

District survey results released; debate continues among trustees on holding students accountable or offering more chances

The 50% quarterly grade floor debate continues among Sumter School District's Board of Trustees, but teachers are overwhelmingly

While trustees heard a grading system presentation from administration and seemed completely split on the topic of minimum grading in a discus-

Since the start of this year, a group of four trustees on the non-partisan board, two of whom are running for Republican seats in other races in June's primaries for the November election, has continued to push for ridding from the district's grading manual

A total of 82.5% of district

SEE **GRADES**, PAGE A14SEE **SONNTAG**, PAGE A14

A photograph showing the back of a man sitting in a church pew. He is wearing a black t-shirt with the text "STOP THE VIOLENCE!" in large, bold, red capital letters, and "SUNTER DISTRICT AME CHURCH" in smaller red capital letters below it. The church interior is visible in the background, with other people seated in pews and a screen at the front.

PHOTOS BY ADAM FLASH / THE SUMTER ITEM

“As a church, we cannot sit back and think because we worship on Sunday, and because we talk about

The Sumter District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and The Sons of Allen have gathered since July 2021, focusing on the push to

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the Item.com



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A promotional banner for Jewelry Wholesale. On the left, there are several gold-colored bracelets with diamonds or crystals, a large diamond cross necklace, and two round-cut diamond stud earrings. The background is light pink. In the center, the text "Great Gifts for Mom" is written in a large, elegant script font. Below it, the company name "JEWELRY WHOLESALE" is displayed in a serif font, with a blue diamond icon between the words. Underneath the name is the address "41 E. Wesmark Blvd. • 803-778-1031". At the bottom right, the text "Check out our gift store!" is written in a red sans-serif font. On the far right, there is a small inset photo of a smiling woman and a young girl looking at something together.

the

Sumter

ITEM

SECOND FRONT

E-mail: pressrelease@theitem.com

Proposed Sumter County budget does not include millage increase

BY BRYN EDDY
bryn@theitem.com

The start of the 2024-25 fiscal year is coming up on July 1, and locals will soon see first reading of Sumter County’s budget.

The budget must pass three readings by council to become official, and the first reading will be on May 14, the second will be on May 28, and the third and final reading will be on June 11.

County officials estimate \$61,331,199 in total revenue and other financing sources. Last year, the county had \$59,514,776 in total revenue and other financing sources.

To break that down, for the 2024-25 fiscal year, the county estimates raking in \$35,299,382 from taxes, \$11,276,026 from intergovernmental sources, \$6,370,352 from service and revenue charges, \$3,674,500 from licensing and permits, \$1,622,700 from fines and forfeitures, \$1,154,694 from other financing sources and \$1,933,545 from miscellaneous revenue sources. This totals the estimated \$61,331,199 in total revenue and other financing sources.

Breaking down a few of those categories, the \$11,276,026 from intergovernmental sources includes grants, city hospitality and accommodations tax, voter registration, Sumter Economic Development and other sources.

The \$1,622,700 from fines and forfeitures includes court fines, ticket fines, filing fees, family court fees, probate judge fines and other sources.

County leaders expect to bring in \$1,560,000

in interest, which falls under that \$1,933,545 from miscellaneous revenue sources.

County leaders do not anticipate any millage increase at this time.

Last year, according to reporting from *The Sumter Item*, there was a millage increase, but it did not hugely impact taxpayers.

There was a 2-mill increase — \$659,546 — to bump the county’s millage rate to 85.9 mills, but thanks to a LOST credit offset, taxpayers were not hugely impacted. The state reimbursed the county \$600,000, which is more than half the cost.

Notably, a starting salary increase for sheriff’s deputies was worked into the 2023-24 budget. And council unanimously approved to amend the budget to make that possible with the increase in deputies’ starting salaries.

The city of Sumter did something similar for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

According to former reporting from *The Sumter Item*, the previous city budget included a tax increase, the first one in 15 years.

It was a 5-mill tax increase that would reel in \$781,013 to help pay for public safety increases. The salary adjustment was for both Sumter Police Department and Sumter Fire Department — fire starting at \$40,000 a year and police starting at \$45,000 — and then increases through the ranks from the starting point. The fire department’s starting salary used to be \$35,000, and the police department’s was \$40,000. There were also adjustments to retirement and police department overtime pay.



BRYN EDDY/THE SUMTER ITEM

Sumter’s new and only Tropical Smoothie Cafe is located at 1301 Broad St.

BizTalk: Tropical Smoothie opens its doors in Sumter

BY BRYN EDDY
bryn@theitem.com

Sumter’s new Tropical Smoothie Cafe is now open.

The long-vacant Checkers Drive-In burger restaurant at 1293 Broad St. in front of Walmart Supercenter was demolished late last year. The marquee sign outside the drive-in had read "Closed for remodeling" for a few years.

Located at 1301 Broad St.,

Sumter’s only Tropical Smoothie Cafe is open every day from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The other nearest Tropical Smoothie is in Columbia, but there are franchises all over the country offering healthy food options including smoothies, of course, salads, wraps, flatbreads, their own version of a quesadilla and kid-friendly items.

The ribbon cutting on Sumter’s new location was on Wednesday, May 8.

Sumterites to learn about the future of EV charging at May 13 SCDOT open house

BY BRYN EDDY
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Electric vehicles and electric vehicle charging stations are no longer a rare sight.

And leaders in South Carolina transportation are going along with electric vehicles’ growing popularity and hosting open houses throughout the state to educate the public on the future of electric vehicle charging.

On Tuesday, May 13, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Jasmine Room of Sumter County Parks & Recreation, 155 Haynsworth St. in Sumter, representatives from the South Carolina Department of Transportation will host an open house where they will give an update on South Carolina’s efforts to “support the electric vehicle (EV) industry and ecosystem as it kicks off the SC+EV initiative,” according to a flyer for the event, which also notes a “forthcoming deployment of EV charging equipment along South Carolina’s major interstates.”

A list of SCDOT open houses, including the one happening in Sumter on May 13, on this topic is available at southcarolina-



BRYN EDDY / SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Seen is one of the two electric vehicle chargers at the Sumter Opera House parking lot.

na-ev.com.

According to that website, the “SC+EV initiative will position South Carolina for the future of electrified mobility through the creation of a reliable and accessible statewide network of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. SC+EV will develop and deploy charging equipment throughout South Carolina in support of the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program.”

There are already EV charging locations throughout Sumter.

Former reporting from *The Sumter Item* details numerous charging stations in this area, some quick-charging, some standard, some newly installed, some a few years old.

And in August 2023, two new stations were unveiled

at the Sumter Opera House parking lot, and they are quick.

As level-three chargers, it only takes about 45 minutes to get a full charge, whereas the older charging stations, level one or two chargers, can take a few hours.

These stations at the Sumter Opera House were fully funded by Duke Energy.

Sumter Mayor David Merchant said at the unveiling last year that for the 45ish minutes that electric vehicle users are waiting for their car to charge, they can explore Sumter’s downtown, which will in turn bring more money into the city.

Black River Electric Cooperative is responsible for plenty of chargers in the area as well.

The Associated Press reported last year that EVs are increasingly popular but that the lack of charging stations is what has kept them from being even more common.

The report also cited the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, which estimates that 182,000 fast chargers will be needed by 2030; there are currently about 36,000 charging plugs throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Wilson Hall junior wins Congressional Art Competition



PHOTO PROVIDED

Wilson Hall junior Logan Schumacher won the Congressional Art Competition, and his artwork, a colored pencil and micron pen drawing titled “Far from Perfect,” will hang in the U.S. Capitol to represent the 5th Congressional District of S.C. Each spring a nationwide high school arts competition is sponsored by the members of the U.S. House of Representatives. The overall winner of each district’s competition will be displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol. Schumacher will attend the winners’ celebration and reception in Washington, D.C., in June.

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SUMTER TODAY

NOW STREAMING ON INSTAGRAM

Central Carolina Technical College students celebrated their graduation on Friday, May 3, 2024, at Sumter County Civic Center during the college's 60th commencement ceremonies. More than 450 students walked across the stage and into the next chapter of their lives.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTBHjb2_o2Y





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Senior spotlight on scholars



Four Sumter High School seniors in the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) academic program are recognized as AVID scholars at Monday's Sumter school board meeting. All will be attending college next year and have maintained at least a 3.0 GPA during high school. Pictured from left are Evan Gregg, Jaden Wilder, Ja'Corey Baxter and Arnez Dansby.

Myson's Tires on Guignard Drive closes



The final day of business for Myson's Tires at 1200 S. Guignard Drive was Tuesday, May 7. The store near Shaw Air Force Base at 3890 Broad St. will remain open.

PHOTOS BY BRUCE MILLS / THE SUMTER ITEM

Broad Street location near Shaw remains open

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

A longstanding Sumter business on South Guignard Drive with a well-known name, which was not actually its real name, has closed. Confused? Don't be.

Myson's Tires, 1200 S. Guignard Drive, shut down operations Tuesday, May 7, and a paint and body shop will be starting at the site in a few months, according to owner Keith Logan, who has made the decision to retire.

Logan also spoke this week on how the tire shop originally got its name.

Myson's initially opened on U.S. 521 South in 1969 and moved to the Guignard Drive location in 1996, he said. Logan is also part owner of the Myson's at 3890 Broad St., which will remain open.

His father, Bill Logan, started the business in '69 and actually got the name "My-son" from him.

"Before he opened the store out on U.S. 521 South," Keith Logan said, "my dad asked me, 'What do you think we should call it?'"

"I said, 'Well, dad, isn't it mine?'" "I was 10 years old at the time."

"He said, 'Well, one day it will be.'"

"I said, 'What about my son's?'"

"He said, 'That's it. That is what we will name it.'"

Through the years, his dad went by the name "Mr. Myson," even though that was not his name, Logan added.

Unless the Logans told people that the business name actually stood for "My son's," they did not know the difference, he said.

Myson's Tires on Guignard had about 10



LOGAN



A portrait of Myson's Tires' founder Bill Logan remained in the tire shop until it closed.

employees and focused on tires and front-end alignments.

Logan took over the business from his dad in 1988, he said, and said he will mostly miss the relationships he developed with customers.

"I went to DMV yesterday, and a lady who knows me from here, I told her that we were closing," he said.

"She said, 'Oh. I will tell you what, you ran a good, solid business. I never have heard a bad thing about Myson's Tires. Everybody would say, go to Myson's, and they will take care of you.'"

"That was nice to hear."

Logan's dad opened a Broad Street store in about 1982. In 2019, it moved down the road to 3890 Broad St. and near Shaw Air Force Base. Larry and Matthew Tickel run that operation.

Retirement...

Last Sunday, after serving for 30 years as pastor of Alice Drive Baptist Church, I announced my intention to step down once a new pastor has been found.

This whole experience has been a bit unreal. First, the average pastor in North America stays about five to seven years. One friend of mine is currently in his fifth pastorate — and he is 10 years younger than I. I never dreamed I would stay at one church this long. I've had opportunities to go elsewhere but never felt led to go.

Second, to stay at one church for 30 years means I am 30 years older. This does not seem possible. I began serving Alice Drive when I was 34. I had two small children. My youngest was born in my second year at the church. Back then, we had two other children in the nursery. A baby boom followed. Some of the kids born in my first years are now married and have children of their own. How could this be? In my mind, I am still in my early thirties, no matter what my mirror says.

Third, people refer to this as "retirement." When I shared this news with our church, several people my age who have already retired told me, "You will love retirement." I am sure I will enjoy having great control of my schedule, but I really don't have a model for retirement. My stepfather retired after 37 years with S.H. Kress, then went to work the next week at the ranch, where he worked another 30 years. My father-in-law went to work every day up until a few weeks before his death. So, I am not thinking about retirement; I am thinking about this as the beginning of another chapter.

I plan to write more, spend more time with the cows and do some consulting — after I spend the first month sleeping. But that will have to wait until a new pastor arrives.

People told me the new pastor will have big shoes to fill. I replied, "Not really. I wear a 10 — wide." I know they mean well, but I am not one of those guys who wants his successor to fail so he can prove how valuable he was. I think a new pastor will bring new ideas and new energy. I look forward to being his greatest encourager.

What will I miss most about being a pastor? It's hard to say. Since I will still be in my role for several more months, my tasks and schedule will not change much for now. I do enjoy seeing people take their next steps toward Jesus, whether it is a child professing their faith and saying they

want to be baptized, an adult who is struggling with faith stepping through the doors for the first time or a couple who begins to lead a LIFE Group and discovers this is their ministry. I enjoy preaching and teaching the scriptures, especially when I can help people discover something about God they did



The Rev. Dr. Clay Smith

not know. I feel truly blessed that over my 30 years as pastor, I have walked beside people in some of the most important moments of their lives. I've celebrated their marriages and the birth of their children. I've been at the hospital when they faced injury or illness (the stories I could tell). I've tried to counsel them through tough moments in life and marriage. I've walked with them to the final resting place of their loved ones. No seminary professor ever explained how sacred these moments are when you sense and feel the holiness of God.

I do have regrets. Too often, I put the church ahead of my wife and my children. I wish I had developed better ways of taking care of myself physically and emotionally. I was far too sensitive about what people said about me instead of listening to what God wanted for me.

Strangely, I also regret running out of time. There are things I wished I'd had a chance to do that I won't. There are still sermons I want to preach, ministries I want to launch and people I want to tell about Jesus. Of course, I will still be able to do some of those things, but not as a pastor. I recently told my wife, "I just realized Alice Drive will be the last church I will ever pastor."

My friend Dave Travis, who works with large churches in their transitions, tells me the average church takes about eight months to a year to find a new pastor. I've got some time. In these last months, I am going to enjoy my job. Psalm 126:3 says, "The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy."

The truth is, there is a time limit on all of us. Solomon told us in Ecclesiastes that the best thing we can do is enjoy our work while we can. It has been a joy to serve the people of Alice Drive, and I look forward to our last few months together. The Rev. Dr. Clay Smith is the lead pastor of Alice Drive Baptist Church in Sumter. Email him at claysmith@adbc.org.

Crowd enjoys annual Homegrown concert to benefit nonprofit



ABOVE: Jeff Eldridge plays fiddle.

BELOW: Grey Shealy plays drums.



Kipper Ackerman and her parents, Hank and Sandi Edens, sing together on stage at Sumter Opera House on Thursday, May 2, for Homegrown, the annual concert series benefitting The Sounds of Grace, a local musical nonprofit.



ABOVE: Evan Hunter and Michael Mitchum perform on stage at the Sumter Opera House.

LEFT: Kipper Ackerman plays the harp.



Molly Prothro and Ben McIver sing a duet on stage at Sumter Opera House.

Hamilton Cox on guitar and Tripp Boykin on keys perform on Thursday, May 2.



Curt Ackerman sings during the concert.



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EDWARD BROOKS WILKINSON JR. • 1958 - 2024

Sumter music icon Wilkinson cherished for ‘sense of humor,’ love of family, God

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com

To know Brooks Wilkinson was to love him, and it wasn’t hard to do either.

To know him, all you had to do was visit the places he loved most: SEACO Music and First Church of God. Once there, loving him came as easily as the laughter you let out at the telling of his jokes.

To those who knew him, he was selfless. To those who loved him, he was unique. And to all who miss him, he’s irreplaceable.

Born Edward Brooks Wilkinson Jr. on March 3, 1958, in Sumter, he began playing music at a young age. Raised within the walls of his family music store, SEACO Music, music was in his blood, and drums were the instrument that kept his heart pumping. He would be between the ages of 9 and 10 when he received his first drum set, becoming enamored with its sound and feel as well as influenced by the local musicians who frequented the store.

“Our childhood, our whole life seemed to revolve around SEACO Music,” shared Til Wilkinson Morisey, the elder sister of Brooks, about the “happening place to be.” “The store was very known for its humongous selection of hard-to-find 45 [Rpm vinyl] albums. Many people would come in looking for Fender guitars, and I think all the people coming in and out that were musicians really piqued his interest.”

Affectionately describing him as a jokester and mischievous, Morisey also knew her brother possessed natural-born talent and could attract people wherever he went. The influence of local talent “formed who he was” and ignited his need to share his love for music with the world. Unbeknownst to his sister until recently, Brooks shipped out recordings of his electric drumming across the country, earning him an audition for the drummer position in KISS. And while flattered and intrigued, Brooks set out to make his mark in his own way.

He played in local bands with talented musicians, some who still rock and roll in Sumter County limits today. As stellar of a time as he had with these artists, it was his tenure with pop rock band Prime Tyme that gave him his big break. Traveling all over the United States, the hometown band opened for greats like Fabulous Thunderbirds and Ace Freely of KISS, never leaving the audience without a unique experience to tell their friends about. After touring for 18 years, Brooks traded in the road for his roots, returning to SEACO Music as owner and operator, with the support of his wife, Shannan.

The couple met as teenagers and spent the last 24 years living and loving life to the fullest. Shannan, through her warm smile, reminisced about kayaking trips and ventures to the springs in Florida, mountains and beaches. Together, the pair came to understand life, Shannan expressing “I’ve never really been an adult without him.” They would share in their love of music as bandmates in “As-If” and expand the family owned music store’s reputation into a local music hub.

“He’s did everything, he’s probably put in the sound [systems] in half of the churches if not more than half of the churches in this town. Every time you’re at the fair, in the Opera House, Patriot Hall, they did all the sound installations out at the new hangar at Shaw, all the baseball fields and different schools; if it had something to do with music — except car stereos — my husband had his hands in it,” Wilkinson said.

Many people got to know her husband this way. His heart knew no bounds, as he would give what he had to those who didn’t have. His sense of humor was unmatched, not that there weren’t others who couldn’t crack a joke, but they couldn’t in the way he could. His desire to inspire was palpable, so much so that it drew in aspiring musicians and gave them



PHOTOS PROVIDED
Brooks Wilkinson drums with a smile. He died in April at 66.



Brooks Wilkinson and his wife, Shannan, perform on stage. He was owner and operator of SEACO Music and member of Prime Tyme band.

the strength to thrive, according to Dave Auerbach.

Auerbach, after settling in Sumter from California in 2005, came upon a job ad in *The Sumter Item* for a guitar teacher at SEACO Music. He recounted his first encounter with Wilkinson and the store as one of his “greatest memories.”

“I walked in, and I asked him, ‘I heard you’re looking for a guitar teacher?’ He told me, ‘We’ve had a few teachers, and they either didn’t seem to like it or it didn’t work out. I’ve been collecting a list of students that want to take lessons once we get a teacher.’ He hands me the list, and he’s like, ‘You want to go ahead and call

these people?’” Auerbach recalled. “I asked, ‘Aren’t you going to want to hear me play?’ I’ll never forget this; he says, ‘No, I have a sixth sense about musicians.’”

For two years, Wilkinson allowed Auerbach to host guitar classes, rent free, inside the music store. He had faith in the musician’s skills, taking any opportunity possible to brag on Auerbach’s education from the Musicians Institute in California. The two became good friends as years went on, Auerbach playing alongside the Wilkinsons, hosting student showcases at Pizza Lane and leading drum and guitar lessons for budding musicians inside the music store.

Throughout this time, Brooks shared his time at SEACO with another space that encourages expression through music: church. First Church of God in Sumter, to be exact. Here, he helped establish the praise team and played drums “joyfully,” worshipping God from his drum riser for more than 21 years.

“I met him a little over 30 years ago when I first decided I really wanted to pursue music seriously. I ended up in SEACO Music, and from day one, he was so supportive of local musicians. He always had an encouraging word,” said Kevin Jarvis, praise team director at First Church of God. Jarvis started out as a sound man at the church, before playing for the praise team to being its worship leader. He recalled Wilkinson always being “willing to play, willing to learn.”

“He just brought a joy and a

sense of humor to everything that kept everybody smiling. He just gave it his all. Whenever he played, you could tell he was giving 100%,” he shared. “He was so selfless and giving of his time and talents any time it was needed.”

While God came first, music was a close second, except when it came to family. His love for God showed in the way he loved his family — his daughter, Leah, and son, Dakota, specifically — friends, church members and customers. He would have health struggles, leading him to temporarily step away from what he loved. He would come back full force after beating two kinds of cancers against all odds, living 13 years past the time doctors originally set for him. His faith was unbreakable, and anyone who was willing to lend an ear would know as he declared “his God could do the impossible.”

“He was an ambassador for God,” Morisey expressed. “He’s just one of those people that the world is a better place because of him.”

Shannan couldn’t agree more, as photos of her husband’s radiant smile rest on the walls of SEACO Music. His smile wasn’t a rare sight, his jokes weren’t a rare occurrence, and his uplifting drumming was a familiar sound to her and many others. Though all who love him dearly will miss him here on Earth, they find comfort in knowing he and his dear friend, the late Francis Hanna, are jamming up there with the greats.

Wilkinson passed away on April 18. He was 66.

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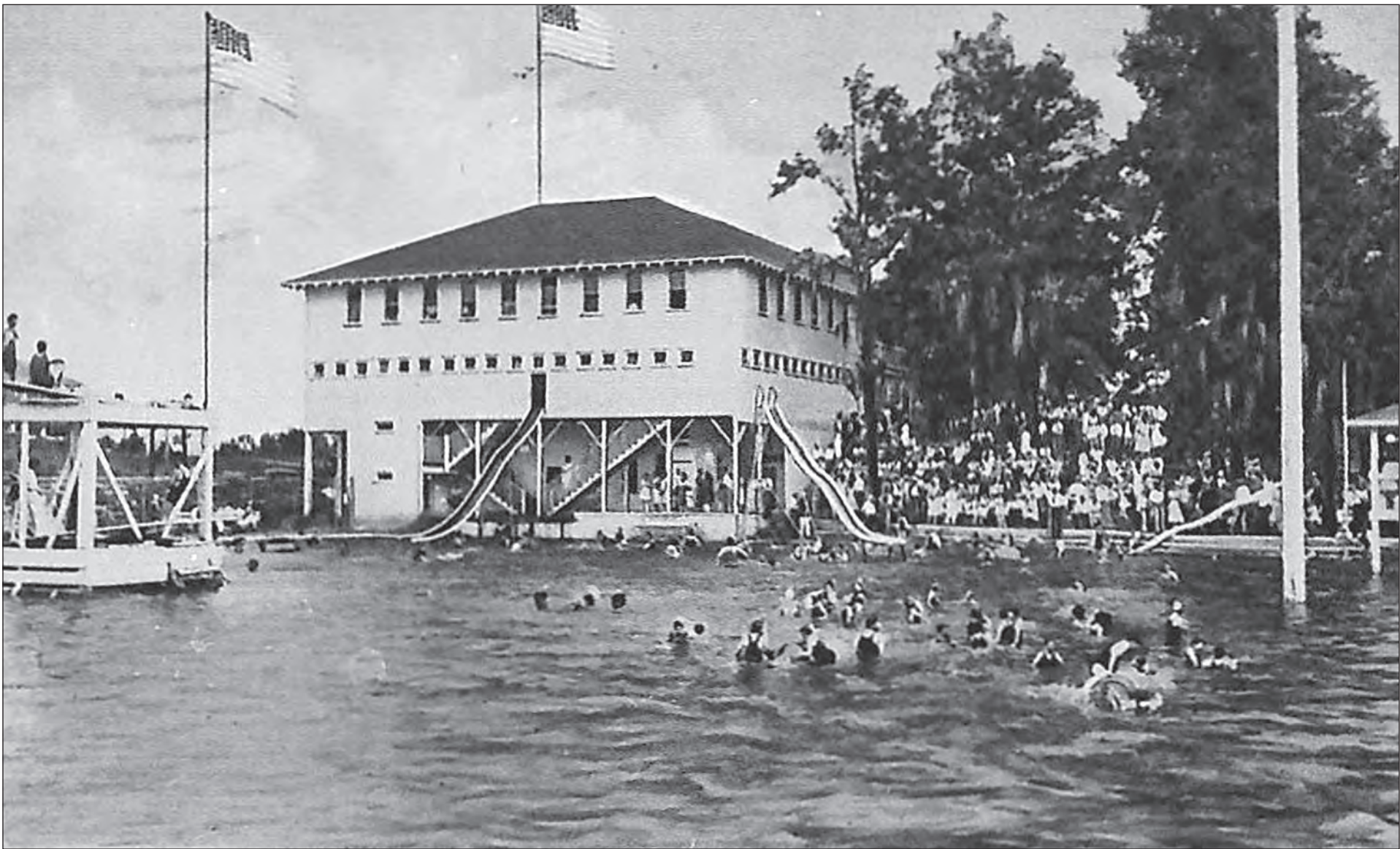
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REFLECTIONS



Swimmers enjoy Pocalla Springs pavilion in 1949. It burned down later that year. At one time, Pocalla was one of the most popular places for Sumterites to socialize.

Sumter had 2 pavilions for activities, entertainment

Reflections revisits two pavilions once located at Second Mill (Sunset Lake) and Pocalla Springs. Webster’s Dictionary defines a pavilion as a building or part of a building often partly opened and highly ornamented used for entertainment, exhibits and more.



Sammy Way
REFLECTIONS

These two sites were traditionally venues for swimming and boating but frequently provided space for bands, dancing and parties and occasional sporting events, such as boxing, wrestling and swim meets. Data and photos used to prepare this article were taken from *The Sumter Item* archives.

SECOND MILL PAVILION

During the hot summer months, Sumterites would often venture out to the Second Mill (Sunset Lake) pavilion for an afternoon of swimming and boating. Well before the pavilion was constructed, owner Richard Bradford had built a grist mill on the site, leading to the name “Second Mill.”

However, according to a Jan. 1, 1930, issue of *The Sumter Daily Item*, “The dance pavilion at Sunset Lake, popular summer resort located two miles from Sumter on the Pinewood Road, burned to the ground shortly before four o’clock in the morning by a fire of undetermined origin. The wooden structure was a mass of flames within a few minutes after it was discovered, and all efforts towards extinguishing it proved futile.”

“The next day all that remained of the beautiful building that had been the scene of hundreds of dances during the past five years was a mass of smoldering embers. Several boats

near the pavilion were ignited and burned, and the soft drink stand was slightly damaged by the heat.”

“The pavilion was built by G. W. Bradford at a cost of \$17,000 and carried insurance of \$10,000. Mr. Bradford had not announced whether the structure would be rebuilt, but it was hoped that it would be.”

POCALLA SPRINGS PAVILION

On June 20, 1961, *The Sumter Daily Item* noted that “a tragic fire two days after Thanksgiving, 1949, closed the doors of one of the most interesting spots in Sumter. A fire broke out at the end of a Saturday night dance. The incident marked the end of a 35-year period during which Pocalla was one of the most popular places frequented by Sumterites.”

Nothing more than a small stream marked the site when M. H. Beck purchased the property in 1909 and began to develop it. “In 1914, after the stream was dammed and a pavilion was built, Pocalla Springs was opened to the public.”

“On the first floor of the two-story pavilion was located a concession area and a dining room while upstairs was a dance floor complete with an electric, or player, piano. The bath house was a two-story construction adjoining to the pavilion and projecting out over the water. Men occupied one floor while the women used the other.”

“Small bath houses, which could be rented for the season, were located on the other side of the springs. Also, placed over the water but not attached to the pavilion, was a small bandstand. This roofed platform had a close similarity to the larger one presently located in Memorial Park. Pocalla was a natural place for a swimming pool. The yellow sand bottom was free of growth in its slope to a depth of 10 feet.”

That Sunset Lake Pavilion and Pocalla Springs Pavilion shared similar ends is heavily ironic. These conflagrations marked the end of an era of community-wide recreation and socialization.



Second Mill pavilion and swimming and boating area was popular until it burned down in January 1930.

POCALLA SPRINGS

Is Now Open To The General Public

The lake has been drained, thoroughly cleaned, and all equipment put in A-1 condition.

Schools, Sunday Schools, Lodges, all picnic and camping groups are welcomed.

Otis Hill, Prop.

Pocalla Springs pavilion advertised that it was open in April 1942.



THE SEASHORE AT YOUR DOOR

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE
THE OPENING OF THE

Second Mill Pavilion

MONDAY, MAY 12

BATHING, BOATING, FISHING DANCING, LUNCHES

WE HAVE A LARGE, CAREFULLY ARRANGED PAVILION AND OUR FACILITIES ARE SUCH THAT WE CAN CARE FOR ALL WHO COME. A PLACE FOR OLD AND YOUNG TO ENJOY THEMSELVES—WITH THE PLEASURES WITHOUT THE COSTS.
ROOMS RESERVED—SEASON TICKETS ON SALE
COME AND INSPECT OUR PLACE

Second Mill Pavilion advertised that it was “for old and young to enjoy themselves” in May 1924.



Second Mill is seen circa 1940s.

Veterans, caregivers, survivors invited to info event May 17

Sign up for services at college campus

BY MELANIE SMITH
melanie@theitem.com

Military veterans, their caretakers and survivors are invited to a community information event next week to sign up on site for any services they may need. The Veterans Upward Bound Program at Central Carolina Technical College and Veterans Affairs Columbia office will host a Veteran

Experience Action Center on the main college campus on Friday, May 17, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., according to a news release from the VA office and CCTC. Veterans, caretakers and survivors from Clarendon, Sumter and Lee counties and the surrounding area can find information at the event and sign up for services on the same day. They can get help with VA disability compensation and pension claims filing; veteran and widow benefits; veteran readiness and employment

benefits; VHA health care benefits and on-site enrollment; VA National Cemetery Administration memorial benefits; mental health counseling resources; and homeless, low-income housing and vocational support services. Visitors can also see the VA Mobile Vet Center, speak with a Columbia VAHCS environmental health coordinator and browse vendors and services from community partners. The campus is at 506 N. Guignard Drive, Sumter. Cici Elliott, assistant direc-

tor of the VUB program at the college, said, "Our program and Central Carolina Technical College is delighted to have the VA's Columbia office have a Veteran Experience Action Center on our main campus." "We are a pre-college program. We provide academic and career counseling, remedial instruction, tutoring services, financial literacy and planning, career assessments, workshops, educational tours, veteran resource assistance and more. Our program assists veter-

ans with their post-secondary educational goals. We want veterans to succeed, and often times education paves the way," Elliott said about the Veterans Upward Bound Program. Services through the program are free for veterans who meet eligibility requirements, according to the college's website. Call the college at (803) 774-6702 for more information about the program. Students can find an application to sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/yc28bpcz>.

2-time NASCAR champ visits airmen at Shaw



PHOTOS BY ADAM FLASH / THE SUMTER ITEM

Two-time NASCAR champion Joey Logano visited Shaw Air Force Base on Tuesday, May 7, ahead of the 65th Coca-Cola 600 race at Charlotte Motor Speedway on May 26. The day consisted of learning about the day-to-day life of a pilot at Shaw, a meet-and-greet with airmen on base and a rare opportunity to fly in an F-16 fighter jet with the 77th Fighter Squadron.



Sumter Cemetery Association's

2024 Annual Lot Owner's Meeting will be held

Tuesday, May 21 at 4:00pm

at the Sumter Cemetery Association office located at

700 West Oakland Avenue Sumter, S.C.

THE BOBBYS

JUNE 20, 2024

The Sumter Opera House

Guest Speaker: Dexter Davis

Featured Guest: Bobby Richardson

THE BOBBYS Sports Awards is a red-carpet event and scholarship presentation celebrating the best in local sports throughout the 2023-2024 season.

The night will be full of award celebrations, student-athlete scholarships, memorable videos, red-carpet photos and more.

Want to be a part of supporting local athletes? Sponsor a student athlete award.

ATHLETE AWARDS

RICHARDSON EXCLUSIVE AWARD FOR COURAGE

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES

◇ Football

◇ Boys Cross Country

◇ Girls Cross Country

◇ Volleyball

◇ Boys Basketball

◇ Girls Basketball

◇ Baseball

◇ Softball

◇ Boys Track & Field

◇ Girls Track & Field

◇ Best HS Male Athlete

◇ Best HS Female Athlete

◇ Best Coach

AD DEADLINE

May 20

Family, friends gather to celebrate Brent Garcia’s 22nd birthday at Sumter’s Missing Memorial

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com

Since the disappearance of Brent Garcia on Dec. 26, 2020, his loved ones have become unwavering advocates for missing persons, and their recent celebration of his birthday serves as a reminder of their commitment to keep his memory alive until they are reunited.

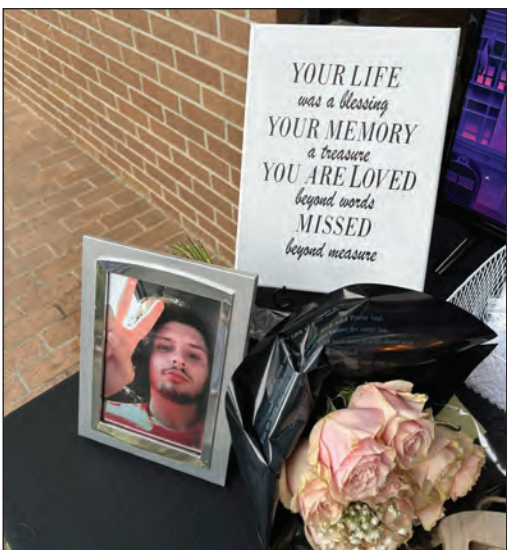
A crowd of 60-75 people, including his friends and family, lovingly named "Brent's Army," along with community members and law enforcement investigators, gathered at Sumter's Missing Memorial, "Sumter's Light of Hope," on Tuesday, April 30, to celebrate Garcia's 22nd birthday.

The crowd indulged in snow cones, popcorn and cupcakes before singing happy birthday to Garcia and lighting sparklers — his favorite, according to Nikki Brown. The family put together a slide show of fond moments with Garcia, evoking tears from many, including his mother, Angel Brown.

Brent's Army will continue to raise awareness for Sumter's missing persons throughout the year, including participating in the upcoming Inaugural Krawlin' For Christ parade, held in conjunction with Iris Festival, on Saturday, May 25.



Angel Brown, Brent Garcia's mother, shares a tearful embrace with her granddaughter at a celebration for Garcia's 22nd birthday on April 30 at the Sumter Light of Hope.



Family, friends and supporters of Brent's Army gather for a celebration of Brent Garcia's 22nd birthday on April 30 at the Sumter Light of Hope.

2024 S.C. General Assembly session may be remembered for what didn't happen

BY JEFFREY COLLINS
Associated Press

COLUMBIA— The 2024 regular session of the South Carolina General Assembly ended Thursday and will perhaps be better remembered for the things that didn't pass.

South Carolina remains one of just two states along with Wyoming to not have a hate crimes bill. A proposal allowing medical marijuana again made it through the Senate only to die across the Statehouse lobby in the House.

Liquor stores won't be open on Sunday any time soon. A bill to widely expand private school vouchers was pushed hard by House leaders but got nowhere in the Senate. And a proposal to consolidate several state health agencies died on a procedural motion in the session's final minutes.

There were some new laws passed big and small. Anyone who can legally own a weapon can now openly carry a gun. Bills banning gender-affirming care for transgender minors, removing the sales tax on feminine hygiene products and revising the state's law about compensating college athletes are awaiting the governor's signature.

And bills that would change the committee that screens judges and change the state's energy policy are headed to conference committees of three senators and three House members to see if differences between the chambers can be worked out.

But in the end, it was the things that didn't get done that highlight the end of this two-year legislative session.

Any bills that don't get through both chambers die Thursday and must be reintroduced in January with the next session. All 170 General Assembly members are up for election, so bills could face a much different legislative environment in 2025.

HATE CRIMES

For the second session in a row, the usually more conservative South Carolina House passed a bill allowing enhanced penalties for crimes that prosecutors could prove were fueled by race, gender or sexual orientation.

And that bill again died in the Senate without a floor vote.

Supporters of the bill think it would pass the Senate if it got a vote. But a few of the chamber's most conservative senators have kept the bill bottled up on the Senate calendar. They have said little publicly but suggest many crimes are caused by hatred and that it is dangerous to try to divine someone's thoughts.

Backers of the bill have worked hard. In 2022, they brought in major companies to push for the law so South Carolina wasn't an outlier with Wyoming. Last year, they brought out two of the three survivors of the Charleston church massacre where nine Black worshippers were killed in 2015.

They promise to come back in 2025, but they could face a more conservative House and Senate.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Across the Statehouse, for the second session the Senate passed a bill allowing medi-

cal marijuana that died in the House.

This year, the bill never got out of a House committee. In 2023, House leadership killed it on a technicality, saying it raised revenue and that kind of bill had to start in the House.

Republican Sen. Tom Davis has relentlessly pushed for the bill for nearly a decade. He has promised over and over again that he has no intent to allow recreational marijuana use. Smoking the drug for medical use would be illegal, and the marijuana could be obtained only through specially chosen pharmacies.

He said he will be back if reelected and lobby every House member himself if he has to.

"It's difficult to rewire a lot of people who have been conditioned to think of marijuana in a certain way and that factory session, or hard wiring, is particularly pronounced in South Carolina," Davis said.

Republican Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey said it will be up to the new crop of senators to decide if they want to take up and pass the bill a third time.

Republican House Speaker Murrell Smith said he didn't hear a lot of complaints that the bill didn't make it to the House floor.

"I did not sense there was support in our body," Smith said.

EDUCATION VOUCHERS

Before a pilot program allowing parents to spend taxpayer money on private and home-school education even started or the state Supreme Court decided if it was legal, the House started pushing to open it up to all parents.

The Senate never took up the bill after the House approved it.

The education scholarship trust fund program was enacted into law last year with a cap of \$6,000 for 5,000 students. The money can go toward tuition, transportation, supplies or technology at either private schools or public schools outside a student's district. Over three years, the current program expands to a \$120,000 family income cap and a limit of 15,000 students.

The House bill would open the program to all students, and the amount given to parents would be set to rise along with spending per public school student.

SUNDAY LIQUOR SALES

Also dying quietly was a bill that would allow liquor stores to stay open on Sundays for a few hours if their local governments allow it.

The proposal passed the House but did not get heard on the Senate floor.

Supporters said it is time to update antiquated, centuries-old rules based on religion that designated Sunday as a day of rest. They said it would help businesses — especially those frequented by tourists who spend well over \$20 billion annually in South Carolina and who are sometimes surprised to find they can't get a bottle of tequila or rum on a summer beach day.

Opponents said small liquor stores will feel compelled to work another day because the corporate outlets will be open.

Guns are being stolen from cars at 3X the rate they were 10 years ago

WASHINGTON (AP) — The rate of guns stolen from cars in the U.S. has tripled over the last decade, making them the largest source of stolen guns in the country, an analysis of FBI data by the gun safety group Everytown found.

The rate of stolen guns from cars climbed nearly every year and spiked during the coronavirus pandemic along with a major surge in weapons purchases in the U.S., according to the report, which analyzes FBI data from 337 cities in 44 states and was provided to The Associated Press.

The stolen weapons have, in some cases, turned up at crime scenes. In July 2021, a gun taken from an unlocked car in Riverside, Florida, was used to kill a 27-year-old Coast Guard member as she tried to stop a car burglary in her neighborhood.

The alarming trend underscores the need for Americans to safely secure their firearms to prevent them from getting into the hands of dangerous people, said Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Director Steve Dettelbach, whose agency has separately found links between stolen guns and violent crimes.

"People don't go to a mall and steal a firearm from a locked car to go hunting.

Those guns are going straight to the street," said Dettelbach, whose agency was not involved in the report. "They're going to violent people who can't pass a background check. They're going to gangs. They're going to drug dealers, and they're going to hurt and kill the people who live in the next town, the next county or the next state."

Nearly 112,000 guns were reported stolen in 2022, and just over half of those were from cars — most often when they were parked in driveways or outside people's homes, the Everytown report found. That's up from about one-quarter of all thefts in 2013, when homes were the leading spot for firearm thefts, the report says.

Stolen guns have also been linked to tragic accidents, such as when a 14-year-old boy in St. Petersburg, Flori-

da, killed his 11-year-old brother after finding in an alley a gun that had been stolen from an unlocked car a few days before.

At least one firearm was stolen from a car every nine minutes on average in 2022, the most recent year for which data was available. That's almost certainly an undercount, though, since there's no federal law requiring people to report stolen guns and only one-third of states require a report.

"Every gun stolen from a car increases the chances it'll be used in a violent crime," said Sarah Burd-Sharp, senior director of research at Everytown, which advocates for gun control policies. It's unclear what's driving the trend. The report found higher theft rates in states with looser gun laws, which also tend to have higher rates of gun ownership.

The report analyzed crime data from the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System, which includes details about what was stolen and where it came from. Guns stolen from cars bucked car theft trends overall — the rate of other things stolen from cars has dropped 11% over the last 10 years, even as the rate of gun thefts from cars grew 200%, Everytown found in its analysis of FBI data.

In Savannah, Georgia, city leaders last month passed an ordinance requiring people to secure firearms left inside cars after seeing more than 200 guns stolen from unlocked cars in a year. The measure is facing pushback from the state's attorney general.

The ATF has separately said that theft is a significant source of guns that end up in the hands of criminals. More than 1 million guns were reported stolen between 2017 and 2021, the agency found in a sweeping report on crime guns released last year. And the vast majority of gun thefts are from individuals.

The agency is prohibited by law from publicly releasing detailed information about where stolen guns end up. The information can, however, be shared with police investigating a crime.

Learn about Sumter’s history at Backcountry Springtime, explore a farm on Ag+Art Tour and find plenty of antiques this weekend

To make a submission to our events list, email pressrelease@theitem.com with EVENTS in the subject line.

SUMTER COUNTY

Sumter Farmers Market is up and running from noon to 5 p.m. Fridays through Nov. 22 at USC Sumter, 200 Miller Road. Grab some lunch at one of the many food trucks and purchase quality, farm-fresh products and unique hand-crafted items all at the market. SFMNP-Senior and WIC vouchers are accepted.

Love history? See costumed interpreters demonstrate skills like blacksmithing, spinning and weaving, as well as children's crafts and games circa 1800, at the Sumter County Museum's **Carolina Backcountry Springtime** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 11, 122 N. Washington St. For additional information, visit SumterCountyMuseum.org.

Sumter County Ag + Art Tour — The free, self-guided tour of farms and markets features local artisans at every stop and will take place Saturday-Sunday, May 11-12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Six stops will be on the tour, taking attendees to a farmers market, a farm store, a boutique and, of course, farms. For a list of locations, visit agandarttour.com/sumter.

Want to support a good cause and help local law enforcement solve crimes in the area? The **2024 National Police Week Golf Tournament benefiting Sumter Crime Stoppers** will be Thursday, May 16, as a four-man captain's choice event at The Links at Lakewood. In case of rain, it will be Friday, May 17. The registration fee is \$250 per team. The event is limited to 20 teams, and trophies will be awarded for first, second and third place. Mulligan packages are available, and the fee includes a meal after the tournament. Drinks will be available to buy. On the day of the event, registration will be at 8 a.m. with shotgun start at 9 a.m. All proceeds will go to Sumter Crime Stoppers in honor of law enforcement officers who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty, and it is sponsored by Sumter Police Department. For more on the event or to preregister, email bhite@sumtersc.gov.

The famous three-day **Iris Festival** surrounding the blooming of the irises at Swan Lake Iris Gardens will include concerts, arts and crafts, plants and flowers, antique and classic car shows, various contests and many children's activities. The festival will be held Thursday-Sunday, May 23-26, at Swan Lake Iris Gardens, 822 W. Liberty St. The festival kicks off with the **Taste at the Gardens** on Thursday, May 23, from 6 to 9 p.m. with entertainment and food vendors on the Garden Street Gate of the gardens. The theme is "Hawaiian Night," and Hawaiian attire is encouraged. There will be a performance by Charleston Polynesian Dancers along with music by DJ Howie D, food booths and trucks and boat rides. Admission is free. On Friday, May 24, and Saturday, May 25, the festival runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Sunday, May 26, it will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The legacy of African American cowboys and frontiersmen will be celebrated at the annual **Black Cowboy Festival and Rodeo**. Education, recreation and cultural appreciation can be expected throughout the three-day affair. The festival will be held Thursday-Sunday, May 23-26, at Greenfield Farms, 4585 Spencer Road in Rembert.

Fourth Fridays starts back up for the summer on Friday, May 24, with Honey & the New Era Band in front of Sumter County Courthouse, 141 N. Main St. Every fourth Friday through September, a different band will take the stage at 6:30 p.m., and the event will last until 9 p.m. with food trucks/vendors, beer and free entertainment. Palmetto Optimist Club will give out free books to kids and have popcorn for sale, and Sertoma Club will sell the beer. Downtown restaurants will also be open during the event. Bands on the schedule are Honey & the New Era Band in May, The Live in the Flesh Experience on June 28, Chief Complaint on July 26, Second Nature on Aug. 23 and Too Much Sylvia on Sept. 27. Bring your own chairs. Coolers aren't allowed.

CLARENDON COUNTY

The **Shake, Rattle and Read Toddler Storytime** for ages up to 4 will be held at 10:30 a.m. each Wednesday at Harvin Clarendon County Library. The program will include a story, singing, dancing and an activity for the library's little patrons to enjoy. The library'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 home-school families with resources available with the local community and the



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

The Iris Festival returns for its 82nd year starting Thursday, May 23, at Swan Lake Iris Gardens and runs through Memorial Day weekend. There will be food vendors, games for the kids, arts and crafts vendors, plants for sale and of course the irises around the lake.

public library.

Enjoy a free **Silver Screen Matinee** at 2 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Harvin Clarendon County Library, 215 N. Brooks St., Manning. Everyone is invited to attend. For more information, log onto clarendoncoun.tylibrary.com or call (803) 435-8633.

Get those taste buds ready. The annual **Taste of Clarendon**, hosted by Clarendon County Junior Chamber in partnership with Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce, returns from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 16, at John C. Land III Landing at 4404 Greenall Road, Summerton. Tickets are \$35 per person and \$60 per couple and can be purchased at Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce or from any Junior Chamber member. Residents can enjoy finger sandwiches and heavy hors d'oeuvres such as dips, meatballs, marinated vegetables, spreads, seafood and a variety of desserts.

Palmetto Pickle Music Festival will kick off on Saturday, May 18, at 7301 Salem Road in New Zion. Featured artists will include Charlie Floyd performing at 6 p.m. and Sawyer Brown performing at 8 p.m. Concert gates open at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$30 online and can be purchased at ticketleap.com/picklefest.

On Saturday, June 1, Clarendon will make its debut on the annual state **Ag+Art Tour**, featuring two stops: Cannon Ag Products, at 2996 Hicks Road in Turbeville, from noon to 4 p.m., allowing visitors to browse the wide array of fresh produce and other on-site crafters, and Richburg Farms, at 4553 Paxville Highway from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., where visitors can check out the roadside market, smell sweet flowers and enjoy the open fresh air at the play area and open-air shed.

LEE COUNTY

If you're a bluegrass fan, put the weekend-long **Pickin' in the Park** on your calendar. The fourth-annual music-themed event starts Friday, May 24, at 5 p.m. and runs through Monday, May 27, at noon at Lee State Park in Bishopville. The weekend will be full of food, fun, fellowship, crafts and bluegrass music, and there will be a church service presented by BlueFaith, a bluegrass and gospel band, to close the event. Camp at the park to have easy access to all the events, or just stop by the park for the day. The park is at 487 Loop Road, Bishopville.

KERSHAW COUNTY

Shop more than 125 vendors in Camden at **Spring Fling Antique Open House** on Saturday-Sunday, May 11-12. The following are the hours and locations: AAA Pickers, 2206 Broad St., Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m.; Broad Street Treasures, 1017 Broad St., Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Camden Antiques Market, 830 Broad St., Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, 1-5 p.m.; Heritage Antique Mall, 113 E. Dekalb St., Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Menagerie Antiques, 1028 Broad St., Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, 1-5 p.m.; Rutledge Exchange, 411 Rutledge St., Saturday, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sterling Fox Antiques, 1031 Broad St., Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Vintage Collections, 938 Broad St., Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m.

Join the **Blankets and Bands** free concert with Flat Out Strangers on Thursday, May 16, at Camden Town Green, 1015 Market St., Camden. This vocal gypsy swing and jazz band will have you on your feet in no time. Bring your blanket or lawn chair and a picnic dinner or grab some takeout from your favorite local restaurant. Opening act begins at 6 p.m., with Flat Out Strangers at 6:30 p.m. The Blankets & Bands free concert series is a partnership between the Cultural District and the Arts Center of Kershaw County.

COLUMBIA

If you enjoy being scared, this one is for you. The 11th-annual **Crimson Screen Horror Film Fest** will be held Friday-Sunday, May 10-12, at Spotlight Cinemas Capital 8, 201 Columbia Mall, Boulevard Suite 211, Columbia. For three days, horror feature films, short films and screenplays including slashers, thrillers, zombies, vampires, music videos, documentaries, experimental, student films, etc., will be featured. According to the website, the Fest aims to showcase the best independent horror films from all over the world by providing an outlet for the horror filmmakers and fans alike to see and exhibit movies that they otherwise may not have a chance to see on the big screen. To purchase tickets and see the complete listing of films being shown, visit www.crimsonscreenfilmfest.org.

Love jazz music? Don't miss the **Main Street Jazz Fest by Colajazz** from 2 to 9 p.m. Saturday, May 11, on the 1700 Block of Main Street in Columbia. Bring your foldable chair and pull up a seat to hear the sounds of Don Braden's Earth, Wind and Wonder, Allison Miller's Boom Tic Boom, Patrick Bartley, Lolivone de la Rosa featuring Jamile and the Capital City Big Band. Admission is free to this family friendly event. Arrive as early as 1 p.m. Bands begin at 2 p.m. Food vendors will be on site, as well as arts and crafts vendors.

Black Expo Columbia is meant to promote economic development for minority-owned businesses by showcasing their products and services. The event will be held on Saturday, May 18, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the S.C. State Fairgrounds, 1200 Rosewood Drive, Columbia. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids ages 6-12 and can be purchased at eventpasshero.com/event/black-expocola.

The **2nd-Annual Black Eats Week 803** will be held June 17-23, as part of the Juneteenth celebration week. The event, featuring special menus and promotions at participating businesses, community events and activities, recognizes the rich culinary heritage of Black-owned restaurants, food trucks, bakeries, creameries and more in the Midlands area. Registration is now open for businesses to participate. Details of the week will be offered on the free Soda City Certified app and the Black Eats Week 803 website. Follow on Facebook/Instagram @BlackEats-Week803 for the latest updates. Interested businesses and sponsors are encouraged to visit www.blackeats-week803.com or call (803) 922-5310 for more information and to sign up.

FLORENCE COUNTY

Join Florence County Museum for **Family Days** on the second Saturday of each month from 1 to 3 p.m. On Saturday, May 11, visit the museum to create a monoprint using different art mediums to take home for a family member or yourself. Design your monoprint with paint and create bubble print hydrangeas. The Saturday Family Days events are free, and no registration is required. The museum is at 111 W. Cheves St. Learn more about the museum at www.flocomuseum.org.

The 13th-annual **Grateful Dog Festival** returns to raise money for Darlington, Florence and Marlboro counties' humane societies. There will be a kids' zone, silent auction, food and beverage trucks, music and more. The family friendly event also welcomes dogs. The event will be held Friday-Sunday, May 17-19, at Sugar Magnolia Ranch, 889 Tara Dive, Timmonsville, beginning at 3 p.m.

Bring your appetite to the **Florence Greek Food Fest** held over three days, from Thursday, May 16, through Saturday, May 18. Watch a live band and dancers and browse among different vendors on site each day of the event from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church, 2990 S. Cashua Drive. Eat under the tent or take advantage of the drive-through. There will also be Greek jewelry and collectibles and Greek beer and wine.



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

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

H.D. Osteen 1904-1987
THE ITEM

Margaret W. Osteen 1908-1996
THE ITEM

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

the Sumter ITEM

OPINION

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Vince Johnson PUBLISHER

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EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

POST AND COURIER
May 7

3 days and 2 reforms that could transform 2024 S.C. legislative session

With three days remaining, there's still time for the S.C. Legislature to salvage something substantive from a 2024 session that's on track to have little to show for itself except more red meat for the GOP base — and possibly not even enough of that to save some Republicans from their primary challengers. But the clock's ticking.

One huge win is within reach, if the House will act today or Wednesday, and then if the House and Senate will dig themselves out of their silly holes and reach an agreement on a bill to merge six health agencies that have a huge overlap of clients but a huge deficit of communication and coordination. That deficit leads to duplication that drives up taxpayers' costs and drives down quality of services, making it less likely that poor parents can care for themselves or their children without other state assistance.

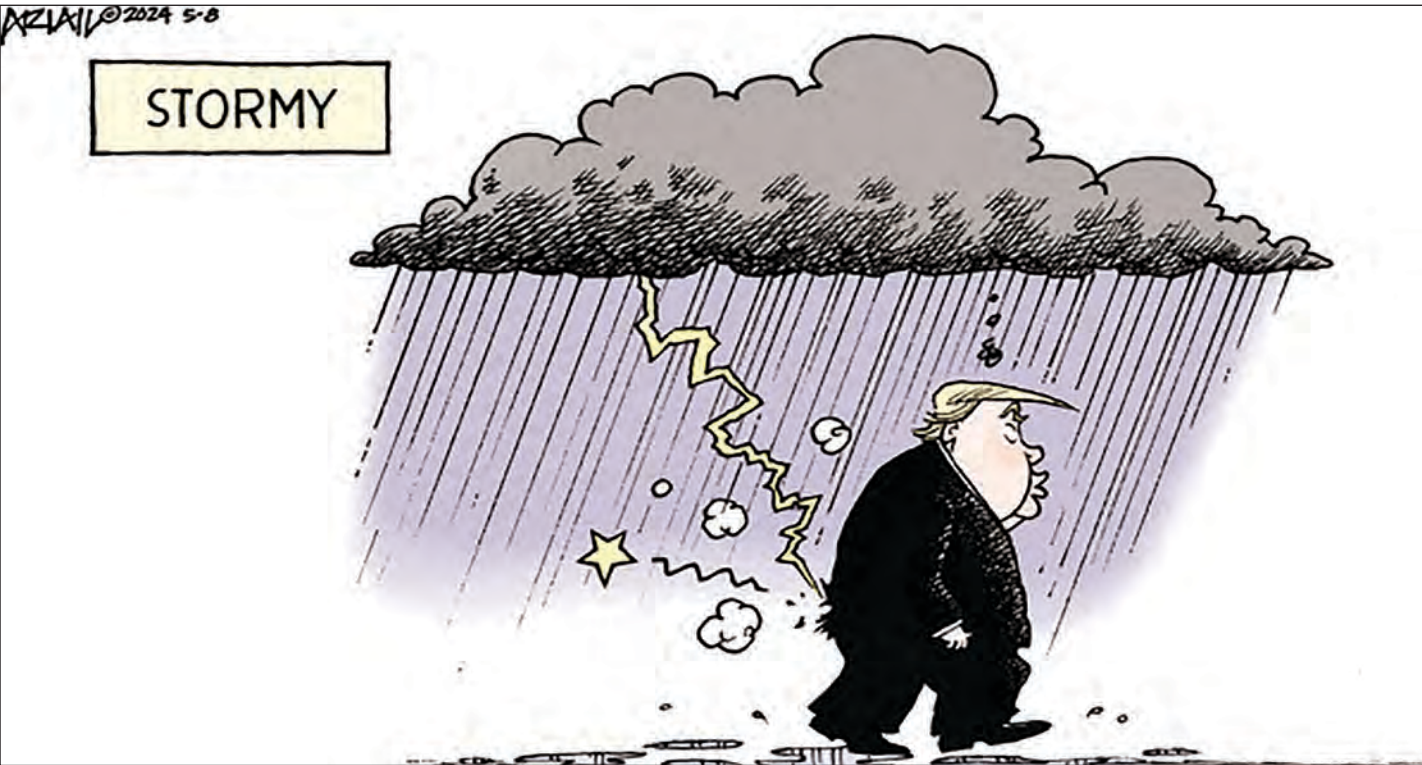
A thorough examination by national and state experts concluded that South Carolina has the nation's most disjointed health delivery service. The result is that we're paying more money and getting worse outcomes than most states. S.915 would address that problem by merging the departments of Mental Health, Aging, Disabilities and Special Needs, Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, Health and Human Services and the health side of DHEC.

For more than half a century, these many departments have been the poster child for a disorganized government that was created ad hoc by legislators back when they never imagined they might allow a governor to actually run the executive branch of government. It never made sense, but now that the governor is set to control all health agencies come July 1, it's even more nonsensical, because it contributes to an unmanageable span of control that makes it less likely that he can prevent problems or fix them when they occur.

Special interests and agency leaders have always been able to defeat less ambitious versions of this effort, but they seemed to be outgunned by legislative leaders this year — until some out-of-touch-with-reality social media hangers-on started spouting claims that the merger would "install a Dr. Fauci over the state." No matter how bad you might think that would be, the claim is worse than ludicrous.

Although the House already passed a bill that does the same thing, it needs to give S.915 a second and third reading this week so negotiators can spend the next month working out a tiny difference in the two versions that's mostly about hurt feelings and playing into misperceptions. But the House has been holding up debate on several Senate bills to force the Senate to pass a utility bill that needs more vetting. There are multiple reasonable ways to end that standoff so lawmakers can get on to S.915 and other important measures, and that needs to happen.

The second win that's within lawmakers' reach wouldn't be as huge as it ought to be, but it still can be a significant improvement in a state that has always shut the governor completely out of the process of selecting upper court judges. In addition to undermining the



idea of checks and balance in our government, the current arrangement has undermined public confidence in our judiciary by allowing lawyer-legislators to abuse their extensive influence to help themselves and their clients.

What we need is for the governor to appoint the members of the committee that decides which candidates the Legislature may elect. The Senate version of S.1046 and the version approved by the House Judiciary Committee and blessed by Speaker Murrell Smith would give the governor just a third of the appointments to the Judicial Merit Selection Commission, which is now controlled completely by legislators with no input from the governor. Both versions of the bill also aim to reduce the influence individual legislators can have on the panel.

The two versions have several differences, the biggest of which is that the House version also would subject magistrates to a screening process and end the built-in corruption of allowing magistrates to serve indefinitely in hold-over status after their term ends, which transforms them into at-will employees of the local senator.

Although the House engaged the reform effort before the Senate — holding a groundbreaking series of public hearings in the fall that unmasked some of the most troublesome aspects of the system — only the Senate has passed a reform bill. That bill was approved by a House committee only last week; like the health agencies bill, it will die if the House doesn't debate and give it second reading either today or Wednesday, and final reading by Thursday. As with the health bill, House passage this week would give negotiators another month to work out the differences.

The problem with this bill isn't special interests or crazy conspiracy theories but something far more basic: the fundamental question of whether legislative leaders actually support reforming our judicial selection system. If they do, the House will send the bill back to the Senate this week. If they don't, this massive effort will die without the dignity of a vote.

TIMES AND DEMOCRAT
May 4

Agriculture: Good news amid sadness

The H5N1 virus recently infected dairy cows for the first time, raising concerns about the bird flu's potential implications for humans.

Orangeburg and surrounding counties are a mecca for agriculture. What

happens with farming is relevant here in just about every way you can describe.

Protecting agriculture and ensuring its future in a growing state is more relevant than ever. It takes people and those leading people.

The latter, those leading on the state level, have taken a key step.

Gov. Henry McMaster was joined April 23 by S.C. Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers, members of the General Assembly and other state and local leaders for a ceremonial bill signing of H.3951, the Working Agricultural Lands Preservation Act. The legislation creates the Working Farmland Protection Fund that will help landowners preserve working agricultural lands through voluntary conservation easements.

The people of South Carolina agriculture can rejoice. The legislation provides a tool to protect the future of farming in the face of unprecedented growth and development.

"Farmers are the backbone of our state, and as more businesses and people move here, we must find innovative ways to protect our state's most valuable farmlands," McMaster said. "This legislation provides farmers a cost-effective option to keep and pass down their families' farms while ensuring that our state's agriculture industry remains strong and our most precious natural resources aren't lost forever to overdevelopment."

As we celebrate the new legislation, we give thanks for the lives of two locals having been key players in agriculture.

Reka Bell Wimberly, 81, of Branchville died April 20. She was known for her involvement in her family farm operation, Wimco Farms, where she was recognized for her daily lunches. She also served as president of Bowman Gin Company.

She was dedicated to the Orangeburg County Farm Bureau, serving as Women's Committee Chair.

Philip "Phil" Sandifer, Bamberg County native and Blackville resident, died April 18. A leader and pioneer in agriculture, he was owner and operator of Phil Sandifer and Sons Farms.

Quoting his obituary: "He was always willing to try new and innovative ways to increase production on his farm. He won multiple state and county awards. In 1996, he won the Southeast Region High Cotton Award and also later won the Grower Award from Farm-Wey Produce."

So many, living and deceased, have played major roles in local agriculture. We thank them even as we remember Wimberly and Sandifer in this key time for farming.

We are certain they would join Bowman resident and S.C. Commissioner

of Agriculture Hugh Weathers in saying of the new Working Agricultural Lands Preservation Act:

"I'm pleased to join South Carolina leaders in giving farmers options for preserving their working lands. This important new legislation helps us continue to feed people and fuel our economy while protecting our state's agricultural past, present and future."

INDEX-JOURNAL
May 4

Right this wrong, S.C. lawmakers

South Carolina still bears a shameful reputation.

Despite our beautiful shoreline and our inviting regions venturing west of the coast all the way to the foothills that invite us all to visit the mountains, we have a dark side that has yet to be fully and effectively addressed.

Reference here is to cases of domestic violence.

As reported earlier this week by the *S.C. Daily Gazette*, making matters worse is that so many victims of domestic violence go weeks on end without legal protection. This seems to be a particularly worse issue in rural counties and along the Grand Strand.

As the *Gazette's* Jessica Holdman reported, the Palmetto State is the only one in the country without temporary, emergency protective orders doled out by judges for victims who file for safeguards ahead of a hearing for long-term approval.

Why does that matter? A victim of domestic abuse who reports the abuse stands a great chance of retaliatory action by the abuser. With no temporary protective order from a judge, her accused abuser can still access a gun while awaiting a hearing. A protective order would allow a judge to require the abuser to turn in any guns they have in their possession for as few as six months and as long as a year. Moreover, they would be disqualified from buying a gun via the background checks for the duration of the order.

Someone who has committed an act of domestic violence is hardly likely to cool down in the 14 days and even longer timespan between a court filing and hearing.

So yes, it's important that South Carolina catch up to the other 49 states that have more sensible laws to protect victims of domestic violence.

Maybe, just maybe one day our learned and caring lawmakers will return to Columbia and right this wrong.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SATAN IDENTIFIES AS GOD

One day Satan, the old devil, will identify as God. 2 Thessalonians 2:4 (KJV) says concerning Satan (appearing as the antichrist after the rapture of Christ's Church), "Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." He will be identifying as God — deceiving many. Satan is a deceiver. He deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden, and he continues to deceive and believes what

he proclaims.

Too many people today are deceived about themselves as well. Men identifying as women are winning awards in athletic events against women. They are deceived, too, and look how many people go along with this deception. "The world" (as the Bible calls the anti-God, non-Christian crowd) is deceived because they reject truth, and Jesus is the Truth (John 14:6). Believing a lie does not change it to truth, and denying truth does not change or void truth.

The Boy Scouts of America

have now dropped "Boy" from their name. They have fallen to the deception of the anti-God, woke community. Their numbers have dropped from five million in 1972 to barely one million now. It's a sad thing that has happened to the Boy Scouts. They abandoned their values and paid the ultimate price.

The violence in our nation's colleges (coming as a result of the godless philosophy being taught there) is a result of Satan's deception as well. Nearly five hundred years ago, Martin Luther (1483-1546) aptly declared, "I am much

afraid the universities will prove to be the great gates to hell, unless they diligently labor to explain the Holy Scriptures and to engrave them upon the hearts of youth. I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution where men are not unceasingly occupied with the Word of God must become corrupt."

I advise the same as Luther.
RON DAVIS
Pastor, Sumter Bible Church
Administrator, Sumter Christian School

PRIMARY ELECTION SUBMISSIONS

Columns and letters to the editor regarding the Tuesday, June 11, primaries should be submitted on or before Monday, June 3, for inclusion before the election.

Sumter sororities gather to promote sisterhood, fundraise for local charities



On Monday, April 29, the ladies of the Divine 9 Eta Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Beta Pi Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. and Sumter Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. gathered for a Sisterhood Tea to fundraise for charities in the Sumter community. The sororities collected \$2,000 for two charities, according to the Sumter Alumnae Chapter.



We know late-night screens are bad for sleep. How do you stop doomscrolling in bed?

BY ALBERT STUMM
Associated Press

Like many of us, Jessica Peoples has heard the warnings about excessive screen time at night. Still, she estimates spending 30 to 60 minutes on her phone before going to sleep, mostly scrolling through social media.

"Recently, I've been trying to limit the amount," says Peoples, a discrimination investigator with the state of New Jersey. "I do notice that how much time I spend affects how long it takes to fall asleep."

Over half of Americans spend time on their phones within an hour of going to sleep, according to a survey by the National Sleep Foundation. That's the very latest we should shut off devices, experts say.

The brain needs to wind down long before bedtime to get the restorative deep sleep that helps the body function, said Melissa Milanak, an associate professor at Medical University of South Carolina specializing in sleep health.

"You wouldn't take a casserole out of the oven and stick it right in the fridge. It needs to cool down," Milanak said. "Our brains need to do that too."

Upending your bedtime routine may not be easy, but insufficient sleep has long been linked to anxiety, obesity and other negative outcomes. Research shows smartphones are particularly disruptive to the circadian clock that regulates sleep and other hormones.

"There are a million and one ways screens create problems with sleep," said Lisa Strauss, a licensed psychologist specializing in cognitive behavioral treatment of sleep disorders.

The brain, she said, processes electric light — not just a smartphone's much-maligned blue light — as sunshine. That suppresses melatonin production, delaying deep sleep. Even very little bright-light exposure in bed has an impact.

IT'S NOT JUST THE LIGHT THAT KEEPS YOU UP

Of course, doomscrolling through the news, checking emails or being tempted by ever more tailored videos on social media has its own consequences.

So-called "technostress" amps you up — possibly even triggering the brain's flight-or-flight response. And algorithms designed to be engaging compel many social media users to scroll longer than they intended.

"Now it's 30 minutes later, when you wanted to watch a couple videos and fall asleep," Milanak said.

Though much of the scientific research on online media focuses on adolescents and young

adults, Strauss said most of her clients struggling with insomnia are middle-aged. "People go down these rabbit holes of videos, and more and more people are getting hooked," she said.

HOW TO BREAK THE HABIT

The issue is not just curtailing phone use in bed but phone use at night. That means redesigning your routine, particularly if you use your phone as a way to decompress.

It helps to create replacement behaviors that are rewarding. An obvious contender is reading a physical book (e-readers are better than phones but still cast artificial light). Milanak also suggests using that hour before bed to take a warm bath, listen to a podcast, make school lunches for the next day, spend time with family or call a relative in another time zone.

"Make a list of things you like that never get done. That's a great time to do stuff that doesn't involve screens," she said. Using a notepad to write down the to-do list for the next day helps keep you from ruminating in bed.

Do those activities in another room to train yourself to associate the bed with falling asleep. If there's no other private refuge at home, "establish a distinct microenvironment for wakefulness and sleep," Strauss said. That could mean sitting on the other side of the bed to read, or even just turning the other way around with your feet at the headboard.

Finally, sequester the phone in another room, or at least across the room. "Environmental control can work better than will power, especially when we're tired," she said.

WHAT IF STOPPING DOESN'T FEEL REALISTIC?

There are ways to reduce the harm. Setting the phone on night mode at a scheduled time every day is better than nothing, as is reducing screen brightness every night. Hold the phone far from your face and at an oblique angle to minimize the strength of the light.

Minimize tempting notifications by putting the phone on do not disturb, which can be adjusted to allow calls and messages from certain people — say, an ailing parent or a kid off at university — to go through. But none of these measures give you carte blanche to look at whatever you want at night, Strauss said.

She also recommended asking yourself why checking social media has become your late-night reward.

"Think about the larger structure of the day," she said. Everyone deserves solitary moments to relax, but "maybe be more self-indulgent earlier so you have what you need."

Husband acknowledges affair but not everything adds up and trust is gone

DEAR ABBY: My husband had an affair. I found out after seeing a motel charge on our bank account. I asked, and he confessed that it was with an old school sweetheart. I asked how long it was going on. He said two years. He then called her and told her I knew. He told me he had told her if I ever found out, it was over for them.

When I got on the phone with her, she said he was lying, and their affair had been going on for 20 years! He invited her to his mom's visitation when she passed. He invited her to other things as well. Now she no longer wants him because he is a liar, and he expects me to go back to the way it was. I don't know if there's time to go through it all — he also had an affair with someone at his work. He said it was a one-nighter. Who knows?

I'm having so much trouble with this and all the things they did together. My husband didn't do anything with me — he skipped funerals, weddings and engagements. I was going everywhere alone. People always asked where he was, and I always had to say "working."

The way things are now is not comfortable. He doesn't care. He just wants his way and to not let anyone else in the family know. It's been two years and it's still fresh in my mind. I don't know what to do. Counseling hasn't helped. He wants me to forget everything. I'm going crazy. How do you trust after that?

LOST FAITH IN MISSOURI

DEAR LOST FAITH: You are not crazy. You are married to a lying, narcissistic womanizer. For you to "forget everything" might require a lobotomy. Are you willing to do that? (Don't answer too quickly; some people would rather do anything than be alone.)

I think it would benefit you to discuss this with a licensed mental health professional. TALK with your friends and your family as well. You need all the support they can give you. Your husband



Dear Abby
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

has plenty to be ashamed about.

A marriage without trust is no marriage at all. If you were to separate, your life would not be much different than it already is. It might even be better. From what you have written, you have already been alone for a very long time.

DEAR ABBY: My partner and I have miscarried five times over the past four years. We are heartbroken, defeated, overwhelmed and exhausted. We are struggling emotionally, physically and financially because of this journey.

We do not feel any real emotional support from our families. They have been sympathetic, but after the initial "I'm sorry. I'm here if you need me. We're thinking about you," that's it. They expect us to attend all holidays, family gatherings, trips, etc., and we aren't always feeling up to it.

I am angry with them for not understanding what we're going through. I have started distancing myself and skipping these family functions. Is this wrong of me?

BOWING OUT IN NORTH DAKOTA

DEAR BOWING OUT: No. Under the circumstances, skipping a family gathering in which you would be forced to socialize isn't a bad idea. If this causes hurt feelings, remind the host that grief has no set timetable, and you will celebrate with them again when you are up to it. Period.

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

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

‘When I was hopeless, you had hope’: John Landon Black Foundation opens doors

BY SHARRON HALEY
Clarendon contributor

MANNING — John Landon Black’s life was short, but his legacy will live on through the lives of the individuals seeking substance abuse rehabilitation when they pass through the doors of John’s Place, 16 N. Brooks St.

After fighting the demons of drug addiction for years, Black died in May 2022 at the age of 25 from an accidental drug overdose.

Shortly after Black’s death, his family, friends and members of the close-knit Manning community joined hands to form the John Landon Black Foundation, an organization established to help individuals like Black fight the ravages of drug addiction.

On April 25, the John Landon Black Foundation, along with members of his family, friends and the community met for the grand opening of John’s Place, a resource center where individuals fighting addictions can meet with individuals specialized in various types of addictions, attend meetings, use computers to look for jobs or use it as a place to simply take a breath and feel safe.

“When I was hopeless, you had hope” was written by Black in the last birthday card that he wrote to his father, Jeffrey Black, prior to his death. That seven-word sentence now serves as the phrase that the foundation lives by, according to Black’s father.

“In the saddest of times, our family, our friends and this community were there for us,” Black said about the days, weeks and now years after his son’s death. “Stephanie, Liz and I couldn’t have made it without all of the love, support and prayers we have received from those near and far. John’s legacy continues to shine, just like his larger-than-life personality. We hope John’s Place will give hope to those who feel hopeless, to those who struggle with the disease of addiction. Our special thanks to Amy Land, the Foundation Board and all the donors who have given so generously of their time and talents.”

Land said that as her son and Black were growing up they were the best of friends and the ultimate cowboys



A crowd of more than 100 family members, friends and members of the community gathered on April 25 to herald the opening of John’s Place, a resource center named in memory of John Landon Black, who died in May 2022 from an accidental drug overdose. John’s Place will be a respite for individuals suffering from various addictions. It will be a place where they can receive help, work on finding a job or just a safe place where they can take a breath.

“right down to their chaps and cowboy hats.” Two of Black’s signature trademarks, a cowboy hat and a star, are part of the foundation’s logo and part of the logo for John’s Place.

“We hope that John’s Place will be a place for healing and recovery,” Land said. “John Landon was a welcoming and non-judgmental person. We hope to represent these same qualities to those in our community who are in recovery.”

The foundation is asking for donations of pictures or anything that would make the resource center feel more welcoming and comfortable. Monetary donations are also accepted.

Anyone wanting to make a donation to the John Landon Black Foundation or to John’s Place can call Land at (803) 410-0998 or log onto www.jlblack-foundation.org.



John Landon Black’s family — his father, Jeffrey, and his mother, Stephanie, standing behind the white bow, his grandfather, Jim Black to Jeffrey’s left, and his sister, Liz, and his niece standing to the left of Jim Black — as well as other family members, friends and members of the John Landon Black Foundation were present for the grand opening of John’s Place, a resource center to help individuals struggling with various addictions.

Palmetto Pickle Music Festival coming to New Zion May 18

BY SHARRON HALEY
Clarendon contributor

NEW ZION — Country recording group Sawyer Brown will be the featured entertainment at the 2024 Palmetto Pickle Music Festival on Saturday, May 18, at 7301 Salem Road.

South Carolina native Charlie Floyd will open the concert at 6 p.m. followed by Sawyer Brown, who will hit the stage at 8 p.m. General admission tickets are \$30 and sold online. Concert gates open at 4 p.m. The festival will be held rain or shine.

Floyd, a singer-songwriter, hails from Aynor, where he began his musical career, and then opened a nightclub, Charlie’s Nite Life, in Myrtle Beach. Floyd signed with Liberty Records in 1993 and re-



Sawyer Brown will perform at the Palmetto Pickle Festival on May 18 in New Zion.

leased his debut album, Charlie’s Nite Life. Sawyer Brown won the TV

competition series Star Search’s top prize and signed with Capitol Records in 1984

and scored a Top 20 hit right off the bat with their first single, “Leona.” During their chart-topping career, Sawyer Brown released 18 studio albums and charted more than 50 times on the Hot Country Songs charts.

Sawyer Brown had three singles reach the No. 1 spot on the charts: “Step That Step” in 1985, “Some Girls Do” in 1992 and “Thank God for You” in 1993. From 1993 through 1998, Sawyer Brown was named Vocal Band of the Year by Music City News and TNN/Music City News.

Before the music begins, the Palmetto Pickle Music Festival will host a cornhole tournament. Practice will begin at 12:30 p.m. and bags fly at 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$30 per player with a guarantee of four

games. The payout for the tournament is \$1,000. All players have an option after the tournament to purchase an event ticket for \$30. Register for the tournament online on the scoreholio app.

No tailgating is permitted. Chairs and blankets are welcome; however, no tents are allowed. No outside food, drinks or coolers are allowed. Food and beverage vendors will be available.

Anyone consuming alcohol underage or acting inappropriately will be escorted off the premises.

Tickets must be in hand for entry. No re-entry will be permitted.

For more information, log onto Palmetto Pickle Music Festival’s Facebook or Instagram pages.

K&H Resource Center seniors honored for Mother’s Day



A group of “precious seniors” enjoyed a hot and delicious lunch in honor of Mother’s Day on Wednesday, May 8, at K&H Resource Center in Summerton. Sharon Thames-Simms, a graduate of Scott’s Branch High School, rolled out her food and beverage truck for the special day. Simms prepared fried fish, wings, ham rice, fries and her “world famous” lemonade for the special occasion.

A group of “precious seniors” was treated to a Mother’s Day lunch a little early thanks to Sharon Thames-Simms and the folks at K&H Resource Center in Summerton.



Kathleen Gibson, director of the K&H Resource Center in Summerton, celebrated “our precious seniors” for Mother’s Day a few days early. “It was so nice,” Gibson said. “I just love my ‘precious seniors.’”

Healthgrades names McLeod Health Clarendon a 2024 Outstanding Patient Experience Award Recipient

McLeod Health Clarendon among top 15% in nation for patient experience

STAFF REPORT

MANNING — McLeod Health Clarendon was recently recognized as a 2024 Outstanding Patient Experience Award recipient by Healthgrades, according to a news release from McLeod Health Foundation.

"We understand what matters most to patients at McLeod Health Clarendon is the quality and safety of care they receive accompanied by

a positive patient experience. Our top priority is to continue to improve the patient experience," said Rachel Gainey, McLeod Health Clarendon chief executive officer, in the release. "McLeod Health Clarendon is pleased to receive this national recognition achieved through teamwork and dedication of our entire hospital staff. However, the pursuit of quality improvement at McLeod Health Clarendon is

unending. We recognize that we can never stop improving care for patients. Health care is constantly becoming more complex and challenging, and our team is committed to providing the best care possible to our patients now and in the future."

To be named as a top hospital in patient experience, Healthgrades applies a scoring methodology to 10 patient experience measures using Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems survey data submitted by the hospital's own patients. Questions focus on percep-

tions of the patient's hospital care ranging from cleanliness and noise levels to medication explanations and staff responsiveness. Also included is whether a patient would recommend the hospital to friends or family and their overall rating of the hospital.

Healthgrades evaluated more than 2,500 hospitals that submitted at least 100 patient experience surveys to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, covering admissions from January to December 2022.

"We commend McLeod Health Clarendon for going

above and beyond to provide a best-in-class care experience for patients during their hospital stay," said Brad Bowman, MD, chief medical officer and head of data sciences at Healthgrades, in the release. "McLeod Health Clarendon's dedication to superior patient care is particularly impressive given recent declines in patient satisfaction scores across the country. We look forward to their continued leadership and commitment to ensuring the health and wellness of all patients."

For more information, visit [healthgrades.com](https://www.healthgrades.com).

Pets of the week

Cami is a 1.5-year-old, dilute calico, female domestic shorthair cat. Cami is current on all vaccinations, has been spayed and tested negative for Feline Leukemia and AIDs. She is a bit shy at first but very sweet once she warms up. Cami would do best in a quiet home with either no cats or one that is very laid back. She is still working on coming out of her shell. Please stop by the shelter to see this adorable cat. We are currently running a special for our cats more than a year old, so Cami's adoption fee is \$50. If you are interested in adopting Cami, you can get preapproved to adopt by submitting your adoption application online at www.ASecondChanceAnimalShelter.com.



Shrek is a 2-year-old, white-and-black, male bully mix. Shrek is current on vaccinations, neutered and tested negative for heartworms. He currently weighs about 40 pounds. Shrek is still very much a puppy and has lots of energy. He loves going for walks with our volunteers. Shrek can take a little while to warm up to new people but is usually won over quite easily with treats. Shrek has spent the last year in the shelter, so he needs a home with lots of love and patience to help him adjust. Shrek enjoys playing and running around. He seems to get along with other dogs, but a meet and greet is required if there are other dogs in the house. If you are interested in adopting Shrek, you can get preapproved to adopt by submitting your adoption application online at www.ASecondChanceAnimalShelter.com. Our adoption fee for dogs is \$125.

Briggs v. Elliott Festival starts Thursday, May 16

Annual event will include historical tours, reenactment play, parade, gala and more

BY ASHLEY MILLER
ashley@theitem.com

In American history, few legal battles stand as symbols of progress and justice like Brown v. Board of Education. It began as several fights for equality in education across various corners of the country as citizens came together in a landmark case that reshaped civil rights.

The story begins with parents Harry and Eliza Briggs in the mid-1950s in Summerton, where 20 parents took on the former president of Clarendon County School Board, R.W. Elliott. Their demand for equal treatment included dedicated bus services for Black students, sparking activism that would reshape civil rights in Clarendon County, according to the National Park Service's website.

Another parent, Oliver Brown in Topeka, Kansas, challenged segregation in schools. Brown argued segregation violated the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause. His stance set the stage for a legal battle that would reach far beyond his community, according to the site.

Meanwhile in Virginia, a group of Black students started their own quest for justice in their school district. The students launched a lawsuit against the racial segregation within their school district with determination to take down the barriers of discrimination throughout state lines, according to the National Park Service's website.

Louis Redding, a spokesperson for Ethel Belton and other Black parents in Delaware, led the fight against the state's segregated school system in Gebhart v. Belton. Redding fought against arguments in favor of segregation, paving the way for a more inclu-

sive future for students, according to the site.

In Washington, D.C., Bolling v. Sharpe also pressed the issue of segregation into the spotlight, challenging the district's public schools under the Due Process Clause in the 14th Amendment, according to the site.

In the end, Brown v. The Board of Education was more than just a legal victory; it was a triumph of hope and opened a new era of possibility and equality.

All of these cases happened about 70 years ago, and in hopes of continuing the legacy of the Briggs v. Elliott case, the Summerton Action Group invites residents and out-of-towners to its annual festival.

"We have done this event for many, many years, and each year it is more impactful," Clarendon County Councilman Billy Richardson said.

From May 16 to May 19, Summerton will be filled with festivities to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the historical case. On May 16 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., there will be historical tours and an evening of jazz in the park at Summerton Resource Center at 1154 4th St.

On May 17, the 70th anniversary of when the lawsuit was filed, the festivities continue at 9 a.m. at Weldon Auditorium at 7 Maple St. for a reenactment play of the court case and more historical tours throughout the day.

On May 18 at 9 a.m., the community will gather for the annual Briggs v. Elliott parade before a festival and, at 6 p.m., a black tie gala at Scott's Branch High School. On May 19, meet up at Historic Liberty Hill AME Church for a culminating worship service at 3 p.m.

"Even though we hear more about Brown v. Board of Education, this case is so much more important to not only Clarendon County, South Carolina, but these United States," said Moses Levy, a member of the Clarendon/Manning Branches of the NAACP.

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LEGAL
NOTICES

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: Tony Junious
#2024ESI1400106
Personal Representative:

Lashenda Miller
PO Box 81
Summerton SC 29148

Estate Notice
Clarendon County

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Estate: Homer Dean Thomerson, Jr.
#2024ESI1400104
Personal Representative:

Doris P. Thomerson
1554 Lesene Dr.
Manning, SC 29102

Estate: Terry Gene Maxey
#2024ESI1400101
Personal Representative:

Debra Ann Maxey
713 Oak Hill
Manning, SC 29102

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JOHNSON

FROM PAGE A1

“Great leaders are not so product driven that they focus solely on the performance outcome rather than the personnel development,” he said. “In other words, teaching and learning is not about presenting the perfect concert, it’s about the process, the growth and development in those who learn from us as leaders and inspiring the lives of others to make this world a better place to live in through music.”

With this mentality, Johnson and the chorale would go on to make memories to last him through his 10-year tenure and well beyond that. But the two performances that melt his heart are the group’s stunning performance at Carnegie Hall in New York City two summers ago and the emotional final concert on Monday, May 6, at Patriot Hall.

Carnegie, Johnson explained, sticks out simply for the experience it allotted Sumter singers.

“It was their first time and probably their last time, and only time, setting foot on that prestigious concert hall stage,” he shared. “I am proud to have played a part in making that possible for them.”

The final concert this past Monday, one filled with much sentiment with songs composed by city- and state-loved musicians who are some of Johnson’s dear friends, including Sumter great Hank Martin and his sister and “Queen of Shag,” Anne Galloway, Westminster composer Kevin Gray and Robert Edgerton of Rock Hill. Johnson said this concert will remain the most memorable, for he got to share it with “special musicians.” With so much sentiment from the lyrics, each selection felt like an ode to the choir, Johnson and



Herbert Johnson retires from being creative director and conductor of the Sumter Civic Chorale after 10 years of service on Monday, May 6, at Patriot Hall. Sumterite Hank Martin gave special thanks to Johnson for the special evening.



Sumter for the part they all played in this decade-long journey.

With a little more free time, Johnson is unsure of what

lies ahead but relies on his faith in “whatever the good Lord says my next assignment will be.” He promised the chorale to make himself



Herbert Johnson performs in his last concert as creative director and conductor of Sumter Civic Chorale after 10 years of service.

available to fill in and sing with them from time to time.

But for now, he cherishes the “proud, humbling and grateful” emotions he felt at

the conclusion of the final concert and thanks “God almighty for allowing me to serve our musical community for 10 years voluntarily.”

GRADES

FROM PAGE A1

Because high school students take semester-long courses, the 50% grade floor just applies to the first quarter. With year-long courses at the elementary- and middle-school level, the grade floor applies to the first three quarters of the academic year for grades 3-8. Minimum grading does not apply in grades K through second grade in South Carolina because they operate with a standard-based reporting system.

Of the district’s 913 current teachers, 474 responded in the voluntary survey for a 51.9% response rate.

Teachers also provided their rationale for their responses in the survey. Those against the 50% floor and grade inflation provided themes that students should instead be held accountable for their grades, are just “gaming the system” knowing they will receive a 50% and that the current policy does not prepare them for the real world after high school.

The 17.5% of teachers surveyed who are in favor of the 50% grade floor said it provides students with hope and encouragement that they can still pass a subject if they apply

themselves and that giving lower grades may cause more behavioral and discipline problems because students would lose hope in the process. Some respondents said they think the grade floor is more necessary at the high school level because courses are only one semester in length, or two quarters.

The trustees, who were split on the matter, shared many of the same themes as the teacher respondents. Four trustees were for maintaining the grade floor and included Brittany English, Tarah Johnson, Matthew “Mac” McLeod and Shawn Ragin. All favored the approach of offering “second chances” to students.

Another four trustees were against grade floors and included Bonnie Disney, Daniel Palumbo, Shery White and Jeff Zell, saying minimum grading contributes to just passing students along in the system and does not prepare them for the real world.

Canty, the board chairman and potential tiebreaker on the matter, showed no clear indication of where he stood on the issue at the meeting.

Disney, a lifelong educator, provided an argument in the discussion, noting that the district’s best

practices for instruction already require teachers to provide students with multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery through a variety of channels of assessments and that there is a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) already in place to support children. She also emphasized that student attendance in the classroom is critical.

“We have programs, we have the MTSS, you all are bending over backwards to help every single kid in our district,” Disney said. “We need to get them in there, the buses need to get the kids in the classroom. We need to make sure they are not missing more than 10 unexcused days. Somebody needs to go home, wake them up and bring them in. And now, I believe, we are going to have somebody who is hired to do that. Take them to family court or wherever they have to go to make sure that mom gets them to school. Our public school system is mandatory, not optional. Parents do not have a choice. The kids have to be in school.”

“So, why do we need to do anything other than what we legitimately are doing? What else can a teacher do?”

WHAT DO OTHER DISTRICTS ACROSS THE STATE DO?

At the state Department of Education level, its assessment and standards team said a grade floor policy is a district decision and that the department does not have a listing of districts with grade floors in place as opposed to districts without a grade floor policy, according to a state spokesperson. The grade floor can also vary. It does not have to be 50%.

NEXT STEPS

After the lengthy discussion on minimum grading, Canty said Thursday that he hopes the trustees will vote and put the issue to rest at their next full board meeting on June 10. The board does have a work session on Monday, May 20, but Canty said he would rather use that meeting for a thorough review of next fiscal year’s budget before it is adopted.

IN OTHER MATTERS

Board Finance Committee Chairman Daniel Palumbo announced that the committee will have its next meeting on Tuesday, May 14, at 5 p.m. at the district office, 1345 Wilson Hall Road.

SONNTAG

FROM PAGE A1

89% since Sonntag’s first year in 2014, in part due to dual enrollment offerings to high school students. In fall 2023, campus enrollment was 1,664.

The two new bachelor’s programs are through a partnership with USC Aiken. In Sonntag’s tenure, the college received a \$1.5 million federal grant to begin a new Upward Bound program and has renewed grant funding for its TRIO Student Support program that assists low-income students, first-generation college students and disabled students.

In cooperation with the Sumter Partnership of the USC Educational Foundation, the college has raised more than \$5.8 million in donations in the last decade in support of student scholarships, faculty and staff professional development, program development and campus improvements.



Michael E. Sonntag, University of South Carolina Sumter dean, walks on the University of South Carolina Sumter grounds during the university’s 2024 commencement ceremony on May 1.

With support from the Sumter County Legislative Delegation, USC Sumter re-

ceived funding to renovate the Science Building and Nettles Auditorium and

Gymnasium, to build a new softball playing field and to address deferred maintenance issues. According to the release, planning is also underway, and funding has been secured, to build an addition to Nettles Gym, as well as build a new facility in downtown Sumter in partnership with SCETV.

USC Sumter has added 13 new athletic teams during Sonntag’s tenure to include recent additions of men’s and women’s teams in cross country, track and field and half marathon. The college also added the first eSports varsity team at a state university in South Carolina.

The college maintains one of the highest graduation and success rates among all South Carolina two-year institutions, the releases states, and is consistently ranked in the top five best community colleges in the state by *Niche.com*.

“Serving as USC Sumter campus dean for the past decade has been a privilege,” Sonntag said. “I am proud of the work we have

accomplished in building our campus, student body, academic programs, community outreach and academic offerings.”

USC Sumter is one of four regional Palmetto College campuses in the University of South Carolina system. The others are USC Lancaster, USC Salkehatchie and USC Union.

In the news release, USC Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins thanked Sonntag for his service to USC Sumter and the surrounding communities.

“Many positive changes have occurred at USC Sumter during his tenure as campus dean, including enrollment growth and student success, improved facilities, new academic and athletic offerings and community outreach and partnerships,” she said.

Sonntag’s new role with USC Palmetto College will be as executive director of institutional research, assessment and analytics, and he will begin in the post on July 1.

VIGIL FROM PAGE A1

Sumter County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Hampton Gardner, on the new law.

Gov. Henry McMaster signed the bill into law on March 7, making South Carolina the 29th state to allow individuals to carry handguns without a permit in most public places. To purchase a gun prior, individuals must have been at least 21 years old, have undergone eight hours of training and passed a background check. Under the new law, 18-year-olds are allowed to carry a firearm without any of the prior requirements.

"I don't know about anybody else, but that concerns me," China expressed. He went on to say the racial stereotypes surrounding Black young men with guns, while it is now in their right to carry, may still be perceived as "dangerous," and he fears what may come to them. Johnson expressed the same sentiment.

FROM THE STATEHOUSE

As Johnson opened the panel, he expressed how the current law places youth, specifically 18-year-olds, in danger, as they will possess weapons "they're not familiar with." He noted that the founding of our country and the treasured document that outlines our origins did not plan for these new laws and occurrences.

"I'm convinced without a shadow of a doubt that the framers of the Constitution had no idea, no concept, no vision that we would be here in 2024 dealing with the issues we're dealing with now," Johnson said. "When they were talking about the right to bear arms, I think they could not have imagined the assault weapons and all other things that are going on now where a lot of people are being killed in a little bit of time because weapons are so powerful."

In the days since the passage of the bill, Johnson said the Democratic party has been working on a "clean-up bill" that offers amendments that "make sense." He went on to highlight statutes of the new law that worry him, like the places individuals cannot carry firearms.

"One of those places is where I spend a lot of time: the Statehouse. If this is such a good thing that people can open carry, then why can't they come in the Statehouse?" he questioned. "To me, we're admitting that it's an issue."

Tourism was another area of concern as festivals and outdoor celebrations ramp up during the warm months and bring in a lot of revenue for the state. Johnson stated, "This is going to impact that because when people are deciding where they're going to take their family on vacation, I don't think they want to go to a place where you got people walking around the streets openly carrying around weapons."

Community members questioned how they could have their voices heard, to which Johnson stated by voting.

"Elections have consequences. If we don't vote and change who we have representing us, it's going to get a lot worse before it gets better," he said.

Despite the law no longer calling for concealed weapons permits, Johnson urged individuals to still obtain one. There are about 20 states that, as of March 8, still require permits to carry firearms. Johnson explained that possessing a firearm in another state without a permit can lead to harsher penalties than those in South Carolina.

FROM THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

A major concern for law enforcement across the state is the potential dangers residents and officers can face when confronted with this new law.



PHOTOS BY ADAM FLASH / THE SUMTER ITEM

Members of multiple local churches gathered at Beulah AME Church for an Enough is Enough Ministry Prayer Vigil on Sunday afternoon, May 5. The event included panelists, from left, Sen. Kevin Johnson, Sumter County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Hampton Gardner and Third Circuit Solicitor Chip Finney.



"The fact that we can stop a car, and at one time, the law stated that a gun had to be in the glove compartment [...] Well, now it could be anywhere in the car. Who knows what that person's going to do? The law enforcement officers don't know what that person has in his or her mind," Gardner said. "I think we can still check and see if the person has a weapon on them, but the bottom line is with this law, if we see someone walking the street with an open carry, we can't say a word to that person because the law says we have no probable cause."

Gardner further explained that while officers always "approached with care" on traffic stops or when interacting with residents before March 7, stakes are higher now, as gun owners have an "extra edge" by having a weapon readily available in the event they want to use it.

Relating the issue from law enforcement to youth, Gardner expressed his worry of 18-year-olds still attending public school being able to possess handguns. While firearms are not allowed on school premises, he referenced instances when students brought firearms to school and the devastation that followed.

Shootings have happened across the country and right here "on my home front in South Carolina," Gardner

said, since March. From four law enforcement officers killed and another four hospitalized after a shooting during an attempt to serve a warrant at a Charlotte, North Carolina, home on April 30 to reckless drive-by shootings nearly every weekend in Sumter County, Gardner urged youth to get away from friends and environments that encourage such behavior.

"You could easily get caught up just by riding in the vehicle. The law says the hand of one is the hand of all," Gardner expressed. "We're seeing it every weekend. I can tell you about every other night, we have shots fired into someone's home."

Gardner noted the county has one murder so far in 2024, while the city has "a few more." According to *The Sumter Item* reporting, there have been 13 shootings so far in 2024 for Sumter, four of which have been fatal.

Similar to the 2021 concealed carry bill, guns are not allowed in privately owned facilities with signage posted prohibiting gun owners from entering the building. However, gun owners are allowed to carry weapons into privately owned homes and churches with permission from the homeowner or residing pastor. Gardner encouraged China, homeowners and business owners to set guidelines and post signage to prevent any unwanted firearms on the

premises.

Gardner further encouraged individuals if they are in possession of a weapon when interacting with officers, inform officers of where the weapon is located, secure it and comply with the officer's requests.

FROM THE COURTHOUSE

Another issue concerning residents about open carry is what is considered unlawful.

Finney went on to explain to the audience the updated consequences around the law. If charged and convicted of unlawful carry of a firearm, for a first offense, individuals will either serve a maximum of one year in prison or pay a \$1,000 fine. A second offense is up to three years in prison, minus the fine, and a third offense, which would be considered a felony, is up to five years in prison. During questioning from community members, Finney clarified individuals who are not of legal age to possess a weapon, or minors, and those in possession of weapons in prohibited places are those who would be charged. According to the new law, firearms are not allowed in police departments, jails and prisons; courthouses or courtrooms; voting precincts on election day; the office or meeting place of a governing body of a county, public school district, municipality or special-purpose district; day care or preschool facility; a hospital, medical clinic, doctor's office or anywhere where medical services or procedures are performed; and federal facilities where the open carry of firearms is prohibited.

While the consequences are harsher, they go a step further for convicted felons who served more than a one-year prison sentence. Whether before or after March 7, those convicted of a felony are no longer allowed to possess a firearm or ammunition in the state. Felons found with a firearm receive a maximum sentence of five years for a first

offense, a minimum sentence of five years for a second offense and a minimum sentence of 10 years or maximum of 30 years for a third offense, according to Finney. For the youth, he explained how one felony on your record and repeat offenses could lead to 20 years of their life behind bars.

"It's going to hurt our community if we don't get the message out to our young people," Finney urged. "You've got to be right, and you've got to do it right because the law is not going to give you any breaks."

He echoed Gardner about signage about prohibiting firearms on the premises, even urging school districts join. However, he noted a sad reality surrounding the entire bill and its regulations.

"If a person's got evil in their heart and they're carrying a gun, a sign is not going to stop a lot. That's where we have to take care of one another," he expressed. "We have to talk, we have to spread the word, we have to be vigilant about who is in our community, who's around our families, what's going on. I cannot tell you how many sad cases we have heard and seen and carried to court where people just didn't speak up and just didn't do what they should have done."

Cases like that of a mother, looking to protecting her family, who asked her neighbors to stop shooting near their property and was then left paralyzed from a bullet in her back and repeated incidents of parents grieving the loss of their child because of reckless shootings. He urged community members to reach out to the appropriate figures — their senator, solicitor or law enforcement — to express their concerns and share when suspicious activity or crimes occur in their neighborhoods; Gardner said tips to law enforcement can be made anonymously for those who fear becoming "a target."

Finney shared how he's attended numerous programs to discuss open carry and having such a large turnout on a Sunday afternoon shows "we have a chance of solving this problem" but "it's not going to be easy."

FOR THE YOUTH

Community members and the program directors were grateful to the panel for their information and willingness to share their earnest thoughts surrounding the new law; it was comforting to hear from those who interact with the law frequently.

The panel shared the same sentiment, particularly about seeing the youth in the audience. The "Enough is Enough" program puts significant emphasis on youth involvement and education in conversations about stopping gun violence, as it has and will continue to impact them.


"It's very refreshing to see these young people who are gathering here today because everything that we do or try to do is about our youth," Johnson said.

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Office Of Sumter County Council
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Ordinance #24-1002

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County Council for Sumter County, South Carolina, will hold a public hearing **on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at 6 O'clock P.M.**, or as soon thereafter as practicable, as said hearing can be convened, in connection with:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2024, OR SUCH OTHER APPROPRIATE SERIES DESIGNATION, OF SUMTER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT EXCEEDING \$3,500,000; FIXING THE FORM AND DETAILS OF THE BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO PRESCRIBE CERTAIN DETAILS RELATING TO THE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS AND THE DISPOSITION OF THE PROCEEDS THEREOF; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

This public hearing will be held in the Chambers of the said County Council on the third floor of the **Sumter County Administration Building, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC**, or at such other location within the said County as proper notice might specify.

A copy of the said ordinance can be viewed on the County's website or obtained from the Clerk to Council through email – clerk@sumtercountysc.gov. The public is invited to participate in the public hearing.

The County Council for Sumter, S. C.

By: James T. McCain, Jr., Chairman
Sumter County Council

Mary W. Blanding, Clerk to Council

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PUBLIC AGENDA

To correct any information or to make a submission to Public Agenda, email pressrelease@theitem.com with Public Agenda in subject line.

CLARENDON COUNTY COUNCIL

Monday, May 13, at 6 p.m., Administration Building, Council Chambers, 411 Sunset Drive, Manning

SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monday, May 13, 6 p.m., 1345 Wilson Hall Road

LEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Tuesday, May 14, at 9:30 a.m., council chambers

LYNCHBURG TOWN COUNCIL

Tuesday, May 14, at 6 p.m., Teen Center on Magnolia Street, Lynchburg

SUMTER COUNTY COUNCIL

Tuesday, May 14, at 6 p.m., Sumter County Council Chambers

SUMMERTON TOWN COUNCIL

Tuesday, May 14, at 6 p.m., town hall, Summerton

MANNING CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, May 14, at 6:30 p.m., second floor of Manning City Hall, 29 W. Boyce St., Manning

PINEWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Tuesday, May 14, at 6:30 p.m., town hall, Pinewood

TURBEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

Tuesday, May 14, at 6:30 p.m., town hall, Turbeville

MAYESVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

Tuesday, May 14, at 7 p.m., town hall, Mayesville

PAXVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

Tuesday, May 14, 7 p.m., Paxville Town Hall, 10277 Lewis Road, Paxville

AROUND TOWN

To correct any information or to make a submission to Around Town, email pressrelease@theitem.com with Around Town in subject line.

Sumter Elks Lodge 855 will hold a barbecue fundraiser on Saturday, May 11, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Sumter Community Family Carnival at the VFW at 1925 Gion St. in Sumter. The public is invited to this event which is a joint effort of VFW Post 3034, Marine Corps League Detachment 1202 and Sumter Elks Lodge 855. Tickets for the meal are \$10 per plate and must be purchased in advance by May 7 indicating your choice of pulled pork or chicken on the ticket. Diners include meat, beans, slaw and a roll. Dine under the pavilion or take out. Tickets may be purchased at the VFW canteen which opens at 2 p.m. daily or by calling Bud Butler at (405) 210-7848 or Brian Davis at (803) 491-5339.

SOLUTION TO THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

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WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2024

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Sumter

TODAY	TONIGHT	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly sunny; nice, less humid	Clear	Nice with plenty of sunshine	A shower in the afternoon	Some rain and a t-storm; humid	Some rain and a thunderstorm
77°	57°	81° / 57°	80° / 63°	77° / 65°	84° / 63°
Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 0%	Chance of rain: 40%	Chance of rain: 70%	Chance of rain: 65%
NNW 6-12 mph	WSW 4-8 mph	WNW 6-12 mph	SSE 6-12 mph	SE 7-14 mph	WSW 8-16 mph

TODAY'S SOUTH CAROLINA WEATHER

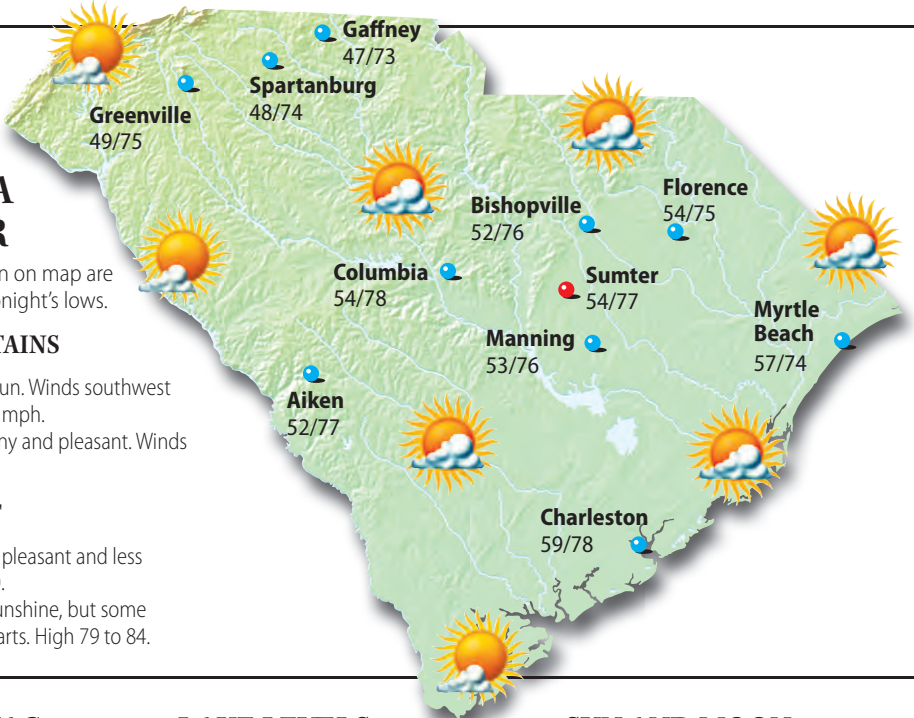
Temperatures shown on map are today's highs and tonight's lows.

IN THE MOUNTAINS

Today: Clouds and sun. Winds southwest becoming west 6-12 mph.
Sunday: Mostly sunny and pleasant. Winds southwest 4-8 mph.

ON THE COAST

Today: Partly sunny, pleasant and less humid. High 74 to 80.
Sunday: Plenty of sunshine, but some clouds in southern parts. High 79 to 84.



LOCAL ALMANAC

SUMTER THURSDAY	
Temperature	
High	75°
Low	66°
Normal high	80°
Normal low	56°
Record high	94° in 1962
Record low	38° in 1989

Precipitation	
Thursday	0.79"
Month to date	1.89"
Normal month to date	1.00"
Year to date	12.66"
Last year to date	16.04"
Normal year to date	15.45"

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full pool	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Murray	360	358.28	+0.22
Marion	76.8	75.88	+0.05
Moultrie	75.5	75.50	none
Wateree	100	97.07	+1.63

RIVER STAGES

River	Flood stage	7 a.m. yest.	24-hr chg
Black River	12	4.59	+0.21
Congaree River	19	11.65	+5.73
Lynches River	14	6.12	+1.02
Saluda River	14	9.61	+4.44
Up. Santee River	80	N.A.	N.A.
Wateree River	24	15.20	+1.38

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	6:23 a.m.	Sunset	8:14 p.m.
Moonrise	9:04 a.m.	Moonsset	none
First	May 15	Full	May 23
Last	May 30	New	June 6

TIDES

AT MYRTLE BEACH				
	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Today	12:00 a.m.	3.5	7:09 a.m.	0.1
	12:30 p.m.	2.6	7:00 p.m.	0.1
Sun.	12:50 a.m.	3.3	7:59 a.m.	0.3
	1:23 p.m.	2.5	7:50 p.m.	0.4

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	77/59/pc	80/60/pc
Chicago	66/49/pc	79/60/pc
Dallas	79/63/sh	70/63/r
Detroit	62/46/r	69/56/pc
Houston	84/68/pc	80/73/t
Los Angeles	73/57/pc	76/59/s
New Orleans	84/70/pc	82/73/c
New York	62/49/pc	56/48/c
Orlando	94/67/pc	92/70/pc
Philadelphia	64/48/pc	59/47/t
Phoenix	94/67/s	97/71/s
San Francisco	71/54/s	69/52/s
Wash., DC	65/51/pc	67/50/t

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Asheville	71/48/pc	72/47/s
Athens	78/54/pc	80/55/s
Augusta	78/53/s	81/54/s
Beaufort	80/61/s	84/63/s
Cape Hatteras	64/56/pc	75/58/s
Charleston	78/58/pc	82/61/s
Charlotte	73/52/pc	77/55/pc
Clemson	78/53/pc	78/55/s
Columbia	78/57/pc	82/53/s
Darlington	76/54/pc	80/53/s
Elizabeth City	65/55/pc	76/52/pc
Elizabethtown	73/56/pc	81/52/s
Fayetteville	73/56/pc	79/52/s

City	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Florence	75/54/pc	81/55/s
Gainesville	87/60/pc	87/68/pc
Gastonia	73/49/pc	76/51/pc
Greensboro	72/57/pc	78/52/s
Goose Creek	78/57/pc	82/59/s
Greenville	70/51/pc	75/50/s
Hickory	72/50/pc	74/49/pc
Hilton Head	76/62/s	80/64/s
Jacksonville, FL	84/61/s	85/65/pc
La Grange	78/56/pc	80/57/pc
Macon	79/54/s	83/59/pc
Marietta	76/56/pc	80/55/pc

City	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Marion	72/46/pc	73/48/s
Mt. Pleasant	77/62/s	81/64/pc
Myrtle Beach	74/61/pc	79/60/s
Orangeburg	77/57/pc	80/56/s
Port Royal	78/61/s	83/61/pc
Raleigh	72/53/pc	76/51/s
Rock Hill	73/51/pc	76/53/s
Rockingham	74/53/pc	77/51/s
Savannah	80/59/s	83/58/pc
Spartanburg	74/52/pc	77/52/s
Summerville	77/56/s	82/58/s
Wilmington	74/57/pc	82/54/s
Winston-Salem	71/52/pc	76/50/s

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 NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

CONTAIN YOURSELF: With various metaphors by Mark McClain

ACROSS

- 1 Sunrise
- 5 Far from wordy
- 10 Sandwich shop
- 14 Regional plant life
- 19 "Peculiar" prefix
- 20 Inventor Howe
- 21 Big birds Down Under
- 22 Jeans brand
- 23 Diverse populace
- 25 Traffic jam
- 27 Double ___ (two-meaning term)
- 28 Snacked on
- 29 Movie crowd group
- 30 Give a hoot
- 31 Take advantage of
- 32 Two less than penta-
- 33 Health foods label word
- 36 Land measure
- 38 Puts on a pedestal
- 43 Very enjoyable time
- 45 Much-sought goal
- 46 Get rid of
- 47 Basic education, informally
- 48 Quite a walk
- 49 Forearm bone
- 50 Before, poetically
- 51 Japanese electronics giant
- 54 Japanese peak
- 55 In dreamland
- 57 Japanese honorific
- 58 Ballpark crew
- 59 Living room seating
- 60 Old Glory color
- 61 Nautical pronoun
- 62 Jalopy
- 65 Brief affirmation
- 68 Passport permit
- 69 "Shall we?" reply
- 70 Great Flood witness
- 71 GPS reading
- 72 Ill will
- 75 Mercedes alternatives
- 76 Lab's ___ dish

- 77 Bygone insecticide
- 78 Apple desktop
- 79 Middle of "middle"
- 80 Room to relax in
- 81 Narrow shoe size
- 82 Jocular source of funds
- 85 Source of troubles
- 89 Gave a task to
- 90 Frog's hangout
- 91 Henley event
- 92 Unusual
- 93 Pic taker
- 94 Roseanne of TV
- 95 Snowmobile brand
- 99 Little dog
- 100 "We should try that!!"
- 104 Source of troubles
- 106 Retire for the night
- 108 Japanese film genre
- 109 Spherical prefix
- 110 Worthwhile quality
- 111 Star Trek: TNG counselor
- 112 Doled (out)
- 113 Unkind
- 114 Country music guitar
- 115 Normandy invasion town

DOWN

- 1 Little money
- 2 Port of Yemen
- 3 Droop, as dandelions
- 4 Orator's reference
- 5 Strand of ivy
- 6 Painter from Crete
- 7 Ready for picking
- 8 ___ Paulo, Brazil
- 9 Superlative suffix
- 10 Lower in value
- 11 Overdo it on stage
- 12 Minstrel's instrument
- 13 Suffix like -arian
- 14 Showing off one's pecs
- 15 Mardi Gras follower
- 16 More than
- 17 Prosperous, in Panama
- 18 Pops a question
- 24 Totally silly
- 26 Sports artist Neiman
- 31 Large coffee brewer

- 32 Flooring selection
- 33 Preoccupy
- 34 Extremely avid
- 35 Novelist Graham ___
- 36 "Natural" hairdo
- 37 Mongrel
- 38 Marvel Universe trickster
- 39 Pic taker
- 39 Gloater's exclamation
- 40 Jewelry chain founder
- 41 Mozart's ___ kleine Nacht-musik
- 42 Sharp rebuke
- 44 Pat down
- 45 Muslim head cover
- 48 Fits of pique
- 51 Three-dimensional
- 52 Keep entertained
- 53 Shelter org.
- 54 Covers, as a bill
- 55 Chapel centerpiece
- 56 Some "bar" food
- 59 Meaty meals
- 60 Ink smear
- 63 Bull on glue labels
- 64 Without stopping
- 65 With outstanding bills
- 66 "...___ a moment too soon"
- 67 Greek brandy/wine blend
- 68 What a British queen wasn't called
- 72 Glittery mineral
- 73 Pop singer Tori
- 74 Southeast Asian land
- 75 Bit of some bracelets
- 76 Remain unresolved

- 79 Played CDs for guests
- 80 Novelist Brown
- 81 Russian monarchy supporters
- 83 "My bad!"
- 84 Fund, as a foundation
- 85 A 99-Across
- 86 Any satellite
- 87 Extend as far as
- 88 Go along
- 90 Antes up
- 93 Mark for a pause

- 95 Shady scheme
- 96 Welles' media mogul
- 97 Still contending
- 98 Capitol crown
- 99 Genealogy product
- 100 Creash probe org.
- 101 Pub projectile
- 102 Earth sci.
- 103 Sony cofounder Morita
- 105 Current-slowing measure
- 106 Snacked on
- 107 "Equal" prefix

East Clarendon golf finishes 5th at 1A state tournament

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

The East Clarendon golf team traveled to Hartsville Country Club on Tuesday and put on quite the show.

As a team, the Wolverines finished fifth with a team score of 347, missing out on fourth by just three strokes. Cayleigh Goff was locked in from the jump, finishing in fifth as an individual.

“That’s the best we’ve played all year,” head coach Patrick Kelly. “It’s a good time to play good.”

Goff shot a 74 for a strong round but nearly made a push for second. She had rough luck on a couple of putts that, as Kelly put it, “hit every part of the hole except for going in.” Two sprayed shots were the only other strokes that kept her from finishing second, which was Groves Williams of Christ Church with a 71.

“She played extremely well. Not her best, but she bogeyed two of the last three holes, which was disappointing for her. She would’ve had a really good round if you

SEE GOLF, PAGE B4



East Clarendon's Cayleigh Goff, second from right, stands with her fellow all-state medalists after finishing fifth at the SCHSL 1A state championship on Tuesday.



ADAM FLASH / THE SUMTER ITEM

The Wilson Hall baseball team breaks down their huddle after falling to Cardinal Newman 7-6 on Wednesday.

Barons drop marathon with Cardinal Newman as Cards walk off to championship series

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

The Wilson Hall baseball team never gave up on Wednesday night, even when the deck seemed stacked against them.

The Barons traveled to face Cardinal Newman with their season on the line. After a first pitch at 6:30 p.m., the two squads didn’t even finish the first inning before the weather

came rolling in. With potential storms incoming, the teams elected to avoid constant starts and stops, so they waited for nearly two hours before finally resuming play.

Once the game restarted, both teams had one explosive inning, and neither maintained a lead for long. Wilson Hall climbed out of a 6-4 hole with two solo shots, but the

SEE BARONS, PAGE B4

Ivey pitches Lady Gamecocks to District 5 title game, wins Hines Furniture Athlete of the Week

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

The Sumter High softball team played for the SCHSL 5A District 5 title on Wednesday. The biggest reason was the right arm of Lillie Ivey.

Ivey spent her season trying to get back to full strength after suffering an injury last spring. She slowly built up her stamina to be ready for the playoffs. When the lights were bright in the postseason, she pitched like a star.

Ivey didn’t allow an earned run in wins over Fort Dorchester and Cane Bay last week. Her incredible performance also helped her earn recognition as the Hines Furniture Athlete of the Week.

“It feels really good,” Ivey said of the recognition. “Especially coming back from the surgery and everything. It feels really good knowing that I have a lot of people supporting me and helping me get back to where I am.”

Sumter High head coach Mike Moss was confident Ivey would be ready to step up after putting in a tremendous amount of hard work since her injury. The other Coach Moss, Mike’s wife, Courtney, worked very closely with Ivey to make sure she would be ready to go.

“The two of them would sit in the bullpen, and I think Lillie got up to throwing like 200 pitches in a couple of days’ time,” Mike Moss said. “Lillie was very willing. We checked



TIM LEIBLE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Sumter High's Lillie Ivey delivers during the Lady Gamecocks' 5-0 win over Cane Bay on Friday, May 3. She earned Hines Furniture Athlete of the Week honors after allowing zero earned runs across wins over Cane Bay and Fort Dorchester.

every day to see what her pain level was, and she just did everything she was asked to do. We’re very proud of her for that.

“She’s been a trooper every

step of the way. Lillie is very, very deserving of this; it’s a long time coming. She’s just a terrific kid.”

The process started well before the season began, as Ivey

went through months of physical therapy before getting close to stepping in the circle.

“It all started before I could even throw a ball. I had to do physical therapy three times a

week for a good two months,” Ivey said. “With the help of both Mosses, I was able to work on Saturdays and Sundays, and during practice I had a protocol I had to do with the ball, where I was only allowed to do certain pitches from a certain distance to put a certain amount of pressure on my arm for a solid month. Then I got cleared to play, and I was only allowed to pitch every once in a while as I worked my way back in.”

Sumter High started the week with a trip to Fort Dorchester. Ivey was locked in from the jump.

“I really had to focus. That was my main goal,” she said. “We didn’t have a good game with them two years prior, so I really wanted to beat them. My main thing was to stay focused and try my best for the team.”

Ivey was unhittable in the 3-1 win. She allowed one unearned run on three hits and one walk. She finished with 13 strikeouts, making life a little easier for the rest of the Lady Gamecocks.

“She came out really loose. She felt really good that day,” Coach Moss said. “We’ve got a little thing going on with Fort Dorchester. The last two times we’d played them, they beat us. She really wanted that game, she wanted the win, and she got it. I was really pleased with her performance.”

SEE AOTW, PAGE B4

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FURNITURE

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East Clarendon crushes Hannah-Pamplico 12-2 for District title

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

It took a day longer than expected, but the Wolverines are once again district champions. East Clarendon started their matchup with Hannah-Pamplico on Monday, but Mother Nature had other plans, as lightning and a torrential downpour forced the SCHSL 1A District 5 title game to be resumed a day later.

The Wolverines did more than enough to win on Monday, however, getting out to a 9-1 lead before the storms rolled in. When play resumed Tuesday evening, EC picked up where they left off. They allowed one run on a fluke inside the park home run, but tacked on three more runs to win 12-2 in just five innings.

“Our guys played hard, they competed and they executed the little things,” head coach Curtis Johnson said after the win. “When we execute the small things, we have a chance to beat people. I was proud of them, proud of the energy they had, proud of the way they played. They had goals, and we knew this was a giant road block we had to figure out how to get through.”

When the game started on Monday, Hannah-Pamplico sent Mason Smith to the mound, a lefty that held EC off the scoreboard for five innings on Friday. The Wolverines worked on their approach at the plate after pulling off a 7-4 comeback win in their first matchup and Smith had very few answers. He lasted just 1 1/3 innings and allowed four runs, though only one was earned. The H-P bullpen then struggled behind him.

The Wolverines started with two quick runs in the first, but it should’ve been more. After a one-out double by Cooper Goff, Michael Morris reached on an error. A hit batter loaded the bases before a sacrifice fly by Walker Partee put EC on the board. Dawson Beard then laced a double into left, which scored Morris. Beard tried to leg out a triple, but the throw beat him to the bag. Hunter Mixon was a little slow heading home and Beard was tagged out before he scored, leaving EC with a 2-0 lead.

After another shutout frame from Blease Hardy, the Wolverine bats went to work again. Graham Newsome



East Clarendon’s Walker Partee rounds third base in front of the Wolverine bench during EC’s win over Hannah-Pamplico on Tuesday.

kicked off the inning with single and stole second before Shamar Graham came in to pinch run. Graham eventually came all the way home when KJ Floyd dropped down a sacrifice bunt and reached on an error. A walk and an error loaded the bases before another walk plated a run. Mixon then doubled to left to score two more. Yet another error pushed the lead to 8-0 before three consecutive walks sent home the final run of the inning.

“We talked about it a lot, the first time we faced (Smith), we weren’t very patient,” Johnson said. “This time, we had a better plan at the plate, we wanted to make him be down (in the strike zone) but also hit the ball down and hard and make him throw pitches. Until we got to two strikes, we were looking for one pitch in one spot and put the barrel on it.”

In the top of the third, a single and an error put runners on the corners with two outs, and Hannah-Pamplico finally scored as Jacob Creche stole second and Wade Poston swiped home on the throw. A fly ball quickly ended the threat.

The Wolverines made their way through most of the third inning before the weather rolled in.

With the layoff, Johnson elected to make a pitching change, though Blease Hardy was still available after needing just 30 pitches on Monday. He allowed one unearned run on one hit with two strikeouts. Cullen McKenzie took over on Tuesday and handled business from there.

McKenzie made quick work of H-P in the top of the fourth

before smacking an RBI double in the bottom of the frame to get the Wolverines within a run of ending the game in five.

The top of the fifth opened with an oddity, as Logan Bass lifted a ball to deep center. The ball went over the head of Whit Nesbitt and he couldn’t get a grip of the ball in the muddy warning track. He eventually got his hand on the ball, but threw it into right field, allowing Bass to score easily for Hannah-Pamplico’s final run.

Nesbitt quickly made up for the gaff in the bottom of the inning, reaching on a single before a walk by Goff and a single by Morris loaded the bases. Mixon hit a grounder, and Nesbitt beat the throw home to push the EC lead to 11-2. Partee then singled to end the game 12-2.

McKenzie threw just 19 pitches on Tuesday, scattering four hits and a run over two innings. Because both Wolverines kept their pitch counts low, every EC arm is available for the lower state tournament.

“We’ve got some guys that I’m not afraid to put out there,” Johnson said of the Wolverines’ pitching depth. “I was proud of what we did on the mound, really across the district tournament.”

East Clarendon was originally set to head to Lake View for the first round of the lower state tournament on Thursday, but the rough week of weather continued, postponing the game until Friday. The matchup was not completed by press time. Head to theitem.com/sports for results from the game.

Mistakes snowball as Lady Wolvines end season with playoff 9-7 loss

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

For the first five innings on Tuesday night, the East Clarendon softball team was cruising.

The Lady Wolverines were hosting Bamberg-Ehrhardt in an elimination game in the SCHSL 1A playoffs and grabbed an early 3-1 lead. They were in the driver’s seat until the sixth, when the wheels quickly fell off.

One walk turned into two before an error blew the game wide open. East Clarendon fought to recover but couldn’t generate enough offense in a 9-7 loss, ending their season a little sooner than they hoped.

“The bottom line is, offensively, we could just not get the hits, and that’s been the case since probably spring break,” head coach Jason Newsome said. “They were (pressing). They were watching the scoreboard the whole time, they know it’s an elimination game, they know where we’re at. As much as we try to tell them not to look at the scoreboard, stay in the situation, that’s hard. They could see themselves losing the grip on the game.”

East Clarendon’s biggest question mark coming into the game was pitching. Laiklyn Gaskins has been their ace all season long, but she quietly battled shoulder issues throughout the spring. The

Lady Wolverines would’ve needed to make a trip to Lake View one night later if they won on Tuesday, and Gaskins was not going to be able to pitch back-to-back complete games. Newsome made the decision to pull his starter after four innings and 69 pitches, more than twice the total he had hoped to hold her under.

“Once we got rained out last night, we knew we had Laiklyn on a pitch count today,” Newsome explained. “She hasn’t pitched back-to-back nights all year. She would’ve been due for a bullpen today, so that’s kinda what we were going with. We went a little further than we wanted to with her, so we kinda had to make a decision if we were going to burn her tonight.

“We were up two. I made the decision to pull her out. Addison (Fleming) came in and did a good job in the first inning, but a few little things happened in the next inning, and it kinda got away from us.”

Gaskins went four innings and allowed one run on three hits, a walk and two hit batters. She struck out nine and left the game with a 3-1 lead. Then the game got away.

After each team scored a run in the fifth, the issues piled up for East Clarendon. B-E got two base runners with a hit and a walk, but Fleming was able to get two outs before a run came home. After a passed ball, she walked a bat-

ter to load the bases and set up a force out across the diamond. A hit batter then pushed the snowball down the hill. A single and an error turned that snowball into an avalanche. Suddenly, EC trailed 7-4.

The Lady Wolverines got a run back in the bottom of the inning on a wild pitch but couldn’t get much more going. Bamberg got two runners on before EC got their second out of the seventh. Layke Jeffords then issued an intentional walk to load the bases after a ground out left runners on second and third. A passed ball and a walk sent home another run with the bases still loaded. A hit batter made the score 9-5 before a ground out ended the inning.

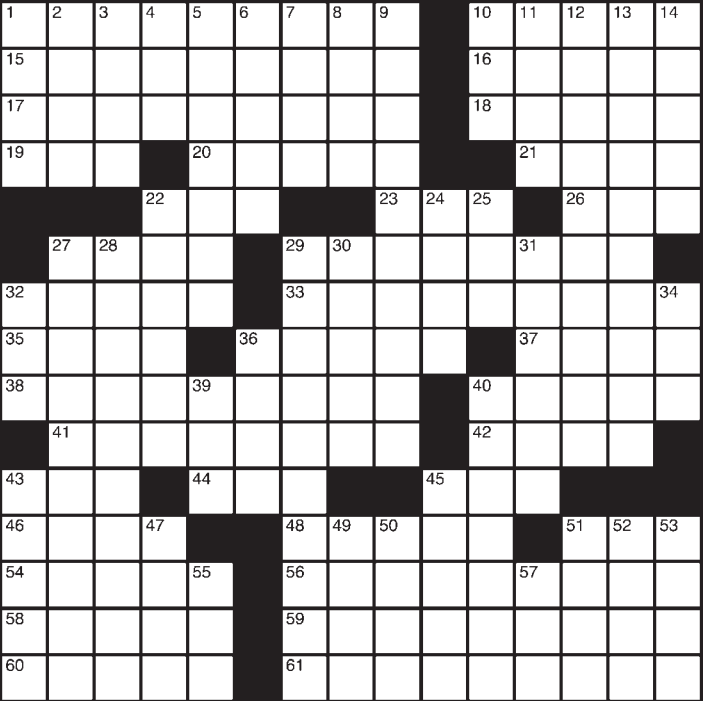
East Clarendon tried to start a rally with a hit batter and a walk. They scored once on a wild pitch and again on a ground out, but a pop out ended the game for EC.

“They didn’t fold up,” Newsome said. “We kept battling tonight; we just ran out of time.”

The Lady Wolverines managed just four hits. One came from Gaskins, who drove in four runs. Bailey Hicks scored three times and stole three bases.

Three EC relievers combined to allow eight runs, though two were unearned, on four hits, six walks and four hit batters.

CROSSWORD



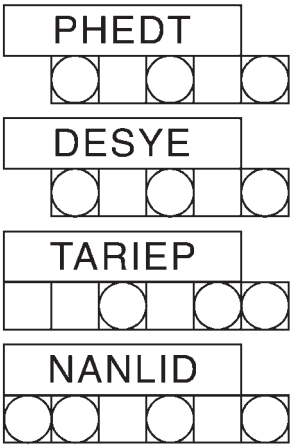
- ACROSS**
1 Loaf traditionally made with clabbered milk
10 Dismiss
15 New and improved, say
16 Slim young swimmer
17 Decreases
18 Mookie who was the 2018 AL MVP
19 Miner concern
20 “Law & Order” actor Jeremy
21 Catalan artist Joan
22 Cry after seeing a good drawing?
23 Airport safety gp.
26 “Mad ___”
27 Precipitation that can hurt
29 Knockoffs of the 1980s and 1990s
32 Brand that sponsored early soap operas
33 About as bad as it gets
35 Bleak
36 “One L” author
37 ___ and void
38 Journalist who co-founded the NAACP
40 ___ cash
41 Beanies
42 Young lady
43 Violinist Kavafian
44 “I get it!”
45 Block
46 City southwest of Warsaw
48 Hitchcock motel
51 Food ___
54 Even more distant
56 Hereditary chain
58 Summer Daze cologne brand
59 Generously given
60 Bar
61 Without restraint

- DOWN**
1 H-Town Aler
2 Preakness winner Man ___
3 Capitol cap

- 4 Tablet program
5 Word in a Tom Swifty about Bruce Springsteen
6 Chamillionaire song with the lyrics “They see me rollin’ / They hatin’”
7 “The Killing” actress Mireille
8 Chem class fig.
9 Taped message from the police?
10 Isr. neighbor
11 Sch. type
12 Some NFL breaks
13 Succeed
14 Director Welles
22 Jason who was the 2000 AL MVP
24 Road warning sign
25 NYC rep since 2019
27 Rough treatment
28 Self-critical evaluation
29 Singer who was one of the original judges on “American Idol”
30 Post-doc combo?
31 Starting hour, perhaps
32 Sci-fi FX
34 Calculated
36 Stock sector
39 Org. founded by Billie Jean King
40 Artificial
43 “... a grin without a cat” observer
45 Italy’s Villa ___
47 Philosopher known for “reductio ad absurdum” arguments
49 Years in old Rome
50 Undertaking
51 Focus of much analysis
52 Santa ___ Valley: California setting of “Sideways”
53 Current subject
55 Single situp, say
57 Prescription to fight stress, briefly

JUMBLE

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

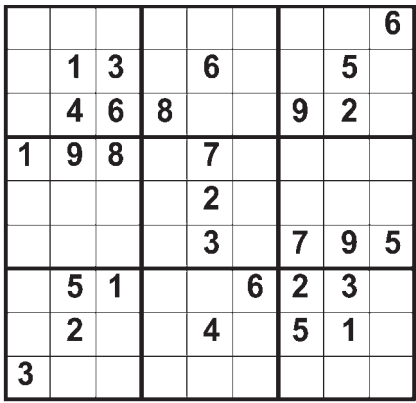


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SUDOKU

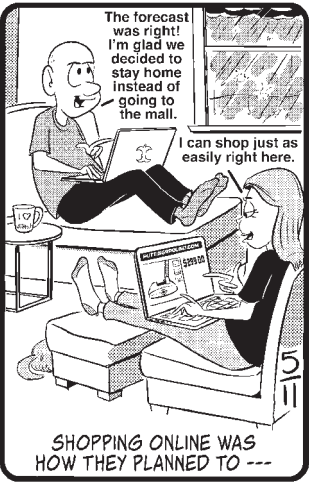
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



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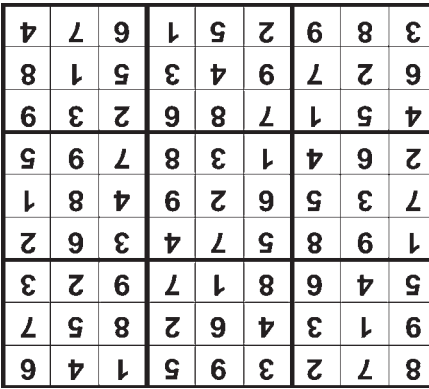
THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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

SOLUTIONS



Jumbles: DEPTH SEEDY INLAND
Answer: Shopping online was how they planned to —
SPEND THEIR DAY

BARONS

FROM PAGE B1

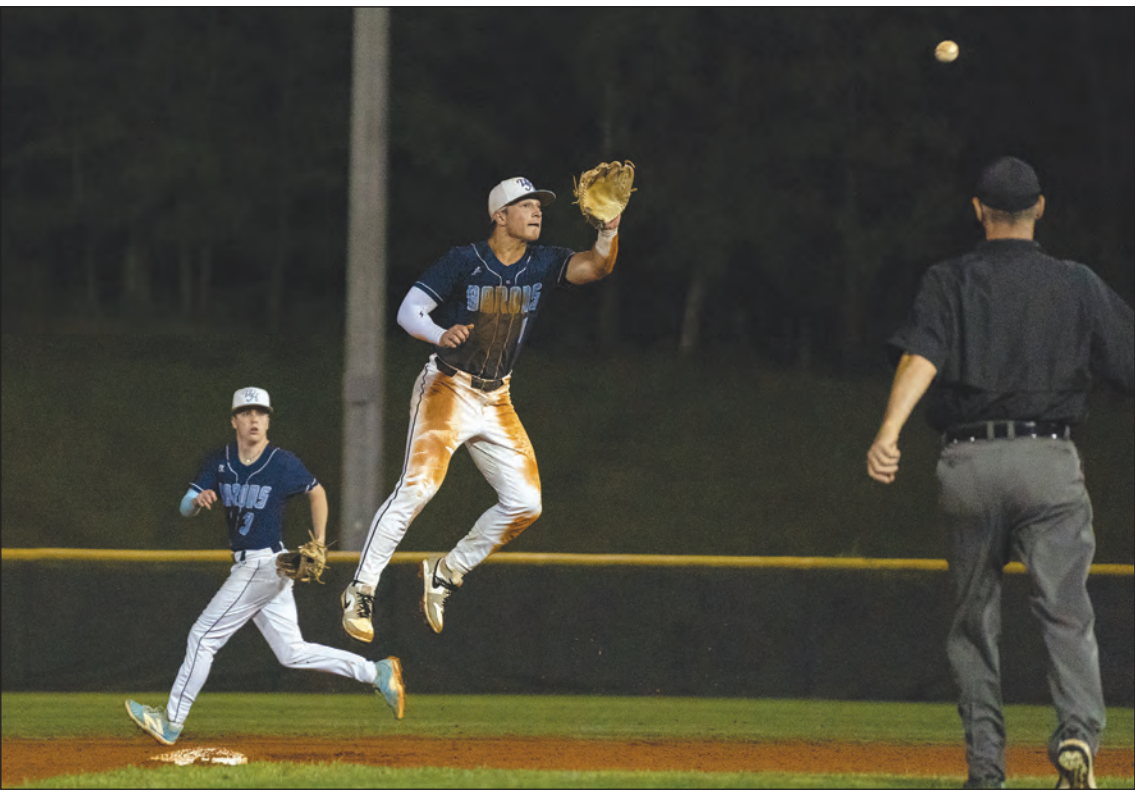
Cardinals held the bat last. Cardinal Newman loaded the bases in the bottom of the seventh before Tristan Neely singled to center to drive home the winning run. An incredible season for the Barons ended just shy of the SCISA 4A state championship series with a 7-6 loss.

“Over the last three or four years, off the top of my head, that’s at least the third game that we’ve been walked off down there. Those two teams are just close,” Wilson Hall head coach Jay Jones said. “It kinda followed the same script of the game at our place. We were up 4-1, there were a couple of plays that could’ve gone either way, and we didn’t play quite clean enough to close that game out, but we did what we could do.”

After the delay, Cardinal Newman scored the game’s first run in the bottom of the first, using a double steal to get on the board. After a quiet second inning, the Barons put up a crooked number in the third with two outs. Blake Van Patten singled, and Carson Wilsey was able to score on an error. Van Patten then came all the way around to score as Grayson Alexander reached on an error. A double from Clark Kinney pushed the lead to 3-1. Kinney then came around to score on a wild pitch to go up by three runs.

“We were aggressive,” Jones said of what sparked the offense in the third. “We forced them to make plays, and it worked out well for us.”

The Barons missed a crucial chance to add to their lead in the top of the fourth. They loaded the bases with two outs, but Van Patten couldn’t find a gap to send them home, flying out to center.



Wilson Hall’s Clark Kinney leaps to catch a ball on Wednesday.



Wilson Hall teammates console each other after their loss to Cardinal Newman on Wednesday.

In the bottom of the frame, Cardinal Newman jumped back ahead. They led off the inning with a double and a triple to cut the Baron lead to two. An error and a single loaded the bases with one out before Alexander was called for a catcher’s interference. The bat seemed to hit his glove on the backswing, which is within the rules, but the umpires sent the batter to first and plated a run. After a fielder’s choice at the plate, Hardt Rowland cleared the bases with a double, putting Cardinal Newman up 6-4.

But the Barons had some gas left in the tank. Kinney started with a solo shot in the fifth inning. Wilson Hall starter Ben Reynolds then pitched out of a jam in the bottom of the inning. He faced the bases loaded with one out but got back-to-back K’s to finish the frame without any damage. Wilsey followed with a dinger in the top of the sixth to tie the game with an inning and a half to play.

Wilson Hall had a chance to jump ahead when Alexander was hit by a pitch to lead off the seventh. After he swiped

second, CN intentionally walked Kinney. Hayden Mims went to go drop down a bunt, but Alexander got caught retreating to second as the Cardinal shortstop ran in behind him before the pitch. With his momentum moving the wrong direction, Alexander couldn’t get to third in time. Instead of having the bases loaded with no one out, they had a base open and an out. A force out at second and a strikeout ended the threat.

“It just wasn’t meant to be,” Jones said of the missed opportunities.

Reynolds pitched into the sixth for the Barons. He was charged with six runs, but only three were earned. Reynolds surrendered six hits and walked five. Benson Elmore pitched the final inning, allowing a run on four hits and a walk.

“Ben will give you everything he’s got. By no means was he sharp, but you never see him looking over at the

bench or blaming his teammates if they make an error,” Jones said. “He got to his 110 pitches, and we had to drag him off the mound. He’s going to go out there and compete. He exited, and we were in the ballgame, which is all we could ask.”

It was a heartbreaking loss for a senior-laden squad. Coach Jones has known this group for most of their lives, having coached them as children. His son, Dylan, missed the season after tearing his ACL near the end of the football season but was along for every step of the season. While the Baron head coach wanted to see his seniors go out with a title, he was proud of the way they came together as a team for a remarkable 21-8 season.

“I’ve been with those guys since they were about 6 years old playing rec ball,” Coach Jones said. “Those guys don’t just come out here and say, ‘It’s baseball season, guess I’ll play baseball.’ These guys are best friends, they move in a pack year-round. It’s like having 11 kids of your own. Those guys know what each other is thinking, knows what each other is doing. It’s rare at a school our size to have a class that big that are that good.”

“We kinda started behind the eight ball when Dylan got hurt. It knocked us off in football and, I think, ultimately knocks us out in baseball. I think it puts us over the top if he’s healthy this year. It’s like having a stool and one of the legs gets kicked out. They figured it out and made it work. If you had told me at the start of the regular season that we’d be 19-6 at the end of the regular season and we’d be undefeated in the region, I’d have said, ‘Where do I sign up?’ It was bittersweet not being able to have Dylan out there to have his last shot to get his season, too.”

Lady Gamecocks run out of gas in district championship loss to Chapin

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

The Sumter High softball team had an extremely long night on Wednesday.

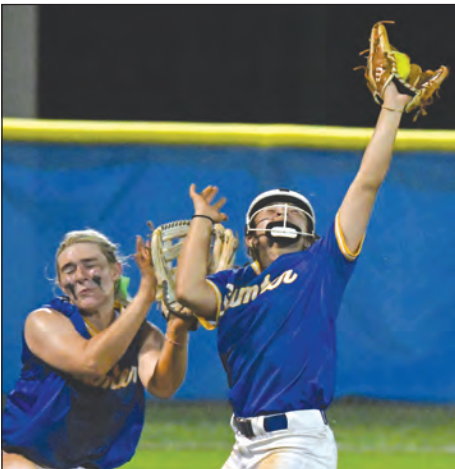
It started with a long first inning against Chapin for the SCHSL 5A District 5 championship. Lillie Ivey ran into her only trouble of the postseason as the Lady Eagles struck for four runs in the top of the frame.

Those would be the only four runs Ivey would allow, but the taxing frame meant that she likely wasn’t going to finish the game in the circle. She eventually threw 103 pitches in six innings of work, but the Sumter High offense missed a couple of critical opportunities. Chapin tacked on four more runs in the seventh to win 8-1, forcing a second game.

The rematch, however, had to wait a bit, as stormy weather surrounding Sumter left officials with cause for concern. The first game already had its share of stops and starts, but the second game was delayed until 8:30.

After the break, both teams were short on pitching, so offensive explosions dragged the matchup to nearly 11 p.m. before the final batter. Chapin jumped ahead early, and Sumter High fought back with two separate rallies. In the end, the Lady Gamecocks ran out of gas in what ballooned out to a 20-10 loss in six innings.

“It was just a bad night,” SHS head coach Mike Moss said after the games, which lasted roughly five



Sumter High’s Remy Shauf, right, collides with Kiley Laux as she hauls in a catch against Chapin on Wednesday.

hours. “We had a lot going into it and felt really good going into it. We just didn’t execute at times as a team. We’ll regroup and go again next year.”

“All in all, a successful season. We didn’t finish like we wanted to finish, but it was a good run. This is a great group of girls.”

The first inning of the first games proved to be the most costly. Chapin opened the night with a walk and three straight singles to jump ahead 3-0. A double pushed the lead to 4-0 before Ivey stopped the bleeding with a strike out and a pop out.

With an immediate 4-0 deficit, the Lady Gamecocks pressed at the plate. They had a few opportunities, like a one-out double by Kiley Laux in the second and a fifth inning

where they loaded the bases but failed to push a run across. Sumter High started a big rally in the sixth, opening the frame with a walk and a double by Maddie Long. A sacrifice fly from Laux cut the gap to 4-1, but two quick outs ended the inning.

Without their top pitcher for the rest of the night, Sumter High was going to need to win the rematch with an offensive explosion. That proved to be the case for both teams.

The Lady Gamecocks came out swinging with a run in the top of the first, but Chapin responded with a pair in the bottom of the inning. The Lady Eagles smacked in five runs in the second, and SHS came back with three more of their own in the top of the third. Chapin tacked on four more before SHS got within four runs with a huge six-run frame. Sumter High got RBI singles from Remy Shauf, Ariana Evans and Hannah DuRant in the inning, but they couldn’t keep Chapin down for long.

The Lady Eagles scored twice in the bottom of the fourth, twice in the fifth and finished the 20-10 win with three triples in the sixth. Chapin went to the bullpen during Sumter High’s big fourth inning but returned to starter Ella Majchrzak for the final two innings, and SHS couldn’t get much going. Majchrzak pitched the entirety of the first game and threw five innings of the second, throwing more than 160 pitches in the process.

Long led Sumter High with four hits across both games. Evans and DuRant each had two hits and drove

in a pair of runs in Game 2.

Ivy King finished off the first game and pitched the first two innings in the rematch. She was charged with seven runs, but all of them were unearned. Paisley McDougal closed out the night with five earned runs and eight unearned runs allowed.

Sumter High’s pitching staff was taxed this season. Ivey was working her way back from injury early in the season, and they were without last year’s second pitcher, Lily Morris, who was sidelined by an injury. Moss thinks an offseason of recovery for his top two pitchers, plus the continued maturation of King and McDougal, will go a long way. All four pitchers are extremely young and have some varsity experience to lean on.

“The biggest thing they all need to do is take some time off and let their bodies recover, and I hope they’ll do that. We were really concerned about using them so much; that’s why we used the approach this year of using three arms and try to maximize every bit that we could because we’re so afraid of injury.”

While the final night of games didn’t go as planned, Moss is confident the Lady Gamecocks will come back even stronger next year.

“We’re going to take the offseason, and this is going to fuel us moving forward. I told them just now that when I’m pushing them or the other coaches are pushing them next year, this is what it’s about,” Moss said. “We’re trying to get over that hump. We’re close, real close.”

GOLF FROM PAGE B1

took those two away,” Kelly said. “She felt good coming in. She told me this was one of her favorite golf courses, and I could see why.”

Ryan Sullivan added an 88 thanks to an incredible run on his last nine holes where he shot a 40. Cam Porter was a stroke behind with an 89, while Colby McKenzie and Jimmy Anderson each shot 96.

“When she plays good, everybody plays good,” Kelly said of the way the team followed Goff’s lead. “When I tell everyone she’s doing good, the other guys seem to play well. If she

doesn’t play, no one plays well.

“Ryan Sullivan had a great second nine. On the front nine, he was ready to quit, but he made three birdies on the last nine to shoot 40. It was quite a roller coaster. Cam Porter, it’s his first year playing golf. This kid loves golf. I think he’s played every day in the last year.”

Christ Church ran away with the team and individual victory, as the No. 1-ranked junior in the country and Alabama commit William Jennings shot a 65. Christ Church shot 288 as a team, which was even par for the day. They beat second-place Southside Christian by 18 strokes.

AOTW FROM PAGE B1

Despite the high strikeout total, Ivey was able to keep her pitch count somewhat in line with 92 pitches. Part of that was to ensure that she could finish the game.

“I just had to try not to get tired and keep my team going because I feel like they might get bored, in the nicest way possible,” Ivey joked about trying to keep her pitch count down. “I had to keep myself going because I have gotten a little tired ever since the surgery. I’m not completely as strong as I was, so I have to keep the mindset going mentally and physically.”

If Ivey wasn’t already confident after her performance

against Fort D, she was definitely feeling better when she saw the Lady Gamecocks’ next opponent, Cane Bay. Last postseason, Ivey pitched a two-hit shutout in a 1-0 victory over the Cobras.

“I would say we were pretty confident,” she said. “You never know what to expect. They could have a whole different team at that point, but I would say we were pretty confident about it.”

Maybe most importantly, Ivey got some early run support. Sumter High scored three runs in the first, and they were able to cruise from there as Ivey again allowed just three hits and a walk, while striking out five.

“Usually I get really nervous in the first inning, so it

was really relaxing after that first half inning, actually,” Ivey said.

Unfortunately, the District 5 championship on Wednesday was the end of the season for the Lady Gamecocks. While the year wrapped up earlier than she hoped, Ivey is amped up to hit the field with her teammates again next spring. Most of the team will be back and will come with an extra year of experience.

“I’m really excited. I grew up playing with all of them, so to be able to make it this far, it was really exciting. I really think we can make it further next year. Playing with all of them is really fun. I wouldn’t want to do it with anyone else.”

Wilson Hall’s Burton signs to hoop at The Citadel

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

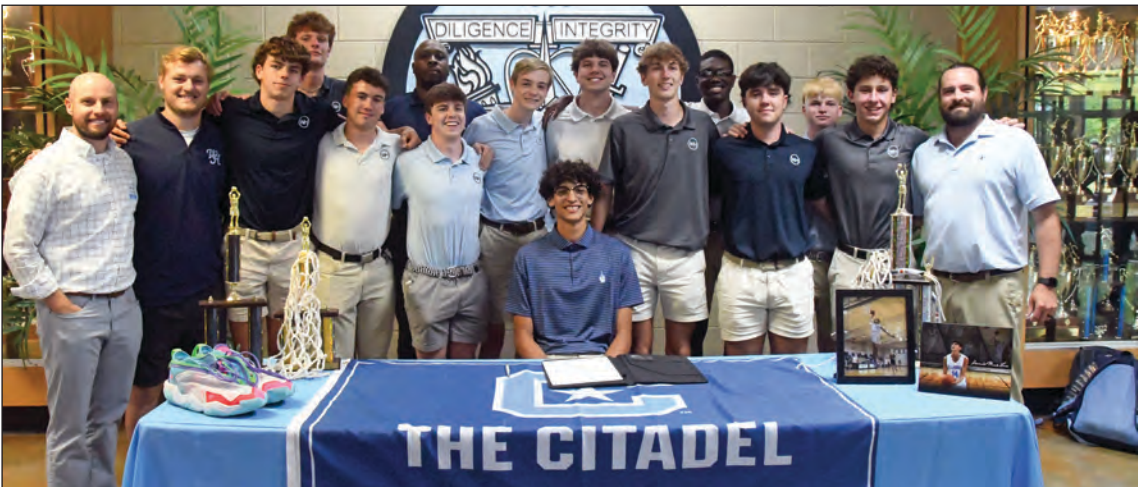
Wilson Hall’s Daniel Burton waited a long time for what happened on Wednesday afternoon in Nash Student Center.

The Baron senior has been relentlessly committed to honing his craft. He worked tirelessly to not only improve as a basketball player, but also to prove to college coaches that he was a player they should take a chance on. That dream came true on Wednesday, as Burton signed with The Citadel.

“It feels great. This was a long-awaited journey,” he said. “It was countless hours in the gym with my dad and all of the other coaches that have helped me progress as a player. You can ask all of my friends. When I was younger, I was not very good. Hard work was all it took.”

Wilson Hall head coach Rip Ripley was thrilled to see Burton have the opportunity to continue his career.

“It’s been a lot of fun. He’s had this in his vision for a while, and it’s been a process for him between AAU and the school season,” Ripley said.



Wilson Hall’s Daniel Burton, seated, is surrounded by teammates and coaches after signing with The Citadel on Wednesday.

“Just seeing his maturation the last couple of years and the player he’s evolved into. Especially for us this year, he was a huge part of our success, and I’m excited for him to take that next step to The Citadel, a spot that hopefully will be a good fit for him, and he can go from there.”

Burton pulled out all of the stops to grab the attention of the coaching staff at The Citadel.

“It was actually very strenu-

ous. A lot of people reached out, like friends and family,” Burton said of trying to get on The Citadel’s radar. “Thomas Creech’s dad was a big guy who brought my name up to the table and then everyone emailing all the coaches. It was really nice.”

Once he got on campus, Burton could tell he made the right choice.

“Just going to the campus and knowing everybody there and having people who stood

up for me to get there,” Burton said. “That family aspect is what brought me to The Citadel.”

Burton was a key player for the Barons this winter, nearly averaging a double-double while serving as the team’s leading scorer. He was an anchor in the middle of their defense, blocking more than two shots a game. Ripley saw his center grow exponentially as a player throughout the last year on the court.

“Defensively, we built a lot of what we did around him, and even offensively, our better games were the games he was able to perform at a high level,” Ripley said. “Seeing the work he’s putting in and seeing it translate on the court this year and growing from a confidence standpoint, hopefully that can continue into the next level.”

Burton thinks The Citadel will be the perfect place to continue to make those strides on and off the court.

“They’re definitely very structured. I think that’s going to help with my game,” he said of the school. “I have a problem with doing the same thing over and over again, being consistent, so that will help with my consistency on the court.”

Now that he’s signed, Burton is ready to get together with his teammates and coaches and get to work.

“Just the connections I’m going to make, the relationships I’m going to have with my coaches and the players,” Burton said of what he’s most anticipating. “That’s the biggest thing.”

Eight Gamecocks take part in late signing days at Sumter High

BY TIM LEIBLE
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As the school year winds down, Sumter High hosted two signing days on Wednesday and Thursday to celebrate eight student-athletes who had the chance to continue their careers.

On Wednesday, Darfirio “DC” Choice signed to play soccer at Francis Marion. On Thursday, Kedatriss Anderson-Keith, DeAndre Scott, Corey Johnson and James Council all signed to join the track and field program at Voorhees. Allison Irick, another T&F standout, signed with Converse College. Cheerleaders Tyreke Witherspoon and Ayiana Bolden both signed with North Carolina Central.

SOCCER

Choice was over the moon about signing with Francis Marion. He feels right at home with the Patriots.

“I’m really excited. I’ve been waiting for this my whole life,” he said. “The coaches, the players and one of my teammates and good friends (James Krivejko Jr.) went there last year, and that played a big part. I liked the whole community there.”

SHS head coach Travis Disher sees the arrow pointing upward for Choice.

“I’m excited for him. I know he’ll progress even more at the next level,” Disher said. “He’s grown as a person and a player so rapidly in the three or four years that I’ve known him. In college, it’s going to be even more because the competition is going to be even higher.”

This spring, Choice had to move from his natural position on defense to play striker. He filled in admirably with a team-high seven goals, which showed his flexibility as an athlete.

“This past season he kinda had to play striker because we didn’t really have anyone, and he stepped up and really did a really good job at a position he’s not comfortable with,” Disher said. “He already has the athletic ability with the height, speed, all that. His technical and skill level has grown so much, and that will continue in college.”

While Choice would love to return to being a left backer, he’s happy to play wherever the coaches want him at FMU.

“Hopefully, but it doesn’t matter where I play at. I just wanna play,” Choice said. “I wouldn’t mind playing up top again, but if they want to play defense, then I’ll do it.”

Choice is ready to make an impact in any way he can, even if he’s coming off

the bench.

“Definitely just improving,” Choice said of what he’s most anticipating. “Honestly, it might sound a little crazy, but I love coming off the bench because I feel like I have a chip on my shoulder to want to get better. I’m excited for that.”

TRACK

The track and field program at Voorhees got a huge influx of talent from SHS, and the Gamecocks are ready to roll.

“It feels great. It feels like a brand-new start, a new chapter in my life. I’m ready to get started and see where this can take me,” Anderson-Keith said. “Being in a new environment, it’ll feel nice to be going somewhere where you already know people.”

Johnson, who will run the 800m run, the 400m dash, the 4x400 and 4x800 relays and potentially all three jumps, reflected on his career at SHS after finally getting the chance to put pen to paper.

“They felt like family; they taught me a lot of things. It was a good experience while I was here,” Johnson said. “I’ll be running track over the summer, so I’ll get back to work. They’ve got me doing a lot in college, and I’m here for it. Just waiting for that time.”

“Thinking about going (to Voorhees) with my friends that I’ve been running with for a while now, it’s amazing. I’m happy that I get the opportunity to run past high school, the opportunity to compete at a higher level. The fact that I can do it with my friends and seeing them get to sign, I want this to be an example to my underclassmen. I want to be an example for the future.”

Council was thankful to join his SHS teammates on stage.

“It feels good because I never thought I would be in the position to be signing,” Council said. “When I first got to the school, it was during the pandemic, and I wasn’t on the right track until now. To hear from my main coach that another school was looking at me to run track for them, that brought joy to my face.”

“I like that part,” he continued about signing with teammates. “I’m gonna meet new people, but to go there with people I know, I’ll feel comfortable going there.”

Council will run the 400m hurdles alongside Scott, who will also run the 110m hurdles.

“It’s really special because, as we all go over there, we get to compete against each other and compete with each other,” Scott said. “We’ll all create one big family, and I think that’s going to benefit Voorhees as a whole.”



Sumter High’s Darfirio Choice, seated center, is joined by family, teammates and coaches as he signs to play soccer at Francis Marion on Wednesday.



Sumter High’s Tyreke Witherspoon, center, is joined by family, coaches and administrators after signing to cheer at North Carolina Central on Thursday.



Sumter High’s Ayiana Bolden, seated right center, is joined by family and coaches after signing to cheer at North Carolina Central on Thursday.



Sumter High track signees, seated from left, DeAndre Scott, James Council, Allison Irick, Corey Johnson and Kedatriss Anderson-Keith are joined by teammates after signing on Thursday. Irick is headed to Converse, while the other four Gamecocks are headed to Voorhees.

Scott can’t wait to see the top talent in the country, as Voorhees travels to major events across the country.

“I’m looking to experience going to the big track meets, like the USA Track and Field meets,” Scott said. “Those major big track meets we’ll be going to.”

Anderson-Keith has been a standout thrower for the Gamecocks. He threw the shot put, discus and dabbled in the javelin at Sumter High but will add one more throw at Voorhees. He’s looking forward to the challenge at a great school.

“I’m going to compete in all the throws. It’s going to be new throwing the hammer, but I feel like I’ll be great in it,” he said. “I’m looking forward to the HBCU atmosphere and the new culture. I know it’s going to be great.”

Irick, meanwhile, is heading to Converse College to high jump. She’s thrilled to have the opportunity.

“I feel very blessed because I wasn’t expecting to be able to sign. I never thought I’d be on that stage,” Irick said.

She was drawn to the small-school atmosphere at Converse right away.

“Just the sense of community,” Irick said. “There was a good friendship throughout the team.”

Irick just wants to make the most of her chance she’s getting at Converse.

“I’m excited for the new opportunities that have opened up for me,” she said. “Competing at a higher level against better competition, I feel like it will make me better.”

CHEER

Thursday was a momentous occasion for Witherspoon and Bolden, as they get to continue to cheer on the same squad at N.C. Central.

“This is one of my biggest dreams,” Witherspoon said. “Last year, I saw them on Instagram, and they kinda inspired me to do cheer. That’s when I made my mind up to go there for cheerleading.”

Bolden added, “This definitely feels amazing. I always wanted to be a part of a cheer team in college. To be a part of

theirs is just great. (Going with Witherspoon) is definitely going to be fun. While I am excited to meet new people, I will still have a friend with me to continue my journey.”

Bolden was drawn by the technical aspects of the program, along with the great energy at N.C. Central.

“Their style of cheering,” she said of what stood out. “Yes, they are a stomp and shake, but they are very tight with their motions, and their style is different from all of the other HBCUs.”

The energy around the program and the travel opportunities stuck out to both SHS cheerleaders.

“The travel,” Witherspoon said of what he’s excited to experience. “They traveled across the country multiple times. And the atmosphere. When I went up there for try-outs, they were really comforting.”

Bolden added, “All the events, the atmosphere, being there with all the other Black people. Just the vibes. I’m ready to go to college.”

East Clarendon's Whitlock signs with Francis Marion acrobatics, tumbling team

BY TIM LEIBLE
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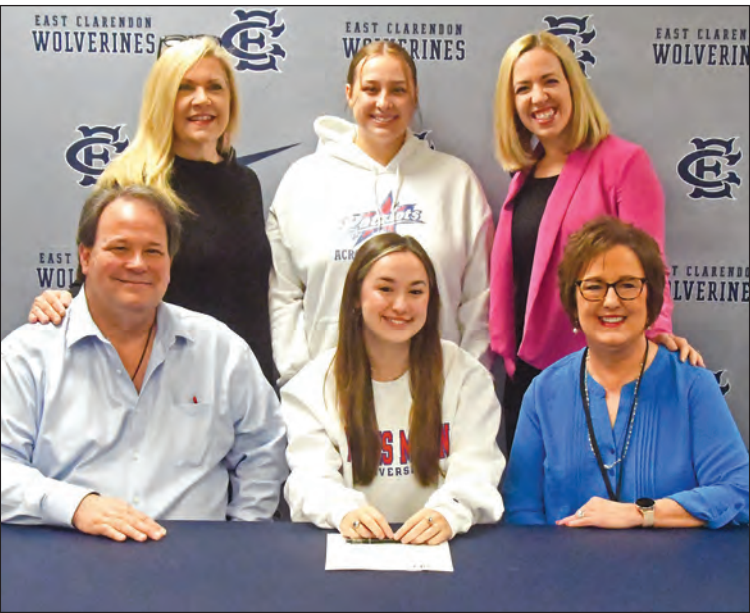
East Clarendon senior Hallie Whitlock has always had a passion for dance and gymnastics. She started working with KFA Dance and Gymnastics when she was just 6 years old and was an inaugural member of their acrobatics and tumbling program seven years ago.

With all of that experience, she's taking her talents to Florence, as Whitlock signed to join the acrobatics and tumbling team at Francis Marion.

"It's weird, but it's really cool," she said of signing. "It's a new experience, so I'm really excited for it."

KFA owner and director Burnadene Kelley-Newman helped Whitlock connect with FMU head coach Brittany Rueb. Whitlock was an easy recommendation when Rueb came looking for a new member for their second-year program.

"She can do whatever you need her to do; she's amazing. I've had her for a long time, and even if she cuts her eyes at me, she knows to do it anyway," Kelley-Newman said



East Clarendon's Hallie Whitlock, center, is surrounded by family and coaches as she signs to join the acrobatics and tumbling team at Francis Marion on Tuesday.

with a laugh. "She can do it; she's driven. You need the drive, you need the determi-

cause we start that from a young age to make sure they're confident enough to push through."

Francis Marion was already on Whitlock's radar before the acro team reached out, so it was a perfect fit. She also had a connection on the team, as freshman Jaliyah Douglas is also a KFA performer.

"Francis Marion is a college I was already planning on going to, and the whole deal with the acro team really settled for me that that was where I wanted to go," Whitlock said.

Whitlock can't wait to get to Florence and form a bond with a new team at FMU.

"Mostly just meeting new girls and making friends and continuing my athletic life," she said of what she's most excited about. "I won't be dancing anymore, but I'll be able to continue being athletic in a way."

5 Gators sign to continue athletic careers in college

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

Five Lakewood athletes had the chance to officially sign to continue their careers on Thursday.

Three Gators will hit the gridiron in the fall. Tyjalek Isaac will compete at Georgia Warhawks Prep Academy, Camauri Workman is headed to Newberry, and Kevin Dinkins will play at St. Andrews. Ja'Vaire Moses is also headed to St. Andrews, where he'll play basketball for the Knights. Quinton Dais will cheer at South Carolina State.

WORKMAN

Workman was thrilled to put pen to paper and sign with Newberry. Once he went to a visit, Workman knew he found the right place to continue his career.

"It feels real good. My whole life, I was always working to get to the next level and, hopefully, one day get to the NFL," he said. "It just felt like home as soon as I arrived there. The coaches were cool. I just loved it."

Lakewood head coach Willie Offord is very familiar with Newberry. He served as an assistant for the Wolves after a successful career as a player at South Carolina and the Minnesota Vikings. He thinks the Wolves hit a home run with Workman.

"It's always great to have your athletes get the opportunity to go to the next level. This is what most of them aspire to, so for them to get this opportunity is always an exciting time," Offord said. "Camauri's work ethic has been on full display since I got here. Being a former coach on Newberry's staff, I kinda know what he's getting into, and he's built for that. I don't have any doubts that he'll be able to have a good time there, get his education and play college football."

Workman played on both sides of the ball for the Gators, but he'll focus on running back for Newberry. He can't wait to get to work.

"I'm just ready to experience college for the first time," he said.

ISAAC

Isaac, a standout defensive lineman for the Gators, was thankful for the opportunity to sign with the Georgia Warhawks, a post-prep school where he believes he can better prepare to make the jump to college.

"It feels good. I just want to thank Coach O, the football players for helping me become a better version of myself," Isaac said. "It's the best place for me to go, to be far away so I can pursue my dreams and help my momma out."

Offord is excited to see what Isaac will be able to do after racking up 63 tackles, six quarterback pressures, four sacks, 8.5 tackles for a loss and a forced fumble as a senior.

"Athletically, Tyjalek has a huge upside. I just wish I would've had him to develop him all four years," Offord said. "As a football player, he'll have an opportunity to display his abilities and hopefully be playing something a little bit bigger."

Isaac's focus is on self-improvement as he joins the Warhawks.

"I just wanna become a better person, become a better man and help my family out," he said.

DINKINS

Dinkins wasn't able to hit the gridiron this fall after suffering an injury a year ago at Sumter High. After transferring back to Lakewood, he played basketball but always wanted to find a way to get back into football at the next level.

"This is one of the best experiences of my life because I've been wanting to do this since I was a kid," Dinkins said of signing. "We were on a basketball trip, and I'd been reaching out to them on Twitter, because nowadays, that's how you reach out to coaches. They liked my film, and I went on a visit, worked out

for them and got the offer."

Gator basketball coach Cameron Lee had the chance to work with Dinkins during the winter and could really see the drive to improve that will be required to succeed at the next level.

"As far as being a teammate and someone you want to be a part of your program, he was constantly doing whatever you asked him to do. He was going to go 100%," Lee said. "We all knew football was his first love, so to see him get this opportunity is great. He deserves it after dealing with tearing his ACL the year prior, and to be able to come back and get an opportunity, that's all you can ask for."

Dinkins will play linebacker at St. Andrews, and he's ready to hit the ground running.

"I'm just ready to come in," he said. "That first college year, that first college game, that first college tackle, that's what I'm ready for."

MOSES

Moses was incredibly grateful for the opportunity to sign as he put pen to paper on Wednesday with St. Andrews.

"It feels great," Moses said. "I thought it was impossible."

Lee thought the signing was just another great step in the right direction for the program.

"When you talk about building a program, the first part is winning, and the second part is getting guys the opportunity to pursue their dreams at the next level," Lee said. "Any time we get a chance to send guys off to play at the next level, it's a great feeling."

As soon as Moses got to the campus at St. Andrews, he knew he found the right place to continue his career.

"I went to visit after I got the offer. I liked the campus and the environment," he said.

Moses was the Gators' second-leading scorer this winter after transferring over from Sumter High. Lee thinks he's ready to continue his upward trajectory at St. Andrews.

"Ja was a great addition to our program this past year. I really wish I had more time with him," Lee said. "Him coming in, he was still a little raw, didn't have much experience. Seeing his growth throughout the year, he got better from the beginning to the end of the season. As a wing, defensively he's versatile, and offensively, his game his continuing to grow."

Improvement is Moses' top priority as he heads to college.

"I wanna be the best I can be," Moses said. "Basketball and academic-wise, I can tell you that."

DAIS

Dais had a few options on the table as he looked to cheer in college, but he's amped up for his opportunity with South Carolina State.

"I went through a lot of hard decisions to figure out where I wanted to go because I was looking at a lot of cheer programs that fit me, but I made the decision to go to S.C. State," he said. "When I went to try out, it was a great vibe with all of the veterans and the coaches. We instantly got connected and bonded."

On top of his cheer career, Dais broke out on the track this year after picking up the hurdles for the first time. While programs came calling for track, he couldn't say no to cheer.

"The weekend of tryouts, my coach texted me and said a couple of coaches were looking at me for track," he said. "I had to make that decision, and I just decided to go with cheer."

Now that he's headed to S.C. State, Dais can't wait to continue to grow as a cheerleader.

"Just getting better at what I'm doing because I only did it for a short year, and I accomplished so much," Dais said of what he's looking forward to. "I just want to get better with my technique and just get out there."



Lakewood's Camauri Workman, seated center, is surrounded by family after signing to play football at Newberry on Thursday.



Lakewood's Tyjalek Isaac, seated center, is surrounded by family after signing with Georgia Warhawks Prep Academy on Thursday.



Lakewood's Kevin Dinkins, seated second from right, is joined by Gator basketball coach Cameron Lee, left, and his family after signing to play football at St. Andrews on Thursday.



Lakewood's Ja'Vaire Moses, seated center, is joined by Lakewood basketball coach Cameron Lee, left, and family after signing with St. Andrews on Thursday.



Lakewood's Quinton Dais, seated center, is joined by coaches and family after signing to cheer at South Carolina State on Thursday.

Maxi Rocco hired as USC Sumter men's soccer head coach

STAFF REPORT

The University of South Carolina Sumter recently announced the hiring of Maximiliano "Maxi" Rocco as its new men's soccer head coach.

Coach Rocco from Buenos Aires, Argentina, expressed his gratitude for the opportunity in a news release from USC Sumter. "I am beyond grateful to Director Cataldo and Assistant Director Medlin for this huge honor. It means a lot to work in a place with good people who make me feel at home. The staff and other coaches have been super supportive, and their commitment to the growth of the men's soccer program was a key factor in my decision to accept this position. I feel fortunate to have found this place and to be able to stay close to my son, Matias."

Rocco served as an assistant and goalkeeper coach at Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina, and is head coach and director of soccer for Trinity Collegiate High School's varsity boys' soccer team.

His own soccer playing career includes two years at ASA College in Miami, Florida, where he earned his associate degree in sports management. He was then recruited to play for Francis Marion University, where he received two bachelor's degrees: one in business administration with a focus on sports management and another in human resources. As a graduate student, Rocco also played for Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania.

When asked about his vision for the USC Sumter men's soccer program, Coach Rocco emphasized the impressive facilities and campus environment. "USC Sumter has everything a head coach needs," he said. "The facilities are top-notch, especially for a two-year college. The campus continues to invest in facility projects to support our growth."

Coach Rocco pledges to give his all to the school, ensuring that every player who wears the Fire Ants' jersey understands the privilege of being part of the institution. "We will work tirelessly to represent USC Sumter at the highest standards," he said.



ROCCO

Montgomery throws 7 solid innings in Diamondbacks' 4-3 win over Reds

BY MITCH STACY
AP Sports Writer

CINCINNATI — Former Sumter High star Jordan Montgomery allowed two runs through seven innings, Eugenio Suárez homered and the Arizona Diamondbacks held on to beat Cincinnati 4-3 on Wednesday night, extending the Reds skid to a season-high seven straight.

The Diamondbacks won their third in a row and got another solid outing from a starting pitcher. Montgomery (2-2) scattered seven hits, struck out two and walked two. On Tuesday night, Zac Gallen threw six shutout innings as the Diamondbacks took the first game of the series.

Montgomery bounced back from an awful start May 1 against the Los Angeles Dodgers in which he gave up six runs in three innings.

"After the way it went for the Dodgers, I just had to get back out there," he said. "It was good to get back out there and have better results."

Christian Walker, Gabriel Moreno and Pavin Smith also drove in runs for Arizona to keep Cincinnati winless in the month of May.

"I think these are good games for us to win," Arizona manager Torey Lovullo said. "We have to win one-run games. We have to learn how to execute at critical points in the game and expect to have this type of outcome."

Reds starter Graham Ashcraft (3-2) allowed three runs and six hits through five innings, striking out two and walking three.

Ashcraft exited with two runners on and no outs in the sixth and the score tied at 2. Moreno singled home the go-ahead run before reliever Fernando Cruz worked out of the jam.

Suárez gave the Diamondbacks some breathing room with a two-out homer to



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arizona Diamondbacks starting pitcher Jordan Montgomery, a former Sumter High star, throws against the Reds on Wednesday, May 8, in Cincinnati.

center off Lucas Sims in the eighth.

TJ Friedl's single in the ninth cut Arizona's lead to 4-3. With one out and two runners on, reliever Joe Mantiply struck out pinch-hitter Will Benson and induced a fly ball to right from Jonathan India to seal it and earn his first save.

Stuart Fairchild and Jeimer Candelario also drove in runs for Cincinnati. Elly De La Cruz stole two bases to extend his major-league leading total to 21.

"We're really close," Reds manager David Bell said. "You know it might now seem like that, but I know from being in the clubhouse and our dugout around our guys every day all day long, we're super close. We just have to trust what we're doing, and we'll break through."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Reds: Put IB Christian Encarnacion-Strand (wrist) on the 10-day disabled list. Mike Ford, a 31-year-old journeyman first baseman, was signed to a one-year major league contract to take his spot on the roster. ... Put LHP Bandon Williamson (left shoulder strain) on the 60-day disabled list.

OBITUARIES

WILLARD TILLMAN FELDER

Willard Tillman Felder, 76, beloved husband of 31 years to Eva Diane Lovelace Felder, died on Monday, May 6, 2024, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital in Sumter.

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

The family has chosen Bullock Funeral Home for the arrangements.



JANNETT A. JAMES

Jannett A. James, 61, passed away on Saturday, May 4, 2024, in Summerton.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 9, 2024, at Clarendon Resource Center, 1154 Fourth St., Summerton.

Services are entrusted to Clarendon Funeral Home LLC, (803) 485-3755.

ADAM MORRIS

Adam Morris, 42, born Clarence Adam Morris, AKA Big A, was born Feb. 5, 1982, and passed April 30, 2024. He is missed by his loving wife, Deborah Morris; his two kids, J.R. and Ashlyn Truett; his father, James Morris; brother, Andy Morris; and three nephews. He joins in heaven his mother, Wanda Kay Morris, brother, Alan Morris, and baby, Jordan Morris.

SUSAN MAE JACKSON WILLIS

Susan Mae Jackson Willis, 85, widow of Stephen Willis and daughter of the late Louis Gamble and Thelma Jackson Quashie, was born on March 20, 1939, in Sumter. She departed this life on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at her residence.

Public viewing will be held on Sunday, May 12, 2024, from 2 to 6 p.m. at Job's Mortuary.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, May 13, 2024, at St. Mark 4B Missionary Baptist Church, 2280 Four Bridges Road, Sumter, with moderator Anthony L.



MORRIS



WILLIS

Taylor, presiding, and the Rev. Dr. Sammie D. Simmons, eulogist.

Interment will follow in Hillside Memorial Park, Sumter.

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

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

REV. EARTHER MC CLOUD-JOE

The Rev. Earther McCloud-Joe, daughter of the late Sam Baker Sr. and Lucile Muldrow Baker, was born on March 24, 1939, in Sumter. She was called home on Saturday, May 4, 2024.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, May 13, 2024, at Quinn Chapel AME Church, 2400 Queen Chapel Road, Sumter, with the Rev. Donna Jackson, pastor, and Pastor Hayward G. Myers Sr., eulogist.

Interment will follow in White's Cemetery, Airport Road, Sumter.

The family will receive relatives and friends from 2 to 6 p.m. at the home, 1713 Wylie St., Camden.

Services directed by the management and staff of Williams Funeral Home Inc., 821 N. Main St., Sumter.

Online messages may be sent to the family at williamsfuneralhome@sc.rr.com. Visit us on the web at www.WilliamsFuneralHomeInc.com.

DR. DANIELLE THOMPSON BRAXTON

Dr. Danielle Thompson Braxton, 37, wife of Christopher Jermaine Braxton and daughter of Leroy Thompson and Vertrena Wright Thompson, was born on Sept. 19, 1986, in Augusta, Georgia. She departed this life on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital in Sumter. Funeral services will be held at noon on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at Mulberry Missionary Baptist Church, 1400 Mulberry Church Road, Sumter, with Pastor Leroy Blanding, officiating, and Pastor Ann Gavin Singleton, eulogist.

Family will receive friends at the home of her mother, 2910 Danville Lane, Sumter.

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

Online memorials may be



BRAXTON

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

MARY LOUISE LOGAN

Ms. Mary Louise Logan, 80, of 1520 Porter Road, Manning, entered into eternal rest on Saturday, April 4, 2024, at her residence.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 11, 2024, at Mt. Zero Missionary Baptist Church, Manning. Burial will follow in the Calvary & Zion Hill Baptist Church Cemetery, Pinewood.

Visitation was held from 3 to 7 p.m. Friday, May 10, 2024, at Dyson's Home for Funerals, Summerton.

The family began receiving friends from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at the residence. Express your sympathy by sharing your thoughts, and/or by purchasing florals by utilizing the link, www.dysonshomeforfunerals.net.

RICHARD PORCHER JR.

Richard Porcher Jr., 57, died Thursday, May 9, 2024, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital, Sumter. Born in Sumter County on March 29, 1967, he was the son of the late Richard Porcher Sr. and Rebecca Lonnon.

The family will receive relatives and friends at the home of his sister, 861 Carolina Ave., Apt #59, Sumter.

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

DARREN RONALD JOHNSON

Darren Ronald Johnson, 56, son of Robert Ronald Johnson and the late Dorothy Pugh Johnson, was born on June 30, 1967, in Brooklyn, New York. He departed this life on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital in Sumter.

Family will receive friends at 4225 Cotton Acres Road, Sumter, daily from 2 to 6 p.m.

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

NATHANIEL HAMPTON JR.

Nathaniel Hampton Jr., 76, widower of Azalee Wells Hampton, died Thursday, May 9, 2024, at Hospice House, Lexington. He was born Jan. 19, 1948, in Sumter, a son of the late Nathaniel Sr. and Vera Harvin Hampton.

These services have been entrusted to Samuels Funer-

al Home LLC of Manning.

EDWARD NELSON

Edward Nelson, 65, passed away on Saturday, May 4, 2024, in Columbia.

Chapel service will be held at noon on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at Clarendon Funeral Home LLC, 23 S. Dukes St., in Summerton.

Services entrusted to Clarendon Funeral Home LLC, phone (803) 485-3755.

PATRICIA ANN JACOBS

Patricia Ann Jacobs, 63, daughter of the late Charlie Jacobs and Catherine Sinker Jacobs, was born on Dec. 30, 1960, in Sumter. She departed this life on Friday, May 3, 2024, at Prisma Health Richland Hospital in Columbia.

Public viewing was held on Friday, May 10, 2024, from 2 to 6 p.m. at Job's Mortuary.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 11, 2024, at St. Paul AME Church-Shaw, 1495 North St. Pauls Church Road, Sumter, with the Rev. Friendly Gadson officiating, and the Rev. Eric Dent, eulogist.



JACOBS

Interment will follow in St. Paul AME Shaw-Singleton Cemetery, Sumter.

Family will receive friends at the home, 225 Arbellia Drive, Wedgefield.

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

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

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 11, 2024, at St. Paul AME Church-Shaw, 1495 North St. Pauls Church Road, Sumter, with the Rev. Friendly Gadson officiating, and the Rev. Eric Dent, eulogist.

Interment will follow in St. Paul AME Shaw-Singleton Cemetery, Sumter.

Family will receive friends at the home, 225 Arbellia Drive, Wedgefield.

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

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

ERNEST HOPKINS SR.

Ernest Hopkins Sr., 86, widower of Dorothy Ballard Hopkins and son of the late Purdy Hopkins and Irene Robinson Hopkins, was born on Oct. 6, 1937, in Pinewood. He departed this life on Friday, May 10, 2024, at NHC Healthcare Sumter in Sumter.

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

ANNIE R. DUBOSE

Annie R. DuBose, 97, beloved wife of the late Carl C. DuBose, died on Thursday, May 9, 2024.

Born in Sum-



DUBOSE

ter County, she was the daughter of the late Robert D. Ross Sr. and Katie Boykin Ross. Annie worked at the Capital and Brody's on Main in Sumter for many years, where she served as a buyer and manager. She met so many people during her time working and was genuinely one of the kindest people you would ever meet. She greeted everyone with her warm and loving smile. She was always looking to help others in any way possible. It was very rare that you would leave her home without something to take with you. Annie was a loving and devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and friend. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Surviving to cherish her memory are her son, Carl C. DuBose Jr., and his wife, Paula, of Dalzell; her daughter, Lynda DuBose Keisler, of Columbia; a sister, Carolyn Apperson, of Jacksonville, Florida; two grandsons, James R. Keisler III of Marietta, Georgia, and Jonathon R. Keisler of Columbia; and three great-grandchildren, Sutton, Blythe and Annie.

In addition to her husband and parents, she is preceded in death by a son-in-law, James R. Keisler Jr.; eight brothers, Thomas Ross, Robert Ross Jr., Henry Ross, Blanding Ross, Carl H. Ross, Charles Ross, David C. Ross Sr. and Lt. Col. James William Ross; and one sister, Katherine Brown.

A graveside service will be held on Monday, May 13, 2024, at 10 a.m. in the Ross Cemetery, 4147 Red Lane Road, Dalzell, with the Rev. Sammy Geddings officiating.

The family would like to thank the staff at Sumter Grove for their loving care of Annie.

Memorials may be made to Ross Memorial Cemetery Fund, P.O. Box 175, Dalzell, SC 29040.

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

The family has chosen Bullock Funeral Home for the arrangements.



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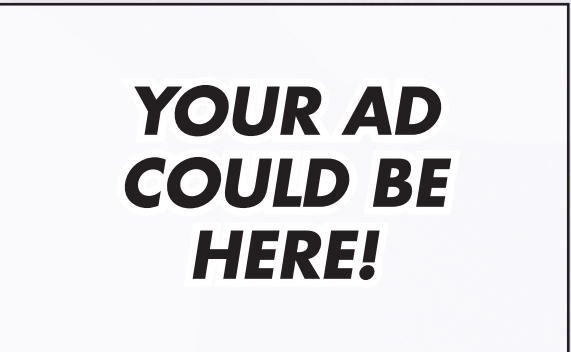


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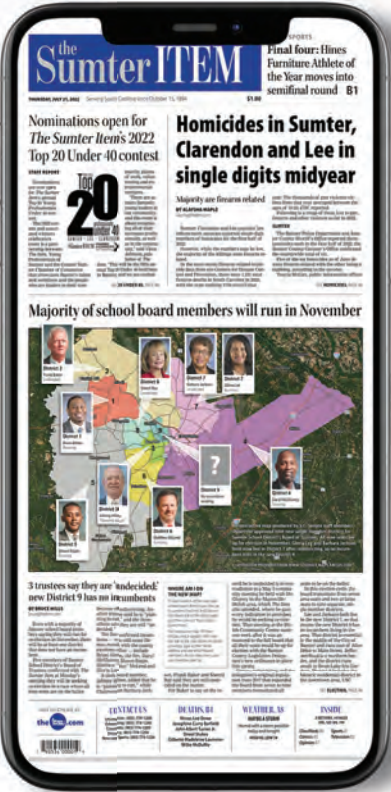
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6 Tom Hanks holds much of 'Cast Away' on his own



7 Friends and lovers: Penelope, Colin cosy up for Season 3 of 'Bridgerton'



7 Word wranglers: Needle drops on 'Don't Forget the Lyrics!' Season 3

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The Summer Scene

May 11 – May 17, 2024

BY SARAH PASSINGHAM

For what feels like an eternity, horror fans have been anticipating the sophomore season of one of TV's breakout series of 2022. It's about bloody time that "Interview With the Vampire" returns from the undead for its Season 2 premiere Sunday, May 12, on AMC and AMC+. Jacob Anderson ("Game of Thrones") is back as 145-year-old vampire Louis de Pointe du Lac, who sits down for a revealing interview about his life in this adaptation of author Anne Rice's acclaimed Vampire Chronicles series of novels.

Penning Louis' life story is journalist Daniel Molloy (Eric Bogosian, "Billions"), who had previously spoken to the vampire in 1973 for an interview that ultimately went unpublished after the sit-down turned disastrous. Daniel, now living with Parkinson's disease, comes when called to Louis' cavernous, contemporary condo home in Dubai in 2022 to take another stab at telling the Creole vampire's tales.

This season, "Louis tells of his adventures in Europe, a quest to discover Old World Vampires and the Theatre Des Vampires in Paris, with Claudia" (per AMC). Claudia, portrayed this season by Delainey Hayles ("Holby City"), is a fledgling vampire bonded to Louis by their time in New Orleans.

It's now 1940 in Louis' story, and he is about to meet the vampire he calls the love of his life. First introduced as Louis' ever-present servant Rashid (Assad Zaman, "Hotel Portofino"), it is revealed to Daniel that the vampire's attendant is a vampire himself, over 500 years old and named Armand.

The two meet in the city of love, so it is no surprise, given how Louis' last great love turned out, that, according to AMC, "their courtship and love affair will prove to have devastating consequences both in the past and the future."

"Their relationship is really interesting, and it's one of the things that I'm most excited about people seeing this season,"

Anderson told Entertainment Weekly in a December 2023 interview about Louis and Armand in the new season of the series.

About their relationship, Anderson added, "Armand would appear to be very different to Lestat, and I think he's more than a rebound, let's put it that way. But there's definitely residual trust issues and perhaps dynamics repeated, but not necessarily in the way that you think."

In the City of Light, Claudia is immediately taken by the theater — enraptured from her seat in the audience before taking center stage. In a trailer for the upcoming season, Armand enthusiastically tells Louis, "The coven has grand designs for her."

As Daniel dives deeper into Louis' past, knowing how the vampire has lied to him, the journalist works to sort fact from fiction and determine why, exactly, he's been asked back for a followup interview after all these years.



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Horoscopes

The luckiest signs this week:
VIRGO, LIBRA AND SCORPIO

ARIES
If you're planning to move, it's time to start packing your belongings and sorting out administrative matters to save time and get ahead of the game. You may also consider a few renovation projects

TAURUS
Traffic and communication could prove difficult this week. Look for alternative routes and charge your phone battery before leaving the house to prevent unnecessary delays and hassles.

GEMINI
You'll be offered a project and training course. You'll have the necessary financial resources and tools at your disposal to secure your future. You're in the driver's seat of your success.

CANCER
Determination is the key to improving your situation. Act, and you'll succeed. Get the courage to take the first step, and you'll be on your way to success. It's like riding a bike; once you pedal, the momentum carries you forward.

LEO
Impatience may get the better of you in certain situations. You could be upset by feeling stuck in limbo. Taking a step back could help you move forward with greater clarity. A lack of sleep could also cause confusion.

VIRGO
At work, you'll be in charge of planning a meeting or event that brings many people together. You'll also expand your client base, which will boost your income. These days, abundance seems to be within reach.

LIBRA
A project requires special attention, and delays may occur in various areas. Be patient when faced with situations where you must wait, whether on the phone or in a queue.

SCORPIO
The holidays are fast approaching; plan early to ensure the activities or day camps you've thought about for your children are available. Preparation is essential. A project will put you in the spotlight.

SAGITTARIUS
A specific situation will inspire you to think deeply about your professional and personal future. You'll set exciting goals for the next chapter of your life. This is a time for celebration.

CAPRICORN
If you're in a new relationship, your partner could surprise you with a marriage proposal or declare their commitment. Your better half will spectacularly express their love, bringing you joy and happiness. You'll be successful in a negotiation.

AQUARIUS
Trust the Law of Attraction in your professional life. Visualizing your goals will help you achieve them quickly and with surprising ease. You'll close a big deal.

PISCES
You'll be involved in a situation that will highlight your talents and provide you with the means to set new goals. You'll be proud of your achievement, significantly boosting your self-esteem.

New Streaming Movies & Shows



"Outer Range" - Season 2 (May 16)

This series centers on Royal Abbott (Josh Brolin), a rancher fighting for his land and family, who discovers an unfathomable phenomenon at the edge of Wyoming's wilderness. The mystery surrounding the enigmatic dark void on the west pasture of the Abbott family ranch deepens in Season 2, as Royal and his wife Cecelia (Lili Taylor) struggle to keep their family together in the aftermath of their granddaughter's sudden disappearance. The stakes have never been higher for the Abbotts, who now face threats on multiple fronts.



"Where the Crawdads Sing" (May 12)

Abandoned at the age of 7 by her family, Kya Clark (Daisy Edgar-Jones) raises herself in the marshes of North Carolina during the 1950s. In her formative years, Kya falls for town quarterback Chase Andrews (Harris Dickinson), but when his suspected murder rocks the small, tight-knit Barkley Cove community, the reclusive and misunderstood Kya soon becomes the prime suspect.

Word Search

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

Stranger Things

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BECKY	DUSTIN	JOYCE	NEIL
BENNY	EIGHT	KALI	NETFLIX
BILLY	ELEVEN	KAREN	SCOTT
BOB	ERICA	KLINE	STEVE
BRUCE	FROGFACE	LARRY	SUSAN
CAROL	GRIGORI	LONNIE	TED
CLAUDIA	HAWKINS	LUCAS	TOM
DIANE	HEATHER	MAX	TROY
DORIS	JANE	MIKE	UPSIDE DOWN
DR BRENNER	JIM	MURRAY	WILL



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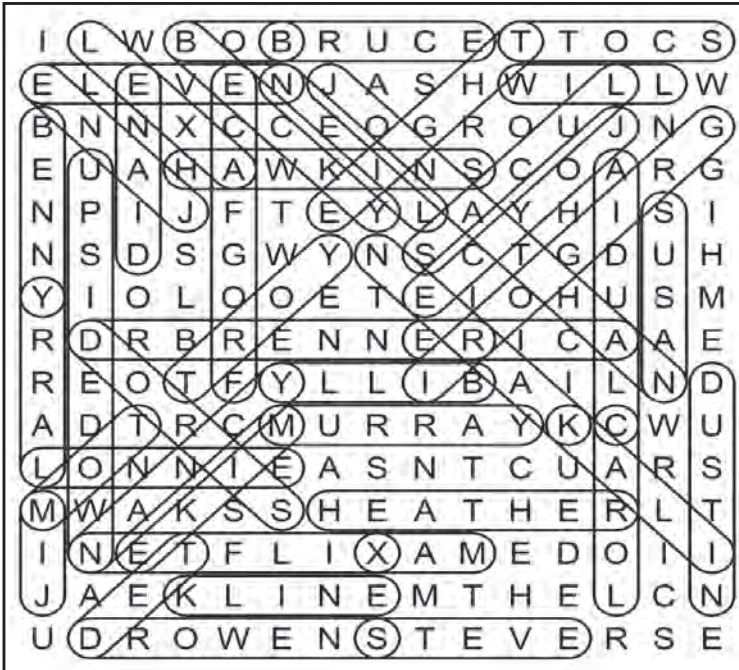
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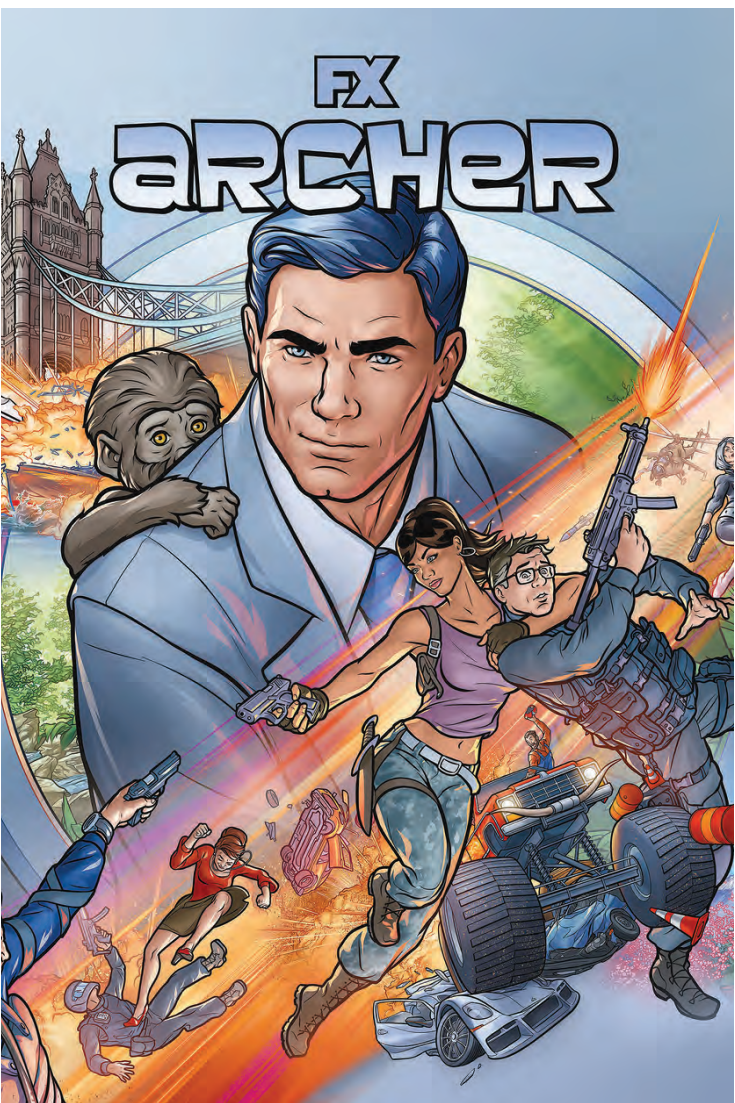
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NETFLIX



"Archer" - Seasons 1-13 (May 13)

This FX animated comedy follows Sterling Archer (H. Jon Benjamin) — the world’s greatest spy — and his Agency coworkers as they navigate the changing landscape of the spy world. Aisha Tyler, Judy Greer, Chris Parnell, Amber Nash, Adam Reed and Lucky Yates also voice star.



"Queen Rock Montreal" (May 15)

Following its record-breaking success as the biggest IMAX exclusive event release ever, "Queen Rock Montreal" presents Freddie Mercury, Brian May, Roger Taylor and John Deacon at their most exciting and exhilarating. The original concerts, which took place on November 24 and 25, 1981, were arranged specifically to be filmed for a full-length concert film to document their live show.

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Q&A: Tom Hiddleston

BY JAY BOBBIN

Q: What's Tom Hiddleston up to post-"Loki," and is it more "Night Manager"?

A: After years of saying maybe, Tom Hiddleston ("The Avengers," 2012) is finally saying yes: there will be another season of "The Night Manager." There will be two, in fact. BBC, which produced and aired the show in the U.K. (it aired on AMC in North America) officially announced in April that it would be producing two more seasons. A few days later, Hiddleston confirmed on "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" that it was happening, he would be involved, and they would be working from a whole new story. That latter bit is necessary because the first season — originally intended as a miniseries — was based on the novel of the same name by the great spy novelist John le Carré, and it told the whole story. The next seasons will need to come up with new exploits for Hiddleston's character, the hotel manager of the show's title, who in the first season became a reluctant spy to take down a genteel arms dealer (Hugh Laurie, "House").

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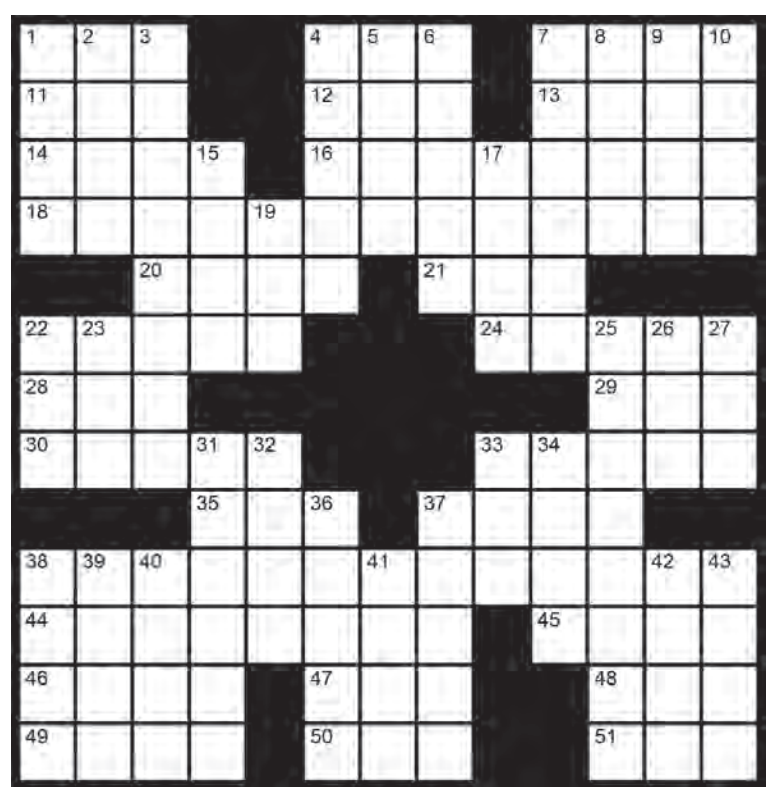
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Crosswords



Across

1. "____-Man"
(2015 Marvel movie)

4. "What's the ____?"

7. Qatari leader

11. Cleveland cager, for short

12. Altar avowal

13. Drop off

14. Business slumps

16. Timothy Olyphant western

18. Mandy Patinkin series

20. Show about Oceanic Airlines Flight 815

21. "Shogun" honorific

22. IRA's kin

24. He played George on "Seinfeld"

28. Elev.

29. Experienced

30. Mamet of "Girls"

33. Fake

35. Bygone airline

37. ____ Bator, Mongolia

38. Charlie Hunnam series

44. Grant Gustin superhero series

45. Neeson of "Kinsey" (2004)

46. Son of Isaac

47. 136% of LXXV

48. "No Scrubs" group

49. Frayed

50. Choose

51. Assent

Down

1. Like some appliances

2. Neet rival

3. Series premieres, often

4. Denier's contraction

5. Concept

6. Farm young

7. "National Velvet" (1944) sister

8. "Sailor ____" (anime series)

9. Shirt brand

10. Cold war side

15. E.P.A. concern

17. Key with two sharps: Abbr.

19. "Black-____"

22. Frequency meas.

23. Swelled head

25. Michael J. Fox sitcom

26. Web address ender

27. ____ compos mentis

31. "You'll enjoy this!"

32. Missing from the Marines, say

33. Neighbor of Ala.

34. "My Name is ____"

36. "Is that ____?" ("You don't say!")

37. Like a nerd

38. Dish cooked in a pot

39. Very

40. Kind of miss

41. "Shogun" setting

42. Fit

43. Pool site, maybe



Coming Soon



"Evil" - Season 4 (Paramount+ — May 23, Season Premiere)

The crime drama's fourth and final season sees Kristen (Katja Herbers), David (Mike Colter) and Ben (Aasif Mandvi) continuing to assess cases that involve way-ward technology, possessed pigs, demonic oppression and infestation, a dance muse conjured by alleged witches and an evil relic. However, all three realize they only have a few weeks left to assess cases because the parish has decided to disband the team due to a lack of funds. This culminates in one last confrontation with Leland and the 60 families that make up Evil in the modern world.

Sudoku

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

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

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

SOLUTION

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

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SUNDAY EVENING				SP=Spectrum FTC=Farm DTV=DirecTV				MOVIES		SPORTS		KIDS		MAY 12, 2024			
	SP	FTC	DTV	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30		
WIS	3	10	10	WIS News 10 at 6 (N)	NBC Nightly News (N)	American Ninja Warrior ANW Women's Championship Twelve elite female competitors battle across two courses.			American Ninja Warrior Women's Championship (N)			WIS News 10 at 11 (N)		(:35) Awareness	The Good Doctor "Dry Spell"		
WKTC	4	22	63	Chicago P.D. "Fire"	"Care Under Fire"	Chicago P.D. "Politics"		Chicago P.D. "Monster"		Chicago P.D. "Rabbit Hole"		Chicago P.D. "Confidential"					
WOLO	5	12	25	ABC World News (N)	The Andy Griffith Show (4:30) MLS Soccer	America's Funniest Home Videos (N)		American Idol "717 (Disney Night)" Singing beloved favorites from the Disney songbook. (N) (Live)		TIME100: The World's Most Influential People (N)		News (N)		Paid Prog.			
WACH	6	6	57			Next Level Chef "Bingo, Bango, Bento!"		Simpsons (N)	Krapopolis (N)	The Great North (N)	Grimsburg (N) (SF)	News (N) (Live)	Game Time (N)	Sharyl Attkisson	The Big Bang Theory		
NWSN	8	172	307	Blue Bloods "Bad Company"		NewsNation Prime (N) (Live)		NewsNation Prime (N) (Live)		NewsNation Prime (N) (Live)		NewsNation Prime		NewsNation Prime			
WLTX	9	9	19	News 19 at 6pm (N)	CBS News (N)	60 Minutes (N)		The Equalizer "The Big Take" (N)		Tracker "Off the Books" (N)		CSI: Vegas "Heavy Metal" (N)		News 19 at 11pm (N)	SEAL Team		
WRJA	11	14		Father Brown "The Serpent Within"		Finding Fate	Kaavya	Lucy Worsley Investigates "Madness of King George" (N)		MaryLand on Masterpiece (N)		Guilt on Masterpiece "Aim High" (N)		Austin City Limits "Brandi Carlile" (N)			
WZRB	13	18	47	NCIS "Under the Radar"		NWSL- Pre (N)	NWSL Soccer From Snapdragon Stadium in San Diego. (N)	NJ/NY Gotham FC at San Diego Wave FC (N)		NWSL- Post (N)		NCIS "Anonymous Was a Woman"		NCIS "Once a Crook"			
NICK	16	210	299	(5:30) The Loud House				SpongeBob SquarePants	IF Pre...(:15) SpongeBob SquarePants	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends		
TOON	17	203	296	(5:00) Mortal Kombat Annih...				Burgers	Burgers	American	American	American	American	Rick	Rick		
DISNEY	18	200	290	Big City Greens		Big City Greens		Big City Greens		Incredibles 2 (18) Voices of Holly Hunter, Sarah Vowell, Craig T. Nelson.		Bluey		Bluey	Bluey		
FREFRM	20	131	311	(4:40) Brave (12)		(4:45) Tangled (10) Voices of Zachary Levi, Donna Murphy, Mandy Moore.					(5:55) Cinderella (15) Lily James, Richard Madden, Cate Blanchett.				(2:55) Maleficent: ...		
BSSE	21	47	649	RodeoHouston: Semifinals 1 From NRG Stadium in Houston.								NASCAR 2022 Darlington: Goodyear 400		NASCAR Race Rewind 2023 Goodyear 400		World Poker Tour: Season 20 WPT Choctaw - Part 4 (N)	
NATGEO	22	113	276	Wicked Tuna "Dangerous Alliance"		W. Tuna "To Get It Done, Two is Better Than One"		Wicked Tuna "Extra Reel: Coming In Hot" (N)		Wicked Tuna "Three-Way Throwdown" (N)		Drain the Oceans "Hidden History" (N)		Wicked Tuna "Extra Reel: Coming In Hot"			
TNT	23	158	245	(4:00) Godzilla vs. ... (N) (Live)		NBA Tip-Off (N) (Live)		NBA Basketball Conference Semifinal: Teams TBA Professional basketball action from the NBA. (N) (Live)		Inside the NBA (N) (Live)		Rich & Shameless "Rodman's Stolen Millions" (N) (Live)		Rich & Shameless			
TBS	24	156	247	NHL Pregam (N) (Live)		NHL Hockey Eastern Conference Second Round, Game 4: Teams TBA action from across the NHL. (N) (Live)		NHL Hockey Western Conference Second Round, Game 4: Teams TBA action from across the NHL. (N) (Live)		NHL Hockey Western Conference Second Round, Game 4: Teams TBA action from across the NHL. (N) (Live)		SportsCenter (N) (Live)		SportsCenter (N) (Live)			
USA	25	132	242	Law & Order: SVU		Law-SVU "Maternal Instincts"		Law-SVU "Chasing Theo"		Law-SVU "Motherly Love"		Law-SVU "Caretaker"		Law & Order: SVU "Missing"			
ESPN	26	35	206	Baseball Tonight (N) (Live)		MLB Baseball Atlanta Braves at New York Mets From Citi Field in Flushing, N.Y. (N) (Live)		NHL Hockey Second Round: Teams TBA The latest hockey action from across the NHL. (N) (Live)		Invicta Watches		Invicta Watches		Invicta Watches			
TRUTV	38	129	246	NHL Pregam (N) (Live)		NHL Hockey Second Round: Teams TBA The latest hockey action from across the NHL. (N) (Live)		Diamonds by Peace Je		Wagner Paint Sprayer		Invicta Watches		Invicta Watches			
SHOPHQ	30		73	UltraCozy Luxury Recliner		Heavy Rescue: 401		Highway "Forever a Trucker"		Highway Thru Hell (N)		Timber Titans		Highway Thru Hell			
TWC	32	24	362	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank			
CNBC	35	84	355	Fox Report (N) (Live)		Weekend (N) (Live)		Life, Liberty & Levin (N)		Sunday Night (N)		The Big Weekend Show		Life, Liberty & Levin			
FNC	37	90	360	Home Town "Thanks for the Memories"		Home Town "Shug and Spice"		Home Town "Mother's Day"		Home Town "Memory Lane: The Clock Starts Now" (N)		Hunters Int'l (N)		House Hunters			
HGTV	39	112	229	Guy's Grocery Games "Mother of All Shows"		Grocery "Relay: All-Star Moms vs. Dads"		24 in 24: Last "Shift 8: Elevation" (N)		Beat Bobby Play		Beat Bobby Play		Beat Bobby Play			
FOOD	40	109	231	Lone Star "Finding a Felon"		Lone Star "Saving the Herd"		Lone Star "Owl Gone Bad"		Lone Star "Back in the Wild"		Lone Star "Bucks and Bows"		Lone Star Law			
ANPL	41	100	282	Naked and Afraid "Death by Crocodile" The survivalists take a life-threatening risk for food.		90 Day Fiancé: Happily Ever After? "Three Blind Wives"		90 Day Fiancé "The Lovely Duckling" (N)		(05) MILF Manor (N)		(05) How Disney "Destination Disneyland" (N)		(05) The Food That Built America "Holiday Treats"			
DISCV	42	103	278	Built America "Submarine Warfare"		Mega-Brands "Battle of the Superstores"		Mega-Brands "Internet Killed the Video Store"		Mega-Brands "Easy Money" (N)		Secrets-Hells (N)		(05) WWE Rivals			
TLC	43	157	280	WWE Rivals WWE vs. WCW		WWE Rivals		WWE Rivals		WWE's Most Wanted (N)		(15) Interview With the Vampire "What Can the Damned Really Say to the Damned"		(25) Inter-... Vampire			
HIST	45	110	269	Imitation of Life (59) John Gavin, Sandra Dee, Lana Turner.		I Remember Mama Irene Dunne.		(48) Barbara Bel Geddes, Oscar Homolka, ...		Yours, Mine and Ours (68) Henry Fonda, Van Johnson, Lucille Ball.		(05) Mommy Meanest (24) Briana Skye, Bradley Stryker, Lisa Rinna.		(05) The Perfect Catch (17) Andrew Walker, Chance Hurstfield, Nikki Deloach.			
A&E	46	130	265	(5:00) Pretty Woman (90) Julia Roberts, Ralph Bellamy, Richard Gere.		(5:00) Field Day (23) Rachel Boston.		A Whitewater Romance (24) Benjamin Hollingsworth, William deVry, Cindy Busby.		When Calls the Heart "Believe" (N)		Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle (17) Kevin Hart, Jack Black, Dwayne Johnson.		Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle (17) Kevin Hart, Dwayne Johnson.			
AMC	48	180	254	(5:00) Field Day (23) Rachel Boston.		Mike & Molly Mike & Molly		Mike & Molly Mike & Molly		Two Men Two Men		Two Men Two Men		Seinfeld Seinfeld			
TCM	49	186	256	(5:30) Jurassic Park (93) Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill. Scientists (Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum) visit a park of DNA-regenerated dinosaurs.		The Color Purple (85) Danny Glover, Margaret Avery, Whoopi Goldberg.		Bar Rescue "Deadliest Kitchen"		Bar Rescue "CSI: Los Cocos" (N)		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"			
LIFE	50	145	252	(5:30) Jurassic Park (93) Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill. Scientists (Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum) visit a park of DNA-regenerated dinosaurs.		The Color Purple (85) Danny Glover, Margaret Avery, Whoopi Goldberg.		Bar Rescue "Deadliest Kitchen"		Bar Rescue "CSI: Los Cocos" (N)		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"			
HALL	52	183	312	(5:00) Imitation of Life (59) John Gavin, Sandra Dee, Lana Turner.		I Remember Mama Irene Dunne.		(48) Barbara Bel Geddes, Oscar Homolka, ...		Yours, Mine and Ours (68) Henry Fonda, Van Johnson, Lucille Ball.		(05) Mommy Meanest (24) Briana Skye, Bradley Stryker, Lisa Rinna.		(05) The Perfect Catch (17) Andrew Walker, Chance Hurstfield, Nikki Deloach.			
FX	54	154	248	(5:00) Imitation of Life (59) John Gavin, Sandra Dee, Lana Turner.		I Remember Mama Irene Dunne.		(48) Barbara Bel Geddes, Oscar Homolka, ...		Yours, Mine and Ours (68) Henry Fonda, Van Johnson, Lucille Ball.		(05) Mommy Meanest (24) Briana Skye, Bradley Stryker, Lisa Rinna.		(05) The Perfect Catch (17) Andrew Walker, Chance Hurstfield, Nikki Deloach.			
TVLAND	55	161	304	(5:30) Jurassic Park (93) Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill. Scientists (Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum) visit a park of DNA-regenerated dinosaurs.		The Color Purple (85) Danny Glover, Margaret Avery, Whoopi Goldberg.		Bar Rescue "Deadliest Kitchen"		Bar Rescue "CSI: Los Cocos" (N)		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"			
EI	56	138	236	(5:30) Jurassic Park (93) Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill. Scientists (Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum) visit a park of DNA-regenerated dinosaurs.		The Color Purple (85) Danny Glover, Margaret Avery, Whoopi Goldberg.		Bar Rescue "Deadliest Kitchen"		Bar Rescue "CSI: Los Cocos" (N)		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"			
COMEDY	57	136	249	(5:30) Jurassic Park (93) Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill. Scientists (Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum) visit a park of DNA-regenerated dinosaurs.		The Color Purple (85) Danny Glover, Margaret Avery, Whoopi Goldberg.		Bar Rescue "Deadliest Kitchen"		Bar Rescue "CSI: Los Cocos" (N)		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"			
SYFY	58	152	244	(5:30) Jurassic Park (93) Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill. Scientists (Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum) visit a park of DNA-regenerated dinosaurs.		The Color Purple (85) Danny Glover, Margaret Avery, Whoopi Goldberg.		Bar Rescue "Deadliest Kitchen"		Bar Rescue "CSI: Los Cocos" (N)		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"			
BET	61	162	329	(5:30) Jurassic Park (93) Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill. Scientists (Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum) visit a park of DNA-regenerated dinosaurs.		The Color Purple (85) Danny Glover, Margaret Avery, Whoopi Goldberg.		Bar Rescue "Deadliest Kitchen"		Bar Rescue "CSI: Los Cocos" (N)		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"			
PARMT	64	153	241	(5:30) Jurassic Park (93) Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill. Scientists (Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum) visit a park of DNA-regenerated dinosaurs.		The Color Purple (85) Danny Glover, Margaret Avery, Whoopi Goldberg.		Bar Rescue "Deadliest Kitchen"		Bar Rescue "CSI: Los Cocos" (N)		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"			
LMN	66	185	253	(5:30) Jurassic Park (93) Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill. Scientists (Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum) visit a park of DNA-regenerated dinosaurs.		The Color Purple (85) Danny Glover, Margaret Avery, Whoopi Goldberg.		Bar Rescue "Deadliest Kitchen"		Bar Rescue "CSI: Los Cocos" (N)		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"			
GOLF	69	52	218	(5:30) Jurassic Park (93) Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill. Scientists (Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum) visit a park of DNA-regenerated dinosaurs.		The Color Purple (85) Danny Glover, Margaret Avery, Whoopi Goldberg.		Bar Rescue "Deadliest Kitchen"		Bar Rescue "CSI: Los Cocos" (N)		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"			
OWN	72	104	279	(5:30) Jurassic Park (93) Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill. Scientists (Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum) visit a park of DNA-regenerated dinosaurs.		The Color Purple (85) Danny Glover, Margaret Avery, Whoopi Goldberg.		Bar Rescue "Deadliest Kitchen"		Bar Rescue "CSI: Los Cocos" (N)		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"			
OXY	76	150	251	(5:30) Jurassic Park (93) Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill. Scientists (Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum) visit a park of DNA-regenerated dinosaurs.		The Color Purple (85) Danny Glover, Margaret Avery, Whoopi Goldberg.		Bar Rescue "Deadliest Kitchen"		Bar Rescue "CSI: Los Cocos" (N)		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"			
NBATV	308		216	(5:30) Jurassic Park (93) Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill. Scientists (Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum) visit a park of DNA-regenerated dinosaurs.		The Color Purple (85) Danny Glover, Margaret Avery, Whoopi Goldberg.		Bar Rescue "Deadliest Kitchen"		Bar Rescue "CSI: Los Cocos" (N)		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"			
HBO	511	350	501	(5:30) Jurassic Park (93) Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill. Scientists (Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum) visit a park of DNA-regenerated dinosaurs.		The Color Purple (85) Danny Glover, Margaret Avery, Whoopi Goldberg.		Bar Rescue "Deadliest Kitchen"		Bar Rescue "CSI: Los Cocos" (N)		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"			
MAX	531	370	515	(5:30) Jurassic Park (93) Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill. Scientists (Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum) visit a park of DNA-regenerated dinosaurs.		The Color Purple (85) Danny Glover, Margaret Avery, Whoopi Goldberg.		Bar Rescue "Deadliest Kitchen"		Bar Rescue "CSI: Los Cocos" (N)		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"			
SHOW	551	300	545	(5:30) Jurassic Park (93) Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill. Scientists (Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum) visit a park of DNA-regenerated dinosaurs.		The Color Purple (85) Danny Glover, Margaret Avery, Whoopi Goldberg.		Bar Rescue "Deadliest Kitchen"		Bar Rescue "CSI: Los Cocos" (N)		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"			
TMC	571	316	553	(5:30) Jurassic Park (93) Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill. Scientists (Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum) visit a park of DNA-regenerated dinosaurs.		The Color Purple (85) Danny Glover, Margaret Avery, Whoopi Goldberg.		Bar Rescue "Deadliest Kitchen"		Bar Rescue "CSI: Los Cocos" (N)		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"			
STARZ	581	330	525	(5:30) Jurassic Park (93) Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill. Scientists (Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum) visit a park of DNA-regenerated dinosaurs.		The Color Purple (85) Danny Glover, Margaret Avery, Whoopi Goldberg.		Bar Rescue "Deadliest Kitchen"		Bar Rescue "CSI: Los Cocos" (N)		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"		Bar Rescue "Jason's Last Call"			

Best TV series finales

MOVIES

BY JAY BOBBIN

“Cheers” (1993, NBC): Shelley Long returned for a final shot as Diane Chambers, who almost married bar owner Sam Malone (Ted Danson), and the other longtime regulars at the Boston establishment “where everybody knows your name” had their stories nicely wrapped up in tune with closing time at Cheers. The final words Sam uttered to a late-arriving patron - “we’re closed” - couldn’t have been more accurate nor more poignant.

“Friends” (2004, NBC): Ross and Rachel (David Schwimmer, Jennifer Aniston) finally end up together as the entire gang leaves their familiar apartment gathering spot to head for their other prime meeting place ... where, of course, they intend to get coffee.

“Frasier” (2004, NBC): In what was the “Cheers” spinoff’s first ending, since there’s now a revival, the radio psychiatrist (Kelsey Grammer) decides to leave Seattle - and reroutes from San Francisco, where he was going to begin a new job, to follow his then-latest love (guest star Laura Linney) to Chicago.

“M*A*S*H” (1983, CBS): Directed and co-written by series star Alan Alda, the Korean War comedy’s 2-1/2-hour finale remains one of the highest-rated programs ever broadcast. The characters’ farewells ranged from amusing to heart-tugging, but the one that still gets us right in the throat is the respectful salute given Col. Sherman Potter (Harry Morgan) by wise-guy Army surgeons Hawkeye Pierce and B.J. Hunnicutt (Alda, Mike Farrell). The final message spelled out from B.J. to Hawkeye was meant for the show’s viewers, too.

“The Mary Tyler Moore Show” (1977, CBS): Moore decided to end her television-newsroom sitcom while it was still riding high, allowing for a beautifully crafted finale both funny and touching - and also ironic, since much-mocked anchorman Ted Baxter (Ted Knight) became the only employee kept by WJM-TV’s new management. Lou Grant’s (Edward Asner) declaration of “I treasure you people” - which preceded his staff’s en-masse move toward the exit and a chorus of “It’s a Long Way to Tipperary” - echoed the sentiment of countless fans.

“Newhart” (1990, CBS): According to Bob Newhart, the studio audience knew as soon as they saw it that the set of his “Bob Newhart Show” had been re-created for one of TV’s great surprise endings, as the star turned over in bed and told his former series “wife” Suzanne Pleshette that he’d just had a dream about owning a Vermont inn.

“The Sopranos” (2007, HBO): Some may debate whether the crime-family saga had one of the “best” endings, but it certainly has been one of the most discussed. The Soprano family is shown at a diner as a mystery man surveys where they’re sitting, then the scene quickly goes to a black screen. And that’s the end of the show, leaving the question of whether the clan - and Tony Soprano (James Gandolfini) very specifically — survived.



Tom Hanks holds much of ‘Cast Away’ on his own

BY JAY BOBBIN

Rare is the performer who can hold a movie on his or her own for more than half of the film’s running time.

Well, OK ... in Tom Hanks’ case, on his own with some help from a volleyball.

Being shown by Freeform on Tuesday, May 14, the somewhat underrated 2000 drama “Cast Away” showcases one of the greatest challenges the two-time Oscar winner has had in his career. Playing a FedEx worker who ends up the lone survivor of a plane crash and must learn to survive on an otherwise deserted island, Hanks is thoroughly compelling to watch.

As it becomes increasingly clear that rescuers aren’t coming for Chuck Noland (Hanks), who regrets having left his fiancée Kelly (Helen Hunt) behind in Memphis, he learns by necessity how to hydrate — freshly acquired coconut milk is a help — and how to create a fire to cook, um, “delicacies” that he ordinarily might not eat if he had anything more conventional to choose from.

Oh, and about that volleyball, one of the most famous pieces of sports equipment in screen history: Chuck retrieves it from one of the FedEx packages that washed up on shore with him, and in honor of the ball’s brand, he names it Wilson. He also gives it a “face” of sorts, using his blood to paint those features, and it’s no small feat that Hanks gives it a personality

just by talking to it. And because of that, the way their “relationship” ultimately plays out is heartbreaking.

“Cast Away” also underscores the fact that if any filmmaker can devise a harrowing aerial-crisis scene, it’s Robert Zemeckis. The director would do it again 12 years later with the Denzel Washington-starring “Flight,” but in “Cast Away,” you can actually feel your feet getting wet along with Hanks through a pilot’s-seat view of a storm-wracked ocean rushing up toward the rapidly plunging plane. It’s a thoroughly harrowing sequence that’s hard to shake once you’ve seen it.

Hopefully not to give too much away, “Cast Away” doesn’t end on the island, and writer William Broyles Jr. gives Hanks a brilliant opportunity to bring Chuck full-circle. The actor makes it evident that the character has been changed forever by his ordeal, as have his loved ones (also including a close friend and co-worker wonderfully played by Nick Searcy). Though it amounts only to a cameo, the late singer-actress Lari White makes her mark as a FedEx customer with a special connection to Chuck that she doesn’t suspect. Chris Noth also turns up briefly.

There isn’t another movie quite like “Cast Away,” and in telling its tale so meaningfully and memorably, the picture reaffirms that there isn’t another movie star quite like Tom Hanks.

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SINCE 1968





Friends and lovers: Penelope, Colin cosy up for Season 3 of ‘Bridgerton’

BY DANA SIMPSON

Dearest gentle readers, it is with a happy heart and hopeful intentions that we make the following proclamation. After two drawn-out years of wistful longing, “Bridgerton” fans — not unlike their divisive Lady Whistledown — have a date. Don your best outfit and make haste, for your carriage awaits: Season 3 of the highly anticipated Shondaland series releases its first of two parts Thursday, May 16, on Netflix.

The series follows the Bridgerton family’s eight siblings, many of whom are now of marriageable age, as they each seek their perfect life partner. Set in Regency-era (1811-1820) England, the siblings and their friends attend various balls, garden parties and other society events with the hopes of getting their names into the best, most desirable circles and securing a spouse by the end of court- ing season.

The first season of the show, based on author Julia Quinn’s first book “The Duke & I,” followed Daphne Bridgerton (Phoebe Dynevor, “Younger”), the family’s eldest daughter, as she found love with her sworn nemesis, the pedantic-but-charming Simon Basset (Regé-Jean Page, “Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves,” 2023), Duke of Hastings. The second season, meanwhile, took source material notes from Quinn’s “The Viscount Who Loved Me,” heading backward through the siblings to the eldest Bridgerton, Anthony (Jonathan Bailey, “Broadchurch”), as he, too, overcame prejudice and wed strong-willed summer visitor



and debutante Kate Sharma (Simone Ashley, “Sex Education”).

The third season requires a slight shift with respect to the established reading order. Season 3 is based not on Quinn’s third book, but on her fourth, “Romancing Mr. Bridgerton.”

According to the novel’s official description on JuliaQuinn.com, “Romancing Mr. Bridgerton” follows Colin (Luke Newton, “The Lodge”), who has grown “tired of being thought nothing but an empty-headed charmer, tired of the never-ending sameness of his life, and, most of all, tired of everyone’s preoccupation with the notorious gossip columnist Lady Whistledown, who can’t seem to publish an edition without mentioning him in the first paragraph.

“But when Colin returns to London from a trip abroad,” the synopsis continues, “he discovers nothing in his life is quite the same — especially Penelope Featherington [Nicola Coughlan, ‘Derry Girls’]! The girl who was always simply ... there is suddenly the girl haunting his dreams. But when he discovers that Penelope has secrets of her own, this elusive bachelor must decide ... is she his biggest threat or his promise of a happy ending?”

Penelope, meanwhile, has all but given up on Colin after overhearing last season’s cutting claims that he would “never court” her.

Penelope “has, however, decided it’s time to take a husband, preferably one who will provide her with enough independence to continue her double life as Lady Whistledown, far away from her mother and sisters,” writes the Netflix synopsis. “But lacking in confidence, Penelope’s attempts on the marriage mart fail spectacularly ... [so] Colin offers to mentor Penelope in the ways of confidence to help her find a husband this season.”

While discussing why the Shonda Rhimes (“Grey’s Anatomy”) production chose to rejig the order of Quinn’s books to favor the Polin storyline, showrunner Jess Brownell, who succeeds fellow “Scandal” writer Chris Van Dusen in the role this season, told Variety: “It really felt like the perfect moment to tee it up.”

“I really feel like it’s Colin and Penelope’s time,” Brownell elaborated. “Because we’ve been watching both of these actors on our screens since Season 1, we’ve already invested in them a little bit. ... I feel like, especially in the last season, there are these moments of tension between them where ... Colin walks up to the line of almost realizing that Penelope has feelings for him but doesn’t quite get there. Instead of treading water on that dynamic, we wanted to push it into their season.”

View from the Couch



Director and co-screenwriter Denis Villeneuve’s necessarily epic adaptation of the classic Frank Herbert novel continues with this chapter, setting young hero Paul Atreides (played again by Timothee Chalamet) on a quest against the members of House Harkonnen who attacked his family. He aligns with the Fremen of Arrakis, a desert planet, to execute his plans and finds romance with one of that group’s members (Zendaya). Spectacle certainly is the intention here, and the result met the intention, making this the top box-office hit of 2024 thus far — and ensuring that there will be another edition of the

BY JAY BOBBIN

franchise, based on Herbert’s follow-up novel “Dune Messiah.” The large cast also includes Rebecca Ferguson, Josh Brolin, Austin Butler, Florence Pugh, Dave Bautista, Christopher Walken, Lea Seydoux, Stellan Skarsgard, Charlotte Rampling and Javier Bardem. Locations used for the film’s distinctive look included Budapest, Abu Dhabi and Namibia. *** (PG-13: AS, P, V) [Also on Blu-ray, 4K Ultra HD, Digital and On Demand]

“LAND OF BAD”

Somewhat reminiscent of “Behind Enemy Lines,” director and co-writer William Eubank’s (“Underwater”) military adventure also finds soldiers struggling to find their way out of a tough situation with guidance from a veteran officer. Liam Hemsworth plays a rookie member of a Special Forces extraction team cornered by enemy forces in the South Philippines during an assignment. Determined to get all of his comrades out — once he finds out they haven’t perished, as initially believed — he relies on an Air Force drone pilot (Russell Crowe) to direct them through intensely dangerous territory. Hemsworth’s brother Luke, Milo Ventimiglia (“This Is Us”) and Ricky Whittle (“American Gods”) also are featured. *** (R: P, V) (Also on Digital)

“MASTERPIECE: ALICE & JACK”

Following its PBS telecast, this seriocomic love story from “Mad About You” writing-producing alum

Victor Levin arrives on DVD. Oscar nominee Andrea Riseborough (“To Leslie”) and Domhnall Gleeson (“The Patient”) — who also were among the executive producers here — have the title roles as two people who sense a strong connection from the moment they meet, but their respective personal lives could prevent them from moving ahead with a relationship of their own. Their saga plays out over many years and many emotional turns, keeping it possible that they could end up together, even at moments when that result seems hugely unlikely. Aimee Lou Wood, Aisling Bea and Sunil Patel also are featured. *** (Not rated: AS, P)

“ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE WEST”

Deemed by many critics to be director Sergio Leone’s (“A Fistful of Dollars”) masterpiece, this 1968 Western — now on 4K Ultra HD for the first time — features an atypically nasty Henry Fonda as one of several gunfighters enlisted to wrest land from a family for a railroad magnate (Gabriele Ferzetti) who wants to develop it for his own purposes. They try to frame another outlaw (Jason Robards) for the misdeeds they commit, but an ex-prostitute (Claudia Cardinale) could thwart everyone’s plans when she reveals her inheritance of the much-desired ranch. Charles Bronson also stars as an enigmatic man who ultimately figures into all of the other major characters’ interests. Keenan Wynn,

Word wranglers: Needle drops on ‘Don’t Forget the Lyrics!’ Season 3



BY CAROLINE COLLACUTT

If I sang “Don’t stop believin’,” would you know what words come next? Hosted by the ever-hilarious Niecy Nash (“Reno 911!”), Season 3 of the revamped “Don’t Forget the Lyrics!” kicks off Thursday, May 16 — only on Fox.

The show — putting contestants’ musical memory to the test — first popped up on screens across America with its initial 2007-2011 prime-time run, only to return with a new host, new songs and a vengeance in 2022, raising the stakes with a whopping million-dollar prize.

Each episode, eager players (some music enthusiasts, some trivia junkies, some hard-core game show lovers) must sing alongside the studio band as lyrics from songs — ranging from a variety of decades, artists and genres, picked by the players themselves — are displayed on screen. That is, until the music stops and the words disappear, leaving the contestant to go on singing the correct missing lyrics if they wish to continue the song, and the game in general. After nine correct songs in a row (a massive feat to begin with), the singer is then presented with a random pick from today’s “No. 1 hits,” and they must ace every word to reach their million-dollar finish

line.

From Taylor Swift (“Cruel Summer”), to Beyoncé (“TEXAS HOLD ‘EM”), to Noah Kahan (“Stick Season”), this final song could be anything currently playing across America’s radio stations — an earworm sure to have wriggled its way into our brains one way or another. The question is: will the contestants be able to rely on their memories and belt out the correct lyrics? Or will they falter under the bright stage lights and freeze when faced with the attention of a waiting audience?

Created by original series executive producer Jeff Apploff, alongside executive producers Shane Byrne (“Ireland’s Got Talent”), Sean O’Riordan (“Name That Tune”), Chase Fleming (“Celebrity Name Game”), Jessie Binkow (“Hollywood Game Night”), Warwick Banks (“The Floor”), Kevin Williams (“Loteria loca”) and Michael H. Miller (“Lip Sync Battle”), this foot-stomping series is sure to have you second-guessing your favorite Journey songs right along with the contestants.

Hold on to that feeling (and stretch your musical muscles), as Season 3 of “Don’t Forget the Lyrics!” begins Thursday, May 16, on Fox.

Family Viewing Ratings		
AS Adult situations	V Violence	GV Graphic Violence
P Profanity	N Nudity	

Frank Wolff, Woody Strode, Lionell Stander and Jack Elam also appear in the saga, which boasts a music score by the acclaimed Ennio Morricone. The extended cut of the film, taken from a restoration that was overseen by Martin Scorsese, is offered in this release. **** (PG-13: AS, P, V)

“AMERICAN SNIPER”

Director Clint Eastwood’s 2014 drama about military marksman Chris Kyle — one of the authors of the biography on which the film is based — makes its 4K Ultra HD debut. Bradley Cooper stars as Kyle, whose training by his father in younger years comes in handy as he becomes a Navy SEAL and participates in missions related to the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Though he earns praise and promotions for his professional skill, Kyle finds his personal life disintegrating as his relationship with wife Taya (Sienna Miller) takes a downturn and he finds it hard to assimilate back into his private life. The cast also includes Luke Grimes, Jake McDorman, Cory Hardict and Eric Close, and the overseas sequences were filmed in Morocco. The picture won an Oscar for sound editing. *** (R: AS, P, V) (Also on DVD, Blu-ray and Digital)

“AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: THE CANCER DETECTIVES”

Commonly known as the “Pap smear,” the test for cervical cancer became widely available to women in the U.S. because of the

efforts of certain individuals, and those are recalled in this recent episode of the PBS series. Among them was the scientist for whom the test was nicknamed, Dr. George Papanicolaou, who studied cellular changes he observed in another species to human females ... and his wife Mary, who worked with him, agreed to be the first subject of his experimentation. Also pivotal to the situation were early activists determined to make discussion and consideration of cancer detection a prominent topic throughout America; so were Dr. Helen Dickens, a Philadelphia OBGYN who wanted to make sure Black women had sufficient access to the test, and skilled but oppressed illustrator Hashime Murayama. *** (Not rated: AS)

Coming Home Soon

- “AMERICAN HUSTLE” (4K ULTRA HD) (MAY 21)
- “BAD LIEUTENANT” (4K ULTRA HD) (MAY 28)
- “BOB MARLEY: ONE LOVE” (MAY 28)
- “THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN” (4K ULTRA HD STEELBOOK) (JUNE 4)
- “PLATOON” (4K ULTRA HD STEELBOOK) (JUNE 4)
- “THE JEFFERSONS: THE COMPLETE SERIES” (JUNE 11)

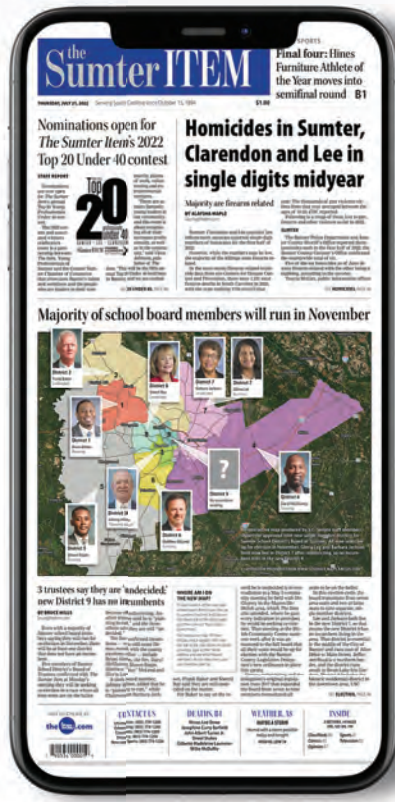
Our Commitment

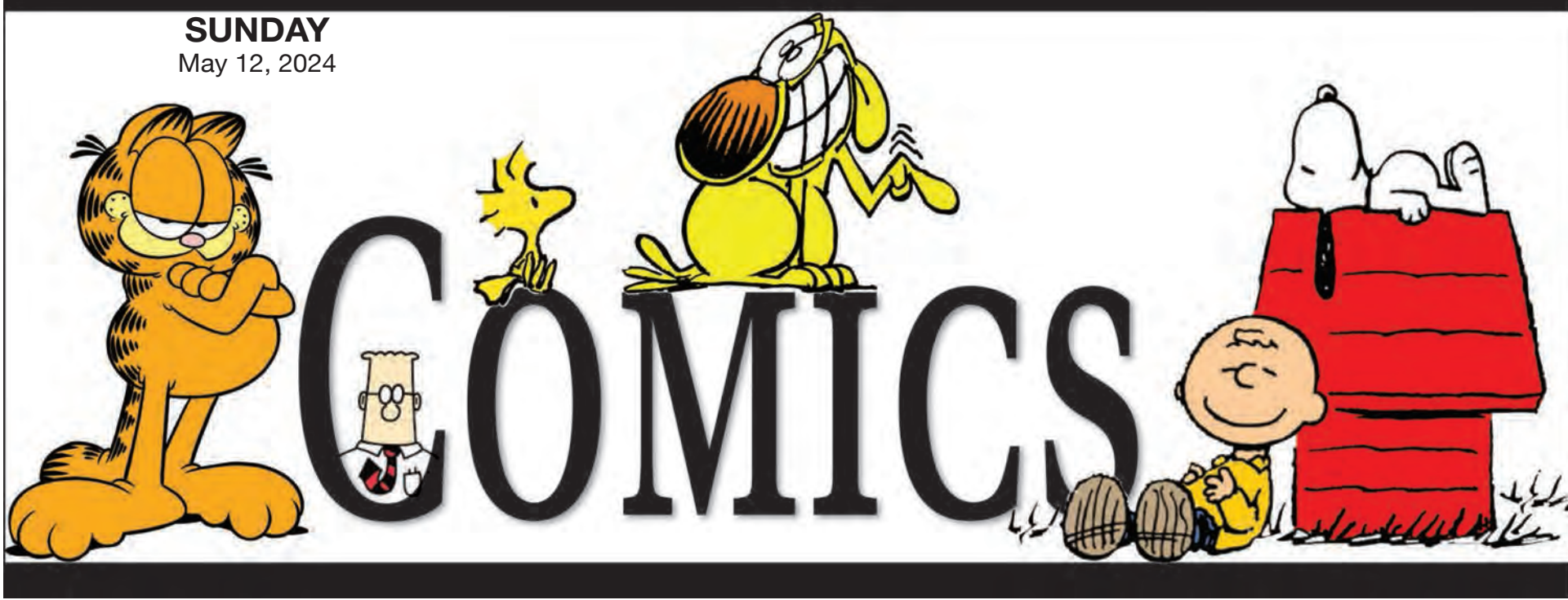
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PEANUTS

featuring

"Good ol' Charlie Brown"

by SCHULZ

MOM

"HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY FROM YOUR LOVING SON, WOODSTOCK"

THAT'S VERY NICE...

WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO SEND IT?

YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR MOTHER'S ADDRESS, DO YOU?

MAYBE YOU CAN JUST PUT IT SOME PLACE WHERE YOU THINK SHE MIGHT SEE IT...

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WHAT'S THIS?

WHAT'S THIS?

WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO SEND IT?

SCHULZ

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

WANT TO GO FOR A WALK IN THE PARK, GARFIELD?

YES, I DO!

DON'T YOU JUST LOVE THE SIGHTS?

THE SIGHTS!

AND THE SMELLS?

THE SMELLS!

I LOVE YOU, NATURE!

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AND THE SOUNDS?

THE SOUNDS!

I LOVE YOU, HOT DOG VENDOR!

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TAKE IT FROM THE TINKERSONS

BY BILL BETTWY

DID YOU PICK UP A GIFT...

...TO GIVE TO ME TO GIVE TO MOM FOR MOTHER'S DAY?

I FORGOT! NOW I HAVE NOTHING TO GIVE HER!!

YOU NEED TO USE THIS AS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE...

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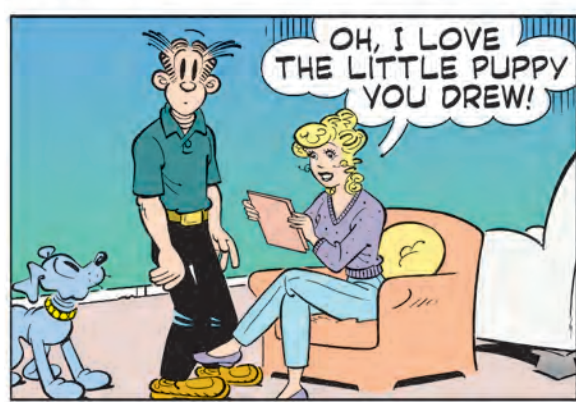
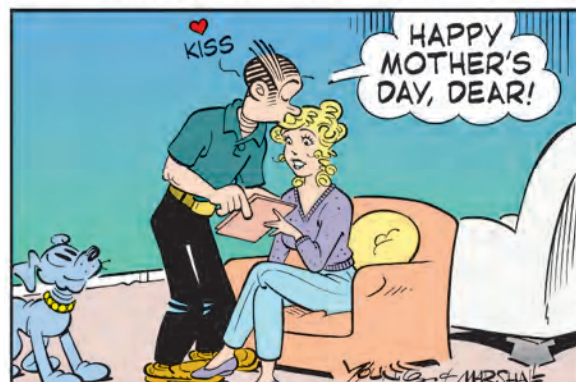
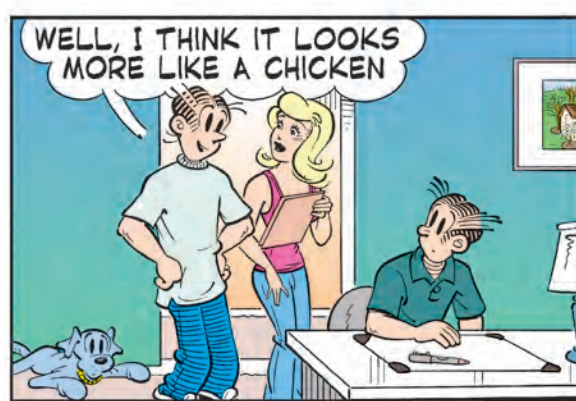
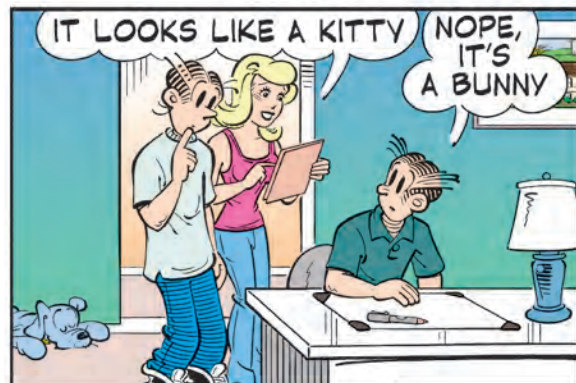
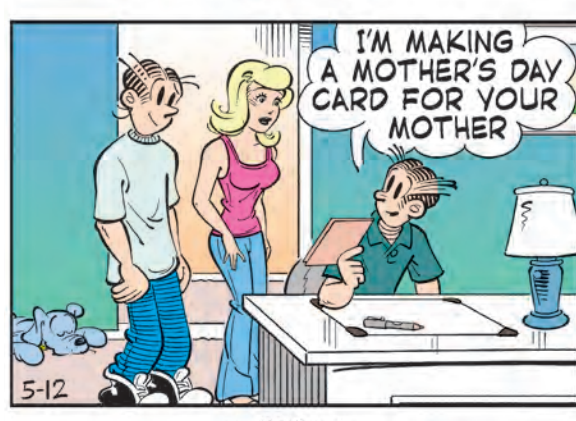
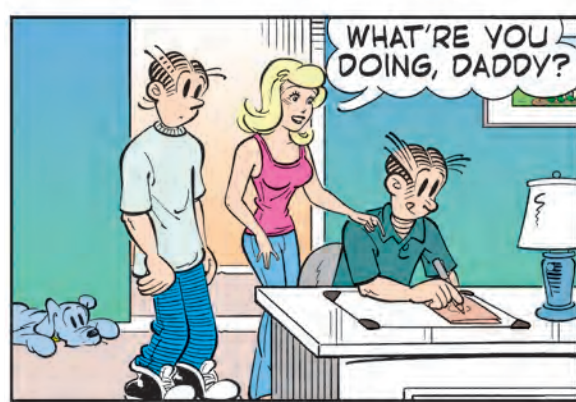
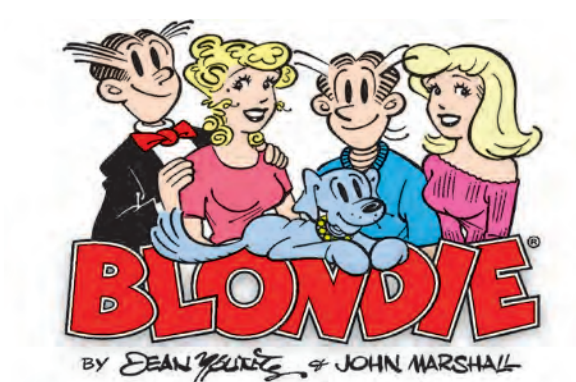
NO, YOU DIDN'T TELL ME TO GET ONE.

...SO THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN ON FATHER'S DAY

BETTWY 5-12

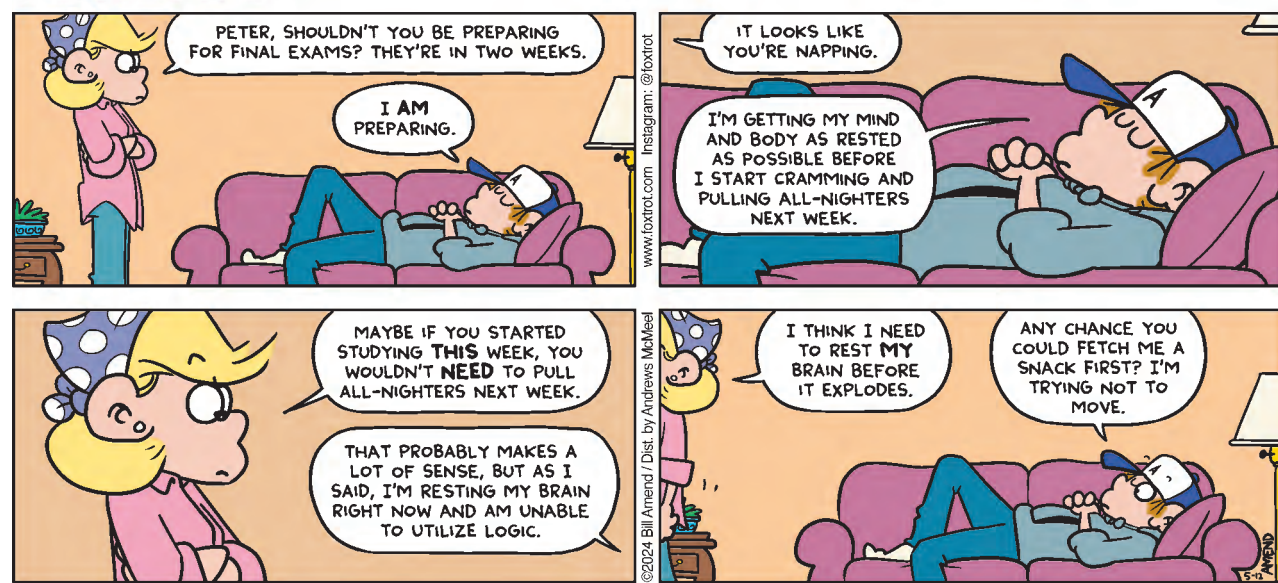
CLOSE TO HOME

BY JOHN McPHERSON



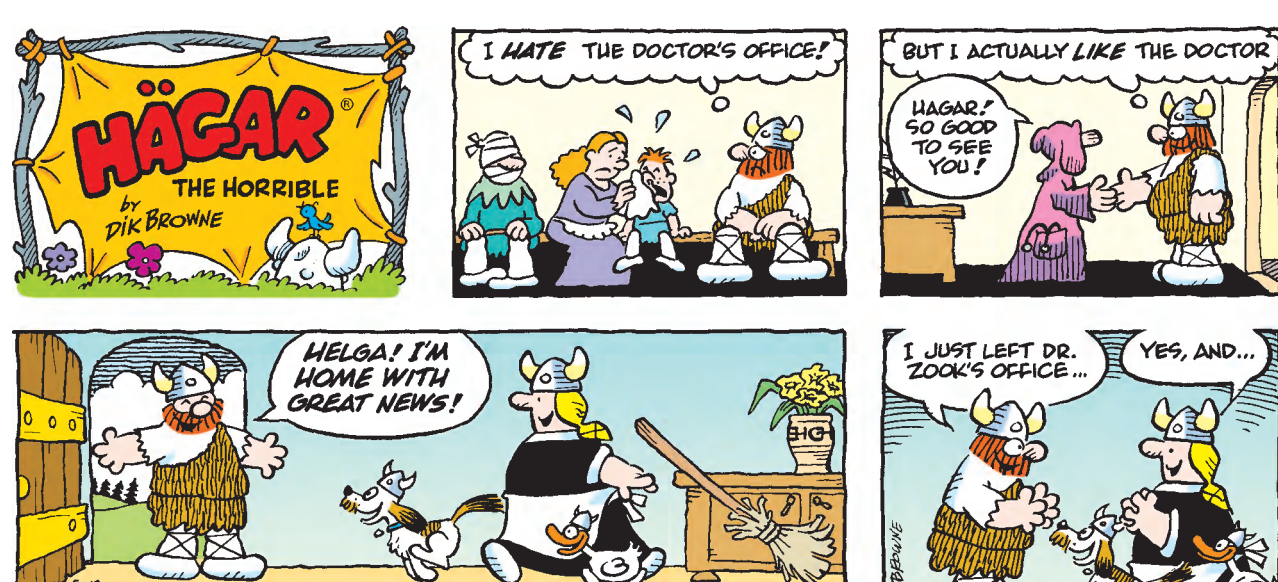
FoxTrot

by Bill Amend



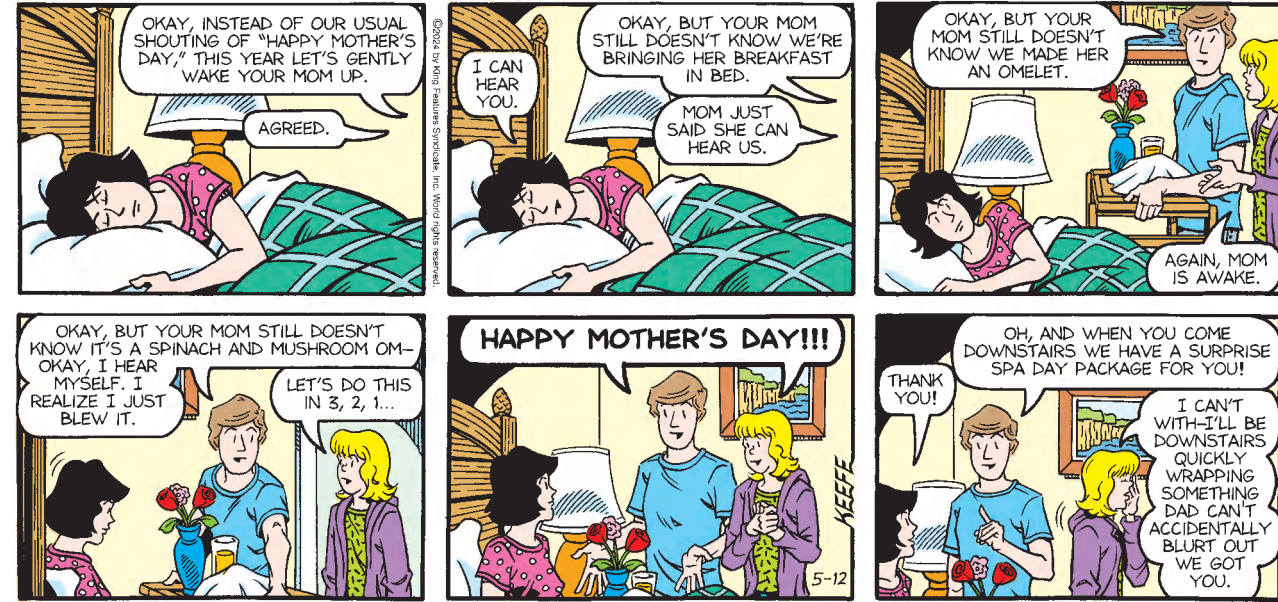
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

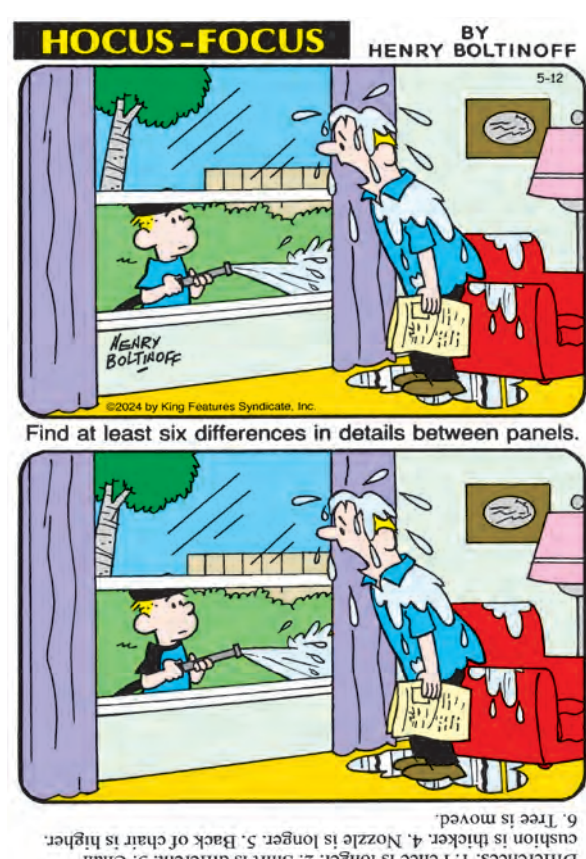
By Bill Keane



SALLY FORTH

BY FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & JIM KEEFE





GRADUATES! YOU WILL BE THE ONES TO SOLVE TODAY'S PROBLEMS! IN THE TIMELESS WORDS OF...

...PRESIDENT JOHN KENNEDY, "OUR PROBLEMS ARE MAN-MADE, THEREFORE THEY CAN BE SOLVED BY MAN."

KENNEDY ALSO NOTED MAN'S ESSENTIAL ROLE IN TECHNOLOGY WHEN HE SAID "MAN IS STILL THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY COMPUTER."

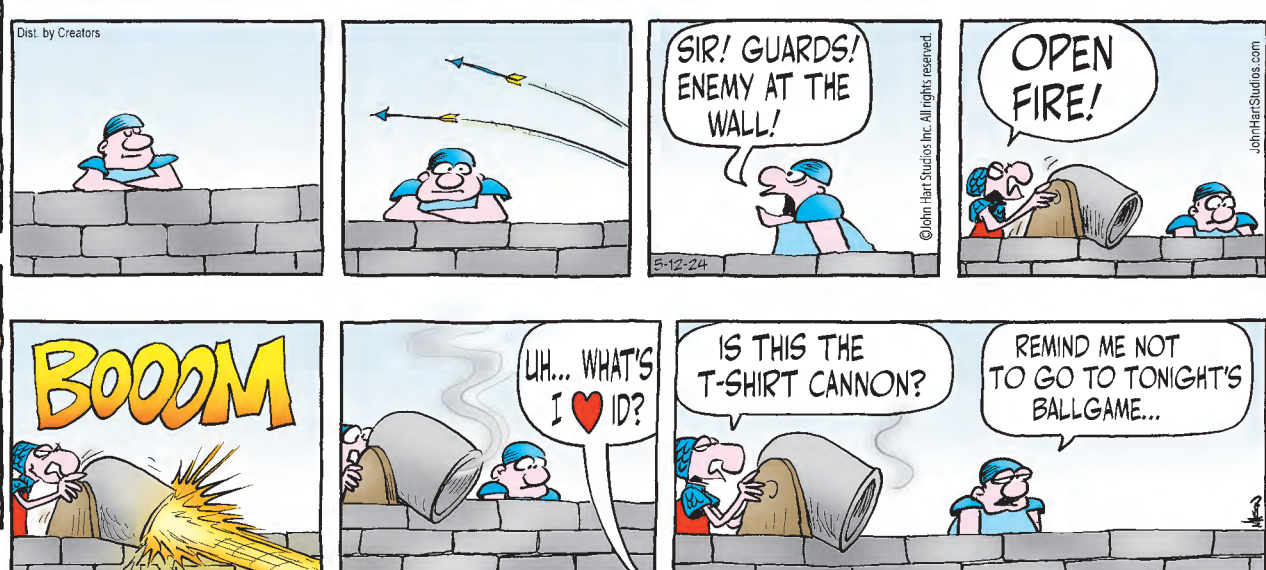
SO, AS THIS ENDURING WISDOM GUIDES YOU, REMEMBER THAT TECHNOLOGY CAN DO WONDROUS THINGS, BUT A SIMPLE HUMAN INTERACTION CAN CHANGE SOMEONE'S LIFE.

AND, AS YOU LEAVE, PLEASE RETURN YOUR CAPS AND GOWNS TO OUR NEWEST AI MACHINE, THE DISPENSATRON 1000.

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MARCH MARCH MARCH

ACTUALLY, IT'S MAY



BUCKY, YOU'RE SNOING ON MY BEANBAG. BUCKY. **BUCKY!**

...MUH? I UMIN SLEEP.

HA HA! YOU'RE SNORING!

HUH? UM NOTTA SLEEP! AND I DON'T SNORE!

BUCKY, YOU WERE SNORING SO LOUD YOU MADE RIPPLES IN MY WATER BOWL! YOU'RE LIKE A TYRANNO-SNORUS REX!

CATS DON'T SNORE! FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I WAS, UH, STAVING OFF EVIL SPIRITS THROUGH AGGRESSIVE AURAL TACTICS.

HA HA! I DOUBT SPIRITS... OH....OH HOLY MY.

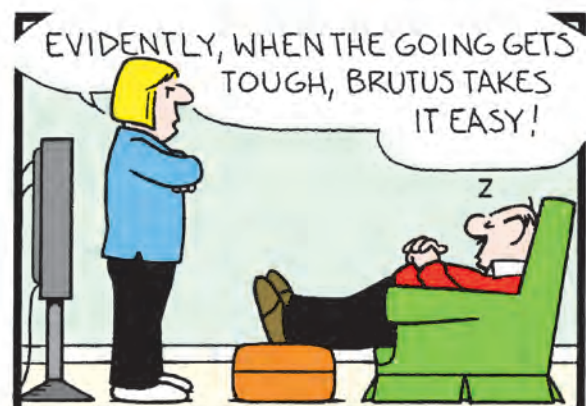
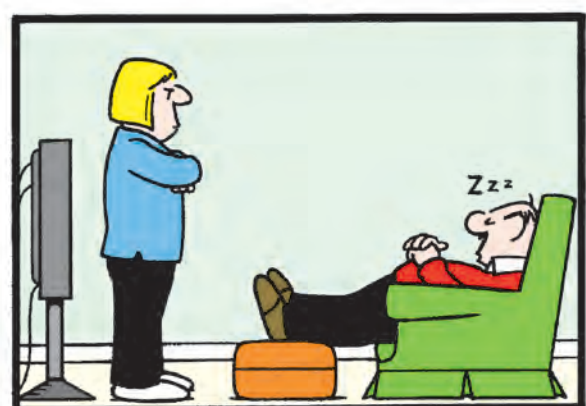
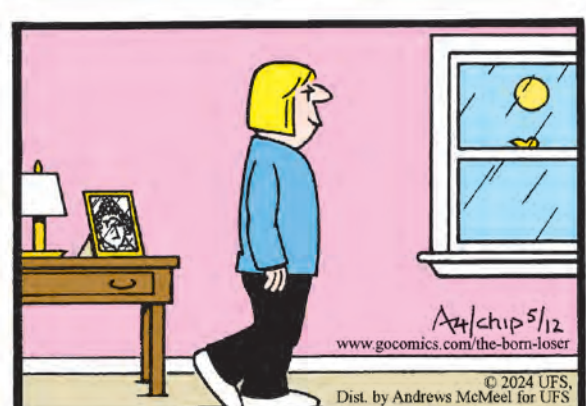
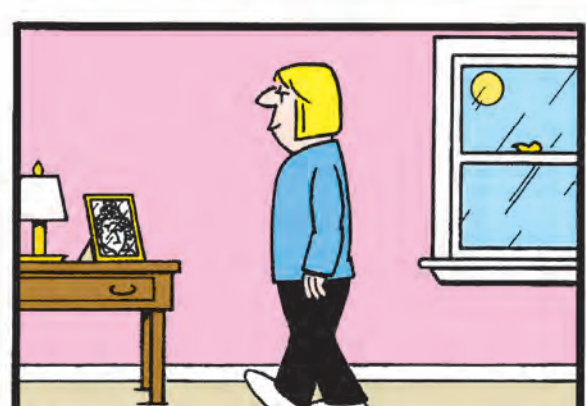
BUCKY, **EEW!**

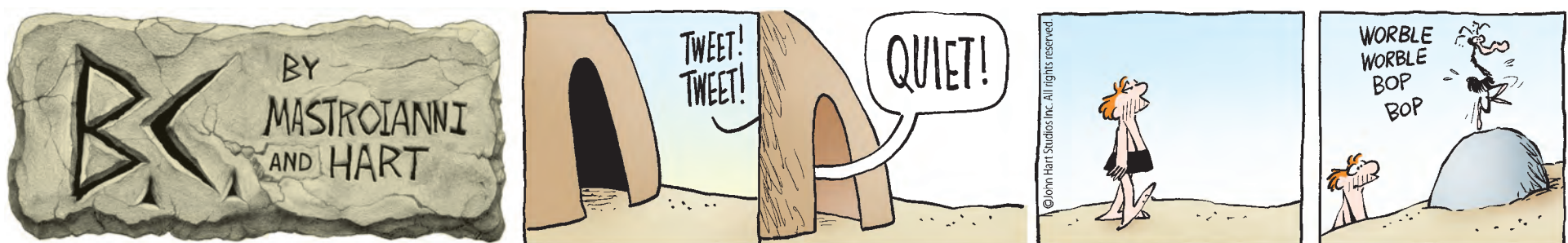
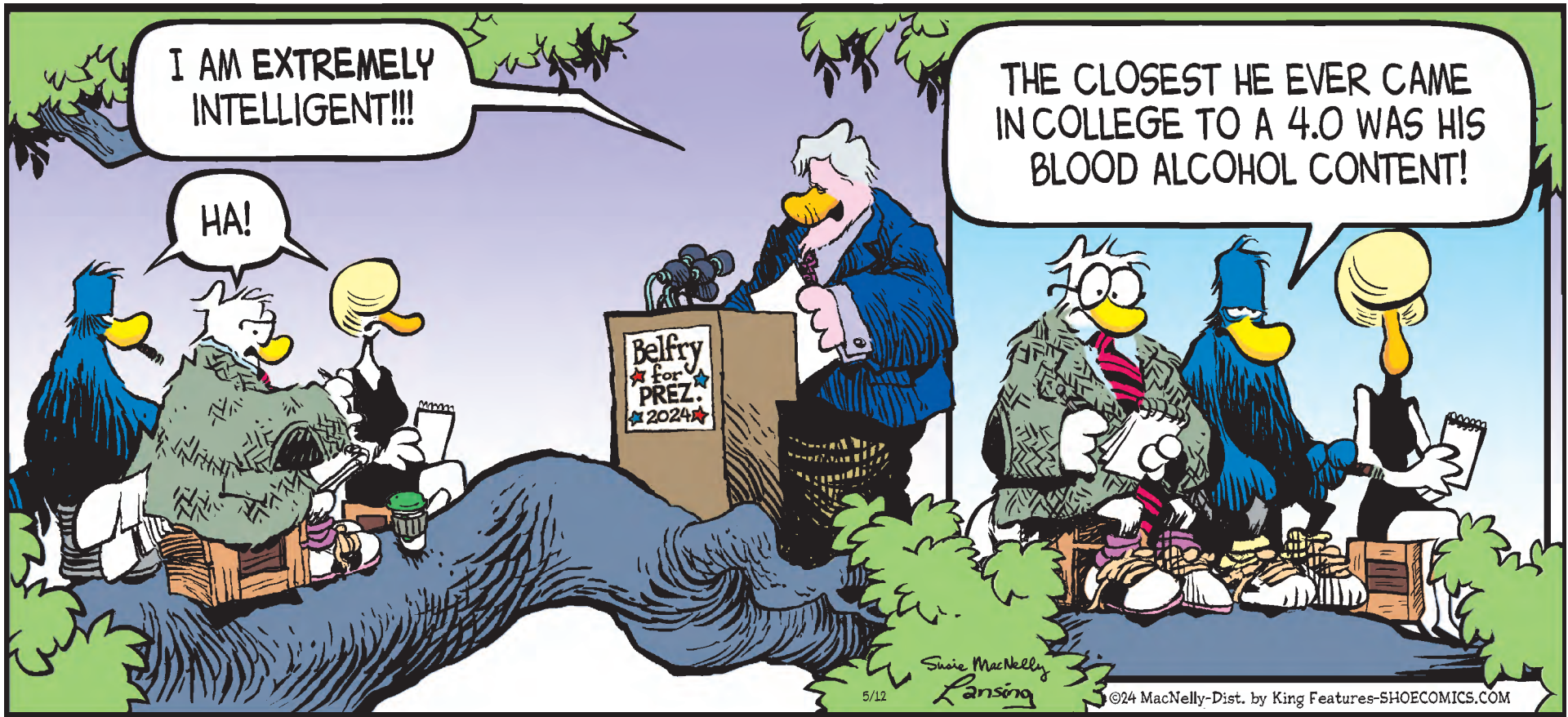
I AM NOW ATTEMPTING TO STAVE THEM OFF VIA OLFACTORY MEANS.

I PREFER THE EVIL SPIRITS.

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by Art & Chip Sansom





DENNIS THE MENACE

BY HANK KETCHAM

