

the
Sumter
ITEM

SECOND FRONT

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SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTOS

Dancers perform in last year’s Jingle with the Arts. Freed School of Performing Arts will hold this year’s show at 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 8, and 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9, at Patriot Hall, 135 Haynsworth St.

Freed’s Jingle with the Arts to present new upgrades with same traditional holiday magic

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com

Years ago, Andrea Freed-Levenson, owner of Freed’s School of Performing Arts, and a few of her friends ventured to New York City to experience Radio City Music Hall Rockettes Christmas Show. Their high kicks, undeniable talent and infectious confidence inspired Freed to lean over to her friends and, with all the pride she had in her hometown dancers, declare, “We could do this in Sumter.”

The following year, she and her friend, Sonja Sepulveda, artistic director of the Palmetto Voices Spiritual Ensemble, who was the Sumter High Show Choir director at the time, gathered the dazzling dancers of the Sumter Civic Dance Company and gifted voices of the high school show choir for Jingle with the Arts.

Since its inception, the annual holiday show has been a cheerful tradition for Freed’s School of Performing Arts and community members. However, in its 28th year, there are a few minor — but mesmerizing — upgrades to the show that audience members will surely enjoy.

According to Andrea Barras Govier, a dance instructor at Freed’s, after a month of researching and reversioning the show, various scenes in the annual production will emulate sites seen throughout Sumter County, from storefronts on Main Street, including the Sumter Opera House, to a snowy Swan Lake Iris Gardens. But traditions are loved for a reason, so the studio couldn’t bear to part with its Santa’s Workshop scene. However, at the end of the show, everyone will return “home,” a new scene for the show but a familiar sight for audience members. Though Govier kept tight lipped about the sure-to-be grand finale, she assured that Sumterites will feel more connected to this year’s show.

“I feel like people could see themselves [in this show], and everybody likes to see themselves in things. So, that’s what we’ve done,” she explained. “It’s not Radio City, it’s Sumter City.”

With the revamp of the show, there will also be a return of some familiar faces. Govier, whose smile could barely be contained, spilled the beans that Sepulveda, co-originator of Jingle with the Arts, would return to the stage, not to sing but to lend her talents in instrument playing. In her place as choral director will be Herbert Johnson, director of several community choirs, including the Sumter Civic Chorale.

“What’s interesting is Andrea started it, and



JINGLE WITH THE ARTS

WHERE: Patriot Hall, 135 Haynsworth St.

WHEN: 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 8, and 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9

TICKETS: \$10 in advance and can be purchased at Freed’s at 527 N. Guignard Drive, or for \$12 at the door

now here I am putting it together and Sonja was a part of it, and now Herbert has her old job, so it’s come full circle,” she gushed.

Govier also was moved by the willingness of so many community arts groups, including Lemira Elementary School’s percussion group and their director, to help make the vision become a reality.

“I just can’t believe it — it is really extraordinary. To see something start to come together, and the cast is bigger this year than we’ve had it,” Govier gushed. “What’s most exciting for me right now to see, bringing all of these people from different places together in one place at one time, and if it works, that would be my favorite part. The look of it, the sound of it — it’s going to be different.”

So, you don’t want to miss it! Jingle with the Arts will be held at 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 8, and 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9, at Patriot Hall, 135 Haynsworth St. Tickets are \$10 in advance and can be purchased at Freed’s at 527 N. Guignard Drive or for \$12 at the door.

Help Sumter Police ‘Cram-A-Cruiser’ with toys beginning today

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com

Have you ever wondered how many presents can fit inside a police cruiser? Find out this holiday season!

The Sumter Police Department, in partnership with The Salvation Army, will begin its Cram-A-Cruiser toy drive on Saturday, Dec. 2.

Cram-A-Cruiser was created to ensure every child in Sumter can revel in the joy of receiving a toy for Christmas. Officers park a vehicle at Walmart and other local businesses on Saturdays leading up to Christmas to collect

toys. The toys will then be distributed locally by The Salvation Army.

Monetary donations cannot be accepted.

For those interested in spreading the Christmas magic, the police department will be accepting new, unwrapped toy donations at the following locations:

- Saturday, Dec. 2 – Walmart, 1283 Broad St.;
 - Saturday, Dec. 9 – The Tintman Gill, 470 S. Guignard Drive; and
 - Saturday, Dec. 16 – Walmart, 1283 Broad St.
- Donations will be accepted from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



BUSINESSWIRE

McLeod Health Clarendon 1 of 3 hospitals in S.C. to receive 5-star rating for nurse communication

BY ASHLEY MILLER
ashley@theitem.com

A Clarendon hospital has achieved prestigious recognition, being acknowledged as one of only three hospitals in South Carolina to receive a five-star rating for nurse communication.

Recognized by Becker’s Hospital Review, which curated a list of top-performing hospitals for nurse communication in each state based on Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and systems data from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, McLeod Health Clarendon has secured its place among the top three hospitals in South Carolina and one of 350 top hospitals in the nation.

“It is an honor for our facility to be recognized by Becker’s as one of the top 350 hospitals across the nation for nurse communication. When patients are in a hospital to have a baby or when sick, a common emotion is fear,” said Chief Nursing Officer for McLeod Health Clarendon Kim Jolley.

According to its website, Becker’s Healthcare stands as the primary resource for health care decision makers, emerging as one of the most rapidly expanding media plat-

forms within the industry. Leveraging print, digital and live event channels, Becker’s Healthcare provides vital information and platforms for health care leaders to acquire knowledge, exchange ideas and engage in meaningful discussions about paramount issues in American health care.

CMS shared 10 HCAHPS star ratings from publicly reported HCAHPS measures. The star rating for nurse communication consolidates information from three key HCAHPS survey questions, offering a comprehensive assessment of patients’ perceptions regarding the clarity of explanations, attentive listening and courteous and respectful treatment by nurses. This rating is grounded in survey data collected from hospital patients throughout the calendar year 2022.

Jolley said their team members embody the McLeod core values and truly care about the patient and their family.

“Our nurses do all they can to ease those fears. They also don’t focus solely on their jobs. They embrace opportunities to respond with compassion, offering not only medical care, but also personal, emotional and responsive caring to the needs of our patients and families,” she said.

OSTEEN

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SUMTER
TODAY



NOW STREAMING ON
INSTAGRAM, YOUTUBE
AND FACEBOOK

Fantasy of Lights, the largest free Christmas light show in South Carolina, is now open. Load up your family and friends and head on out to see the sparkling trees, popular characters and more. The gardens will be alive with twinkling lights each day from nightfall until 9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and until 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Watch this Sumter Today episode at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAnKsplo_co





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BRUCE MILLS / THE SUMTER ITEM

The long-vacant Checkers Drive-In burger restaurant at 1293 Broad St. in front of Walmart Supercenter was demolished earlier this week. The marquee sign outside the drive-in has read “Closed for remodeling” for a few years. That area has become the top commercial hub in the City of Sumter. A Tropical Smoothie Café will be taking its place.

BizTalk: Checkers is out, Tropical Smoothie Café on the way

BY BRYN EADDY
bryn@theitem.com

A Tropical Smoothie Café is coming to Sumter in the new year. A commercial building permit was filed with the city of Sumter on Nov. 30 for its construction. *The Sumter Item* reached out to the contractors listed on the permit,

Walker Industries LLC, and learned that they plan to complete the project within 90 days and that it will take the place of the old Checkers Drive-In burger restaurant, so Sumterites could be enjoying smoothies, sandwiches and more as early as February 2023. The long-vacant Checkers Drive-In burger restaurant at 1293 Broad St.

in front of Walmart Supercenter was demolished earlier this week. The marquee sign outside the drive-in has read "Closed for remodeling" for a few years. Once the smoothie joint is constructed, the address will be 1301 Broad St., according to the permit. *The Sumter Item* has reached out to Tropical Smoothie's corporate office and requested information on an offi-

cial opening date and renderings of what the café will look like. The nearest Tropical Smoothie currently open is in Columbia, but there are franchises all over the country offering healthy food options including smoothies, of course, salads, wraps, flatbreads, their own version of a quesadilla and kid-friendly items.





SUMTER CIVIC DANCE COMPANY PRESENTS

Featuring: Sumter High School Show Choir & Concert Choir, Lemira Elementary Drummers

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Saturday, December 9th ★ 3:00 pm

Patriot Hall

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A family affair

“Yes, this is the path into the woods,” I told Collin. From the field, we took the faint trail past the end of the drainage ditch into the timber. It was easy to follow. We walked slowly and carefully among the trees, stepping over broken limbs and around a few spindly briars.



Dan Geddings

I hooped and hollered a few times and heard my nephew Davy answer with a yell. Collin did a screechy little yell himself. We were just starting a push through the woods. The northeast wind was at our backs. I scanned the woods ahead for a likely thicket that might

hide a beast. We would need to skirt the edges of the cane patches and green bushes. To our left was the bean field, to our right the open woods. The wind was strong, and I could hardly hear Davy when he yelled. He was fading away toward the pines. When I yelled, Collin would yell. I didn’t know if Clayton could hear us yet. I hoped to hear a gunshot any minute in the distance. It would mean success. After a few minutes, I told Collin, “Let’s find a log to sit down on; we need to take a break.” He pointed to one just ahead. My grandson Collin is only 6 years old, and this was his first deer hunt. We were making a “man drive” through our woods in Clarendon County, near Paxville. Collin had insisted on going with me to the back of our property to start the drive. I was glad to have him along. Our pace was slow so Collin could keep up. I wanted him to enjoy this hunt. He had brought along his BB gun. I had Old Betsy, the double-barrel hammer gun that my Daddy had left me. I told Collin if we spotted a buck I would shoot him with my gun, and he could also shoot him with his gun. He really liked that idea. After a short break, we got up and headed on through the woods. I noticed some of the low spots in the open woods were holding a little water. Collin had noticed, too. He asked me if he could shoot at the water, and I told him yes, he could. We stopped and he fired, but I noticed he didn’t really aim, so I pointed out the sights on the barrel and explained that he needed to look down the barrel and align the sights toward the water. He took careful aim and this time hit the water with his shot. He



Collin and I taking a silly break on a deer drive. It was fun.

was delighted. We pushed on through the woods yelling and listening for Davy. Then, I heard a faint holler to our front. It was Clayton. He and his wife, Kristy, were on a stand near the end of the woods. On any deer drive, it is important for the standers and the drivers to know where each other is located. I asked Collin, “Did you hear your Dad yell back to us?” He shook his head, yes. We were in no hurry and found another loggy seat. Collin said, “Turn your hat around backwards, Granddaddy,” and I looked over at him. He had turned his hat around, so I turned mine around. We sat there for a little while talking and shooting the BB gun. On a man drive, you let the wind work for you, too. Sometimes an old buck will catch your scent and lay tight, hoping that you might pass. If you linger a little, he may lose his nerve and make a dash. I heard Davy again and wanted to keep up even with him, so we got back to work. I knew Clayton and Kristy were just ahead, and now I could see Clayton’s orange hat through the trees. Collin and I hollered, and Clayton hollered back. I asked Collin, “Do you see your Dad?” He nodded. We moved on up, and Clayton told us that a beautiful fox had come by very close but no deer. Collin walked out of the woods with his Mom and Dad, and I made a short loop around one of our ponds. When I got out to the yard area, Davy came up with his two sons David and Johnathan. We didn’t get a deer on that drive, but it was still a lot of fun. It was a beautiful day and a simple family affair. We’ll do another one soon.

Reach Dan Geddings at cdgeddings@gmail.com.

What’s the difference between domesticated and wild turkeys?

BY S.C. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

While sitting down to enjoy turkey this holiday season, remember that although wild and domestic turkeys are genetically the same species, that’s about where the similarity ends. “The wild turkey in a sprint can outrun a galloping horse for a short distance,” said Charles Ruth, Big Game Program coordinator for S.C. Department of Natural Resources. “Although it is one of the largest game birds, weighing between 15 and 25 pounds, it can fly distances of more than a mile, sometimes at speeds of 55 miles per hour.” Don’t ask a barnyard bird to try any of those feats! The domestic turkey lost its ability to fly through selective breeding that created heavier, broad-breasted birds, a feature much desired by chefs and commercial turkey producers. The shorter legs of the domestic turkey also mean it can’t run as well as its wild cousin. In contrast to the heavier domestic bird, the wild turkey is slim, tall and long-legged. Factor in its keen eyesight, hearing and native cunning, and the wild turkey makes a difficult target for human and animal hunters. Restoration of the wild turkey in South Carolina is one of the Palmetto State’s most noteworthy conservation success stories. Limited by the early 1900s to small pockets of birds in the Lowcountry’s Francis Marion National Forest and along the Savannah River swamps, the wild turkey is now widespread throughout South Carolina, and a spring hunting season is held in all of the state’s 46 counties (there is no fall season). Wild turkey restoration was made possible through the efforts of the SCDNR, the National Wild Turkey Federation, the forest products industry, private landowners and South Carolina sportsmen and sportswomen. The separation of the wild and domestic turkey began hundreds of years ago, according to Ruth. Native Americans had accomplished the domestication of

turkeys before Europeans set foot on the continent. Turkey bones have been found in Indian burial mounds in Tennessee, Kentucky and some other parts of the South, and turkeys were being raised in Mexico and Central America for more than 500 years before the Spanish arrived. Turkey relics have been found in Arizona dating as far back as 25 A.D., and turkey-raising may well be one of the oldest forms of organized meat production in the Northern Hemisphere. Spanish explorers took Mexican wild turkeys domesticated by the Aztecs home to Europe in about 1519. These now domesticated turkeys then spread rapidly through Europe and were introduced in England between 1524 and 1541, where they were highly sought after for gourmet dinners. After the domestic turkey spread across Europe in the 1500s, the colonists who settled the New World brought these tasty birds with them across the Atlantic back to the land of their origin. Imagine the pilgrims’ surprise to find the turkey already one of the most plentiful foods of the American Indians. Domestic stock from Europe was eventually crossbred with the wild turkeys of North America, leading to the six most common standard domestic varieties in the United States: Bronze, Black, Narranganset, Bourbon Red, Slate and White Holland. While the attributes of wild turkeys have been historically important in enhancing domestic breeds, the flow of genetic material in the other direction is not encouraged. State law prohibits the release of pen-raised turkeys due to the possibility of introducing disease into wild birds and because of the danger of contaminating the wild turkey gene pool. But Ruth said because domestic turkeys lack the “wood smarts” of their wild cousins, they generally fall prey to a host of hungry predators such as bobcats, foxes or coyotes before getting a chance to breed with native birds.

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Israeli airstrikes on Gaza resume after truce ends

BY NAJIB JOBAIN, JACK JEFFERY
and JULIA FRANKEL

Associated Press

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip — Israel's war with Hamas erupted again Friday, as airstrikes hit houses and buildings in the Gaza Strip minutes after a weeklong truce expired. Black smoke billowed from the besieged territory, where health authorities reported dozens of Palestinians killed and Israel dropped leaflets over Gaza City and southern parts of the enclave, urging civilians to flee to avoid the fighting.

Militants in Gaza resumed firing rockets into Israel, and fighting broke out between Israel and Hezbollah militants operating along its northern border with Lebanon.

The resumption of the war threatens to compound the suffering in Gaza. Some 2 million people — almost its entire population — are crammed into the territory's south, where Israel urged people to relocate at the war's start and has since vowed to extend its ground assault. Unable to go into north Gaza or neighboring Egypt, their only escape is to move around within the 85-square-mile area.

Renewed hostilities also heighten concerns for about 140 hostages still held captive by Hamas and other militants, after more than 100 were freed during the truce.

Qatar, which has served as a mediator along with Egypt, said negotiators were still trying to reach an agreement on restarting the cease-fire. Israel and Hamas traded blame for ending the truce, but Qatar's Foreign Ministry singled out Israel's role in the resumption of fighting, saying it "complicates mediation efforts and exacerbates the humanitarian catastrophe."

A day earlier, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Israeli officials and urged them to do more to protect Palestinian civilians as they seek to destroy Hamas. Blinken was to meet Friday with Arab foreign ministers at global climate talks in Dubai.

It was not clear to what extent Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will heed the appeals of the United States, Israel's most important ally.

Netanyahu's office said Friday that Israel "is committed to achieving the goals of the war," including releasing the hostages and eliminating Hamas, which has ruled Gaza since 2007.

In response to the U.S. calls, the Israeli military released a map dividing the Gaza Strip into hundreds of numbered, haphazardly drawn parcels. It asked residents to learn the number associated with their location in case of an eventual evacuation. It was not immediately clear where Palestinians would go, with no safe areas designated on the map.

Hours into the renewed bombardment, Gaza's Health Ministry said 109 people had been killed and dozens wounded. Israel said it struck more than 200 Hamas targets.

Since the war began, more than 13,300 Palestinians have died, roughly two-thirds of them women and mi-

nors, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not differentiate between civilians and combatants.

The toll is likely much higher, as officials have only sporadically updated the count since Nov. 11. The ministry says thousands more people are feared dead under the rubble.

The war began after the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas and other Palestinian militants, who killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in southern Israel and took about 240 people captive. *The New York Times* reported that Israel's military was aware of Hamas' plan to launch an attack on Israeli soil more than a year before the operation.

RETURN TO BATTLE

About an hour before the cease-fire was to expire early Friday, Israel said it intercepted a volley of rockets fired from Gaza. Minutes after the deadline, the military announced a resumption of combat operations and soon after gave word of new strikes.

In leaflets dropped in southern Gaza, Israel urged people to leave homes east of Khan Younis, warning that the southern town was now a "dangerous battle zone." Other leaflets warned residents of several neighborhoods in Gaza City in the north to move south.

Hundreds of thousands of people fled northern Gaza to Khan Younis and other parts of the south earlier in the war, part of an extraordinary mass exodus that has left three-quarters of the population displaced and facing widespread shortages of food, water and other supplies.

The International Rescue Committee, an aid group operating in Gaza, warned the return of fighting will "wipe out even the minimal relief" provided by the truce and "prove catastrophic for Palestinian civilians."

Strikes in Khan Younis hit an apartment in a housing development and destroyed a large building. Residents frantically searched the building's rubble for survivors, and several wounded children were brought to a nearby hospital.

"We are women and children here. We have nothing," said Fatima Nshasi, a relative of a family in the building, as women sobbed nearby. "We were going with life as usual, hoping the truce would be extended."

Strikes also hit near Gaza City in the north and in the central Gaza refugee camp of Maghazi, where rescuers clawed through the rubble of a large building. A foot stuck out of the tangle of concrete and wiring.

Israel has said it is targeting Hamas operatives and blames civilian casualties on the group, accusing the militants of operating in residential neighborhoods. Israel says 77 of its soldiers have been killed in the ground offensive in northern Gaza. It claims to have killed thousands of militants, without providing evidence.

Hamas' armed wing said it fired volleys of rockets from Gaza toward Israeli cities. White smoke trails could be seen over the Israeli town of Sderot on the border with northern Gaza after Israel's missile protection systems activated.



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SGT. AMBER COBENA
John Oxendine, member of the Lumbee tribe of North Carolina, performs a traditional warrior dance during the National American Indian Heritage Month Observance at Patton Hall on Shaw Air Force Base on Tuesday, Nov. 28. The first "American Indian Day" was celebrated in New York in May 1916. This year's theme was "Tribal Nations Soaring to New Heights."

ARCENT celebrates National American Indian Heritage Month

STORY BY SGT. AMBER COBENA
U.S. Army Central

U.S. Army Central celebrated National American Indian Heritage Month at Patton Hall on Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter on Tuesday, Nov. 28.

During the ceremony, local members of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina performed cultural demonstrations in full regalia and educated soldiers and civilians in attendance about their history and traditions.

Michael Clauss, ARCENT's command historian, spoke on the importance of the role that Native Americans played during the Second World War and their overall legacy in American military history. Clauss also highlighted the life and accomplishments of a Native American Medal of Honor recipient during the Second World War, Tech. Sgt. Van Barfoot.

"Exhausted, Barfoot returned to his own lines and began evacuating the wounded and received a battlefield commission," said Clauss. "A few months later, he learned he would receive the Medal of Honor. The actions of Tech. Sgt. Van Barfoot are in keeping with the highest traditions of service and are characteristic of the pride and selfless service of Native Americans, and all soldiers, who serve in our Army."

During the Second World War, approximately 45,000 Native Americans served throughout the U.S. Army in every theater of the war.

"Twenty-nine is the number of congressional medal honor winners with Native American heritage, specifically Army recipients," said John



U.S. Army Central Command general, Lt. Gen. Patrick Frank, greets Chief Louie Chavis from the Beaver Creek Indians Tribe during the observance at Patton Hall.

Oxendine, Lumbee tribe member. "Historically, American Indians have the highest record of military service per capita compared to other ethnic groups."

During the ceremony, the Lumbee tribe danced the men's traditional warrior dance, known as the "Eastern Woodland Dance," followed by the "Round Dance." The Lumbee tribe invited soldiers, civilians and tribal members in the audience to join the circle while dancing to the beat of the drums.

The ceremony concluded with Lt. Gen. Patrick Frank giving signed appreciation certificates to the tribal members who participated in the event. The observance was followed by Native American cuisine and a display of historical artifacts.

"Today, more than 8,000 Native Americans serve in the Army," said Col. David Vandevander, ARCENT G8 whose

directorate organized the event. "This observance was an opportunity to honor the cultures and contributions of the tribal nations and show our gratitude to the more than 150,000 veterans of native descent. Native American identity and culture makes the Army stronger."

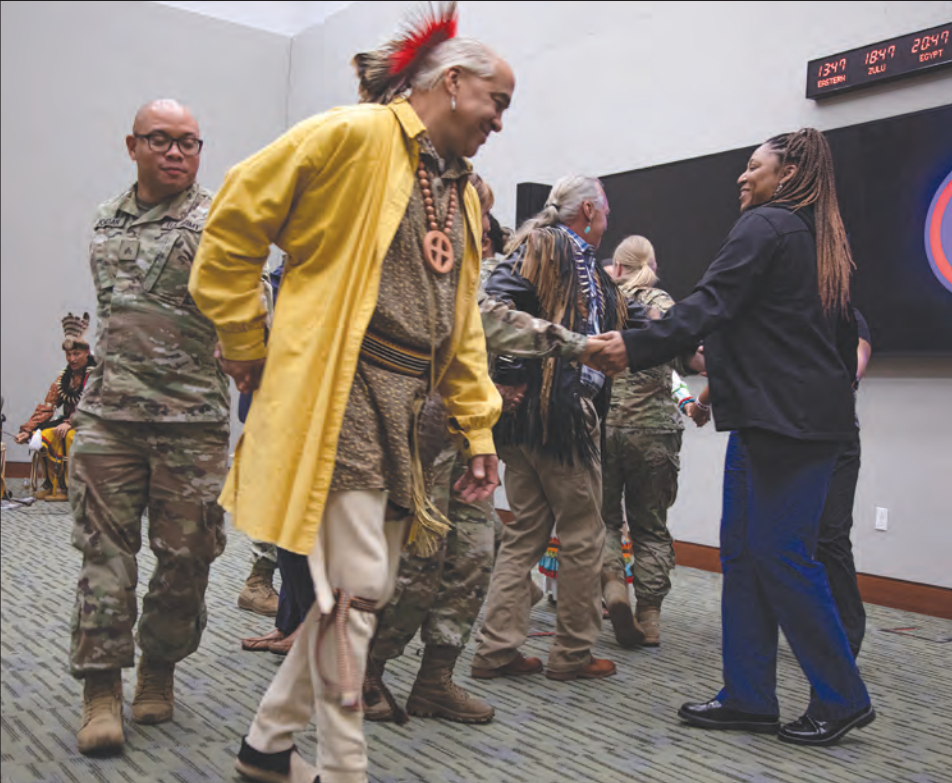
ARCENT honors the cultures and contributions of Native Americans in an annual observance while recognizing the veterans of American Indian and Alaskan Native descent throughout the year.

United States Army Central is the U.S. Army Service Component Command for United States Central Command and is responsible to the Secretary of the Army for the support and administration of more than 12,000 soldiers, including those assigned to joint task forces and embassies, across the 21 countries in the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility.



ABOVE: Retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Caleb Malcom, president of Lumbee Tribe Enterprises, speaks about his tribe's relationship with the military community.

RIGHT: U.S. Army Central soldiers, civilians and Lumbee tribe members dance in a circular tribal dance to the beat of a traditional drum circle with the Lumbee tribe of North Carolina.



the
Sumter
ITEM

REFLECTIONS



Sarah Harvin and Jim Harris, selected as the queen and king of the first Sumter Iris Festival in 1940, are pictured on the float of the YWCA, which they represented.

The history of Sumter’s first Iris Festival

This two-part issue of Reflections responds to several inquiries concerning the history related to the founding of Sumter’s Iris festival. The initial name for the Iris Festival was “Iris Week” and was “conceived in the 1940s in the mind of the late J. J. Brennan, who was active in all civic affairs until his death in January 1943.” The ensuing data was obtained from *The Sumter Item* archives and the writings of Mike Karvelas and Dr. Anne King Gregorie.

nity cooperating to bring into Sumter visitors from all over South Carolina to witness the very finest flower show in all America — the perfect Iris Garden — a wonderland of beauty, located a short distance from the city, where the owner, H. C. Bland, has created for all of our citizens the show-place of the South. Of course, there are many lovely gardens all through the Low-country, but when one wishes a thrill of beauty, no spot can approach the magnificence of thousands of iris, every imaginable color, in full bloom.”



J. J. Brennan



Sammy Way
REFLECTIONS

everyone to enjoy this beauty and has mapped a formal opening program for Friday, May 17, when sufficient blooms will be open to warrant a visit, and the event will be celebrated with a full afternoon’s and evening’s entertainment for all of our citizens and visitors. At 3:30 the state swimming contest will be held at Pocalla Springs; at 5:30 the parade of beauty will wind its way up North Main Street, followed by 200 boys and girls on decorated bicycles, high school cadets and the high school band.”

“Every club of Sumter will have a float entered, as well as a number of merchants. Each float will carry a prospective king and queen for the Iris Festival, and the crowning will take place at the Municipal Stadium, when Mr. Bland places wreaths on the heads of the lucky couple, who will act as king and queen at the Iris Ball later in the evening when



This float won the first-place prize during the first Iris Festival in 1940.

You Don't Want To Miss
SUMTER'S FIRST IRIS FESTIVAL
Friday, May 24th

See The Japanese Iris in Bloom At Swan Lake
No Admission Charged

See The Parade of Floats at 5:30

See The Celebration at The Municipal Park
Following Parade

Dance To The Music of Harry Raymond at the Armory Friday Night

Shop and Save at The Iris Festival Sales

*Your Friends will All Be Here Friday—
You Must Be Here Too*

The city’s very first Iris Festival was advertised in May 1940.

Harry Raymond and his celebrated orchestra will play for the ball.”

“At the stadium, the ladies of the YWCA will stage their annual May Day party with a most interesting and colorful pageant, and, of course, every man, woman and child of the

city and county will be present to enjoy this party. Under the leadership of Howard Lindsey of the high school faculty, ... following the parade of floats, over 150 boys and girls will ride their bicycles featuring decorated wheels; prizes will be awarded

for the outstanding riders. This will add great interest to the parade, and keen competition is being manifested; the boys and girls of the city have already entered into the spirit of the occasion wonderfully well.”

“The ball at the armory is to commence at 9:30 in the evening when the king and queen will lead the grand march, with their attendants, under the sponsorship of the ladies of the Junior League. This organization is working hard to make this dance the outstanding social event of the year. With a fine orchestra engaged for the music and a brilliant floor show being planned, the armory will be taxed to accommodate the crowd. The committee urges everyone in Sumter to join hands in making this Iris Day the biggest event ever held in Sumter. Prizes will be awarded for the most attractive window display, for the most artistic float and for the best-decorated bicycle. A visit to the famous Iris Gardens in the early part of the day moves to Main Street to witness the parade; traveling to the ball park for the YWCA party and the Iris Ball at the armory mean a full day’s entertainment for our citizens and visitors.”



The float entered in the Iris Festival parade by the City of Sumter is seen May 24, 1940.

LEFT: An early Swan Lake entrance sign is seen.



YESTERYEAR

Turkey grower talks to Rotary Club; detective wins Jaycees award

75 YEARS AGO — 1949

May 11 – 17

• Sumter’s annual observance of National School Safety Patrol Day will be held a day earlier than the usual May 14 observance. The earlier date has been announced so that members of the patrol may parade on Main Street immediately after school Friday. Boys and girls wearing their patrol insignia belts and badges will parade.

• D.B. “Skeet” James, representative in Sumter for the Pilot Life Insurance company of Greensboro, North Carolina, graduated last week from the Institute of Insurance Marketing, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, and has returned to continue his work in this area. James was selected by his company to take the intensive course at S.M.U. because of the progress he has shown in the business.

• Only two South Carolina survivors of the 1860s struggle for states’ rights were known to be alive today for Palmetto land’s annual Confederacy Memorial Day. The surviving state pensioners are 101-year-old Vernon E. Lifrage of Williamsburg County and Arnold Murray of Orangeburg County. They represented the 61,000 men of the state who were in the Grey Legions of the ‘60s.

• A dance will be held at the Teen-Age Canteen on Saturday night from 8 until 12 with admission being 35 cents for couples and 25 cents for stags. Bernie Center Musicians will furnish the music, and a contest will be held for a new name for the canteen with a prize being given for the best and most original name. The newly elected board members will be installed in a formal ceremony during the evening, and at intermission, special entertainment will be given by local high school talent.

• A Sumter man piloted one of the Air Force’s big four-engine C-54s on 75 missions to blockaded Berlin. He is Capt. John J. Philips, who recently returned from a six-month tour of duty with the airlift task force in Germany. “The airlift,” scheduled to end officially this week, “has taught us lessons that are tremendously important,” according to Philips. “We now know, for instance, that the future of military air transport, and this includes commercial cargo transport, is in the big aircraft. When the round-the-clock operation started last June 26, our pilots literally knocked themselves out flying with the small C-47s which have a carrying capacity of only 2½ to 3 tons. Soon the C-54 Skymasters, which have a 10-ton carrying capacity, were pressed into service, and the tonnage of food and supplies for the former German capital’s two-and-a-half million citizens snowballed.”

• A combined Mayesville town team and the high school defeated Sumter High at Riley Park, 4 to 2, in an eight-inning contest. John Brutch did the hurling for the visitors and did a good job of it. Mayesville scored three times in the eighth to win the contest. Joe Holt hurled for the Gamecocks until the eighth when he was relieved by Marshall.

• A vocational talk by Paul Thomas, owner of the South-eastern Turkey Ranch, featured the program of the weekly luncheon meeting of the Rotary Club. The theme of Thomas’ talk was, appropriately, “Turkey” and the turkey-raising industry in South Carolina. Thomas, a native of Clover, York County, and his mother were pioneers in establishing and developing on a large scale the growing of turkeys commercially.

• Harry L. “Ike” Reeder, president of the Sumter Chicks, denied reports that the team would leave Sumter and move the Tri-State league franchise to another city. Speaking for himself and for co-owner “Tiny” Parker, Reeder said, “As long as we



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Clarence and Betsy Hair line up reindeer in their yard on McCrays Mill Road on Dec. 1, 1998. They have been decorating their yard since 1974, adding a bit more each year, but the road was scheduled to be widened, which would take up most of their yard.

are connected with the Chicks, they will remain in the city of Sumter. While attendance at home games so far this season has not been up to expectations, we feel confident that Sumter’s baseball fans will rally to the support of their team and keep class B baseball in Sumter.”

• Tuomey hospital marked 35 years of service to the residents of Sumter, Sumter County and surrounding territory with an open house from 1 til 6 p.m. The open house was a feature of the local observance of National Hospital Day. The day’s program began with the arrival of alumni of the Tuomey Hospital School of Nursing for the annual alumni meeting.

• Sumter’s mammoth Iris Festival parade is a week off. The parade, which shows signs of becoming more colorful and spectacular than any of its predecessors, will get underway at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, May 19. Large formations of F-84 jet planes from Shaw Air Force Base will fly over the parade route, coordinating their flights with “Operation Tarheel,” underway in North Carolina.

50 YEARS AGO — 1974
Jan. 18 – 24

• McLaurin Bantams took two of three games with arch-rival Alice Drive at the AD gym Thursday afternoon as the varsity boys rolled to a 53-37 win, the girls romped 30-17 and AD’s jayvees won easily, 37-15. Frankie Lee Smith led the way for the McLaurin boys as he ripped the Hawk defense inside for 15 points. Terry Kinard added 12, Lee Montgomery had 10, and Vackie Mitchell added nine. Joe Spann led all scorers, as he hit 17 points for the Hawks.

• A merger of School Districts 2 and 17 is not recommended at this time, says a feasibility study which explored the possibility of such a merger. The study was presented at the County Board of Education’s meeting. The study committee, chaired by James M. White, made three recommendations to the board: 1) that there be no merger of the two school districts at this time, 2) that the county board reopen the “Property Reassessment Study” in view of the apparent need for additional funds in the District 2 area and 3) that legislative action be initiated to cause the District 2 Board of Trustees to be elected by popular vote.

• Eugene Timothy Spann, the first and only Black detective on the Sumter police force, was the recipient of the Sumter Jaycees’ Distinguished Service Award (DSA) at its 1973 awards banquet.

The guest speaker for the event was Rep. Williams Jennings Bryan Dorn (D-S.C.).

• It was like jumping from the pan into the fire as they say. The old cliché fit the fate of Columbia Commercial College as it tangled with the USC Sumter Partisans on Sumter’s home court after taking a 90-69 thumping at home earlier this year. The Partisans eased past the visitors 58-44 in a tedious but rewarding contest. After supplying the heavily favored Partisans with an ample amount of early game excitement with a 10-4 lead, Commercial began to slip into the shadows as the methodical Partisans began to pull ahead.

• The exhibit of paintings by Maryann Harmon at the Sumter Gallery of Art will close on Jan. 27. It is a show of great sweep and majesty in the choice of subjects, which the imaginative visitor will view with great pleasure. Harmon stated that in developing this series of paintings, “I have attempted to express my visual interpretation of form, color and space that I find in the Allegheny and Blue Ridge ranges of the Appalachian Mountains.”

• City Council holds its second monthly meeting Tuesday at 10 a.m. at its chambers at the City-County Office Building. A varied agenda with business ranging from storm drains to sidewalks will be considered by the city governing body. A report from Councilman W.A. McElveen Jr. will be given on proposals for storm drainage on Poulass Street and sidewalks from Friendship Apartments to Crosswell School.

• Lower Richland jumped out to an early lead and held on despite a late Wildcat rush to down Hillcrest, 86-72. The Hornets grabbed several long rebounds and turned them into fast-break baskets at the outset of the game and caught the Wildcats playing a little sluggishly to gain the early lead, holding a 21-9 advantage at the end of the first quarter.

• If revenge is indeed sweet as someone stated, then Sumter High might be mistaken for a 50-pound sack of sugar following Friday night’s 85-55 romp over previous menace West Florence. During the past two seasons, the Knights, using the coaching shrewdness of Bobby Bridgeman, have held the Gamecocks’ number, winning four of the last five encounters. This time, though, it was different.

• Sumter native Cullen Newman, a painter, sculptor and ceramist residing in Winter Park, Florida, was recently commissioned by D’Agostino and Rodriguez families of Winter Park to design a pair

of collector’s plates illustrating scenes from Cervantes’ classic novel “Don Quixote de la Mancha.”

• Jim Beaty, director of the University of South Carolina program at Shaw Air Force Base, recently announced that this term the program has had the largest registration in its history. More than 370 students registered. Thirty-seven undergraduate courses were offered for credit, Beaty said, to military personnel, their dependents, base-related civilians and area civilians on a space-available basis.

• The matter of the head football coaching position at Sumter High School has been resolved with the return of Bill Noonan to that job, the District 17 Board of Trustees announced. Athletic committee members of the board met Monday night with Superintendent L.C. McArthur Jr. and Principal Bobby L. Matthews to consider the situation. It was agreed that Noonan, who had requested that his earlier resignation be nullified, return to his football duties and also to his post as assistant principal at Bates Junior High School.

25 YEARS AGO — 1998
Nov. 29 – Dec. 5

• The Christmas season marks the second time that the Sumter Council of Garden Clubs and the Sumter Gallery of Art have combined their talents to sponsor local homes for the annual Holiday House Tour. The tour is set for Saturday, Dec. 5, and will feature six homes, three decorated by each organization.

• A new program has helped families who cannot afford dental or medical care receive it. The new program that was just beginning in Sumter County is called Health Reach-Tuomey. An extension of Tuomey Healthcare System, the program targets kids who are in the greatest need of dental and medical care and provides the services they need. Since 1996, hundreds of Lee County children have been served by Health Reach. Now the program has expanded into Sumter County, and it’s growing with the help of a \$147,500 Duke Endowment grant.

• More than \$1,000 was donated to the Fireside Fund last week, bringing total contributions to \$2,076. The Fireside 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. A caseworker with The Salvation Army said they have received many calls from area residents needing assistance, and they can help families as donations are received.

• As has been proven all season, anything can happen at Sumter Speedway. And the speedway’s final race of the year Thanksgiving night did nothing to dispel that theory. Mini Stock drivers Rich Hoffman and division champion Neil McKenzie started things off with a wild battle for the lead with the win ultimately decided on the final lap. Hoffman stayed on McKenzie’s back bumper the entire lap and tried to make a move on the last turn, but McKenzie closed the door and held on for the win with Hoffman finishing second.

• Sumter Little Theatre directors think their latest production really is the “Best Christmas Pageant Ever,” and they have ample reason for it. When they presented Barbara Robinson’s Christmas comedy last season, not everyone who wanted to see it could get in. Director Katie Damron says that’s not the only reason SLT is doing the show again. Most of the cast have returned because they had such a good time doing it last year.

• Sumter School District 17 officials are giving a Columbia construction company an ultimatum. Board members met last week to discuss what legal action they could take

against Payne-Adams Construction, the contractor hired to renovate Alice Drive Elementary. About 65 percent of construction is finished, but work on the early childhood, science, music, art and physical education classrooms is still left.

• Coaching a football team that’s playing for a state title is not something new for Barry Avant. As the head coach at Allendale-Fairfax in 1996, he led the Tigers to the 2A state championship game. Avant will have his team playing for another state title, but it won’t be Allendale-Fairfax. He will lead the Manning Monarchs into Williams-Brice Stadium to take on the Daniel Lions for the 3A state title.

• Holiday music played in the background as students in Mary Anne Scott’s third-grade class worked to send some holiday cheer to Shaw personnel. These Millwood Elementary students worked diligently Tuesday attaching snowmen and stars to their cards, writing out what they wanted to say in pencil and then coloring it in. School children across Sumter County are making holiday cards for Shaw personnel this week. The cards will be attached to each batch of a dozen cookies collected to send to all deployed personnel and all single airmen in the dorms — about 1,100 people.

• The Christmas season was ushered in in style last night, with a concert by the Chicago Brass Quintet, the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, the Sumter Civic Chorale and the Sumter High School Chorus. Christmas music always abounds in Sumter during the month of December. This year is no exception — there’s music every week and many other activities and events, too. In fact, some days there are so many activities taking place, it may be very hard to decide what to see or do. Schools, churches, civic organizations, clubs and arts organizations have been preparing for weeks to present their Christmas gifts to the community.

• Ruth Redfern Jennings Sanders took great joy in working in her community, and she worked especially hard at promoting Sumter businesses, her son said. An owner of one of Sumter’s only ladies’ dress and bridal shops for 59 years, Mrs. Sanders, 98, died Thursday. The shop known as RuVelle was at 202 N. Main St., a building now occupied by Tuomey Healthcare System. “It was the place for ladies to shop in Sumter for more than 50 years,” said Joe Summerour, a retired real estate agent who knew Mrs. Sanders.

• In 1996, Al Dunn took over a Sumter High School boys track program that was among the elite in the state. The Gamecocks finished two points shy of a state championship his first season and won it a year later. And after Sumter finished a disappointing fourth in the state finals last season, Dunn predicted that the Gamecocks would reclaim their title in 1999. On Tuesday, he resigned. “I had to reassess my priorities,” said Dunn, who will continue to be the boys cross country coach and serve as an assistant with the track team. “I just had a lot of things happen in my life over the last month, and I had to step back and take a look at my situation.”

• Sumter has had “A Holly Jolly Christmas” and a holiday “Together – Sharing the Christmas Spirit.” Now there’s “Poinsettias on Parade” — this year’s theme for the Sumter Jaycees Christmas Parade. The parade — featuring Santa, of course — gets underway at 2 p.m. Sunday. All roads leading into North Main Street will be blocked off at 1:45 p.m. The parade route will begin at DuBose Street, continue south on Main Street and end on Bartlette Street.

The Philippines opens a new monitoring base on a remote island in the disputed South China Sea

THITU ISLAND, South China Sea (AP) — The Philippines inaugurated a new coast guard monitoring base Friday on an island occupied by Filipino forces in the disputed South China Sea and plans to expand joint patrols with the United States and Australia to counter China's "pure bullying" in the strategic waterway, a Philippine security official said.

High-seas faceoffs between Chinese and Philippine ships have intensified this year in the contested waters, fueling fears of a larger conflict that could involve the United States. The U.S. has repeatedly warned that it's obligated to defend the Philippines, its oldest treaty ally in Asia, if Filipino forces come under an armed attack, including in the South China Sea.

China has accused the U.S. of meddling in an Asian dispute and sowing discord in the region.

National Security Adviser Eduardo Ano and other Philippine officials flew to Thitu Island on an air force plane Friday and led a ceremony to open the newly constructed, two-story center that will have radar, ship-tracking and other monitoring equipment to monitor China's actions in the hotly disputed waters and other problems, including sea accidents.

"It's no longer gray zone. It's pure bullying," Ano told reporters after the seaside ceremony, describing the actions of Chinese ships as openly flouting international law.

Dwarfed by China's military might, the Philippines decided this year to allow an expansion of the U.S. military presence in its local camps under a 2014 defense pact. It also recently launched joint sea and air patrols with the United States and Australia in a new deterrence



A Philippine coast guard walks at the Philippine-occupied Thitu island, locally called Pag-asa island, on Friday, Dec. 1, at the disputed South China Sea. The Philippine coast guard inaugurated a new monitoring base Friday on the remote island occupied by Filipino forces in the disputed South China Sea as Manila ramps up efforts to counter China's increasingly aggressive actions in the strategic waterway.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

strategy that puts the two allied powers on a collision course with Beijing.

Ano said the separate joint patrols involving the U.S. and Australia would continue and could expand to include other nations like Japan once a security agreement being negotiated by Tokyo and Manila was concluded.

"We're open to like-minded countries to join as observers or participants," Ano said.

China has warned that such joint naval patrols must not hurt its "territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests."

Despite Manila's counter-actions, China reasserted its claim to the sea on Friday.

As the Philippine air force aircraft carrying Ano, presidential adviser Andres Centino, Philippine coast guard chief Admiral Ronnie Gavan and other officials approached Thitu, Ano said Chinese forces

transmitted a radio warning for them to stay away.

Ano said the Filipino pilots dismissed the message and in turn routinely asserted Philippine sovereign rights and control over the area.

Peering later through a mounted telescope on the island, Ano said he spotted at least 18 suspected Chinese militia ships scattered off Thitu, including a Chinese navy vessel.

Villagers say they have gotten used to the sight of Chinese ships lurking at a distance from Thitu, but a few say they're still haunted at times by the fear of Chinese forces arriving on the island.

"I can't avoid thinking sometimes that they would suddenly barge into our territory," said Daisy Cojamco, a 51-year-old mother of three whose husband works as a town government employee.

Surrounded by white beaches, the tadpole-shaped Thitu Is-

land is called Pag-asa — Tagalog for hope — by about 250 Filipino villagers. It's one of nine islands, islets and atolls that have been occupied by Philippine forces since the 1970s in the South China Sea's Spratlys archipelago.

The Philippines claims the region as its most remote offshore township, under its western island province of Palawan. It has encouraged fishing families to move there with incentives such as free rice to underscore its control over an area also claimed by China and Vietnam.

The 91-acre island now boasts internet and cellphone connections, a more stable power and water supply, a newly cemented runway, a wharf, grade school, gymnasium and even an evacuation center in times of typhoons. However, Thitu remains a meager frontier settlement compared to the Chinese-built Subi

island, more than 14 miles away.

Subi is one of seven mostly submerged reefs that China transformed starting about a decade ago into a missile-protected cluster of island bases, three of them with military-grade runways, sparking alarm among other claimant states in the South China Sea.

Early this year, the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. launched a strategy of exposing China's provocations in the South China Sea to bring the actions more international attention, according to Philippine officials. The administration reported the Chinese coast guard's use of a military-grade laser and water cannons and the blocking of Philippine patrol ships and supply boats near disputed shoals.

Speaking in Honolulu, where he met U.S. military leaders about two weeks ago, Marcos said the situation in the South China Sea "has become more dire" with China showing interest in atolls and shoals that are "closer and closer" to the Philippine coast.

But he stressed that the Philippines wouldn't yield.

"The Philippines will not give a single square inch of our territory to any foreign power," Marcos warned.

Report: The belief that death penalty is applied unfairly shows capital punishment's growing isolation in U.S.

BY JUAN A. LOZANO
Associated Press

HOUSTON — More Americans now think the death penalty, which is undergoing a yearslong decline of use and support, is being administered unfairly, a finding that is adding to its growing isolation in the U.S., according to an annual report on capital punishment.

But whether the public's waning support for the death penalty and the declining number of executions and death sentences will ultimately result in the abolition of capital punishment in the U.S. remains uncertain, experts said.

"There are some scholars who are optimistic the death penalty will be totally eradicated pretty soon," said Eric Berger, a law professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. "I think what's more likely is it's going to continue to decline. But I think it's less likely that in the foreseeable future it'll totally disappear."

In 2023, there were 24 executions in the U.S., with the final one for the year taking place Thursday in Oklahoma. Additionally, 21 people were sentenced to death in 2023, which was the ninth-consecutive year when fewer than 30 people were executed and fewer than 50 people received death sentences, according to a report by the Washington, D.C.-based Death Penalty Information Center.

Only five states — Texas, Florida, Missouri, Oklahoma and Alabama — conducted executions this year. That was the lowest number in 20 years, said Robin M. Maher, executive director of the nonprofit center, which takes no position on capital punishment but has criticized the way states carry out executions.

"That shows the death penalty is again becoming increasingly isolated in its use in the United States," Maher said.

A Gallup poll from October found 50% of Americans think

capital punishment is applied unfairly, compared to 47% who think it is fairly implemented, Maher said. This was the highest such number since Gallup first began asking about the fairness of the death penalty's application in 2000.

Catherine Grosso, a professor with Michigan State University's College of Law, said the Gallup survey result could be tied in part to more young people and others questioning the U.S. criminal justice system following the 2020 killing of George Floyd by a police officer.

Nearly 200 death row exonerations since 1975, including three in 2023, also have helped change people's minds about the fairness of the death penalty, Maher said.

In recent years, various individuals across the country, including conservative legislators, have raised concerns about the death penalty or debated its future, Grosso said.

But in some states including Alabama, Florida, Oklahoma and Texas, the death penalty remains deeply entrenched, Berger said.

Earlier this year, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed bills enacting two new death penalty laws. One allows the death penalty in child rape convictions, despite a U.S. Supreme Court ruling banning capital punishment in such cases. The other law ends a unanimous jury requirement in death penalty sentencing.

"If you commit a crime that is really, really heinous, you should have the ultimate punishment," DeSantis said in May, commenting on the death penalty for child rape convictions.

Ongoing difficulties by states in securing supplies of execution drugs have prompted some states to explore new and untested methods of execution or revive previously abandoned ones, according to the center's report.

Alabama has set a January execution date for what would be the nation's first attempt to execute

an inmate with nitrogen gas. In July, Idaho became the fifth state to authorize executions by firing squad. The last time a U.S. inmate was executed by firing squad was in 2010.

The center's report said a majority of states, 29, have either abolished the death penalty or paused executions.

Corinna Lain, a professor at the University of Richmond School of Law in Virginia, said she thinks the number of states that don't have the death penalty could easily rise to 40. But a nationwide ban would need action from the U.S. Supreme Court.

Lain and other experts said that's unlikely to happen as recent actions show the high court is not going to get in the way of states carrying out executions. The center's report said the Supreme Court granted only one stay of execution out of 34 such requests made since its 2022-23 term.

Texas, the nation's busiest capital punishment state, has not been immune to the ongoing debate over the death penalty.

Earlier this year, the GOP-led Texas House passed a bill that would eliminate the death penalty in cases involving someone who was diagnosed with schizophrenia. The bill ultimately failed, as it was never taken up by the Texas Senate.

GOP state Rep. Jeff Leach said in March the bill was not part of a secret effort to do away with the death penalty in Texas.

"I believe that in Texas we need the death penalty," Leach said. "But I am, as a supporter of the death penalty, against executing people who at the time they commit the offense had a severe mental illness."

Even in Texas, there can be some change with the death penalty, Berger said.

"But you can't see the kind of change where you could expect them to just say, 'Ah, we're done with capital punishment altogether.' At least not yet," Berger said.

Teen girl who says she discovered a camera in an airplane bathroom is suing American Airlines

BOSTON (AP) — The family of a North Carolina teenager is suing American Airlines, saying that a flight attendant taped an iPhone to an airplane toilet to record her using the restroom during a September flight.

Lawyers for the 14-year-old and her parents say that American "knew or should have known the flight attendant was a danger." They say the failure of other crew members to confiscate the employee's phone allowed him to destroy evidence.

The lawsuit against American and the unidentified flight attendant was filed Friday in U.S. district court in North Carolina.

American said the flight attendant was "withheld from service" immediately after the alleged incident and has not worked since.

"We take this matter very seriously and have been fully cooperating with law enforcement in their investigation, as safety and security are our highest priorities," American said in a prepared statement.

According to the lawsuit, the incident happened on a Sept. 2 flight from Charlotte to Boston.

The girl said that while she was waiting to use a bathroom in the economy section, where her family was sitting, the flight attendant told her to use one in the first-class cabin. He entered the bathroom first, saying he needed to wash his hands, then emerged a minute later to tell the girl that the seat was broken but not to worry about it.

The girl said that after she used the toilet, she noticed an iPhone that was mostly hidden by red airline tape reading "Remove from service" — but the camera flash was glowing.

The girl "was shocked and scared," according to the lawsuit. "It immediately occurred to her that someone had put the phone there to film her using the toilet."

She took her own picture of the device.

Lawyers for the family suggested that the flight attendant removed the phone and erased images of the girl before letting her father see his iPhone photos.

The family said an FBI agent later told the girl's mother they did not arrest the man because they did not find any incriminating images on his phone.

The family's lawyers said they do not know the flight attendant's name, where he lives or whether he still works for American. The 14-year-old is undergoing therapy for trauma, they said.

Neither the girl nor her family are identified in the lawsuit. The Associated Press does not name victims of sexual assault or abuse unless they come forward publicly.



In 2022, The Blue Star Hawks, Alice Drive Middle School's military kids club, put the finishing touches on more than 30 handmade cards that were part of the Shower Shaw with Goodies program.

SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

GOODIES

FROM PAGE A1

Klopfleisch said if participants cannot drop off until after 3 p.m., items can be dropped off at 207 Mason Croft Drive; items must be dropped off no later than Thursday.

This year's effort aims to provide gifts to 550 U.S. Air Force and Army members based in Sumter at Shaw. The two organizations are asking everyone to participate and donate the following items on Thursday: plain candy kisses/chocolate mini bars, candy canes, microwave popcorn, mini bags of cookies and individual packets of hot chocolate.

Monetary donations are accepted to provide gift cards in the goodie bags — redeemable at local downtown Sumter bakeries and eateries.

For more information or to sign up to volunteer, contact Cleo Klopfleisch at (803) 406-2177.

Monetary donations can be dropped off on Thursday or mailed today to Shaw Spouses' Club RE: Shower Shaw with Goodies, P.O. Box 52337, Shaw AFB, SC 29152.



A photograph of Sumter County Bar members sits perched at the forefront of the judge's bench for colleagues and their families to view following the unveiling of plaques to commemorate members of the Sumter County Bar who have passed away.

PLAQUES

FROM PAGE A1

The names found were then etched onto plaques that will permanently hang in the judicial center, a reminder of how far they have all come.

Finney, the president of the Sumter County Bar Association, expressed his honor of sharing in on the joyous occasion. As the son of a lawyer and state Supreme Court Justice, he was also privileged to shadow both his father and his only law partner of 40 years, Ruben L. Gray. Not only did the pair pass down their legal knowledge, but they also instilled in him the importance of community and camaraderie when pursuing this line of work.

"It would be remiss for me not to recognize that in the world that we live in today, with all the challenges and all the discord, that we as a group of men and women can get together to celebrate the lives and careers of men and women of vision and those who had community service instilled in them from an early age," he expressed. "I can remember practicing law in front of the judges and with

the other lawyers in the community who are no longer here. First of all, everybody in here knows that Sumter is a great place to live, but it's an even better place to work. I think these judges who serve us and go around the state hearing cases can tell you that the reputation of lawyers in Sumter is above reproach. We've always been able to be civil and get along with one another and, more importantly, take care of one another."

Presiding over the special ceremony was South Carolina Supreme Court Justice George "Buck" James Jr., the son of former lawyer the late George James Sr. To spark nostalgia for the room of lawyers in attendance, he brought along a photograph of their induction into the Bar Association at the old courthouse. Plaid suit jackets, wide neckties and long hair differed from the short cuts and sleek black, blue and gray suits they wore now — but the love and respect they had for each other and their senior lawyers was just as evident now as it was then. To the young lawyers in the room, James Jr. urged them to have the same sentiment.

"As the lawyers go forward from today, keep in mind that



PHOTOS BY ALAYSHA MAPLE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Three plaques commemorating Sumter lawyers who have passed on were unveiled to a courtroom of their family, friends, fellow bar members and judges at the Sumter County Judicial Center on Nov. 30.



Solicitor Ernest "Chip" Finney gives the welcome at the unveiling of plaques commemorating members of the Sumter County Bar who have passed away, which included his father, the late Ernest A. Finney Jr., on Thursday, Nov. 30, at Sumter County Judicial Center.

you do owe your professional standing, to a large extent, to those who have come before you, who helped you out and those who have come after you who also will help you

out. So please, do show that appreciation."

Appreciation also was extended to wives of the late lawyers.

"The practice of law is a

jealous mistress, and that is an expression that they drum into us in law school. And for you wives of lawyers, you know how tough it was for your husband in the practice of law," Seth expressed. "You wives have nursed our wounds, psychological and otherwise, and have looked after us — it's very, very important that we recognize you today."

The ceremony concluded with the unveiling of three black plaques, etched in gold with the names and legacies of lawyers who served decades to centuries earlier. As family and friends gathered around the easel, running a delicate, loving finger over the names of their loved ones, they gazed in awe that their excellence will now have a permanent place in the hearts and halls of the Sumter County legal community.



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Allen Edwards with Williams-Brice-Edwards Charitable Trust, left, pushes the lottery start button at Liberty STEAM Charter School during the school's annual lottery two years ago on Dec. 6, 2021. Liberty STEAM's annual fall enrollment lottery will be Monday night.

LIBERTY

FROM PAGE A1

the spring semester. Total applications received for all five grade levels were 746.

The current K-3 school has 586 students. A total of 70% are minority, and also 70% are categorized as below the poverty threshold.

According to Ivey, Liberty forecasts enrollment at 750 students for next school year when including some special-education students.

Monday's meeting is open to the public and will begin at 5:30 p.m. at Liberty's Element-

tary Academy campus at Sumter Mall in the former JC Penney department store location. Lottery results will be publicly accessible by 6 p.m., Ivey said.

Before the meeting at 5:15 p.m., there will be a plaque dedication for the new school, which was completed in late July just before the start of the school year. Also, there will be a tour of the recently completed fourth-grade wing addition, he added.

Liberty STEAM is not part of Sumter School District but is a tuition-free, public charter school under the authorization of the state Public Charter School District based in Columbia.



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2-time school shooting survivor heals with surgery, a trusted horse and a chance to tell her story

BY MIKE HOUSEHOLDER
Associated Press

MAYFIELD TOWNSHIP, Mich. — For Kylie Ossege, the 19-year-old college student who survived two deadly mass school shootings in Michigan — one as a senior at Oxford High School in 2021 and another 14 months later as a freshman at Michigan State University — Blaze stands as a source of comfort in a world otherwise shattered by bullets.

Ossege runs a brush along Blaze's broad forehead, then gives him a kiss between the eyes.

"I feel very at home when I'm with him," Ossege says of the 13-year-old American Quarter Horse she has owned since 2019. "He's my best friend."

A better friend than time, perhaps, which now gathers for Ossege like dust in a corner, a clingy bundle of haunting memories that she can neither forget nor sweep away: Fifteen minutes as she lay shot and bleeding in an Oxford High School hallway. Six weeks recovering in a hospital. Fourteen months between a deadly high school shooting and another at MSU. And daily physical pain she can never fully escape.

Ossege was severely wounded during the Nov. 30, 2021, attack on Oxford High School, about 40 miles north of Detroit.

She heard "something like a balloon popping," then fell to the ground, where she laid next to classmate Hana St. Juliana, who died in the shooting. A heavy backpack filled with textbooks and a laptop weighed Ossege down. She was unable to feel her legs. Or move.

"It was the longest 15 minutes of my life," she said.

Eventually, help arrived. Ossege was loaded into an ambulance and rushed to a hospital in nearby Pontiac, where she would spend the next six weeks recovering, longer than any of the six Oxford students and a staff member who were injured in the attack. Four died: St. Juliana, Justin Shilling, Madisyn Baldwin and Tate Myre, with whom Ossege had partnered at a bullying prevention program at the local middle school on the morning of the shooting.

The shooter was an Oxford student named Ethan Crumbley, whom Ossege says she



Kylie Ossege looks at her horse, Blaze, at a boarding facility Nov. 11 in Mayfield Township, Michigan. Ossege was severely injured in a 2021 mass shooting at Oxford High School and says spending time with Blaze provides her with a measure of comfort.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

didn't know and whose name she will not utter. Instead, Ossege plans to deliver an in-person victim impact statement during his sentencing hearing on Dec. 8.

"I'm excited to have my words heard and my story heard," said Ossege, who spent two weeks writing the statement that she estimates will take about 10 minutes to deliver.

Crumbley, 17, could be ordered to spend the rest of his life in prison.

"That is what everyone is hoping for," Ossege said, herself included.

Ossege delivered a memorable address at Oxford High's commencement in 2022, urging her classmates and the community to "radiate and shine," a favorite saying she long has shared with her mother, Marita, and one that still appears on a sign outside Oxford Elementary School.

But coming back hasn't been easy.

Ossege said she has "tried to remain as positive as I can through this whole journey," but her body provides a daily reminder of the shooting.

On the day of the Oxford shooting, a bullet traveled through Ossege's clavicle and ribs and exited her back, causing a concussion of the spinal cord that left her briefly paralyzed. She underwent a surgical procedure to remove a portion of her vertebral bone and relieve pressure from a spinal cord hematoma.

Following intense physical and occupational therapy, Ossege is able to walk again but suffers constant pain.

"The only thing that makes it feel better is taking medications and laying down or sitting down," said the MSU sophomore who, inspired by her own caregivers, is studying kinesiology on the East Lansing campus that's so sprawling Ossege sometimes orders an Uber to drive her the equivalent of a 10-minute walk — "because 10 minutes can be miserable for me."

A family friend connected Ossege with an executive at Northwell Health, home to a neurosurgery team at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City that it was thought could provide her with relief. On July 17, doctors performed a suc-

cessful, five-hour fusion procedure that stabilized Ossege's spine using screws and rods.

Dr. Daniel Sciubba, one of the surgeons, said injuries to the elements supporting the structure of Ossege's spine forced her to tilt forward, "almost like an unstable building that begins leaning under gravity." The result was extreme pain in her neck and upper back.

Sciubba said the surgery fixed the structural issues with Ossege's spine. He expects her pain levels to diminish over time and for her to eventually return to physical activities she enjoyed before the shooting.

"Now, it's a matter of recovery," Sciubba said. "She has hobbies like tennis and horseback riding. We expect her to get back to those."

Ossege said the surgery "has been a mood booster" that's also provided pain relief.

Meanwhile, she is dismayed that mass shootings continue to plague the U.S., including the second one she lived through, when a gunman killed three students and wounded five others on Michi-

gan State's campus in February.

Ossege and her suitemates huddled for hours in a bathroom until the all-clear was given. An Oakland County sheriff's deputy who befriended Ossege during the Oxford shooting drove to MSU, picked her up and took her home. They arrived at 3 a.m.

"I'm angry and I'm sad at this world that shootings keep happening," Ossege said. "And that me and my friends have experienced two at this point. However, I'm hopeful that we can create change eventually."

Ossege is active with the MSU chapter of March For Our Lives, a group advocating against gun violence. She said she is heartened by continued support she receives from friends and family, including her father, older brother and mother, who left her job at a radiology center to help care for her daughter on a full-time basis.

When Ossege is home from school, she makes the 30-minute drive north from Oxford to Mayfield Township, where Blaze is boarded. When she arrived for a visit on a recent Saturday, the muscular brown horse with a flowing black mane and a pizza-slice-shaped white patch on his forehead spotted his owner and galloped quickly toward her.

"Hey!" she said, giving Blaze a carrot and then later grooming him, a practice she said helps with her post-traumatic stress disorder.

"He's just awesome. He takes care of me. He's so safe," Ossege said. "He's just a big puppy dog."

Ossege and Blaze walked to a field where he could graze. She smiled and stared at him as he dug his thick teeth into the late-autumn grass, a black toupee sliding forward off the top of his head.

"There's still light in this world," Ossege said. "Still good in this world."

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EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

POST AND COURIER
Nov. 27

Half-billion-dollar lease plan ups obligation to merge SC health agencies

For anybody who hoped the Legislature would change its mind and keep the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control intact, Nov. 14 was a bad day. That's when top legislators agreed to shell out nearly half a billion dollars to carve the legal split into stone.

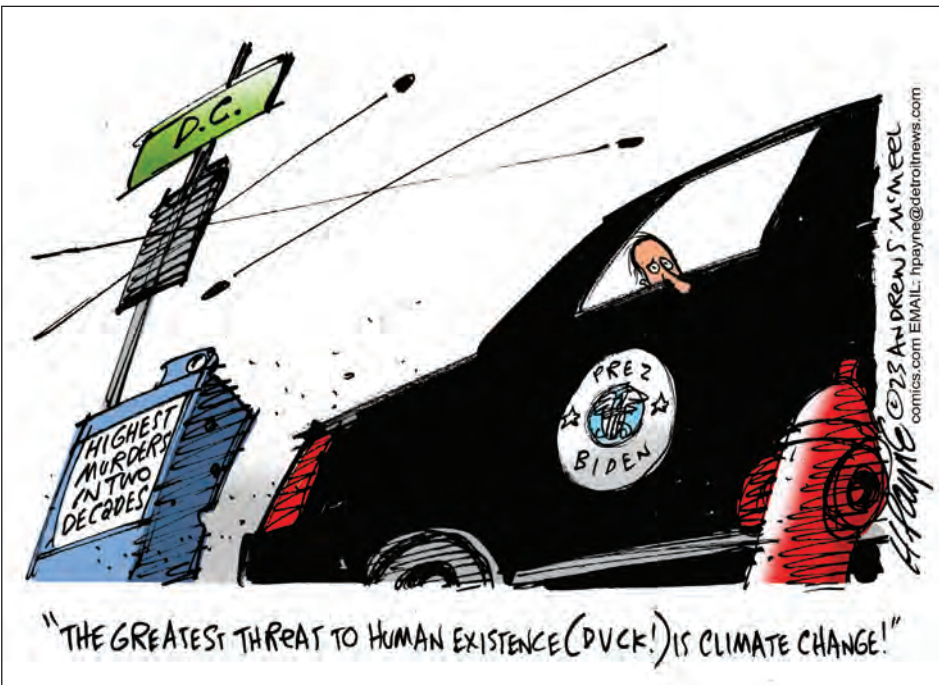
As The Post and Courier's Nick Reynolds reports, the Legislature's Joint Bond Review Committee gave us a little hint of how expensive this exercise in growing government will be when the board agreed to lease separate privately owned complexes for the two separate agencies it's spinning off from DHEC. That 20-year cost for the separate new headquarters is on top of the financial cost of actually accomplishing the split — and without considering the cost in the quality of protection our state receives.

True, the state can recoup some of its rent money if it sells the property currently occupied by DHEC, and the departments of Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services and Disabilities and Special Needs, which are adjacent to Columbia's up-and-coming Bull Street District. The city of Columbia is likely to benefit from that as well, since it will convert untaxed property into taxable property. Well, unless someone decides to build more student housing there, and the city doles out another ridiculous tax abatement, as it loves to do. But that's not our primary concern.

Nor is our major concern that instead of purchasing, the state is entering into a lease — with a major Republican campaign donor who is also renting space to the state for two other new agency complexes — that would leave us without options if the lease ended prematurely. Although it's useful to remember that state agencies such as Disabilities and Special Needs sometimes get into trouble when they contract out services and then have to live with subpar performance because they have no alternatives.

Our primary concern is the mounting cost of a law that is of so little worth to the public. Our primary concern is that the Legislature has done nothing to ensure — or even suggest — that the public is ever going to benefit from this separation.

Our concern is also that the deci-



sion to move environmental employees to one side of Columbia and health employees to the other side compounds the legal separation by adding a significant physical separation. It's as if our legislators want to ensure that our environmental stewards don't consider the public health impacts of their decisions — which they had never done particularly well but seemed to be moving toward when lawmakers stepped in to make that much more difficult.

For years, legislators have been insisting that we needed to divide DHEC into separate health and environmental agencies because ... well, mostly just because. For years, we've been arguing that on top of growing government — since each agency would need its own director and legal team and human resources department and lobbying team and other executive offices — severing the link between public health and the environment would degrade both.

Lawmakers eventually started dangling the promise of at least mitigating that damage by merging our multitudinous and duplicative health agencies. But at the last minute they pulled a bait-and-switch: They spun off the environmental agency effective this coming July 1, made a few other tweaks around the edges and promised to continue studying a merger — which never has seemed to be a priority for the split-DHEC crowd.

House Ways and Means Chairman Bruce Bannister said the agencies have been asking for more and better space for years, but he acknowledged that the split was what caused the Legislature to insert a proviso into this year's state budget to order its accomplishment.

Co-locating three health-related agencies at the old SCE&G campus in Lexington County would make it easier to merge them if lawmakers

ever decide to do that. But the directors and boards in charge of Mental Health and Disabilities and Special Needs are no more interested in giving up their autonomy today than they were in the spring or ... ever. And there are several other health agencies that ought to be brought into the fold, from Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services to Aging and the Health and Human Services Finance Commission. There's even logic to bringing part of the Department of Social Services into the fold, but there was no room on the old SCE&G campus for that agency, so the state's still looking to locate it elsewhere.

Apparently there's no turning back the DHEC divorce. But now that lawmakers have started committing our tax money to ensuring that, they need at the least to deliver on the health agency merger that will offset some of the damage — and the cost.

TIMES AND DEMOCRAT
Nov. 28

Winter threat is real – even in S. Carolina

It's Winter Weather Preparedness Week in South Carolina. While hurricanes and flooding may be considered more the cause for preparation than winter, cold weather poses threats even in a subtropical climate known for heat.

Look no further back than 2014 when the ice storm PAX resulted in more than 364,000 electrical outages and more than \$260 million in damage throughout the state, much of it resulting from falling trees and limbs.

And a decade earlier in 2004, the ice was worse.

Before the freezing rain stopped

falling, trees were coated with ice, the City of Orangeburg and surrounding areas were in virtual darkness, the few remaining operational gas stations were packed with people desperate for fuel and those without fireplaces or gas heat were looking for ways to stay warm in the icy cold.

Orangeburg's Department of Public Utilities battled for days to return power to thousands in Orangeburg. At the height of the outage, more than 18,000 customers were affected. Nine days, 32,000 man hours and at least \$1.75 million later, DPU officials declared the power outage over.

The South Carolina Emergency Management Division and the National Weather Service, along with the agencies that comprise the State Emergency Response Team, encourage everyone in South Carolina to prepare for severe winter weather by checking supplies and safety plans now.

Residents should take the proper winter weather precautions during milder temperatures while the winter emergency supplies are in low demand:

- Prepare for possible isolation in your home by having sufficient heating fuel; regular fuel sources may be cut off.
- Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing.
- Learn how to shut off water valves in case a pipe bursts.
- Portable generators are commonly used in the winter as a result of storm-induced power outages. Carbon monoxide fumes are odorless and deadly. Follow manufacturer's instructions to prevent death from carbon monoxide.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Chimneys should be cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional. If not, it can become filled with highly flammable layers of creosote.
- Have your vehicle serviced to ensure it is prepared for the winter season.
- In every vehicle, place a winter emergency kit that includes: a shovel; windshield scraper and small broom; flashlight; battery-powered radio; extra batteries; water; snack food; matches; extra hats, socks and mittens; first aid kit with a pocket knife; medications; blankets; tow chain or rope; road salt and sand; booster cables; emergency flares; and a fluorescent distress flag.

Here's hoping that our region and state are spared the worst winter can bring in 2023-24. But there is reason to be prepared. Cold weather can be very dangerous.

COMMENTARY

Census Bureau data presents snapshot of a dying society

Recently published projections for the U.S. population from the U.S. Census Bureau present a picture that should concern every American.

It's a snapshot of a dying society. It's surprising and shocking that it's not getting more attention.

The Census Bureau projects that the U.S. population will stop growing toward the end of the century. After peaking at 370 million in 2080, it will drop to 366 million in 2100, less than 10% higher than where it stood in 2022.

By 2029, the percentage of Americans over the age of 65 will exceed the percentage under 18, and by 2038, the number of deaths in the nation will exceed the number of births.

Thinking about this in the most basic terms, at any



Star Parker

point in time a given percentage of the population is working and net producing and a given percentage is not working and net consuming. As a population ages, the percentage working and producing shrinks and the percentage consuming grows.

Our health care expenditures, for instance, consume almost 20% of our GDP. In 2019, 30% of our population was age 55 and above but consumed 56% of our health care expenditures.

As the population ages, an increasing percentage of GDP will be required for health care.

There's discussion now about the viability of Social Security. At the core of this discussion is the economics of the system, in which the funds retirees receive come from the payroll taxes that those working pay.

A diminishing number of those working per each retiree strains the financial viability of the system.

Per the most recent report of the Social Security Trust-

ees: In 1950, there were 16.5 working and paying for every retiree. By 1960, this was down to 5.1. Now it's 2.7. The trustees project that by 2040, it will be down to 2.3; and by 2065, 2.1.

So, we see the claim that, from a political perspective, there is a so-called social agenda — marriage, family, children, abortion — and an economic agenda — spending and taxes — and that these have nothing to do with each other is false.

Abortion, the collapse of marriage and family, and dropping fertility rates have everything to do with the overall health of our society.

As we look at this data from the Census Bureau projecting an aging country and a shrinking population, we need to look at the changing values prevailing in our culture as the number one culprit driving our problems.

Earlier this year this year, *The Wall Street Journal* released polling done jointly with NORC (National Opinion Research Center) at the

University of Chicago under the headline "America Pulls Back From Values That Once Defined It."

Regarding religion, 39% said it's "very important to them," compared to 62% who said in 1998 that religion is "very important." Regarding having children, 30% said it's "very important" compared to 60% who said it was "very important" in 1998.

Among those under the age of 30, only 23% said having children is "very important."

Behavior reflects prevailing values. Americans are bringing fewer children into the world. The current U.S. fertility rate is 1.67 children per woman, well below the 2.1 needed to maintain the current population size.

What has driven the collapse of our culture? One major culprit is misguided court decisions that pulled prayer and religion out of our public schools.

Recently, Harvard economist Roland Fryer wrote in *The Wall Street Journal* about the need for "real

school choice."

He appeals for the original vision of economist Milton Friedman for "parents to have the autonomy to select the optimal educational environment for their children, unbounded by geography or income brackets, and to take their full allotment of education funds with them."

Giving parents control of their child's education would be a major step in combating the widespread collapse in values that has so badly damaged our nation.

Star Parker is president of the Center for Urban Renewal and Education and host of the weekly television show "Cure America with Star Parker." Her recent book, "What Is the CURE for America?" is available now. To find out more about Star Parker and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

Here’s what could be next for interest rates

BY TODD CAMPBELL
TheStreet Smarts

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

How Treasury yields move from here will be important to investors.

- Technical analysis is a useful tool.
- Treasury yields have a big impact on equity markets.
- Here’s where technical analysis suggests 10-year yields could be heading.

The stock market is a discounting mechanism. It trades based on participants’ optimism or pessimism for the future. It’s for this reason many stocks started declining in 2021, long before the Fed’s battle with interest rates and ensuing bear market took hold. It’s also for this reason stocks found their footing and rallied this year despite weaker earnings and lower GDP resulting from higher lending rates.

While fundamental analysis can help investors develop a thesis for what may happen, technical analysis is also useful because it offers clues into how sentiment is changing, often hat-tipping what could be next.

Given yields significantly influence what happens to the stock market, let’s consider where technical analysis suggests the 10-year Treasury note yield may be heading.

HAVE TREASURY YIELDS PEAKED?

The Fed Funds Rate has risen by



5.25% since March 2022, so short-term Treasury bills (and the money markets that own them) have become an enticing alternative to stocks, which are generally considered riskier. This has led to a significant shift away from stocks to Treasuries since late 2022.

Treasury yields are also used as the risk-free rate in equity valuation models. As yields rise or fall, the value of future earnings decreases or increases. For this reason, stocks sold off this summer when the 10-year Treasury Note yield started rising in June, and they’ve rallied this month as its yield has fallen.

Since there’s a close relationship between stocks and yields, considering how yields may behave from here is critical if you’re investing in stocks.

Recently, Real Money Pro’s Bruce Kamich, who has used technical analysis for insight for over 50 years, evaluated the 10-year Treasury yield chart for clues as to where it may be heading next.

“In this daily bar chart of the Treasury Yield 10 Years index (TNX), I can see that the yield has declined below the 50-day moving average line but the slope of the line is still positive,” wrote Kamich. “The slower-to-react 200-day moving average line intersects down around 4.00%. The Moving Average Convergence Divergence (MACD) oscillator [a momentum indicator] crossed to the downside in early November and has since fallen below the zero line.”

The recent trend in rates is lower, but the 200-day moving average level should offer support to yields. It’s currently near the 4% level, and I could argue there’s support higher, between 4.1% and 4.2%.

Coincidentally, Kamich used a daily point-and-figure chart to calculate a yield target rate of 4.16%. Since that’s well below the current 4.42% yield, technical analysis could suggest that yields are a tailwind, helping reduce lending rates (the 10-year is often the benchmark used by banks for loan rates) and stock returns.

Real Money Pro’s Peter Tchir has a slightly higher yield target for support, but it’s still lower than rates are now.

“The 10-Year Treasury yield closed Friday [Nov 17] at 4.43% — a level which it has bounced from recently. If yields go lower, I suspect that the data will help with this, then the next stop is around 4.3%. I see no reason for stocks not to respond well to yields as they head

towards 4.3%. And we finally have a return to chasing [stocks],” wrote Tchir.

Top Stocks’ Helene Meisler, whose career using technical analysis stretches back to the early 1980s at Cowen & Company, sees similar levels over time, albeit, it may not be a straight line lower.

“I don’t have a strong view on bonds in the near term. I could just as easily see rates rise back to 4.6%-4.7% as I could see them fall to 4.2%-4.3%. I do, however, think that rates over the next few months should make their way back to 4.2%-4.3%,” wrote Meisler. “The top we broke down from measures to about 4.2%, so they probably make their way there over time.”

THE SMART PLAY

Technical analysis isn’t a guarantee, but it is a helpful tool in investors’ toolboxes. Since Kamich, Meisler and Tchir all have calculated targets that are lower than where we are currently, yields may not be as big of a weight on stock performance as they were this summer. If you’re investing in stocks, the positive impact of lower rates increases conviction that stock can be bought on pullbacks, and if you’re a consumer, it may suggest some relief from the recent spike in mortgage and other loan rates.

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Consumer Reports: Electric vehicles less reliable, on average, than conventional cars and trucks

BY TOM KRISHER
Associated Press

DETROIT — Electric vehicles have proved far less reliable, on average, than gasoline-powered cars, trucks and SUVs, according to the latest survey by Consumer Reports, which found that EVs from the 2021 through 2023 model years encountered nearly 80% more problems than did vehicles propelled by internal combustion engines.

Consumer Reports said EV owners most frequently reported troubles with battery and charging systems as well as flaws in how the vehicles’ body panels and interior parts fit together. The magazine and website noted that EV manufacturers are still learning to construct completely new power systems, and it suggested that as they do, the overall reliability of electric vehicles should improve.

"This story is really one of growing pains," said Jake Fisher, senior director of auto testing at Consumer Reports. "It's a story of just working out the bugs and the kinks of new technology."

Still, Consumer Reports noted that lingering concerns about reliability will likely add to the issues that give many buyers pause when considering a switch to the new technology, joining concerns about higher costs, too few charging stations and long charging times.

The growth of electric vehicle sales has slowed sharply since last year. In June 2022, EV sales were growing about 90% year over year. By June of this year, the 12-month growth rate had slowed to about 50%, and automakers have become increasingly fearful that the pace will weaken further.

Reflecting that concern, about 3,900 U.S. auto dealers this week signed a letter to President Joe Biden, asking him to rethink what the dealers called unrealistic fuel economy and emissions requirements that could require electric vehicles to reach 67% of total U.S. vehicle sales by 2032.



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The Hyundai 2024 IONIQ 5 Disney100 Platinum Edition is shown at the AutoMobility LA Auto Show on Nov. 16 in Los Angeles. Electric vehicles are far less reliable than gasoline-powered cars, trucks and SUVs, mainly because most automakers are still learning how to build a completely new power system, according to this year's auto reliability survey by Consumer Reports.

Consumer enthusiasm for EVs, their letter warned, has stalled.

"They are not selling nearly as fast as they are arriving at our dealerships, even with deep price cuts, manufacturer incentives and generous government incentives," the letter said.

The Consumer Reports survey also concluded that plug-in hybrids, which can travel on battery power before a gas-electric powertrain kicks in, are more problem-prone than fully electric vehicles. Plug-ins, Fisher pointed out, contain two separate and complex power systems in which glitches can arise. He also noted that brands that over time have proved less reliable, in general, such as Jeep and Volvo, have started mass-producing plug-in hybrids.

But tried-and-true integrated gas-electric hybrid systems are more reliable than gasoline vehicles, largely because they have been in use for about a quarter-century and the bugs have mostly been worked out, Fisher said.

Consumer Reports derived

its survey data from subscribers who owned EVs from the 2021 through 2023 model years and compared them with other vehicle types. In calculating a vehicle's average problem rate, the organization assigned extra weight to serious problems such as battery or engine failures.

EVs from the 2021 and 2022 model years overall had more than twice the problem rates of internal combustion vehicles. The rates were more closely aligned in the 2023 model year: Those EVs had only 21% more problems than gasoline vehicles, Fisher said.

The narrower gap in problems between EVs and combustion vehicles in the 2023 model year, Fisher said, suggested that the reliability of EVs, in general, is improving. Still, he noted, newer vehicles tend to have lower problem rates that rise as they age.

Among the EV owners who have had problems with their vehicles is Michael Coram of Lockport, New York, near Buffalo. In July, intent on reducing his commuting costs, Coram bought a 2023 Chevrolet Bolt electric SUV, attracted

by its sporty handling. Coram, 44, a heating and air conditioning technician, said he ran into one annoying problem: On a chilly day in mid-November, his Bolt wouldn't shift into drive.

Eventually, after Coram had turned the car on and off 10 or 12 times, the problem fixed itself, and he hasn't experienced it since. Other owners on a Bolt social media forum told Coram that he might have shifted into drive before the SUV's computer had finished its startup sequence.

"It kind of is a bit too much for the computer to handle," he said.

Now, Coram waits for all of the dashboard lights to go out before pushing the drive button. He said his dealer told him that mechanics will check the Bolt when a loaner car is available for him.

In 2021, General Motors recalled its popular electric Bolt from the 2017 through 2022 model years to replace the batteries because of manufacturing defects that could cause fires. Fisher said Bolt owners had to limit how much they charged the batter-

ies and had to park them outdoors until replacement batteries became available. Repairs were still being made this year, Fisher said, causing some Bolt owners to report problems in the Consumer Reports survey.

In addition, owners of Hyundai's Ioniq 5 EV reported battery and charging issues related to a charging control computer, which, in some cases, caused the vehicles to stall.

Rivian, an upstart manufacturer of electric pickup trucks and SUVs, had trouble getting body panels to line up correctly and with broken interior parts, Fisher said.

Tesla, the EV sales leader, which now has years of experience building vehicles, showed improvement in reliability, Fisher said. This was largely because a high proportion of Tesla's sales involve the relatively small and less-expensive Model Y SUV and Model 3 cars. Those are simpler to build and lack the glitch-prone new technology that Telsa offers in its more expensive vehicles, the Models S and X.

Tesla ranked 14th out of 30 automotive brands in the 2023 survey, up from 19th in 2022.

Lexus, Toyota's luxury brand, was the most reliable in the survey, followed by Toyota, Mini, Acura and Honda. The five lowest-ranking brands were Jeep, Volkswagen, Rivian, Mercedes-Benz and Chrysler.

The most reliable segment of the market was compact cars, followed by sportscars, small pickups, midsize and large cars, luxury midsize and large cars. Electric cars, electric SUVs, full-size pickups, midsize pickups, and electric pickups had the worst reliability.

Consumer Reports says its survey of subscribers, representing 330,000 vehicles, took place last spring and summer. It asked owners of vehicles from the 2000 through 2023 model years, with a smattering of 2024 models, about problems they had experienced in the previous 12 months.

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THE GOLDEN AGE OF BLACK TV

From ‘Julia’ and ‘Good Times’ to ‘Abbott Elementary,’ ‘Black-ish’ and ‘Scandal’ — a new book celebrates the best of the best

BY MARA REINSTEIN

“Abbott Elementary.” “Atlanta.” “The Chi.” “Queen Sugar.” “The Other Black Girl.” “Swarm.” There’s no doubt about it: We’re in the midst of The Golden Age of Black Television. “The last few years have been very pivotal in terms of Black creators doing really interesting things on TV,” says Bethonie Butler, the author of the new book “Black TV: Five Decades of Groundbreaking Television from ‘Soul Train’ to ‘Black-ish’ and Beyond.” “That’s why it’s a good time to look back at the last 50, 60 years and see how far we’ve come.”

Indeed, the wealth of fresh content is the culmination of an undeniably long struggle for Black artists to find a voice and fight for representation. Though Black performers have appeared on television for as long as the small screen has been around, quality roles took decades to develop. Most actors were relegated to playing servants or service workers. The first Black sitcom, “Amos ‘n’ Andy,” originated from a radio program in which two white men portrayed the Black characters. When adapted to TV in 1951 with a Black cast, the actors behaved like caricatures and talked with a broad dialect using a heavy reliance on stereotypical malapropisms. Meanwhile, 1960s stalwarts from “The Andy Griffith Show” to “Bewitched” featured zero diversity.

But as TV (and the culture) evolved, Black characters became more prominent. And Shonda Rhimes, Ava DuVernay and Issa Rae, who grew up watching popular shows that captured Black people in various lights and occupations — like “The Jeffersons,” “Family Matters,” “The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air” and “Sister, Sister” — eventually entered the business and elevated the medium. “They’re telling our own stories on TV and doing it in a way that’s authentic and reflects our experiences and not necessarily what networks are telling them to put on the screen,” Butler says. While she acknowledges that the state of Black TV still isn’t perfect, “we’re definitely headed in the right direction.” Here, Butler highlights some of the most important Black TV shows in history.

‘Julia’ (ABC, 1968-71)

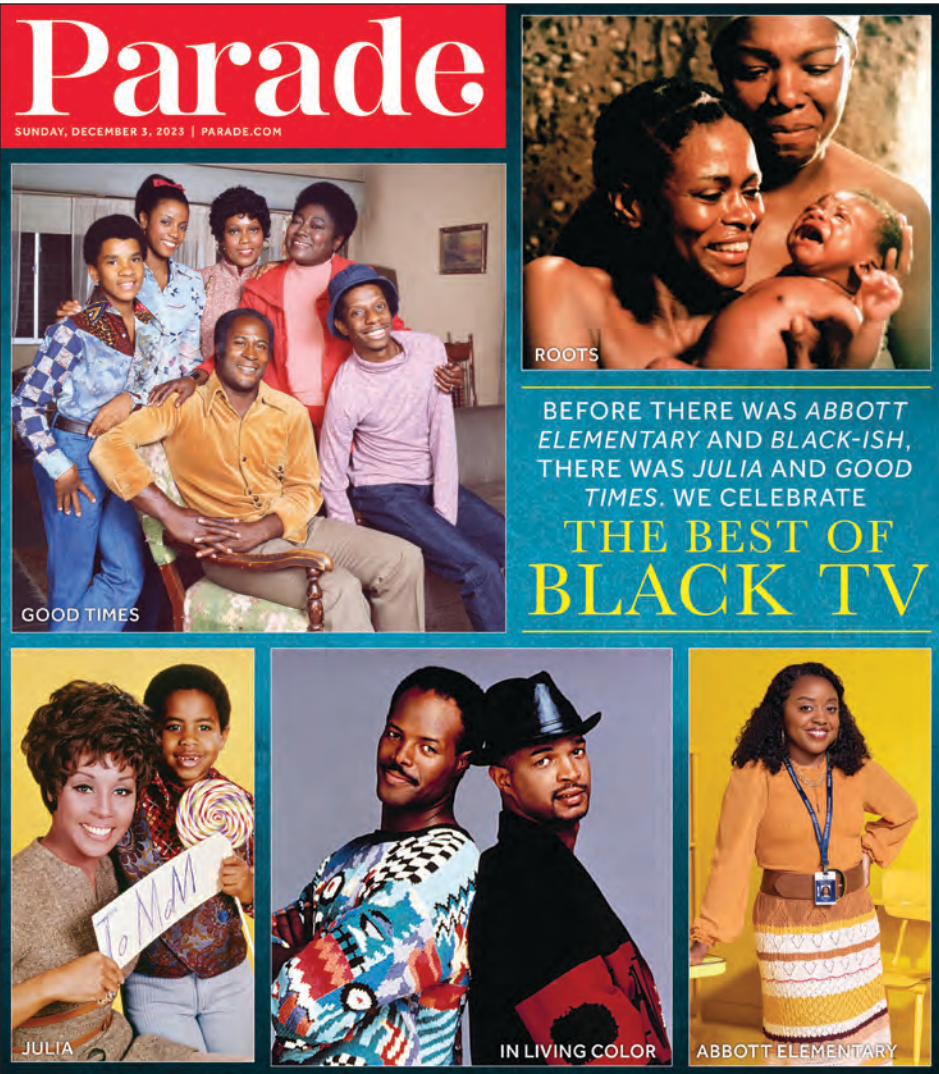
Premise Diahann Carroll stars as Julia Baker, a nurse who relocates to Los Angeles after her husband gets killed fighting in Vietnam. Now she’s raising her 5-year-old son, Corey (Marc Copage), on her own. Paul Winfield, Don Marshall and Fred Williamson appeared over the years as memorable suitors.

Why It Matters The pioneering sitcom — which premiered just months after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. — “was the first time we saw a Black family on TV,” Butler says. “And Julia herself was such a hardworking nurse and mom. It got us over the hump because it showed that you could actually tell our stories.” Carroll made history in 1969 as the first Black actor to be nominated for an Emmy and won a Golden Globe that same year. *Streaming on YouTube*

‘Good Times’ (CBS, 1974-79)

Premise In the spin-off of “Maude” from producer Norman Lear, the Evans family tries to make it work in the Cabrini-Green housing projects of Chicago. James (John Amos) and Florida (Esther Rolle) are the working-class parents raising their three kids — including the lively J.J. (Jimmie Walker). They’d also get visits from their neighbor Willona (Ja’Net DuBois) and superintendent Bookman (Johnny Brown).

Why It Matters Though Butler says the sitcom wasn’t “necessarily told in



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the most authentic way all the time,” she commends its impact: “I know [“Black-ish” creator] Kenya Barris has talked about how much he loved it and respected Norman Lear. And back when there were just a few networks, this show was very popular and everybody was watching.” Even Walker’s “Dy-no-mite!” catchphrase became a national obsession. *Streaming on Peacock and Prime Video*

‘Roots’ (ABC, 1977)

Premise Based on Alex Haley’s 1976 novel “Roots: The Saga of an American Family,” the eight-part miniseries revolves around lead character Kunta Kinte (LeVar Burton) as he’s taken from Gambia, West Africa, and sold into slavery in America. The sprawling story consists of his experiences and the generations that follow.

Why It Matters The Emmy-winning drama, which aired consecutively from Jan. 23 through Jan. 30, was unusual at the time for its graphic, violent depiction of slavery and racial injustice. “It was the first time Americans of any race really saw the horrors of slavery,” Butler says. “And everyone was talking about it.” That’s no exaggeration: Its final episode was viewed by more than 100 million people, representing nearly 85 percent of television households at the time. *Streaming on Prime Video*

‘The Cosby Show’ (NBC, 1984-92)

Premise The Huxtables are a well-to-do family living in a Brooklyn brownstone. Cliff (Bill Cosby) is a doctor; his wife, Clair (Phylicia Rashad), is a hard-charging lawyer. They also have five kids, including stylish rebel Denise (Lisa Bonet) and precocious Rudy (Keshia Knight Pulliam). The parenthood struggle is all too real ... and hilarious.

Why It Matters When the mega-smash sitcom premiered in the fall of 1984, “A whole generation started watching a Black family on TV in a way that wasn’t stereotypical,” Butler says. “Cliff and Clair were upwardly mobile and had a real partnership in the way they raised their children. It was a wonderful show.” However, she notes that Cosby’s recent assault allegations have cast a pall on its legacy: “Unfortunately, I think it’s impossible to separate ‘The Cosby Show’ from Bill Cosby and his behavior as a person.” “I’m still proud of its legacy,”

Malcolm-Jamal Warner said in 2023. “The family dynamic was one that practically every family — no matter the ethnicity, socioeconomic status or even family makeup — could find something to relate to.” *Streaming on Prime Video*

‘In Living Color’ (Fox, 1990-94)

Premise The irreverent variety show created by and starring Keenen Ivory Wayans featured a predominantly Black cast, including future breakouts Damon Wayans, David Alan Grier and Jamie Foxx. Plus, Jennifer Lopez was a Fly Girl dancer. It also propelled the then-fledgling Fox network to new pop culture heights.

Why It Matters Thanks to outrageous characters like Homey D. Clown, Wanda Wayne and Men on Films, the show boldly went where Saturday Night Live wouldn’t dare. In prime time, no less. “This was a show that brought in a lot of Black and Brown comedians who had been working for years and never got the spotlight,” Butler says. “So there was something inherently Black about the humor that you weren’t going to get from SNL.”

By the series’ third season, it had so much clout that Fox decided to run a live special as counterprogramming to the more conservative Super Bowl halftime show. Among the sketches: “Men on Football” with sexual innuendos galore. The next year, the Super Bowl hired Michael Jackson to perform at halftime. *Streaming on YouTube*

‘Living Single’ (Fox, 1993-98)

Premise Queen Latifah is Khadijah James, the mastermind behind a monthly magazine. She lives it up in Brooklyn with her cousin Synclaire (Kim Coles) and friend, would-be diva Regine (Kim Fields). Pit-bull lawyer Max (Erika Alexander), handyman Overton (John Henton) and stockbroker Kyle (Terrence C. Carson) round out the bunch.

Why It Matters A year before “Friends,” this sitcom featured six upscale twentysomethings relying on each other while trying to make it in New York City. There was one noticeable difference, of course. “This is a really important show because it highlighted another universal experience, which is friendship,” Butler says. “It was meaningful to watch young Black professionals have this dynamic group.

And the women were people you knew.” *Streaming on Hulu, Max, Prime Video and Apple TV*

‘Scandal’ (ABC, 2012-18)

Premise Olivia Pope (Kerry Washington, D.C., fixer with a penchant for yelling “It’s handled!” when asked to perform any task. Each week, Olivia and her “Gladiators” at her crisis-management firm tackle a different case, using major spin to cover up affairs and even the occasional killing. She’s also in love with the president of the United States (Tony Goldwyn). **Why It Matters** During its heyday, the juicy drama created by powerhouse producer Shonda Rhimes was a did-you-see-it social sensation. “There were so few Black dramas for decades because the emphasis was placed on comedy and people in outrageous situations,” Butler says. “But Shonda Rhimes felt a responsibility to show a flawed Black woman doing her thing day in and day out.” Washington was nominated for two Emmys. *Streaming on Hulu and Prime Video*

Insecure (HBO, 2016-21)

Premise Two modern-day Black women (played by co-creator and writer Issa Rae and Yvonne Orji) — best friends since graduating from Stanford — juggle work and myriad relationships in their South L.A. neighborhood.

Why It Matters In a refreshing update on “Living Single,” the comedy portrayed relatable characters and highlighted the subtleties of everyday life through friendship, romances and careers. It also took on headier issues like mental health and race. “This is a depiction of being young and figuring out what it means to be an adult,” Butler explains. For Black Millennials, “It resonated in a special way.” *Streaming on Max*

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

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73				45
5				41
7				33
9	11	23	27	31

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LAST WEEK’S ANSWERS

Numbrix®
November 26, 2023

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

PUBLIC AGENDA

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS BOARD Monday, 5:30 p.m., Sumter Sheriff's Office conference room	House, 21 N. Main St.
CLARENDON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT Monday, 5:30 p.m., Manning High School, lecture hall, 2155 Paxville Highway, Manning	BISHOPVILLE CITY COUNCIL Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., Colclough Building, 109 E. Council St., Bishopville
SANTEE-LYNCHES REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD Monday, 6 p.m., Central Carolina Technical College, 506 N. Guignard Drive, Building M400, Room M401	TOWN OF LYNCHBURG PLANNING COMMISSION Wednesday, 4 p.m., town hall
SUMTER CITY COUNCIL Tuesday, 1 p.m., Sumter Opera	TOWN OF PAXVILLE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING Thursday, 7 p.m., Paxville Town Hall, 10279 Lewis Road, Manning.

The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put more time and effort into money management. Look for a learning opportunity that will increase your awareness about something that concerns you. Participation will give you an inside view of what's happening and what you can do to make a difference. Romance is favored. 5 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Stick to basics and don't let emotional matters spin out of control. Consider what you want and how you can make your dreams come true. An energetic approach to taking care of responsibilities will save you money and leave you time to have fun. 2 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put more thought and interest into your relationships with others. A trendy new look will boost your confidence and encourage you to take a leadership position instead of letting someone else call the shots. 4 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Trust your instincts; you won't be disappointed. Keep an eye on what others do, but don't let anyone convince you to do something that benefits them more than you. Protect your physical and financial well-being. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Follow through with plans. Don't dismiss something you want to do because someone is interfering or coaxing you to take a different path. Do what suits you and let others do as they please. 3 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): When upset, implement the changes necessary to flip your mood around. It's up to you to follow the path that makes you happy. Change begins with you, and opportunity comes from the decisions you make. Trust and believe in yourself, and control your destiny. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't get discouraged; take charge and turn your dream into a reality. Trust and believe in who you are and what you

have to offer. Personal gain is apparent, and travel and learning are favored. A new look will be uplifting. 4 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep an open mind, but question whatever sounds far-fetched. A change will lead to a unique opportunity. Put energy where it counts, and refuse to let outside influences stifle your achievements. Protect against illness or injury. 2 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Speed up the process, do research and make things happen. Focus on saving, security and stabilizing your situation. Know what you want and leave nothing to chance. Refuse to give in to emotional meddling, propaganda or liars. Make honesty and truth mandatory. 5 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Share how you feel and what you want. Do whatever it takes to bring about change if you aren't happy. Formulate a plan, share your intentions and finish what you start. A concise approach to moving forward is in your best interest. 3 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Observation is your best bet when forced to deal with change. Size up what's happening and how you envision yourself fitting into the mix. You can stabilize your life and current situation if you are firm regarding your plans. Romance and self-improvement are favored. 3 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Discipline and patience will help you advance. Trust your instincts, follow your heart. Kindness and understanding will ward off getting into an argument or no-win situation. A practical approach to what you plan to achieve will help you complete your mission. 3 stars

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

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

DAILY PLANNER

WEATHER

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TODAY	TONIGHT	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Cloudy with afternoon rain	A little rain early; cloudy	Cloudy, a shower and t-storm	Turning sunny and less humid	Partly sunny	Breezy in the morning; sunny
67°	61°	74° / 48°	65° / 37°	62° / 41°	58° / 36°
Chance of rain: 90%	Chance of rain: 75%	Chance of rain: 90%	Chance of rain: 5%	Chance of rain: 5%	Chance of rain: 5%
SSW 6-12 mph	SSW 7-14 mph	SW 7-14 mph	WSW 8-16 mph	ESE 4-8 mph	WNW 8-16 mph

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

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

IN THE MOUNTAINS

Today: Rain. Winds south becoming east-southeast 4-8 mph.

Sunday: A couple of morning showers. Winds west-southwest 7-14 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: Cloudy with a little rain. High 66 to 70.

Sunday: Humid with a couple of showers and a thunderstorm. High 66 to 73.

LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THROUGH 2 P.M. FRIDAY	
Temperature	
High	68°
Low	39°
Normal high	60°
Normal low	37°
Record high	79° in 1991
Record low	20° in 1964
Precipitation	
24 hrs ending 2 p.m. Fri.	0.00"
Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	0.10"
Year to date	41.96"
Last year to date	34.22"
Normal year to date	45.10"

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	353.86	none
Marion	76.8	73.62	-0.05
Moultrie	75.5	73.67	none
Wateree	100	95.36	+0.05

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	5.65	+0.03
Congaree River	19	2.68	-0.02
Lynchies River	14	3.68	-0.37
Saluda River	14	3.41	+0.42
Up. Santee River	80	76.23	+0.03
Wateree River	24	4.58	-0.02

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	7:10 a.m.	Sunset	5:13 p.m.
Moonrise	10:05 p.m.	Moonsset	11:44 a.m.
Last	New	First	Full
Dec. 5	Dec. 12	Dec. 19	Dec. 26

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH				
	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	12:03 a.m.	2.5	6:34 a.m.	0.6
	12:20 p.m.	3.0	7:27 p.m.	0.9
Sun.	12:52 a.m.	2.5	7:21 a.m.	0.8
	1:07 p.m.	2.9	8:13 p.m.	0.9

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	65/62/r	68/47/r
Chicago	43/38/sh	42/33/r
Dallas	69/41/s	73/42/s
Detroit	43/36/r	42/35/r
Houston	73/51/pc	74/50/pc
Los Angeles	68/48/s	71/52/s
New Orleans	74/63/r	72/54/sh
New York	58/48/c	55/46/r
Orlando	85/70/c	83/69/c
Philadelphia	62/50/c	58/47/r
Phoenix	67/47/pc	69/48/s
San Francisco	63/53/sh	63/53/pc
Wash., DC	64/51/c	59/47/r

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Asheville	58/53/r	66/36/r
Athens	63/61/r	70/43/r
Augusta	67/63/r	72/45/t
Beaufort	70/66/r	73/54/t
Cape Hatteras	66/61/r	67/55/r
Charleston	70/65/r	73/54/t
Charlotte	61/59/r	71/45/sh
Clemson	60/57/r	70/43/r
Columbia	66/63/r	74/45/t
Darlington	68/62/r	75/48/t
Elizabeth City	70/61/c	73/48/sh
Elizabethtown	71/63/r	74/48/sh
Fayetteville	69/63/r	74/47/sh

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Florence	70/61/r	74/50/t
Gainesville	81/68/r	76/65/t
Gastonia	61/58/r	71/42/sh
Goldsboro	70/63/r	76/49/sh
Goose Creek	71/64/r	73/52/t
Greensboro	61/55/r	69/42/sh
Greenville	60/57/r	70/43/sh
Hickory	57/54/r	69/41/sh
Hilton Head	69/65/r	71/56/t
Jacksonville, FL	79/67/t	77/60/t
La Grange	68/61/r	71/42/t
Macon	68/64/r	74/44/t
Marietta	63/59/r	68/42/r

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Marion	57/51/r	69/38/sh
Mt. Pleasant	70/64/r	71/55/t
Myrtle Beach	70/63/r	72/55/t
Orangeburg	69/63/r	73/50/t
Port Royal	68/63/r	69/54/t
Raleigh	67/60/r	72/47/sh
Rock Hill	62/59/r	71/43/sh
Rockingham	67/62/r	74/45/sh
Savannah	72/66/r	71/54/t
Spartanburg	59/56/r	69/42/sh
Summerville	70/64/r	73/50/t
Wilmington	74/63/r	75/54/sh
Winston-Salem	60/56/r	70/44/sh

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

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the Sumter ITEM

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

CLOSING BELL: A familiar sound by Fred Piscop

ACROSS
1 Star Wars warrior
5 Salon styling
9 Easy basket
14 Tomato product
19 Country on the Caspian
20 12/24 and 12/31
21 "If only!"
22 Luggage attachment, for short
23 Print on product packages
25 Big event of 1969
27 Step up
28 Stick out
29 Heron cousins
30 Whole bunch
31 Luau souvenirs
33 Chip off the old block
34 Boxers' winnings

38 Smile broadly

39 Tire pressure fig.

41 Thick carpet

45 Thai or Taiwanese

46 Some stock-market activity

49 St. crosser

50 Shia or Sunni

51 Prefix like uni-

52 Colorful horse

53 "What's for me?"

54 Mon. follower

55 Highly remarkable

59 -Saxon

60 Mollify

62 Trims back

63 Rallying cry

64 Integrate

65 Furniture wood

66 Dote on

67 Nothing, so to speak

69 Bahraini bigwig

70 Sunbathing

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- 110 "Is that so?"
- 111 Senior member
- 112 Scatter-brained
- 113 Solemn agreement
- 114 To boot
- 115 Capture suddenly
- 116 Iron output
- 117 Cymbal relative
- 118 National League East team
- DOWN**
- 1 Match up
- 2 Memorable times
- 3 Ste. Jeanne
- 4 Ancient Peruvian
- 5 Goes around in cycles
- 6 Cyber-party notice
- 7 Take more issues
- 8 Flavor enhancer letters
- 9 Quarterback Tebow
- 10 Battleground of 1945
- 11 Devout
- 12 Fails to be
- 13 Stanley Cup org.
- 14 Colorful horse
- 15 Extra charges
- 16 Paint-can direction
- 17 Armored vehicle
- 18 Dairy dozen
- 24 Hollywood twins' surname
- 26 Give out
- 31 Permit
- 32 Musical sense
- 34 Pre-marathon meal
- 35 Deplete
- 36 Grainy desert
- 37 Posed
- 38 "No alcohol

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- 39 Subatomic particles
- 40 Capture suddenly
- 42 Airborne sport
- 43 Saint Teresa's birthplace
- 44 Hop aboard
- 46 Gift recipient
- 47 "Go on..."
- 48 Less moist
- 51 Indistinct
- 53 How fries are fried
- 55 Sends with stamps
- 56 Fencing gear
- 57 Rock bottom
- 58 Donald Duck, e.g.
- 59 Parallel to
- 61 Done with
- 63 Paddywhack
- 65 Fine dinnerware
- 66 Police operation
- 67 "Mack the Knife" singer
- 68 Pointless
- 69 Slow-cooker concoctions
- 71 Book of fiction
- 72 Overdo one's part
- 74 Cameo shape
- 75 Completely exhaust
- 76 Cacophony
- 79 Chooses for an office
- 81 Freight weight
- 84 Big windfall
- 85 NASDAQ debut
- 86 Morning phenomenon
- 87 Beat at chess
- 89 Twain pre-
- teen
- 92 Appropriating
- 94 Pooh's creator
- 95 Ill will
- 96 Replay effect
- 97 Greet the morning
- 98 Hanes alternatives</

Sumter High’s Blanding’s track stardom stolen, but not forgotten with hall of fame induction

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

Former Sumter High track athlete Greg Blanding was as big a star as the Gamecocks had during their unbelievable run through the 1980s.

During Blanding’s career, the only meet the Gamecocks lost came in the 1984 state meet, where they finished second. He was a state champion as a sophomore and took home three titles as a senior in the 400m, the 800m and the 4x400.

He was all set to be the next collegiate standout from Sumter High. Clemson wanted him, but he elected to stay closer to home at S.C. State with a sick mother at home.

Then the unimaginable happened. Blanding was in a devastating car accident that left his body mangled. “I broke 29 bones,” Blanding said. “My back, my skull, my arm, my en-



PHOTO PROVIDED
After retiring from track, Greg Blanding joined the Marine Corps before moving to New York and working in collections.



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO
Former Sumter High track star Greg Blanding runs during his senior season in 1985.

tire right foot was broken.”

He spent a year recovering and transferred to Methodist College with the hopes of running again, but a failed attempt at a cross country season made the decision for him. Blanding’s days as a runner were over.

“I lost myself because that was all I knew; that was what I loved. I started running when I was 12 years old,” Blanding said. “Being in an accident and trying to recover first and foremost, and then to think about possibly never running again, that took a lot out of me. It took me a great deal of time to get over.”

Now, decades later, Blanding is being recognized by the school where he showed such spectacular promise. A week from today, he’ll be inducted into the Sumter High Athletic Hall of Fame.

“My words would not be enough,” Blanding said of the importance of his induction. “To those who were involved in the nomination process, I can only say thank you very much. Although I have been chosen for this honor later in my life, it’s a story I can tell for the rest of my life. It means a great deal to me.

“I don’t think I’ve been presented with anything in my life that is going to surpass this.”

Blanding’s career at Sumter High was truly remarkable. He won count-

less races, but his final meet will go down in history as one of the best individual performances in the program. He won three state titles in 1985, starting with the 400m dash, where he won with a time of 47.8. Former Sumter High track coach and current *Sumter Item* historian Sammy Way will never forget that day.

“That state meet was Greg’s shining hour,” Way said. “He had to run the 400 meters first. Greg got out there, and I told him we need for him to be at about 23 or 24 for that first 200. He said, ‘Yes, sir.’ Bam, he was 23 flat; he was moving. I said, ‘When you get around that turn, I want to see that lift. Trust me, there won’t be anybody near you.’ And there wasn’t. He finished, he jogged over to me, and he said, ‘Coach, I feel great.’ And that was a good sign.”

Blanding never slowed down. After a brief break, the senior prepared for the 800m dash. It was another Blanding victory and a remarkable moment for Sumter High because two Gamecocks finished directly behind him. Blanding was closely followed by teammates Edward Sims and George Spann, giving SHS the top three finishes.

“Blanding went right out to the

SEE **BLANDING**, PAGE B5

Former Clarendon Hall star Kylic Horton, seen at his signing day in December of 2021, is reportedly planning to transfer from South Carolina.

CAL CARY / SUMTER ITEM
FILE PHOTO



Former Clarendon Hall star Horton reportedly entering transfer portal

STAFF REPORT

Former Clarendon Hall star Kylic Horton is reportedly planning to leave South Carolina.

According to a report by *The State*, Horton plans to enter the transfer portal when it officially opens on Monday. Horton came to South Carolina as a three-star recruit after starring for the Saints, who played eight-man football at the time. The redshirt freshman played in three games this season but did not catch a pass.

Horton joins a growing list of receivers planning to leave USC. Antwane “Juice” Wells, Landon Samson and O’Mega Blake all reportedly plan to enter the portal on Monday, as well. These decisions come after quarterback Spencer Rattler announced he was declaring for the NFL draft on Wednesday.

AREA ROUNDUP

Lee Academy rolls through Thomas Sumter at home

STAFF REPORT

The Lee Academy basketball teams welcomed Thomas Sumter to Bishopville on Thursday. Both Teams squads won comfortably, as the Lady Cavs opened with a 62-31 win before the boys won 61-30.

The Lee Academy girls were led by a spectacular performance from Alleigh Brown. She finished with a high-volume double-double, racking up 20 points and 20 rebounds to go with six steals and four assists. Mazie Tomlinson added her own double-double with 11 points and 16 rebounds. She also had two assists and a steal. Julee Saverance had 14 points, four steals and two rebounds,



Lee Academy’s Peyton Welch shoots against Thomas Sumter on Thursday.



Thomas Sumter’s Christian Williams (11) shoots against Lee Academy on Thursday.

PHOTOS BY NICH
PITTS / ITEM
CONTRIBUTOR



Lee Academy’s Alleigh Brown, left, drives against Thomas Sumter’s Hannah Burnside on Thursday.

SEE **ROUNDUP**, PAGE B2

ROUNDUP FROM PAGE B1

while Jameson Collins had nine points and nine rebounds.

Thomas Sumter struggled with fouls, as all five starters fouled out before the end of the game. When the final whistle blew, TSA had just four players on the court, only one of whom was a varsity player. Malayia English led the Lady Generals with 16 points before fouling out, while Anna Bell had six, Hannah Burnside had five and Ella Bell scored three.

The boys game got out of hand quickly, as Lee jumped ahead 21-9 through a quarter of play and went into the half up 35-12.

Peyton Welch led the Cavaliers with 23 points, while Andrew Bowers had an additional 15. Trace June chipped in eight points, and Anderson Watkins knocked down a pair of threes for six points.

Christian Williams led TSA with 15 points, while Nate Livingston added five.

LAURENCE MANNING SWEEPS FLORENCE CHRISTIAN

The Laurence Manning basketball teams hosted Florence Christian on Thursday, earning a clean sweep across varsity and JV action.

The Lady Swampcats had to grit out a 32-28 win. LMA held a 19-16 lead at the half before holding FCA to just four points in the third to carry a 26-20 lead into the final quarter. Florence Christian made a late push with eight points in the fourth after LMA went 6-14 at the free throw line, but the Lady 'Cats held on for the win.

Ashley Rae Hodge paced Laurence Manning with 12 points, while Carol Ann Briggs scored seven.

The boys had a more high-scoring battle, pulling out a 77-62 win. Thomas Sumpter led the way with 16 points, four assists, three steals and two rebounds. Josiah Burson had a double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds, adding a steal and assist. Heyward Moore had nine points and four rebounds, while Shane Goines and Mason Nivens each had eight points.

A crucial advantage for LMA was the offensive glass, as the Swampcats pulled down 19 of fensive rebounds, while FCA had just five.

Laurence Manning won both JV games, earning a 37-10 victory in the girls game before the guys won 42-34. Trayiona Maxfield paced the JV Lady 'Cats with 12 points, while Grainger Powell scored 12 for the JV boys and Eli Gamble added 11.

SUMTER CHRISTIAN 61 MARANATHA CHRISTIAN 40

The Sumter Christian boys basketball team improved to 4-0 with a 61-40 win over Maranatha Christian on Thursday.

AJ Danzy was electric, going off for 31 points in the rout as Sumter Christian led 32-13 at the half and cruised to the win. Quayshawn White added 10, while Caden Atkinson chipped in with an additional nine points. Wynston Grant also scored six.



Lee Academy hosted Thomas Sumter for SCISA hoops action on Thursday.

PHOTOS BY NICH PITTS / ITEM CONTRIBUTOR





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BASKETBALL

TUE. NOV. 28	SUMTER HIGH BOYS 52-66	@	OCEANSIDE GIRLS 59-41	THU. NOV. 30	TSA GENERALS BOYS 30-61	@	LEE ACADEMY GIRLS 31-62
TUE. NOV. 28	LEE CENTRAL BOYS 60-45	@	LAMAR GIRLS 90-12	FRI. DEC. 1	CRESTWOOD BOYS LATE	@	LUGOFF-ELGIN GIRLS LATE
TUE. NOV. 28	TSA GENERALS BOYS 38-65	@	CH SAINTS GIRLS 44-52	FRI. DEC. 1	SB EAGLES BOYS LATE	@	MANNING GIRLS LATE
WED. NOV. 29	BEN LIPPEN BOYS 38-51	@	WILSON HALL GIRLS 29-39	FRI. DEC. 1	LAKEWOOD BOYS LATE	@	SUMTER HIGH GIRLS LATE
THU. NOV. 30	FLORENCE CH. BOYS 62-77	@	LMA GIRLS 28-32	SAT. DEC. 2	E. CLARENDON BOYS	@	MANNING GIRLS



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ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Carolina's Te-Hina Paopao (0) drives against North Carolina's Kayla McPherson (11) on Thursday in Chapel Hill.

No. 1 South Carolina rallies from 11 down to beat No. 24 UNC 65-58 in ACC/SEC Challenge

BY AARON BEARD
Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL — Top-ranked South Carolina's romping, high-scoring offense never showed up at No. 24 North Carolina.

Dawn Staley was OK with that, too, considering her Gamecocks hit the big shots at key moments and locked down defensively.

Bree Hall scored 15 points and South Carolina rallied from 11 down in the second quarter to push past UNC 65-58 in Thursday night's ACC/SEC Challenge.

"We just had to fight and claw our way back," said Staley, who has coached the Gamecocks to two NCAA titles. "I love seeing that from our team, no matter how ugly it was. They have fight. They compete."

Te-Hina Paopao added 14 points for the Gamecocks (6-0), who ended up facing their toughest challenge in an early season slate of high-scoring blowouts — including against two ranked teams. South Carolina came in ranked second nationally in scoring offense at 100.4 points and leading the country with an average victory margin of 51.6 points.

But the Gamecocks ended up in a fight to the final seconds with the Tar Heels (5-3), who got off to a quick start and then stayed within reach even after South Carolina pushed ahead midway through the third.

"We didn't really start the game as we wanted, but we came out the second half the way we wanted," Paopao said.

Paopao hit three second-half 3-pointers, while Hall added a huge one from the left wing with 2:08 left that pushed the Gamecocks to their biggest lead at 60-52. South Carolina also got four straight free throws from Chloe Kitts and Ashlyn Watkins in the final 25 seconds to stay in control.

That would ultimately help them hang on despite shooting a season-low 39% and battling early turnover problems.

Deja Kelly scored 20 points for the Tar Heels. Alyssa Ustby added 18 points and 12 rebounds.

"We're not good enough yet individually or collectively," UNC coach Courtney Banghart said. "But we're made of the right stuff."

BIG PICTURE

South Carolina: The Gamecocks hadn't been challenged through their first five games, notably dropping 100 points on then-No. 10 Notre Dame and 114 against then-No. 14 Maryland in consecutive games. They hadn't scored fewer than 78 points all season. Still, they responded when playing from behind in front of a loud and hostile crowd.

North Carolina: The Tar Heels were coming off consecutive losses to No. 14 Kansas State and Florida Gulf Coast in the Gulf Coast Showcase in Florida. They did plenty to give themselves a chance at the upset, notably by controlling the boards (45-39) behind Ustby and Maria Gakdeng (10 rebounds). Still, they couldn't find another shot-maker behind Kelly and Ustby in falling to 3-28 against top-ranked teams in the AP Top 25.

TOUGHER LOOKS

Gakdeng's score inside gave UNC a 23-12 lead, but the Tar Heels shot just 23.9% (11 of 46) the rest of the way.

"I need us to catch and release (shots) quicker," Banghart said. "I think the fact that we (haven't) kind of shot the ball really well yet has us in a half-second delay, which isn't the shots you practice. You practice at game speed."

UP NEXT

South Carolina: This is part of a multi-day stay in North Carolina's Triangle region, with the Gamecocks sticking around until visiting Duke on Sunday.

UNC: The Tar Heels host UNC Greensboro on Wednesday.

LSU's Angel Reese returns, says she wants people to realize she is not just an athlete

BY BRETT MARTEL
Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — LSU forward Angel Reese was talking to reporters even before she sat down in front of a microphone to take questions.

"How happy are y'all to see me? I know you all are," she said as she walked into a post-game interview room for the first time in about two weeks. "Let's have some fun."

Reese was as ready to play as she was ready to talk.

She went straight back to the starting lineup upon her return from a four-game absence and scored 19 points to help No. 7 LSU defeat No. 9 Virginia Tech 82-64 on Thursday night.

"It was a long two weeks to be away from the team," Reese said. "Taking time to yourself is really important. I just felt like that was something that was important, resetting and refocusing within the team. I'm just happy to be back, and this place was amazing to-night. I'm just happy to be here with them."

Reese, whose temporary departure from the team stemmed from unspecified "locker room issues" that coach Kim Mulkey has declined to divulge, rejoined her teammates at practice this week.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

LSU forward Angel Reese made her return to the Tigers on Thursday after a four-game absence.

But Reese made some general references to her mental health and not wanting her behavior to be detrimental to the team.

"Mental health is the most important thing before anything, and I'm going to make sure I'm OK before anything because I don't want to cause harm or any cancer in the locker room," she said, warning people against believing everything that may have been written about her during her absence.

"I'm back and I'm happy, and I'm here and I'm moving forward, and I'm going to help take this team as far as I can," Reese said.

Before the game, it was al-

most as if Reese had never left. She was presented with a commemorative basketball during a pregame ceremony recognizing her 1,000th career rebound earlier this season.

When the starting lineup was announced, Reese was introduced last, as she usually is during home games. And the crowd, which included LSU football quarterback Jayden Daniels and receiver Malik Nabers, cheered enthusiastically.

Reese started LSU's first four games, averaging 17 points and 10.3 rebounds as the Tigers went 3-1 — the lone loss coming in their opener to now fellow No. 7 Colorado.

LSU won all four games she missed, three of them by lopsided margins.

When Thursday night's game ended, Reese shared a long embrace with Mulkey, who could be seen saying something in her 6-foot-3 forward's ear.

Mulkey said what she told Reese was "something I probably won't share, but it was from my heart."

Mulkey added that she was proud of Reese, "Just proud of how she handled herself, proud she's back to the Angel everybody knows. ... There's nothing but positive things about what happened on that floor."

SATURDAY PUZZLES

THE DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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17											18			
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48			49			50		51		52				
53						54			55					
56						57								
58						59						60		

Kristian House 12/2/23

- ACROSS
- 1 Band that contributes to knee flexion, for short
- 4 Hot breakfast cereal
- 10 Beaker's syllable
- 14 Ice cream novelties discontinued in 2022
- 16 Concerning
- 17 House money, at times
- 18 "Now!"
- 19 Tarantula legs, e.g.
- 20 Meadows on TV
- 21 Like the air in a greenhouse
- 22 Second-largest branch of Islam
- 24 Zip
- 26 Mens
- 27 Ink spot?
- 28 Landry who was the first coach of the Cowboys
- 30 "La Dolce Vita" star
- 32 Capitol gains?
- 35 Modest reply to a compliment
- 36 Reeling feeling
- 37 Stare daggers (at)
- 38 Department of the Interior head Haaland
- 39 "The Simpsons" character once voiced by Hank Azaria
- 42 Many a Monet
- 43 Doesn't keep
- 46 Johnson who won the 2020 Masters Tournament
- 48 Simmers
- 50 Shake a leg, quaintly
- 52 Dark times, informally
- 53 "Small world"
- 54 Teased
- 56 "Coming Home" singer
- 57 "No one's being straight with me!"
- 58 AAA and BBB
- 59 Like some park passes
- 60 Inclusive word
- 8 Kamali who uses silk parachutes in many of her designs
- 9 Burro
- 10 Umami-rich paste
- 11 Aggregate
- 12 Things that get bad marks
- 13 Collar attachment
- 15 Cardamom-infused brew
- 21 Rakes it in
- 23 Lil Nas X album with the hit "Industry Baby"
- 25 Sought-after
- 29 Safari runners
- 31 Canaanite idol
- 32 "Killing Eve" actress Fiona
- 33 Bug
- 34 Oklahoma city
- 35 Completely
- 36 Act like a snake
- 37 Strike out?
- 39 the Hun
- 40 Cobbler pan
- 41 Held back, as tears
- 44 rhythm: brain waves pattern
- 45 Actress Spacek
- 47 YouTube star JoJo
- 49 Lands
- 51 Biblical twin of Jacob
- 54 Central
- 55 Half the characters in "Kill Bill"?

28 Larily who
was the first
coach of the
Cowboys

30 "La Dolce Vita"
star

32 Capitol gains?

35 Modest
reply to a
compliment

36 Reeling feeling

37 Stare daggers
(at)

38 Department
of the Interior
head Haaland

DOWN

1 Confront

2 Three-step
process?

3 Flipped

4 Some
Hamilton
Beach
appliances

5 Org. for traffic
cops?

6 Host

7 Trap during
February,
maybe

Previous Puzzle Solved

L	E	I	S		A	I	D	E		M	O	M	S				
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B	E	D	S			A	W	L	S			L	E	S	S		

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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

NUWOD

GYBGA

GOUTHH

RYETRA

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app - Follow us on Twitter: @PlayJumble

Hey! I want that spot! You're going to have to find another place.

I'm not moving! It's a big cave, find somewhere else.

THE BAT WAS BEING PRESSURED TO GIVE UP HIS FAVORITE SPOT AND WOULD NEED TO ---

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

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Answer here: (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: COMMA DEPTH TROPHY NEARLY
Answer: For Charles Wesley, seeing people's reactions to his songs of praise — MADE "HYMN" HAPPY

SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★								
			7	9	1	5		
			1	5	6			9
				2				8
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5			4					
1			2	3	5			
	7	8	9	6				

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

SEC extends an agreement to keep football championship in Atlanta at least through 2031

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Southeastern Conference championship game will remain at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta through at least 2031 under a contract extension announced Thursday.

The SEC joined stadium operator AMB Sports and Entertainment and the Georgia World Congress Center Authority in announcing the agreement ahead of the 32nd annual title game Saturday, matching No. 1 Georgia —

the two-time defending national champion — against No. 8 Alabama.

The previous deal was set to expire after the 2026 game. Under the new agreement, the SEC also can exercise a five-year option that would keep the game at the 71,000-seat retractable-roof stadium near downtown Atlanta through 2036.

SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey said there hasn't been any consideration of moving the game to a more centralized location, even as the league grows to 16 schools

and expands further westward with the addition of Texas and Oklahoma next season.

“The great thing about both Oklahoma and Texas and their leadership is they very much want to be a part of the Southeastern Conference, the history now,” Sankey said. “I think if they both or each or individually had an opportunity to participate in our championship game, there will be great excitement here from our new westward members and from any of our western members that

might have access. We're looking forward to the future here in Atlanta.”

Atlanta began hosting the SEC championship in 1994 after the first two games were held at Birmingham, Alabama's Legion Field. The Georgia Dome was the site through 2016, when that stadium was replaced by the current facility built next door.

Sankey called Mercedes-Benz Stadium “one of the finest sports facilities on the globe, making Atlanta the perfect venue for our annual

title game.”

Best known as home of the NFL's Atlanta Falcons and Major League Soccer's Atlanta United, Mercedes-Benz Stadium hosts several college football games each year, including the Peach Bowl that is part of the College Football Playoff and Celebration Bowl for historically Black colleges.

In addition, the stadium is set to stage the national championship game for the second time in 2025 as well as multiple games at soccer's World Cup in 2026.

Struggling Bucs face last-place Carolina in Panthers’ debut under interim HC Tabor

BY FRED GOODALL
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Todd Bowles is adamant. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers have to stop beating themselves with mistakes if they're going to turn their season around.

Despite losing six of seven games following a promising 3-1 start, a third-straight NFC South title and a fourth-consecutive playoff berth remain within reach if the Bucs (4-7) finish strong during the next six weeks.

The stretch run begins Sunday against last-place Carolina (1-10), which has the NFL's worst record and is playing for the first time since firing coach Frank Reich 11 games into his first season leading the Panthers and No. 1 overall draft pick Bryce Young.

The Bucs will also close the season on the road against Carolina in January. But the way Tampa Bay has been losing, Bowles knows his team has to fix what's ailing themselves before they can expect to be successful.

“We can't play the Bucs plus the opposition,” Bowles said, reiterating that self-inflicted, untimely mistakes and breakdowns — whether it be on offense or defense — are holding the team back.

“It's got to start Sunday. We don't really care if it was a 12-0 team or a 1-10 team — we've got to start with ourselves. We've got to play hard, no matter who we're playing on Sunday,” Bowles stressed. “The urgency has got to be there, no matter who's on the other side of the field.”

For the second time in just over a year, the Panthers are facing Tampa Bay shortly after the in-season firing of a head coach. Carolina let Matt Rhule go in October 2022, two weeks before upsetting Tom Brady and the Bucs 21-3 in Charlotte.

Interim coach Chris Tabor will lead the Panthers following last Monday's firing of Reich.

Bowles doesn't feel playing a team making its debut under an interim coach changes the challenge for Tampa Bay.

“Chris is a great coach. He's been a great special teams coach; he'll be a good head coach,” Bowles said. “You can't revamp your team in a week, so you concentrate on the scheme. I'm sure they'll tweak some things, but we've got to worry about the things we can correct ourselves and go out and play them and see



Carolina interim head coach Chris Tabor will have his first game at the helm on Sunday when the Panthers travel to Tampa Bay.

what happens.”

Brady retired from the Bucs after last season. However, the Panthers will still see a familiar face on the field leading the Tampa Bay offense — former Carolina quarterback Baker Mayfield.

Mayfield appeared in seven games for the Panthers a year ago, going 1-5 as a starter before finishing the season with the Los Angeles Rams.

“I'm excited for Bake to see him having success over there,” Carolina center Bradley Bozeman said. “Just hope he doesn't have as much success against us on Sunday.”

TABOR IN CHARGE

Tabor will serve as the team's interim head coach for the remainder of the season. Tabor has served as an interim coach once before when he subbed in for a game in 2021 with the Chicago Bears when Matt Nagy had COVID-19.

Tabor inherits an almost impossible situation and has no real chance of landing a full-time gig after the season.

“In this business, the NFL train is always moving, and the NFL monster will eat you at any time,” Tabor said. “And you need to be prepared and you need to take the proper steps to set yourself up for success. And that's what we're trying to work on right now.”

As for his coaching style, Tabor said: “I'm going to coach loose, and I'm gonna coach to have fun because that's the only way I know in order to be successful. That's kind of how I've always kind of lived and played and coached sports, so I'm going to stay with it.”



Atlanta quarterback Desmond Ridder (9) and the Falcons face the Jets on the road on Sunday.

Falcons, Jets face different circumstances in playoff hunt while both seek consistency

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — The Atlanta Falcons have had quarterback issues, a three-game losing streak and a record under .500.

And they're tied for the NFC South lead.

The New York Jets have had a season filled with similar struggles — and they're in danger of falling out of the AFC playoff hunt.

It's all a matter of circumstances for the teams that meet Sunday at MetLife Stadium.

“Consistency, right?” Falcons coach Arthur Smith said. “That's the biggest challenge week to week. For us to take the next step, we need to do that with being consistent and playing with the same focus and energy that we had going into last week.”

The Falcons (5-6) showed they could take advantage of a bye week following three straight losses to return for an inspired, high-energy rivalry win over New Orleans at home.

The bigger test might be proving they can win back-to-back games for the first time since their 2-0 start.

“It goes back to consistency,” Smith said. “Shouldn't take a loss or feel like your back is against the wall to have that level of focus and intensity.”

The Jets (4-7) know the feeling. They have dropped four in a row, with the most recent being a 34-13 loss to Miami on Black Friday.

The skid, which has included a quarterback change from Zach Wilson to Tim Boyle, has New York's postseason hopes sinking fast. Robert Saleh challenged his coaches and players this

week to be better and focus on controlling what they can.

“There's a lot of frustration all over the place, especially on the offensive side of the ball,” Saleh said. “Guys are searching, they're reaching, and sometimes you've just got to go back to understanding who you are and what your style of play is.”

Meanwhile, Aaron Rodgers' potential comeback this season from a torn Achilles tendon remains a major storyline for the Jets. The four-time NFL MVP returned to practice this week — the next step in his stunningly rapid rehabilitation.

Rodgers remains intent on playing at the end of the season, as long as the doctors clear him — and the Jets stay in the playoff hunt.

“If that's a byproduct of us winning football games and I'm happy for him, but I don't think it adds a level of pressure or stress to us,” Boyle said. “We're trying to win every football game we play in, so hopefully we can keep him in contention.”

BOYLE BACK UNDER CENTER

While the Jets wait to see if Rodgers will be able to actually come back this season, Boyle will get a second-straight start. The 29-year-old veteran backup was unable to spark New York's struggling offense, going 27 of 38 for 179 yards and a TD with two interceptions — including a Hail Mary that was returned 99 yards for a score — against Miami in his first start since the 2021 season. He was also sacked seven times.

Oregon State, Washington State, Mountain West agree to 6-game arrangement

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

Oregon State, Washington State and the Mountain West announced a football scheduling agreement Friday for the 2024 season that gives the two remaining Pac-12 schools six opponents each and positions them to operate as a two-team conference for at least a year.

All 12 Mountain West schools will be involved, and Oregon State and Washington State will each play three home games and three road games against members of a conference that includes: Air Force, Boise State, Colorado State, San Diego State, Wyoming, Nevada, UNLV, San Jose State, Utah State, Fresno

State and New Mexico.

Oregon State and Washington State will pay about \$14 million to the Mountain West next year as part of the agreement, a person with knowledge of the negotiations between the schools and the conference told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the parties were not immediately disclosing financial terms.

“We are still focused on re-building the Pac-12 and continue to prioritize the student-athlete experience at Oregon State,” Oregon State athletic director Scott Barnes said.

Barnes said a full football schedule will be released soon and will include five Power

Five opponents, six from the Mountain West and one FCS school. For its part, the Mountain West will play a seven-game conference schedule, and the games against Oregon State and Washington State will not count in the league standings.

“This is a unique and unprecedented opportunity for Oregon State and Washington State to play against highly competitive Mountain West football programs in 2024,” Mountain West Commissioner Gloria Nevarez said. She said the agreement expands the conference's footprint and strengthens its nonconference schedules.

“Today's announcement provides both institutions clarity for the 2024 football

season,” Washington State President Kirk Schulz said.

Oregon State and Washington State are trying to plot a path forward after the Pac-12 was torn apart by conference realignment. Ten Pac-12 schools are joining new Power Five leagues in 2024.

Oregon State and Washington State want to rebuild the Pac-12. NCAA rules allow for a conference to be as small as two schools for a two-year period. There has been speculation about a combination of some kind between the pair and the Mountain West schools, and the person with knowledge of the discussions told AP last month that the scheduling agreement could be expanded to other sports, in-

cluding basketball, as the sides continue to explore options.

The Pacific Northwest schools are currently in a legal battle with the Pac-12 and the 10 departing schools to determine who runs the conference and has control over potentially hundreds of millions of dollars in assets.

It is unclear how the additional games could impact the Mountain West's television agreement with Fox and CBS, which runs through the 2025 football season. The Pac-12 has no television contract in place beyond this season. The league's failure to land a deal competitive with other Power Five conferences was a primary factor in the breakup of the Pac-12.



PHOTO PROVIDED
Former Sumter High track star Greg Blanding, left, holds the Olympic torch in 2005.

BLANDING FROM PAGE B1

front; there were no games today,” Way said. “He ended up running a 1:53, which was right stiff. These other coaches were like, ‘Oh wow, where did this kid come from?’ Then he turns, and here comes Edward; he ran 1:55. I’m going, ‘Wow, that is impressive.’ Then here comes George, racing the kid from Dreher, who was really expected to win, and George passes him and Sumter goes 1, 2, 3. No one has ever done that.”

But maybe the most impressive showing from Blanding was the final leg in the 4x400, where he ran a blistering 48.1 split.

“Then it was the big time,” Way said. “There were three teams, Battery Creek, Orangeburg and Sumter. They were almost touching each other, and the crowd stood up. There must’ve been 2,000 people there. In the third leg, the kid

from Battery Creek, a big strong kid, kinda took the lead. He was moving down the line. The Battery Creek folks were going crazy, ‘We got something.’ I looked at Greg, and he looked at me and said, ‘Coach, they don’t have us.’ I said to myself, ‘Man, I am going to enjoy watching that kid run.’

“He got the baton, and he moved. You have never seen pure speed. He closed right up on that kid and didn’t waste any time. He got on the back stretch and went right on by. They couldn’t believe what they were seeing. He came around the fourth turn, and he explodes down that straightaway. That’s when the coach at Clemson said, ‘I have to have this kid.’”

While that day was extremely important to Blanding, the memories that he holds most dearly are the mo-



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO
Former Sumter High star Greg Blanding runs in 1984.

ments with his teammates and coaches.

“My most memorable time at Sumter High is the track and field because we were a bunch of crazy kids that became this very close family,” Blanding said. “In my opinion, that cohesiveness helped us excel so much and helped us be undefeated for such a long time. We watched out for each other, we helped each other, and we didn’t have a problem giving help. We weren’t so good that we couldn’t give that help when someone else needed it.”

While Blanding was an excellent runner, his love for his teammates is also what stands out to Way.

“He had one of those magic days, but the thing that I love

about Greg was he was never about Greg,” Way said. “He was about the team. He was just a skinny-looking kid. You never would’ve thought that underneath those clothes was Superman.”

But Superman couldn’t last forever. While it was difficult to lose the sport he loves so suddenly, Blanding learned during his rehabilitation. He hopes the most important lesson is one that any great athlete can grow from hearing.

“It is very important that no athlete thinks this is all they can do because after that, you have to be able to do something else anyway. Although it’s something that you love and something you excel in, there’s so much more than track and field,” Blanding

said. “We all love it. Those of us who excelled at it a great deal, we sometimes don’t think we can do anything else, but you learn to shift your focus, you understand what’s more important in life than having to run. It took me a while to get that focus, but I had to understand I couldn’t run anymore.

“It hurt a great deal, and it hurt for a very long time, but I had to understand that this is something that God put in front of me. It was something I had to deal with, and the focus had to change.”

After hanging up his cleats, Blanding joined the Marine Corps.

“I actually got into the Marine Corps with all those broken bones,” Blanding quipped. “I stayed there for a while, but I got hurt in the Marine Corps as well, so that put a damper on my security clearance. I got a medical discharge, which was honorable. When I left the Marine Corps, I decided I was going to be a part of the normal world at that point, got that everyday job, got married and moved to New York.”

While he moved on to a “normal life,” Blanding can always look back fondly on his days at Sumter High. He can’t wait to relish in the memories during the ceremony on Dec. 9.

“I think about my track and field days every single day,” he said. “Those were the days where, yes, I excelled and excelled very well, but thinking about it every day brings me back some very good memories of my teammates and coaches. Sammy Way was a father to thousands of kids. He made you work hard, and some days I hated the work, but he made you also understand how necessary that work was in order to achieve what you wanted to achieve.”

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM C. RICHARDS

William C. Richards departed this life peacefully on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023, surrounded by loved ones.

Over the course of 92 years, William “Rich” lived a life that included the rewards of being a husband, father, brother,

grandfather, great-grandfather and uncle. Rich was second to the youngest born to the late Johnny and Rosa Willis Richards in Sumter. During his early years, he was educated in the Sumter school system. Later, Rich attended Lincoln High School, until joining the United States Army. As a U.S. Army soldier, Rich completed a six-year tour and served his country in the Korean Conflict. Upon his return from military duty, Rich attended Morris College in Sumter. It was there in Sumter that he met the love of his life, Dorothy L. Isaac. The two were inseparable and were united in matrimony on Aug. 22, 1959. As the two began their lives together, they embarked on a new adventure and moved to Washington, D.C., which later became home. Their new life together in Washington, D.C., brought joy as they celebrated the births of their two sons, Carlos and Darryl.

While in Washington, D.C., Rich continued serving his country through employment within the U.S. Government. He joined the workforce as an archivist at the National Archives, where he retired after 31 years of service. Throughout his career, Rich was passionate about helping and encouraging others. He dedicated his time and efforts in serving as an Equal Employment Opportunity officer. One of his favorite sayings, “You represent more than yourself,” became a signature phrase that echoed throughout his lifetime.

After retirement, Rich decided to return to his hometown of Sumter to be closer to his mother. His love of God led him to rejoin and become a dedicated member of Mount Zion United Methodist Church. His love for God also manifested as he sang with the male choir and served on countless ministries, as well

as volunteering with many community organizations.

Although Rich was miles away from his children and their families, he continued to love them unconditionally. He always looked forward to holidays and family gatherings. Holidays to Rich meant the opportunity to return to Maryland to spend time with his sons and his grandchildren. He was no stranger to the highways and loved to get on the road in one of his beloved cars. His favorite was his 1984 Cadillac Seville. During his many trips back to Maryland over the Christmas holidays, Rich always looked forward to making memories and attending the Washington, D.C., Auto Show with his sons, Carlos and Darryl.

“Pop-Pop,” as he was affectionately called by his grandchildren, was a loving man of God. He was an avid reader who enjoyed the outdoors and playing cards among many other hobbies. He also enjoyed attending college football games with his football club buddies. His greatest joy was spending time with his grandchildren, taking them to the park, swimming, fishing, bowling, movies and many outdoor activities.

Rich was preceded in death by his parents, Johnny Richards and Rosa Willis Richards; and brothers, Willie, Wesley and James Richards.

He is survived by his loving wife, Dorothy Isaac Richards of 64 years; sons, Carlos Richards (Karen) and Darryl Richards (Lisa); adopted son, Terry Walker (Lynn); sister, Rosa Lee Richards; devoted niece, Gail Bryant Allen; eight grandchildren, Valynn, Erynn and Jordynn Richards, Anyra Perry (Chris) and Arianna Richards (daughter-in-love, Annette Richards); bonus grandchildren, Kaitlyn, Kobe and Chloé Smith; two great-grandchildren, Blake and Brooklynn Perry; bonus great-grandchild, Carter; and a host of special family and friends.

Viewing / wake services will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. on Monday followed by celebration of life services at 11 a.m. at Spirit of Faith Christian Center, 14107 Gibbons Church Road, Brandywine, MD 20613 with Words of Life Pastor Rick Wooten, SOFCC director.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to K.J. Robinson Funeral Service PA, 6503 Old

Branch Ave., Temple Hills, MD 20748.

This is a courtesy announcement of Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter, SC 29150. Visit us on the web at www.williams-funeralhomeinc.com.

PARALEE BURGESS MCDOWELL

Paralee Burgess McDowell, 79, was born on Sept. 29, 1944, in Clarendon County, a



MCDOWELL

daughter of the late James Oliver Burgess and Sallie McFadden Burgess. She departed this life on Monday, Nov. 27, 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 First Baptist Church, 4183 Black River Road, Sardinia, SC 29143 with the Rev. Robert Thomas officiating and Moderator Leroy McElveen, eulogist. Interment will follow in Evergreen Memorial Park, Sumter, SC 29150.

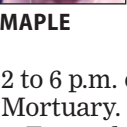
The family will receive friends at the home, 24 Alexander Place, Sumter, SC 29150.

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.job-smortuary.net.

MARGARET HARDY MAPLE

Margaret Hardy Maple, 82, was born on Sept. 1, 1941, in Sumter County, a daughter of the late Nathaniel and Mamie Pinckney Hardy. She departed this life on Thursday, Nov. 23, 2023, in Sumter.



MAPLE

Public viewing will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. on Sunday at Job’s Mortuary. Funeral services will be held at noon on Monday at Wayman Chapel AME Church, 160 N. Kings Highway, Sumter, SC 29154 with the Rev. Dorothy Maple officiating and the Rev. Robert China Jr., eulogist. Interment will follow in Wayman Chapel AME Church Cemetery, Sumter, SC 29154.

The family will be receiving friends from 5 to 7 p.m. daily

at the home, 5120 Cane Savannah Road, Wedgefield, SC 29168.

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.job-smortuary.net.

FRANKIE LEE PERRY

Frankie Lee Perry, 54, departed this life on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023, at Prisma Health Richland Hospital in Columbia.

He was born on July 20, 1969, in Sumter, a son of Ola Mae Jones Perry and the late Cuff Perry Sr.

The family will receive friends from 4 to 8 p.m. daily at 1440 Morris Way Drive, Sumter, SC 29154.

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

ROOSEVELT MACK

Roosevelt Mack, husband of Theresa Robinson Mack, departed this life on Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023, at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

He was born on March 24, 1972, in Sumter, to the late James and Lillie Mae Duffie Mack.

The family is receiving friends from 3 to 7 p.m. at 4915 Ribbon Road.

Services are incomplete and will be announced later by Whites Mortuary LLC.

DARRYL TERENCE JOHNSON

Darryl Terence Johnson, 61, departed this life on Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital.

He was born on April 26, 1962, in Norwalk, Connecticut, a son of Jimmie Johnson and the late Ora Bell Williams Johnson.

The family will receive friends at the home, 106 Carolina Ave., Sumter, SC 29150.

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

SHAQUAN MALIK LOGAN

Shaquan Malik Logan, 28, was born on May 17, 1995, in Sumter, a son of Marvin Bulter and Shokie Davis. He departed this life on Sunday, Nov. 26, 2023, in Sumter.

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

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday at

Salem Chapel & Heritage Center, 101 S. Salem Ave., Sumter, SC 29150 with the Rev. Dr. Marvin Hodge officiating. Interment will follow in Walker Cemetery, Sumter, SC 29150.

The family will receive friends from 2 to 7 p.m. daily at the home, 870 Manchester Road, Sumter, SC 29154.

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.job-smortuary.net.

THOMAS JOHNSON III

Thomas Johnson III, 69, departed this life on Friday, Dec. 1, 2023, at NHC HealthCare Sumter.

He was born on Aug. 1, 1954, in Sumter, a son of Christine White Johnson and the late Thomas Johnson Jr.

The family will be receiving friends at the home of his brother, 130 Corbett St., Mayesville, SC 29104.

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

SHANI NZINGA WILLIAMS THOMPSON

Shani Nzinga Williams Thompson, 42, died on Friday, Dec. 1, 2023, at Prisma Health Richland Hospital, Columbia.

Born on March 17, 1981, in Columbia, she was a daughter of Dr. Joseph C. Williams and Dr. Brenda Chapman Williams.

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

Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Williams Funeral Home Inc.

IVAN CEDRIC PLOWDEN

Ivan Cedric Plowden, 66, husband of Kim L. Allen-Plowden, died on Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023, in Sumter, on his 23rd wedding anniversary.

He was born on July 15, 1957, in New York City, to the late Annette Johnson Plowden and Ferdinand Cassidy Plowden Sr.

The family will receive friends from 2 to 7 p.m. daily at their home, 211 N. Salem Ave., Sumter, SC 29150.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Job’s Mortuary Inc.

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
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

Abandon
Vehicle / Boat

Abandoned Vehicle Notice

The following vehicle(s) was
abandoned at 152 Myrtle Beach
Highway, Sumter, SC 29153:
Described as a:
2019 Honda Civic VIN#
2HGFC2F68KH587914. Total
Due for storage is \$1240.00 as of
November 29, 2023 plus \$40.00
per day thereafter.
Owner is asked to call
803-773-3053. If not claimed in
30 days, it will be turned over to
the Magistrate's Office for
public sale.

Summons &
Notice

STATE OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT
OF COMMON PLEAS
COUNTY OF SUMTER
AMENDED SUMMONS
AND NOTICE OF
FILING OF COMPLAINT
(NON-JURY MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE)
C/A NO:
2023-CP-43-01123
DEFICIENCY WAIVED

Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC,
PLAINTIFF,
vs.

Joshua Fitzgerald a/k/a Joshua
A Fitzgerald,
DEFENDANT(S)

TO THE DEFENDANTS,
ABOVE NAMED:
YOU ARE HEREBY
SUMMONED and required to
answer the Complaint herein, a
copy of which is herewith
served upon you, or otherwise
appear and defend, and to serve
a copy of your Answer to said
Complaint upon the subscriber
at his office, Hutchens Law
Firm LLP, P.O. Box 8237,
Columbia, SC 29202, within
thirty (30) days after service
hereof, except as to the United
States of America, which shall
have sixty (60) days, exclusive
of the day of such service, and
if you fail to answer the
Complaint within the time
aforesaid, or otherwise appear
and defend, the Plaintiff in this
action will apply to the Court
for the relief demanded
therein, and judgment by
default will be rendered
against you for the relief
demanded in the Complaint.
YOU WILL ALSO TAKE
NOTICE that should you fail to
Answer the foregoing
Summons, the Plaintiff will
move for an Order of Reference
of this case to the Master-in-Equity/Special Referee for this
County, which Order shall,
pursuant to Rule 53 of the
South Carolina Rules of Civil
Procedure, specifically provide
that the said Master-in-Equity/
Special Referee is authorized
and empowered to enter a final
judgment in this case with
appeal only to the South
Carolina Court of Appeals
pursuant to Rule 203(d)(1) of
the SCACR, effective June 1,
1999.

TO MINOR(S) OVER
FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE,
AND/OR TO MINOR(S) UNDER
FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE
AND THE PERSON WITH
WHOM THE MINOR(S)
RESIDES, AND/OR TO
PERSONS UNDER SOME
LEGAL DISABILITY:
YOU ARE FURTHER
SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED
to apply for the appointment of
a guardian ad litem within
thirty (30) days after the service
of this Summons and Notice
upon you. If you fail to do so,
application for such
appointment will be made by
the Plaintiff immediately and
separately and such application
will be deemed absolute and
total in the absence of your
application for such an
appointment within thirty (30)
days after the service of the
Summons and Complaint upon
you.

NOTICE OF FILING OF
SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT
TO THE DEFENDANTS
ABOVE NAMED:
YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE
NOTICE that the foregoing
Summons, along with the
Complaint, were filed in the
Office of the Clerk of Court on
July 18, 2023.

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION
FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.
THE PURPOSE OF THIS
COMMUNICATION IS TO
COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY
INFORMATION OBTAINED
WILL BE USED FOR THAT
PURPOSE, except as stated
below in the instance of
bankruptcy protection.

IF YOU ARE UNDER THE
PROTECTION OF THE
BANKRUPTCY COURT OR
HAVE BEEN DISCHARGED

Summons &
Notice

AS A RESULT OF A
BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDING,
THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN TO
YOU PURSUANT TO
STATUTORY REQUIREMENT
AND FOR INFORMATIONAL
PURPOSES AND IS NOT
INTENDED AS AN ATTEMPT
TO COLLECT A DEBT OR AS
AN ACT TO COLLECT,
ASSESS, OR RECOVER ALL
OR ANY PORTION OF THE
DEBT FROM YOU
PERSONALLY.

Hutchens Law Firm LLP

Public Hearing

NOTICE OF CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Sumter City Council will hold
public hearings on proposed
amendments to the City of Sumter
Zoning Ordinance on Tuesday,
December 19, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., in
the City Council Chambers located
on the Fourth Floor of the Sumter
Opera House (21 N. Main St.). The
following requests are scheduled for
consideration:

RZ-23-25, 605 Boulevard Rd./ (City)
A request to rezone 2 parcels of land
totaling +/- 0.68-acres in size from
General Residential (GR) to Limited
Commercial (LC). The property is
located at 605 Boulevard Rd. and is
represented by Tax Map #s
250-03-02-024 & 225-03-02-029.

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

David P. Merchant
Mayor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Ads



Lucious Pringle, Jr.
December 2, 1933

To our beloved father who has
reached the remarkable age of 90
years old. It is with great respect
and honor from your wife of 58
years, Earnestine Pringle & children,
Lucious Earl, Moise, Joy, &
Everett, we thank you for being a
solid presence of strength, fortitude,
& a warrior of resilience for all
of us. Thank you for the many
years of love, Happy Birthday!

Love,
Your family

In Memory



Joseph Colclough Sr
Dec 1, 1933 - Jan 12, 2023

Happy Heavenly Birthday! You are
missed by your lovely wife Betty and
family

BUSINESS
SERVICES

Cleaning Services

Offering holiday cleaning for
residences and rentals in Sumter
& surrounding areas, with a
special rate. Call for estimate,
803-229-1993.

Home
Improvements

H.L. Boone, Contractor: Remodel,
paint, roofs, gutters, drywall,
blown ceilings, etc. 803-773-9904

Tree Service

A Notch Above Tree Care Full
quality service low rates, lic./ins., free
est BBB accredited. Log pickup
available. 803-983-9721

MERCHANDISE

Auctions

The following unit will be auc-
tioned off on Lockerfox.com on
Monday December 4, 2023 at
9:15.

Patriot Self Storage
430 Constitution Dr
Sumter, SC 29154

D147
Derek Holston
10x10
Furniture
Household items

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

To satisfy the owner's storage
lien, PS Retail Sales, LLC will sell
at public lien sale on December
22, 2023, the personal property in
the below-listed units, which may
include but are not limited to:
household and personal items,
office and other equipment. The
public sale of these items will
begin at 09:30 AM and continue
until all units are sold.

PUBLIC STORAGE # 25924,
1143 N Guignard Dr,
Sumter, SC 29150,
(803) 282-9623
Time: 10:30 AM
Sale to be held at
www.storage treasures.com.
339 - Wells, Jerry;
343 - Bracey, Donica;
472 - Cassidy, Meagan;
614 - Meadows, Phyoncia I;
641 - Holland, Alphene;
702 - Richburg, Amanda;
726 - Logan, Akeem

PUBLIC STORAGE # 08604,
1277 Camden Hwy,
Sumter, SC 29153,
(803) 218-9507
Time: 11:00 AM
Sale to be held at
www.storage treasures.com.
A018 - Dozier, Malcolm;
B024A - Johnson, Sarah;
B029 - Andrews, Jennifer;
B086 - Hinnant, Javier;
B088 - Robinson, Alisha;
D045 - Montgomery, Beverly;
E021 - Johnson, Raheen;
F018 - Avins, Stacy;
F019 - Graham, Terry;
F035 - Townsend, Tremaine;
F052 - Mack, Rosa;
G003 - Hinnant, Joycelyn;
G038 - Benjamin-Dennis, Sherrie;
H008 - Jenkins, Bertha;
K010 - Marshall, Sauna

PUBLIC STORAGE # 25925,
3785 Broad St,
Sumter, SC 29154,
(803) 282-9826
Time: 11:30 AM
Sale to be held at
www.storage treasures.com.
0118 - Bradley, Shameica;
0206 - Cooper, Willie;
0333 - Nelson, Ashley;
0420 - Spencer, Quinton;
0527 - Pittman, Yvonne;
0741 - Henson, Kimberly

Public sale terms, rules, and
regulations will be made availa-
ble prior to the sale. All sales are
subject to cancellation. We re-
serve the right to refuse any bid.
Payment must be in cash or
credit card-no checks. Buyers
must secure the units with their
own personal locks. To claim
tax-exempt status, original RE-
SALE certificates for each space
purchased is required. By PS
Retail Sales, LLC, 701 Western
Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201.
(818) 244-8080.

Garage, Yard &
Estate Sales

3220 Tamarah Way (Meadowcroft
SD) RAIN OR SHINE, Sat, Dec.
2nd, 7 - ? Christmas decor, Ladies
cloths (sm/md) & shoes, men's cloths
(L), home goods, purses, luggage,
furniture. CASH only!

RENTALS

Unfurnished
Homes

108 Agnes St., Sumter, 3BR MH
\$600/mo + \$600 Dep. No pets.
Call 803-481-4013.

For rent by owner: Beautiful 3BR
/1BA, hdwd floors, shady huge
backyard, perfect condition. No
Pets! \$900/mo. Call 803-469-6638

Office Rentals

Downtown upstairs office space
available. 20 E. Liberty St, in Hub
Zone. \$300-\$450 includes utilities.
Call 803-983-3135 for appointment.

Acreage -
Farm Rentals

Looking for crop land for lease
for 2024. Call 803-460-9325.

TRANSPORTATION

Miscellaneous



REFURBISHED BATTERIES
Group 24 Marine \$59.95
Automotive as low as \$50.00
GR 31 Truck \$79.95
Hi Amp Diesel \$99.95
(plus tax & exchange for each)
We also carry hard to find
alternators and starters!

Sisson Auto Electric Co.
102 Blvd Rd
803-773-4381
Serving Sumter since 1972

Going on
vacation?

Don't Miss A Thing!

Let your carrier save your paper for you
while you are on vacation!



CALL

803-774-1258

Customer Service

Dept. Hours

Mon-Fri 8am - 5pm

the
Sumter ITEM

36 W. Liberty Street
803-774-1258

place my
AD

PETS
Puppies
for sale...



ORDER YOUR CLASSIFIED AD ONLINE 24/7.
WWW.THEITEM.COM

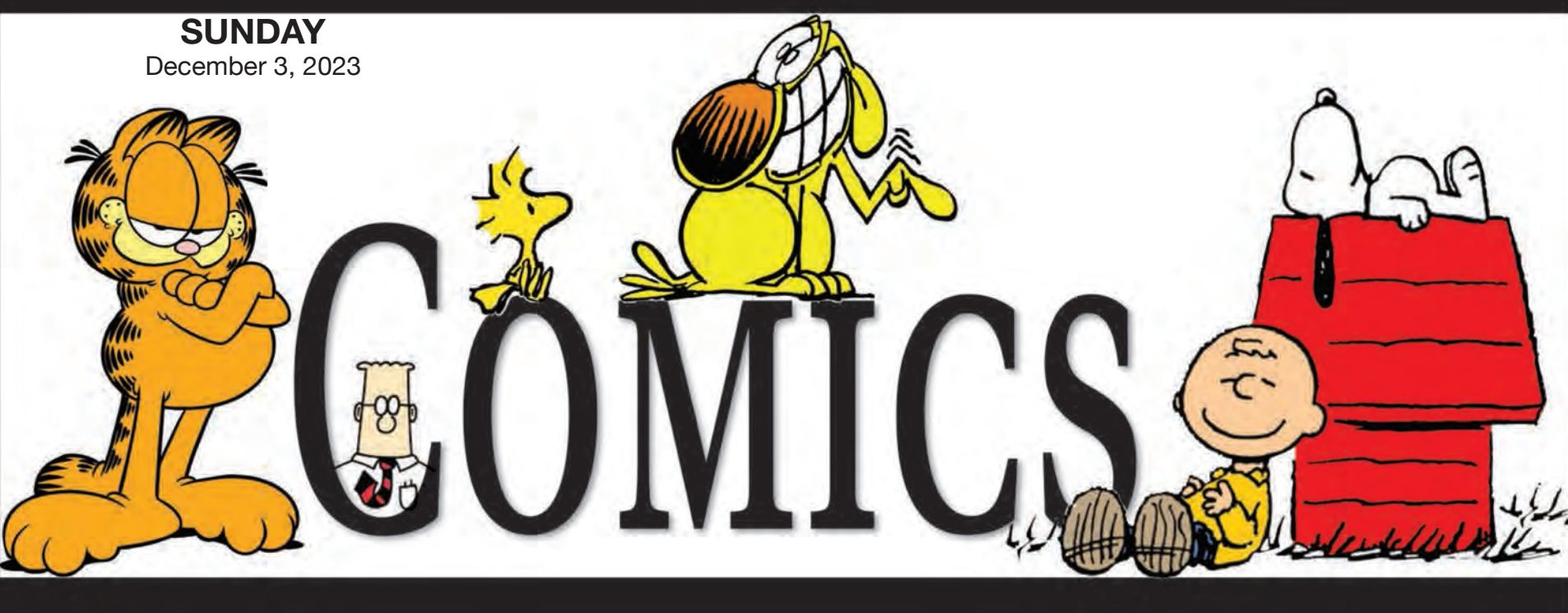
Need Cash?

Classifieds - your best deal for
making a few bucks on things
you no longer need!

Call 774-1200 today!

Classified





PEANUTS

featuring

"Good ol' Charlie Brown"

by SCHULZ

A Christmas tree with a single round ornament hanging from it. The ornament is a simple circle with a face.

Dear Santa Claus,

ACTUALLY, THERE IS NO SANTA CLAUS...

This year please bring me a camera, a pony and a bicycle

THERE COMES A TIME WHEN WE HAVE TO STOP TRUSTING CERTAIN LEGENDS

some money, a desk, a goldfish, a record player, a bracelet,

AS WE GROW OLDER, WE HAVE TO FACE LIFE'S REALITIES

a hair dryer, a radio, a portable TV and some sweaters and jeans.

MYTHS HAVE TO BE REPLACED BY TRUTH

DO YOU WANT ME TO PUT YOU DOWN FOR A BASEBALL GLOVE?

YES, THAT WOULD BE VERY NICE

and a baseball glove for my brother.

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE WISHY-WASHY!

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

BARK! BARK! BARK!

BARK! BARK! BARK!

BARK! BARK! BARK! BARK!

PANT PANT PANT PANT

PANT PANT PANT PANT

BARK! BARK! BARK!

PLAY DATE

TAKE IT FROM THE TINKERSONS

BY BILL BETTWY

OH, COME ON!

TILLMAN IS STILL IN THE SHOWER!

THIS IS RIDICULOUS!

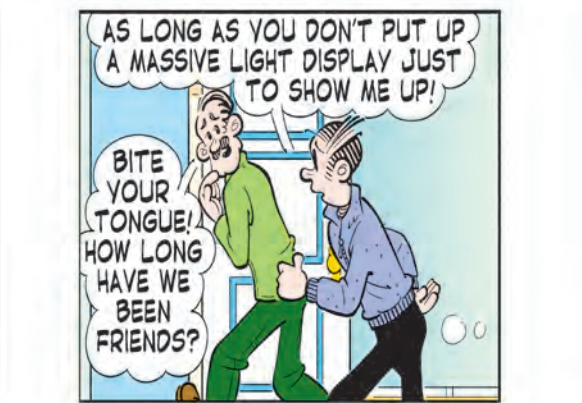
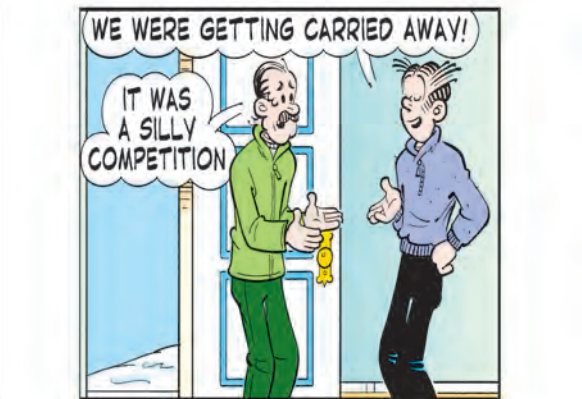
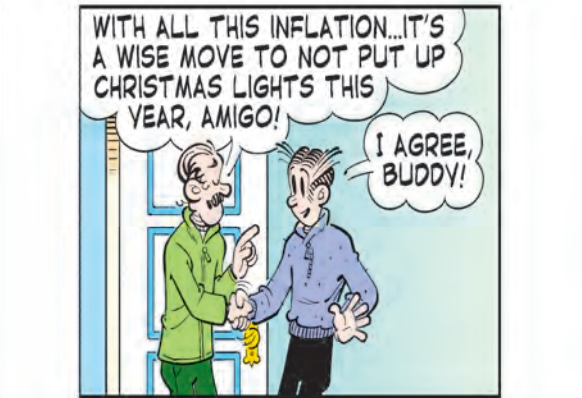
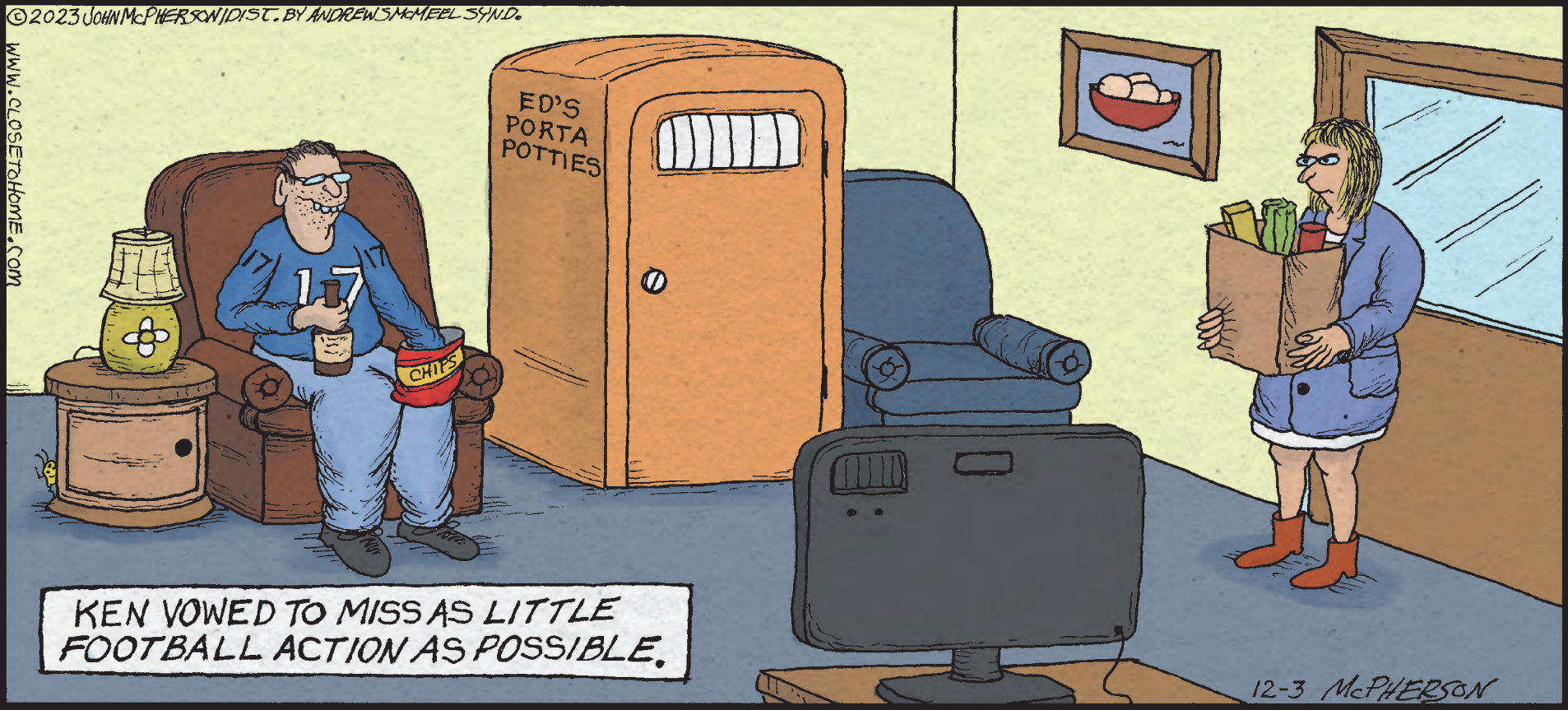
I GET IT, TWEETIE.

HE TAKES VERY LONG SHOWERS.

BUT AT LEAST HE'S IN THE SHOWER.

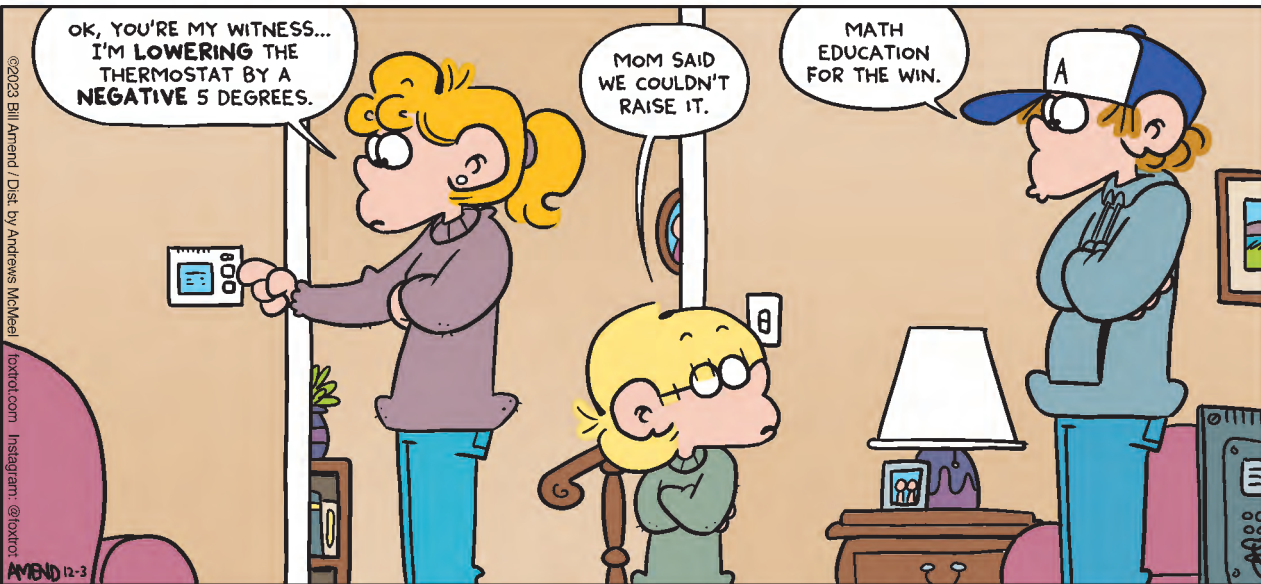
CLOSE TO HOME

BY JOHN McPHERSON



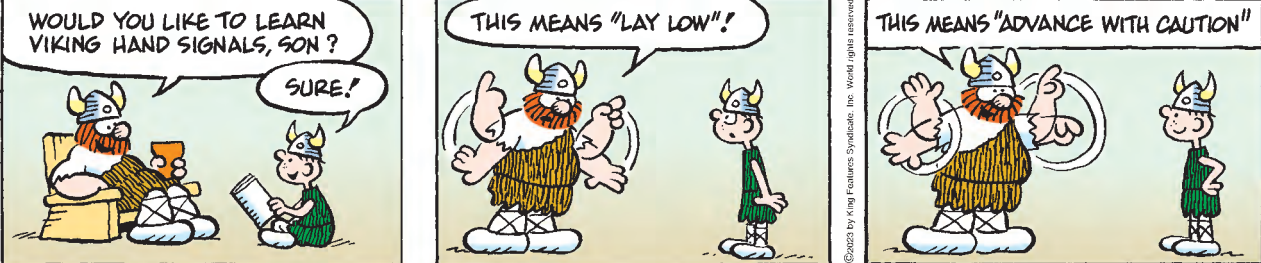
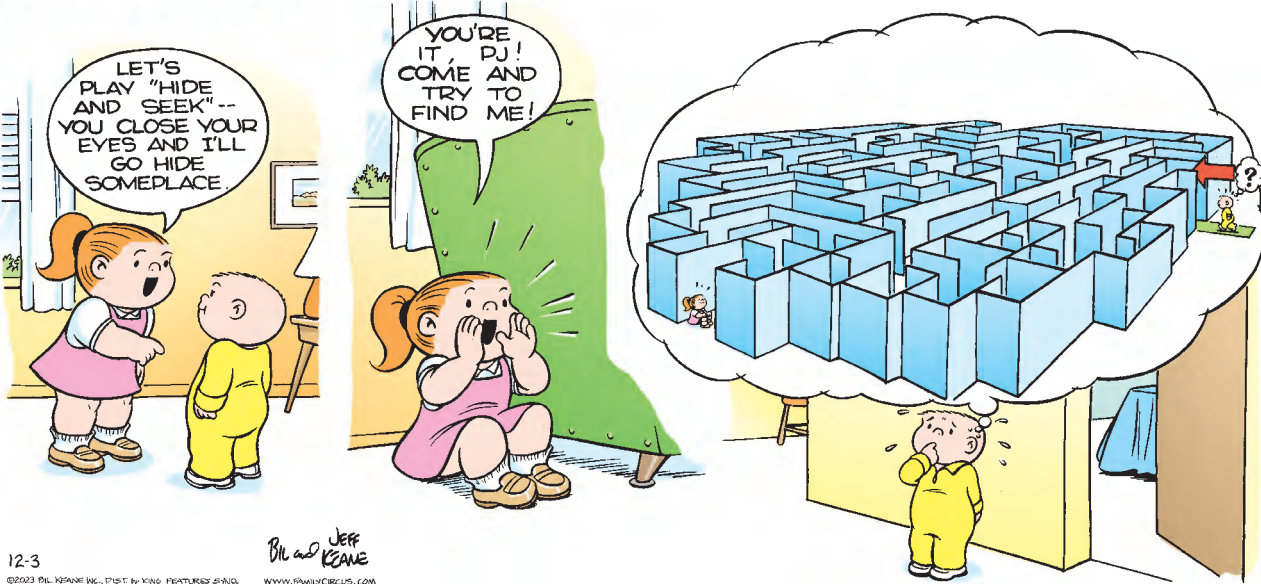
FoxTrot

by Bill Amend



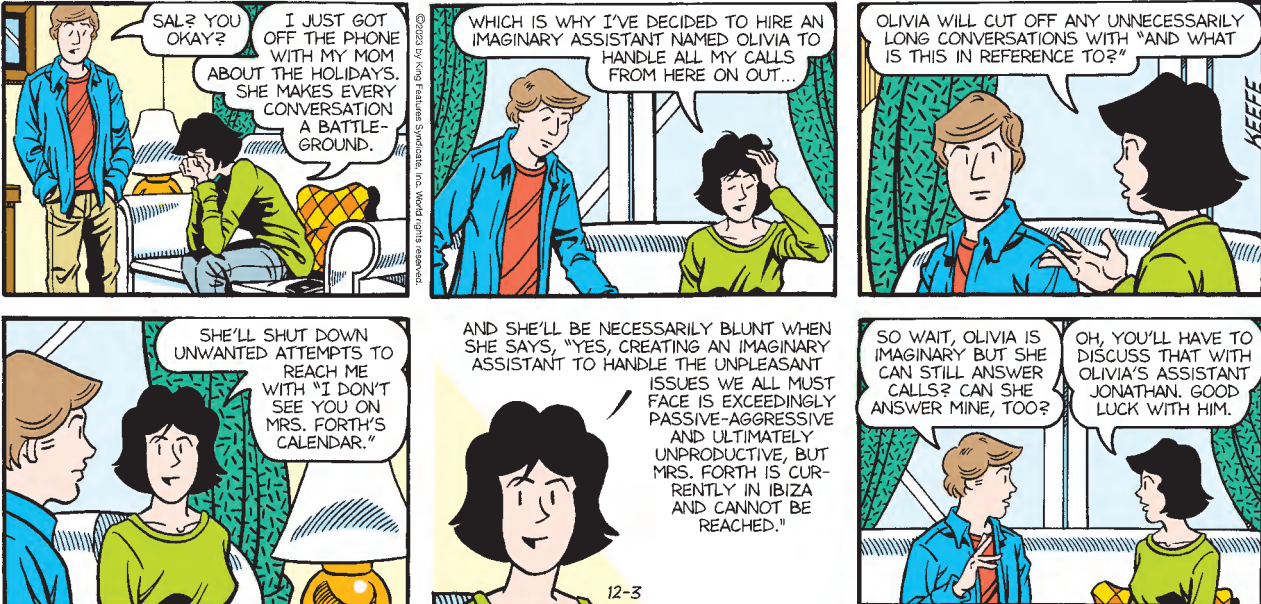
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill Keane



SALLY FORTH

BY FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & JIM KEEFE



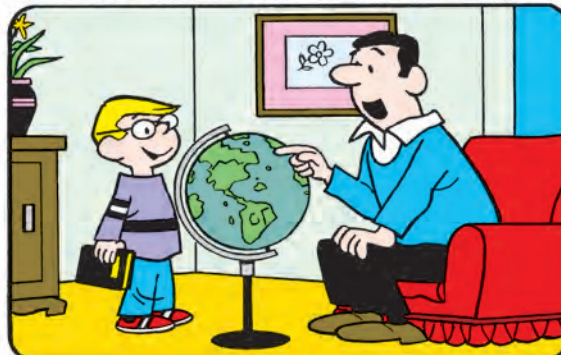
by
Steve
Breen



BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels



Differences: 1. Hand is moved. 2. Book is larger. 3. Hair is different. 4. Arm of chair is not showing. 5. Globe is reversed. 6. Stripe on shirt is lower.

WE FOUND A GENIE'S LAMP!

GREAT! YOU GET THREE WISHES!

CAN WE WISH FOR A THOUSAND WISHES?

NO.

CAN WE EXCHANGE OUR WISHES IF WE CHANGE OUR MINDS?

NO.

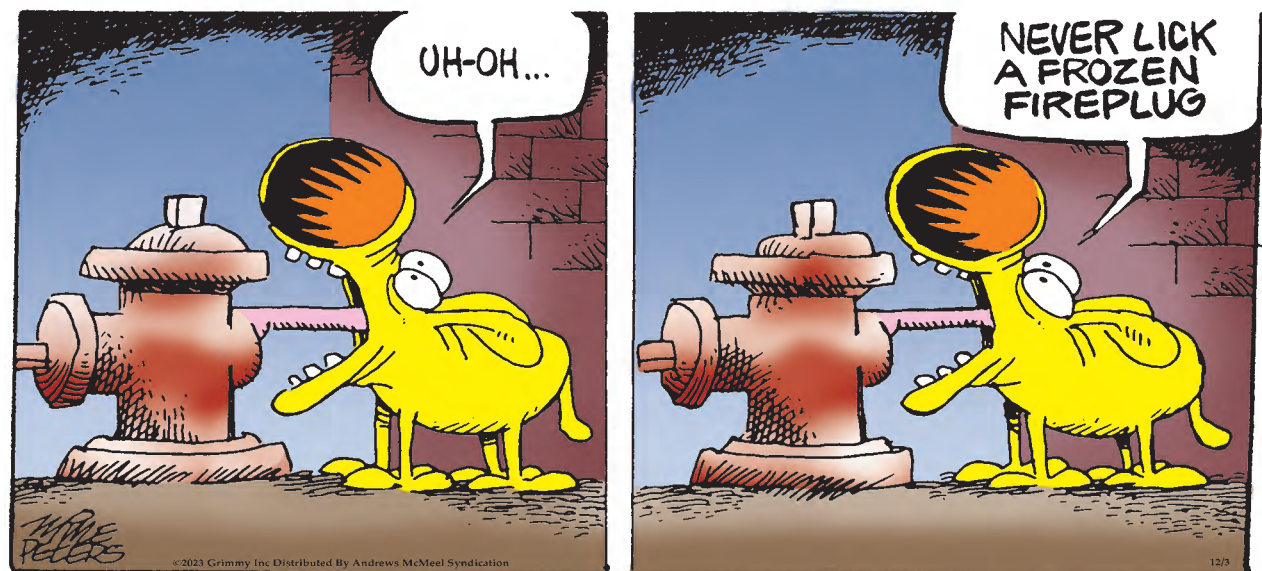
CAN WE WISH FOR A DIFFERENT GENIE?

NO!

CAN WE WISH FOR A PRINTED COPY OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS?

123 CHINESE

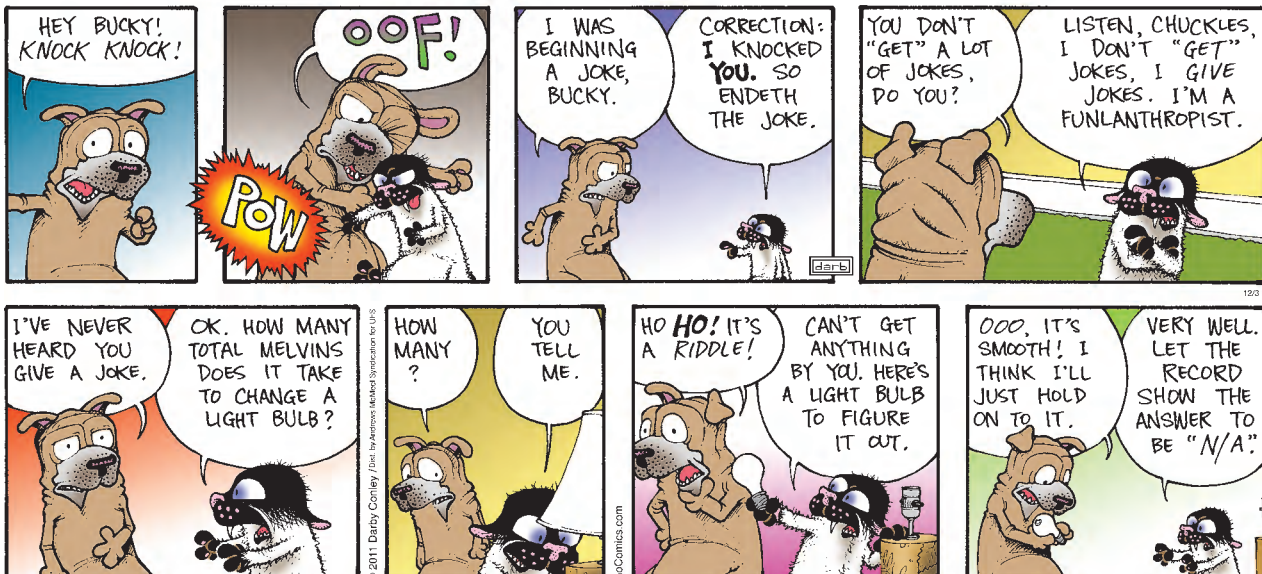
BY MIKE PETERS



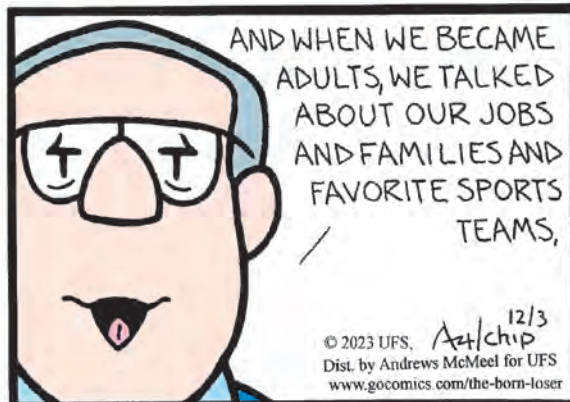
Wizard of ID



BY DARBY CONLEY

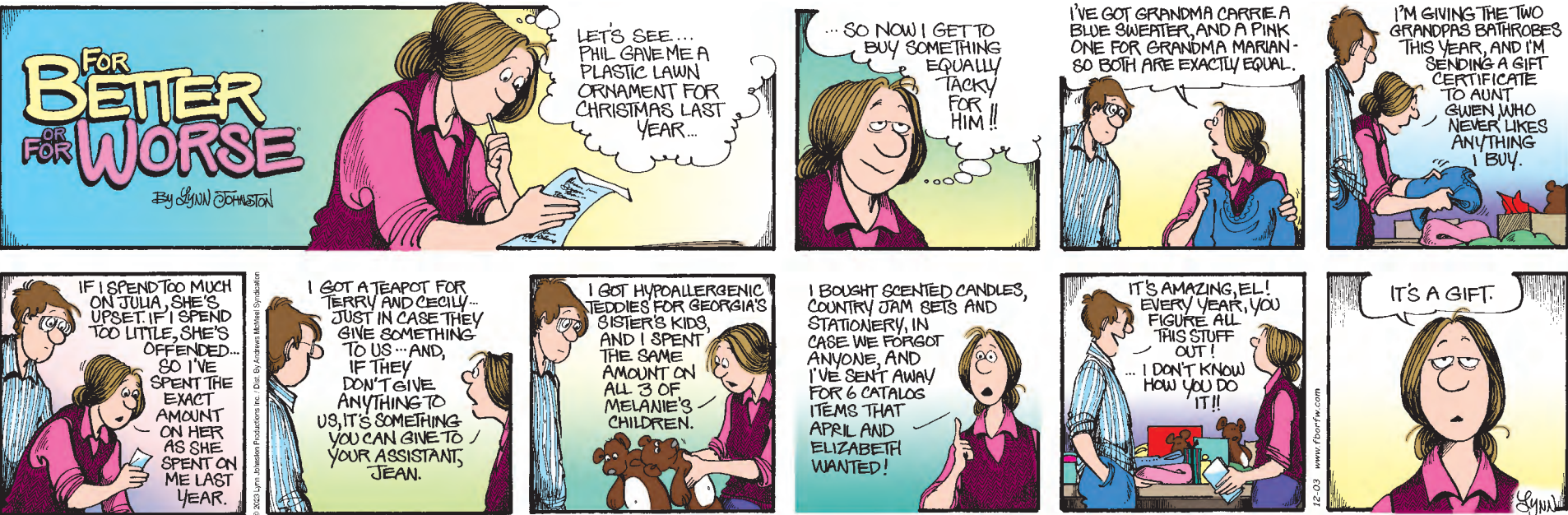
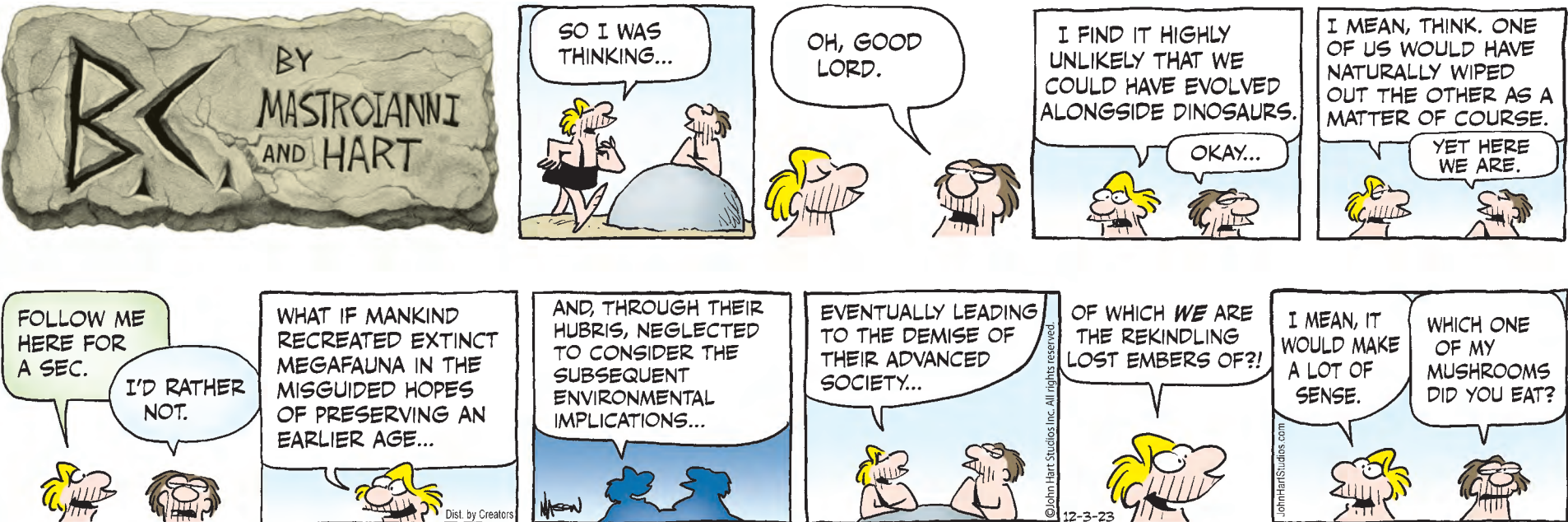
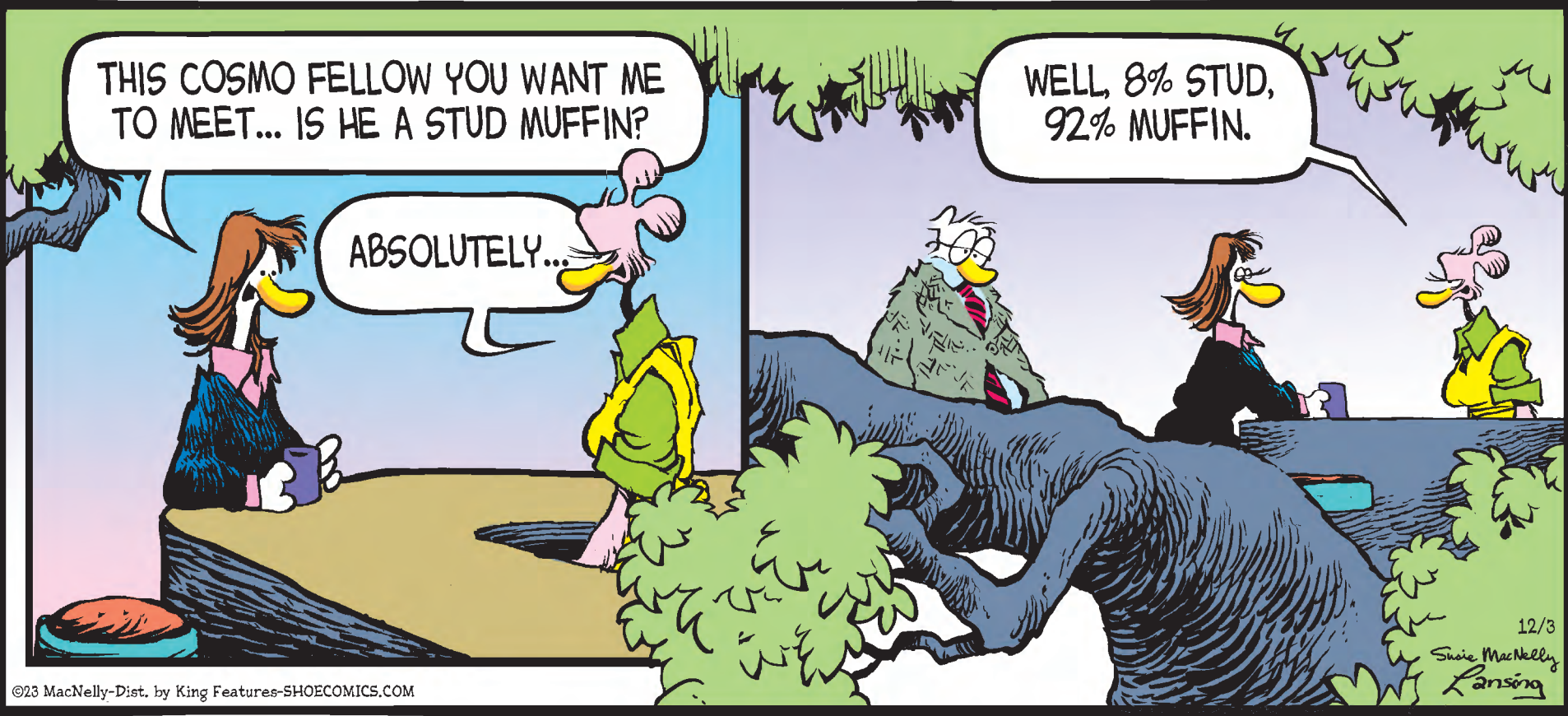


by Art & Chip Sansom



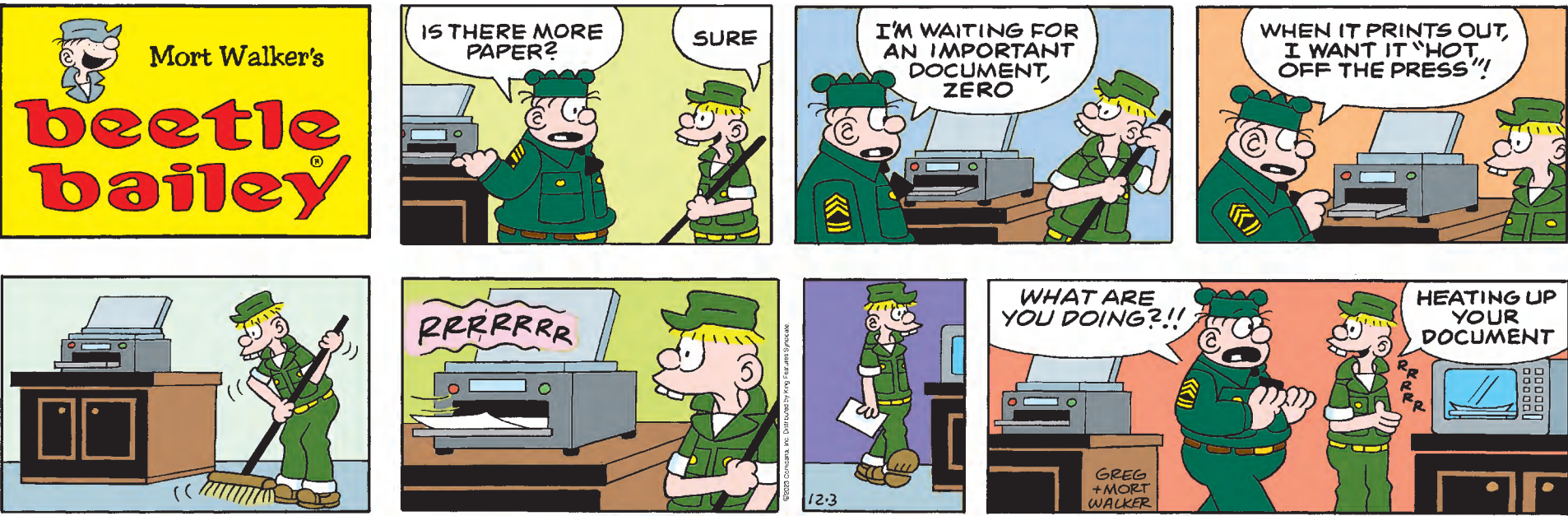
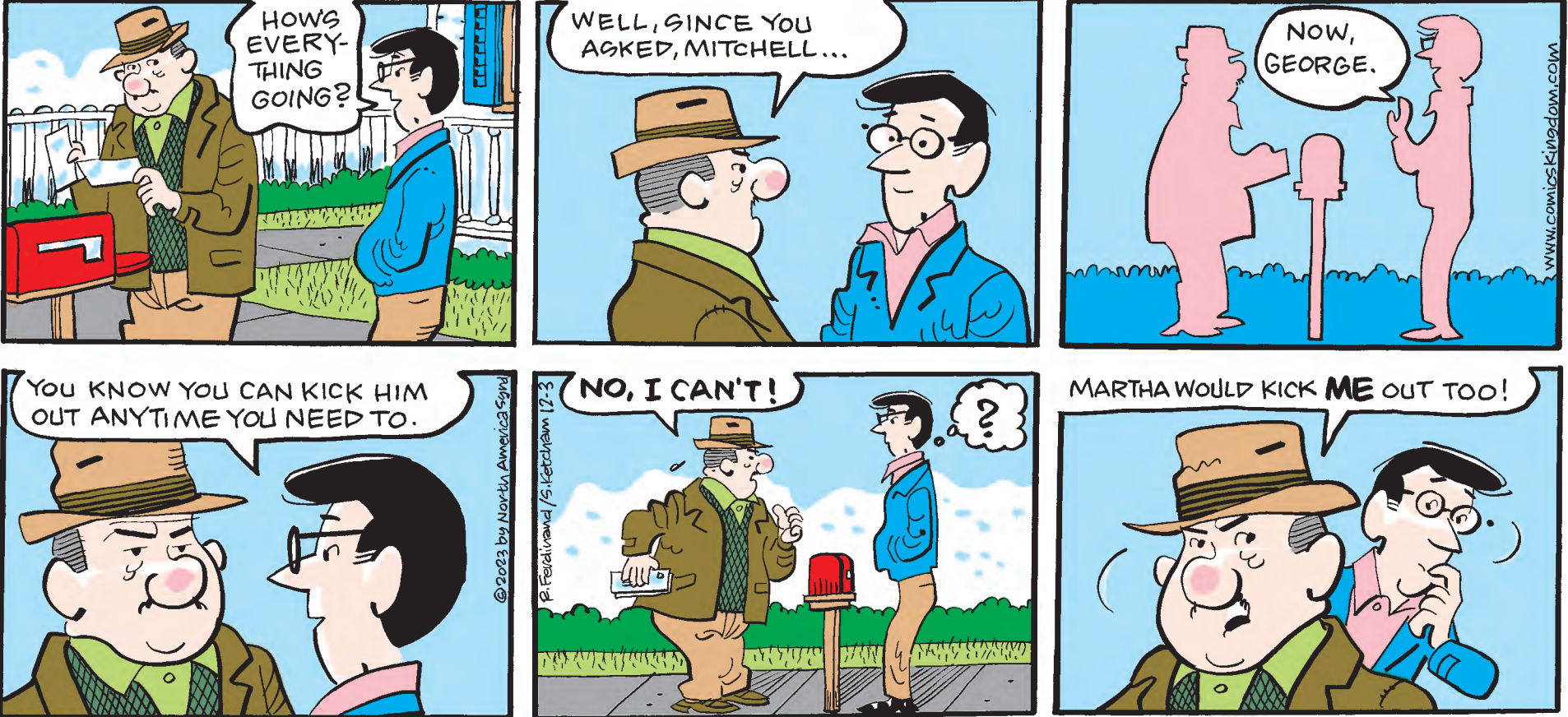
SHOE

BY GARY BROOKINS & SUSIE MACNELLY



DENNIS THE MENACE

BY HANK KETCHAM



Faith & Family

for the Holidays

It's that time of year when we hold our loved ones tight, and not just because it's cold outside. Our annual Faith Today section is expanding this year to ensure everyone has a reason to cheer for the season. Whether you're looking for spiritual guidance, a place of worship, gift ideas or things to do with the family, however extended, this is the resource for you. We wish you happiness, safety and peace this holiday season.

Inside

D2 The incarnation of Jesus

D3 A Christmas birthday

D4 The gift of peace

D5 Family friendly festivities

D6 Books to read to children this holiday season

D7 Tips to pick the perfect Christmas tree

And More



The incarnation of Jesus



BY RON DAVIS
Pastor, Sumter Bible Church

John’s account of the first Christmas is quite different than Luke’s account, the story most read as “The Christmas Story.” To understand John’s perspective, it helps when we review the contrasts of the four gospel accounts of the first Christmas. Matthew presents Jesus as King, so his gospel begins with a genealogy proving His right to the throne as the Christ (the Messiah that God promised to Israel). Mark presents Jesus as a servant, so his gospel begins with the public ministry of Jesus. A servant has no need of a genealogy, so Mark includes

none. Luke, the physician, presents Jesus as man, so his gospel begins with a description of the birth of Jesus, showing his humanity. John presents Jesus as God, so his gospel begins with eternity. God has no beginning, so John shows the incarnation, Jehovah God becoming a man! The one who created the heavens, the earth, man and woman, became a man - for us!

Prior to His birth - the first two verses in John’s gospel tell us that Jesus was with God from the beginning. He was active in creating the universe with God the Father (verse 3). Yes, the world and all life was created by Christ, the eternal Son of God. No, the world and mankind did not evolve. That is a lie of the devil, and we as Christians are to avoid any that teach this lie (Romans 16:17).

The forerunner of His birth — verses six through eight of chapter one — tell us that John the Baptist was sent from God to announce the coming of the Savior, the “Light of the world.” The birth of John was miraculous (Luke 1:7-13). He was born to Zechariah and Elisabeth when she was well past

her child-bearing days. John came preaching in the power of Elijah (Luke 1:17) and was eventually beheaded for speaking against adultery.

The manner of His birth — Mary was the mother of Jesus. She was a godly, moral young woman. In Luke 1:42 we learn that she was “blessed among women” (not “above” women). She was also humble as she praised God by stating, “My soul doth magnify the Lord. And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.” She was thankful for the mercy and salvation she received from God through Jesus Christ, her Savior. We have seen the mother of His birth; now let’s see the place of His birth - a stable. It symbolizes the dirty heart of man (Jer. 17:9). How appropriate that the Lamb of God was born in a stable. John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus, proclaimed “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

The purpose of His birth — According to John 1:11-12, He came to make us children of God. We understand from the Scriptures that the birth of Jesus does not save us.

The stable was His first stop on His way to the cross. He came as a Jew to the Jews, and they rejected Him (John 1:11). Now whoever receives Him as Savior is given the authority to be a child of God (John 1:12). Not everyone in the world can call God his Father. He is Father to those who have been born into His family — those who have trusted Jesus Christ as Savior, as God incarnate (Emmanuel), those who have accepted the sacrificial substitute of the Lamb of God for our sins. Jesus is the only way to God.

The miracle of His birth — Jesus was born of a virgin, an impossible event without the intervention of a miracle-working God. John is presenting Jesus not as a king, not as a servant, not as a man like the other three gospel accounts. John is presenting Jesus as God in the flesh (incarnate). “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:1, 14). One of the

Old Testament Christmas prophecies” is Isaiah 9:6, “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” The two statements “a child is born” and “a son is given” are not redundant. The former statement refers to the humanity of Jesus — He was 100 percent man, as presented by Luke. Luke gave the genealogy to prove the heritage of Jesus, the baby born to Mary. The latter statement refers to the deity of Jesus as Christ, the Messiah who would come to save us from our sins. He is the Savior, the only Savior for man. He is God incarnate. His name Jesus means “Savior.” Is he yours? If not, this Christmas you can receive the gift of salvation from God through His Son, Jesus Christ. The gift is offered to all. Will you receive it?

Jesus is Better than Santa

All Santa can offer is Ho Ho Ho
Jesus offers health, help, and hope
Santa says “You better not cry”
Jesus says “Cast all your cares on me
for I care for you”
Santa’s little helpers make toys
Jesus makes new life, mends wounded hearts,
repairs broken bones, and builds mansions
**Jesus is still the reason
for the season**
From Your Friends at

1255 N. Lafayette • Sumter • 775-4391
8:30am - 5:00pm Monday - Friday

ESSENTIALLY LOCAL. AUTHENTICALLY SUMTER.

The Sumter Item is the only source of daily local news in Sumter, Clarendon and Lee counties.
We hold the powerful accountable and help you make informed decisions, celebrate your wins and educate your children, all to live your best life.
Without us, your stories would often go untold.

Sign up for The Sumter Item’s free email newsletter.
www.theitem.com/newsletter

A Gentle Word at Christmas

with Pastor Clay

December 17 at 4:30 PM
Loring Mill Campus Worship Center
1305 Loring Mill Rd

Christmas can be challenging, and Pastor Clay Smith wants to honor this with a unique service for anyone who has experienced a loss or gone through a traumatic experience like divorce or deep hurt.
We will have music and a time of prayer where people can light a candle for their loved one or hurt.

A L I C E D R I V E
baptist church

ALICEDRIVE.ORG

A Christmas birthday

Christian holiday traditions



BY REV. BRIAN PEAKE
Pastor, Mayesville Presbyterian Church

Do you know anyone whose birthday is on or very close to Christmas Day? I have a cousin who was born on Dec. 25, so her parents named her Holly. My wife’s birthday is on Dec. 29. Her name is Cathy. I guess she missed being named ‘Eve’ by just five days.

If you or someone special to you has a birthday close to Christmas Day, I’m sure you have noticed that celebrations for that big day are very often downplayed and sometimes almost completely overlooked. I can’t tell you how many times I have heard someone say to my wife as they hand her a present at Christmas, “Now this is for your birthday, too.” The reality is that Cathy’s birthday gets almost completely ignored because of Christmas. The hustle and bustle of Christmas has taken its toll on everyone. After weeks of office parties and tree-lighting celebrations, Christmas shopping and meal preparations, most people have lost the motivation to bake another cake, purchase

another gift, and plan another get-together to celebrate a birthday. So, what happens is that those Christmas birthdays get lost in the busyness of the season and the exhaustion that follows.

I wonder if that’s not what many of us let happen when it comes to honoring the day that has been set aside to celebrate the incarnation of Christ. We get so exhausted with all the shopping and planning and parties that we are expected to prepare for and attend, that Jesus’ birthday gets minimized and sometimes — in our culture — lost altogether. I think Christians today must be very careful and guard against the subtle intrusion of secular attempts to remove Christ’s birthday from Christmas, as well as outright militant attacks on the Christian faith.

Christmas is becoming dangerously close to having little or nothing to do with the birthday of Christ. Theologian R.C. Sproul said in regard to Christ’s birth, “We are celebrating a decisive moment that defined all of history. We must celebrate it for all we’re worth!” I think that’s a quote worth remembering and taking seriously.

I was asked to write an article to share whatever I felt in my heart would be an appropriate Christmas message for the reader of this special section of *The Item*. I think I would like to remind you to not let Jesus’ birthday get lost because it’s too close to Christmas.

Many adjectives can be used to describe the holiday season, including festive, jolly and religious. Another word that may come to mind is tradition. Traditions factor heavily into holiday celebrations of faith and family.

According to The Public Religion Research Institute’s “2020 Census of American Religion,” 70 percent of Americans identify as Christian. Data from the Pew Research Center indicates that 55 percent of Canadians identified as Christians in 2018. Millions of Christians will be celebrating Christmas this year, and many of those celebrations will feature cherished traditions. Here are some popular Christian traditions during the holiday season.

Advent calendars and wreaths

The word “Advent” is derived from Latin and means “coming forward.” Advent is the four-week period preceding the Christmas celebration. Advent wreaths and calendars typically are part of Christmas in Christian households. Advent calendars are sold in stores or can be made as craft projects. Most of them contain small prizes

like chocolate treats or other trinkets behind each date on the calendar. Advent wreaths have four candles (three purple and one pink). One is lit each Sunday of Advent. The evergreen wreath signifies continuous life.

Nativity scene

Another popular religious tradition is setting up a nativity scene. A nativity scene places the focus on Jesus Christ. One tradition involves moving nativity figurines closer to the manger leading up to Christmas, and placing the infant Jesus in the manger on Christmas Day.

Some churches and towns also put on living nativity scenes, in which adults and children dress up, and together with live animals, depict the manger scene.

Christmas caroling

Caroling has a long history and was originally tied to winter solstice celebrations. Christians started singing carols to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Many of the songs carolers sing are traditional religious hymns. During Advent, carols

will herald the coming of Jesus. After Christmas, carols are even more joyous in nature.

The three masses

Midnight Mass is a special celebration that takes place in the late hours of the evening on Christmas Eve. It is the first liturgy of Christmas that begins at midnight. It originated in 430 AD under Pope Sixtus III in the Basilica of St. Mary Major. The popularity of Midnight Mass grew by the 12th century, when the celebration of three Masses on Christmas day was granted to all priests. Midnight Mass is treated as a solemn High Mass, which involves singing and praying by the light of candles. A Mass at dawn is the second Christmas mass, followed by Mass of the Day, which is the midmorning Mass of the Christmas celebration.

Christmas is steeped in tradition. While the secular traditions are well known, Christians also embrace various religious traditions at this time of year.





First Presbyterian Church

Join us as we celebrate the Season of Advent and Christmas together!

- SPECIAL SERVICES:**
- December 3 at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary—First Sunday of Advent, Nativity Display in the Fellowship Hall
 - December 10 at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary—Lessons & Carols—A service of Scripture and song reflecting the lesson’s message
 - December 17 at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary—Nativity Story featuring the children & youth
 - December 17 at 5:00 pm in the Chapel—Service of Comfort & Hope
 - December 24 at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary—Fourth Sunday of Advent
 - December 24 at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary—Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service—Nursery available

The mission of First Presbyterian Church of Sumter is to know Christ and make him known by living faithfully, worshipping joyfully and serving gladly.

9 W. CALHOUN ST. SUMTER, SC | CORNER OF W. CALHOUN & MAIN

The gift of peace:

A Christmas Reflection on Philippians 4:6-7



BY REV. DR. JAMES
BLASSINGAME
*Mount Zion Missionary
Baptist Church, Sumter*

In the midst of all of the turmoil and conflict in the Middle East, as the Christmas season approaches, we should focus on peace. The holiday season is a time of joy and celebration, a time when we fellowship with our loved ones, exchange gifts and celebrate the birth of Christ. In the midst of the busy holiday season, it's easy to lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas and the gift of peace it offers.

We should reflect on the words of the apostle Paul in Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

These verses remind us that in our moments of anxiety and worry, we can find peace through prayer and thanksgiving. We are encouraged to lay our burdens at the feet of God and trust in His divine guidance. During the Christmas season, these words hold special significance.

Christmas commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, who came to offer

humanity the ultimate gift: reconciliation with God and inner peace. Jesus' birth in a humble manger in Bethlehem symbolizes God's love for all people, regardless of their circumstances or status. His life and teachings emphasize the importance of peace, forgiveness and love.

As we celebrate and fellowship this season and encounter the stressful aspects of the holiday season, let us remember the message of Philippians 4:6-7 and the birth of Jesus. This is a time to focus on the peace that can be found in God's presence,

a peace that surpasses all understanding. In the midst of all the turmoil and mishaps in the Middle East and everywhere, we must remember the peace that is offered from God.

This Christmas, let us embrace a spirit of thanksgiving and gratitude. Let us do this in order to unlock the peace described in these verses. Do not be so consumed by the pressures of holiday preparations; instead turn your heart toward the true source of peace and joy — the gift of Christ.



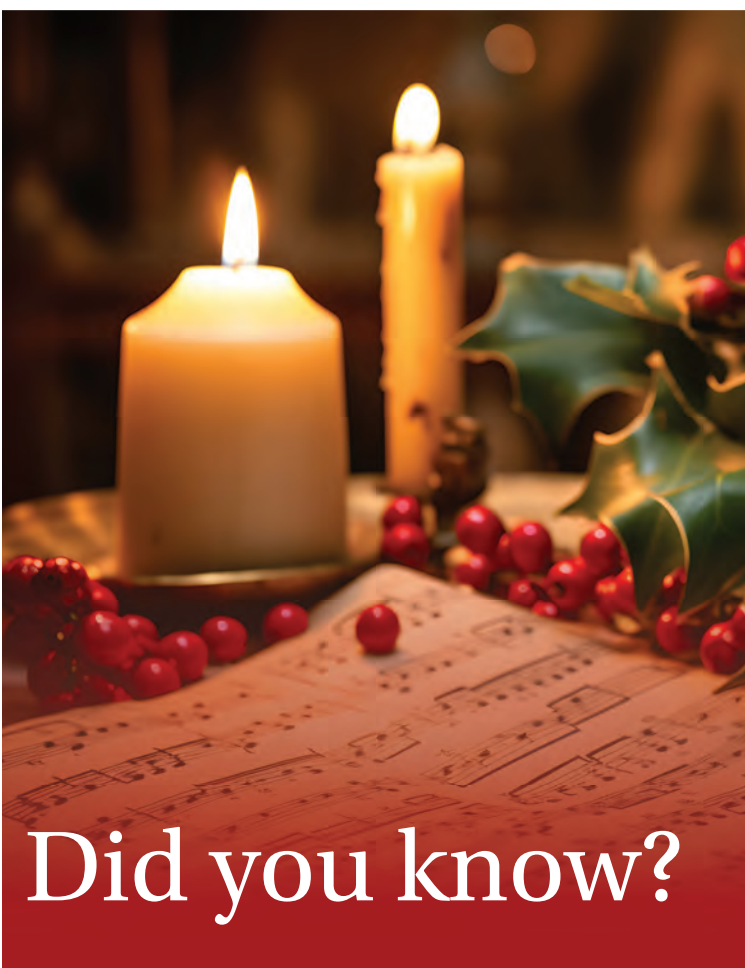
Away In a Manger

"Away In a Manger" is a popular Christmas carol that has endured for well over a century. One of the first known appearances of the song was in the journal *The Christian Cynosure* in 1882, which indicates it is now more than 140 years old. That publication titled the hymn "Luther's Cradle Song," and a brief description of the song preceding the lyrics indicates it was written by the German religious reformer Martin Luther. However, the University Libraries at The Ohio State University note that historians have since dispelled that notion, with some suggesting the song was written to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Luther's birth (the reformer was born in 1483). Regardless of its authorship, the song remains a popular and moving hymn that can be heard far and wide during the holiday season.

The cattle are lowing,
The baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus
No crying he makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus,
Look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle
Til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus,
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever,
And love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children
In thy tender care,
And take us to heaven,
To live with Thee there.

Lyrics courtesy of
LyricsforChristmas.com



Did you know?

The majority of people hear Christmas and naturally think of Dec. 24 and 25. For millions of Christians, these two dates mark Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, respectively, which is when Christians commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ. In fact, the word Christmas comes from the phrase "Mass of Christ." However, there are certain faithful who will not be celebrating Christmas on Dec. 25. These are namely those who belong to Orthodox, Greek Orthodox and Coptic Orthodox churches, among others. These churches primarily trace their origins to Eastern Europe and portions of Asia and Africa, including Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Serbia, Greece, Armenia and Ethiopia.

The churches utilize the former Julian calendar for religious observations. This places Christmas on Jan. 7. It also is believed that 12 days after Jesus was born, three magi visited him to shower him with blessings and gifts, an event known as the Epiphany. Some recognize Christmas as occurring on this day, which is Jan. 6. In fact, the "true" Christmas holiday takes place between Christ's birth and the Epiphany, or the 12 days of Christmas. Candlemas, which comes 40 days after Christmas, also is considered the official end of the Christmas season for some.

MAYESVILLE ASSOCIATE REFORMED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Festival of Nine
LESSONS
&
CAROLS
DECEMBER 17, 6:30 PM

109 W. SUMTER ST., MAYESVILLE, SC
www.mayesvillepres.org | (803) 453-5759
The Reverend Brian C. Peake, Pastor

Sunday School - 10:00 AM | Worship - 11:00 AM

Bethesda Church of God Presents:

The Blessing

A Dramatic Christmas Presentation

Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 6pm
Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 10am & 4pm
FREE ADMISSION
Nursery Available | Reservations for Groups of 15+

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SUNDAY SCHOOL @9:45AM

BIBLE STUDY TUESDAYS @6:00PM
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PASTOR
DR. JAMES B. BLASSINGAME

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SUMTER, SC 29151



Family

Family friendly festivities

Local holiday events and activities to add to your calendar this year

By Alaysha Maple

Homegrown Christmas - November 30 • 7:30pm

The holiday spirit is all about giving. Come out and support The Sounds of Grace and enjoy an evening of local entertainment, apple cider, pictures with Santa and fellowship. Tickets are \$30 and funds support the mission of this well deserving non-profit that brings peace and healing through music to people in hospitals, healthcare facilities and special needs classrooms. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

FRISSON Ensemble: A Classic Christmas - December 1 • 7:30pm

The French word Frisson means “a shiver or a thrill, a sudden feeling of excitement.” That’s what you’ll experience when you celebrate Christmas with the classics! Together, young artists and

seasoned professionals perform musical favorites like the Nutcracker, “Winter” from Vivaldi’s Four Seasons, Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer, A White Christmas, Carol of the Bells, a Christmas Jazz Suite, and more. Finish the show with the musicians as the audience sings along with traditional Christmas Carols!

Woman’s Afternoon Music Club’s 53rd-annual Festival of Choirs – Dec. 3, 3 p.m.

The Sumter Woman’s Afternoon Music Club joyously hosts the Festival of Choirs on Sunday, Dec. 3, at Trinity United Methodist Church. Dedicated to nurturing musical appreciation for 106 years, the group showcases choirs at the concert such as Bethel Methodist, First Presbyterian and Sumter Civic Chorale. A flute duet prelude by Barbara Reardon and Lara McAlister

sets the stage for a festive evening. Attendees are encouraged to support the club’s scholarship fund benefiting young musicians. Admission is free, with donations appreciated.

Sumter Little Theatre’s Peter & the Starcatcher – Dec. 7-10 & Dec. 14-17 at 8 p.m., 3 p.m. on Sundays

Peter and the Starcatcher is a prequel to Peter Pan based on the children’s book by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson and freely adapted for the stage by Rick Elice, with co-directors Alex Timbers and Roger Rees. For two-and-a-half hours, 12 actors make theatrical magic by playing dozens of characters: sailors, pirates, British naval officers, Mollusk natives and orphans in addition to 18 major roles. The original Broadway production was a deliberately

low-budget spectacle: an extravaganza of staging that relied on suggestion and storytelling rather than expensive set pieces like the chandelier in Phantom of the Opera or the helicopter in Miss Saigon. Elice’s script, jam-packed with poetry, fart jokes, gentle lyricism and numerous nods to pop culture, is a coming-of-age adventure story about how a nameless orphan—inspired by a remarkable and ambitious girl—became the strange and celebrated hero that is the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up.

Miss Libby’s Christmas Magic - 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

The dance students at Miss Libby’s delight audience members with sparkling snowflakes, twinkling lights, rosy cheeks, act of kindness and warm fuzzy feelings

of love, happiness and joy. That’s the magic of Christmas!

Mayesville Presbyterian Church’s Lessons and Carols – Dec. 17, 6:30 p.m.

Mayesville Presbyterian Church presents a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on December 17 at 6:30 p.m., celebrating the Incarnation of Christ through congregational carols, choral music, and scripture readings. Led by the church choir and musicians, the service includes traditional carols and scripture readings. Attendees are encouraged to bring donations for Sumter United Ministries. The event, part of the Rejoicings Series, follows the format established at King’s College in 1918, emphasizing the enduring tradition’s cultural and denominational adaptability.

Sumter United Ministries seeing overwhelming need for heating assistance as annual Fireside Fund kicks off

The Sumter Item’s Annual

FIRESIDE FUND

Providing heating assistance to those in need since 1969

Dedicated to the memory of the Rev. William Randolph

By Kevin Howell
Sumter United Ministries

It is difficult to put into words what the last few days have been like at the Crisis Relief Ministry. The crowds that have visited our building have not only been above average, but have also really put to a test our very structure and procedure as a ministry. Since we are a “walk-in” ministry, what do you do when the numbers of people visiting exceed your ability to interview or even field questions in a reasonable time frame? It reminds me of the time Jesus was pressed by the crowds and took it all in, encouraging his disciples to pray for more workers. I cannot imagine what our days would be like without the volunteers who give so selflessly. To measure how our community feels about their circumstances and the outlook for the future, we would need to base our response on the conversations that take place daily here. People seem tired, frustrated and worried. We have not really experienced a sustained cold spell, preventing too many

interviews requesting heat assistance so far. Those days are coming as the temperatures will surely be changing, some forecasts predicting a more severe winter than usual for the southeastern U.S. Your gift does matter! Each time we are able to provide assistance financially, we are providing assurances, comfort and pointing to a peace that is not superficial. The community of neighbors in need are looking to Sumter United Ministries more than ever before. For the young single parent of one child who lost her job when her employer downsized, it mattered that we were able to help her. For the man in his 50s who is living on a small disability income with his disabled wife, knowing that his electricity would not be disconnected mattered to him, too. It is the method by which he heats his home, after all. Recently, I encouraged my church to “keep the good going.” It is because Paul warned us in Galatians to not grow weary of doing the right things. There may be many frustrations and

challenges, but we must keep doing good works. If there was ever a time to care about a stranger, make a generous donation or spend some time volunteering to listen and encourage, now is the time. More than ever, now is the time to do good. Thank you for contributing to the Fireside Fund! Kevin Howell is the director of the Crisis Relief Ministry at Sumter United Ministries.

ABOUT THE FIRESIDE FUND

Each winter since 1969, *The Sumter Item* has run a fundraiser to collect money from its readers to be donated entirely to Sumter United Ministries. The faith-based non-profit provides emergency and life-rebuilding services ranging from food, shelter and clothing to final notice bill pay, access to educational opportunities and a medical clinic. *The Sumter Item* recognizes and appreciates every ministry their staff and volunteers run, but the Fireside Fund was created to focus on one area that becomes critical for the next few months: heat. Every penny donated will directly help people who live in Sumter by preventing heating services from being turned off, allowing access to propane or other heating sources and, when enough funding is available and the need is there, funding long-term housing fixes to make homes more efficient.

IN HONOR OF

Each year, *The Item’s* leadership team picks a person who has recently

passed away to which the year’s campaign will be dedicated. The person honored is someone who made a positive impact in the community, whether through service or philanthropy, business or community leadership. If you think about the impact the Rev. William Samuel Randolph imparted in terms of civic service, entrepreneurialism, faith leadership and human rights, he checked all the boxes. The now-late uncle of current Sumter City Councilman James B. Blassingame moved to Sumter to attend Morris College. His legacy is as a pastor of First Baptist Missionary Church for 47 years, owner and operator of Randolph General Construction Co. and city councilman from 1987 to 2008, including mayor pro tempore for 19 of those years. His civil rights legacy is the 1961 S.C. Supreme Court case that, while he was arrested 11 times in the fight for racial equality, was pivotal in charges being dropped for several civil rights activists.

Randolph died Sept. 17 at the age of 88.

New donations as of Nov. 22: Tammy & Harvey Achziger, in memory of Dr. J. Grady Locklear, \$50; Tammy & Harvey Achziger, in memory of Mr. Wayne Morris, \$40; Tammy & Harvey Achziger, in memory of Ms. Shirley Hurst, \$30; Harold and Susan Chandler, \$400; and James Brown, in honor of Sammy Way, \$50.

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Total since 1969: \$1,798,006.74

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Sumter, SC 29151

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What to include

Names, including groups, should be spelled completely.

When making a donation in someone’s honor, the names will be printed as given.

Checks should be made out to Sumter United Ministries.

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Fun books to read to children this holiday season

Spend family time together with books children will love

The holiday season is a special time of year for people of all ages, but children might be the most enthusiastic celebrants come December. Children spend much of the holiday season anticipating the arrival of the man in the red suit, and that enthusiasm can be contagious.

Families have their own unique traditions during the holiday season, but one popular way to harness kids' enthusiasm between Thanksgiving and Christmas Day is to read them holiday stories. There's no shortage of great holiday books for kids, but here are a handful that kids may remember well into adulthood.

- **"The Polar Express,"** by Chris Van Allsburg: The beloved tale is the story of a young boy who boards a mysterious train bound for the North Pole.
- **"The Littlest Elf,"** by Brandi Dougherty: Part of a series, this story focuses on a tiny elf named Oliver and a series of misadventures as he navigates his way through Santa's workshop.
- **"Olive, the Other Reindeer,"** by Vivian Walsh: Olive is no ordinary reindeer. In fact, Olive is a dog who heads to the North Pole believing she is a reindeer. Her decision to join Santa's team ultimately benefits the big man and his trusty reindeer.
- **"The Miracle of the First Poinsettia: A Mexican Christmas Story,"** by Joanne Oppenheim: A little girl named Juanita is the star of this retelling of a traditional Mexican tale with a valuable lesson.
- **"Gingerbread Mouse: A Christmas Holiday Book for Kids,"** by Katy Bratun: A fallen tree branch almost ruins Christmas for Mouse, whose determination and resourcefulness mixed in with a little Christmas magic ensures she finds a place to call home in time for the holidays.
- **"A Night in Santa's Great Big Bag,"** by Kristin Kladstrup: Santa saves the day in this tale starring a young boy's favorite stuffed animal, whose excitement for Christmas compels him to climb into Santa's big bag of presents on Christmas Eve.
- **"Santa Claus and the Three Bears,"** by Maria Miodugno: This twist on the popular tale "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" finds three unsuspecting bears encountering a familiar fellow in a red suit upon returning home after a nighttime walk.
- **"Twas the Night Before Christmas: Edited by Santa Claus for the Benefit of Children of the 21st Century,"** by Clement C. Moore: Parents will appreciate this updated version of the popular tale that, among other things, has removed the reference to Santa smoking.
- **"How the Grinch Stole Christmas!"** by Dr. Seuss: Children can join generations of fans that came before them as they hear the redemption story of the Grinch who was once determined to ruin Christmas for the happy people of Who-ville.
- **"The Nutcracker,"** by the New York City Ballet: The classic story is retold based on famed choreographer George Balanchine's production.

The holiday season is steeped in tradition. Reading new and classic holiday stories to children is one tradition any family can embrace.

4 unique holiday party themes



The holiday season is a festive time of year filled with plenty of opportunities to socialize with friends and family. Parties around this time of year, and many people may find themselves hosting everything from intimate gatherings to large family dinners.

As people will be attending many different events in the weeks to come, savvy hosts and hostesses may want to set their occasions apart in different ways. One option is to pick an entertaining party theme that guests can get excited about. A fun theme can provide a break from the standard traditions. Consider these four unique party themes when planning holiday parties.

- 1. Ornament exchange**

Decorating the home is commonplace this time of year. Who couldn't use a new trinket for the mantel or an ornament to adorn the tree? Ask all guests to bring a gift-wrapped ornament to the party. Then place numbers in a bowl and have each guest draw a number; this is the order in which they will then select an ornament. After the first person makes their selection, subsequent guests can choose a new ornament from the pile or "steal" one from those already picked. The guest who picked first then has one last chance to keep or steal at the end.
- 2. Tropical holiday**

The weather outside may be frightful, but a tropical island party can be utterly delightful. Give the event an island flair with fruity drinks, grilled kabobs, coconut desserts and steel-drum music.
- 3. Grinchy party**

A party devoted to the Dr. Seuss character The Grinch can be a fun way to pass time together. While the holidays are supposed to be holly and jolly, a Grinch-themed party can put the emphasis on being a little bit more naughty than nice. And who doesn't enjoy an ample serving of roast beast? Have guests come decked out in Grinch costumes or Grinch emblazoned T-shirts or other clothing.
- 4. Christmas karaoke**

Set up the karaoke machine or utilize one of the services available online, and make sure that guests are prepared to belt out their favorite holiday tunes — whether traditional carols or pop hits. A group of ladies can join together for The Waitresses' "Christmas Wrapping" or guests can try their hands at hitting the high notes of Mariah Carey's ubiquitous "All I Want for Christmas Is You." Chances are serving some liquid courage will help guests loosen up and be more inclined to grab the microphone.

These are just a few different party themes that holiday hosts can consider this season.

Silent Night Holy Night



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Did you know?

Christmas trees are a key component of many people's holiday season. It's a family tradition to choose (or take out) the tree each year and then adorn it with ornaments, tinsel, family mementos and a beautiful tree topper. In regard to tree toppers, most people fasten the top bough with an angel or a star. The first tree toppers were the infant Jesus, but toppers are now available in other options symbolic of the Nativity of Jesus. The star refers to the Star of Bethlehem, which guided the Magi to the birthplace of Jesus. The angel represents the messengers of God as well as the Angel Gabriel, who visited Mary to share the news that she would be giving birth to the Son of God. People can choose whichever topper they prefer, but many refer to the religious significance of Christmas.

The perfect tree

Tips to pick the perfect Christmas tree

Christmas trees are among the most recognizable symbols of the holiday season, and the popularity of trees is undeniable. According to the National Christmas Tree Association, approximately 25 to 30 million real Christmas trees are sold in the United States each year. Christmas trees also are big business in Canada, where Statistics Canada notes cash receipts from Canadian Christmas tree producers totaled nearly \$163.5 million in 2022.

Annual spending on Christmas trees underscores how important they are to holiday decor. Christmas trees serve as the centerpiece in millions of holiday home decor schemes, so it's important to pick a tree that can shine in that role. This holiday season, celebrants can consider these tips as they look for the perfect Christmas tree.

- Measure the area where the tree will be placed. A large tree can be awe-inspiring, but also can stick out like a sore thumb if it takes up too much space. There should be enough room around the tree for families and their guests to sit around it. The home interior experts at Better Homes & Gardens recommend leaving a minimum of six inches between the top of the tree and the ceiling. If a tree topper will be added, make sure the top of the tree is at least 12 inches from the ceiling. Measure the area before leaving to buy a tree so it can fit nicely into the room and the surrounding decor.
- Try the shake test. Anyone who has purchased a fresh-cut Christmas tree is undoubtedly familiar with the shake test, which remains an effective way to measure the dryness of the tree. A slight shake will produce some fallen needles. If the needles are brown and few and far between, then the tree likely is not overly dry. However, a lot of falling green needles indicates the tree is already drying out, which means it

could shed quite a bit and lose its looks before Christmas Day.

- Pick a tree with a symmetrical look. Trees are living things, so it's unlikely that buyers will find a perfectly symmetrical tree. However, a tree that's misshapen or already has some sagging branches won't make for an awe-inspiring addition to a home decor scheme.
- Find the trunk (if you can). A trunk that's visible through the branches indicates the tree does not have dense branches, which will be necessary if homeowners want to dress the tree with ornaments. If it's hard to find the trunk because of all the thick branches and green needles, then the tree is likely pretty healthy.
- Test the needles. The home improvement experts at Lowes note that needles should be flexible but still snap when bent sharply. Avoid trees with needles that are already losing their color and can easily be pulled off.

A Christmas tree garners a lot of attention come the holiday season, which underscores the significance of finding a tree worthy of being the centerpiece of holiday decor.



Upcoming Publication

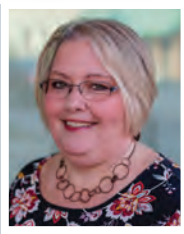


Life is Good in SUMTER

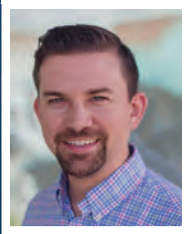
"Life is Good in Sumter," an annual community guide, is a showcase piece for businesses and residents of Sumter and also serves as a guide to area newcomers. The magazine includes stories on the Sumter community, its history and future; newcomer information such as business, military, government, health care, downtown, senior living, arts and entertainment, agriculture, educational institutions, sports, and an annual community calendar.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE:
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PUBLISH DATE:
February 1-4, 2024



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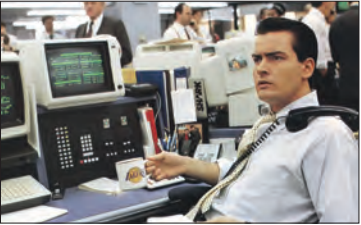
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6 An Oscar-winning Michael Douglas rules "Wall Street"



7 Away from it all: Luxury getaway goes south in 'Leave the World Behind'



7 Multi-talented musicians: Rush bassist Geddy Lee goes fishing in adventurous special

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Woman of 'Mystery': Worsley unpacks life and times of author Agatha Christie

BY JAY BOBBIN

Blending television with literature to show how one woman's real-life experiences influenced some of the world's all-time bestselling fiction, PBS presents the brand new docuseries "Agatha Christie: Lucy Worsley on the Mystery Queen." Hosted by Britain's favorite investigative historian, presenter and author, Lucy Worsley, the series premieres Sunday, Dec. 3, and runs for three weekly episodes on PBS.

Widely known for her novels "Murder on the Orient Express" (1934), "Death on the Nile" (1937) and "Hallowe'en Party" (1967), as well as their many subsequent film adaptations, Agatha Christie gained popularity long before her death in 1976. In fact, more than 100 years following the release of her first book in 1916, Christie maintains her reign as "the most successful novelist of all time, outsold only by Shakespeare and the Bible" (per PBS). But what of the woman behind the mystery? Luckily, that's where Worsley comes in.

Also well known the world over, Lucy Worsley ("The First Georgians: The German Kings Who Made Britain") has made a name for herself by investigating (or "re-investigating," as PBS has written) "some of the most dramatic chapters in British history." From exposés on the Royal Family to the impact of World War II, Russian Czarism and other major historical events on (predominantly English) society, Worsley creates a bridge between often inaccessible archives and curious TV viewers.

This time around, Worsley takes a deep dive into Christie's life and times to get to the bottom of her clever mind, sinister thoughts and chilling attention to even the darkest of details. In "Agatha Christie" (as it shall henceforth be known, for the sake of brevity), the first of three chapters, titled "A Cat Among Pigeons," begins with the author's childhood and early adulthood, detailing "the surprising roots of the author's most compelling themes, the inspiration for some of her greatest creations, and the secrets that the enigmatic Christie kept carefully hidden from public view" (per PBS).

The following week, Dec. 10, PBS airs the second episode of the educational miniseries: "Destination Unknown." In this part of the series, Worsley sheds light on the mystery that enveloped the author when she disappeared for several days in 1926 and claimed to remember nothing of the time she had been missing.

"[Worsley] digs into the mystery, visiting the site where the author crashed her car and Abney Hall, the grand house where she took refuge," the PBS release for the episode reads. "Lucy reveals connections between Christie's real-life experience and her novels and uncovers new evidence on her mental health and the cutting-edge psychiatric treatment she went on to receive."

"Destination Unknown" also touches on the nature of her relationships, occasional but persistent bouts

of writer's block and exotic trips that would lead to life-changing decisions, noteworthy characters and astounding plots that have stood the test of time.

In the third and final installment of the series, "Unfinished Portrait," Worsley charts the final third of Christie's life, including whirlwind romances, a rise in popularity, her so-called Golden Era of writing and a "personal crisis."

"Unfinished Portrait," airing on PBS Dec. 17, sees Christie emerge "into the most prolific and successful chapter of her career," the PBS release for the finale reads. "[Worsley] follows in the novelist's footsteps to discover the roots of some of her classics, from the luxurious Egyptian steamship that inspired 'Death on the Nile' to Burgh Island, the inspiration for her most successful but most controversial mystery, 'And Then There Were None.'"

While Christie's life and enduring works could easily take up far more than three episodes, Worsley's investigative mind, probing questions and thirst for details set up viewers for a miniseries unlike any other to do with the Queen of Crime.

From BBC Studios' The Documentary Unit, "Agatha Christie: Lucy Worsley on the Mystery Queen" is executive produced by Alexander Leith ("Britain and the Sea") and Kirsty Cunningham ("Ambulance"). The commissioning editor for the BBC is Mark Bell, while Bill Gardner is PBS's executive in charge.

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Horoscopes

The luckiest signs this week:
SCORPIO, SAGITTARIUS AND CAPRICORN

♈

ARIES
With your boss on a well-earned holiday, you have the chance to step up and take their position. This opportunity will have a positive impact on your career. In romance, love cannot grow in the absence of affection.

♉

TAURUS
You may catch people's attention this week. You could even offer a listening ear to someone who needs it. Your generosity will be rewarded with gratitude.

♊

GEMINI
You'll spend lavishly on gifts for those close to you. This generosity will give you great satisfaction. However, a family project will require deep thought.

♋

CANCER
It's important to take time for yourself when faced with professional demands. Don't deprive yourself of moments of relaxation and pleasure with your nearest and dearest. Accept their invitations and take part in interesting activities.

♌

LEO
You'll obtain a large sum of money and be able to treat yourself. Whether you want to buy a property or start a business, you'll finally get the go-ahead to finance the project.

♍

VIRGO
You'll start sending out invitations to various festive events. The positive responses you receive will come as a pleasant surprise. If you're an artist, you'll find the necessary inspiration to create something special and unique.

♎

LIBRA
Your artistic potential will awaken within you. Write down your ideas so you don't forget them and can one day turn them into reality. Otherwise, they could fade into nothingness forever.

♏

SCORPIO
You'll receive numerous invitations to go out, which you'll gladly accept, even if it may sometimes seem exhausting. However, you must rest at some point to recuperate.

♐

SAGITTARIUS
If you want to celebrate Christmas in a special way this year, you must prepare. You don't have a lot of time, but you'll create something that lives up to your expectations. When it comes to love, it's the little things that make a lasting impression.

♑

CAPRICORN
It's time to leave your comfort zone and embark on new adventures. The New Year will allow you to discover new perspectives. You'll start a training course that will give you better opportunities.

♒

AQUARIUS
A special person or situation will touch or move you. Changes you make at work will prove to be beneficial. If you're single, love may surprise you when you least expect it.

♓

PISCES
You'll be easy to work with this week. You're not afraid of tackling office tasks and taking the lead in organizing future events. Nevertheless, family conflicts could upset you.

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"Hollywood Housetlift With Jeff Lewis" - Season 2 (Dec. 6)

In this Freevee series, house flipper, interior designer and radio host, Jeff Lewis, is back for a new season of home renovations for some of Hollywood's brightest stars. With higher stakes, more drama, and even tighter deadlines, Jeff continues to balance his personal life and lean on his team of project managers to bring their all to some of his most demanding transformations yet. Celebrity clients for this season include Anthony Anderson, Cynthia Bailey, Noah Beck, Kate Bosworth, Reggie Bush, Josh Duhamel, Sara Foster, Regina Hall, Christina Ricci and Gina Rodriguez.



"The Jinglebell Jubilee" (Dec. 3)

In this holiday film from Great American Family, A city manager (Marshall Williams) recruits the help of a childhood friend (Erin Agostino) in setting right his town's Christmas Charity event, while she sets to work setting him up with her close friend.

Word Search

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

The Sopranos

ADRIANA	DAVID	JANICE	RALPH
ANGIE	DR MELFI	JOHNNY	RICHIE
ARTIE	FURIO	JUNIOR	RICO
BACALA	GABAGOOL	KAREN	ROSALIE
CARMINE	GINNY	LIVIA	SILVIO
CHARMAINE	GLORIA	MEADOW	TONY
CHRISTOPHER	HBO	NOAH	VITO
CORRADO	HESH	PATSY	WALNUTS
	JACKIE	PHIL	

SOLUTION

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"Blood Coast" - Season 1 (Dec. 6)

A group of policemen with particular methods track down a dangerous criminal in order to prevent Marseille, France, from a bloodbath in this thrilling French action drama. The cast includes Florence Thomassin, Nicolas Duvauchelle, Olivier Barthelemy, Tewfik Jallab, Samir Boitard, Idir Azougli, Jeanne Goursaud and Lani Sogoyou.



"Diary of a Wimpy Kid Christmas: Cabin Fever" (Disney+ — Dec. 7, Season Premiere)

The winter holidays are turning out to be especially stressful for Greg Heffley (Wesley Kimmel) this year. After accidentally damaging someone else's property with his best friend Rowley (Spencer Howell), Greg worries he won't get the gift he so desperately wants for Christmas. To make matters worse, a snowstorm hits the town and the entire family is trapped indoors for days. With Christmas right around the corner, will Greg be able to be on his best behavior?



Q&A: David Hyde Pierce

BY JAY BOBBIN

Q: Why isn't David Hyde Pierce back as Niles in the new version of "Frasier"?

A: The actor reportedly was approached about rejoining title star Kelsey Grammer in the Paramount+ revival, but he reportedly responded that he felt he had done all he could do with the character. However, that doesn't mean Pierce isn't doing any work at all. He's been appearing as Paul Child, husband of legendary chef Julia Child, in the second season of Max's comedy-drama series "Julia"; he also is performing Off-Broadway in the late composer Stephen Sondheim's "Here We Are."

Pierce already was building a solid career for himself on stage and screen when his memorable portrayal of the persnickety Niles Crane on the original "Frasier" suddenly made him a household name. He had played a bookstore co-worker of Amy Irving's character in "Crossing Delancey" (1988), and just before "Frasier" premiered in 1993, he was in "Sleepless in Seattle" with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan. While "Frasier" was in its original run, Pierce also was in the movies "Wolf" (1994), "Nixon" (1995) and "Down With Love" (2003).



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28 29 30 31
32 33 34
35 36 37 38 39 40
41 42 43
44 45 46

What American playwright wrote the 10-play "Pittsburgh Cycle"?

Across

1. Hotshot
4. Do-it-yourself packages
8. High school class, for short
11. Monsoonal
12. Symbol
13. Chat room chuckle
14. "Ahem?"
17. Little League coach, often
18. Band booking
19. Bounced checks, hangnails, etc.
21. Spring
24. "What ___ trying to say is ..."
25. B&O or Reading, in Monopoly, e.g.
26. "___ Grange" (ZZ Top song)
27. Depart
28. Dope
30. To ___ it may concern
32. ___-Man (arcade game)
34. Brightly colored
35. First stretch in college
41. Governor DeSantis
42. Lazarus or Goldman
43. Warriors' grp.
44. "That's ___ ..."
45. Wholly absorbed
46. Operate

Down

6. Very
7. Like a bug in a rug
8. Grammy winner Mary J.
9. Lithium-___ battery
10. Aged
15. Casino city
16. The Galaxy
19. Uncontrolled
20. Jerusalem's Mosque of ___
22. Medea rode on it
23. Event for seniors
29. Turn over
31. Howler
33. "Moonstruck" actress
34. Little biter
35. Big do
36. Stick
37. Ultimate fighting sport, for short
38. Increase, with "up"
39. "The Bachelorette" channel
40. Fink

Solution:

August Wilson

Across

1. Hotshot
4. Do-it-yourself packages
8. High school class, for short
11. Monsoonal
12. Symbol
13. Chat room chuckle
14. "Ahem?"
17. Little League coach, often
18. Band booking
19. Bounced checks, hangnails, etc.
21. Spring
24. "What ___ trying to say is ..."
25. B&O or Reading, in Monopoly, e.g.
26. "___ Grange" (ZZ Top song)
27. Depart
28. Dope
30. To ___ it may concern
32. ___-Man (arcade game)
34. Brightly colored
35. First stretch in college
41. Governor DeSantis
42. Lazarus or Goldman
43. Warriors' grp.
44. "That's ___ ..."
45. Wholly absorbed
46. Operate

Down

6. Very
7. Like a bug in a rug
8. Grammy winner Mary J.
9. Lithium-___ battery
10. Aged
15. Casino city
16. The Galaxy
19. Uncontrolled
20. Jerusalem's Mosque of ___
22. Medea rode on it
23. Event for seniors
29. Turn over
31. Howler
33. "Moonstruck" actress
34. Little biter
35. Big do
36. Stick
37. Ultimate fighting sport, for short
38. Increase, with "up"
39. "The Bachelorette" channel
40. Fink

Solution:

August Wilson

Coming Soon



"The Crown" - Season 6, Part 2 (Netflix — Dec. 14, Mid-season Premiere)

It's the end of an era: Part 2 of "The Crown's" sixth and final season streams on Netflix. This season explores the period leading up to Princess Diana's (Elizabeth Debicki) death, the immediate aftermath, and the long-term ramifications. Also, Queen Elizabeth II (Imelda Staunton) looks toward the future of the monarchy.

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Sudoku

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

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

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SUNDAY EVENING				SP=Spectrum FTC=Farm DTV=DirecTV				MOVIES		SPORTS		KIDS		DECEMBER 3, 2023	
	SP	FTC	DTV	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
WIS	3	10	10	WIS News 10 at 6 (N)	NBC Nightly News (N)	Football Night in America (N) (Live)		(:15) NFL Football Kansas City Chiefs at Green Bay Packers visit the Packers. The clubs first met in Super Bowl 1. (N) (Live)		Marquez Valdes-Scantling and the Chiefs		WIS News 10 at 11 (N)			
WKTC	4	22	63	Chicago P.D. "Signs of Violence"	Heroes	America's Funniest Home Videos (N)		***** The Santa Clause (94) Crewson, Tim Allen.		Judge Reinhold, Wendy		Good Dr "Irresponsible Salad Bar Practices"		* Movie	
WOLO	5	12	25	ABC World News (N)	Heroes	America's Funniest Home Videos (N)		***** The Santa Clause (94) Crewson, Tim Allen.		Judge Reinhold, Wendy		The Great Christmas Light Fight (N)		News (N)	
WACH	6	6	57	(4:25) NFL Football Philadelphia Eagles (N) (Live)	Blue Bloods "Little Fish"	NewsNation Prime (N) (Live)		Krapopolis (N)		The Simpsons (N) (Live)		News (N) (Live)		Gamecock Football (N)	
NWSN	8	172	307	Blue Bloods "Little Fish"	NewsNation Prime (N) (Live)	NewsNation Prime (N) (Live)		NewsNation Prime (N) (Live)		NewsNation Prime (N) (Live)		NewsNation Prime		NewsNation Prime	
WLTX	9	9	19	News 19 at 6pm (N)	CBS News (N)	60 Minutes (N)		Yellowstone "Enemies by Monday" (N)		Yellowstone "Sins of the Father" (N)		Fire Country "Like Old Times"		News 19 at 11pm (N)	
WRJA	11	14		(:05) Doc Martin "Licence to Practice"	NCIS "Fake It 'Til You Make It"	Farewell Doc Martin		Agatha Christie "Cat Among the Pigeons" (N) (P)		The Doo Wop Project				Secrets to Pain-Free Sitting With Esther Gokhale	
WZRB	13	18	47	NCIS "Fake It 'Til You Make It"	NCIS "Trapped"	NCIS "Stranger in a Strange Land"		NCIS "Head Games"		NCIS "Kompromat"				NCIS "Black Sky"	
NICK	16	210	299	(5:00) * A Loud House Chris...	SpongeBob SquarePants	SpongeBob SquarePants		SpongeBob "Ghoul Fools"		Friends		Friends "The One in Vegas"		Friends	
TOON	17	203	296	(5:00) * Charlie and the Chocolate Factory	Miraculous: Ladybug	Miraculous: Ladybug		***** Beauty and the Beast: The Enchanted Christmas (97) Paige O'Hara.		(:40) Molly McGee		(:05) Molly McGee		Big City Greens	
DISNEY	18	200	290	Miraculous: Ladybug	Miraculous: Ladybug	Miraculous: Ladybug		***** Beauty and the Beast: The Enchanted Christmas (97) Paige O'Hara.		(:40) Molly McGee		(:05) Molly McGee		Big City Greens	
FREFRM	20	131	311	(4:30) * Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas	(:10) Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer	Rodeo RodeoHouston: Semifinals I		NASCAR Race Rewind 2022: Daytona 500		Facing Waves		Epic Trails		World Poker Ladies Championship - Part 1 (N)	
BSSE	21	47	649	Sports Stars of Tomorrow Insider	Incredible Animal Journeys "Chasing the African Rain"	Animal Journeys "Home at the End of the Earth"		Incredible Animal Journeys "Polar Parenting" (N)		Incredible Animal Journeys "Frequent Fliers" (N)		Incredible Animal Journeys "Behind the Journey" (N)		Incredible Animal Journeys "Behind the Journey" (N)	
NATGEO	22	113	276	(5:40) ***** Star Wars: The Last Jedi (17) Carrie Fisher, Adam Driver, Mark Hamill.	Elf on the Shelf "Celebrating the Season"	Elf on the Shelf "12 Days of Elf-mas" (N)		Holiday Wars "Christmas Under the Sea" (N)		Holiday Baking "Holiday Whimsy"		Lone Star "In Hot Water"		Lone Star "Stag Poaching"	
TNT	23	158	245	(4:15) * Office Christmas P...	***** A Christmas Story (83) Darren McGavin, Melinda Dillon, Peter Billingsley.	***** A Christmas Story Christmas (22) Erinn Hayes, Olivia Munn, T.J. Miller, Jason Bateman.		***** A Christmas Story Christmas (22) Erinn Hayes, Olivia Munn, T.J. Miller, Jason Bateman.		***** A Christmas Story Christmas (22) Erinn Hayes, Olivia Munn, T.J. Miller, Jason Bateman.		***** A Christmas Story Christmas (22) Erinn Hayes, Olivia Munn, T.J. Miller, Jason Bateman.		***** A Christmas Story Christmas (22) Erinn Hayes, Olivia Munn, T.J. Miller, Jason Bateman.	
TBS	24	156	247	Law-SVU "Scavenger"	Law & Order: SVU "Identity"	Law & Order: SVU "Design"		Law & Order: SVU "911"		Law-SVU "Choreographed"		Law-SVU "Ballerina"		Law-SVU "Ballerina"	
USA	25	132	242	(5:00) Wm. Basketball	Jokers "Urine Trouble"	Imp. Jokers "Bad Karma"		Imp. Jokers "It's Electric"		Jokers "You Dirty Dog"		Imp. Jokers "You Dirty Dog"		Imp. Jokers "You Dirty Dog"	
ESPN	26	35	206	(5:00) Wm. Basketball	Imp. Jokers "Bad Karma"	Imp. Jokers "Bad Karma"		Imp. Jokers "It's Electric"		Jokers "You Dirty Dog"		Imp. Jokers "You Dirty Dog"		Imp. Jokers "You Dirty Dog"	
TRUTV	38	129	246	Jokers "Urine Trouble"	Consult Beaute & Health w	MacKenzie-Childs Home		MacKenzie-Childs Home		MacKenzie-Childs Home		MacKenzie-Childs Home		MacKenzie-Childs Home	
SHOPHQ	30		73	Consult Beaute & Health w	Search Party	Search Party		Uncharted "South Florida"		Uncharted "Puerto Rico"		Uncharted "Utah"		Earth "Beaches"	
TWC	32	24	362	Search Party	Shark Tank	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNBC	35	84	353	Shark Tank	Weekend (N) (Live)	Weekend (N) (Live)		Life, Liberty & Levin (N)		Sunday Night (N)		The Big Weekend Show		Life, Liberty & Levin	
FNC	37	90	360	(5:00) Fox Report (N) (Live)	Home Town "Mississippi Made"	Home Town "What's Good for the Goose"		Home Town (N)		Home Town "Second Chances"		House Hunters (N)		House Hunters	
HGTV	39	112	229	Home Town "Mississippi Made"	Guy's Grocery Games "GGG Call-Outs"	Lone Star Law "Lying Dogs"		Yellowstone Wardens		Yellowstone Wardens (N)		Lone Star "In Hot Water"		Lone Star "Stag Poaching"	
FOOD	40	109	231	Guy's Grocery Games "GGG Call-Outs"	Lone Star Law "Lying Dogs"	Lone Star "In the Crosshairs"		Homestead Rescue "Stormy and Raney in Texas" A couple struggles to keep their homestead afloat. (N)		Homestead Rescue "Drowning"		Homestead Rescue "Drowning"		Homestead Rescue "Drowning"	
ANPL	41	100	282	Lone Star Law "Lying Dogs"	Homestead Rescue "Bridge Over Troubled Water" (N)	Homestead Rescue "Bridge Over Troubled Water" (N)		90 Day Fiancé "To Have and To Hold" (N)		90 Day Fiancé "To Have and To Hold" (N)		Sister Wives (N)		90 Day Fiancé (N)	
DISCV	42	103	278	Homestead Rescue "Bridge Over Troubled Water" (N)	90 Day Fiancé "Do You Take One Another?"	Toys-America "Order Out of Chaos"		Toys-America "Old Games, New Twists"		Toys-America "Happy Accidents" (N)		(:05) The Toys That Built America "Toy Car Wars"		(:05) The Toys That Built America "Brick by Brick"	
TLC	43	157	280	90 Day Fiancé "Do You Take One Another?"	The Toys That Built America "Cabbage Clash"	The First 48 "The Grudge"		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48	
HIST	45	110	269	Toys-America "Order Out of Chaos"	The First 48 "Spree Killer"	***** Elf (03) James Caan, Bob Newhart, Will Ferrell. A man leaves Santa's workshop to search for his family.		***** Four Weddings and a Funeral (94) Andie MacDowell, Kristin Scott Thomas, Hugh Grant.		***** Sense and Sensibility (95) Alan Rickman, Kate Winslet, Emma Thompson.		***** Sense and Sensibility (95) Alan Rickman, Kate Winslet, Emma Thompson.		***** Sense and Sensibility (95) Alan Rickman, Kate Winslet, Emma Thompson.	
A&E	46	130	265	The First 48 "Spree Killer"	***** The Bishop's Wife (47) Loretta Young, David Niven, Cary Grant.	***** Christmas at the Chalet (23) William DeVry, Mila Jones, Teri Hatcher.		***** Christmas at the Chalet (23) William DeVry, Mila Jones, Teri Hatcher.		***** Christmas at the Chalet (23) William DeVry, Mila Jones, Teri Hatcher.		***** Christmas at the Chalet (23) William DeVry, Mila Jones, Teri Hatcher.		***** Christmas at the Chalet (23) William DeVry, Mila Jones, Teri Hatcher.	
AMC	48	180	254	***** The Bishop's Wife (47) Loretta Young, David Niven, Cary Grant.	* Christmas at the Chalet (23) William DeVry, Mila Jones, Teri Hatcher.	* A Not So Royal Christmas (23) Will Kemp, Maria Frankis, Brooke D'Orsay.		***** Toy Story 2 (99) Voices of Tim Allen, Joan Cusack, Tom Hanks. Toys rescue Woody from a collector.		***** Toy Story 3 (10) Voices of Tim Allen, Joan Cusack, Tom Hanks.		***** Toy Story 4 (19) Voices of Tim Allen, Annie Potts, Tom Hanks.		***** Toy Story 4 (19) Voices of Tim Allen, Annie Potts, Tom Hanks.	
TCM	49	186	256	***** Christmas at the Chalet (23) William DeVry, Mila Jones, Teri Hatcher.	* A Not So Royal Christmas (23) Will Kemp, Maria Frankis, Brooke D'Orsay.	***** Toy Story 2 (99) Voices of Tim Allen, Joan Cusack, Tom Hanks. Toys rescue Woody from a collector.		***** Toy Story 3 (10) Voices of Tim Allen, Joan Cusack, Tom Hanks.		***** Toy Story 4 (19) Voices of Tim Allen, Annie Potts, Tom Hanks.		***** Toy Story 4 (19) Voices of Tim Allen, Annie Potts, Tom Hanks.		***** Toy Story 4 (19) Voices of Tim Allen, Annie Potts, Tom Hanks.	
LIFE	50	145	252	* Christmas at the Chalet (23) William DeVry, Mila Jones, Teri Hatcher.	* A Not So Royal Christmas (23) Will Kemp, Maria Frankis, Brooke D'Orsay.	***** Toy Story 2 (99) Voices of Tim Allen, Joan Cusack, Tom Hanks. Toys rescue Woody from a collector.		***** Toy Story 3 (10) Voices of Tim Allen, Joan Cusack, Tom Hanks.		***** Toy Story 4 (19) Voices of Tim Allen, Annie Potts, Tom Hanks.		***** Toy Story 4 (19) Voices of Tim Allen, Annie Potts, Tom Hanks.		***** Toy Story 4 (19) Voices of Tim Allen, Annie Potts, Tom Hanks.	
HALL	52	183	312	* A Not So Royal Christmas (23) Will Kemp, Maria Frankis, Brooke D'Orsay.	***** Toy Story 2 (99) Voices of Tim Allen, Joan Cusack, Tom Hanks. Toys rescue Woody from a collector.	***** Toy Story 3 (10) Voices of Tim Allen, Joan Cusack, Tom Hanks.		***** Toy Story 4 (19) Voices of Tim Allen, Annie Potts, Tom Hanks.		***** Toy Story 4 (19) Voices of Tim Allen, Annie Potts, Tom Hanks.		***** Toy Story 4 (19) Voices of Tim Allen, Annie Potts, Tom Hanks.		***** Toy Story 4 (19) Voices of Tim Allen, Annie Potts, Tom Hanks.	
FX	54	154	248	***** Toy Story 2 (99) Voices of Tim Allen, Joan Cusack, Tom Hanks. Toys rescue Woody from a collector.	Raymond "Raymond"	King "King"		King "King"		King "King"		King "King"		Seinfeld "Seinfeld"	
TVLAND	55	161	304	Raymond "Raymond"	King "King"	King "King"		King "King"		King "King"		King "King"		Seinfeld "Seinfeld"	
EI	56	138	236	King "King"	***** Just Go With It (4:30) ***** Riddick (13) Karl Urban, Vin Diesel.	***** Pitch Perfect (12) Skylar Astin, Rebel Wilson, Anna Kendrick.		***** Just Go With It (4:30) ***** Riddick (13) Karl Urban, Vin Diesel.		***** Just Go With It (4:30) ***** Riddick (13) Karl Urban, Vin Diesel.		***** Just Go With It (4:30) ***** Riddick (13) Karl Urban, Vin Diesel.		***** Just Go With It (4:30) ***** Riddick (13) Karl Urban, Vin Diesel.	
COMEDY	57	136	249	***** Just Go With It (4:30) ***** Riddick (13) Karl Urban, Vin Diesel.	South Park "Cartmanland"	South Park "Cartmanland"		South Park "Spooky Fish"		South Park "Spooky Fish"		South Park "Spooky Fish"		South Park "Spooky Fish"	
SYFY	58	152	244	South Park "Cartmanland"	(:05) ***** Riddick (13) Karl Urban, Vin Diesel.	***** John Wick: Chapter 3 -- Parabellum (19) Halle Berry, Ian McShane, Keanu Reeves.		***** John Wick: Chapter 3 -- Parabellum (19) Halle Berry, Ian McShane, Keanu Reeves.		***** John Wick: Chapter 3 -- Parabellum (19) Halle Berry, Ian McShane, Keanu Reeves.		***** John Wick: Chapter 3 -- Parabellum (19) Halle Berry, Ian McShane, Keanu Reeves.		***** John Wick: Chapter 3 -- Parabellum (19) Halle Berry, Ian McShane, Keanu Reeves.	
BET	61	162	329	(:05) ***** Riddick (13) Karl Urban, Vin Diesel.	***** Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection (12) Tyler Perry.	***** Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection (12) Tyler Perry.		***** Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection (12) Tyler Perry.		***** Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection (12) Tyler Perry.		***** Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection (12) Tyler Perry.		***** Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection (12) Tyler Perry.	
PARMT	64	153	241	***** Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection (12) Tyler Perry.	***** Ocean's Thirteen (07) Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, George Clooney.	***** Ocean's Thirteen (07) Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, George Clooney.		***** Ocean's Thirteen (07) Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, George Clooney.		***** Ocean's Thirteen (07) Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, George Clooney.		***** Ocean's Thirteen (07) Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, George Clooney.		***** Ocean's Thirteen (07) Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, George Clooney.	
LMN	66	185	253	***** Ocean's Thirteen (07) Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, George Clooney.	* Sins in the Family (23) Monique Plante, Meghan Heffern, Natalie Sharp.	* Sins in the Family (23) Monique Plante, Meghan Heffern, Natalie Sharp.		* Sins in the Family (23) Monique Plante, Meghan Heffern, Natalie Sharp.		* Sins in the Family (23) Monique Plante, Meghan Heffern, Natalie Sharp.		* Sins in the Family (23) Monique Plante, Meghan Heffern, Natalie Sharp.		* Sins in the Family (23) Monique Plante, Meghan Heffern, Natalie Sharp.	
GOLF	69	52	218	* Sins in the Family (23) Monique Plante, Meghan Heffern, Natalie Sharp.	(5:30) PGA Tour Golf Hero World Challenge, Final Round From Albany Golf Club in , Nassau, Bahamas.	20/20 on OWN "The Affair"		20/20 on OWN "The Affair"		20/20 on OWN "The Affair"		20/20 on OWN "The Affair"		20/20 on OWN "The Affair"	
OWN	72	104	279	20/20 on OWN "The Affair"	20/20 on OWN "The Affair"	20/20 on OWN "The Affair"		20/20 on OWN "The Affair"		20/20 on OWN "The Affair"		20/20 on OWN "The Affair"		20/20 on OWN "The Affair"	
OXY	76	150	251	20/20 on OWN "The Affair"	Final Moments (N)	Fatal Family Feuds		Evil "We Let Evil In"		Evil "We Let Evil In"		Evil "We Let Evil In"		Evil "We Let Evil In"	
NBATV	308		216	Final Moments (N)	GameTime "Film Room"	NBA TV Marquee Matchup		NBA TV Marquee Matchup		NBA TV Marquee Matchup		NBA TV Marquee Matchup		NBA TV Marquee Matchup	
HBO	511	350	501	GameTime "Film Room"	(5:45) Real, Bill Maher	(4:45) ***** Jurassic World (15) Bryce Dallas Howard, Irrfan Khan, Chris Pratt.		The Gilded Age "Warning Shots" (N)		The Gilded Age "Warning Shots" (N)		The Gilded Age "Warning Shots" (N)		The Gilded Age "Warning Shots" (N)	
MAX	531	370	515	(5:45) Real, Bill Maher	***** Jennifer's Body (09) Amanda Seyfried, Johnny Simmons, Megan Fox.	***** Jennifer's Body (09) Amanda Seyfried, Johnny Simmons, Megan Fox.		***** Jennifer's Body (09) Amanda Seyfried, Johnny Simmons, Megan Fox.		***** Jennifer's Body (09) Amanda Seyfried, Johnny Simmons, Megan Fox.		***** Jennifer's Body (09) Amanda Seyfried, Johnny Simmons, Megan Fox.		***** Jennifer's Body (09) Amanda Seyfried, Johnny Simmons, Megan Fox.	
SHOW	551	300	545	***** Jennifer's Body (09) Amanda Seyfried, Johnny Simmons, Megan Fox.	Mayor of Kingstown "Orion" (N)	Fellow Travelers "Beyond Measure" (N)		Fellow Travelers "Beyond Measure" (N)		Fellow Travelers "Beyond Measure" (N)		Fellow Travelers "Beyond Measure" (N)		Fellow Travelers "Beyond Measure" (N)	
TMC	571	316	553	Mayor of Kingstown "Orion" (N)	***** The Whale (22) Sadie Sink, Hong Chau, Brendan Fraser.	***** The Whale (22) Sadie Sink, Hong Chau, Brendan Fraser.		***** The Whale (22) Sadie Sink, Hong Chau, Brendan Fraser.		***** The Whale (22) Sadie Sink, Hong Chau, Brendan Fraser.		***** The Whale (22) Sadie Sink, Hong Chau, Brendan Fraser.		***** The Whale (22) Sadie Sink, Hong Chau, Brendan Fraser.	
STARZ	581	330	525	***** The Whale (22) Sadie Sink, Hong Chau, Brendan Fraser.	(5:20) ***** Bad Boys for Life (20) Martin Lawrence, Vanessa Hudgens, Will Smith.	(:25) Power Book III: Raising Kanan "Home Sweet Home"		(:25) Shining Vale		***** The Northman (22) Nicole Kidman, Claes Bang, Alexander Skarsgard. (P)		(:20) Power Book III: Raising Kanan "Home Sweet Home"		(:20) Power Book III: Raising Kanan "Home Sweet Home"	



An Oscar-winning Michael Douglas rules “Wall Street”

BY JAY BOBBIN

“Greed is good.”

Certain movie lines stand out in screen history almost immediately, and that credo of financial wizard Gordon Gekko — played by Michael Douglas, in an Oscar-winning performance that immediately broadened others’ perceptions of what he could do — is among the many memorable aspects of “Wall Street,” director Oliver Stone’s glossy and compelling 1987 drama currently streaming on Paramount+.

A morality play in the literal sense, “Wall Street” also is driven by Charlie Sheen as Bud Fox, an ambitious young stockbroker who’s desperate to get into Gekko’s world. He finally gets his shot, but also gets in over his head right away, using a piece of insider information from his airline-laborer father (played by Sheen’s actual dad Martin) to impress Gekko, who makes Fox his legman under highly questionable circumstances.

Excited by his new role and its potential, Fox has no problem enjoying the perks Gekko starts sending his way, including the means for a lavish new apartment and a notably nicer wardrobe. He also acquires a new girlfriend in an interior designer (Daryl Hannah) who knows she owes her career to Gekko, who’s instrumental in sending clients her way. And she also knows the perils of crossing him, a position that Fox eventually finds himself in.

“Wall Street” is a fast-moving feast of the sights and sounds of big business — and also of New York, and some of the locations the film visits aren’t in operation anymore. Still, almost 40 years later, the movie doesn’t feel dated. That could be because its themes are so universal, particularly when economic matters are of such concern to so many people, as they are these days.

The excellent cast also includes Hal Holbrook and John C. McGinley as colleagues of Fox, James Spader as a friend Fox uses to advance his own agenda, and Terence Stamp as a Gekko rival who plays a pivotal role as the fallout between Fox and Gekko deepens. In their own ways, each of those characters (along with Fox’s father) keeps a moral center in “Wall Street” even when the main figures might seem ruthless.

Douglas and Stone revisited much of what “Wall Street” poses in the 2010 sequel “Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps,” but the original movie gets its job done in such an effective way, it still has a fresh feel. Much of that is thanks to the ferocity of Douglas’ work, which opened a new chapter in his career that brought him more parts of complexity and depth. In that way and others, “Wall Street” had its value, and still does as a prime example of thinking-person’s entertainment.

Best Steve McQueen Movies

BY JAY BOBBIN

“The Blob” (1958): It can be argued that the gelatinous title monster is more the star here, but McQueen got top movie billing for the first time in this cult classic.

“The Great Escape” (1963): Jumping a motorcycle over a barbed-wire fence is one of the most famous images of McQueen, and this is the popular war drama it came from.

“The Cincinnati Kid” (1965): An intense poker match between an ambitious upstart (McQueen) and a master of the game (Edward G. Robinson) fuels this fine drama.

“The Thomas Crown Affair” (1968): McQueen’s bid for a more sophisticated image paid off in this classic crime caper, boasting a memorable chess game between Boston’s rich but larcenous Crown and the insurance investigator very closely on his trail (Faye Dunaway).

“Bullitt” (1968): If McQueen hadn’t already been legendary for earlier films, this one would have done it for him. One of the truly iconic police thrillers, the drama casts him as a self-styled San Francisco police detective ... and involves him in one of the greatest car chases ever filmed. Turner Classic Movies shows the picture overnight Tuesday, Dec. 5, into Wednesday, Dec. 6, to help launch a “Cool in the Movies” series.




“Le Mans” (1971): McQueen addressed his passion for auto racing with this drama, which hangs an admittedly thin story on plenty of footage of the legendary French competition.

“The Getaway” (1972): Teaming with Ali MacGraw - and not just on the screen - in this Sam Peckinpah-directed drama, McQueen plays an ex-con who doesn’t waste much time getting back to robbery, encountering a series of double-crossings as he and his wife (MacGraw) flee with the bank loot.

“Papillon” (1973): Incarcerated on Devil’s Island, Henri “Papillon” Charriere (McQueen) plots his escape in this compelling true story that also stars Dustin Hoffman as a fellow convict.

“An Enemy of the People” (1978): Taking one of the most daring chances of his career, McQueen is notable in this adaptation of the Ibsen play about a doctor who fights others over an impending health crisis in his town.

“The Hunter” (1980): McQueen’s final film, based on experiences of true-life bounty hunter Ralph Thorson, offered lots of the star’s wry humor amid the action sequences.



Christmas confections: ‘Elf on the Shelf’ comes to life in new baking competition

BY GEORGE DICKIE

There are all sorts of elves, but only some are talented enough to make cookies for Santa. This all-new series puts confectioners to the test, as “The Elf on the Shelf: Sweet Showdown” continues with new episodes, airing Sundays on Food Network.

Hosted by Duff Goldman (“Holiday Baking Championship”), this five-episode, Christmas-themed series boasts chef Kardea Brown (“Delicious Miss Brown”) and pastry chef Ashley Holt (“Bake Squad”) as judges, rounding out a team of Christmas-loving cooks.

“Santa and his loyal Scout Elves, along with the help of legendary cake master Duff Goldman, will challenge six teams of sweetmakers in a competition full of surprises. Each week, the teams must create edible showpieces that bring the holiday season to life,” a recent news release from Food Network describes — and with two challenges per episode, the season has already produced some crazy confectionary creations.

So far, teams have adopted their own Scout Elves, created personalized and edible shelves for them to enjoy, crafted show-stopping, snow globe showpieces, prepared for “elfie selfies” and tirelessly sewed the sugared seams of some runway-ready elf-fits — and the season’s just begun.

Descriptions given by the network share that upcoming episodes will see more Christmas chaos, with a synopsis

for the season’s third episode describing: “the Scout Elves want to play the 12 Days of Christmas at their elf concert tonight, but they accidentally mixed up all the lyrics! Host Duff Goldman tasks the remaining teams with figuring out their jumbled lyrical prompts and delivering a twisted-up 12 Days of Elfmas showpiece.”

During the fourth, “host Duff Goldman revs up the teams as they create an edible sleigh design that will wow Santa and show off their magical skills. Then, two teams go head-to-head in the Santa Showdown by creating inventive snow forts.”

Finally, the remaining three teams will square off in a super-sized season finale, just before the Scout Elves head back to the North Pole to help Santa prepare for his big night. The flight home is long and cold, but the Elves fly over some of their favorite places on Earth in the meantime, and the remaining bakers pay homage by “elf-ify”-ing a famous landmark in their honor.

After the final round of eliminations, one team — and their very special elf — will earn the ultimate Christmas gift: \$25,000 and the title of The Ambassadors of Confectionery Concoctions.

Sugary sweet and full of Christmas magic, “The Elf on the Shelf: Sweet Showdown” airs an all-new episode Sunday, Dec. 3, on Food Network.





Away from it all: Luxury getaway goes south in ‘Leave the World Behind’

BY JAY BOBBIN

A family’s stay at a luxurious vacation home is unexpectedly extended due to a mysterious apocalypse in the new thriller “Leave the World Behind,” premiering Friday, Dec. 8, on Netflix.

Based on the bestselling 2020 novel of the same name by author Rumaan Alam, the adaptation stars Julia Roberts (“Ticket to Paradise,” 2022) and Ethan Hawke (“Moon Knight”) as married couple Amanda and Clay Sandford, whose family getaway to Long Island is steered far from the rest and relaxation they expected.

After putting off a much-needed break from their busy day-to-day city life, Amanda tells Clay in the official trailer for the film, “I figured if I made the reservation and packed our bags, it would eliminate most of the reasons to say no.” Off they go to a sprawling home near the beach with their two children, teenager Archie (Charlie Evans, “Everything’s Gonna Be Okay”) and their youngest, Rose (Farrah Mackenzie, “United States of Al”).

While Amanda and Clay watch on as their children enjoy the pool and they all begin to settle into their temporary home, the peace and quiet begins feeling eerie. The cable and internet are mysteriously out, but the Sandfords try to make the most of it by pulling out games to pass the time. A knock at the door in the dark of night puts them face to face with two strangers in formal wear.



Mahershala Ali (“Swan Song,” 2021) is G.H. Scott, the owner of the home, he explains to the bewildered couple blocking his doorway. This fateful introduction deepens the uneasiness that’s beginning to build, when Amanda says to G.H. like an accusation, “This is your house?” G.H., joined by his daughter Ruth (Myha’la, “Industry”), face down their guests until they are eventually let into their home.

Widespread blackouts led the Scotts to flee New York City for their Long Island residence, wanting to wait out the outage away from the panic of the city. Relegated to the basement in-law suite by a forcefully skeptical Amanda, the divide between the two families intensifies.

If Amanda is determined not to make any friends in the apocalypse, her efforts are matched only by gruff contractor Danny, portrayed by Kevin Bacon (“City On a Hill”). Holding his shotgun as a warning in the trailer, Danny sternly tells G.H., “I would do anything to protect my family. What you do is your business.” A woman desperately clings to the passenger side door as Clay accelerates away, lost in this unfamiliar beach town, leaving the Sandford and Scott families no choice but to rely on each other for the time being.

All they know for certain is that a countrywide cyberattack has caused sweeping power outages along the East Coast. Confirmed with an unsettling “unrecognized emergency warning” blasting bright blue light from the beach home’s flat-screen TV, G.H.’s hunch that the seemingly unrelated disasters are connected grows.

“Leave the World Behind” is written and directed by “Mr. Robot” creator Sam Esmail, who spoke with The Hollywood Reporter in October about adapting the novel shortly after it was published during the COVID-19 pandemic. Esmail shared, “It was a crazy time, those early days [of the pandemic], and when I read the book what really resonated for me was this idea that in a moment of crisis, just how easily we could forget our common humanity.”

Alam executive produced the film with Tonia Davis (“Rustin,” 2023), Daniel M. Stillman (“Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga,” 2020), Nick Krishnamurthy and Barack and Michelle Obama (“We the People”). Esmail also shared what it’s like to collaborate with the former president and first lady, saying, “They gave notes on everything from the disaster elements to the characters.” The director added, “It’s a highlight of my career that I got to work with the Obamas. They’re some of the most brilliant minds on the planet and I’m really grateful for their involvement.”

Multi-talented musicians: Rush bassist Geddy Lee goes fishing in adventurous special



BY GEORGE DICKIE

Directed by Sam Dunn (“Rush: Beyond the Lighted Stage,” 2010) and written by Daniel Richler (“How Do They Do It?”), this four-part docuseries questions just how wide-ranging talent can be. “Geddy Lee Asks: Are Bass Players Human Too?” debuts Tuesday, Dec. 5, streaming on Paramount+.

Vocalist, bassist and keyboard player for the Hall of Fame Canadian rock group Rush, Geddy Lee has long proved his talents on stage. But, after decades of performing, the musician is looking to prove that he — and other musicians like him — are far more multifaceted than fans and concert-goers may initially assume.

Traveling to visit the homes of some renowned bass players — Nirvana bassist Krist Novoselic, Metallica’s Rob Trujillo, Les Claypool (Primus) and Melissa Auf der Maur (Smashing Pumpkins) — Lee, according to Paramount, “digs into the stories that make these musicians stand out,” all the while testing out some new hobbies, as a trailer for the series shows Lee cooking with Novoselic, surfing with Trujillo, hiking with Auf Der Maur and fishing with Claypool.

Of course, it’s not all exploration. During each visit, Lee also spends some time making music with his guests.

“The idea for this show was born

out of interviews I did for my first book, ‘The Big, Beautiful Book of Bass,’” Lee said. “I was struck that these accomplished musicians also lived incredibly interesting, multifaceted lives offstage. Who knew bass players were so effin’ human?”

Even more fitting, the series will be released alongside Lee’s recently debuted memoir, “My Effin’ Life,” which was released Nov. 14.

“As one of the most successful Canadian music groups in history, Rush has performed before millions of fans around the world. Ranked by Rolling Stone [as one of] the top 10 bassists of all-time, Rush’s energetic frontman has long been acclaimed for his wizard-like musical talent and mesmerizing performances,” Paramount proudly states.

But now it’s time to see what else Lee can do.

Produced by Banger Films and MTV Entertainment Studios, the project was overseen by executive producers Scot McFadyen (“Iron Maiden: Flight 666,” 2009), Rick Krim (“Rock N’ Roll Fantasy Camp”), Bruce Gillmer (“I Wanna Rock: The 80s Metal Dream,” 2023), Amanda Culkowski (“Hustle & Soul”) and Dunn himself.

“Geddy Lee Asks: Are Bass Players Human Too?” debuts Tuesday, Dec. 5, on Paramount+.

View from the Couch

BY JAY BOBBIN



“INDIANA JONES AND THE DIAL OF DESTINY”

Harrison Ford returned for a fifth and final round as the archaeologist and adventurer in this enjoyable, nostalgia-inducing caper, on which franchise originators George Lucas and Steven Spielberg served as executive producers. After a clever prologue that “de-ages” Ford to play an Indy still in his prime, the plot moves forward 25 years to the late 1960s, when Jones teams with his goddaughter (played by Phoebe Waller-Bridge) on a mission to retrieve an artifact that reputedly can facilitate time travel. They have a

rival in an astrophysicist (Mads Mikkelsen) who has his own agenda for the item, and the result is a race across time in more ways than one. John Rhys-Davies reprises his role as Sallah, and he’s not the only familiar co-star to resurface from earlier chapters of the series; Antonio Banderas, Toby Jones, Boyd Holbrook and Shaunette Renee Wilson (“The Resident”) also appear for director and co-writer James Mangold (“Walk the Line”). DVD extras: “making-of” documentary; isolated music-score track. *** (PG-13: AS, P, V) [Also on Blu-ray, 4K Ultra HD, Digital and On Demand]

“TITANIC”

One of the most successful movies of all time comes to the 4K Ultra HD format, with Leobardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet starring for writer-director James Cameron as Jack and Rose, two passengers aboard the ill-fated title ship on its first and ultimately last voyage. Smitten with each other, they come from very different stations in life, but they’re very much on the same playing field when the ocean liner hits an iceberg, resulting in one of the most legendary of all disasters. Contemporary sequences that bookend what amounts to a lengthy flashback feature Bill Paxton, Suzy Amis (who later became Cameron’s wife) and veteran actress Gloria Stuart;

other performers seen standing on the Titanic re-creation include Billy Zane, Kathy Bates, Frances Fisher, Victor Garber, David Warner, Eric Braeden (“The Young and the Restless”) and Danny Nucci. The winner of 11 Oscars including best picture, the 1997 film picked up one of those awards for the Celine Dion-performed song “My Heart Will Go On.” **** (PG-13: AS, P, V)

“THE KILL ROOM”

A hit man (played by Joe Manganiello) becomes a surprising sensation in the art world in this comedy-thriller, with the paintings he conceives representing actual murders. His underworld patron (Samuel L. Jackson) is quite content with the arrangement, particularly for the high prices that the paintings command — though they’re meant to be coveted and not sold — but the involvement of a gallery owner (Uma Thurman) and her staff ultimately complicates things. Though Jackson and Thurman both were in the cast of “Pulp Fiction,” this marks the first time they share a scene together; Thurman’s daughter, Maya Hawke, and Debi Mazar also appear. *** (R: AS, P, V) [Also on Blu-ray, 4K Ultra HD, Digital and On Demand]

“THE COLOR PURPLE”

With a movie version of the

stage musical about to arrive in theaters, the original, Steven Spielberg-directed 1985 screen edition of Alice Walker’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel makes its 4K Ultra HD debut ... arriving in time to help close out the 100th-anniversary year of its studio, Warner Bros. Among other reasons, the film is notable for the milestone it was for two of its performers, Whoopi Goldberg and (in her first movie) Oprah Winfrey. They play women who endured all sorts of challenges, encompassing extremely strained family ties and considerable physical and emotional abuse, while living in the early-20th-century South. Both women earned Oscar nominations among the total of 11 that the film received, and Goldberg won a Golden Globe award for it. Danny Glover, Margaret Avery, Akosua Busia, Adolph Caesar, Rae Dawn Chong and Laurence Fishburne also star in the intense drama, which features a music score by Quincy Jones. **** (PG-13: AS, P, V)

“THE ODD COUPLE: THE COMPLETE SERIES”

One of television’s classic sitcoms gets a new Blu-ray release, with Tony Randall and Jack Klugman as Felix and Oscar, the mismatched New York roommates who initially fueled the hit play by Neil Simon.

Slovenly Oscar (Klugman) takes in persnickety Felix (Randall) after the latter’s wife throws him out — as the series’ opening famously explains — and there were enough ways for the men to get on each other’s nerves for the show to last five seasons. TV-comedy icon Garry Marshall (whose sister Penny was a cast member here) developed and executive-produced this weekly version; Randall (who won a Primetime Emmy Award for it) and Klugman (who earned two) also did the “Odd Couple” play together a number of times and reunited for a 1993 TV-movie sequel. *** (Not rated: AS)

Coming Home Soon

- “THE MANDALORIAN: THE COMPLETE SEASONS ONE AND TWO” (DEC. 12)**
- “DUMB MONEY” (DEC. 12)**
- “PAW PATROL: THE MIGHTY MOVIE” (DEC. 12)**
- “TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: MUTANT MAYHEM” (DEC. 12)**
- “JFK” (4K ULTRA HD) (DEC. 19)**

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