

City plans for last of virus relief money

BY SHELBY GOULDING
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The remaining half of the City of Sumter's COVID-19 relief money will soon be put to use.

Some of the projects considered at a Sumter City Council meeting Tuesday included using it for the city's fire department, water and sewer, broadband expansion throughout city parks and Morris College and giving additional money to a local orga-

nization that strives to preserve one of the last African American historical buildings standing in downtown Sumter.

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act was signed into law to provide \$350 billion in additional funding for state and local governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic by helping to offset revenue losses, bolster economic recovery and provide premium pay for es-

sential workers.

In total, the City of Sumter received \$7,565,586 that was split into two rounds — \$3,782,793 each. The first was received on June 17, 2021.

In fall 2021, the City of Sumter distributed the first part to some city employees for salaries and public places security and connections. Another portion of the first half funded 10 community projects from different local organizations.

Two resolutions were

brought before council on Tuesday for the second half by City Manager Deron McCormick.

The first was for fire rescue tools for the Sumter Fire Department; a match for a grant from the Rural Infrastructure Authority for the city's water plant expansion project and new equipment at the heat-drying division of the Wastewater Facility; and for Wi-Fi and security camera installations throughout city parks, the Shot Pouch

Greenway and the Morris College area.

The city would spend \$278,862 on fire rescue tools, \$2.85 million to match the grant and \$379,931 for the broadband expansion.

"We had this in mind because it serves everyone literally in Sumter County in all in the city," McCormick said. "The largest portion of this is a proposed grant that the state of South Carolina

SEE MONEY, PAGE A6

LMA's Sanders named Hines Furniture Athlete of the Year

Laurence Manning Academy basketball standout Jaden Sanders is the Hines Furniture Athlete of the Year. After finishing as the runner up to Sumter High School's Nicole Wells last summer, Sanders was able to outlast Wells in this year's championship vote. He will be celebrated at the *Sumter Item* Football Media Day on Aug. 10. Read his story on B1.

CAL CARY / THE SUMTER ITEM



Donations this week will help prepare students for school

BY KEVIN HOWELL
Sumter United Ministries

In the rain without an umbrella, in the cold without a coat or in the heat with no drinking water ... being unprepared is a miserable and helpless feeling.

Each year in Sumter County, thousands of children and teenagers know that once the calendar shifts to August, a return to school is on the horizon. For many students, they will begin the year with a pervading feeling of being unprepared. As school supply lists are handed out from teachers, many families and students already know they are likely to fall short in having adequate supplies unless they find helpful resources.

Sumter United Ministries began our special project "Gear Up For Learning" more than 20 years ago. Each year, we coordinate with the school district to find out what supplies are needed and how they are best packaged for distribution. Each school receives supplies, but they are not all equally distributed. Schools in impoverished areas will get a greater percentage, for example. Students or parents simply arrive at the guidance counselor's office to request supplies, and their needs are met. Giving out school supplies is easy, but targeting children with the



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\$0	\$2,085
Anonymous this week	Total this year
\$0	\$5,935
Total this week	Total last year
	\$39,304
	Total since 2014

greatest need takes strategy and coordination, crucial planning elements of our project. A former school guidance counselor for

SEE CARING, PAGE A6

U.S. drone strike shows Afghanistan is still terror base

BY AAMER MADHANI, ZEKE MILLER, NOMAAN MERCHANT and LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration is holding out the CIA operation that killed al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahri as a monumental strike against the global terror network responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks of 2001. But there's a downside, too.

The drone strike also is putting into stark relief the mounting evidence that after 20 years of America's military presence — and then sudden departure — Afghanistan has once again become an active staging ground for Islamic terror groups looking to attack the West.

The operation, carried out during the weekend after at least six months spent moni-

toring movements by al-Zawahri and his family, came just weeks before the one-year anniversary of the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from the country.

The Biden administration is making the case that the operation shows Americans at home and allies abroad that the United States hasn't lost focus — or the ability to strike terrorists in the region — and validates its decision to end two decades of fighting in Afghanistan with its withdrawal.

Announcing the strike from the White House, President Joe Biden said Monday night that "justice" had been exacted on a leader who in recent weeks had recorded videos calling for his followers to attack the United States and allies. And the White House on

SEE STRIKE, PAGE A6

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DEATHS, B4

Gerald Dozier
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WEATHER, A8

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SECOND FRONT

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Wall Street Journal: Families of Haley, Clyburn got casino shares

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The husband of former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and brother of U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, a Sumter native, were given shares of a company that leased slot machines to a North Carolina tribal casino that needed political help to open last year, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

Clyburn's brother and a spokesperson for Michael Haley both said the men provided services for the South Carolina-based Catawba Indian Nation's casino in Kings Mountain, North Carolina, the newspaper reported.

The tribe's leader said they met with dozens of federal officials in a transparent and public process over more than a decade as they sought to secure permission to build the casino.

The newspaper said it reviewed documents from Kings Mountain Equipment Supply LLC, which gets 20 cents for every \$1 in profits the new Catawba Two Kings Casino generates from its hundreds of slot machines.

One stake in the supply company is held by John B. Clyburn, a brother of Rep. Clyburn. The high-ranking Democratic congressman introduced a bill that helped eliminate one of the final hurdles to get federal permission to build the casino.

Another stake is held by Michael Haley, husband of the former Republican governor who joined plenty of South Carolina politicians to fight against the Catawbas being able to open a casino in South Carolina. That led the tribe to its ultimately successful effort in North Carolina.

The documents reviewed by the newspaper show both men hold less than a 1% claim in the company.

Michael Haley was given his share as payment for his company doing physical and cybersecurity consulting

for the project in 2018, a statement from his company said.

Nikki Haley was U.N. Ambassador for the U.S. at that time after leaving the governor's office a year earlier before her term ended.

As governor, Haley was against the Catawbas opening a South Carolina casino. She attended the 2021 groundbreaking in North Carolina, but her office said she was only acting as her husband's guest and never advocated to get federal approval for the North Carolina

site.

John Clyburn told the newspaper he consulted on the project on and off for a decade introducing backers to people he knew, adding "I doubt that I discussed" the project with his brother.

John Clyburn received his share from the slot machine leasing company in September 2013, about a week after the Catawbas first asked for federal approval for the casino, the newspaper reported. He said he was surprised once the casino opened to get seven or eight payments from the company ranging from \$600 to \$1,300.

Rep. Clyburn said he did not know about his brother's financial interest in the casino and the two never talked about the project.

The congressman said his sponsorship of the bill that cleared the path for the casino was to help the tribe which has been long neglected.

If his brother is profiting from a bill he helped get enacted, Rep. Clyburn told *The Wall Street Journal*, "I don't care. He gets to make a living. I don't get his permission, and I don't give him mine."

The Catawba Indian Nation has about 3,600 members and a 1,000-acre reservation near Rock Hill, South Carolina.

The 1993 National Indian Gaming

I don't care. He gets to make a living. I don't get his permission, and I don't give him mine.'

U.S. REP. JIM CLYBURN

Responding to *The Wall Street Journal* about his brother profiting from a bill he helped get enacted

Act exempted the Catawbas from a list of tribes that could open casinos in states like South Carolina that don't normally allow gambling.

The Catawbas spent decades trying to work around the law and after years of resistance from South Carolina lawmakers switched their efforts in 2013 to opening in North Carolina, where they said their ancestors held land before Europeans came to North America.

The Kings Mountain, North Carolina, casino has about 1,000 slot machines in temporary buildings and doubled its floor plan after being open less than six months. The Catawbas plan a permanent facility with a 29-story hotel that could triple the number of slot machines.

Catawba Chief Bill Harris said the tribe is working with the National Indian Gaming Commission about unspecified problems that have held up the start of construction on the permanent casino.

The stakes held by Michael Haley and John Clyburn aren't with Kings Mountain Equipment Supply LLC itself but instead with a different company called AGS of North Carolina LLC that itself had a 10.1% stake in Kings Mountain Equipment Supply, according to the documents reviewed by *The Wall Street Journal*.

Coroner rules Prisma Tuomey technician death as homicide

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
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The Sumter County Coroner's Office released an update on a Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital employee who died in May after an altercation with a patient at the hospital.

On May 27, Kevin Robinson, 40, a mental health technician, was among other staff members who attempted to detain a woman who tried to leave her judge-ordered mental health evaluation, according to officials.

According to an incident report from the Sumter Police Department, the patient became aggressive and began to fight staff as they tried to stop her. Robinson was hit in the groin area during the incident and soon became unresponsive. He died on May 31 in the ICU at Tuomey.

An autopsy was performed June 3 at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. After a review of medical records and an investigation, Robinson's death was ruled a homicide, according to Sumter County Coroner Robbie Baker.

The cause of death was reported to be physiological stress associated with the physical altercation in the setting of cardiomegaly, defined as an enlarged heart, and obesity.

Baker explained that given Robinson's medical history of an enlarged heart and obesity, the kick to the groin started a sequence of events that caused him to go into cardiac arrest, making the death a homicide, he said.

According to Tonya McGirt, public information officer for the police department, the woman's initial charge of second-degree assault and battery was upgraded to involuntary manslaughter. She remains in the local detention center.

Clarendon students start school at consolidated district for 1st time

Board elects same officers as last year

BY ASHLEY MILLER
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For the newly merged Clarendon County School District, the first day of school ran mostly smoothly with a few hiccups.

During Monday night's regular Clarendon County School District board meeting, Director of Operations Lyde Graham had three points he wanted to present to the Board of Trustees.

Graham said Manning Junior High School's roof is being worked on and will take around 90 to 100 days to complete.

"The old roof panels will not be taken down, but new roof panels will be placed on top of the old ones," he said.

The carpet in the Summerton District Office has been replaced, and Walker Gamble Elementary School

and East Clarendon High School are waiting for fire alarm panels for their mobile classroom units.

Graham reported for the first day of school, "Things ran smoothly. Nothing major happened."

Walker Gamble Elementary School let out a little later than expected, and parents called wondering where their kids were, "but as we were fixing the issue, the kids were being dropped off, so that is great news," Graham said.

Some food was thrown away because a freezer went out, but it is being fixed, according to Graham.

"Other than that, I think we had a great first day," he said.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Cathy Williams, director of finance for Clarendon County School District, said from her report from July 1-28, state funding had not been received and will be reported during the board's August meeting.

Local revenue brought in \$129,650 for the school district, which does

not include state funding.

Williams said expenditures totaled \$356,316 for salaries for year-round workers.

CHROMEBOOKS AND OTHER TECHNOLOGIES FOR STUDENTS COMING

Tommy Godbold, director of technology for the district, said his department is working to bring in new shipments of Chromebooks and other devices for student learning.

Since consolidation, which officially took place this summer when Clarendon 2 in Manning merged with Clarendon 4 in Summerton and Turbeville, Godbold has been working to gather new devices for the new year with more students than before.

"We are closing loopholes for PowerSchool and trying to connect everything for students and all schools into one hub so it is easier to access everything," he said.

Godbold said all students should have their device by next week.

While everyone is adjusting to the consolidated school district, Vice Chair Arthur J. Moyd Sr. said, as he thanked the board for being patient with the process, "We built a plane while flying it, and we could have not done it without working together and staying strong for our children."

Moyd also presented Summerton Mayor Tony Junious with an appreciation plaque for his service on the board of trustees in previous years.

BOARD OFFICERS REMAIN THE SAME

In this second year of the consolidated school board — the board began its work last school year to prepare for the inaugural year with students — the board's officers will remain the same.

Moyd asked the district's attorney that "all offices remain the same for the upcoming year."

The board voted to approve the request, leaving Ceth Land as chairman, Moyd as vice chair, Linda Lemon as secretary and Ron Wingard as parliamentarian.

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Zonals is a national tennis competition that brings together some of the top players in the 12 and under division from four sections: Southern, Caribbean, Mid-Atlantic and Florida. The players and their families stayed in Sumter from Wednesday to Sunday, filling Palmetto Tennis Center courts each day. Patrick Hieber, a Zonal team coach and the director of tennis for Live to Play Tennis in Charleston, was pleasantly surprised on his first visit to Sumter: "Most small cities don't have a tennis center like this, so this is really cool. If you run an event like this well, you get other big events, and you have even more exposure."



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A Palmetto College Campus



Fraternity, veterans group give school supplies, treats to Sumter students

The Bishopville/Manning/Shaw AFB Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Inc., in partnership with the Sumter Combat Veterans Group, held a book bag giveaway at the Birnie HOPE Center, 210 S. Purdy St., July 30. Parents and children were treated with book bags, school supplies, music, hotdogs, chips, sodas and water. They were also treated to free treats by Pink Diamond Sweet Treats and More of Sumter, owned by John and Melissa Stinnett. Lt. Selena Smith of the Sumter Fire Department gave a presentation on how to exit a burning building, and 1st Sgt. James Sinkler of the Sumter Police Department gave a talk on public safety.

PHOTOS PROVIDED



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Pompeo to headline fundraiser in early voting South Carolina

COLUMBIA (AP) — Former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is set to headline a major gathering of Republicans in South Carolina this month as he considers a 2024 White House bid that could pit him against his onetime boss, former President Donald Trump.



Pompeo will speak Aug. 22 at the Faith & Freedom BBQ in Anderson, according to the host of the event, U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan.

The tenets of faith and freedom "are ingrained into the very fabric of our nation, and I am looking forward to celebrating them surrounded by veterans, first responders, and other patriotic Americans who make our country great!" Pompeo said in a written statement Tuesday provided to Associated Press.

The fundraiser, which benefits Duncan's campaign, has long been a showcase for possible White House contenders, including South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, then-Vice President Mike Pence, Sens. Ted Cruz, Joni Ernst and Marco Rubio, and former U.N. Ambassador and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley.

According to Duncan, who represents South Carolina's 3rd Congressional District, the event is the state's largest annual gathering of Republicans, typically drawing more than 1,000 attendees.

"Mike Pompeo epitomizes service to country and community over self," Duncan said, touting Pompeo's "unwavering commitment to America first foreign policy and his willingness to stand up to adversaries like China."

Last year, Pompeo headlined a fundraiser for the state Republican Party in South Carolina, home to the first presidential votes in the South. His super PAC, which has raised nearly \$6 million, last month released a digital ad in South Carolina and Iowa — another early voting state where he has been making appearances — touting religious freedoms.

Pompeo and Pence are among the former Trump administration officials attempting to establish themselves in the state as Trump continues to tease a 2024 bid. Pompeo, who served as CIA director and top diplomat, has remained on good terms with his former boss, continuing to defend him after the Jan. 6, 2021, siege of the U.S. Capitol by Trump supporters.

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Pelosi arrives in Taiwan, defying Beijing

BY HUIZHONG WU AND EILEEN NG
Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi arrived in Taiwan on Tuesday night despite threats from Beijing of serious consequences, becoming the highest-ranking American official in 25 years to visit the self-ruled island claimed by China.

Pelosi's visit has triggered increased tension between China and the United States. China claims Taiwan as part of its territory, to be annexed by force if necessary, and views visits by foreign government officials as recognition of the island's sovereignty.

China had warned of "resolute and strong measures" if Pelosi went ahead with the trip. China's Defense Ministry said Tuesday night it will conduct a series of targeted military operations to "safeguard national sovereignty" in response to Pelosi's visit. It vowed to "resolutely thwart external interference and 'Taiwan independence' separatist attempts."

The Biden administration did not explicitly urge Pelosi to call off the visit, while seeking to assure Beijing it would not signal any change in U.S. policy on Taiwan.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Washington's betrayal "on the Taiwan issue is bankrupting its national credibility."

"Some American politicians are playing with fire on the issue of Taiwan," Wang said in a statement. "This will definitely not have a good outcome ... the exposure of America's bullying face again shows it as the world's biggest saboteur of peace."

Pelosi said in a statement just after her arrival that the U.S. delegation's visit "honors America's unwavering commitment to supporting Taiwan's vibrant democracy."

"Our visit is one of several Congressional delegations to Taiwan — and it



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Supporters hold a banner outside the hotel where U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is supposed to be staying in Taipei, Taiwan, on Tuesday. Pelosi's visit could significantly escalate tensions with Beijing, which claims the self-ruled island as its own territory.

IN OPINION

Is Taiwan's independence worth war?

A7

in no way contradicts longstanding United States policy," she said.

The plane carrying Pelosi and her delegation left Malaysia earlier Tuesday after a brief stop that included a working lunch with Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

Taiwan's Foreign Ministry had declined to comment on whether Pelosi would visit. The trip was not officially announced ahead of time.

Barricades were erected outside the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Taipei where Pelosi was expected to stay amid heightened security. Two buildings in the

capital lit up LED displays with words of welcome, including the iconic Taipei 101 building, which said "Welcome to Taiwan, Speaker Pelosi."

China, which regards Taiwan as a renegade province to be annexed by force if necessary, has repeatedly warned of retaliation for Pelosi's visit, saying its military will "never sit idly by."

"The U.S. and Taiwan have colluded to make provocations first, and China has only been compelled to act out of self-defense," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told reporters Tuesday in Beijing.

Hua said China has been in constant communication with the U.S. and made clear "how dangerous it would be if the visit actually happens." Any countermeasures China take will be "justified and necessary" in the face of

Washington's "unscrupulous behavior," she said.

Shortly after Pelosi's arrival, a representative of the Chinese legislature's Standing Committee issued a statement saying the trip "severely violated" the "One China principle," which is Beijing's claim to be the sole government of both mainland China and Taiwan.

Before her arrival, unspecified hackers launched a cyberattack on the Taiwanese Presidential Office's website, making it temporarily unavailable Tuesday evening. The Presidential Office said the website was restored shortly after the attack, which overwhelmed it with traffic.

"China thinks by launching a multi-domain pressure campaign against Taiwan, the people of Taiwan will be intimidated. But they are wrong," Wang Ting-yu, a legislator with the Democratic Progressive Party, said on Twitter in response to the attack.

China's military threats have driven concerns of a new crisis in the 100-mile-wide Taiwan Strait that could roil global markets and supply chains.

The White House on Monday decried Beijing's rhetoric, saying the U.S. has no interest in deepening tensions with China and "will not take the bait or engage in saber rattling."

White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby underscored that the decision whether to visit Taiwan was ultimately Pelosi's. He noted that members of Congress have routinely visited the island through the years.

Kirby said administration officials are concerned that Beijing could use the visit as an excuse to take provocative retaliatory steps, including military action such as firing missiles in the Taiwan Strait or around Taiwan, or flying sorties into the island's airspace and carrying out large-scale naval exercises in the strait.

Why visit puts White House in delicate straits of diplomacy with China

BY MEREDITH OYEN

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

THE CONVERSATION — U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi arrived in Taiwan on Aug. 2 — a highly controversial trip that has been strongly opposed by China.

For its part, the U.S. has distanced itself from the visit. Before the trip, President Joe Biden said it was "not a good idea."

CUTTING DIPLOMATIC TIES

The controversy about Pelosi's visit stems from the "one China" policy — the diplomatic stance under which the U.S. recognizes China and acknowledges Beijing's position that Taiwan is part of China. The policy has governed U.S. relations with Taiwan for the past 40-plus years.

In 1979, the U.S. abandoned its previous policy of recognizing the government of Taiwan as that of all of China, instead shifting recognition to the government on the mainland.

As part of this change, the U.S. cut off formal diplomatic

ties with Taiwan, with the U.S. embassy in Taiwan replaced by a nongovernmental entity called the American Institute in Taiwan.

The institute was a de facto embassy — though until 2002, Americans assigned to the institute would have to resign from the U.S. State Department to go there, only to be rehired once their term was over. And contact between the two governments was technically unofficial.

As the government in Taiwan pursued democracy — starting from the lifting of martial law in 1987 through the first fully democratic elections in 1996 — it shifted away from the assumption once held by governments in both China and Taiwan of eventual reunification with the mainland. The government in China, however, has never abandoned the idea of "one China" and rejects the legitimacy of Taiwanese self-government. That has made direct contact between Taiwan and U.S. representatives contentious to Chinese officials.

Indeed, in 1995, when Lee

Teng-hui, Taiwan's first democratically elected president, touched down in Hawaii en route to Central America, he didn't even set foot on the tarmac. The U.S. State Department had already warned that the president would be refused an entry visa to the U.S., but had allowed for a brief, low-level reception in the airport lounge during refueling. Apparently feeling snubbed, Lee refused to leave the airplane.

PREVIOUS POLITICAL VISITS

Two years after this incident came a visit to Taiwan by then-House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Similarly to the Pelosi visit, the one by Gingrich annoyed Beijing. But it was easier for the White House to distance itself from Gingrich — he was a Republican politician visiting Taiwan in his own capacity and clearly not on behalf of then-President Bill Clinton.

Pelosi's visit may be viewed differently by Beijing because she is a member of the same party as President Joe Biden. China may assume she has

Biden's blessing, despite his comments to the contrary.

Asked on July 20 about his views on the potential Pelosi trip, Biden responded that the "military thinks it's not a good idea right now."

The comment echoes the White House's earlier handling of a comment by Biden in which he suggested in May 2022 that the U.S. would intervene "militarily" should China invade Taiwan. Officials in the Biden administration rolled back the comment, which would have broken a long-standing policy of ambiguity about what the U.S. would do if China tried to take Taiwan by force.

Similarly with Pelosi, the White House is distancing itself from a position that suggests a shift in U.S.-Taiwanese relations after a period in which the U.S. had already been trying to rethink how it interacts with Taiwan.

SHIFTING POLICY?

In 2018, Congress passed the bipartisan Taiwan Travel Act. This departed from previous policy in that it allowed bilat-

eral official visits between the U.S. and Taiwan, although they are still considered to be subdiplomatic.

After that act, Donald Trump's Health and Human Services secretary, Alex Azar, became the highest-ranking U.S. official to visit Taiwan since 1979. Then in 2020, Keith Krach, undersecretary for economic growth, energy and the environment, visited Taiwan.

And in April 2022, a U.S. congressional delegation visited Taiwan. Pelosi herself was reportedly due to visit the island that same month but canceled after testing positive for COVID-19.

Each of these visits has provoked angry statements from Beijing.

A high-profile visit — even one without the public backing of the White House — would signal support to the island at a time when the invasion of Ukraine by Russia has raised questions about the international community's commitment to protect smaller states from more powerful neighbors.

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Taliban under scrutiny as U.S. kills al-Qaida leader in Kabul

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The U.S. drone strike that killed al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahri on the balcony of a Kabul safe house intensified global



AL-ZAWAHRI

scrutiny Tuesday of Afghanistan's Taliban rulers and further undermined their efforts to secure international recognition and desperately needed aid.

The Taliban had promised in the 2020 Doha Agreement on the terms of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan that they would not harbor al-Qaida members or those seeking to attack the U.S.

Yet a mastermind of the 9/11 terror attacks, who has called for striking the United States in numerous video messages in recent years, lived for months apparently sheltered by senior Taliban figures.

The safe house where al-Zawahri was staying in Kabul's upscale Shirpur neighborhood was the home of a top aide to senior Taliban leader Sirajuddin Haqqani, according to a senior U.S. intelligence official. Haqqani is deputy head of the Taliban, serves as interior minister in its government and heads the Haqqani network, a powerful faction within the movement.

Still, there have been persistent reports of unease among Taliban leadership, particularly tensions between the Haqqani network and rivals within the movement.

The Taliban initially sought to describe the strike as America violating the Doha deal, in which the U.S. committed not to attack the group. The Taliban have yet to say who was killed in the strike.

"The killing of Ayman al-Zawahri has raised many questions," said one Pakistani intelligence official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press, as he wasn't authorized to speak publicly to reporters. Al-Zawahri took over as al-Qaida's leader after Osama bin Laden was killed in Pakistan in 2011, in an operation by U.S. Navy SEALs.

"The Taliban were aware of his presence in Kabul, and if they were not aware of it, they need to explain their position," the official said.

The strike early Sunday shook awake Shirpur, once a district of historic buildings that were bulldozed in 2003 to make way for luxury homes for officials in Afghanistan's Western-backed government and international aid organizations. After the U.S. withdrawal in August 2021, senior Taliban moved into some of the abandoned homes there.

The targeted safe house is only a few blocks from the British Embassy, which has been closed since the Taliban takeover in August. Taliban officials blocked AP journalists in Kabul from reaching the damaged house on Tuesday.

The U.N. Security Council was informed by monitors of militant groups in July that al-Qaida enjoys greater freedom in Afghanistan under the Taliban but confines itself to advising and supporting the country's new rulers.

A report by the monitors said the two groups remain close and that al-Qaida fighters, estimated to number between 180 to 400, are represented "at the individual level" among Taliban combat units.

The monitors said it's unlikely al-Qaida will seek to mount direct attacks outside Afghanistan, "owing to a lack of capability and restraint on the part of the Taliban, as well as an unwillingness to jeopardize their recent gains" such as having a safe haven and improved resources.

During the first half of 2022, al-Zawahri increasingly reached out to supporters with video and audio messages, in-

cluding assurances that al-Qaida can compete with the Islamic State group for leadership of a global movement, the report by the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team said.

IS militants have emerged as a major threat to the Taliban during the past year, carrying out a series of deadly attacks against Taliban targets and civilians.

The Haqqani network is an Afghan Islamic insurgent group, built around the family of the same name. In the 1980s, it fought Soviet forces, and during the past 20 years, it battled U.S.-led NATO troops and the former Afghanistan government. The U.S. government maintains a \$10 million bounty on Sirajuddin Haqqani for attacks on American troops and Afghan civilians.

But the Haqqanis, from Afghanistan's eastern Khost province, have rivals within the Taliban leadership, mostly from the southern provinces of Helmand and Kandahar. Some think Sirajuddin Haqqani wants more power. Other Taliban figures have opposed the Haqqanis' attacks against civilians in Kabul and elsewhere during the insurgency.

Study: Exercise may help memory

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

New research hints that even a simple exercise routine just might help older Americans with mild memory problems.

Doctors have long advised physical activity to help keep a healthy brain fit. But the government-funded study marks the longest test of whether exercise makes any difference once memory starts to slide — research performed amid a pandemic that added isolation to the list of risks to participants' brain health.

Researchers recruited about 300 sedentary older adults with hard-to-spot memory changes called mild cognitive impairment or MCI — a condition that's sometimes, but not always, a precursor to Alzheimer's. Half were assigned aerobic exercises and the rest stretching and balance moves that only modestly raised their heart rate.

Another key component: Participants in both groups were showered with attention by trainers who worked with them at YMCAs across the country — and when COVID-19 shut down gyms, helped them keep moving at home via video calls.

After a year, cognitive testing showed overall neither group had worsened, said lead researcher Laura Baker, a neuroscientist at Wake Forest School of Medicine. Nor did brain scans show the shrinkage that accompanies worsening memory problems, she said.

By comparison, similar MCI patients in another long-term study of brain health — but without exercise — experienced significant cognitive decline over a year.

Those early findings are surprising, and the National Institute on Aging cautioned that tracking non-exercisers in the same study would have offered better proof.

But the results suggest "this is doable for everybody" — not just seniors healthy enough to work up a hard sweat, said Baker, who presented the data Tuesday at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference. "Exercise needs to be part of the prevention strategies" for at-risk seniors.

Previous research has found regular physical activity of any sort may reduce damaging inflammation and increase blood flow to the brain, said Alzheimer's Association chief scientific officer Maria Carrillo.

But the new study is especially intriguing because the pandemic hit halfway through, leaving already vulnerable seniors socially isolated — something long known to increase people's risk of memory problems, Carrillo said.

It's a frustrating time for dementia research. Doctors are hesitant to prescribe a high-priced new drug called Aduhelm that was supposed to be the first to slow progression of Alzheimer's — but it's not yet clear if it really helps patients. Researchers last month reported another drug that works simi-

larly — by targeting amyloid plaques that are an Alzheimer's hallmark — failed in a key study.

While amyloid clearly plays a role, it's important that drugmakers increasingly are targeting many other factors that can lead to dementia, Carrillo said, because effective treatment or prevention likely will require a combination of customized strategies.

One example of a new approach: Sometimes in dementia, the brain has trouble processing blood sugar and fats for the energy it needs, John Didsbury of T3D Therapeutics told the Alzheimer's meeting. His company is testing a pill that aims to rev up that metabolism, with results expected next year.

Meanwhile, there's growing urgency to settle whether steps people could take today — like exercise — might offer at least some protection.

How much and what kind of exercise? In Baker's study, seniors were supposed to get moving for 30 to 45 minutes four times a week, whether it was on a vigorous turn on the treadmill or the stretching exercises. That's a big ask of anyone who's sedentary, but Baker said MCI's effects on the brain make it even harder for people to plan and stick with the new activity.

Hence the social stimulation — which she credited with each participant completing more than 100 hours of exercise. Baker suspects that sheer volume might explain why even the simple stretching added up to an apparent benefit.

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STRIKE

FROM PAGE A1

Tuesday framed the operation as an enormous counterterrorism win.

"The president has made good on his word when we left. He said the United States did not need to keep sending thousands of American men and women to fight and die in Afghanistan," White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said on NBC's "Today" show. "After 20 years of war to keep this country safe, he said we would be able to continue to target and take out terrorists in Afghanistan without troops on the ground."

But as details of the operation continue to emerge, the administration has also revealed troubling evidence of al-Qaida's presence and of the Taliban once again offering refuge to the group that was behind the 9/11 attacks on the United States.

White House officials think senior members of the Haqqani Network, an Islamist terror group with strong ties to the Taliban, were aware that al-Zawahri was in Kabul. Sullivan said that while al-Zawahri wasn't involved in day-to-day planning at the time of his killing, he continued to play an active role in directing al-Qaida and posed "a severe threat" against the U.S. and American citizens.

Concerns about al-Qaida efforts to regroup inside Taliban-controlled Afghanistan are hardly new.

Before the strike, U.S. military officials, including Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, had said al-Qaida was trying to reconstitute in Afghanistan, where it faces limited threats from the now-ruling Taliban. Military leaders have warned that the group still aspired to attack the U.S.

Al-Qaida leadership has reportedly played an advisory role since the Taliban returned to power in the leadup to the U.S. withdrawal, according to a U.N. Security Council report last month. The U.N. report also noted

that ISIS-K — the group that carried out a massive attack that killed 13 U.S. troops and dozens of Afghans near the Kabul International Airport just days before the U.S. completed its withdrawal last year — has become increasingly active in northern and eastern Afghanistan. That's a worry for the West, though ISIS-K and the Taliban espouse different ideologies and interests, with ISIS-K carrying out a bloody insurgency against the Taliban and religious minorities across Afghanistan.

"Zawahri's presence in post-withdrawal Afghanistan suggests that, as feared, the Taliban is once more granting safe haven to the leaders of al-Qaida — a group with which it has never broken," said Nathan Sales, ambassador-at-large and coordinator for counterterrorism during the Trump administration who is now a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council.

Frank McKenzie, the retired Marine general who until earlier this year was the top American military officer in the Middle East, said the U.S. has seen an effort by al-Qaida to restore training camps in Afghanistan.

"I see nothing happening in Afghanistan now that tells me that the Taliban are determined to prevent that from happening," he said in an interview.

Since the American troop withdrawal, U.S. military leaders have said America's ability to monitor and strike a target in the country would be difficult but not impossible.

The strike on Zawahri proved both, said McKenzie, who is now executive director of the Global and National Security Institute at the University of South Florida. "If it's a national priority, we can certainly do that. It requires tremendous effort."

He cautioned not to draw broad conclusions from this one drone strike.

"This was a unique circumstance," he said. "You had a target that didn't move, and they had the opportunity to get a good look at pattern of life. That's not always going to be the case. In fact, typically, that is not the case."

CARING

FROM PAGE A1

more than 20 years told us, "The need for this project is great. The school staff and students are always grateful for the donated supplies."

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All donations made to Summer of Caring this week will be designated to purchase supplies for Gear Up For Learning. You can send your donations to *The Sumter Item* or to SUM at P.O. Box 1017, Sumter SC 29151-1017.

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ABOUT THIS ARTICLE

This is The Sumter Item's eighth-annual Summer of Caring fundraiser, which serves as a benefit to Sumter United Ministries. Every penny donated goes to the faith-based nonprofit, which uses the money for client services, such as emergency food, clothing and shelter, as well as medical and educational assistance and bill pay. Long-term fixes, when enough money is donated, can go toward roofing repairs and HVAC fixes.

Supplies are currently being collected and can be dropped off at the office of Sumter United Ministries from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. through Friday or to Bynum Insurance between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. On Monday, supplies should be brought to the First Baptist Church Gymnasium from 9 a.m. until noon. Monday is the final day for donated supplies.

Kevin Howell is the Crisis Relief Ministry director at Sumter United Ministries.

New donations as of Aug. 2: None

MONEY

FROM PAGE A1

has through the Rural Infrastructure Authority — that's all water and sewer utilities — to apply for a capital grant. We've been looking forward to this for the better part of the year, and the details just came out in the last couple of months."

McCormick added that council previously invested in multiple sites across the city to connect broadband Wi-Fi at public facilities, and the second round will be to continue that expansion.

A second resolution was to authorize the remaining \$274,000 to Lincoln High School Preservation Alumni Association Inc.

According to McCormick, this was a separate entity from the city's spending. The association wants to continue expanding the former high school on Council Street into a museum in the downtown

area.

The association has strived to preserve the history of Lincoln High School, best known as Sumter's first public school for Black children established in 1874, for decades. According to the association's website, the association bought the building in 2009, and it was registered as a historic site in 2015.

Now, Lincoln High School Preservation Alumni Association Inc. wants to bring the building back to life.

"A lot of work has gone in, but this is to assist with the designing and construction of museum areas in the building," McCormick said. "Also the design of a parking lot on Council Street and also some testing and remediation in the building because it's an older, historical building."

Council unanimously approved both resolutions with council members James Blessingame and Thomas Lowery absent.

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COMMENTARY

Is Taiwan's independence worth war?

When a man knows he is about to be hanged in a fortnight, it concentrates his mind wonderfully, said Dr. Samuel Johnson.

If there is any benefit to be realized from the collision between China and the U.S. over Speaker Nancy Pelosi's trip to Taiwan, it is this: America needs to reflect long and hard upon what it is we will fight China to defend in the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea.

China, after all, is a nuclear-arms nation with a manufacturing base larger than our own, an economy equal to our own, a population four times ours and fleets of warships larger in number than the U.S. Navy.

An air-naval-and-missile war in the Western Pacific and East Asia would be no cakewalk.

A massive barrage of anti-ship and hypersonic missiles launched by China could cripple and conceivably sink the U.S. carrier Ronald Reagan now in the South China Sea. The Reagan carries a crew of thousands of sailors almost as numerous as the U.S. casualty lists from both Pearl Harbor and 9/11, the worst attacks in and on the

U.S. outside of such Civil War battles as Gettysburg and Antietam.

What in East Asia or the Western Pacific would justify such losses?

What would justify such risks?

Since President Richard Nixon's trip to China, and President Jimmy Carter's abrogation of the mutual defense treaty with the Republic of China on Taiwan in 1979, the U.S. is not obligated to come to the defense of Taiwan against

China, which claims that island the size of Maryland as "part of China."

Our military posture has been one of "strategic ambiguity." We will not commit to go to war to defend Taiwan, nor will we take the war option off the table if Taiwan is attacked.

But if the U.S. went to war to defend Taiwan, what would it mean?

We would be risking our own security and possible survival to prevent from being

imposed on the island of Taiwan the same regime lately imposed on Hong Kong without any U.S. military resistance.

If Hong Kong, a city of 7 million, can be transferred to the custody and control of Beijing without resistance from the U.S., why should it be worth a major U.S. war with China to prevent that same fate and future from befalling 23 million Taiwanese?

The retort comes instantly. Allow China to take Taiwan without U.S. resistance, and our treaties to fight for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Australia and New Zealand become suspect.

Belief in the U.S. commitment to fight for the nations of East Asia and the Western Pacific would dissipate. The entire architecture of Asian defense against Communist China could disintegrate and collapse.

If we allowed Taiwan to be taken by China without intervening, it is argued, the value of U.S. commitments to fight to defend scores of allies in Europe and Asia would visibly depreciate. U.S. credibility would suffer a blow as substantial as the loss of South

Vietnam in 1975.

The fall of Saigon was followed by the loss of Laos and Cambodia to communism, the overthrow of the shah, the Iranian hostage crisis, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the strategic transfer of Ethiopia, Angola, Mozambique, Nicaragua and Grenada to the Soviet bloc, and the rise of Euro-communism on the Old Continent.

Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, and the bellicose reaction of Beijing, should raise other relevant questions.

If this should lead to a U.S.-China war, what would we be fighting for? And what would victory look like?

A restoration of the status quo ante? Permanent independence for Taiwan, which would require a new and permanent war guarantee by the U.S. and a new U.S.-Taiwan defense pact?

Would a permanent commitment to fight to defend Taiwan from China be acceptable to an American people weary of commitments and wars?

Again, why would we risk our own peace and security for Taiwan's freedom and independence, when we would not risk our own peace and security for the freedom or in-

dependence of Hong Kong?

And after our victory in the Taiwan Strait, how would we secure indefinitely the independence of that nation of 23 million from a defeated power of 1.4 billion, bitter and bristling at its loss?

Consider: China, in this 21st century, has grown massively, both militarily and economically, and in both real and relative terms, at the expense of the United States.

Nor are the growth trends for China, with four times as many people as there are Americans, favorable to the USA.

What guarantees are there that 2025 or 2030 will not bring a more favorable balance of power for China in what is, after all, their continent, not ours?

Unlike in the Cold War, time is not necessarily on the side of the United States and its allies when all three of the nuclear powers in East Asia — China, Russia, North Korea — are hostile to the USA.

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

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Pat Buchanan

EDITORIAL PAGE POLICIES

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

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.



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comics.com EMAIL: hpayne@detroitnews.com

COMMENTARY

Losing everything — What or who is important to you?

What or who is important to you?

The recent devastating flood in eastern Kentucky reminds us all that life can be swept away in a moment. Hundreds of families lost everything. One family lost their house and everything in it but lost their family — four children ages less than 2 up through 8 were swept away by the raging flood. One woman who had also lost her house and everything in the house stated she and her family were alive and that's all that mattered.

None of us want to lose our houses and everything we've worked for most of our lives. However, it's all junk in comparison to our children and loved ones.

From the fires of California to the floods of eastern Kentucky to the devastation of Ukraine by Russia, loss and devastation can come to us

all. We don't want loss. We recoil from natural disasters, invaders or diminishing health.

It takes a lifetime to pay for a house. Today, cars are often financed five years and more. People work hard to accumulate a few things. Little children, spouses and aging parents are not easy to come by.

Most of the time we take everything we have for granted.

When the floods of life literally wash away all that we have and love, the loss is horrific.

We really don't know the full extent of how painful loss is until we have lost it all. Recent flood victims in eastern Kentucky essentially lost it all. Many literally escaped with only the

'Whatever or whoever you have today, don't take it or them for granted. Be grateful, give thanks. Love on your loved ones, and be kind to all.'

shirts on their backs. Cancer can eat away at our lives. Other forms of diminishing health can take us down to nothing. Financial losses can make us miserable. A fire can destroy everything. Life can change and in a moment.

Sometimes we have warnings that life is on the way to

changing. When it rains, we don't automatically think the water will become so deep that we will all drown. Some people in eastern Kentucky will never be able to enjoy a long night of rain because of what it may bring.

Overall, people would like to live out their lives quietly and safely, avoiding floods, fires and other life-threatening crises. Food to eat, something to wear and the enjoyment of people we love are most meaningful to us.

In the middle of life's devastation, we often look to God and ask why? If he is really so great, so good and so loving, then why would he send or allow 8 or 9 inches of rain to fall on the hollers of eastern Kentucky and sweep away little children? Did he go to sleep? Does he not care? Is he detached from what happens in the world? Is he really out there? Yet, as many grieve,

they will fall upon God, as he is all they have left to get them through. An old saint of God who suffered through the storms of life once said, "I didn't realize God was all I needed until God was all I had."

Whatever or whoever you have today, don't take it or them for granted. Be grateful, give thanks. Love on your loved ones, and be kind to all. Consider taking some of your stuff and giving it to someone who may have nothing. It will be good for you both.

Dr. Glenn Mollette the author of 13 books including Uncommon Sense, Grandpa's Store, Minister's Guidebook insights from a fellow minister. His column is published weekly in more than 600 publications in all 50 states. Contact him at GMollette@aol.com or learn more at www.glenmollette.com.



Glenn Mollette

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

AA, AL-ANON, ALATEEN:

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

AA Women's Meeting — Wednesdays, 7 p.m., 1 Warren St., (803) 775-1852.

AA "How it Works" Group — Mondays and Fridays, 8 p.m., 1154 Ronda St., (803) 494-5180.

441 AA Support Group — Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, 8 p.m., Hair Force, 2090-D S.C. 441.

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

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

MONDAY MEETINGS:

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

TUESDAY MEETINGS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAY MEETINGS:

TOPS S.C. No. 236 (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) — Thursdays. For information, call Catherine Turbeville at (803) 469-5733 or Pam Manning at (803) 775-8800.

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

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

FRIDAY MEETINGS:

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

SATURDAY MEETINGS:

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

SUNDAY MEETINGS:

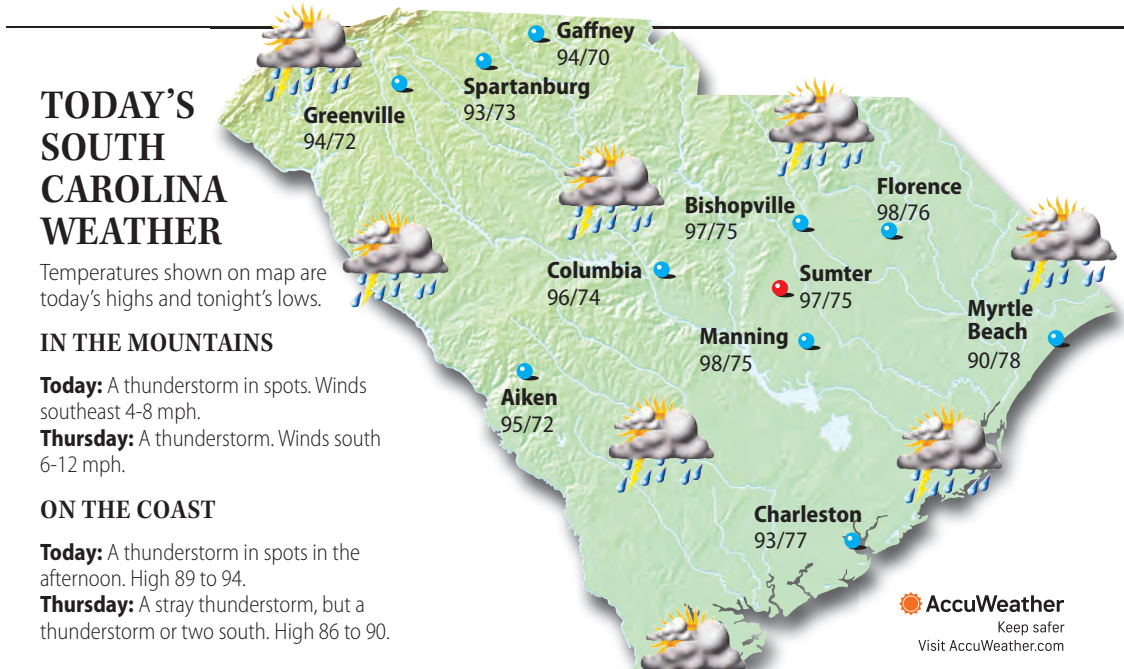
Sumter MS Support Group — First Sunday, 3 p.m., Wise Drive Baptist Church fellowship hall, 2751 S. Wise Drive, (803) 481-5344 or (803) 464-6440. Email I.am.me.not.ms@gmail.com or msmiles013@gmail.com.

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2022

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
An afternoon t-storm in spots	Partly cloudy and humid	Humid; a stray p.m. t-storm	Times of clouds and sun	Partly sunny, a t-storm; humid	Partly sunny, a t-storm; humid
97°	75°	93° / 74°	95° / 74°	93° / 73°	89° / 74°
Chance of rain: 45%	Chance of rain: 15%	Chance of rain: 45%	Chance of rain: 15%	Chance of rain: 80%	Chance of rain: 80%
S 4-8 mph	S 3-6 mph	S 6-12 mph	SSW 4-8 mph	SE 4-8 mph	SSE 4-8 mph



LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THROUGH 2 P.M. TUESDAY

Temperature

High	94°
Low	74°
Normal high	90°
Normal low	69°
Record high	101° in 1980
Record low	60° in 1966

Precipitation

24 hrs ending 2 p.m. Tue.	0.09"
Month to date	0.09"
Normal month to date	0.39"
Year to date	21.67"
Last year to date	23.76"
Normal year to date	29.29"

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	356.96	-0.03
Marion	76.8	75.00	-0.01
Moultrie	75.5	74.84	-0.08
Wateree	100	96.79	-0.07

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	6:35 a.m.	Sunset	8:21 p.m.
Moonrise	12:02 p.m.	Moonset	11:46 p.m.
First	Full	Last	New
Aug. 5	Aug. 11	Aug. 19	Aug. 27

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	2.98	-0.13
Congaree River	19	3.15	+0.01
Lynches River	14	2.68	-0.04
Saluda River	14	1.80	-0.01
Up. Santee River	80	76.01	-0.01
Wateree River	24	7.97	-1.90

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Thu.
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	91/72/t	88/71/t
Chicago	93/71/t	78/65/pc
Dallas	104/82/s	102/81/pc
Detroit	93/72/t	82/66/t
Houston	99/78/s	96/77/t
Los Angeles	85/67/s	84/66/pc
New Orleans	86/75/t	83/75/t
New York	88/76/s	94/78/s
Orlando	91/75/t	93/74/t
Philadelphia	92/75/s	98/78/s
Phoenix	103/86/c	102/85/c
San Francisco	71/57/pc	74/57/s
Wash., DC	91/76/s	95/78/s

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Thu.	City	Today	Thu.
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W		Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Asheville	88/68/t	85/66/t	Florence	98/76/t	95/75/t
Athens	93/71/t	89/71/t	Gainesville	88/72/t	93/73/s
Augusta	95/71/t	92/73/t	Gastonia	94/72/t	92/70/t
Beaufort	94/76/t	90/77/t	Greenville	96/75/c	94/73/t
Cape Hatteras	88/79/t	86/77/s	Goose Creek	94/77/t	90/75/t
Charleston	93/77/t	90/76/t	Greensboro	91/73/pc	91/71/t
Charlotte	96/73/t	94/74/t	Hickory	91/70/t	88/70/t
Clemson	92/72/t	89/71/t	Hilton Head	91/79/t	88/77/t
Columbia	96/74/t	92/73/t	Jacksonville, FL	90/73/t	89/72/s
Darlington	95/74/t	91/73/t	La Grange	91/69/t	89/69/t
Elizabeth City	92/76/c	91/75/pc	Macon	93/73/t	91/72/t
Elizabethtown	97/76/t	92/74/t	Marietta	91/71/t	88/72/t
Fayetteville	98/75/t	93/73/t			
Marion	89/68/t	87/68/t			
Mt. Pleasant	92/79/t	89/77/pc			
Myrtle Beach	90/78/t	89/77/t			
Orangeburg	96/74/t	91/73/t			
Port Royal	93/77/t	89/78/t			
Raleigh	96/74/pc	96/75/pc			
Rock Hill	96/73/t	94/72/t			
Rockingham	99/74/t	95/73/pc			
Savannah	92/74/t	88/74/t			
Spartanburg	93/73/t	92/73/t			
Summerville	94/77/t	90/74/t			
Wilmington	95/78/t	91/78/t			
Winston-Salem	92/73/pc	92/72/t			

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

PUBLIC AGENDA

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

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

The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Push for what you want. Take charge of

sentimentality take over. Revise your day to include putting your responsibilities behind you before moving on to enjoyable pastimes. Having the discipline and insight to do things right the first time will help you avoid criticism. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Address issues that limit progress. Finish what you start before you move on to something new. Refuse to let things build up that will stand between you and what you need. Focus on health, emotional well-being and taking care of business. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Money matters will escalate if you are too generous. Don't let anyone take advantage of your charitable attitude. Put more time and effort into your home, and invest in yourself and your future. Learn from the experts. 4 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep moving forward, regardless of what others do or say. Put your energy into transformation. Nurture relationships and adjust your living arrangements to suit your needs. You can't buy love, but you can earn respect. Romance will enhance your life. 2 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let uncertainty throw you off course. Choose the path that interests you most, and don't worry about what everyone else pursues. Take responsibility for your happiness, and look for opportunities that encourage you to follow your heart. 5 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Wheel and deal until you get the results you want. A financial gain is possible if you invest in something familiar to you. A lifestyle change looks promising; however, you may require a push to head in a new direction. 3 stars

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

entertainment. Step into the spotlight and show everyone what you can contribute. Your attitude will make a difference to the reception you receive. Let charm, intellect and action be your calling cards. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Listen to good advice and revise your plans to ensure success. Keep tabs on what's going on, but don't interfere in something that can disrupt your relationship with someone you love. Take better care of your health, reputation and position. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll draw attention if you speak up and share your thoughts. Look for opportunities, and you'll come across something that makes you feel comfortable and excited about your future. Explore the possibilities and head in the direction that suits your lifestyle. 5 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take a step back from whatever situation you face and rethink your strategy. Too much of anything will set you back. Keep life simple, control your reactions and pursue long-term goals. Being insightful and resourceful is encouraged, and self-improvement is favored. 2 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Refuse to let the changes others make lead you astray. Concentrate on what's important, and rely on intelligence to close deals. Don't expect to please everyone, but do your best to be fair and offer options to eliminate conflict. 4 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Change begins with you and your choices. Dig deep, and you'll discover what makes you happy. Incorporate your skills with plans that put a smile on your face. Take control and join forces with people who share your sentiments. 3 stars

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

"Where Quality Matters"

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Sumter, SC

803-774-2100

BrownsFurnitureSumter.com

SUMTER ANIMAL CONTROL PETS OF THE WEEK



SUMTER ANIMAL CONTROL NEEDS YOUR HELP. We are looking for people to walk dogs, foster or help with transport. We desperately need 9 a.m. Monday – Friday walkers. Message us if interested. Must be at least 18 years old. Don't have extra time to be a volunteer? We gladly accept donations of the following: newspapers, puppy pads, canned and dry puppy food, paper towels, Clorox wipes and heavy duty slip leashes. You can also donate from our Amazon Wishlist under Saving Sumter's Strays at <https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/10Q422KA0M119>. All donations go toward helping Sumter County dogs. Our all-volunteer organization is making a big difference in the lives of so many homeless pets. Help us continue to save animals.

TOP: Are you looking for a gentle senior dog to add to your family? This fella is gentle, calm and quiet. Clarence is looking for a hero to give him a loving home where he can spend the rest of his life being spoiled. He weighs 63 pounds and is 7-10 years old. He enjoys short, slow walks. All this sweet boy needs is a fluffy bed and air conditioning. Clarence will make a perfect companion for a senior citizen.

BELOW: Maylene is a sweetie. She is a petite little girl, who weighs 30 pounds. This adorable gal is getting along well with all the other dogs and gets so excited to see the volunteers every day. Maylene will be a nice addition to any family. Maylene is a young dog, approximately 2-4 years old.

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

HINES FURNITURE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Laurence Manning's Sanders caps off senior year with the honor

“It’s like a weight off my chest. I’ve been waiting all summer for this moment.”

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

As the polls for the Hines Furniture Athlete of the Year contest came to a close on Tuesday afternoon, Laurence Manning’s Jaden Sanders was hoping his main goal for this summer came to pass.

He made it all the way to the championship matchup last summer only to see Sumter High’s Nicole Wells claim the inaugural title. This summer, he wanted revenge.

Mission accomplished.

Sanders won the vote this summer, capping off his high school career with one final highlight.

“It’s like a weight off my chest. I’ve been waiting all summer for this moment,” Sanders said. “It’s a perfect cherry on top. This was the best year I’ve had. Winning the Hines Furniture Athlete of the Year, it’s like a great goodbye.”

Sanders has been quick to thank his parents, his most staunch supporters, through this process. His gratitude doesn’t stop there. He’s appreciative of everyone who took the time to show their support.

“It feels like family. It feels like love,” Sanders said. “If I wasn’t for them, I wouldn’t have won. They took the time out of their day to vote for me and get people to vote for me. I’m just thankful for everyone.”

The Swampcat senior also praised his head coach, Will Epps, for helping him develop on the court during his time at LMA.

“Coach Epps is a big person in my life right now,” Sanders said. “In the 10th grade, I used to question stuff he did to me, like not playing me that much in one game then play me a lot in another game. My parents told me to trust him, and it all came out to be a good thing.”

Sanders was electric for Laurence Manning in his final season. On a senior-heavy squad, Sanders stood out, averaging 13.9 points per game. He also averaged seven rebounds, 2.9 assists, 2.8 steals and 2.1 blocks.



For all his accomplishments, his favorite moments were the times spent with his fellow seniors.

“It made all of us happy because we’ve been playing with each other since we were little or when we were in 10th grade,” Sanders said. “That chemistry came together on the court. If we won or we lost, we were having fun.”

The season was not without its share of ups and downs. Right after Christmas break, the Swampcats were hit by COVID-19, causing the team to be sidelined for most of January. After a junior season that was depleted by the virus, a mid-season pause was a cause for concern.

“It was struggling, really struggling. It gave us flashbacks to last season thinking, ‘Are we going to play again?’ It was bad,” Sanders said. “We were so happy when we got back on the court.”

The time away made the return even more sweet. Sanders’ favorite moment from the season came near the end. After losing to Trinity Collegiate twice during the regular season, LMA got revenge in the region tournament championship, besting the Titans 44-41.

“That was the best moment probably of my life,” Sanders said of that win. “We

SEE SANDERS, PAGE B5

PHOTO BY CAL CARY / THE SUMTER ITEM

Yankees trade former Sumter High star Montgomery to Cardinals at deadline

NEW YORK (AP) — The Yankees acquired Gold Glove-winning center fielder Harrison Bader from the St. Louis Cardinals for left-hander Jordan Montgomery ahead of Tuesday’s trade deadline, a surprising deal aimed at improving defense.

A speedy 28-year-old from Bronxville, New York, Bader has not played since June 26 because of plantar fasciitis in his right foot.

When he returns, he likely would play center field in a move that would put Aaron Judge back in right and see Aaron Hicks in left, with Giancarlo Stanton as the designated hitter.

New York traded strikeout-prone outfielder Joey Gallo to the Los Angeles Dodgers earlier Tuesday for minor league right-hander Clayton Beeter.

Montgomery was 3-3 with a 3.69 ERA in 21 starts but was 0-2 with a 5.36 ERA in his last eight outings. His departure came one day after Frankie



Montas was acquired from Oakland to join Gerrit Cole, Nestor Cortes and Jameson Taillon in the rotation.

Domingo Germán likely will remain in the rotation in the absence of Luis Severino, who is out until at least mid-September because of a strained lat muscle in his right side.

St. Louis obtained lefty José

Quintana from Pittsburgh a day earlier.

“We wanted innings, specifically starting pitching,” Cardinals president of baseball operations John Mozeliak said. “We felt like we were getting inconsistency out of our rotation.”

In preparing for the stretch run and the playoffs, the AL-

best Yankees also acquired righty relievers Scott Effross and Lou Trivino.

Bader is a graduate of Horace Mann School in the Bronx, about 5 miles from Yankee Stadium. He went to the University of Florida and was drafted by the Cardinals in the third round in 2015.

Bader made his big league

The New York Yankees traded former Sumter High star Jordan Montgomery to the St. Louis Cardinals on Tuesday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

debut two years later and hit .267 last year with 16 homers, 50 RBIs and nine stolen bases. His 15 defensive runs saved were 10th in the majors, according to the Fielding Bible, and he earned a National League Gold Glove.

Slowed by the foot injury this year, Bader is batting .256 with five homers, 21 RBIs and 15 steals. His defensive runs saved declined to minus-2.

Bader is in the first season of a \$10.4 million, two-year contract that pays \$4.7 million next year.

Montgomery, who could make his Cardinals debut against the Yankees this weekend, is 22-20 with a 3.94 ERA in six big league seasons. He was sidelined from May 2018 until September 2019 by an elbow injury that needed Tommy John surgery.

Montgomery has a \$6 million salary and is eligible for arbitration next winter. Both Bader and Montgomery are eligible for free agency after the 2023 season.

Braves send postseason star Smith to Astros for RHP Odorizzi

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
Associated Press

ATLANTA — The World Series champion Atlanta Braves bolstered their starting staff ahead of the trade deadline Tuesday by giving up a reliever who played a big part in their 2021 title.

Poised for another postseason run, the Braves dealt former closer Will Smith to the Houston Astros for right-hander Jake Odorizzi, giving Atlanta a sixth starting pitcher for the final two months of the regular season.

The move was the biggest of three deadline deals pulled off by general manager Alex Anthopoulos, who on Monday gave up minor leaguers for corner outfielder Robbie Grossman from Detroit and infielder Ehire Adrianza from Washington.

Atlanta, with the third-best record in the NL and going into Tuesday's games trailing the East-leading New York Mets by 3 1/2 games, was seeking additional depth for the rotation.

Ian Anderson has struggled and former All-Star Mike Soroka appears unlikely to make a major contribution this season after two major Achilles' injuries. Also, there are concerns that 13-game winner Kyle Wright, in his first full big league season, and rookie



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Houston Astros traded starting pitcher Jake Odorizzi to the Atlanta Braves on Tuesday.

sensation Spencer Strider could tire down the stretch.

Smith played a huge role in the Braves' first World Series championship since 1995. He had 37 saves during the 2021 regular season and was even more dominant in the postseason, throwing 11 scoreless innings with six saves over 11 appearances.

But Smith willingly gave up the ninth-inning slot when the Braves signed longtime Dodgers closer Kenley Jansen during the offseason, and the lefty faltered in a less-prominent role.

In 41 appearances, Smith was 0-1 with a 4.38 ERA and five saves, giving up 35 hits — including seven homers — and 21 walks over 37 innings for a WHIP of 1.514.

In his last four appearances

with the Braves, Smith surrendered six runs in three innings.

He was especially expendable with three other lefties — A.J. Minter, Tyler Matzek and Dylan Lee — proving more effective out of the bullpen. Also, former Padres closer Kirby Yates appears close to returning to the big leagues with the Braves after recovering from Tommy John surgery.

The AL West-leading Astros acquired the pitcher who was on the mound for the decisive game of the Braves' World Series victory over Houston last season.

The Astros have a glut of starting pitching and could afford to give up Odorizzi, especially to acquire a much-needed lefty for their bullpen.

Smith is making \$13 million in

what is likely the final year of his contract. He has a \$13 million club option for 2023 with a \$1 million buyout.

The 32-year-old Odorizzi was an All-Star with Minnesota in 2019, when he had a career-best 15 wins. He went 4-3 with a 3.75 ERA in 12 starts for the Astros this season.

Odorizzi missed 42 games with a lower left leg injury and is 1-1 with a 4.45 ERA in five stars since returning to the Houston rotation. In his latest outing, he surrendered two hits in seven scoreless innings against Seattle.

The Braves could use six starters on an upcoming three-city road trip that includes a pair of doubleheaders. After that, they could go with Odorizzi as a spot starter to give everyone additional rest ahead of the postseason, or make a change if someone falters.

The 24-year-old Anderson has been a big disappointment, going 9-6 with a 4.99 ERA, though he did bolster his chances of staying in the rotation by giving up only one hit over six scoreless innings against the Nationals in his last start.

Wright has blossomed this season, leading the NL in wins to go along with a 2.93 ERA. But he has thrown 122 2/3 innings, closing in on his professional high of 143 1/3 set last season while mostly pitching

at Triple-A Gwinnett.

The hard-throwing Strider has made a hugely successful transition to the Braves rotation, going 5-3 with a 2.93 ERA in 22 appearances that include 11 starts.

But Strider has logged 80 1/3 innings, not far from the 96 1/3 he pitched a year ago while making a meteoric rise from Low-A to the big leagues in his first professional season.

The trade for Odorizzi, who has a \$6.5 million player option for 2023 and minimum buyout of \$3.25 million that could grow based on innings pitched over 2021-22, would seemingly complete the Braves' wish list before the deadline.

Grossman, a switch hitter who has been much more effective against left-handers, gives the Braves an outfielder who can platoon with lefty-hitting Eddie Rosario and serve as a replacement for Adam Duvall, who recently underwent season-ending wrist surgery.

Adrianza returns to the team he played for in 2021, providing additional infield depth until Ozzie Albies returns from a broken foot, likely in early September.

The Astros also were busy at the deadline, acquiring catcher Christian Vázquez from Boston and slugger Trey Mancini from the Orioles.

Former Baron Sears headed to A's as Yankees trade for Montas

NEW YORK (AP) — The Yankees bolstered their pitching for the stretch run and playoffs, obtaining starter Frankie Montas and reliever Lou Trivino from the Oakland Athletics on Monday for four prospects.

Montas, a 29-year-old right-hander, is 4-9 with a 3.18 ERA in 19 starts, including a 2.76 ERA since the start of May. He has 109 strikeouts and 28 walks in 104 2/3 innings.

"His level of talent, especially with how he's pitched the last couple years, just excited to get him in the mix," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "He's got the full arsenal and stuff you look for top of the rotation guy. Gone out and proved last couple years he is that kind of caliber pitcher."

New York sent Oakland 26-year-old rookie left-hander J.P. Sears, the former Wilson Hall standout, along with three minor leaguers: 24-year-old left-hander Ken Waldichuk, 23-year-old right-hander Luis Medina and 22-year-old infielder Cooper Bowman.

"I think we got three pitchers who are very close to if not already major league ready," Oakland general manager David Forst said.

Earlier in the day, the Yankees got Scott Effross, a 22-year-old rookie reliever, from the Chicago Cubs for Hayden Wesneski, a 24-year-old minor league right-hander.

Montas has a 35-32 record with a 3.73 ERA for the Chicago White Sox (2015) and Oakland (2017-22). He was suspended for 80 games in June 2019 for a positive test for Ostarine, a banned performance-enhancing substance used to increase stamina. Montas attributed to the test result to a contaminated supple-



The New York Yankees traded former Wilson Hall pitcher JP Sears to the Oakland A's on Monday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ment he said was purchased over-the-counter at a nutrition store.

While the Yankees ended July an AL-best 69-34, they were 8-11 since July 8. Montas joins a rotation headed by All-Stars Gerrit Cole (9-3, 3.30 ERA) and Nestor Cortes (9-3, 2.53 ERA) that has faltered of late.

Left-hander Jordan Montgomery, the former Sumter High star, is 0-2 with a 5.36 ERA in his last eight starts and was traded to the St. Louis Cardinals a day later. Right-hander James Taillon is 1-1 with a 5.04 ERA in his last five. Luis Severino has not pitched since July 13 because of a lat strain and was moved to the 60-day injured list Monday along with right-handed reliever Miguel Castro, out since July 10 with a strained right shoulder. Going into Monday night's series opener against Seattle, Domingo Germán had an 8.22 ERA in his first two starts after recovering from a right shoulder impingement.

Montas left a July 3 start at Seattle after 13 pitches with shoulder tightness

— his velocity was down about 3 mph. He returned July 21 and has a 2.25 ERA in starts against Detroit and Houston.

"I think we're comfortable with where he's at shoulder-wise," Boone said.

Montas has a \$5,025,000 salary this year, is eligible for arbitration this winter and can become a free agent after the 2023 season. His fastball averages 96 mph.

Trivino, a 30-year-old right-hander, is 1-6 with a 6.47 ERA — double his 2021 figure — and 10 saves in 13 chances. Right-handed batters are hitting .289 against him this year while lefties are hitting .392 with nine walks in 60 plate appearances.

"Little bit down year statistically but we don't think it lines up with what we're seeing on some underlying things and who we think he is," Boone said. "He's been a very good reliever for them on some playoff-caliber teams."

Trivino has a \$3 million salary, is eli-

gible for arbitration ahead of the 2023 and 2024 seasons, then can become a free agent.

Oakland is an AL-worst 39-65. Trying to get government approvals for a new ballpark in downtown Oakland, the A's last made the playoffs in 2020, beating the Chicago White Sox in the wild-card round before losing to Houston in the Division Series.

Oakland's average home attendance of 8,475 is last in the major leagues.

Sears is 2-0 with a 2.05 ERA in two starts and five relief appearances with the Yankees. He is 1-1 with a 1.67 ERA in nine starts and two relief appearances at Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. He will report to Triple A Las Vegas.

Bowman, a fourth-round draft pick last year who signed for a \$353,000 bonus, hit .217 this year for Class-A Hudson Valley with eight homers, 35 steals and 35 RBIs.

Medina is 4-3 with a 3.38 ERA and 81 strikeouts in 72 innings this season at Double-A Somerset.

Waldichuk, a fifth-round selection in 2019, is 6-3 with a 2.71 ERA in 116 strikeouts in 76 1/3 innings for Triple-A Scranton and Double-A Somerset this year.

"It's been clear now for a while obviously with the moves that we made in spring training that this is the direction we were heading come this deadline," Forst said. "I expect to look back on all of that and hopefully see where a lot of the next group of Oakland A's major leaguers came from."

The Yankees also optioned right-hander Clarke Schmidt to Scranton and promoted right-hander Carlos Espinal from the RailRiders.

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Padres obtain Soto from Nationals in blockbuster deal

BY BERNIE WILSON and STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The San Diego Padres acquired superstar outfielder Juan Soto from the Washington Nationals on Tuesday in one of baseball's biggest deals at the trade deadline, vaulting their post-season chances by adding one of the game's best young hitters.

The Padres also obtained first baseman Josh Bell while sending a haul of players to Washington that included rookie left-hander MacKenzie Gore, first baseman/DH Luke Voit and prospects James Wood, C.J. Abrams, Robert Hassell III and Jarlin Susana.

Voit was a late addition to the deal after San Diego first baseman Eric Hosmer declined to waive a no-trade provision, according to a person with direct knowledge of the move who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because negotiations were ongoing at the time.

After reeling in Soto, a generational talent who turns 24 in late October, San Diego general manager A.J. Preller also acquired infielder Brandon Drury from Cincinnati. The Padres sent minor league shortstop Victor Acosta to the Reds for the 29-year-old Drury, who has a career-high 20 homers this year.

After contributing to the Nationals' first championship in franchise history in 2019, Soto hit .351 in 2020 to win the NL batting title. He has been walked more than any other player in major league baseball over the past two seasons.

"The atmosphere here is they want to win, and not just go to the playoffs but win a World Series," said All-Star closer Josh Hader, who was obtained by San Diego on Monday in another big deal with Milwaukee. "That's a contagious atmosphere to be a part of."

San Diego began the season with a luxury tax payroll of \$229.3 million, just below the first threshold, and the trades



The Washington Nationals traded Juan Soto to the San Diego Padres in a blockbuster deal on Tuesday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

push the Padres into tax territory for the second straight season. Soto is owed \$5,978,022 for the rest of this season and Bell \$3,516,844.

The package of prospects going to Washington is one of the most touted groups ever involved in one deal. Gore and Abrams debuted in San Diego this season after ranking among the sport's elite minor leaguers, Hassell and Wood are both top 100 prospects according to MLB.com, and Susana was considered the best pitcher available in the 2021-22 international free agent class.

Washington general manager Mike Rizzo set a lofty asking price last month after reports emerged that Soto rejected the team's latest contract offer of \$440 million over 15 years.

"We set the bar very, very high, and one team exceeded it and that's the deal we made," Rizzo said. "Props to the San Diego Padres. They're not afraid, and ownership's not afraid, and A.J. Preller's not afraid and they were aggressive and we made a deal

that you call historical." Soto remains under team control for two more seasons after this one, which made it no sure thing the Nationals would trade him now. The Padres getting him for potentially three playoff runs even absent a new deal made this the peak of Soto's value.

That uncertainty began weighing on Soto, who said after Sunday's game against St. Louis: "I just want to get it over with and see what's going to happen. Start over here or wherever I'm at."

He gets to start over in San Diego in the midst of his second All-Star season, part of a loaded lineup that also includes All-Star Manny Machado and Fernando Tatis Jr. when the shortstop returns from a broken left wrist.

"It's pretty impressive to have those three types of guys on one team in the same lineup," said Wil Myers, the Padres' longest-tenured player. "Excited to see that trio, hopefully in the next week or two."

Tatis could be 10 days to

two weeks away from being added to the active roster.

With little protection around him in Washington's lineup, Soto hit .246 with 20 home runs and 45 RBIs and 91 walks in 101 games.

In 2,435 plate appearances since making his Nationals debut in 2018, Soto is batting .291 with 118 home runs and 357 RBIs. He's only a couple of years removed from slugging .695 with a 1.185 OPS and .490 on-base percentage — all NL bests.

Soto becomes the latest Nationals player to be traded as part of the organization's long-term rebuild and with ownership looking to sell the team. Rizzo traded shortstop Trea Turner, ace Max Scherzer, power hitter Kyle Schwarber and five others at the deadline last year, and Washington has let Bryce Harper, Anthony Rendon and others move on in free agency.

The quintet of young players coming from San Diego could join the ones acquired last year — including pitcher

Josiah Gray and catcher Keibert Ruiz — as the core of Washington's next contender.

Gore, a 23-year-old left-handed pitcher, had a 1.50 ERA through his first nine starts this year but is now on the injured list with elbow inflammation. Abrams struggled as a fill-in for injured Tatis at shortstop to begin the season, but he's only 21 and has hit .314 at Triple-A.

The 20-year-old Hassell, the No. 8 overall pick in the 2020 amateur draft, hit an RBI single in last month's All-Star Futures Game. Wood, a 19-year-old outfielder and second-round selection in last year's draft, is batting .321 with 10 homers and 45 RBIs for Class-A Lake Elsinore. Susana, an 18-year-old right-hander, has a 2.45 ERA with 44 strikeouts in 29 1/3 innings with San Diego's complex league team.

"We were fortunate that it was a well-rounded trade," Rizzo said. "We've got two pitchers, two outfielders and a shortstop, which fit our needs perfectly."

Sudoku 6 x 6

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COMPLETE EACH GRID WITH THESE SIX SYMBOLS.

Symbols can only appear once in each line, once in each column and once in each box of six squares. Each box of six squares is marked by darker lines. Some symbols are already included in each box to help you get started. Don't forget: a symbol can't be repeated in the same line, column or box.

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Panthers' Horn returns, has chance to be a 'special player'

BY STEVE REED

Associated Press

SPARTANBURG — Carolina Panthers cornerback Jaycee Horn beamed with pride watching his girlfriend Brea Beal cut down the nets this past April after the South Carolina women's basketball team won the NCAA championship.

Now Horn wants to feel the same euphoria that the Gamecocks star point guard felt.

"Seeing the confetti drop from the ceiling, (seeing) everybody's expressions and everybody so happy — that's the experience everyone wants," Horn said. "This is my last shot at it, so I hope I can win a Super Bowl."

First though, Horn needs to get completely healthy.

The No. 8 overall pick in last year's draft said he's still feeling the aftereffects of surgery for broken bones in his right foot stemming from a freakish Week 3 injury last season against the Houston Texans.

The non-contact mishap occurred when Horn was back-peddling on the far side of the field and felt a sharp pain in the foot, causing him to fall to the ground and immediately begin calling for the aid of a trainer.

A day later Horn was informed his season was likely over.

He missed the final 14 games, ending a promising start to his NFL career.

"At first when it happened, I was hoping it was something minor," Horn said. "When I got the news I was frustrated and mad. But after that I was just trying to work on getting better every day and working my way



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Carolina Panthers cornerback Jaycee Horn is looking to make a major impact this season after the former South Carolina DB missed most of his rookie season with a foot injury.

back onto the field."

Horn participated in the team's OTAs and minicamp earlier this off-season, so when he was added to the PUP (physically unable to perform) list at the start of training camp with soreness in that same right foot it raised some eyebrows.

But Horn said doctors and others who've experienced similar injuries have told him that is natural when returning from a broken foot.

The 6-foot-1, 200-pound Horn missed the first week of training camp, but returned to practice on a

limited basis on Monday. The Panthers are slowly working him into the mix, careful not to overdue the strain on his foot while attempting to ramp up his workload.

That has put Horn back into an all-too-familiar role of watching, rather than playing.

But he said the one thing he's learned from last season is patience and winning the mental battle in his head.

"I want to be ready for Week 1 — when it counts," Horn said.

Panthers coach Matt Rhule said

Horn has already proven to him he can be a "special player" in the NFL given his rare combination of speed, strength and athleticism, and he knows the team can't afford to lose him again.

"Jaycee last year was a physical presence, explosive, aggressive and didn't back down from anybody," Rhule said. "We missed him when he was gone."

Horn is scheduled to start alongside Donte Jackson in year two. When the Panthers go to three cornerback sets, Rhule said Horn will move inside to the nickel spot while C.J. Henderson, another former top-10 NFL draft pick, will take the outside.

When all three cornerbacks are healthy and with Jeremy Chinn and Xavier Woods at safety, the Panthers believe they have one of the best defensive backfields in the league. Carolina gave up the second-fewest yards passing in the league in 2021.

Horn said the sky is the limit.

"The raw talent we have. We've got athleticism. We have two of the fastest corners in the league in Donte and C.J. and I'm not slow myself for a big guy," Horn said. "And we all compete hard. If we get beat, we get right up and challenge on the next play."

The Panthers, who are coming off back-to-back five-win seasons, are still viewed as long way from being a team that competes for a championship.

But if Horn has his way, the confetti will drop someday.

"Win," Horn said of his primary goal moving forward. "I feel like the individual goals will come when you're playing good. I want us to play good as a defense and help this team win football games."

Plan (B)rissett: Browns QB 'ready' to fill in for Watson

BY TOM WITHERS

Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — Deshaun Watson's suspension has forced the Browns to launch their backup plan — with the consummate backup quarterback.

Jacoby Brissett, though, has never thought of himself as a second option.

"I'm just another quarterback on the roster," he said.

With Watson being suspended six games — pending a possible appeal by the NFL — for violating the league's personal conduct policy due to allegations of sexual misconduct, Brissett, now with his fourth team, is Cleveland's short-term starter.

He's back atop a depth chart, a place Brissett has been before after making 37 starts during a seven-year pro career in which the 29-year-old has bounced from New England to Indianapolis to Miami to Cleveland.

Watson has been getting the bulk of snaps with Cleveland's first-team offense in camp, but that's likely to change soon now that the Browns know they'll be without Watson for at least six games and potentially more depending on what the league decides.

None of this is new to Brissett.

After being drafted by New England in 2016, he was thrust into the starting lineup as a rookie when Tom Brady was suspended for "Deflategate" and while Jimmy Garoppolo was sidelined with a shoulder injury.

Three years later, Brissett unexpectedly took over for the Colts following Andrew Luck's stunning retirement in training camp. With Miami last season, Brissett was called upon after Tua Tagovailoa got hurt in Week 2 and started five games.

Brissett is headed down a path he knows well.

"Since I've been in this league it's been the next man up," he said before Tuesday's practice. "That was the case my rookie year, so that experience helps with not only the playing but with the mindset of understanding that you've got to be ready whenever your number is called."

The Browns signed Brissett as a free agent one day after Watson waived his no-trade clause and agreed to join Cleveland. The team needed



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Cleveland Browns quarterbacks Deshaun Watson (4) and Jacoby Brissett (7) laugh during training camp on Monday in Berea, Ohio.

to add a QB with experience and one capable of leading a talented roster, especially if Watson was going to be out for an extended period.

Brissett was ideal.

"He's been in some different positions already in his young career," coach Kevin Stefanski said. "He has a very good way about him. Very, very intelligent. Very good leader. Has the ability to make plays on the practice field, help in the meeting room. Be accountable throughout the weight room. He just does all the right things."

Although he's among the team's new players, Brissett said it's comforting to know the Browns believe he can fill in for Watson.

"It feels good that you have that trust amongst the organization," he said. "I'm excited for the opportunity."

Browns linebacker Anthony Walker Jr. knows Brissett as well as anyone. He was teammates with Brissett in Indianapolis when he took over for Luck. The Colts didn't miss a beat.

"He stepped in and he was a pro," Walker said. "He handled it the right way. People forget we were a really good football team with him as our starting quarterback before we had a lot of guys go down."

"We were rolling at that point but happened to take a couple of bad bumps. Jacoby's a pro. He's prepared, is going to prepare every day whether he's the starter or the backup.

He's always ready so he doesn't have to get ready."

As Brissett answered questions for the first time since Watson's suspension, Walker lurked just outside the semi-circle of reporters. At one point, he caught Brissett's eye and the QB took a playful swipe at his teammate.

"He's annoying as hell," Brissett joked.

It was a playful moment in this tense period for the Browns, who remain unsure of what's coming next for Watson.

In the meantime, the plan is to prepare Brissett for the Sept. 11 opener against Carolina, and perhaps five more games until Watson is eligible again.

Brissett smiled when he was asked how tough it will be to hand over the reins at 6-0.

"We'll cross that bridge when we cross that bridge," he said.

NOTES: Top WR Amari Cooper sat out with an ankle injury suffered Monday. Stefanski expects Cooper to be back soon and still doesn't feel any need to add receivers despite a rash of injuries at the position. ... RT Jack Conklin (knee) and DE Jadeveon Clowney (rest) were among a group of players who worked on the side. ... The Browns practiced in pads for the first time and the initial scuffle of camp featured some shoves and words between WR Donovan Peoples-Jones and rookie CB Martin Emerson.

NFL suspends Dolphins owner for tampering with Brady, Payton

BY ROB MAADDI

Associated Press

The NFL has suspended Miami Dolphins owner Stephen Ross and fined him \$1.5 million for tampering with Tom Brady and Sean Payton following a six-month investigation stemming from Brian Flores' racial discrimination lawsuit against the league.

The league's investigation found the Dolphins did not intentionally lose games during the 2019 season but the team had impermissible communication with Brady and his and Payton's agent, Don Yee. The league announced the findings of the investigation on Tuesday.

The Dolphins will forfeit a first-round selection in the 2023 NFL draft and a third-round selection in the 2024 draft. Ross is suspended through Oct. 17.

"The investigators found tampering violations of unprecedented scope and severity," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said in a statement. "I know of no prior instance of a team violating the prohibition on tampering with both a head coach and star player, to the potential detriment of multiple other clubs, over a period of several years. Similarly, I know of no prior instance in which ownership was so directly involved in the violations."

The investigation concluded the Dolphins violated the league's anti-tampering policy on three separate occasions. The Dolphins had impermissible communications with Brady as early as August 2019 through the 2020 postseason, while he was under contract to the New England Patriots.

Dolphins vice chairman/limited partner Bruce Beal conducted "these numerous and detailed discussions" and kept Ross and other team executives informed of his conversations with Brady.

The Dolphins again had impermissible communications with both Brady and his agent, Yee, no later than early December 2021 and after the season, while he was under contract to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Those discussions focused on Brady becoming a limited partner in the Dolphins and possibly serving as a football executive, although at times they also included the possibility he would play for the Dolphins. The league says Ross and Beal participated in these discussions.

Brady briefly retired in February before the seven-time Super Bowl champion chose to return for another season with the Buccaneers.

The third tampering violation involved Payton. In January, the Dolphins had impermissible communications with Yee about having Payton serve as Miami's head coach. The Dolphins did not seek consent from New Orleans to have these discussions, which occurred before Payton announced his decision to retire from the Saints. Miami requested permission to speak to Payton for the first time after that announcement but New Orleans declined to grant it.

Ross' suspension ends the same day Deshaun Watson is eligible to return from his six-game suspension. A disciplinary officer handed out Watson's punishment on Monday after the Cleveland Browns quarterback was accused by two dozen women in Texas of sexual misconduct during massage treatments. The NFL is mulling whether to appeal that decision.

Ross may not be present at the team's facility and may not represent the club at any team or NFL event during his suspension. He also may not attend any league meeting before the annual meeting in 2023, and he is removed from all league committees indefinitely.

Beal was fined \$500,000 and may not attend any league meeting for the remainder of the year.

Regarding Flores' allegations the Dolphins wanted him to "tank" games to secure the top draft pick, investigators said the team didn't intentionally lose and neither Ross nor anyone from the team instructed Flores to lose on purpose.

SANDERS

FROM PAGE B1

were all so happy because we lost to them two straight years before that. To finally beat them this year, we were happy.”

With the Hines Furniture Athlete of the Year in tow, Sanders will soon make the trip to South Carolina State to begin his college journey. After getting limited recruiting looks during high school, Sanders will try to make the Bulldogs' basketball team as a walk-on.

“I would go back to old games of mine from my senior year and I realized I can really help a college team,” Sanders said. “We play as a team and I'm a very unselfish player. I feel like I can really fit into a college team.”

“To be on a DI college team would be a dream come true.”



After claiming the title for the Hines Furniture Athlete of the Year, Sanders will go to South Carolina State this fall and attempt to join the Bulldog basketball team as a walk-on.

PHOTOS BY CAL CARY / THE SUMTER ITEM



Falcons defensive guru Pees determined to raise expectations

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. (AP) — One season of bottom-rung defense was too much for Dean Pees.

Pees, the Atlanta Falcons' veteran defensive coordinator, is making sure his players know he won't stand for another season like 2021, when Atlanta finished 7-10. Only two NFL teams allowed more points than the Falcons. No team had fewer sacks.

The 72-year-old Pees is entering only his second season in Atlanta, but he already has grown tired of seeing the defense underperform.

“I'm sick of that crap,” Pees said Saturday during a fiery rant about “changing the culture around this daggum place.”

Led by first-year coach Arthur Smith, the Falcons couldn't avoid their fourth consecutive losing season. They are picked by many to fall closer to the bottom of the league standings in 2022.

While much attention has been paid to the new names at quarterback — veteran Marcus Mariota and rookie Desmond Ridder — the fate of the Falcons could rest with their defense.

Pees knows that even some of his players would settle for a climb to just the middle of the defensive standings. The suggestion of accepting mediocrity is enough to make his voice rise.

“It's not going to be mediocre,” he said. “It's not going to be average. It's not going to be in the bottom half of the league like it's been 15 out of the last 20 years.”

Pees previously was the defensive coordinator for New England, Baltimore and Tennessee.

He faces different challenges in Atlanta. The salary-cap strapped Falcons lost leading tackler Foye Oluokun and safeties Duron Harmon and CB Fabian Moreau to free agency and released outside linebacker Dante Fowler and defensive lineman Tyeler Davison.

Pees is building around veteran defensive tackle Grady Jarrett and third-year cornerback A.J. Terrell. Veteran linebackers Lorenzo Carter and Rashaan Evans and cornerback Casey Hayward were added in the offseason and are expected to help Pees reset expectations.

“It all starts in practice in camp right now, just building the chemis-



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Atlanta defensive coordinator Dean Pees, left, is unhappy that expectations are low for the Falcons' defense.

try, building trust, just going out there and dominating any period in practice,” Terrell said. “Just holding each other accountable, making the plays that come our way. ... We're on the right path.”

Pees promised he will start the most deserving player, regardless of salary or experience.

“All I know is the best 11 guys are going to go out there on the field,” Pees said, adding he wants “the best 11 guys that are hungry and want to play. And if one of those guys isn't making a lot of money? Tough, get the hell out. I've done it before.”

The Falcons had their first practice in pads on Monday but didn't wait that long to pick up the intensity. Coach Arthur Smith and his assistants had to break up two fights in Saturday's session.

Pees said he liked the spirit. He said he wanted to see fight from his players, before adding, “I don't want them to fistfight.”

“Sometimes you're going to get in a few scuffles when stuff starts getting competitive,” he said. “That's what you want. You don't want guys sitting back and being passive. That's football. ... It's a tough sport. You want guys who want to compete.”

Smith also approved of the aggressive spirit.

“I'd much rather have people you need to pull back than people that you've got to push,” Smith said. “This team is competitive as hell and that's a fun group to coach.”

Griner back in Russian court on cannabis charge

BY JIM HEINTZ
Associated Press

KHIMKI, Russia — American basketball star Brittney Griner was back in court on Tuesday for her trial for cannabis possession amid U.S. diplomatic efforts to secure her release.

During the hearing, prosecutors called a state narcotics expert who analyzed cannabis found in Griner's luggage. Her defense fielded a specialist who challenged the analysis, charging that it was flawed and didn't conform to official rules.

Griner was escorted into court in handcuffs and placed inside a cage in the trial in Khimki, a town on the northern edge of Moscow. While in the cage she held up personal photos.

The trial adjourned until Thursday, when closing statements are scheduled.

If convicted, the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) star and two-time Olympic gold medalist could face 10 years in prison. As her trial has progressed, the Biden administration has faced growing public pressure to get her released.

In an extraordinary move, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken last week spoke to his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, urging him to accept a deal under which Griner and Paul Whelan, an American imprisoned in Russia on an espionage conviction, would go free.

The Lavrov-Blinken call marked the highest-level known contact between Washington and Moscow since Russia sent troops into Ukraine more than five months ago, the direct outreach at odds with U.S. efforts to isolate the Kremlin.

People familiar with the proposal say it envisions trading Griner and Whelan for the notorious arms trader Viktor Bout. It underlines the public pressure that the White House has faced to get Griner released.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters Monday that Russia has made a “bad faith” response to the U.S. government's offer, a counteroffer that American officials don't regard as serious. She declined to elaborate.

Griner has acknowledged there

were vape canisters containing cannabis oil in her luggage when she was arrested at a Moscow airport in February. But she insisted that she had no criminal intent and that the canisters ended up in her luggage because she was packing hastily. Griner played for a Russian women's basketball team in the WNBA off-season.

To bolster her case, her defense lawyers have presented testimony from doctors that she was prescribed cannabis as a treatment for pain. Medical marijuana treatment is not legal in Russia.

“There are a lot of factors that will taken by the court into account,” Griner's attorney Maria Blagovolina told reporters after Tuesday's hearing, adding that Griner “admitted that she did bring something, but we need to know what she did bring.”

While judges have leeway to consider mitigating factors under Russian law, acquittals are rare and account for less than 1% of cases in Russian criminal prosecutions.

A conviction, however, could potentially pave the way for Griner's exchange as Russian officials said it could only happen after the judicial process is completed.

Tom Firestone, a Washington attorney who formerly served as legal adviser at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, said Griner could be handed a tough sentence as a way for Russians “to maximize their leverage in negotiations.” He told The Associated Press that Russia “may want to let this play out a little bit longer and try to extract more concessions.”

Russian officials have scoffed at U.S. statements about the case, saying they show a disrespect for Russian law. They remained poker-faced, urging Washington to discuss the issue through “quiet diplomacy without releases of speculative information.”

Asked about the latest White House comment regarding the Russian counteroffer, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov wouldn't offer any details.

“Any exchange of information on the subject should be discreet without any ‘loudspeaker diplomacy,’” he told reporters. “Public exchange of positions will not yield any result.”

OBITUARIES

GERALD DOZIER

Graveside services for Gerald Dozier will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday with a private interment.



DOZIER

Mr. Dozier transitioned on Thursday, July 28, 2022, at his residence in Rock Hill.

Born in Manning, he was a son of Joann Dozier Sharpe and the late General Utell Davis Jr. Gerald was a 1985 graduate of Manning High School and enlisted and served in the United States Army for eight years. He served in the

Gulf War prior to working many years in retail management and as a long-distance truck driver. Gerald was a member of Manning Progressive Church of Jesus in Manning, before joining Freedom Temple Ministries in Rock Hill, where he served on the men's ministry, men's choir and volunteered his services wherever there was a need. Gerald loved spending time with his family, friends and faithfully attending church with his loving wife and daughter.

Survivors are his wife, Michelle B. Dozier of Rock Hill; a cherished daughter, Matisse Sylrae Dozier of Rock Hill; mother, Joann Dozier Sharpe; four sisters, Helena Dozier, Deborah Sharpe and Sherm Dozier Young, all of Manning, and Shanna Davis of Durham, North Carolina; five loving

brothers, Herbert Dozier Sharpe Jr., Joseph Dozier and Tim (Mary) McDonald, all of Manning, Tyrell (Kenya) Davis of Fayetteville, North Carolina, and Tony Dozier of Atlanta; special mother-in-law, Ramona Bradley of Sumter; and a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, in-laws and friends.

Condolences may be made on his tribute page found at www.PalmerMemorialChapel.com.

Professional services rendered by Palmer Memorial Chapel.



BRYSON JASHAWN WRIGHT

Baby Bryson Jashawn Wright passed away peacefully on Friday, July 29, 2022, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital.

Baby Bryson was born on July 29, 2022, to Bryanna Lenore Wright.

Funeral services are incomplete at this time and have been entrusted to Whites Mortuary LLC.

HERBERT HENRY BOYKIN JR.

Herbert Henry Boykin Jr., 73, widower of Patricia Davis Boykin, was born on April 7, 1949, in Kershaw County, a son of the late Herbert Henry Boykin Sr. and Sallie Esther Council Boykin. He departed this life on Friday, July 15, 2022, at Regency Hospital of Florence.

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

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday at Salem Chapel & Heritage Center, 101 S. Salem Ave., Sumter, SC 29150. Interment will follow at Union Baptist Church Cemetery, Rembert, SC 29128.

In lieu of flowers, please make your contributions to the Sumter Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina, NFB Sumter Chapter, P.O. Box 641, Sumter, SC 29151.

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

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Card of Thanks



WILLIE RUTH PENDERGRASS PRESSLEY

The family of the late Sis. Willie Ruth Pendergrass Pressley is deeply appreciative of all the acts of love, thoughtfulness, calls, visits and your words of condolences expressed, implied or demonstrated during our season of separation.

Debra Canty, Judy (Jerry) Simon, Thereyam (Irina) Pressley, Jr. and Family

Park it in the **CLASSIFIEDS** and watch it go fast!

Card of Thanks



To all those who supported us during the passing of **Mr. Willie Maurise Richardson, Jr.**

Thank you for your support during our time of loss. We thank you for your kind and comforting words and, most of all, your prayers.

A special thanks to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Augusta Burn Center, Prisma Health, Medshore Ambulance Services and Tuomey Home Health and Physical Therapy for all the services and care provided.

Sincerely,
Melissa Weeks-Richardson & family



BUSINESS SERVICES

Home Improvements

H.L. Boone, Contractor: Remodel paint roofs gutters drywall blown ceilings etc. 773-9904

MERCHANDISE

For Sale or Trade

Frontline Powermate Tiller, 5.75 ft-lbs, OHC engine, 11" x 16" x 21" tilling width, 8" tilling depth, \$200. Craftsman 22" mulching mower, 6.5 HP, new spark plug & blade, \$150. Both in great condition. Call 803-236-0360

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted Full-Time

Cashier needed. Apply at Wally's Hardware, 1291 Broad St., Sumter.

Local Sumter business has opening for **customer service representative.** Computer and phone skills a must. Must pass drug test and have valid SC drivers license. Send resume to PO Box 6662, Florence SC 29502.

RENTALS

Miscellaneous Rentals

For Rent. 40x60 pole tent. Holds up to 375 people. Use for revival, flea market, produce, family reunion, and special events. Details and pricing at 803-757-4196.

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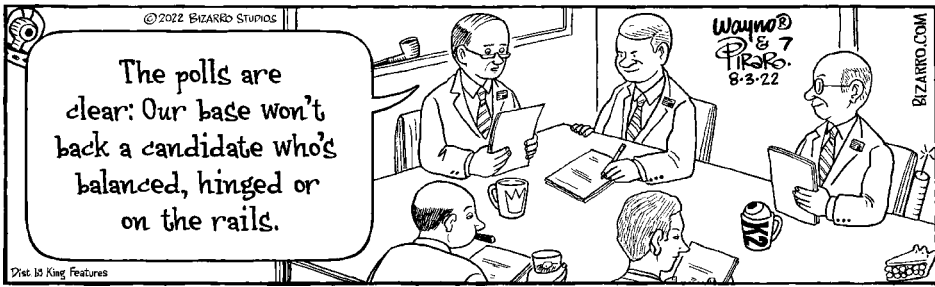
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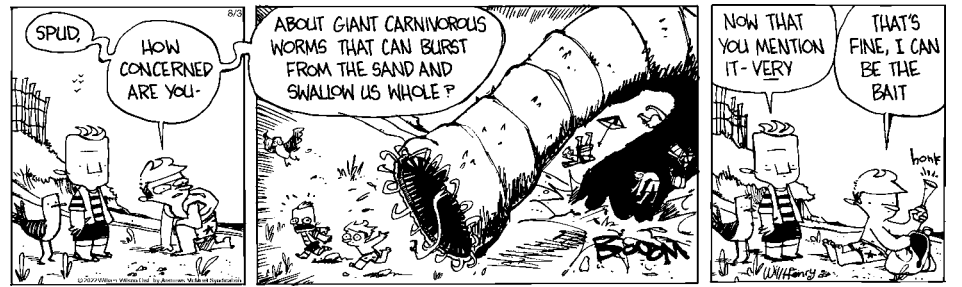
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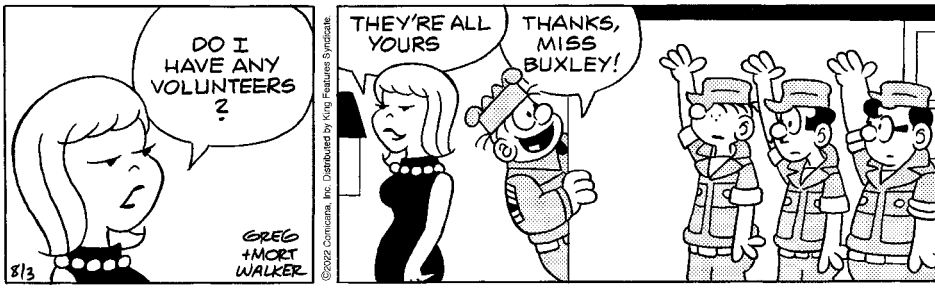
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GARFIELD



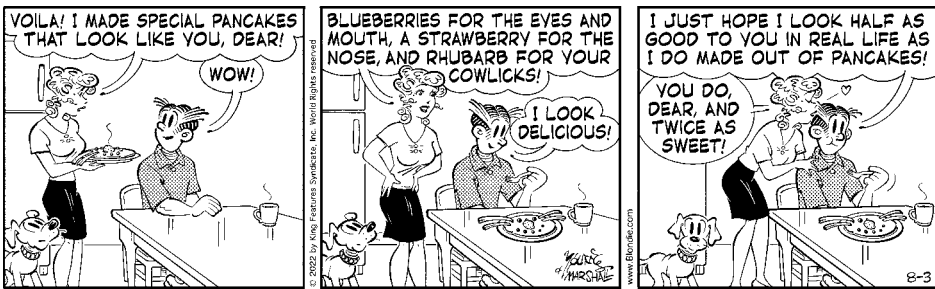
BEETLE BAILEY



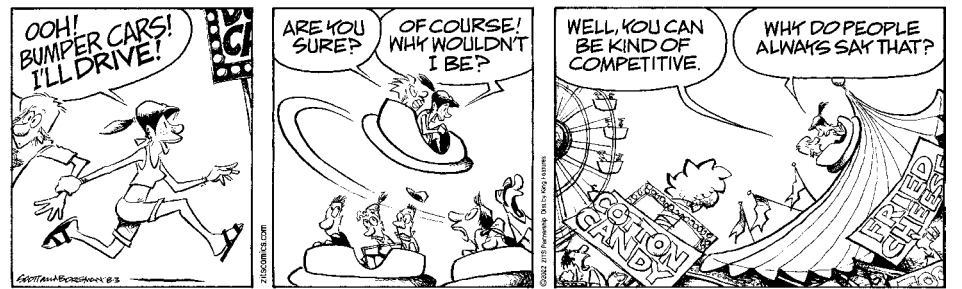
BORN LOSER



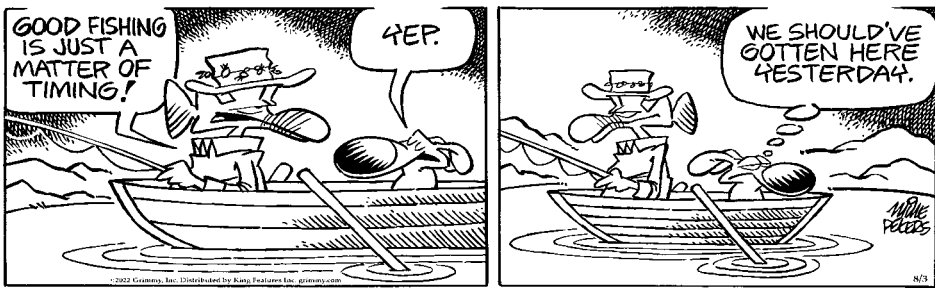
BLONDIE



ZITS



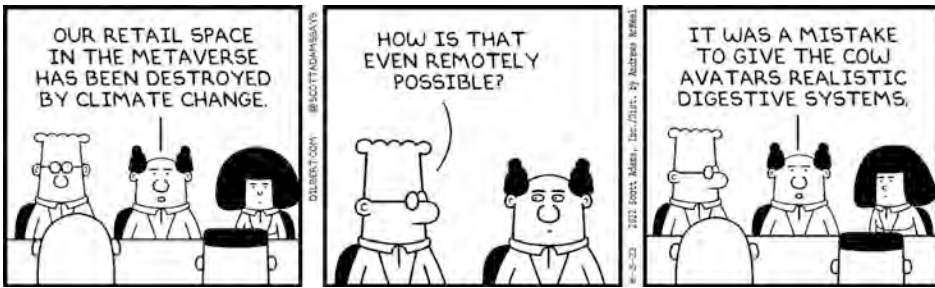
MOTHER GOOSE



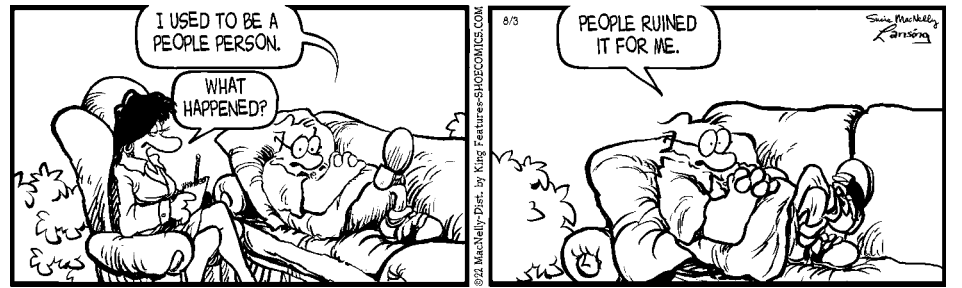
HERB AND JAMAAL



DILBERT



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE



Mom's lack of inhibition troubles son's girlfriend



Dear Abby
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY — I've been with my 45-year-old boyfriend, "Doug," for six years. His mother, who was widowed five years ago, has moved here from New Jersey. Doug is protective of her, which I kind of understand because she's 63. The kicker is, she has started flashing her breasts at us. I'm pretty sure she does it to Doug when I'm not around as well. I've mentioned to him multiple times about how disturbing it is, but he brushes it off and refuses to confront her. We have adult children, and she recently went into the pool with all of them with nothing on. It's starting to worry me. I don't want to be the one to confront

her because it will get ugly.
Flashed in Florida

DEAR FLASHED — If Doug's mother has always been this way, someone should point out that what she's doing is inappropriate unless it's clear that nobody minds. In this case, YOU mind, and I wouldn't be surprised if your adult children were also less than enthusiastic about the performance. If her exhibitionism is something new, then she should be evaluated, first by a doctor who specializes in geriatric patients and, if necessary, referred to one who specializes in geriatric psychiatry.

DEAR ABBY — I recently made some unflattering comments about my daughter-in-law to my son. They were recorded on their Ring doorbell. Now she's angry with me and my son, and I'm not sure I'll ever see the grandchildren again. When I

emailed her an apology, she said she didn't know if she could ever forgive me. She'll see my husband, but I'm not allowed over there if she'll be around.

Any words of wisdom as to what to do? We've always helped out with the children and sometimes financially. Should my husband tell her if I'm not welcome, then he feels the same way? I know he feels caught in the middle.

Messed up in Illinois

DEAR MESSED UP — I do NOT feel it would be helpful to threaten your son and daughter-in-law by withholding your husband from interacting with them and the grandkids. What you should do is apologize AGAIN to your daughter-in-law for your critical and unkind comments. Repeatedly, if necessary. Then hope she can find it in her heart to forgive you.

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.

VALEE

LESLP

WEHRSD

DZCIAO

“ ”



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

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FOCAL YOUTH SLUDGE FORBID
Answer: The golf ball that landed on the roof of the house was — HIT OFF COURSE

SUDOKU

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

THE DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15						16			
17				18						19			
	20				21				22				
23	24				25				26				
27					28				29				
30					31		32		33				
	34		35	36				37			38	39	
					40			41			42	43	
44	45	46						47	48	49			
50					51	52	53		54				
55					56				57				
58					59				60			61	62
63					64						65		
66					67						68		

Susan Gelfand

2/9/22

ACROSS

- 1 Maxims
- 5 Indian dignitaries
- 11 Pizzeria order
- 14 Make bootees, say
- 15 Childish response
- 16 Lenient
- 17 "We'll never understand"
- 19 Sports rep
- 20 Familia members
- 21 Palms: Canary Islands port
- 22 Ranch unit
- 23 Not just a few
- 25 *Color named for a fruit
- 27 Public face
- 29 Not yet firm
- 30 D'backs, in box scores
- 31 Residue in a charcoal grill
- 33 Pt. of many long weekends
- 34 *Large bovine of American folklore
- 40 Slithery swimmer
- 41 Loaf that may contain caraway seeds
- 42 Rival
- 44 Like a designated driver
- 47 Weepy
- 50 *Political

- satirist who wrote "Holidays in Hell"
- 54 "Phooey!"
- 55 Umbrella spokes
- 56 ___ chi: martial art
- 57 Ten, for openers
- 58 Recede
- 59 Louisa May Alcott classic whose main characters are hidden in the answers to the starred clues
- 63 Wonderment
- 64 Lipton drink
- 65 High coil
- 66 Teller of corny jokes, stereotypically
- 67 Not strict with
- 68 Discreet summons

- Legend" action star
- 8 Starting squad
- 9 Neigh-sayer
- 10 latte: dairy-free order
- 11 Director's call
- 12 "So true!"
- 13 Magnitude
- 18 Cinco de ___
- 22 Golfer Palmer, informally
- 23 Org. with a Climate Change section on its website
- 24 Sink or swim
- 25 Mascara target
- 26 Hindu spiritual adviser
- 28 The older of baseball's two leagues: Abbr.
- 32 Possessive pronoun
- 33 Vamoose

- 35 Pub round
- 36 Architect
- 37 Saari
- 37 Data unit
- 38 Freeway exits
- 39 Cross off
- 43 Overhead trains
- 44 Cream cheese, e.g.
- 45 Algonquian language
- 46 Rose and fell on the waves
- 48 Over again
- 49 Get back
- 51 City near Syracuse
- 52 Hotel postings
- 53 Poker pot
- 57 Leader with an .edu address
- 59 Fabrication
- 60 Name of 13 popes
- 61 Masthead VIPs
- 62 "___ too shabby!"

Previous Puzzle Solved

I	C	O	N	S	O	L	E	A	R	F	S
M	O	N	E	T	F	O	E	C	O	O	P
B	E	C	A	R	E	F	U	L	T	Y	R
W	I	R	E	T	A	P	R	O	K	E	R
A	B	C	O	W	E	I	N	T	E	R	E
R	E	E	L	S	E	G	U	E	D	N	E
M	S	D	O	S	N	I	C	E	T	E	N
O	H	B	R	O	T	H	E	R			
J	A	B	A	R	A	B	M	U	D	D	
O	D	E	M	O	R	E	S	O	T	E	R
K	A	Y	J	E	W	E	L	E	R	S	
I	P	O	D	S	L	E	A	D	I	N	S
E	T	N	A	S	P	E	L	L	B	O	O
S	E	C	T	A	I	M	S	E	R	U	M
T	R	E	E	L	E	O	E	R	A	S	E

WEDNESDAY EVENING AUGUST 3

	SP	FT	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	
LOCAL CHANNELS														
WIS	10	3	10	WIS News 10 at 7 (N)	Entertainment Tonight (N)	Chicago Med "And Now We Come to the End" Med's family grows. (DVS)	Chicago Fire "What's Inside You" One of 51's own is taken hostage. (DVS)	Chicago P.D. "New Guard" Halstead works with a new recruit. (DVS)	WIS News 10 at 11 (N)	(:34) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon Kevin Bacon; Jo Koy; Katherine Blanford. (N)				
WLTX	19	9	9	News 19 at 7pm (N)	Inside Edition (N)	Big Brother Houseguests compete to win a veto. (N)	The Challenge: USA "In Tyson We Trust" (N)	S.W.A.T.	News 19 at 11pm (N)	(:35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert				
WOLO	25	5	12	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	CMA Fest: Country music artists perform. (DVS)		ABC Columbia News at 11 (N)		(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live! "Mark Rober; Demi Lovato; Science Bob Pflugfelder" Mark Rober guest hosts; Demi Lovato.				
WRJA	27	11	14	Coastal Kingdom "Finding A Mate"	Reconnecting Roots "Chain of Events"	The Green Planet "Human Worlds" (Series Finale) How humans help plants. (N)	NOVA "NOVA Universe Revealed: Black Holes" Nature's strange and powerful objects. (DVS)	Expedition With Steve Backshall "Socorro: Expedition Shark Island" Where shark mothers give birth. (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)		The Green Planet How humans help plants.			
WACH	57	6	6	The Big Bang Theory "The Athenaeum Allocation"	The Big Bang Theory	MasterChef "Cooking for Horse Town U.S.A." The chefs divide into two teams. (N)	(:01) So You Think You Can Dance "The Final Cut" The remaining contestants hit the stage. (N)	WACH FOX News at 10P (N) (Live)		Sports Zone (N) (Live)	The National Desk (N) (Live)	Nick Cannon Barbara Corcoran; Maverick City.		
WKTC	63	4	22	Last Man Standing Mike starts a miniature tank collection.	Last Man Standing "Eve's Band"	Dateline "The Woman With No Name" Finding a murder victim's identity.	Dateline "Silent Witness" A young woman is found dead in a field.	Chicago Fire "Just Drive the Truck" Trucks collide on the way to a call.	Chicago Fire "Just Drive the Truck" Trucks collide on the way to a call.	The Carbonaro Effect Manipulating solid objects.	Impactical Jokers The guys bus their way through a deli.	Pawn Stars A \$1 bill signed by Clark Gable.		
CABLE CHANNELS														
A&E	46	130		Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam (N)	Court Cam (N)	(:01) Neighborhood Wars (N)	(:32) Road Wars (N)	(:04) Court Cam	(:34) Court Cam	(12:03) Court Cam
AMC	48	180		(6:00) ** "Sixteen Candles" (1984, Comedy) Molly Ringwald.	** "Uncle Buck" (1989, Comedy) John Candy, Amy Madigan, Jean Louisa Kelly. An easygoing relative takes care of three children.	(14) ** "The Great Outdoors" (1988, Comedy) Dan Aykroyd, John Candy. Man and family camp with obnoxious brother-in-law and family.		(12:14) *** "Groundhog Day"						
ANPL	41	100		The Zoo "A Star Is Born"	The Zoo "Rising Tension" (N)	Tyler Perry's Sistas "Moving On Up" Sabrina is caught in a risky situation.		The Zoo: San Diego	The Zoo: San Diego	The Zoo				
BET	61	162		Tyler Perry's The Oval "Unexpected Guest" A secret threatens the family.	Celebrity Family Feud NFLPA Hall of Famers and rising stars. (DVS)	Tyler Perry's Sistas "Moving On Up" Sabrina is caught in a risky situation.		Tyler Perry's Sistas "Moving On Up" Sabrina is caught in a risky situation.	All the Queen's Men					
BRAVO	47	181		The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills Bonus footage and extended scenes.	The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills Garcelle has concerns about Erika. (N)	The Real Housewives of Dubai Newlyweds Stanbury are in post-wedding bliss. (N)		Sergio and Carolina	The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills Garcelle has concerns about Erika.	The Real Housewives of Dubai "Dance-hall It Out"				
BSSE	21	47		WNBA Basketball Indiana Fever at Atlanta Dream. (N) (Live)	Dream. (N) (Live)	Inside the Asso		Fish	NASCAR Race Rewind	WNBA Basketball Indiana Fever at Atlanta Dream.				
CNBC	35	84		The News With Shepard Smith (N)	Shark Tank (DVS)	Shark Tank (DVS)		Shark Tank (DVS)	Shark Tank (DVS)	Shepard Smith				
CNN	3	80		Erin Burnett OutFront (N) (Live)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N) (Live)	CNN Tonight (N) (Live)		Don Lemon Tonight (N) (Live)	Don Lemon Tonight (N) (Live)	Anderson Cooper				
COM	57	136		South Park Animated. Citizens clamor for the vaccine.	Crank Yankers	Crank Yankers	South Park "Season Finale"	South Park "Board Girls"	South Park "Turd Burglars"	South Park "Basic Cable"	The Daily Show With Trevor Noah	South Park "Eat, Pray, Queef"	South Park	
DISN	18	200		Big City Greens	Big City Greens	Big City Greens	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Big City Greens	Big City Greens	Miraculous: Tales of Ladybug	Miraculous: Tales of Ladybug	Jessie	
DSC	42	103		Expedition Unknown: Unearthed (N)	Expedition Unknown (N) (DVS)	Almost Human: Rise of the Apes		Expedition Unknown		Expedition Un.				
ESPN	26	35		SportsCenter (N) (Live)	Leagues Cup LA Galaxy vs Guadalajara. From SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, Calif. (N) (Live)	Leagues Cup Los Angeles FC vs América. (N) (Live)								
ESPN2	27	39		NFL Live (N)	Putt-Putt	Arm Wrestling	Pogopaloza 2020	Mullet Champ.	2021 Corgi Races	SportsCenter (N) (Live)	SportsCenter (N)			
FOOD	40	109		Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games (N)		Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Games				
FOXN	37	90		Jesse Watters Primetime (N)	Tucker Carlson Tonight (N) (Live)	Hannity (N) (Live)		The Ingraham Angle (N) (Live)	Gutfeld! (N)	Fox News at Night				
FREE	20	131		The Office Michael reunites with Holly.	The Office "Gossip"	The Office "The Meeting"	The Office "The Promotion"	The Office "Niagara"	The Office "Niagara"	gown-ish "No New Friends" (N)	Everything's Trash (N)	The 700 Club		
HALL	52	183		(6:00) "Autumn Dreams" (2015) Jill Wagner, Colin Egglesfield. (DVS)	"A Valentine's Match" (2020, Romance) Bethany Joy Lenz, Luke Macfarlane. A woman runs a festival auction with her ex-fiance on Valentine's Day. (DVS)	The Golden Girls "Charlie's Buddy"		The Golden Girls "The Artist"	The Golden Girls (DVS)	The Golden Girls (DVS)	The Golden Girls (DVS)	The Golden Girls (DVS)	The Golden Girls (DVS)	
HGTV	39	112		Bargain Block (N)	Bargain Block (DVS)	Bargain Block: Bargain Buys (N)		House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters	Bargain Block		
HIST	45	110		Forged in Fire (DVS)	Forged in Fire (DVS)	Forged in Fire (N) (DVS)		(:03) More Power	(:34) More Power	(:03) Forged in Fire "Zulu War Axe"	Forged in Fire			
ION	13	18		Blue Bloods "Common Enemies" Someone kills Luis' wife. (DVS)	Blue Bloods "Strange Bedfellows" A cop killer comes up for parole.	Blue Bloods "Identity" DNA evidence leads to identical twins. (DVS)		Blue Bloods "Something Blue" Jamie and Eddie's big day approaches.	Blue Bloods Danny works to convict a drug lord. (DVS)	Blue Bloods "Atone-ment"				
LIFE	50	145		Castle "Kill Shot" The team searches for a sniper.	Married at First Sight "Everything Whale Be Okay" The newlyweds enjoy their honeymoon. (N)	(:03) 5 Guys a Week "Joyce" Joyce, a divorcee, is looking for love. (N)		(:03) Married at First Sight Keshia Pulliam discusses Binh's wedding. (N)	(12:01) Married at First Sight					
MSNBC	36	92		The ReidOut (N) (Live)	All In With Chris Hayes (N) (Live)	MSNBC Prime (N) (Live)		The Last Word With	The 11th Hour With Stephanie Ruhle	MSNBC Prime				
NICK	16	210		The Loud House	The Loud House	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	
NWSN	8	172		On Balance With Leland Vittert (N)	NewsNation Prime With Marni Hughes	Dan Abrams Live (N) (Live)		Banfield (N)	NewsNation Tonight (N)	Dan Abrams Live				
PARMT	64	153		Two and Half Men	Two and Half Men	** "Tommy Boy" (1995, Comedy) Chris Farley. An heir tries to save his father's business.		*** "Back to the Future" (1985, Comedy) Michael J. Fox.						
SYFY	58	152		(5:29) ** "The Huntsman: Winter's War" (2016) Chris Hemsworth.	** "Hulk" (2003, Fantasy) Eric Bana, Jennifer Connelly, Sam Elliott. Scientist Bruce Banner transforms into a powerful brute.	*** "The Mask" (1994, Comedy) Jim Carrey, Cameron Diaz. An ancient mask animates a drab bank clerk.								
TBS	24	156		The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite (N) (Live)		BattleBots "BattleBots: The Finals" The final eight bots face off. (N) (DVS)		Young Sheldon (DVS)				
TCM	49	186		(6:00) *** "A Warm December" (1973, Romance) Sidney Poitier.	*** "A Raisin in the Sun" (1961, Drama) Sidney Poitier, Claudia McNeil, Ruby Dee. A black family plans to move to an all-white Chicago suburb.	(:15) *** "A Patch of Blue" (1965, Drama) Sidney Poitier, Shelley Winters. A black businessman befriends an 18-year-old blind woman. (DVS)		(12:15) *** "Pressure Point"						
TLC	43	157		Dr. Pimple Popper (DVS)	Dr. Pimple Popper (N)	Dr. Pimple Popper "Alligator Arms" (N)		My Feet Are Killing Me (N)	Hoarding: Buried Alive	Dr. Pimple Popper				
TNT	23	158		Lucifer "All Hands on Decker" Lucifer must work with Dan on a case.	** "Justice League" (2017, Action) Ben Affleck, Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot. Batman, Wonder Woman and other heroes unite to battle evil. (DVS)	** "Blade: Trinity" (2004, Horror) Wesley Snipes, Kris Kristofferson, Jessica Biel. Blade and a pair of vampire slayers battle Dracula.								
TRUTV	38	129		Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	
TV LAND	55	161		Andy Griffith Show	Andy Griffith Show	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	Love-Raymond	King of Queens	King of Queens	
USA	25	132		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit A union threatens the SVU team.	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit A woman is assaulted by a masked man.	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Garland's neighbor is found injured.		Snake in the Grass Four people battle to find the Snake. (DVS)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit The team targets a photographer.	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit				
WE	68	166		NCIS "Enemies Foreign"	NCIS A member of the team reminisces.	NCIS "False Witness"		NCIS "Ships in the Night"	NCIS A murder at a college fair.	NCIS "Freedom"				

Easy to love: New season of 'Reservation Dogs'

BY KEVIN McDONOUGH

Among the best new series of 2021, "Reservation Dogs" returns for a second season, streaming exclusively on Hulu.

The first series to be written and produced by an entirely indigenous American crew, it presents the American Indian experience without sentimentality. Its bored and aimless teens are forever trying to flee a dead-end existence of squalid convenience stores, broken-down cars and a future without jobs or careers. Many of the adults they deal with are on disability or dispense with Native American "wisdom" of the most specious variety.

The show's teen protagonists are not above petty crime, but they're not very good at it either. As the second season begins, the group's handsome leader, Bear Smallhill (D'Pharaoh Woon-A-Tai), is at a loss because Elora Danan (K. Dev-ery Jacobs) has abandoned him and the gang to go on a cross-country trip with Jackie (Elva Guerra), the tough-girl leader of a rival group. Their odyssey careens from one disaster to the next, and their car breaks down almost immediately. Reduced to hitchhiking, they're picked up by a creepy religious type and are nearly killed after trying to boost a car from a squalid compound. They then fall into the orbit of a divorced stranger (guest star Megan Mullally) on an isolated compound, a woman more lost than these teenagers will ever be.

The best thing about this downbeat series is its sense of random happenstance. Just when you think a story is headed in one direction, it goes sideways. Back on the Res, the soft-spoken and diminutive Willie Jack (Paulina Alexis) worries that life has gone to seed because a spell she cast last season has come back to haunt her.

She and Bear join forces to reverse the curse, a spiritual journey that requires some seriously amateur shamans. Just when you think their incantations couldn't get stranger (or more self-referential), they break into Tom Petty's "Free Fallin'" to wind up the



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The Woodstock '99 music festival was supposed to be a millennium-defining celebration of peace, love and music. Instead, it deteriorated into a disaster of fires, riots and destruction. Featuring rare insider footage and eyewitness interviews, the docuseries "Trainwreck: Woodstock '99" is now streaming on Netflix.

ceremonies.

Mullally isn't the only established star to cameo this season. Molly Shannon arrives for a brief minute as an impatient barmaid. I'm not sure the series needs this outside "help," but it doesn't hurt. I see it more as a sign that the show is so good, its characters so decent, its atmosphere so strange and unpredictable that the "cool kids" want in on the action.

The success of at least two Fyre Festival documentaries has created a genre: the failed concert movie. Streaming on Netflix, the docuseries "Trainwreck: Woodstock '99" recalls an anniversary gathering that was anything but three days of peace and love.

Netflix also streams the second season of the Brazilian series "Good Morning, Veronica," about a traumatized female detective compelled to investigate abused women.

TONIGHT'S OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- A spat over a transplant procedure on "Chicago Med" (8 p.m., NBC, r, TV-14).
- Dierks Bentley and Elle King host CMA Fest (8 p.m., ABC), documenting a four-day gathering of country music fans in Nashville and featuring performances by Billy Ray Cyrus, Wynonna Judd, Carly Pearce, Dustin Lynch, MacKenzie Porter and Lady A.
- A Malaysian tiger tests positive for COVID-19 on "The Zoo" (8 p.m., Animal Planet).
- A project decades in the making, producers Tony and Ridley Scott adapted the medieval legend of "Tristan & Isolde" (8:40 p.m., HBO Family) in the 2006 fantasy starring James Franco and Sophia Myles.
- A hostage crisis galvanizes the firehouse on "Chicago Fire" (9 p.m., NBC, r, TV-14).
- "NOVA" (9 p.m., PBS, r, TV-

PG, check local listings) explores the mysteries of black holes.

- Halstead mentors a rookie on "Chicago P.D." (10 p.m., NBC, r, TV-14).

CULT CHOICE

Producing films since the silent era, Alfred Hitchcock entered the 1960s showing a decided turn toward overt horror with the 1960 shocker "Psycho" (8 p.m., Showtime) and the 1963 thriller "The Birds" (10 p.m., Showtime). It's been argued that the master of suspense pretty much lost his way (or failed to keep up with the times) after these two hit movies.

SERIES NOTES

Nightmares loom large on "Mysteries Decoded" (8 p.m., CW, TV-14) * Judges make the final cuts on "So You Think You Can Dance" (9 p.m., Fox, TV-PG) * On two episodes of "Wel-

lington Paranormal" (CW, TV-14): A woman goes missing (9 p.m.); copcat cops (9:30 p.m., r) * Hondo's divided loyalty on "S.W.A.T." (10 p.m., CBS, r, TV-14).

LATE NIGHT

Ron Howard, Morfydd Clark and James Taylor sit down on "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" (11:35 p.m., CBS) * Jimmy Fallon welcomes Kevin Bacon, Jo Koy and Katherine Blanford on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC) * Mark Rober guest hosts Demi Lovato and "Science Bob" Pflugfelder on "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" (11:35 p.m., ABC, r) * Camila Cabello, Daisy Edgar-Jones, Pedro Pascal and Toni Cornell are booked on "The Late Late Show With James Corden" (12:35 a.m., CBS, r).

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