

## Some say business license ordinance is unfair

City's change could hinder those with criminal convictions from owning business; no Sumterite has been denied

BY BRYN EDDY  
bryn@theitem.com

Sumter thrift shop owner James Jackson spent a day and a half in jail 19 years ago for selling copyright CDs.

"And that's all it took for me to learn," he said.

Despite the brevity of his jail time, Jackson used the word "haunt" to describe the way in which that nearly two-decade-old conviction follows him.

"I thought I was going to be one of them Black men that make it all the way through," he said. "Then I turned 40 and got a whole convicted felony."

People with criminal convictions struggle to find work, rent apartments, and some lose the right to vote.

These are only a few of the obstacles people face post-jail or prison time. There are also social and familial consequences that follow them for a lifetime.

And throughout many municipalities, including in the City of Sumter and in Sumter County, a criminal conviction could keep someone from having a business license.

Earlier reporting from *The Sumter Item* details the City of Sumter and Sumter County evaluating their business license ordinances in the latter half of 2023, and the city passed an amendment to it and the county

SEE **LICENSES**, PAGE A11

## U.S. economy grew at a strong 3.3% pace in last quarter

BY PAUL WISEMAN  
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The nation's economy grew at an unexpectedly brisk 3.3% annual pace from October through December as Americans showed a continued willingness to spend freely despite high interest rates and price levels that have frustrated many households.

Thursday's report from the Commerce Department said the gross domestic product — the economy's total output of goods and services — decelerated from its sizzling 4.9% growth rate the previous quarter. But the latest figures still reflected the surprising durability of the world's largest economy, which U.S. voters are assessing ahead of the November elections.

The latest data marked the sixth-straight quarter in which GDP has grown at an annual pace of 2% or more. Consumers, who account for about 70% of the total economy, drove the growth. Their spending expanded at a 2.8% annual rate, for items ranging from clothing, furniture, recreational vehicles and other goods to services like hotels and restaurant meals.

SEE **ECONOMY**, PAGE A11



Listeners to California Gov. Gavin Newsom and U.S. Rep. Dean Phillips of Minnesota hold signs during the event at Morris College on Thursday.

## State, national Democratic figures encourage Morris College students and Sumterites to vote in primary



PHOTOS BY ADAM FLASH / THE SUMTER ITEM

California Gov. Gavin Newsom walks around the auditorium of Morris College speaking to members of the audience. He and Rep. Dean Phillips of Minnesota, who is on the Democratic primary ballot for president, visited the college to encourage people to vote in the primary on Saturday, Feb. 3.

### California governor and Democratic presidential candidate speak to crowd at event on Thursday

BY BRYN EDDY  
bryn@theitem.com

Morris College students and Sumter locals heard from multiple state and national Democratic figures Thursday morning.

Democratic National Committee Chairman Jaime Harrison, Chairwoman of the South Carolina Democratic Party Christale Spain, Democratic presidential candidate Dean Phillips and California Gov. Gavin Newsom spoke in Morris College's Neal-Jones Auditorium for a South Carolina Democratic Party First in the Nation event, a part of the We Go First Tour.

Sumter County Council Chairman Jim McCain, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Sumter James B. Blasingame and Morris College President Leroy Staggers also addressed the audience, voicing their love for Morris College and Sumterites.

This event came ahead of the Democratic primary on Feb. 3, so each speaker encouraged Morris College students to get out and vote.

Harrison spoke of Black Americans having been "voiceless and voteless" throughout history.



California Gov. Gavin Newsom, left, and U.S. Rep. Dean Phillips of Minnesota speak to each other at Morris College on Thursday morning during their visit to promote voting in the Democratic primary in February.

"When you think about history and tradition, when you think about the heart and the backbone of the Democratic Party, if there are any folks who deserve to go from the back of the bus to driving the damn bus, it is the Black folks here in South Carolina," he said.

Spain echoed much the same sentiment, telling students that their vote matters.

U.S. Rep. Phillips, who represents Minnesota and is running for president, told the audience

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#### STILL MORE RAIN

Cloudy with a few showers today; cloudy and warm with a little rain tonight

HIGH 76, LOW 62

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# SECOND FRONT

Call: (803) 774-1226 | E-mail: [pressrelease@theitem.com](mailto:pressrelease@theitem.com)

## Summerton welcomes new town administrator from North Carolina

BY ASHLEY MILLER  
[ashley@theitem.com](mailto:ashley@theitem.com)

The Town of Summerton has welcomed a new town administrator, as the former administrator leaves next month.

Kenneth Geathers moved from Hickory, North Carolina, to Clarendon County recently and has more than 15 years of experience in local government administration. He officially started with the Town of Summerton on Jan. 16.

"I have served as a town planner, director of public works and was a town manager for roughly 11 years, all positions held in North Carolina," he said.

He received his undergraduate degree in political science/government from North Carolina Central University and completed his graduate work in public administration at UNC Charlotte. He is also a graduate of the UNC School of Government's Municipal and County Administra-

tion Course and has been an IC-MA-credentialed manager since 2016. Geathers is the father of two young adult sons, Jamar and Darius Witherspoon.



GEATHERS

"I chose the Town of Summerton because I felt my background in general management, land-use development and utilities management would be a value of the community," he said.

He said his primary goal in this new role is to ensure the town government is responsive to the needs of its residents and provides efficient, effective and ethical service.

Outside of government and public administration, Geathers enjoys watching football, playing basketball, swimming, riding motorcycles, weightlifting and exercise.

"I look forward to doing my best and working towards implementing the council's vision for their community," Geathers said.

## City will collect junk piles into next week

### STAFF REPORT

The City of Sumter announced Thursday afternoon on its Facebook page the city is extending its contract with the third party hired to collect items across the city for the one-time junk removal program that began Monday.

"Due to the high volume of participation, the City of Sumter is extending our contract with the removal

company to ensure that the junk piles are collected into next week. Please be patient and leave your items by the curb," the city posted.

The post also told residents who hadn't put their piles of junk out for collection by last Sunday not to place new items by the roadside for collection, as they may not be picked up.

For more information on the one-time service, visit [keepsumterclean.com](http://keepsumterclean.com).

## Shutts named Sumter Christian School Teacher of the Year for 2023-24

### SUBMITTED

Autumn Shutts has been selected as Sumter Christian Teacher of the Year for the 2023-24 school year. Shutts received her Bachelor of Science degree from The Crown College in Powell, Tennessee. She taught kindergarten in West Virginia for seven years before moving to South Carolina and has been teaching kindergarten at Sumter Christian since August 2022. She also assists in the aftercare program at the school. In 2018, she received the Certificate of Recognition for Dedication and Excellence at Lewisburg Baptist Academy in West Virginia.

Shutts, the daughter of Hallam and Lisa Shutts, is from Mattoon, Illinois. Her hobbies include reading, traveling and spending time with her family and her dog, Toby Winston. She is a faithful member of Sumter Bible Church, the founding church of Sumter Christian School. When asked what she likes best about teaching, she replied, "It is an exciting way to make a difference in a child's life. There is nothing more joyful than seeing the excitement in a child's eyes as he understands a new concept or reads his first word."

When asked about her philosophy of education, Shutts responded, "I believe education should be more than just simply teaching facts, though that certainly is important and should be a priority; however, I believe that the goal of education is to prepare students for their future. As teachers, we are helping

children build a foundation for their lives and their futures as well."

When colleagues were asked to offer comments about Shutts, the responses included: "Autumn has been a great addition to our school. She is very committed to helping her students be successful learners." Another teacher



SHUTTS

said, "I especially enjoy watching her class perform during chapel time. Her diligent work as a teacher is evident in the students' presentations of verses,

poems, and songs. She is a wonderful asset to our SCS team." Another colleague writes, "Autumn is a gracious and kind person to work with. My daughter is blessed to have such a patient and talented teacher for kindergarten. She not only teaches them the academic areas, but she also teaches them how to be gracious, kind, patient, considerate of others, and how to love God and His Word."

"Autumn Shutts is an exemplary kindergarten teacher," said SCS Principal Matthew Marritt. "Her careful attention to academic instruction and organization in her classroom is a model to her peers. Her gentle and calm spirit within the classroom communicates an atmosphere of kindness and orderliness. Additionally, she demonstrates Christ's love each day through her communication and actions towards her students, their families, and her peers."

## McMaster blasts labor unions, touts economic growth in speech

COLUMBIA (AP) — The Republican governor of South Carolina took a shot at unions in his State of the State address Wednesday, warning that recent economic growth will be undone if labor organizers make inroads in cornerstone industries across the region.

The conservative state has the nation's lowest rate of union membership, despite the U.S. Labor Department recording a 40% uptick in South Carolina union counts last year. Gov. Henry McMaster's heightened attacks come two weeks after the U.S. Supreme Court punted its decision to hear a yearslong dispute between the State Ports Authority and the International Longshoremen's Association, or ILA.

The "pro-union policies" of President Joe Biden won't "chip away" at his state's "sovereign interests," McMaster added.

"We will fight. All the way to the gates of hell. And we will win this battle," McMaster vowed in his annual

speech to much applause.

The state has been locked in a fight with the dockworkers' union about who will operate cranes at a \$1 billion container terminal in Charleston since its opening nearly three years ago. McMaster emphasized the state's belief that the ILA employed strong-arm tactics it's not allowed to use when it sued and boycotted shipping containers. A U.S. Court of Appeals recently ruled in the union's favor, but McMaster expressed confidence that the nation's highest court would take the case.

Democrats responded that one-party rule has made government unaccountable. The state legislature's Republican majorities are so strong that elected officials now see "infighting" and "emphasis on highly inflammatory issues debated for purely political reasons," according to Democratic Rep. Roger Kirby, the assistant minority leader.

Kirby delivered the official response, which focused on



South Carolina Senate President Thomas Alexander, R-Walhalla, center left, shakes the hand of Gov. Henry McMaster before McMaster gives his State of the State address Wednesday, Jan. 24, in Columbia.

inequality. He said lawmakers should be addressing the state's poor rankings in health care, education and crime through Democratic priorities including affordable childcare and expanded Medicaid coverage. The governor's recent decision to forego summer food benefits through a newly permanent federal program also

came under fire.

"I implore all South Carolinians to stand against the politics of division and to demand that we return to a system which encourages debate, seeks compromise and emphasizes policies to address our critical needs, not to acquiesce to the outside interests far removed from South

Carolina," said Kirby, who represents a rural area like those lost by his party in recent state elections.

The evening's pomp and circumstance featured an otherwise rosy forecast of the state's shape. McMaster extolled the second-consecutive record budget surplus — \$1.64 billion, boosted partly by pandemic-era federal aid. He celebrated the state's nation-leading population growth last year.

The governor also trumpeted more than \$9 billion in capital investments.

In attendance was Scout Motors President Scott Keogh, who leads a Volkswagen-backed brand that is establishing a \$2 billion plant for its electric trucks near the state capital.

The announcement last year underscored McMaster's commitment to the electric vehicle and battery manufacturing industry, with major names such as BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Volvo also setting up shop in the state.

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**NOW STREAMING ON INSTAGRAM, YOUTUBE AND FACEBOOK**

Monday, Sept. 18, 2023, was normal — great even. South Carolina Highway Patrol Lance Cpl. Zachary Rickard and his partner were riding two abreast when the pair noticed a car ahead of them, speeding. "I turned on my blue lights to pursue the car, and while trying to do that, [the] car turned in front of me, and a collision was caused," Rickard said. That collision, which resulted in a nearly 360-degree laceration to his leg, led Rickard to spend roughly 10 weeks away from home.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GdkQcXri25w>




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# Trump racks up endorsements from Republicans in Congress as any resistance that once existed fades

BY LISA MASCARO and JILL COLVIN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Long before Donald Trump announced his campaign to retake the White House, he launched a quieter campaign to rack up Republican endorsements.

In early 2021, after Trump lost to Democrat Joe Biden and inspired a mob of supporters to attack the Capitol trying to overturn the 2020 election, the defeated president started laying the groundwork for the support in Congress he would need for a return.

With lavish three-hour dinners hosted at his private clubs, telephone town-hall fundraisers, rides on his private jet and endorsements of his own up and down the ballot, Trump schmoozed and strategized and wined-and-dined his way to the GOP lawmakers' support.

By the time of the first 2024 caucus in Iowa this month, Trump had secured endorsements from 120 House Republicans and nearly half the Republicans in the Senate. On Wednesday, after Trump won the New Hampshire primary, the number of endorsements climbed even higher, with a solid majority of Republicans in both chambers of Congress.

"It's past time for the Republican Party to unite around President Trump," said Speaker Mike Johnson, setting the tone after Trump's New Hampshire victory.

It's a remarkable turnaround for Trump, whose campaign is being powered not only by loyal voters, but also by elected Republicans in Congress. And those lawmakers appear unwilling or unable to stop his rise, almost ensuring Trump has no institutional roadblocks to the eventual party nomination and a potential return to power.

Trump himself marveled at those standing behind him on election night in New Hampshire, where he was trying to drive his remaining rival, Nikki Haley, out of the race with a show of endorsements from her home state of South Carolina. He singled out Sen. Tim Scott, suggesting he "must really hate" Haley, the

state's former governor.

The senator, once a Republican presidential candidate himself, stepped up to correct Trump, gushing: "I just love you."

The race for endorsements, years in the making, has been painstakingly orchestrated as a way to bring a certain official Washington legitimacy to Trump, who was twice impeached by the House, including for the insurrection at the Capitol. Trump now faces federal charges of defrauding voters in the run-up to the Capitol attack, among dozens of other charges in several different court cases.

Once facing pockets of resistance in Congress, Trump has essentially won over all segments of the Republican Party on Capitol Hill — the House GOP leadership team, including Whip Tom Emmer, who had voted to certify Biden's election, to the chairman of the hard-right House Freedom Caucus, Rep. Bob Good of Virginia, who quickly switched sides last week when Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis suspended his presidential campaign.

The Republicans in the Senate, who have provided a stable of Trump skeptics, some more vocal than others, are also falling in line, save for a few. Trump is even picking up backing from a New York lawmaker in a House district that Biden won last time, with more swing-district Republicans expected to join.

What becomes glaring now are the hold-outs, most notably Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, and a few top Republican senators, who appear deeply wary of Trump's return and have yet to give him the nod.

"I don't have any announcement to make on the presidential election, in fact, you all may recall I've stayed essentially out of it," said McConnell ahead of New Hampshire. He had issued a scathing indictment of Trump in 2021, blaming the defeated president for the Capitol attack, but voted to acquit him during the Senate impeachment trial.

While McConnell has signaled he would support the eventual Republican nominee, the same comment the second-ranking Republican Sen. John Thune of South Dakota

made Wednesday to reporters at the Capitol, that's usually not good enough for Trump.

For Trump, a supportive nod is not sufficient. He wants a full-throated endorsement.

The "Big E," as some have said he calls it.

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, a key Trump ally, said it's a moment of "true change" for the GOP. Any Republican who isn't willing to adapt to his policies, "we are completely eradicating from the party."

"It's true!" she wrote later on social media, posting her interview remarks.

So far, Trump has received endorsements from 30 of the Republican senators and some 120 Republican members of the House — far and away beyond those for Haley or even DeSantis, a former congressman who suspended his campaign after a disappointing finish in Iowa. He later endorsed Trump.

Experts have warned that democracies that face threats like Trump's attempt to overturn the 2020 election have a better chance at survival when the political parties stand up for the results of free and fair elections — rather than fuel false conspiracy theories of fraud, as Trump and allies in Congress, have done.

That's not happening, as Trump keeps collecting endorsements on his march to the GOP nomination.

"People want to get behind the nominee," lamented Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, the only senator who voted to convict Trump on both impeachments, including on the charge of inciting the insurrection at the Capitol.

"Just like four years ago and four years before that — people say pretty strong things," Romney said. "And then when he becomes a nominee, they just kiss the ring, as Donald Trump has said."

And you?

"Oh, I'm not going to be doing that," Romney said.

Trump's team says winning over the holdouts has been easier than one might think, insisting there are no pressure campaigns, sticks to go with the carrots that Trump uses to court lawmakers over phone calls and long dinners at his Mar-a-Lago and Bedminster clubs.

In fact, Republican Sen. Ted Cruz and Sen. Josh Hawley, who helped lead Trump's effort to overturn the 2020 election but had yet to endorse, faced Trump's warning on social media to be "very careful" of their own political campaigns. Hawley endorsed soon thereafter.

Cruz told AP that while he and Trump "beat the living daylight" out of each other in the 2016 race — when Trump savaged the senator's wife and family with verbal assaults — he made his way to Trump Tower afterward, becoming Trump's "strongest" Senate ally.

"And if he's reelected in November, and I hope he is, I will again be Donald Trump's strongest ally in the Senate," Cruz said.

At times, the lawmakers are not speaking directly to Trump but his team working on the endorsements, led by former White House Political Director, Brian Jack, who remains his top liaison to Capitol Hill.

Jack, now a senior adviser

to the campaign, said securing the endorsements has been "not hard at all, given the hundreds and hundreds of hours President Trump has invested in relationship development and the deep connections he maintains across the party."

One longtime Trump backer, GOP Sen. Cynthia Lummis of Wyoming, said after making her endorsement in time for Iowa she expects to meet with Trump within 30 days to talk about her priorities in her state.

To those who are still holding out, Rep. Byron Donalds, R-Fla, told the AP at Trump's victory party in Nashua it's "not about the train leaving the station or one of those political cliches everybody likes to use. It's about having a united Republican Party and winning back the White House in 2024."

Rep. William Timmons was among the South Carolina lawmakers that Trump's campaign brought to New Hampshire to appear at a rally in a display of force.

South Carolina's primary is next month, and Timmons said he was working to win over Republican colleagues, "putting the hard press" on those who had previously backed Scott.

His message to those who have yet to endorse Trump: "Come on in. The water's fine," he said.

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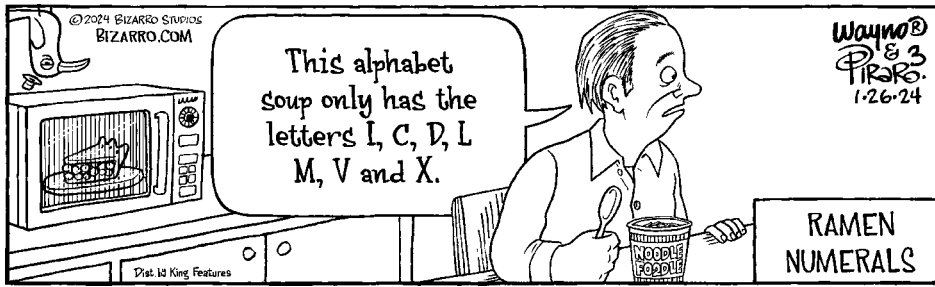


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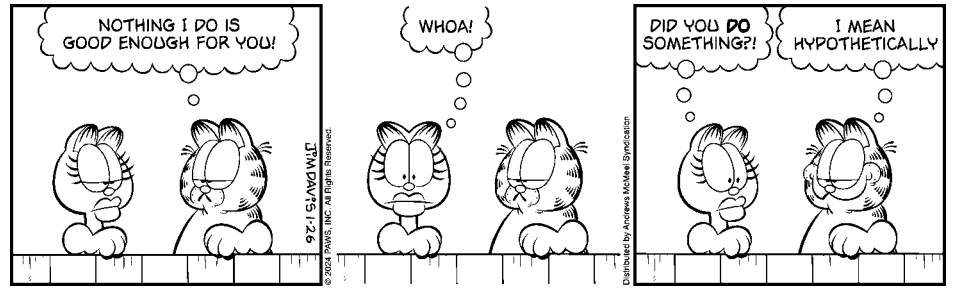
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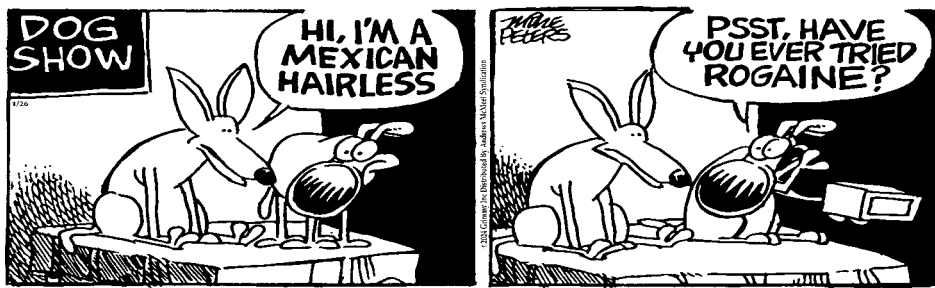
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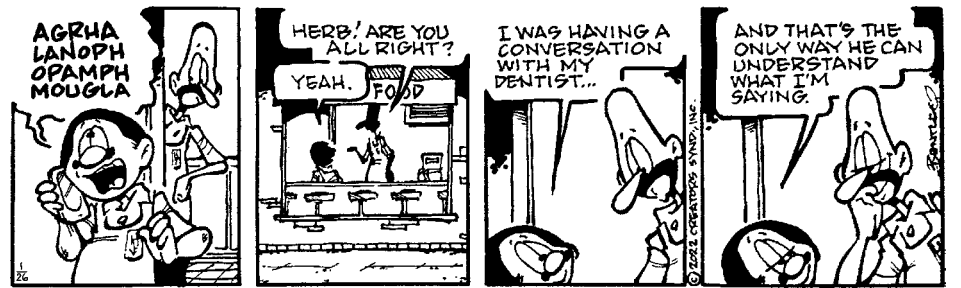
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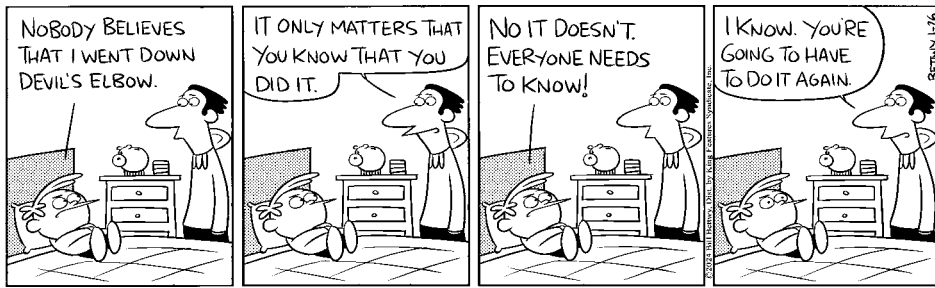
**MOTHER GOOSE**



**HERB AND JAMAAL**



**TAKE IT FROM THE TINKERSONS**



**JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE**



*Stepmom is sickened by her stepson's crimes*



**Dear Abby**  
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

**DEAR ABBY** — My 30-year-old stepson, "David," is a convicted sex offender, currently serving a 15-year sentence for possession of child pornography and having inappropriate conversations with a preteen that almost went further. This was his third arrest for the same thing. David is also mildly autistic. I am beside myself. Because of David's autism, his family looks the other way about his crimes. They all send him money, call him, buy him things, etc. I have kids of my own, and, frankly,

the whole situation makes me want to vomit. I hide how I feel and try to be there for my husband because he loves his son, and it pains him to see David in prison. He also has been wonderful to my kids and raised them like his own. I'm dreading what is going to happen when David is out of prison. He has nowhere to go, and I know he's going to want to live with us. I am 1,000% against this, and I truly believe it could happen again. My kids will be adults soon and away at college when he's released, so I can't use that as an excuse for him not to live with us. I also don't want my home address on the sex offender registry. The street where I live is full of children. What can I do? I don't want to lose my hus-

band over this. I love him with all my heart, which is why I can't tell him how I feel. Every time David speaks with his dad, he tells him he wishes he were home with him. Please help! *Stepmom who's dreading it*

**DEAR STEPMOM** — It is time to have an honest talk with your husband about this. When a sex offender is released from prison, there are stipulations in place. One of them is being forbidden to live close to young, vulnerable children. Because your street is populated with them, David may not be ABLE to live with you. This is something you and your husband need to be communicating about as David's release draws nearer, because it will have an impact on your lives.

**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.

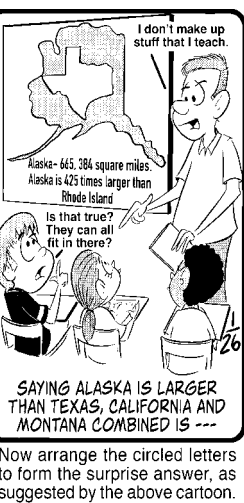
LECRI

ALTOG

TFNATE

SUAENA

"



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

(Answers tomorrow)  
Yesterday's Jumbles: KHAKI BEGAN SCRIPT ROOKIE  
Answer: After losing the first game, the bowling team was now — STRIKING BACK

**SUDOKU**

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

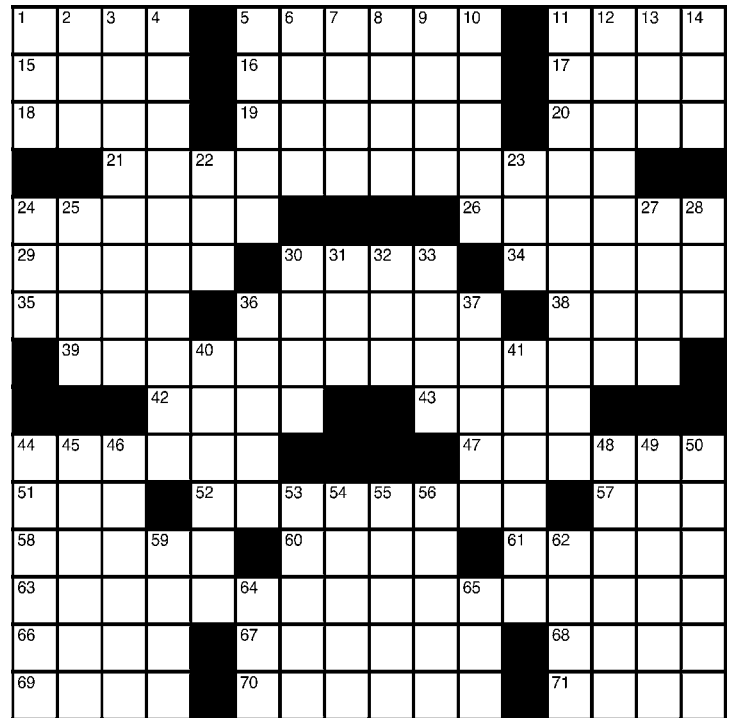
PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

**THE DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE**



Luke K. Schreiber

1/26/24

- ACROSS**
- 1 Moussaka ingredient
  - 5 Harmonious church groups
  - 11 Parachute necessity
  - 15 Cookie with a Java Chip flavor
  - 16 Solitary sort
  - 17 Mind
  - 18 Wolverine, for one
  - 19 Esoteric information
  - 20 A few
  - 21 EMIT?
  - 24 Not quite aligned
  - 26 Inventor who said, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work"
  - 29 Slugger Judge who was AP Athlete of the Year in 2022
  - 30 Ankle-length attire
  - 34 Mouthwash brand
  - 35 Feudal estate
  - 36 Selena or Selena Gomez
  - 38 Katniss Everdeen, to fans
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- |        |             |         |      |
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| AP     | SE          | RETAR   | CZAR |
| MANX   | ASAMI       | HALO    |      |
| PLOT   | FARAD       | ANTE    |      |
|        | BEEF        | UPJERRY |      |
|        | NFL         | SUR     |      |
|        | BUTTER      | UPBEANS |      |
| LEN    | SORRY       | UKR     |      |
| ACRES  | ADO         | PLAYA   |      |
| SOUP   | UPDUMPLINGS |         |      |
| IMLATE | BADCOP      |         |      |
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|        | FAREH       | IKES    |      |
| IOWA   | IRANI       | EDEN    |      |
| QUIZ   | FINED       | EAVE    |      |
| SITE   | YEARS       | KNEW    |      |

# Dark places...

**B**ack in seminary, I made a visit to Mammoth Cave in Kentucky. My reasons for making the trip were not pure. A cute girl was going, and I thought I might have an opportunity to get to know her.

Mammoth Cave is the largest known cave system in the world, with over 426 miles of the system mapped. I had never been in a cave before, but how scary could it be?

It was scarier than I thought. We were with a guide who led us through Grand Avenue, Frozen Niagara and Fat Man's Misery. I was much thinner then, but Fat Man's Misery was indeed miserable. I am not claustrophobic, but I was beginning to feel closed in.

We were in one of the larger rooms of the cave when the ranger guiding us told us she was going to turn out the lights. Big deal, I thought. I wasn't scared of the dark. Besides, this was the opportunity I had hoped for. Maybe the

cute girl would be scared and grab my hand. The lights went out. I have never been in such darkness. My eyes tried to adjust to the darkness to let the light in, but there was no light to let in. Whatever black is beyond



**The Rev. Dr. Clay Smith**

pitch black, that's how black it was. Maybe you have been in such a place. Maybe it was a literal cave, or maybe it was a stage of life or a crisis. I remember dark places when a girl I truly cared about broke up with me. There was a dark place when I came very close to being fired from a church I pastored. After a professor ridiculed me in front of a Ph.D. seminar, I walked out into the sunshine with my soul in darkness. The days my sister and brother told me they had cancer were days of darkness.

Everyone, I think, has his or her own story of a dark place. Adults who were abused as children carry that darkness.

The man or woman who never wanted a divorce finds themselves walking out of court in a dark place. The day you get fired is surely a dark day.

We create some darkness ourselves. Addicts pile up in dark places. They have sworn for the thousandth time they will not go back to their addiction, but they relapse. The shame and guilt lead them back to the darkness of believing they are unworthy, unlovable and powerless. Other people cross a boundary and think no one will ever know. Then the secret comes out. Maybe for the first time, they realize their choices impact others and damage themselves.

If you do what I do, you see dark come upon people when they least expect it. I've been with the family when the Dad was told by the doctor that the tumor is inoperable. I've had to wake the woman who doesn't know she is a widow, but her husband has died in the night and is still lying beside her. I've stood beside the hospital bed of people in intense pain and had them ask me, "Pastor, when will this pain end?" That is a question from a dark place.

The dark places of the soul have a claustrophobic effect on the soul. Your flaws and miseries are magnified. You long for escape. People numb themselves in dark places so they

do not feel. Suicide looks attractive in the dark; it seems like an easy way to end the pain.

What I remember in that darkness of that cave was a hand touching my arm, then making its way down to my hand. The other hand grasped my hand, longing for a connection, longing to know that someone was there.

There is a story in the gospels of Jesus reaching out his hand to a man who knew about the dark places. He was a leper, cut off from family, community and faith. His life was a dark place. But Jesus reached out his hand to say, "I am not afraid of your darkness. I will come to you and heal you and give you hope."

This is the great love of God — he reaches out to us. Our darkness does not frighten him. The blood of Jesus has covered over every darkness, and the resurrection of Jesus brings us

light in our darkness.

That day, in Mammoth Cave, as the unknown hand held mine in the dark, I hoped it was the hand of the cute girl. Then, the ranger told us she was turning the lights back on. I blinked hard, and once more, I was in the light.

Turned out that the hand that reached for me did not belong to the cute girl but a macho guy who was part of our group. Even macho men get frightened in the dark.

On the way back to Louisville, the macho man and the cute girl rode in the back seat, holding hands. I wound up in the front seat with my friend, who was driving. The day, however, was not a total bust. I had been to the dark place, but I had come out to the light.

*The Rev. Dr. Clay Smith is the lead pastor of Alice Drive Baptist Church in Sumter. Email him at [claysmith@adbc.org](mailto:claysmith@adbc.org).*



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and live stream on  
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Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm on Zoom  
Please check our websitefbmcsumter.org  
for more information or call the church  
Tuesday through Thursday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

**Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church**  
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Marion H. Newton  
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Wednesday Bible Study - Online YouTube

**Salem Missionary Baptist Church**  
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Praise Worship 9:55 am  
Worship 10:00 am

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drsteve@tc-i.net  
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Wed. Bible Class: 7 pm

### Episcopal

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### Interdenominational

**Love Covenant Church**  
245 Oswego Hwy, Sumter  
803-775-7605  
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Thursday Evening 7pm  
www.lovecovenantchurch.com

### Spiritual Life Christian Center

4710 Broad Street \* 968-5771  
Randolph & Minerva Paige, Pastors  
Sunday Worship: 11:00 am  
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm  
www.spiritualifecenter.com

### Lutheran - ELCA

**St James Lutheran Church**  
1137 Alice Dr, Sumter  
773-2260 / www.stjamessumter.org  
Rev. Scott Landrum  
Adult Sunday School: 9:00 am  
Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

### Non-Denominational

**Calvary Bible Church**  
770 N. Wise Dr., Sumter  
803-774-2341  
Pastor Richard Harris  
Sunday School 9:45 am  
Worship 11:00 am & 6:00 PM

**Christ Community Church (CCC)**  
320 Loring Mill Rd., Sumter  
www.cccsumter.com  
803-905-7850  
Sunday Worship 8:08, 9:30 & 11:00 am

**Greater St. Paul Church**  
200 Watkins Street • 803-778-1355  
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Sunday Morning Worship - 11:30 am  
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803-494-7625 (ROCK)  
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### Sumter Bible Church

420 South Pike West, Sumter  
803-773-8339 • Pastor Ron Davis  
Sunday School 10:00 am  
Worship 11:00 am & 6:30 pm  
Wed. Bible Study & Prayer 7:00 pm

### Pentecostal

**First United Pentecostal Church**  
14 Plowden Mill Rd • 775-9493  
Pastor Theron Smith  
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Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30 pm

### Sumter First Pentecostal Holiness Church

2609 McCray's Mill Rd. • 481-8870.  
Brett Gardner, Pastor  
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Sunday Worship: 10:45 am  
Wed. Bible Study/Youth Group: 6:30 p.m.

### Presbyterian - ARP

### Lemira Presbyterian Church

514 Boulevard Rd. Sumter  
Sunday School 10:00 am  
Worship 11:00 am

### Mayesville Presbyterian Church

109 W. Sumter St, Mayesville  
803-453-5759 / www.mayesvillearp.org  
Rev. Brian C. Peake  
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9 W Calhoun St (at Main St.)  
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"Classes for all ages" 9:30 am  
Hospitality & Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10:10 a.m.  
Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30 a.m.

# FTC opens investigation into Big Tech's partnerships with leading AI startups

BY MATT O'BRIEN  
Associated Press

U.S. antitrust enforcers are opening an investigation into the relationships between leading artificial intelligence startups such as ChatGPT-maker OpenAI and Anthropic and the tech giants that have invested billions of dollars into them. The action targets Amazon, Google and Microsoft and their sway over the generative AI boom that's fueled demand for chatbots such as ChatGPT, and other AI tools that can produce novel imagery and sound. "We're scrutinizing whether these ties enable dominant firms to exert undue influence or gain privileged access in ways that could undermine fair competition," said Lina Khan, chair of the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, in opening remarks at a Thursday AI forum. Khan said the market inquiry would review "the investments and partnerships being formed between AI developers and major cloud service providers." The FTC said Thursday it issued "compulsory orders" to five companies — cloud providers Amazon, Google and Microsoft, and AI startups Anthropic and OpenAI — requiring them to provide information regarding investments and partnerships.

Microsoft's years-long relationship with OpenAI is the best known of the partnerships. Google and Amazon have more recently made multibillion-dollar deals with Anthropic, another San Francisco-based AI startup formed by former leaders at OpenAI.

Amazon, Google and Microsoft didn't immediately respond to requests for comment. Anthropic and OpenAI declined comment.

The European Union and the United Kingdom have already signaled that they might also scrutinize the relationship with Microsoft and OpenAI. The EU's executive branch said in January it was checking whether the partnership might trigger an investigation under regulations covering mergers and acquisitions that would harm competition in the 27-nation bloc. Britain's antitrust watchdog opened a similar review in December.

Antitrust advocates welcomed the actions from both the FTC and Europe into the deals that some have derided as quasi-mergers.

"Big Tech firms know they can't buy the top A.I. companies, so instead they are finding ways of exerting influence without formally calling it an acquisition," said a written statement from Matt Stoller, director of research at the American Economic Liberties Project. "Enforcers need to step in, and they are."

Microsoft has never publicly disclosed the total dollar amount of its investment in OpenAI, which CEO Satya Nadella has described as a "complicated thing."

"We have a significant investment," he said on a November

podcast hosted by tech journalist Kara Swisher. "It sort of comes in the form of not just dollars, but it comes in the form of compute and what have you."

OpenAI's governance and its relationship with Microsoft came into question last year after the startup's board of directors suddenly fired CEO Sam Altman, who was then swiftly reinstated, in turmoil that made world headlines. A weekend of behind-the-scenes maneuvers and a threatened mass exodus of employees championed by Nadella and other Microsoft leaders helped stabilize the startup and led to the resignation of most of its previous board.

The new arrangement gave Microsoft a nonvoting board seat, though "we definitely don't have control," Nadella said at Davos. Part of the complications that led to Altman's temporary ouster centers around the startup's unusual governance structure. OpenAI started out as a nonprofit research institute dedicated to the safe development of futuristic forms of AI. It's still governed as a nonprofit, though most of its staff works for the for-profit arm it formed several years later.

Microsoft made its first \$1 billion investment in San Francisco-based OpenAI in 2019, more than two years before the startup introduced ChatGPT and sparked worldwide fascination with AI advancements.

As part of the deal, the Redmond, Washington software giant would supply computing power — such as from one of its data centers in rural Iowa — needed to train the AI models on huge troves of human-written texts and other media. In turn, Microsoft would get exclusive rights to much of what OpenAI built, enabling the technology to be infused into a variety of Microsoft products.

Nadella in January compared it to a number of longstanding Microsoft commercial partnerships, such as with chipmaker Intel. Microsoft and OpenAI "are two different companies, answerable to two sets of different stakeholders with different interests," he told a Bloomberg reporter at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

"So we build the compute. They then use the compute to do the training. We then take that, put it into products. And so in some sense it's a partnership that is based on each of us really reinforcing what ... each other does and then ultimately being competitive in the marketplace."

# FAA approves process that could clear way for grounded Boeing planes to fly

BY DAVID KOENIG  
Associated Press

Federal regulators have approved an inspection process that will let airlines resume flying their Boeing 737 Max 9 jetliners, which have been grounded since a side panel blew out of a plane in midflight earlier this month.

The head of the Federal Aviation Administration said Wednesday that his agency's review of the scary incident on board an Alaska Airlines Boeing jet gave him confidence to clear a path for the planes to fly again.

The official, Mike Whitaker, said the FAA would not agree to any Boeing request to expand production of Max planes until the agency is satisfied that quality-control concerns have been addressed.

"This won't be back to business as usual for Boeing," Whitaker vowed.

The production limits will apply only to the Max, of which there are currently two models, the 8 and the 9. Boeing builds about 30 a month but has wanted to raise production for some time.

Boeing said it will work with the FAA and the airlines to get the grounded planes back in the air.

"We will continue to cooperate fully and transparently with the FAA and follow their direction as we take action to strengthen safety and quality at Boeing," the company said. "We will also work closely with our airline customers as they complete the required inspection procedures to safely return their 737-9 airplanes to service."

A panel called a door plug blew off an Alaska Max 9 as it flew 3 miles above Oregon on Jan. 5. The blowout left a hole in the side of the plane, but pilots were able to return to Portland and land safely.

The FAA grounded most Max 9s the next day. Alaska and United Airlines — the only U.S. carriers with Max 9s — have canceled hundreds of flights since then.

The CEOs of both airlines vented their frustration at Boeing earlier this week.

The FAA will require airlines to conduct "detailed visual inspections" of door plugs and other components, adjust fasteners and fix any damage they find before putting Max 9s back into service. The agency said the process was developed using data from inspections of 40 grounded planes.

United, which has 79 MAX 9s, more than any other airline, said it has already done "preliminary preparations and inspections" of its planes, and it expects to put them back into service beginning Sunday.

United said the process involves removing an inner panel, two rows of seats and a side-wall liner before technicians can open the door plugs. They will inspect the plug and surrounding hardware, fix anything they find amiss, and reseal the panel.

The plugs seal places used for extra emergency doors on planes with more seats than Alaska and United Max 9s.

The FAA decision came on the same day that a key senator indicated that Congress will join the scrutiny of Boeing.

Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., met with Boeing CEO David Calhoun to discuss incidents, including the one this month involving the Alaska Airlines plane. Cantwell said she told Calhoun that quality engineering and safety must be the company's top priorities.

"The American flying public and Boeing line workers deserve a culture of leadership at Boeing that puts safety ahead of profits," said Cantwell, who represents the state where Boeing assembles 737s.

# Robitussin maker recalls several lots of cough syrup

WASHINGTON (AP) — The maker of Robitussin cough syrup is recalling several lots of products containing honey due to contamination that could pose a serious risk to people with weakened immune systems.

Haleon's recall covers eight lots of Robitussin Honey CF Max Day Adult and Robitussin Honey CF Max Nighttime Adult, which were distributed to stores and pharmacy suppliers. The Food and Drug Administration posted the company's announcement to its website Wednesday. To see lot numbers, visit <http://tinyurl.com/ffj2cm96>.

The products may contain dangerously high levels of yeast, the company said in an emailed message Thursday. Yeast is a natural component of honey, but the levels detected by the company were "beyond allowed measurements," Haleon said. Ingestion of the contami-

nated syrup could result in severe fungal infections that would be potentially dangerous for people with weakened immune systems, such as organ transplant recipients or those with HIV. Several million people in the U.S. have conditions that impair the immune system's ability to fight off infections.

For most healthy individuals, any infections resulting from the products are unlikely to be serious, said the company, which is based in the U.K. and has its U.S. headquarters in New Jersey.

Haleon said it has not received any reports of injury or infection linked to the products, which have expiration dates ranging from October 2025 to June 2026.

People who have used the product should contact a health provider if they think they're experiencing any problem related to the recall. They can also report



U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION VIA AP  
Shown is the location of a lot number of recalled Robitussin cough syrup on Thursday, Jan. 25.

the problem to the FDA's online system.

## CHURCH NEWS

**First Baptist Missionary Church**, 219 S. Washington St., announces:

\* Friday, Feb. 9 — Food Pantry giveaway beginning at 1 p.m. while supplies last.

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# Bed and breakfast coming to Players Course golf course area

**BY ASHLEY MILLER**  
ashley@theitem.com

A bed and breakfast is coming to Clarendon County near a golf course to accommodate overnight stays. Leroy Doyle requested per-

mission from Clarendon County Planning Commission at the Jan. 16 meeting for placement of a residential bed and breakfast on property on Player's Course Drive in Manning. The subject parcel is 2.6

acres and is compatible with the 2018-2028 Comprehensive Plan and was found to not have a detrimental effect on the existing neighborhood. The bed and breakfast will be served by public water from Clarendon County Water

and Sewer and a private sewer system. The area is moderately populated with primarily residential single-family housing and stick-built homes. Doyle said the entrance to the bed and breakfast will be

off a highway near the property and he owns "quite a bit of the golf course property." Because there was no one in opposition to the proposed bed and breakfast, commissioners unanimously approved of the plan.

## Briefs

### PAXVILLE TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING WILL BE ON JAN. 30

PAXVILLE — Paxville Town Council will hold a special called meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30, to discuss the town's grant for the town's park renovations.

Everyone is invited to attend. The meeting will be held at 10277 Lewis Road, Paxville.

### ST. MATTHIAS' ANNUAL OYSTER ROAST JAN. 27 AT FLOWERS FARM

SUMMERTON — St. Matthias Episcopal Church will host its annual Oyster Roast at 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, at Flowers Farm Tomato Shed on K.W. Hodge Road, off S.C. 301 south of Manning.

Tickets are \$55 for all-you-can-eat steamed oysters, barbecue, chicken bog, catfish stew, sides, desserts and more. Plus, you'll be able to enjoy an evening of live entertainment.

Call (803) 485-2504 or (803) 4032 for ticket information.

### HARVIN CLARENDON COUNTY LIBRARY UPCOMING EVENTS

MANNING — Harvin Clarendon County Library, 215 N. Brooks St., has programs and events for every member of the family.

HCCL's Adult Winter Program will be held

through Feb. 26. For each book read during that time, the reader has a chance to win a prize.

Registration for the program is open now, and reading logs are due on Feb. 26. Stop by HCCL to register and pick up a reading log.

HCCL's 2024 Youth Services Department offers a variety of programs for youth of all ages.

The Shake, Rattle and Read Toddler Storytime for ages up to 4 will be held at 10:30 a.m. each Wednesday. The program will include a story, singing, dancing and an activity for the library's little patrons to enjoy.

HCCL's Homeschool Connection Club for ages preschool to high school will be held at 11 a.m. every Friday. This program was created to connect homeschool families with resources available with the local community and the public library.

HCCL's Club Lego will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Feb. 17 and March 23.

HCCL's hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. WiFi is available in the library's parking lot from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Visit the library's website, [clarendoncountylibrary.com](http://clarendoncountylibrary.com), or call HCCL at (803) 435-8633 for more information.

## Clarendon district assistant superintendent chosen as 1 of 48 for diversity program

### STAFF REPORT

GREENVILLE — Forty-eight leaders from across the Midlands, including the Clarendon County School District assistant superintendent, have been selected to participate in the Riley Institute's intensive five-month Diversity Leaders Initiative program. For more than 20 years, DLI has brought together community stakeholders and equipped them with the skills and perspectives necessary to leverage diversity in their organizations in ways that drive social and economic progress in South Carolina.

Jacqueline Inabinette of Clarendon was chosen to be part of the program.

Participants are selected after nomination by a DLI graduate and a thorough application and interview process. Each class includes leaders who represent the varied demographics in South Carolina and who seek to institute diverse and inclusive practices within their communities and organizations.

Juan Johnson, the designer and facilitator of the program, has crafted a curriculum that includes interactive case studies, scenario analy-

ses and experiential learning tools. With five meetings during the course of five months, this program will explore modules related to diversity, equity and inclusion.

Among the topics explored in these discussions are the differences between bias and discrimination, the role of context, differences in mental and physical abilities, generational diversity and diversity frameworks.

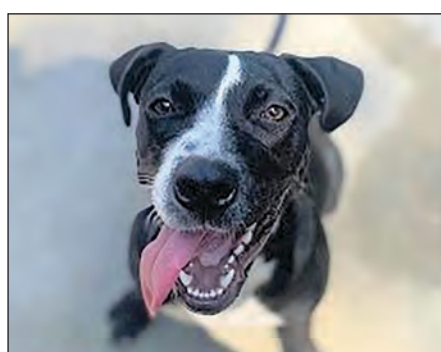
The DLI program concludes with groups undertaking community action projects. With these capstone projects, this new class of DLI participants will identify challenges in their communities and will work together to address them. Many of our DLI graduates have developed projects that continue to produce tremendous good within their communities.

Dr. Don Gordon, executive director of the Riley Institute, remarks, "Today's leaders are responsible for making positive contributions that benefit everyone, particularly the most marginalized among us. This program creates opportunities to tackle challenges faced by diverse segments of our community and introduce enduring solutions and systems-level change within organizations and businesses across South Carolina."



INABINETTE

## Pet of the week



Sparkle is a 1 1/2-year-old, black-and-white, female Labrador/bully mix. Sparkle is current on vaccinations, spayed and tested negative for heartworms. She weighs about 40 pounds. Sparkle is friendly, has spurts of energy and enjoys being outside to play. She loves people and seems to get along with other dogs. Sparkle walks well on a leash and knows how to sit. She would love to find a home where she can get plenty of exercise but also curl up on a comfortable bed and rest. If you are interested in adopting Sparkle, you can get preapproved to adopt by submitting your adoption application online at [www.ASecondChanceAnimalShelter.com](http://www.ASecondChanceAnimalShelter.com). The adoption fee for dogs is \$125.

PHOTO PROVIDED

# THE Clarendon Sun

## CLASSIFIEDS

**DEADLINE TUESDAY 11AM**

### LEGAL NOTICES

#### Summons & Notice

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF CLARENDON CASE NUMBER: 2023-ES-14-409 ORDER FOR PUBLICATION SUMMONS

Celissie Ann Pearson, individually and as Personal Representative of the Estate of Rosa Lemon Pearson, Petitioners,

v. John Doe, a fictitious person, representing as a class, all unknown persons who claim or might claim to be heirs-at-law of George Franklin Pearson, and Richard Roe, a fictitious person representing as a class, all persons suffering under legal disability and claiming or might claim to be heirs-at-law of George Franklin Pearson, Respondents.

#### TO: THE RESPONDENTS ABOVE NAMED:

And to the natural, general, testamentary or other guardians thereof, and to the persons with whom they reside or by whom they may reside or by whom they may be employed, if any there be, and to all other Respondents whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained.

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED, advised and notified, that the Summons and Petition, were filed in the Office of the Probate Court for Clarendon County, SC on the 19th day of December, 2023, and the Order Appointing Guardian ad Litem Nisi, Order of Publication and Notice to Respondents were filed in the Office of the Probate Court for Clarendon County, South Carolina on the 21st day of December, 2023. The purpose of this action is to determine the heirs-at-law of George Franklin Pearson, as is more fully stated in the Petition. NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN AD LITEM NISI YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that Ricci Land Welch, Esquire, whose address is 29 South Mill Street, Post Office Box 138, Manning, South Carolina 29102 has been appointed Guardian ad Litem Nisi in the above entitled action by an Order dated December 21, 2023, and her appointment will become absolute thirty (30) days after the last publication of the Summons herein, and that such Order is on file in the Office of the Probate Court for Clarendon County, South Carolina. JOHNSON | DURANT LLC

#### Summons & Notice

William H. Johnson, SC Bar No. 15167 Post Office Box 137 411 N. Brooks Street Manning, South Carolina 29102 Telephone (803) 435-0909 Facsimile (803) 435-2858 william@jdnlawfirm.com Attorney for the Petitioner January 5

#### Notice of Sale

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CLARENDON IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS CASE NO. 2023-CP-14-00287

21st Mortgage Corporation Plaintiff,

-vs-

Lula M. Jones; Simon Lawson; and the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles Defendant(s).

BY VIRTUE of a judgment heretofore granted in the case of 21st Mortgage Corporation vs. Lula M. Jones; Simon Lawson; and the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles I, Ricci Land Welch, Special Referee, for Clarendon County, will sell on February 5, 2024 at 11:00 am, at the Clarendon County Courthouse, 3 W. Keitt St, Manning, SC 29102, to the highest bidder:

All that certain piece, parcel or tract of land, situate, lying and being in the County of Clarendon, State of South Carolina, containing 2.13 acres, more or less, according to the Tax Map and being bounded, now or formerly, and measuring as follows: On the Northeast by a 50' right of way as shown on a plat by R. G. Mathis Land Surveying, dated January 8, 1990, recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Clarendon County in Plat Book S-41 at Page 447 and measuring thereon 250 feet, more or less; On the Southeast by the right of way of South Carolina Highway S-14- 245; On the Southwest by Lot Number 25 of The Station Subdivision as shown on an unrecorded plat made by R. G. Mathis Land Surveying dated August 5, 1987; and on the Northwest by a 5 acre tract on the plat first described above. This property is shown on the maps for Clarendon County as Tax Map Parcel #144-00-02-045-00.

This property was conveyed to Lula Jones by deed of Mary Frances Floyd dated January 4, 2022 and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Clarendon County in Book 1009 at Page 5701 on January 5, 2022. Subsequently, Lula M. Jones conveyed said property to Simon Lawson by deed dated May 1, 2023 and recorded may 3, 2023 in Book 1012 at Page 5991 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Florence

#### Notice of Sale

County. TMS #: 144-00-02-045-00

1274 Cambridge Road, Manning, SC 29102

SUBJECT TO CLARENDON COUNTY TAXES

TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the Plaintiff, will deposit with the Special Referee at conclusion of the bidding, five (5%) of his bid, in cash or equivalent, as evidence of good faith, the same to be applied to purchase price in case of compliance, but to be forfeited and applied first to costs and then to Plaintiff's debt in the case of noncompliance. Should the last and highest bidder fail or refuse to make the required deposit at the time of the bid or comply with the other terms or the bid within thirty (30) days, then the Special Referee may resell the property on the same terms and conditions on some subsequent Sales Day (at the risk of the former highest bidder).

Should the Plaintiff, or one of its representatives, fail to be present at the time of sale, the property is automatically withdrawn from said sale and sold at the next available sales day upon the terms and conditions as set forth in the Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale or any Supplemental Order.

No personal or deficiency judgment being demanded, the bidding will not remain open after the date of sale, but compliance with the bid may be made immediately.

That a personal or deficiency judgment being waived, the bidding will not remain open after the date of sale, but compliance with the bid may be made immediately.

NOTICE: The foreclosure deed is not a warranty deed. Interested bidders should satisfy themselves as to the quality of title to be conveyed by obtaining an independent title search well before the foreclosure sale date.

The successful bidder will be required to pay interest on the amount of the bid from the date of sale to date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 8.800% per annum.

B. Lindsay Crawford, III (SC Bar# 6510) Theodore von Keller (SC Bar# 5718) B. Lindsay Crawford, IV (SC Bar# 101707) Charley S. FitzSimons (SC Bar# 104326) Jason Hunter (SC Bar# 101501) (Crawford & von Keller, LLC P.O. Box 4216 1640 St. Julian Place (29204) Columbia, SC 29240 Phone: 803-790-2626 Email: court@crawfordvdk.com Attorneys for Plaintiff

#### Estate Notice Clarendon County

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Clarendon County, the address of which is 411 Sunset Dr. Manning, SC 29102, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim.

Estate: Coker McFaddin Floyd #2023ES1400398 Personal Representative:

Nancy Caroline McFaddin Floyd 3484 Walker Gamble Road New Zion, SC 29111 Jan 26, 2024 - Feb 9, 2024

Estate: Nellie Richburg Burnett #2024ES1400018 Personal Representative:

Joey Burnett 155 Ferry Avenue #11J White Plains, NY 10603 Jan 26, 2024 - Feb 9, 2024

Estate: Charles Joseph Radcliffe #2024ES1400010 Personal Representative:

Terry A. Radcliffe 1014 Varner St. Manning, SC 29102



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FRIDAY EVENING JANUARY 26														
SP	FT	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM		
<b>LOCAL CHANNELS</b>														
WIS	10	3	10	WIS News 10 at 7 (N)	WIS News Primetime (N)	Figure Skating U.S. Championships, Women's Free Skate From Nationwide Arena in Columbus, Ohio. (N) (Live)				WIS News 10 at 11 (N)	(35) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon (N)			
WLTX	19	9	9	(5:00) PGA Tour Golf Farmers Insurance Open, Third Round From Torrey Pines South Course in San Diego. (N) (Live)	S.W.A.T. "Legacy" A cartel boss wages war on the streets of Los Angeles.	Fire Country "At the End of My Rope" Bode faces a hard decision that could have dire results.		Blue Bloods "Nothing Sacred" Erin and Henry work to bust a scammer targeting the elderly.		News 19 at 11pm (N)	(35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert			
WOLO	25	5	12	Wheel of Fortune "Sand & Sea" (N)	Jeopardy! "Champions Wildcard" (N)	Shark Tank (N)		20/20 (N)		ABC Columbia News at 11 (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live!			
WRJA	27	11	14	Chavis Chron. "Andrew Young" Andrew Young	This Week SC "New Hampshire Primary" (N)	Washington Week With The Atlantic (N)	Firing Line With Margaret Hoover (N)	Benjamin Franklin "An American (1775-1790)" Benjamin Franklin helps Thomas Jefferson craft the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia.			Amanpour and Company (N)		Washington Week With The Atlantic	
WACH	57	6	6	The Big Bang Theory "The Shiny Trinket Maneuver"	Big Bang "The Confirmation Polarization"	WWE Friday Night SmackDown The Superstars of World Wrestling Entertainment do battle in elaborate, long-running rivalries. (N) (Live)		WACH FOX News at 10P (N) (Live)		Sports Zone (N) (Live)	The National Desk (N) (Live)	iCRIME With Elizabeth Vargas		
WKTC	63	4	22	The Neighborhood "Welcome to Your Match"	The Neighborhood "Pilot"	Chicago P.D. "Trigger" Halstead struggles to follow the facts in a case.		Chicago P.D. "Black and Blue" A homicide investigation becomes personal for Atwater.		Chicago Fire "A Hell of a Ride" The squad must help defuse a situation at the jail.		48 Hours "The Golden State Killer" Arrest of the man believed to be the Golden State Killer. (N)	Funny You Should Ask	
<b>CABLE CHANNELS</b>														
A&E	46	130	The First 48 "Runner Runner"		The First 48 "Chopper"		The First 48 "Deadly Dispute; Heart to Heart"		The First 48 "Fallen Hero; The Last Deal"		(05) The First 48 "Murder on Maiden Lane"		(05) The First 48 "Chopper"	
AMC	48	180	**** Die Hard (88) Alan Rickman, Bonnie Bedelia, Bruce Willis. A New York policeman (Bruce Willis) outwits foreign thugs in an L.A. high-rise.				**** Die Hard 2 (90) Bonnie Bedelia, William Atherton, Bruce Willis. Police hero (Bruce Willis) spots military terrorists at D.C. airport.							
ANPL	41	100	Tanked "Fish Out of Water"		Tanked "Where the Wild Things Are"		Tanked "Serenity Now"		Tanked "Midwest Zest"		Tanked			
BET	61	162	(20) Tyler Perry's House of Payne "Mr. Bills"		(55) The Neighborhood	(25) The Neighborhood	Neighbor "Welcome to the Feud"	Neighbor "Welcome to the Quinceañera"	The Ms. Pat Show "Don't Eat That S..."	The Ms. Pat Show "Judge Miss Sophia"	Ms. Pat "Don't Touch My Hair"	Ms. Pat "Gots to Be More Careful"	Martin "Wedding Bell Blues"	
BRAVO	47	181	(6:00) **** Shrek 2 (04) Voices of Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz, Mike Myers.		**** Shrek (01) Voices of Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz, Mike Myers. A grumpy ogre agrees to rescue a captive princess.		**** Shrek 2 (04) Voices of Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz, Mike Myers. A green ogre must meet his wife's parents.		**** Shrek 2 (04) Voices of Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz, Mike Myers. A green ogre must meet his wife's parents.		Vanderpump Rules "Reunion Part 1"			
BSSE	21	47	(6:30) FCS Football		P1 Racing		Fairways of Life with Matt Adams		Golf America	Breaking Par	Sports Stars	Football (N)	Auburn Basketball	Tennessee: The World Poker
CNBC	35	84	Last Call (N) (Live)		American Greed "Artistic License to Steal"		American Greed		Greed "Inside El Chapo's Empire"		Greed "The Spy Who Conned Me"		American Greed	
CNN	3	80	Erin Burnett OutFront (N) (Live)		Anderson Cooper 360 (N) (Live)		The Source With (N) (Live)		CNN NewsNight (N) (Live)		Laura Coates Live (N) (Live)		Cooper 360	
COM	57	136	The Office "Pam's Replacement"	The Office "Gettysburg"	The Office "Mrs. California"	The Office "Christmas Wishes"	The Office "Trivia"	The Office "Pool Duty"	The Office "Jury"	The Office "Special Project"	Jeff Dunham: Unhinged in Hollywood		South Park	
DISN	18	200	Big City "Crickets' Shoes: Feud Fight"		Big City "Breaking News: Cyberbullies"		**** Ice Age (02) Voices of John Leguizamo, Denis Leary, Ray Romano. Prehistoric mammals find a human infant.		Big City "Tilly Tour; Dinner Party"		Big City Greens "Unleashed"		Big City "Night Bill; Cheap Snake"	Big City Greens "Harvest Dinner; Winner Winner"
DSC	42	103	Gold Rush "Moneyball"		Gold Rush "Parker's New Toy" (N)		(10) Hustlers "Atlantic City Outlaw" (N)		(10) Outback "A Barrel Full Of Nuts" (N)		(10) Gold Rush-Res. "Sink or Swim"		Gold Rush	
ESPN	26	35	NHL Hockey Vegas Golden Knights at New York Rangers (N) (Live)				X Games Aspen 2024 (N) (Live)							
ESPN2	27	39	Women's College Gymnastics Alabama at Florida (N) (Live)				College Basketball Saint Joseph's at St. Bonaventure (N) (Live)							
FOOD	40	109	Diners, Drive		Diners, Drive		Diners, Drive (N)		Diners, Drive		SportsCenter (N) (Live)		SportsCenter (N) (Live)	
FOXN	37	90	The Ingraham Angle (N) (Live)		Jesse Watters Primetime (N) (Live)		Hannity (N) (Live)		Gutfeld! (N)		Fox News at Night (N) (Live)		The Five	
FREE	20	131	Family Guy "And Then There's Fraud"		Family Guy "PeTerminator"		Family Guy "The Merrying Kind"		Family Guy "Who's Brian Now?"		Family Guy "Young Parent Trap"		Family Guy	
HALL	52	183	(6:00) * Moonlight in Vermont (17) Carlo Marks, Jesse Moss, Lacey Chabert.		* Christmas Under Wraps (14) David O'Donnell, Brian Doyle-Murray, Candace Cameron Bure. A doctor discovers an Alaskan town's holiday secret.		The Golden Girls "On Golden Girls"		The Golden Girls "The Competition"		The Golden Girls "Break In"		The Golden Girls "Hear Attack"	
HGTV	39	112	Dream Home		Dream Home		Dream Home (N)		Dream Home		House Hunters		Dream Home	
HIST	45	110	Aliens "They Came From the Sky"		Ancient Aliens: Declassified "Extraterrestrial Hot Spots" Enhanced; human exploration of Antarctica increases. (N)		Bull "Unambiguous"		Bull "Callisto"		Bull "Just Tell the Truth"		Bull "Bedside Manner"	
ION	13	18	Bull "The Necklace"		Bull "The Woman in 8D"		Bull "Unambiguous"		Bull "Callisto"		Bull "Just Tell the Truth"		Bull "Bedside Manner"	
LIFE	50	145	Grey's Anatomy "Valentine's Day Massacre"		Grey's Anatomy "The Time Warp"		Grey's Anatomy "Perfect Little Accident"		(05) Grey's Anatomy "Push"		(05) Grey's Anatomy "Suicide Is Painless"		Grey's Anatomy "The Time Warp"	
MSNBC	36	92	The ReidOut (N) (Live)		All in With Chris Hayes (N) (Live)		Alex Wagner Tonight (N) (Live)		Last Word With Lawrence (N) (Live)		11th Hour (N) (Live)		Wagner	
NICK	16	210	(6:15) **** Shrek Forever After (10)		*** Sonic the Hedgehog (20) Jim Carrey, Ben Schwartz, James Marsden.		Friends		Friends		Friends		Friends	
NWSN	8	172	On Balance With Leland Vittert (N) (Live)		Cuomo (N) (Live)		Dan Abrams Live (N) (Live)		Banfield (N) (Live)		Cuomo		Dan Abrams Live	
PARMT	64	153	Two and a Half Men		Two and a Half Men		**** Top Gun (86) Kelly McGillis, Anthony Edwards, Tom Cruise.		**** Mission: Impossible (96) Jon Voight, Henry Czerny, Tom Cruise.		**** Mission: Impossible (96) Jon Voight, Henry Czerny, Tom Cruise.			
SYFY	58	152	(6:00) **** Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (01) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe. An orphan (Daniel Radcliffe) attends a school of witchcraft and wizardry.				**** Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (02) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe. The young wizard and his best friends investigate a dark force that is terrorizing Hogwarts.							
TBS	24	156	The Big Bang Theory		Big Bang "The Helium Insufficiency"		*** Fast & Furious (09) Paul Walker, Michelle Rodriguez, Vin Diesel.		(50) **** Fast Five (11) Paul Walker, Jordana Brewster, Vin Diesel. Brian O'Conner and Dom Torretto join forces to confront a corrupt businessman who wants them dead.		(20) **** The Fast and the Furious			
TCM	49	186	(6:00) **** Repeat Performance (47) Louis Hayward, Joan Leslie.		* Nichols and May: Take Two (96) The comedy team of Mike Nichols and Elaine May.		(15) **** A New Leaf (71) Elaine May, Jack Weston, Walter Matthau. A poor playboy plans to marry and murder a wealthy woman.		(15) **** A New Leaf (71) Elaine May, Jack Weston, Walter Matthau. A poor playboy plans to marry and murder a wealthy woman.		(15) **** Mikey and Nicky (76)			
TLC	43	157	90 Day Fiancé		90 Day Fiancé "More to Love: From This Day Forward" (N)		90 Day Fiancé (N)		90 Day: Single Life "Tim Stirs the Pot"		90 Day Fiancé		90 Day Fiancé	
TNT	23	158	**** Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 (17) Zoe Saldana, Bradley Cooper, Chris Pratt. The team unravels the mystery of Peter Quill's true parentage in the outer reaches of the galaxy.				All Elite Wrestling: Rampage (N)				*** The Legend of Tarzan (16) Christoph Waltz, Samuel L. Jackson, Alexander Skarsgård.			
TRUTV	38	129	Impractical Jokers		Impractical Jokers		Impractical Jokers		Impractical Jokers		Inside Jokes		Inside Jokes	
TV LAND	55	161	Raymond		Raymond		Raymond		Raymond		King		The King of Queens	
USA	25	132	9-1-1 "Treasure Hunt"		9-1-1 "Suspicion"		9-1-1 "Survivors"		9-1-1 "Panic"		9-1-1 "Desperate Times"		9-1-1 "Desperate Measures"	
WE	68	166	(6:30) Law & Order		Love After Lockup "Life After Lockup: Shimmer Down"		Love After Lockup "Life After Lockup: Games of Chance" (N)		(45) Love After Lockup "Life After Lockup: Games of Chance"		(20) Mama June (N)			

# War epic 'Masters of the Air' fails in basic storytelling

BY KEVIN MCDONOUGH

"Masters of the Air" takes flight on Apple TV+. Produced by Steven Spielberg, Tom Hanks and Gary Goetzman, the team behind "Band of Brothers" and "The Pacific," this nine-episode miniseries tackles another chapter of World War II.

Based on the book of the same name by Donald L. Miller, it follows the airmen of the Eighth Air Force and more specifically the 100th Bomb Group, which flew B-17s known as "Flying Fortresses" over targets in Germany and German-occupied Europe.

Facing anti-aircraft guns (flak) and much swifter German fighter planes, these bombers suffered staggering losses, earning the group its nickname "The Bloody 100th." Their high casualties were caused in part by an American strategy of bombing by daylight, using the very expensive Norden bombsight to practice "precision" bombing.

"Masters" offers proof of the difficulty of adapting "big" nonfiction survey histories for television. A story that may seem captivating on the page can seem turgid on the screen without characters to care about.

Austin Butler and Callum Turner star as two Army majors and brash leaders of men. But you can watch both the episodes made available today and not come away with any idea of who they are or what makes them tick. There are entirely too many characters to follow. Nearly every scene takes place in crowded barracks, bar, dining hall or pre-flight assembly hall. You need a scorecard.

The lack of distinctive personalities is compounded by a near-contemptuous approach to period language, attitudes and grooming. Don't get me started on hair! These airmen sport long and curly locks that would not have been seen on the streets circa 1943, never mind a military defined by the crew cut for the war years and decades to follow.

There's an opening scene in a stateside bar in which our two heroes share drinks and flirt with local ladies before being shipped out. It's a painfully unconvincing evocation



Callum Turner, left, stars as Maj. John Egan and Austin Butler as Maj. Gale Clevon in the nine-episode miniseries "Masters of the Air," premiering today on Apple TV+.

of the 1940s, more like cosplay than drama.

It's not as if there aren't hundreds of films and documentaries to study to find out how people talked and behaved 80 years ago. Heck, Prime Video's recent remake of "A League of Their Own" did a better job with the slang, costumes and attitudes of the bobby-soxer era.

And speaking of film history, there is a load of explication to cover here. Some of it is handled in introductory voiceovers. (From whom? Who knows?) Curiously, World War II is rich in documentary films that explained things, most notably films by Spielberg's heroes John Ford and Frank Capra.

In "Jurassic Park," Spielberg used a little cartoon to explain the genetic science behind the film's make-believe. A little documentary legwork would go a long way here, explaining the nuts and bolts of the B-17,

the Norden bombsight, technical "gremlins" and the Army Air Force's evolving strategy. This might have left room for things like character development and credible, non-generic dialogue.

With its soaring score, harrowing and brilliantly shot battle scenes and majestic airborne photography, "Masters" has all the hallmarks of yet another "Greatest Generation" veneration from the usual suspects who have apparently convinced themselves of their project's importance. They seemed to have forgotten that an audience needs convincing, too.

### TONIGHT'S OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Women's Free Skate U.S. Figure Skating Championships (8 p.m., NBC).
- After moving to Alaska, a fetching physician discovers her small town's links to holiday legends in the 2014 ro-

mance "Christmas Under Wraps" (8 p.m., Hallmark, TV-G).

- Set on Cape Cod, the murder mystery "Hightown" (9 p.m., Starz, TV-MA) enters a third season.

- An insult to memory on "Blue Bloods" (10 p.m., CBS, r, TV-14).

### CULT CHOICE

A bankrupt cad (Walter Matthau) marries a shy heiress (writer and director Elaine May) and proceeds to plan ways to drown her in the 1971 black comedy "A New Leaf" (10:15 p.m., TCM, TV-PG).

### SERIES NOTES

The gang cooperates with the DEA on "S.W.A.T." (8 p.m., CBS, r, TV-14) \* "WWE Friday Night SmackDown" (8 p.m., Fox, TV-PG) \* Corporate overlords anoint themselves gatekeepers in the battle for ideas on "Shark Tank" (8 p.m., ABC, TV-PG) \* A mine explosion on "Fire Country" (9 p.m., CBS, r, TV-14).

### LATE NIGHT

Jimmy Fallon welcomes Ken Jeong, Dwyane Wade and Pete Lee on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC) \* Tina Fey and Andrew Scott visit "Late Night With Seth Meyers" (12:35 a.m., NBC, r) \* Taylor Tomlinson hosts Paul F. Tompkins, Sophie Biddle and Carl Tart on "After Midnight" (12:35 a.m., CBS, r).

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SATURDAY EVENING JANUARY 27													
SP	FT	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	
<b>LOCAL CHANNELS</b>													
WIS	10	3	10	InvestigateTV (N)	Friends	The Wall "Kavi and Radhika" Mother-daughter duo Kavi and Radhika take on the wall.	Weakest Link "I Feel Like You're Trolling Me" Contestants play trivia and vote each other off one by one.	Saturday Night Live		WIS News 10 at 11 (N)	Saturday Night Live (N) (Live)		
WLTX	19	9	9	(4:00) PGA Tour Golf Farmers Insurance Open, Final Round From Torrey Pines South Course in San Diego. (N) (Live)	Family Film and TV Awards (N)	48 Hours		48 Hours (N)		News 19 at 11pm (N)	SEAL Team "Rolling Dark" Jason and the team rescue a Russian scientist and his wife.		
WOLO	25	5	12	(5:30) NBA Basketball Philadelphia 76ers at Denver Nuggets From Ball Arena in Denver. (N) (Live)	NBA Countdown (N) (Live)	NBA Basketball Los Angeles Lakers at Golden State Warriors From Chase Center in San Francisco. (N)		ABC Columbia News at 11 (N)	WOW - Women The Only Way I Know How to Fight Americana challenges Jessie Jones to a one-on-one contest. (N)				
WRJA	27	11	14	(6:30) Midsomer "Dead Man's Eleven: Part 1"	The Brokenwood Mysteries "Playing the Lie" Golfers encounter the club's owner with her face blistering and gasping for her last breath.	Ms. Fisher's Modern Murder Mysteries "Just Murdered" Peregrine Fisher claims her inheritance and somehow ends up investigating a murder.		Death in Paradise The team joins Naomi when her friend's father is murdered.		The Caverns Sessions "Lil' Smokies"	Ms. Fisher's Modern "Just Murdered"		
WACH	57	6	6	(5:30) College Basketball Arizona at Oregon (N) (Live)	FOX College Hoops Extra (N) (Live)	Women's College Basketball Notre Dame at Connecticut From Harry A. Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn. (N) (Live)		WACH FOX News at 10P (N) (Live)	Game Time Phil Simms Guests Phil Simms (N)	Beet Shazam "Battle of the Ages!" Millennials, baby boomers and Gen Xers battle for the prize.	Two and a Half Men "A Pudding-Filled Cactus"		
WKTC	63	4	22	The Neighborhood "Welcome to Bowling"	The Neighborhood "Welcome to Co-Habitation"	Dateline "Siren Song" Sarm Heslop vanishes from her boyfriend's luxury yacht.		Dateline "House of Horrors" Nichole Payne's children share their stories.		Dateline "Complicated" Investigating the deaths of a woman and her child.	Dateline "Shattered Bonds"		
<b>CABLE CHANNELS</b>													
A&E	46	130	Neighborhood Wars	Neighborhood Wars	Neighbor. "My Way or the Driveway"	Neighbor. "The Big UN-easy"	Neighbor. Wars	Neighbor. "Get Off the Sidewalk"	Neighbor. Wars	Neighbor. "The Parent Slap"	(05) Neighbor. "Off of Our Grass"	(35) Neighbor. "Quit Videotaping Me"	(05) Neighborhood Wars
AMC	48	180	*** Armageddon (98) Billy Bob Thornton, Liv Tyler, Bruce Willis. A NASA rep recruits an oil driller and his team of mavericks to save Earth from an asteroid.	*** Gladiator Joaquin Phoenix, Connie Nielsen, Russell Crowe. A fugitive general becomes a gladiator in ancient Rome.									
ANPL	41	100	My Cat From Hell "Mayday! Mayday!"	My Cat From Hell "Breaking Bald"	My Cat From Hell "Brooklyn Cat Fight"	My Cat From Hell "Four Blind Cats"	My Cat From Hell "Felines and Frenemies?"	My Cat From Hell					
BET	61	162	(5:30) *** First Sunday (08) Katt Williams, Tracy Morgan, Ice Cube.	*** What Men Want (19) Tracy Morgan, Aldis Hodge, Taraji P. Henson. A sports agent uses her ability to hear men's thoughts to turn the tables on her rude colleagues.		*** Tyler Perry's I Can Do Bad All By Myself (09) Taraji P. Henson, Adam Rodriguez, Tyler Perry.							
BRAVO	47	181	(5:30) *** Sweet Home Alabama (02) Josh Lucas, Reese Witherspoon.	*** The Proposal (09) Ryan Reynolds, Mary Steenburgen, Sandra Bullock. A woman (Sandra Bullock) pretends to be engaged to her assistant to avoid deportation to Canada.		*** Sweet Home Alabama (02) Josh Lucas, Patrick Dempsey, Reese Witherspoon. A New York fashion designer has a secret in the South.							
BSSE	21	47	Boxing EntroBox: Cleveland From Cleveland. (N) (Live)	FCS Football Awards Show 2023				Fairways of Life with Matt Adams	College Basketball				
CNBC	35	84	Greed "Fake Heiress Cons High Society"	American Greed "Burned by Greed"	Greed "Boeing's Deadly Design"	American Greed "Drunk With Power"	Greed "Lawyers, Lies, and a Housewife"	American Greed					
CNN	3	80	CNN Newsroom With Jim Acosta (N)	CNN Special Program		CNN Special Program		CNN Special Program	CNN Spec				
COM	57	136	The Office "Work Bus"	The Office "Here Comes Treble"	The Office "The Whale"	The Office "Dwight Christmas"	The Office "Lice"	*** We're the Millers (13) Jason Sudeikis, Will Poulter, Jennifer Aniston. A dealer goes to Mexico with a fake family to score drugs.					
DISN	18	200	Big City "Garage Tales: Animal Farm"	Big City "Desserted: The Gifted"	***** Toy Story 2 (99) Voices of Tim Allen, Joan Cusack, Tom Hanks. Toys rescue Woody from a collector.		(40) Kiff	(05) Hailey's on It!	Hailey's on It!	Hailey's on It!	Hailey's on It!	Ladybug "Destruction"	
DSC	42	103	Expedition "Egypt's Lost Queens"	Expedition "Lost Tomb of the Mummy"		Expedition Unknown		Expedition "The Bootlegger's Millions"	Expedition Unknown "The Sultan's Heart"		Expedition		
ESPN	26	35	(6:00) Basketball Kentucky at Arkansas (N)	College Basketball Teams TBA (N) (Live)		X Games Aspen 2024 (N) (Live)							
ESPN2	27	39	(6:00) Basketball Teams TBA (N) (Live)	College Basketball Teams TBA (N) (Live)		College Basketball Utah at Washington (N) (Live)		Basketball Live (N)					
FOOD	40	109	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive		
FOXN	37	90	The Big Weekend Show (N) (Live)	Life, Liberty & Levin (N)	One Nation With Brian Kilmeade (N)	Saturday Night (N)	Gutfield!	Weekend					
FREE	20	131	(5:35) *** Despicable Me (10) Gru and his new partner hunt a nefarious individual.	(40) *** Despicable Me 2 (13) Voices of Kristen Wiig, Benjamin Bratt, Steve Carell. Gru and his new partner hunt a nefarious individual.		(50) *** Despicable Me 3 (17) Voices of Kristen Wiig, Trey Parker, Steve Carell. Gru and his twin brother join forces to take down a former 1980s child star who's out for revenge.		(55) *** Smallfoot (18)					
HALL	52	183	(6:00) ** Two Tickets to Paradise (22) Ryan Paevey, Ashley Williams.	* Romance With a Twist (24) Olivier Renaud, Candice Lidstone, Jocelyn Hudon. A former dancer pairs up with a world-class aerialist. (P)		* A Scottish Love Scheme (24) Jordan Young, Jo Cameron Brown, Erica Parker. Two meddling mothers hatch a plan to play matchmaker.		The Golden Girls "Stan's Return"					
HGTV	39	112	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters		
HIST	45	110	(6:00) Barrett-Jackson Live Auction "Scottsdale 2024 Super Saturday" Collector car auctions return live and exclusive from the Westworld of Scottsdale, Scottsdale, Ariz. (N) (Live)	Barrett-Jackson									
ION	13	18	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Did You Believe in Miracles?"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Confess Your Sins to Be Free"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "A Final Call at Forlin's Bar"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Scorched Earth"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Personal Fouls"	Law & Order: SVU "Blood Brothers"					
LIFE	50	145	(6:00) ** Woman With the Red Lipstick (24) Marshall Williams, Rebecca Liddiard.	* Confessions of a Cam Girl (24) Camille Sullivan, Vienna Leacock, Megan Best. An 18-year-old creates an explicit content page online. (P)		(05) * Stolen Baby: The Murder of Heidi Broussard (23) Anna Hopkins, Ian Lake, Emily Osment. Heidi Broussard and her newborn daughter go missing.		* Confessions of a Cam Girl (24)					
MSNBC	36	92	Ayman (N) (Live)	Ayman (N) (Live)	The Rachel Maddow Show	Ayman	The 11th Hour With Stephanie Ruhle	The Saturday Show					
NICK	16	210	*** Sonic the Hedgehog (20) Jim Carrey, Ben Schwartz, James Marsden.	NewsNation Prime (N) (Live)	NewsNation Prime (N) (Live)	NewsNation Prime	NewsNation Prime	NewsNation Prime	NewsNation Prime	NewsNation Prime	NewsNation Prime		
NWSN	8	172	NewsNation Prime (N) (Live)	NewsNation Prime (N) (Live)	NewsNation Prime (N) (Live)	NewsNation Prime	NewsNation Prime	NewsNation Prime	NewsNation Prime	NewsNation Prime	NewsNation Prime		
PARMT	64	153	(5:30) ***** Forrest Gump (94) Robin Wright, Tom Hanks.	***** The Shawshank Redemption (94) Morgan Freeman, Bob Gunton, Tim Robbins.		***** Forrest Gump (94) Tom Hanks.							
SYFY	58	152	(6:30) ***** Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (05) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe. Harry's friends help him prepare for a tournament with Europe's best student wizards.	***** Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (07) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe. Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) teaches a group of students to defend Hogwarts from Voldemort's minions.									
TBS	24	156	(5:00) *** Aquaman (18) Amber Heard, Willem Dafoe, Jason Momoa.	Big Bang "The Spook Resonance"	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	*** Aquaman (18) Amber Heard, Willem Dafoe, Jason Momoa. Aquaman must retrieve the legendary Trident of Atlan to save Atlantis from his power-hungry brother.					
TCM	49	186	(4:45) * Shoah: Second Era (85) Survivors, perpetrators and bystanders discuss the atrocities committed during the Holocaust.	* Filmmakers for the Prosecution (22) Prosecutors use film evidence to convict Nazi war criminals.		* Nuremberg (48) The official film on the first Nuremberg trial.							
TLC	43	157	sMothered	sMothered	Love & Translation "You Had Me at Bonjour"	90 Day Fiancé	90 Day Fiancé	sMothered					
TNT	23	158	(5:30) **** Back to the Future (85) Christopher Lloyd, Michael J. Fox.	All Elite Wrestling: Collision (N) (Live)		**** Back to the Future Part II (89) Christopher Lloyd, Lea Thompson, Michael J. Fox. Young man (Michael J. Fox) and an inventor (Christopher Lloyd) take a time machine to 2015.							
TRUTV	38	129	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	American Dad!	American Dad!	American Dad!	American Dad!		
TV LAND	55	161	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	King	King	The King of Queens		
USA	25	132	(2:30) IMSA WeatherTech Rolex 24 at Daytona (N) (Live)	Figure Skating U.S. Championships: Pairs Free Skate From Nationwide Arena in Columbus, Ohio. (N) (Live)		IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship Rolex 24 at Daytona From Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla. (N) (Live)		Chicago P.D. "300,000 Likes"					
WE	68	166	NCIS "The Good Son"	NCIS "The Missionary Position"	NCIS "Rekindled"	NCIS "Playing With Fire"	NCIS "Up in Smoke"	NCIS					

# Celebrating family-friendly movies, television

BY KEVIN McDONOUGH

Oscar season reminds us that keeping up with the sheer number of award shows can be a full-time job. CBS airs the **26th Annual Family Film and TV Awards** (8 p.m. Saturday, TV-PG).

Akbar Gbajabiamila and Amanda Kloots are your hosts. Both are regulars on the CBS chat show "The Talk," and they aren't the only aspect of this show to promote homegrown talent. The nominations are heavy on series and movies from the CBS and Paramount+ firmament, from "The Neighborhood" to the "Star Trek" franchise. As with most award shows, the categories are a confusing bag. There seem to be as many "all-time" selections as honors for films and shows produced in 2023.

Even these "classic" nominations can be revealing. And confusing. Of those movies nominated as all-time family favorites, the oldest film, "E.T.," dates back to 1982. But among TV series, the newest series, "Family Matters" is from 1989. Those choices essentially exclude TV shows from the last 35 years and a wealth of family-friendly content from Nickelodeon and Disney, among others, not to mention network efforts like "Malcolm in the Middle." Did "Sabrina the Teenage Witch" cast a spell of amnesia over an entire generation's viewing habits? Even with its accent on the golden oldies ("I Love Lucy," "The Dick Van Dyke Show" and "The Brady Bunch") it ignores "The Waltons" and "Little House on the Prairie," series that wore their family-friendliness on their gingham sleeves.

And the 1980s cutoff for films pretty much stacks the deck in the opposite direction. Is there any doubt that G-rated films like "The Sound of Music" would clean up at such awards? Would the nominated film "The Sandlot" (1993) really stand up against omitted movies including "A Christmas Story"? Or for that matter "It's a Wonderful Life"?

One has to wonder just what the folks at Popstar! magazine were thinking when they dreamed up these nominations. Tonight's awards are a collaboration between the brain trust at Popstar! and those of Dick Clark Productions.

Help yourself.

In a world where celebrities can seem more fleeting every day, those famous faces that stick around are all the more remarkable. And rare. The aptly titled four-part series "The Many Lives of Martha Stewart" (9 p.m. and 10 p.m. Sunday, CNN, concluding next Sunday) profiles the changing fortunes and enduring appeal of a woman who has been an arbiter of "lifestyle" pretty much since that term was coined.

"Lives" includes dozens of interviews



Akbar Gbajabiamila, left, and Amanda Kloots serve as hosts of "The 26th Annual Family Film and TV Awards," airing at 8 p.m. Saturday on CBS.

with everyone, it seems, except its subject or her first husband. Friends and former friends, colleagues of long standing and those left by the wayside during her ascent chime in on the character and personality traits that helped her in her meteoric rise, spectacular fall and remarkable comeback.

In the first hour, we encounter an unusually determined, disciplined and hard-working high school student who spent her free time in New York City as a model, earning enough to put herself through Barnard College. A full decade before feminism began to define women's expectations and relationship to home, family and career, Stewart worked on Wall Street in a brokerage firm headed by men visionary enough to see that a smart woman attractive and poised enough to have been a model might attract business in a field dominated by an old boys' network.

To use a rather hifalutin word, Stewart's career and life has always been counterintuitive. By the early 1970s, when feminism was in full bloom, Stewart and her husband decided to buy and restore a historic estate in Connecticut. So, when mass culture was telling women that domestic life was drudgery, Martha Stewart embraced decorating, cooking and entertaining with an artist's eye for detail and a businesswoman's vision for expansion.

Even from the beginning, we meet people who recall how Stewart's ambition earned both admiration and resentment.

Starting a catering company in Connecticut, she recruited other smart and talented women to prepare the food to her exacting specifications. But with the publication of her book "En-

tertaining" in 1982 and her many TV appearances to promote it and her emerging "brand," Stewart's many collaborators went unmentioned, uncredited and unrewarded. In a jarring clash of recollections, a New Yorker contributor discusses collaborating with Stewart on "Entertaining," while in archived interviews, Stewart only talks of writing the book herself.

One woman who had been with Stewart's catering company from the beginning had the temerity to ask for a business title, or something to distinguish her efforts from that of a mere hourly employee. She sadly recalls Stewart's husband Andy's brusque reply: "Martha's going to be as big as McDonald's. And we're not giving any of that away."

## SATURDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

- Connecticut hosts Notre Dame in **women's college basketball** (8 p.m., Fox).
- An ambitious teen creates an explicit site to earn tuition for her fashion school in the 2024 shocker "**Confessions of a Cam Girl**" (8 p.m., Lifetime, TV-14).
- A former dancer and a professional aerialist take their positions in the 2024 comedy "**Romance With a Twist**" (8 p.m., Hallmark, TV-G).
- The 2023 performance film "**Lil Nas X: Long Live Montero**" (8 p.m., HBO, TV-MA) follows the rapper on his first tour.
- The Golden State Warriors host the Los Angeles Lakers in **NBA basketball action** (8:30 p.m., ABC).
- A diet-obsessed mom overlooks her daughter's eating disorder in the 2024 shocker "**Dying in Plain Sight**" (10 p.m., Lifetime, TV-14).
- Dakota Johnson hosts "**Saturday Night Live**" (11:30 p.m., NBC, TV-14),

featuring musical guest Justin Timberlake.

## SUNDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

- The San Francisco 49ers host the Detroit Lions in the **NFC Championship game** (6:30 p.m., Fox).
- Scheduled on "**60 Minutes**" (7 p.m., CBS): The federal prison system in crisis; Interpol at work; an animal sanctuary in Colorado.
- Lindsay Lohan, Dennis Quaid and Natasha Richardson star in the 1998 remake of "**The Parent Trap**" (8 p.m., ABC, TV-PG).
- A blast from Eliza's past on "**Miss Scarlett and the Duke**" on "**Masterpiece**" (8 p.m., PBS, TV-PG, check local listings).
- A mysterious ailment thins the herd on "**All Creatures Great and Small**" on "**Masterpiece**" (9 p.m., PBS, TV-PG, check local listings).
- Spade tries to understand the mysterious young boy behind so much intrigue on "**Monsieur Spade**" (9 p.m., AMC, TV-MA).
- Get ready for the bleakest Christmas Eve episode of any series ever on "**True Detective: Night Country**" (9 p.m., HBO, TV-MA).
- Lorna maintains a sleepless vigil on "**The Woman in the Wall**" (9 p.m., Showtime, TV-MA).
- A backstage romance on "**Funny Woman**" (10 p.m., PBS, TV-14, check local listings).

## CULT CHOICE

The voices of Judy Garland, Robert Goulet and Red Buttons animate the 1962 musical "**Gay Purr-ee**" (2 p.m. Sunday, TCM, TV-G). While critically praised and visually sophisticated, this effort sailed over the heads of its intended juvenile audience. A box-office bomb, it predated Disney's Broadway-level animated musicals by a quarter-century.

## SATURDAY SERIES

- "The Wall" (8 p.m., NBC, r, TV-PG) \*
- "48 Hours" (9 p.m., r, and 10 p.m., CBS) \*
- "Weakest Link" (9 p.m., NBC, r, TV-PG) \*
- A vintage helping of "**Saturday Night Live**" (10 p.m., NBC, r, TV-14).

## SUNDAY SERIES

- On three episodes of "**Yellowstone**" (CBS, TV-MA): Beth spills secrets (8 p.m.); so does Jamie (9 p.m.); Beth tangles with Hayes (10 p.m.) \* "**America's Got Talent: Fantasy League**" (8 p.m., NBC, r, TV-PG) \* "**Next Level Chef**" (10 p.m., Fox, TV-14) \* Nobody minds being sent to the principal's office on "**Abbott Elementary**" (10:30 p.m., ABC, r, TV-PG).

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# Israel vows to fight Hamas all the way to Gaza's southern border, fueling tension with Egypt

BY SAMY MAGDY  
Associated Press

CAIRO — Israel faces a growing risk of damaging its peace with neighboring Egypt as its military pushes the offensive against Hamas further south in the Gaza Strip. Already, the two sides are in a dispute over a narrow strip of land between Egypt and Gaza.

Israeli leaders say that to complete their destruction of Hamas, they must eventually widen their offensive to Gaza's southernmost town, Rafah, and take control of the Philadelphi Corridor, a tiny buffer zone on the border with Egypt that is demilitarized under the two countries' 1979 peace accord.

In a news conference last week, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Hamas continues to smuggle weapons under the border — a claim Egypt vehemently denies — and that the war cannot end "until we close this breach," referring to the corridor.

That brought a sharp warning from Egypt that deploying Israeli troops in the zone, known in Egypt as the Salaheddin Corridor, will violate the peace deal.

"Any Israeli move in this direction will lead to a serious threat to Egyptian-Israeli relations," Daa Rashwan, head of Egypt's State Information Service, said Monday.

## EGYPT'S CONCERNS

Egypt fears that an Israeli attack on Rafah will push a massive wave of Palestinians fleeing across the border into its Sinai Peninsula.

More than 1 million Palestinians — nearly half of Gaza's population of 2.3 million — are crowded in Rafah and its surroundings on the border, most driven there after fleeing Israeli bombardment and ground offensives elsewhere in Gaza.

If Israeli troops assault Rafah, they have nowhere to flee. Palestinians have broken through before: In 2008, early in the blockade imposed on Gaza by Israel and Egypt after the Hamas takeover, Hamas blew open the border wall. Thousands of people stormed into Egypt.

Egypt told the Israelis that before any ground assault on Rafah, Israel must let Palestinians return to northern Gaza, a senior Egyptian military official involved in coordination between the two countries told The Associated Press. He spoke on condition of anonymity to talk about the internal discussions.

Israel says it has largely driven Hamas out of northern Gaza but is likely to resist allowing Palestinians back in the near term. Israel's bombardment and ground assault have reduced much of the north to rubble, leaving many without homes.

## ISRAEL'S DILEMMA

The dispute puts Israel in a bind. If it stops its offensive without taking Rafah, it falls short on its top war goal of crushing Hamas. If its military pushes to the border, it risks undermining its peace deal with Egypt — a foundation of stability in the Mideast for decades — and upsetting its closest ally, the United States.

Israel and the U.S. are already divided over Gaza's post-war future. The Israeli military is working to create an informal buffer zone about a kilometer (half a mile) wide inside Gaza along the border with Israel to prevent militants from attacking nearby communities. The U.S.



Associated Press  
Palestinians displaced by the Israel air and ground offensive on the Gaza Strip take shelter near the border fence with Egypt in Rafah on Wednesday, Jan. 24. Israel and Egypt are engaged in an increasingly public spat about a narrow strip of land between Egypt and Gaza. That strip is the Philadelphi Corridor.

says it opposes any attempt by Israel to shrink Gaza's territory.

Israel vows to expunge the militants from the entire Gaza Strip and has done so by a strategy of systematic destruction, at a huge cost in civilian lives. Starting in north Gaza, it leveled large swaths of the urban landscape, saying it was eliminating Hamas tunnels and infrastructure while battling militants. It is working its way down the territory, doing the same in central Gaza and the southern city of Khan Younis.

Netanyahu has said Israel intends to keep open-ended security control over Gaza to ensure Hamas cannot repeat its Oct. 7 attacks that triggered Israel's assault. He has been vague on what form that would take but said ensuring control over the Philadelphi Corridor is crucial.

"There are a few options on how we can close it, we are checking all of them, and we haven't made a decision, except for one thing: It must be closed," he said.

Egypt warned Israel and the U.S. that any military operations in the zone "could tear apart our peace," a second Egyptian official said. "We will not tolerate such a move." The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the press.

## IMPORTANCE OF THE PHILADELPHI CORRIDOR

The corridor is a narrow strip — about 100 yards wide in parts — running the 8.6-mile length of the Gaza side of the border with Egypt. It includes the Rafah crossing into Egypt, Gaza's sole outlet not controlled by Israel.

The corridor is part of a larger demilitarized zone along both sides of the entire Israel-Egypt border. Under the peace accord, each side is allowed to deploy only a tiny number of troops or border guards in the zone. At the time of the accord, Israeli troops controlled Gaza, until Israel withdrew its forces and settlers in 2005.

Hamas has had free rein of the border since its 2007 takeover.

Smuggling tunnels were dug under the Gaza-Egypt border to get around the Israeli-Egyptian blockade. Some of the tunnels were massive, large enough for vehicles. Hamas brought in weapons and supplies, and Gaza residents smuggled in commercial goods, from livestock to construction materials.

That changed over the past decade, as Egypt battled Islamic militants in the

Sinai. The Egyptian military cracked down on the tunnels and destroyed hundreds of them, saying they were being used to funnel weapons into the Sinai. It bolstered its border wall above and below ground and cleared the population from a 3-mile area adjacent to Gaza where only military and police forces are allowed.

During the fight against Sinai militants, Egypt negotiated with Israel and the U.S. to allow the deployment of its military in Zone C, as the demilitarized zone is known on its side of the border.

## DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE WAR

In mid-December, Israel made an official request to Egypt to deploy its forces in the Philadelphi corridor, the Egyptian military official said. Egypt rejected the request. Egypt's main fear is that any ground operation in the area would result in thousands of Palestinians storming into Sinai, he said.

Since the war began, Egypt has pushed back hard against calls that it take in a mass exodus of Palestinians. It fears Israel won't allow them to return to Gaza and says it doesn't want to abet ethnic cleansing. It has also warned that would bring Israel's conflict with Hamas onto its territory, potentially wrecking the peace accord.

Israel contends it must have control over the border to prevent weapons smuggling to Hamas.

Rashwan, of Egypt's State Information Service, called Israeli claims of continued smuggling "lies" aimed at justifying a takeover of the corridor. After destroying 1,500 tunnels, Egypt has "complete control" over the border, he said.

Kobi Michael, senior researcher with Israeli think tanks Institute for National Security Studies and the Misgav Institute, said the quantity of Hamas weapons found during the offensive shows smuggling continues and Israel must have power to monitor the border.

"The only way such quantities of weapons could have reached the Gaza Strip are via the Philadelphi Corridor," he said.

But Alon Ben-David, military affairs correspondent for Israel's Channel 13 TV, said 90% of the weapons in Gaza were produced in Gaza and that Egypt's crackdown largely shut down smuggling.

"The tunnels were really taken care of comprehensively by the Egyptians," he said.

# Official: U.S. warned Iran ISIS-K was preparing attack ahead of deadly Kerman blasts

BY AAMER MADHANI  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government privately warned Iran that the Islamic State group's affiliate in Afghanistan was preparing to carry out a terrorist attack before bombings in Kerman earlier this month that killed 95 people, a U.S. official said Thursday.

The official, who was not authorized to comment and insisted on anonymity to discuss the intelligence, said the U.S. was following its longstanding policy of a "duty to warn" other governments against potential lethal threats.

The official did not detail how the U.S., which does not have diplomatic relations with Iran, conveyed the warning about its intelligence on ISIS-Khorasan, known as ISIS-K, but noted that government officials "provide these warnings in part because we do not want to see innocent lives lost in terror attacks."

Iranian state media did not acknowledge the U.S. giving Tehran the information, and Iran's mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the Jan. 3 attack on Kerman, about 510 miles southeast of Iran's capital, Tehran. The dual suicide bombing killed at least 95 people and wounded dozens of others attending a commemoration for the late Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the leader of the Revolutionary Guard's expeditionary Quds Force, who had been killed in a 2020 U.S. drone strike in Baghdad.

In the time since, Iran has been trying to blame the U.S. and Israel for the attack amid Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip. It has launched missile attacks on Iraq and Syria. It then launched strikes on nuclear-armed Pakistan, which responded with its own strikes on Iran, further raising tensions in a region inflamed by the Israel-Hamas war.

*The Wall Street Journal* was first to report that the U.S. had provided the warning to Iran.

ISIS-K was behind the August 2021 suicide bombing at the Kabul airport that left 13 U.S. troops and about 170 Afghans dead during the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.

ISIS-K has thousands of members and is the Taliban's most bitter enemy and top military threat. The group has continued to carry out attacks in Afghanistan and beyond since the Taliban takeover.



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**VISIT** FROM PAGE A1

that he expects Joseph R. Biden to get most of the votes on Feb. 3 but that it is in the spirit of showing up that he is running for president regardless.

"Democracy dies without competition," he said. "I gotta show up and compete."

And lastly, Newsom spoke, voicing his support of the Biden-Harris 2024 campaign.

"I'm here on behalf of the Biden-Harris administration that have run a master class in the last three years and deserve to be re-elected for four more years as president and vice president of this country," he said.

POLITICO reported last week that Newsom is also visiting Calhoun County and a

Sun City retirement community to advocate for the Biden-Harris 2024 campaign.

Biden, Phillips and Marianne Williamson are on the Feb. 3 ballot.

On the Feb. 24 Republican ballot are Ryan L. Binkley, Chris Christie, Ron DeSantis, Nikki Haley, Vivek Ramaswamy, David Stuckenberg and Donald J. Trump.

The voter registration deadlines to vote in the Democratic Primary and in the Republican Primary have passed.

There are a few other First in the Nation Tour stops in South Carolina, though Newsom's only appearance was at the Morris College one.

Visit the South Carolina Democratic Party website to see the other upcoming events.



PHOTOS BY ADAM FLASH / THE SUMTER ITEM

U.S. Rep. Dean Phillips of Minnesota speaks to an audience member at Morris College on Thursday morning to promote voting in the South Carolina Democratic primaries on Saturday, Feb. 3.

**ECONOMY**

FROM PAGE A1

The GDP report also showed that despite the robust pace of growth in the October-December quarter, inflationary measures continued to ease. Consumer prices rose at a 1.7% annual rate, down from 2.6% in the third quarter. And excluding volatile food and energy prices, so-called core inflation came in at a 2% annual rate.

Those inflation numbers could reassure the Federal Reserve's policymakers, who have already signaled that they expect to cut their benchmark interest rate three times in 2024, reversing their 2022-23 policy of aggressively raising rates to fight inflation. Some economists think the Fed could begin cutting rates as early as May.

Nathan Sheets, global chief economist at Citi, said that recent experience suggests that economic growth can remain solid even as inflation cools.

"It underscores for the Fed that they don't have to be in a hurry" to ease borrowing rates to aid the economy, said Sheets, who thinks the first rate cut will occur in June.

After an extended period of gloom, Americans are starting to feel somewhat better about inflation and the economy — a trend that could sustain consumer spending, fuel economic growth and potentially affect voters' decisions this fall. A measure of consumer sentiment by the University of Michigan, for example, has

jumped in the past two months by the most since 1991.

There is growing optimism that the Fed is on track to deliver a rare "soft landing" — keeping borrowing rates high enough to cool growth, hiring and inflation yet not so much as to send the economy into a tailspin. Inflation touched a four-decade high in 2022 but has since edged steadily lower without the painful layoffs that most economists had thought would be necessary to slow the acceleration of prices.

The economy has repeatedly defied predictions that the Fed's aggressive rate hikes would trigger a recession. Far from collapsing last year, the economy accelerated — expanding 2.5%, up from 1.9% in 2022.

"Our expectation is for a soft landing, and it looks like things are moving that way," said Beth Ann Bovino, chief economist at U.S. Bank. Still, Bovino expects the economy to slow somewhat this year as higher rates weaken borrowing and spending.

"People are going to get squeezed," she said.

At an appearance Thursday, President Joe Biden pointed to the strength of the GDP report to tout his stewardship of the economy.

"The experts from the time I got elected were insisting that a recession was just around the corner," he said during a visit to the swing state of Wisconsin. "Every month there's gonna be a recession.' Well, you know, we've got really strong growth."



PHOTOS BY ADAM FLASH / THE SUMTER ITEM

James Jackson owns a thrift store in Sumter and said the change to the City of Sumter's business license ordinance is discriminatory to prospective Black business owners re-entering society after jail or prison time. New language in the ordinance says that a crime within the past 10 years unrelated to the business could bar someone from keeping or applying for a business license in the City of Sumter. Sumter County is also considering changes to its business license ordinance. Jackson was convicted of selling copyright CDs about 20 years ago.

**LICENSES** FROM PAGE A1

did not but may take similar action in the coming months.

Before the city passed its amendment to the ordinance in September, the city could deny, suspend or revoke a business license if the applicant or licensee had been convicted of a business-related crime within the past 10 years, but now, after the change, crimes unrelated to the business could also bar someone from keeping or applying for a business license in the City of Sumter.

Sumter County, meanwhile, may deny, suspend or revoke a business license if the applicant or licensee has been convicted of a business-related crime within the past 10 years.

Jackson's conviction is older than 10 years, so his business license is not impacted by the existence of the ordinances.

And despite the existence of this verbiage in both the city and in the county's ordinances, neither the city nor the county have denied someone a business license.

The city has nearly 4,000 active business licenses, according to earlier reporting from *The Item*, and there have been no denials. County Administrator Gary Mixon said during a public meeting in December that the county also has not denied any business license applications.

In fact, both ordinances do not require that the city nor county deny a business license on account of a recent criminal conviction.

The language of the ordinances does provide, however, the city and county with the option to deny, revoke or suspend a business license on account of a recent criminal conviction.

During a November Sumter City Council meeting, city attorney Danny Crowe pointed out that the ordinance uses the word "may" instead of "shall" when it says that the "license official may deny a license to an applicant," so it still gives room for Sumterites with recent criminal convictions to be approved to operate businesses in city limits.

Sumter County's business license ordinance also uses "may" and not "shall."

In short, these ordinances that could bar Sumterites with recent criminal convictions from owning businesses do exist, but as of now, they have not prevented any Sumterites with recent criminal convictions that have applied for business licenses from operating businesses.

Some locals say the existence of the language could still act as a hindrance for those seeking to re-enter society post-jail or prison time.

In a letter to county council from the Sumter City branch of the NAACP, President Elizabeth R. Kilgore wrote that the ordinance "could potentially hinder those seeking viable pathways to re-enter society and establish legitimate economic stability."

She also noted in the letter that the city's ordinance is even more restrictive than the county's and that both could "add another layer of prosecution."

This topic was talked about at length during the Jan. 23 Sumter County Council meeting, and Chairman Jim McCain said there is a difference between the intent



from which the ordinance was created and the impact it has had.

"The intent was to protect our people," he said.

City officials said something similar during a meeting where changes to the city business license ordinance took place.

Earlier reporting from *The Sumter Item* quoted attorney Crowe saying the City of Sumter's ordinance helps to protect the public.

"If the public construes a city business license as some kind of vouching or recommendation for a business, we wanted to make the qualifications for a business license better and more likely to protect the public," he said during the November meeting.

1.2 million South Carolinians have criminal convictions, according to data from *paperprisons.org*, and not all of them live in municipalities with this kind of ordinance, but many do.

Summerville, Turbeville and Columbia, to name a few municipalities near Sumter, all have ordinances in place that allow licensee officials to deny business licenses because of criminal convictions. Kershaw and Florence do not, to name a few others close to Sumter. This is not a comprehensive list.

Jackson, as well as some locals who spoke during Tuesday's meeting, feels that regardless of the intent behind the ordinances that they are still discriminatory and unfair.

"It's after our young Black men. It's after the Black men that did time, and now they want to come back out and do right," Jackson said.

Data from the U.S. Department of Justice shows that Black men are incarcerated at a higher rate than any other demographic.

"If you did your time, why should you not be able to come back out and start a fresh life?" Jackson asked. "[The ordinances] keeps people from starting their life over."

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# OPINION

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COMMENTARY

## Trump would drain S.C. wallets that Haley helped fill

When Donald Trump won 20 of Iowa's 40 nominating delegates — 20 of the 2,429 who will be allocated nationally; 20 of the 1,215 needed to nominate — he declared the game over. Enlarging his emotional repertoire — leavening a barrel of petulance with a pinch of synthetic magnanimity — he said it is “time now for everybody, our country, to come together.” Presumably, he was not inviting to this group hug those Americans he calls “vermin.”

After winning less than 8 percent of Iowa's registered Republicans, he received less than five percentage points more than a majority in New Hampshire. There, flanked Tuesday night by grinning, ring-kissing, cringeworthy toadies (Vivek Ramaswamy and Tim Scott, you are the sum of your choices), he declared the game over.

As the game enters the bottom of the first inning — 62 delegates allocated; 2,367 not yet — the nomination is his to lose. However, he, who despises “losers,” is one.

He, and the cult-cum-party under his tutelage, has lost the national popular vote twice, the presidency, the Senate and the House. His party spectacularly underperformed in the 2022 elections. And in numerous court challenges to the 2020 election results, he has compiled 20 fewer wins than the famously futile 1899 Cleveland Spiders baseball team,

which went 20-134. Trump's wisdom makes him flinch from debating Nikki Haley. Readers who did not see her combative, soaring Tuesday night speech can do so on YouTube. They will then recognize that his wisdom is a coward's caution.



**George Will**

On Feb. 24, South Carolinians can extend the nomination process into the middle innings — into March, giving voters elsewhere time to consider the following.

Trump's inversion of conservatism is complete. His prospective program features higher taxes at home and retreat abroad.

To be fair to him, it is simply beyond his poor powers of comprehension to understand that tariffs — he vows 10 percent on *all* imports from *everywhere* — are taxes paid by American consumers and producers. So, to a nation furious about inflation, he promises to raise the cost of living, especially for his lower-income idolaters, who necessarily devote disproportionate shares of their incomes to consumption.

A reelected Trump could keep this promise because Congress has abandoned to presidents (who cite spurious “national security” and

other “emergencies”) its constitutional power to “regulate commerce with foreign nations” (Article I, Section 8). This should especially interest South Carolina — and other exporting and importing states, in the Southeast and elsewhere — that will vote on March 5, Super Tuesday, when more than half the number of delegates needed for the nomination will be selected.

The Port of Charleston is one reason South Carolina's population is burgeoning. And one reason South Carolina has changed more, and more for the better, in the past 50 years than any other state. Upward of 400,000 South Carolinians have arrived since Haley left the governorship in January 2017, and the state was the country's fastest-growing by percentage in 2023. They might not know this, but many have become residents because of her.

Haley — like some other South Carolina governors, but she more than any other — has made her state an economic dynamo, where unemployment is 3 percent. Trump, whose understanding of wealth creation is, like his wealth, wildly exaggerated, will dump sand in the dynamo's gears.

In foreign policy, Trump, a leader obedient to his base, promises to ensure that Ukraine loses the war that he was sure would not occur. (In 2016, of Vladimir Putin: “He's not going into Ukraine, okay? ... You

can mark it down. You can put it down. You can take it anywhere you want.”) Trump, obsessing about the cost of U.S. assistance (a rounding error on the federal budget), is oblivious of the fact that almost 90 percent of U.S. dollars devoted to arming Ukraine are spent in the United States. His blinkered parsimony is ludicrous from someone who blithely presided over an \$8.4 trillion increase in the national debt.

South Carolinians should contemplate the deluge of measures likely if Trump, who has never had and never will have 50 percent approval, is a lame-duck president in 2026, when Republicans will be defending 20 Senate seats, Democrats only 13. A Democratic Senate majority's agenda in 2027 might include ending the filibuster, packing the Supreme Court, instituting card-check procedures to vitiate unionization elections (and the South's attraction of investments), pursuing statehood for D.C. and much more.

Haley's gallant “game on” message on Tuesday night might ultimately be unavailing. She is, however, standing alone against Trump possibly becoming the most valuable president progressivism has ever had.

Reach George Will at [georgewill@washpost.com](mailto:georgewill@washpost.com).

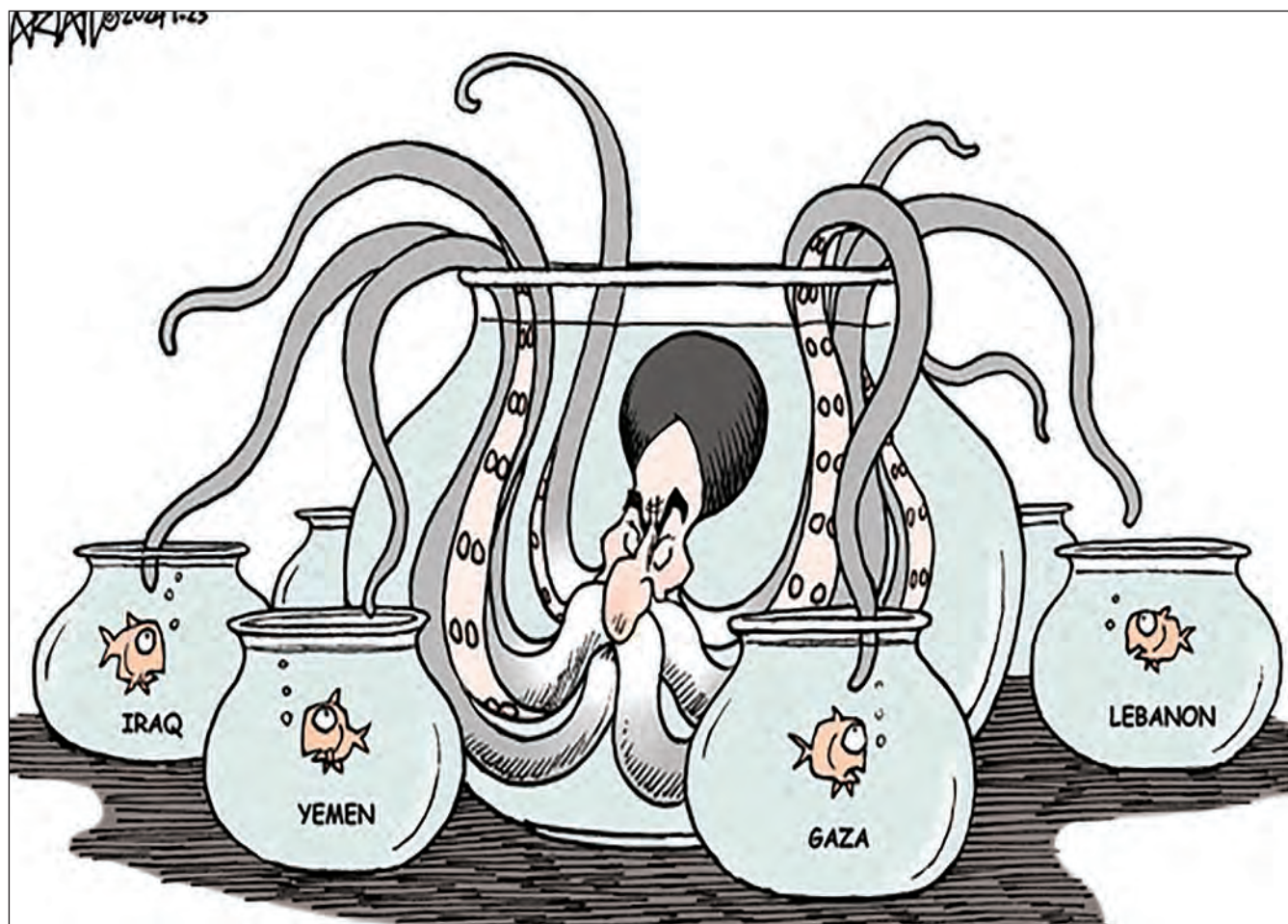
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than 350 words and sent via e-mail to [letters@theitem.com](mailto:letters@theitem.com), dropped off at *The Sumter Item* office, 36 W. Liberty St. or mailed to *The Sumter Item*, P.O. Box 1677, Sumter, S.C. 29151, along with the full name of the writer, plus an address and telephone number for verification purposes only. Letters that exceed 350 words will be cut accordingly in the print edition, but available in their entirety at [www.theitem.com](http://www.theitem.com).



COMMENTARY

## Social Security system is a broken socialist dinosaur

It seems many still harbor, or want to perpetuate, the illusion that our Social Security system is not in trouble.

Let me quote here from a press release from the Social Security Administration released March 31, 2023:

“The Social Security Board of Trustees today released its annual report on the financial status of the Social Security Trust Funds. The combined asset reserves of the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance (OASI and DI) Trust Funds are projected to become depleted in 2034, one year earlier than projected last year, with 80% of benefits payable at that time.”

In 2034, per the report, “if Congress does not act before then ... there would be sufficient income coming in to pay 80% of scheduled benefits.”

It couldn't be clearer. In 10 years, with no action from Congress, everyone will begin receiving 80% of what they are currently receiving, or promised, under the existing Social Security system.

Can anyone imagine getting a notice from a private retirement provider saying that in 10 years all beneficiaries will begin receiving 80% of what they were promised?

How did we get into this situation? It's the wonders of government planning, of socialism.

Social Security is not a pension program based on investments. It is a government tax and spend program. The stipends of current retirees are paid with the payroll tax of those currently working.

Because life spans have increased and population growth has decreased, there are far fewer working now to support each retiree than was the case years ago. Socialism is always mugged by reality.

The Committee to Unleash Prosperity estimates that over the last 40 years, the

annual real return of Social Security for “the typical middle-class worker” has been about 1% per year.

Today, 30-year government bonds yield over 4%. The historic long-term return on stocks is 6%. Inflation adjusted.

The paltry returns on Social Security are going to turn out much worse. To close the 20% deficit between revenues and outlays 10 years from now, some combination of tax increases and benefit cuts will be necessary. This will make bad returns even worse.

Aside from the terrible economics of Social Security, how about the terrible politics?

Every young person entering the workforce today has no choice but to pay the payroll tax into this bankrupt system.

With all our rhetoric about freedom, democracy and social justice, shouldn't young people entering the workforce be given a choice whether they want to participate in this system? Why shouldn't they be given the

option — the freedom — to join a private retirement plan rather than a socialist government system?

How about the injustice this causes low-income Americans under the guise that government socialism is good for them?

For a low-income earner, the Social Security payroll tax takes the only funds that they have available to invest.

Per the Federal Reserve Consumer Finance Survey, median wealth of Black families is 15% of the median wealth of white families. Wealth comes from investment, not income. The percentage of Black families owning stock is about 60% of white families.

Shouldn't low-income families be given the option of getting out of the government system and investing privately over a 40-year working life and have the option to build wealth? Why should government be telling these free, private individuals how to manage their retirement savings?

Beyond what this broken

system does to individuals, it also hurts the nation in the larger fiscal scheme of things. Social Security accounts for 19% of federal spending.

Social Security not only points to fiscal and economic bankruptcy, but also to political bankruptcy, as politicians unwilling to tell the hard truths to citizens tell them everything is OK.

It's time for leadership and truth. And it is time to give American citizens freedom to control their own property and their own lives in our free country.

*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](http://www.creators.com).*

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**Star Parker**

## Biden administration urged by U.S. auto dealerships to halt EPA tailpipe emission limits regulation

BY ALEXA ST. JOHN  
Associated Press

DETROIT — More than 4,700 auto dealerships across the United States urged President Joe Biden in a letter Thursday to halt the Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to enforce stricter vehicle-pollution standards.

The missive comes just weeks before the agency's expected ruling on its tailpipe-emissions proposal, which addresses both climate change and pollutants that are harmful to health.

It is the second letter that auto dealers have sent to the White House in two months on the EPA's upcoming ruling, which could codify the agency's strictest-ever tailpipe emissions limits, proposed last April. The dealerships said Thursday that the Biden administration did not respond to their first letter sent on Nov. 28.

The agency and administration did not return request for comment.

With the world focused on trying to limit warming to no more than a 1.5-degree Celsius temperature above pre-industrial times, the administration has an ambitious goal to cut domestic planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030. Part of its focus is on the transportation sector, 58% of the emissions from which come from passenger cars and trucks, according to the EPA. The regulation also limits hydrocarbons, nitro-

gen oxides and particulate matter going into the air. These emissions cause a host of health issues and disproportionately affect people who live near heavy traffic.

The EPA says its proposed regulations would require up to two out of every three vehicles sold in the U.S. to be electric by 2032. That's higher than the administration's target of 50% set two years ago.

The regulations, which impact light- and medium-duty vehicles beginning with the 2027 model year, could mean a 56% drop in projected greenhouse gas emissions from the fleet, relative to existing standards, avoiding nearly 7.3 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions by 2055. They also reduce pollutants harmful to health by 60% from the existing standard by model year 2032.

Most automakers around the globe have pledged hundreds of billions of dollars to transition to all-electric new vehicle sales in the coming decade as momentum to address climate change builds. Last year, U.S. EV sales overall grew 47% to a record 1.2 million, according to *Motorintelligence.com*. EVs are seeing year-over-year growth but only hit 7.6% of overall market share in 2023.

Given that, thousands of auto dealers say they won't be able to meet the EPA's stringent goals.

Nearly 4,000 dealerships of the nearly 17,000 franchised shops nationwide asked

Biden to "tap the brakes" on the EPA proposal in the November letter, referring to the rules as an "electric vehicle mandate." House Republicans approved a bill in December to block the pollution limits and also called the rules a mandate.

In this week's letter, the dealerships asked Biden to "hit the brakes" entirely, citing several factors that they say indicate slowing EV adoption. The signers said the supply of EVs on dealer lots is twice that of internal combustion engine vehicles and that they won't be able to sell EVs at the rate the regulations would require.

"It is uncontested that the combination of fewer tax incentives, a woefully inadequate charging infrastructure, and insufficient consumer demand makes the proposed electric vehicle mandate completely unrealistic," the letter says.

The EPA's tailpipe-pollution limits wouldn't require automakers to sell a specific number of EVs every year.

Automakers can meet EPA regulations not just through pure-electric vehicle sales, but also through a sales mix including hybrid and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. The EPA has also said that the auto industry could employ widespread use of particulate filters, which mitigate the soot emitted from internal-combustion engines, and reduce conventional vehicle CO2 emissions through other clean-vehicle technology.

## Ring will no longer allow police to request doorbell camera footage from users

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon-owned Ring will stop allowing police departments to request doorbell camera footage from users, marking an end to a feature that has drawn criticism from privacy advocates.

In a blog post on Wednesday, Ring said it will sunset the "Request for Assistance" tool, which allows police departments and other public safety agencies to request and receive video captured by the doorbell cameras through Ring's Neighbors app.

The company did not provide a reason for the change, which will be effective starting this week.

Eric Kuhn, the head of Neighbors, said in the announcement that law enforcement agencies will still be able to make public posts in the Neighbors app. Police and other agencies can also still use the app to "share helpful safety tips, updates and community events," Kuhn said.

The update is the latest restriction Ring has made to police activity on the Neighbors app after concerns were raised by privacy watchdogs about the company's relationship with police departments across the country.

Critics have stressed the proliferation of these relationships — and users' ability to report what they see as suspicious behavior — can change neighborhoods into a place of constant surveillance and lead to more instances of racial profiling.

In a bid to increase transparency, Ring changed its policy in 2021 to make police requests publicly visible through its

Neighbors app. Previously, law enforcement agencies were able to send Ring owners who lived near an area of an active investigation private emails requesting video footage.

"Now, Ring hopefully will altogether be out of the business of platforming casual and warrantless police requests for footage to its users," Matthew Guariglia, a senior policy analyst at the digital rights group Electronic Frontier Foundation, said in a statement on Wednesday.

Law enforcement agencies can still access videos using a search warrant. Ring also maintains the right to share footage without user consent in limited circumstances.

In mid-2022, Ring disclosed it handed over 11 videos to police without notifying users that year because of "exigent or emergency" circumstances, one of the categories that allow it to share videos without permission from owners. However, Guariglia, of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, said the group remains skeptical about the ability of police and the company to determine what is or is not an emergency.

Last summer, Ring agreed to pay \$5.8 million to settle with the Federal Trade Commission over allegations that the company let employees and contractors access user videos. Furthermore, the agency said Ring had inadequate security practices, which allowed hackers to control consumer accounts and cameras. The company disagrees with those claims.

## Why it's important to turn on Apple's new Stolen Device Protection

BY KELVIN CHAN  
Associated Press

LONDON — You're in a crowded bar when a thief watches you unlock your iPhone with your passcode, then swipes it. That sinking feeling hits when you realize it's gone, along with priceless photos, important files, passwords on banking apps and other vital parts of your digital life.

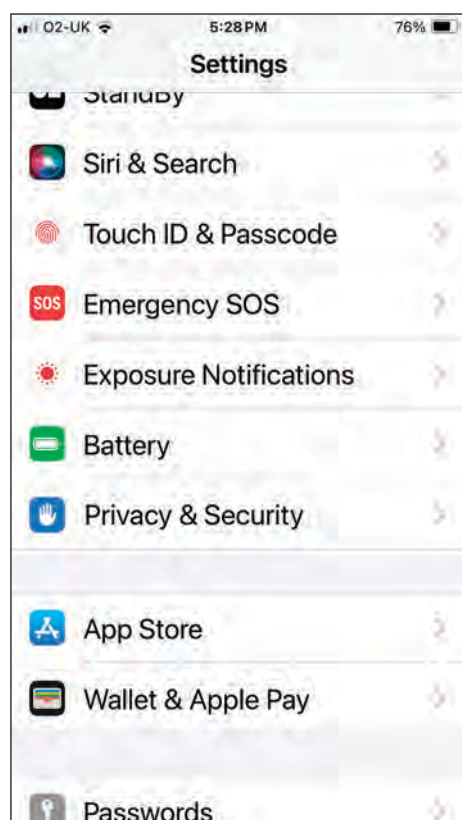
Apple rolled out an update to its iOS operating system this week with a feature called Stolen Device Protection that makes it a lot harder for phone thieves to access key functions and settings. Users are being urged to turn it on immediately.

Here's how to activate the new security option and why it's so important:

### SHOULD I TURN ON STOLEN DEVICE PROTECTION?

The software update for iPhones and iPads includes the essential new feature designed to foil thieves from wiping phones for resale or accessing Apple ID or other important accounts. Stolen Device Protection is a new setting that's included with the latest iOS release, version 17.3.

Apple says the feature, buried in your iPhone's settings, adds an extra layer of security for users. It addresses a vulnerability that thieves have discovered and exploited: allowing them to lock victims out of their Apple accounts, delete their photos and other files from their iCloud accounts and empty their bank accounts by accessing passwords kept in the Keychain password manager.



Apple is introducing the feature as anecdotal evidence suggests phone thefts are surging. Stories of stolen phones abound on Reddit groups and in news articles in places from Los Angeles to London, where police say pickpocketing, "table surfing" and moped snatching are common tactics.

*The Wall Street Journal* reported last year how criminals watched people use their passcodes to gain access to their personal information after

stealing their phones.

### HOW DOES STOLEN DEVICE PROTECTION WORK?

Stolen Device Protection keeps track of a user's "familiar locations," such as their home or workplace, and adds extra biometric security hoops to jump through if someone tries to use the device to do certain things when it's away from those places.

It also reduces the importance of passcodes, which thieves can steal by peering over someone's shoulder or threatening and forcing victims to hand them over, in favor of "biometric" features such as faces or fingerprints that are a lot harder to duplicate.

Let's say the bar thief that snatched your iPhone tries to erase its contents and settings to sell it. With Stolen Device Protection turned on, the phone will now require a Face ID or Touch ID scan to verify that person is the rightful owner.

And that's the only way — the new feature doesn't let someone use the passcode or any other backup method.

Other actions that will trigger this feature if it's not at a familiar place include using passwords saved in Keychain or payment methods saved in Safari, turning off Lost Mode, applying for a new Apple Card or using the iPhone to set up a new device.

There's also a second layer designed to slow down thieves trying to access critical security settings. If someone tries to, say, sign out of an Apple ID account, change the passcode or reset the phone while it's in

an unfamiliar location, they'll have to authenticate using Face ID or Touch ID, wait an hour, then do a second facial or fingerprint scan.

Changing an Apple ID password, updating Apple ID security settings, adding or removing Face or Touch ID and turning off the Find My device feature or Stolen Device Protection also will trigger this feature.

"The security delay is designed to prevent a thief from performing critical operations so that you can mark your device as lost and make sure your Apple account is secure," the company said. "When your iPhone is in a familiar location, these additional steps will not be required and you can use your device passcode like normal."

### HOW DO I ACTIVATE STOLEN DEVICE PROTECTION?

It's simple — if you know where to look.

First, download and update your iPhone or iPad with the latest iOS update. Then go to your settings, scroll down to "Face ID & Passcode" or "Touch ID & Passcode" and enter your passcode. Scroll down and you'll see Stolen Device Protection.

Depending on your iPhone model, you'll need to tap or toggle to turn it on or off. Make sure you've first activated two-factor authentication and Find My device for your Apple ID account, or it won't show up.

### WHAT DEVICES DOES IT APPLY TO?

iPhone XS and newer models, including second- and third-generation SE models.

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## AROUND TOWN

**Wreaths Across America needs 30 minutes to an hour of your time** on Saturday, Jan. 27, to remove the more than 800 wreaths from the cemetery that were placed after the Dec. 16 ceremony. Volunteers are asked to be at the Sumter Cemetery at noon for instructions. If you or someone you know laid a wreath on your loved one's grave and you do not want it removed, please contact the cemetery or Denise Owen at (912) 656-3966 with the name of your loved one's gravestone. E-mail Denise Owen at owenmom@aol.com for more information. Inlement weather may reschedule this event.

**The Gala of Purple Chapeau's and Gloves Luncheon** will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 27, at Shoney's of Manning. Join with 500 ladies in hats and gloves, accompanied by 500 Black authors from Clarendon and Sumter counties, for this event and find out how you can change the trajectories of the lives of young people in your community. There will be a silent art raffle and books available for purchase. Please RSVP to Christopher Davis at (980) 210-9448 or email curating-booksandart@gmail.com.

**The United States Air Force Heritage Brass Band**, a six-member ensemble that presents

a diverse repertoire featuring orchestral transcriptions, patriotic favorites, jazz standards and some new compositions, will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 27, at the Sumter Opera House, 21 N. Main St. Visit [www.sumteroperahouse.com](http://www.sumteroperahouse.com) or call (803) 436-2616 for more information or tickets to this free concert.

**The Sumter County Sheriff's Office Citizen's Relations Advisory Board** will meet at 5 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 29, at DeLaine Community Center, 5400 Cane Savannah Road, Wedgefield, SC 29168. The public is invited.

**The Sumter County Museum will hold a free talk and book signing reception with Author Dr. Walter B. Curry Jr.** from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3, in McKenzie Hall of the Sumter County Museum, 122 N. Washington St. The topic will be South Carolina African American Confederate Pensioners. A reception will follow with light refreshments and the opportunity to purchase books to be signed.

**A Motown Revue and Black history month art exhibit** will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24, at Patriot Hall, 135 Haynsworth St. Visit [www.patriothallsc.org](http://www.patriothallsc.org) or call (803) 436-2260 for information.

### The last word in astrology

EUGENIA LAST

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Forgo trivial matters, don't let anyone

goad you into a debate and sidestep anyone tempting you to take a physical or financial risk. Make plans to do something that lowers stress, puts a smile on your face and brings you joy. Start a new hobby. 5 stars

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Stick to the facts and leave no room for error. Stop anyone who exaggerates or gossips before someone gets hurt. Take control and complete what you set out to achieve. Personal gain is within reach. Pay attention to your appearance, and make romance a priority. 2 stars

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Travel for educational purposes or research. Keep your pursuits a secret until you have enough information to formulate your next move. Don't make decisions based on what others do or while under emotional duress. Get the facts and do what's best for you. 4 stars

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): A situation that could be emotional requires adjustment. Avoid joint ventures and sharing expenses. Set an agenda and head in a direction that doesn't require approval or permission. A creative project will change your direction or lifestyle. Self-promotion is favored. 3 stars

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): A risk can change your status quo. Listen, observe and assess situations rationally before you act. Your tendency to overreact will work against you. Protect your reputation and position. When in doubt, get an expert's advice. Pay attention to financial costs and details. 3 stars

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Make changes at home that lower your overhead and improve your living conditions. Take part in something that will broaden your awareness or bring you in touch with someone from your past. A trip or online chat will offer valuable information. Romance is favored. 3 stars

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't mix emotions and money. The cost of a

repair or replacement will take you by surprise. Look for a payment plan you can afford or an alternative that doesn't cost as much. Swift action on your part will help you come out ahead. 4 stars

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Settle differences with compromise, and it will encourage opportunities instead of setting boundaries. Share your ideas and concerns, and you'll get feedback that helps expand your plans. A chance to work with someone special will bring you closer together. 2 stars

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Know where your money goes. Spending on things you don't need will collide with unexpected expenses, leaving you short of cash and feeling stressed. Get expert advice rather than listening to a know-it-all who will point you in the wrong direction. 5 stars

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Consider what you want to pursue and what makes you happy. Focus on your living space and how it affects your functionality and relationships with others. An opportunity to engage in community events will lead to an exciting connection and personal growth. 3 stars

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put your energy to good use. Concentrate on closure and prepping for something you want to pursue. Focus on what you do best and what makes you happy instead of letting someone use manipulation to occupy your time and take advantage of your skills. 3 stars

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Change what's necessary. Keep your money and possessions in a safe place and avoid unnecessary purchases. Concentrate on personal gains that will raise your confidence and give you the courage to control what happens next. Speak up and pursue what brings you joy. 3 stars

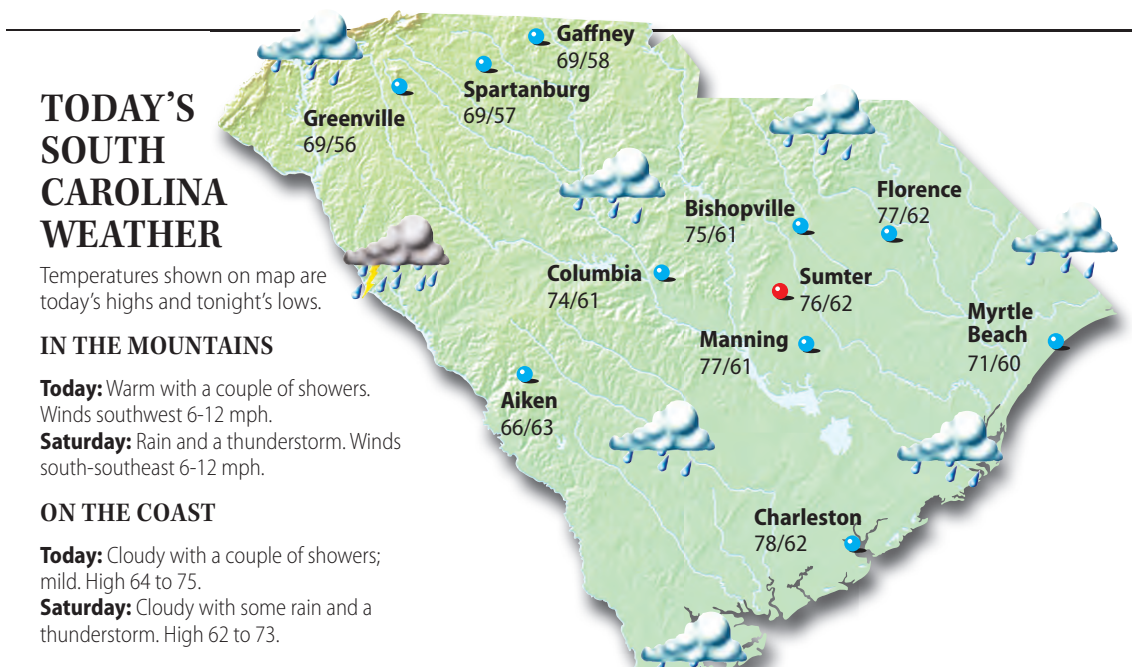
*1 star: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. 2 stars: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. 3 stars: Focus and you'll reach your goals. 4 stars: Aim high; start new projects. 5 stars: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.*

# WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2024

## AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Cloudy with a few showers	Cloudy, a little rain; warm	Heavy afternoon thunderstorms	A little morning rain; breezy	Breezy in the morning	Mostly sunny
76°	62°	74° / 62°	66° / 41°	58° / 34°	57° / 38°
Chance of rain: 85%	Chance of rain: 80%	Chance of rain: 75%	Chance of rain: 55%	Chance of rain: 5%	Chance of rain: 10%
SW 6-12 mph	SW 4-8 mph	S 4-8 mph	W 10-20 mph	NW 8-16 mph	SSW 4-8 mph



### LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THROUGH 4 P.M. THURSDAY

Temperature	
High	71°
Low	65°
Normal high	55°
Normal low	33°
Record high	79° in 1949
Record low	13° in 2014

Precipitation	
24 hrs ending 4 p.m. Thu.	trace
Month to date	2.00"
Normal month to date	3.08"
Year to date	2.00"
Last year to date	3.45"
Normal year to date	3.08"

### LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	355.54	+0.05
Marion	76.8	75.00	-0.10
Moultrie	75.5	73.08	none
Wateree	100	95.40	-0.77

### RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	8.60	-0.20
Congaree River	19	14.07	+9.94
Lynches River	14	6.59	-0.81
Saluda River	14	5.08	+2.38
Up. Santee River	80	78.87	-0.70
Wateree River	24	18.02	+0.22

### SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	7:23 a.m.	Sunset	5:46 p.m.
Moonrise	6:43 p.m.	Moonset	8:15 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Feb. 2	Feb. 9	Feb. 16	Feb. 24

### TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH				
	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	9:26 a.m.	3.0	3:43 a.m.	-0.3
	9:45 p.m.	2.5	4:26 p.m.	0.0
Sat.	10:02 a.m.	2.9	4:23 a.m.	-0.2
	10:23 p.m.	2.5	5:00 p.m.	0.0

### NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	69/59/t	68/47/r
Chicago	40/35/r	39/35/c
Dallas	63/45/r	50/36/s
Detroit	40/33/r	42/32/c
Houston	70/56/r	65/44/s
Los Angeles	71/52/s	78/51/s
New Orleans	69/63/r	72/51/r
New York	48/42/r	50/39/c
Orlando	83/64/pc	84/66/pc
Philadelphia	56/41/r	53/40/c
Phoenix	66/46/s	73/48/s
San Francisco	64/51/pc	63/53/c
Wash., DC	71/46/r	56/42/c

### REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Asheville	67/48/r	58/48/r	Florence	77/62/sh	74/63/r
Athens	68/58/t	65/48/r	Gainesville	82/61/sh	80/65/pc
Augusta	72/60/t	73/56/t	Gastonia	71/59/sh	64/53/r
Beaufort	75/60/sh	73/61/r	Greenville	69/56/sh	62/51/r
Cape Hatteras	66/56/sh	59/54/sh	Goldsboro	78/62/sh	72/60/r
Charleston	78/62/sh	75/63/r	Goose Creek	78/62/sh	74/63/r
Charlotte	71/60/sh	65/56/r	Greensboro	70/56/sh	61/52/r
Clemson	67/56/sh	63/50/r	Hickory	69/56/c	60/54/r
Columbia	74/61/sh	73/60/r	Hilton Head	68/59/sh	66/59/r
Darlington	76/61/sh	73/62/t	Jacksonville, FL	79/60/sh	81/64/c
Elizabeth City	74/56/sh	58/49/r	La Grange	70/59/t	67/46/r
Elizabethtown	78/63/sh	72/62/r	Macon	69/61/t	74/50/r
Fayetteville	78/62/sh	72/62/r	Marietta	66/57/t	64/45/r

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

## ANSWERS TO TODAY'S PUZZLES

### CROSSWORD

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

### SUDOKU

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

### JUMBLE

RELIC GLOAT FATTEN NAUSEA  
Saying Alaska is larger than Texas, California and Montana combined is — "STATE-ING" A FACT

## SUMTER SPCA PETS OF THE WEEK



**FAR LEFT:** Scottie is a neutered and housebroken 10-year-old brindle Plott hound. He is a very sweet boy who is super with children, other dogs and even cats. Scottie is extremely smart. He can sit, shake paws, stay and give a "high five." He is still an active guy and is very friendly and loving. Come check out his wonderful personality.

**LEFT:** Violet is a housebroken and spayed 2-year-old American short hair. She is active and enjoys lounging around in the cat room and watching out the window. Violet is super with other cats and children and loves cat toys and exploring. She has been at our SPCA for a year and would really love to find her forever family.

The Sumter SPCA is located at 1140 S. Guignard Drive, (803) 773-9292, and is open 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. every day except Wednesday and Sunday. Visit the website at [www.sumterspcpa.com](http://www.sumterspcpa.com).

**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.

## No. 1 Knights outlast No. 2 Darlington in region battle

BY TIM LEIBLE  
tim@theitem.com

The Knights were well aware of the stakes when they traveled to Darlington on Wednesday.

The top-ranked boys basketball team in SCHSL 3A was set to face off with the team ranked directly behind them. On top of that, it was a road game in the middle of a three-game week.

"The mindset was that it was an opportunity," head coach Aric Samuel said of the matchup. "We have the opportunity to come to their place first with the second game at our place, so we took advantage of the opportunity, and we needed that challenge. This challenge made us more focused. We were off focus the last four or five games. Tonight, we made free throws, we competed, we scrapped, and we looked like the No. 1 team in the state."

It was a war from the opening tip, but Crestwood took control in the third quarter and never let go, earning a season-defining victory 62-50.

"It feels great. We came in with a plan to beat them at their place, and we're going to beat them again when they come to Crestwood," star guard Shannon Davis said after the win. "It's all part of

the plan to go back to state and win it this year."

Junior forward Teon Tindal, who brought a block party to Darlington in the victory, thought the matchup proved the Knights' mental toughness.

"It was a hard-fought game. We were down in the first, but coach always preaches perseverance, and we just fought back," Tindal said.

The back-and-forth nature of the game started early. The Crestwood guards did the heavy lifting offensively, as

*'It feels great. We came in with a plan to beat them at their place, and we're going to beat them again when they come to Crestwood. It's all part of the plan to go back to state and win it this year.'*

**SHANNON DAVIS**

On the importance of the win over Darlington

Darlington focused their defensive pressure on Tindal in the paint. Davis put up seven points in the opening frame, while Xzavier Johnson added five and Aaron Coleman scored four more.

While Tindal was limited offensively early, he brought defensive energy to make his presence felt. Darlington tried



Crestwood's Shannon Davis (2) directs traffic against Darlington on Wednesday.

PHOTOS BY NICH PITTS / ITEM CONTRIBUTOR

to make a statement with a dunk attempt on the hulking forward, but Tindal hit return to sender with a devastating block.

"They've got to learn one day to stop trying," Tindal joked. "I can't blame them; I would've tried the same thing."

Davis kept rolling with another strong second quarter, carrying Crestwood into the half with a 31-29 lead with an additional seven points.

But the third quarter was where the No. 1 Knights broke away. They settled into their offense with an additional 17 points, while their zone defense started to take away from the three-point looks Darlington took advantage of in the opening two quarters.

"We came in wanting to run our offense at full speed to make them move a lot," Davis said. "They're a great defensive team, and they played really good defense tonight."

Crestwood led by as many as 14 points in the fourth

SEE **KNIGHTS**, PAGE B4

## Lady Knights earn comeback win over Darlington

BY TIM LEIBLE  
tim@theitem.com

While the boys game that followed drew a lot of attention, the girls game between Crestwood and Darlington had its own share of fireworks.

The Lady Knights trailed for most of the night but fought back in the second half to pull out a 53-51 comeback win.

The first quarter was ugly for Crestwood, as they

SEE **CHS**, PAGE B4



The Crestwood girls celebrate their comeback win over Darlington on Wednesday.



ADAM FLASH / THE SUMTER ITEM

Wilson Hall's Hugh Humphries scored 14 points in a win over Dorchester Academy on Wednesday.

## Wilson Hall sweeps Dorchester, rematch with Trinity up next

STAFF REPORT

The Wilson Hall basketball teams faced off against Dorchester Academy on Wednesday, taking home a pair of victories in the process.

The Lady Barons opened with a 43-36 win, riding a hot start to victory. Wilson Hall took a 16-7 lead in the first and held on from there.

Maggie Norris led the team with 11 points, while Sullivan Jarecki chipped in another 11. Aubrey Payne added seven, Marybeth Van Patten scored five, and both Emma Howle and Logan Mims had four.

The Barons ran into little trouble on their way to a 64-36

win as 11 players scored in the rout.

Hugh Humphries led the pack with 14 points, while Ford Wilder had 12 and Daniel Burton scored 10. Shawn Michael Matthews had seven, and Michael Lauzon had six. Thomas Creech scored five.

The Barons return to region action on Friday when they host Trinity Collegiate. They'll follow that with a matchup against Porter-Gaud on Saturday.

The B-Team girls were also in action, taking down Clarendon Hall 23-18. Tatiana Erichsen led the team with 10 points, while Jane Foley and Ashley Carter each scored four.

## Lakewood splits region matchup with Marlboro

STAFF REPORT

Lakewood basketball teams hosted Marlboro County in a pair of critical region battles as they fight for a playoff spot in the extremely competitive Region VI-3A.

The Lady Gators were able to secure a 58-44 victory to move firmly into the fourth and final playoff spot, with a matchup against Lake City on Friday to help secure that placement in the standings.

The boys, meanwhile, had a wildly up-and-down game. After a slow start, they battled back to take a four-point lead in the fourth before stumbling to a 55-50 loss, which leaves them on the outside looking in as they fight in arguably the most competitive region in the classification.

The Lakewood girls rode a hot start to the blowout win, though Marlboro tried to make things interesting late. The Lady Gators outscored Marlboro 33-10 in the

opening half before an explosive third quarter by both teams. They combined for 40 points in the frame, but Lakewood maintained a comfortable lead. LHS scored just four in the fourth as Marlboro made a late push with 15, but Lakewood held on for a 14-point win.

Zakiya Hodge stepped up in the win, finishing with 20 points. Kenyria Butler added 14, while Makayla

SEE **GATORS**, PAGE B4



Lakewood's Zakiya Hodge shoots against Marlboro County on Wednesday.

ADAM FLASH / THE SUMTER ITEM

# Falcons pass on Belichick for former interim HC Morris

BY PAUL NEWBERRY and ROB MAADDI  
Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Falcons have hired Los Angeles Rams defensive coordinator Raheem Morris as their head coach after an exhaustive search that included six-time Super Bowl winner Bill Belichick, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press on Thursday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team had not made an announcement.

The 47-year-old Morris is a familiar name in Atlanta, having served as the Falcons' interim head coach for the final 11 games of the 2020 season after the firing of Dan Quinn. He previously coached the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for three seasons.

Morris was hired by the Falcons after an exhaustive search in which 14 candidates were interviewed, with Belichick the most notable among them.

Earlier Thursday, the team conducted a second interview with Houston Texans offensive coordinator Bobby Slowik, but decided in the end to go with a coach who worked in Atlanta from 2015-2020.

Morris becomes the first non-interim Black coach in Falcons history and joins general manager Terry Fontenot, who also is Black, in leading a franchise that hasn't had a winning season since 2017.

After being passed over for the Falcons job after the 2020 season in favor of Arthur Smith, Morris moved to the Rams. He spent three seasons as that team's defensive coordinator, a tenure that included a Super Bowl championship his first year.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Los Angeles Rams defensive coordinator Raheem Morris is returning to Atlanta as the Falcons next head coach.

Smith was fired by the Falcons shortly after their final regular-season game. He went 7-10 in each of his three seasons.

Morris was just 33 years old when he got his first head coaching job with the Buccaneers in 2009. He lasted three seasons, finishing with one winning season, no playoff appearances and a record of 17-31.

During his previous time in Atlanta, Morris worked on both sides of the line as a pass game coordinator, receivers coach and secondary coach under Quinn. He was promoted to defensive coordinator ahead of the 2020 season, moving up to interim head coach after Quinn was fired following

an 0-5 start.

Morris guided the Falcons to a 4-7 mark the rest of the season, leaving his career record as a head coach at 21-38. He was the first of seven candidates to interview for the full-time job that eventually went to Smith, who was offensive coordinator of the Tennessee Titans.

Morris is just the second coach in Atlanta history to get two stints as the team's head coach. Marion Campbell held the job from 1974-76 and returned to the post from 1987-89, failing to produce a winning season in either stint.

The hiring of Morris came as something of a surprise, given the team's clear interest in a coach of Belichick's

stature and its interviews with several other assistants, including Slowik, who were considered rising stars.

It will be especially interesting to see how the new coach is viewed by a fan base that had grown increasingly apathetic in the midst of six straight losing seasons and the Falcons' failure to produce a Super Bowl title over their 58-year history.

Many thought owner Arthur Blank would go for a big name, given the thousands of empty seats that have become the norm at Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

Under Morris this past season, the Rams' defense ranked 20th in yards allowed (337.9 per game), 13th in passing yards (231.1), 12th in rushing yards (106.8) and 18th in scoring defense (22.3 points per game).

Morris is the fourth minority hire during this coaching cycle, joining Dave Canales in Carolina, Jerod Mayo in New England and Antonio Pierce in Las Vegas. That brings the NFL total to nine minority coaches, a group that also includes Pittsburgh's Mike Tomlin, Houston's DeMeco Ryans, Tampa Bay's Todd Bowles, Miami's Mike McDaniel and the New York Jets' Robert Saleh.

It will be the most minority NFL head coaches ever entering a season.

"This is a major milestone for the National Football League, which has been struggling to raise the percentage of head coaches of color, particularly Black head coaches," said Richard Lapchick, founder of The Institute for Diversity and Ethics In Sport (TIDES). "The NFL has worked hard to put programs in place to make this happen and the rewards have finally come home."

# Panthers hire Buccaneers OC Canales as next head coach

BY STEVE REED  
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE — The Carolina Panthers have agreed to hire Tampa Bay Buccaneers offensive coordinator Dave Canales as their new head coach, according to two people familiar with the situation.

Canales has informed the Buccaneers that he is taking the job, although there are still details that need to be finalized before the move is announced, according to the people who spoke to The Associated Press on Thursday on condition of anonymity.

Canales will be the seventh head coach since owner David Tepper took over as owner in 2018. He inherits a Panthers team that went 2-15 last season and does not have a first-round draft pick in 2024.

Canales, who is Mexican-American, joins Ron Rivera as the second head coach of Latino descent hired by the Panthers.

He will be the third minority hire during this coaching cycle, joining Jerod Mayo in New England and Antonio

Pierce in Las Vegas, bringing the NFL total to eight along with Pittsburgh's Mike Tomlin, Houston's DeMeco Ryans, Tampa Bay's Todd Bowles, Miami's Mike McDaniel and the New York Jets' Robert Saleh.

Three teams still have yet to hire a head coach: the Falcons, Seahawks and Commanders.

The hire caps a meteoric rise for the 42-year-old Canales, who was working as the Seattle Seahawks quarterbacks coach in 2022.

He spent 13 seasons in Seattle where he worked with Dan Morgan, who was recently hired as the Panthers general manager and president of football operations. Morgan replaced general manager Scott Fitterer, who was fired after the season.

Canales broke into league in 2010 as the Seahawks wide receivers coach, where he spent eight seasons and helped the team win a Super Bowl in the 2013 season. He spent three more seasons as the team's quarterbacks coach working with Russell Wilson and two as passing

game coordinator before the landing the Buccaneers job last year.

Canales helped the Bucs reach the NFC divisional playoffs with Baker Mayfield at quarterback in his first and only season as an NFL offensive coordinator.

Canales will be entrusted with the development of quarterback Bryce Young, the No. 1 pick in the 2023 draft who struggled as a rookie. Young went 2-14 as a starter and averaged fewer than 180 yards passing per game and had just 11 touchdown passes and 10 interceptions.

Canales' development of Mayfield may have left a lasting impression on Tepper. The 2018 No. 1 overall pick had struggled last season with the Panthers and was released late in the 2022 season.

But under Canales, he resurrected his career in Tampa Bay.

Mayfield completed 64.3% of his passes for 4,044 yards with 28 touchdowns and 10 interceptions this season for the Bucs, who went 9-8 and won the NFC South in the final week of the regular season.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Tampa Bay Buccaneers offensive coordinator Dave Canales has been named the new head coach of the Carolina Panthers.

Mayfield played well in the postseason as well as the Bucs beat the Philadelphia Eagles 32-9 before losing last week to the Detroit Lions 31-23.

Mayfield completed 62.3% of his passes in the postseason for 686 yards with six TD passes and two interceptions.

Wilson had his best statistical season in 2020 with Canales as the passing game coordinator, throwing for 4,212 yards and 40 touchdowns with 13 interceptions. And Geno Smith posted his best season in 2022 with Canales as QBs

coach, throwing for 4,282 yards with 30 TD passes and 11 picks.

The big question might be how much patience Tepper will have with Canales.

The Panthers fired Frank Reich just 11 games into his first season as head coach this season after giving him a four-year contract. Tepper, who is 31-68 since taking over, hasn't shown much patience with head coaches, also having fired Ron Rivera and Matt Rhule during the middle of previous seasons.

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# Harbaugh makes return to NFL as Chargers head coach

BY JOE REEDY  
Associated Press

COSTA MESA, Calif. — Jim Harbaugh was hired as head coach of the Los Angeles Chargers on Wednesday, leaving Michigan after capping his ninth season as coach of college football's winningest program with the school's first national championship since 1997.

Harbaugh signed a five-year deal a person close to the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the Chargers did not announce the terms.

Harbaugh made the highly anticipated decision to go back to the NFL after a second interview and resume his chase for a Super Bowl that eluded him as a quarterback and coach.

He will be the first former Chargers player to return to the team as head coach. He played for the Bolts in 1999-2000 before retiring following the 2001 season.

"My love for Michigan, playing there and coming back to coach there leaves a lasting impact. I'll always be a loyal Wolverine," Harbaugh said in a statement. "I'm remarkably fortunate to have been afforded the privilege of coaching at places where life's journey has created strong personal connections for me. When I played for the Chargers, the Spanos family could not have been more gracious or more welcoming.

"Being back here feels like home, and it's great to see that those things haven't changed."

Harbaugh is the first coach in 26 seasons to win a national title and not return to the school the following season. Nebraska's Tom Osborne retired following the 1997 season after the Cornhuskers split the national title with Michigan.

Los Angeles was looking for a new coach and general manager after Brandon Staley and Tom Telesco were fired on Dec. 15, a day after a 63-21 loss in Las Vegas to the Raiders.

Harbaugh was first asked about possible interest in the Chargers job as his team was



Former Michigan football coach Jim Harbaugh is headed back to the NFL as he takes over as the Los Angeles Chargers' head coach.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

yesterday. Be better tomorrow than today," Harbaugh said in a statement. "My priorities are faith, family and football, and we are going to attack each with an enthusiasm unknown to mankind."

Harbaugh returned to Michigan, where he was a star quarterback in the mid-1980s, in 2015 after going 44-19 over four years in San Francisco. He left the 49ers amid tension with the front office. He went to three straight NFC championship games and lost the Super Bowl to Baltimore, and his coach/brother, John, nearly 11 years ago.

The Harbaugh brothers will face each other for the first time since that Super Bowl during the 2024 season when the Chargers host the Ravens. The date and time will be announced in early May when the NFL regular season schedule is released.

He also came close to the Super Bowl as a player, nearly lifting the Indianapolis Colts to a win at Pittsburgh on a game-ending desperation pass in the AFC championship game on Jan. 14, 1996.

Harbaugh was one of eight candidates who had previous head coaching experience in college or the NFL, including former Tennessee Titans coach Mike Vrabel and former Stanford coach David Shaw, who was an assistant under Harbaugh at the University of San Diego and Stanford.

The Chargers also interviewed two in-house candidates — interim coach Giff Smith and offensive coordinator Kellen Moore.

Nine GM candidates have interviewed, including interim GM JoJo Wooden. The others are New York Giants assistant GM Brandon Brown, Baltimore director of player personnel Joe Hortiz, Chicago assistant GM Ian Cunningham, Buffalo director of player personnel Terrance Gray, New Orleans Saints assistant GM Jeff Ireland, Indianapolis Colts assistant GM Ed Dodds, Chicago co-director of player personnel Jeff King and NFL chief football administrative officer Dawn Aponte.

preparing for the Rose Bowl, but did comment. He first met with the Chargers on Jan. 15.

Harbaugh was the eighth of 15 coaching candidates to interview with the Spanos family. He was the only one to get a second interview.

The Atlanta Falcons also talked to Harbaugh on Jan. 16 and had booked a second interview before he decided to accept the Chargers job.

"Jim Harbaugh is football personified, and I can think of no one better to lead the Chargers forward," owner Dean Spanos said in a statement while also borrowing from one of Harbaugh's catch phrases. "Who has it better than us?"

The Chargers are the fourth of eight teams to fill their head coach job, following New England, Las Vegas and Tennessee. Atlanta, Carolina, Seattle and Washington remain with an opening.

Harbaugh called Michigan athletic director Warde Manuel to inform him he was leaving to lead the Chargers. Michigan tried to keep Harbaugh, offering him a new six-year contract for \$11.5 million per season, according to a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to share details of the deal.

Manuel may promote Sherrone Moore to replace Harbaugh after the offensive coordinator filled in for him during the final three games of the regular season when he was suspended by the Big Ten for violating the conference's sportsmanship policy over alleged sign-stealing in a case that dominated the second half of last season.

"We are working quickly to hire the next head coach for the program and will do everything possible to keep this current staff and team together," Manuel said in a statement. "We appreciate Jim's dedication and passion for Michigan, the university and Ann Arbor, and I wish Jim and the entire Harbaugh family much success with the Los Angeles Chargers."

Harbaugh was 86-25 at Michigan and restored college football's winningest program to relevance after it slipped over several seasons.

Following two straight losses in the College Football Playoff semifinals, extending Harbaugh's winless streak in bowl games to six, Michigan outlasted Alabama at the Rose Bowl and pulled away from Washington to win the national championship with a school-record 15-0 mark.

Harbaugh's alma mater could not offer the one thing he desperately wants — a Super Bowl title.

The Chargers have one of the league's top quarterbacks in Justin Herbert, but finished 5-12 this season and lost eight of their last nine, including the last five. Herbert will

be playing for his fourth head coach and possibly fourth offensive coordinator in five seasons.

The Bolts though have made only three playoff appearances since 2013 and haven't won a division title since 2009.

Harbaugh will inherit a team that most of all needs a culture change. They were 0-7 in games decided by three points or fewer this season, tying the 1984 Houston Oilers for worst mark since the merger.

The offense this past season regressed because of injuries at wide receiver and on the offensive line. Herbert broke the index finger on his right hand and missed the last four games, but even when he was at the helm, Los Angeles was ranked 18th in total offense after six straight years being in the top 11.

The defense was ranked 28th, marking the first time since 1986 it has been ranked 20th or worse three straight years.

Harbaugh and the new general manager will have the fifth overall pick in April's draft, the fourth time since 2016 the Chargers have had a pick in the top seven. Los Angeles will also move into a new year-around headquarters in El Segundo before the start of training camp.

"The only job you start at the top is digging a hole, so we know we've got to earn our way. Be better today than

# Defending champion Sabalenka beats Gauff, will meet Zheng in Australian Open final

BY JOHN PYE  
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Aryna Sabalenka has taken her Australian Open title defense all the way back to the championship match because she has applied a crucial lesson from her U.S. Open final loss to Coco Gauff.

She kept reminding herself the next point is often more important than the one she'd just lost.

So when she had missed a set point and a chance to serve out the first set, and then gave Gauff an opportunity to serve for a one-set lead, she was prepared to "let it go" and just keep swinging.

The No. 2-seeded Sabalenka attacked Gauff's serve with her powerful returns and unloaded 33 winners in total in a 7-6 (2), 6-4 semifinal victory Thursday night that earned her a spot in Saturday's decider against first-time finalist Zheng Qinwen.

Sabalenka won her breakthrough major here last year, and reached the semifinals at Roland Garros and Wimbledon before losing the U.S. Open final to Gauff.

Now she's the first to reach consecutive finals at Melbourne Park since Serena Williams in 2015, '16 and '17.

"The key was that I was able to stay focused no matter what, no matter what the score was ... keep fighting for it," Sabalenka said. "I'm super happy to be in another final of a Grand Slam. Hopefully I can do a little bit better than the last time."

No. 12-seeded Zheng had a

6-4, 6-4 win over No. 93-ranked Dayana Yastremska, ending the Ukrainian player's bid to become just the second qualifier to reach a Grand Slam final in the Open era.

Zheng lost in the U.S. Open quarterfinals to Sabalenka last year in her best previous run at a major but said she's more prepared this time.

Reaching the final a decade after Chinese compatriot Li Na won the Australian title almost completes a dream, she said. One more win will finish it.

"It feels unbelievable. I'm super excited to have such a great performance today and arrive in the final," said Zheng, who hasn't faced a player ranked in the top 50 in six rounds. "I haven't faced big seeded (players) ... but, you know, it's a match, so let's see what's going to happen in the final."

Sabalenka said she'd been "ready for anything" against Gauff, and was happy to have some support in the crowd after facing the 19-year-old American in New York last September.

Gauff went into the semifinals unbeaten in 2024 after winning the title in Auckland, New Zealand, and was on a 12-match winning streak in majors.

The first set contained six service breaks. Sabalenka led 5-2 and missed a set point as Gauff went on a four-game roll to take a 6-5 lead. Gauff also couldn't serve out.

In the tiebreaker, Sabalenka raced to 5-1 and chants of "Coco, Coco" echoed around Rod Laver Arena, where the roof was closed because of

rain.

It didn't help Gauff, who won points on just three of her 17 second serves in the first set. That made her push harder and led to six double-faults.

The second set was tight, until Sabalenka broke in the ninth game.

After missing her first match point when Gauff saved with a forehand winner to end a 12-shot rally, Sabalenka earned a second match point with an ace and clinched it after 1 hour, 42 minutes.

That she won't win a second major before turning 20 in March wasn't a huge concern for Gauff.

"I tend to be hard on myself, so today was like, 'Dang!' But looking back overall at this stage of my life, it was a successful time."

Gauff said she saw statistics that ranked her close to Serena Williams and Jennifer Capriati in their teens.

"They had great careers. So I'm in the right direction," she said. "I just have to remind myself of the journey and not so much of the moment."

"I did want to win a Slam as a teenager, and I did that. I was hoping to get No. 2, or at least give myself a chance to get No. 2. I feel it can only go upwards from here."

Yastremska, who won three matches in qualifying and five matches in the main draw, said she was proud of the way she was able to fly the flag for Ukraine.

"It was a great tournament for me. Usually (you) get in Grand Slams seven matches to play, and I have played nine matches, so I'm very proud of

myself," she said.

Yastremska needed a medical timeout after the seventh game after hurting her hip, and the fatigue finally set in.

In some older news, 43-year-old Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden advanced to their second consecutive Grand

Slam men's doubles final by beating Zhang Zhizhen and Tomas Machac 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7).

Tournament officials said Bopanna and Ebden, at a combined age of 79, will become the oldest No. 1 pairing in tennis history after the tournament.

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# KNIGHTS

FROM PAGE B1

quarter as they started to break away. Darlington hit a few shots to keep things interesting, but the Knights went a perfect 6-6 from the free throw line to help finish off the win.

Davis was electric in the victory, finishing with 22 points. Whether it was driving to the basket or connecting from long range, Davis did a little bit of everything in the victory.

“Shannon has the Kobe Bryant gene in him; he’s clutch,” Samuel said. “He doesn’t feel pressure. He’s an X-factor for us. If we can get Shannon going and we can get Teon going and Zay and Aaron can step in, we’re a very explosive team.”

Tindal finished with just nine points but used relentless defense to leave a massive impact on the game.

“Helping the team win is all that matters,” Tindal said on his ever-shifting role. “Whether it’s blocking shots or rebounding, play-making, scoring the ball, I’ve just gotta find a way to help the team win.”

Samuel said the Knights went into the game trying to get the ball to their big junior, but Darlington wanted to make other players beat them. One major point of emphasis down the stretch will be finding creative ways to get Tindal the ball.

“The focus is Teon. I know Shannon Davis is having a good time, Aaron Coleman is having a good time, Zay is having a good time, but most teams are focused on trying to stop Teon,” Samuel said. “We do our best to get him the ball. There’s so much traffic, and

that’s something we have to work on as far as getting the ball inside and getting him the ball. Teon is a very unselfish player, so sometimes we’ll get it to him, and he throws it right back out if they bring a double-team. He won’t force the action.

“That’s something we have to get better at, getting more production from him. We had so many plays drawn up for Teon, but give Darlington credit, we couldn’t get into the play.”

With Tindal limited offensively, the rest of the starters stepped up. Johnson finished with 16 points, while Coleman added 11.

The success of the guards was critical, as Darlington is one of a few teams that can match the length that Crestwood has on the perimeter. Samuel was glad to see his team step up to that challenge, especially on the road.

“We saw that in our scouting report that both teams were even in size,” Samuel said. “They’ve got five seniors out there, and any time you play against five seniors, it’s going to be a special effort. They have a great coaching staff, great young men. We knew if we played a team our size, we’d have to play a little differently and try to find some ways to exploit it. That was a great challenge for us.”

The Knights still have a busy week ahead, as they’ll host another strong Marlboro County squad on Friday. After that, Crestwood has another triple-header next week that starts with a home game



Crestwood’s Teon Tindal (13) pulls down a rebound against Darlington on Wednesday.

PHOTOS BY NICH PITTS / ITEM CONTRIBUTOR

against Darlington on Monday before a trip to Marlboro and a rematch with Lakewood.

“To me, it’s about managing their practice time, managing their minutes. We’ve got three games, so tomorrow we’ll watch film and go from there,” Samuel said. “Marlboro is coming Friday, and they’re tough. But that was a big win to take the lead and just a little bit of breathing room.”

The Knights have no intention of losing focus during a busy stretch.

“We’re still not done; we’ve got another big one next week, too,” Davis said. “We’ve just got to keep going hard in practice and translate it to the game.”



Crestwood’s Xzavier Johnson (3) shoots against Darlington.



Crestwood’s Jahiem Jones drives to the basket on Wednesday.

# CHS

FROM PAGE B1

trailed by as many as seven on their way to a 9-4 deficit. Darlington then made a strong offensive push to take a 24-18 lead into the half.

Then the Lady Knights started to wake up. The CHS defense stepped up, holding Darlington to just 10 points while the offense got to work. Crestwood put up 18 points in the quarter, trimming the Darlington lead down to two heading into the fourth.

And the Lady Knights just kept pushing. Darlington fought to maintain their lead early in the quarter, but Crestwood was able to jump out in front and held on for a 53-51 win.

Saniya Williams and Javiah Martin were dominant in the comeback win. Each finished with 19 points with Williams adding six rebounds and a steal, while Martin had two blocks, two steals and an assist. London Vaughn added eight points, two rebounds, three assists and a steal.

Crestwood’s Javiah Martin (4) shoots against Darlington.



Crestwood’s Saniya Williams (3) brings the ball up the court.



Crestwood’s Alannah Dixon shoots a layup against Darlington.



Lakewood’s Kenyria Butler handles the ball on Wednesday.



Lakewood’s Cedric Cisse shoots against Marlboro County on Wednesday.

PHOTOS BY ADAM FLASH / THE SUMTER ITEM

# GATORS

FROM PAGE B1

Cisse had eight. A total of 10 Lady Gators scored in the win.

The Gators followed with an absolute rollercoaster of a game. Lakewood got out to a horrendous start, scoring just three points in the opening quarter as they dug themselves an 11-point hole. They started to climb out in the second with 17 points. Cedric Cisse led the charge with 11 points in the frame as they closed the gap to 25-20 at the half.

Lakewood kept rolling with a dominant third quarter, outscoring Marlboro by nine points to jump ahead 39-35 heading into the fourth.

Then the wheels fell off. The Gators struggled defensively in the quarter, allowing a 20-point outburst from Marlboro. Second-chance opportunities for the Bulldogs opened the door for a comeback, and Lakewood fell 55-50.

Cisse had a huge game with 24 points and five rebounds, while Kameron Brown added 10 points and three boards.

The loss puts Lakewood in a difficult spot. At 2-4 in region play, Lakewood sits in fifth place in a crowded region. They are tied with Marlboro County with two wins, so the home stretch will be critical. The Gators will face Lake City, who is 0-6 in region play, on Friday with a chance to move back into the playoff picture while Marlboro travels to No. 1 Crestwood.



The Lady Gator bench celebrates a basket against Marlboro County on Wednesday.



Lakewood’s Zamarion Catoe handles the ball against Marlboro County.

# Rivers set to take over as Bucks head coach

BY STEVE MEGARGEE  
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Doc Rivers is finalizing a deal to take over as the Milwaukee Bucks coach a day after the firing of Adrian Griffin, a person with knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Rivers and the Bucks were still negotiating on Wednesday, according to the person who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because no contract had been completed.

ESPN, where Rivers has worked this season as an analyst, reported that Rivers has agreed to a deal in principle. ESPN's public relations department released a statement on social media from head of event and studio production David Roberts saying, "We wish Doc well and we look forward to documenting the next chapter of his coaching career."

Interim coach Joe Prunty led the Bucks on Wednesday night for their 126-116 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers. Bucks general manager Jon Horst held a news conference before the game to discuss Griffin's dismissal but declined to discuss the coach's potential successor.

"We're not going to talk about Doc tonight," Horst said. "That's not part of this. There will be at some point hopefully a time where we can do that, but this is a chance for us to kind of dive into the Adrian Griffin piece."

Horst indicated he didn't consult players before firing Griffin, who had led the Bucks to a 30-13 record that put them second to the Boston Celtics in the Eastern Conference standings.

Bucks players said the move caught them by surprise.

"The record speaks for itself," two-time MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo said after Wednesday's game. "He was 30-13. At the end of the day, this is the NBA. Sometimes decisions are made. It's a hard job. I feel and I hope everybody who came to the podium today and spoke about this situation gave Coach Griff his props and his credit."

"At the end of the day, he's a head coach and he's going to be around the league for a long time. We're going to see him probably in the near future."

Antetokounmpo also showed his support for management.

"At the end of the day, I trust the ownership decision," Antetokounmpo said. "I trust the front office. They've never (steered) me wrong in the past. They've always created a great atmo-



ASSOCIATED PRESS  
**Former Philadelphia 76ers coach Doc Rivers will take over as the head coach of the Milwaukee Bucks after the mid-season firing of Adrian Griffin.**

sphere, a great culture, a winning culture. They always did whatever was the best for the team and for us to be in a position to win, so we've just got to do the same here. You've just got to trust this is the best decision for me and the guys, and we've just got to go with it."

Griffin had never been a head coach until the Bucks hired him last summer, though he had spent 16 years as an assistant. The Bucks would be replacing him with someone who has nearly a quarter-century of head coaching experience.

Rivers has plenty of Milwaukee ties, as he played for Marquette from 1980-83 and his No. 31 jersey hangs from the Fiserv Forum rafters. He also has a championship background after leading the Boston Celtics to a title in 2008 and a Game 7 Finals appearance two years later.

He didn't have as much postseason success in later stints with the Los Angeles Clippers (2013-20) and Philadelphia 76ers (2020-23). The 76ers fired him last year after they exited in the second round of the playoffs each of his three seasons in Philadelphia.

Rivers' 1,097 regular-season wins put him one shy of Larry Brown for eighth most in NBA history. His departure from ESPN brought an emotional reaction from his broadcast teammates, Mike Breen and Doris Burke, before ABC aired the Dallas-Phoenix game on Wednesday night.

"Our dear friend has decided that life as an NBA broadcaster is way too stressful, so he's decided to opt for a less-stressful job — an NBA head coach on a team that's trying to win a championship," Breen said on the broadcast. "We thank him for all his many weeks of service and we wish him all the luck in the world."

Rivers would be taking over a team

that is chasing its second NBA title in four years and has shown a sense of urgency in the moves it has made over the last year.

The Bucks posted the NBA's best regular-season record last year, but fired coach Mike Budenholzer after a stunning 4-1 first-round playoff loss to the Miami Heat. Budenholzer had led the 2020-21 Bucks to the franchise's first championship in half a century.

Milwaukee followed up the hiring of Griffin by acquiring seven-time all-NBA guard Damian Lillard from the Portland Trail Blazers to team him with Antetokounmpo, who signed a three-year, \$186 million contract extension shortly before the season.

Horst acknowledged the dynamic of the team had changed since Griffin's arrival.

"These are special opportunities," Horst said. "The talent became even more special. The commitment to the team even more significant. And I think that increased the urgency."

Rivers' immediate task at Milwaukee would be to upgrade a defense that performed poorly enough under Griffin to cast doubt on the Bucks' title hopes. The Bucks entered Wednesday night ranked 21st in defensive rating, down from fourth last season.

"Defensively, we have a talent group I think that can be better than what they've been so far," Horst said. "Is that a top-five defense, a top-10, top-15? I don't know. That's what we're trying to decide here with the roster as constructed."

Although the Bucks have one of the league's best records, they face a much tougher schedule the rest of the way. They've gone just 7-5 in January, though they've won six of their last seven.

"There's been a lot of expectations on our team," Lillard said. "Things have been expected to look a certain way. We've kind of had a bumpy road to our success, which is sometimes a part of the process, but like I said, I was surprised."

Those struggles had led to some frustrations from players in postgame media sessions, but Horst disputed the idea Griffin had lost the locker room. Three-time All-Star forward Khris Middleton expressed a similar sentiment.

"I feel like any time a coach gets fired, that's the first thing you hear - he lost the locker room - when that's not always the case," Middleton said. "That's just the easiest thing to say. No, I won't say that."

# Unseld Jr. out as Wizards coach, moving to front office

WASHINGTON (AP) — Wes Unseld Jr. is out as coach of the Washington Wizards midway through his third season with the team, which has the second-fewest wins in the NBA.

President Michael Winger announced Thursday that Unseld would be transitioning to a front office advisory role. Washington at 7-36 is in 14th place out of 15 teams in the Eastern Conference. The Wizards have lost five in a row and 11 of their past 12 games and host the Utah Jazz on Thursday night.

Assistant Brian Keefe was promoted as the interim replacement.

Keefe joined the team in July after spending the past two seasons as an assistant with Brooklyn. He has also been on staffs with Oklahoma City and the New York Knicks. He started his career as a video coordinator with the San Antonio Spurs, who won a championship in 2007.

The Wizards said they will conduct a search for a full-time replacement in the offseason.

"After several thoughtful conversations with Wes, we determined together that a change was needed for the benefit of the team," Winger said. "Wes embodies the characteristics we value in our organization, and his vast basketball experience will be an asset to the front office as we progress toward our long-term goals. We are thankful that he will continue his contributions to our organization and community."

Unseld, 48, is the son of franchise legend and Hall of Famer Wes Unseld, who helped the then-Bullets win the 1978 NBA title. The Wizards went 77-130 with him as coach.

## OBITUARIES

### ANGELA F. POST

ADDISON, New York — Angela F. Post, 67, of Addison, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024, at Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, Pennsylvania.

She was predeceased by her parents, Charles and Willa Lilly Catoe.

Angela is survived by her husband of 49 years, Dennis Post of Addison; her daughter, Kimberley (Scott) Blackwell of Newark, New York; her son, James (Becky) Post of Corning, New York; her siblings, Karen Shipman of Sumter and DC and Gregory (Margie) Catoe of Beaufort; her grandchildren, Sarah (Greyson) Perkowski and Annie Blackwell; her four-legged companion, Sami; along with several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Angela was born in Rock Hill and graduated from Sumter High School in the Class of 1974. She met and married the love of her life, Dennis, and became a military wife. Together they moved to several different Air Force bases. She loved to travel and was proud of her volunteer work for Family Services on the bases. She was a fabulous cook and enjoyed painting rocks to leave for people to find.

A time of calling will be held from 11 a.m. to noon on Monday at Blauvelt Funeral Home, 625 Broad St., Waverly, New York.

A funeral service to honor Angela's life will be held at noon on Monday at Blauvelt Funeral Home, 625 Broad St., Waverly, with burial to follow at Bath National Cemetery in Bath, New York.

For those unable to attend the services, the service will be livestreamed at noon at [www.blauveltfuneralhome.com](http://www.blauveltfuneralhome.com).

Those wishing to send a message of sympathy to An-

gela's family may visit the Blauvelt Funeral Home Facebook page or at [www.blauveltfuneralhome.com](http://www.blauveltfuneralhome.com).

### EULIA GREEN FLEMING

Eulia "Uley" Green Fleming was born on Dec. 29, 1939, in Pinewood, a daughter of the late Uley Watson Green and Dewey Hopkins.

She met the love of her life and was united in holy matrimony to the late Allen Fleming. To this union, two beautiful daughters were born.

She was preceded in death by her beloved grandmother, Maggie Watson Brown; and five of her siblings, three brothers, Herbert L. Green, Richard C. Hopkins Sr. and Thomas Hopkins, and two sisters, Maggie Green Montgomery and Estelle Hopkins.

As we reflect on the events of her life, we the family quickly realized that she lived a rich and full life. Growing up in a Christian home, at an early age she was baptized and joined St. John Baptist Church, where she accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior. She was educated in the public schools of Sumter County and graduated from Manchester High School in Pinewood in the Class of 1957.

Throughout her life, she maintained her faith and tirelessly worked in many capacities. She enjoyed traveling and spending time with friends and family. Upon graduating from high school, her formal career began at her alma mater, Manchester High School, where she was offered and accepted the position of secretary. She enjoyed this position and worked in it for 10 years. After her husband, Allen, passed away following a brief illness in August of 1969, her life changed significantly, as she had lost her husband and had two young daughters and many new responsibilities. She made the decision to resign from her position of secretary at Man-

chester High School and began studying to pursue a funeral director's license. Then, in 1970, she took a leadership role at her husband's business and became the owner and director of Fleming Funeral Home in Summerton. In this role, she had the honor of serving many families in Clarendon and Sumter counties for more than 35 years. Her motto was "One Service to All."

As a result of a brief illness, she departed this earthly life on Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024, at Kennestone Hospital in Marietta, Georgia.

Her precious memories will be cherished by two loving and caring daughters, Lillian B. Fleming of Pinewood and Allene J. Fleming of Marietta; a special and devoted niece whom she loved like a daughter, Stephanie V. "Nessa" Auls of Loganville, Georgia; two grandchildren, Allen Fleming of Marietta and Amber Fleming of Roswell, Georgia; one stepson, Allen Fleming of Orangeburg; and a host of other nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

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

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday at Salem Chapel & Heritage Center, 101 S. Salem Ave., Sumter, SC 29150 with the Rev. Jermaine H. Walker presiding and the Rev. Herman Holland, eulogist. Interment will follow in New Hope AME Church Cemetery, Pinewood, SC 29125.

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](mailto:jobsmortuaryinc@gmail.com) or visit us on the web at [www.jobsmortuary.net](http://www.jobsmortuary.net).

### L.O. "BILLY" EDWARDS JR.

Ludie O'Dell "Billy" Edwards Jr., 88, husband of Sandra Jernigan Edwards, died on Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024, at McLeod Health Clarendon in Manning.

Born on Nov. 5, 1935, in Sumter, he was a son of the late



EDWARDS

Ludie O'Dell Edwards Sr. and Annie Elise Tobias Edwards. Mr. Edwards was a lifelong member of Sumter First Baptist Church. He enjoyed helping his

mother and father in their grocery store on Crescent Avenue and was a 1955 graduate of Edmunds High School, where he played football and was a member of the track team. He was a former president of "The Counts." He worked with the Sumter Fire Department and later retired as general manager of T.A. Davis Nissan. Mr. Edwards was a lifeguard at Ocean Drive Beach for four years in the 1950s and was inducted into the Living Legend Association of Ocean Drive Grand Strand in 2014. He enjoyed Surfside and Edisto beaches, the Atlanta Braves, Clemson Tigers, and especially his family and friends.

Survivors in addition to his wife of 66 years include four children, Renee E. Spears (Danny) of Blythewood, Cindy E. Belch (Brent) of Bald Head Island, North Carolina, Chris Edwards (Tracy) and Travis Edwards, both of Surfside Beach; a daughter-in-law, Shelley Edwards of Rock Hill; 10 grandchildren, Derrick O'Dell Edwards Jr., Grace Spears Ball, Jessica Helen Edwards, Elizabeth Sandra Belch, Arlee Belch Hedges, Olivia Grace Edwards, Samuel Blake Edwards, Graham Mitchell Edwards, Justin Belch and Brandon Belch; and two great-grandchildren, Hannah Ball and Philippa Hedges.

Mr. Edwards was preceded in death by a son, Derrick O. Edwards Sr.; and a sister, Betty E. Moore.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday in the Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home Chapel, officiated by the Rev. Dr. Bob Calvert. Burial will be in the Evergreen Memorial Park cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 1 to 2 p.m. on Sunday at Elmore-Can-

non-Stephens Funeral Home and other times at the home.

Memorials may be sent to Sumter First Baptist Church, 107 E. Liberty St., Sumter, SC 29150.

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

### MICHAEL BRENT HENDERSON

Michael Brent Henderson, 74, husband of Sandra Coe Henderson, died on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2024, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital.

Please visit [www.sumterfunerals.com](http://www.sumterfunerals.com) for the full obituary.

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



### JIMMIE LEE POWELL-BAKER

STOCKBRIDGE, Georgia — Jimmie Lee Powell-Baker, widow of Charles Louis Baker, departed this life on Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024, in Stockbridge.

She was born on Jan. 3, 1944, in Sumter, to the late Jimmie Powell and Edna Taylor Scabar.

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

### HATTIE MAE JOSEY

Hattie Mae Josey, 73, departed this life on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2024, at her residence.

She was born on Oct. 18, 1950, in Conway, a daughter of the late Richard and Mary Sigler Josey.

The family will receive friends from 3 to 6 p.m. daily at the home, 1170 Plowden Mill Road, Sumter, SC 29153.

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



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**Auctions**

At approximately 10:00 am on February 14, 2024 the contents of the listed tenants will be placed in auction at [www.storageauctions.com](http://www.storageauctions.com) in accordance to South Carolina Code 39-20-45 to satisfy the amount of the lien owed on their unit(s) at Storagewise of Sumter, 3315 N Main St, Sumter SC 29153

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**Auctions**

Razel Holdings LLC (d/b/a Tristar Storage) pursuant to South Carolina Self-Storage Facility Act, S.C. Code 39-2-10 to 39-20-50, shall conduct a public sale of contents of the units listed below online at [www.dinkinsauctions.com](http://www.dinkinsauctions.com) beginning on February 9, 2024. All sales will be paid by the highest bidder to Dinkins Auctions. Their phone number is 803-840-0420. Buyer must purchase whole unit. Units contain household goods and miscellaneous merchandise.

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Andre Johnson, Unit 131

Tristar Storage  
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Sumter, SC 29150  
Christopher Billie, Unit 050  
Sada Robinson-Jones, Unit 026  
Shannon & Steven McLeod, Unit 090  
Robert Moore, Unit 063

Tristar Storage  
2220 Peach Orchard Rd.  
Sumter, SC 29154  
Brandon Mickens, Unit 64  
Ken Phelps, Unit 2-53  
Mary Nettles, Unit 49  
Dell Mathis Jr, Unit 2-38/39  
Hope Galloway, Unit 52  
Dana Marshall, Unit 2-27  
Alexandra Waller, Unit 8  
Amanda Castro, Unit 139

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Tyron Sanders, Unit 0D-12

**Garage, Yard & Estate Sales**

Garage Sale, 70 Wilshire Ct., Fri. & Sun. (not on Sat.), 8am until. Baby clothes, ladies' clothes & shoes, furn., bedding, misc.

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Sat. Jan. 27, 8-1, 39 Lindley Ave.  
Furniture, dishes, piano, household items, etc.

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**For Sale or Trade**

2 cemetery lots in Evergreen Memorial Park, Iris Section, Lots 3 & 4. \$4,000 total. Contact: juergli@live.com.

**For sale in Sumter area: Inogen One portable oxygen machine, new canula, carry case & new car charger. Second owner but never used by me. Works perfectly. (Used only months by original owner.) Asking \$1600 firm. Call for details, 10am-7 pm, 440-773-6452.**

**RENTALS**



**Unfurnished Homes**

1 bedroom, 1 bath duplex for rent in Sumter historic district. Cul-de-sac, no thru traffic. \$645 per mo. plus 1 mo. security deposit. 513-401-2961.

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For sale: 2011 Toyota Limited, good cond., one owner, 135k mi., no accidents. White Pearl w/ tan leather int. \$11,000. 803-460-4131 (lv. msg.)

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# LAKE SIDE

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