

INSIDE WEEKEND:

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Sumter librarian named Pee Dee Regional School Librarian of the Year

BY BRYN EDDY
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Ebenezer Middle School librarian Jennifer Wolfe was all smiles on Friday morning when she learned she was named this year's Pee Dee Regional School Librarian of the Year.

To put the award in perspective, there are more than 1,000 school librarians in the Palmetto State, and the state association consists of four regions, according to previous reporting by *The Sumter Item*. Sumter School District is in the Pee Dee region, which consists of school districts from 12 counties east and northeast of Columbia all the way to the coast.

Present at Wolfe's surprise celebration were Wilder Elementary School library media specialist Lessie Bernshouse, who won the

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BRYN EDDY / THE SUMTER ITEM

Wilder Elementary School library media specialist Lessie Bernshouse, right, who was named the Pee Dee Regional School Librarian of the Year last year, surprises this year's winner, Jennifer Wolfe, who is Ebenezer Middle School's librarian, with flowers and a plaque naming her this year's winner.

A homecoming



PHOTOS BY ADAM FLASH / THE SUMTER ITEM

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., visited Liberty STEAM Charter School, which he attended for fourth through sixth grades when it was named Liberty Street Elementary School, on Friday morning, Nov. 17. He interacted with students in various ways, from reading books to helping present jackets to honorary students, during his trip to both Liberty campuses.

Congressman Clyburn visits Liberty STEAM Charter at site where he attended elementary school in Sumter

BY BRUCE MILLS
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U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., has visited many schools in his political career, but his visit to Sumter on Friday was a trip down memory lane.

Clyburn, who represents the 6th Congressional District of South Carolina, toured Liberty STEAM Charter School, whose Primary Academy campus is the site of the former Liberty Street Elementary School where the congressman attended fourth through sixth grades while growing up in South Sumter. Now in its third year of operation, Liberty STEAM is Sumter's



first tuition-free public charter school, and it was the first time that a state congressional member has visited the school.

Just before 10 a.m., Primary Academy students holding a Liberty banner greeted Clyburn when he arrived at the front entrance to the school at 15 School St.

School Executive Director Trev-

or Ivey then invited the congressman inside, where he first visited a kindergarten classroom that was his sixth-grade classroom in the early 1950s at the former Liberty Street Elementary. The original school was built in 1949 and served Black children in grades 1-6 in the

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Sumter's 25th-annual Oyster Roast sees hundreds in attendance

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com

Under the crisp November sky, Sumter County Museum, at 122 N. Washington St., hosted its 25th-annual Oyster Roast, marking a quarter century of culinary tradition.

The distinct aroma of briny sea air and steamy anticipation filled the air. With the help of the USC Sumter Fire Ants baseball team, master oyster roasters flexed their ex-

pertise while Hey Bo's lively rhythmic chords echoed through the backcountry as guests, young and old, mingled under the night sky.

This year, the Oyster Roast surprised attendees with a sweet addition to the menu. Puddings and cakes of various kinds settled palates after indulging in the savory delights of freshly roasted oysters. However, the undeniable star of the night remained the oysters, with no table being

vacant of piping-hot shells for too long.

Watching as the crowd delved into their helping was Hank Edens, the son of two of the many instrumental founders of the Oyster Roast — Kurt and Ruth Edens. As he ladled spoonfuls of his hearty chili in the Styrofoam bowls, not only did he add an extra blanket of warmth to the savory spread, but he also

SEE **ROAST**, PAGE A8



ALAYSHA MAPLE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Diners wait in line for a fresh batch of oysters at the 25th-annual Oyster Roast at Sumter County Museum. See more photos on A2.



SECOND FRONT

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Alex Murdaugh pleads guilty to financial crimes in state court, adding to prison time

BY JAMES POLLARD
Associated Press / Report for America

BEAUFORT — Alex Murdaugh pleaded guilty Friday to stealing millions of dollars from vulnerable legal clients in schemes lasting over a decade under an agreement that all but ensures more prison time for the longtime lawyer who was convicted of killing his wife and younger son.

Murdaugh agreed to plead guilty to 22 total counts, including money laundering, breach of trust and financial fraud, in exchange for a 27-year sentence. Judge Clifton Newman said he intends to officially accept the plea deal during a sentencing hearing set for Nov. 28 so that victims or their families may attend.

"I agree that I wrongly took all of that money, your honor, and did all of those

crimes," Murdaugh told Newman. "I am guilty," he added.

The deal resolves 101 total state charges related to the financial wrongdoing, including allegations that Murdaugh stole millions in legal settlements from clients who were badly injured or from the families of those killed on the job. He also allegedly stole millions from his law firm and ducked hundreds of thousands in state income taxes.

Creighton Waters, the lead prosecutor, said lawyers chose 22 counts that they felt represented each victim or act of lawlessness. Victims included a family housekeeper who died after a fall at the Murdaugh estate in South Carolina, and a deaf man who became quadriplegic after a 2009 car crash.

A pretrial hearing in the housekeeper's case was temporarily postponed

Friday as lawyers on both sides shuffled in and out of the courtroom, reviewing hotly printed papers outlining the agreement. Waters returned for good after a three-hour delay with a smile, and took a selfie at one point.

"This former lawyer, Alex Murdaugh, used his power and his influence and his law license in these courtrooms to steal," Waters told Newman as he announced an agreement that he said ensures Murdaugh "will remain in state prison for a very long time."

Murdaugh sat largely straight-faced in an orange jumpsuit as Waters ticked off each ruse to divert settlements or double count checks so he could pay off mounting debts. He also agreed that he owed restitution totaling amounts that will be decided at his sentencing hearing.

Eric Bland, a lawyer who represented

the family of the late housekeeper, said the guilty plea will allow victims — 18 total, according to Waters — "to begin the process of healing." Bland added that the hearing later this month will allow victims to "look Alex Murdaugh in the eye" and say "how they feel about him, how he manipulated them, and the damage that they have done to them in their lives."

Murdaugh is already serving life in prison without parole after a sensational March trial resulted in guilty verdicts on two counts of murder.

His lawyers are seeking a new trial in that case, citing allegations that the court clerk tampered with the jury. The clerk has denied the accusations that she improperly swayed jurors.

Murdaugh recently admitted his guilt to 22 federal counts of financial fraud and money laundering.

Sumter's 25th-annual Oyster Roast draws hundreds to museum

Hundreds turned out for the 25th-annual Oyster Roast at the Sumter County Museum on Thursday, Nov. 16. With the help of the USC Sumter Fire Ants baseball team, the hungry crowd had plenty to eat.



PHOTOS BY ALAYSHA MAPLE / THE SUMTER ITEM

LEFT: Homegrown lead singer Kipper Ackerman, left, and her father Hank Edens, middle, carried on the Oyster Roast traditions started by Kurt and Ruth Edens with hearty chili and beer boats.



Sumter County land use committee agrees that Myrtle Beach Highway salvage yard is an eye sore

BY BRYN EDDY
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The Sumter County Land Use Committee heard a request about a salvage yard on Myrtle Beach Highway on Tuesday since county council decided to defer the item to the committee after significant opposition during a meeting last month.

A business at 495 Myrtle Beach Highway in unincorporated Sumter County is looking to expand by rezoning approximately 8.48 acres to allow for the sale of used automobile parts, dismantling of automobiles and vehicle storage, but multiple people have a problem with it.

The property owners, Brown Investments of Sumter LLC, requested the rezoning about a year ago, and it was denied by county council, but the property owners are allowed to request it again because it has been more than a whole year.

The business as it stands today sells

used vehicle parts, dismantles vehicles and stores vehicles on less than two acres at 495 Myrtle Beach Highway. If this rezoning were to be successful, the business will be able to expand its operations into that 8.48 acres.

Planning commission did recommend approval of this rezoning in September but not unanimously. The commission's main concerns centered on the fact that this could be too unsightly to be on a gateway road into the city of Sumter.

Sumter County Council hosted a public hearing last month, and the only people to speak in favor of the rezoning were the attorney for the business owners and one of the business owners.

Attorney Thomas McElveen with Bryan Law Firm told council that the Browns have been doing business in that part of the county for more than 50 years.

"In my estimation, he is an astute businessman," he said. "I think that he

will work with you, members of council and people in that community, if he is given the license, the ability to conduct the business he seeks to conduct."

McElveen went on to say that Brown's automobile salvage business is not out of character along the corridor in which it's located.

"There is certainly no shortage of heavy industrial in the near vicinity of the property that you are considering," he said.

Three people, including Sumter County-City Planning Commissioner Kim Harvin, spoke in opposition of the rezoning during the October public hearing.

Members of the family that own land across the street from 495 Myrtle Beach Highway told council that they don't want to have to look at a salvage-yard type of business across the street from where they want to build family homes for themselves.

Harvin then told council that salvage yards have the potential to have signifi-

cant negative environmental impacts.

"We're deeply concerned about the potential impact that this expansion would have on the groundwater in the surrounding residential and agricultural areas, especially for those that still rely on well water," she said.

After the land use committee echoed much the same sentiment as some planning commissioners — that the business is too unsightly for a gateway road into the city — they decided to discuss keeping the property under a light industrial classification with McElveen and the property owners and going before the board of zoning appeals and planning commission to consider special exceptions that could make some of the business owners' goals possible while still prioritizing road aesthetics.

There is still room for this request to go any number of ways. It will likely be on future board of zoning appeals, planning commission and county council agendas.

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The H5 MX Compound motocross track in Clarendon County has opened its gates to the public. Brandon and Lindsey Hughes' plans for the property include dirt bike racing and coaching. To learn more, pick up a copy of Lakeside magazine. Watch this Sumter Today episode at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuHO-4u0Qvg>

Soups, Stews & Sweets returns to Manning on Dec. 7

BY SHARRON HALEY
Clarendon contributor

MANNING — The Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce and Bank of Clarendon have joined hands to present a festive night under

the twinkling lights of downtown Manning — Soups, Stews & Sweets — from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7.

“It’s a night to highlight some of our local restaurants and businesses,” said Jennie Lee, executive director of the Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce. “I guarantee that you’ll have good food, fun and fellowship.”

Last year, the event’s second year, was a complete sellout. This year, tickets are

\$35 each and can be purchased at the chamber, 19 S. Brooks St. And, if you wait, it may be too late. Tickets are selling fast. On the night of the event, tickets will be turned in for wristbands on the Brooks Street side of

Weldon Auditorium, 7 Maple St. Weldon Auditorium as well as homes along Brooks Streets have partnered with local restaurants and businesses to serve up some Clarendon favorites. In past years, the delectable delights have included Brunswick stew, chicken and dumplings, shrimp creole, shrimp and grits, teriyaki chicken and a wonderful selection of soups and desserts



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CLARENDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Clarendon County Fire Rescue Lt. April Coyners and retired Division Chief Robert Pegram served a crowd favorite, Brunswick stew, at the 2022 Soups, Stews & Sweets.



The home of Dr. Don and Shirley Miller was festively decorated for the 2022 Soups, Stews & Sweets. This year’s event will be held Thursday, Dec. 7.

and lots more. One annual favorite, Robert Pegram’s mouthwatering Brunswick stew, will be served by retired Clarendon County Fire Rescue Division Chief Pegram and other

members of CCFR in Weldon’s parking lot next to the marquee.

Plenty of parking is available at Weldon’s front and rear parking lots.

Thanks to the City of Man-

ning and its wonderful Parade of Lights, folks will be able to meander under the glittering lights along Brooks Street as they enjoy food, fun, music and visiting with friends.

Ron DeSantis picks up 10 S.C. endorsements from former backers of Tim Scott’s campaign

COLUMBIA (AP) — Ron DeSantis has picked up 10 endorsements in South Carolina from former backers of Sen. Tim Scott’s presidential campaign, support the Florida governor is hoping can shore up his strength in the first-in-the-South primary state as the 2024 GOP field continues to consolidate.

In a list shared Friday with The Associated Press before its public release, South Carolina state Reps. Bill Taylor and Tom Hartnett Jr. — as well as more than a half-dozen municipal-level elected officials who had backed Scott before he shuttered his bid — are now announcing their support for DeSantis.

“Ron DeSantis is the leader we need for this exact moment,” Hartnett said. “He not only is the only candidate who I know can win, but he will be a president who will follow through on his promises to reverse the decline of our country.”

Both DeSantis and former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley are trying to pick up supporters and donors from Scott’s campaign following his surprise departure. DeSantis’ campaign argues it is better positioned than Haley to take on former President Donald Trump in early primary states including South Carolina, which Haley once led as governor.

The campaign also told AP that DeSantis will be back in the state Dec. 1 for a slew of campaign events, as activity in

the state picks up for the first-in-the-South Feb. 24 primary.

He’ll also appear that night at an annual dinner sponsored by The Citadel Republican Society, where DeSantis will receive the Nathan Hale Patriot Award, an honor accompanied by a replica Revolutionary War-era musket previously bestowed on Trump, Haley, Scott and former Vice President Mike Pence.

With DeSantis’ total of 68 endorsements from elected officials in South Carolina, he has more than have been announced by any other presidential candidate, his campaign said. Taylor and Hartnett were among dozens of officials whose endorsements Scott rolled out in June, a month after launching his candidacy.

DeSantis is now aiming to make inroads in Scott’s home state, given the senator’s abrupt exit from the race on Sunday. During an appearance on the Fox News Channel show of his close friend, former Rep. Trey Gowdy, Scott said that he was suspending his effort after voters made it “really clear that they’re telling me, ‘Not now, Tim.’”

With that announcement — which surprised supporters, donors and even Scott’s own staff — he became the second major candidate to leave the race since last month. Pence suspended his campaign three weeks ago, announcing at a Republican Jewish Coalition gathering in Las Vegas that “This is not my time.”

The flu is soaring in 7 U.S. states and rising in others, health officials say

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. flu season is underway, with at least seven states reporting high levels of illnesses and cases rising in other parts of the country, health officials say.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posted new flu data on Friday, showing very high activity last week in Louisiana and high activity in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, New Mexico and South Carolina. It was also high in the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, the U.S. territory where health officials declared an influenza epidemic earlier this month.

“We’re off to the races,” said Dr. William Schaffner, a Vanderbilt University infectious diseases expert.

Traditionally, the winter flu season ramps up in December or January. But it took off in October last year, and is making a November entrance this year.

Flu activity was moderate but rising in New York City, Arkansas, California, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. And while flu activity has been high in Alaska for weeks, the state did not report data last week, so it wasn’t part of the latest count.

Tracking during flu season relies in part on reports of people with flu-like symptoms who go to doctor’s offices or hospitals; many people with the flu are not tested, so their infections aren’t lab-confirmed. COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses can sometimes muddy the picture.

Alicia Budd, who leads the CDC’s flu surveillance team, said several indicators are showing “continued increases” in flu.

There are different kinds of flu viruses, and the version that’s been spreading the most so far this year usually leads to a lesser amount of hospitalizations and deaths in the elderly — the group on whom flu tends to take the largest toll.

So far this fall, the CDC estimates at least 780,000 flu illnesses, at least 8,000 hospitalizations and at least 490 flu-related deaths — including at least one child.

Budd said that it’s not yet clear exactly how effective the current flu vaccines are, but the shots are well-matched to the flu strains that are showing up. In the U.S., about 35% of U.S. adults and 33% of children have been vaccinated against flu, current CDC data indicates. That’s down compared to last year in both categories.

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DAN GEDDINGS / THE SUMTER ITEM

Building a waterfowl aviary in the back yard. The fencing is next. Then the ducks.

Building the aviary

It started as an idea. I wanted to build something that would be unique. My plan included a core area that could be added to over time with minimal disturbance. I made a rough sketch on a scrap of paper at lunch



Dan Geddings

one day. It would be my design for a waterfowl aviary.

An aviary is defined as an enclosure where birds have a large enough living space where they can fly around. Aviaries usually contain plants and shrubbery to simulate a natural environment. Waterfowl aviaries will also contain a pond.

My plan would include the largest pond that I've ever built. It would be concrete and include an underground drainage system. Aviary ponds can be built with liners and rocks or with concrete. Dirt ponds are not practical, as they are hard to keep clean and maintain. I've collected some large limbs and driftwood pieces that will be placed in the pond for the ducks to perch on.

Once I had my plan, the first task was to lay out the site. Ginger helped me measure and stake out the corners. I made a few revisions and restaked the site. The outside dimensions for the core area were set at 44 feet by 36 feet. The pond would be 32 feet by 28 feet.

Next, I rented an excavator and installed a 4-inch drain pipe from our small natural pond to the corner of the aviary pond. I spraypainted the shape of the pond on the ground within the staked area and excavated the pond shape about 2 feet deep. I piled the excavated dirt outside of the staked area to use as future backfill.

The soils at the site are very poor and subject to shrinkage and expansion, so I lined the pond excavation with 3 to 4 inches of clean commercial sand. I placed the sand with my tractor and shaped it by hand with a shovel. I sprayed the sand down with water and compacted it with a homemade tamper. I installed a cleanout at the lowest point with the top of the cleanout 3½ inches above the compacted sand.

A concrete contractor formed the top edge then poured and finished the concrete with a broom finish. Over the years, I've built many duck ponds myself, but this one was just too big for me to do by myself. The pond job turned out excellent. I sprayed the pond down several times a day for at least 10 days to give the concrete time to set without cracking. I've filled and drained the pond a few times to make sure there is no problem with the drainage.

Next, to install the frame for the fencing, I bought 4-by-4 posts and rented a gas-powered auger. The soils here are hard, and the auger was a necessity. Ginger helped me install the posts that were bedded with ready-mix concrete. The posts were set at different spacings to allow for my future additions and enable the use of dimensional lumber to minimize waste. I used 12-foot

posts through the center and 8-foot posts around the perimeter. I bought 2-by-6s to go around the top of the post and give the fencing some stability. I rented a scaffold to install the lumber in the center. My son Clayton helped me install the lumber. The taller posts and lumber through the center give the aviary a very distinctive look.

I ordered 1/2-inch by 1/2-inch vinyl-coated wire from a manufacturer in New Jersey for the sides and 1-inch heavy-duty knotted netting from a company in Pennsylvania for the top of the aviary. I wanted to do everything I could to exclude predators like foxes, raccoons and snakes. I've used 2-inch wire before, and it doesn't keep anything out.

Clayton helped me install the netting. We had to use a rope to pull the netting over the top of the aviary, and I was very pleased with the result. There is some netting left over that I will use for future expansions. Next, we will start with the fencing and gates.

When the fencing is finished, I will place the limbs and driftwood and plant some ornamental grasses and plants. Hopefully I can get some ducks before next spring. I'll probably start with some mallards then add some of the more exotic types like mandarins and teal. They will be full winged and I hope happy in the new aviary. I've kept ducks for nearly 60 years, so I think I'll be happy, too.

Reach Dan Geddings at cdgeddings@gmail.com.

'Leave the Leaves,' should you do it?

BY JESSICA DAMIANO
Associated Press

Unless you've been living under a pile of leaves, you've no doubt heard about the "Leave the Leaves" movement that's been gaining in popularity in recent years.

The idea is to avoid sending bagged-up fallen leaves to landfills. Instead, we're asked to leave them be, allowing them to naturally decompose over the winter into nutrient-rich organic matter that also shelters hibernating pollinators and other beneficial insects. Done thoughtfully, leaving the leaves is one of the best ways to turn yard waste into free fertilizer, and that's good for your plants, the environment — and your wallet. But it's important to consider the types of leaves you're dealing with and where they're landing.

Whole leaves should not be allowed to remain on walkways, where they'll create a slipping hazard, or on the lawn, where they are likely to cause disease.

Although turf grasses can handle a light scattering of leaves, a thick layer would threaten their health. In areas that experience snow cover, moisture would become trapped between lawn and leaves, encouraging mold, mildew and fungal infections. In areas without snow, whole leaves would likely smother the lawn and block moisture and sunlight from reaching the soil.

The solution many have arrived at is to shred the leaves using a mulching mower and allow the fragments to fall between grass blades, where they break down into a rich soil conditioner. I've recommended this myself before realizing that doing so risks shredding up hibernating insects and their larvae. We'll need those caterpillars (eventual moths and butterflies) and other pollinators come spring, and so will newly hatched birds, which survive solely on insects during their first weeks of life.

So, what to do?

These days, I rake (or blow) leaves off the lawn and into garden beds and

spread them to achieve a layer no more than 2 inches deep. To speed decomposition, sometimes I add an inch or so of homemade or well-sourced compost over the leaves. There's no need to till; just let it sit.

The leaves usually break down considerably by spring and almost entirely by summer. But if they appear matted (again, conditions vary), remove them before spring growth resumes.

Leaves also can be used to make leaf mold, a type of compost made entirely from leaves. Just pile them up in a corner of the yard, sprinkle with nitrogen fertilizer, and water the mound periodically to keep it from drying out. It may take a year or two, but the leaves will break down into a nutritious soil amendment that can be used as mulch or added to planting holes and containers.

Some leaves contain compounds that inhibit the growth of other plants. Black walnut is perhaps the most notorious of offenders, as a toxic chemical in its leaves called juglone adversely affects and sometimes even kills susceptible plants like Asiatic lilies, baptisia, columbines, peonies, hydrangeas, lilacs, petunias, apples, asparagus, cabbage, eggplant, peppers, tomatoes and potatoes.

Avoid mulching beds with especially thick or broad leaves, like those of oaks, because their slow decomposition rates could threaten to block sunlight and water from the soil and, by extension, plant roots. They can, however, be used in leaf mold piles if shredded, which isn't ideal but is better than setting them out with the trash, which wouldn't help insects, either.

Fallen leaves are nature's mulch, meant to protect (and build) soil, insulate plant roots and shelter wildlife, as they do on the forest floor. Why waste that precious resource?

Jessica Damiano writes the award-winning *Weekly Dirt Newsletter* and regular gardening columns for *The AP*. To get weekly gardening tips and advice delivered to your inbox, visit <https://jessica-damiano.substack.com/>.

8-year-old gets 1st buck



PHOTO PROVIDED

Eight-year-old Emily Long is proud of her first deer, a nice buck.

If you'd like to share your first kill, a fish you caught or other hunting-related photos with *Outdoors* readers, email a high-resolution photo with information about the person pictured and the event to pressrelease@theitem.com.



Kristi Lee

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United Nations stops delivery of food, supplies to Gaza as communications blackout hinders aid coordination

BY NAJIB JOBAIN, BASSEM MROUE and DAVID RISING
Associated Press

RAFAH, Gaza Strip — The United Nations was forced to stop deliveries of food and other necessities to Gaza on Friday and warned of the growing possibility of widespread starvation after internet and telephone services collapsed in the besieged enclave because of a lack of fuel.

Israel announced that it will allow for the first time "very minimal" daily shipments of fuel into Gaza for use by the U.N. and communications system. It appeared the amount would be far less than what the U.N. has said is needed to fuel water systems, hospitals and trucks to deliver aid — not counting the communications network.

Israel has barred entry to fuel since the start of the war, saying it would be diverted by Hamas for military means. It has also barred food, water and other supplies except for a trickle of aid from Egypt that aid workers say falls far short of what's needed.

The communications blackout, now in its second day, largely cuts off Gaza's 2.3 million people from one another and the outside world — and paralyzes the coordination of aid, which humanitarian groups were already struggling to deliver because of the fuel shortage.

The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, was unable to bring in its aid convoy on Friday, said spokesperson Juliette Touma.

"An extended blackout means an extended suspension of our humanitarian operations in the Gaza Strip," Touma told The Associated Press.

Israeli forces, meanwhile, have signaled they could expand their offensive toward Gaza's south even while pressing operations in the north. Troops have been searching the territory's biggest hospital for traces of a Hamas command center the military alleges was located under the building.

They have shown what they said were a tunnel entrance and weapons found inside the compound but not yet any evidence of the command center, which Hamas and staff at Gaza City's Shifa Hospital deny existed.

The war, now in its sixth week, was triggered by Hamas' Oct. 7 attack in south-



Palestinians rescue survivors after an Israeli strike on Rafah, Gaza Strip, on Friday, Nov. 17.

ern Israel, in which the militants killed more than 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and captured some 240 men, women and children.

On Friday, the military said it found the body of another hostage, identifying her as Cpl. Noa Marciano. Marciano's body was recovered in a building adjacent to Shifa, the military said, like that of another hostage found Thursday, Yehudit Weiss.

More than 11,400 Palestinians have been killed in the war, two-thirds of them women and minors, according to Palestinian health authorities. An additional 2,700 have been reported missing, thought buried under rubble. The count does not differentiate between civilians and militants, and Israel says it has killed thousands of militants.

AID DRIES UP

Israel's national security adviser, Tzachi Hanegbi, said that, following an American request, the War Cabinet agreed to allow two tanker trucks of fuel to enter the Gaza Strip each day — a quantity he described as "very minimal." It would be allowed for use for Gaza's communications system and water and sewage services.

The office of Benny Gantz, a member of the War Cabinet, said 60,000 liters would be allowed in during the next 48 hours.

UNRWA has said another one-time shipment of 23,000 liters of fuel it was allowed to bring in earlier this week amounted to only 9% of what

it needs daily to sustain life-saving activities. The communications network is run separately.

Since the war began, Gaza has received only 10% of its required food supplies each day in shipments from Egypt. Dehydration and malnutrition are growing, with nearly all residents in need of food, said Abeer Etefa, a Mideast regional spokeswoman for the U.N.'s World Food Program.

"People are facing the immediate possibility of starvation," she said Thursday from Cairo.

CONDITIONS AT SHIFA

Speaking from Shifa Hospital on Friday, Dr. Ahmad Mukhalalti told Al-Jazeera television that there was no electricity to run ventilators to provide ICU patients with oxygen and that of the 36 infants there, most are suffering from severe diarrhea because there is no clean water to give them.

He added that Israeli troops, who stormed into the hospital on Wednesday, had brought food and bottled water but that it had not been enough for the number of people in the hospital.

The Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said the troops searched underground levels of the hospital Thursday and detained technicians who run its equipment.

Israel faces pressure to prove its claim that Hamas set up its main command center in and under the hospital, which has multiple

buildings over an area of several city blocks. The U.S. has said it has intelligence to support the claims.

So far, Israel has mainly shown photos and video of weapons caches that it says its soldiers found in the hospital.

On Thursday, the military released video of a hole in the hospital courtyard it said was a tunnel entrance. It also showed several assault rifles and RPGs, grenades and ammunition clips laid out on a blanket that it said were found in a pickup truck in the courtyard. The Associated Press could not independently verify the Israeli claims.

The allegations are part of Israel's broader accusation that Hamas uses Palestinians as human shields across the Gaza Strip, contending that is the reason for the large numbers of civilian casualties during weeks of bombardment.

STRIKES IN THE SOUTH

Following the surprise attack by Hamas, Israel has focused its air and ground assault on northern Gaza, vowing to remove Hamas from power and crush its military capabilities.

In recent days, Israel's military has indicated it could expand operations in the south, where most of Gaza's population has taken refuge.

"We are close to dismantling the military system that was present in the northern Gaza Strip," Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi said

Thursday. Israeli forces dropped leaflets Wednesday afternoon telling Palestinians in areas near the southern town of Khan Younis to evacuate.

Halevi said that while "there remains work to be completed" in the north, more and more places would be targeted in the fight against Hamas.

Two homes east of Khan Younis were hit by Israeli strikes late Thursday and early Friday, according to survivors.

An Associated Press journalist witnessed three dead and dozens wounded, including babies and young children, from Friday's strike being brought to the city's main hospital. The attack late Thursday killed 11 members of a family that had fled the main combat zone in Gaza City, whose bodies were also brought to the main hospital.

Overall, 35 people were killed in Khan Younis and Rafah, which is farther south, said Mohamed Zaqout, an official with the Health Ministry in Hamas-controlled Gaza.

Most of Gaza's population is crowded into the south, including hundreds of thousands who heeded Israel's calls to evacuate the north to get out of the way of its ground offensive. In all, some 1.5 million people have been driven from their homes.

If the assault moves into the south, it is not clear where people would go, as Egypt refuses to allow a mass transfer onto its soil. The Israeli military has called on people to move to a "safe zone" in Mawasi, a town on the Mediterranean coast a few square miles in size.

The heads of 18 U.N. agencies and international charities on Thursday rejected that proposal and called for a cease-fire and unimpeded entry of humanitarian aid and fuel.

As the war continues to inflame tensions elsewhere, Israeli troops clashed with Palestinian gunmen in Jenin in the occupied West Bank, killing at least three Palestinians. The fighting broke out late Thursday during an Israeli raid.

Israel's military said five militants were killed. The Palestinian Health Ministry said three people died. The militant Islamic Jihad group claimed the three dead as members and identified one as a local commander.

Columbia, Cornell, other colleges face U.S. inquiries over alleged antisemitism and Islamophobia

BY COLLIN BINKLEY
AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON — The federal government has opened civil rights investigations into seven schools and universities over allegations of antisemitism or Islamophobia since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war.

The list includes three Ivy League institutions — Columbia, Cornell and the University of Pennsylvania — along with Wellesley College in Massachusetts, Lafayette College in Pennsylvania and Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York. It also includes one K-12 system, the Maize Unified School District in Kansas.

The Education Department announced the inquiries on Thursday, calling it part of the Biden administration's effort to take "aggressive action" against discrimination. Schools found to have violated civil rights law can face penalties up to a total loss of federal money, although the vast majority of cases end in voluntary settlements.

Schools have a legal duty to act "when students are targeted because they are — or are perceived to be — Jewish, Muslim, Arab, Sikh or any other ethnicity or shared ancestry," Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said in a written statement.

Five of the investigations are in response to allegations of antisemitic harassment, while two are in response to allegations of anti-Muslim harassment, the department said. The agency did not disclose which schools faced which accusations. Details about individual complaints were not released.

Penn and Wellesley were accused of antisemitism in federal complaints filed last week by the Brandeis Center, a Jewish legal advocacy group.

In a Nov. 9 letter to the Education Department, the center says Penn professors have made antisemitic statements in the classroom and on social media. It said many Jewish students are afraid to be on campus during pro-Palestinian rallies and that the university has done little to support them.

Penn officials said they're cooperating with the investigation.

University President Liz Magill "has made clear antisemitism is vile and pernicious and has no place at Penn," the school said. "The university will continue to vigilantly combat antisemitism and all forms of hate."

A separate letter from the Brandeis Center said Wellesley has failed to address antisemitism. It cites an email that some dorm advisers sent to residents saying "there should be no space, no consideration, and no

support for Zionism" at Wellesley. Advisers later apologized for the message.

Wellesley, a private women's college, said the federal investigation is in response to the Brandeis complaint. A statement from Wellesley denied any wrongdoing, saying it "responded quickly and decisively" to the dorm incident.

Officials at Lafayette said it was unclear to them why their school was being investigated.

"The College maintains a firm stance against antisemitism, Islamophobia, and hate speech of any kind. The College is cooperating and will continue to cooperate fully with the DOE in their investigation," the college said in a written statement.

Maize Unified, a district of about 8,000 students outside Wichita, said it did not receive a copy of the complaint. A statement said the district "takes allegations of discrimination seriously and is committed to cooperating fully with any investigation."

The schools are being investigated for possible discrimination based on shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics, which violates the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The federal law requires schools to protect students from discrimination and respond to harassment that creates a hostile environment. Anyone can file a complaint alleging such discrimination.

All of the investigations were opened Wednesday or Thursday. An updated list of investigations will be released each week, the department said.

Emotions over the Israel-Hamas war have been running high on many campuses around the U.S. At Columbia, for one, tensions have been esca-

lating amid dueling demonstrations by pro-Israel activists and by Palestinian students and their allies.

At Cornell, a student was arrested last month after posting threatening statements against Jewish people. Some Jewish students at Cooper Union say the school failed to protect them during an October pro-Palestine demonstration that left Jewish students sheltering in a campus library.

Palestinian and Muslim students have also reported increased harassment on campuses across the country. At Columbia, students protested this week after the school suspended two pro-Palestinian groups that have come under scrutiny on U.S. campuses.

"We at the Department of Education, like the nation, see the fear students and school communities experience as hate proliferates in schools," said Catherine E. Lhamon, assistant secretary of civil rights for the department.

The investigations are the Biden administration's latest steps to press colleges into action. Last week the Education Department sent universities a letter reminding them of their legal obligations under the Civil Rights Act. Cardona has recently met with leaders of Muslim, Arab and Jewish groups to discuss discrimination on campuses.

Along with complaints filed with the Education Department, some students have filed lawsuits alleging civil rights violations. Three Jewish students at New York University sued the school this week, saying it failed to address persistent antisemitism that has worsened since the Oct. 7 incursion of Israel by Hamas militants.



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTOS

Maj. Harrison Saunders trained and commanded the 12th Aero Squadron, known as one of the best observation squadrons at the front during World War I. He was the first American to qualify as a pilot observer and was the first observer from the American Army to have a mission at the front.

Maj. Harrison Saunders – 1st pilot observer in U.S. Army

Reflections remembers Maj. Harrison Saunders, J.M.A., D.S.C., whose skills and aeronautical knowledge helped give rise to the United States Air Force.



Sammy Way
REFLECTIONS

“The home of one of America’s most distinguished aviators in World War I

was, with the exception of his years of training at West Point and his serving during World War I, the historic Marston Plantation and Borough House located in the neighborhood of Stateburg.” He was born June 20, 1892, into a family who for eight generations had lived in Sumter County. The data and photos used to prepare this piece were retrieved from *The Item* archives and the writings of Cassie Nicholes.

Saunders received his primary education at the public school in Stateburg and later attended Sumter High School, where he graduated with honors. “Maj. Harrison Saunders attended the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. After three years, he transferred to the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he graduated in April 1917 and was commissioned as a lieutenant leading engineers. He was then sent with the 1st Division of the American Army to France.” During that summer, he trained with the 7th Field Artillery of the 1st Division and was commissioned captain on Aug. 5, 1917, and later transferred to the air service, where he trained at the Valahon Aeronautical School. It was here that he achieved the highest record of any American at the Aerial Gunnery School at Cazeaux. He also became the first American to qualify as a pilot observer and became the first observer from the American Army to be assigned a mission at the front, although other American observers were being attached to the

Col. Donald W. Titus, Shaw Field base commander, places a wreath on the grave of Maj. William Saunders, commander of the famous 12th Aero Squadron during World War I, who was buried at Stateburg on Armistice Day 1919.

British and the French armies. He was selected to train and command the 12th Aero Squadron, which gained a reputation as one of the best observation squadrons at the front.

Maj. Saunders participated in the battles of Champagne, the Toul Sector, Luneville Sector and Chateau Thierry, where his gallantry was recognized with his numerous decorations from every Allied nation for his outstanding service to the war effort. These achievements led to his commission as “Junior Military Aviator” for “distinguished service and extraordinary devotion to duty.” Maj. Saunders trained and commanded service personnel. Also, he was chief observer of the 12th Aero Squadron, which in regards to efficiency was rated by the U.S. Army officers as well as by the German Air Force as one of the two most outstanding observation squadrons of the American Army as recorded in the U.S. Air Service Magazine in April 1919.

After completing a year as pilot-observer over the German lines, Saunders was brought down, and he was wounded. He was ordered to return to Washington in June 1919 as assistant chief of Air Service Operations. In this capacity, he was detailed to special duty at Fort Sill as senior instructor in aviation. On Oct. 27, while making a forced landing in a fog, his plane, a DH-4, suddenly went out of control and overturned. The exhaust stacks ignited, leaking gasoline, and Maj. Saunders suffered severe burns. For nine days, he lay in the post hospital; on Nov. 5, 1919, he died from the burns.

“He is buried along with other members of his distinguished family in the tranquil historic cemetery at the Church of the Holy Cross across from his ancestral home, the Borough House at Stateburg. The officers who served as honorary pallbearers



Maj. Harrison Saunders was born in 1892 and grew up in Marston Plantation and Borough House, seen below, in Stateburg. He came from a family with eight generations of history in Sumter County.

were West Point classmates of Maj. Saunders or officers who were associated with him stateside or overseas. The active pallbearers were non-commissioned officers from Fort Sill and Post Field. Besides his sister, Mrs. Walker C. White, who had come to Post Field to be at her brother’s bedside, Maj. Saunders was survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Saunders of Sumter, and his brother-in-law, Mr. Walker C. White, of White Automobile Manufacturing Co.”



Post sponsors marbles tournament; Gamecocks beat Camden's winning streak

75 YEARS AGO — 1949

April 27 - May 3

• Poinsett State Park will play host to club women and nature lovers from all over South Carolina when the third-annual Spring Laurel and Nature Festival is held. An interesting program has been arranged by State Forestry Commission park officials cooperating with the garden clubs of Sumter.

• At the Community Theater, it begins to look as if we're going to need a detective in our organization. We haven't had a glimpse of a xylophone player to take over the part of "Ed" in our first production "You Can't Take It With You." (Ed also operates a printing press, but we aren't worried about that angle.) Actually, we can substitute an oboe, bassoon, piccolo or any unusual-looking instrument, so if you have even a speaking acquaintance with someone who can coax a few notes out of one of these contraptions, won't you ask him to phone Jim Moos?

• Mrs. W.F. Ward of Sumter was named president of the Sumter County Council of Farm Women at the spring meeting held at the DuBose community house. She succeeds Mrs. T. Albert Moore. Others named to council positions were Mrs. S.G. Lenoir, first vice president, and Mrs. Godfrey Kolb, secretary, the latter appointed by the new president. Mrs. Dallas Tomlinson was named director to serve until 1953.

• Miss Rise Stevens, glamorous star of radio, motion pictures, concert and the Metropolitan Opera company, will give a concert in Sumter in October, one of four to be presented by various artists during the 1949-50 concert season here. The concerts will be presented under the auspices of the Sumter Community Concert Association, an affiliate of Columbia Concerts Inc., of New York City. Mrs. Raymond Schwartz is president of the local group.

• Sumter High and Hartsville will clash at Riley Park in what should turn out to be one of the best high school games of the season. The Red Foxes are undefeated and will bring a hard-hitting team here. Most of last year's players on the Hartsville team, which went to the state class A finals, are back this season. Sumter's pitcher probably will be Lefty Pritchard, who has been around several seasons.

• Plans have been completed for Silver Center's first square dance, and the teenagers are expecting a crowd. Wayne Trimnal and his Happy Hillbillies will be on hand to furnish the "best square dance music in town." "Skeet" Holiday will call, and to those who have never square danced, Skeet says to "come on out and just do what the caller says." Ladies will be admitted free, and tickets for men will be 50 cents.

• Junior-Senior, the social high spot of the school year, was held at Edmunds High School with the juniors putting on a play and dance in honor of the seniors. The theme of the evening and name of the play presented by the juniors was Romany Trail. Those taking part in the production were Allene Bland, Betty Dollard, Nell Mitchell, Beverley Bruce, Valin Millard, Louise Waters, Henry Bynum, Bobby Plowden, Joe Parrish, Jimmy Potter and Storm Bailey. Music from Victor Herbert's Fortune Teller was featured, and several popular gypsy songs were used.

• T.H. Davis, commander of Sumter County Post 3034, Veterans of Foreign Wars, has announced that the post would again sponsor the Sumter marbles tournament. The members of the local post unanimously agreed at their meeting on Monday night to conduct the event, in cooperation with the Sumter Recreation Department and the Sumter schools, for the second successive year.

• The Parris Island Marine band will be in Sumter to give a concert at the Swan Lake gardens immediately after the annual Iris Festival parade. The band is noted for its participation in civic and military ceremonies throughout the South and has gained friends everywhere it has performed.

• Women golfers from Camden defeated local women 25 to 5 in team match play held at Sunset Country Club. Martha Partridge of Camden won low gross and received a gift. A blind bogey tournament was held for the ladies and local men playing golf, with Mrs. Petty winning for the ladies and E.H. Moses Jr. and Ed Cuttino tying for the men.

• A feature of the third-annual Spring Nature Festival to be held at Poinsett State Park will be an exhibit of work done by Girl Scouts of Sumter in their Nature Study program.



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

While thousands of Sumterites craned their necks to see the Goodyear blimp Mayflower when it made several flights over the City of Sumter on April 25, 1949, *Item* staff photographer Heyward Crowson flew over the airship in a trainer plane piloted by Billy Lynam to get an aerial photograph.

Notebooks will be on display, together with posters, plants, pressed flower specimens, spatter prints, wood collections and sketches. The garden clubs of Sumter through their committee on nature study for juniors have put on a nature program in cooperation with the Girl Scout organization.

• Craig-Robinson Construction Co. of Columbia successfully bid for the contract to construct the Lee County Health Center building to be located in Bishopville. A.L. King, Bishopville contractor, is associated with the construction company and will do the building work. The building will be located on Church Street between the home of R.W. McLendon and Austin Welding and Repair Shop.

50 YEARS AGO — 1974
Jan. 4 - 10

• McLaurin Junior High's Bantams remained undefeated after two outings as they defeated Manning 53-17 at the McLaurin gym. With Terry Kinard hitting for 10 points, the Bantams raced out to a 20-0 first-quarter lead and continued on to a 30-3 half-time advantage. It was midway through the third quarter that Manning hit its first field goal, after the Bantam starters had long departed.

• Using two goals each by Chris Glaze and Mike Ortez, the Sumter High soccer team rolled to its fourth straight win of the season, defeating Booker T. Washington 5-1. Larry Hamm got the Gamecocks off to a fast start with a goal in the first half, then Glaze and Ortez each added first-half goals to give Sumter a 3-0 lead at the intermission.

• An organizational meeting was called by the City of Sumter Parks and Recreation Department to discuss proposed bike routes for both recreational and energy conservation purposes. Law enforcement personnel, along with members of the City-County Energy Committee, the City-County Planning Commission, the city engineer's office, the Santee-Wateree Regional Planning Council and the Sumter County Civil Defense agency, attended the meeting.

• Hillcrest's Wildcats took over first place in Region VI with a 75-62 win over Conway as L'Oneal Grant fired in 22 points. The Wildcats, 4-5 overall, gained their second conference win without a loss to move on to the conference in the early season — the first time in several years they have been anywhere near the top.

• Clarence Houck and Mike Ardis hit several key free throws down the stretch as Furman started the new year off right with a 62-52 win over C.E. Murray. It was the Indians' first victory of the season. Furman held a narrow 50-48 lead with only three minutes left to play when Ardis and then Houck hit on a series of charity tosses to put the game away.

• Clocks across almost all of the United States will be moved ahead an hour Sunday as the nation embarks

on year-round Daylight Saving Time as an energy-saving measure. The time change takes effect at 2 a.m. local time Sunday, and the county will remain on daylight time through October 1975. At the order of Congress, the change will not affect Hawaii, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico or most of Indiana. In addition, Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar, acting for President Nixon, exempted the mountain time zone areas of Idaho, Oregon and Arizona and agreed to a request by Kentucky to include all but 12 northeastern counties in the central time zone.

• All good things must come to an end, and no one was happier to bring Camden's 39-game home-winning string to a halt than the Sumter Gamecocks, who did it by defeating the Bulldogs 76-52. Sumter got its hottest shooting of the season, hitting 51 percent of its shots from the floor.

• A J3 Piper Cub airplane piloted by Robert E. Lee of Sumter lost power during a Sunday afternoon flight and crashed at the edge of a lake, injuring both Lee and his 12-year-old son. Both were taken to Tuomey Hospital. Both were reported in satisfactory condition. According to an eyewitness at the scene of the crash, the plane was flying over a field near Lee's home in the Cane Savannah area of Sumter County and suddenly went straight up. The engine quit, and the plane turned as it came down. It came in low and hit nose first at the edge of a pond.

25 YEARS AGO — 1998
Nov. 15 - 21

• Dr. Timothy Bridges, an orthodontist, explains that adults with braces are no longer as rare as hen's teeth — straight or crooked hen's teeth. In fact, Bridges says his practice consists of roughly 20-25 percent adult patients. Most of them come to Orthodontic Team of Sumter for cosmetic reasons, he says, though some get their teeth straightened to facilitate cleaning, which is necessary for the prevention of cavities, and being able to get between teeth for flossing helps stop gum disease.

• Matt Renko has wanted to dance since he was 3 years old, when he "peeked through the door" to watch his sister's ballet classes. When he was only 7, before he'd ever had a dance lesson, he appeared in "The Nutcracker" ballet in Sumter. He's 10 now and a junior apprentice with the Columbia City Ballet, the capital city's premiere professional dance company.

• It has been called the vine that ate the South. But for Lee County resident Eldridge Watkins, kudzu is the vine that tries to eat his pine trees. "It's tried to cross my land and get to my pine trees," said Watkins, who grows pine trees through the Conservation Reserve Program and raises chickens for Gold Kist. "That thing will jump across the road in just a lit-

tle bit."

• After 10 years of hard work, Sumter businessman Raj Patel is prospering in the fast-food industry. Patel opened his fifth Subway store in Sumter this month and is buying four stores in Columbia. "The restaurant business is like any other business. You've got to take care of your customers."

• A newly organized, Columbia-based foundation with the aim of aiding local charitable projects in Sumter County is getting a \$100,000 kickstart. The Sumter County Affiliate Fund was created by the Central Carolina Community Foundation, a trust founded in 1984 with the mission of "building a permanent charitable endowment." "This is a wonderful opportunity for Sumter County," said Eddie Lathan, president of Sumter's Entre Computer Center and one of two co-chairmen of the local advisory committee.

• To plant or not to plant — that is the question many farmers are asking about wheat. With soils too dry for germination and very difficult to till, the decision on planting is somewhat difficult. Those who want to plant say the rains must come, but it has been since Sept. 3 (Tropical Storm Earle) that we received any significant amount of rainfall. In addition, meteorologists are offering little hope for the future, as predictions are for below-normal precipitation.

• Donations to the Fireside Fund are off to a slow start this year with only \$185 collected to date. The fund, which was founded by *The Item* in 1969 and is administered by The Salvation Army, gives needy families vouchers to buy kerosene, wood, fuel oil or electricity. Since the fund kicked off last Monday, Lucy Copeland, a caseworker with The Salvation Army, said she has been "swamped" with requests.

• So you want to become an accountant? If you are in high school, do you sign up for bookkeeping or physics? Don't be so fast with your answer. Critical thinking and problem-solving skills are topping the list of skills employers expect from their workers. According to Winthrop University's accounting department chairman James Bond, Ph.D., the correct answer is physics. "Physics has more word problems that students come across in accounting, more than record keeping," Bond said.

• "Oil making taffeta patterns," says songwriter Joni Mitchell, Sumter Gallery of Art's current exhibit is a blend of evolving taffeta-like textures, colors and atmosphere. Mike Williams' "Multimedia" and Charles "Chris" Sumpter's "Pottery" are rewarding experiences for everyone from the avid fisherman to the stalwart environmentalist. The atmosphere of Williams' paintings invites the viewer to enter the swamp, to sense the impact of early morning and twilight. The exhibit has been skillfully coordinated to form a flawless sense of movement from one item to the next. A self-taught potter with a chemist's background, Sumpter delights the eye through texture and form.

• Martin Color-Fi has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection so that it can reorganize and fend off creditors' lawsuits. Meanwhile, a company spokesman said it will be "business as usual" for workers at the Sumter plant. "The key to our success is to focus on our core fibers business, (for) which the Sumter plant is critical," said Stephen Zagorski, executive vice president and operational office for Martin Color-Fi.

• A legislative battle over video gambling wasn't enough to stop South Carolinians from playing the games. While the General Assembly debated outlawing the industry's 28,000 machines, video gamblers poured \$1.1 billion into the games between January and June, a state Revenue Department report shows. The machines took in \$2.3 billion in fiscal 1998 while paying out \$1.6 billion, according to the report released.

• Worries about a 1998 budget shortfall for the City of Sumter were unfounded, city officials said. Also, Sumter City Council gave tentative approval to a land sale that could help a local industry with its expansion plans. The 1998 financial audit report, which was presented to city council during its regular meeting, shows a budget surplus of \$65,393. The city was expecting a shortfall of more than \$350,000 — the result of faulty numbers provided by the county auditor's office that left the city expecting more funding than it would actually receive from property taxes.



BRYN EDDY / THE SUMTER ITEM

Sumter School District Superintendent William Wright Jr., Ebenezer Middle School Principal Bertha Timmons, Ebenezer Middle School librarian Jennifer Wolfe and district Chief of Schools Shirley Gamble pose for a photo commemorating Wolfe's winning the Pee Dee Regional School Librarian of the Year honor.

WOLFE

FROM PAGE A1

award last year, Sumter School District Superintendent William Wright Jr., district Chief of Schools Shirley Gamble, Ebenezer Middle School Principal Bertha Timmons and executive director of communication and community engagement Shelly Galloway.

When Wolfe found out she was nominated for the award, she said she felt like an important person. Before becoming Ebenezer's librarian, she was a middle school teacher for six years, then a high school librarian for almost 10 years.

"I like being the librarian because I get to spend time with the kids on a different level, and I get to know them more personally," she said. "And I get to see their enjoyment in reading."

As the recipient of the award, Wolfe is also a finalist for State School Librarian of the Year, which will be announced at a conference in March.

VISIT

FROM PAGE A1

former Sumter School District 17 during segregation in the 1950s and '60s.

Clyburn sat in a student chair and read a Thanksgiving book to the kindergartners.

Later, he participated in a Community Culture Day celebration in the school's cafeteria, where he was greeted by first-graders who performed various classroom chants.

In addition to high curriculum standards, Liberty's teachers and administrators expose students to the school's three core values, which involve personal responsibility, teamwork and a growth mindset.

The values are also recited in a chant, which was repeated numerous times by students on Friday.

Clyburn participated in the celebration by helping students who were recognized don their award-winning jackets.

Ivey then took the congressman on a tour of the rest of the campus, including Clyburn's former fourth-grade classroom, and briefed him on Liberty's co-teacher, classroom model and other standards.

After about an hour, Clyburn and other officials left and toured Liberty's Elementary Academy campus inside Sumter Mall.

There, Clyburn stayed in the student cafeteria with students during activities and capped off his visit by speaking to the students.

In comments following the visit, Clyburn said he was "very pleased" by the energy and culture at the two campuses and said that he always supported the concept of public charter schools.

In the political realm in the U.S. — and now also in the country's greater social realm — he said people have not explained the concept of charter schools well.

"We let the soundbites control people's actions," Clyburn said, "because soundbites keep them from thinking. They simply react to the soundbites, and that is what has hurt charter schools."

If people understood the charter school concept more fully, then they would support it, he said.

"So much of what goes into developing these core values that the students and staff talked about today requires much more than a soundbite," Clyburn said. "And that to me is what I think this school seems to be doing a pretty good job of, and I just hope the community supports it the way they should."

Clyburn added that he felt the enthusiasm and student participation in his visit to Liberty.

"To see those classrooms that I sat in look the way they look today, and you can feel it in the rooms," he said. "One thing that I learned about politics a long time ago is it is a business where you have to learn to feel. If you don't feel it, it really does not exist. When I walked into those classrooms, you could feel it, and you know these kids are getting a real wholesome education that is going to be very beneficial to them for the rest of their lives."

After visiting the two campuses, Clyburn went to Quixote Club to play golf at the course off Pinewood Road. The private golf course is linked to Liberty STEAM Charter School through the Quixote Foundation, which is its philanthropic arm to the school.

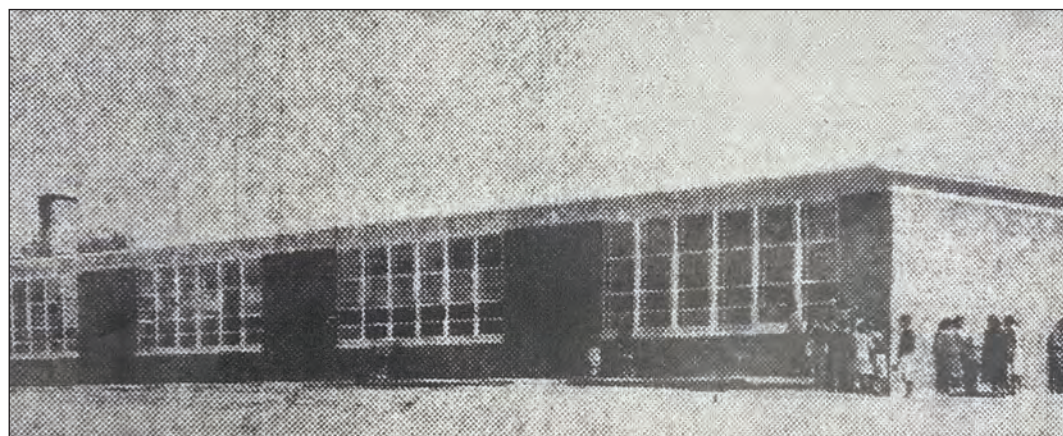
DID YOU KNOW?

Jim Clyburn was a high school world history teacher in Charleston County for three years in his first job after graduating college.



ADAM FLASH / THE SUMTER ITEM

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., speaks to students at Liberty STEAM Charter School on Friday morning, Nov. 17.



THE SUMTER ITEM ARCHIVES

The former Liberty Street Elementary School is shown in the 1950s. Before integration, the school served Black students in the former Sumter School District 17. Today, it is the site of Liberty STEAM Charter School's Primary Academy campus at 15 School St., just off West Liberty Street.

Sumter County Museum's 25th-annual Oyster Roast sold out, bringing together 500 attendees on Nov. 16.

ALAYSHA MAPLE / THE SUMTER ITEM



ROAST

FROM PAGE A1

shared more than two decades of tradition with the unsuspecting attendees. His mother, Ruth, once cut pounds upon pounds of onions by hand, stirring them into a colossal pot filled with ingredients to produce the perfect side for attendees. Though Hank uses modern methods to quicken the process of onion cutting, he still carried on the tradition with love and pride, just as his

parents had done 25 years ago.

Along with him was his daughter, Kipper Ackerman, who also picked up a knack for Edens' Oyster Roast traditions as she adds her vibrant spin on her grandmother's "Swamp Flower," or beer boat, that keeps the craft beers chilled throughout the night.

The three-hour event went off without a hitch, proving to be a resounding success. With a goal of 500 attendees, the entire event sold out. The scene in the museum backcountry

consisted of endless chatter, the rhythmic rattle of oyster shells and smiling faces reveling in a good, shucking time.

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OPINION

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COMMENTARY

The importance of continuous learning, going beyond the headline in public safety reporting

Hello local readers and our few but loyal cross-country subscribers — some of whom I've met. Many of you may be familiar with my byline through my arts and entertainment reporting. That's often how I introduce myself to our community. But there's another facet of my reporting that I often don't talk about — public safety.



Alaysha Maple

Just last week, I got the chance to sit down with 11 other public safety reporters from across the state — including Associated Press' Jeffrey Collins (meeting him felt surreal) — at the South Carolina Press Association headquarters for a roundtable discussion on Cops and Courts. There, we delved deep into our beat, our legal rights as reporters and how we can enhance our coverage and contribute to our community through diligent and unbiased reporting. The experience was eye-opening, inspiring and left me with a burning desire to explore the public safety beat more comprehensively.

To clarify, my reason for rarely mentioning my public safety reporter role is not because I rarely cover it; it's actually the opposite. There are many days when I publish three to four public safety articles about some sort of crime occurring

in Sumter, on top of producing a vibrant, descriptive story about local arts and entertainment. The reason — as simply as I can put it — is because life gets busy, and as in-depth as I am with my arts and entertainment pieces, time doesn't permit me to delve as deeply into public safety.

Kayla Green, our executive editor, and Vince Johnson, our publisher — you all should know them — asked me last year which beat I spend the most time on. If my memory serves me well, my answer sounded something like:

"Writing wise, it would have to be arts and entertainment, only because I get to be as descriptive and colorful as needed to paint a picture of what took place. Thinking wise, it would have to be public safety; having to remember policies and making sure information is concise but accurate to inform the public of what's going on around us takes a lot of brain power."

That response, though true, didn't sit too well with me then — and still doesn't today. Truth be told, as much as I love my arts community, I feel as though I've neglected the very beat that allowed me to launch my journalism career. Crime and courts specifically have always fascinated me, even before I officially donned the title of a public safety reporter. When starting at *The Item* in 2021, I made it my business to become well versed in the terminology and polices surrounding this beat so I can be a re-

source to my community, reporting on crimes, trends and need-to-know information thoroughly and timely. And I did that, until life became a little busy. You all know how it goes in your respective jobs and in life in general: You take on new, appreciated, very rewarding responsibilities, and your previous priorities are not necessarily put on the back burner but are left to simmer.

But, for me, that needs to change. The responsibility that comes with being the public safety reporter for Sumter — including Clarendon and Lee counties as well — is not lost on me. I often wonder: How can we elevate our reporting to create a safer world for ourselves and our neighbors? This question has been the driving force behind my commitment to covering public safety and my sole reason for jumping at the opportunity to be a part of the recent roundtable discussion.

I recognize the importance of going beyond the headlines to provide you with in-depth insights into incidents that shape our community's awareness. Learning, in all facets of life but especially as a journalist, is a continuous journey, and I embrace it wholeheartedly — as many of my fellow reporters do. Our learning doesn't end with our college degree. Our duty to our community doesn't end after winning an award. We should, and will, continue to grow as we dive deeper into our careers — the roundtable discussion was just the be-

ginning for me. The insights gained from the diverse group of seasoned and new reporters fueled my enthusiasm for enhancing our coverage and contributing to the well-being of the community I serve.

This commitment to learning was further solidified during a meeting with the Sumter Newcomers Club and youth at Kingsbury Elementary School (my former elementary school) these past two weeks. Accompanied by Bryn Eddy, a fellow reporter in our newsroom, we were able to talk to two vastly different demographics about the importance newspapers play in informing and shaping the perception of our community. As we discussed our respective beats, I was moved by the interest of both groups — the Newcomers Club sharing ideas of what they'd like to see regarding public safety, a few of which I'm already diving into, and the overall interest the students had in what I do.

Your safety is, and will always be, my priority, and I look forward to sharing valuable insights that empower us all. As I continue to brainstorm how to enhance my public safety reporting, I hope that one day Sumterites will feel more informed and connected to the community we call home.

Alaysha Maple is a Sumter Item reporter and covers arts and entertainment and public safety. Email her at alaysha@theitem.com.

EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

POST AND COURIER

Nov. 15

Atlantic Beach election coup demands state action

We're not sure what's going on in Atlantic Beach, but we're pretty sure of this: It shouldn't be.

And although we're confident that a lawsuit will invalidate what looks like an attempt to overturn the results of last week's municipal election, the whole disturbing incident should give further impetus to efforts in the S.C. Legislature to rein in or even eliminate municipal election commissions — and not just because people shouldn't have to sue their local government to make sure their votes aren't invalidated en masse.

The Post and Courier's Nicole Ziege reports that the Atlantic Beach Town Council called an emergency meeting late last week and voted to abolish its municipal election commission before it had a chance to complete a recount of the Nov. 7 mayor's race.

We can't prove that the council's goal was to keep John David from being certified as the winner over Mayor Pro Tem Josephine Isom, who led the balloting on election night but ended up one vote short after a dozen and a half provisional ballots were counted. But the council's action certainly had that effect, at least temporarily.

We also can't say for certain that the council acted illegally — only that we can't find any provision in state law that allows a council to abolish its own election commission without also turning election duties over to the county election commission. The fact that town officials were unable to cite any authority for their action other than a ludicrous claim that "we are the legal authority" suggests that there is no such provision. Even if there is some general authority to abolish town commissions (and the Municipal Association of South Carolina isn't aware of any

such authority), we doubt a judge would authorize doing so in the middle of an election recount.

Further, we can't tell you anything more than Ms. Ziege did about what actually happened at the meeting, because no agenda has been posted on the town's website, minutes haven't been posted, and like too many small town governments, Atlantic Beach doesn't livestream its meetings — which provides one more reason state legislators should require them to.

Outgoing Mayor Jake Evans said the town acted because the head of his election commission had ignored state law during the recount and attended political events during the campaign, something the commissioner denied. There were also questions about how a special election was conducted in January, but the council didn't decide to do anything until its mayor pro tem was on the verge of being declared the loser in her bid to become the next mayor.

We don't know whether the election director did anything wrong, but again, we know this: This whole thing reeks.

Compounding the problem, the only resolution to this mess apparently is by lawsuit. Neither the State Election Commission nor any other state or county officials have the authority to intervene in this situation — and perhaps not in any situation involving municipal election commissions.

Fortunately, only about a fifth of South Carolina's municipalities still run their own elections. Fortunately too, state legislators have been talking for the past few years about abolishing the municipal commissions and having all S.C. elections conducted by county election commissions, whose members are appointed by the governor on recommendation of local state legislators.

The more we learn about municipal election commissions — many of which are in small towns that barely have the resources to keep the doors open to Town Hall — the more we think it's a good idea. It looks bad for towns and cities to conduct their own elections, and particularly in these smaller towns, it is bad: County commissions have staffs that are better able to handle the legally

and sometimes technically complex job professionally; most municipalities don't.

At a Senate hearing last month, the Municipal Association's Scott Slatton told lawmakers that the municipalities with their own election commissions have two primary concerns about giving up control: Some county commissions have refused to take over the job themselves, and some counties have run elections "that haven't gone very well" — leaving municipalities hesitant to turn over control to them.

A bill that passed the House earlier this year would solve the first problem by requiring county election commissions to conduct elections if municipalities ask them to; it's a smart and long-overdue change.

The Legislature has taken steps to solve the second problem — which has been most acute in Richland County — by giving the State Election Commission more authority to correct problems when counties botch elections. We hope that will be sufficient, but if it isn't, the answer isn't to let municipalities keep running local elections; it's to do more to ensure that incompetent county commissions are replaced with competent ones.

TIMES AND DEMOCRAT

Nov. 11

No one should have to pay to donate organ

More than 114,000 Americans are on the national wait list for an organ transplant. In 2022, although 42,000 patients received a transplant, over 68,000 additional patients were added to the list.

Earlier this year, 2nd District South Carolina Republican Congressman Joe Wilson and Rep. Doris Matsui, D-California, introduced the Organ Donation Clarification Act, a bipartisan bill to reduce barriers to organ donation and increase the supply of organs for transplantation.

Organ transplantation is governed by the National Organ

Transplant Act of 1984. This law prohibits buying or selling organs for "valuable consideration."

The Organ Donation Clarification Act would:

— Clarify that certain reimbursements are not valuable consideration but are reimbursements for expenses a donor incurs.

— Allow government-run pilot programs to test the effect of providing non-cash benefits to promote organ donation.

— Clarify that the National Living Donor Assistance Center can't consider the organ recipient's income when determining whether to reimburse a donor's expenses.

More recently, Wilson and Rep. Jerry Nadler, D-N.Y., introduced the Living Organ Donor Tax Credit Act. The bill provides a \$5,000 one-time refundable tax credit to living organ donors who were not reimbursed for the costs of organ donation by the National Living Organ Donor Assistance Center or any entity.

The legislation to foster organ transplants is needed. The nation's transplant shortage is dire.

Seventeen people die every day waiting for a viable organ, according to the Health Resources and Services Administration. Currently, there are around 93,000 Americans on the kidney transplant wait list, with some having to wait as long as six years to receive a transplant.

Patients waiting for a transplant on average cost the U.S. government at least \$77,000 a year on dialysis, which adds up to more than \$20 billion a year, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Removing the barriers to organ donation will not only increase the number of living donors therefore saving lives, but also will save the taxpayers money. The tax credit would apply to living kidney, liver, lung, pancreas, intestine, bone marrow donors, and any other viable living organ donation.

"The gift of living donation is truly priceless. The donors who choose the selfless act of giving a lifesaving organ are making a major life decision, whether gifting to a stranger or a loved one. That life-changing decision

should not be burdened by the costs of donation, and this bill will remove that disincentive to ensure that everyone is able to donate an organ if they choose to, regardless of their financial situation," Wilson said.

"My predecessor House Armed Services Committee Chairman Floyd Spence miraculously received a double lung transplant as the 30th in the world to receive the experiment, living an additional 13 years serving America. ... Today, I am grateful to expand this piece of Floyd Spence's legacy."

"Living donors should not have their life-saving generosity rewarded with outstanding bills for lodging, transportation and other donation-related expenses," said Kevin Longino, chief executive officer of the National Kidney Foundation, "A refundable tax credit is a bi-partisan, common-sense measure that will remove financial barriers that interfere with an individual's ability to donate a kidney."

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In death, 1 cancer patient helps to erase millions in medical debt for others through posthumous plea

BY TOM MURPHY
AP Health Writer

A New York City woman who died Sunday from cancer has raised enough money to erase millions of dollars in medical debt with a posthumous plea for help.

Casey McIntyre told followers in a social media message posted by her husband that she had arranged to buy the medical debt of others as a way of celebrating her life.

McIntyre wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter, that "if you're reading this I have passed away."

"I loved each and every one of you with my whole heart and I promise you, I knew how deeply I was loved," the 38-year-old wrote. The posts included a link to a fundraising campaign started through the nonprofit RIP Medical Debt.

McIntyre's husband, Andrew Rose Gregory, posted the messages on Tuesday, and the campaign quickly blew past its \$20,000 goal. It had raised about \$140,000 by Friday afternoon, or enough to buy around \$14 million in medical debt.

Gregory said his wife had good health insurance and received great care at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Even so, the cou-

ple saw some "terrifying" charges on paperwork for her care, he said.

"What resonated for me and Casey is, you know, there's good cancer treatment out there that people can't afford," he said. "Instead of dreaming of a cure for cancer, what if we could just help people who are being crushed by medical debt?"

Patients in the U.S. health care system can quickly rack up big bills that push them into debt even if they have insurance. This is especially true for people who wind up hospitalized or need regular care or prescriptions for chronic health problems.

A 2022 analysis of government data from the nonprofit KFF estimates that nearly 1 in 10 U.S. adults owe at least \$250 in medical debt. That total of roughly 23 million people includes 11 million who owe more than \$2,000.

RIP Medical Debt erases debt purchased from hospitals, other health care providers and the secondary debt market. It buys millions of dollars of debt in bundles for what it says is a fraction of the original value.

The nonprofit says every dollar donated buys about

\$100 in debt, and it aims to help people with lower incomes. Spokesman Daniel Lempert said the organization has never had a campaign where someone plans for it to start after their death.

McIntyre, who was a book publisher, started treatment for ovarian cancer in 2019. She spent about three months in the hospital over the past year, her husband said.

The Brooklyn couple started planning for her memorial and the debt-buying campaign after she almost died in May. They were inspired by a video they saw of North Carolina churchgoers burning about \$3 million in medical debt.

McIntyre spent the last five months in home hospice care, giving her what Gregory calls a "bonus summer." She went on beach trips and spent time with their family, including the couple's 18-month-old daughter, Grace.

"Casey was very, very sick at the end of her life, and she couldn't finish everything she wanted to finish," Gregory said. "But I knew she wanted to do this memorial and debt jubilee. So I set that up and ... did it the way I thought she would have wanted."



ANDREW ROSE GREGORY VIA AP

This family photo shows Casey McIntyre and her daughter, Grace. Less than a week after her death from cancer on Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023, the New York woman has raised enough money to erase more than \$13 million in medical debt for others with a posthumous plea for help.

TheStreet

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A rare Zweig Breadth Thrust was recently triggered

BY TODD CAMPBELL
TheStreet Smarts

This content was originally published on TheStreet Smarts more than one week ago.

An uncommon signal measuring advancing to declining stocks flashed a buy signal on Nov. 3.

- The stock market's rally in early November was widespread.
- Advancing stocks dwarfed declining stocks, triggering a Zweig Breadth Thrust.

• One-year returns are historically bullish following this signal.

The stock market's rally was fast and furious in early November, and it was broad-based. Unlike most of this year, many stocks participated in the move, rather than simply the "magnificent seven" large-cap technology stocks.

In fact, the rally was so widespread that it triggered a rare advancing to declining stocks buy signal developed by legendary investor Martin Zweig. Zweig developed his Zweig Breadth Thrust after he realized that a shift from widespread selling to broad buying in less than 10 days preceded significant gains over the following year.

The Zweig Breadth Thrust triggered on Nov. 3 is just the 18th since 1945, according to Carson Investment Research. In the past, the S&P 500 has been higher one year later 100% of the time, with an average and median return of about 23%.

WHAT IS A ZWIG BREADTH THRUST

Martin Zweig was a highly successful investor who began publishing a stock market newsletter in the 1970s. A frequent contributor to Barron's and guest on Louis Rukeyser's Wall Street Week, Zweig was well known for predicting Black Monday in 1987, when stocks lost over 20% in one day. His book, "Winning on Wall Street," is a staple in investor libraries.

In addition to creating a monetary indicator (coining the phrase "don't fight the Fed"), Zweig also used advance/decline data to create trend signals, including the Zweig Breadth Thrust.

A Zweig Breadth Thrust is relatively uncommon because it requires a period of extremely widespread selling immediately followed by a period of extremely widespread buying.

The measure is calculated by dividing a moving average of the number of NYSE stocks advancing by the total number of advancing plus declining

A Rare Bullish Signal Just Triggered

Zweig Breadth Thrust (ZBT) Signals Since WWII

Date	S&P 500 Index Returns			
	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
2/3/1945	5.7%	9.8%	8.2%	32.2%
3/8/1949	0.2%	-7.1%	2.6%	15.0%
7/21/1950	6.3%	13.5%	20.9%	26.9%
7/11/1962	-0.5%	-0.9%	12.1%	20.8%
11/5/1962	7.8%	13.8%	20.0%	24.8%
12/3/1971	5.3%	11.3%	13.2%	21.1%
10/10/1974	7.3%	4.0%	20.6%	26.6%
1/3/1975	10.1%	14.4%	33.4%	28.6%
8/20/1982	10.5%	22.4%	30.5%	44.7%
8/3/1984	1.5%	3.2%	10.0%	17.9%
5/25/2004	1.9%	-0.7%	5.7%	6.9%
3/18/2009	9.5%	14.6%	34.5%	46.8%
10/14/2011	2.2%	5.6%	13.6%	17.6%
10/18/2013	2.7%	5.7%	7.7%	9.1%
10/8/2015	4.3%	-4.5%	1.4%	7.0%
1/7/2019	7.1%	13.6%	16.9%	27.0%
3/31/2023	0.2%	8.4%	4.4%	?
11/3/2023	?	?	?	?
Average	4.8%	7.5%	15.0%	23.3%
Median	5.3%	8.4%	13.2%	22.9%
% Higher	94.1%	76.5%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Carson Investment Research, Ned Davis Research, FactSet 11/03/2023

ZBT= 10-day EMA of NYSE advances/(NYSE advances + declines) moves from below 0.4 to above 0.615 within 10 trading days or less

@ryandetrick



SOURCE: CARSON INVESTMENT RESEARCH

stocks.

Real Money's Bruce Kamich explained the Zweig Breadth Thrust in 2015, writing:

"The traditional long-only signal was to buy when the index rose above 0.659 and sell when it declined below 0.366. Others over the years have modified the indicator's buy signals to be when the 10-day exponential moving average of stocks rising tops 61.5% after having been below 40% within the past two weeks."

On Nov. 3, the EMA calculated measure reached 63.5%, according to respected technician Mark Ungewitter on "X," formerly Twitter.

Tom McClellan (of McClellan Oscillator fame) wrote that the Thrust triggered "in just 5 days," which is pretty impressive. "I calculated that three days is the mathematical minimum, assuming you somehow had every stock up every day."

While there are no guarantees, the table above from Ryan Detrick of Carson Investment Research shows that the S&P 500 is historically much high-

er one year after this signal flashes (Note: This is the second signal in 2023. The first occurred in March), including after initially slipping to a new low, such as in 2004 and 2015.

HOW TO TRADE A ZWIG BREADTH THRUST

History is a guide, not a guarantee. It can rhyme to paraphrase Twain but may not repeat.

You'll notice in Detrick's table that the track record is best as you extend your time horizon. It's still very good over shorter periods, but like most indicators, the success rate is lower.

There are undeniably many reasons to fret over stocks. Economic and geopolitical uncertainty remains a concern, and bond yields remain highly competitive to stocks, creating a headwind that could weigh on stocks short term.

However, this is far from the only rough period we've experienced that has coincided with a Zweig Breadth Thrust. There was plenty of hand-wringing, for example, in March 2009

during the Great Recession.

Nevertheless, we can't rule out a rocky path for stocks, especially in the short term. Stocks don't rise or fall in a straight line. So, this recent rapid run-up may require at least some backfilling.

Top Stocks' Helene Meisler's short-term oscillator, which measures advance-decline line data over 10 days, became overbought in mid-November. Real Money Pro's Doug Kass tilted net short after the run-up, citing an overbought reading on the S&P Short Range Oscillator.

The potential for a pullback suggests investors patiently set buy targets just above prior support levels, rather than chase stocks higher in a straight line.

"Charts have reversed their prior bearish trends, importantly with very broad-based participation. Thus, we believe it inadvisable to fight the current trend and would be selective buyers of issues with good fundamentals that are trading near support levels," wrote Real Money's Guy Ortmann.

Meisler sees a potential path might be a pullback later this week, followed by a rally:

"Almost every single chart has the same situation with the resistance and a downtrend line close by. It is possible that we get a pullback to form a right shoulder of a head-and-shoulders bottom and then rally again (the intermediate-term indicators are not overbought)."

THE SMART PLAY

In addition to the Zweig Breadth Thrust, we got follow-through days on the NASDAQ, S&P 500 and Dow Jones last week (h/t Investor's Business Daily). A follow-through day is when — on day four or later — an emerging rally in a correction is confirmed by a close significantly above the prior day on higher volume. Investing guru William O'Neil developed the concept as a conviction tool. As long as the index doesn't make a new low, stocks remain buyable on down days.

Overall, short-term oscillators like Meisler's suggest traders pocket some profit at typical resistance "stall" points, aiming to reload on pullbacks to support, while the Zweig Breadth Thrust suggests long-term investors consider opportunistically buy down days as long as we avoid making a new low.

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THE JOYFUL LIFE OF LESLIE ODOM JR.

Fresh off 'The Exorcist: Believer,' the award-winning 'Hamilton' star and father of 2 has a new Broadway show and a new album

BY MARA REINSTEIN

This fall, Leslie Odom Jr. is laughing in the face of lazy Sundays. Just before noon in early October, the casually dressed actor arrives at The Music Box Theater in Times Square in New York City and walks up a winding staircase to his cozy dressing room that overlooks 45th Street. In a few hours on this “day of rest,” he’ll go from zero to 100 playing the titular role in a matinee performance of the new revival of the play “Purlie Victorious: A Non-Confederate Romp Through the Cotton Patch.” Then he’ll do it all again that evening. Just to add to the fun, he admits he has yet to eat or drink — “I’m going to have a half caff when we’re done!” — and is running low on sleep. “My kids woke me up pretty early this morning,” he says of his 6-year-old daughter, Lucille, and 2-year-old son Able (with actress wife of 10 years, Nicolette Robinson). “Usually, I try to conserve my burst of energy because the play is only 100 minutes, and it goes by like a shot. There’s no warming up!”

Except, you could say that the actor, 42, has been warming up for this moment for more than two decades. Since making his Broadway debut at age 17 in “Rent” in 1998, the NYC native and Carnegie Mellon University graduate has proven himself to be a master of the stage. After all, it takes a true star to portray founding father Aaron Burr in a Broadway musical, murder the hero in a gun duel eight times a week and still come out of the production as a breakout Tony-winning talent.

Indeed, the 2015 phenomenon known as “Hamilton” turned out to be the ultimate curtain call. Odom has since starred in films such as “One Night in Miami” (for which he was nominated for Oscars in the acting and music categories), “The Many Saints of Newark” and the recent “The Exorcist: Believer.” He’s also released five albums — including his latest, “When A Crooner Dies.” “It’s all original music, and it’s the kind of record meant to be heard,” he says. And if the music thing suddenly goes away? Earlier this year, he and Robinson co-authored the children’s book “I Love You More Than You’ll Ever Know.” It’s a *New York Times* bestseller.

But “Purlie Victorious,” set to run through Feb. 4, marks his first headlining role in any medium. His “Purlie Victorious” Judson is a reverend who returns to his hometown in the deep South circa the late 1950s to claim a \$500 inheritance and save his church. (He honorably deceives and schemes his way to getting the money.) Originally starring, co-written and directed by Ossie Davis, the comedic-yet-socially-charged play hasn’t been seen on Broadway since its 1961-62 run. Former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt was such a fan when she saw it in the ‘60s that her rave review is quoted outside the theater; Odom keeps a copy of the vintage playbill under a plastic case in his dressing room.

“The night after the Tony Awards in 2016, I said in an interview that this was the next thing I wanted to do,” he says. “I just had the most satisfying and rewarding experience of my career with ‘Hamilton.’ But I thought it would happen right away — I didn’t expect it to take seven years.” (He and Robinson are also co-producers).



COVER PHOTOGRAPHY BY JONNY MARLOW

Four days after “Purlie Victorious” opened to stellar reviews, Odom talked to Parade.

What is the theater world like right now? Is the pressure off since you’re not singing in a three-hour musical?

Making theater right now, the pressure is never off. This is a very sensitive time. Audiences are not as robust as they once were. It takes three weeks to build a new habit, and people were without theater for almost two years [because of the pandemic]. Theater is a space of great joy and catharsis, and we’re still doing the work to remind people about what can happen in these spaces.

Do you think you were born talented?

I don’t think I was particularly gifted or extraordinary in a way that separated me from anyone else. I sang in church growing up in Philadelphia, but I wasn’t some kid who stopped the room. I wouldn’t be on American Idol. I had an OK voice. I worked on it. I worked with it. The only reason I was willing to do it was because [when I was singing] I didn’t feel so nervous when I got up in front of people.

You moved from New York to Philadelphia as a kid. What stands out about your childhood?

I had great friends in Philadelphia. I also grew up in a thriving Black arts community. My first acting classes were at a Black theater company called the New Freedom Theater. My first dance classes were at The Philadelphia Dance Company. That instilled me with a pride and confidence that I carry with me to this day.

What made you think you could be a full-time performer?

“Rent.” Before that, I was a kid playing sports and learning how to do math. I didn’t have some grand ambition. Then “Rent” came along. I got the cast album, and it was a world that felt so inviting. I wanted to be friends with those people! I was 13, which is young enough and yet old enough that I could start to imagine what I wanted to do when I grew up. But it didn’t matter to me if I was pulling the curtain or sewing buttons

on costumes. I just wanted to be part of the community.

How did you end up appearing in “Rent” at 17? You must have been very confident at that audition.

I just wanted to meet anybody who had anything to do with the show! I thought if I did my very, very best then maybe my questionnaire and my picture — it wasn’t even a headshot; it was some picture my mom took that I ripped out of a photo album — would go into a filing cabinet. And then when I was an adult, they would call me to come in and hand out playbills. I did not think I would get a part. But it put me on the right path, and it changed my whole life.

After ‘Rent,’ why did you set off for Hollywood? You’ve popped up in a lot of TV series.

I went to college, and by the time I graduated, the realities of the business became clear. The most plum roles on Broadway were going to TV and movie stars and recognizable names, whatever that meant. I knew that Hollywood would serve me well because my real heart was on Broadway. So that was my vision.

How did ‘Hamilton’ come into your world?

I had seen the very first reading of “Hamilton” up in Poughkeepsie [New York] at Vassar. They do a new works festival, and my wife was working up there, so I had visited her. I was just a fan! I thought it was the freshest and boldest thing. It made me feel like that 13-year-old kid hearing “Rent.” Nothing had made me feel that way ever since.

When it finally came together, did a part of you worry the concept was too out-there to succeed?

I knew some people might think that, but I had seen it. I knew how it affected me. I had the experience that now millions and millions of people have had. In just 15 minutes, you’re swept away and enchanted. It’s almost like a sci-fi experience because it shouldn’t make sense! It doesn’t make sense to see Daveed Diggs as Thomas Jefferson! But something happens inside your mind and heart and body when you see it. I was never going to question that feeling.

What was your coolest pinch-me moment during ‘Hamilton’ mania?

Performing at the White House for President Obama [in 2016]. That was the pinnacle. For 45 minutes, the leader of the free world and his staff cleared their schedules to give us their undivided attention. That was it. It elevated what we do in these theaters to a level that I had never even really dared to dream.

Do your kids have musical talent, too?

They’re both way better than I was at their age. But I have to say, I hope I’m raising a little journalist and a little doctor. I would be very, very happy if my kids decided to do something else. I just want them to find something they’re passionate about. You know, a couple of years ago, I was writing in my journal and started thinking about examples of people on the world stage who have conviction. Too many people feign it — they don’t believe in what they’re saying. They’re doing it for clicks and attention, do you know what I mean? And my list wasn’t as long as I wanted it to be.

And what did you take away from that lesson?

I realized I needed to be the example of conviction that I’m looking for. If I do it for my kids, I have a better shot at doing it for other people. The way this particular time is in the world, you’ve got to be what you want to see. You really do have to make a decision — especially if you’re looking for it, if you’re on the search for something spiritual or if you’re looking for somebody that can show you how to fight for justice or fight on the planet. I mean, yeah, we’ve got to be those things right now.

Numbrix
Complete 1 to 81 so the numbers follow a horizontal or vertical path—no diagonals.

21		11		1	73	79
23						77
25						65
33						61
35	37	45	47	59		

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LAST WEEK’S ANSWERS

Numbrix
November 12, 2023

59	58	57	54	53	38	37	34	33
60	61	56	55	52	39	36	35	32
63	62	49	50	51	40	29	30	31
64	65	48	43	42	41	28	27	26
67	66	47	44	5	6	21	22	25
68	69	46	45	4	7	20	23	24
81	70	71	72	3	8	19	18	17
80	77	76	73	2	9	12	13	16
79	78	75	74	1	10	11	14	15

THANKSGIVING SCHEDULE

BANKS — The Federal Reserve will be closed Thursday, Nov. 23. Area banks and credit unions typically follow the Federal Reserve holiday closing schedule...

GOVERNMENT — Federal government offices and the U.S. Postal Service will be closed Thursday, Nov. 23.

The following will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23-24: state government offices, City of Sumter offices, Sumter County offices, Clarendon County offices, City of Manning offices; Lee County offices; and Bishopville City Hall.

SCHOOLS — The following will be closed Monday-Friday, Nov. 20-24: Sumter School District, Liberty STEAM Charter School, Clarendon County School District, Lee County School District, Lee Academy, Thomas Sumter Academy, Laurence Manning Academy, Clarendon Hall and Sumter Christian School.

Wilson Hall will be closed Wednesday-Friday, Nov. 22-24.

UTILITIES — Black River Electric Coop. and FTC will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23-24.

OTHER — Clemson Extension Service will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23 and 24. The Sumter County Library will be closed Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 23-25.

The Sumter Item will be closed Thursday, Nov. 23, and there will not be a Thursday edition of the newspaper.

The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't hesitate to point out anything that makes you feel uncomfortable.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep emotions in check. Don't give anyone the upper hand. Make alterations on the go to avoid interference.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't be too accommodating. If you give your secrets away, someone will take advantage of you or put you in a vulnerable position.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Address situations that make you uncomfortable, and you'll discover there's nothing to fear. Getting past the starting point of any case is challenging.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let anyone bully you into something that makes you uncomfortable. Focus on personal gains, self-improvement and enjoying life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The more you interact, the better. What you learn from others will determine how you proceed. Networking, travel, educational pursuits and trying something new will lead to unexpected opportunities.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A conversation will lead to better money management. Changing your lifestyle to suit your recommended budget will be easier than anticipated.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Speak from the heart, then act. Your changes will help you adjust to a lifestyle that encourages you to strive to be your best.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Learn all you can before you take on someone or something that can diminish your chance to get ahead. Someone will withhold information or refrain from offering the help you need.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put energy into home improvements and connecting with people you appreciate. Surround yourself with positive energy and listen to suggestions encouraging a healthier routine.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Do something that puts a smile on your face. Keep your look updated. How you present yourself to others will influence what you get in return.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take a serious approach to whatever you do, and you'll avoid making a mistake. If you act in haste, you'll learn a lesson. Concentrate on whatever helps you expand your interests, skills and connections to people who can offer you something in return.

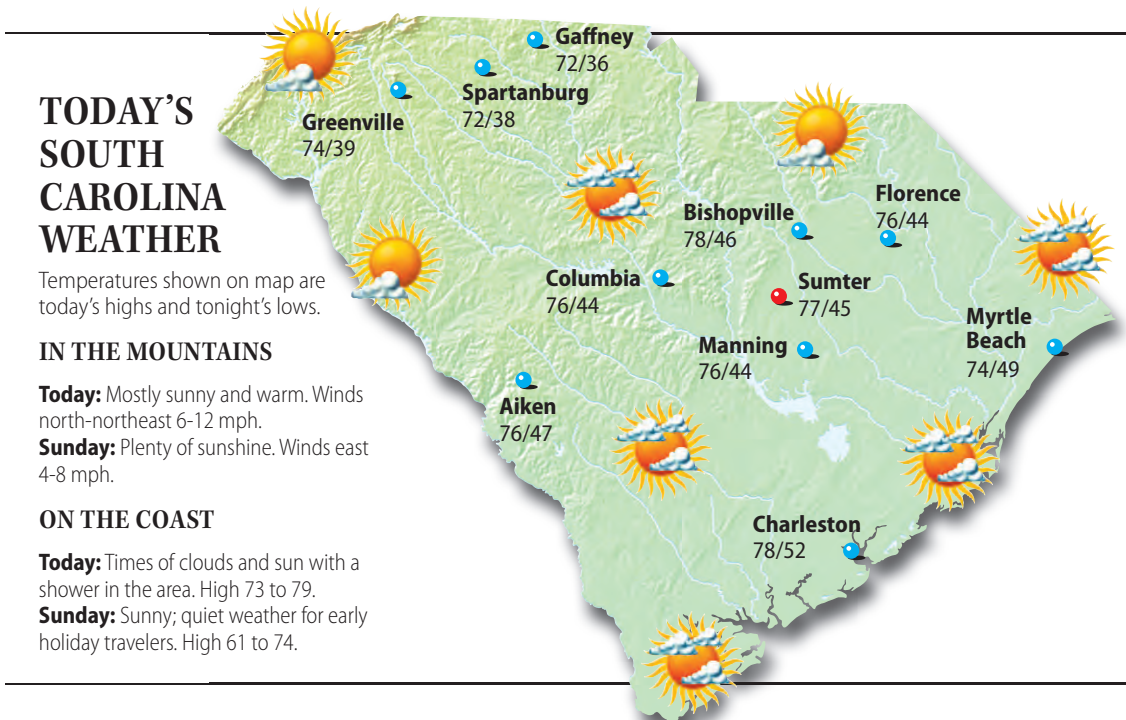
1 star: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. 2 stars: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. 3 stars: Focus and you'll reach your goals. 4 stars: Aim high; start new projects. 5 stars: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2023

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

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



LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THROUGH 2 P.M. FRIDAY

Table with 2 columns: Temperature (High, Low, Normal high, Normal low, Record high, Record low) and Precipitation (24 hrs ending 2 p.m. Fri., Month to date, Normal month to date, Year to date, Last year to date, Normal year to date).

LAKE LEVELS

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

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise 6:57 a.m., Sunset 5:17 p.m., Moonrise 12:11 p.m., Moonset 10:16 p.m.

Table with 4 columns: First, Full, Last, New. Includes moon phase icons for Nov. 20, Nov. 27, Dec. 5, Dec. 12.

TIDES

Table with 4 columns: High, Lt., Low, Ht. for AT MYRTLE BEACH. Shows tide times for Today and Sun.

NATIONAL CITIES

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Sun. Lists cities like Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Orlando, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Francisco, Wash., DC.

REGIONAL CITIES

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Sun. Lists regional cities like Asheville, Athens, Augusta, Beaufort, Cape Hatteras, Charleston, Charlotte, Clemson, Columbia, Darlington, Elizabeth City, Elizabethtown, Fayetteville, Florence, Gainesville, Gastonia, Goldsboro, Goose Creek, Greensboro, Greenville, Hickory, Hilton Head, Jacksonville, FL, La Grange, Macon, Marietta.

PUBLIC AGENDA

SUMTER CITY COUNCIL Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., Sumter Opera House, 21 N. Main St.

SUMTER CITY-COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION Wednesday, 3 p.m., fourth floor, Sumter Opera House, Council Chambers

CLARENDON COUNTY PLANNING & PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION Tuesday, 6 p.m., planning commission office, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

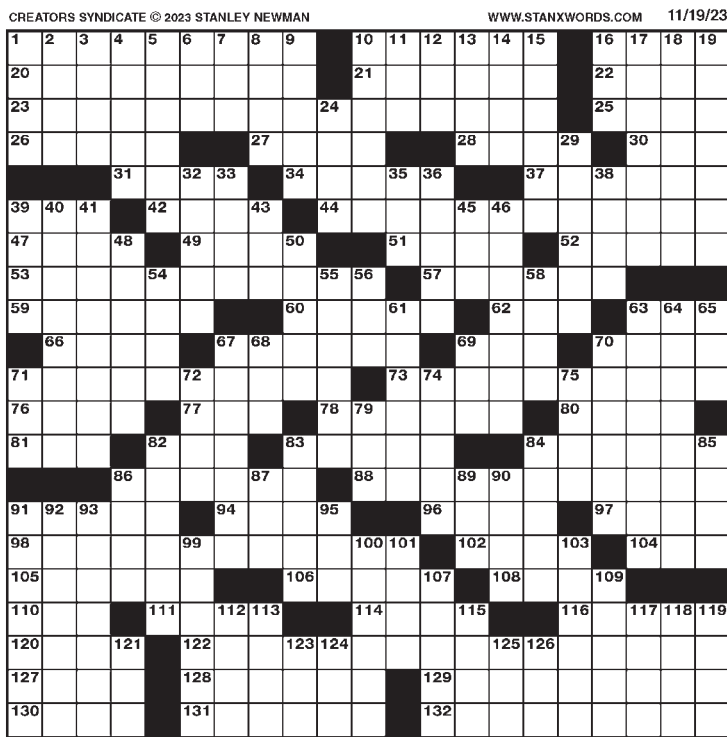
MANY THANKS: For the upcoming week by Kevin Christian

- ACROSS 1 Formed couples, 10 River through Vienna, 16 Actor Diggs, 20 Short-lasting, 21 "Are we doing this?", 22 The Bard of, 23 WHERE YOU LIVE, 25 MacArthur, to buddies, 26 Higher of two, 27 Key periods, 28 Plan segment, 30 Kids' card game, 31 Spellbound, 34 Rock concert venue, 37 Lacking pigment, 39 Simpsons storekeeper, 42 moss (garden mulch), 44 YOUR FAVORITE PALS, 47 Streisand

- DOWN 1 Neighbor of Chile, 2 Each, informally, 3 Denny's rival, 4 Direct elsewhere, 5 "Sad" modern music, 6 Patel of Slumdog Millionaire, 7 Mine resource, 8 Cost to ride, 9 Regional botany, 10 Truck fuel, 11 Donkey, 12 Federal medical research agency, 13 Salt Lake City collegians, 14 Marina vehicle, 15 Inspire affection, 16 Little bit, 17 Professing, 18 The two of us, 19 Rivet intellectually, 24 Undercover cop, 29 Flexible, 32 Looks curiously, 33 Fleet vehicle, 35 Yuletide drink, 36 From India or Israel, 38 Telly network, 39 Assist in evil, 40 Silicon Valley city, 41 Highly proficient specialist, 43 Center X or O, 45 New Haven collegian, 46 Unlit lunar area, 48 Barrel of laughs, 50 Pooh's cre-

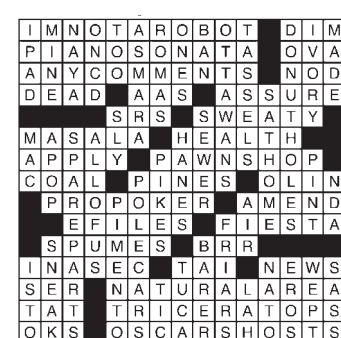


- ator, 54 Frequent tetter, 55 Saharan nomad, 56 Orange veggie, 58 Session in a tub, 61 Rice-ball sushi, 63 Advanced math class, 64 Excessive resentment, these days, 65 Approximation suffix, 67 Court officer, 68 NBA tiebreakers, 69 Debate participant, 70 Severely harmed, 71 Spy novel org., 72 "This is fun!", 74 Peace Nobel-ist of 2009, 75 In any way, 79 Morse code symbol, 82 blanc (white wine grape), 83 "Me too", 84 Pop singer from New Zealand, 85 "Directional" annual Austin music festival, 86 Cereal "for kids", 87 Irish actor Stephen, 89 Genesis exile, 90 Camp shelter, 91 Pet parasite treatment, 92 "Ha-ha, uh-uh" text, 93 Either Mr. Wright, 95 Free (of), 99 Plant transplants, 100 WNBA great, Lisa, 101 Southern pronoun, 103 Spicy sausage, 107 Hideouts, 109 Plastic wrap, 112 Business attire, 113 Thomas Edison, 115 Small fly, 117 Hockey ploy, 118 Levi's competitor, 119 Goes wrong, 121 Telepathic ability, 123 High-tech car key, 124 Feeling poorly, 125 Designer Armani nickname, 126 Atlanta-based channel Swimmer Dara, TORRES (59 Across) competed in five Olympic Games from 1984 to 2008, winning a total of 12 medals. Opened in 1843, TIVOLI (128 Across) is one of the world's oldest operating amusement parks. The NIH (12 Down), or National Institutes of Health, has been responsible for many biomedical innovations, including the development of numerous vaccines.



SATURDAY'S ANSWERS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU

9x9 Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9.

JUMBLE

PATIO FRONT COFFEE BLURRY When Mark Trail stopped the poacher in the forest, he found out Mark was a -- FORCE OF NATURE

Lee Academy's Deshon Hadden (1) and the Cavaliers will play in their fourth-straight SCISA 1A championship game tonight against Patrick Henry at 7:30 at Charleston Southern.

TIM LEIBLE / THE SUMTER ITEM



Lee Academy comfortable heading into 4th-straight SCISA 1A title game

BY TIM LEIBLE

tim@theitem.com

The Lee Academy football team is in a familiar spot.

The Cavaliers are back in the SCISA 1A title game, capping off their fourth-consecutive season with a chance to win a state championship. With one win under their belt last year and a group of experienced players, head coach David Rankin and the Cavs are ready for tonight's matchup with Patrick Henry.

"Even when we went there the first time, we tried to keep it as normal as possible. We try to treat it like any

other game," Rankin said of the prep for tonight's 7:30 p.m. kickoff. "It's hard to do, but I think we've done a good job. We've been there a lot, four years in a row. Seven of the nine seniors have been there four years in a row, so I think they'll be all right, and I think we'll play hard. I don't think the stage will be too big for us."

Rankin expects the Cavaliers' experience to be a boon tonight, but he also doesn't want them to get too comfortable against a talented Patrick Henry team that earned their own right to play for the 1A crown.

SEE LEE, PAGE B2



NICH PITTS / ITEM CONTRIBUTOR

Wilson Hall's Clark Kinney (9) and the Barons will face Hilton Head Christian for the SCISA 3A title on Saturday at 3:30 p.m. at Charleston Southern.

Driven Barons look to make final push as Wilson Hall faces Hilton Head Christian for SCISA 3A title

BY TIM LEIBLE

tim@theitem.com

The Barons have waited for this moment for a long time.

Wilson Hall head coach Adam Jarecki knew that 2023 had the chance to be a special year when his current senior class was just breaking into the high school ranks four years ago. He saw how talented they were, along with the class

directly behind them, and knew the Barons could compete for a championship with that collection of athletes.

When the season began, that quickly proved to be the case. The Barons took down rival Laurence Manning, snapping a seven-game losing streak against the 'Cats, who themselves played for the 4A title

SEE BARONS, PAGE B3

Tee and Jamie Morant, Scriven inducted into Claflin Athletic Hall of Fame

BY TIM LEIBLE

tim@theitem.com

Sumter County was well represented as Claflin inducted a new class into its athletic hall of fame on Thursday.

Ronnie "Tee" and Jamie Morant, the parents of former Crestwood star and current Memphis Grizzlies point guard Ja Morant, were both inducted for their excellent collegiate careers, along with Crestwood athletic director Terrence Scriven. Lucille Frierson Sabb was another Sumter County native selected for the non-athletic hall of fame for her exceptional community service.

"It was an awesome experience," Scriven said of the ceremony at Orangeburg Country Club on Thursday afternoon. "I'm beyond grateful and thankful for the opportunity. It was something special, I have to say.

"And it meant a lot that our local newspaper come down to Orangeburg and be a part of that with us. It was definitely said in the building, we had Sumter in the house."

Tee Morant was thrilled to earn the title hall of famer alongside his wife.

"To be a hall of famer in anything is a remarkable thing; it's a feat in itself. There's a difference between winning MVP, Defensive Player of the Year, all-conference, but all of it goes into that," Morant said. "What me and Jamie did at Claflin was monumental. We bleed orange and maroon, HBCU all the time. It was just great to be recognized as one of the best. It's a great honor."

Tee Morant and Scriven shined together on the court. Scriven hailed from Sumter High, while Morant was a state champion with Ray Allen at Hillcrest. After competing against each other in high school, they teamed up at Claflin. They were members of two Eastern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference champions during the 1995-96 and 1996-97 seasons, which both advanced to the NAIA National Tournament.

"We played AAU together, and we went at each other in the Sumter-Hillcrest days, and they always got the best of us early on. They were really locked in for a couple of years



ADAM FLASH / THE SUMTER ITEM

Sumter locals, from left, Ronnie "Tee" Morant, Jamie Morant and Terrence Scriven were inducted into the Claflin University Athletics Hall of Fame on Thursday at the Orangeburg Country Club.



Former Crestwood star and current Memphis Grizzlies star Ja Morant takes photos during his parents' induction to the Claflin Athletic Hall of Fame on Thursday.

there, and they were always tough to beat," Scriven said. "I ended up going to Claflin, and we played together and we became very good friends. He's a great teammate, and he's a person you don't want to play against. I met his wife, Jamie, at college as well, so it was awesome to have all of us together."

Jamie Morant was a star softball player. She was on the

EIAC all-freshman team, was all-conference twice and was the 1996 EIAC Player of the Year.

Tee Morant got to Claflin a year before Scriven and was an instant star. He was a member of the EIAC all-freshman team and was a three-time all-conference player, along with being the team MVP twice. He finished as the EIAC Player of the Year in 1997 and

finished his career with more than 1,000 points.

"There was an unspoken competitive nature between me and her," Tee said of his success alongside his future wife. "Athletically, Jamie was a monster. She still says Ja got all of his basketball skills from her, and I'm not arguing. It's total genetics, so I don't take all the credit. It's just great. We supported each other through-

out the whole process; that's the main part. To go in at the same time, that's unheard of to me."

Scriven was a standout in his own right, also earning all-conference honors three times. He also served as a team captain for three seasons and was the team MVP in 1999. As a senior, he averaged 21.2 points per game on his way to scoring more than 1,000 in his career. In 1997, he led the nation in three-point shooting percentage, connecting from long range at a 54% clip.

Tee Morant played a role in Scriven's recruitment to Claflin and loved having the chance to play with a fellow Sumter County standout.

"Scriv is my guy," Morant said. "He was an excellent player. I love to hang my hat on the fact that I was a factor in getting him to Claflin because we needed a backup guard, and I saw him play his senior year and told my coach, the great Gus Guydon, that I had a guy in Sumter that could fill it up. Playing with Scriv was always fun, he's always a character and us together is even crazier, but I know he had a competitive nature in him."

The two basketball stars still reminisce about the good old days at Claflin, and Thursday was no exception. Scriven always loves a chance to dive back into the memories of their consecutive NAIA Tournament appearances, which was no small feat for the pair. Sumter High head coach Bryan Brown eventually joined the Claflin family, as well, so there's always an opportunity to bring up Panthers hoops.

"We talk about it like it was yesterday still. Even before this event, when Tee and I still talk and anything about our college days come up, we still reminisce about it to this day," Scriven said. "Making it to the national tournament, you had to be good. There were only 32 teams back then, so as an NAIA team, you had to either win your tournament or you had to be very, very good. We won our tournament the two years we went, so to get on a plane and fly out to Oklahoma and go play other teams across

SEE HOF, PAGE B2



PHOTOS BY ADAM FLASH / THE SUMTER ITEM
Tee Morant, right, hugs Dr. Marcus H. Burgess during his hall of fame induction on Thursday.



HOF FROM PAGE B1

the nation, those were some big experiences. "That's why we tell these kids today that you have to cherish these memories, and you've got to go hard now about everything you do because one day, they'll be memories, and at least we have those and we share those."

Now as an athletic director at Crestwood, Scriven sees so many young athletes with the same hopes and dreams he had at Sumter High. He hopes that his journey can be an example for today's local athletes with their sights set on college stardom.

"Hopefully they may think of me a little bit differently. I don't talk about it a lot at school with them, but at the same time, I talk about the value of getting your education, getting your work and not worrying about what size school it is," Scriven said. "Our young people today get so caught up on what school is offering, and I had a great experience that I would never regret going to, and I enjoyed my whole time at Claflin and it was an NAIA school and we still played South Carolina State, which is a DI school, and a lot of Division II schools and top-ranked NAIA school, so we still played some very, very good competition."

"Just having the opportunity to do something that I liked and then graduate and still be involved in the thing that got me to this point, you try to continue to tell young people to do the best you can. If athletics is something that you want to do, work hard at it, go to school and get your education. Whether I made it to the pros or not, I feel like I succeeded in life, I'm doing something I really enjoy, and that's what it's all about."

Tee Morant shared a similar sentiment. His backyard was a breeding ground for local basketball talent, and his son is an icon for local basketball hopefuls. But the Morant family is far from done leaving its impact on Sumter County.

"It's great because most people realize that everyone is not going to make it, and I'm an example of it. I was an OK basketball player in my point of view. I knew how to play the game, Jamie was the same in softball, Scriv in basketball, but everyone is not going to make it, but we're not done with Sumter," Morant said. "Stay tuned. I still feel the need to give back to the kids if it's tutelage, if it's knowledge, if it's life lessons, everything. I was excited because I just left Sumter, and I was able to go back on the basketball court, me and Ja, and the memories we talked about on there is inspirational to go back and make that joint legendary. That court is legendary. If you could play ball in Sumter or South Carolina, you were in that backyard playing. There was so much talent back there, but everyone didn't make it. Ja was the road that came through the concrete."



ABOVE: Crestwood athletic director Terrence Scriven, second from left, poses with Claflin officials after his induction into the university's athletic hall of fame.

LEFT: Sumter locals Jamie Morant and Ronnie "Tee" Morant were inducted into Claflin University's Athletics Hall of Fame on Thursday, Nov. 16, at the Orangeburg Country Club. They hold the hands of their granddaughter, Kaari Morant.



The Scriven family gathers for a photo after Crestwood athletic director Terrence Scriven, fifth from left, was inducted into the Claflin Athletic Hall of Fame.

LEE FROM PAGE B1

"We feel like our experience of being there a lot will help us a lot. I know the first time we went here, we were looking around and starry eyed a little bit," Rankin said. "I think that'll help us, but you never know. It comes down to blocking and tackling, not turning the ball over."

Lee Academy will face off against a high-powered Patrick Henry squad in the title game, a rematch of the Cavs' second game of the regular season. The first matchup did not go well for Lee, as Patriot quarterback Hugh Fairey went wild, passing for 264 yards and three scores while running for 143 and three more touchdowns in a lopsided 47-21 game. But Rankin knows his team is much better than they were when they faced off against Patrick Henry back on Sept. 1.

"Our offensive line is playing so much better," Rankin said of the difference from their last matchup. "We were breaking in four new linemen, and we changed offensive line since that game and put two other people in there. I think the more we've played, the better we've gotten. We brought two tight ends, we brought in a sophomore tight end that hadn't played too much. We were breaking in a sophomore quarterback; he's no longer with us, and now we have a senior quarterback. We're just a different football team than we were then."



Lee Academy's William West (3) and the Cavaliers head to Charleston Southern tonight for the SCISA 1A state championship game.

The biggest question for Lee when the final whistle blew after last week's win over Thomas Heyward was their health. Quarterback Clayton Catoe and running backs William West and Bryson Muldrow were among the players who were banged up in the victory. While Rankin wouldn't say his team is 100% healthy, he doesn't expect to be missing anyone tonight.

"(Catoe) is doing fine. He'll play. How much he'll play, we'll see, but he'll play," Rankin said. "We got banged

up pretty good. We're limping in, but they'll all play."

In their first matchup with Patrick Henry, Rankin admitted he didn't realize how versatile an athlete Fairey was at quarterback. He certainly does now. The senior has thrown for 2,257 yards and 15 scores against nine interceptions. He also leads the team with 867 rushing yards and 13 touchdowns. His top target is his twin brother, Forest, who has 47 catches for 1,025 yards and 10 touchdowns.

"He took us a little bit by

surprise, but we also didn't play well. We didn't block well at all up front, so we weren't able to sustain drives," Rankin said of the first matchup. "Whether we've changed enough to get things done, we'll see."

"We're going to have to get (H. Fairey) off his spot. We're going to have to make him run, but he's as good an athlete as anyone on the field. He runs the ball well, he's real quick. We're going to have to contain him and keep him from getting outside. That's going to be easi-

er said than done. The good thing is, we played a quarterback like that last week, and we got a feel for that. We contained him well last week, so we feel like we can do it again. We'll see."

Patrick Henry will bring a physical defense, and the Cavaliers will meet that with their own strength inside. The Cavs have run the ball extremely well down the stretch, as Deshon Hadden and West have each rushed for more than 100 yards in each playoff game this season. Rankin expects to see that continue.

"We're built to grind the ball out, keep it from the other team, limit their possessions and score on our possessions," Rankin said. "(Hadden and West) have done well; they both block for each other, which is good to see. They're both good blockers, and they can catch the ball out of the backfield. We'll throw the ball to them a good bit out of the backfield. They run the ball hard and are a little faster than we thought they were."

"We're a power football team, but they're big and strong enough to slow us up. We're going to have to play well."

Lee Academy's treating tonight like any other game, which means the key to victory remains the same, too.

"I think whoever wins the turnover battle wins the game," Rankin said, simply. "That and penalties. But whoever wins the turnover battle has a chance to win."

TIM LEIBLE / THE SUMTER ITEM

No. 1 South Carolina and Fulwiley roll to 13th-straight win over rival Clemson 109-40

COLUMBIA (AP) — Raven Johnson worried about the disaster of a team she saw out in South Carolina during summer workouts.

Out of shape, out of sync and headed for a big fall off from the program that went to three straight Final Fours. A few months later, these top-ranked Gamecocks are a playing like a finely tuned machine that's yet to have its best day.

That showed again Thursday night as MiLaysia Fulwiley scored 18 points, Kamilla Cardoso had a double-double with 15 points and 13 rebounds and South Carolina rolled to a 13th straight victory over state rival Clemson 109-40.

"In the summer when we were practicing, I didn't see how it was going to be right now," said Johnson, the junior point guard who finished with a career-best 17 assists.

Johnson recalled how rigorous and intense the workouts got as time went on and the efficient, high-scoring group began to emerge.

"It was tough, it was gritty," Johnson said. "I think those practices made us who we are right now."

And that's a team that looks impossible to slow down. This

was the third game cracking the 100-point mark — a program first — and putting away Power Five opponents following lopsided wins over No. 16 Notre Dame (100-71) and No. 20 Maryland (114-76).

"They're different," Clemson coach Amanda Butler said, "because they can shoot."

Oregon transfer Te-Hina Paopao had 14 points with four 3-pointers and the Gamecocks used a 28-0 first-half run to win their 43rd straight at home.

It was Dawn Staley's 200th win in 16 seasons at Colonial Life Arena, a building that was largely empty for women's hoops before she arrived. Now, the program has led the game in average attendance the past nine seasons and drew 16,007 this past Sunday for the 114-76 victory over No. 20 Maryland.

Expect the big crowds to continue with the show these Gamecocks have put on so far.

Fulwiley had two flashy plays, a half behind-the-back move before pulling the ball back for a layin, and a full behind-the-back pass to Ashlyn Watkins for another easy score as the Gamecocks pulled away.

Clemson (3-1) missed 17



ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Carolina guard MiLaysia Fulwiley (12) drives to the basket against Clemson guard Dayshanette Harris (1) during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game in Columbia on Thursday, Nov. 16.

straight shots during the back-breaking run.

Fulwiley had four 3s and nine rebounds before fouling out, while the 6-foot-7 Cardoso collected her 18th career game with double figure points and rebounds.

Fulwiley continued her stylish, crowd-pleasing play. "I feel very comfortable out there," she said. "Dawn tells me all the time in practice, 'Just be you, just do what you do and it'll work out for you.'"

Raven Johnson had a career-best 17 assists, one shy of the South Carolina record. Watkins had her second dou-

ble-double this season with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Maddi Cluse led Clemson with 11 points.

THE BIG PICTURE

Clemson: The Tigers found out once more they're still several steps behind their rivals. There were no buttons for sixth-year coach Amanda Butler to push to keep this one close.

South Carolina: It's a dramatic style change from its emphasis down low with All-American Aliyah Boston leading the way the previous four seasons to a run-like-crazy offense that can score from

the outside.

GAMECOCK INJURY

Freshman Tessa Johnson is day-to-day with a lower right leg injury. Johnson, who had 12 points and seven rebounds in the Maryland win, took the court with a walking boot to protect her foot and ankle and using crutches. Staley was unsure how severe the injury was or how much time Johnson might miss.

UP NEXT

Clemson: Takes on Longwood at home on Sunday.
South Carolina: Faces South Dakota State on Monday night.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clemson wide receiver Beaux Collins (80) reacts after scoring a touchdown during the first half of an NCAA college football game against Georgia Tech on Saturday, Nov. 11, in Clemson.

No. 22 North Carolina holding out hope it can make the ACC title game. Winning at Clemson a must

BY PETE IACOBELLI

AP Sports Writer

CLEMSON — Get out your slide rules. No. 22 North Carolina still has a mathematical chance — with outside help — to reach the ACC championship game.

None of the calculations, tiebreakers or probabilities matter if the Tar Heels (8-2, 4-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) don't beat favored Clemson (6-4, 3-4) on Saturday.

"Not many people have won there," North Carolina coach Mack Brown said. "And nobody will think we're going to win."

Clemson has won five straight in the series and gets the Tar Heels on a bit of a rebound. North Carolina survived a 47-45 double-overtime win against Duke last week, ending a two-game skid in league play with losses to Virginia and Georgia Tech.

Now they come to Death Valley just in time for Clemson's late-season surge. The Tigers have won two straight and scored at least 31 points each time.

"They're old Clemson again," Brown said. "They're playing like a playoff team."

Clemson certainly is after posting four losses in a season for the first time since coach Dabo Swinney's second full season in 2010.

North Carolina's Drake Maye has been outstanding again this year, guiding an offense that leads the ACC in scoring at nearly 40 points a game. Maye tops the league with 314 yards passing a game. Swinney is duly impressed with Maye's ability. "He makes the coaches better, the fans better, and

he makes the popcorn taste better," the Tigers coach quipped.

OPEN DOORS

Swinney learned early in his tenure from Brown to be generous with his time when other staffs want to learn from you. Swinney said it was Brown, then a national championship coach at Texas, who welcomed the Clemson staff in 2009 and spent hours answering questions from his young colleague.

Clemson has an open door policy ever since with a notable exception: "I ain't gonna let (South Carolina coach Shane) Beamer hang out. That just is what it is."

TOUGH FINISH

UNC closes the schedule with road games against Clemson and rival North Carolina State. Following the dramatic win over Duke, Brown said his players must be mentally tough to succeed.

"Our guys have to step up and be tough and be very confident to get through this stretch at the end of the year," Brown said.

SHIPLEY HIT

Clemson tailback Will Shipley was knocked unconscious in the game against North Carolina State and missed the next game in concussion protocol. Shipley returned to the field last week in a win over Georgia Tech and is ready to go against the Tar Heels.

"I definitely don't remember too much of the NC State play," he said. "It's definitely a little scary, but it's what I signed up for."

Sizzling Dak Prescott, Cowboys look to continue to build momentum against the spiraling Panthers

BY STEVE REED

AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE — Dak Prescott is sizzling, and the Dallas Cowboys are winning the games they should win while eyeing a playoff run.

The Carolina Panthers are heading toward a sixth straight losing season.

The NFC foes are heading in opposite directions and will clash on Sunday in what is expected to feel like a home game for the Cowboys (6-3), even though it will be played at Charlotte's Bank of America Stadium.

Since Week 8, Prescott leads the NFL with 1,082 passing yards and 11 touchdown passes and ranks second with a 129.4 rating. He has recorded at least 300 yards passing and three touchdown passes in each of Dallas' last three games, one shy of matching a record shared by Peyton Manning, Steve Young and Patrick Mahomes.

Prescott is coming off a 404-yard, four-TD performance against the Giants.

"They are hot on offense," Panthers coach Frank Reich said. "Dak is extremely effective in the pocket and out of the pocket. Obviously CeeDee Lamb is a big-time playmaker and they are having success running and throwing it."

Still, there will always be some doubt about the Cowboys until they're able to beat the league's top teams, including NFC East rival Philadelphia, which currently leads the division.

The Cowboys know that, and they're focused on taking care of winnable games against Carolina, Washington and Seattle before their Dec. 10 rematch with the Eagles at home.

"I feel like we've had games where we've blown teams out that we should blow out," said Cowboys safety Jayron Kearse. "When it comes down us doing what we say we want to do, you know it's going to come down to those big games, those San Fran games, those Philly games, Miami, the Bills and those type of games. To where we put together a complete game, and that shows who you are as a team."

According to Next Gen Stats, Prescott's 136.1 passer rating against man-to-man coverage is

the league's best, ahead of Mahomes (121.0).

"He's all football. This guy, he loves everything about it. The training," Cowboys coach Mike McCarthy said. "When you look at this game, Sundays are really for free. What he does Monday through Saturday is so impressive."

OUT LIKE A TIGER

Lamb leads the NFL with 617 yards receiving over the last four games.

He has recorded at least 10 receptions and 150 receiving yards in each of his last three games, becoming the first player in NFL history to reach those marks. Lamb can become the first player ever to record at least 150 receiving yards in four consecutive games.

He can also become the second player with at least 10 catches in four consecutive games, joining Hall of Famer Calvin Johnson.

ON THE CALL

In hopes of giving his team a spark, Reich is taking back the offensive play-calling duties.

Reich delegated play-calling on Oct. 16 before Carolina's bye week. The Panthers (1-8) went 1-2 with offensive coordinator Thomas Brown calling plays, but the team scored only two offensive touchdowns during that span.

Reich called plays for the first six games of the season, all Carolina losses.

However, the Panthers went from averaging 294.7 yards, 20.7 first downs and 16.3 points per game in six games with Reich calling plays to 237.3 yards, 16.3 first downs and 11.3 points per game in three games with Brown calling the shots.

BLANKING PARSONS

The Giants held pass rushing star Micah Parsons without a tackle for the first time in his three-year career. He's slipping on the sacks list, dropping to a tie for 10th with 7 1/2, although Parsons has a sack in each of the past two games.

"Any competitor can get frustrated with that," defensive coordinator Dan Quinn said. "There will be games like that, and there has been games like that, and there will be more like that."

Atlanta's Ronald Acuña Jr. unanimous NL Most Valuable Player after 41-homer, 73-steal season

NEW YORK (AP) — Ronald Acuña Jr. had been waiting for this moment.

"From the day I got to the league, right away I always knew I wanted to be the MVP," the Atlanta Braves right fielder said through a translator. "It's always been a dream of mine, and I'm living the dream come true."

Acuña was a unanimous winner of his first National League Most Valuable Player award on Thursday, taking home the honor after becoming the first big leaguer with 40 homers and 70 stolen bases in a season.

Could he do it again, or even become the first 50-50 player?

"I'm not trying to predict anything, but as long as I'm healthy, I believe anything is possible," he said.

Los Angeles Angels two-way star Shohei Ohtani won the American League award, becoming the first two-time unanimous MVP. There have been 21 unanimous winners, and this year marked the first time two occurred in the same year.

Acuña received all 30 first-place votes and 420 points in voting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Mookie Betts got all 30 second-place votes and 270 points, followed by Los Angeles Dodgers teammate Freddie Freeman with 227 points. Betts earned the 2018 AL MVP award with Boston, and Freeman was the 2020 NL MVP with Atlanta.

Acuña was second in the NL with a .336 batting average and led the major leagues with 149 runs, 217 hits, 386 total bases and 73 stolen bases while



Atlanta Braves' Ronald Acuña Jr. gestures to the outfield as he runs the bases after hitting a solo home run during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Cincinnati Reds in Cincinnati on June 23.

AP FILE PHOTO

hitting 41 home runs with 106 RBIs. A four-time All-Star who turns 26 next month, Acuña helped Atlanta to a major league-best 104 wins before the Braves lost to Philadelphia in an NL Division Series.

He set his career best for RBIs and matched his 2019 high for home runs.

Acuña learned of the award while in the clubhouse of La Guaria, his team in Venezuela's winter league. While he dropped off a scheduled national call with BBWAA members, he spoke on a

Zoom with Atlanta reporters.

He was on a possible MVP track in 2021 with 24 homers, 52 RBIs and 17 steals in 82 games before he tore his right ACL on July 10 while attempting a catch on the warning track, an injury that ended his season.

"It meant a lot to me to be able to bounce back after I was hurt," he said. "There was some doubt I could do what I was able to accomplish."

Betts batted .307 with 39 homers and 107 RBIs, and Freeman hit .331 with 29

homers and 102 RBIs.

Atlanta's Matt Olson was fourth with 223 points, and Arizona's Corbin Carroll, who won NL Rookie of the Year, was fifth with 165.

By finishing fifth, Carroll earned \$5 million. He gets a \$2.5 million increase to \$30.5 million for both his 2029 and '30 salaries and also of his 2031 option, which includes a \$5 million buyout. His contract, agreed to in March, originally guaranteed \$111 million over eight seasons.

OBITUARIES

EDWARD WILLIS JR.

Edward Willis Jr. was born on Jan. 21, 1951, in Charleston, to the late Catherine and Edward Willis Sr. of Charleston. On Friday, Nov. 10, 2023, God called him home.

Edward was preceded in death by his parents, Catherine and

Edward Willis Sr.; his grandparents, Charlie Rivers and Anna Brown; and his aunt, Alma Byrd.

Edward, in his early years, was a member of Bethel United Methodist Church in Pineville. Edward attended Central High School and Burke High School. Edward graduated from Morris College with the Class of 1974, Sumter. Prior to graduating, he met the love of his life, Patricia Kennedy, who became his wife on July 23, 1974.

Edward joined the U.S. Air Force in 1975 and was a Desert Storm veteran. He honorably served 20 years of active duty service at various locations, both stateside and abroad. Post military retirement, Edward worked for the South Carolina Department of Transportation as well as the Lee Correctional Institution in Bishopville. Edward was also an active member of the American Legion Group, where he served as sergeant-at-arms at Ballard Palmer Bates American Legion Post 202.

Edward was very caring and loving to his wife and daughter. Edward was also very giving to his extended family members. He fully enjoyed retirement, loved life, cherished spending time with his loved ones and attending auctions.

Edward memories will be cherished by his wife of 49 years, Patricia Willis of Sumter; his daughter, Tonya Willis of Reisterstown, Maryland; his siblings, George (Evelyn) Willis of Cross, Annie Mae Willis of Charleston, Otto Willis of Cross and Stephen Willis of Atlanta, Georgia; his cousins, Robert Lee Jefferson, Wilford Jefferson and Joseph Jefferson, all of Pineville, Josephine Gillard of Charleston, Ronald Byrd of Summerville, Marvin Byrd of St. Stephen and Ruthie Mae Jefferson of New York; and a host of nieces, nephews, extended family and a multitude of friends.

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

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Monday in

the John Wesley Williams Sr. Memorial Chapel of Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter, with the Rev. Mikel Jenkins presiding and the Rev. Dr. J. Elbert Williams, eulogist.

The procession will leave the home at 9:20 a.m.

Burial will follow at noon in the Fort Jackson National Cemetery, 4170 Percival Road, Columbia.

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

ROY EARLE WEATHERS BEE JR.

Roy Earle Weathersbee Jr., 97, widower of Mary Elizabeth "Betty" Weathersbee, died on Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023, at Agape Hospice House in Lexington.

Born on Nov. 28, 1925, in Sumter, he was a son of the late Roy Earle Weathersbee Sr. and Martha Bradham Weathersbee. He was a lifelong member of St. Marks Methodist Church. Mr. Weathersbee served in the U.S. Navy and was a veteran of World War II. He participated in the veterans Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. A farm equipment salesman, he owned and operated McLaurin-Nettles Farm Equipment and retired as manager of McLaughlin Ford Farm Equipment. He was an avid golfer and carried a three handicap. He was an active member of the McDonald's and Hardee's coffee groups.

Survivors include his two children, Linda W. Heyward (Charles) and R. Earle Weathersbee III; two granddaughters, Martha Heyward Darley (Chris) and Melinda C. Heyward; and three great-grandchildren, Peyton Darley, Parker Darley and Anna Claire Darley.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Wilbur Weathersbee.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday at St. Mark's Methodist Church, officiated by the Rev. Wes Conner. Graveside services will be private.

The family will receive friends from 1 to 2 p.m. on Monday at St. Mark's Methodist Church.

Memorials may be sent to St. Mark's Methodist Church, 27 Broad St., Sumter, SC 29150.

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

JOSEPH LUIS MOTA

Joseph Luis Mota, 84, widower of Sylvia Ann Washtien Mota, died on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital.

Born in Chicago, Illinois, he was a son of the late Jesus Maria Mota and Carmen Carrillo Mota. Mr. Mota was a retired elementary school teacher.

Surviving are three sons, Michael Mota of San Diego, California, Joseph Mota (Judy) of Colorado and Daniel Mota (Jennie) of Sumter; four brothers, Howard Mota and Raymond Mota (Jo Ann) of Chicago, Al Mota of Colorado and Edward Mota (Barbara) of Minnesota; and eight grandchildren, Nicholas Mota (Sarah), Brayden Mota (Carlee), Lindsay Mota, Allysa Mota, Courtney Ward (Jake), Michael Mota (Courtne), Cooper Mota and Majid Corbett.

Memorial services will be held at a later date. Memorials may be made to Wedgefield Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 36, Wedgefield, SC 29168.

Online condolences may be made at www.sumterfunerals.com.

Elmore Hill McCreight Funeral Home & Crematory, 221 Broad St., Sumter, is in charge of the arrangements, (803) 775-9386.



JAMES CARTER

James Carter, 85, widower of Johnnie Mae Harvin Carter, was born on Dec. 25, 1937, in Sumter County, a son of the late Maye Dargen and Rosanna Carter. He departed this life on Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital

in Sumter.

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

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday at Salem Chapel & Heritage Center, 101 S. Salem Ave., Sumter, SC 29150 with the Rev. Randolph Green officiating.

Interment will follow in Hillside Memorial Park, Sumter, SC 29154.

The family will receive friends at 1115 Dewees St., Sumter, SC 29150.

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

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

THE REV. RANDOLPH BLACK

The Rev. Randolph Black, 73, husband of Loretta Gaymon Black, was born on Jan. 2, 1950, in Florence County, a son of the Rev. Eliza Eaddy Black and the late Theodore Black. He departed this life on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023, at

Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital in Sumter.

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

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday at Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church, 805 S. Harvin St., Sumter, SC 29150 with Dr. Ralph W. Canty Sr. officiating and Dr. Jon R. Black, eulogist. Interment will follow in Evergreen Memorial Park, Sumter, SC 29150.

The family will be receiving friends at the home, 60 Highland Ave., Sumter, SC 29150.

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

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

FRANK WILLIAM OTTO JR.

Frank William Otto Jr., age 67, beloved husband of 33 years to Bessie Lynn Daugherty Otto, died on Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital.

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

The family has chosen Bullock Funeral Home for the arrangements.



ANDRE L. ROSE

Andre L. Rose, 47, departed this life on Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023, at MUSC Medical Center, Charleston.

He was born on May 1, 1976, in Sumter County, a son of William Johnson and Vivian Rose Perry.

The family will receive friends at the home of his sis-

ter, 54 Jerry St., Sumter, SC 29153.

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

LOUIS BRAILSFORD

Louis Brailsford, widower of Verline Blanding Brailsford and Veteree Scott Brailsford, entered into eternal rest on Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023, at Pruitt Health Care Center in Orangeburg.

He was born on Oct. 1, 1940, a son of Mary Robinson Brailsford and Horace J. Brailsford.

Services will be announced by Dyson's Home for Funerals, Summerton.

The family will receive friends beginning at 1 p.m. at 209 Andrew Drive, Manning.

MCKINLEY LOUIS WILSON SR.

McKinley Louis Wilson Sr., 79, departed this life on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023, at his residence.

He was born on April 7, 1944, in Mayesville, a son of the late William Thomas Wilson and Mary Louise Jefferson Wilson.

Beginning Wednesday, the family will receive friends from 4 to 8 p.m. at 1510 Reed Roman Road, Sumter, SC 29153.

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

EMMA LUCILE MOORE GATHERS

Emma Lucile Moore Gathers, 99, widow of David Gathers, died on Friday, Nov. 17, 2023, at Caris Healthcare in Sumter.

Born in Sumter County, she was a daughter of the late Jacob W. Moore Sr. and Pernelope Brown Pinkney Moore.

The family will not receive friends at the home.

Funeral arrangements are in progress and will be announced by Palmer Memorial Chapel.



DERECK HODGE

Dereck Hodge, 57, departed this life on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023, at Lexington Medical Center, West Columbia.

He was born on May 10, 1966, in Sumter, a son of Leroy Hodge and the late Harriet Geneva Neal Hodge.

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

the Sumter ITEM CLASSIFIEDS

To Place Your Classified Ads,
Please call
803-774-1200

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

11:30 a.m. the day before for
Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday & Friday edition.
11:30 a.m. Friday for the Weekend edition.

We will be happy to change your ad if an error is made; however we are not responsible for errors after the first run day. We shall not be liable for any loss or expense that results from the printing or omission of an advertisement. We reserve the right to edit, refuse or cancel any ad at any time.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

BRISTOL JUVENILE COURT
Juvenile and Domestic Relations
District Court
Bristol JDR - JUVENILE DIVISION
Case No.: JJ009285-10-00

Commonwealth of Virginia
Bristol VA DSS
In Re: Smith, Zamari Jacques
Plaintiff

Gibson, Jermaine
v
Defendant
The object of this suit is to:
**TERMINATE RESIDUAL
PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THE SAID
JERMAINE GIBSON, FATHER,
INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED
TO THE RIGHT OF VISITATION,
RIGHT TO DETERMINE
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION,
RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUPPORT
AND CONSENT TO ADOPTION.**

It is ordered that the defendant
Jermaine Gibson, FATHER, appear
at the above-named Court and protect
his or her interests on or before
January 9, 2024 at 03:00PM.

Bristol Juvenile Court, 495
Cumberland Street, Bristol VA 24201

Summons & Notice

**STATE OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT
OF COMMON PLEAS
C/A NO. 2023CP4303694
COUNTY OF SUMTER
Road/Route U. S. Route 521
Shoulder Improvement
Project ID No. P037062
Tract 42**

South Carolina Department of
Transportation
Condemnor,

VS.

Barbara Jean Alston, Elouise
Davis, Clara A. Dennis a/k/a
Clara Dennis f/k/a Clara Alston,
deceased, Joseph Alston,
deceased,
Landowner(s),
and

Charles Dennis, Kenbonte
Dennis, Kimberly Wells, and
Dominique Dennis, as their
interest may appear, South
Carolina Department of
Revenue, State Tax Lien,
Other Condemnee(s),
and

John Doe and Mary Roe,
representing all unknown
persons having or claiming to
have any right, title or interest
in or to, or lien on the lands
described herein, including all
unknown heirs of Clara A.
Dennis a/k/a Clara Dennis f/k/a
Clara Alston and Joseph Alton,
deceased,
Unknown Claimant(s).

**TO: THE LANDOWNER(S),
OTHER CONDEMNEE(S) AND
UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS
ABOVE NAMED:**

**YOU ARE HEREBY
SUMMONED,** advised and
notified, that pursuant to the
South Carolina Eminent
Domain Procedures Act,
Section 28-2-10, et seq., the
within Condemnation Notice
and Tender of Payment, a copy
of which is herewith served
upon you, has been filed with
the Clerk of Court for Sumter
County. The purpose of this
lawsuit is to enable the
Condemnor, the South Carolina
Department of Transportation,
to acquire certain real property
for its public purposes, as is
more fully stated in the
attached Condemnation Notice
and Tender of Payment.
Responsive pleadings to the
Condemnation Notice and
Tender of Payment are not
necessary.

**CONDEMNATION NOTICE
AND
TENDER OF PAYMENT
(JURY TRIAL DEMANDED)**

Summons & Notice

**TO: THE LANDOWNER(S)
AND OTHER CONDEMNEE(S)
AND UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS
ABOVE NAMED:**

Pursuant to the South Carolina
Eminent Domain Procedure
Act, Section 28-2-10, et seq.,
Code of Laws of South Carolina,
1976, as amended, you are
hereby notified as follows:

1. The South Carolina
Department of Transportation
(SCDOT) is the Condemnor
herein and seeks to acquire the
real property described herein
for public purposes.

2. Barbara Jean Alston,
Elouise Davis, Clara A. Dennis
a/k/a Clara Dennis f/k/a Clara
Alston and Joseph Alston are
named as Landowner(s) in this
action by virtue of their
claim(s) of title (or other
interests) as shown by that
certain deed from William
Davis and Elouise Davis a/k/a
Eloise Davis dated December 8,
2005 and recorded December 9,
2005 in Deed Book 1008, Page
1978 in the Office of the ROD
for Sumter County.

3. Charles Dennis, Kenbonte
Dennis, Kimberly Wells and
Dominique Dennis are named
"Other Condemnee(s)" in this
action by virtue of their
claim(s) of title (or other
interests) as heirs at law of
Clara A. Dennis a/k/a Clara
Dennis f/k/a Clara Alston who
died intestate on September 10,
2020 as shown by that certain
Probated Estate filed in the
records of the Probate Court for
Sumter County in Probate
Roll No. 2020ES4300656.

4. South Carolina Department
of Revenue is made a party in
this action as "Other
Condemnee(s)" by virtue of its
claim(s) of interest(s) in that
certain State Tax Lien Number
921932 against Barbara Alston,
filed December 10, 2021 in the
South Carolina Tax Lien
Registry.

5. All persons collectively
designated John Doe and Mary
Roe are made parties in this
action as "Unknown Claimants"
representing unknown heirs at
law and devisees and all other
persons, born or unborn,
claiming by, through, or under
the Estate(s) of Clara A. Dennis
a/k/a Clara Dennis f/k/a Clara
Alston and Joseph Alston and
all other persons having an
interest in or claim upon the
property herein condemned.

6. The following is a
description of the real property
subject to this action and a
description of the interest
sought to be acquired in and to
the property by the Condemnor:

All that parcel or strip of land,
in fee simple, with
improvements thereon, if any,
containing 0.022 acre (951 sq.
ft.) of land and being described
as follows: Within 37.5 feet of
the survey centerline of U. S.
Route 521, on the right,
between approximate survey
stations 389+52 and 390+35.

Tax Map Number 087-00-03-059

7. The SCDOT is vested with
the power of eminent domain
pursuant to Section 57-5-320
and Section 28-2-60, Code of
Laws of South Carolina, 1976,
as amended.

8. The property sought herein
is to be acquired for public
purposes, more particularly for
the construction of U. S. Route
521 Shoulder Improvement.

9. This action is brought
pursuant to Section 28-2-240,
Code of Laws of South Carolina,
1976, as amended.

10. The SCDOT has complied
with the requirements set forth
in Section 28-2-70(a), Code of
Laws of South Carolina, 1976,
as amended, by having the
subject property appraised and
making the appraisal available
to the Landowner(s) where
required by law, and certifies to
the Court that a negotiated
resolution has been attempted
prior to the commencement of
this action or pursuant to
Section 12-28-2940, Code of
Laws of South Carolina, 1976,

Summons & Notice

as amended, an appraisal of this
property was not required.

11. Project plans may be
inspected at the office of
Sumter County Maintenance
Office, 301 East Calhoun Street,
Sumter, South Carolina 29151,
under Project ID No. P037062,
U. S. Route 521 Shoulder
Improvement, Tract 42.

12. **THE CONDEMNOR HAS
DETERMINED JUST
COMPENSATION FOR THE
PROPERTY AND RIGHTS TO
BE ACQUIRED HEREUNDER,
INCLUDING ALL DAMAGES
(IF ANY), TO BE THE SUM OF
TWO HUNDRED AND NO/100
DOLLARS (\$200.00) AND
HEREBY TENDERS
PAYMENT THEREOF TO THE
LANDOWNER(S).**

13. Payment of this amount
will be made to the
Landowner(s) if within thirty
(30) days of service of this
Condemnation Notice, the
Landowner(s) in writing
requests payment, and agrees to
execute any instruments
necessary to convey to the
Condemnor the property
interests and rights described
hereinabove. The Agreement
and Request for Payment must
be sent by first class certified
mail with return receipt
requested or delivered in
person to Director, Rights of
Way, South Carolina
Department of Transportation,
955 Park Street, Columbia,
South Carolina 29202. If no
Agreement and Request for
Payment is received by the
Condemnor within the thirty
(30) day period, the tender is
considered rejected.

14. If the tender is rejected,
the Condemnor has the right to
file this Condemnation Notice
with the Clerk of Court of the
County where the property is
situated and deposit the tender
amount with the Clerk. The
Condemnor shall give the
Landowner(s) and Other
Condemnee(s) notice that it has
done so and may then proceed
to take possession of the
property interests and exercise
the rights described in this
Condemnation Notice.

15. **AN ACTION
CHALLENGING THE
CONDEMNOR'S RIGHT TO
ACQUIRE THE PROPERTY
AND RIGHTS DESCRIBED
HEREIN MUST BE
COMMENCED IN A
SEPARATE PROCEEDING IN
THE COURT OF COMMON
PLEAS WITHIN THIRTY
DAYS OF THIS
CONDEMNATION NOTICE,
OR THE LANDOWNER(S)
WILL BE CONSIDERED TO
HAVE WAIVED THE
CHALLENGE.**

16. **THE CONDEMNOR HAS
ELECTED NOT TO UTILIZE
THE APPRAISAL PANEL
PROCEDURE.** Therefore, if the
tender herein is rejected, the
Condemnor shall notify the
Clerk of Court and shall
demand a trial to determine the
amount of just compensation to
be paid. A copy of that notice
must be served on the
Landowner(s). That notice shall
state whether the Condemnor
demands a trial by jury or by
the Court without a jury. The
Landowner(s) has the right to
demand a trial by jury. The
case may not be called for trial
before sixty (60) days after the
service of that notice, but it
may thereafter be given
priority for trial over other
civil cases. The Clerk of Court
shall give the Landowner(s)
written notice by mail of the
call of the case for trial.

17. **THEREFORE, IF THE
TENDER HEREIN IS
REJECTED, THE
LANDOWNER(S) IS ADVISED
TO OBTAIN LEGAL COUNSEL
AT ONCE, IF NOT ALREADY
OBTAINED.**

18. In the event the
Landowner(s) accepts the
amount tendered in this Notice,
the attached Agreement and
Request for Payment form
should be signed and returned
to the Condemnor within thirty
(30) days of your receipt of this

Summons & Notice

Notice.

J. Calhoun Land, IV
BY:
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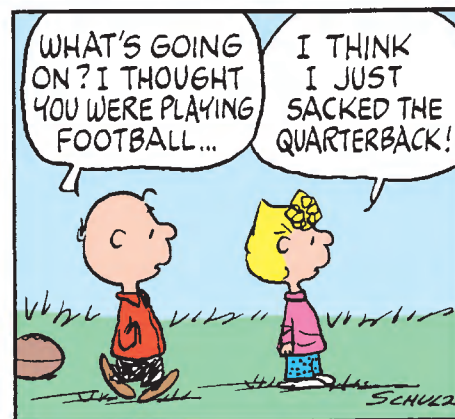
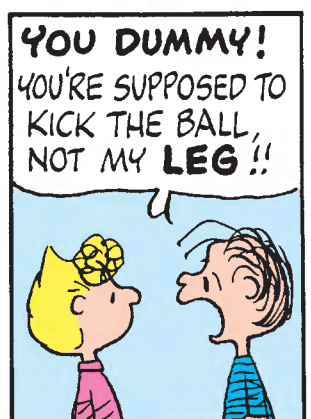
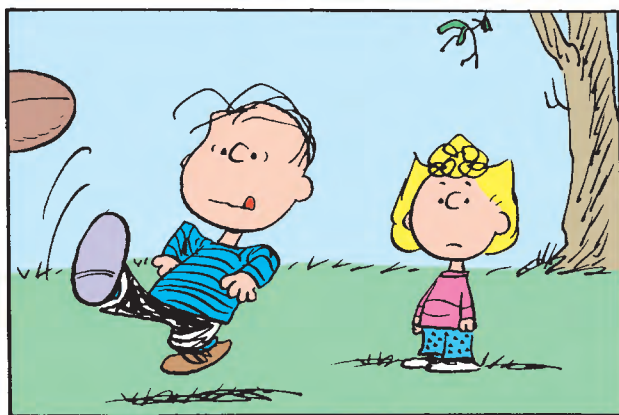
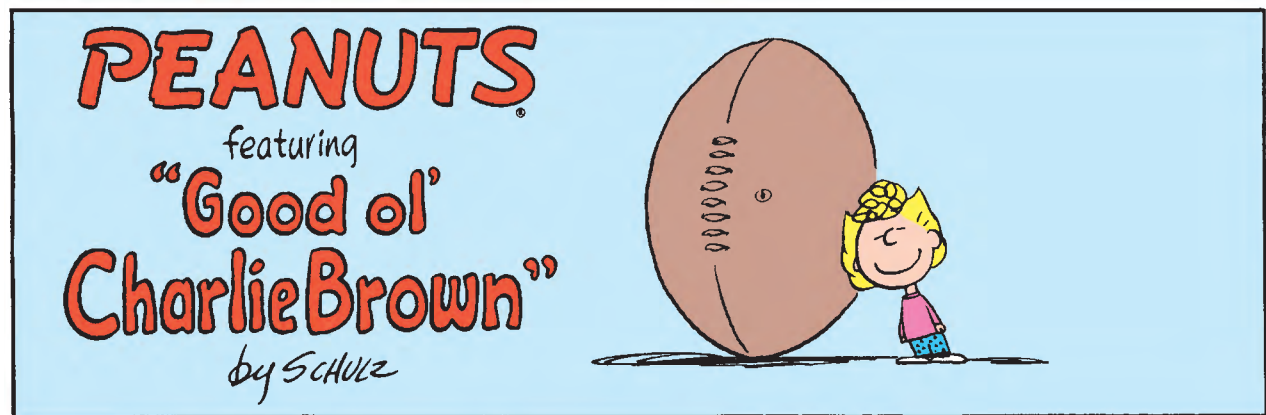


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- Dawn original dish detergent
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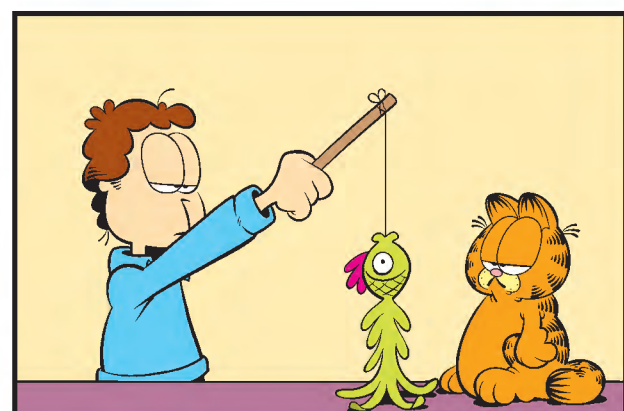
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BY JIM DAVIS



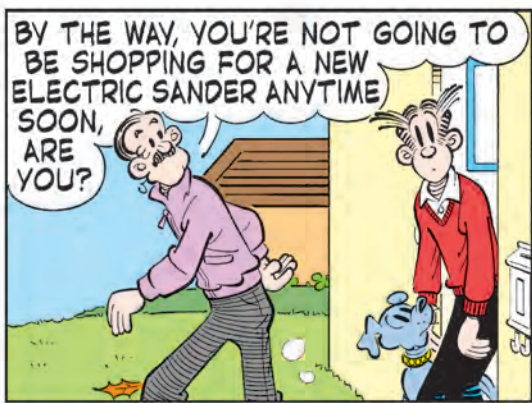
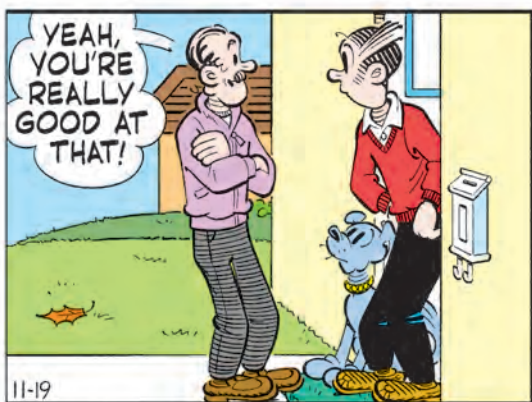
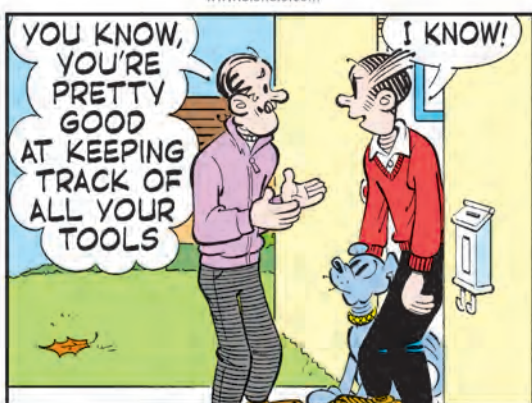
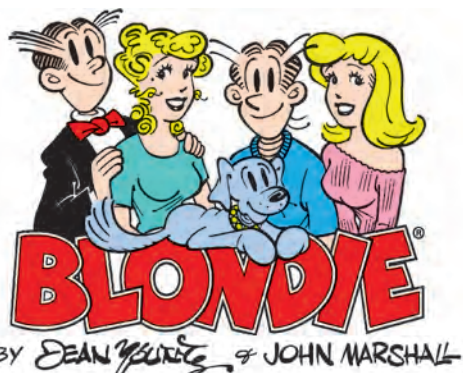
TAKE IT FROM THE TINKERSONS

BY BILL BETTWY



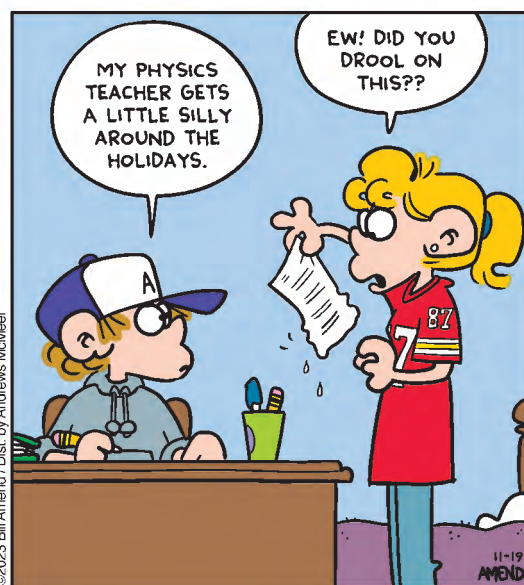
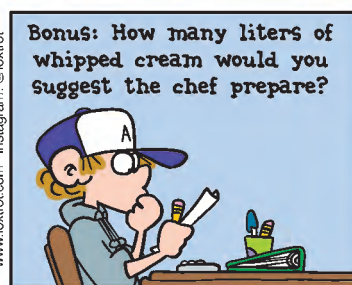
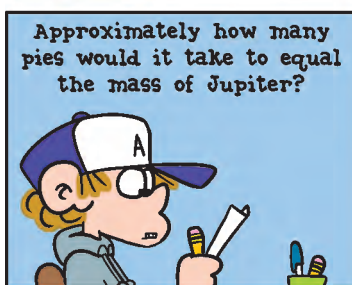
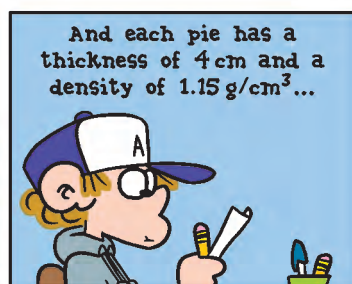
CLOSE TO HOME

BY JOHN McPHERSON



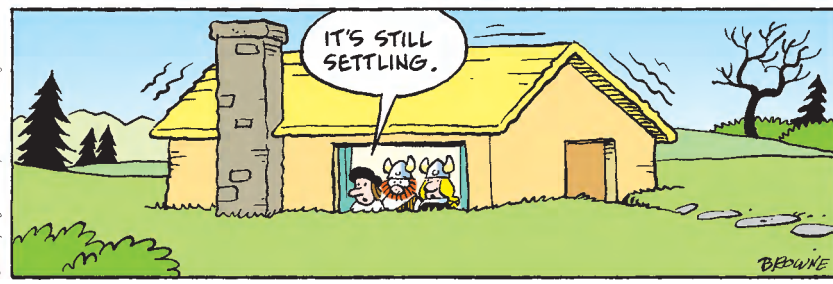
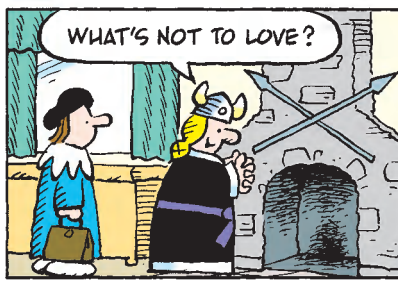
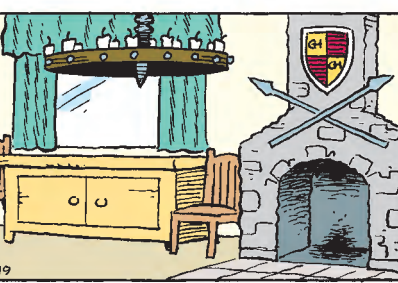
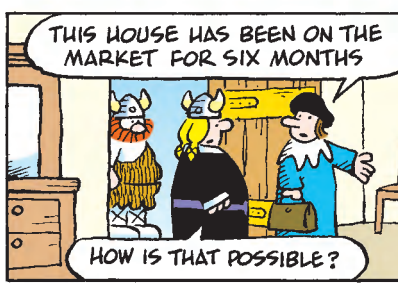
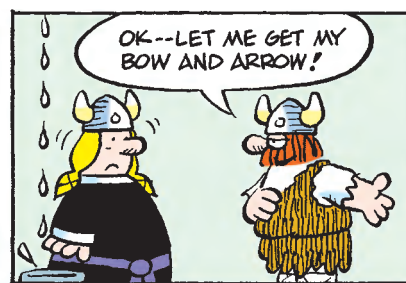
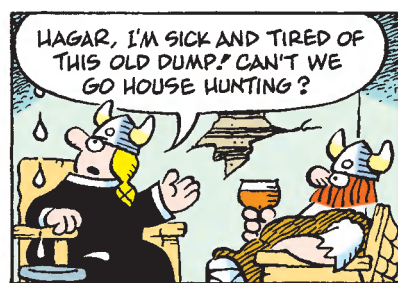
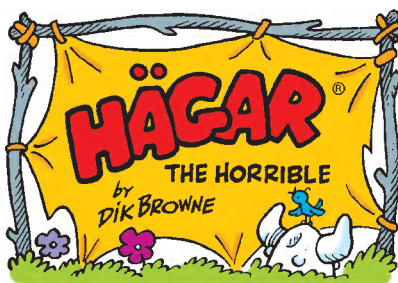
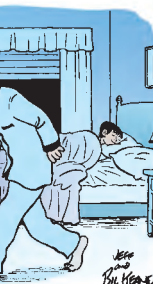
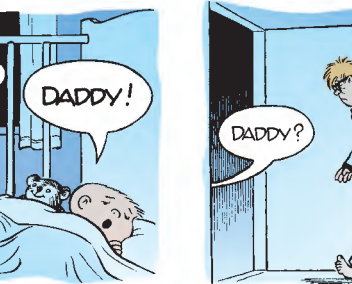
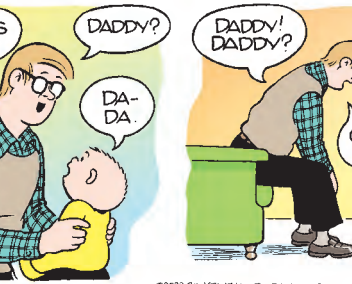
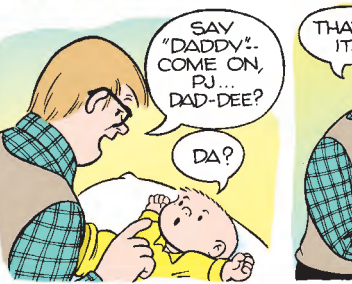
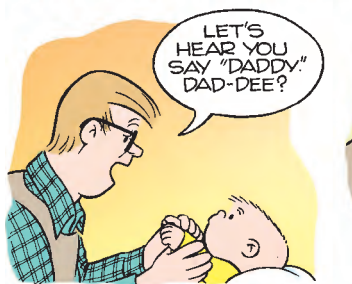
FoxTrot

by Bill Amend



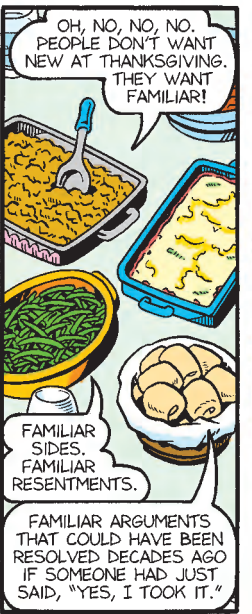
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Phil Keane



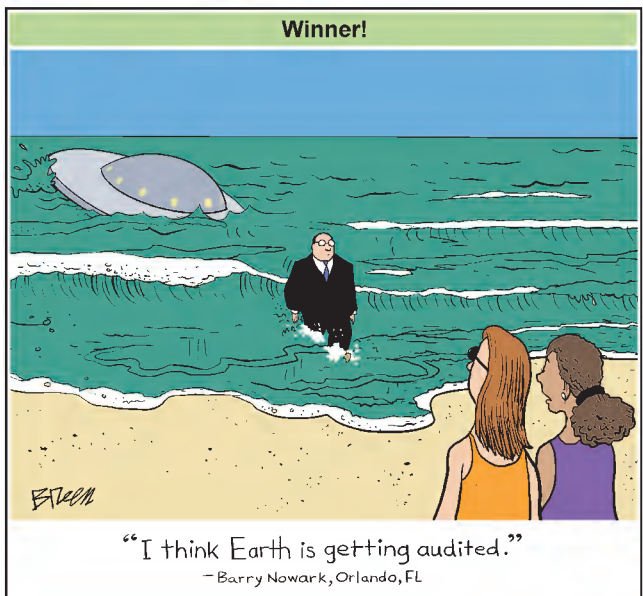
SALLY FORTH

BY FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & JIM KEEFE





by Steve Green



"I think Earth is getting audited."
-Barry Newark, Orlando, FL



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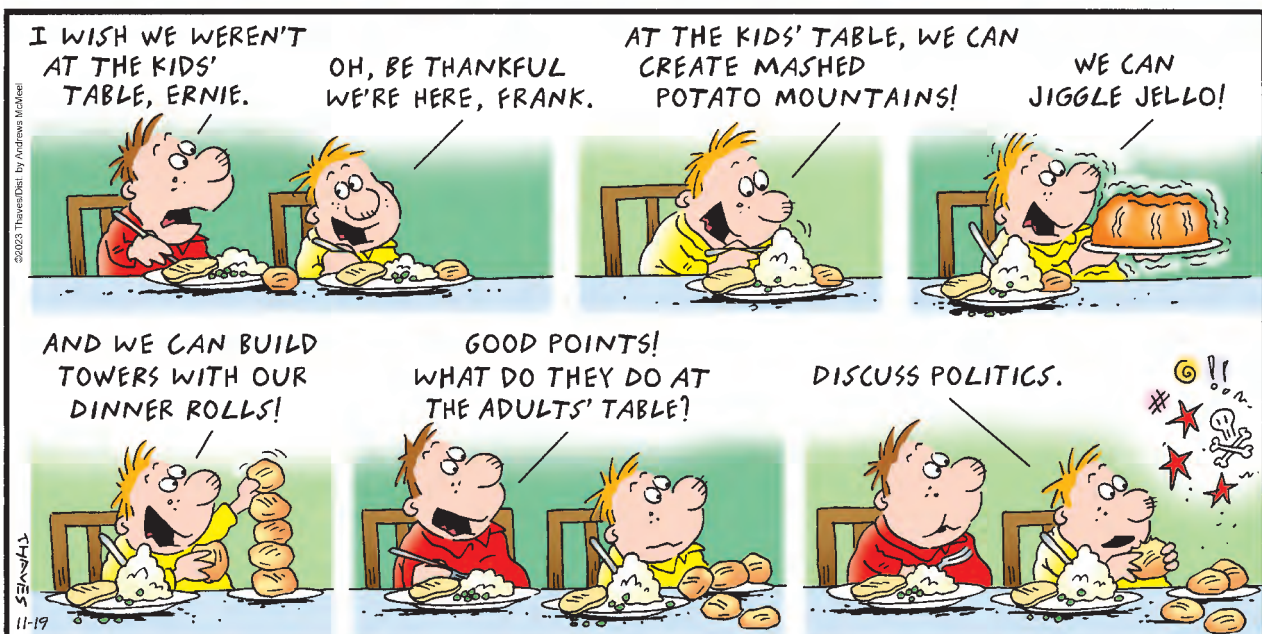
HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Cap is smaller. 2. Boy in background is moved. 3. Hand is moved. 4. Bat is moved. 5. Pitcher's mound is moved. 6. Collar is different.

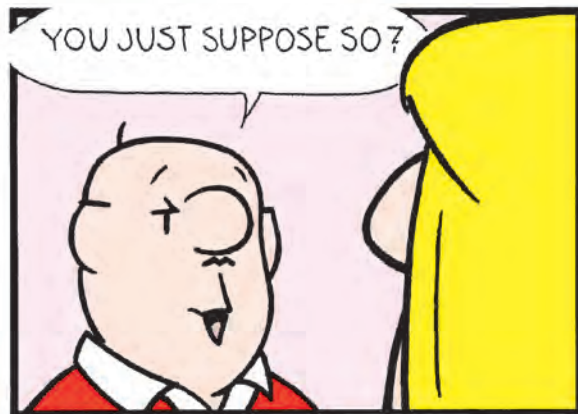
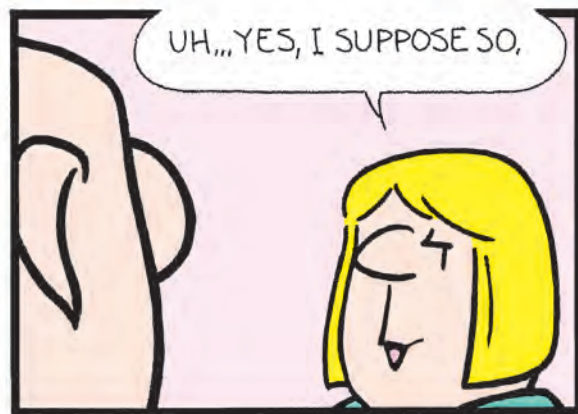
FRANK AND ERNEST



THE BORN LOSER

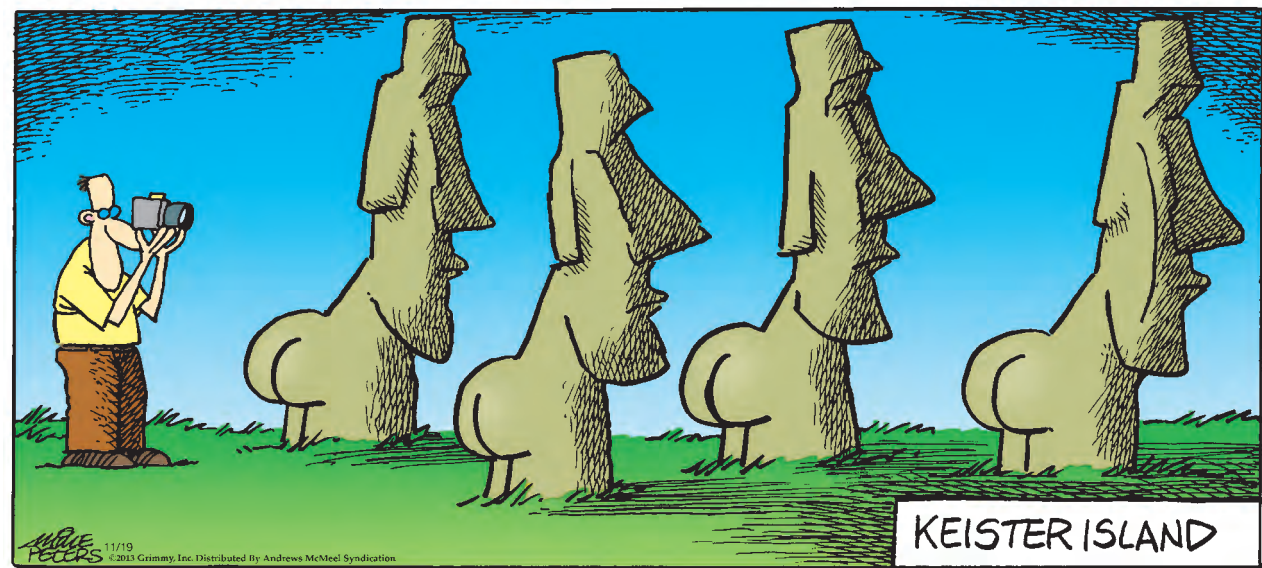


by Art & Chip Sansom



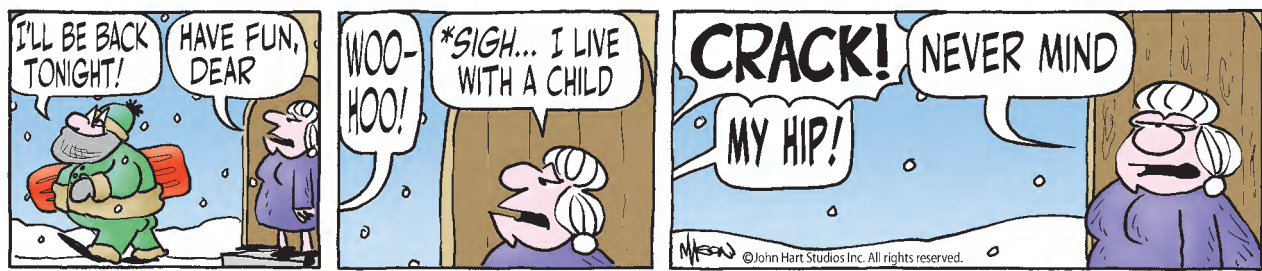
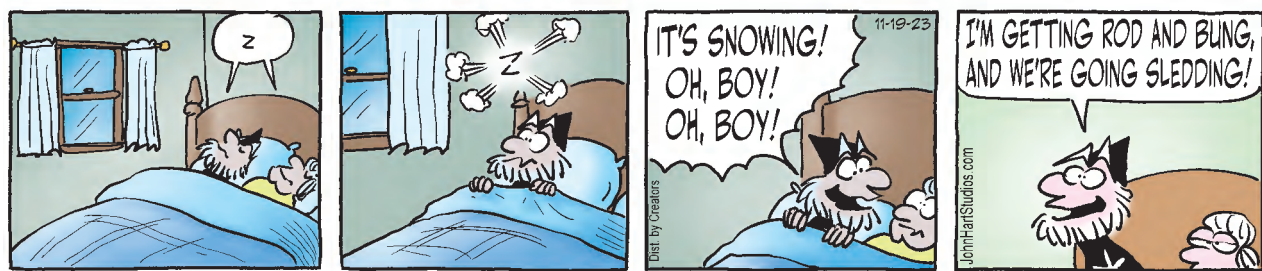
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS



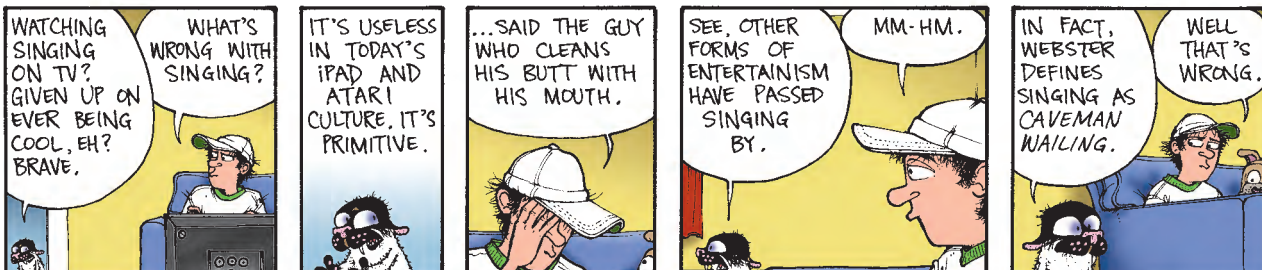
WIZARD OF ID

by Hart, Mastroianni and Parker



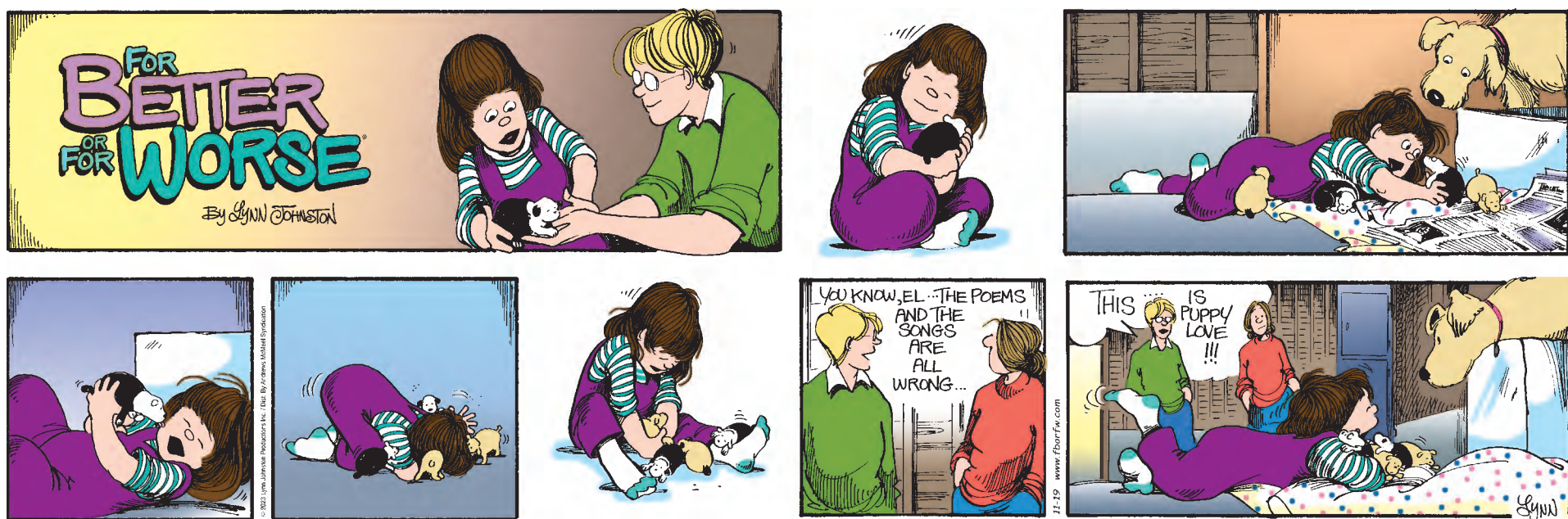
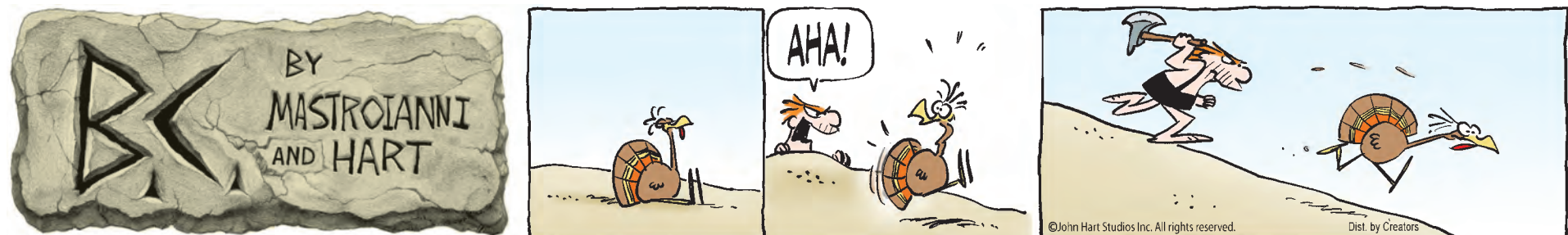
GET FUZZY

BY DARBY CONLEY



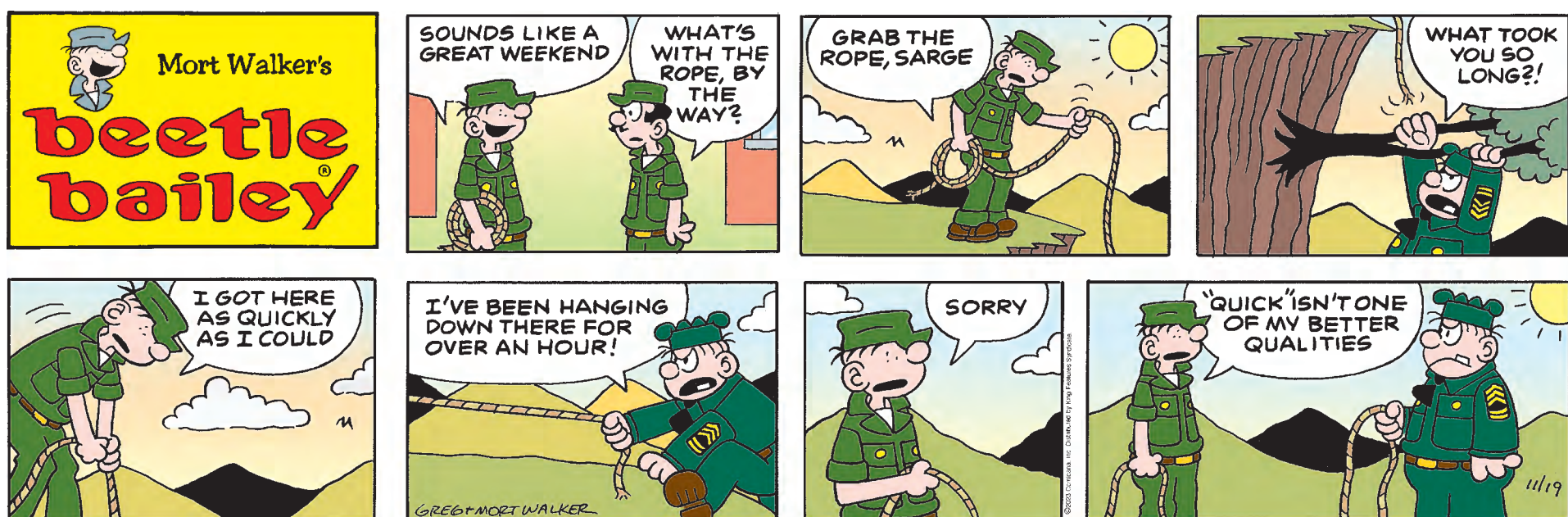
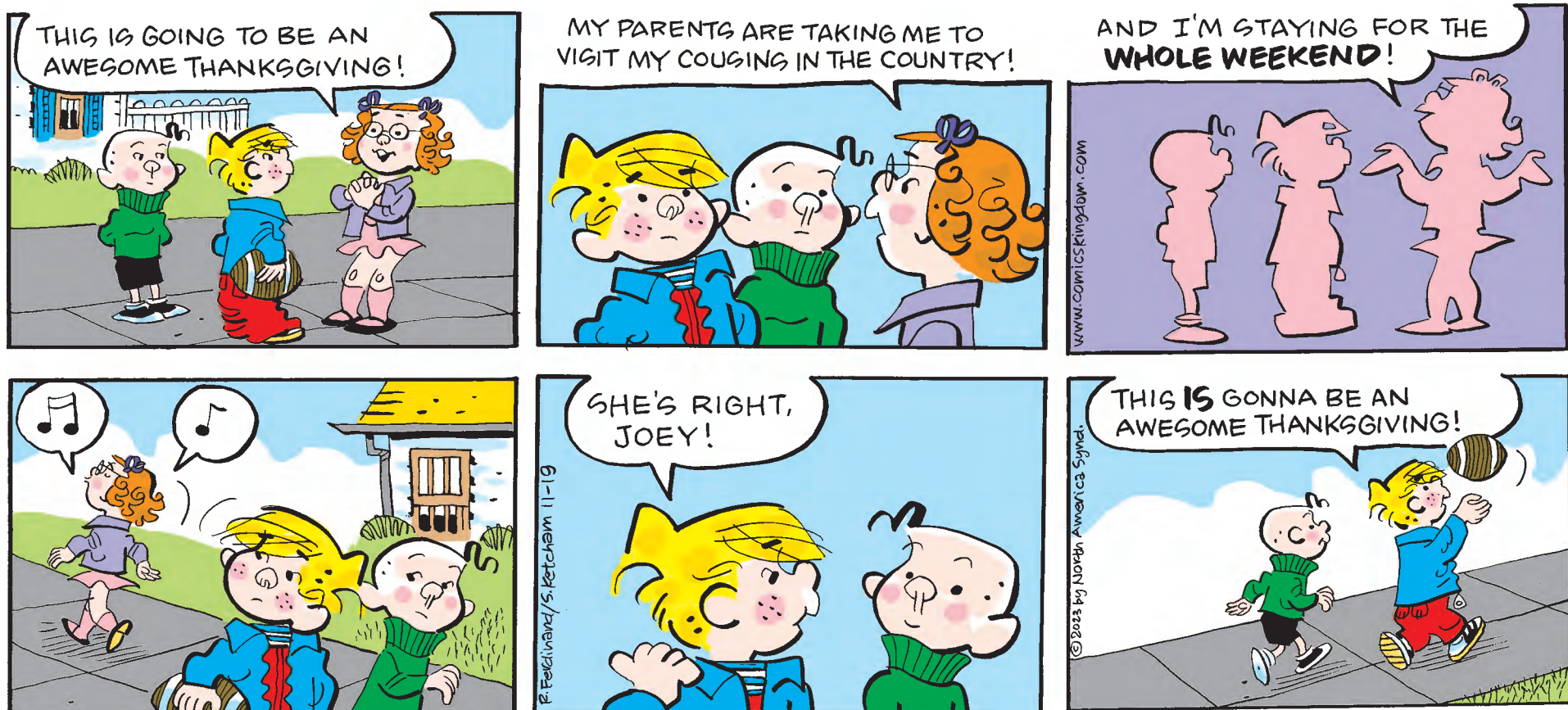
SHOE

BY GARY BROOKINS & SUSIE MACNELLY



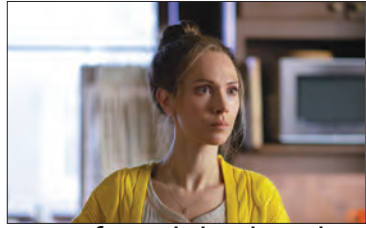
DENNIS THE MENACE

BY HANK KETCHAM





6 'Goldfinger' remains one of James Bond's best



7 Life and death in the Midwest: Hamm, Temple join 'Fargo' for fifth season



7 Green light: 'Squid Game: The Challenge' the largest reality competition in platform's history

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The Summer Scene

November 18 - November 24, 2023

TCM recalls the impact of Harry Belafonte

BY JAY BOBBIN

During his very full life, Harry Belafonte was many things, personally and professionally. And being an actor was one of them.

The entertainer and activist didn't make a lot of films, relatively speaking, but those he did make generally had social undercurrents — not surprising for someone who was so concerned with the world around him. Following his death last April at age 96, Turner Classic Movies pays tribute to him with a double feature on Sunday, Nov. 19: "Carmen Jones" (1954) will be followed by "The World, the Flesh and the Devil" (1959).

The Otto Preminger-directed "Carmen Jones" was Belafonte's second movie, revising the Bizet opera "Carmen" with Dorothy Dandridge in the title role of a much-desired wartime parachute factory employee who sets her sights on an already engaged soldier (Belafonte). It's interesting that despite his famous singing skills, Belafonte took the opportunity to be dubbed by another vocalist (Le Vern Hutcherson), who was more accomplished specifically in the

operatic realm. The cast also includes Pearl Bailey, Brock Peters and Diahann Carroll.

Directed and co-written by Randal McDougall (who was married to second wife Nanette Fabray at the time), "The World, the Flesh and the Devil" came shortly before Belafonte took a break from moviemaking for roughly a decade, casting him as a miner who is one of the relative handful of people to survive a nuclear holocaust. Indeed, the picture has only two other actors, Inger Stevens and Mel Ferrer. As their characters try to adjust to an otherwise empty New York (filmed very early each work day, before the city's usual population began filling the streets), racial tensions eventually surface among them.

In a way, the Nov. 19 evening actually will be TCM's second salute to Belafonte this year. Last July, his daughter Shari Belafonte served as a guest programmer on the channel, and her choices included her father's 1959 feature "Odds Against Tomorrow." His subsequent screen credits would

include a couple of teamings with his close friend Sidney Poitier — "Buck and the Preacher" and "Uptown Saturday Night" (both of which also included Poitier as a director) — and a cameo as himself in Robert Altman's Hollywood satire "The Player."

Belafonte and the movies will be connected again in the near future, since he is the subject of the forthcoming documentary "Following Harry," previewed via some advance footage at last June's Tribeca Film Festival. While filming it, director Susanne Rostock (who also made the 2011 Belafonte profile "Sing My Song") enabled him to reflect on the change he hoped to bring about in America ... though he questioned how much he had accomplished. Many admirers believe Belafonte achieved a considerable amount during his lifetime; TCM clearly does, too, as evidenced by the salute that it's giving him.

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BEST OF SUMMER 2023

Horoscopes

The luckiest signs this week:
ARIES, TAURUS AND GEMINI

ARIES
End friendships that demand too much of your attention. Tidy up your circle of friends and go out and meet new people. Spearheading a project at work will help you develop new friendships with your colleagues.

TAURUS
If you've recently achieved a great feat or completed a major project, it's perfectly normal to want to celebrate. Share this joy with your colleagues or loved ones by hosting a party.

GEMINI
Avoid delays by doubling your efforts and focusing on your objectives. However, taking time to relax and enjoy yourself is also important to regain your energy.

CANCER
If your family is scattered far and wide, you have two options for getting together for the holidays: visit each family member individually or go on a trip with them.

LEO
This week, you'll excel at communicating and negotiating. You'll be able to reach an agreement for the financing of a professional or personal project. You could be afraid of disappointing someone.

VIRGO
You'll be very successful this week, especially if you work in sales. You'll increase your clientele to such an extent that management will be obliged to promote you. What's more, you'll excel in the small details.

LIBRA
At work, a polished presentation could change everything and help you succeed. An infusion of fun will also be appreciated by your superiors. In love, passion is the driving force behind commitment.

SCORPIO
It's important to discuss family matters openly. Silence can lead to confusion. Moreover, you may need to bring work home with you a few evenings this week.

SAGITTARIUS
If you're easy to talk to, you'll be able to expand your network of contacts and relationships at work. Even at work, you'll never run out of things to talk about and will be able to make new acquaintances.

CAPRICORN
You may find money in the bottom of an old ski jacket you forgot about last year. In your relationship, it's important to communicate more openly, even if it's just to ask for more affection.

AQUARIUS
You'll be very dynamic this week and start organizing various events you'll soon be attending. In the face of a certain emotional heaviness, a little internal housekeeping will be beneficial.

PISCES
Silence is golden, speech is silver. You have an extraordinary source of creativity at your disposal. Take advantage of your home environment to create something beautiful or explore a new spiritual practice.

New Streaming Movies & Shows



"Hope Street" - Season 3 (Nov. 22)

The mysteries continue in a new season of this BBC crime drama. Available on the BritBox Prime Video channel, the series is set in the fictional town of Port Devine on the coast of Northern Ireland. It follows the town's police department as they team up with a series of outsiders to solve mysteries in the area, getting caught up in the exploits of Port Devine's locals along the way. Karen Hassan, Ryan Power, Ciaran McMenemy, Kerri Quinn, Niall Wright and Brid Brennan star.



"National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" (Nov. 23)

As the holidays approach, Clark Griswold (Chevy Chase) wants to have a perfect family Christmas, so he pesters his wife, Ellen (Beverly D'Angelo), and children, as he tries to make sure everything is in line, including the tree and decorations. However, things go awry quickly. His hick cousin, Eddie (Randy Quaid), and his family show up unplanned and start living in their camper on the Griswold property. Even worse, Clark's employers renege on the holiday bonus he needs.

Word Search

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M N D U I L L A L L O W I T E
D E T P S A M A J T I U S P W
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How I Met Your Mother

AWESOME	I'LL ALLOW	MARSH-	SCHMOSBY
BARNEY	IT	GAMMON	SLAPS-
BRO CODE	JUST OK	PINEAPPLE	GIVING
BROVER	LAWYERED	PLAYBOOK	SUITJAMAS
BUT UM	LEGENDARY	PLEASE	TED
HIGH	LILY	ROBIN	TRACY
FIVES	MACLAREN'S	SAGET	WHAT UP

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N STAMPED FROM THE BEGINNING



"Stamped From the Beginning" (Nov. 20)

Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's bestselling book comes to life in this new, hybrid documentary/scripted film. Chronicling the entire story of anti-Black racist ideas and their staggering power over the course of American history, the film uses an innovative animation process that blends live action with the art of the era to illuminate figures and moments both well-known and obscure. Leading female academics and activists guide viewers through the ways racist tropes and imagery were developed and enshrined in American culture.



"Meet Spidey and his Amazing Friends (Shorts)" - Season 3 (Nov. 22)

Our favourite web-slinger is great at working solo, but Spidey is about to discover that when he's got some super-hero friends by his side, he can fight supervillains and rescue anyone in trouble even better. Meet the good guys and gals that help Spidey save the day!

Q&A: Elvis Presley

BY JAY BOBBIN

Q: I've seen a lot of Elvis Presley movies on television lately. Which were the first and last ones he made?

A: The first was "Love Me Tender" (1956), which actually was renamed from the original "The Reno Brothers" to coordinate with the title song, a giant hit for Presley that he performed in the film. He played one of the Reno siblings during the Civil War, youngest brother Clint, who tended to the homefront while his brothers fought in the battle. Top-billed Richard Egan portrayed the oldest brother, while the role of another Reno was filled by James Drury, later to become "The Virginian" on weekly TV.



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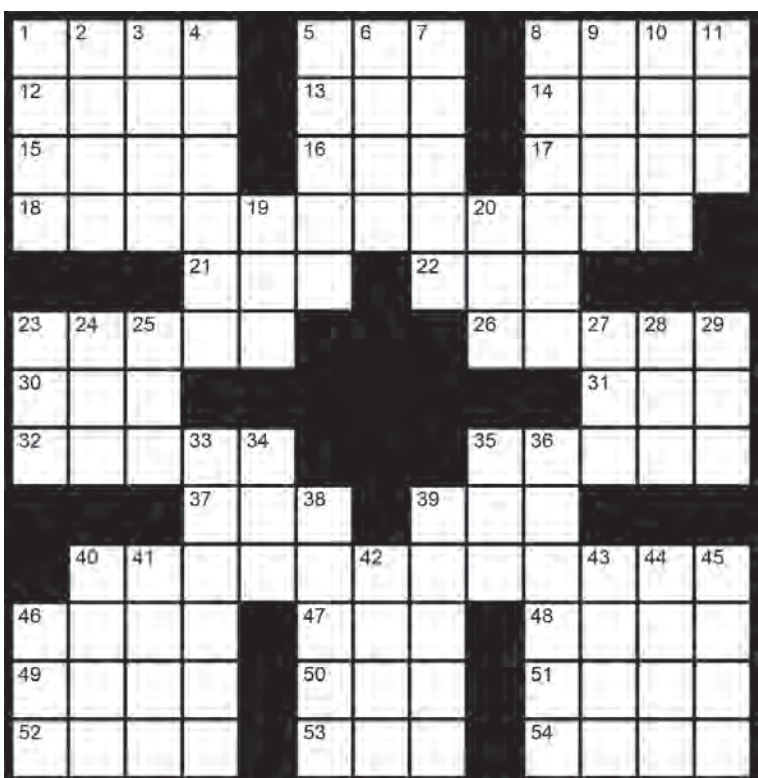
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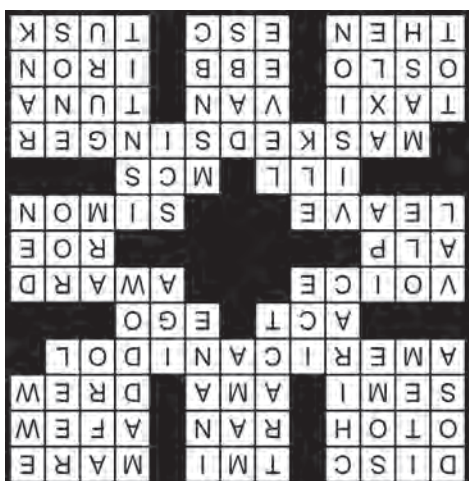
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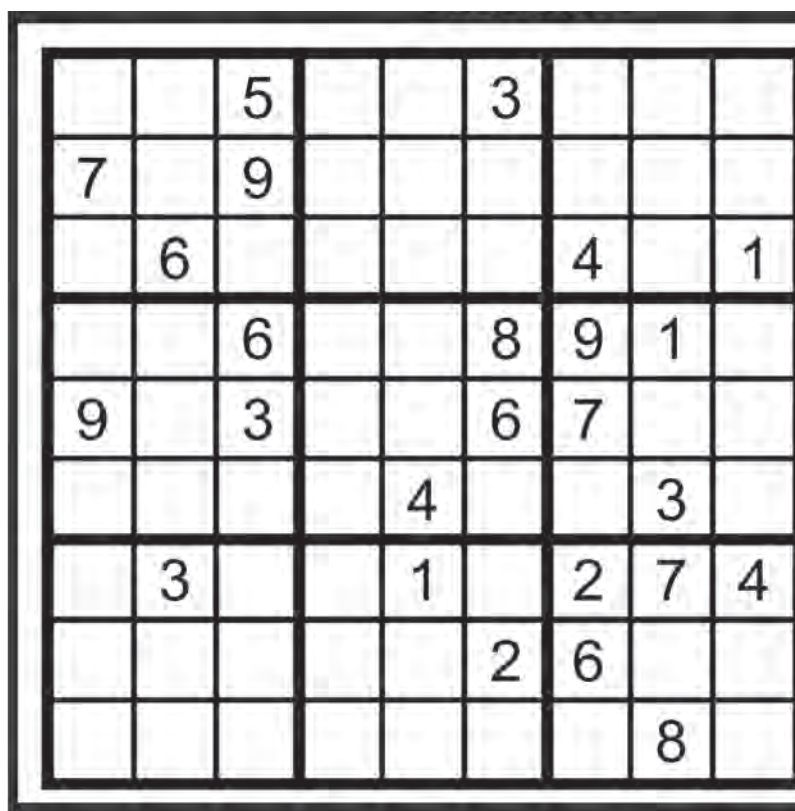
Crosswords



- Across**
- Othello game piece
 - "You're oversharing!"
 - "___ of Easttown"
 - Texter's "however"
 - Hightailed it
 - Not too many
 - Rest area sight
 - Professional org.
 - Talk show host Barrymore
 - TV show for wannabe pop stars
 - Take effect
 - It may need massaging
 - Christina Aguilera's TV show, with The
 - Emmy, e.g.
 - High peak
 - Shad delicacy
 - Take off
 - Cowell of 18-Across
 - Hurting
 - Hosts
 - Ken Jeong's show
 - Danny DeVito series
 - Mystery Machine, e.g.
 - Sushi fish
 - Quisling's city
 - Low ___
 - It's pumped in a gym
 - Start of a conclusion
 - PC key
 - Ivory source
- Down**
- Indian pancake
 - Twosome
 - A smattering of
 - Mitterrand's successor
 - Stretch of land
 - "Oh, ___!"
 - Silly
 - Rachel of 39-Down
 - 60's hairdo
 - Quaint dance
 - "Gross!"
 - Swelling reducer
 - Food store chain inits.
 - Kilmer of "At First Sight"
 - Bullfight cheer
 - Hoppy brew, for short
 - Offshoot
 - Friend of Pooh
 - TV room
 - Optometrist's concern
 - Big game hunter's target, some-times
 - Biol. or chem.
 - "___ obvious?"
 - Flood embankment
 - Fox News competitor
 - Alda and Swit vehicle
 - Linchpin's place
 - Small amounts
 - Wise one
 - 1961 chimp in space
 - Utter
 - Tad



Sudoku



To complete this puzzle, place the numbers 1-9 in the empty cells, so that every row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold outline) contains all nine digits.

Each number 1-9 may appear only once in each row, column and 3-by-3 box.

SOLUTION

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

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Table with columns: MONDAY EVENING, SP=Spectrum, FTC=Farm, DTV=DirectTV, MOVIES, SPORTS, KIDS, NOVEMBER 20, 2023. Rows include channel numbers and program titles like 'WIS News 10 at 6 (N)', 'Last Man Standing', 'ABC World News (N)', etc.

Advertisement for Browns Furniture & Bedding. Includes the text 'Where Quality Matters', the phone number 803-774-2100, the address 31 West Wesmark Blvd., Sumter, SC, and the website BrownsFurnitureSumter.com. The background features a photograph of a modern living room with a large sofa, coffee table, and decorative items.



'Goldfinger' remains one of James Bond's best

BY JAY BOBBIN

Over the course of six decades, James Bond has had a lot of screen adventures, but one of the earliest remains one of the best.

Included by MGM+ in a Thanksgiving Day marathon of several of the pictures in the franchise Thursday, Nov. 24, "Goldfinger" is the movie that cemented the series' formula for many viewers and critics. While telling a solid spy story (taken from Ian Fleming's novel), it added comfortable amounts of gadgetry and so-called "Bond girls" that were essential parts of the concept from then on.

Sean Connery is completely in his stride as Agent 007 in the 1964 caper, as the character helps get the goods on wealthy villain Auric Goldfinger (Gert Frobe) when the latter cheats in a Miami card game. The aftermath, which famously doesn't bode well for Goldfinger's assistant (Shirley Eaton), makes Bond even more eager to see justice done ... and the agent uses a golf match back in England to engage the enemy, who introduces his silent and deadly henchman Oddjob (Harold Sakata).

As the title foe's plan to contaminate the gold stored in Fort Knox takes shape, "Goldfinger" becomes an even wilder ride. A great car chase and a close encounter with a laser beam set the stage for a captive Bond to be brought to Kentucky, where he is placed in

the custody of Goldfinger's no-nonsense personal pilot (Honor Blackman), whose "Flying Circus" of fellow female flyers plays a big part in the Fort Knox raid.

Director Guy Hamilton, who would go on to guide several more 007 films, blends all of the elements smoothly — and not only is it a sterling representation of the entire series, but even if it was the only Bond movie someone saw, it would stand as a thoroughly satisfying piece of entertainment on its own. It also would confirm what made the suave and confident Connery such a major international star of the 1960s and beyond.

Another Bond-movie aspect that "Goldfinger" did much to advance was the title song. Shirley Bassey famously belts out the tune written by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley, and while it remains one of the most legendary pieces of music in the Bond canon, it wouldn't be until 2012's "Skyfall" that one of the songs won an Oscar (followed by wins for both "Writing's on the Wall," from "Spectre," and "No Time to Die").

"Goldfinger" endures as a great example of just about anything anyone could want from it ... and for many James Bond devotees, it remains the cream of the crop nearly 60 years later.

Best TV series from Movies

BY JAY BOBBIN

"The Odd Couple" (1970-75, ABC): Neil Simon's hit play became a popular television vehicle for Tony Randall and Jack Klugman, who reprised the roles of dissimilar roommates Felix and Oscar in other projects later.

"M*A*S*H" (1972-83, CBS): To many, this is the best series adaptation of a feature film to date. With Alan Alda as its lead, the show was brilliantly cast ... but the biggest kudos go to series developers Larry Gelbart and Gene Reynolds, who transferred the irreverent Korean War saga to television without losing its edge.

"Fame" (1982-83, NBC; 1983-87, syndication): All the buoyancy of the 1980 movie about New York's High School for the Performing Arts was retained — along with the title song and several cast members — in the story of students dealing with rites of passage while trying to build music or dance careers for themselves.

"Buffy the Vampire Slayer" (1997-2001, WB; 2001-03, UPN): What had been a modestly successful horror-comedy movie became a cult phenomenon as a series, elevating former soap-opera actress Sarah Michelle Gellar to stardom in the title role.

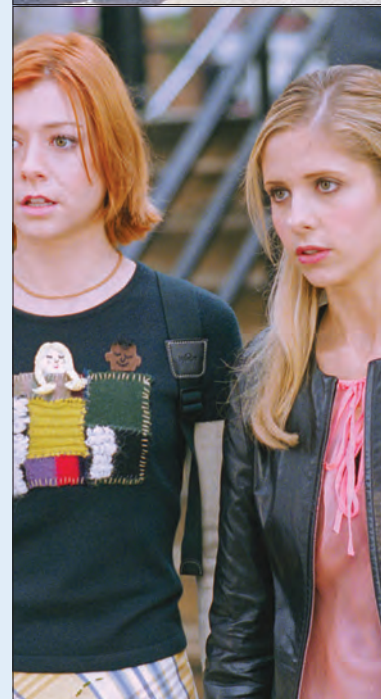
"Friday Night Lights" (2006-11, NBC; 2008-11, DirecTV): This high-school-football drama was so involving and affecting, it was one of the first series a satellite or streaming service stepped in to help save.

"Parenthood" (2010-15, NBC): Though a series version of this family dramedy had been attempted earlier, this is the one that took hold ... owing largely to its excellent, multi-generational ensemble of actors.

"Hannibal" (2013-15, NBC): Even if this variation on the "Silence of the Lambs" character's saga wasn't to everyone's taste, Mads Mikkelsen's compelling title performance kept it intriguing.

"Bates Motel" (2013-17, A&E Network): The roots of Norman Bates' (Freddie Highmore) fixation on his mother (Vera Farmiga) were explored in this "Psycho" prequel.

" Fargo" (2014-present, FX): Major overhauls of the story and cast from season to season of this serio-comic show only have given it more juice, and have brought it a number of award wins. The show's fifth season — with cast members including Jon Hamm and Jennifer Jason Leigh — begins Tuesday, Nov. 21.



French food frenzy: Julia Child takes the cake in 'Chopped'

BY GEORGE DICKIE

Sixteen chefs, one iconic kitchen: an all-new season of this fan-favorite cooking competition honors one of the greatest names in cooking, as "Chopped" returns with new Julia Child-inspired episodes. "Chopped: Julia Child's Kitchen" airs new episodes Tuesdays on Food Network.

"Julia Child was a chef, instructor, author and legend! Even today she influences modern chefs to achieve greatness and push themselves to be their best," Food Network recently shared. "In this competition, four Julia Child fans compete in a preliminary battle with baskets inspired by Julia's recipes."

Keeping to the same format as usual "Chopped" seasons, this "Child-ish" competition features three rounds, in which four chefs must use random and often unusual "mystery basket ingredients" to complete a tasty dish. Each round, one chef is eliminated until only two remain, together facing the judges in the final dessert round, where one is finally crowned the winner.

This — "Chopped's" 55th season — will feature a panel of rotating judges, said to include the likes of Scott Conant (chef, host of "24 Hour Restaurant Battle"), Susan Feniger ("Too Hot Tamales"), Amanda Freitag ("Iron Chef America"), Alex Guarnaschelli ("Ciao House"), Nilou Motamed ("Top Chef"), Michael Voltaggio ("Bobby's Triple Threat") and Isabella Rossellini (who stars in

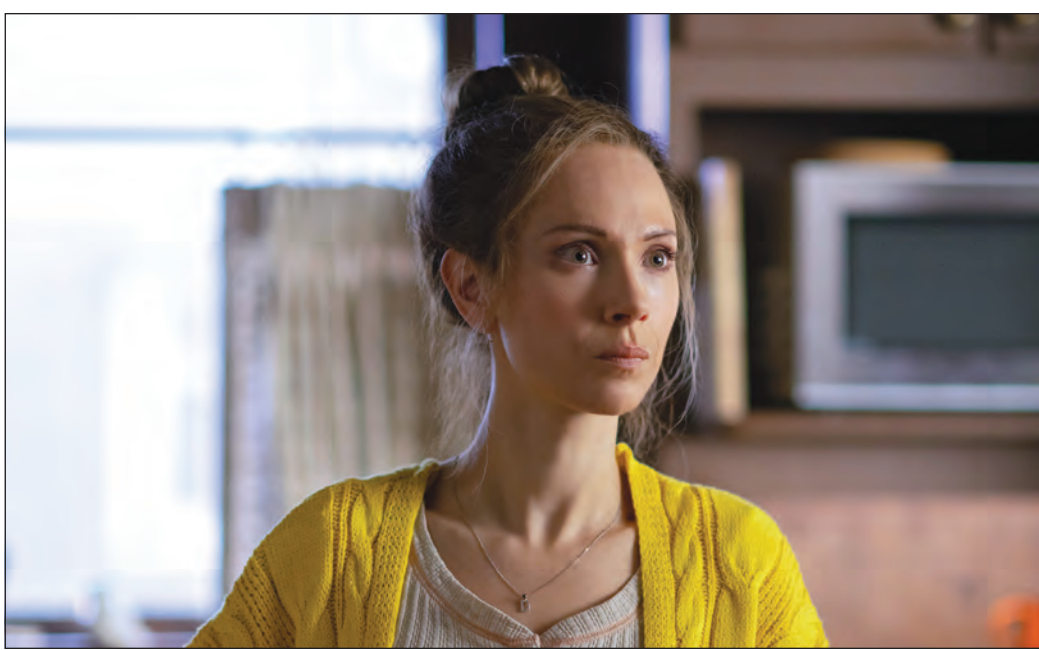
"Julia," premiering its second season two days later on Max). Each episode will also see the arrival of four new chefs, with each winner moving on to the tournament's finale, where the final four will fight for a grand prize of \$25,000 and a Julia Child-themed dream trip to France.

Upcoming episodes of the series feature bright and bold flavors — some Julia herself would never approve of — as the series' second episode promises that "citrus and a salad are part of the puzzle in the appetizer round, and the three chefs who make it to the entrée round must make use of some unusual powder and fancy mushrooms," while a description for the third episode shares that: "The chefs get an unusual piece of chicken and a potato product that would have made Julia cringe."

However, in a season featuring fish stew, veal, processed cheese and more, host Ted Allen learns that the stinkiest thing of all might just be his cohorts' Julia Child impressions.

As the chefs continue their journeys to France — and practice their accents — "Chopped: Julia Child's Kitchen" premieres an all-new episode, Tuesday, Nov. 21, on Food Network.





Life and death in the Midwest: Hamm, Temple join ' Fargo' for fifth season

BY JAY BOBBIN

As anyone living in or visiting Alberta this past October can testify, the province is a great place to film a snowy series. And while the cast and crew of " Fargo" had long since finished filming by the time Calgary received its most recent unseasonable dumping of snow, TV audiences are just now about to witness the magic (and crime — lots of crime) for themselves. Season 5 of " Fargo" begins Tuesday, Nov. 21, with back-to-back episodes on FX. Episodes are available to stream the following day on Hulu.

Despite filming in Canada, the current season of the series created by Noah Hawley (" Legion") is set primarily in North Dakota (as indicated by its title). Expected to run for 10 episodes, " Fargo's" fifth season is set in 2019, making it the series' most recent timeframe to date. (For those interested, seasons 1 through 4 take place in 2006, 1979, 2010 and 1950, respectively.)

Those unfamiliar with " Fargo" may not know that the critically acclaimed series is based on the 1996 film of the same name by the Coen Brothers (" Blood Simple," 1984), which starred William H. Macy (" Shameless") and Steve Buscemi (" Boardwalk Empire") alongside Frances McDormand (" Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri,"

2017) in her Academy Award-winning role as police officer Marge Gunderson. Like the film, FX's " Fargo" is a black comedy, but rather than follow the same storyline as the film, the series opted to present its content as an anthology, jumping through timelines and to various locations in order to tell a series of related tales, each as unsettling — yet somehow inviting — as the next.

Season 5 stars Juno Temple (" Ted Lasso") as Dorothy (Dot) Lyon, a Minnesota-based housewife who appears to lead a normal, happy lifestyle. But, when Dot ends up getting into trouble with the local authorities, her past comes back to haunt her — a past that is much more sinister than anyone would have expected from this average midwestern woman. As she tries to sort out the best course of action, Dot is pursued by North Dakota Sheriff Roy Tillman (Jon Hamm, " Mad Men"), Deputy Witt Farr (Lamorne Morris, " New Girl") and a mysterious man named Ole Munch (Sam Spruell, " The Martian," 2015).

Jennifer Jason Leigh (" The Woman in the Window," 2021) joins the main cast as Dot's well-off mother-in-law, while " Stranger Things" Joe Keery and " Never Have I Ever's" Richa Moorjani step into the roles of the sheriff's son, Gator Tillman, and Deputy Indira Olmstead, respectively.

Meanwhile, David Rysdahl (" Oppenheimer," 2023), Jessica Pohly (" Stalker"), Nick Gomez (" She-Hulk: Attorney at Law"), Lukas Gage (" The White Lotus") and Dave Foley (" The Kids in the Hall") star in recurring roles throughout the newest season.

And although the producers and casting directors once again managed to snag some serious star power for " Fargo," many viewers and critics wondered if the series would be returning at all. On Nov. 29, 2022, the day the Season 4 finale aired, series creator Hawley was asked about his intentions to continue the anthology.

" The danger is always that you're going to stay at the dance a little too long," Hawley replied, " so I have to put a lot of it in place in my head and really make sure that it's worthy of joining these 41 hours."

Hawley continued, stating: " I don't want to try and make another one [season] unless I think, ' Oh, we have to make this one. It's the best one yet.'"



View from the Couch

BY JAY BOBBIN



" OPPENHEIMER"

Since " Barbie" already has been released on home video, its chief rival at last summer's box office can dominate that field for brand-new product on its own this week. Writer-director Christopher Nolan's lengthy, much-acclaimed drama recalls the pivotal role played by physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer (portrayed superbly by Cillian Murphy) in the so-called " Manhattan Project," the code name for the development of atomic weapons during World War II. Convinced that the mission ultimately will have a positive effect, Oppenheimer is distraught by the much different

outcome, prompting him to oppose further use of his work ... a change of position that superiors going all the way up to President Harry S. Truman (Gary Oldman) dismiss. The large and superb cast also includes Emily Blunt, Matt Damon, Robert Downey Jr., Florence Pugh, Josh Hartnett, Casey Affleck, Rami Malek, Kenneth Branagh, Jason Clarke, Tom Conti, Tony Goldwyn and Matthew Modine. Among the special features — three hours' worth, as long as the movie itself — is an extensive " making-of" documentary that includes behind-the-scenes footage and interviews with many of the film's principals. **** (R: AS, P) (Also on Blu-ray, 4K Ultra HD, Digital and On Demand)

" EXPEND4BLES"

Though Sylvester Stallone has had a big home-screen presence lately through his work for Paramount+ on both " Tulsa King" and " The Family Stallone," he's keeping a foot in the movie world, as proven by his return in the fourth installment of the " Expendables" action franchise. His character Barney leads his team of mercenaries on a mission to Libya to stop a struggle over nuclear weapons, which a terrorist wants to use in a scheme to instigate World War III. Jason Statham does a lot of the heavy lifting here as Barney's deputy Lee Christmas, who ends up having

to take over the assignment (for story purposes as well as Stallone's reported desire to hand the starring reins over to him); Curtis " 50 Cent" Jackson, Megan Fox, Dolph Lundgren, Randy Couture and Andy Garcia also are present. *** (R: AS, P, V) (Also on Blu-ray, 4K Ultra HD, Digital and On Demand)

" SAW X"

A durable horror-movie franchise continues with this 10th edition, which dials back to the period between the first two films in the series to give Tobin Bell ample screen time as John Kramer, who became known as the sinister Jigsaw ... the mastermind behind the numerous death traps that claimed the lives of numerous victims throughout the overall saga. Here, he seeks medical help in Mexico for his cancer, only to find that some of those behind the supposed treatment are perpetrating a fraud — making Kramer determined to exact his special and unfailingly gruesome brand of revenge. Shawnee Smith and Costas Mandylor are among other returning performers here, with Synnove Macody Lund, Steven Brand, Renata Vaca and Michael Beach also in the cast. As always with the " Saw" pictures, some viewers may end up watching this through their fingers, though most people probably know what to expect by now. *** (R: AS, P, GV) (Also on Blu-ray, 4K Ultra HD, Digi-

tal and On Demand)

" THE FUGITIVE"

As it nears the end of its 30th-anniversary year — and the conclusion of the 100th-anniversary year of Warner Bros., for which it remains a top hit in the studio's history — one of the best adaptations of a television series to date makes its 4K Ultra HD debut. Harrison Ford is cast ideally as Dr. Richard Kimble, wrongly accused and sentenced for his wife's (Sela Ward) murder, and headed toward prison when a freak accident frees him from custody ... and sends him on a hunt for a one-armed man (Andreas Katsulas) who was at the scene of the crime. Pursuing Kimble in turn is caustic, determined lawman Sam Gerard, played by Tommy Lee Jones in an Oscar-winning performance. Jeroen Krabbe, Joe Pantoliano, Julianne Moore and Jane Lynch also are in the great cast, and director Andrew Davis (" Under Siege") does a top-notch job of using Chicago locations. NBC's Lester Holt, who was working in that city at the time, turns up as ... yes, a newscaster reporting on the case. **** (PG-13: AS, P, V)

" MEAN STREETS"

The movie that famously put director and co-writer Martin Scorsese on the map makes its 4K Ultra HD debut as a Criterion Collection offering (it's also available on Blu-

ray). The 1973 drama also marked the start of the still-continuing professional association with Robert De Niro, playing a young hoodlum who makes life in New York's Little Italy tough for a more-principled friend (Harvey Keitel, who also has worked with Scorsese a number of times) ... setting the stage for potential tragedy unless, and even if, they go their separate ways. Scorsese (who hit the big time after this with " Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore" and " Taxi Driver") also gives himself an acting role as a loan shark's (Richard Romanus) henchman in a solid cast that also includes David Proval, Amy Robinson, David Carradine and Cesare Danova. **** (R: AS, N, P, V)

Coming Home Soon

" WANDA VISION: THE COMPLETE SERIES" (NOV. 28)

" THE COLOR PURPLE" (4K ULTRA HD) (DEC. 5)

" INDIANA JONES AND THE DIAL OF DESTINY" (DEC. 5)

" TITANIC" (4K ULTRA HD) (DEC. 5)

" TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: MUTANT MAYHEM" (DEC. 12)

Green light: 'Squid Game: The Challenge' the largest reality competition in platform's history



BY GEORGE DICKIE

In this game, the competition gets deadly — but only in its fictional iteration. Netflix's all-new reality series, " Squid Game: The Challenge," makes its worldwide debut Wednesday, Nov. 22, with all 10 episodes streaming on the platform.

Originally a South Korean series, " Squid Game" premiered on Netflix in September 2021, garnering massive audiences, as the platform boasted that 142 million households worldwide tuned in to watch, totaling at least 1.65 billion hours of viewing within its first month of release.

Since then, fans of the series have debated strategies and statistics to succeed in a real-life iteration of the game, eager to try their hand at participating in the competition — that is, without the deadly consequences of competing in the original, fictional games.

Fear not, eager players, because Netflix has heard you loud and clear: " Squid Game: The Challenge" is here to transform the series into what is said to be the biggest reality competition ever produced, one where the only life-changing consequence is the chance to become a multimillionaire.

" Through a series of games, each player will be pushed to their limits and forced to ask themselves just how

far they'll go to win, with opportunistic alliances, cutthroat strategies and timely betrayals to follow," a recent news release from Netflix describes.

Games include many seen in the series itself — like Red Light, Green Light, including the massive (and massively iconic) animatronic doll, Young-hee — but the competition brings new tests to the Squid Games, some of which can be seen in the series trailer, all reminiscent of childhood but cutthroat nonetheless.

Depending on the outcome of each game, players are eliminated, and soon hundreds of contestants are narrowed down to the final few, as the remaining fight for the clear, cash-stuffed piggy bank hanging over their shared dormitory beds.

" I'm going to be your best friend, but I will absolutely double-cross you," one contestant says in the series trailer, another remarking: " People's true colors are starting to come out."

" In the end, only one will walk away with the prize. And to make millions, they'll first have to make friends and even more enemies along the way," Netflix teases.

Bringing the massive, fantastical game to life, " Squid Game: The Challenge" premieres Wednesday, Nov. 22, on Netflix.

AS Adult situations
P Profanity

Family Viewing Ratings
V Violence
N Nudity

GV Graphic Violence

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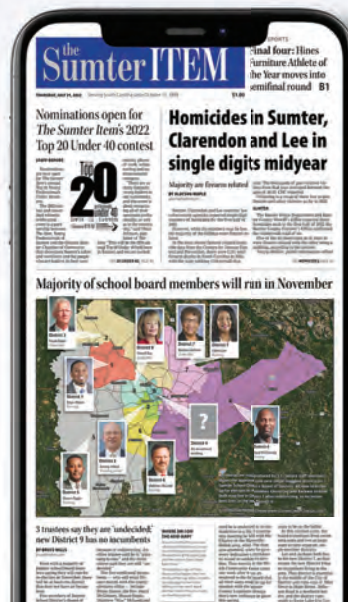
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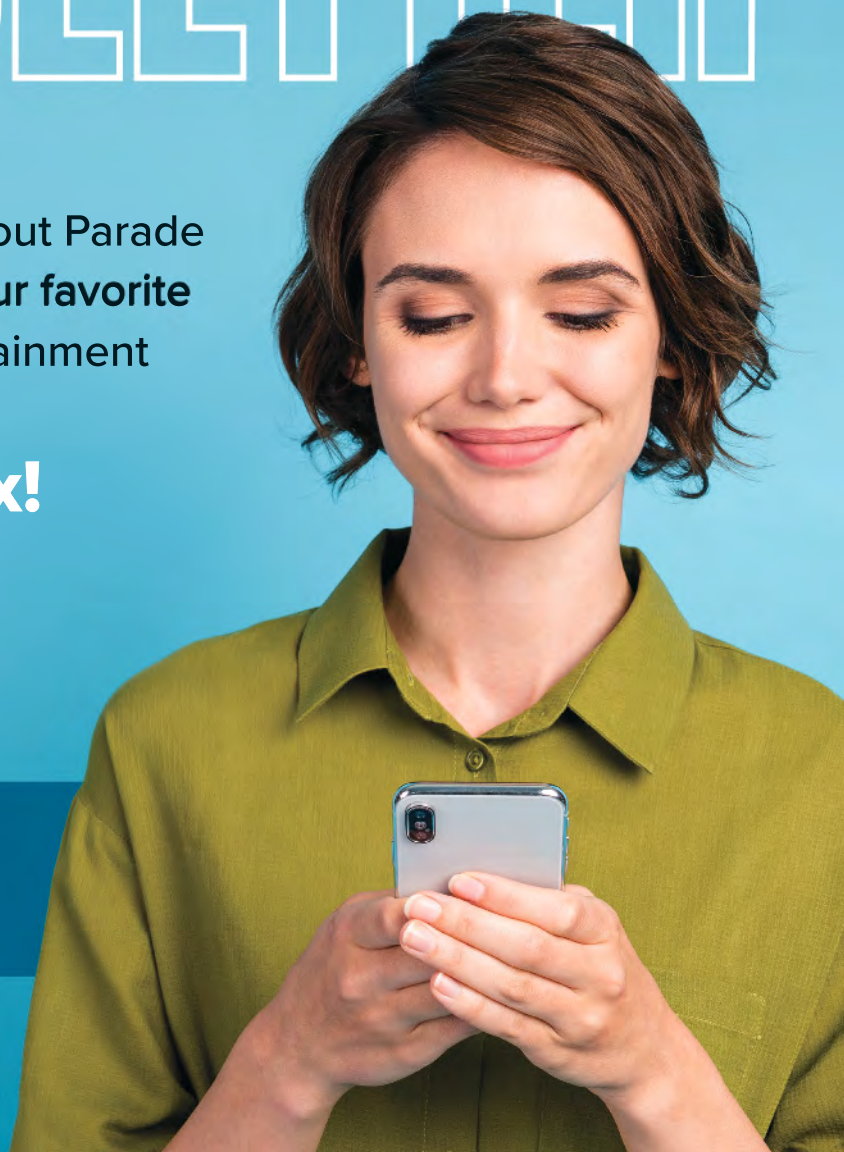
The star on the thrill of being on Broadway—from *Rent* and *Hamilton* to *Purlie Victorious*—and the importance of standing up for what you believe.

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KENAN THOMPSON ENJOYS A GOOD BURGER



The *All That* boys are back when Kenan Thompson and Kel Mitchell return for a second fast-food film fix with the release of *Good Burger 2* (November 22, Paramount+), in which Dexter Reed (Thompson), down on his luck after another one of his inventions fails, is given back his old job at Good Burger

by cashier Ed (Mitchell). Thompson, 45, has come a long way since appearing in the original sketch from the Nickelodeon comedy on which *Good Burger 2* is based. Read on to learn a little of what the *Kenan & Kel* star has been up to.

→ His first role was Toto in a church production of *The Wiz* in which he had no lines.



↑ Thompson, who can ice skate well, was still in high school when he acted in his first movie, *D2: The Mighty Ducks*.



Thompson is the longest-tenured cast member in *Saturday Night Live* history, celebrating 20 years in Studio 8H this year.

→ He played a widowed dad with Don Johnson as his father-in-law in his own short-lived sitcom, *Kenan*.

↓ He has two daughters, Georgia and Gianna, with ex-wife Christina Evangeline.



↑ He was awarded a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on August 11, 2022.



FAVE SNL ROLES

↑ Bill Cosby

Diner Lobster

Darnell Hayes, host of *Black Jeopardy*

Diondre Cole, host of *What Up With That?*



WALTER SCOTT ASKS...

CHUCK LORRE

The Emmy-nominated creator of *The Big Bang Theory*, *Two and a Half Men* and *The Kominsky Method*, 71, is turning his talent to a darkly funny new eight-episode comedy, ***Bookie* (Nov. 30 on Max)**. Starring Sebastian Maniscalco (*The Irishman*) as veteran Los Angeles bookie Danny, the series follows his trials and tribulations as the potential legalization of sports gambling in California threatens to upend his business for good. Full of relatable mishaps, *Bookie* chronicles Danny's journey to adapt to an ever-changing world as he attempts to charm and con his way to the top.



What came first? The idea for a sports bookie or the desire to work with Sebastian Maniscalco? I did a deep dive into Sebastian's work and it's extraordinary. He's a master of the craft. And then I saw a small scene he did in *The Irishman*, where he played the Crazy Joe Gallo in the scene with Robert De Niro and Joe Pesci, and it was really an entirely different aspect of Sebastian that I didn't anticipate. He's got real acting chops.

How did you get from Sebastian to a sports bookie? I'd always wanted to do something in that gray zone of criminality. I've been safe as milk for a long time, and that's fine, but I've always wondered if I could bring comedy into an area that's a little bit more dangerous, a little bit off the grid. I presented this thought to Nick Bakay, who has always been a great writer/producer on *Mom* and *Young Sheldon*. Nick's background includes sports gambling. He was a commentator for ESPN for many years as an expert on betting on sports. He proposed, "What about the world of book-making?" That was it. Sold,



Sebastian Maniscalco and Omar Dorsey in *Bookie*.

because I didn't want to do a series about violent characters. That's been done and done very well with shows like *Barry*. We pitched the idea to Sebastian and he was all for it, so we started writing.

Charlie Sheen has a guest starring role in this. How did that casting come about?

We had the idea that since our bookmaker was working in the Los Angeles area, he might have some celebrity clients. One night, it became clear to me that the perfect person to cast playing himself as a—let's call it what it is—degenerate gambler was Charlie. Because back in the day when things were going well for *Two and a Half Men*, he would tell these incredible stories about bets he made on NFL games.

So, I called Nick one night and said, "It should be Charlie," and then the question was: *Where am I with Charlie after all the craziness that we went through?* I felt like it was in the past. I had come to a place of being really at ease with the whole backstory of our relationship, so I called Charlie and I said, "Do you want to do this?" And he was gracious and grateful and excited and totally game to make fun of his persona. He killed it. As Nick pointed out, it was like a clinic in how to do comedic acting and keep it grounded and real. It was a remarkable performance.

Why base your comedy on an issue that might be difficult for people to watch? I hope that first scene made it clear that we aren't going to sugarcoat the devas-

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Chuck Lorre (far right) with *The Big Bang Theory* cast and co-creator Bill Prady.

tating effects that this can have on a family. We aren't making light of it. This man had ruined his family and was being thrown out of the home. And yet he continues to gamble like an addict would continue to indulge in drugs or alcohol. So, by jumping into these murky pools of morality, it's a great way to explore human beings and to get some insight into how people rationalize poor behavior. How did they get there? What are the repercussions of being in that gray zone? One of the things we came up with is it's a continual hustle. It's hard work to be a criminal.

What is it like when actors say your words the way that you want it to be? It's really gratifying. But I've learned over the years from working in front of live audiences—for 35 years all the work that I've done has been in front of a live studio audience—they tell you immediately when you're wrong. Their silence screams, "Wrong!" You make the joke here in Burbank, and if a joke fails to work with a live audience, the silence is such that you can hear the 134 freeway in the distance.

The greatest teacher in the world was 30-some-odd years working in front of an audience. The audience doesn't care what I think is funny, they respond to what they think is funny. When you work without an audience in the genre of single-camera film, which is what *Bookie* is, I have to rely on that audience still being in my head. I

ask myself, *Am I kidding myself or is this really funny? Is this really the moment we're going for here? Or is it lazy?* So, the live studio audience is a big part of this even though they're not there.

***The Big Bang Theory* changed people's lives. You made it cool to be a nerd.**

I always bristled at the word "nerd." What attracted me to *The Big Bang* characters was brilliance doesn't necessarily equate to happiness. It doesn't equate to making connections with other people, either platonic friendships or romantic relationships. Brilliance is brilliance but it doesn't necessarily bring you what you're seeking, which is community and fellowship. And on the show, they found it amongst themselves. The world at large may have been hard to deal with and baffling, but you notice they eat together all the time. They're always in the living room and they would eat together and that's a real family, communal activity.

I think it's really attractive. It's what people want, and they had that. They may not have understood how to get along in this world, but they had each other and that was the secret sauce that made the show special for me.

I love that in the ending, the most isolated, reclusive, difficult character [Sheldon], when he's winning the Nobel Prize says, "I couldn't have done it with-

out my friends." He acknowledges that it was a communal activity that brought him to a Nobel Prize. The most selfish character in the show recognizes the power of community. I just love it.

With all your success, you founded The Chuck Lorre Family Foundation to give back.

The scholarship began when we started seeing articles early on in the run of *The Big Bang Theory* that kids here and in England were starting to pursue STEM fields really young because *The Big Bang Theory* made it look cool. So, we were actually changing the trajectory of young lives by doing this thing, which was just intended to make people laugh. The show presented these brilliant guys as having a communal walk through life. They weren't walking alone. I thought, *Well, wouldn't it be cool to actually help kids pursue that?* I wanted to do it locally. I wanted to do it in a way that I could participate. So, with the help of David Saltzberg, who was a consultant on the show and a professor of physics at UCLA, we arranged for a scholarship at UCLA.

Then I got involved in health care as well, the Venice Family Clinic, because it was meaningful to me. There was a time in my life when I had no money, I had no insurance and I was very, very sick and I didn't know where to go. I didn't know about free clinics. I was really lost and so helping with the free clinic felt like a natural way for me to participate.

Do you ever think of retiring? I just try to focus on the goal that's been my goal for a really long time, which is comedy is supposed to make you laugh. When I was a kid watching stand-up comics or Laurel and Hardy, Abbott and Costello, The Three Stooges, or *Get Smart*, I was laughing, and I wanted to do that. I thought, *That's a good way to spend your life, trying to make people laugh.* **P**

The Parade Don't Miss List



LEAVE THE WORLD BEHIND

(IN SELECT THEATERS NOV. 22
AND DEC. 8 ON NETFLIX)

Julia Roberts, Ethan Hawke and Mahershala Ali star in this apocalyptic thriller based on the novel by Rumaan Alam about two families' fight for survival amid an inexplicable blackout. The story opens with Amanda (Roberts) and husband Clay (Hawke) on a weekend family getaway in a gorgeous rental house on Long Island with their children when their idyll is interrupted by the arrival of two strangers—G.H. Scott (Ali) and his daughter (**Myha'la Herrold**).

"Amanda's just a wildly challenging character," says the Oscar-winning Roberts, 56. "She's complicated and surprising, and the main reason I took on this role—aside from wanting to work with [writer/director] Sam Esmail again—was the challenge. There are a lot of fine lines in making her understood, but not too unlikeable."

Roberts said it was wonderful to work with Mahershala. "He really is one in a million and he did such a beautiful job bringing such nuance to his character. It's mesmerizing to watch him."

This is the third project for Roberts and Esmail, having previously collaborated on the TV limited series *Homecoming* and *Gaslit*. "I felt such a creative kinship with him from the day we met," she says. "He's become such a great friend. He has such incredible depth and an eye for detail, and an ability to unearth things that I had never thought about."



MAESTRO

(IN SELECT THEATERS NOV. 22
AND DEC. 20 ON NETFLIX)

Bradley Cooper is following up his Oscar-nominated hit *A Star Is Born* by co-writing, directing and starring in *Maestro*, the love story between conductor/composer Leonard Bernstein and Felicia Montealegre Cohn Bernstein. Funnily enough, Cooper, 48, first became interested in conducting as a child when he was gifted a baton for Christmas. His interest continued, and when he was offered the opportunity to play Bernstein in this film, he realized the most interesting and relatable aspect of it to him was the marriage between Bernstein and Felicia. "It was an unorthodox, genuine love that I found endlessly intriguing," says Cooper. "This is the story I wanted to tell, a love story."

Cooper found his Felicia in Carey Mulligan, 38, and the two worked closely together to develop a bond. "That was a major part of cracking how I could make a love story about these two and have it be honest," says Cooper. "How could I serve the truth of his life within this marriage while not shifting the focus away from them? Lenny's sexual fluidity could be explored fully as a film but that's another movie. I wanted to make a movie about these two."

Then, of course, there was the musical aspect to be considered, the great works both composed and conducted by Bernstein that serve as the score within the film.

"In *A Star Is Born*, the nuclear weapon was always Lady Gaga's voice," says Cooper. "For *Maestro*, I figured it was mine to mess up because I had a nuclear weapon and that's Leonard Bernstein's music. Just the breadth of it, how diverse it is, and how moving it is."

STAR WATCH

JON HAMM and **JUNO TEMPLE** star in season 5 of *Fargo*, premiering Nov. 21 on FX.



NFL superstar **BARRY SANDERS** is the subject of a new sports documentary, *Bye Bye Barry*, premiering on Prime Video on Nov. 21.



JOAQUIN PHOENIX is the ruthless emperor in *Napoleon*, in theaters on Nov. 22.



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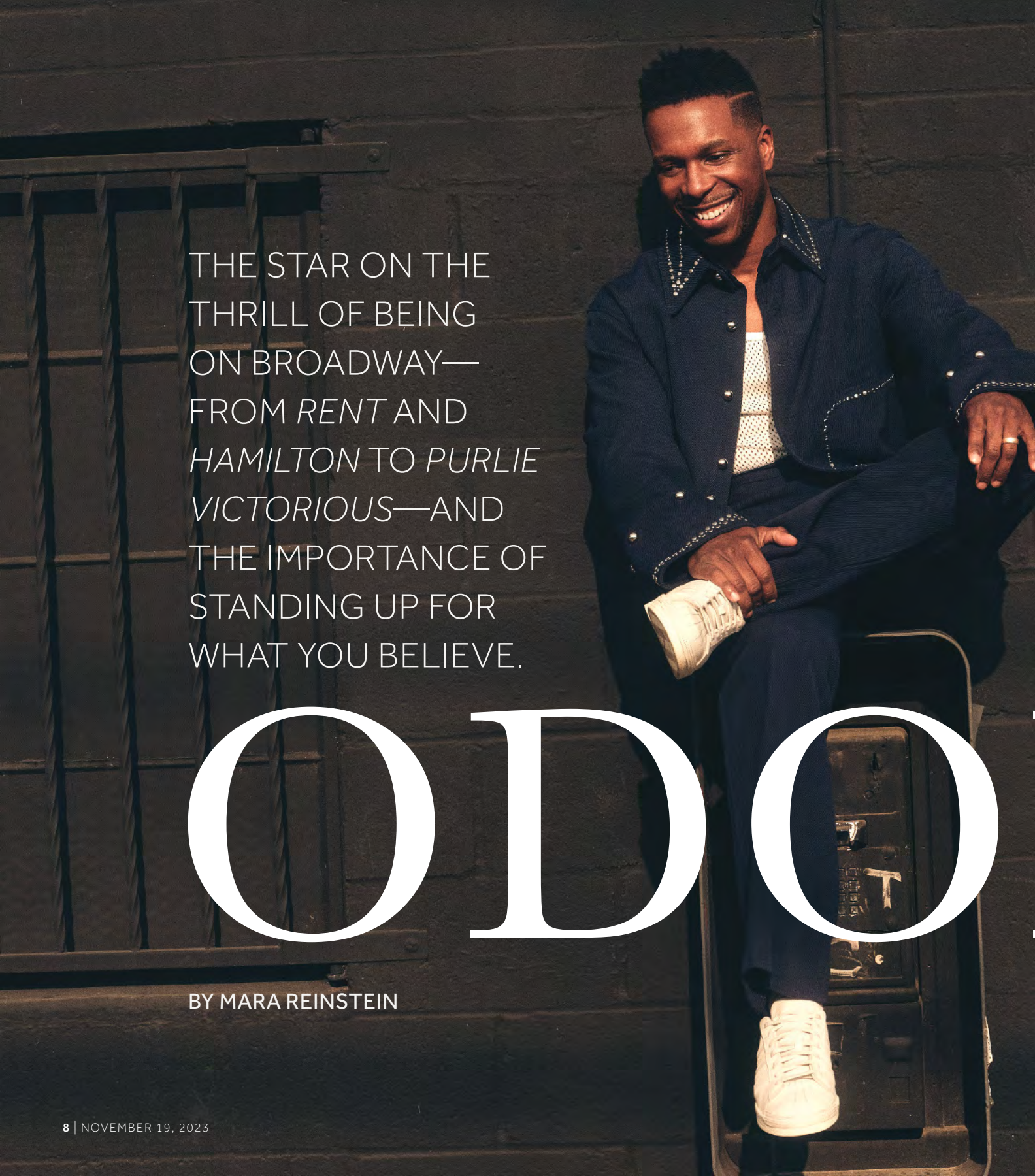
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THE STAR ON THE
THRILL OF BEING
ON BROADWAY—
FROM *RENT* AND
HAMILTON TO *PURLIE*
VICTORIOUS—AND
THE IMPORTANCE OF
STANDING UP FOR
WHAT YOU BELIEVE.

O'DO

BY MARA REINSTEIN



This fall, Leslie Odom Jr. is laughing in the face of lazy Sundays. Just before noon in early October, the casually dressed actor arrives at The Music Box Theater in Times Square in New York City and walks up a winding staircase to his cozy dressing room that overlooks 45th Street. In a few hours on this “day of rest,” he’ll go from zero to 100 playing the titular role in a matinee performance of the new revival of the play *Purlie Victorious: A Non-Confederate Romp Through the Cotton Patch*. Then he’ll do it all again that evening.

Just to add to the fun, he admits he has yet to eat or drink—“I’m going to have a half caff when we’re done!”—and is running low on sleep. “My kids woke me up pretty early this morning,” he says of his six-year-old daughter, Lucille, and two-year-old son, Able (with actress wife of ten years, Nicolette Robinson). “Usually, I try to conserve my burst of energy because the play is only 100 minutes and it goes by like a shot. There’s no warming up!”

Except, you could say that the actor, 42, has been warming up for this moment for more than two decades. Since making his Broadway debut at age 17 in *Rent*, in 1998, the NYC native and Carnegie Mellon University graduate has proven himself to be a master of the stage. After all, it takes a true star to portray founding father Aaron Burr in a Broadway musical, murder the hero in a gun duel eight times a week and still come out of the production as a breakout Tony-winning talent.

LESLIE M JR.

COVER AND OPENER BY JONNY MARLOW

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Indeed, the 2015 phenomenon known as *Hamilton* turned out to be the ultimate curtain call. Odom has since starred in films such as *One Night in Miami* (for which he was nominated for Oscars in the acting and music categories), *The Many Saints of Newark* and the recent *The Exorcist: Believer*. He's also released five albums—including his latest, *When A Crooner Dies*. "It's all original music, and it's the kind of record meant to be heard," he says. And if the music thing suddenly goes away? Earlier this year, he and Robinson co-authored the children's book *I Love You More Than You'll Ever Know*. It's a *New York Times* bestseller.

But *Purlie Victorious*, set to run through Feb. 4, marks his first headlining role in any medium. His Purlie Victorious Judson is a reverend who returns to his hometown in the deep South circa the late 1950s to claim a \$500 inheritance and save his church. (He honorably deceives and schemes his way to getting the money.) Originally starring, co-written and directed by Ossie Davis, the comedic-yet-socially charged play hasn't been seen on Broadway since its 1961-62 run. Former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt was such a fan when she saw it in the '60s that her rave review is quoted outside the theater; Odom keeps a copy of the vintage Playbill under a plastic case in his dressing room.

"The night after the Tony Awards in 2016, I said in an interview that this was the next thing I wanted to do," he says. "I just had the most satisfying and rewarding experience of my career with *Hamilton*. But I thought it would happen right away—I didn't expect it to take seven years." (He and Robinson are also co-producers).

Four days after *Purlie Victorious* opened to stellar reviews, Odom talked to *Parade*.

There are a lot of floral arrangements in this dressing room. What's going on in here?

They're from opening night. Some are at home, and some of the arrangements stayed here. This bouquet is from my dear friend, [actress] Megan Hilty. The orchid came from my friend Sheryl Lee Ralph. That pretty purple arrangement came from my producing partners at the National Black Theater in Harlem. There's nothing like a Broadway opening night. Even on a show that's not successful, which I've done. The energy is totally specific.

Is the pressure off when you're not singing your heart out in a three-hour musical every night?

Making theater right now, the pressure is never off. This is a very sensitive time. Audiences are not as robust as they once were. It takes three weeks to build a new habit and people were without theater for almost two years [because of the pandemic]. Theater is a space of great joy and catharsis, and we're still doing the work to remind people about what can happen in these spaces.



"YOU'VE
GOT TO
BE WHAT
YOU WANT
TO SEE"

That's fair. But is it any easier?

This is harder. I know when we first started, people were expecting to hear me sing. And I do understand that I was introduced to people in a certain way. It takes some doing to get people to follow you someplace else and be comfortable seeing you in another way. Hopefully they can still have a good time.

Do you think you were born talented?

I don't think I was particularly gifted or extraordinary in a way that separated me from anyone else. I sang in church growing up in Philadelphia but I wasn't some kid who stopped the room. I wouldn't be on *American Idol*. I had an OK voice. I worked on it. I worked *with* it. The only reason I was willing to do it was because [when I was singing] I didn't feel so nervous when I got up in front of people.

You moved from New York to Philadelphia as a kid. What stands out about your childhood?

I had great friends in Philadelphia. I also grew up in a thriving Black arts com-

munity. My first acting classes were at a Black theater company called the New Freedom Theater. My first dance classes were at The Philadelphia Dance Company. That instilled me with a pride and confidence that I carry with me to this day.

What made you think you could be a full-time performer?

Rent. Before that, I was a kid playing sports and learning how to do math. I didn't have some grand ambition. Then *Rent* came along. I got the cast album and it was a world that felt so inviting. I wanted to be friends with those people! I was 13, which is young enough and yet old enough that I could start to imagine what I wanted to do when I grew up. But it didn't matter to me if I was pulling the curtain or sewing buttons on costumes. I just wanted to be part of the community.



Odom with his Tony Award in 2016.

How did you end up appearing in *Rent* at 17? You must have been very confident at that audition.

I just wanted to meet anybody who had anything to do the show! I thought if I did my very, very best then maybe my questionnaire and my picture—it wasn't even a headshot; it was some picture my mom took that I ripped out of a photo album—would go into a filing cabinet. And then when I was adult they would call me to come in and hand out *Playbills*. I did not think I would get a part. But it

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RENT



BIG DAY

ROLE PLAY

After Odom played Paul in *Rent* on Broadway (1998) when he was 17, he went on to Carnegie Mellon University. He was in the original ensemble of *Dreamgirls* (2001). Odom played lab technician Joseph Kayle in nine episodes of *CSI: Miami* (2003 and 2006), Freddy in *Big Day* (2006-7) and Sam Strickland in the musical TV show, *Smash* (2012-13). He won a Lead Actor in a Musical Tony award for his role of Aaron Burr on Broadway in *Hamilton* (2015-2016). That was Odom as Dr. Arbuthnot in *Murder on the Orient Express* (2017) and as the voice of park manager Owen Tiller-man in the animated musical-comedy series, *Central Park* (2020-22). He received an Oscar nomination for his portrayal of singer Sam Cooke in *One Night In Miami* (2020) and played Black Panther Harold McBryer in *The Many Saints of Newark* (2021). Odom was head scientist Lionel Toussaint in *Glass Onion*, the second *Knives Out* movie (2022) and Victor Fielding, a father with a possessed child, in *The Exorcist: Believer* (2023). He has a recurring role in *Abbott Elementary* (2022) as Draemond Winding, a former student who now runs a competing school. *Purlie Victorious* (2023) opened with Odom as the lead in September.



CENTRAL PARK



ABBOTT ELEMENTARY



PURLIE VICTORIOUS



HAMILTON

from page 11

put me on the right path and it changed my whole life.

Your parents let you go to Broadway when you were that young?

New York was our second home. My grandparents lived in Queens, and I lived with them when I did *Rent*.

After *Rent*, why did you set off for Hollywood? You've popped up in a lot of TV series.

I went to college and by the time I graduated, the realities of the business became clear. The most plum roles on Broadway were going to TV and movie stars and recognizable names, whatever that meant. I knew that Hollywood would serve me well because my real heart was on Broadway. So that was my vision.

Did you enjoy that time of your life?

Oh, very much. It was totally out of left field. I didn't know anybody on TV. You know, I graduated Carnegie Mellon with Josh Gad, Josh Groban and [*Eastbound & Down* actress] Katy Mixon. They had a lot more response in L.A. than I did. I wasn't the guy that everybody wanted to meet. But a VP of casting at CBS saw me at a showcase and said, "When are you moving to L.A.?" Because I want to put you on TV." I was there for 72 hours, and I got my first job.

How did *Hamilton* come into your world?

I had seen the very first reading of *Hamilton* up in Poughkeepsie [New York] at Vassar. They do a new works festival, and my wife was working up there so I had visited her. I was just a fan! I thought it was the freshest and boldest thing. It made me feel like that 13-year-old kid hearing *Rent*. Nothing had made me feel that way ever since.

LESLIE'S LIST



FAVORITE MOVIE

[1992's] *Malcolm X*

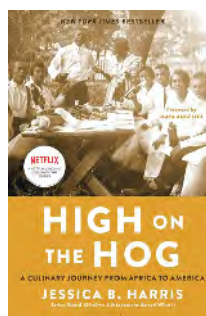


LAST TV SHOW MY WIFE AND I BINGED

The Vow. It's that documentary on HBO about the NXIVM cult.

THREE FAVORITE MICHAEL JACKSON SONGS

"Man in the Mirror,"
"Childhood" and
"Liberian Girl."



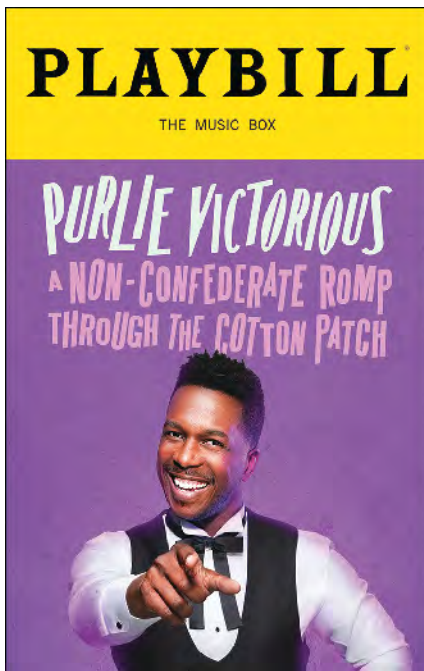
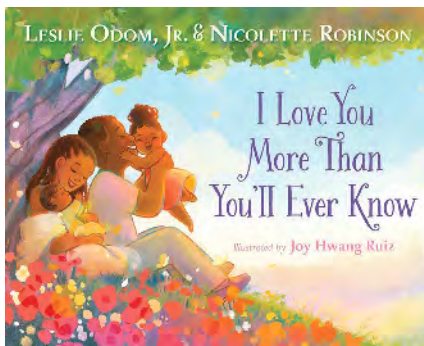
BOOK ON THE NIGHTSTAND

High on the Hog by Jessica B. Harris. It's about the transatlantic slave trade through food.

MOST MEMORABLE CELEBRITY AUTOGRAPHS

Beyoncé. I went to see her when I was shooting a movie in Prague about 15 years ago. Ne-Yo was in the film as well and he wrote one of her biggest hits with "Irreplaceable." He was friends with her. She had just gotten off stage and the sweat was still on her face. She took a picture with me and signed whatever the hell I had with me.





Odom and wife, Nicolette Robinson, cowrote an award-winning children's book this year. *Purlie Victorious* will run on Broadway through February 2024.

Then what happened?

A few months later, I get an email from [playwright and star] Lin-Manuel [Miranda]. The subject line was “Octo-Burr-fest.” He was still working on act two. Nicolette has always been in charge of my calendar and I asked her, “Am I free?” She said yes, so I did it. But I had a goal in those five days: I didn’t want to tell him how much I loved his work and appreciated what he was writing. I just wanted to show him the interpretation of the character so that he would take notice and want to keep me around.



When it finally came together, did a part of you worry the concept was too out-there to succeed?

I knew some people might think that, but I had seen it. I knew how it affected me. I had the experience that now millions and millions of people have had. In just 15 minutes, you’re swept away and enchanted. It’s almost like a sci-fi experience because it shouldn’t make sense! It doesn’t make sense to see Daveed Diggs as Thomas Jefferson! But something happens inside your mind and heart and body when you see it. I was never going to question that feeling.

What was your coolest pinch-me moment during *Hamilton* mania?

Performing at the White House for President Obama [in 2016]. That was the pinnacle. For 45 minutes, the leader of the free world and his staff cleared

their schedules to give us their undivided attention. That was it. It elevated what we do in these theaters to a level that I had never even really dared to dream.

What kind of music do you listen to? Are you into what your kids like?

My playlist includes some of the pop music from my youth. Like, I want my kids to know Michael Jackson, Bobby Brown, New Edition. I want them to have a context for the world they’re seeing. Eventually we’ll get to James Brown and Sam Cooke.

Do your kids have musical talent, too?

They’re both way better than I was at their age. But I have to say, I hope I’m raising a little journalist and a little doctor. For Nicolette and I, this is our chosen vocation. I would be very, very happy if my kids decided to do something else. I just want them to find something they’re passionate about. You know, a couple of years ago, I was writing in my journal and started thinking about examples of people on the world stage who have conviction. Too many people feign it—they don’t believe in what they’re saying. They’re doing it for clicks and attention, do you know what I mean? And my list wasn’t as long as I wanted it to be.

And what did you take away from that lesson?

I realized I needed to be the example of conviction that I’m looking for. If I do it for my kids, I have a better shot at doing it for other people. The way this particular time is in the world, you’ve got to be what you want to see. You really do have to make a decision—especially if you’re looking for it, if you’re on the search for something spiritual or if you’re looking for somebody that can show you how to fight for justice or fight on the planet. I mean, yeah, we’ve got to be those things right now. **P**

JINGLES WE CAN'T FORGET

Half of the fun of looking at vintage *Parade* magazines is perusing the ads, which range from sexist to silly, depending on the decade. The most amusing ones try to lure readers with big promises and catchy slogans. In 1957: "Refresh without filling" is the pitch for Pepsi-Cola. In 1969: "You'll find no duds when Birds Eye fixes spuds!" Neither of those live up to the best jingles—hallmarks of American advertising that lodge their insidiously sticky melodies in consumers' heads to keep their respective brands top of mind. Here, **Jeremiah Tucker** shares the stories behind some of the most famous American jingles and how these short, catchy, seemingly disposable songs ended up having surprisingly long shelf lives. —Anne Krueger



■ 1986: "GIMME A BREAK, GIMME ME A BREAK—BREAK ME OFF A PIECE OF THAT KIT KAT BAR"

Peppy, rhythmic and exceptionally memorable, "Gimme a Break" has been used to entice consumers to buy and share a Kit Kat almost continuously since the brand introduced it in the U.S. 37 years ago, with versions sung by a parade of music stars from Carrie Underwood to Chance the Rapper. The song is so sticky that a study conducted by a University of Cincinnati marketing professor found it to be one of the top 10 "earworms"—those nefariously melodic bits that lodge themselves in your head and you just can't shake.



■ 1959: "DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE, DOUBLE YOUR FUN"

Over sixty years ago, the Chicago-based advertising agency Energy BBDO wrote the classic jingle for Wrigley's Doublemint gum. A 1959 commercial introduced the refrain "Double your pleasure, double your fun," and the identical Doublemint Twins; both would remain a mainstay of the gum's advertising for decades. The sets of twins changed over the years, but the song proved so durable that it became an actual *Billboard* hit in 2008 when, at the behest of Wrigley, R&B singer Chris Brown stealthily recorded a new take on it, called "Forever." Crooning, "Double your pleasure, double your fun," Brown took the updated version all the way to No. 2 on the charts—almost 50 years after the original was released.

■ 1960: "HERE COMES MISTER SOFTEE, THE SOFT ICE CREAM MAN"

For decades, this ditty has announced the coming of summer to children in the Northeast. Today, kids still come running when they hear the instrumental version of the music-box melody playing from one of Mister Softee's more than 600 ice cream trucks in 15 states. Les Waas, a Philadelphia adman, wrote thousands of jingles during his lifetime, but the one he penned for Mister Softee became his legacy.



■ 1971: "I'D LIKE TO BUY THE WORLD A COKE"

This tune was so popular that it not only became a pop sensation, but also capped off the finale of one of the biggest TV shows of the 2000s. The "Hilltop" TV commercial, as it became known, featured fresh-faced young people singing about spreading peace and love by giving everyone in the world a Coke. The commercial and jingle captured the countercultural spirit of the time and proved so popular that when The New Seekers re-recorded a version of the song in January 1972 as "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing (In Perfect Harmony)," it became a big hit in the U.S. In 2015, the Coke commercial and jingle also served as the final scene of the TV series *Mad Men*, which followed the fictional life and career of Madison Avenue adman Don Draper.

■ 1975: "I AM STUCK ON BAND-AID, 'CAUSE BAND-AID'S STUCK ON ME"

The jingle for Johnson & Johnson's adhesive bandages aimed at children was used in multiple commercials for the product from the 1970s through the '80s. Sweet and memorable, the song was penned by none other than the man on *Parade's* October 22nd cover, pop crooner Barry Manilow. Surprisingly, he wrote a number of hit advertising tunes, including the State Farm jingle the insurance giant is still using today: "Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there."



■ 1963: "OH, I WISH I WERE AN OSCAR MAYER WIENER"

Considered one of the best jingles of all time, Oscar Mayer's famous theme song ran in its ads from 1963 to 2010. Executives credited the tune with the national success of the company's eponymous hot dogs, but when Chicago jingle writer Richard Trentlage came up with it, he wasn't even working for Oscar Mayer. Trentlage wrote and recorded the four-verse song, using his son and daughter as the talent, in one night for a contest that an ad agency was hosting. He got the idea from his 10-year-old son, who'd once said, "I wish I could be a dirt-bike hot dog." Trentlage didn't find out he'd won the competition until a year later, but when Oscar Mayer began using the piece, it became a cultural phenomenon, with people even requesting it on the radio. Years later, Trentlage said he'd put his kids through college with the royalties from the song.

■ 1974: "TWO ALL-BEEF PATTIES, SPECIAL SAUCE, LETTUCE, CHEESE, PICKLES, ONIONS, ON A SESAME-SEED BUN"

Forty-nine years ago, McDonald's created a jingle that only ran for a year and a half but managed to fix itself permanently in the popular consciousness. The Big Mac song emphasized value, reflecting the recession-era gas-rationing mindset of America in the mid-'70s; its impact, however, lasted beyond those tough times. You can trace a direct line from Subway's "\$5 Footlong" jingle, with its focus on a lot of food for little cash, back to the Big Mac song.





A JULIA CHILD THANKSGIVING

On February 28, 1982, Julia Child wrote her first food column for *Parade*. For four years the magazine served up delicious recipes and pithy advice from one of America's foremost culinary authorities. It was easy to love her quips and her motto: "People who love to eat are always the best people" (go to Parade.com/julia-child-quotes for more gems!). Child spent four Thanksgivings with *Parade*. We peeked in the Vault to look back at what she was cooking up. —Anne Krueger



■ **1982** How to "debreastify a turkey" was one of the how-tos in this Thanksgiving food column. Child, who thought every kitchen should be equipped with a cleaver and a hatchet, also shared a helpful list of 23 must-have tools for the kitchen, including a meat saw, an egg separator, a Norwegian herring filleter and a flashlight ("to find whatever when it has fallen under the stove.")



■ **1983** While acknowledging that Thanksgiving was a "traditional meal," Child admonished readers that shouldn't mean a "humdrum, same-old-thing meal." This year, she shakes things up with soup in a pumpkin. Key to the success of the soup, which is cooked in the pumpkin, is to find a pumpkin that will fit in your oven and to not overcook it or it will collapse before you get it to the table!

■ **1984** Along with sharing several ways to roast a turkey (apparently this is a hotly debated topic in 1984), Child suggested some interesting pie alternatives, including a pumpkin soufflé and hot mincemeat sauce over vanilla ice cream. She doctored up store-bought mincemeat with chopped apple, more raisins, cinnamon and cloves—all simmered in a little whiskey or rum.



■ **1985** This year, an adventurous Child revealed her "reassembled bird"—a turkey that was cut up with various parts cooked separately and then put back together again. "Each part is given the cossetting, basting and seasoning that make for a tender, juicy, perfect Thanksgiving turkey," she wrote. "It slices neatly, and the breast is a breeze."



Go to PARADE.COM/JULIA-CHILD-THANKSGIVING for all of her vintage holiday recipes.

Ask Marilyn

| BY MARILYN VOS SAVANT |



Send questions to
marilyn@parade.com

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Complete 1 to 81 so the numbers follow a horizontal or vertical path—no diagonals.

21		11		1	73	79
23						77
25						65
33						61
35	37	45	47			59

For more Numbrix puzzles, go to
Parade.com/numbrix.

Dear Marilyn,

Our bodies use energy to generate heat and to move our muscles. Are there any other ways our bodies use energy?

—Alyssa Dare, Elkridge, Maryland

Try guessing the answers to the following two questions, readers.

1. What percent of our energy is burned during physical activity? (Assume average daily activity.) And 2. What percent of our energy is burned while we're just sitting or sleeping?

First, readers may be surprised to learn our bodies use about 10 percent of our energy just to generate more energy in the first place. Converting the food we ingest to energy is a complex biochemical process called metabolism. This includes digestion (breaking down food into usable components) and distributing these products to the bloodstream, etc. It also includes elimination of undigested food and other waste.

Our bodies use another 20 percent of our energy during physical activity. This may be short and energetic, such as running, or it may be slow and easy, like walking the dog. Even bending over to pick up the keys you dropped counts. Long and intense activity also utilizes the aerobic system, which breaks down fat stores for more energy.

And then there's doing nothing much, such as watching a movie or snoozing. This uses the most energy by far—anywhere from 50 to 80 percent, depending on your body, age, lifestyle and more. But why? Maintaining the body's vital activities such as breathing, circulating blood and organ function requires energy. Just staying alive takes work.

CLASSIC ASK MARILYN



THE SOCKS QUESTION

SEPT. 16, 2007

You decide to save money by wearing your socks as mittens too. Three are yellow, three are red and seven are labeled "Sunday." But all are mixed in your sock drawer. You're embarrassed to wear the "Sunday" socks as mittens, and it's too dark to see without turning on a light and waking your dog. So, you pull out socks at random. How many must you pull out to be sure you have a pair?

—Brad Milton, Portland, Ore.

Find solutions to Marilyn's puzzles
and this week's Numbrix on the next page!

SOLUTIONS

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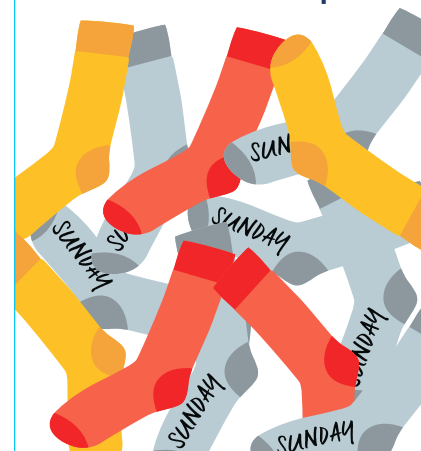
November 19, 2023

21	20	11	10	1	72	73	80	79
22	19	12	9	2	71	74	81	78
23	18	13	8	3	70	75	76	77
24	17	14	7	4	69	68	67	66
25	16	15	6	5	52	53	64	65
26	27	28	41	42	51	54	63	62
33	32	29	40	43	50	55	56	61
34	31	30	39	44	49	48	57	60
35	36	37	38	45	46	47	58	59

THE SOCKS QUESTION

The Answer:

You must pull out 10 socks to find one pair.



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TO DRIVE?**

**BUZZED DRIVING
IS DRUNK DRIVING**



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