

the Sumter ITEM

STATE

S.C. breaks daily case count at nearly 9,000 A4

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Clarendon 4 officer reassigned after accusations of unlawful use of force

Student's parents file complaint against sheriff's office; protest will be held near school Jan. 5

BY SHARRON HALEY
Clarendon contributor

TURBEVILLE — The parents of a 12-year-old East Clarendon Middle School student have accused the school's resource officer of allegedly using unlawful force when

dealing with their son on Dec. 15.

According to Clarendon County Sheriff Tim Baxley, deputies were dispatched to the school regarding an alleged incident. The caller also told dispatch that she wanted to file a complaint.

Maj. Danny Graham and Lt. Shante Demary, of the Clarendon County Sheriff's Office, met with the alleged victim's mother the day after the incident, which reportedly involved SRO Jonathan Coker, a 13-year veteran with Clarendon County and a school resource officer since January 2017.

It was announced early Friday that Coker was reassigned.

"The deputy involved has been assigned to a non-school setting until the conclusion of the investigation," Baxley said.

Graham and Demary provided the victim's mother with a complaint form and told her that the sheriff's office could conduct an internal investigation into the incident.

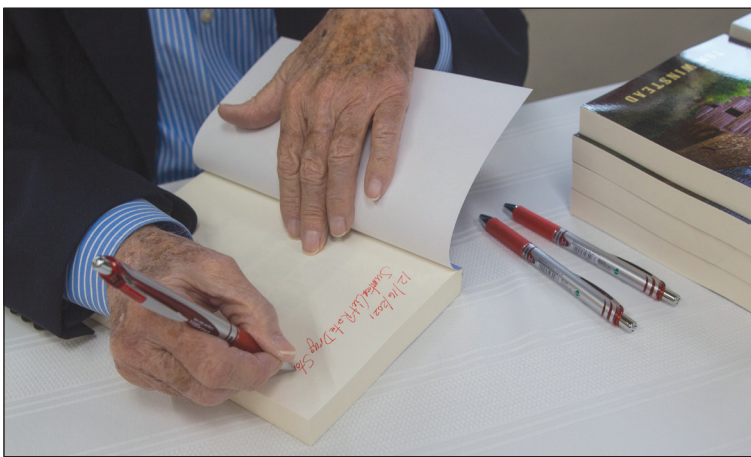
After deputies met with the alleged victim's mother, Bax-

ley said he requested the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division conduct an independent investigation because the allegations involved a deputy with the county.

During their investigation, Baxley said SLED agents obtained surveillance video of the alleged incident from the school.

SEE OFFICER, PAGE A8

'Keep moving' forward



Tom Winstead autographs his books for sale.

Sumter veteran, 90, looks ahead to new year while writing his 3rd novel

BY CAL CARY
cal@theitem.com

One 90-year-old Air Force veteran is starting the new year off right with new goals in the future as he began writing his third novel.

"The Executive Order," "Sweet Daddy Creek Club" and his current project, "Before the Beginning," are the three novels written by Sumter resident Tom Winstead, who doesn't plan on slowing down any time soon.

Winstead turned 90 on Nov. 18, 2021, and has yet to, technically, retire. According to the veteran's resume, he truly has never stopped working.

Winstead was born in 1931 and joined the U.S. Air Force

as soon as he could at age 17 in 1948. A couple years later, he found himself running bombing missions over North Korea during the Korean War.

Winstead served the next seven years overseas before returning to the United States to be an air science instructor at East Carolina University.

In 1960, he moved to Sumter and worked in the broadcasting side of the military at Shaw Air Force Base.

Three years later, tragedy struck and Winstead was hospitalized with signs of internal bleeding. They were pumping him with blood to keep him alive, but it was all disappearing as fast as it was going in him without a known

cause; 17 pints of blood were used. Winstead had to give confirmation to a surgeon to the possibility that he would not wake up after a surgery.

SEE WINSTEAD, PAGE A8



PHOTOS BY CAL CARY / THE SUMTER ITEM

Tom Winstead works in his living room at night and in the early mornings. Tom Winstead, 90, is writing his third novel as of Nov. 23.



Photos, documents and swords that Tom Winstead gathered during his 20-year military career are seen at his home.



Major producer bringing movie set to Summerton

Credits include 'Up in the Air,' 'Moonlight,' 'I Am Number Four'

BY KAREEM WILSON
kareem@theitem.com

Hollywood magic is coming to Summerton.

Director Lynn Dow and producers Wendy Tucker-Tannock and Elayne Schnieder-

man Schmidt are bringing the production of their newest feature film, "Bull Street," to the rural town in Clarendon County in January.

According to Dow, "Bull

Street" is a story about love, family and belonging influenced by the infamous mental institution located on that historic street in Columbia, South Carolina.

"It's amazing how many people we've met in South Carolina that have a story



TUCKER-TANNOCK



DOW

about Bull Street," Dow said. "It's a thought-provoking movie about greed, love and self-respect. It's not about Black or white. It's not about North versus the South. It's a story that disrupts our perspective of what is possible and motivates us to right the

wrongs of the past. The main character teaches us how to find truth amid deception, to display courage and grace against acrimony and find that happy ending we all desire."

Dow, a graduate of Columbia University and former Wall Street financial professional, is a writer, director

SEE MOVIE, PAGE A8

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DEATHS, B5

Joyce Lynn Johnson
Donald John Wilson
Willie White Sr.
Bessie Eaddy Williamson

WEATHER, A8

MORE RAIN COMING

A shower in places on Saturday and cloudy and breezy at night; rain on Sunday

HIGH 79, LOW 64

INSIDE

3 SECTIONS, 20 PAGES
VOL. 127, NO. 56

Classifieds B6
Comics C1
Opinion A9
Outdoors A8
Reflections A6
Sports B1
Yesteryear A7



SECOND FRONT

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Community meetings scheduled for Sumter's third round penny sales tax on Jan. 10, 13

BY SHELBY GOULDING
shelbie@theitem.com

Sumter County has scheduled community meetings for January to receive the public's input on the third round of the Penny for Progress sales tax initiative.

The initiative is a referendum that Sumter voters approved first in 2008 and again in 2014 to fund capital projects by raising the sales tax in the county by 1 cent and funneling those pennies to the initiative that funds capital improvement projects in the county.

The first referendum funded 16 projects and ushered in a \$75 million boost to the regional economy while the second, which is still ongoing, has a total of 28 associated projects and costs \$75.6 million. It runs until April 2023.

The purpose of the community meetings is to receive residents' input on the matter and collect project proposals from those who funnel pennies toward the sales tax; the third round is projected to reel in just under \$80 million. The sales tax is on gas, retail

and other sales in the community; about one-third of the revenue generated from the tax comes from non-residents.

"We want to fully engage with the community when it comes to explaining the Capital Projects Sales Tax, or Penny for Progress," Sumter County Administrator Gary Mixon said. "Our community meetings are designed to tell people how it started and what it funded after it first passed in 2008. When voters approved it again in 2014, it was simply a continuation of that original penny sales tax."

Should voters show approval next November, it will continue as it has for seven more years, Mixon said. According to state law, the sales tax has a 7-year lifespan unless voters approve its continuation.

It's the same penny hard at work, Mixon said.

"Our community meetings are also a forum for asking questions and giving input on what capital projects our residents think might be positive for our community," he added. "We strongly encourage input, and if you

can't attend a meeting, you can find a form on our website to fill out and request a project."

The county held five similar community meetings in December, as well as presented the third round's schedule for 2022.

In January, after the community meetings, the county will move into its stakeholders meeting phase, when they will meet with Sumter Economic Development, the education community, local public safety agencies and Sumter municipalities — the City of Sumter, Town of Mayesville and Town of Pinewood.

By February, the county will form the Penny Commission, which is filled by six appointed members — three appointed by the county, two appointed by the city and one appointed by either Mayesville or Pinewood. Mixon said the two towns rotate every penny sales tax, so this third round will be Pinewood.

The appointed commission will then shuffle through the project proposals — they must fall under four basic categories in capital sales tax

projects: public safety, infrastructure and facilities, transportation and quality of life — and finalize a list by April for Sumter County Council to approve.

The list will have to undergo three readings before it is passed. If passed, between June and November, the county will hand off the list to marketing, which will campaign for the third round of penny projects in the referendum election.

All community meetings will be open to the public, and forms to request a project or projects will be available at the meetings. The floor will also be open for a question-and-answer session.

There are two scheduled community meetings:

— Monday, Jan. 10, at 6 p.m. at the Dubose Fire Station, 3805 U.S. 15 North

— Thursday, Jan. 13, at 6 p.m. at the Ebenezer Community Center, 4580 Queen Chapel Road

Other meetings for Pinewood Township and Mayesville Township are to be announced at a later date.

BizTalk: Barber shop, home of The Drifters, leaves North Main Street amid revitalization

BY SHELBY GOULDING
shelbie@theitem.com

A group of downtown barbers traded their nostalgic black-and-white checkered flooring for a wheat-colored slab. Their small, homey shop of more than 16 years at North Main Street and Hampton Avenue was left behind for a spot off North Washington Street.

Sumter's Main Attractions Barber Salon always strayed from modern-day aesthetics, but the small business held out for as long as it could in downtown Sumter. They let go of their longtime home in July amid recent revitalization efforts that are bringing a new vision to downtown.

"It was kind of bittersweet," said Terry Pinkney, barber manager of Main Attractions. "It's a renewed atmosphere downtown. I think with the getting toward downtown as more food and entertainment, I think they're getting away from the apparel and different type public services."

The barber shop was first opened by Pinkney's father, Willie "Bill" Pinkney, an original member of The Drifters. He opened the shop on North Main Street in November 2004.

For years, the corner hub was the spot to hear stories about Pinkney's time as one of The Drifters and see his life in photographs that covered the walls from head to toe, wherever a mirror wasn't already taking up space.



PHOTOS BY SHELBY GOULDING / THE SUMTER ITEM
Main Attractions moved to 217 N. Washington St. after leaving its previous downtown Sumter location of more than 16 years.

Pinkney said the business got caught up in the mix of the downtown's revitalization efforts. Since 2004, the family had leased the property, but it

was not available for renewal. "The property was sold to Mr. (Greg) Thompson (who owns buildings such as Sidebar and Hamptons)," Pinkney

said. "We had first offers to actually do a purchase on the building, but it was just an expense that we couldn't bear to afford. You'd have to bring the building up to current codes."

Pinkney said he doesn't see the move as being forced out. He sees it as a "movement of change."

"I always welcome the change," he said. "You hate to get caught up in things like that, but you have to realize what's better for the commu-

nity, what's better for the city. We're just one business."

Pinkney said he didn't want to move his father's business but that it turned out to be a positive change for the shop. It's still located downtown, now at 217 N. Washington St., about five to 10 minutes from the previous location.

"It started out bitter, and by the time you bite into it real good and get an idea of what's really happening," Pinkney said, "it's great for the guys. They can get more customers. The parking was better. You're not locked in downtown."

The barbers are still getting acclimated to the new building, which has more space and parking. The walls remain lifeless so far without Pinkney's father's memorabilia of The Drifters, which is in the process of getting put up, according to Pinkney. The barber manager is also in the process of purchasing the new location, making it a permanent home rather than leasing again.

"We don't want to get caught up in the same thing again," Pinkney said. "It's hard to compete with big business."

Main Attractions offers female-style fade, men's haircuts and fades, Caesar cuts, tape and shave, student discounts, military discounts and more.

For more information, call (803) 773-7700 or visit www.bestproshintown.com/sc/sumter/main-attraction-barber/.

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AP FILE PHOTO

A nuclear power plant is seen in Brokdorf, northern Germany, in 2006. On Friday, Germany shut down half of the six nuclear plants it still has in operation, a year before the country draws the final curtain on its decades-long use of atomic power.

Germany shuts down half of its 6 remaining nuclear plants

BY FRANK JORDANS
The Associated Press

BERLIN — Germany on Friday shut down half of the six nuclear plants it still has in operation, a year before the country draws the final curtain on its decades-long use of atomic power.

The decision to phase out nuclear power and shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy was first taken by the center-left government of Gerhard Schroeder in 2002.

His successor, Angela Merkel, reversed her decision to extend the lifetime of Germany's nuclear plants in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima disaster in Japan and set 2022 as the final deadline for shutting them down.

The three reactors now being shuttered were first powered up in the mid-1980s. Together they provided electricity to millions of German households for almost four decades.

One of the plants — Brokdorf, located about 25 miles northwest of Hamburg on the Elbe River — became a particular focus of anti-nuclear protests that were fueled by the 1986 Chernobyl catastrophe in the Soviet Union.

The other two plants are Grohnde, about 40 kilometers south of Hannover, and Grundremmingen, 80 kilometers west of Munich.

Some in Germany have called for the decision on ending the use of nuclear power to be reconsidered because the power plants already in operation produce relatively little carbon dioxide. Advocates of atomic energy argue that it can help Germany meet its climate targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

But the German government said this week that decommissioning all nuclear plants next year and then phasing out the use of coal by 2030 won't affect the country's energy security or its goal of

making Europe's biggest economy "climate neutral" by 2045.

"By massively increasing renewable energy and accelerating the expansion of the electricity grid, we can show that this is possible in Germany," Economy and Climate

Minister Robert Habeck said.

Several of Germany's neighbors have already ended nuclear power or announced plans to do so, but others are sticking with the technology. This has prompted concerns of a nuclear rift in Europe, with France planning to build new reactors and Germany

opting for natural gas as a "bridge" until enough renewable power is available, and both sides arguing their preferred source of energy be classed as sustainable.

Germany's remaining three nuclear plants — Emsland, Isar and Neckarwestheim — will be powered down by the end of 2022.

While some jobs will be lost, utility company RWE said more than two-thirds of the 600 workers at its Gundremmingen nuclear power station will continue to be involved in post-shutdown operations through to the 2030s. Germany's nuclear power companies will receive almost \$3 billion for the early shutdown of their plants.

Environment Minister Steffi Lemke has dismissed suggestions that a new generation of nuclear power plants might prompt Germany to change course yet again.

"Nuclear power plants remain high-risk facilities that produce highly radioactive atomic waste," she told the Funke media group this week.

A final decision has yet to be taken about where to store tens of thousands of tons of nuclear waste produced in German power plants. Experts say some material will remain dangerously radioactive for 35,000 generations.

CDC warns against cruises, regardless of vaccination status

MIAMI (AP) — The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned people on Thursday not to go on cruises, regardless of their vaccination status, because of on-board outbreaks fueled by the omicron variant. The CDC said it has more than 90 cruise ships under investigation or observation as a result of COVID-19 cases. The agency did not disclose the number of infections.

"The virus that causes COVID-19 spreads easily between people in close quarters on board ships, and the chance of getting COVID-19 on cruise ships is very high," even if people are fully vaccinated and have received a booster, the CDC said.

The Cruise Lines International Association said it was disappointed with the new recommendations, saying the industry was singled out despite the fact it follows stricter health protocols than other travel sectors.

The decision "is particularly perplexing considering that cases identified on cruise ships consistently make up a very slim minority of the total population onboard," a

statement said. "The majority of those cases are asymptomatic or mild in nature, posing little to no burden on medical resources on-board or onshore."

In March 2020, as the coronavirus took hold in the U.S., the CDC put a halt to all cruises for what turned out to be 15 months. Last June, it allowed ships to resume sailing under new strict new conditions.

In August, as the delta variant surged, the agency warned people who are at risk of severe illness despite being vaccinated not to go on cruises.

The CDC on Thursday also recommended that passengers get tested and quarantine for five days after docking, regardless of their vaccination status and even if they have no symptoms.

Omicron has sent cases skyrocketing to unprecedented levels across the U.S., including Florida, the hub of the nation's cruise industry. The state set another record this week for new daily cases, with more than 58,000 recorded Wednesday.

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Comments renew debate over adoption as abortion alternative

BY DAVID CRARY AND JOHN HANNA
The Associated Press

Year after year, several thousand women in the U.S. carry an unintended pregnancy to term and then offer the baby for adoption. It's a choice commended by many foes of abortion.

Yet despite a huge demand for babies from Americans yearning to adopt, perhaps 40 times more women opt for an abortion, and a large majority of those who proceed to give birth make the choice to keep the child.

The reason, say people familiar with unintended pregnancies, is that even in those circumstances, a powerful bond is likely to form between the mother-to-be and the developing baby — and to vastly complicate any decision to put the newborn up for adoption.

That idea is well known to doctors, clinic operators and other abortion-rights advocates, who say recent comments from U.S. Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett and other abortion opponents perpetuate a misleading narrative that adoption can negate the need for abortions.

"It's ridiculous to say it's no problem to eliminate abortion — just place the kids for adoption," said Elizabeth Bartholet, a law professor at Harvard University and an outspoken advocate of adoption. "It's not going to be an emotion-free nonevent. There's going to be bonding and connection, and a sense that it's an unnatural act to give your child away."

Discussion of adoption as an alternative to abortion intensified this month when the Supreme Court heard oral arguments over a Mississippi law that would ban most abortions after 15 weeks. If the high court's conservative majority upholds the law, it could lead to the demise of *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 decision that established a nationwide right to abortion, and enable conservative states to impose sweeping bans.

During the arguments, Barrett, an adoptive mother, said women who give birth due to lack of access to abortion could avoid being forced into parenthood by leaving the baby at a safe location, without fear of criminal consequences, so the infant could be adopted.

"It's just not the reality," said Ashley Brink, manager of a clinic operated by the abortion-rights group Trust Women in Wichita, Kansas. "It's undermining people's decisions and choices and ability to control their lives and their futures."

Bartholet described the justice's comments as "breathtakingly thoughtless" by failing to acknowledge the deep emotional bonds that many women have with their babies even when they result from an unwanted pregnancy.

Those bonds can grow more powerful immediately after birth, said Grace Howard, who has worked as a doula assisting women in childbirth and women seeking abortions.

"Your body's like, 'Bond! Bond, damn it!'" said Howard, an assistant professor



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kelsey Wright smiles while holding her 4-month-old daughter, Berklee, on Dec. 18, in Montgomery, Texas. Year after year, several thousand women in the U.S. choose to carry an unintended pregnancy to term, and then place the baby for adoption, relinquishing their parental rights. Wright chose adoption — twice — before having Berklee.

in justice studies at San Jose State University.

The U.S. government tracks how many children are adopted out of foster care and from foreign countries, but there are no official, comprehensive figures on private adoptions of infants. Nonetheless, it's clear that only a small fraction of women carry unwanted pregnancies to term and then place the baby for adoption.

In 2014, there were an estimated 18,000 private infant adoptions nationwide, according to the National Council for Adoption, a private organization serving abortion agencies and other parties. That same year, there were 926,190 abortions in the U.S., according to the Guttmacher Institute, a prominent source of abortion-related statistics.

The adoption council is working on a new estimate of infant adoptions for 2019 and 2020. Its acting CEO, Ryan Hanlon, predicted the number would be similar to the 2014 estimate.

Hanlon says there's a huge gap between the number of U.S. infants available for adoption and the hundreds of thousands of Americans — single adults and couples — who want to adopt.

"There are dozens waiting with each agency for every child they place," Hanlon said.

Kelsey Wright chose adoption — twice. She became pregnant in high school and, at 18, gave birth to a son in 2011. Feeling unprepared for parenting, she placed the baby for adoption with a family she knew.

Six years later, as a subsequent relationship was breaking up, she again became pregnant. And again, she chose to continue with the pregnancy and place her second son with the same family that adopted his brother.

"Initially, I was thinking, 'How do I get out of this?' and abortion comes to mind, but I don't think that lasted more than 24 hours," Wright said. "From a Christian background. I just couldn't do that — there was no way I could terminate their life because of what I did."

Now 29, Wright lives in the Houston suburbs and got married last year. She and her husband have a 4-month-old daughter. She stays in touch with her sons, visiting occasionally even though their family moved to New Mexico.

"I don't have any regrets," Wright said. "It took time to heal, but I wouldn't change it for anything. I'm so grateful adoption was an option."

Some women who opted for abortion in response to an unintended pregnancy say the decision was difficult — yet they're also grateful they had a choice. Among them is U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee,

a California Democrat, who says she received a "back-alley" abortion in Mexico after a teenage pregnancy.

Lee said adoption "is an alternative to parenting, not to pregnancy."

"The fight for abortion rights is not about our individual stances on abortion or adoption — it is about every person's right to make decisions about their personal health," she said. "Your choices about your body, health, and family are nobody's business but your own."

Many abortion-rights advocates are wary of some aspects of private adoption, viewing it as part of the agenda of anti-abortion activists.

Mallory Schwarz, executive director of Pro-Choice Missouri, said the anti-abortion pregnancy centers that proliferate in many states are part of that system.

"The role of crisis pregnancy centers is to trick people, coerce them out of making the right decision for themselves so that they choose to give up — choose to carry a pregnancy and then give up a baby to be adopted," Schwarz said.

Jeanneane Maxon of the Charlotte Lozier Institute — former general counsel for a network of pregnancy centers — denies that there's systemic coercion. Most women who visit the centers, and then carry a pregnancy to term, choose to raise the baby themselves, she said.

It's often a challenge for staff members to even discuss adoption, Maxon said.

"Some women will say, 'I don't want to hear about it,'" she said. "My hope is that we can overcome the stigma that adoption is abandoning a child. It's not — it's about finding a child a loving home."

In the past, unwed pregnant women in some communities were shunned, or pressured to place their babies for adoption. But even in conservative religious denominations, attitudes have evolved — for example, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Southern Baptist Convention's public policy arms have initiatives aimed at helping unwed moms obtain health care, financial support and other services.

"Some pregnant women were afraid to come to the church for help — they thought they were going to be judged," said Kat Talalas, assistant director for pro-life communications for the bishops' conference.

"Our goal is walk with them as sisters," she said of a recent initiative, Walking with Moms in Need. "We're showing them a positive vision of motherhood."

S.C. breaks daily COVID case count at nearly 9,000

COLUMBIA (AP) — South Carolina's health department reported Friday a record-high number of nearly 9,000 COVID-19 cases in one day.

The record-shattering 8,882 cases confirmed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control comes less than a year after the state marked its previous high of 7,686 cases in early 2021.



SIMMER

"I think January's going to be a very difficult month for South Carolina," Department Director Dr. Edward Simmer said during a Friday news conference.

The real number of cases in the state is likely higher, because the state isn't tracking positive results from rapid at-home tests per federal guidance, Public Health Director Dr. Brannon Traxler said.

The health agency reminded people that wearing a mask and getting vaccinated are still the best ways to stay protected against the virus as the highly contagious omicron variant spreads throughout the state. Officials also urged South Carolinians to consider making New Year's Eve celebrations distanced or virtual instead.

Unlike during last winter's peak, the state now has ample vaccine supplies: "We have the way out of this crisis," Simmer said.

About 52% of South Carolinians ages 5 and older are fully vaccinated against the virus, according to the state health department. That's below a national average of about 62%, per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That data doesn't include whether people have received their booster shots.

Officials said the agency is also currently working to add more sites, conduct more tests at existing sites and increase the types of tests being offered to address an uptick in demand for testing.

Although the state is seeing the most cases in younger people who are more likely to have less severe symptoms, Simmer reminded people that the omicron variant can still cause severe disease and death. The state has seen significant rises in the number of people hospitalized and on ventilators in the past week.

Hospitals are managing the increase, but the rise in cases has strained staff, Simmer said. Some emergency rooms and urgent cares are already getting overwhelmed, with wait times increasing, he added.

A third of the state's hospitals reported critical staffing shortages to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on Thursday.

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Friendly family man's 50-year secret: He was a fugitive, too

BY JOHN SEEWER and
JENNIFER McDERMOTT
The Associated Press

Just before Thomas Randeledied, his wife of nearly 40 years asked his golfing buddies and his co-workers from the dealerships where he sold cars to come by their home.

They gathered to say goodbye to a guy they called one of the nicest people they'd ever known — a devoted family man who gushed about his daughter, a golfer who never bent the rules, a friend to so many that a line stretched outside the funeral home a week later.

By the time of their final visit last May at Randeled's house in suburban Boston, the cancer in his lungs had taken away his voice. So they all left without knowing that their friend they'd spent countless hours swapping stories with never told them his biggest secret of all.

For the past 50 years, he was a fugitive wanted in one of the largest bank robberies in Cleveland's history, living in Boston under a new name he created six months after the heist in the summer of 1969. Not even his wife or daughter knew until he told them in what authorities described as a deathbed confession.

How he was able to leave behind one family and create a new life — while evading a father and son from the U.S. Marshals Service who never gave up their hunt — is just now being pieced together.

...

Ted Conrad quickly figured out that security was fairly loose at the Society National Bank in Cleveland after he started as a teller in January 1969.

He told his buddies, "It'd be so easy for me to walk out with all kinds of money," Russell Metcalf, his best friend from high school, said in an interview with The Associated Press. They thought he was blowing smoke when he brought it up a few more times.

Then just a day after his 20th birthday that July, Conrad walked out at closing time on a Friday with a paper bag stuffed with \$215,000 from the vault, a haul worth \$1.6 million today.

By the time the missing money was noticed the following Monday, Conrad was flying across the country. Letters sent to his girlfriend showed he made stops in Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles within the first week.

In one letter, he mistakenly thought he could return in seven years when the statute of limitations expired. But once he was indicted, that was no longer true.

Conrad apparently cut off contact with his entire family, including three siblings and his parents, who were divorced. Some family members eventually presumed he was dead because so many years had passed, said Matt Boettger, whose mother was Conrad's older sister.

His mom, he said, was relieved more than anything to find out her brother had lived a happy life.

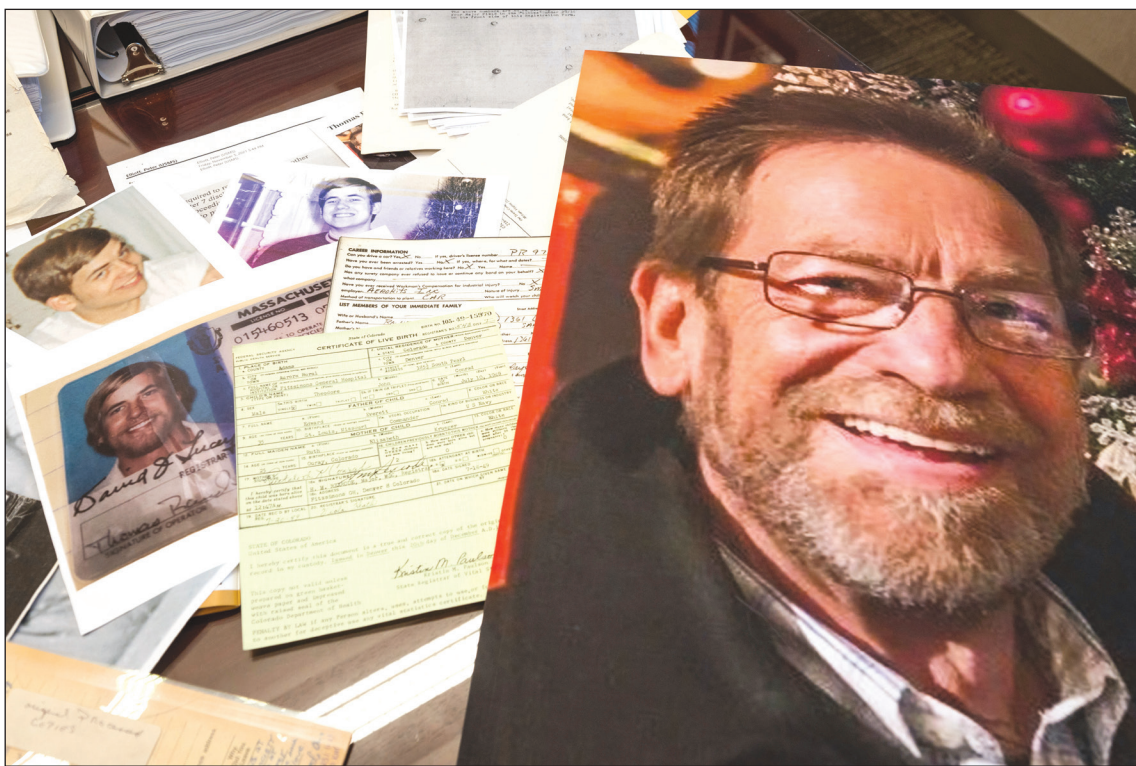
"She thought she would go to her grave and never know," he said.

...

The bank heist in 1969 didn't capture the attention of the nation, or even the city of Cleveland. Everyone else was focused on Apollo 11's historic flight to the moon that week.

But for John Elliott, a deputy U.S. marshal, it was personal. He and Conrad came from the same side of town. Elliott used to take his family to the ice cream shop where Conrad worked. They shared a doctor.

The problem was that Conrad's head start allowed him to disappear, and he



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Photos, a driver's license, the original warrant and other items from a 1969 robbery involving Ted Conrad are seen on Dec. 16 at the Carl B. Stokes U.S. Courthouse in Cleveland. After more than 50 years, John Elliott, a deputy U.S. marshal, announced that they had closed the case on one of the city's biggest bank robberies. Conrad pulled off the 1969 robbery and had been living in Boston under a new name until his death last May, Elliott said.

was disciplined enough not to make any missteps. The last credible sighting came in October 1969, when a Cleveland couple visiting Hawaii met a man they later realized looked very much like Conrad.

Elliott traveled across the U.S. looking for Conrad and even after retiring in 1990 he would come in the office just about every week and pore over the files, said his son, Pete Elliott, now the top U.S. marshal in Cleveland, who inherited the hunt for Conrad nearly 20 years ago.

His father died in March 2020 before investigators pieced together details from Randeled's obituary and signatures from his past. Then in November, Randeled's family confirmed that just before he died he told them his real identity and what he had done, Elliott said.

"It always stayed on my dad's mind," he said. "We kept this case going because it was important to my father."

...

Why Conrad committed the robbery has been analyzed endlessly.

"It wasn't about the money. He always wanted to impress people," said Metcalf, his high school pal, who remembered how Conrad once stole a deck of cards just to prove he could. "He had no fear."

Investigators think he was inspired by the 1968 movie "The Thomas Crown Affair," about a bank executive who got away with \$2.6 million and turned the heist into a game.

Conrad saw the film at least six times and copied Steve McQueen's character, driving sports cars and drinking high-end liquor, according to friends.

After the real-life robbery in Cleveland, Conrad wound up in the Boston area, where much of the movie was filmed. It's a good possibility that he chose his new first name "Thomas" based on the movie, Elliott said.

"He modeled his whole life after the movie," he said.

...

The man known as Thomas Randeled came into existence the first week of January in 1970, investigators have found in recent weeks. That's when Conrad walked into a Social Security Administration office in Boston, asked for an identification number under his new name and made himself two years older, Elliott said.

At that time, it wasn't unusual to wait until you were an adult, so his application didn't raise any red flags. With a new identification card, he was able to open a bank account, build credit and create his new life, Elliott said.

During the 1970s, Randeled worked as an assistant golf pro, giving lessons at a country club outside Boston and later becoming its man-

ager. He spent a few winters golfing in Florida, according to his obituary.

He also met his future wife not long after arriving in Boston. They were married in 1982.

Around then he began working in the car business, selling Land Rovers and Volvos at a handful of dealerships until he retired after nearly 40 years.

It was a job that put him in front of dozens of strangers every day.

What's not clear yet is what happened to the money. The Marshals Service is looking into whether he lost it early on through bad investments.

While Randeled and his wife, Kathy, lived most of their years in a pleasant Boston suburb, they filed for bankruptcy protection in 2014.

Court records showed they then owed \$160,000 in credit card debt and had few assets.

His wife told Cleveland.com in November that her husband was a great man and that she was still grieving. She has declined interview requests.

...

No one would have guessed that Randeled, who was 71 when he died, was someone trying to hide from

with him.

They remembered he could always control his emotions and rarely got upset, even on the course, where he had such a pretty swing that he once bested Hall of Fame golfer Johnny Miller at a charity event, his former boss remembered.

Matt Kaplan, who managed two dealerships where Randeled worked and golfed with him every Sunday morning for many years, called him the definition of a gentleman.

"The only way it makes sense is that at that age he was just a kid, and it was a challenge kind of thing," Kaplan said. "It's not like he became a professional bank robber."

"If he would have told us way back when, I don't think we would have believed him because he wasn't that kind of guy," he said. "The man was different than the kid."

...

In the early days after Randeled's identity was revealed, his friends couldn't believe it. But now looking back, there are a few things that make sense.

How he always had a beard. The photos of him wearing dark sunglasses on the golf course. His reluctance to talk about where he grew up or his extended family.

"You know all the years I knew Tommy, I never heard him mention a sister or a mother or a brother or a father. Everything was kind of generalized," Healy said.

"You could never pry anything from him," said Brad Anthony, another close friend. "I figured maybe he had a bad childhood and he didn't want to talk about it."

Still, he said it's almost impossible to believe. "It just seems so out of character for the Tom I knew," he said.

All of his friends agreed that what happened long ago hasn't changed how they feel about him.

"The man I knew didn't change all of a sudden because of something he did a lifetime ago," Healy said.

"He was a good man, he was my friend, and I think no less of him today than I did before this all came out. And I'd love to go play a round of golf with him."



Dotte McKenzie

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REFLECTIONS



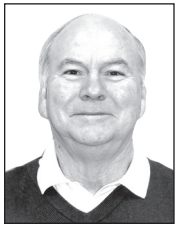
SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTOS

An Easter egg hunt for children living in Parkwood Estates was given on April 2, 1942, by Mrs. J.W. Shipman and Mrs. Jack Jenkins. About 36 children gathered to look for the painted eggs and candy in the fields and lawns surrounding their homes. The prize for finding the most eggs went to Frank Barnes.

Parkwood Estates experiences rapid growth

Reflections remembers the growth and development of one of Sumter's early housing developments.

Parkwood Estates began circa



Sammy Way
REFLECTIONS

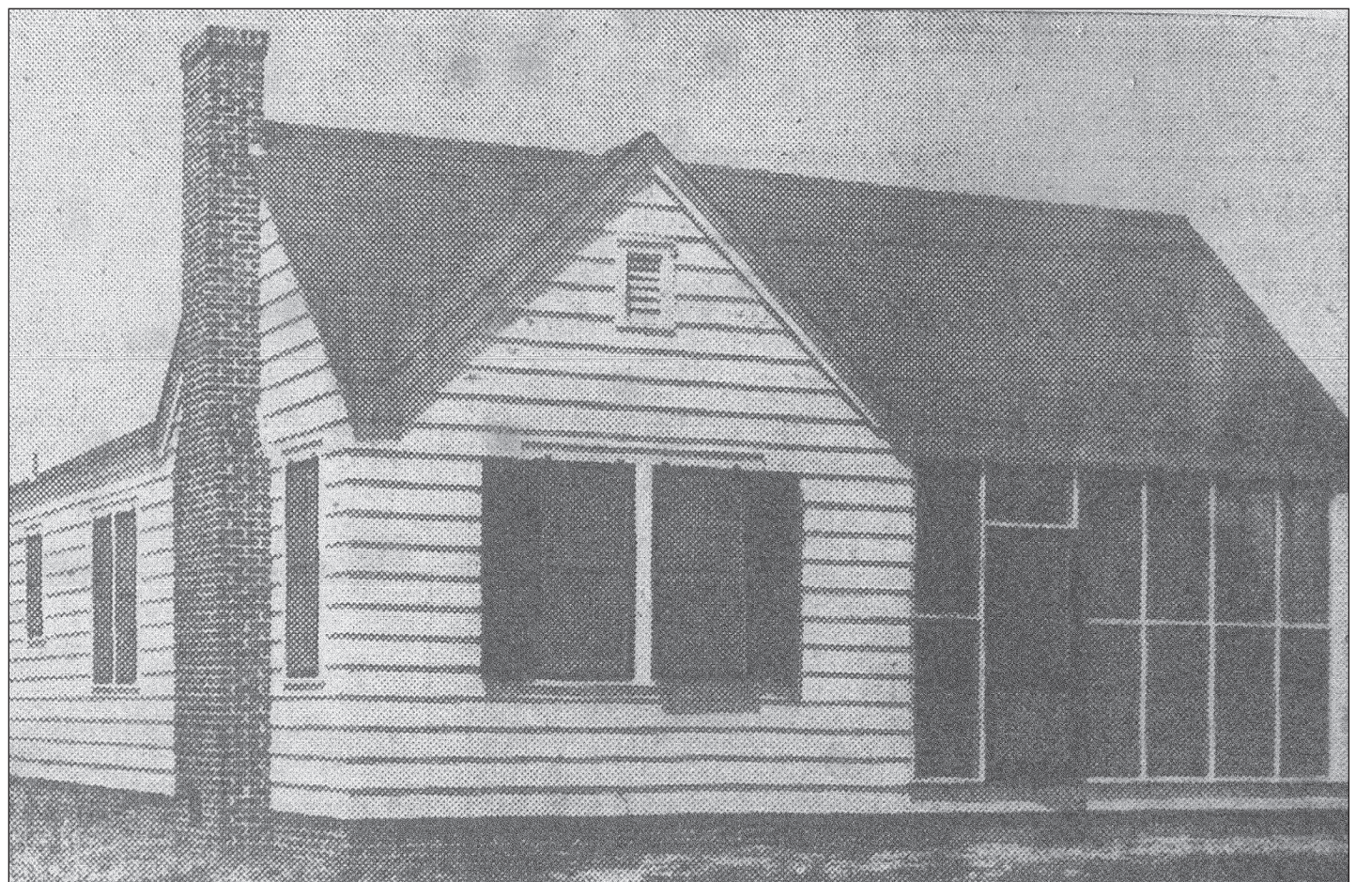
1939 in the western portion of Sumter County near the intersection of Second Mill and Camp Alice roads (later named Alice

Drive). This new subdivision was the dream of L. P. Kilgore, the president of the Southeastern Realty Co. The information and photos used in this piece were obtained from *The Sumter Item* archives.

An article published in *The Sumter Daily Item* in July 1939 noted, "One house had been completed and construction was getting underway on two other homes at the Parkwood Estates suburban development near Second Mill. Mr. Kilgore, developer, had selected high, well-drained land, and the elevation and location of the property assured cool breezes throughout the summer and increased the desirability of a home located in this vicinity. Mr. Kilgore had several sections of the property planted with shrubbery and flowers in order to present an unusually attractive picture. One of the features of the property was the plentiful supply of water. A 100-foot well was sunk, and water mains were placed on each street. Every resident had access to the water which was supplied at an unlimited amount at a rate of one dollar a month."

Kilgore was quick to note that every home at Parkwood was fully designed and built along the most modern lines. No two houses were to be constructed alike, and all were considered to be most attractive both inside and out. "Mr. Kilgore stated that most families who inquired about building at Parkwood Estates were surprised at the small down payment required to become a homeowner and at the easy monthly payments after the initial down payment had been made. Mr. Kilgore personally supervised the building of all homes at Parkwood and handled the details in connection with the purchase of each individual property."

"Final work was being done on the home of S. A. Tisdale, while work was started on a modern seven-room home for M. D. Werner and E. T. Broadwell, who would start construction on his home very soon. There are 17 beautiful and modern medium-priced homes at Parkwood Estates at the publication of this article. All but a few now under construction are occupied by their owners. Every house constructed in the subdivision, ex-



This modern home was completed at Parkwood Estates by S.A. Tisdale in July 1939 and was occupied within the following 10 days. Several other homes were either under construction or contracted for at the suburban development at Second Mill and Camp Alice roads.

PARKWOOD ESTATES

SUMTER'S NEWEST AND MOST BEAUTIFUL SUBURBAN SUB-DIVISION

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Large, Beautiful Lots — Reasonably Priced

A MOST IDEAL LOCATION FOR YOUR HOME

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STOP AND TALK IT OVER

SOUTHEASTERN REALTY CORPORATION

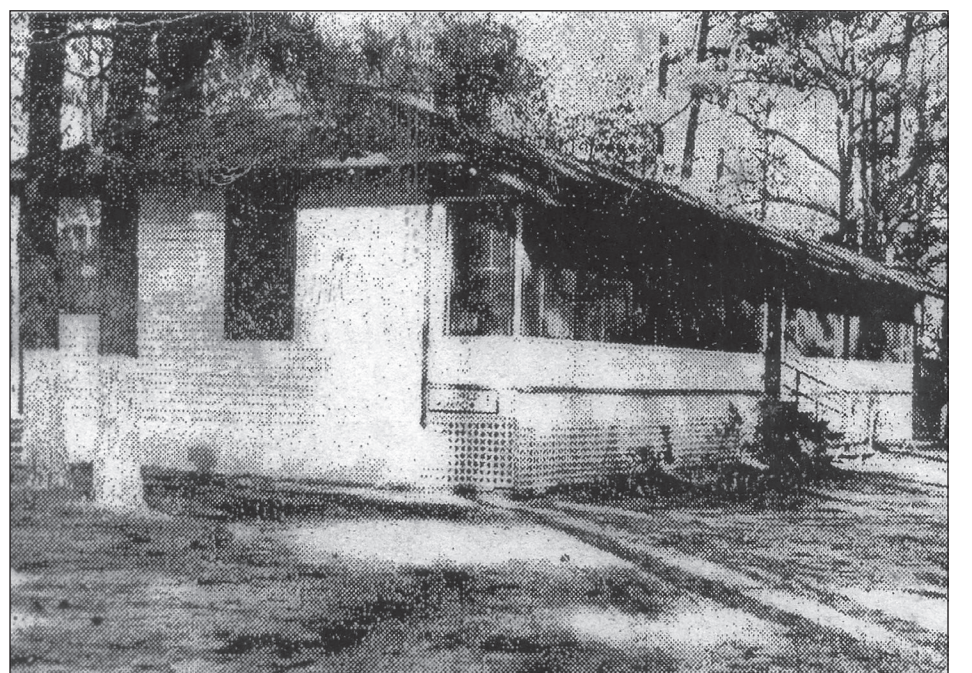
OWNERS AND DEVELOPERS

This advertisement in *The Item* was published July 12, 1939, for Parkwood Estates' large lots available.

cept one, has been sold by Mr. Kilgore. Sixteen homes, with the exception of two or three, are not quite completed yet but are occupied by families who made small down payments and are currently paying for them monthly; the payments in most cases are less than rent the owners formerly paid. The Parkwood development became one of the most popular and most attractive suburbs of Sumter, and its future growth seemed assured."



Camp Alice and Camp Alice Road were named for Alice Harby. Parkwood Estates was built near the intersection of Second Mill and Camp Alice roads.



Camp Alice was built in 1916 by H.J. Harby and named for his daughter Alice. This is one of two sanatoriums built at the facility. The camp closed in the 1940s when patients were sent to the State Park and Tuomey Hospital.

Cadet is top-ranking man at West Point; Peace Pilgrim visits Sumter

75 YEARS AGO — 1947

June 10 - 16

• The first cotton bloom in Sumter County, reported to the *Item* office, was from the farm of R. M. Barkley on the Pinewood road. Two perfect blooms were brought to the office this morning by County Farm Agent T. O. Bowen, who had received them from Barkley.

• Horace D. Harvey, post commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars here, was elected quartermaster, and Wendell M. Levi, past post commander, was elected judge advocate for the South Carolina VFW at the encampment at Rock Hill.

• Sumter celebrated "Bill Gordon Night" at the Municipal Park by defeating Camden's Chiefs in a Palmetto League contest, 8 to 2. The Fiskateers got a fancy four-hit pitching job from "Chick" Cheek and some timely hitting from Robert Epps and Gene Bradley to take the game in easy fashion.

• Sumter's American Legion Junior baseball team will go up against Florence's Juniors here in an exhibition contest. Coach Larry Weldon is expected to start Billy Williams or Matthews on the mound for the young Gamecocks against the Pee Dee nine. The Juniors will go to Timmonsville tomorrow afternoon for a contest and then will journey to Florence on Thursday for a night game.

• Cadet Otis C. Moore, son of Mrs. O. C. Moore and the late Mr. Moore, is top-ranking man, militarily, in West Point's senior class. The Sumter boy also was top-ranking man last year and stands high scholastically at the Military Academy. He was elected president of his class his plebe year, a position which he will retain throughout life.

• The two league-leading Shaw Field teams will be in action tonight in a men's softball double-header. The first game starts at 7:30 p.m. and the second at 8:45 p.m. regardless of the number of innings played, a spokesman said. All players are urged to be on time and are reminded of the one hour and 15 minutes allotted to each game.

• The three clay tennis courts in Memorial Park are rapidly being worked into playing condition, it was announced today by Harry Bryan, city recreation director. The courts were allowed to become run down during the war years, so it will be some time before they are in first-rate shape, but every effort is being made to make them serviceable at once.

• Dr. Charles Preacher was recently awarded his doctor of medicine degree from the Medical College of South Carolina in Charleston.

• Edmund H. Evans, field director of the American Red Cross, has been assigned to serve as field director at Shaw Field by the Southeastern Area Headquarters, Atlanta. Evans will replace Dr. C. Estornelle, who is leaving Red Cross work to return to private life. Evans volunteered his services with the Red Cross shortly after Pearl Harbor. In 1942, he was made field director and was given the job of setting up a Red Cross office at the newly activated Seymour Johnson Field at Goldsboro, North Carolina.

• Miss Elizabeth Trowell, county home demonstration agent, and Mrs. R. E. Rayle, associate supervisor of (H.M.) farmers' home administration, will attend the Frozen Food Workshop at Clemson College. This workshop is being held for extension workers and locker plant workers by L. O. Van Blaricom, associate in horticultural manufactures, and Miss Sallie A. Pearce, foods specialist of Winthrop College.

• Gov. J. Strom Thurmond, of South Carolina, said today the federal government should turn down the offer of the Savannah River Electric Co. to build the \$46,000,000 Clarks Hill dam on the Savannah River. The federal government should continue the power navigation and flood control program authorized by Congress in the 1944, he said, for two reasons: 1. "There is no assurance the power company will construct the project;" 2. "Federal construction is in the public interest."

• Sumter still led the national heat race yesterday at a temperature of 102 degrees for the second consecutive day. Columbia at 101 degrees and Augusta at 100 degrees were next in line.

• Sumter's Palmetto league baseball team spotted Bennettsville five runs in the first inning last night and then made a timely comeback to swamp the visitors in a free hitting ball game, 17 to 10. Conley Alexander started on the mound for Sumter but was not in his usual form and gave way to Maxie King, who came in after the Red Sox had four runs across and two on base. King did a nice relief job until he tired in the eighth and Wallace, a newcomer from Shaw Field, finished the game.

• The annual meeting of the State-



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Congressman John J. Riley of Sumter is seen greeting his friend and business associate, S.L. Roddy, during a short stopover at the ACL station in Sumter on June 9, 1947, en route from Orangeburg to Washington, D.C. Riley had been undergoing treatment at the Tri-County hospital, Orangeburg, after being stricken in the office of Rep. Sol Blatt in Barnwell on May 23. Also seen in the photo are ACL Pullman Conductor P.B. King of Elberton, Georgia, and the Pullman porter, Thomas Lamar, who served the congressman on numerous trips between the capital and Sumter.

burg Literary and Musical Society was held at the Borough House in Stateburg with Mrs. Mark Reynolds Jr. and Mrs. E.N. Sullivan as hostesses. The program theme was the history of the club. The invited speaker was Thomas Stubbs, a student of history, who spoke on old taverns located in Stateburg, Sumterville and other sections of the county.

• The YWCA campers at Burnt Gin are having a good time in spite of the showers, Miss Marjorie Knox, camp director, said. Visiting hours at the camp will be held Sunday afternoon beginning at 3 o'clock. At 5 p.m., day vesper services will be held by the Rev. Bryce Herbert.

• Weather permitting, the second concert of the summer series will be given by the Municipal Band at Memorial Park. Director F. A. Girard said today he was well-pleased with the audience last week and was looking forward to having a much larger crowd tonight.

50 YEARS AGO — 1972

Feb. 15 - 21

• The Congress of Racial Equality has announced the appointment of Ferdinand Burns Jr. as South Carolina state chairman. The appointment was made at a leadership conference in Atlanta by Victor Solomon, associate national director of CORE, and W.T. Lewis, Southeastern regional director. Burns, a native of Sumter, will be charged with the responsibility of making sure the programs of CORE are carried out in several local chapters across the state.

• Sumter High School will be the scene of the 1972 Region V junior varsity basketball tournament which will get underway Thursday night. Pairings were announced Monday for the three-day event with Sumter, the regular season champions with a 15-3 record, drawing a forfeit victory over Conway. All teams in Region V were invited, but Mullins decided not to take part in the event.

• Sumter officials will meet Thursday with representatives of a Columbia consulting firm which is conducting an \$8,800 feasibility study of the proposed downtown mall. Wilbur Smith and Associates Inc., the Columbia firm hired in January to undertake the four-part study, began preliminary work three weeks ago.

• Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz today announced that no changes will be made in the 1972 upland cotton program as announced on Oct. 18, 1971. The USDA special Jan. 27 report showing farmers intend to plant 13.1 million acres of upland cotton in 1972 is an increase of 900,000 acres over 1971. "Plantings of this size," the secretary said, "at an average yield will provide sufficient cotton to meet our domestic and export needs as well as add to carryover stocks."

• The Alice Drive Hawks were involved in three contests Monday afternoon and came away with two wins against a single defeat. In the junior varsity game, Alice Drive got 10 points each from Don Chaney and Rico Cook and topped St. Jude, 58-10. In the girls' game, Hartsville took a 37-30 decision despite 14 points from Debra Williams. In the boys' game, Alice Drive continued to roll, chalking up its 12th season victory against no defeats by topping Hartsville 73-37. Marion Baker had 23 points in the victory.

• Circuit Court Judge James Spruill has apparently rendered a final decision in the now four-month-old controversy surrounding construction of a million-dollar apartment complex off North Lafayette Boulevard. In the rul-

ing issued at his chambers in Sumter, Judge Spruill said that the plaintiffs, including some 800 residents of northeast Sumter, had no legal grounds upon which to base their efforts to halt the construction.

• Peace Pilgrim is her name, and world peace is her game. Silver-haired, a look of timeless happiness in her clear, blue eyes, she wanders this country as a living prayer and inspiration to others for the attainment of world peace. Dressed in her only major possessions, faded navy blue slacks, shirt, tunic top and canvas shoes, Peace Pilgrim walked into Sumter on Friday shortly after noon to begin a four-day visit with Nancy Sanders of Sumter, who has been a friend for a number of years.

• GIT (Get It Together) is a newly formed group at Shaw that is concerned with social problems. Although GIT is Black-oriented and will tackle problems that Blacks face on base and in the surrounding community, Staff Sgt. Arthur L. Live, GIT coordinator, points out that all races are welcome at meetings and for membership. "We have several white members at the meetings."

• Airman Eric Reese, an administrative specialist in the 62nd Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, works as a coach for the youth basketball leagues in his spare time. In addition to Saturday games, Reese meets with his protégés on a regular basis three days each week. The 12 boys practice at the base gym every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, running through preliminary routines and short scrimmages.

• Staff Sgt. George S. Miller has a bit of inventor's blood in his veins. A precision photo processing equipment repairman with the 18th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Sgt. Miller has dreamed up a number of gadgets which make life in his squadron's photo lab a little easier. His latest contraption, composed of a small metal wheel, a microswitch and a counter, attaches to the exterior of the dry box on a film processor and measures the amount of film the machine develops.

• The 12th-annual South Carolina High School All-State Orchestra concert will be held at Memminger Auditorium in Charleston. In addition, for the first time, the orchestra will have a short tour on Monday, which is being sponsored by the South Carolina Arts Commission. They will play in Columbia at Joseph Keels Elementary School and in Spartanburg at Twichell Auditorium Converse College. The All-State Clinic Orchestra, composed mostly of junior high students, will also play at the Charleston concert. Sumter-area students in All-State Orchestra include: Milton Grisham, Darlene Spann — Sumter; Martha Craft and Cindy Dion — Manning.

25 YEARS AGO — 1996

Dec. 26 - Jan. 1, 1997

• With visions of bargains dancing in their heads, many Sumter residents braved frigid temperatures and icy drizzle this morning to look for the perfect post-Christmas deal. "Shopping! Shopping! Shopping!" chanted a trio of women as they headed into Wal-Mart. One of the women said they were "playing hooky" from their jobs.

• A Christmas Eve court order means Sumter's SAFE Federal Credit Union can start taking on new members — again. A federal appeals court temporarily lifted a 2-month-old ban that prevented about half of the nation's 7,200 federal credit unions — including SAFE — from enrolling new members outside of their restricted core groups. SAFE can resume sign-

ing up new members for the time being but cannot add new groups.

• Sumter Catholic outscored Byrnes 31-6 in the second quarter to open a 36-point halftime lead and went on to a 96-31 boys' basketball win in the opening round of the private school portion of the Carolina Classic at the Florence Civic Center. The Padres, who are 9-1, led 25-14 after one quarter before opening a 56-20 halftime advantage.

• There was a day when Jan Lundberg was a master of the fossil-fuel universe, living large in Los Angeles with his Mercedes, his yacht and his servants. But something was wrong. "L.A.," he says, "was killing me." Now he's a 44-year-old vegetarian, with a ponytail, clogs and a pant leg perpetually stuffed in his sock to keep his bike chain from eating it. And the automobile is no longer his deity — it's his demon. His group would like to get rid of cars and the pavement they are driven on.

• Andy Ford started three of the first five games at cornerback for the Clemson Tigers this season. But when free safety Brad Pope tore an anterior cruciate ligament, Ford, a senior from Sumter, stepped in. "They wanted someone with experience at safety to fill in," said Ford, "and I had some experience in that area." Andy's twin brother, Peter Ford, also plays for Clemson and has participated in bowl games. Peter played a defensive position and recorded five tackles in that first bowl game.

• No one speaks. Council members sit rigidly silent, waiting for the mayor, who is late in arriving to council's monthly meeting. Finally someone wonders aloud: "Is he coming?" Just then, the door opens and a tall, thin figure enters. He acknowledges no one but a news reporter and a resident who has come to voice concerns. He may be called embattled or beleaguered or difficult, but Clifton Jefferson, 74, is still called mayor in Lynchburg, a town of 475 in southwestern Lee County.

• The pastor of Trinity Methodist church in Shiloh said he expects that insurance will cover some — but not all — of the cost of rebuilding the 91-year-old church that was destroyed in a fire. The church's insurance carrier is still investigating the fire, but the Rev. Jim Ridenhour said that, based on conversations thus far with insurance agents, he expects the company will make a payment. He didn't immediately know how much money the church would receive, but said it wouldn't meet the estimated \$275,000 to \$300,000 cost of rebuilding at the site.

• Crestwood High School's boys' basketball team beat Beaufort 55-36 to advance to the championship game of the Converse/Taco Bell Holiday Classic at Brookland-Cayce High School. Florence Christian outscored Sumter Catholic 1-6 in the third quarter and went on to a 58-41 win in the championship game of the Carolina Classic at the Florence Civic Center. The Lake-wood High School girls' basketball team defeated Lugoff-Elgin 53-38 to win the Lugoff-Elgin Invitational Christmas Tournament at Lugoff-Elgin High School.

• Christmas Day has passed, and the students and teachers have only one more glorious week of vacation before they return to the daily struggle of high school. And yet, it is not a "rest." It is a time of stress and tension. When school begins again on the fifth of January, we will have only two weeks left before the close of the fall semester — a two-week period in which the students have to struggle to pass their final examinations and in which the teachers work day and night to complete their grading and to prepare for the next semester.

• Have yourself a merry little post-Christmas shopping spree! It's the weekend after Christmas, but Sumter retailers hope you are still in the spending spirit. Stores nationwide are slashing prices to offset a so-so Christmas season, hoping to attract consumers who sat out the holiday season. But in Sumter, several retailers have enjoyed a good Christmas — and are enjoying good post-season sales as they head into the new year.

• The Sumter community made Christmas warmer for the less fortunate by contributing nearly \$2,000 last week to the Fireside Fund. Established by *The Item* in 1969, the fund — which is administered by the Salvation Army — helps needy families pay for firewood, kerosene, fuel oil, electricity and natural gas. So far, 220 families have been helped this year with donations topping \$16,000. Last year's campaign helped more than 600 families by raising \$30,495, an all-time record.

OFFICER

FROM PAGE A1

"In the interest of transparency, I am releasing the video of the alleged incident," Baxley added.

"While the independent investigation currently being conducted by SLED is not complete, I wanted the public to see the alleged incident in its entirety," Baxley said. "I urge the public to view the en-

tire video on its own, void of any statement or online rumors you may have previously heard."

The Sumter Item was not able to include the video or its content due to downloading issues. It is posted on the Clarendon County Sheriff's Office Facebook page, which was also having loading problems.

Baxley said that at the conclusion of SLED's investigation, he will coordinate with SLED to release any public

documents regarding the incident.

Black Lives Matter-South Carolina is coordinating a march on behalf of the student after school resumes the first week of January. BLM's Peaceful March for Justice will be held at noon Jan. 5-7 outside the school.

Clarendon School District 4 Superintendent Angela H. Bain released a statement on Dec. 30 regarding the protests.

"During recent days, the district has become aware of a

planned protest to occur on Jan. 5 at or near East Clarendon Middle/High School," Bain said in the release.

"While we have not been contacted by the group sponsoring and/or publicizing the event, the district recognizes the public's right to peacefully protest and/or assemble on public property, which may include sidewalks and abutting public access ways of East Clarendon Middle/High School."

Bain said that the school

and district administrators will continue to monitor this event to see that the public's constitutional right to peacefully protest is honored while also ensuring that school operations are not disrupted.

On its Facebook page, Black Lives Matter-South Carolina, the group claims that the student is the "victim of police brutality by a Clarendon County SRO deputy." The page also shows videos of the alleged incident as well as a video of the student's parents.

WINSTEAD

FROM PAGE A1

After the successful operation, Winstead said an external force was looking after him and soon became a Christian just like his wife, Lucille.

Two years later, Winstead was back overseas in the Philippines during the Vietnam War, working in the Armed Forces Radio and Television. His job was to interview famous celebrities that visited Vietnam during the war to help entertain troops — like Bob Hope's Christmas Show in South Vietnam.

Winstead came back to the United States in October 1967 and officially retired from the Air Force in 1968. He spent 20 years serving his country and nearly died in that time.

Out of the military, Winstead started Sumter's first advertis-



CAL CARY / THE SUMTER ITEM

Tom Winstead holds a book signing event at Cut Rate Drug Store recently.

ing agency called APR. He would continue working with the agency, which eventually moved to Columbia.

But something was bothering Winstead during this time. He felt the need to contribute in a significant way to the Christian community since his

near-death experience back in 1963.

In 1994, the Winsteds took this opportunity to create a club for Christians and golf lovers alike: The Christian Golfers Association. The association was an instant hit. What began as East Coast

Charters turned into a nationwide membership that today has international charters. It was a massive success and took all of Winstead's time and focus into his late 80s.

In 2019, Lucille's health was waning. This had been the first time in their 72 years of marriage that she needed help, and Winstead was right by her side. She would need help getting settled for bed, but Winstead did not want to wake her up, as he enjoyed staying up late. So, he needed something to do.

To keep himself busy, Winstead would write late at night between the hours of 11 p.m. and 2 a.m. And after giving full responsibility of CGA to a friend, he could spend more time taking care of his wife and pursuing his writing hobby extensively.

That hobby changed from late night writing to late night writing and early morning

writing between 5 and 6 a.m. Two years later, he had his first two books published and being sold on Amazon and in bookstores.

"The Executive Order" is about a group of individuals that have infiltrated the U.S. Government in order to convince the president and other high-level authority to close a detention center filled with terrorists, and "Sweet Daddy Creek Club" is about an investigator who has trained with the U.S. Special Forces units, getting himself in action-packed situations and more.

Winstead's story does not end here, as he plans to have his third novel published soon. In his eyes, there is much to do in the near future.

"Keep moving; there is more to come," Winstead said, "history always has its ups and downs."

MOVIE FROM PAGE A1

and producer of eight short films. These include "It's Alright Dad," which won best short in the Twin Cities Film Festival in Minnesota this year, "Still Harlem" (2018) and "Compassionate Release: The Ravages of Time" (2020), which won Best Screenplay and Audience Award at the Chelsea Film Festival. By special arrangement, "Compassionate Release" features the Bob Dylan song "I Shall Be Released" as the soundtrack.

The Summerton production of "Bull Street" will be Dow's first feature-length film. She and Tucker-Tannock have been working for the past several months, getting settled and looking at potential set locations in Clarendon County.

Dow, Tucker-Tannock and Schmidt are grateful for how the town and county have welcomed them.

"Summerton has totally embraced us and made us feel very at home here," Tucker-Tannock said.

Tucker-Tannock, a Bermuda native and a graduate of Spelman College in Atlanta, has worked with Dow on several short films. She said their back-

grounds have made a "phenomenal" partnership that has produced compelling short films and a feature documentary.

This is the first time that Dow and Schmidt have collaborated, and they are excited to bring their talent and passion together to the big screen.

Schmidt has more than 40 production credits to her name, including blockbuster films such as "I Am Number Four" (2011), Academy Award-nominated "Ali" (2001) and six-time Academy Award nominee "Up in the Air" (2009). During the last several years, Schmidt has focused on the independent film world with exceptional stories such as "Moonlight" (2016) and "The Florida Project" (2017) that together received 17 major award nominations in 2018.

"When I read the script for 'Bull Street,' I knew I had to be a part of it," Schmidt said.

Though a Harlem native, Dow is a country girl at heart with her roots tied to Clarendon County. Her mother was born in Summerton, her grandmother in Silver and her great-grandmother in Rimini. As a child, Dow would often spend her summers in Summerton and became fascinated

with the country lifestyle.

"This is home. This is where life started for my family, where we experienced twists and turns that give life to our narrative. Our story began in this small town, and it is my passion to tell this story and to raise awareness of lives lived, the joy and tragedy experienced. This is my chance to say thank you, to eulogize those lost and to give hope to those who remain," Dow said.

To tackle a film of this magnitude, Dow plans to recruit help from across the area. Dow said the South Carolina Film Commission has been helpful in the project as well.

"I want to gather as many locals as possible for the cast and crew because they understand how a small town works," she said. "It's the people that make this a special place, and having the community involved is critical."

Along with locals, Dow said the film will feature stars such as Loretta Devine.

Tucker-Tannock said the movie will surely grab the audience's attention.

"It's an excellent film that makes you think but also touches your soul to what's really important in life," Tucker-Tannock said.

Dow said this movie is different from her previous work because she's home.

"I feel that there is this web of protection that's around me when I am filming in the hometown where my mom, grandmother and great-grandmother made their lives," she said. "I didn't get a chance to have a relationship with my great-grandmother, but from what I have been told, she was a wonderfully strong woman and quite the character everyone knew as 'Big Gal.'"

Dow learned about her great-grandmother from residents who knew her well and was in awe of this special woman and her place in the community.

"It's personal to me," she said. "I want to make my family proud and make the town of Summerton proud. To honor the tapestry that is our life. This story continues to be created and brings to life the emotions of combined experiences."

Editor's note: This article represents a re-run of an article that originally ran on Dec. 25 and includes corrected name spellings and additional information on producer Elayne Schniederman Schmidt.

the Sumter ITEM OUTDOORS

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

Hoodies, woodies and teal

The chest-type incubator was as big as a refrigerator, and I had it full of mallard and wood duck eggs. It was early in the season, and the other ducks were just beginning to lay. I had red heads, pintails, blue winged teal, black-bellied whistling ducks and more in my duck pen, or aviary.



Dan Geddings

Wood ducks will start laying a clutch of eggs in late February, and mallards will start in early March. The others will start laying in late March or early April. Some, like the redheads, will wait until May. I usually waited on the hens to start incubating, then removed the eggs after a week or 10 days, placing them in the electric incubator. The hens will usually re-nest and lay another clutch of eggs.

The incubator was in my

living room, which provided a constant temperature and made the incubator's work most efficient. I had an excellent hatch. The mallard eggs hatch in 26 to 28 days, and the woodie eggs take 30 to 32 days. I got mallards hatched first and had a batch in the brooder when the little wood ducks started hatching.

The mallards are easy to raise and start eating readily. The woodies are another story. They are the wildest things you can imagine. They will not survive on their own in a brooder. The trick is to introduce them at a day old to the mallard ducklings already in the brooder. There is a slight size difference, but it really doesn't matter. The mallards are already eating and drinking, and the little wood ducks will notice the food and water. They may peep loudly but will soon settle down. The mallards will outgrow the woodie ducklings and can be removed to another brooder. Additional woodies can be introduced to the older

bunch if there's not too much size difference. I raised several hundred wood ducks from that incubator in my living room. It's my opinion that woodies are the most difficult to raise.

I've raised hundreds, probably thousands, of mallards. Most were banded and released. I've also raised black ducks, pintails, widgeon, gadwall, whistling ducks, red heads, hooded mergansers and teal. Most of these were also released. I've sold a few and used some to trade for other species. I've raised exotic species like mandarins, rosybills, ringed teal and others. I've raised Canada geese. I've had other ducks and geese that never bred for me, like canvasbacks, mottle ducks, Bahama pintails, Indian spot bills, Philippine ducks, falcated ducks, cinnamon teal and graylag geese. I've also raised other game birds such as pheasants, quail, peacocks, pigeons and doves.

I bought ducks from breeders in the Midwest that shipped them here by air freight, and I got mallards from a breeder in Minnesota that shipped them through the



DAN GEDDINGS / THE SUMTER ITEM

A mallard, ringed teal, mandarins and a Bahama pintail are seen on a pond in Dan Geddings' aviary.

post office.

My good friends Hans and Gordon Swygert had bigger collections of waterfowl than I did and had great success raising a huge variety of ducks and geese. I made friends all over the state with other people that kept waterfowl and got to know Mike and Ali Lubbock at Sylvan Heights Waterfowl in Scotland Neck, North Carolina.

I got my first pair of ducks for my birthday when I turned 10 years old. They were mallards. I've had some waterfowl ever since — until recently. I sold some of the last batch of ducks that I had and released the others on my ponds in Clarendon County. I've had a

federal permit since I was 18 years old. No permit is required to possess them in captivity, but the federal permit is required to sell or transfer ownership of them.

There is an empty aviary in my back yard now with a series of concrete ponds that will spill over into the next pond. An underwater pump was used to circulate the water back to a small waterfall in the first pond. We are building a new house farther out in the country, and I will build a new aviary there. I hope to stock it with some more hoodies, woodies and teal.

Reach Dan Geddings at cdgeddings@gmail.com.

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

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

H.D. Osteen 1904-1987
THE ITEM

Margaret W. Osteen 1908-1996
THE ITEM

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



OPINION

Jacqueline D. Osteen CO-OWNER

Graham Osteen CO-OWNER

Kyle Osteen CO-OWNER

Jack Osteen CO-OWNER

Vince Johnson PUBLISHER

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EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

THE (CHARLESTON) POST
AND COURIER

Dec. 25

Keeping Charleston's waterfront in public hands isn't easy, but it's worth it

Local governments should always be cautious about using their power to take property from private owners who are unwilling to sell. Sometimes, it's necessary, such as when a road needs to be widened. Sometimes, it's not, such as when the town of New London, Connecticut, wielded that power to buy up older homes to clear the way for a new private development that would boost its tax base.

The U.S. Supreme Court ultimately upheld New London's controversial action, but its ruling triggered a backlash across the nation, including here in South Carolina, and justifiably so.

All of that is important context in considering Charleston City Council's effort to purchase a small, vacant residential parcel just south of Waterfront Park.

There are several reasons the council would want to acquire the 10 Concord St. property, now a parking lot.

The city's purchase would put an end to the owner's plan to build a house that has triggered public backlash.

Preservation and neighborhood groups have reacted strongly against plans submitted to date.

The Historic Charleston Foundation said that while the most recent proposal for a building there shows an attractive structure with very good materials, it "is concerned about the architectural direction for this project in this formerly maritime area of the city, where buildings were historically aligned with the wharves and the warehouse form was predominant. The proposed building is not compatible with the context of the neighborhood or the history of the area."

Additionally, some of the city's earliest plans for Waterfront Park included this parcel. Indeed, if the city acquires the property, it would redevelop it as a small, southern extension of its iconic park — and help link the park with the city's popular Hazel Parker Playground just to the south.

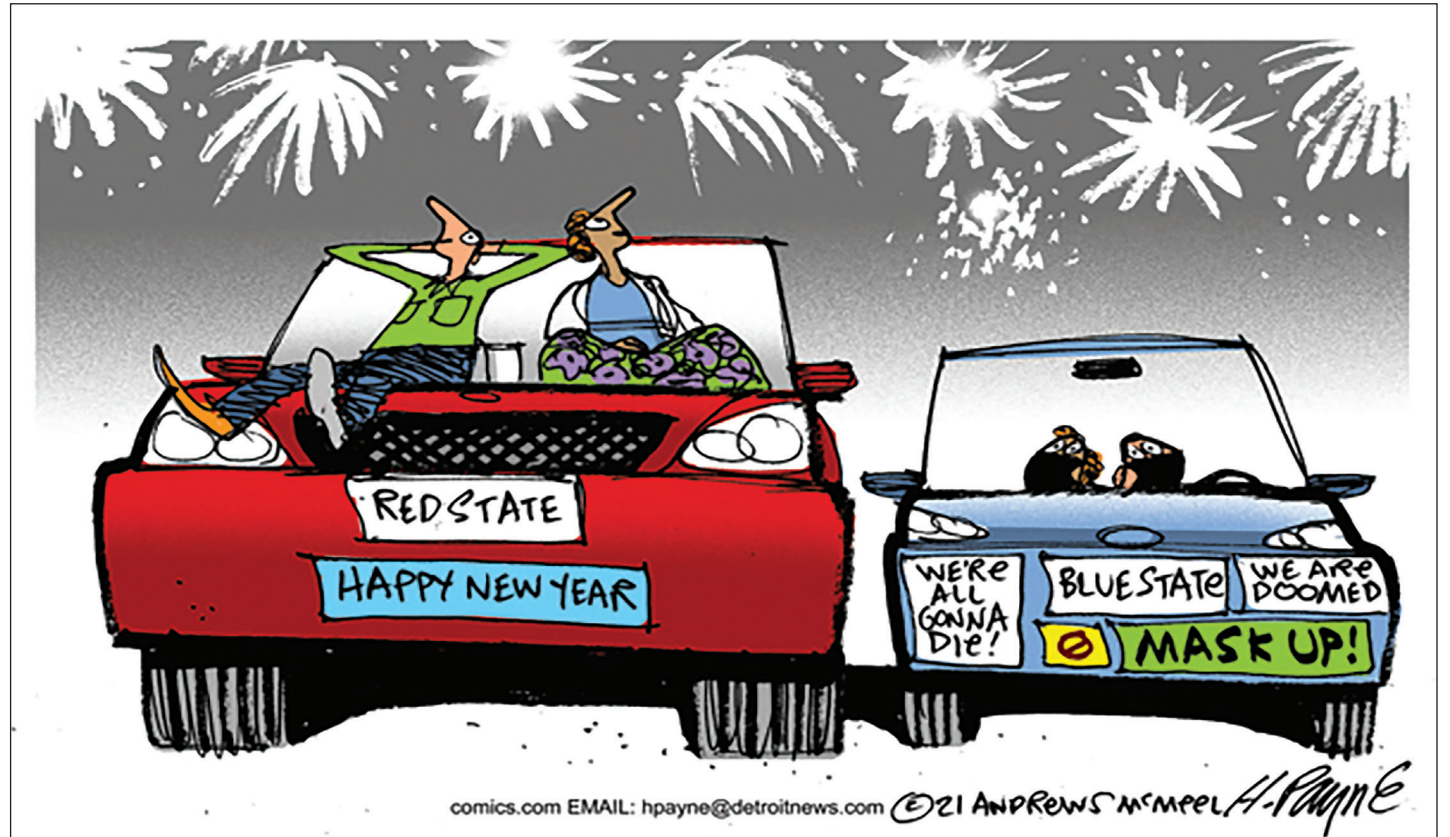
Finally, acquiring the property would give the city important flexibility as it considers a stormwater barrier along the peninsula's eastern side. While it's theoretically possible for a new house there to be built high enough to avoid needing protection, that added height would block views from — and dramatically overshadow — the two-story buildings across Concord Street.

If the eventual homeowner wanted the city's new sea wall or storm barrier to protect the house, that could force the barrier farther out into the marsh and river, possibly driving up costs and environmental concerns. It's too soon to know what a future barrier might look like, but the lot's minimal space between the water and Concord Street raises the possibility that the city might have to acquire this site one day in any case.

Meantime, council members voted recently to authorize city staff to negotiate to acquire 10 Concord St. and, if a deal can't be struck, bring them a proposal to take the land under the city's eminent domain powers.

It's important for city staff to negotiate in good faith for a purchase, much like the city was able to do recently when it bought the former Piggly Wiggly property in West Ashley. That deal, in fact, is an important reminder that even though you might have the legal authority to condemn property, you don't always need to do it — and that you shouldn't resort to such a drastic step unless there are no other options.

By early next year, City Council is



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expected to decide whether to proceed to flesh out an Army Corps of Engineers proposal to construct a \$1.1 billion sea wall around the peninsula. That vote would clear the way for more planning and study, which are expected to take a few more years. Until the direction of that project becomes clearer, it makes sense for the city to take steps to pause any new development on the peninsula's waterfront edge. What looks good today might look like a mistake in just a few years.

THE (ORANGEBURG) TIMES
AND DEMOCRAT

Dec. 23

Pough proves keeping faith the right call

Back in early 2019, the college football world had its eyes on South Carolina with the national championship won by Clemson. Yet even as the Tigers' flag flew atop the Statehouse, there was another big football news in the state in January.

South Carolina State University Athletic Director Stacy Danley and head coach Buddy Pough made the announcement that Pough would be returning for an 18th season at the helm of the program.

While not a great surprise, the announcement could not have been predicted. After the Bulldogs' worst season in 16 years under Pough in 2017, the coach stated that 2018 would be his last at the university. But things changed — for the better.

A young group of players had a surprisingly good season in 2018, finishing 5-6 after starting 0-4, with a 4-3 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference record.

With as many as 15 freshmen or red-shirt freshmen playing considerable roles for the Bulldogs throughout the season, Pough admitted in the postseason that he got more excited about continuing to coach the more he saw the young talent develop and players mesh as a team.

In late November, Pough went public with a stated desire to continue coaching the Bulldogs. Danley said at the time that he and Pough were evaluating the program and that an announcement would be forthcoming.

When it came, the athletic director was as optimistic as Pough about the future.

"When I looked at the program, where we are today, and considered our current reality and what the head football coach at South Carolina State is required to do, there was no question to me that Coach Pough is the man for the job," Danley said.

What a good decision. The Bulldogs in 2019 shared the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference title. And despite no fall season in 2020 because of the COVID

pandemic, Pough and his team played in spring 2021 and won three of four games.

Optimism for 2021 was real. A veteran coach with solid returning players and recruits would be a contender for the outright MEAC title and the berth that brings in the Celebration Bowl vs. the Southwestern Athletic Conference champion. At stake is the HBCU national championship.

It did not come easy. SC State lost three games to Football Bowl Subdivision teams and two to more traditional opponents. But in MEAC play, they were perfect. Close games, but perfect.

Still, no one really gave SC State a shot vs. SWAC champion Jackson State coached by football legend Deion Sanders and quarterbacked by his highly regarded son. No wonder, Jackson State went 11-1 during the season, losing only to an FBS team in a close game.

Well, as they say, that's why they play the games. On Saturday in Atlanta in the Celebration Bowl, Pough's Bulldogs were clearly the better team, winning 31-10. Call them HBCU national champions in a game played a day after President Joe Biden delivered the commencement address at the Orangeburg university.

Hard to top such a week. Pough said Saturday, "To cap off a great week with this victory is just the cherry on top of the sundae."

Inevitably he was asked how much longer he plans to coach. His answer: "I want to stay around until they run me off."

As much as coaching is about what you can do for me now more than what you did for me yesterday, Pough, thankfully, appears likely to lead the Bulldogs for the foreseeable future — and hopefully to more titles.

Flying the Bulldog flag at the Statehouse would be a fitting tribute.

GREENWOOD INDEX-JOURNAL

Dec. 28

Past time for change

"Here we go again. Another South Carolina sheriff, another indictment and removal from office."

That was the first paragraph of our editorial in April of 2019 following the indictment of former Florence County Sheriff Kenney Boone on a raft of charges, including two felonies, embezzlement and misconduct in office.

"This trend of abuse of power, sadly, has been rampant in the Palmetto State where nearly one-fourth of the sheriffs have been found guilty of breaking the laws they are supposed to uphold. As noted this past month in this space, Charleston's *Post and Courier* released the results of a five-month-long investigation into the sheriff's offices across the state, an investigation that, as we said, should give cause for concern about the structure we have in place that allows such abuse of power."

The above paragraph also was in the editorial two-and-a-half years ago, and

what has been done since then? Nothing. Other than yet another sheriff being indicted the middle of this month. This time, it was Marlboro County's Charles Lemon, along with a deputy, who each face one count of misconduct in office and one count of assault and battery of an aggravated nature.

As we wrote in 2019, short of indictments — when wrongdoing is actually discovered and reported — there's not much that can be done. And while it seems logical that voters could oust corruption at the polls, voters don't always have great recall and certainly might not be aware of any misdoings, real or perceived.

But since April 2019, lawmakers have found more important business to tend to, such as the design and color of our state's flag.

"It's time to revisit how sheriffs get into and remain in an office where they can control vast amounts of money and wield power over subordinates and inmates alike, all while remaining unaccountable to anyone but the voters," we wrote in 2019.

Logical. Rational. But reaching only deaf ears, it seems, as nothing has changed and change does not appear to be on the Legislature's radar.

We wrote: "Municipal police chiefs are not elected to their offices. They serve at the pleasure of the city and town councils who are elected by the voters. They and their budgets are under council scrutiny."

"Enough evidence points to a need to establish the same type of system among our state's sheriffs departments by making them accountable to county councils and county treasurers. While such a move would not necessarily bring an end to corruption, it would likely circumvent many such attempts and create a better path toward true accountability and remediation."

If state lawmakers don't see corruption among our state's top law officers as a problem worth addressing, we know we're not a lone voice in the wilderness on the topic.

The *Post and Courier* of Charleston also weighed in on the topic — again — in a recent editorial.

They wrote: "The Legislature can remove some of the temptation to cross the line by requiring routine outside audits of all sheriff expenditures, requiring sheriffs to follow state procurement regulations, giving county officials clearer authority to deny sheriffs' office expenditures and requiring sheriffs to post details about all their spending online. And it wouldn't hurt to at least have a debate about giving county councils the authority to remove abusive sheriffs or even make sheriffs appointed positions, like police chiefs. Yes, that's a drastic change, but having 16 of the state's 46 sheriffs accused of violating the law in a decade is pretty drastic, too."

We'd like more than an "amen" on that. We'd like to see some rise to action in Columbia. This session.

EDITORIAL PAGE POLICIES

EDITORIALS represent the views of the owners of this newspaper.

COLUMNS AND COMMENTARY are the personal opinion of the writer whose byline

appears. Columns from readers should be typed, double-spaced and no more than 850 words. Send them to *The Sumter Item*, Opinion Pages, P.O. Box 1677, Sumter, S.C. 29151, or email to letters@theitem.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are written by readers of the newspaper. They should be sent via e-mail to letters@theitem.com, dropped off at *The Sumter Item* office, 36 W. Liberty St. or mailed to *The Sumter Item*, P.O. Box 1677, Sumter, S.C. 29151, along with the

full name of the writer, plus an address and telephone number for verification purposes only. Letters that exceed 350 words will be cut accordingly in the print edition, but available in their entirety at www.theitem.com.

PUBLIC AGENDA

EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, some meetings/events may be cancelled, rescheduled or held virtually.

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

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

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

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

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

The last word in astrology EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Leave nothing to chance. Go over details

carefully. Ask questions, and do your due diligence. Preparation is critical if you want to make your way forward. Verify information offered to avoid letting someone take advantage of you. 5 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Give more thought to contracts, agreements, money matters and your health before you decide to sign up for something. Don't give in to someone who doesn't have your best interest at heart. Take charge, gather information, and trust and believe in yourself. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll feel uncertain about the future. Too much input from persuasive people will hold you back from doing what's best for you. Be honest about what you want, and don't fear doing your own thing. Follow your heart and dreams. 3 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put love first. Share your thoughts and feelings, and make plans. Make changes that bring you closer to your dreams and improve your quality of life. It's time to venture down a path that excites you mentally, physically and emotionally. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Choose to spend quality time with someone who matters to you. Keep your spending down and your attitude mellow. Arguments will set you back emotionally and can lead to regrettable mistakes. Choose to take the high road, and think before you act. 3 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Refuse to let someone disrupt your plans or your life. Look into options that will help you make a move from places, people and pastimes you don't relish toward the things that raise your enthusiasm. Take control instead of being controlled. 5 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't put

up with the things that no longer work for you. Set your sights on making your life less stressful and more enjoyable. Surround yourself with people you have more in common with, and it will help you find better solutions and lifestyle options. 4 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't overspend. Touch base with uplifting people who can offer insight into the changes you want to make this year. Consider what you need to finish to head in a direction you want to pursue. Traveling and learning are favored. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't make resolutions or promises you can't keep. Listen more and say less. Don't let a last-minute change of plans disrupt your day. Spend more time making personal improvements and less trying to change others. 3 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Rethink your financial plan and living arrangements, and figure out how to ensure you have more disposable funds and fewer money worries. It's up to you to take responsibility for yourself, your lifestyle and your future. 3 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): He who hesitates is lost. Jump on the bandwagon and muster up the energy to make your dreams come true. Take responsibility, and charge into the new year with the intent to make a difference. Live, love, laugh and enjoy. 4 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Leap forward with optimism as well as apprehension. Make sure everything is in its place before you proceed if you want to reach your target. Give your all, and good things will happen. 2 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. ©2022

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

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

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

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

IN THE MOUNTAINS

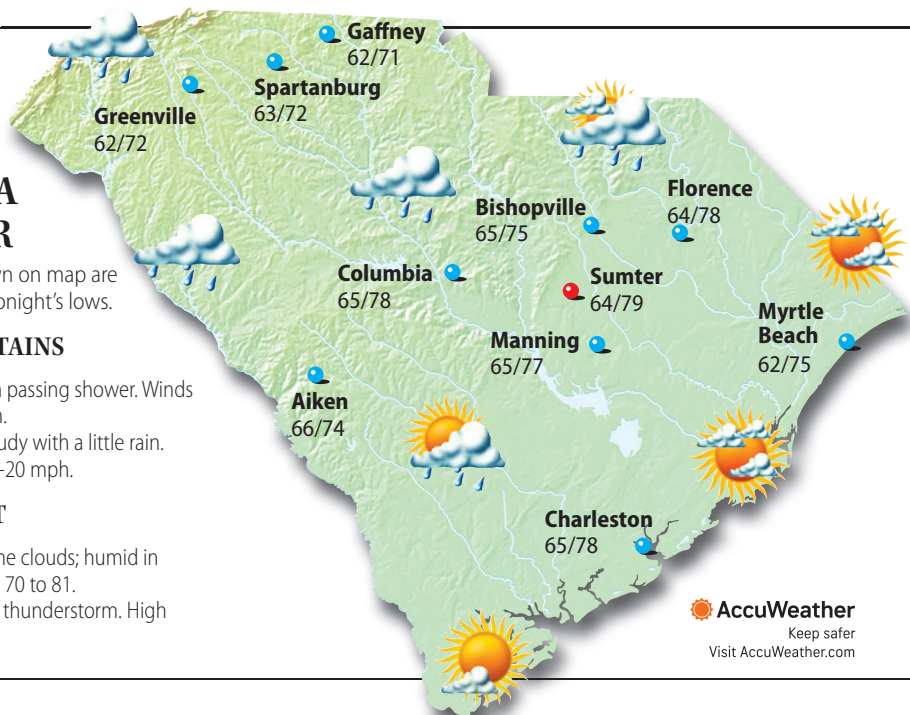
Today: Warm with a passing shower. Winds southwest 7-14 mph.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy with a little rain. Winds southwest 10-20 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: Sun and some clouds; humid in southern parts. High 70 to 81.

Sunday: Rain and a thunderstorm. High 69 to 79.



LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THURSDAY

Table with 2 columns: Temperature (High, Low, Normal high, Normal low, Record high, Record low) and Precipitation (Thursday, Month to date, Normal month to date, Year to date, Last year to date, Normal year to date).

LAKE LEVELS

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

RIVER STAGES

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

SUN AND MOON

Table with 4 columns: Sunrise, Moonrise, Sunset, Moonset.



TIDES

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

NATIONAL CITIES

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

REGIONAL CITIES

Table with 3 columns: City, Sat. Hi/Lo/W, Sun. Hi/Lo/W. Lists regional cities like Asheville, Athens, Augusta, etc.

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

Advertisement for 'HAVE YOU TAKEN PICTURES OF INTERESTING, EXCITING, BEAUTIFUL OR HISTORICAL PLACES?' with contact info for Sandra Holbert.

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

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for 1-33 across and 1-103 down.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for 1-103 down.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for 1-103 down.

SATURDAY'S ANSWERS

CROSSWORD

Grid of crossword answers.

SUDOKU

9x9 Sudoku puzzle grid.

JUMBLE

SCOUT QBESSE BOTTLE FREELY After alphabetizing all the books, the librarian was - OUT OF SORTS

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for 1-33 across and 1-103 down.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for 1-103 down.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for 1-103 down.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for 1-103 down.

KNIGHTS CROWNED

Crestwood wins District 9 basketball tournament championship over Manning

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

In a preview for what looks to be a series of excellent region battles in 2022, Crestwood and Manning faced off in the District 9 Officials Christmas Basketball Tournament championship on Thursday night, ending a marathon week of basketball. The Knights used a pair of strong runs to vanquish the Monarchs 80-73 and claim the tournament crown.

The game came down to two key runs for the Knights. The first started midway through the opening half. Starting right at the mid-point of the 16-minute half, Crestwood went on a 23-7 run that saw the Knights go from down 20-16 to leading 39-27 with 2:30 left to play before the break.

The run started with a bucket from Josh Mack, before Joseph Durant tied the game at 20. Corean Nelson then got things going. He started by knocking down a

three before a Tymere Ford basket. Nelson then knocked down a pair of free throws before adding another bucket.

As Crestwood's lead continued to grow, Durant pulled back and buried a three to put the Knights in front 36-27. After a free throw from Khalil Peeples, Durant scored another basket in transition to push the lead to 39-27.

"When we stick to our strategy, stick to our man-to-man pressure defense that we were doing or even when we pulled off of that," Crestwood head coach Aric Samuel said of what his team did well during key stretches. "Manning has some quick guards, and they gave us some problems with our pressure. I thought they played an excellent game, but I thought when we were jumping into that pressure correctly, I thought we created turnovers and created an advantage for ourselves."

A three from Justin Daniels cooled down the Knights and sparked a small run from



PHOTOS BY CAL CARY / THE SUMTER ITEM
Crestwood's Corean Nelson drives to the basket during the Knights' 80-73 win over Manning in the championship of the District 9 Officials Christmas Basketball Tournament on Thursday at Morris College.

Manning. Jeffrey Ceasar added another three for the Monarchs but Peeples responded with a triple of his own. After trading baskets, Ceasar knocked down one more three before the half, cutting the Crestwood lead to 44-38 at the break.

"I was a little worried. We got a little scattered there when Manning hit all of the threes at the end of the first half," Samuel said. "We had a good lead but give those guys credit, they hit big shots. They didn't quit. We lost our poise a little bit, but we regained ourselves a little bit after half-time. I thought our guys responded well to that situation."

The second crucial run came later in the second half. Manning was able to whittle the Crestwood lead down to two early in the second half thanks to five quick points from Daniels. He was eventually relegated to the bench for much of the second half due to foul trouble, which proved



The Crestwood basketball team poses with their medals and trophy after winning the District 9 Officials Christmas Basketball Tournament with an 80-73 victory over Manning on Thursday at Morris College.

to be Manning's Achilles heel. Rembert and Durant traded baskets after Daniels trimmed the lead to two, quickly pushing the gap back to eight in Crestwood's favor. The Monarchs were able to keep things close until near six-minute mark. That's when Mack went to the free throw line on consecutive possessions, knocking down all four free throws in the process.

The second trip to the line was the fourth foul for Jeh-qwayn Hilton, a key piece for Manning in the middle on both ends of the floor. A couple minutes later, Hilton fouled out attempting to block a three from Justin Rembert. He finished with 10 points and was forced to the bench for the final 4:32. At that point,

SEE **KNIGHTS**, PAGE B2



Manning's Jeffrey Ceasar (2) takes a corner three against Crestwood.

5 THINGS TO WATCH FOR THIS WEEK

1. REGION PLAY BEGINS IN SCHSL

The South Carolina High School League will see most of its teams begin region play this week. Sumter High opens at Socastee on Friday, Lakewood travels to Camden Friday, and Crestwood hosts Lake City on Friday in the Sumter. Manning will travel to the defending 3A champs on Friday to face Marlboro County.

2. LEE, TSA, CH OPEN REGIONS

Lee Academy and Thomas Sumter will each play Region I-2A games this week, while Clarendon Hall kicks off play in Region II-1A. Lee hosts Palmetto Christian on Tuesday before a trip to Calhoun on Friday. TSA will also be at home Tuesday, hosting Orangeburg Prep. Clarendon Hall will play in-region twice, traveling to Jefferson Davis on Tuesday before hosting Andrew Jackson on Friday.

3. USC WOMEN FACE 2 RANKED TEAMS

The South Carolina women's basketball team, which suffered its first loss this week, will play two ranked opponents this week. The No. 1 Gamecocks travel to LSU at 8 p.m. on Thursday before hosting Kentucky on Sunday at 1 p.m. on ESPN.

4. USC MEN HOST RANKED AUBURN

Among South Carolina's games next week is a date with No. 11 Auburn on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in Columbia.

5. NFL REGULAR SEASON WRAPS UP

The NFL regular season comes to a close with a full Sunday of action. The Carolina Panthers will wrap up their season against the defending Super Bowl champion, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Pressley Harvin's Pittsburgh Steelers will face Ty'Son Williams and the Baltimore Ravens, while Raymond Johnson and the New York Giants close with the Washington Football Team.



PHOTO PROVIDED
The Sumter boys basketball team won the Poinsettia Classic with a win over Greenville in the championship on Thursday.

Sumter, Lakewood boys win holiday tournaments

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

The Sumter and Lakewood basketball teams hit the road this week to take part in holiday tournaments.

Sumter played in the Poinsettia Classic, while Lakewood took part in the Lowcountry Invitational.

Both Sumter County schools took home championships with clean runs through the three-game tournaments.

SUMTER WINS POINSETTIA CLASSIC WITH LOCKDOWN D

The Sumter boys traveled to Greenville to take part in the Poinsettia Classic last week and played three excellent games on the way to the tournament title.

The Gamecocks opened with a dominant 57-39 win over Blue Ridge, the third-ranked 3A team in the state.

After a back-and-forth first half, Sumter took over in the third with a

24-point quarter. The Gamecocks then played shutdown defense in the fourth to secure the win, holding Blue Ridge to just five points in the final frame.

Ahmari Samuel led the team in scoring with 16 points, but it was a three-man show for the Gamecocks. Khalil Bledsoe added another 15 points, while Nakeem Isaac provided another 14 points in the win.

Sumter faced Easley in the second round and again used a dominant defensive performance to earn the victory. After ending the first quarter in a 16-16 tie, the Gamecocks held Easley to five points in the second. Sumter scored 15 of their own to take a 10-point lead into the half.

Easley only managed to score nine points after the break as Sumter ran away with a 49-30 win.

Isaac had 14 points and six rebounds

SEE **HOOPS**, PAGE B2

TSA goes 1-1 in holiday tournament

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Thomas Sumter boys basketball team took part in the Oakbrook Prep Post Christmas Tournament on Tuesday. The Generals played twice in the one-day tournament, going 1-1 on the day.

The Generals opened with a 49-36 loss to the host school, before beating Hope Basketball Academy 52-34.

Austin Anderson earned All-Tournament recognition for TSA, scoring 33 points across the two games. He averaged a double-double by adding 24 rebounds and four steals. Jamari Harris added another 22 points, six rebounds and two steals on the day, while Javion Lamie had four points, 14 rebounds and 10 steals across the two games.

TSA returns to action on Tuesday with a region matchup with Orangeburg Prep at home.



KNIGHTS FROM PAGE B1

Crestwood led 73-65 after Rembert hit two of his three free throw attempts.

"I'm super proud of Josh," Samuel said of Mack for his clutch play in the second half. "This is our third year, and he was on the first team and we struggled that year. Last year was up and down. For Josh to stick with us, stick with Crestwood basketball and see it through, that was his reward tonight. All of his hard work over the summer. Super proud of him."

The Knights iced the game from there. After running several minutes off the clock, Crestwood scored eight straight points to secure the win. Durant scored the first four before a Rembert dunk. Nelson then stretched the Crestwood lead to 80-67. Manning would add a few points late, but couldn't close the gap as the Knights took home the win.

Rembert and Durant shared the team lead in scoring with 17 points apiece in the Crestwood victory. Nelson added another 16 points to round out a stellar evening for the Knights' trio of guards.

"When they're playing together, we've got three good guards that can all step up when we need it," Samuel said.

Mack added another 14 points for the Knights, while Peoples chipped in with eight.

Manning was crushed by penalties in the loss. Hilton and Deionta McFadden both fouled out, while Daniels spent most of the second half on the bench with four fouls of his own. It's tough to climb out of a hole with four starters on the sideline.

"We're young and that goes to being young and not having the experience," Manning head coach Shawn Johnson said. "With our foul trouble, we have to get more disciplined in what we do defensively to stop the fouls. We've got to clean that up be-

cause they were at the free throw line early."

Cesar and Xavier Evans led Manning with 15 points each in the loss. Daniels added 14 despite missing most of the second half. Johnson wishes his team could've pulled out the win but said there is no shame in losing to the Knights.

"First of all, coach Samuel is a good coach and Crestwood is extremely great. They're good at what they do," Johnson said. "We're young, but I thought we handled the pressure well. We've just got to fix a few things. We've got to see them in our conference, so it was a good test."

This was the first of what will now be at least three meetings between the Knights and Monarchs, as Crestwood and Manning will play two more times as members of Region VI-3A. Samuel was happy to see his team pass the first test, but knows the Monarchs gained some confidence from a competitive game.

"I know they've got some confidence but its good for me to know what they can do so we can make our adjustments. I kinda see what they're trying to do and they've got some nice players on that team. It's going to be a tough challenge."

After winning the District 9 Officials Tournament, Samuel hopes his team learned from the marathon of four games in four days. He hopes they take those lessons and take another step forward after the New Year.

"There were a lot of lessons that took place tonight," Samuel said. "Gaining a lead, losing a lead, gaining leads again, cut backs and lose balls, a lot of things we can look back on film from this game that will motivate these kids. I thought we had a tough field when you talk about Kingstree, North Myrtle Beach, LMA and this team. And this is on the back of playing Sumter at Sumter. That was the stretch I was really worried about because that could've easily flipped on us. I'm really proud of the guys."

RIGHT: Crestwood's Joseph Durant (2) goes up for a layup against Manning on Thursday. TOP LEFT: Manning's Justin Daniels brings the ball up court against Crestwood.

BOTTOM LEFT: Manning's Jehqwauyn Hilton (0) dunks against Crestwood on Thursday

PHOTOS BY CAL CARY / THE SUMTER ITEM



HOOPS FROM PAGE B1

in the win, while Bledsoe added another 12 points for the Gamecocks.

The win set up a matchup with Greenville in the final. Sumter did not get out to a strong start, trailing 9-0 in the first few minutes of the contest. The Gamecocks settled in after that and managed to grab a 19-16 lead by the end of the first quarter.

Sumter maintained that lead through halftime, but Greenville fought back to take a 34-32 lead late in the third quarter. But Sumter had one more strong defensive quarter in their back pockets. The Gamecocks held Greenville to five points in the final quarter and scored 15 points of their own to take down the fourth-ranked team in 4A 47-39.

"We looked at that game as a playoff environment, that's what we treated it as," Sumter High head coach Bryan Brown said of the matchup with Greenville. "Going down the stretch there we were just trying to protect the ball and be really selective on our shots. We taking our time on offense, being really patient on our shots to try to control the game."

Isaac again scored 14 points, while Bledsoe and Caleb Jenkins each scored nine in the victory. Isaac and Bledsoe were both named to the all-tournament team.

The Gamecock defense was strong for the entire tournament, hold teams to single digits in six different quarters. Brown said things are starting to click on that side of the court.

"Our guys just stepped up to the challenge. We've been preaching defense all year as we prepare for region play and that's what we focused on this week and they did a good job," Brown said. "They answered the call of being gritty and working hard and doing all of the little things it takes to be successful on defense."

Playing two ranked teams was important for the Gamecocks, as they'll dive into region play next week. Sumter will return home on Tuesday to host Westwood for a non-region contest before opening region action with a trip to Socastee on Friday.

"This is why we wanted to get into a really good tournament, so we could



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Lakewood boys basketball team won the Lowcountry Invitational on Thursday with a win over Lucy Beckham in the championship game.

be matched up against good teams and good players," Brown said. "It was real big for us to play these teams and be successful to give us some confidence heading into region play."

LAKWOOD SWEEPS BRACKET FOR LOWCOUNTRY INVITATIONAL TITLE

The Lakewood boys basketball team took part in the Lowcountry Invitational, which was split between Bishop England and Cane Bay High Schools, this week. The Gators swept their way through three games, capping off the week with a victory over Lucy Beckham to win the tournament.

The tournament championship comes after a shaky few weeks for the Gators. Lakewood had won just one of its last five games with a pair of losses to West Florence, as well as losses to Sumter High and Scott's Branch. After losing Camareyon McMillan to an Achilles' injury right before the start of the season, Lakewood head coach Ed Scott knew the early season would have some bumps in the road, but he was happy to see his team respond in the tournament this week.

"We kind of new coming into the season that it would be up and down," Scott said. "We lost one of our key players in the preseason, so we were still trying to figure out how to play, what was going to be our style, what our strengths and weaknesses were.

The non-conference schedule was about figuring ourselves out."

The Gators started with a 74-55 win over Timberland on Tuesday. Lakewood got big performances from a pair of seniors in Kameron Rodriguez and Jamond Lewis in the victory. Lewis led the team with 18 points, while the ever steady Rodriguez added 16 points. Scott was proud of the way the duo stepped up in the win.

"I think we have a really good core group of seniors," Scott said. "They had to learn how to lead and that's the process we've been building. It was great to see Kam and Jamond Lewis step into that role."

After a dominant first win that also saw Nick Martin score 10 points and Sincere Paulson add nine, Lakewood faced Cane Bay. The first half was hot and cold, as both teams saw their offense dry up in the second quarter. Only nine points total were scored in the frame, but Lakewood went into the half with a 25-21 lead. A strong third quarter and some clutch free throw shooting from Rodriguez in the fourth sealed a 51-38 win for the Gators as they advanced to the championship.

Scott really appreciated his team's ability to respond to moments of stagnation like in the second quarter where the Gators scored five points. Those stretches are where Lakewood misses McMillan, so the ability to

bounce back from cold stretches was a big step in the right direction.

"That's part of the growth process without having McMillan. He was the point guard, he was the catalyst. Kam was the leading scorer, but C averaged less than a point under him and he led the team," Scott said. "The good thing is we're seeing less of those moments, but the even better thing is we're starting to figure out who we are."

Rodriguez scored 19 points in the win, while Pearson added 12 and Martin chipped in with another 10 points.

After the win, Lakewood faced Lucy Beckham in the championship on Thursday. After a quiet first quarter that saw the two teams split 12 points, Lakewood grabbed control of the game in the second, going into the half with a 23-17 lead. Lucy Beckham hung around in the second half, but more clutch free throw shooting from Rodriguez sealed a 47-39 win for the tournament crown.

Rodriguez again led the way with 19 points, but Scott said the championship game was a team win, even if his star player is the one that filled up the stat sheet.

"Kam was consistent the whole tournament," Scott said. "The beautiful part of that was that it was very efficient. He didn't need a lot of shots to get those points. You started seeing the team grow around him, guys like Sincere and Nick and Zay (Wells) started understanding their roles. When they can play that way, it opens things up for Kam. It was a very good team effort."

Now Lakewood prepares for region play, which begins on Friday with a trip to Camden. Scott hopes this tournament provided the spark the Gators need to make a run to the playoffs.

"The key thing with the whole non-conference schedule was to test us," Scott said. "We played like three or four 5A teams and three or so 4A teams and we played the top team in 1A. We had a lot of different styles that we played against and saw a lot of different defenses. We were tested."

"This tournament we had to learn how to play with a lead and not take bad shots down the stretch and have quality possessions. This tournament it felt like we learned how to win and we started playing like a team with confidence. That's big."

NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



South Carolina forward Aliyah Boston (4) attempts to score as Missouri forward LaDazhia Williams (0) defends during the Gamecocks' 70-69 loss on Thursday in Columbia, Missouri.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hansen, Missouri stun No. 1 South Carolina 70-69 in overtime

BY AVERY OSEN
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Lauren Hansen made a driving layup with 0.1 seconds left and Missouri stunned No. 1 South Carolina 70-69 in overtime Thursday night in the Southeastern Conference opener for both teams.

The Tigers (12-2) overcame the absence of scoring leader Aijha Blackwell and four other players to beat a No. 1 team for the first time in program history. They were previously 0-8 against No. 1 ranked teams.

"This is a huge win for us and I couldn't be more proud," Missouri coach Robin Pingleton said. "The grit they showed and the belief. Their ability to play through tough possessions and different players stepped up at different times."

South Carolina (12-1) was coming off its biggest comeback in school history, overcoming an 18-point deficit to beat No. 2 Stanford last Tuesday. On Thursday night, the Tigers always had an answer when the Gamecocks cut it close.

Hansen and Hayley Frank each scored 21 points, LaDazhia Williams added 12, and Mama Dembele had 11.

"Wins like this don't just happen, but it's a body of work over time," Pingleton said. "Even though there were some players not here, we want to acknowledge them."

Aliyah Boston scored 17 points for South Carolina, including 16 in the second half. Kamilla Cardoso added 14 and Zia Cooke had 10. Boston was held to one point and played just eight minutes because of foul trouble in the first half, when Missouri led 32-26.

"We really take a hit when she is not on the floor, 28 minutes is a lot of minutes, but not enough minutes," South Carolina coach Dawn Staley said. "Our team can learn from this and they listen the most after losses."

The Gamecocks trailed by as many as six in

final three minutes of regulation. Boston's put-back tied the game at 64 with 21 seconds left. South Carolina missed a jumper at the buzzer, forcing overtime. The Gamecocks rattled off five consecutive points, but were held scoreless the rest of the way.

With the Gamecocks up 69-68 and less than five seconds to play, Hansen drove to the basket and scored a layup with 0.1 seconds left. The Gamecocks inbounced the ball under the basket to Boston, whose made shot came after the buzzer.

The loss snapped the longest active streak of wins against unranked opponents at 43 held by South Carolina. It's also the Gamecock's first loss to an unranked SEC foe since 2017, which was also at Missouri.

It's the Tigers fourth straight win and first win against a ranked opponent since 2019.

NUGGETS

It marked only the seventh time an unranked team has beaten the top-ranked team, and the first since Colorado beat Stanford on Jan. 17, 2021. No. 1 ranked teams have lost seven consecutive overtime games.

BIG PICTURE

South Carolina: Boston couldn't quite get it going in the first half because of Missouri's defense and foul trouble, which proved costly for the Gamecocks. The Gamecocks have a week to regroup before their next game.

Missouri: Arguably the biggest win in program history, Missouri did it using just seven players. Several players were absent due to health and safety protocols. For a team picked 10th in the preseason poll in the SEC, the Tigers gain confidence heading into the rest of the conference season.

UP NEXT

South Carolina: At LSU on Jan. 6.
Missouri: At Vanderbilt on Sunday.

Boyd leads No. 5 N.C. State to 13th in row over Clemson

CLEMSON (AP) — Jada Boyd works to fill the role of injured guard Kayla Jones for No. 5 North Carolina State. She did that to perfection against Clemson.

Boyd, last year's ACC Sixth Player of the Year, set season highs with 18 points and eight rebounds as the Wolfpack won their 13th straight over the Tigers 79-52 on Thursday night.

Jones tweaked a knee injury recently and North Carolina State coach Wes Moore decided to give her a little more recovery time.

"She's our glue," Boyd said of Jones. "So just having to step up and take on her role, that's what I decided to do this game."

Boy, did she ever. Boyd had two early layups to ignite a 12-0 surge as the Wolfpack (12-2, 3-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) gained control and went on to their fourth straight 3-0 start in league play.

Moore was pleased with Boyd's performance and believes she's rounding into form after missing the first five games of the season due to injury.

"It's good to see her play like this," the coach said.

Boyd is happy to do whatever she's asked. If that means score more points or play tighter defense, the 6-foot-2 junior is ready.

"This game really did help my confidence overall," Boyd said. "So I did feel like I was getting back in the groove."

Diamond Johnson added 15 points, seven rebounds and four assists for North Carolina State.

Clemson cut into the lead in the second quarter, drawing within 32-23 with three minutes to go before halftime. But then North Carolina State cranked things up once more in the third to take a 66-35 lead.

The Tigers (6-7, 0-2) played without three of their top four scorers, who were listed as unavailable. Freshman guard Madi Ott had a career-best 14 points to lead Clemson, including four 3-pointers.

North Carolina State hasn't lost to Clemson since January 2011 and made sure the streak didn't end.

The Wolfpack scored 12 straight points to

take control. Boyd began the charge with two layups before Johnson and Jakia Brown-Turner followed with consecutive 3-pointers. When Johnson added a layup about 30 seconds later, North Carolina State was up 25-9.

Clemson was without guards Delicia Washington (12.5 points per game), Kiara Lewis (9.6 ppg) and Daisha Bradford (7.9 ppg).

BIG PICTURE

North Carolina State: The Wolfpack showed the versatility that makes them strong contenders for the ACC title. Five players made 3-pointers as North Carolina State shot 45% (9 of 20) from behind the arc. The team also dominated the boards (47-30) and had 14 steals.

Clemson: The Tigers would've been hard-pressed to win this one even if completely healthy. Missing their two leading scorers and three of their top four, it would've taken a complete collapse from North Carolina State for Clemson to prevail.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Even in victory, Moore saw too many things to work on with the Wolfpack. He thought they had too many turnovers, missed far too many open shots and didn't play as strongly on defense as he'd like. "We're getting ready to enter a gauntlet," he said of ACC play.

HELP ON THE WAY

Clemson coach Amanda Butler hopes her players in virus protocol will be OK to return in time for the next game Sunday. "I feel like everybody else, there are lessons I'm learning every day," she said. "What are the protocols? How are the protocols applied? I know the powers that be are doing their best to keep everyone updated."

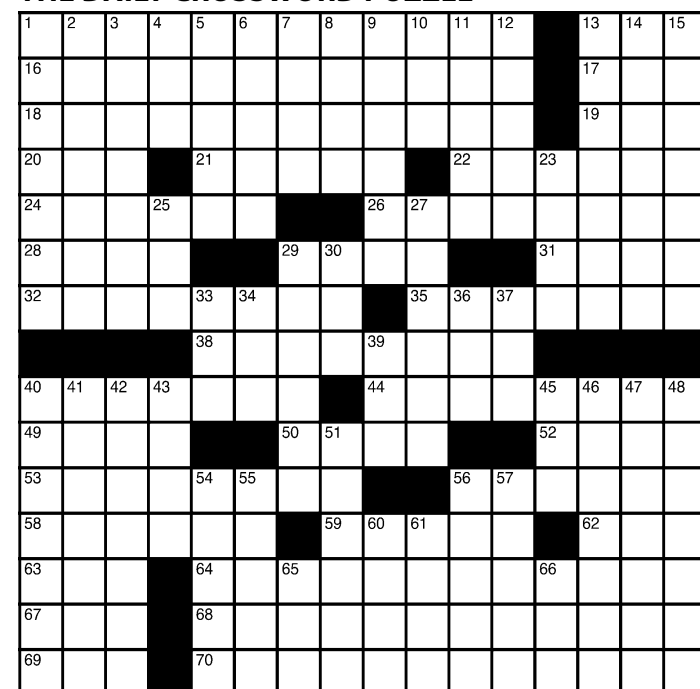
UP NEXT

North Carolina State has a week off before facing No. 24 North Carolina on Jan. 6.

Clemson starts a two-game road trip Sunday at No. 24 North Carolina.

SATURDAY PUZZLES

THE DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Adrian Johnson

1/1/22

ACROSS

1 Over the moon
13 Figurehead?: Abbr.
16 Japanese art piece that symbolizes good fortune and longevity
17 Inlet, to the sea
18 Much-photographed event
19 Fairy-tale disruption
20 Son of Akhenaten
21 "To recap ..."
22 Law school course
24 Tangents
26 Throbs
28 Drawing game
29 Sound of alarm
31 Connection point
32 Aid in fixing rough borders
35 Dickered
38 Program resource
40 Last part
44 Offer not seen by competitors

DOWN

1 Provocative opinion
2 Galvanized
3 Placing in direct competition
4 Tour
5 Amy Klobuchar, for one
6 Chorus of approval
7 Unleashes
8 Women's Rights Project org.
9 Pinches together
10 2.5 miles, at Indy
11 Elgort of "The Fault in Our Stars"
12 Some contests
13 Building partly burned by Britain in 1814

62 Dance step
63 Crew implement
64 Iran, for one
67 It may be plucked on a beach
68 Vader underling
69 Talking stuffed bear in a 2012 film
70 Permanent marker?

14 Antedate
15 Brought together
23 Get hooked?
25 John in court, maybe
27 Maintained
29 Age: post-Civil War period
30 Gig gear
33 It accounts for about 7% of all printed English words
34 "The Villain in Black" rapper MC
36 "The Phantom Menace" boy
37 Cause to race
39 Wall St. asset
40 Gracefully exits
41 Bread named for how it's baked
42 Blackened

43 "Sexual Politics" author Millett
45 Witness to a delivery, often
46 2000s Red Sox hero, familiarly
47 Conceives
48 Madeleine or Napoleon
51 Soap Box Derby entrant
54 Dmitri Mendeleev, religiously
55 Photo-sharing app, for short
56 Triangular pelvic bones
57 Former CNN journalist
60 Snowball pile, say
61 Jazz great
65 Parking
66 Little one

Previous Puzzle Solved

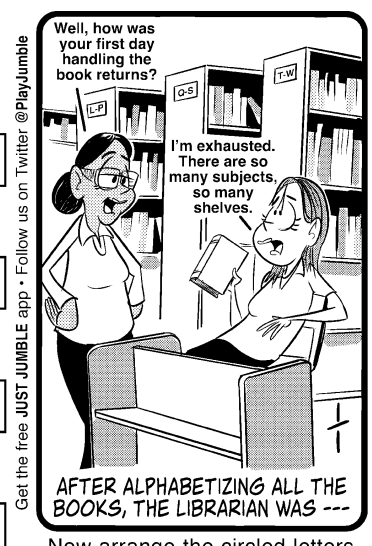
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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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

TOCSU
SEBEO
TBETOL
REFYLE



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Ans. here:

(Answers Monday)
Yesterday's Jumbles: LOBBY BLURB COPPER BAKERY
Answer: The enthusiastic New Year's Eve party guests drinking champagne were — BUBBLY PEOPLE

SUDOKU

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

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

Panthers look to play spoiler for playoff-hopeful Saints

BY BRETT MARTEL

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — For the New Orleans Saints and Carolina Panthers, this has been a season of upheaval and disappointment.

Yet their late-season meeting on Sunday holds NFC playoff implications for New Orleans and could influence the longer-term trajectories of both teams.

“It’s been a challenging year for a lot of reasons,” said Saints quarterback Taysom Hill, who missed two games because of a concussion earlier this season, has been playing through a throwing-hand injury since Dec. 2 and had to sit out Monday night’s 20-3 loss to Miami because of a COVID-19 outbreak that decimated the Saints’ roster.

“You compete from July (when training camp starts) until now to have an opportunity to get to postseason play and then you have to deal with more things,” Hill said.

The Saints (7-8) still have a realistic chance to make the playoffs, but need some help.

New Orleans, Atlanta and Minnesota are one game behind San Francisco and Philadelphia for the last two NFC playoff spots with two games to go.

“We’re still right in the middle of it and we’re going to control what we can control,” said Hill, who could bolster his credentials as an NFL starter if he performs well. “I think we’ve been able to persevere pretty well to where we’re still in the hunt.”

Should the Saints — who won the NFC South the previous four seasons — succeed in making the playoffs again this season, they’ll have overcome as much difficulty in doing so as any team in the league.

Their first season since the retirement of Saints career passing leader Drew Brees began with displacement to Dallas for nearly a month because of Hurricane Ida. That led the NFL to move New Orleans’ first home game to



Carolina Panthers quarterback Sam Darnold will start for the Panthers against the Saints on Sunday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jacksonville, Florida.

Between injuries, COVID-19 outbreaks and coaching decisions, the Saints have started four quarterbacks this season. After Jameis Winston was lost to a knee injury, Trevor Siemian took over for four games — all losses. Hill then started three games — winning two — before the virus outbreak that landed Hill and Siemian on COVID-19 reserve list and left the Saints little choice but to start rookie Ian Book against the Dolphins.

The Panthers (5-10) have started three QBs this season, during which second-year coach Matt Rhule also fired offensive coordinator Joe Brady.

Sam Darnold, who was acquired before this season from the New York Jets, is resuming the starting role he lost to injury earlier this season.

Darnold led the Panthers to a 26-7 win over the Saints in Week 2, completing 26 of 38 passes for 305 yards with two touchdowns and one interception.

“That was probably his best game,” Rhule said. Darnold “threw the ball on time, was aggressive with his throws, but didn’t have the catastrophic mistakes.”

Darnold replaces Cam Newton, who

returned to his first NFL team in November but has started throughout a five-game skid.

That losing streak has turned up the heat on Rhule, who could use a strong finish to improve his prospects for keeping his job.

COVID-19 CONCERNS

Of the 16 Saints players taken off the active roster last week because of COVID-19, 15 were back by Thursday. Those returning have included starters such as Hill, linebackers Demario Davis and Kwon Alexander, safety Malcolm Jenkins and tight end Adam Trautman.

But New Orleans also had two other starters — safety Marcus Williams and center Eric McCoy — placed on the club’s COVID-19 reserve list this week.

The Panthers, meanwhile, added safety Kenny Robinson and defensive end Darryl Johnson to their COVID-19 list, which grew to 14 players before reserve defensive back Melvin Rashaan was re-activated on Thursday.

CORNERBACK BUG

Cornerback had been one of Carolina’s deepest positions, but now the

Panthers extremely thin after Stephon Gilmore was ruled out for Sunday with a groin injury. Gilmore is the fourth Panthers cornerback to go down with an injury this season, joining Jaycee Horn, Donte Jackson and A.J. Bouye on the sideline.

C.J. Henderson, a 2020 first-round draft pick of the Jacksonville Jaguars, and Keith Taylor are expected to start Sunday against the Saints.

MISSING TACKLES

Statistically speaking, the Saints’ offense is producing at its lowest level since coach Sean Payton took over in 2006 with Brees as his QB. New Orleans ranks 31st in the NFL with 301.9 yards per game and 31st in passing (187).

QB changes are only part of it. Top receiver Michael Thomas has missed the entire season because of a setback while recovering from offseason ankle surgery. Dynamic running back Alvin Kamara missed four games with leg injuries. But for Payton, a development that has hampered both run blocking and pass protection has been the absences of left tackle Terron Armstead (seven games) and right tackle Ryan Ramczyk (six games). Armstead (knee) didn’t practice Thursday and Ramczyk, who is recovering from a knee injury, was still on New Orleans’ COVID-19 list.

Missing “both tackles, especially those two, I think that’s been a big challenge,” Payton said.

MOORE IS MORE

Carolina’s offense has struggled for the most part this season, but it’s hard to pin that on wide receiver D.J. Moore.

Moore has been a model of consistency for Carolina with three straight 1,000-yard seasons. He ranks 14th in the league in yards receiving (1,041) and is tied for 13th in receptions (83). Since Week 1 of the 2019 season, Moore has 3,409 receiving yards, fifth most in the NFL over that span.

Hester, Ware, Andre Johnson 1st-year Hall of Fame finalists

BY BARRY WILNER

The Associated Press

DeMarcus Ware, Andre Johnson and Devin Hester, all in their first year of eligibility, are finalists for the Pro Football Hall of Fame’s class of 2022.

The 15 modern-day players who will be considered on Jan. 18 by the selection committee include tackle Tony Boselli, in his sixth year as a finalist, and defensive lineman Richard Seymour, in his fourth year.

Other finalists announced Thursday are safety Leroy Butler, wide receivers Torry Holt and Reggie Wayne, linebackers Sam Mills and Zach Thomas — all finalists for the third time; defensive linemen Jared Allen and Bryant Young, and cornerback Ronde Barber, two-time finalists; and tackle Willie Anderson and linebacker Patrick Willis, their first time in the finals.

A maximum of five modern-day players can be elected for enshrinement in August to the Canton, Ohio, hall. The inductees will be announced on Feb. 10 at NFL Honors, the prime-time TV program during which The Associated Press reveals its individual award winners for the 2021 season.

Three others — Dick Vermeil in the coaching category, Art McNally as a contributor, and Cliff Branch as a senior player — also are candidates for the class of 2022. Voting on each of those three will be held individually.

Hester is the rare finalist who made his mark mostly on special teams. He opened the 2007 Super Bowl for Chicago with a 92-yard kickoff return for a touchdown, the only time in Super Bowl history that has occurred. An All-Pro three times, Hester was a member of the NFL’s All-Decade Team of the 2010s and one of two return specialists on the NFL 100 All-Time Team.

Thomas, a five-time All-Pro, also was a regular on special teams, for Miami, and made his mark as one of the surest tacklers in football as an outstanding linebacker from 1996-2008, a golden era for the position.

Boselli has been part of a strong group of offensive linemen considered for the Hall of Fame in recent years. Kevin Mawae, Steve Hutchinson and Alan Faneca preceded the former Jaguars star into the hall. A three-time All-Pro, Boselli made

the All-Decade Team of the 1990s despite playing only half the decade.

Like Boselli, Butler is in his 16th year of eligibility. The Packers’ hard-hitting safety, a four-time All-Pro who also made the All-Decade Team of the 1990s, was among the most versatile defensive backs the game has seen.

The late Mills is under consideration in his 20th and final year of eligibility as a modern-day candidate. A three-time All-Pro who made his mark initially in the USFL, Mills then starred for the Saints and expansion Panthers — helping Carolina to the NFC championship game in its second season.

Ware, a four-time All-Pro, led the Cowboys in sacks for eight seasons, topped the NFL with 20 sacks in 2008 and 15 1/2 in 2010, and won a Super Bowl with Denver for the 2015 season. He finished with 138 1/2 sacks and made the NFL’s All-Decade Team of the 2000s.

Johnson, the other first-year eligible in the final 15, twice made the All-Pro team during a strong time for wide receivers. He led the league in receptions twice (103 in 2006 and 115 in 2008) and in receiving yards twice (1,575 yards in 2008 and 1,569 yards in 2009). Johnson finished his career with 1,062 receptions for 14,185 yards and 70 receiving touchdowns.

Two of his contemporaries, Holt and Wayne, also are in the finals. Holt was selected to NFL’s All-Decade Team of the 2000s and won a Super Bowl with the 1999 Rams. Wayne retired as NFL’s second all-time leading receiver in the postseason with 93 catches and won a Super Bowl with the Colts.

Anderson was considered one of the elite right tackles in the game for 13 pro seasons with Cincinnati and Baltimore, making three All-Pro squads.

Pass-rushing standout Allen was a four-time All-Pro who led the NFL in sacks twice (2007, 2011) while playing for the Chiefs, Vikings, Bears and Panthers. The versatile Seymour, a three-time All-Pro selected to the NFL’s All-Decade Team of the 2000s, played in four Super Bowls for New England. Young was the 1999 Comeback Player of the Year and had 89 1/2 career sacks for San Francisco while being voted to the NFL’s All-Decade Team of the 1990s.

Where will the NFL coaching carousel land?

BY BARRY WILNER

The Associated Press

Just like the Super Bowl, the draft, and the Jets missing the playoffs, there is another ritual in every NFL season.

The coaching carousel.

It’s spinning already with two openings, in Las Vegas and Jacksonville, forced by the departures of two disgraced coaches, Jon Gruden and Urban Meyer. It might also hit in Chicago, Minneapolis, Charlotte and New York. There are even rumblings that one of the best pro coaches of the last decade or so, Pete Carroll in Seattle, might have worn out his welcome.

Let’s dismiss that one; Carroll has earned the right to determine when he will leave the Seahawks. Yes, he’s the oldest coach in the NFL and this has been his worst season. But Carroll has a way of figuring out things, just like Sean Payton in New Orleans, John Harbaugh in Baltimore, and Mike Tomlin in Pittsburgh. All elite coaches with Super Bowl rings whose teams are struggling. None deserves to be dismissed.

As for the others, here’s a closer look - presuming the likes of David Culley in Houston, Dan Campbell in Detroit and Vic Fangio in Denver are safe.

Asked if he worries about job security, Fangio says: “I don’t. And I know you think that’s a standard answer. But for a lot of reasons, I do not worry about it. And those reasons are personal to me. But do I acknowledge that it’s certainly out there and could happen? Absolutely. But do I worry about it? I absolutely do not worry about it, for many, many reasons.”

MATT NAGY

This seems the most likely change, though Nagy has a winning record in his four seasons, 33-32 through last week’s comeback victory at Seattle. The main issues in Chicago have been:

— The lack of development at quarterback. This will be Justin Fields’ team moving forward, regardless who is the coach. But the decisions made on Mitchell Trubisky, Nick Foles — the winning QB last Sunday — and Andy Dalton have caused regression on offense.

— A defense that also has regressed from a big-play unit of near-championship caliber to a so-so unit.

— A severe lack of discipline in all aspects of on-field performance.

Former Eagles coach Doug Pederson would appear to be a wise option if Nagy is released.

MIKE ZIMMER

There’s little doubt that Zimmer is a solid coach, but his talented team has underperformed and struggles in close games. Simply put, the Vikings can’t finish.

While Zimmer almost certainly would be gobbled up as a defensive coordinator

should he become available, his D hasn’t been notable in Minnesota.

There’s also a question of whether, after eight years there with a good record but diminishing returns, whether it’s time for a fresh approach.

MATT RHULE

Late in his second consecutive losing season in Carolina, the man who turned around Temple and Baylor in college heard “Fire Rhule” chants on Sunday when the Panthers were routed by the injury-ravaged Buccaneers. In fairness to Rhule, the team started 3-0 and then lost its most important player, running back Christian McCaffrey. The Panthers never have been the same.

Odds are Rhule, in the second year of a \$60 million contract, gets another season at least. He insists things aren’t so depressing.

“There is a process that is happening underneath and everyone is like, ‘It’s not working, Matt. It’s not working, Matt.’ But when I see all of the good things that are happening, I think it is,” he says.

JOE JUDGE

Very similar to Rhule’s situation, the Giants coach is getting all sorts of heat at the end of his second losing season. This year was all about developing Daniel Jones, but the quarterback’s neck injury, the sidelining of some key players throughout the offense, and a general malaise in recent games has added to the criticism.

New York has not scored more than 10 points in the first half, an indictment of preparation as well as execution. He also is the third straight coaching hire the Giants might have missed on: Ben McAdoo, Pat Shurmur and Judge.

He probably deserves one more shot, but the uncertainty with Jones is an albatross for the entire franchise.

RAIDERS

The Gruden redux was a flop, ending ignominiously. The Raiders could use someone less mercurial and able to deal with the modern locker room. A strong voice with a winning pedigree in the NFL seems best. Someone from the same mold as a Tomlin or Payton.

Too bad the team moved on from Jack Del Rio in 2018 when it went after Gruden.

JAGUARS

This one should be easy for owner Shad Khan. Don’t go with a college coach, don’t go with the big name out there who has no NFL cred, and don’t ignore that Trevor Lawrence needs a quarterback whisperer.

Former Jaguars QB Byron Leftwich, now the offensive coordinator in Tampa Bay, and Chiefs standout OC Eric Bieniemy, critical in the development of Patrick Mahomes, fit the bill. As would an available Super Bowl winner, Pederson.

Madden's real gift? 'Always knew right thing to say'

BY JIM LITKE
The Associated Press

Somehow, he made every game feel fresh. So it barely mattered whether you first ran across John Madden as the growling, grizzly bear-sized coach of the Oakland Raiders, the big, booming soundtrack of the NFL, or the guy with the "what-me-worry?" smile peeking out from the slot on a video-game console. All three generations of football fans faithfully followed in his wake because every run-in with Madden after that was bound to yield something new.

An insect landing on the camera lens in the middle of a game? Instead of ignoring that detail, Madden turned it into 10 seconds of broadcasting gold by ruminating on a bug's life. The pigeon that wouldn't leave the field after wrecking a pass play in a New York-Washington tilt? Madden did 10 seconds of play-by-play on that, too, wondering why the little guy hadn't settled on a seat with a real bird's eye view of the action.

He riffed about dogs, turkey legs and once he got his hands on a telestrator, did animated bits about Gatorade buckets being part of a family and Troy Aikman's inability to grow a beard. Madden never lost his delight in illuminating the thousand little dramas that took place at the edges of the TV camera's roving eye.

He even waited some 30 years to reveal what surprised him most about the crowning achievement of his time on the sidelines — the Raiders' 1976 Super Bowl championship.

"I was told it took five or six guys to lift me up," Madden began the tale, "then they dropped me. ... But it was the happiest moment of my life."

Madden laid down the template for what would become one of the most influential careers the game has ever seen early in his tenure as a coach. Owner Al Davis had just handed over the reins of one of NFL's surliest franchises to the then-32-year-old assistant in 1969, and there were a half-dozen or more successful role models from which to choose — among them, Vince Lombardi, Tom Landry, Don Shula and George Allen, all of them with hard-earned reputations as disciplinarians.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
John Madden, right, and Pat Summerall were the voice of NFL football for a generation of viewers. Madden passed away on Wednesday.

Even then, Madden decided to go his own way.

"The fewer rules a coach has," he announced with flawless logic, "the fewer rules there are to break."

The late Ken Stabler, the wild-eyed quarterback and leader of the Raiders' pack, remembered exactly two when he was interviewed in 2006. "Be on time and play hard. There were no dress codes, no haircut rules. Because he treated us that way, nobody abused it."

The tributes pouring in since Madden's death Tuesday at age 85 focused on the "everyman" facet of his personality. Of course, not every man spends most of his adult life working within earshot of a microphone. And what came out of Madden's mouth at big moments in the biggest games sounded at times like spontaneous combustion — Boom! Whap! Boink! Oof! Bam!

But Madden made it a point to resonate with fans beyond the emotional level. He was a teacher throughout his life, trying to make an often overly complicated game understandable. His foray into video games was a fortuitous bit of timing, to be sure, but it was also an extension of Madden's ability to help others see the game through his eyes. When EA Sports began discussions about the first version of

"Madden," the real Madden got involved up to his elbows.

He insisted on life-like graphics, full 11-man sides and even shared his old playbook from his days as the Raiders coach. The crazy additions, from sound effects to players shrugging off injuries to complete heroic plays, were often his ideas, too, part of a commitment to make the game fun and accessible.

Ultimately, what most folks will remember about Madden largely reflects where in their own lives they first found him. Patriots coach Bill Belichick, as unsentimental a soul and cold-blooded professional as football has ever produced, was asked what he would recall. After offering condolences to the Madden family, he began, "John is just a tremendous person to be around. I think we all, probably, try to have a good professional career. John had about five."

Belichick went on to laud him as a coach, a champion for scouting and supporting minority players, an advocate for player safety, a broadcaster and icon whose video game his own players still relished.

"Whatever was called for, he always seemed to have the right words, the right perspective, and did it in a way that was easy to understand, concise, and as I said, a lot times, humorous."

Vikings without Cousins vs. Packers due to protocols

BY DAVE CAMPBELL
The Associated Press

Kirk Cousins has never missed a game in the NFL to injury.

His first unplanned absence, due to COVID-19, could not have come at a worse time for the Minnesota Vikings.

The Vikings placed their starting quarterback on the COVID-19 reserve list on Friday, two days before their most important game of the season at Green Bay.

Cousins, who is unvaccinated, couldn't be cleared in time to play even if he were feeling fine. The NFL recently reduced the required quarantine period to five days for asymptomatic players.

The Vikings (7-8) are one game out of the last wildcard spot in the NFC with two weeks to go. The Packers (12-3) are in control of the top seed and a first-round bye.

The Vikings activated backup quarterback Sean Mannion from the COVID-19 reserve list, putting the seventh-year veteran in line to start at frigid Lambeau Field on Sunday night.

Rookie Kellen Mond, who was drafted in the third round, has not developed quickly enough this season to be considered.

"Sean is extremely bright. He studies like crazy. He's a great competitor. He's put in his time. He's earned this opportunity, and I think he'll be ready," coach Mike Zimmer said after practice on Friday. "I think they're going to rally behind Sean. They know how important this game is, and they believe in Sean."

Mannion started one game for the Los Angeles Rams in 2017 and one game for the Vikings in 2019, when Cousins was held out of the final regular-season game as a precaution prior to the playoffs.

"He's got a big-time arm. He is going to do exactly what the coaches tell him. He is so reliable in that regard. I've got a lot of respect for him not only as a person but as a player," said Packers coach Matt LaFleur, who was Mannion's offensive coordinator with the Rams in 2017. "They've still got multiple playmakers on that offense, whether they do it

through the air or on the ground."

After Minnesota's last game, a 30-23 loss to the Rams, Cousins acknowledged the predicament of the case numbers climbing within the team like all across the league.

"It's in our building. It's going to be in our building. It's going to spread. We've just got to be disciplined to keep our distance and make sure that to the best of our ability we don't get it," Cousins said, "but it is going to be difficult."

Cousins has 30 touchdown passes and seven interceptions this season and is fourth in the NFL in passer rating (101.3). He is 29 yards passing short of hitting the 4,000 mark for a sixth time in seven years as a starter. Cousins is in his fourth season with the Vikings, who have him signed for 2022 with a \$45 million salary-cap charge.

Mond and recent addition Kyle Slotter are the other quarterbacks on Minnesota's roster. When Mond tested positive in training camp, Cousins had to sit out five days as an unvaccinated close contact.

Zimmer didn't hide his frustration in August with the players who remained unvaccinated, expressing resignation that they would miss games at some point during the year. Plenty of vaccinated players have tested positive and had to sit out, of course, but the rate of infection by the virus among unvaccinated people is much higher.

Unvaccinated players must continue to test daily. Any player, regardless of vaccination status, must test while they have symptoms. Zimmer said he was not sure about symptoms for Cousins.

"We hate to see that happen to Kirk, but he's done a lot of great things for us," Zimmer said. "You're always hopeful that none of your players get it."

In Denver, the Broncos scrubbed their regular practice for the second straight day and instead held an indoor walk-through on Friday after several more players were added to the COVID-19 list, including wide receiver Jerry Jeudy and outside linebacker Bradley Chubb.

OBITUARIES

JOYCE LYNN JOHNSON

Joyce Lynn Johnson, age 76, beloved wife of 58 years to Gerald Alexander Johnson, died on Monday, Dec. 27, 2021, at her residence.

Born in Camden, she was the daughter of the late Cleo Talmadge Johnson and Mary Kathleen Smith Johnson. Mrs. Johnson owned and operated a daycare for many years. She was an active member of Westside Baptist Church, where she served in AWANA and worked at Westside Christian Academy. She enjoyed reading and crocheting, but most of all she enjoyed and loved her family.

Mrs. Johnson will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brothers, Wayne Johnson and Donnie Johnson, and a sister, Linda Compton.

She was survived by her husband and her two children, Tracey J. Brunson (Johnny) and Scott Johnson (Chandra), all of Sumter; five grandchildren, Jessica Cayton (Justin), Karleigh Brunson, John "Trey" Brunson (Janna), Joshua Johnson and Timothy Johnson; and four great-grandchildren, Morgan and Easton Cayton and Bailey and Wyatt Brunson.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022, at Westside Baptist Church, with the Rev. Aaron Reed and the Rev. Scott Johnson officiating. The family has requested for everyone to mask for the memorial service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Westside Baptist Church Building Fund, 554 Pinewood Road, Sumter, SC 29154, or to the Sumter SPCA, 1140 S. Guignard Drive, Sumter, SC 29150. You may go to www.bullockfuneralhome.com and sign the family's guest book.

The family has chosen Bullock Funeral Home for the arrangements.



DONALD JOHN WILSON

Donald John Wilson, age 60, beloved husband of 31 years to Nadine Denise Summers Wilson, died on Friday, Dec. 24, 2021, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital.

Born in Postdam, New York, he was the son of the late Roy Orrin Wilson Sr. and Janet Patricia Sullivan Wilson. Donald served in the United States Air Force, retiring as a technical sergeant after 20 years of service. He then served the community of

Sumter for 12 years as a member of the Sumter Police Department. Donald had a heart of service in every area of his life. He was dedicated to our Lord and was a member of Westside Baptist Church. Donald was fiercely dedicated to his family and will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Nadine; one son, Benjamin Wilson and his partner, Dawn McCourt, of Conway; two daughters, Rachel Katorkas and her husband, John, and Amanda Parks and her husband, Cody, all of Sumter; four brothers, Roy "Joe" Wilson and his wife, Tracy, of Colton, New York, Kevin Wilson and his wife, Amy, of Houston, Texas, Robert Wilson and his partner, Sandy, of Stockholm, New York, and Kaleb Wilson and his wife, Tammie, of Gouverneur, New York; one sister, Lori Persson and her husband, Troy, of Fisherville, Virginia; and 10 grandchildren, Emily, Cayden, Annie, Johnny, Gracie, Mason, Riley, Hoyt, Sophie and Donald "Ducky."

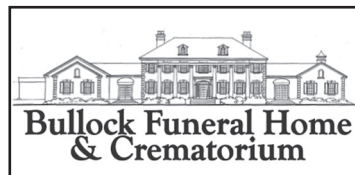
In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by two sisters, Dorothy Mouthorp and Patricia Wilson.

A funeral service will be held on Monday, Jan. 3, 2022, at noon at Westside Baptist Church with the Rev. Aaron Reed officiating. The interment will follow in the Ft. Jackson National Cemetery at 2 p.m. with full military honors.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the

service on Monday, Jan. 3, 2022, from 11 a.m. to noon at Westside Baptist Church. You may go to www.bullockfuneralhome.com and sign the family's guest book.

The family has chosen Bullock Funeral Home for the arrangements.



WILLIE WHITE SR.

Willie White Sr., affectionately known as "Bubba," was born on Jan. 10, 1946, in Oswego, to the late Inell Moore White and Thomas White Sr. He departed this life on Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2021, at Prisma Health Richland Hospital in Columbia.

Bubba was educated in Sumter County public schools. He graduated for Eastern High School, Class of 1965. Upon graduating from high school, Bubba began his career as a truck driver for Shaw Lumber Company. He also worked for Korn Industry and the Town of Mayesville.

Bubba leaves to cherish his memories his children, Verneice (Louis) Jefferson, Gladys (Martin) Titus, Willie White Jr. and Janice White; two brothers, Thomas (Carolyn) White Jr. and James White; five sisters, Annie

(Willie) Vance, Polly (George) Johnson, Amelia (Enoch) Spears, Carol (Charles) Davis and Bessie (Isadore) Kind; the mother of his children, Rosa White; a special friend, Jeanne McDonald; 12 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

In accordance with COVID-19 guidelines, the family is requesting face masks and social distancing be observed by relatives and friends during visitation at the home, 831 Webb St., Sumter.

Funeral services will be held 11 a.m., Monday, Jan. 3, 2022, in the John Wesley Williams Sr. Memorial Chapel of Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter, with the Rev. George Johnson officiating.

The processional will leave the home at 10:30 a.m. Burial will be in the Beulah AME Church Yard Cemetery, Hwy. 378, Mayesville.

Services directed by the management and staff of Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter. Online memorial messages may be sent to the family at williamsfuneralhome@sc.rr.com. Visit us on the web at www.WilliamsFuneralHomeInc.com.

BESSIE EDDY WILLIAMSON

Bessie Eddy Williamson, 87, widow of Hiawatha Williamson, passed away Thursday, Dec. 30, 2021, at Prisma Health Tuomey.

Services will be announced by Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home and Crematorium of Sumter.



JOHNSON



WILSON



WHITE

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LEGAL NOTICES

Summons & Notice

SUMMONS AND NOTICE IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Docket No.: 2021-CP-43-01313

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF SUMTER

Tomekia L. A. Dinkins,

Plaintiff,

-v-
Maria C. Gazley,

Defendant.

TO THE DEFENDANT: MARIA C. GAZLEY:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint for damages in an automobile accident, the original of which has been filed in the office of the Clerk of Court for Sumter County, on the 3rd day of August, 2021, a copy of which will be delivered to you upon request; and to serve a copy of your answer to the said complaint upon the undersigned attorney for the Plaintiff, John D. Clark at the Clark Law Firm LLC, at Post Office Box 880, 22 E. Liberty Street, Sumter, South Carolina 29151-0880, within thirty(30) days following the date of service upon you, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to answer the complaint within the time stated, Plaintiff will move for an Order declaring you, the

Summons & Notice

Defendant in default on the ground that Defendant failed to timely answer or otherwise submit responsive pleadings to the Complaint filed with this Court on August 3, 2021. In addition, the Plaintiff will seek the relief requested in the Complaint previously filed in this matter.

John D. Clark, Esquire
Attorney for Plaintiff
22 East Liberty Street
P.O. Box 880
Sumter, SC 29151

Public Hearing

NOTICE OF CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Sumter City Council will hold public hearings on proposed amendments to the City of Sumter Zoning Ordinance on **Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.** in the City Council Chambers located on the Fourth Floor of the Sumter Opera House (21 N. Main St.). The following requests are scheduled for consideration:

PD-02-08 (REV 14), Beach Forest Planned Development - Revision to Land Use Areas for Commercial and Zero-Lot-Line/Townhouse Units and Establish Use Approval and Location for RV/Boat/Trailer Storage (City) Revision to Planned Development Ordinance to adjust land use areas for commercial and zero-lot-line and townhouse development, and to establish an area for RV/Boat/Trailer Storage. It is represented by Tax Map #'s 202-00-02-013, 202-07-07-001 and 202-07-05-049.

Public Hearing

Documents pertaining to the proposed request(s) are on file in the Office of the Sumter City-County Planning Department and are available to be inspected and studied by interested citizens.

David P. Merchant
Mayor

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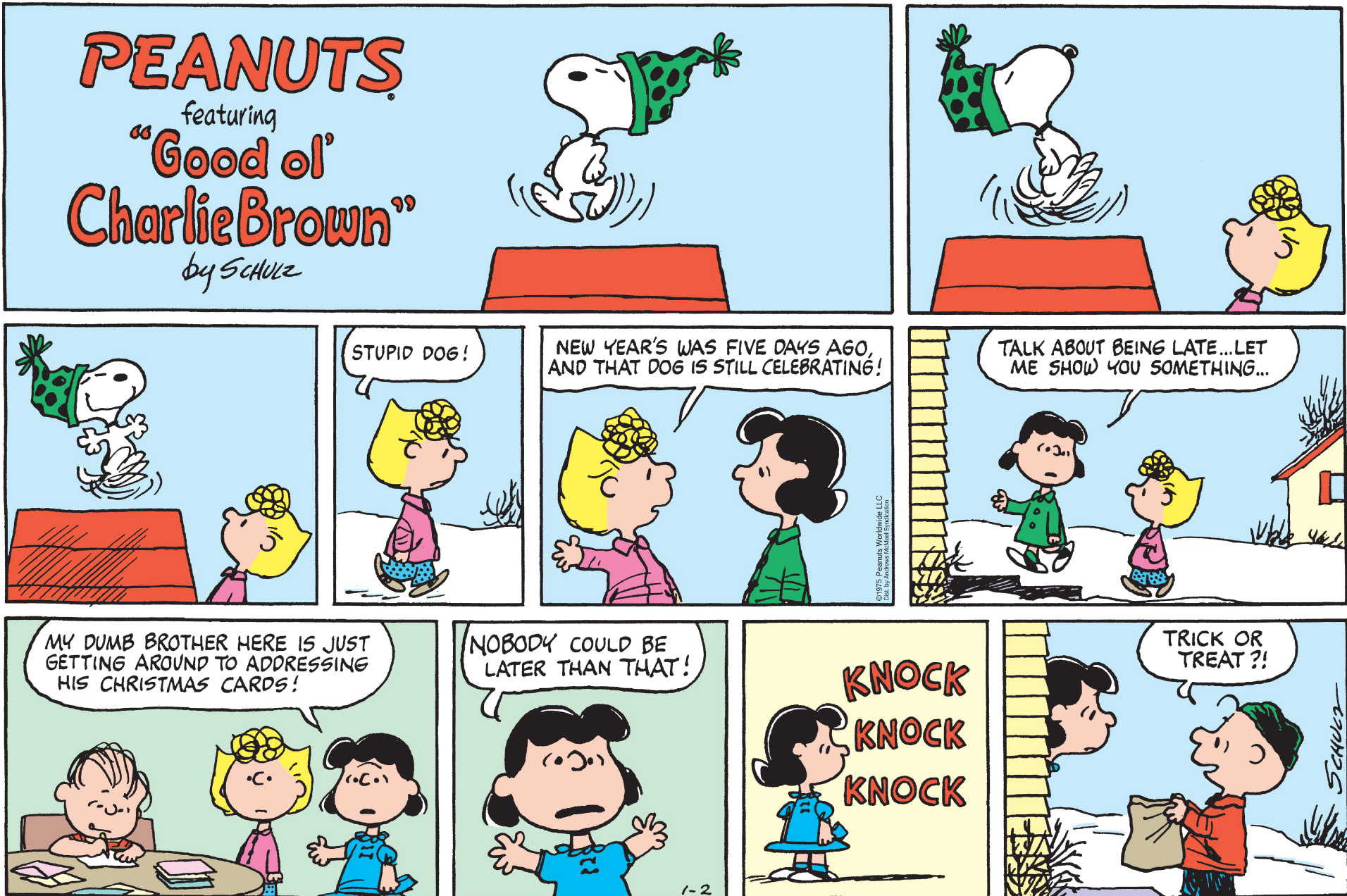
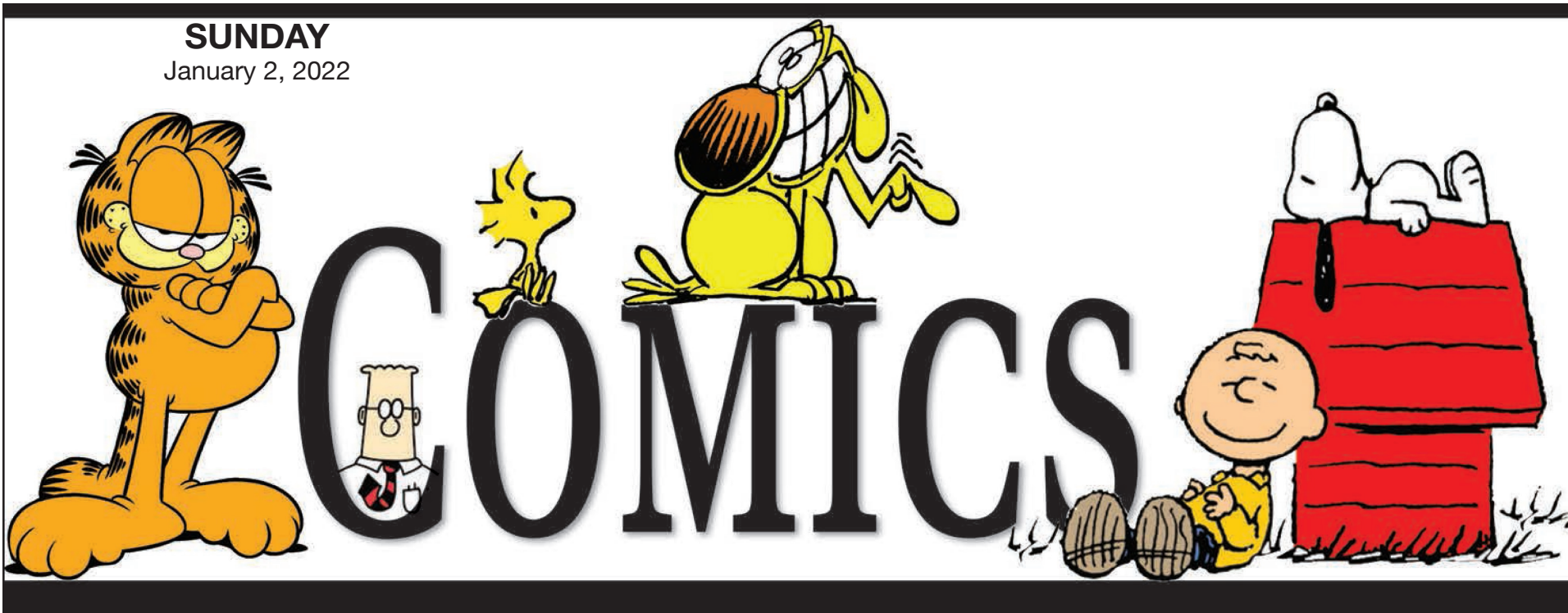


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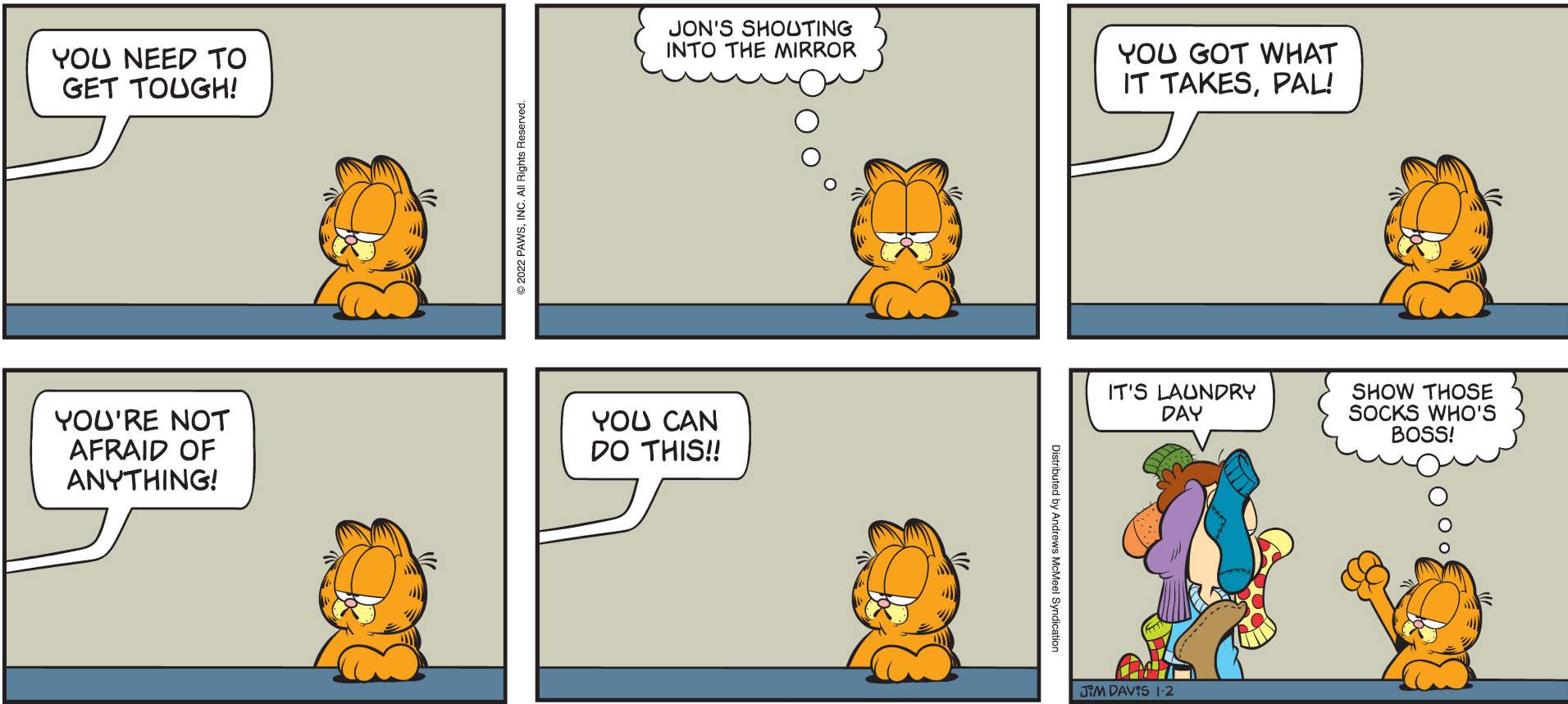


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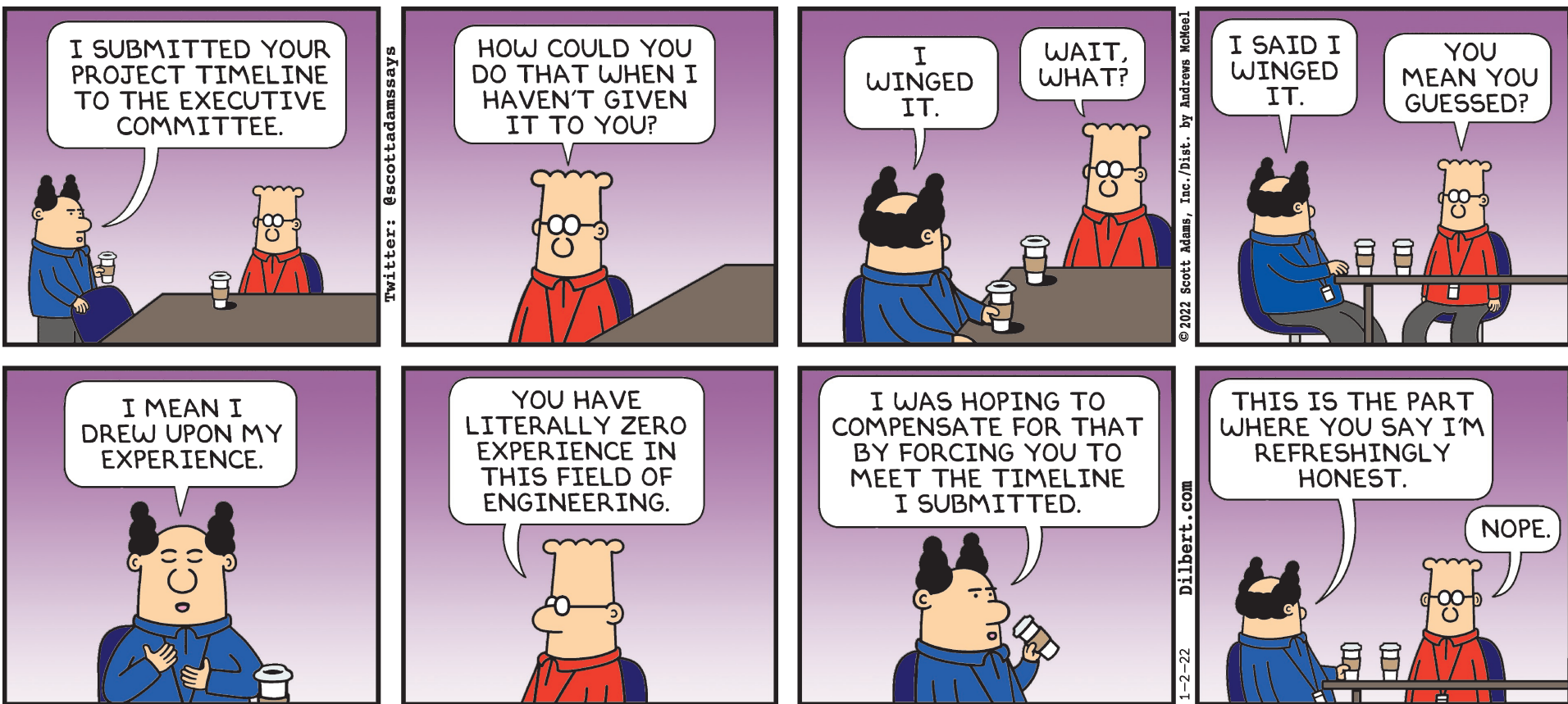
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



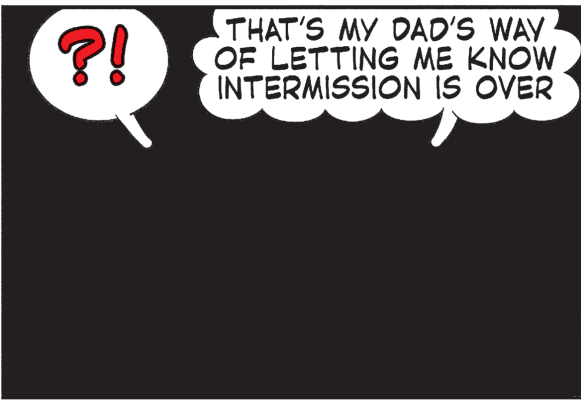
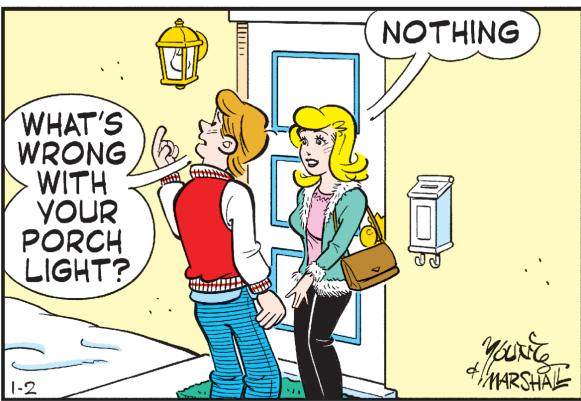
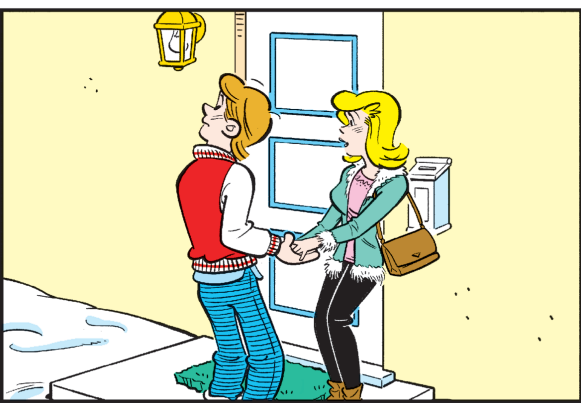
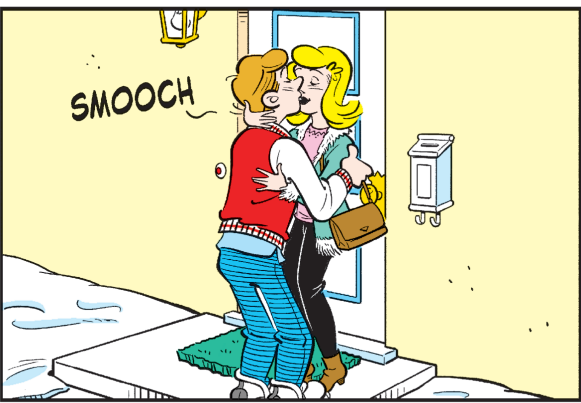
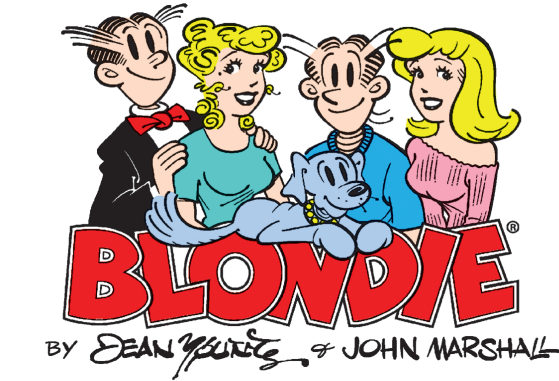
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BY SCOTT ADAMS



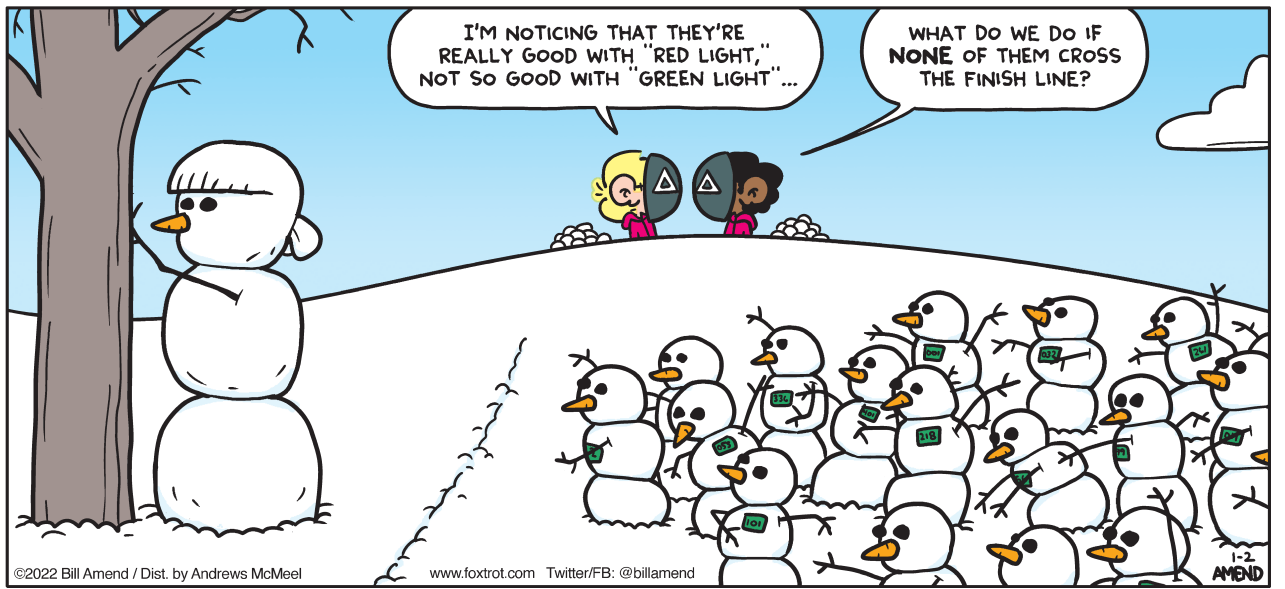
CLOSE TO HOME

BY JOHN McPHERSON



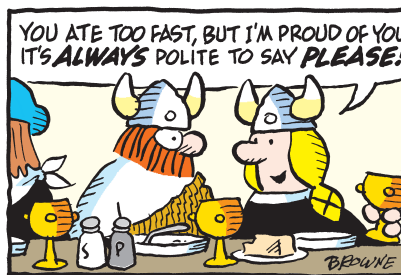
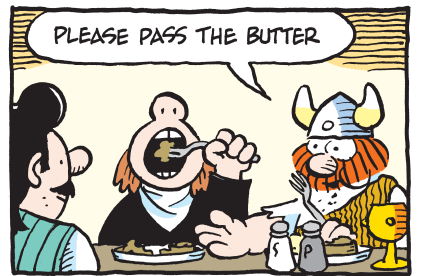
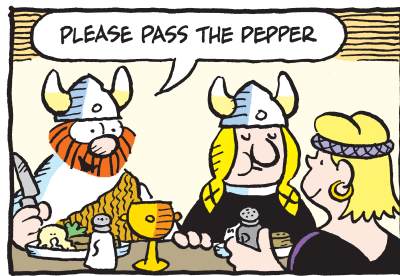
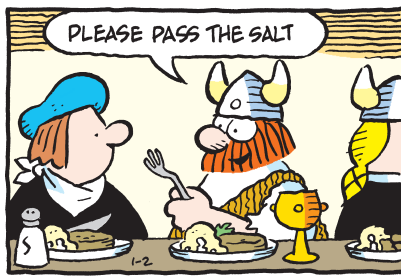
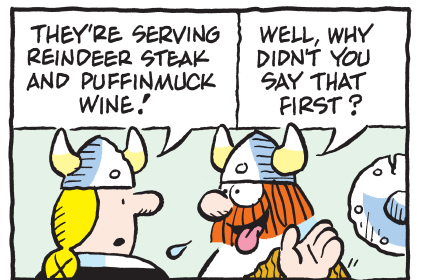
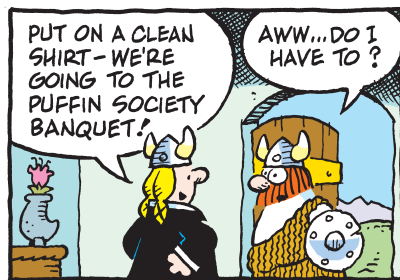
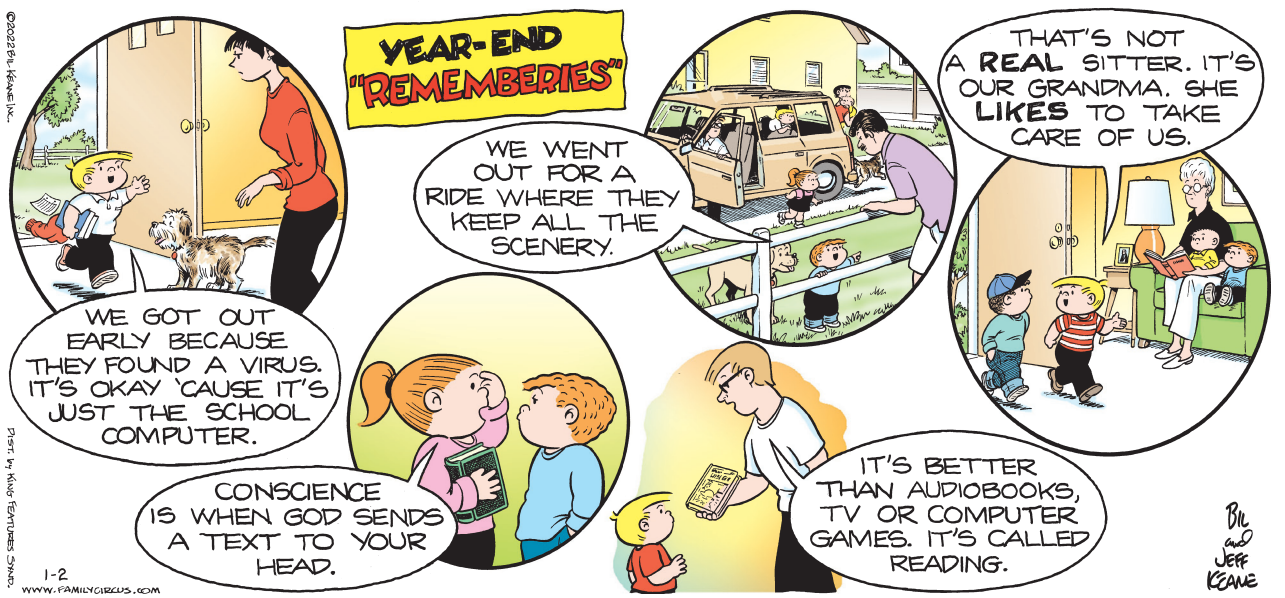
FoxTrot

by Bill Amend



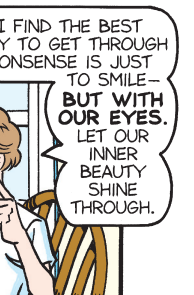
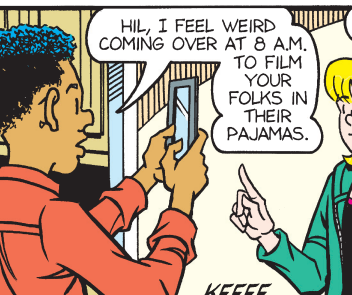
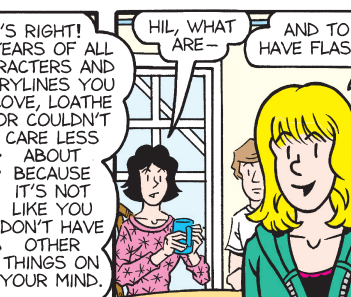
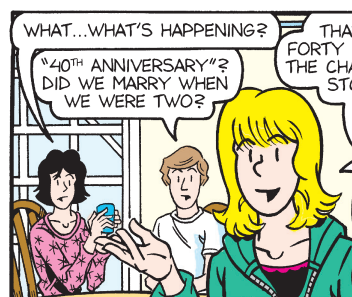
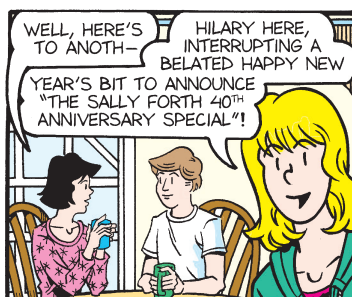
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill Keane



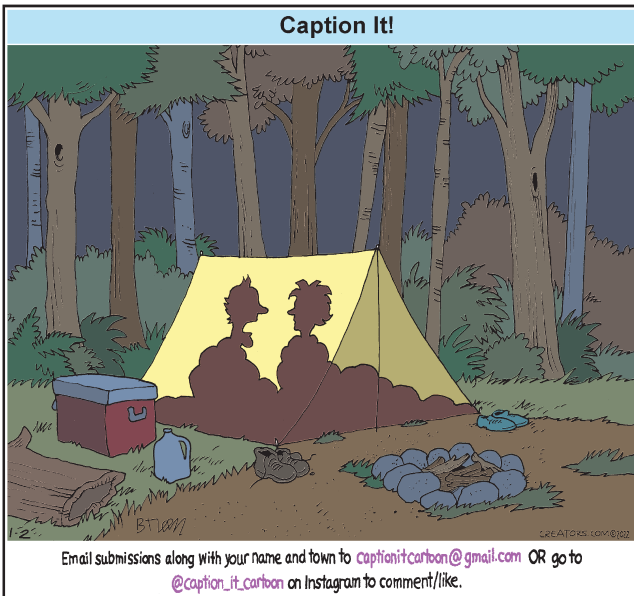
SALLY FORTH

BY FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & JIM KEEFE



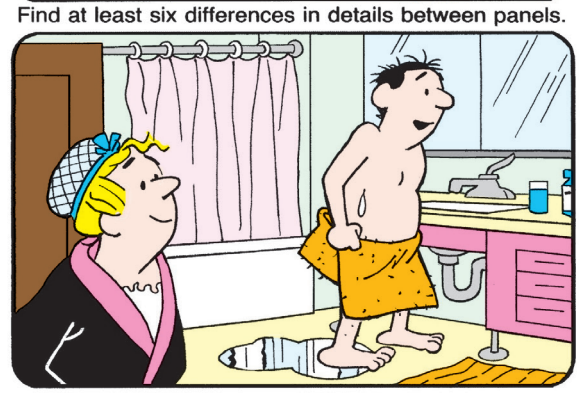
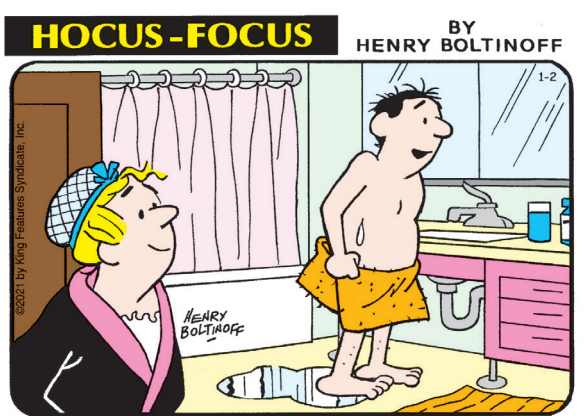


by Steve Green



"The worker shortage is really getting serious."
-Karen Komassa, West Allis, WI

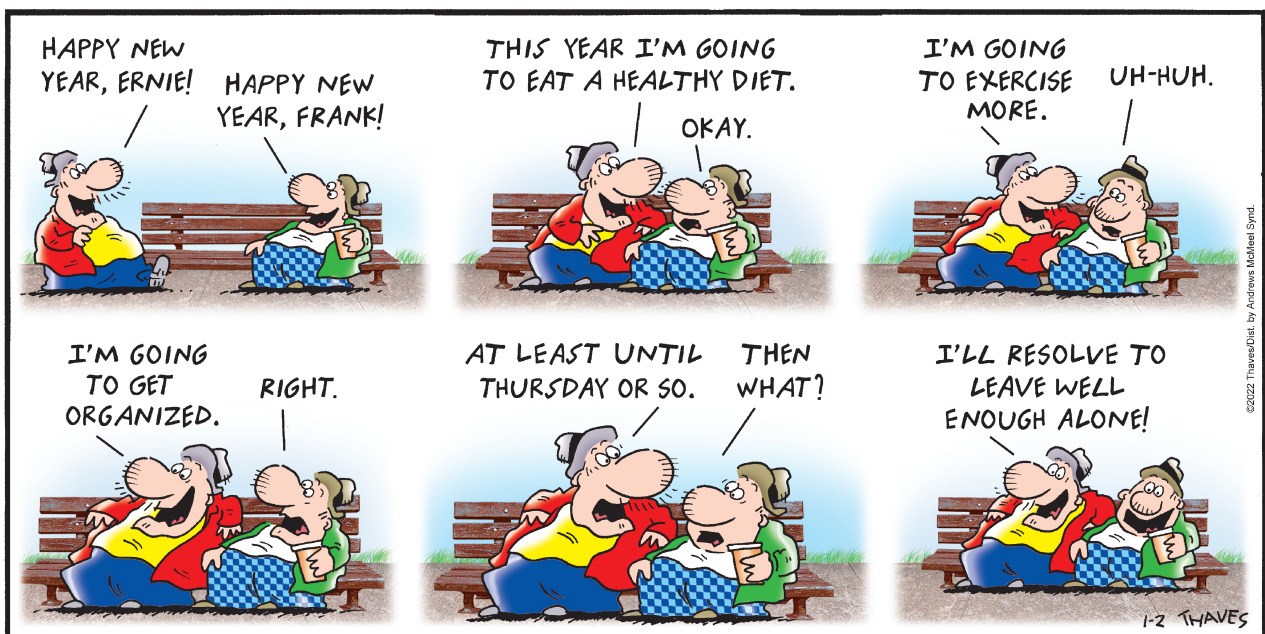
Email submissions along with your name and town to captionitcarbon@gmail.com OR go to [caption_it_carbon](https://www.instagram.com/caption_it_carbon) on Instagram to comment/like.



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Towel is longer. 2. Shower curtain is not as wide. 3. Faucet handle is moved. 4. Leg is moved. 5. Drawers are not as wide. 6. Glass is smaller.

FRANK AND ERNEST



THE BORN LOSER

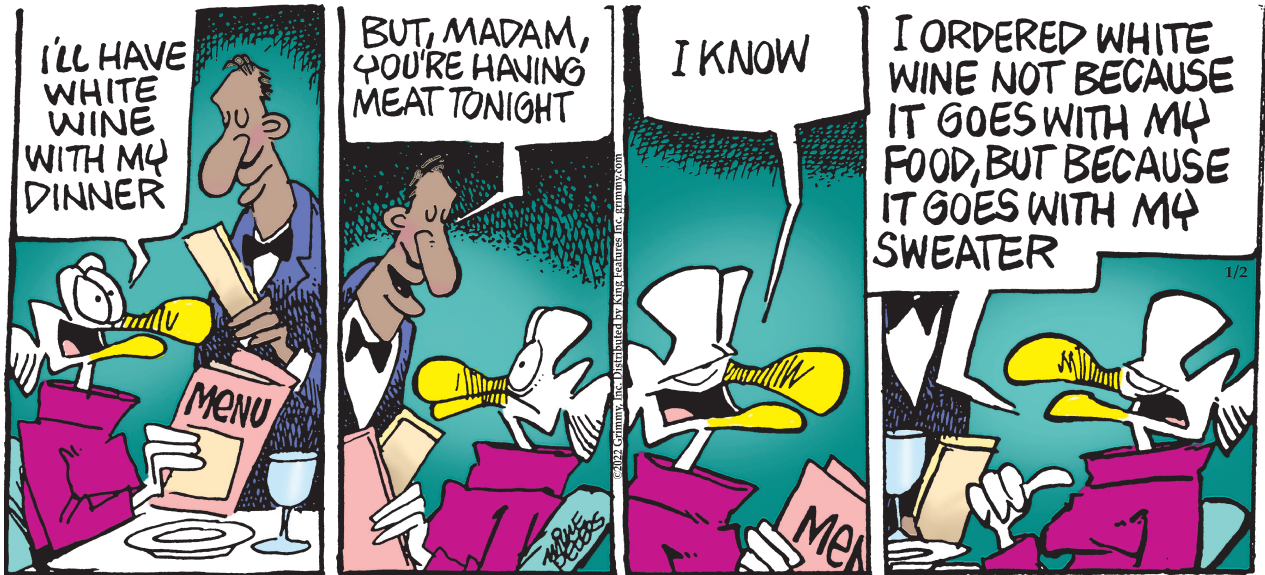


by Art & Chip Sansom



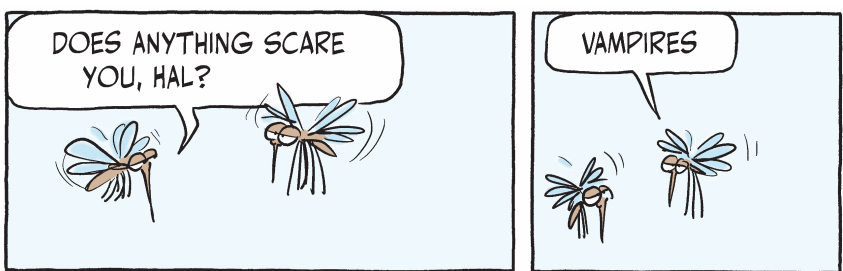
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS



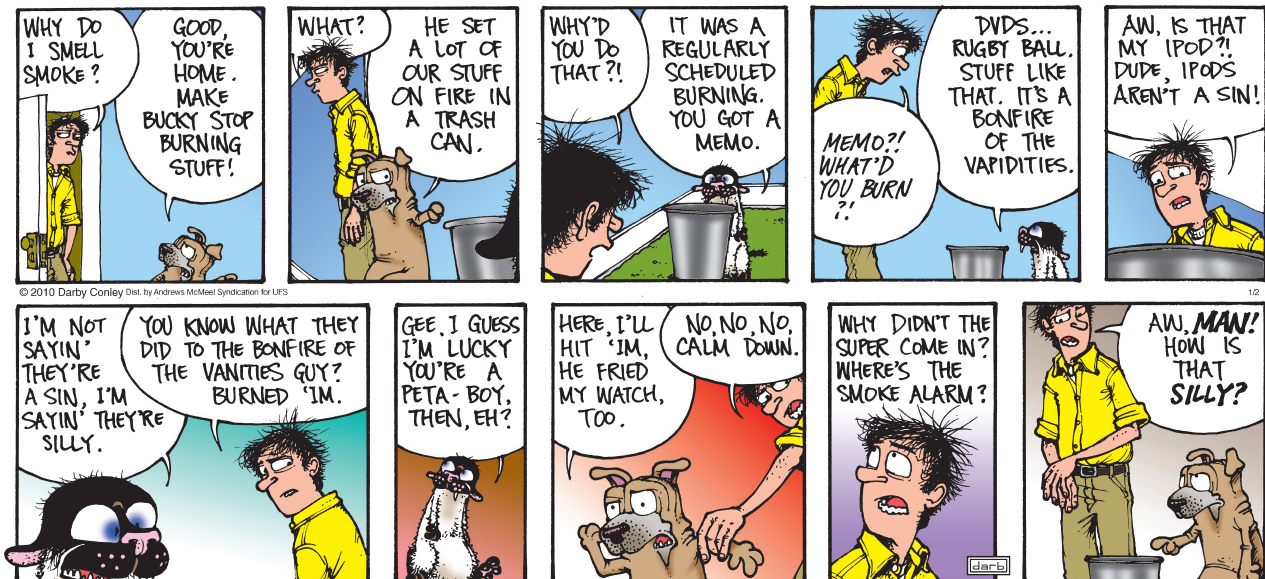
WIZARD OF ID

by Hart, Mastroianni and Parker



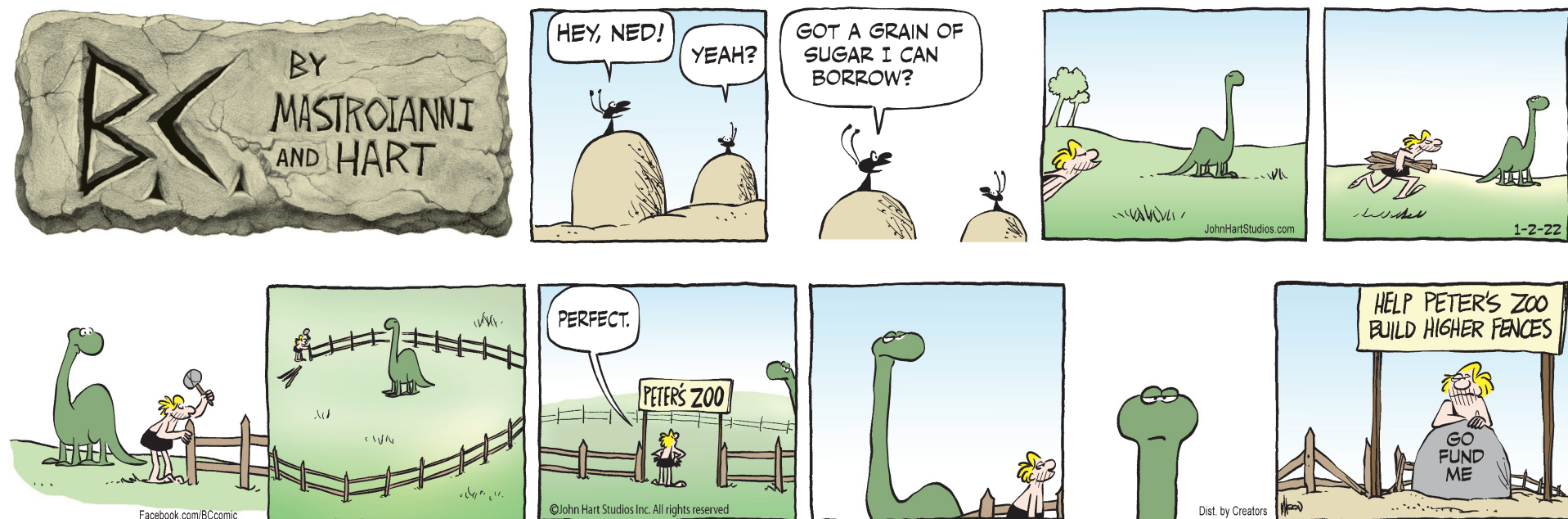
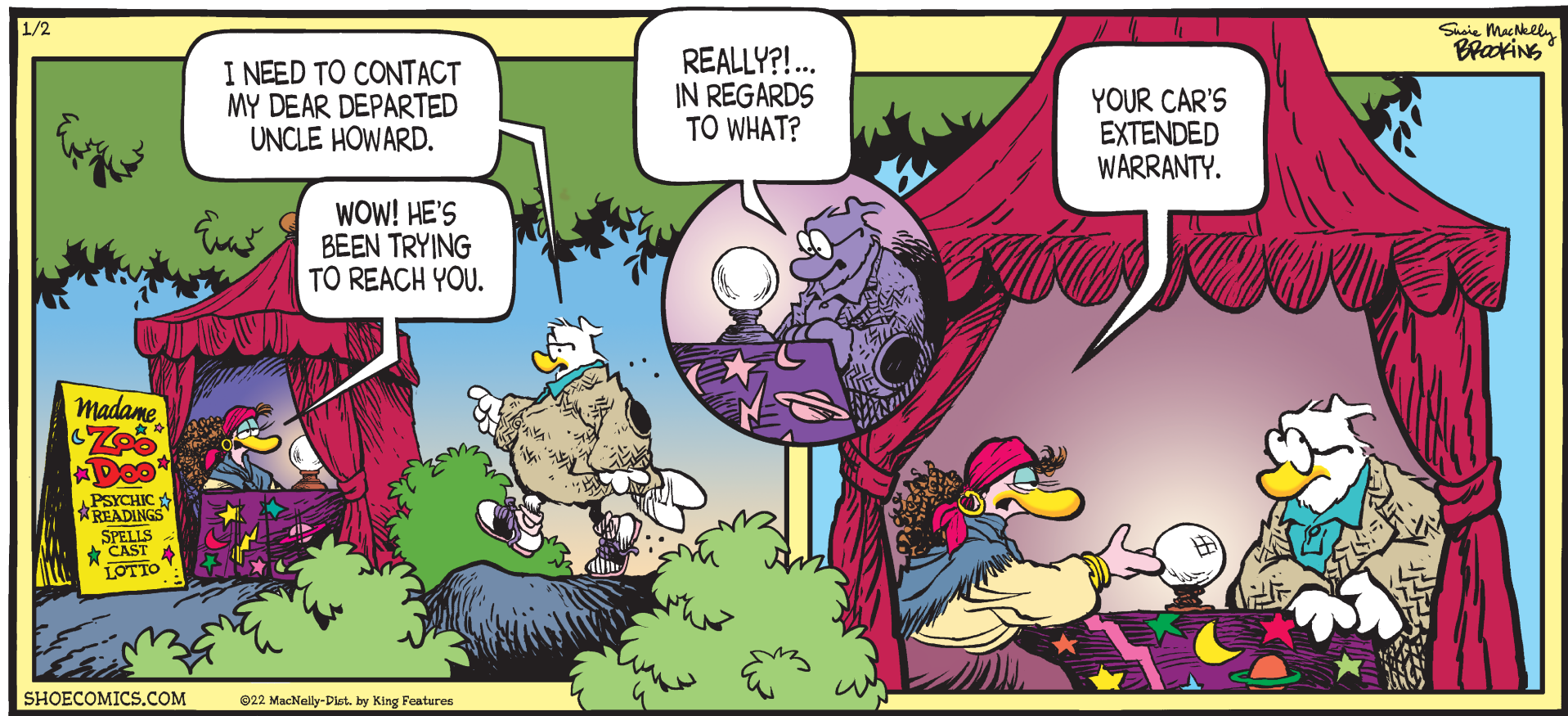
GET FUZZY

BY DARBY CONLEY



SHOE

BY GARY BROOKINS & SUSIE MACNELLY



DENNIS THE MENACE

BY HANK KETCHAM

