

Heated discussion on county council protocols leads Tuesday's meeting

BY SHELBY GOULDING
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Explanations, shouting, finger pointing and accusations of racism were all non-agenda topics of Sumter County Council's regular meeting on Tuesday.

The meeting followed one from June 27, when an item on the agenda drew a crowd

of nearly 45 people. That item was council's decision on whether to grant Sumter School District its requested 12.75-mill increase for the 2023-24 fiscal year. It did not pass by a 3-4 margin, with council members Carlton Washington, Vivian Fleming-McGhaney and Eugene Baten voting in favor of the request and Artie Baker,

Jimmy Byrd, Chairman Jim McCain and Charles Edens voting it down.

The county has not funded requests for increased millage at the full rate since millions in overspending was discovered in 2016. A new superintendent and school board are now at the helm, and the district has healthy reserves, leading the county council

majority to say the district needs to dip into those reserves to fund teacher salary increases. Other county departments have done the same this year.

Council members in support of fully funding the district's request say it negatively affects public school students otherwise.

At the beginning of the

June 27 meeting, McCain said attendees who wished to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting, which is at the end of the agenda, needed to sign up to do so. Sumter County Government staff told *The Sumter Item* that is normal protocol allowed by the chairman.

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE A4

Life in the Backcountry: Sumter County Museum teaches guests new skills, what life was like in 1800s



PHOTOS BY ALAYSHA MAPLE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Michael Bowman, museum assistant for the Sumter County Museum, helps young attendees hammer holes to finish their tin-can lanterns at the Home in the Backcountry event on Wednesday, June 12.

Children make can lanterns, corn-husk dolls to take home

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
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It was a flash from the past Wednesday morning as the Sumter County Museum gave Sumterites the chance to try their hand at various arts, crafts, games and skills heavily used in the 1800s.

The Carolina Backcountry Homestead is a recreated homestead meant to host the museum's living history events. Through the stretch of shaded land are a log cabin, settler's house, smokehouse, wood barn, commissary or storehouse, loom house, outhouse, blacksmith shop, vegetable and herb gardens, outdoor kitchen and a bread oven. The settler's house and commissary are original, built between 1812 and 1836. The remaining buildings were constructed using materials salvaged from abandoned buildings within the county, according to the museum's website.

"Home in the Backcountry" is an experience the museum has offered "since the bicentennial," said Deborah Watts, manager of the backcountry. In her 25 years at the museum,

SEE BACKCOUNTRY, PAGE A6



Attendees take a tour of the backcountry, learning about the work of a blacksmith, making fabrics and churning butter, at the Home in the Backcountry event at the Sumter County Museum.



Deborah Watts, manager of the backcountry at the Sumter County Museum, helps young attendees make corn-husk dolls for the first time at the Home in the Backcountry event on Wednesday, July 12.

Clarendon council tells residents the county can't help with road

Private owner of damaged street must take action for county to maintain it

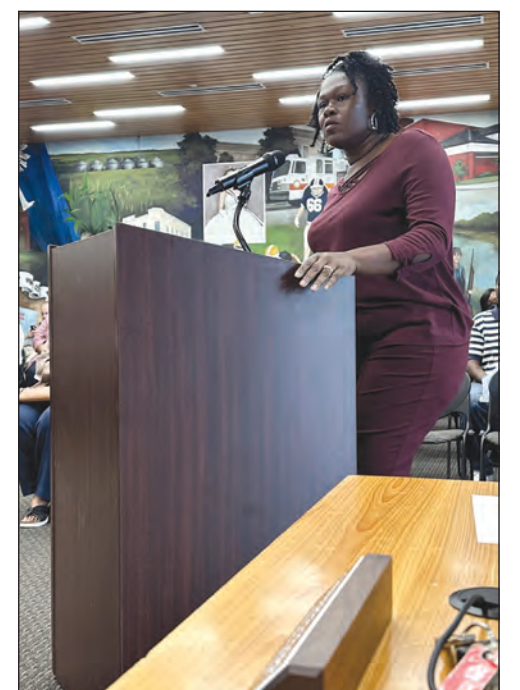
BY ASHLEY MILLER
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The Clarendon County Administration Building was packed Monday night as a group pleaded with county council on an issue intolerable to them — the damaged, privately owned road they live on. But Clarendon County Council made it clear it can't help them without action from the road's owner.

In a regular county council meeting on Monday, July 10, Winters Hill residents took up most of the room and all five of the three-minute slots for public comment, totaling more than 30 minutes. Before the meeting, Angela Bannister, one of the affected residents, reached out to *The Sumter Item* about the damaged roads in her neighborhood and said she plans to petition the county to take over its maintenance.

Since 1998, Bannister has lived at 1116 W. East Road in Manning. In photos she provided, the road, which only has one entrance and one exit, appears to flood easily when it rains. Bannister told council the previous owner, the late Edward Ward, maintained the property with his own tools once a month and

SEE ROAD, PAGE A6



ASHLEY MILLER / THE SUMTER ITEM

Angela Bannister started the petition to county council to get council to take ownership of the road.

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DEATHS, B4

Roger Dale Hill Sr.
Patricia Shorter Brunson
Benjamin Anderson Jr.
Walter Raleigh Lowery
Dorothy James

Willie James Jackson
Cindy Hicks Burgess
Elbert Cousar
Daisy Azalea DeLaine Block
Tracy Dyson Sanders

WEATHER, A8

HOT, HOT, HOT

A blend of sun and clouds today; humid with a storm in some areas tonight

HIGH 95, LOW 75

INSIDE

2 SECTIONS, 14 PAGES
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SECOND FRONT

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SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

The sign for Ollie's was added to the storefront in January. The store is set to open on Aug. 2.

Sumter Ollie's announces Aug. 2 grand-opening date

BY SHELBY GOULDING
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Prepare to get “good stuff cheap” in Sumter at the long-awaited Ollie's starting next month. Ollie's, at 873A Broad St., next to High Point Furniture, announced with a Facebook event

that a grand opening will take place on Aug. 2 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Bargain shoppers who visit the discount outlet store can save up to 70% off on brand-name food, housewares, flooring, books, clothing, bed and bath, toys and more every day starting that Wednesday, according to a flyer.

Drunken driving convictions bring new ignition interlock requirements to S.C.

People with multiple DUI convictions will spend up to 1 year driving with device

COLUMBIA (AP) — South Carolina is expanding the number of drunken driving offenders who must install temporary breathalyzers before taking the wheel.

Under the new law, anyone convicted of driving under the influence will have to breathe into a device that confirms no measurable alcohol levels exist before they can operate their vehicle. The requirement could last up to six months and is effective now for offenders registering a .08 blood-alcohol content or higher, instead of the previous .15 limits.

“It's OK to drink if you want to and it's OK to drive if you want to, but not both at the same time,” Gov. Henry McMaster said at a bill-signing ceremony on Wednesday.

Statistics show South Carolina has some of the highest rates of deadly impaired driving in the country. The state's 0.58 rate of alcohol-impaired driving fatalities for every 100 million vehicle miles traveled fell behind only Montana and Oregon, according to 2020 data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The new law requires that people who get multiple DUI convictions spend up to one year driving with the device, known as an ignition interlock.

Money is available to help qualified applicants cover associated expenses. Senate Minority Leader Brad Hutto said the device costs about \$150 to install and \$3 every day in usage.

WHAT YOUR GOVERNMENT IS DOING: SUMTER COUNTY COUNCIL

Mobile home expansion proposed, commercial development possible on Oswego Highway, Law Range property sold

BY SHELBY GOULDING
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Council members considered two rezonings — a possible mobile home expansion and proposed commercial development property in the county — and one sale of property at Sumter County Council's regular meeting Tuesday.

PROPOSED MOBILE HOME PARK EXPANSION

The first reading was held of applicant Wafa Investments LLC's request to rezone a 26.60-acre portion of property at 1350 S. Pike East from residential-6 to general residential to expand the current mobile home park nearby, Iris Winds Mobile Home Community.

This property is attached to a 29-acre property with 2.4 acres already zoned general residential, which is what a mobile home park can be established under, according to planning staff. It was noted that water and sewer service are instrumental in the development and may require significant investment by the developer.

Planning commission recommended approval of the request, and council unanimously approved the

rezoning's first reading. It will undergo three readings to pass.

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS COULD APPEAR ALONG OSWEGO HIGHWAY

There were no changes since the previous meeting, and council unanimously approved the final reading of applicant Stephanie Tisdale's request to rezone 9.97 acres of undeveloped property spanning two tracts at 1149 and 1485 Oswego Highway from agricultural conservation to general commercial.

Tisdale requested the rezoning of both parcels to make it easier to sell based on the definition of uses in a general commercial zoning. Changing the rezoning will make the process of finding a potential buyer easier.

COUNTY SELLS PROPERTY ON LAW RANGE

The third reading of an ordinance authorizing a sale of property at 14 Law Range was unanimously approved by council.

According to county attorney Johnathan Bryan, Erick Hodge had the best offer on the property, totaling \$101,000.

Cathy B. Harvin Park in Summerton open, town ownership pending

BY ASHLEY MILLER
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The Town of Summerton not only has a brand-new park, but could also be taking over the property.

Last year, the Town of Summerton received a donation of land from Mary Franklin Harvin, daughter of the late C. Alex Harvin III and Cathy B. Harvin, both of whom served in the S.C. House of Representatives for the Summerton community.

In the fall of 2022, the park was opened on 0.37 acres on Church Street and Larry King Highway — near Summerton Early Childhood Center.

It was also planned that once the park was completed, the Town of Summerton would take over its maintenance moving forward.

During Monday night's Clarendon County Council meeting, council members unanimously passed ordinance 2023-04 to authorize the transfer of ownership to Summerton.

This ordinance still needs to be passed through two more readings.

“We are excited to see people already utilizing this park, and it seems to be a great asset to the community so far,” said County Administrator David Epperson.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be planned once the transfer is official, but the park is already open for residents' use.

The park now has a name, Cathy B. Harvin Park, and it includes picnic tables, benches, trash cans and grassy areas to sit or play on.



PHOTO PROVIDED

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Sumter Ninja Warriors have been competing on obstacle courses across the country for years now, and they aren't slowing down. Members come to the Sumter gym from as far as Florence and Lugoff to get their ninja warrior training in. At the end of the month, several of Sumter's ninjas will travel to Florida to compete in a national event.



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3 tax prep firms shared 'extraordinarily sensitive' data about taxpayers with Meta, lawmakers say

BY FATIMA HUSSEIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Three large tax preparation firms sent "extraordinarily sensitive" information on tens of millions of taxpayers to Facebook parent company Meta during the course of at least two years, a group of congressional Democrats reported on Wednesday.

Their report urges federal agencies to investigate and potentially go to court about the wealth of information that H&R Block, TaxAct and TaxSlayer shared with the social media giant.

In a letter to the heads of the IRS, the Department of Justice, the Federal Trade Commission and the IRS watchdog, seven lawmakers say their findings "reveal a shocking breach of taxpayer privacy by tax prep companies and by Big Tech firms."

Their report said highly personal and financial information about

sources of taxpayers' income, tax deductions and exemptions was made accessible to Meta as taxpayers used the tax software to prepare their taxes.

That data came to Meta through its Pixel code, which the tax firms installed on their websites to gather information on how to improve their own marketing campaigns. In exchange, Meta was able to access the data to write targeted algorithms for its own users.

The program collected information on taxpayers' filing status, income, refund amounts, names of dependents, approximate federal tax owed, which buttons were clicked on the tax preparers' websites and the names of text entry forms that the taxpayer navigated, the report states.

The letter to federal agencies was signed by Sens. Elizabeth Warren, Ron Wyden, Richard Blumenthal, Tammy Duckworth, Bernie Sanders and Sheldon Whitehouse and Rep. Katie Porter. The lawmakers called for the agencies to "immediately open an investigation into this incident."

They ask the agencies to investigate "and prosecute any company or individuals who violated the law," saying it could result in billions of dollars in criminal liability to the firms.

The Markup, a nonprofit journalism outlet focusing on technology, initially reported on the data-sharing between tax firms and Meta in November. TaxAct told The Markup then that it takes the privacy of its customers' data "very seriously" and "endeavors to comply with all IRS regulations." TaxSlayer said then that its customers' privacy is "of utmost importance" and that it had removed the Pixel to evaluate its use.

H&R Block said on Wednesday that it takes protecting client privacy very seriously and has taken steps to prevent the sharing of information through the Pixel coding.

And Meta said that it has been clear in its policies that advertisers "should not send sensitive information about people through our Business Tools."

"Doing so is against our policies and we educate advertisers on properly setting up Business tools to prevent this from occurring," the company said in an emailed statement. "Our system is designed to filter out poten-

tially sensitive data it is able to detect."

Representatives from the IRS, the DOJ, the FTC and the IRS watchdog also did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The Democrats say their report serves as an argument for the creation of an electronic free-file system for submitting tax returns that would be run by the government, which the IRS is currently piloting.

The IRS plans to launch a pilot program for the 2024 filing season to test a "direct file" system and help the federal government decide whether to move forward with potentially implementing it in the future.

The IRS in May published a feasibility report laying out taxpayer interest in direct file, how the system could work, its potential cost, operational challenges and more.

The report shows that the majority of surveyed taxpayers would be interested in using an IRS-provided tool to prepare and file their taxes electronically — almost 50% of respondents who preferred the IRS free-file option over commercial tax preparation firms said they preferred to give their financial information directly to the IRS instead of the third party.

Movies with Isaiah: 'Friday the 13th' stands the test of time, check it out as part of Flashback Cinema

On July 23 and July 26, the Beacon Stadium Cinemas 12 — as part of the continuing Flashback Cinema — will

feature a horror classic from 1980. Before I venture into the details of this film, I figured I

would provide some interesting facts before the review.

"Black Christmas," "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" and "Halloween" serve as precursors of the eventual slasher genre in horror. All three of the films featured memorable antagonists instilling fear into their victims and the audience alike. "Black Christmas" utilized the first-person perspective of the killer, intentionally obscuring his face, leaving his true features to the imagination of the viewer. "Black Christmas," "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" and "Halloween" had a different approach for the violence on the screen, as none of them specifically relied on gruesome, over-the-top graphic violence during those respective years. It is not to say there was not any violence to speak of in the films; the overall presentation at the time focused more on the atmosphere of the aftermath

and mystery instead of fully exhibiting the results.

In 1980, one film completely changed the trajectory of the horror genre in managing to incorporate all the elements that came before and presenting over-the-top, gruesome, bloody and graphic brutality in the form of "Friday the 13th." I still have memories of living in Germany throughout the '80s and '90s and my childhood revolving around viewing every "Friday the 13th" film in existence. Imagine me at 9 to 10 years old scaring myself to the point of shutting our hallway door in the living room under the belief that if anyone attempted to sneak in on me, I'd feel or hear their presence. This series of films accomplished instilling the fear of expected brutality.

The story involves camp counselors frequenting a camping area known as Crystal Lake. Behaving in the manner of promiscuous teenagers resulted in the drowning death of a young child. As the film progresses, one by one each of the counselors falls victim to gruesome and violent demises at the hands of a mysterious figure.

On the surface, it is a formulaic and simple storyline that has lasted for years, spawning countless sequels, video game adaptations, comic books, action figures, clothing lines and popular culture references. "Friday the 13th" was never known for highlighting the strongest acting or writing of dialogue. Where it succeeded was presenting an unrelenting display of bloody violence and innovative practical effects for its era.

The film introduced a creepy sound effect associated with whenever the killer was in the surrounding area or near the victim. "Friday the 13th's" iconic background whisper-sound effect chillingly adds to the moment, and much like the practical effects, it, too, was innovative and successfully amplified the fear. There have been discussions as to whether it serves as a precautionary tale to the dangers of teenage/premarital sex. Admittedly I am not sure if such an agenda existed at the time. That is a concept that is worthy of research. Either way, there is no denying it sparked a revolution of the slasher genre. Without "Friday the 13th," there is no "Nightmare on Elm Street," "Hellraiser," "Child's Play" or "Scream." "Freddy Krueger," "Pinhead," "Chucky" and "Ghostface" would never exist without this film and its sequels.

The initial twist revelation manages to provide a shocking impact. It is important to note that at the time, there was no internet, social media or accessible behind-the-scenes footage that would spoil a specific ending. Any surprise confrontation or revelation was truly organic and exciting. This horror classic is 43 years old, and out of respect for those who have not watched this film, I will refrain from revealing the impactful and chilling climax. As an enthusiastic horror fanatic, it takes a display of unforgettable and disturbing imagery from any film, show or video game to legitimately frighten me.

Even to this very day, the actual ending of this film still



PHOTO PROVIDED

gives me chills and nightmares with its cold, eerie and haunting imagery.

"Friday the 13th" is a memorable classic for the ages still discussed to this day and continuing to stand the test of time. While the original "Halloween" from 1978 is my favorite horror film of all time, "Friday the 13th" is a close second with my perfect rating of 10/10 and two thumbs up.

Fun fact: My mother purchased "Friday the 13th" for me for the classic Nintendo console in 1991 because she knew of my love for the films. In my morbid mind at the

time, I reckon there was an expectation of tormenting camp counselors. The game had a different concept, and it scared me to the point I would intentionally remove it from the system, place it back in its case and cover it up with books. In the end, during a summer vacation visit to Tyler, Texas, I left the game on purpose at my grandmother's house because of how much it terrified me as a child.

To watch Isaiah Ridley's movie reviews online, find him @ Izzy's Cinematic Escape on YouTube.

Museum's 'Meet the Author' series continues with 2 free events

SUBMITTED

Sumter County Museum will host two free book talks and receptions in July as part of its Meet the Author series.

Former Sumterite Glen Browder will speak on Tuesday, July 18, at 6 p.m. in the museum's McKenzie Hall about his late wife, Rebecca Browder's book *Sorry Men in Southern Literature*. Rebecca Browder labeled this collection of short stories as "creative nonfiction" that she



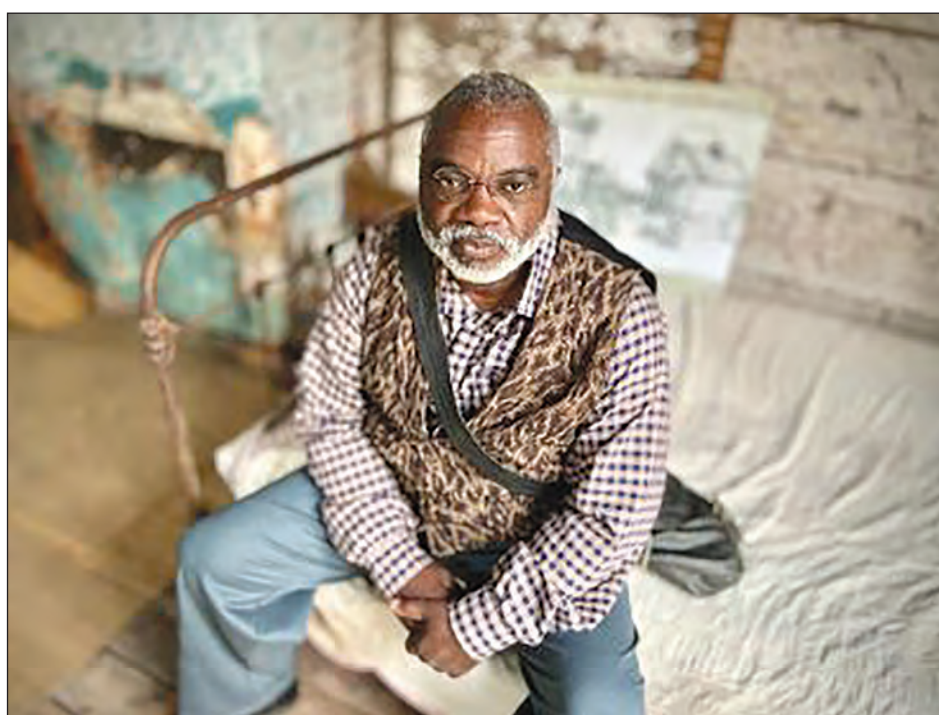
PHOTO PROVIDED

Glen Browder and his grandson Samson Browder attend a book event recently.

drew from personal observations growing up in a cotton mill village in South Carolina. She revealed in the introduction to her book that she was dying of ovarian cancer and "aspired to leave something of broader value." Her husband, Glen Browder, professor emeritus of American Democracy at Jacksonville State University and former U.S. Congressman, Alabama Secretary of State and member of the Alabama Legislature, carries on his wife's legacy by traveling and sharing her work.

Author Julie Brickman explains, "Rebecca Browder depicts the real South broiling beneath the beguiling charm of its surface, rife with significant questions about brutality, racism, religion and camaraderie. God-fearing and mean duke it out in these darkly humorous stories about life in the South, where existence is so raw, you can literally see the hand of fate reach into it and deliver its own surprises."

Thanks to a grant from S.C. Humanities, Sumter County Museum will also welcome preservationist



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Joe McGill sits on a bed in a slave cabin. McGill spends the night in former slave cabins across the country and writes about his experiences with co-author Herb Frazier. Both will attend an event at the Sumter County Museum about their book *Sleeping with the Ancestors: How I Followed the Footprints of Slavery*, on Saturday, July 22.

and Civil War reenactor Joseph McGill Jr. and journalist Herb Frazier for a talk and book-signing reception on their new book, *Sleeping with the Ancestors: How I Followed the Footprints of Slavery*, on Saturday, July 22, at 2 p.m.



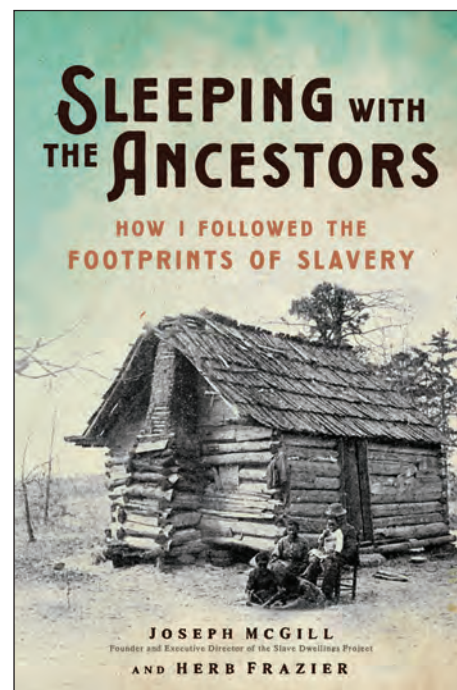
FRAZIER

McGill founded the Slave Dwelling Project in 2010 and has been touring the country, spending the night in former slave dwellings since then. Events and gatherings are arranged around these overnight stays, and it provides a unique way to understand the often otherwise obscured and distorted history of slavery. The book focuses on McGill's experiences during these stays and his conversations with various communities. Together, McGill and co-author and award-winning journalist Herb Frazier give readers an important, unexpected immersion into the history of slavery and especially the obscured and ignored aspects of that history. Charleston Magazine reports,

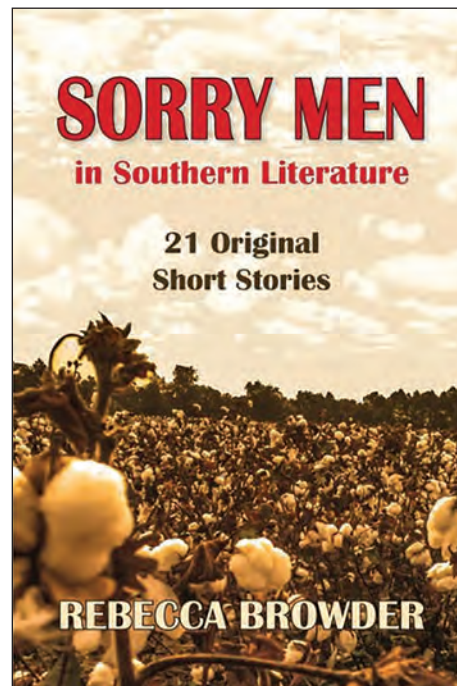
"This book serves to further wash away that sugarcoating and awaken us to what it might have been like to work the fields all day then sleep on the floor at night, with a family of 10 crammed into one room. As McGill discovers, the realities were harsh and the comforts few, but in these pages, his dream of bringing those realities into the limelight are realized."

Both of these events are free and open to the public with books available for purchase and signing at them. Each will feature a talk, opportunity for questions, and reception with light refreshments. They will take place in the museum's McKenzie Hall located in the Heritage Education Center on the main museum grounds at 122 N. Washington Street, Sumter, SC 29150. Visit the museum website at www.SumterCountyMuseum.org to learn more and see future events.

Sumter County Museum explores historical experiences through programs and exhibits that allow all of us to inform and shape our future.



Joseph McGill and Herb Frazier wrote *Sleeping with the Ancestors*.



Sorry Men in Southern Literature will be featured at an author event at the Sumter County Museum in July.

Museum facilities include the Williams Brice House (1916), Heritage Education Center, Carolina Backcountry Homestead, and the Temple Sinai Jewish History Center.

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE A1

Also during the meeting, Washington made a motion to move the public comment portion up to the beginning of the agenda to hear from people about the school district millage request. It was denied by a 3-4 vote, with Washington, Fleming-McGhaney and Baten voting in favor and Baker, Byrd, McCain and Edens voting against.

Before this Tuesday's meeting, Baten updated the agenda to add a new business item, and McCain and Sumter County Government staff added a special meeting to occur before the main meeting. *The Sumter Item* and others on the county's email list were sent the updated version 24 hours before Tuesday's meeting, in accordance with state open meeting laws.

"At that meeting, we were told we were going to be expecting a very large crowd, and I asked Ms. Blanding what has been done in the past as far as when it comes to the public portion of the general [meeting]," McCain said during the special meeting on Tuesday about asking attendees to sign up to speak.

Mary Blanding, clerk of council, said council has used the sign-in sheet for large crowds, according to McCain. He noted it has not always been used since he's been chairman because he invites all in attendance to speak. He did that during the June 27 public comment portion with everyone who signed up.

"So that's what I did. There was nothing nefarious about it. I did it based on the suggestion," McCain said. "That was the purpose of that. I wanted to make that clear."



NICH PITTS / ITEM CONTRIBUTOR

Sumter County Council Chairman Jim McCain listens during council's meeting June 27 with Sumter School District about its annual budget.

The chairman also mentioned Sumter County Council's Rules of Conduct, according to Robert's Rules of Order, which scrolls on the TV screens in the chambers before meetings. It was noted that "county council shall be conducted according to the agenda for the day, and any departure from it shall be out of order unless the council shall so order by unanimous consent."

He stressed the sign-up protocol was done to have a smooth-running council meeting that night.

"There was nothing nefarious on my part," McCain repeated, "and this has been done in the past by other chairmen."

"Well, what's in question?" Baker asked.

"I don't know," McCain said. "Only Mr. Baten can say why he wanted to put that (business item) on the agenda. I wanted to call this meeting so I can get my talking points out."

McCain said Washington should have asked council before the June 27 meeting to allow attendees to speak before the millage vote. Council could have turned the item into a public hearing, he added.

"It was a request to treat our citizens with respect and digni-

ty, and it was an opportunity to act like public officials," Washington responded. "I think it's a shame that council members voted to not even hear from the people who were here after they requested to be heard."

Washington and Edens then got into an argument regarding race.

"I didn't know this was a Black party issue. Are you making it one?" asked Edens, who is white. "You all have a way of wanting to make everything a Black..."

Washington, who is Black, interrupted, "I think it already is one. I think it already is one, and that was clear at the last council meeting."

The special meeting concluded with McCain, who is also Black, addressing Wash-

ington that he can "agree to disagree," but the heated discussion continued in the regular council session that followed Tuesday evening.

During the regular meeting, both Baten and Washington talked about what was discussed in the special meeting and their perspective on council, the school district and the county.

"You need to know the truth behind this. See, there are things people don't want to talk about, but I talk about it, and the reason why I can talk about them is because I don't depend on anyone for my livelihood," Baten said. "Last week, there were majority Black folks. Last week, our chairman felt that he had to set some rules."

"They want to sit back and tell me, call me a racist. I'm the racist. I'm the racist because I believe in equal opportunity."

Baten continued for several minutes, ending with the statement that "systemic racism is live and well" in the county. The floor was then open for other council members to speak. Washington jumped in.

He asked the chairman how the special meeting information was shared with the public, saying it wasn't on the public information TV screen downstairs or on the county website.

Communications Coordinator Joe Perry said it was placed on the website, and Washington addressed Sumter County Administrator Gary Mixon, saying it was not appropriate for Perry to speak to council informally. Mixon agreed and said that will be sorted out.

Washington continued, calling the discussion on council's protocols, how people are treated at council meetings and the school district vote a serious issue. He eventually started to shout in the chambers as he talked about disrespect and how the county is spending money.

"This is not what we should be doing," he said. "I am embarrassed by how my people were treated when they were here. Comments about no lengthy conversation is going to change the outcome. What do you mean? We are public officials, and if we get information that should change our opinion, then we should operate that way. To come in with that attitude is completely inappropriate, and you should be ashamed."

No other council members spoke, but a few attendees from the public, all who were Black, concluded the meeting with their comments to council, speaking of feeling embarrassment and unfairness in their county after the past two council meetings.

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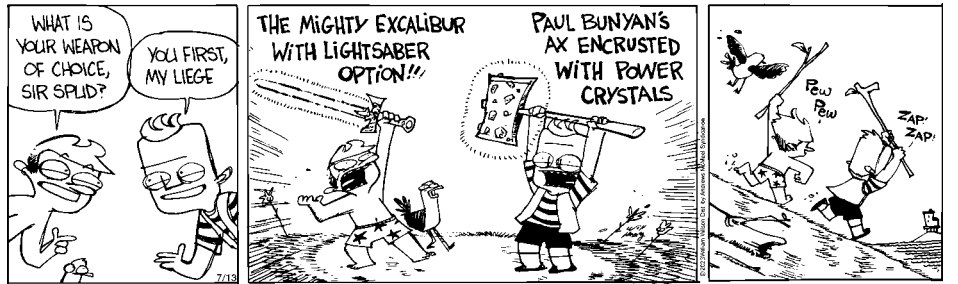
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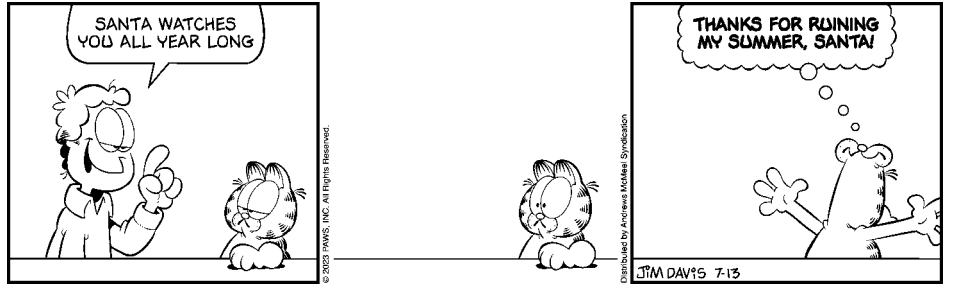
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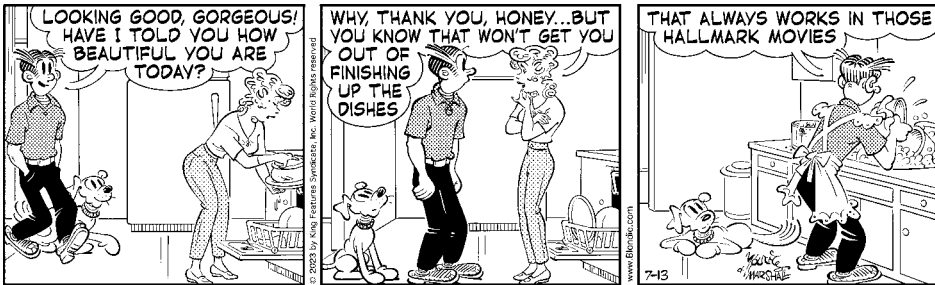
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BORN LOSER



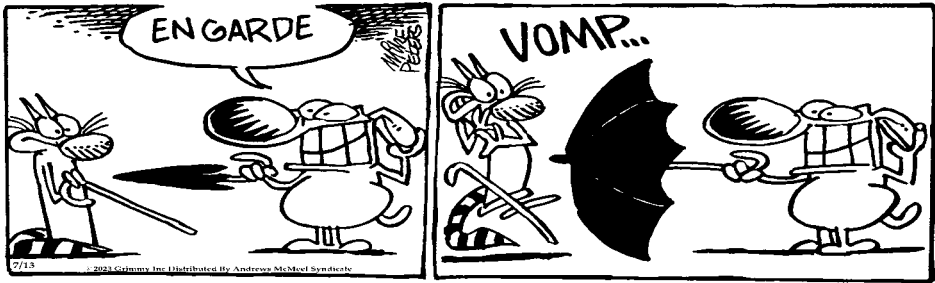
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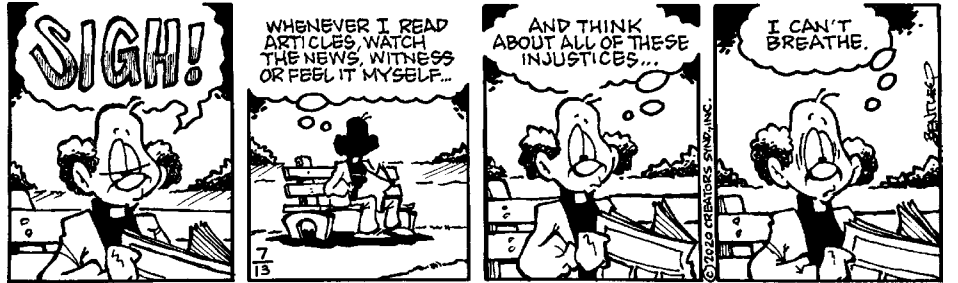
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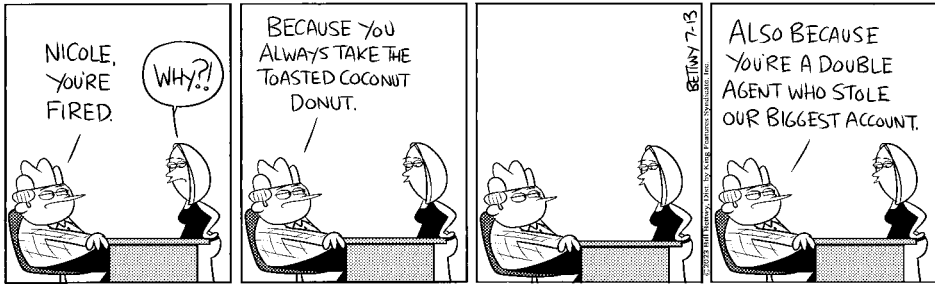
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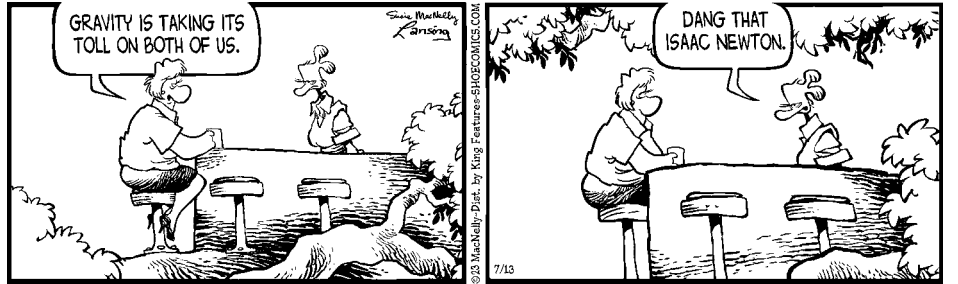
HERB AND JAMAAL



TAKE IT FROM THE TINKERSONS



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE



Man puts relationship on hold after sister's death



Dear Abby ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY — My boyfriend lost his sister unexpectedly to a heart attack. She was only 50. I'm trying to be there for him and give him his space while he's grieving. The thing is, he has stopped responding or contacting me. Every few days, I'd send him words of support, but he doesn't respond — not with a "thank you" or anything. This has been happening for the past week. Finally, I figured that he's ghosting me and no longer wants to be bothered with me but doesn't want to say it. So I told him I didn't want to add

to his stress, that I felt he was over our relationship and I wouldn't bother him anymore. He responded, saying I'm taking it too personally, there's nothing I can do to help and it's something he has to go through. I know that. I understand grieving. But am I supposed to just wait until he feels like talking or being bothered with me, for however long it takes? I'm trying to be understanding, but for someone to just cut you off and not even acknowledge you is awful. I mean, he's completely emotionally unavailable, like I don't exist! I don't know what to do.

Pushed aside in the south

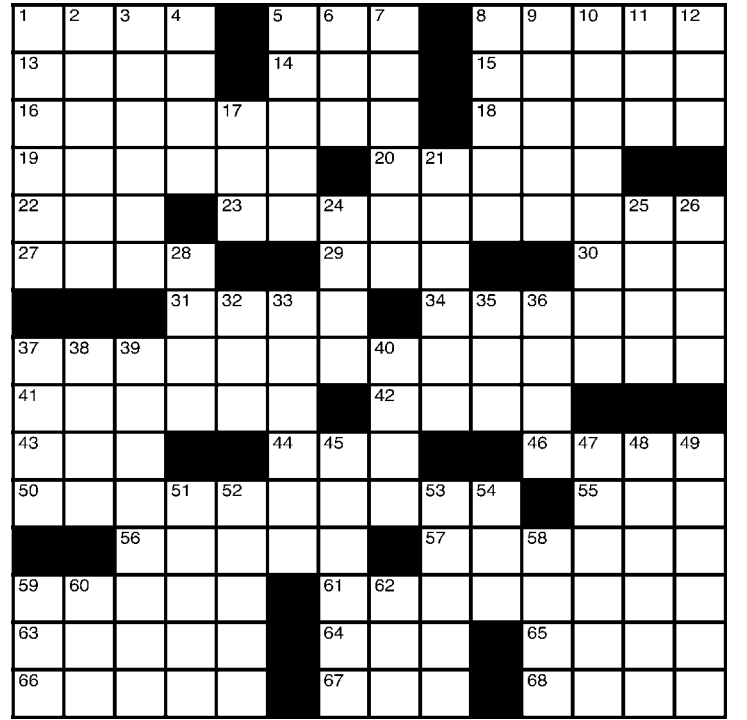
DEAR PUSHED — Here's what to do. Back off! Since you understand grieving, you must know that no two people

grieve exactly alike or on the same timetable. Your boyfriend has told you explicitly what he needs. If you care about him, give him space and stop personalizing this. His emotional needs must come before your own right now. Distract yourself by seeing friends or involving yourself in activities you can enjoy for the next month or so. If you do, when he's feeling more like himself again, he will come back to you.

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

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

THE DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Brian Callahan 2/10/22

- ACROSS
1 Have more than a snack
5 Fib
8 Blind components
13 Four-award acronym
14 Far from ne'er
15 Words
16 "Nobel-winning mathematician portrayed in "A Beautiful Mind"
18 Website bigwig, for short
19 "Raise your glass!"
20 -gritty
22 A-listner
23 "Captain America: The First Avenger" star
27 Some Pac-12 athletes
29 Green prefix
30 Green prefix?
31 Tool with teeth
34 Casual eatery
37 *Gospel legend with the hit "Move On Up a Little Higher"
41 Sheepish ones?
42 McFlurry cookie
43 Fellows
44 Sheepish one?
46 Absence
50 *Tennis great for whom the ESPY Courage Award is named
55 Meditative discipline
56 Rigorous
57 Like bargain-basement items
59 Handling brilliantly
61 Town targeted by the Grinch, and an apt description of the ends of the answers to the starred clues?
63 Kayak kin
64 Arctic diving bird
65 Bargain
66 Voices against "Listen!"
68 Good listeners?
9 Insignia or LG product, for short
10 Colonial soldiers?
11 Brief "That's wildly personal"
12 Personal ID
17 Defense advisory gp.
21 Meteorologist's pressure line
24 McEntire in the Country Music Hall of Fame
25 Archie's boss, in detective fiction
26 In short order
28 Digitize, in a way
32 Flamenco shout
33 Scrooges
35 Raw-bar need
36 "Vikings": Minnesota fight song
37 NYC home of van Gogh's "Starry Night"
38 Assert as true
39 Comment said with a nudge
40 Trader
45 Guitar pedal
47 Rhododendron variety
48 Basement
49 Pays respect, in a way
51 Capital on the Red River Delta
52 Strong desires
53 What absent-minded students play?
54 Ltr. holder
58 hustle
59 Obama-era legislation, initially
60 Spam container
62 Shade

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.

RILTF

SAYID

NISYNK

LMTALE

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

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SWOON UPEND CRABBY INSIST Answer: The new heating/cooling system would be ready when they had all their — "DUCTS" IN A ROW

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

Table with 9 rows and 9 columns of numbers representing a previous Sudoku solution.

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆

A 9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers pre-filled.

ROAD FROM PAGE A1

they never had issues until he died in December 2022.

“And I think the last time we had anything done to the property was in October,” she said.

Bannister, along with three other residents, stood before council members to voice their concerns about the property not being maintained.

Fellow resident Matreylee Garriss explained how she maneuvers her car to get home.

“It is a dirt road; when it rains, horrible, deep ditches that hold a lot of water are created,” she said. “To get to my house, I have to do a figure eight to get there. Save us some wear and tear on our cars and take over.”

Shirley Weems, another resident, shared that she takes care of her brother, who is a veteran, and needs the road fixed to travel back and forth to visit him. Dorothy Lincoln also commented on taking care of her disabled brother, who once walked the road as a part of his physical therapy. Lincoln doesn’t allow him to walk outside anymore out of fear for his safety.

“I don’t want him falling in a hole or getting stuck and falling over; he is disabled. He loved walking the road, and now he can’t because of this

major issue,” she said. “Please take this over.”

Lincoln also mentioned how neighbors take “detours” through her yard, stating, “It’s not their fault; the owner should be taking care of it.”

Bannister, the last to speak before council, shared how she was “scared” of not being able to get to work as “the roads are so bad.” She said they were able to get ahold of some dirt, but they do not have the tools to pack it down in the road. Once it rained, it all washed away and caused the road to flood.

Bannister told council that when Ward died, his son, Edward Ward Jr., took ownership of the property and a few other roads. She recently spoke with Ward Jr., and he told her his lawyer advised him not to fix the road. She spoke with the lawyer in January this year about the condition of the road and was told there would be a two-month investigation to find out what the current owner could and could not do to the property. Fast forward to June, and she was told the current owner would not maintain the property.

Ward Jr. could not be reached for comment. The Item reached out to his attorney and was denied comment, saying he could not tell The Item if he was involved in the situation.

Chairman Dwight Stewart explained to the group that because of legislation passed, it is illegal for the county to take over the road without proper procedure.

“Prior to [1973], when the Home Rule Act was established, local delegation did a lot of road work and the counties would pay for it, but afterwards, we were not allowed to touch privately owned roads,” Stewart explained.

He said this is not the first time people have asked them to take over a private road, and more than 200 miles of roads in the county are unpaved.

“Most of these roads were never deeded, never claimed and were made for convenience,” he further explained.

According to County Administrator David Epperson, because the road is privately owned, the South Carolina Department of Transportation and the county both said they could not repair the road.

“S.C. law doesn’t allow for public resources to be used to improve privately owned property,” he told The Item. “In this situation, the road is a privately owned and maintained road, which precludes the county from maintaining the road.”

In Monday’s meeting, Epperson explained what it would take for the

county to take ownership of the road.

“If the owner is interested in turning the road over to the county, there is a process for this through the county’s planning commission,” he said.

“This would require the owner to pave the road according to the county’s paved road specifications and maintain the road for at least a year under the supervision of the county engineer.”

The county would entertain accepting the roadway into its Road Maintenance System after a recommendation from the county engineer and the Clarendon County Planning Commission. Stewart said it would cost \$300,000 per mile to pave the road, compared to \$200,000 a few years ago.

“We don’t see that number coming down any time soon. Unfortunately, it is a very expensive process,” Stewart said.

Epperson also stated when he spoke to Ward Jr. and his attorney, he was told they had no plans of maintaining the road or going through this process.

Despite the many signatures on their petition, Bannister and her neighbors left Monday night’s meeting with the same answer.

“We can’t help you unless the owner wants to do something or go through our county standard process,” Stewart said. “I am sorry.”

BACKCOUNTRY FROM PAGE A1

she has seen minor adjustments made to various aspects — the most recent being her picking up a new craft to share at the experience only a week ago. However, the purpose of the event has remained constant: to showcase life in the backcountry.

The small group of youngsters that gathered within McKenzie Hall first went to work on tin cans, hammering holes — under the supervision Michael Bowman, museum assistant — between the many ridges to create a star and our state flag’s crescent. The holes would allow the light of a candle to seep through, recycling the ordinary can into a lantern.

Hammers down, the group then picked up corn husks to

make their very own dolls. Folding a little here, tying a few strings there and a snip of the ends every now and again led to their very own little playmate to take home.

After some time inside, the group headed outside to take turns walking, or wobbling, on wooden stilts before taking a tour of the historic structures of the backcountry. Seeing the tools of a blacksmith in action, learning the ins and outs of weaving fabric and getting to taste the savory results of churning butter garnered nothing short of great reactions as Diana Roof, outreach director for the museum, questioned, “Are you having fun?”

“Yeah!” was the echo, only amplifying their excitement.



PHOTOS BY ALAYSHA MAPLE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Michael Bowman assists as attendees play games that were popular in the 1800s.



Michael Bowman, museum assistant for the Sumter County Museum, helps young attendees with their tin-can lanterns at the Home in the Backcountry event on Wednesday, June 12.



Guests at the event learned about how to clean wool, how blacksmiths work and more.



Young attendees finish the final touches on their corn-husk dolls.



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

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

H.D. Osteen 1904-1987
THE ITEM

Margaret W. Osteen 1908-1996
THE ITEM

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



OPINION

Jacqueline B. Osteen CO-OWNER

Graham Osteen CO-OWNER

Kyle Osteen CO-OWNER

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Vince Johnson PUBLISHER

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COMMENTARY

U.S. debt tsunami meets with mindless bipartisan shrug

WASHINGTON — Everett Dirksen (R-Ill.), the Senate minority leader for nearly 11 years until his death in September 1969, had a famously foghorn voice with which he supposedly intoned, “A billion here, a billion there, and pretty soon you’re talking about real money.” Some people say he actually said “a million here, a million there ...” Either way, or neither (the Dirksen Congressional Center in his hometown of Pekin, Illinois, finds no evidence of his saying either), Dirksen’s supposed attempt at alarming the nation about government spending seems prehistoric.

A million seconds ago was about 11 days and 14 hours ago. Someone who is now 31 1/2 years old was born a billion seconds ago. A trillion seconds was 31,688 years ago, about 19,000 years before the invention of farming, a prerequisite for civilization.

Speaking of the distant past, you might remember the May drama surrounding raising the debt ceiling from \$31.4 trillion. The ceiling was not raised; it was suspended until after the next election, which was prudent, considering the velocity of the red ink torrent. Last month, the debt soared past the \$32 trillion mark, up from \$31 trillion in just 36 weeks. As Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee

for a Responsible Federal Budget, says, “We can’t even get through a single fiscal year anymore without adding a trillion dollars in debt.”

The pace probably will accelerate as the growth of borrowing puts upward pressure on interest rates and as debt service becomes an ever-larger portion of the federal budget — around 2029, larger than the defense budget.



George Will

By 2051, interest will be the largest item in the budget. Inflation, a consequence of fiscal mismanagement, makes itself worse by increasing spending on entitlements with benefits indexed to inflation. Inflation can usually be cured by a recession, but that would make the debt

worse by depressing revenue.

The budget was last balanced in fiscal 2001 and probably will not be again in this century. Federal spending was 17.7 percent of GDP in 2020 and is 24.2 percent today. The Cato Institute’s Chris Edwards calculates that if average annual spending growth in this century had merely equaled average nominal GDP growth of 4.2 percent, today’s budget would be balanced. Spending actually grew at an average

annual rate of 5.7 percent.

Social Security and Medicare drive the growth of debt but will not drive the 2024 political debate. The debt tsunami is the nation’s most important domestic problem, and it threatens national security via pressure to curtail defense spending. But regarding deficits, today’s reflexive, mindless partisanship is replaced by reflexive, mindless bipartisanship: Donald Trump and Joe Biden are joined at the hip. Trump: “Under no circumstances should Republicans vote to cut a single penny from Medicare or Social Security.” Biden: “If anyone tries to cut” either, “I will stop them.” Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis vows not to “mess with” them.

Reestablishing congressional “regular order” might help: passing a budget resolution by mid-April, with a dozen appropriations bills voted on separately before the fiscal year begins Oct. 1. This was last accomplished in 1996, after the 1994 midterm elections ended 40 years of Democratic control of the House of Representatives. Virtue did not become habitual, so there is a philosophic-semantic puzzle: Can we speak of “regular order” that regularly does not occur?

The Economist reports that the U.S. deficit has exceeded 6 percent of

GDP only three times — during World War II, the 2008 financial crisis and the pandemic lockdowns. This is, however, on the way to becoming normal.

In February, the Congressional Budget Office projected that under current law, interest costs would amount to \$10.5 trillion from 2024 through 2033. Alan J. Auerbach and William Gale, authors of the Brookings Institution’s federal budget outlook, report that, assuming certain probable adjustments of current law (including making permanent some “temporary” provisions), debt would be 240 percent of GDP by 2053.

The Peter G. Peterson Foundation, a splendid nest of deficit hawks, notes that debt service is projected to be the federal government’s largest “program” when it becomes larger than Medicare in 2044 and Social Security in 2050. “By 2053, nearly 40 percent of all federal revenues will be spent on interest alone.” And “we’re on a path to add a staggering \$127 trillion to the debt over the next 30 years.”

What Everett Dirksen did or didn’t say needs updating. A trillion here, a trillion there, and pretty soon ...

George Will’s email address is george-will@washpost.com.

EDITORIAL PAGE POLICIES

EDITORIALS

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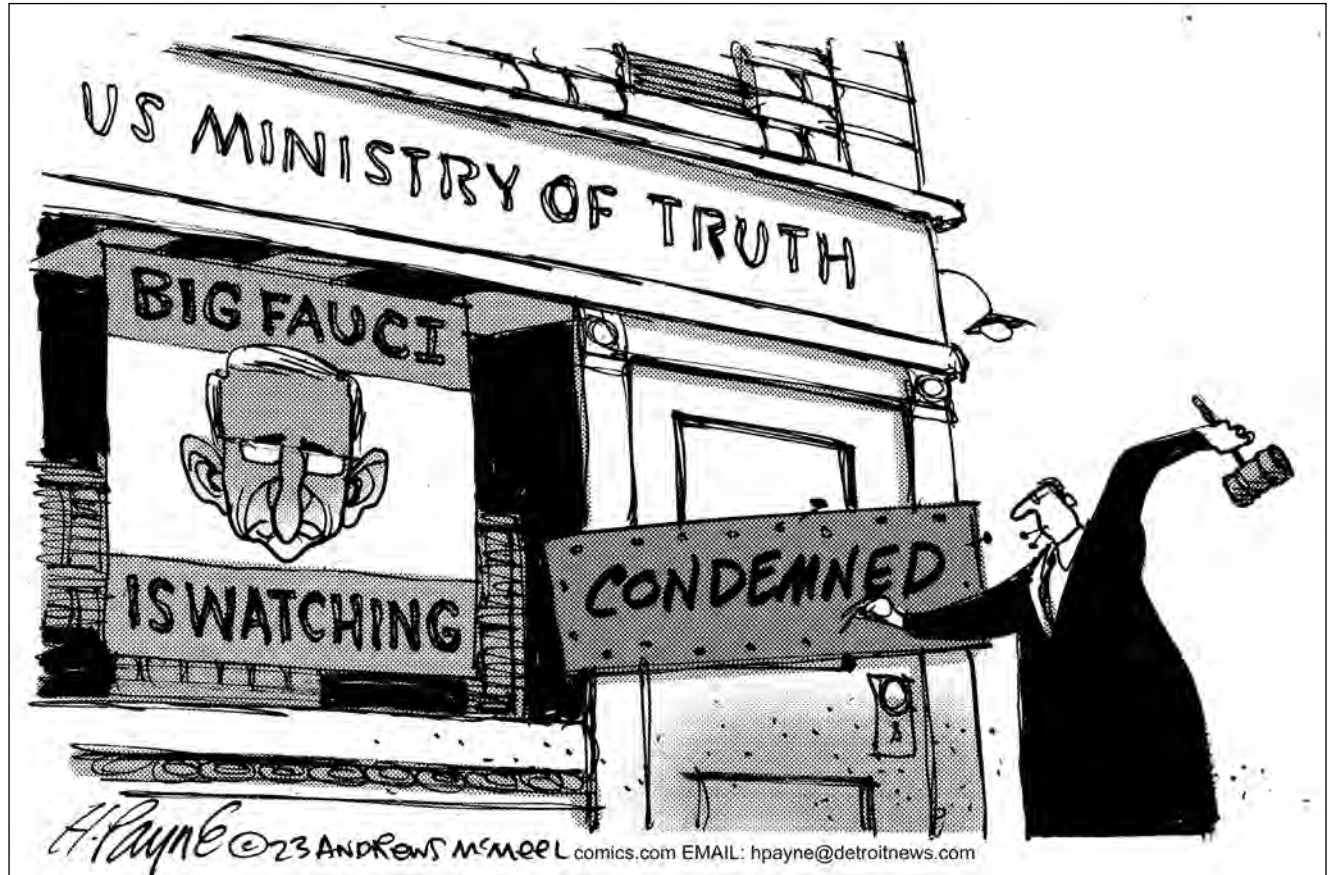
COLUMNS AND COMMENTARY

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EDITOR

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COMMENTARY

Supreme Court rejects liberal arguments based on lies

"This is not a normal court." So said President Joe Biden as the Supreme Court was handing down its rulings in big cases decided since its current term began last October.

He’s right in a trivial sense. The Supreme Court hears appeals, not trials as most courts do; its nine members can serve for life; it sets its own docket. But he’s wrong if he means that this particular nine-member Supreme Court is a radical departure from accepted norms.

This term, the court overturned previous decisions much less often than courts from the 1950s to the 1980s. The three Democratic-appointed justices have been the least likely to have been in the minority, and their colleagues most often in the minority were Republican-appointed Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito.

Like the court altered by eight appointments by Franklin Roosevelt between 1937 and 1941, this court altered by three appointments by Donald Trump between 2017 and 2020 has not produced a dependable, one-sided partisan majority but has often been split on new lines.

That’s not to say that this court has not decided some

cases differently from how its predecessors would have. Such are the three headline cases decided two weeks ago by 6-3 majorities: *Students for Fair Admissions v. University of North Carolina*, *303 Creative v. Elenis* and *Biden v. Nebraska*.

Each of these cases overturned as unconstitutional a policy backed by liberals, and each has been denounced by liberal commentators. Those denunciations, in my view, have been unconvincing, and the majority opinions of

Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Neil Gorsuch and a concurring opinion of Justice Clarence Thomas make powerfully the arguments for their results.

The racially discriminatory admissions policies of UNC and Harvard College clearly violate the 14th Amendment and the Civil Rights Act of 1964; the Colorado state government’s insistence on forcing creative entrepreneurs to utter words they consider sinful clearly violates the First Amendment freedom of

speech; and the president’s unauthorized diversion of \$400 billion to student loan recipients is clearly in tension with the Constitution’s vesting of “all legislative powers” in Congress.

There is something else in common here, something that goes beyond the issues on which legal commentators have rightly concentrated. And that is that in all three cases the liberal policy and its justifications have been based on lies.

That’s most obvious in the college admissions cases. Harvard (which lost 6-2, with Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, a former Harvard overseer, not voting) and UNC swore up and down they didn’t discriminate. But statistics — the same small percentage of high-scoring Asians admitted year after year — and admissions officers’ memos, unearthed by the plaintiffs, showed otherwise.

The irony is that leaders of American universities, supposedly dedicated to truth and scholarship, have been systematically lying about their “diversity, equity, and inclusion” practices for years. It has taken the Supreme Court years to recognize and hold up to condemnation this intellectual rot.

The most prominent lies about 303 Creative have been

circulated after the decision came down. The charge is that there was no real case or controversy, even though, as Justice Gorsuch explained, the Colorado state agency stipulated it would bring charges against the plaintiff if she refused to create messages celebrating same-sex marriage.

The other lie, repeated in newspaper headlines, is that the plaintiff refused to do business with gay customers. In fact, she said she was willing to do so, with the limited exception of uttering creative custom messages against her deeply held principles. A contrary ruling would require Democratic campaign consultants to make ads for Donald Trump.

As for Joe Biden’s case for unilateral executive branch forgiveness of \$400 billion in student loans, the best testimony that it is based on lies comes from Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) in July 2021, when she said publicly that the president could not constitutionally issue such an order. Biden himself told a CNN town hall in February 2021 that he doubted he had that authority.

Biden evidently hoped that the flimsy arguments he ordered his Justice Department to concoct would prevail in the absence of any plaintiff who could claim damages

from the order. But a Missouri agency could.

That leaves Biden with the cynical political argument, buttressed by newspapers’ misleading headlines, that the Supreme Court took money away from student borrowers. Cynical arguments and outright lies can sometimes win votes, as some have for Donald Trump.

But the purveyors of lies may also pay a price. The principles behind *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* threaten DEI practices of major corporations. The principle upholding freedom from forced speech threatens “diversity” oaths required of academics. The reassertion of Congress’ constitutional monopoly of legislative powers threatens the delegation of powers to administrative agencies.

Those who base their arguments on lies can build grand edifices, but they may find they’re based on foundations of sand.

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

AROUND TOWN

As part of its 2023 Meet the Author Series, the Sumter County Museum will offer the following: 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 18, talk with former Sumterite Glen Browder on his late wife, Rebecca Browder's book "Sorry Men in Southern Literature," free and open to the public, reception to follow; 2 p.m. Saturday, July 22, talk and book signing with Joseph McGill Jr. and Herb Frazier on "Sleeping with the Ancestors: How I Followed the Footprints of Slavery," free and open to the public, reception to follow; and noon Thursday, Aug. 10, talk and book signing with award-winning and best-selling author Rhonda McKnight on her novel "The Thing About Home," tickets are \$10 for members and \$15 for the public, reception to follow. These events will be held at McKenzie Hall at the Sumter County Museum, 122 N. Washington St. To purchase tickets, call (803) 775-0908, visit the museum from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday or visit www.sumtercountymuseum.org .

The Fourth Friday Concert Series will provide free concerts from 6:30 to 9 p.m. p.m. at 141 N. Main St. in front of the Sumter County Courthouse as follows: July 28, Elijah Bradford and the Coffee House Music Revue; and Aug. 25, The Footnotes. There will be food trucks/vendors available from Lisa Ann's Kitchen, Mi Promesa, Rollin In Da Dough, So Cool Italian Iccc and Sweet Frog. Sertoma will have plenty of cold brews available for sale. The Palmetto Optimist Club will offer free books for the children as well as popcorn for sale. Downtown restaurants will also be open for dine-in or take-out. Bring your chairs and spend an evening enjoying some music and dancing in the streets.

Sumter Elks Lodge 855 will hold a community barbecue and open house fundraiser from 11

a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 15, at 1104 Old W. Liberty Street. Donations received from the barbecue will go to support Elk charitable work. Tickets are \$10 per plate and must be purchased in advance by July 11, indicating your choice of pulled pork or chicken on the ticket. Diners include meat, beans, slaw and a roll. Takeout or dine under the pavilion. Call Bud Butler at (405)-210-7848 or Brian Davis at (803) 491-5339 for tickets.

The Sumter County Library invites the community to a ribbon cutting and open house for the new bookmobile at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 15, in the parking lot in front of the library on Harvin Street. The bookmobile will be open until 1 p.m. for everyone who would like to have a look at the new vehicle.

The House of Magic: Magic Show Fundraiser with Mickey and Minnie Appearance will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 15, at Patriot Hall, 135 Haynsworth St. Tickets are \$10. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-house-of-magic-magic-show-fundraiser-with-mickey-and-minnie-appearance-tickets-599200834827> .

The Lee County Republicans will meet at 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 20, at the South Carolina Cotton Museum, 121 W. Cedar Lane, Bishopville. Patton Byars, from the Sen. Tim Scott's office, will speak. Refreshments will be served.

The 2nd Annual Krawlin' for Christ Jeep Show and Shine will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 22, at the Sumter County Civic Center, 700 W. Liberty St. This indoor and outdoor event will feature Jeep vendors, a flex ramp, live music, food vendors and the Jeep Show and Shine. Visit <https://krawlinforchrist.wixsite.com/my-site-1> for details or find the event on Facebook.

PUBLIC AGENDA

SUMTER COUNTY VOTER REGISTRATION / ELECTION COMMISSION

Today, 5:30 p.m., registration / election office, 141 N. Main St.

SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monday, July 17, 6 p.m., 1345 Wilson Hall Road

SUMTER CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, July 18, 5:30 p.m., Sumter Opera House, 21 N. Main St.

CLARENDON COUNTY PLANNING & PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Tuesday, July 18, 6 p.m., planning commission office, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning

SUATS MPO POLICY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 19, noon, Sumter Opera House, 21 N. Main St., city council chambers, fourth floor

The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Mix business with pleasure, and

something good will transpire. Don't be afraid to make changes or to ask for something you want. Do your part, and your effort won't go unnoticed. Share your thoughts and follow through. Personal change will be emotional. 3 stars
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep your eyes open. Take care of your responsibilities, regardless of what's going on around you. Refuse to let anyone play mind games with your heart. Call the shots instead of letting someone else take control. 3 stars
GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't reveal secrets or spread gossip. Someone is likely to feed you false information to throw you off guard. Take an interest in everything and everyone, and offer positive suggestions and facts to back your thoughts. 3 stars
CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take the road less traveled and see where it leads. Let your discoveries fuel your imagination and encourage you to learn all you can to make your journey successful. What you do will exceed your expectations. Be cautious when money is at stake. 3 stars
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make subtle changes to help sensitive situations. Being the ambassador of goodwill will encourage others to join your team. Put your heart into whatever you choose, and change whatever isn't working for you. Choose peace and love. 4 stars
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Choose to be understanding and compassionate instead of letting anger take over and negativity and criticism prevail. You'll gain respect and loyalty if you solve problems instead of adding fuel to the fire. Be positive. 2 stars
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Call on those you trust. The discussions you have will change the way your day unfolds. A positive attitude will

prompt suggestions that encourage you to choose healthy behaviors, peace and love. Romance is on the rise. 5 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be a good friend. Listening and observing will give you the tools to help the people you care about make better decisions. Enhance your life by exploring a creative outlet that interests you. Your strength comes from working toward something positive. 3 stars
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Search for the truth before you make recommendations. How you handle emotional situations will determine how others treat you. Contemplate the best way to help others without endangering yourself. Proceed with compassion and understanding. Invest in your future. 3 stars
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let a change at home lead to worry and stress. Live within your means and be grateful for what you have. Invest in yourself, and learn skills that would help you manage your finances better. Don't let your emotions lead to unnecessary spending. 3 stars
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Manufacture the perfect setup at home to ensure you make the most of your day and reach your goals without trepidation. Take control instead of letting others dictate what happens next. Personal gain is within reach if you put yourself first. 5 stars
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't be too eager to share your intentions. A friend or relative will interfere with your plans if given the chance. Keep your emotions well hidden from negative individuals. A chance to create an opportunity to increase your income looks promising. 2 stars

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

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2023

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
A blend of sun and clouds	Humid; a t-storm in spots late	Humid; an afternoon t-storm	Humid with a thunderstorm	Humid with a stray t-storm	Partly sunny and humid
95°	75°	92° / 74°	89° / 74°	92° / 74°	95° / 74°
Chance of rain: 5%	Chance of rain: 40%	Chance of rain: 55%	Chance of rain: 90%	Chance of rain: 40%	Chance of rain: 25%
S 6-12 mph	S 6-12 mph	S 6-12 mph	S 6-12 mph	WSW 6-12 mph	NNE 4-8 mph

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

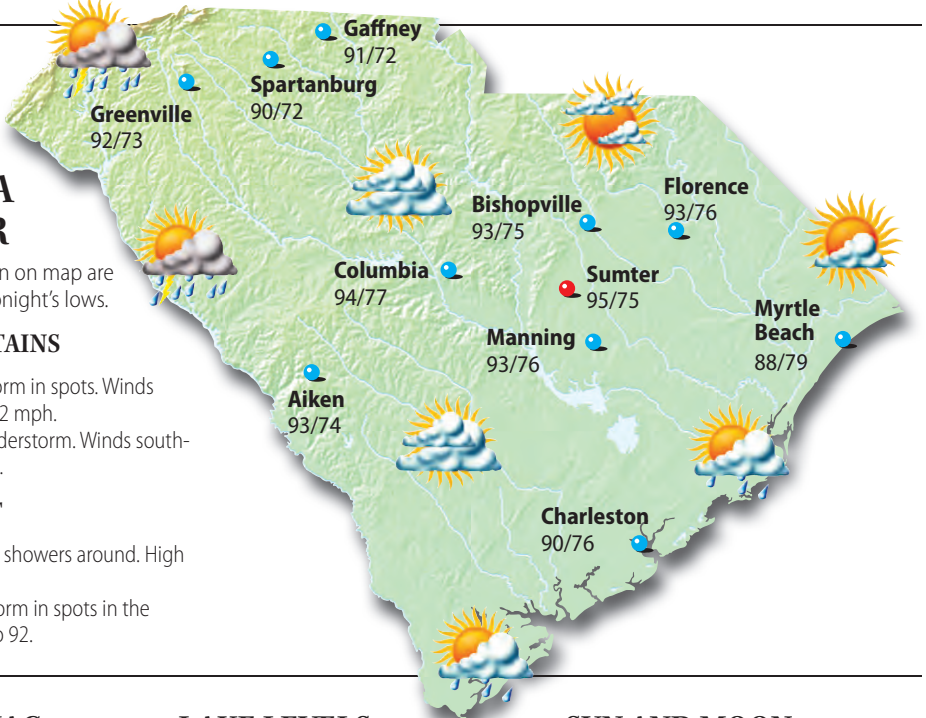
Temperatures shown on map are today's highs and tonight's lows.

IN THE MOUNTAINS

Today: A thunderstorm in spots. Winds south-southwest 6-12 mph.
Friday: A stray thunderstorm. Winds south-southwest 6-12 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: Partly sunny; showers around. High 88 to 92.
Friday: A thunderstorm in spots in the afternoon. High 88 to 92.



LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THROUGH 2 P.M. WEDNESDAY

Temperature	High 90°
Low 74°	Normal high 90°
Normal low 70°	Record high 102° in 1977
Record low 60° in 1963	

Precipitation	24 hrs ending 2 p.m. Wed. 0.00"
Month to date 0.93"	Normal month to date 2.05"
Year to date 28.16"	Last year to date 20.59"
Normal year to date 25.20"	

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	357.67	-0.04
Marion	76.8	75.88	+0.04
Moultrie	75.5	75.90	none
Waterree	100	93.96	-0.12

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	7.03	+0.22
Congaree River	19	3.82	-0.19
Lynches River	14	3.89	-0.15
Saluda River	14	3.09	+0.44
Up. Santee River	80	78.00	-0.06
Waterree River	24	8.53	-0.39

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	6:20 a.m.	Sunset	8:35 p.m.
Moonrise	2:42 a.m.	Moonset	5:27 p.m.



TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH				
	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	6:19 a.m.	2.6	1:08 a.m.	0.4
	7:00 p.m.	3.3	1:01 p.m.	0.0
Fri.	7:12 a.m.	2.5	2:03 a.m.	0.4
	7:48 p.m.	3.3	1:51 p.m.	0.0

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	90/73/t 89/74/t	81/67/t 87/70/t
Chicago	104/81/s 102/81/s	82/65/t 87/68/t
Dallas	100/79/pc 99/80/pc	88/64/s 87/65/s
Detroit	91/80/t 93/79/t	90/74/pc 85/73/t
Houston	94/76/t 94/76/t	95/75/pc 88/72/t
Los Angeles	113/91/s 115/91/s	72/55/pc 76/55/pc
New York	94/76/pc 86/74/t	86/67/t 84/68/t
Philadelphia	93/74/t 91/75/t	87/73/t 89/72/t
Phoenix	92/74/pc 89/75/t	93/74/t 92/76/t
San Francisco	93/75/pc 91/73/t	92/76/pc 92/76/t
Wash., DC	94/75/pc 92/75/t	92/76/pc 92/76/t

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Asheville	86/67/t 84/68/t	88/68/t 86/67/t
Athens	87/73/t 89/72/t	89/78/pc 89/80/pc
Augusta	93/74/t 91/75/t	88/79/pc 89/79/t
Beaufort	92/77/pc 92/76/t	94/75/pc 92/75/t
Cape Hatteras	85/75/pc 85/75/pc	91/77/sh 90/78/t
Charleston	90/76/sh 90/78/t	90/78/t 92/75/t
Charlotte	94/75/pc 92/74/t	90/73/t 90/73/t
Clemson	90/73/t 89/73/t	90/72/c 89/71/t
Columbia	94/77/pc 93/76/t	89/78/pc 90/80/t
Darlington	92/76/pc 92/76/t	91/75/t 90/74/t
Elizabeth City	92/74/pc 89/75/t	88/73/t 89/73/t
Elizabethtown	93/75/pc 91/73/t	91/74/t 92/75/t
Fayetteville	94/75/pc 92/75/t	88/72/t 88/73/t
Florence	93/76/pc 94/76/t	93/76/pc 94/76/t
Gainesville	91/73/t 92/73/t	92/73/t 92/73/t
Gastonia	92/73/c 91/72/t	92/73/c 91/72/t
Goldsboro	92/73/pc 92/75/t	92/73/pc 92/75/t
Goose Creek	90/76/pc 91/78/t	90/76/pc 91/78/t
Greensboro	90/73/pc 86/71/t	90/73/pc 86/71/t
Greenville	92/73/t 90/73/t	92/73/t 90/73/t
Hickory	90/72/c 89/71/t	90/72/c 89/71/t
Hilton Head	89/78/pc 90/80/t	89/78/pc 90/80/t
Jacksonville, FL	91/75/t 90/74/t	91/75/t 90/74/t
La Grange	88/73/t 89/73/t	88/73/t 89/73/t
Macon	91/74/t 92/75/t	91/74/t 92/75/t
Marietta	87/72/t 88/73/t	87/72/t 88/73/t
Marion	88/68/t 86/67/t	88/68/t 86/67/t
Mt. Pleasant	89/78/pc 89/80/pc	89/78/pc 89/80/pc
Myrtle Beach	88/79/pc 89/79/t	88/79/pc 89/79/t
Orangeburg	94/75/pc 92/75/t	94/75/pc 92/75/t
Port Royal	91/77/sh 90/78/t	91/77/sh 90/78/t
Raleigh	93/75/pc 92/75/t	93/75/pc 92/75/t
Rock Hill	92/73/c 91/74/t	92/73/c 91/74/t
Rockingham	93/74/pc 91/73/t	93/74/pc 91/73/t
Savannah	94/76/sh 91/77/t	94/76/sh 91/77/t
Spartanburg	90/72/t 90/71/t	90/72/t 90/71/t
Summerville	91/75/pc 91/77/t	91/75/pc 91/77/t
Wilmington	92/76/pc 90/77/t	92/76/pc 90/77/t
Winston-Salem	92/72/pc 88/71/t	92/72/pc 88/71/t

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

FYI

The GOP "Republican" meetings held at 6:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at The Restaurant at Second Mill (the Quality Inn restaurant), 2390 Broad St., across from Golden Corral. Meetings are open to anyone age 16 years or older. For more information and questions, call (803) 972-4555.

Marine Corps League Detachment 1202 meets at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at the VFW, 1925 Gion St. All present and former Marines are welcome. Call (803) 972-4555.

American Legion Post 15 meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month (except the month of September when they meet on the second Monday) at 34 S. Artillery Drive. All veterans, past and present, are welcome. Call (803) 968-5115.

The Civil Air Patrol Sumter Composite Squadron meets from 6:30 to 9 p.m. each Tuesday at 2945 Airport Road. There are cadet programs, aerospace education programs and emergency services programs. Call Lt. Col. George Stanley at (803) 847-7640. Visit www.gocivilairpatrol.com for information.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 12-1 meets at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at the Summertown Fire Station, North Cantey Street, Summertown. Membership is open to any U.S. citizen age 17 or older. Previous service in the Coast Guard is not required. The auxiliary's main objective is to promote safe recreational boating on Lake Marion and Lake Moultrie by offering safe boating classes,

courtesy vessel checks for required safety equipment and patrolling the lakes offering assistance to anyone in need. The auxiliary also stands ready to assist the USCG with their mission along with search and rescue. We encourage anyone interested in participating in our mission to attend a meeting and learn more about the auxiliary.

Temple Sinai Jewish History Center is seeking docents (tour guides).

Docents must be 18 years of age or older and willing to attend training prior to starting. This is a volunteer position and you will be asked to commit at least a few hours a month (Thursday or Friday afternoon or Saturday morning). The museum will work with students who want to arrange class credit through their college. The Center covers South Carolina and Sumter Jewish history, the Holocaust and Sumter's ties to the Holocaust. Docents must be friendly and comfortable engaging with both children and adults. Contact Diana Roof at (803) 468-8630 or at droof@sumtercountymuseum.org or Annie Rivers at (803) 775-0908 or at arivers@sumtercountymuseum.org.

Lake Marion VFW Post 11078, Summertown, meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 1 Duke St., Summertown, behind First Citizens Bank. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting beginning at 7 p.m. All VFW members are encouraged to attend. Call Carl A. Farley at (803) 460-8910.

The Bishopville / Manning / Shaw Air Force Base Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity meets

at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month at Jeffrey Lampkins Bistro, 106 Main St., Sumter. For additional information, contact Dr. James Munford at (803)-795-2903.

The Single Parent Institute meets from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at the Bernie HOPE Center. Meetings are open to teenage single parents, custodial and non-custodial single parents. You are welcome to bring your children as the Single Parent Institute is for the entire family. Contact Dr. L. Quaneck Walkes at (803) 223-9408 or lqwalkes@sctechthisout.com.

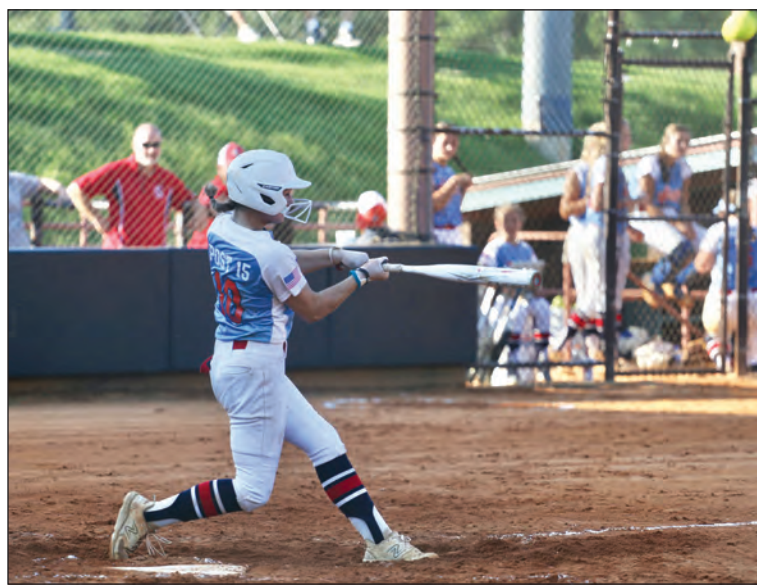
The Westside Neighborhood Association meets at 5:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at the Bernie HOPE Center, 210 S. Purdy St.

The Christian Golfers' Association (CGA) meets at 8 a.m. each Tuesday for Bible study. The group meets at the CGA office in Dillon Park. Refreshments provided and golf after Bible study. Call (803) 773-2171.

The Ballard-Palmer-Bates American Legion Post 202 meets at 6:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at the Post, 310 Palmetto St. All veterans are welcome to attend. Call (803) 773-4811.

Sumter Area Toastmasters meets at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at the Sumter Mall community room, 1057 Broad St. The group helps in developing speaking and leadership skills. Call Douglas Wilson at (803) 778-0197 or Rebecca Gonzalez at (803) 565-9271.

Lady Legends rout Post 1 to open playoffs



Sumter's Maggie Harrington hits a home run against Florence on Tuesday.

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

Sumter Lady Legends head coach Glenn Posey was not thrilled with how his team kicked off its postseason journey against Florence on Tuesday.

The Lady Legends were creative with how they made outs in the first two innings, giving themselves up multiple times on the base paths.

Then a switch flipped in the third. Maggie Harrington sent a ball over the left field wall. Amberly Way followed suit to open the fourth, and the Legends never slowed down. Sumter only needed six innings to finish off a 10-0 win. They continued their playoff run against Camden on Wednesday.

PHOTOS BY NICH PITTS / ITEM CONTRIBUTOR



The Sumter bench clears after Maggie Harrington hit a solo home run against Florence on Tuesday.

Sumter's Ariana Evans lays out to catch a fly ball on Tuesday.



"We were a little lackadaisical on the base paths in the first couple of innings," Posey said. "We haven't been on the field. We had that one double-header last week, and other than that, we've been working out in the gym because of the weather. It's not an excuse, but we were a little out of focus there early on."

"We were not getting bunts down, not making sure bunts were down and ran when we shouldn't have. We stopped in between bases, we didn't slide and overran a base. We pretty much did everything you can do wrong in the first two innings, but it all worked out. The sticks came to life like I felt like they would."

After one of those base-running errors gave Sumter two quick outs in the third, Harrington connected on an 0-2 pitch and put it over the fence. Posey thought that long ball was exactly what the doctor ordered at that point in the game and was confident in Harrington's ability to deliver it.

"I told Maggie before the game, 'You're in the nine spot tonight. I know I don't have to explain this to you; you're a gamer, but I have every confidence in you batting leadoff or in the middle of the order. I want you to know I'm confident no matter where I put you. In the nine spot, I need you to flip the order strong every time.' She proved why I have that philosophy," Posey said. "She does have some power, and she's a gamer. It was big. She was the spark plug we needed at that point."

LADY PATRIOTS FALL TO CAMDEN

The Sumter Lady Patriots kept things close against Camden on Tuesday, but a three-run inning by Post 17 was enough to send Sumter home with a 3-0 loss.

The Lady Patriots actually outhit Camden 10-8 in the game but couldn't get runs home. A single and a double in the second seemed like a prime opportunity to take the lead, but Hannah DuRant was thrown out trying to score on a grounder back to the mound to end the inning. In the third, Sumter had another two-out single and double, but both runners were stranded on the base paths after a lineout to center.

Sumter tried to manufacture a run after a lead-off walk by Laniya Rouse in the fifth. A sacrifice bunt moved her to second, but she was caught stealing third before a single up the middle by Samantha Kirkhart that could've brought her home.

Camden then jumped on the board in the bottom of the fifth, sealing Sumter's fate. Two straight singles started a one-out rally before a pop out. The first run scored on an error that should've ended the inning. Another single plated two more runs, giving Post 17 a 3-0 lead.

Sumter got a one-out double in the sixth, but McKayla Mouradjian was stranded at second. The Lady Patriots then tried to start something with two singles in the seventh, but a grounder and a pop out ended the game.

Zaire Ransom and Corey Grimsley each had two hits as nine Lady Pats got a hit in the loss.

Maliah Wright pitched well, scattering eight hits, but three unearned runs were enough to suffer the defeat. She struck out one and walked one.

SEE LEGENDS, PAGE B4

LADY STORM CAN'T KEEP PACE WITH DARLINGTON

The Sumter Lady Storm fell to Darlington on Tuesday 16-0 in three innings.

Darlington scored eight runs in each of the first two innings, recording 15 hits, including a home run, in the win. Sadie Johnson suffered the loss

for Sumter. Paisley McDougal came in to get the final out.

Abby Bradley paced the offense with two hits, while Anna Grace Fowler and Gracyn Guilford each added a knock. Caroline Moorman also reached on a walk.

Morant's lawyers cite 'stand your ground' law, self-defense in pickup hoops lawsuit

BY ADRIAN SAINZ
Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The future of a lawsuit accusing former Crestwood star and current Memphis Grizzlies stguard Ja Morant of assaulting a teenager during a pickup basketball game hinges on whether Morant will be allowed to say that he was acting in self-defense and can receive immunity under Tennessee law.

A judge on Wednesday ruled that Morant's lawyers can proceed for now with their argument that Morant was acting in self-defense when he punched Joshua Holloway during a game at the All-Star player's Memphis-area home in July 2022.

Morant's lawyers have acknowledged he punched Holloway one time after Holloway threw a basketball at Morant and the ball hit Morant in the chin. In a July 26 motion, the player's lawyers said he should be immune from liability under the state's "stand your ground" law, which allows people who feel threatened at their homes to act with force in certain situations.

Circuit Court Judge Carol Chumney said the next step would be to hear from lawyers in the case, including those representing the Tennessee Attorney General, about whether the law can be applied to the case under the state Constitution.

Morant's accuser was 17 when the lawsuit was filed. It accuses Morant and friend Davonte Pack of assault, reckless endangerment,



Lawyers for former Crestwood star Ja Morant are arguing that the Memphis Grizzlies guard was acting in self-defense during an alleged assault at his home in July 2022.

abuse or neglect, and infliction of emotional distress. An amended complaint identified the plaintiff as Holloway, who is now 18.

Morant filed a countersuit accusing Holloway of slander, battery and assault.

No criminal charges have been filed against Morant.

The lawsuit has led to complicated legal arguments, including disagreement about whether the state's "stand your ground" law can be used to support Morant.

In a hearing Monday, Holloway's lawyer Rebecca Adelman argued Morant has waived his claim to immunity and that the self-defense

claim under the state law can't be a reason to dismiss the civil case, partly because there is no ongoing criminal investigation against Morant.

Adelman said the self-defense and immunity arguments came too late in the process. She called it a "Hail Mary of Hail Marys."

Will Perry, Morant's lawyer, argued there are ways for the "stand your ground" law to apply in civil cases and that Morant is entitled to immunity. He said the motion was timely because the trial is not scheduled until 2024.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEE MORANT, PAGE B3

Manning-Santee drops postseason opener to Horry

Post 68 followed with game against Georgetown Wednesday

STAFF REPORT

Manning-Santee struggled to jump start their offense in a 5-2 loss to Horry on Tuesday, moving Post 68 into the "win or go home" portion of the bracket.

Horry got on the board with three runs in the second inning behind some Manning-Santee miscues. After a single and a walk, a grounder back to Henry Durant on the mound turned into an error and a run for Horry. A ground out brought another run home before a passed ball pushed another across home plate, giving Horry a 3-0 lead they would not surrender.

Manning-Santee got a run back in the third on a bases-loaded walk but couldn't further take advantage of the situation. Horry then extended their lead back to three with an RBI double in the fourth. A wild pitch in the fifth stretched the lead to 5-1.

Post 68 scored once on a Kaleb Lee steal of home in the seventh, but that was all they'd get before Horry finished a 5-2 win.

Durant pitched five innings, allowing all five runs, though only two were earned. He surrendered just three hits but walked four. Durant also struck out three. Jackson Clemmons pitched a shutout inning out of the bullpen, scattering two hits and striking out a pair.

Manning-Santee finished with just three hits from Bradley Muldrow, Kyler Odum and Lee. They also walked five times.

With the loss, Manning-Santee hosted Georgetown on Wednesday as they looked to keep their season alive.

Medvedev ends Eubanks' magical Wimbledon run

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — Chris Eubanks finally ran out of aces and energy during his magical Wimbledon debut. The 27-year-old American who captivated the crowds at the All England Club and back home still seemed to be having the time of his life Wednesday, but Daniil Medvedev's steady game was just too much to overcome.

Basking in the roars from the stands at No. 1 Court, Eubanks grabbed a two-sets-to-one lead against the 2021 U.S. Open champion — and then was four points from victory in the fourth. The wear-and-tear of the unseeded Eubanks' deepest run, by far, at a Grand Slam tournament began to show from there, and Medvedev pulled away for a 6-4, 1-6, 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-1 victory to reach the Wimbledon semifinals for the first time.

If Medvedev was unsteady for a bit, perhaps distracted by a back-and-forth with the chair umpire over a stray ball that struck a TV camera operator, he gathered himself well.

"There was a moment in the match where I completely lost the, how to say, game itself, and he played well. I started to sink. I started to do a lot of mistakes. Not serving well enough," said the No. 3-seeded Medvedev, who will face No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz in the semifinals on Friday. "In the third set, I started to build something. ... From the tiebreak, I started to play amazing."

Alcaraz's 7-6 (3), 6-4, 6-4 victory over No. 6 Holger Rune at Centre Court was the first men's quarterfinal at Wimbledon in the Open era, which dates to 1968, with two players who are not yet 21. Both Spain's Alcaraz, who won last year's U.S. Open, and Den-



Daniil Medvedev celebrates after beating Christopher Eubanks at Wimbledon in London on Wednesday.

mark's Rune are 20.

When Alcaraz smacked a backhand return winner to seal the first set, he threw his head back and screamed. He paused for a second and screamed again. He strutted to the sideline, head held high, and yelled, then got to the sideline and yelled "Vamos! Vamos!"

In the women's quarterfinals, Ons Jabeur eliminated defending champion Elena Rybakina 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-1 in a rematch of last year's championship match, and reigning Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka defeated No. 25 seed Madison Keys 6-2, 6-4.

No. 2 Sabalenka plays No. 6 Jabeur on Thursday, when the other semifinal will be between unseeded players Elina Svitolina and Marketa Von-

drousova. None of the four remaining women has won Wimbledon; Sabalenka is the only one who already owns a major trophy.

Sabalenka, who is from Belarus, and Medvedev, who is from Russia, were banned from the All England Club a year ago, along with every player representing those two countries, over the invasion of Ukraine. The war continues, but Russians and Belarusians were allowed back this time.

In Eubanks-Medvedev everything started to tilt one way midway through the fourth-set tiebreaker.

Eubanks put a forehand in a corner that drew a netted backhand from Medvedev, making it 3-all. Many in the seats rose, cheering wildly, and Eubanks shook his right fist, staring toward the support.

Maybe Eubanks, who is from Atlanta and was a college All-American at Georgia Tech, enjoyed that moment just a tad too much. Maybe he let his focus slip. Then again, hard to blame a guy who came into this tournament with a career record of 2-8 at the majors and who never had won an ATP title until the week before Wimbledon began.

So close to moving on, Eubanks faltered. So close to the brink, Medvedev surged, taking four of the following five points and pushing things to a fifth set.

Medvedev smacked a forehand winner. Eubanks sailed a forehand wide. Eubanks pushed a forehand return long. After Eubanks saved one set point with a service winner, he ceded the next by flubbing a forehand volley.

Medvedev, who won 28 of the 30 points he served in that set, shook his racket. He was fully back in the match — and, it turned out, on his way to a win.

As big a server as the lanky, 6-foot-7 Eubanks is, Medvedev hit more aces, 28-17. And while Eubanks finished with more winners, 74-52, to raise his tournament total to 321 and break Andre Agassi's 1992 mark for most winners at a single Wimbledon (since 1977), Medvedev played incredibly cleanly. He only made 13 unforced errors, 42 fewer than Eubanks.

When the match ended, when Eubanks' wonderful ride was over, he was accompanied off toward the locker room by a loud and lengthy standing ovation — as his pal, 2022 French Open runner-up Coco Gauff, captured the scene with her phone camera.

Eubanks paused his walk. He turned to all sections of the arena to wave and then put his hands together overhead in the shape of a heart, soaking it all in.

PGA Tour golfers say commissioner has to earn back trust

BY DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

GULLANE, Scotland — PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan returns to work next week and some top players believe he has to regain their trust after leaving members in the dark over an about-face deal with the Saudi Arabia wealth fund behind LIV Golf.

"I'd say he has a lot of tough questions to answer in his return," Xander Schauffele said Wednesday at the Scottish Open, where he is the defending champion. "And yeah, I don't trust people easily. He had my trust and he has a lot less of it now."

"So I don't stand alone when I say that."

A week after Monahan announced a commercial partnership with the Public Investment Fund, the tour said a "medical situation" led Monahan to turn over daily operations of the tour to two executives.

He sent a memo to players last week saying he would resume his role July 17. Monahan did not take part in the Senate hearing Tuesday in which documents outlined some of the conversations that led to the framework agreement.

Players were sent a 275-page file of the documents Congress obtained ahead of the three-hour hearing. Some watched part of it or read through a few excerpts of the documents. Jordan Spieth chose to play golf at North Berwick instead.

When asked if Monahan would have trust issues with the players, Spieth replied: "Quite a bit, just based on conversations I've had with players. And I think he realizes that. I'm sure he's preparing for a plan to try and build it back."

Scottie Scheffler said he watched part of the hearing and didn't learn very much. Then again, the world's No. 1 player isn't sure how much he knew in the first place.

Monahan and two board members — Jimmy Dunne and board chairman Ed Herlihy — negotiated the agreement announced June 6 with the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia.

"As a player on tour, we still don't really have a lot of clarity as to what's going on, and that's a bit worrisome,"



Xander Schauffele is among the PGA Tour players critical of the league's commissioner during their merger with LIV Golf.

Scheffler said. "They keep saying it's a player-run organization, and we don't really have the information that we need. I watched part of it yesterday didn't learn anything."

Rory McIlroy chose not to say anything.

McIlroy has been seen as the strongest voice in the PGA Tour's battle against Saudi-funded LIV Golf. He said he felt like a "sacrificial lamb" when he spoke to the media a day after the deal was announced, during the Canadian Open.

McIlroy gave two television interviews ahead of the Scottish Open, which starts Thursday at The Renaissance Club. And then he walked past a dozen reporters. When asked if he had time to talk, his manager intervened to say McIlroy wouldn't be speaking about the hearing.

McIlroy's name surfaced in a Dec. 8 email to Dunne from Roger Devlin, a British businessman involved on the PIF side of helping repair the fractured state of golf. Devlin said he arranged for McIlroy to meet with Yasir Al-Rumayyan, the governor of PIF, United Arab Emirates.

Devlin described the meeting as "very cordial and constructive."

"Rory made it clear that in accepting the meeting he was speaking only for himself although he believes his views are broadly shared by Tiger (Woods) and the other top players," Devlin wrote. "He also emphasized he was seeking no personal financial

gain, he was simply trying to unify the game."

McIlroy briefly mentioned the meeting after the first round of the Canadian Open when he said he had met Al-Rumayyan.

"I played a pro-am with Yasir in Dubai a few years ago," McIlroy said last month. "I was with him at a Formula One race randomly a couple years ago in Austin. I saw him in Dubai at the end of last year. So he's obviously been in and around the golf world and obviously the wider sports world. ... He runs in the same circles as a lot of people that I know."

Schauffele said he glanced through some of the documents and started to watch a link to the hearing until he decided sleep was more important.

He referred to this as "one of the rockier times" on the PGA Tour but said it would be less unsettling if the players stick together. But his biggest beef was more transparency and players being more involved.

"There isn't much communication right now and things are a little bit unsettling and there is a bit of a divide between management and the players, if you want to call it that," he said. "And my hope is that a positive thing coming from that will be more communication, more transparency, and sort of understanding which direction the tour will go with us being sort of the ambassadors of it."

Meanwhile, the Scottish

HIGHLIGHTS FROM TUESDAY'S HEARING

— Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund agreed to invest more than \$1 billion in a new commercial entity controlled by the PGA Tour.

— Greg Norman will be ousted as the CEO of LIV Golf if the business deal between the Saudis and the tour is finalized, a tour executive told Congress on Tuesday.

— Among the subcommittee's findings were that representatives of the tour and the Saudis discussed giving Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy their own LIV Golf teams, a proposal that apparently never reached either player. There was no indication during Tuesday's hearing that Congress would block the tour from going into business with the Saudis.

— The subcommittee chairman, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., said he was troubled by the geopolitical implications of Saudi investment in American sports and efforts by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Saudi leader, to whitewash the kingdom's human rights abuses. However, Republicans on the committee were more sympathetic to the PGA Tour and the existential threat it faced from the PIF, which controls \$600 billion in assets — roughly 500 times what the tour is worth.

"We're here because we're concerned about what it means for an authoritarian government to use its wealth to capture an American institution," Blumenthal said.

— Blumenthal repeatedly pressed PGA Tour chief operating officer Ron Price and Jimmy Dunne, a PGA Tour board member and a key negotiator of the Saudi deal, on why the tour did not seek alternative sources of funding to compete with the PIF. Price and Dunne said going into business with outside investors would not prevent LIV Golf and the PIF from continuing to compete with the tour and use its vast resources to sign top players.

— Sen. Rand Paul, a Kentucky Republican and a harsh critic of the Saudi regime, said Congress should not interfere with a private enterprise doing business with the Saudis. He proposed instead that the U.S. reduce arms sales to Saudi Arabia. And the committee's ranking member, Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., suggested that Saudi involvement in sports ultimately could improve human rights in the kingdom.

— Blumenthal pressed Dunne and Price to pledge that PGA Tour players would be free to criticize the Saudi regime if the deal is completed. Both men said they would not recommend that the tour's policy board approve any deal that includes such restrictions on speech.

— Dunne conceded that the tour botched the announcement of the deal, leading many to mistakenly conclude that the tour and LIV Golf had completed a merger.

— The documents released by the subcommittee detail the roles of people on the Saudi side of the negotiations, notably Amanda Staveley, a British investment banker who helped broker the Newcastle deal and now sits on the team's board, and Roger Devlin, a British businessman.

— Among the other proposals included in the memo are a mixed-gender, LIV-style team event with qualifying in Saudi Arabia and concluding in Dubai; awarding world ranking points to LIV events, including retroactively; and PIF sponsorship of two elevated PGA Tour events, including one in Saudi Arabia.

Open is about to start and the British Open is next week, the final major of the year, with the FedEx Cup playoffs a month later.

"I just try to keep my head down and play golf," Scheffler said. "I don't get too involved in a lot of that stuff. I love playing golf on the PGA Tour and that's the spot for me. I'm hoping that's going to

exist for a long time. I felt like we were doing a good job before and then the agreement happened and now we have to navigate the whole deal."

He said while he appreciates the private nature of the negotiations, "I just wish that definitely our player reps need to be more involved in the process."

MORANT

FROM PAGE B1

Outside court on Wednesday, Adelman told reporters that she was disappointed in the judge's decision to allow the immunity claim to continue, but she was pleased that the court is allowing arguments on the constitutional challenge to the law's application in the case.

"These are ... very important issues to everyone," Adelman said.

Chumney, the judge, has issued a stay in the case, which means depositions, subpoenas, exchanging of evidence and other steps in the lawsuit are on hold. She set an Oct. 12 hearing on the matter.

The NBA suspended Morant for 25 games when the upcoming season starts after a second video of him flashing a handgun was posted online. The video of Morant showing a gun while sitting in the passenger seat of a car was posted after he finished serving an eight-game suspension in March for a video in which he flashed a handgun in a Denver-area strip club.

Morant apologized for both videos.

On Monday — a year after the pickup game at Morant's house in Eads — authorities issued an arrest warrant on a misdemeanor assault charge for Pack in connection with the fight.

Miller has breakout performance for Hornets in summer league

BY CLIFF BRUNT

Associated Press

After a rough start, No. 2 overall pick Brandon Miller finally had a breakout performance in summer league play.

The 6-foot-9 forward scored 26 points as the Charlotte Hornets lost 97-93 to the Portland Trail Blazers on Tuesday in Las Vegas. He made 8 of 15 field goals and 7 of 7 free throws.

"I kind of let the game come to me," Miller said. "I feel like I was put in the right places to get off comfortable shots."

Miller was a first-team Associated Press All-American as a freshman at Alabama last season. He also is tied to a case that led to former Alabama player Darius Miles and another man being indicted on capital murder charges. A police investigator testified in February that Miles texted Miller to bring him his gun that night. Miller hasn't been charged with wrongdoing, but the episode brought him unwanted attention.

The situation didn't affect his draft stock. Some were surprised when he was picked ahead of Scoot Henderson at No. 2. Henderson went No. 3 to Portland.

Miller still needed to get comfortable at the professional level. He was up-and-down in the summer league in Sacramento. He scored 18 points



Charlotte Hornets forward Brandon Miller shoots against Portland Trail Blazers center Duop Reath (68) during an NBA summer league game on Tuesday in Las Vegas.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

against San Antonio on July 3, then scored just six points against the Golden State Warriors in 31 minutes on July 5.

In Las Vegas, he had had 16 points and 11 rebounds on July 7 against San Antonio but made just 5 of 15 shots. He followed that by scoring 10 points on 4-for-18 shooting in a loss to the Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday before his strong performance on Tuesday.

Nick Smith Jr., Miller's fellow first-round pick and former AAU teammate, scored 33 points for the Hornets against Portland. Smith said he and Miller have been helping each other adapt to pro ball.

"Just on the simple fact that he's been there since," Smith said. "He's seen my grind, I've seen his grind, literally. It's kind of surreal. It really hasn't hit us yet, for real."



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Colorado Rockies catcher Elias Díaz holds up his MVP award after helping the National League win the All-Star Game on Tuesday in Seattle.

Rockies' Díaz becomes unlikely All-Star MVP

BY RONALD BLUM

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Elias Díaz may be the most unlikely All-Star MVP.

Just 3 1/2 years after Pittsburgh failed to offer a contract and allowed him to become a free agent, Díaz hit a go-ahead, two-run homer off Félix Bautista in the eighth inning to lift the National League over the American 3-2 on Tuesday night.

A first-time All-Star at age 32, the Colorado catcher put his name on an award won by Willie Mays, Joe Morgan, Frank and Brooks Robinson, both Ken Griffey and Mike Trout.

"I honestly can't believe that my name is going to be next to some of those names," Díaz said through a translator, clutching the crystal bat awarded the MVP. "Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that I would be in this position."

After five years with the Pirates, Díaz found out from his agent in December 2019 he had been non-tendered.

"When they let me go, I didn't allow myself to feel defeated," Díaz said. "I maintained my confidence and stayed positive."

He got a minor league deal with the Rockies a month later, made the big league roster at the start of the pandemic-delated 2020 season and earned a \$1.2 million big league contract for 2021. He hit .246 with 18 homers and 44 RBIs, and Colorado rewarded him with a \$14.5 million, three-year agreement.

Díaz batted .228 with nine homers and 51 RBIs last year, then earned his first All-Star trip by batting .277 with nine homers and 45 RBIs heading into

this year's break.

"He's really improved in every phase of his game," said NL manager Rob Thomson of the Philadelphia Phillies.

Thomson had called Rockies manager Bud Black to learn about Díaz.

"He said: 'This is one of the finest people you'll ever meet. He's a complete team player,'" Thomson related. "'Do anything you want. If he doesn't play, that's fine. If he does play, that would be great. He's just happy to be there.'"

With the AL leading 2-1, Nick Castellanos worked a nine-pitch walk against Bautista leading off the eighth. Díaz batted for Jorge Soler and with a 2-2 count drove a splitter 360 feet, where it landed under the manual scoreboard behind the left-field wall. The 20th pinch homer in All-Star history was a no-doubt drive. Díaz took three small steps and watched before starting his trot.

"A splitter that stayed up in the zone," said Bautista, who had given up one homer in 56 at-bats this season ending with that pitch.

Díaz jumped as he approached the dugout and exchanged slaps with teammates. Geraldo Perdomo doused him with water. A short while later, he became the first Venezuelan to earn All-Star MVP since Dave Concepción in 1972. Díaz's jersey is going to the Hall of Fame.

"Maybe the third or fourth inning, Orlando Arcia, he was telling me that 'Hey, you're going to go up to bat you're going to hit a home run, and you're going to win the MVP,'" Díaz recalled. "I didn't think it was going to turn into all this."

Kobe's legacy lives on as players named for him enter league

BY TIM REYNOLDS

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — There's Kobe, wearing the uniform of a team from Los Angeles. There's Kobe, the last one on the court at practice and getting yelled at because the buses are waiting for him.

How fitting. Just like old times.

There will never be another Kobe Bryant, of course. And make no mistake — Kobe Brown and Kobe Bufkin would be the first two players at NBA Summer League to insist that there will never be another Bryant. They would never pretend otherwise. But for the first time since the Hall of Famer retired in 2016, the NBA is about to have fans watching guys named Kobe again.

Brown is in Summer League with the Los Angeles Clippers. Bufkin is entering his rookie year with the Atlanta Hawks. Both were named for Bryant, who — for now — is the only player named Kobe to make it to the NBA. In a couple of months, that seems likely to change.

"It means a lot," Brown said. "There's definitely a target on my back, I feel like. A lot of guys, when they hear the name Kobe, they think of Kobe Bryant. Obviously, I'm not him, by any means. But I try to keep that edge and play as hard as I can, just like he did."

It's impossible to know exactly how many people are named Kobe. It remains relatively unusual.

According to the Social Security Administration, there was a six-year stretch — 1998 through 2003, coinciding with Bryant's early years in the NBA and first three championship seasons with the Los Angeles Lakers — when the trend of giving babies that name peaked; the most was in 2001, when 1,552 baby boys had Social Security card applications filed for them with that name.

The name still had a small following, maybe a few hundred babies each year, until 2020, the year that Bryant, daughter Gianna and seven others died in a helicopter crash on a foggy Sunday in Southern California. Another 1,500 boys were given that name that year, surely many in tributes to Bryant's life and career; the most popular name that year for newborn boys, according to the government data, was Liam, which was used about 20,000 times. (There were also variations, such as Kobee and Kobey, and a few dozen American newborn girls were given the name as well in 2020.)

"It's never affected me too much when it comes to playing ball," said Bufkin, who was born in 2003. "I try not to think about it as much when I'm actually on the court. But obviously carrying the name comes with a certain work ethic that you've got to try to match. And it's hard as hell to match it. If I get halfway there, I'll be all right."

Case in point: The Hawks had a Summer League practice this week that was scheduled to go for 45 minutes, with a bit of shooting afterward. Most players were off the court after about an hour and 15 minutes. Almost all of them had their sneakers off and were ready to head to the bus a few minutes after that, but Bufkin was still on the court, working on drives from half-court against a defender.

"Just trying to follow the blueprint," Bufkin said.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Los Angeles Clippers first-round pick Kobe Brown was named after Kobe Bryant and takes great pride in sharing a name with the Los Angeles Lakers legend.

The popularity of the Los Angeles Lakers great remains overwhelming 3 1/2 years after his death.

Bryant jerseys are still extremely common among Lakers fans. Nike plans to re-launch the Kobe brand this summer, and Bryant is the cover athlete for two editions of NBA 2K24 — "NBA 2K24: Kobe Bryant Edition" and "NBA 2K24: Black Mamba Edition," with the tie-in there being the 24 that was one of Bryant's two NBA jersey numbers. And there is another tribute of sorts coming at the Basketball World Cup; Minnesota's Anthony Edwards is set to wear No. 10 for USA Basketball this summer, the number Bryant donned when he played for the national team.

"It just shows how much he inspired generations," Bufkin said. "I was kind of part of the first generation to come behind him, and it's crazy that our parents were willing enough to name us after him."

Brown has never been inside Crypto.com Arena, the building that the Clippers call home, as do the Lakers. It's the arena — then called Staples Center — where Bryant played half his games in his 20 seasons with the Lakers, scored his career-best 81 points against Toronto in 2006 and called home for five championship runs and 18 All-Star campaigns.

"It's definitely a blessing," Brown said. "I'm excited to go inside the building, see it, actually play where he played all those years and did so much for the city of Los Angeles."

Given that they're both first-rounders, Bufkin and Brown seem like locks to be in the NBA when the new season opens this fall. Bufkin was drafted No. 15 overall out of Michigan by the Hawks — and also has a brother named for an NBA player in Isaiah Thomas. Brown was selected No. 30 overall out of Missouri by the Clippers.

They're not Kobe Bryant. But they do represent a new way for the Kobe Bryant legacy to live on.

"It's an honor, just that so many people have been impacted, like all of us, by Kobe, that people are honoring their children and choosing that name," said Lakers general manager Rob Pelinka, who was Bryant's agent. "And we'll probably see more and more of that, because it's such a special thing."



Sumter's Calli Yount delivers against Florence on Tuesday.

LEGENDS

FROM PAGE B1

When Way led off the fourth with her own homer to left, all bets were off. Sumter added one more run in the inning on a single from Hailey Truett. By the end of the fifth, they were up 6-0 after a two-run single from Calli Yount and a bases-loaded walk by Lyza Prickelmyer. The Lady Legends started the sixth with four consecutive singles to make it 8-0 before a sacrifice fly by Lily Morris and an RBI single from Skylar Dymond ended the game at 10-0.

"That's what we felt like should happen, and we came alive when we needed to," Posey said of the finish. "I think that'll carry into tomorrow night."

While Posey was waiting for the bats to wake up, he could rest easy thanks to dominant pitching from Yount. The Clarendon Hall star allowed just two hits, singles in the first and fifth. Yount struck out 12 in the complete game victory.

"Calli is a slow starter and hasn't pitched a lot lately, but we learned in the SCISA tournament how alive her arm becomes after days of pitching. She takes a minute to get loose, and then she's something to deal with," Posey said. "Her breaking ball breaks harder and harder as the innings go on. Even when she's tired, the snap in her spin pitches is sharp. I had confidence we would keep them down because she's that kind of dominant pitcher. We're blessed to have her and Amberly."

Sumter finished with 15 hits as Ariana Evans, Way, Yount and Peyton Morris all collected two knocks. Way and Yount each drove in a pair as 11 players either reached base or drove in a run in the victory.

Now Sumter will face their first team from the other division this season as Camden comes to town. Posey thinks his team will adjust to a new team just fine.

"It's like any other good team or good athlete; you control what you can control, and if they're better than you, they're better than you," Posey said. "We'll hit our spots and make plays and hit the ball where it's pitched. We're not going to try to pull outside pitches. We're going to play smart. It's nothing fancy. We're just going to swing the bats and work hard."



Sumter's Amberly Way strolls home after a home run against Florence on Tuesday.



Sumter's Maddy Long prepares to field a ball on Tuesday.



Sumter's Mary Paisley Geddings scores against Florence on Tuesday.

OBITUARIES

ROGER DALE HILL SR.

Roger Dale Hill Sr., 74, husband of Margaret E. Hill, departed from this life on Tuesday, July 11, 2023.

Born on June 14, 1949, in Dandridge, Tennessee, to the late Creed Boyer and Mary Edith Freshour Hill, he graduated from Cocke County High School in 1967. He proudly served in the United States Air Force for over 28 years. He retired as a master sergeant and was a veteran of Operation Desert Storm. While he was in the USAF, he attended St. Leo's College and obtained his associate degree. After retiring from the USAF, he went to work for the 20th CES Civil Service Planning Department until retiring a second time in 2006.

Dale was a member of the American Legion Sumter Post 15, where he previously served as vice commander and was a proud member of the Sumter P-15's baseball committee. He faithfully attended Crosswell Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon and on several committees as well. In his earlier years, he volunteered as a football coach for Sumter PARD.

Survivors include his wife of 34 years; children, Roger Dale Hill II (Bridgett), Chadwick Gregg (Joanne), Brittany Hill Daugherty (Chad), Taylor E. Hill (Blake Anglin), Melissa Mize, and two who were like daughters, Christina Watson and Keely Rae Benenhaley; grandchildren, Morgan Earle (Jared), Jensen Lindsey (Alex), Abby Driskill, Marklee Gregg, Abigail Burrows, Brooke Hill, Luke Daugherty and Kallie Kay, Evelyn and Lilly Trudel, and Dillon Lane (Nicole); great-grandchildren, Daeten and Dallas Lane; sisters-in-law, Melanie M. Hill and Patricia G. Huggins (Gene); nephews, Davy Goodman (Emily), Alex Hill and Daniel Goodman; nieces, Carla Goodman, Crystal Prescott (Kevin) and Emily

Turner (Lathan); great-nephews and great-nieces, Jamison and Brooks Turner, Michael Brian Carlton, Kaiden and Chasden Owens, Morgan, Colton and Presley Goodman, and Avery Prescott; and dear friends, Wallace and Beverly Anderson.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, Ronald Keith and James Blaine Hill; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Davis Reginald Goodman Sr. and Jho Ann Holladay Goodman; and a brother-in-law, Davis Reginald "Shot" Goodman Jr.

Funeral services with full military honors will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 15, at Crosswell Baptist Church with the Rev. Charles Owens officiating.

The family will receive friends from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday before the funeral services at Crosswell Baptist Church and other times at the home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Crosswell Baptist Church, 604 Mathis St., Sumter, SC 29150.

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

PATRICIA SHORTER BRUNSON

Patricia Shorter Brunson, 81, wife of the late retired Sumter Police Chief Joe Harris Brunson, gained her angel wings on Monday, July 10, 2023, at home surrounded by her family.

Born Jan. 8, 1942, in Manning, she was the daughter of the late Cole Blease Shorter Sr. and Helen Louise Hines Shorter. She was a member of Northside Baptist Church and held multiple offices in the Sumter Garden Clubs and St. Marks Methodist Church.

Pat is survived by her daughter, Donna Brunson Moore; her son, Joey Brunson (Amy); grandsons, Chris Moore, Brunson "Bunt" Moore, Harris Brunson and Garrett Gamble; and two great-granddaughters, Bailee and Izzy.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was also preceded in death by her brother, C.B. Shorter.

A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, July 14, in the Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home chapel with the Rev. Jimmy Holley officiating. Burial will be in the Bethlehem United Methodist Church cemetery near Davis Station.

Pallbearers will be Chris Moore, Harris Brunson, Tripp Shorter, Stephen Felder, David Porter and Ken Porter.

The family will receive friends from 1 to 2 p.m. Friday at Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home and other times at the home of Joey and Amy Brunson, 2133 Eureka Way, Sumter.

The family would like to give a special thank you to her caregiver, Lisa Kind and Agape Hospice.

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

BENJAMIN ANDERSON JR.

Benjamin Anderson Jr., 51, son of Benjamin Anderson Sr. and Lauretha McCray Anderson, was born on June 22, 1972, in Sumter County. He departed this life on Sunday, July 9, 2023, at his residence.

Family will receive friends at his parents' home, 4322 Elliott Hwy., Lynchburg, SC 29080.

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

WALTER RALEIGH LOWERY

Walter Raleigh Lowery, 92, son of the late Curley Scott Sr. and Margaret Ella Lowery McCray, was born on Dec. 28, 1930, in Sumter County. He departed this life on Friday, July 7, 2023, at his residence.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, July 14, at Asbury United Methodist Church, 355 Pudding Swamp Road, Lynchburg, SC 29080, with the Rev. Cory Lesane officiating.

Interment will follow in Florence National Cemetery, Florence, SC 29506.

Job's Mortuary Inc., 312 S. Main St., is in charge of ar-

rangements.

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

DOROTHY JAMES

MANNING — Dorothy James was born April 3, 1965, in Clarendon County, the daughter of the late Joseph James Sr. and Annie B. Blakely James. She departed this life on Friday, July 7, 2023, at McLeod Clarendon Hospital.

The family is receiving visitors at the home of her son, Woodrow Singleton, 1062 Cambridge Road, Manning.

Public viewing will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. Thursday, July 13, at Kingdom Builders Deliverance Ministries, 621 W. Liberty St., Sumter.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, July 14, at Kingdom Builders Deliverance with the Rev. Lee Vinnie Smalls officiating. Burial will follow at Antioch AME Church Cemetery.

Simmons Funeral Home and Crematory of Santee is in charge of arrangements, 8824 Old No. 6 Highway, Santee, SC 29142.

Online condolences may be sent to www.simmonsfuneral-home.com.

WILLIE JAMES JACKSON

Willie James Jackson was born Jan. 26, 1973, in Sumter, the son of the late Eddie and Ruth Washington Jackson. He departed this life on Friday, July 7, 2023, at Palmetto Richland Hospital, Columbia.

The family is receiving visitors at the home, 723 Branch St., Sumter.

Public viewing will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, July 14, at Kingdom Builders Deliverance Ministries, 621 W. Liberty St., Sumter.

His life will be celebrated at 3 p.m. Saturday, July 15, at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 325 W. Fulton St., Sumter, with the Rev. Dr. James Blessingame officiating. Burial will follow at Bradford Cemetery.

Simmons Funeral Home and Crematory of Santee is in charge of arrangements, 8824 Old No. 6 Highway, San-

tee, SC 29142.

Online condolences may be sent to www.simmonsfuneral-home.com.

CINDY HICKS BURGESS

Cindy Hicks Burgess, 58, daughter of the late Luke Hicks Sr. and Ada Galloway Hicks, was born on May 25, 1965, in Sumter. She departed this life on Monday, July 10, 2023, at her residence.

Family will receive friends at the home, 375 Stillwater Court, Sumter, SC 29153.

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

ELBERT COUSAR

Elbert Cousar, 68, died Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at his home. He was born on June 4, 1955, in Sumter County. He was the son of the late David White and Dorothy Wilson.

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

Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by the management of Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter.

DAISY AZALEA DELAINE BLOCK

COLUMBIA — On Wednesday, July 12, 2023, Daisy Azalea DeLaine Block, widow of the late Clarence Block, passed away peacefully at her residence.

Born on Sunday, Aug. 7, 1927, in Manning, she was a daughter of the late Lewis Evan and Lula Mae Green DeLaine.

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

TRACY DYSON SANDERS

Tracy Dyson Sanders, 60, wife of Delbert D. Sanders and daughter of the late Nathaniel Dyson and Lenora Gamble Dyson, was born on Aug. 15, 1962, in Sumter. She departed this life on Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at Emory University Hospital Midtown, Atlanta, Georgia.

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

THURSDAY EVENING JULY 13													
SP	FT	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	
LOCAL CHANNELS													
WIS	10	3	10	WIS News 10 at 7 (N)	Entertainment Tonight (N)	The Blacklist The task force must try to anticipate Red's next move. (N)		The Blacklist The future of the FBI's Reddington task force is decided. (N) (F)	Magnum P.I. "Birthright" Magnum and Higgins investigate an elderly man's robbery.	WIS News 10 at 11 (N)	(35) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon		
WLTX	19	9	9	News 19 at 7pm (N)	Inside Edition (N)	Young Sheldon	Ghosts "Jay's Friends"	So Help Me Todd "More Fang for Your Chuck" Lyle finds a new love interest in a forensic accountant.	CSI: Vegas "The Painted Man" A mannequin prop turns out to be a real dead body.	News 19 at 11pm (N)	(35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert		
WOLO	23	5	12	Wheel of Fortune "America's Game"	Jeopardy! (N)	Generation Gap "I Love It When It's Summertime" The seniors and juniors are joined by Jaclyn Smith. Jaclyn Smith (N)		The Chase "I Love It When People Are Scared of Me" Chaser Victoria "The Queen" Groce faces off with trivia. (N)	Press Your Luck "102" Contestants from Montana and California compete.	ABC Columbia News at 11 (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live!		
WRJA	27	11	14	World's Greatest Cemeteries "Season 1 Special"	Samantha "Limerick and County Clare, Ireland"	To Dine For With Kate Sullivan Gloria Estefan	The Hungriest State	Downing of a Flag Confederate flag's journey from the Civil War to present.	The Seaside Hotel "Collaboration" Molin returns from Berlin with an offer to Madsen.	Amanpour and Company (N)		This Old House "Atlanta: School of HVAC"	
WACH	57	6	6	Big Bang "The Celebration Reverberation"	Big Bang Theory, The "The Bakerfield Expedition"	Alert: Missing Persons Unit "Craig" Jason casts serious doubt on the boy claiming to be his son.		Stars on Mars "Resupply Mission" The seven remaining crewmates must rescue four new members.	WACH FOX News at 10P (N) (Live)	Sports Zone (N) (Live)	The National Desk (N) (Live)	iCRIME With Elizabeth Vargas (N)	
WKTC	63	4	22	The Neighborhood "Welcome to the Barbershop"	The Neighborhood "Welcome to the Camping Trip"	Dateline "Murder in Broad Daylight" A California housewife is murdered in broad daylight.		Chicago P.D. "A Little Devil Complex" Lindsay has second thoughts about the task force.	Chicago Fire "One Hundred" Casey and Dawson apply to permanently adopt Louie.	Carbonaro "Double Takes: Back to Fight or Flight"	Impractical Jokers "Drum and Drummer"	Pawn Stars "Pawn Illustrated"	
CABLE CHANNELS													
A&E	46	130	The First 48 "Bloodline"		After the First 48 "Bloodline" (N)		60 Days In "Sheriff...We Have a Problem" (N)	Booked: First Day In "Ya Got the Wrong Guy" (N)	(05) The First 48 "End of the Road"		(05) After the First 48 "Bloodline"		
AMC	48	180	(5:30) *** I, Robot (04) Bridget Moynahan, Bruce Greenwood, Will Smith.		*** Star Trek Into Darkness (13) Zachary Quinto, Karl Urban, Chris Pine. An act of terrorism sends Kirk on a mission to capture a powerfully destructive force.		*** Unstoppable (10) Chris Pine, Rosario Dawson, Denzel Washington.						
ANPL	41	100	Finding Bigfoot "Squatch Spies"		Bigfoot "Ripped From the Headlines"		Finding Bigfoot "Bigfoot Merit Badge"	Finding Bigfoot "Australian Yowie"	Finding Bigfoot "Virgin Sasquatch"		Finding Bigfoot		
BET	61	162	Celebrity Family Feud Kris Jenner, Khloé Kardashian		Celebrity Family Feud Rashad Jennings, Eve		Tyler Perry's Sistars "Ordinary Pain"	Zatima "Trouble at Home"	Martin "Nuttin' Goin' On But the Rent"		Martin "The Ex-Files"		
BRAVO	47	181	Queer Eye "Like Father Like Son: Willy and Nathan M."		Queer Eye Reunion: 10 Years Later		Project Runway "Like Totally '90s" The designers create mini-collections inspired by the '90s. (N)	Watch What (N)	Below Deck Sailing Yacht "Boat Load of Throuples"		Below Deck Sailing Yacht		
BSSE	21	47	Fairways of Life with Matt Adams		NASCAR Race Rewind		WNBA Basketball Seattle Storm at Atlanta Dream		Fight Sports: Boxing Dina Thorslund vs. April Adams				
CNBC	35	84	Last Call (N) (Live)		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		American Greed		
CNN	3	80	Erin Burnett OutFront (N) (Live)		Anderson Cooper 360 (N) (Live)		CNN Primetime (N) (Live)		CNN Tonight (N) (Live)		Cooper 360		
COM	57	136	(10) The Office	(45) The Office	(20) The Office "The Michael Scott Paper Company"		(55) The Office "Heavy Competition"	The Office "Broke"	The Office "Casual Friday"	The Office "Cafe Disco"	The Office "Company Picnic"	South Park "C... Magic"	South Park "The City Part of Town"
DISN	18	200	Kiff		Big City "Breaking News: Cyberbullies"		Big City "Tilly Tour; Dinner Party"	Miraculous: Ladybug	Miraculous: Ladybug	Marvel's "Skip Ad...oloscense"	Marvel's Moon Girl "Moon Girl's Day Off"	The Villains "Villain Number One"	The Villains "Villain Number One"
DSC	42	103	Naked and Afraid "Argentina Impossible"		Naked and Afraid "21 Miles, 21 Days"		Naked and Afraid "Haunted and Hungry"		Naked and Afraid "Don't Cave In"		Naked and Afraid		
ESPN	26	35	NBA Basketball Houston Rockets vs. Golden State Warriors (N) (Live)		NFL Live		NBA Summer League Basketball Portland Trail Blazers vs. Orlando Magic (N) (Live)		NFL Live		SportsCenter (N) (Live)		
ESPN2	27	39	College Football Live		NFL Live		NBA Summer League Basketball Portland Trail Blazers vs. Orlando Magic (N) (Live)		NFL Live		PFL 2023 Push		
FOOD	40	109	Beat Bobby Flay		Beat Bobby Flay		Beat Bobby Flay		BBQ Brawl "Welcome to California!"		Beat Bobby Flay		
FOXN	37	90	Jesse Watters Primetime (N) (Live)		Fox News Tonight (N) (Live)		Hannity (N) (Live)		The Ingraham Angle (N) (Live)		Fox News (N)		
FREE	20	131	(6:00) *** Matilda (96) Danny DeVito, Rhea Perlman, Mara Wilson.		*** Mrs. Doubtfire (93) Sally Field, Pierce Brosnan, Robin Williams. Estranged dad (Robin Williams) plays nanny to be with his kids.		(Robin Williams) plays nanny to be with his kids.		The 700 Club		The Simpsons "Das Bus"		
HALL	52	183	(6:00) * Undercover Holiday (22) Stephen Huszar, Ann Pirvu, Noemi González.		* A Royal Christmas Crush (23) Stephen Huszar, Angela Besharah, Katie Cassidy. A woman has a surprise whirlwind romance with a prince.		The Golden Girls "An Illegitimate Concern"		The Golden Girls "72 Hours"		The Golden Girls "Twice in a Lifetime"		
HGTV	39	112	Christina/Coast "Outgrowing Old Spaces"		Christina on the Coast "A Dog's Life"		Christina/Coast "Vacation Vibes" (N)		Revealed "New Beginnings"		House Hunters		
HIST	45	110	Alone "Lake of Thieves"		Alone "Spirit Bear"		Alone "King's Gambit" (N)		(35) Alone "King's Gambit"		(05) Alone		
ION	13	18	Chicago P.D. "Chasing Monsters"		Chicago P.D. "Anthem"		Chicago P.D. "Sisterhood"		Chicago P.D. "Breaking Point"		Chicago P.D. "Ghosts"		
LIFE	50	145	Castle "Punked"		Castle "Anatomy of a Murder"		Castle "3XK"		(05) Castle "Almost Famous"		(05) Castle "Murder Most Fowl"		
MSNBC	36	92	The Reid Out (N) (Live)		All In With Chris Hayes (N) (Live)		Alex Wagner Tonight (N) (Live)		The Last Word With (N) (Live)		11th Hour (N) (Live)		
NICK	16	210	*** Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (13) Voices of Anna Faris, Bill Hader.		(15) SpongeBob		Friends		Friends		Friends		
NWSN	8	172	On Balance With Leland Vittert (N)		Cuomo (N)		Dan Abrams Live (N) (Live)		Banfield (N)		Cuomo		
PARMT	64	153	Two and a Half Men		Two and a Half Men		*** The Italian Job (03) Charlize Theron, Edward Norton, Mark Wahlberg.		*** The Departed (06) Matt Damon, Jack Nicholson, Leonardo DiCaprio.				
SYFY	58	152	(5:00) * Independence Day: Resurgence		*** Kong: Skull Island (17) Samuel L. Jackson, Brie Larson, Tom Hiddleston. Explorers encounter the mighty Kong and other monstrous creatures on an uncharted Pacific island.		*** The Core (03) Hilary Swank, Delroy Lindo, Aaron Eckhart. Scientists and astronauts must set off a nuclear device at the center of the Earth.						
TBS	24	156	The Big Bang Theory		The Big Bang Theory		The Big Bang Theory		The Big Bang Theory		The Big Bang Theory		
TCM	49	186	(6:00) *** Lucky Me (54) Robert Cummings, Phil Silvers, Doris Day.		*** Identity Unknown (45) Cheryl Walker, Roger Pryor, Richard Arlen. (P)		*** Dead Man's Eyes (44) Jean Parker, Paul Kelly, Lon Chaney Jr. (P)		(45) *** Murder in the Private Car (34) Una Merkel, Mary Carlisle, Charlie Ruggles.		*** Isle of Missing Men (42)		
TLC	43	157	Dr. Pimple Popper "A Lipoma Is Born"		Dr. Pimple Popper "A Pimple Carol"		Dr. Pimple Popper (N)		My 600-Lb. Life "Melissa M's Story"		Dr. Pimple Popper		
TNT	23	158	(5:30) *** Transformers (07) Tyrese Gibson, Josh Duhamel, Shia LaBeouf. Two races of robots wage war on Earth.		(45) *** Mortal Kombat (21) Jessica McNamee, Josh Lawson, enemies from Outworld in a high-stakes battle for the universe.		Lewis Tan. Earth's greatest warriors take on		Rich & Shameless "Rodman's Stolen Millions"		*** Pixels (15) Adam Sandler.		
TRUTV	38	129	Impractical Jokers		Impractical Jokers		Impractical Jokers		Impractical Jokers		Impractical Jokers		
TV LAND	55	161	Raymond		Raymond		Raymond		Raymond		Raymond		
USA	25	132	(15) Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Authority"		(10) Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Lunacy"		(05) Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Retno"		(05) Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Wet"		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Friending Emily"		
WE	68	166	(6:30) Law Order: Cl		Breaking the Ice Ice Mommy		Love- Loc. (N)		Breaking the Ice Pressure-Iced (N)		Breaking the Ice Pressure-Iced		

Max streams Soderbergh thriller 'Full Circle'

BY KEVIN McDONOUGH

Claire Danes returns for another Manhattan mystery, one including secrets, lies, families and conspiracies. After her turn as the vanished wife in FX's "Fleishman is in Trouble," she appears in the six-part limited series "Full Circle," streaming on Max and directed by prolific filmmaker Steven Soderbergh.



SARAH SHATZ / MAX

From left, Timothy Olyphant, Claire Danes and Dennis Quaid star in the six episode psychological thriller "Full Circle," now streaming on Max.

The psychological thriller takes viewers from Manhattan to Guyana as a kidnapping plot involves a seemingly normal upper-middle-class family, and reveals half-truths, hidden bookcases and buried secrets.

A game cast includes Timothy Olyphant ("Justified"), Zazie Beetz ("Atlanta"), Dennis Quaid ("The Right Stuff"), CCH Pounder ("The Shield") and comic Jim Gaffigan in a dramatic role.

The series will continue with two episodes weekly leading up to the finale on Thursday, July 27.

Also streaming on Max, the supernatural thriller "Gray Matter" follows a young girl with psychic abilities whose powers grow so powerful that her mother hires an outside mentor, just before shadowy forces close in with the intention of exploiting the youth's astounding talents.

"Gray Matter" is directed by Meko Winbush, a "Project Greenlight" winner. A production of Miramax television and HBO, "Greenlight" streams a new season on Max starting today, focusing on female filmmakers. Issa Rae, Kumail Nanjiani and Gina Prince-Bythewood will mentor aspiring talents throughout the season.

The goofy and occasionally touching vampire comedy series "What We Do in the Shadows" (10 p.m., FX, TV-MA) returns for its fifth season. For the uninitiated, "Shadows" is adapted from a low-budget comedy film from New Zealand and follows a group of vampires, ghouls and familiars documentary-style as they explore the Staten Island neighborhood where their gothic hideaway is located.

New episodes of "Shadows"

will air on FX on Thursday nights and stream on Hulu on the very next day.

Also streaming on Hulu is the documentary "The Jewel Thief," a profile of Canadian heistmaster Gerald Blanchard. The film "stars" two very unlikely detectives from Winnipeg who trail Blanchard all over the globe as he pulls off increasingly audacious robberies.

Neither thin nor young, Mavis Beaumont (Michelle Buteau) finds herself suddenly (and not voluntarily) single and forced to rebuild her career as a stylist, armed with a positive attitude and a supportive group of friends and family, in the limited series "Survival of the Thickest," debuting today on Netflix. Based on Buteau's book of autobiographical essays.

Netflix also streams "Devil's Advocate," a limited series thriller about a lawyer who takes on the case of a famous soccer player accused of murder. Set in Kuwait, where

"Devil's" is presumably produced.

TONIGHT'S OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- After 10 seasons, "The Blacklist" (8 p.m. and 9 p.m., NBC, TV-14) concludes with a two-part series finale.
- The original cast convenes on "Queer Eye Reunion: 10 Years Later" (8 p.m., Bravo, r), discussing the show's impact.

CULT CHOICE

George Hamilton portrays a Southern evangelical faith healer who claims to restore the voice of a beautiful mute woman (Salome Jens) in the 1961 drama "Angel Baby" (7:30 a.m., TCM). The cast also includes Mercedes McCambridge, Joan Blondell and, in his movie debut, Burt Reynolds. Best known as the tanned heartthrob in "Where the Boys Are" (and for later dating presidential daughter Lynda Bird Johnson), Hamilton would go on to portray

Hank Williams in the 1964 biopic "Your Cheatin' Heart."

SERIES NOTES

An eccentric youth recalled on "Young Sheldon" (8 p.m., CBS, r, TV-PG) * Sidney explains Keith's disappearance on "Alert: Missing Persons Unit" (8 p.m., Fox, r, TV-14) * "Generation Gap" (8 p.m., ABC, TV-14) * Rumors of a cult on "Ghosts" (8:30 p.m., CBS, r, TV-PG) * Allegations of a fixed contest on "So Help Me Todd" (9 p.m., CBS, r, TV-14) * A crash landing requires a rescue mission for four new arrivals on "Stars on Mars" (9 p.m., Fox, r, TV-14) * "The Chase" (9 p.m., ABC, TV-14) * A haunted house mannequin turns out to be a corpse on "CSI: Las Vegas" (10 p.m., CBS, r, TV-14) * Thieves target a man with dementia on "Magnum P.I." (10 p.m., NBC, r, TV-14) * "Press Your Luck" (10 p.m., ABC, TV-14).

LATE NIGHT

Due to the Writers Guild

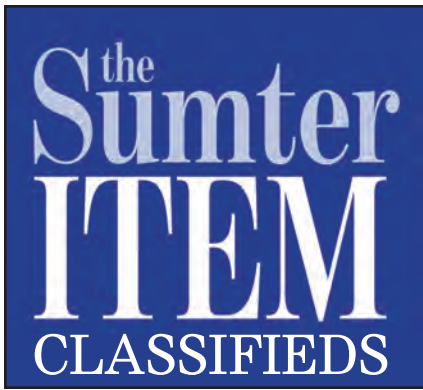
strike, all late-night shows are in repeats. Harrison Ford and Vic Mensa are booked on "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" (11:35 p.m., CBS) * Jimmy Fallon welcomes Miley Cyrus, Jesse Williams and Mary Mack on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC) * Ben Stiller, Desus Nice, Yeah Yeah Yeahs and Jon Stewart appear on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" (11:35 p.m., ABC) * Adam Scott, Jeff Tweedy and Wilco visit "Late Night With Seth Meyers" (12:35 a.m., NBC).

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NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

State of North Carolina
County of Gaston
In the General Court of Justice
District Court Division
23-CvD-1448,

In the Matter of Regina Denean Goode,

Plaintiff
vs.
Barry Rufus,

Defendant.

To Barry Rufus, Defendant in the above-entitled action. TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief sought is as follows: Absolute Divorce. You are required to make a defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days after the first publication of this notice, exclusive of such date. This Notice was first published on June 11, 2023, and you must make a defense to such pleading no later than July 21, 2023. Upon failure to file a Response or otherwise make a defense to this pleading, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought in the Complaint, including but not limited to: Judgment of Absolute Divorce. This, the 11th day of June 2023, R. Wade Carpenter Attorney at Law, 311 S. South Street, Gastonia, North Carolina 28052, Telephone 704-861-8100

Beer & Wine License

Notice of Application
Notice is hereby given that **Pho Thai, LLC** intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license permit that will allow the sale and ON & OFF premises consumption of Beer & Wine at 1322 Broad Street, Sumter, SC 29150. To object to the issuance of this permit / license, written protest must be postmarked no later than July 22, 2023. For a protest to be valid, it must be in writing, and should include the following information: (1) the name, address and telephone number of the person filing the protest; (2) the specific reasons why the application should be denied; (3) that the person protesting is willing to attend a hearing (if one is requested by the applicant); (4) that



Beer & Wine License

the person protesting resides in the same county where the proposed place of business is located or within five miles of the business; and (5) the name of the applicant and the address of the premises to be licensed. Protests must be submitted online e-mailed to: ABL@dor.sc.gov Attn: S.C. Department of Revenue, ABL Section.

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