

Antionette Drayton  
Agnes Mickens Parson  
Estelle Dorothy Mack Duncan  
Leon Scott Jr.  
James Bernard Cantey  
Rosa Felder Bowman  
Clifton Wilder

Isaac Duffie Sr.  
Eliza Denise Pearson  
Sharon Penick Vaughn Kemp  
John Alvin Tallent  
Robert Pringle  
Milton Bradley Jr.  
David Abraham Duren Sr.

Barbara Ann Green Bines  
James McCray Sr.  
Johnnie McMillan  
Frandrigo Evans  
Charles D. Deas  
Doris Nell Newman Felkel

## INSIDE

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## CCTC receives \$947K in grants to assist Black students

Federal assistance to be used for advisement, curriculum and more

BY BRUCE MILLS  
[bruce@theitem.com](mailto:bruce@theitem.com)

The U.S. Department of Education recently awarded Central Carolina Technical College two grants totaling \$947,360 to remove barriers, improve advisement, curriculum and graduation outcomes for Black students in the region.



POLLOCK

The grants are from the federal agency's Predominantly Black Institutions Competitive and Formula Grant programs, according to a recent news release, and Misty Hatfield, Central Carolina's vice president for institutional advancement, spoke Thursday on the awards.

The funding period for the grants began Oct. 1. The Predominantly Black Institutions Program assists eligible insti-

tutions to increase their financial capacity to serve more low- and middle-income Black American students and expand educational opportunities for these students.

The program's Formula Grant will total \$349,130 this year, Hatfield said, and will help with student advisement, curriculum development and other areas. The federal Competitive Grant is \$598,230 this year and will support expansion of distance learning services, support for STEM programs and increased assistance for Black male student

success, the release said.

CCTC serves the four-county region of Sumter, Clarendon, Lee and Kershaw counties. The region is 46% African-American, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, and Central Carolina's Fall 2020 enrollment was 40% African-American and 52% white. The college's Black male enrollment was 10% at the time, Hatfield added.

A primary goal with the funding, she said, is to reach first generation and academically unprepared students, who would typically avoid college.

"We are definitely hiring in the area of advisers and some other focus areas," Hatfield said.

Central Carolina President Kevin Pollock added that he was happy the college applied and received the federal assistance.

"The grants awarded to the college are transformative in helping us achieve our mission," Pollock said. "We firmly believe these grants are key to enhancing the overall student experience from admissions to advisement to graduation."

## Biz Talk: Susie's Chicken & Fries closes brick, mortar locations

BY SHELBY GOULDING  
[shebbie@theitem.com](mailto:shebbie@theitem.com)

The bold pink buildings that stand off Peach Orchard Road and Manning Avenue went from cooking up fan favorite chicken wings to vacant commercial space after only being open for one year.

Susie's Chicken & Fries announced the closing of its brick-and-mortar locations in August and September.

"I am now at a crossroad, and I realize that there are so many more important components to life. Family time, quality time and personal time," Susie's Chicken & Fries wrote on its Manning Avenue restaurant's Facebook page.

That was posted on Sept. 29, the last day Susie's home base was open in South Sumter.

A month prior, the business' second location on Peach Orchard Road closed for good, according to that location's Facebook page.

"Thank you to all of our friends at Shaw Air Force Base and surrounding areas for an amazing year at our Peach Orchard location. Today will be our last day serving you Susie's hot and delicious food at this location," an Aug. 27 post said.

In the September post, Susie's Chicken & Fries said it was blessed to open two food trucks and two restaurants in one year.

Opening the business was a dream for owners Chris Wilson-Davis and her son, Dashin Simmons.

The pair have a knack for the food industry and wanted to create something unique and personal



SHELBY GOULDING / THE SUMTER ITEM

Susie's Chicken & Fries closed its brick-and-mortar locations in August and September.

of their own, which grew into an immense success in just a single year.

What started as a food truck business serving up turkey wings with Susie sauce, chicken tenders, chicken wings, baskets, fries, okra and much more grew beyond what the pair imagined.

*The Sumter Item* left calls and messages with Simmons to talk about the business closing its restaurant locations, but he did not respond.

Although the brick and mortars have closed, Susie's Chicken & Fries is still running on wheels.

Be sure to follow Susie's Chicken & Fries - Food Truck on Facebook to find out where you can meet them for lunch during the week in Sumter.

## Drive-up COVID-19 vaccine clinic will be in Summerton on Sunday with gift cards, prizes offered for first 25

BY KAREEM WILSON  
[kareem@theitem.com](mailto:kareem@theitem.com)

A drive-up COVID-19 vaccination clinic will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. this Sunday, Oct. 10, in the parking lot at 4 Main St., next to Summerton Town Hall.

The clinic is sponsored by My Pharmacy & Optical, Lighthouse Foundation, Town of Summerton, K&H Resource Center and I Am That Girl.

This clinic is available to everyone, and no appointment is necessary. The Pfizer vac-

inations are available for ages 12 and above; ages 15 and under need parental consent.

The first 25 participants will receive a choice of gift cards or prizes. Individuals will be seen first come, first served.

For more information, contact Summerton Councilman Terrance G. Tindal at (803) 825-2118, Summerton Councilwoman Regina Brown at (803) 969-0779, Kathleen L. Gibson at (803) 225-0832 or Roderick Henderson at (803) 999-7010.

## COVID-19 vaccine clinics to be held today in Lee County, Saturday in Clarendon

FROM STAFF REPORTS

In an effort to support local school districts, encourage vaccinations and provide information and resources to Lee County and Clarendon County residents, the South Carolina Department of Education has partnered with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control on a vaccination initiative, In It to Win It.

**COVID-19 vaccine clinics will be held Friday, Oct. 8, at the following locations in Lee County:**

— 6-9 p.m., Lee Academy High School, 630 Cousar St., Bishopville. Attendees 12+ will be able to receive the Pfizer vaccine, which is fully ap-

proved by the FDA. Adults 18+ will be able to receive the one-shot Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine.

— 4:30-7:30 p.m., Lee Central High School, 1800 Wisacky Highway, Bishopville. Attendees 12+ will be able to receive the Pfizer vaccine. Adults 18+ will be able to receive the Moderna Vaccine. Recipients will receive a gift card (while supplies last) and be entered to win a speaker or gaming headset.

Attendees can receive either their first or second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.

According to SCDHEC's State-wide Immunization Online Network (SIMON), 48% of eligible Lee County residents have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, in compari-

son to 73% nationally.

**COVID-19 vaccine clinics will be held Saturday, Oct. 9, at the following locations in Clarendon County:**

— 10 a.m.-2 p.m., East Clarendon High School, 1771 Pope St., Turbeville. Attendees 12+ will be able to receive the Pfizer vaccine. Adults 18+ will be able to receive the Moderna vaccine or the one-shot Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine. Recipients will be entered to win a TV.

— 1-4 p.m., Summerton Town Hall, 10 Main St., Summerton. Attendees can receive either their first or second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.

According to DHEC, 58% of eligible Clarendon County residents have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.



## Don't miss Sumter School District Title 1 Trunk or Treat Oct. 29

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Sumter School District wants to celebrate Halloween with you.

Join the free drive-through Sumter School District Title 1 Trunk or Treat from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 29, in the Sumter School District parking lot, 1345 Wilson Hall Road.

Treats, books and prizes will be given out. For additional information, call (803) 469-6900 extension 508.

# OSTEEN

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PRISMA HEALTH

# A change of taste: Sumter's Tasty Tuesdays switch up lunch routine

BY SHELBY GOULDING  
 shelbie@theitem.com

Don't get the wrong idea here. Going out for lunch at your favorite Sumter restaurant is not a bad thing, but there's also nothing wrong with a change of pace, or taste, in your weekly routine.

Sumter's Tasty Tuesdays will bring new opportunities to try food and sweets from local bakers and food trucks

at Swan Lake-Iris Gardens every week until the end of October.

"It's from now until Oct. 26," Visitor Center Coordinator Krisissy Milan said.

"Every Tuesday, we'll have two different vendors right outside of our visitors center."

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., two vendors will be posted outside of the visitors center, 822 W. Liberty St., selling baked goods, coffee or meals while supplies last.

"Definitely had to put 'while supplies last' because we've had about three vendors sell out within a couple hours," Milan said.

Tasty Tuesdays cannot have more than two vendors at a time based on space and because it is not an official park event, according to Milan. The overall goal is to rotate new vendors that are local and from out of town to support small businesses and give the community something to look forward to at the beginning of the work week.

"We want to help people mix it up with their lunches and help promote local businesses throughout Sumter," Milan said. "It's something for the community."

This week's Tasty Tuesday hosted Lobster Dogs, an out-of-towner that served up lunch meals featuring lobster and crab rolls and the loaded avocado, and Bite Me Bake Shop, two cottage baking sisters in Sumter who make sweet treats of all kinds.

"We're here with Tasty Tuesdays, and we are selling our sweet treats, cinnamon rolls, cupcakes, cookies," co-owner Jennifer Carroll said.

"You name it, we pretty much do it," said Ashley McIntyre, other co-owner of Bite Me Bake Shop.

The pair was contacted and asked to take part from word

of mouth in the community. There was no application process.

"We were really excited to do it," Carroll said. "We thought it would be a good way to expand."

"We thought it would be a good idea for new customers to try our treats," McIntyre said.

The sisters agreed opportunities like this support small businesses like their own and loved having a community that reached out to help them get connect-

ed. "Without that support, we wouldn't be here," Carroll said. "We try and support our local businesses, too."

With three Tasty Tuesdays

left, Milan encouraged Sumterites to change their lunch routine the rest of the month and support local eateries.

"Come out here to support local businesses, to have a little bit of fun, to come to Swan Lake-Iris Gardens and just enjoy what Sumter has to offer," Milan said.

Tasty Tuesdays will run until Oct. 26, with next week's vendors being Bryant Bakes Bakery and Moo & Brew. On Oct. 19, Mya's Kitchen and Ready 2 Rumble will fill the visitors center's parking lot. The big finale will end with Layla's Sugar Shack and Big Bad Bob's BBQ on Oct. 26.

For more information on Tasty Tuesdays, visit [LoveSumter.com](http://LoveSumter.com) or call the Swan Lake-Iris Gardens Visitors Center at (803) 436-2640.



PHOTOS BY SHELBY GOULDING AND RICHIE WEBER / THE SUMTER ITEM  
 Swan Lake-Iris Gardens is hosting Tasty Tuesdays each Tuesday during October in front of its visitors center. Two vendors will be at the site each week from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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# Alabama swamped, 4 killed in floods from slow-moving front

PELHAM, Ala. (AP) — Terrified drivers climbed out of swamped cars and muddy floodwater flowed through neighborhoods after a stalled weather front drenched Alabama for hours, leaving entire communities under water Thursday and killing at least four people.

Dozens of people had to be rescued Wednesday night in central Alabama, where the National Weather Service said as much as 13 inches of rain fell, and a south Alabama town temporarily lost its main grocery store when a creek came through the doors of the Piggly Wiggly. Near the coast, heavy rains caused sewage to bubble out of underground pipes.

Metro Birmingham remained under a flash flood watch much of the day until storms moved into Georgia.

A 4-year-old girl and an 18-year-old woman died in separate incidents when floods carried away vehicles in northeast Alabama, said Marshall County Coroner Cody Nugent. Searchers found the bodies of a boyfriend and girlfriend, both 23, inside a car that was swept away by a swollen stream in the Birmingham suburb of Hoover, said Shelby County Coroner Lina Evans.

"Normally it's just a trickle. It was raging," she said. Evans identified the victims as Hoover residents Latin Marie Hill and Myles Jared Butler.

The deluge produced wild scenes on social media: floodwaters flowing between Christmas trees inside a Lowe's store in Hoover, refrigerator bins full of brown water in a home and dozens of cars with their headlights submerged. Rescue crews helped motorists escape as low visibility and standing water made travel life-threatening in some areas.

Some of the worst flooding happened in Pelham, outside Birmingham, where 82 people were rescued from homes and more than 15 were pulled from vehicles after creeks and streams overflowed, the Pelham Fire Department said early Thursday. More than 100 rescuers with 16 boats were involved, the statement said.

"Water was coming in the car so fast I had to bail out the window," said Jill Caskey, who watched Thursday morning as a tow truck hauled away her sport utility vehicle from a low-lying parking lot in Pelham. The car stalled as she tried to navigate floodwaters during the deluge.

A police officer helped her to high ground, and Caskey's husband picked her up on a roadside. But it took them three hours to travel a few miles home because of flooded roads.

Caskey has heard the weather safety mantra of "turn around, don't drown," but said "it really happened so fast I



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michael Halbert wades through his flooded neighborhood in Pelham, Alabama, on Thursday. Parts of Alabama remain under a flash flood watch after a day of high water across the state.

didn't have time to think about it."

The Alabama deluge came about seven weeks after flooding killed more than a dozen people in Tennessee. Such floods may be more common in the future because of global warming, scientists say.

Federal research has found that man-made climate change doubles the chances of the types of heavy rains that swamped Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with 26 inches of rain in 2016, killing a dozen people and damaging 150,000 homes.

In south Alabama near the Florida line, water covered streets in the flood-prone Escambia County towns of Brewton and East Brewton, inundating a shopping center and sending as much as 3 feet of water into the Piggly Wiggly. Two schools had to cancel classes, said Escambia Sheriff Heath Jackson.

To the south, in Baldwin County, as much as 250,000 gallons of waste water overflowed from sewage systems along Mobile Bay, officials said.

In Georgia, the National Weather Service said as many as 6 inches of rain fell in a crescent-shaped area from Columbus to Macon and then northeast toward Athens, Gainesville and South Carolina.

On Wednesday, news outlets reported rising waters forced people to evacuate from a motel in Macon, Georgia, after ground floor rooms flooded. In adjoining Jones County, schools canceled classes Thursday as floodwaters submerged some roads. Rising waters on the Ocmulgee River led Jones County deputies to rescue people trapped in their home Wednesday.

Flood warnings were posted along rivers in six states, and gates were opened at the dam on Lake Sinclair in central Georgia to reduce water levels.

Flash flood warnings were in effect through today along the weather front, stretching from the Florida Panhandle through northern Georgia and mountainous regions of eastern Tennessee and the western Carolinas.

## Suits: Fake account with similar name key to Murdaugh scheme

COLUMBIA (AP) — A South Carolina lawyer charged with trying to arrange his own death created a fraudulent bank account to steal money from an insurance settlement for his dead housekeeper and from his law firm, according to two lawsuits filed this week.

An attorney and college friend of Alex Murdaugh said his longtime friend lied to him and misled him about how to handle the estate of Murdaugh's housekeeper, who he was told died in a fall at the family's home.

Murdaugh's law firm, founded more than a century ago by his great-grandfather, said they also had no idea Murdaugh was diverting checks meant for the company that handles legal settlements to his own account by giving his account a slightly different name.

The PMPED Law Firm confronted Murdaugh on Sept. 3, demanding to be paid back, the law firm said in its lawsuit. The day after that encounter, Murdaugh called 911 from a lonely Hampton County road and claimed someone shot him while he was checking on a flat tire.

Police have charged him with insurance fraud, saying he arranged his own killing so his son could collect a \$10 million life insurance policy. But investigators said the shot only grazed Murdaugh's head. And the lawyer for the man charged with shooting at Murdaugh has said he was trying to take the gun away from his suicidal friend when it fired.

Murdaugh's lawyers said he remains at an out-of-state rehab facility for an opioid ad-

diction which they blame for his problems.

The missing money from the law firm and the housekeeper's estate are also part of two of six criminal investigations surrounding Murdaugh.

It all began June 7 when Murdaugh found the bodies of his son, Paul, 22, and 52-year-old wife, Maggie, shot to death outside the family's home. No one has been arrested in that case, with tight-lipped state police neither saying they have a suspect nor ruling anyone out. Murdaugh has adamantly denied any involvement with their deaths.

Gloria Satterfield was a housekeeper and nanny for the Murdaugh family for decades before she died in February 2018 after her sons were told by the Murdaugh family that she tripped over the family dog.

Murdaugh spoke to her sons at their mother's funeral and convinced them to hire Corey Fleming as their lawyer for a wrongful death settlement with his insurance company. But he did not tell them Fleming was a longtime friend, old college roommate and godfather to at least one of Murdaugh's sons.

Murdaugh and Fleming arranged nearly \$5 million in settlements from insurance companies, but the sons never saw a dime and didn't know about most of the money, according to their lawsuit.

The money was supposed to go to a company called Forge Consulting, which handles legal settlements. Instead, Murdaugh had created a bank account called "Alexander Murdaugh d/b/a Forge" and

asked the checks be written simply to "Forge" and deposited them into his fraudulent account, according to the lawsuit by Satterfield's estate.

A joint statement by Fleming and Satterfield's lawyers said Fleming didn't know what Murdaugh was doing and was cooperating fully.

"Mr. Fleming trusted his close friend and colleague to deal with him truthfully and honorably, only to be misled and deceived in one of the worst possible ways," the statement said.

Fleming acknowledged making mistakes and is repaying all the legal fees charged to Satterfield's estate and adding an unspecified settlement from the lawyer's malpractice insurance, the settlement said.

The suit by Murdaugh's law firm lays out a similar scheme where Murdaugh would take payments that were supposed to go to the consulting company and instead deposit them into his similar-sounding account.

PMPED Law Firm wants to find out if Murdaugh has been paid for any future books, appearances or other publicity surrounding his life, the firm said in a statement.

## Pfizer asks U.S. to allow COVID-19 shots for kids ages 5 to 11

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD and JENNIFER McDERMOTT  
The Associated Press

Pfizer asked the U.S. government Thursday to allow use of its COVID-19 vaccine in children ages 5 to 11 in what would be a major expansion that could combat an alarming rise in serious infections in youngsters and help schools stay open.

If regulators give the go-ahead, reduced-dose kids' shots could begin within a matter of weeks for the roughly 28 million U.S. children in that age group.

Many parents and pediatricians are clamoring for protection for youngsters under 12, the current age cutoff for COVID-19 vaccinations in the U.S. Not only can children sometimes get seriously ill, but keeping them in school can also be difficult with the coronavirus still raging in poorly vaccinated communities.

The Food and Drug Ad-

ministration will have to decide if there is enough evidence that the shots are safe and will work in younger children as they do in teens and adults. An independent expert panel will publicly debate the evidence on Oct. 26.

Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech said their research shows the younger kids should get one-third of the dose now given to everyone else. After their second dose, the 5- to 11-year-olds developed virus-fighting antibody levels just as strong as those that teens and young adults get from regular-strength shots.

While kids are at lower risk of severe illness or death than older people, COVID-19 does sometimes kill children — at least 520 so far in the U.S., according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. And cases in youngsters have skyrocketed as the extra-contagious delta variant has swept through the country.

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Sumter ITEM CLARENDON 2021

## WHEN THERE IS A WILL, THERE IS A WAY

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**GLENN F. GIVENS, ATTORNEY**

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# 80 YEARS

FROM PAGE A1

seat represented loved ones in each of the six branches who are still missing in action. A toasting ceremony was held in their honor to symbolize they were present in spirit.

Showcased next to the table and throughout the facility were historical items provided by the Sumter Military Museum and curator Sammy Way, who is also *The Sumter Item's* archivist. Generations of military uniforms were laid out, along with photographs, books and other items that dove into Shaw's past.

Those were not the only historical factors that reflected Shaw's past at the ball.

In attendance was retired Gen. Michael Moseley, the 18th chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force and former commander of the Ninth Air Force and U.S. Central Command, who conducted a number of air combat operations right from Sumter.

Also in attendance was Chief of Staff Charles Brown Jr., who started as an instructor pilot and assistant operations officer at Shaw Air Force Base in 1999.

"It really feels good to be back here at Shaw," Brown said during a speech.

He recalled Sumter being the place his family cherished most out of all the community bases at which he was stationed. His two boys were baptized by the Rev. Marion Newton at Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church and grew up in the community.

"We have a small connection here with the community of Sumter," Brown said. "This is probably the smallest place we've ever lived, but it's probably the place we remember most because of the community here."



PHOTOS BY SHELBE GOULDING / THE SUMTER ITEM



Mayor David Merchant and his wife, Laurie, attend the Air Force Ball.



Retired Gen. Michael Moseley, former U.S. Air Force chief of staff and commander of the Ninth U.S. Air Force and U.S. Central Command at Shaw Air Force Base, introduces the keynote speaker.



# LIBERTY

FROM PAGE A1

environment, only students determined to be within a 3-foot bubble of an infected student have to quarantine, regardless of whether they wear a face mask, per state public health department guidelines.

Other mitigation strategies implemented in early September at the charter school included limiting student movement in the school building, handwashing several times throughout the day (sinks are in every classroom) and screenings every morning for all students — called "scholars" — and visitors

to the building, according to Ivey.

Virus cases and quarantine totals each week have moved consistently downward, data show. On Sept. 22, Liberty had just five students (2.6%) in quarantine and no positive cases among students. On Thursday, totals in both categories for students and staff were zero, he said.

Ivey also attributed the lower numbers to its COVID Council, which brings together school leaders, two parent representatives, the school's nurse and a mitigation consultant from the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control three days per week for 30 minutes each day.

"What we do know," Ivey

said, "is that all of our current data trends show our new mitigation strategies are working to both safely offer in-person learning that keeps scholars in school five days a week. Our mitigation is centered on focused problem solving that brings stakeholders to the table."

In recent weeks, Sumter School District's virus cases and quarantine totals have also decreased. District administrators have said they think its mitigation efforts are also proving effective in schools. Additionally, the spread of COVID-19 has declined recently in the state and nation since peaking in September. Local and regional hospitalizations have been decreasing, though health

officials continue to note the majority of hospitalizations, those requiring ventilators and those dying from the virus are unvaccinated.

The local district implemented a mask mandate on Monday for all students and staff.

Ivey said Liberty STEAM has been getting "overwhelming support" from its parents/families who are encouraging their children to wear masks to school. He estimated Thursday about 85% of students and staff consistently wear a mask throughout the school day.

Instruction for quarantined students at home from the charter school includes virtual recorded lessons in addition to academic packets.

# Coroner: Feet that washed up far apart were from same woman

NORTH CHARLESTON (AP) — Two human feet that washed ashore months and miles apart in South Carolina belonged to the same person, officials said.

Charleston County Coroner Bobbi Jo O'Neal said at a news conference Wednesday that her office determined that they belonged to Janet Robinson, a 57-year-old woman who went missing.

Her cause of death is still under investigation. It has been determined that she was originally from Mississippi and was living near Charleston at the time of her disappearance. She was last seen in August 2020, news outlets reported.

A right foot, still inside a black-and-green running shoe, washed up near Fort Sumter in October 2020. And in March, a left foot in the same type of sneaker was found on James Island.

O'Neal said her office submitted DNA from the right foot to the University of North Texas Center for Human Identification, hoping to receive a profile that could be uploaded to the FBI's national database.

Still waiting for results at the end of June, the coroner's office sent a sample to a private forensic laboratory that aims to solve cold cases. Within three months, the lab had a match.

Officials contacted the person, who submitted a consumer DNA test in 2019. They said they had a sister who went missing in Charleston.

O'Neal said the coroner's office is working with the Charleston County Sheriff's Office and Robinson's family to investigate the circumstances surrounding the woman's death and to recover the rest of her remains.

# DUCKFEST

FROM PAGE A1

World Duck Calling Contest.

At 11:30 a.m., Kids' Yoga lessons will be offered on the main stage by Melissa of Southern Bliss Yoga.

At 12:30 p.m., Beau Mongold of Camp Bob Cooper will hold a Children's Wildlife Education program on the main stage. As part of its Fire and Life Safety Community Fair Day, Clarendon County Fire Rescue will demonstrate a vehicle extrication on Cantey Street at 12:30 p.m.

At 1 p.m., Will Do Kennels will host a Retriever Demonstration on the main stage.

At 2 p.m., CCFR will present a controlled side-by-side burn at the corner of Cantey and Ridgeway streets, across from the CCFR's Summerton fire station.

At 2:30 p.m., Duckfest will host a cornhole tournament at the main



MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

A mallard duck comes in for a landing at Swan Lake-Iris Gardens recently. Plenty of duck calling will be heard on Saturday.

stage.

At 3 p.m., line up at the street for the best view of Duckfest's parade down Main Street. The parade will line up and begin at Summerton Baptist Church and end on Ridgeway Street.

At 3:45 p.m., find out who lured in the biggest catch during Duckfest's fishing tournament. Derrick McLeod will announce all the winners at the

main stage.

At 4 p.m., the winners of the day's Duck Calling Contest will be announced at the main stage.

At 4:30 p.m., Duckfest's Art Contest winners will be announced on the main stage.

At 5:30 p.m., get ready for some live music as Homegrown: The Band by Ray Mac take the main stage.

Also at 5:30 p.m., the teams competing for the best in the cook-off competition will have their specialties ready to eat. Tickets are \$20, and you can sample as much as you want. Ticket holders will be given raffle tickets so they can vote on which team had the best fare.

Duckfest's cook-off features some award-winning chefs, including Jeff Lee, Low Country-Clay Stanley, Taw Caw Crew-Joseph and Chalmers Stukes, Jake Buddin, Orchard House Café, Junior Chamber, Mac Bagnol and Jamie Hodge, Trey Bagnol and Clarendon Hall football players Ralph Ardis, Tim Korn and Billy Cato.

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# THE CLARENDON SUN

## Clarendon 4 names teachers of the year and district teacher

BY KAREEM WILSON  
kareem@theitem.com

Jessica Boyington, a math and science teacher at Walker Gamble Elementary School, was named Clarendon School District 4's 2021-22 District Teacher of the Year.

Clarendon 4 announced its selection for its 2021-22 teachers of the year and district teacher of the year on Sept. 22 with this being the first-ever selection process in the consolidated district since Clarendon School District 1 and 3 consolidated to form Clarendon 4 in July.

Each candidate was chosen based on dedication and commitment to the students and the district. After being selected as teachers of the year, each educator was interviewed for the district teacher title, with Boyington being selected out of the seven other candidates.

Born and raised in Turbeville, Boyington said she was both humbled and honored for this recognition at her hometown school in the New Zion community. She has taught at Walker Gamble for 11 years and has been an educator for 13 years. She realized that her passion was always in the classroom.

"I know why I got into this; it's not a business or a job for me. It's my passion," Boyington said. "I don't ever want to be out of the classroom. I know that you hear lots of people say that, but I can tell you, I'm 100% confident that if I don't have my students, I'm not growing because they are who teach me where to go to the next level and how to better myself."

Upon learning she was selected as district teacher, she was overjoyed.

"When they called my name, I was shell shocked," she said. "I was very excited, happy and proud that I'm going to get to learn and grow from this experience. That's what it's all about with all of us coming together and learning from each other."

During her 13 years of educating, she has taught grades three, four, five and small groups of Gifted and Talented as well as served as a STEAM Lab instructor. She said there is nothing better than coming

home to teach in your community and seeing improvements in education. In the last decade, she said things have changed by "leaps and bounds" at Walker Gamble Elementary. She has observed a growth of technology by teachers and students in classroom learning, even before the pandemic, and said students are quickly adapting to online curriculum that is preparing them for the world.

She also has worked alongside the state's Department of Education with the Collective Leadership initiative for the last four years and said the main goal of this initiative is collaborating on ideas among teachers and administrators in schools to help them grow as leaders.

"People think it's a program, but it's not. It's a mindset," she said. "What Collective Leadership is, is the mindset there is a leader in everybody. Everybody's a leader. You just have to find it and grow it. It's all about sharing and making decisions together, always with the forefront of how is this going to help the students."

She sees herself continuing her passion for teaching the next generation and preparing them for the next phase of their educational journey.

The seven other educators who were chosen as teachers of the year were Wanda House at Summerton Early Childhood Center; Shelly Lowder at Walker Gamble Elementary School; Bridgit Wells at Dr. Rose H. Wilder Elementary School; Deon Jones at East Clarendon Middle/High School; Elizabeth Briley at East Clarendon Middle/High School; John Villanueva at Scott's Branch Middle School; and Jane Fisher at Scott's Branch High School.



BOYINGTON



JONES



HOUSE



BRILEY



LOWDER



VILLANEUEVA



WELLS



FISHER



PHOTOS PROVIDED  
The Monarch Strong Corp. Bike-Run-Walk Challenge included a festival complete with pony, horse and donkey rides, food, dancing and more.

## Monarch Strong Corp. bike ride, festival a huge success

BY SHARRON HALEY  
Clarendon contributor

MANNING — A vision to help fellow Clarendon School District 2 students became a reality when the Monarch Strong Corp. hosted its inaugural 26-mile bike ride, followed the next day by a festival with lots of competitions, food and fun.

Monarch Strong Corp. is a multi-faceted, nonprofit organization that will focus on providing fundraisers to create fun memories, promote physical fitness, great health and wellness and scholarships for deserving Manning High School seniors as well as generate money for other deserving students in CSD2.

On Sept. 17, MSC kicked off its two-day event when 10 bicyclists rode 30 miles from the Manning IGA on Mill Street to the Santee Dam and back. On Sept. 18, the day began with the MS Bike-Run-Walk Challenge, in which 50 cyclists, runners and walkers registered to participate. Everyone who completed the challenge was awarded either a platinum, silver or bronze medal.

"Several attendees said they really enjoyed being out because this was their first time being out in a public setting due to the pandemic," said Sara Pearson, MSC's coordinator of public relations. "These outdoor events

provided a sense of safety for many. One lady stated, 'It was the perfect setting for outdoors, and the size of the crowd allowed for social distancing, because if it had been crowded, then I would not have stayed.'"

Representatives with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control were also on site giving free COVID-19 vaccinations.

Pearson said attendees were able to tour fire trucks and EMS vehicles from Clarendon County Fire Rescue. Smitty's Grill Master BBQ Cook-Off added extra flavor and sauce to the festival. Free rides on Pixie the Horse, Jack the Donkey and Chico the Pony were a hit with the youngsters. The Ultimate Gamers Mobile Gaming trailer was enjoyed by children of all ages. And the highlight of the festival was the live performance by the Southern rock, blues and shag band Southern Blend.

"MSC would like to give a big thank you to all the sponsors, public officials, donors, volunteers, the Bike-Run-Walk Challenge participants and all the festival attendees for their contributions to the event," Pearson added. "Your contributions, big or small, will assist in our efforts to initiate support to deserving students in CSD2 and to award post-secondary education scholarships at the completion of the 2021-22 school year."

## Manning High kicks off its Book of the Month Initiative

BY SHARRON HALEY  
Clarendon contributor

MANNING — Reading allows individuals to explore faraway lands, cultures and beliefs, places they may never get to visit in person.

Reading is also paramount to a good education.

Reading expands a person's vocabulary while also sharpening writing skills. It helps build independence and self-confidence, inspires imagination, aids in focusing and concentration, improves memory and sharpens communication skills. Reading develops cognitive thinking and is also a very effective stress buster.

From Kirsten Cole-MacMurray's "See Spot Run" to Dr. Seuss' "Green Eggs and Ham" to John Steinbeck's and Frank Galati's "The Grapes of Wrath," reading is an essential part of a child's growth.

Julie Toole, media specialist at Manning High School, is excited to kick off the school's Book of the Month Initiative in October with "Picture This" by Norah McClintock.

"Picture This" is about a young man named Ethan who may know something "that someone is willing to kill for."

According to the book's press release, Ethan lives in a foster home. While the young man struggles to put his life on the right track, he participates in a photograph program for at-risk kids. While in the program, Ethan finds himself threatened again and again by someone who wants his camera.

What does Ethan know? What is on his camera that someone is willing to kill for? While struggling to stay out of trouble and solve the mystery, Ethan discovers he has all the answers. He just needs to determine what the questions are.

The eBook also has a few twists to ensure that the reader listens to the entire book.

"Picture This" is an enhanced eBook that can be read aloud to the reader, or the reader can read it at his or her own pace. Each month students will be asked to do an exit ticket about the book. In addition to the exit ticket, students will have a brief "in-person" meeting to discuss the book. A virtual meeting will be held if a large number of students participate that month. Prizes will be awarded monthly for participating. At the end of the school year, students will be placed into a drawing for a larger prize.

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**Estate Notice Clarendon County NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES**

All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Clarendon County, the address of which is 411 Sunset Dr. Manning, SC 29102, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim.

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Personal Representative:  
Christopher R. Durant  
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Manning, SC 29102  
Christopher R. Durant  
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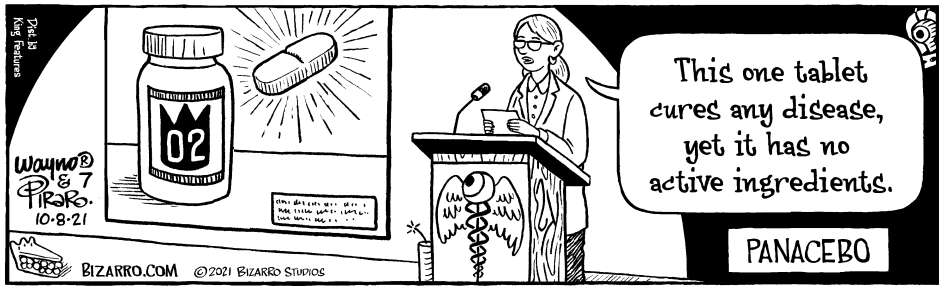
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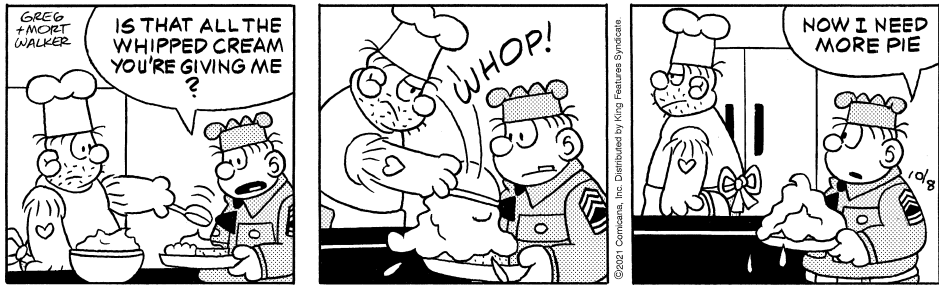
**ANDY CAPP**



**GARFIELD**



**BEETLE BAILEY**



**BORN LOSER**



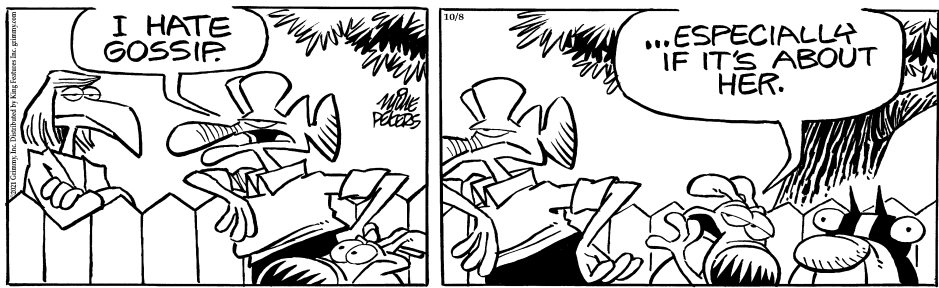
**BLONDIE**



**ZITS**



**MOTHER GOOSE**



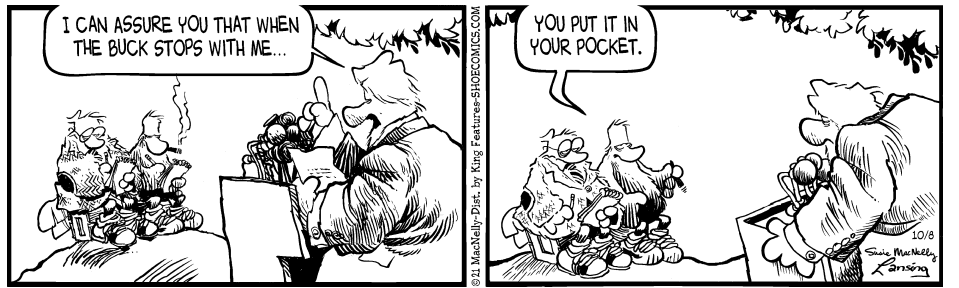
**HERB AND JAMAAL**



**DILBERT**



**JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE**



**Woman irked by husband's nicknames for grown kids**



**Dear Abby**  
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

**DEAR ABBY** — My husband and I have been happily married for 10 years. This is a second marriage for both of us. We don't have children together, but my

"Father." Seeing these adult women reverting to childhood drives me up a wall. They talk and act like little girls and use baby talk with each other, too. I have shared with my husband more than once that this "innocent" nickname game keeps his daughters stuck in old childhood patterns, while keeping other family members out of the conversation. How would you suggest I handle this?

do, it may be less frustrating than trying to change them. **DEAR ABBY** — I have been married for 45 years, but the love of my life is now in a memory care facility because of Alzheimer's. We have always sent out greeting cards during the holidays. I'm now wondering how I should sign them this year — with both our names as usual or just my own?

husband has grown daughters in their 50s from a previous marriage. Generally, we have good relationships with each other.

**DEAR "OUTSIDER"** — Because you have shared with your husband "more than once" that you feel sidelined when his daughters do this, and nothing has changed, try this: Arrange to visit with friends or schedule an activity you enjoy while your husband's "girls" visit their daddy. If you

**DEAR WONDERING** — I vote for sending the cards out with both of your names. There will come a time when you send them from just yourself, but until his passing, his name should be included.

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

**JUMBLE**

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
By David L Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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

EVOKA

AEGGU

VRREDI

NUDOFE



BY LATE 1969, EACH OF THE BEATLES WERE GIVING INTERVIEWS THAT WERE ---

“ ”

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HOBBY TRACT USEFUL UTOPIA  
Answer: When Ali knocked out Foreman in Zaire in 1974, the newspaper story was — ABOUT A BOUT

**SUDOKU**

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

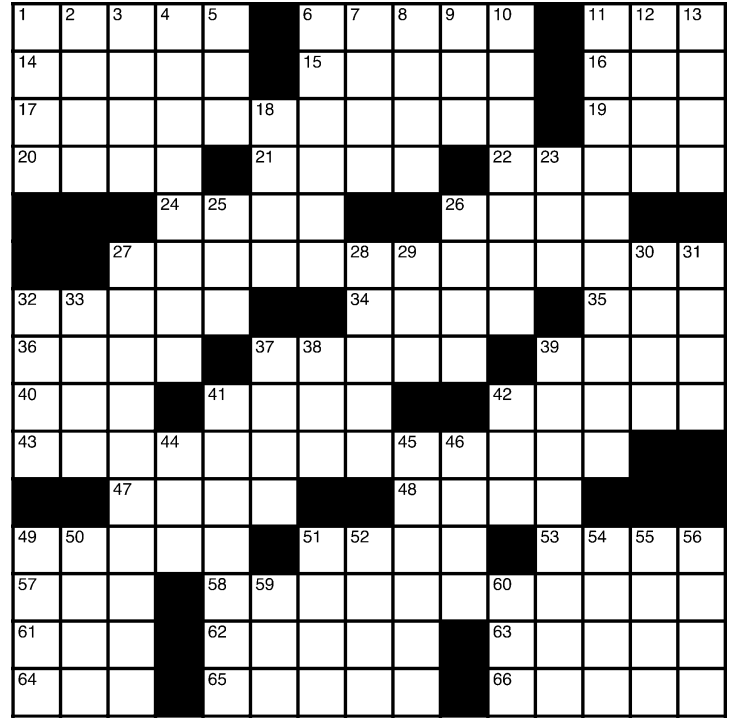
**PREVIOUS SOLUTION**

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

**THE DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE**



**Jennifer Lee and Victor Galson**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Nike competitor
  - 6 "Don't mind \_"
  - 11 Popcorn buy
  - 14 Shroud
  - 15 Schleppe
  - 16 Toon storekeeper who was once in a barbershop quartet
  - 17 Call of the wild?
  - 19 Kennel club category
  - 20 Postings at ORD
  - 21 Some are considered essential
  - 22 Pair to wear
  - 24 Welder of the hammer
  - 26 Sourdough unit
  - 27 Call of the wild?
  - 32 Popular chip
  - 34 Arrests
  - 35 Density symbol, in physics
  - 36 "Superman" surname
  - 37 Vacancy sign
  - 39 Uppity sort
  - 40 Person who's usually good?
  - 41 Informal title used seven times in
- DOWN**
- 1 Want a lot, with "for"
  - 2 Schedule space
  - 3 caucuses
  - 4 Sch. with 23 campuses
  - 5 What powder-hounds do
  - 6 Celeb of the moment
  - 7 Turkey, e.g.
  - 8 Medical suffix
  - 9 Super Bowl party site
  - 10 Big part of the gig economy
  - 11 Casual parting
  - 12 In the know about
  - 13 Bargains
  - 18 Gamer more likely to get pwned
  - 23 Inner \_
  - 25 "Last Week Tonight" ainer
  - 26 Pride letters
  - 27 Catch up on, in a way
  - 28 Relative challenge for some
  - 29 Half a 2010s dance craze
  - 30 "Yeah, sure"
  - 31 Asian beef city
  - 32 Passed (by) fast
  - 33 Latest thing
  - 37 Drop precipitously
  - 38 Texter's "Wow!"
  - 39 Lazy
  - 41 [I'm out]
  - 42 Classic sandwich, for short
  - 44 One standing in an alley
  - 45 "Really, no damage"
  - 46 Property claim
  - 49 Gymnastics event
  - 50 Like a double rainbow
  - 51 Guinea pig's pad
  - 52 Disappearing Asian sea
  - 54 Staffer
  - 55 Van Gogh subject
  - 56 Some summer newcomers
  - 59 Resource in the board game Catan
  - 60 Dubious "gift"
- Previous Puzzle Solved**
- |            |           |         |
|------------|-----------|---------|
| ALPO       | ARTOO     | JAVA    |
| REES       | REALM     | ARID    |
| MNEMONIC   | DEVICES   |         |
| POKEMON    | HAIL      |         |
| IRING      | MARE      | SAL     |
| TENT       | GOITARS   | SOLO    |
|            | DISC      | NOISE   |
| SOFTENED   | THE       | BLOW    |
| IDIOIT     | ROOS      |         |
| ROGERMOORE | NASH      |         |
| IRS        | AARP      | LOTTO   |
|            | TINA      | BEARHUG |
| SILENT     | TREATMENT |         |
| ICET       | ROOTS     | ANTI    |
| CUTE       | ARTSY     | LASE    |



AROUND TOWN

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

Terror Trail at Second Mill Pond is back this year at 1065 Old W. Liberty St. on Oct. 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, and 29-31 starting at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person, and all proceeds benefit the local Boy Scouts and Sumter Elks Lodge charities.

Are you interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine? The S.C. Department of Education will host two vaccination clinics in Clarendon County as follows: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9, at East Clarendon High School, 1171 Pope St., Turbeville; and 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 10, at Summerton Town Hall, 10 Main St., Summerton. Saturday attendees age 12 and up will be able to receive the Pfizer vaccine and those age 18 and up will be able to receive the Moderna vaccine or the one-shot Johnson & Johnson (Jans-

sen) vaccine. Sunday attendees age 12 and up will be able to receive the Pfizer vaccine and those age 18 and up will be able to receive the Moderna vaccine. The vaccine is available for those needing either their first or second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.

The Lincoln High School Preservation Alumni Association Board will hold a teleconference meeting at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 9.

The Lee County Chamber of Commerce will host a one-day pumpkin patch 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 9, at 102 N. Main St., Bishopville. Residents can purchase decorative and carving pumpkins. Call (803) 483-2800.

The Lincoln High School Preservation Alumni Association will hold a teleconference meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 17. Call Rose Colclough at (803) 773-5314 or Ronetta Moses at (803) 775-2703 for the telephone number and access code.

PUBLIC AGENDA

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

CLARENDON COUNTY COUNCIL Monday, 6 p.m., Administration Building, Council Chambers, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning

SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES Monday, 6 p.m., 1345 Wilson Hall Road

LEE COUNTY COUNCIL Tuesday, 9 a.m., council chambers

SUMTER COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES Tuesday, 5 p.m., library

LYNCHBURG TOWN COUNCIL Tuesday, 6 p.m., Teen Center on Magnolia Street, Lynchburg

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

SUMMERTON TOWN COUNCIL Tuesday, 6 p.m., town hall

The last word in astrology EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Align yourself with people who get what

you're trying to do and are willing to assist you in reaching your goal. The information you share will help you adapt and head in a direction tailored to fit your lifestyle. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A change may not be welcome, but will be in your best interest. Take a moment to think matters through, and you'll come up with an alternative that will encourage you to use your skills, knowledge and experience efficiently. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Plan to get out and have fun. Mix business with pleasure by getting to know some of the people in your industry, and you'll receive some interesting perspectives on how to improve and advance. Romance is on the rise. 3 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Say less and do more. Reach out to someone who shares your sentiments and your interests, and you will avoid getting involved in an argument. Make home improvements that will help you avoid negativity and complaints. Keep the peace. 5 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't make promises you can't keep. Problems at home will mount if you're overly generous with outsiders while neglecting domestic issues. Be prepared to do something special for someone close to you. Avoid getting into unnecessary trouble. 2 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Check in on someone who may need help. A kind gesture will make you feel good and help you realize how lucky you are. Time spent with someone who faces different battles will be eye-opening and encourage you to explore new possibilities. 4 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Establish what's happened and what you want

to do, then get the ball rolling. Use intelligence to make decisions that will lead to personal growth and new beginnings. Address issues concerning loved ones, and you'll resolve matters quickly. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Follow through with your plans. Let imagination lead the way. Sign up for something that brings you joy. Make a decision that will improve your lifestyle and encourage you to follow your heart. Don't give up or give in; get started. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Examine your current situation, then consider what you can do to improve your day-to-day living conditions. Rethink how you use your skills, and you'll come up with a plan that encourages you to expand your interests and qualifications. 3 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You are overdue for a change, but first evaluate the pros and cons. Refuse to let anyone push you in a direction that isn't going to have long-term benefits. Keep your anger level down, and do what's best for you. 4 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotions will spin out of control if you let personal matters escalate. Stand back and be observant, and you'll come up with a solution that will put you in an excellent position to persuade others to see things your way. 2 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Look for a unique investment that will supply financial stability. Stick to a budget, and be cautious of any deal that requires shared expenses. Moderation will be essential if you want to be stress-free and in control. 5 stars

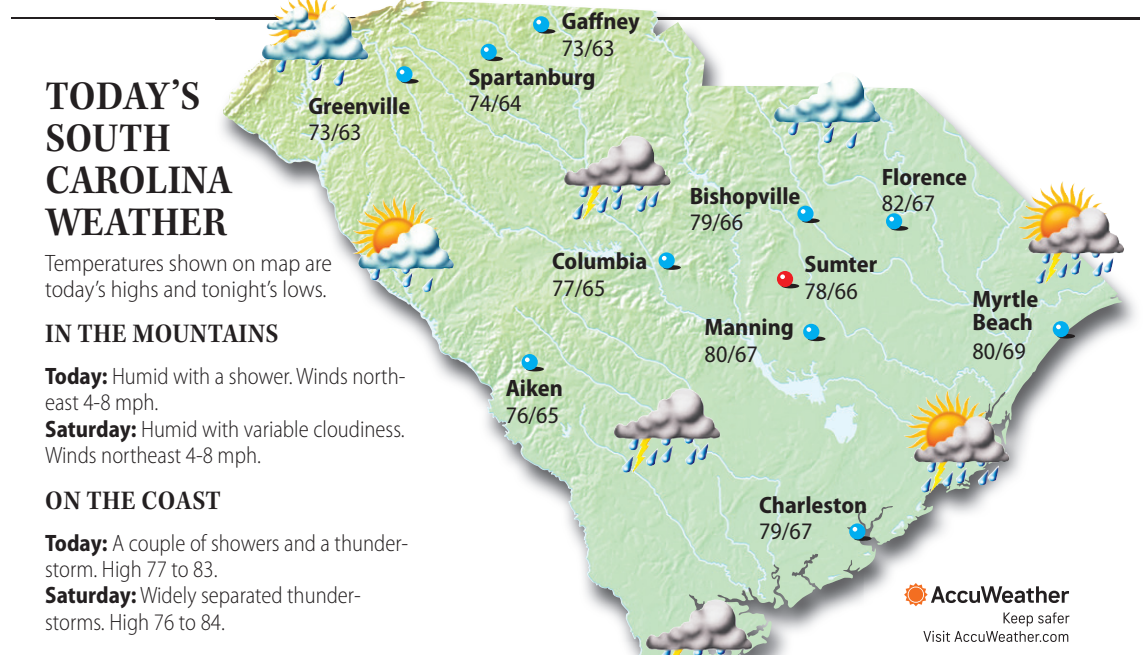
1 star: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. 2 stars: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. 3 stars: Focus and you'll reach your goals. 4 stars: Aim high; start new projects. 5 stars: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

Table with 6 columns: TODAY, TONIGHT, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY. Includes weather icons, temperature ranges, and wind directions/speeds.



LOCAL ALMANAC

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Includes Temperature (High, Low, Normal), Precipitation (24 hrs ending 2 p.m. yest.), and Record high/low.

LAKE LEVELS

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

SUN AND MOON

Table with 4 columns: Item, Time, Item, Time. Includes Sunrise, Moonrise, Sunset, Moonset and phases for Oct. 12, 20, 28, Nov. 4.

RIVER STAGES

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

TIDES

Table with 4 columns: Time, High, Low, Ft. Lists tide times for Myrtle Beach on Today and Sat.

NATIONAL CITIES

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Sat. Lists cities like Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, etc.

REGIONAL CITIES

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Sat. Lists regional cities like Asheville, Athens, Augusta, Beaufort, Cape Hatteras, etc.

Advertisement for 'We have a NOSE for NEWS' featuring a cartoon dog detective and the Sumter ITEM logo.

ANSWERS TO TODAY'S PUZZLES

CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with filled-in letters.

SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers.

JUMBLE

ABOVE GAUGE DRIVER FONDUE By late 1969, each of the Beatles were giving interviews that were — "FOUR"-BODING

SUMTER SPCA PETS OF THE WEEK



Starky



Karena

FAR LEFT: Starky is a neutered 1-year-old shepherd mix. He is active and friendly. Starky is a high-energy dog who loves to run and play. He would be best as an only pet with an active owner.

LEFT: Karena is a housebroken 10-week-old silver tabby American shorthair. She is super with other kittens and children. Karena is a very cuddly, loving and affectionate girl who adores hugs and kisses. She is a little purr machine who is gentle and playful.

The Sumter SPCA is located at 1140 S. Guignard Drive, (803) 773-9292, and is open 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. every day except Wednesday and Sunday. Visit the website at www.sumterscpca.com.

The SPCA relies heavily on community support and donations. Currently, the biggest needs are for dry puppy and kitten food, wet cat food, cat litter and cleaning supplies. The following are also appreciated: Newspapers, stuffed animals, heavy duty trash bags (30 gallon or larger), dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, bleach, paper towels, sheets and comforters, baby blankets, canned dog and cat food, dry dog food, treats, leashes and collars, disinfectant spray, all-purpose cleaner, air freshener, no scratch scrubbers, two-sided sponges for dishes, litter freshener and, of course, monetary donations are also gratefully accepted.

## HOPING FOR HOME FIELD

### Crestwood and Lakewood battle with second place in region on the line

BY TIM LEIBLE  
tim@theitem.com

Matchups between Crestwood and Lakewood always come with a lot of drama. The two Sumter School District schools that used to stand together as Hillcrest have played some dramatic matchups over the years. Now the Gators and Knights face off with something crucial at stake: a home playoff game.

Each team has lost one region game coming into Friday night's matchup. Lakewood lost its region opener against Camden, while Crestwood fell to the Bulldogs last week. That secures Camden at the top of Region VI-3A, but second place is still up for grabs. That will be determined on Friday. The winner will all but certainly lay claim to a home game in the first round of the playoffs, though Crestwood will still have a matchup with Lake City next week that could slightly complicate matters if the Knights beat Lakewood.

"One of our goals was to win the region and play a playoff game at home and that's what we've got in front of us," Crestwood head coach Roosevelt Nelson said. "We're going to try to attack that head on."

Lakewood also has another milestone on the line. The Gators are looking to win their fourth straight region game, something that Lakewood has never accomplished, while also playing the first home playoff game in program history.

"This game is huge for both schools. There's a lot riding on this. There's history riding on this for us because Lakewood has never hosted a home playoff game. Lakewood has

never won four straight region games," Gator head coach Larry Cornelius said. "Definitely a lot that could happen on Friday. We want to be second (in the region) but we have a heck of a team that we have to compete against on Friday."

Crestwood comes into the matchup looking to rebound from a 35-26 loss to Camden where the Knights quickly went down 14-0 and had to claw their way back in the game through the air. Crestwood is more than capable of throwing the ball, but they love to establish their rushing attack early. The Knights will try to get back to doing that against Lakewood after rushing for a total of 33 yards against Camden.

"We've got the ability to throw the ball, but it's something we don't want to have to live and die by," Nelson said. "We've been really focusing on ourselves, not too much on Lakewood. We're trying to fix the mistakes we made against Camden in the run game. We have to be able to run the ball."

Lakewood, meanwhile, has won three straight region games, including last week's 22-16 win over Manning. Cornelius hopes his team can ride that momentum to a fourth straight victory.

"We've certainly got our confidence up, but we're definitely not overconfident. Our kids are very humble and they understand what's at stake," Cornelius said. "They know this is going to be a very tough game for us because, personally, I think Crestwood has the most athletes in the region. That's what we have to defend

SEE RIVALS, PAGE B4



ABOVE: Lakewood's Zayveon Wells has been a jack-of-all-trades for the Gators offensively this season, taking snaps at quarterback, running back and wide receiver. He'll be a key part of the gameplan as the Gators face Crestwood on Friday.

MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM



LEFT: Crestwood quarterback Javion Martin will look to do damage with his arm and his legs as the Knights host Lakewood in a battle for second place in Region VI-3A on Friday.

NICH PITTS / SPECIAL TO THE SUMTER ITEM



The Lee Central seniors will get to play at Stallion Stadium for the first time since 2019 when LCHS hosts Kingstree on Friday for Homecoming.

MICAH GREEN / THE SUMTER ITEM

## Finally coming home

### Stallions host Kingstree for long-awaited Homecoming

BY TIM LEIBLE  
tim@theitem.com

Homecoming happens every year at high schools across the country. A football game is played. A king and queen are crowned. This year at Lee Central, it means a little bit more.

For the first time since 2019, LCHS will have a home game in Stallion Stadium. It's fitting that the game is also Homecoming. In many ways, it's the ultimate Homecoming for a program that lost their 2020 season to COVID-19. Even this season, Lee Central was supposed to have their home opener in September only to have the game postponed as Latta battled the virus. This is a game that's been in the making for far too long.

"I can tell you one thing, it didn't take much to get them ready to go," said head coach Justin Danner of the excitement surrounding Friday's Homecoming matchup with Kingstree. "I think now it's about trying to keep them from going crazy. Their so excited, wanting to play in front of their home crowd

for once, especially after being on the road for an entire year.

"I know for a fact that I've not ever coached and been away as long as I've been away. Whether it be our first four games and then you tie on having to miss a game or so due to COVID-19. We're more than excited to get out there and play in front of our fans for the first time this year."

Lee Central comes into the game with a little bit of momentum after using a big second half to beat Andrews 34-14 after trailing at the half. The Stallions bring a 2-1 Region VII-2A record into Friday's matchup with Kingstree and the boost that came from last week's win is crucial as they fight for a spot at the top of the region.

"Our race is tight in our conference right now and every week it matters because everyone is really trying to jockey for position," Danner said. "Coming out of Andrews with the win was what we were after. We started a little slow, but we were able to get it going. Now we're able to carry that mo-

mentum into Friday."

Lee Central now faces a Kingstree team that has played a Jekyll and Hyde season. They beat Andrews 30-28, but lost to Marion 40-0 and Mullins 32-0. Danner even saw a lot of positives in those lopsided losses.

"Kingstree is immensely talented. They have athletes all over the field," Danner said. "We saw them play against Marion before we played Marion and the score for that ballgame was probably a little deceiving. Kingstree went up and down the field on them and they were very hard to deal with. We knew that this was going to be a very tough football game."

Kingstree runs a spread offense, though they will occasionally bring two running backs into the backfield. The offense starts with quarterback Deon Elmore, who is dynamic with his legs and his arm. In the backfield, Mekhi Epps has been dangerous for the Jaguars, while Hakeem Barr is their biggest threat on the outside.

SEE STALLIONS, PAGE B4

## Clemson unranked and seeking answers

BY PETE IACOBELLI  
The Associated Press

CLEMSON — Clemson is struggling to score points, is no longer a contender for the national title and has fallen out of the Top 25.

It marks an end to the Tigers' domination of opponents, being part of the national picture and in the rankings for almost seven years. Fans shouldn't expect the Tigers (3-2, 2-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) to quickly bounce back in the rankings.

They head into a bye week after their bumpy start and still haven't figured out a way to pull away

from league teams they used to defeat by four or five touchdowns.

Clemson coach Dabo Swinney wasn't concerned about his team's position when they were No. 1 in the country and isn't spending time fretting about being out of the rankings for the first time since November 2014.

"That doesn't have anything to do with us beating Syracuse at all," Swinney said this week of Clemson's matchup with the Orange on Oct. 15.

The Tigers do have an off week before their Atlantic Coast Conference

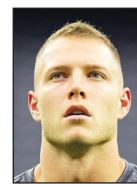
SEE CLEMSON, PAGE B4

## McCaffrey says TNF contributed to injury

BY STEVE REED  
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE — Add Christian McCaffrey to a growing list of NFL players who don't like Thursday night games.

The Carolina Panthers' 2019 All-Pro running back said he "definitely" feels like playing on a short week against the Houston



MCCAFFREY

Texans on Sept. 23 contributed to his strained hamstring, which held him out of last week's 36-28 loss to the Dallas Cowboys.

McCaffrey has been limited this week in practice, but feels as if he

might be able to play Sunday when the Panthers (3-1) host the Philadelphia Eagles (1-3).

However, Panthers coach Matt Rhule has said that will be a game-time decision.

McCaffrey pulled up during a first-quarter run against the Texans in Week 3 and has not played since.

He called the injury "extremely frustrating" and said it could have been avoided with more rest.

"I don't prefer Thursday night games," McCaffrey said Thursday. "You go through a lot in a football game and then you really get two days to recover — and one of

SEE MCCAFFREY, PAGE B3



# Taylor hits walk-off HR, Dodgers deck Cards 3-1 in WC game

BY BETH HARRIS  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — One big swing by Chris Taylor sent the Los Angeles Dodgers soaring and the St. Louis Cardinals crashing.

Taylor hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning to give the Dodgers a 3-1 victory Wednesday night in a scintillating NL wild-card game.

Justin Turner homered early and the 106-win Dodgers advanced to a best-of-five Division Series against the NL West champion Giants, who won 107 games to barely hold off rival Los Angeles for the division title. Game 1 is Friday night in San Francisco.

"That's gonna be fun. Yeah, two of the best regular-season records of all-time. We've been battling all year, so I expect a hard-fought series," Taylor said.

The Dodgers celebrated on the field before heading into their clubhouse to continue the party. Champagne and beer were poured over the heads of shirtless, goggle-wearing players, thrilled to have stayed alive for a shot at their Bay Area adversary.

"One of the great rivalries in sports," Los Angeles manager Dave Roberts said. "It's happening."

The sellout crowd of 53,193 at Dodger Stadium hung on every pitch as the tension of a tie game built from the fourth inning on. Fans waved blue towels, futilely urging on the few balls launched into the outfield only to see them caught in a winner-take-all matchup between two of the National League's most storied and successful franchises.

The crowd was on its feet in the ninth, anxiously waiting to see if the defending World Series champions could pull out a must-have win. Cody Bellinger got the Dodgers started when he drew a two-out walk from T.J. McFarland. Alex Reyes entered to face Taylor, and Bellinger stole second.

"That's huge, knowing I don't have to do too much," said Taylor, batting in the No. 9 slot after entering to play left field as part of a double switch in the seventh. "It kind of settled me down a little bit."

Taylor then sent a 2-1 breaking ball into the left field pavilion, triggering an explosion of cheers and ending an October struggle that lasted 4 hours, 15 minutes.

The versatile veteran struggled in September because of a recurring neck injury, and he came off the bench in the Dodgers' most important game of



The Los Angeles Dodgers celebrate with Chris Taylor (3) after his walkoff home run to beat the St. Louis Cardinals 3-1 in the National League Wild Card game on Wednesday in Los Angeles.

the season.

"Honestly, I was just trying to hit a single," Taylor said after launching the fourth game-ending homer in Dodgers postseason history. "He gave me a good slider to hit and I was able to get it up in the air."

It was the fifth walk-off home run in a winner-take-all postseason game, after Pittsburgh's Bill Mazeroski in the 1960 World Series, the Yankees' Chris Chambliss in the 1976 AL Championship Series and Aaron Boone in the 2003 ALCS, and Toronto's Edwin Encarnación in the 2016 AL wild-card game.

Taylor also made a nifty defensive play in the eighth, robbing Edmundo Sosa of a hit for the second out.

Tommy Edman dropped a one-out single into right off closer Kenley Jansen in the top of the ninth and stole second. Paul Goldschmidt took a called third strike and Tyler O'Neill went down swinging to end the threat. Edman went 3 for 5 with a run scored.

The Dodgers' bullpen stymied the St. Louis hitters, allowing just a pair of singles after the fifth inning.

"The whole bullpen stepped up. We've been doing it the whole year," Jansen said. "Off we go up north now."

Both teams had runners on in the sixth, seventh and eighth innings, but couldn't push a run across.

"It was a grind all night," Turner said.

St. Louis finished 0 for 11 with runners in scoring position, stranding 11

overall. The Cardinals went on a club-record 17-game winning streak in September to grab the second NL wild card, only to see their October dreams squelched.

"That's a clubhouse full of guys that are hurting," manager Mike Shildt said.

Dueling aces Adam Wainwright of St. Louis and the Dodgers' Max Scherzer struggled with their control early in just the second winner-take-all game in postseason history with two starting pitchers aged 37-plus. Wainwright is 40; Scherzer is 37.

"They were relentless," Wainwright said of the Dodgers. "We had our chances to win that game."

Wainwright and Scherzer issued two walks apiece through the first three innings. Scherzer's wild pitch led to a run in the first and he plunked Harrison Bader in the fourth.

Turner tied it at 1 in the fourth on a leadoff shot into the Dodgers' bullpen in left. It was the first homer Wainwright has ever given up on a curveball in the postseason. Turner's 13 postseason homers are the most in franchise history.

St. Louis led 1-0 when Edman scored on Scherzer's wild pitch. Edman singled leading off, stole second base and went to third when O'Neill fouled out to right.

Scherzer left with one out in the fifth after giving up a leadoff single to Edman and a walk to Goldschmidt. He

paced the dugout with his hands on his hips. Former Cardinal Joe Kelly got out of the jam after Goldschmidt reached third on a wild pitch.

Scherzer allowed one run and three hits, struck out four and walked three against his hometown team.

"We won the game. That's all that matters," Scherzer said.

Wainwright permitted one run and four hits in 5 1/3 innings. He struck out five and walked two.

The Dodgers had Wainwright on the ropes in the third, loading the bases with one out. He was within one ball of walking in the tying run before Trea Turner broke his bat grounding into an inning-ending double play on a 3-2 pitch.

## IN THE HOUSE

Nationals outfielder Juan Soto sat behind the plate wearing a Trea Turner jersey from his time in Washington. Soto finished second to Turner, his former Nats teammate, for the NL batting title. Turner won his first batting crown with a .328 average.

Soto said he wanted to support his teammates and "see their face when I surprise them."

It worked. Turner didn't know Soto was coming.

"When I saw him during the game I was laughing for him to be wearing my jersey," he said.

Nationals hitting coach Kevin Long was sitting next to Soto wearing Scherzer's jersey.

## LOSING WAGER

Roberts said he and retired Giants manager Bruce Bochy had a bet on the outcome of the NL West. The Giants took the title by a game over the Dodgers, whose eight-year reign ended on the final day of the regular season.

"I lost a dinner and a nice bottle of bordeaux because we didn't win the division," Roberts said, adding that Bochy will choose the vintage.

"Knowing him it's going to be some type of first growth, so it's not going to be cheap."

Roberts is a partner in Red Stitch Wine Group, which produced its first vintage in 2007.

## UP NEXT

Cardinals: Pitchers and catchers report for spring training in mid-February.

Dodgers: Open the best-of-five NLDS against San Francisco on Friday. They went 9-10 against the Giants this season.

# 49ers' Samuel turning into complete receiver

BY JOSH DUBOW  
The Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Deebo Samuel's days of being mostly a gadget player capitalizing on shovel passes, jet sweeps and screen passes are in the past.

Now in his third season with the San Francisco 49ers, Samuel is leading the NFL in yards receiving through four weeks since becoming a more complete receiver able to thrive downfield as well.

The former South Carolina wide out is coming off one of the most productive games of his career with eight catches for 156 yards and two TDs last week against Seattle.

He got open deep against a blown coverage for a 76-yard touchdown and then took a screen and fought his way into the end zone on an 8-yard score later in the game, showing off his versatility as a receiver.

"Deebo is a very special, unique player," 49ers linebacker Fred Warner said. "Especially in our type of offense, you can use him a lot of different ways.

Maybe there are people that are used similarly, but they're not Deebo. He's built like a running back, he runs like a running back, but he's a receiver. He attacks the ball like a receiver, he can make plays downfield like a receiver."

Samuel is just doing much more of his work this season downfield after spending his offseason focusing on improving his route running. Samuel showed some signs of that ability as a rookie when he emerged in the second half of the 2019 season as an important part of San Francisco's offense.

But last season he was almost entirely a gadget player with his average catch coming behind the line of scrimmage.

"I'm a pretty good guy with the ball in my hands and it was a plus to go out there and run routes this offseason," Samuel said. "Most of the things I was doing was getting in shape, boosting my stamina running routes. Not too much lifting because I'm already a big, kind of heavier guy. Just more route running and getting in shape."

Samuel was unable to do much of that type of work in the 2020 offseason. He broke his foot in June during informal workouts with teammates and missed the first three games of the season.



San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Deebo Samuel, left, has broken out this season as one of the top receivers in the league.

He then was hampered by a pair of hamstring injuries and ended the season with just 33 catches for 391 yards in seven games in a big dropoff from his rookie season when he had 57 catches for 802 yards.

"His second year, he never got right," coach Kyle Shanahan said. "He was never in football shape because he was hurt all offseason. As soon as he tried to get in shape, he would get reinjured. So this year, he came in like I was hoping he'd come in his second year, which wasn't his fault. ... Made it through all camp because of how good of shape he was in. And he's been able to handle the whole load without getting injured and keeping his stamina and power throughout games, which when he does, he's a lot to deal with."

Samuel has 28 catches for 490 yards and three TDs so far this season. That's the most yards through four games for a 49ers player since Jerry Rice's 522 in 1995 and most by anyone in the NFL since Julio Jones had 502 in 2018.

He scored on the 76-yarder last week and a 79-yarder against Detroit in the opener on deep throws, becoming the first player in three years with at least two TD catches of at least 75 yards in a

season.

He's also remained elite at turning short passes into big gains with his average of 9.7 yards after catch, more than 3 yards ahead of any other wide-out with at least 20 targets this season.

"It's a very cool thing to watch because Deebo's a player that if you take the time and you're able to show him exactly what you want, he is willing to do whatever it takes to improve upon it," offensive coordinator Mike McDaniels said. "It's your job as a coach to best articulate that through film to show him how he can get better. I know he wants to be great. And the best thing about him is he is not satisfied. He's been able to really expand his route tree."

NOTES: QB Jimmy Garoppolo didn't practice for a second straight day because of a calf injury. ... TE George Kittle (calf) also sat out the first two practices of the week. He did that last week before returning Friday and playing in the game. ... LT Trent Williams (shoulder) returned to practice. ... DL Samson Ebukam (hamstring), DL D.J. Jones (knee) and CB K'Waun Williams (calf) also missed practice.

## MCCAFFREY

FROM PAGE B1

those days is a travel day. So you get two days to recover, you hop on a plane, you're in a hotel and then go out and play in a football game. It's tough."

McCaffrey, who missed 13 games in 2020 because of injuries, said he thinks players need more time between games to recover from injuries.

He had 59 touches in his first two games, including 29 in the team's Week 2 win against the New Orleans Saints. He had nine touches in the first quarter against the Texans before leaving the game.

"I think I'm not alone in this, but I would argue against them," McCaffrey said when asked if he would like to see Thursday night games eliminated.

"I understand though it is part of the game. I can sit up here and complain, and I'm not complaining that's for sure. But it is frustrating when you feel like it's something that could have been avoided with a little more rest."

McCaffrey said he "definitely feels good" after two days of practice and thinks he can play. But that decision will be up to Rhule, who did not address reporters on Thursday.

When asked if he would be willing to play Sunday on a limited basis, McCaffrey said, "Whatever they ask me to do, I will do."

In other injury news, Panthers left tackle Cam Erving (neck) missed his second straight day of practice and center Matt Paradis was added to the injury report with an illness. Linebacker Shaq Thompson (foot) has already been ruled out of Sunday's game.







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