

Don't miss our annual Health Matters section in today's edition **c1**



Legislators endorse Penny Tax for Sumter **A2**



The Sumter Item staff gathers for a photo during Best of Sumter 2023.

'Telling Our Stories'

It's National Newspaper Week, and 2024 marks the 84th celebration of the occasion. Since 1940, Newspaper Association Managers has sponsored and supported the week-long promotion of the newspaper industry in the United States and Canada.

This year's theme is "Telling Our Stories." We wanted to share columns and stories from those who work at *The Sumter Item*, from our photographer to advertising sales representatives and reporters, about why they enjoy what they do and how they got into the news business to celebrate the theme.

We're losing local newspapers across the United States at an alarming rate, but *The Sumter Item* remains committed to telling you the important events going on and what to know in our area. We've been around since Oct. 15, 1894, and next week will mark 130 years of this family owned business.

Thank you to all our readers for your support through the years and in the years to come. We couldn't do what we do without all of you behind us.

Item Next Gen News editor Maple says 3 years in, many more to go

I used to believe life was something you could plan — step by step with each decision building toward a future carefully crafted to meet every desire my teenage heart longed for.

But life had its own plans, ones that involved unraveling mine thread by thread and replacing them with twists, detours and moments I'd never anticipated and now wouldn't trade for the world.

One being the phone call with Publisher



Alaysha Maple

SEE MAPLE, PAGE A13



Item staff display T-shirts made to honor former late photographer Keith Gedamke.



Sumter Item Co-owner Jack Osteen goes skydiving.



The original Associated Press teletype machine is on display in The Sumter Item's front office.



The Sumter Item's newsroom won the President's Cup Award at the South Carolina Press Association awards ceremony in 2022.

Exactly where I wanted to be but in a different capacity

My name is Janel, and I am one of *The Sumter Item's* in-house graphic designers.

My days are never the exact same, but most days you can find me working with our *Item* team to build ads, create our special newsprint sections and design



Janel Przybyla

SEE PRZYBYLA, PAGE A13

Newspapers are important to all they serve

I was laid off from my first fulltime job as a reporter. Glamorous, right?

My story doesn't start with little Kayla always wanting to be a journalist, always having a love for newspapers or participating in year-book classes. Looking back, though, I've always been nosy and looking for an adventure.

After I started auditioning for colleges to study acting, I quickly realized I'm not, in fact, very good at acting. I certainly wasn't putting in the effort others were. Having been born and raised in Gainesville, Florida, I did always know the University of Florida was my top choice school. I majored in English for a few weeks (or a semester, the timeline is a blip in my memory now) before understanding I didn't want to spend my life looking to the past, despite my love for reading. So, I figured I was good at grammar. And UF happened to have a great journalism school.

That's when I fell in love with it right away. Every class, every new thing I learned, from history to story structure to ethics and getting my first clips in the city's daily newspaper at 19, furthered me down this career path.

Then I got hit by a bike.



Kayla Green

SEE GREEN, PAGE A13

Interviewing ourselves for a change

We asked our entire staff a series of questions about their roles with *The Item* and how they came to be here doing what they do, and here are their responses.

RHONDA BARRICK

Briefly explain your role:
Newsroom manager

Why did you get into this industry?

I fell into it. I finished high school a year early, and I wasn't interested in college. I am not sure why. I just wasn't. An older woman I rode horses with worked for *The Item* and recommended me for a position in the newsroom. I came in for the interview and got the job. I don't think there was a lot of competition, or it could have been that I came cheap. No experience, no degree.

What's your newspaper/journalism journey to today?

I began in September 1978 as a filing clerk for the newsroom. Over the last 46 years, I have done a little of everything, but always in the newsroom. All those years ago, I began the day manually cutting the paper roll of stories that ticked off the Associated Press teletype machine (if you want to see it, it still stands in the lobby of *The Item*) at 6 a.m., separated the stories onto metal pegs for each editor, whether it be sports or news, and then I made coffee (I didn't drink coffee at the time. It was for the rest of the crew). I even was given the chore of calling and waking up a few reporters that couldn't do that task on their own. Did I feel like these jobs belittled me? I won't lie, sometimes I did. My earthly boss, Hubert D. Osteen, used to love to say, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" I would laugh at Mr. O, but I prayed My Father was saying the same thing.

Today, I edit stories, post stories to the website, design pages for the print edition, help with story ideas and more. I do drink coffee, and I don't wake anyone else up,

SEE STAFF, PAGE A12

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Mae Frances Robinson-Goodman
Mother Queenie Bell Brunson
James
Thomas Eugene Godwin Sr.

Janice Chatman McCleary
Betty Ruth Owens
Tae'Syah Zy'Mir Damariya Rose
Terry Wayne Mathis
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SECOND FRONT

E-mail: pressrelease@theitem.com

Legislators endorse Penny: Seasoned lawmakers say now is time to leverage influence in Columbia for matching state funds

BY KAYLA GREEN
kayla@theitem.com

Two seasoned state legislators from Sumter are publicly endorsing and encouraging a yes-vote on a ballot referendum voters will decide on this November that is poised to collect \$125 million for capital improvement projects county-wide.

If approved, a temporary 1% sales tax will be added to goods in Sumter County, though items like groceries, gasoline and prescriptions are exempt, and those “pennies” on each bill will be used to fund 30 projects over the next eight years. Projects — developed as an all-or-nothing list by a committee and approved to be placed on the ballot by Sumter County Council — span roads and infrastructure, public safety, economic development and quality of life.

S.C. House of Representatives Speaker Murrell Smith (R-Sumter) said he is planning to vote yes for the Penny for Progress initiative because of the way such a sales tax is structured. Rather than raising property taxes, which would only impact residents, a penny sales tax collects money from visitors to Sumter as well.

“It’s an investment in Sumter’s future that allows us to continue growing as a community while ensuring we have the resources needed to maintain and upgrade the services we rely on every day,” Smith said. “Simply put, every community needs to invest in itself. This is our chance to do so.”

Calculations from the Penny for Progress campaign,

which is being led for the first time by SumterEDGE, Sumter’s economic development agency, show a third of the sales tax collected will be from non-residents. Sumter locals already repay the favor when commuting or traveling away from home, as 22 of the state’s 46 counties have a Penny Tax.

The tax would be implemented May 1, 2025. Of the 30 projects, infrastructure would take the largest share of the pot with 14 projects costing \$64 million. Next would be public safety, for which seven projects would use \$38.5 million; six quality-of-life projects would cost \$16.15 million; and three economic development projects would cost \$6.25 million.

Smith said Sumter is in a prime position, with the experience of the overall Sumter Legislative Delegation, some of whom are in senior positions in the General Assembly, to leverage matching state funds to bring even more money to some of these projects. He pointed to roads, infrastructure and industrial sites as the “main projects that would benefit from the Penny Tax as well as their potential to get additional matching funds.”

“In my opinion, is it historical to have the kind of delegation we have, and it gives our community a unique opportunity to harness this moment for good. ... By working with (the S.C. Department of Transportation), the Infrastructure Bank and other state and federal agencies, we

have been able to also take full advantage of opportunities where we can match funds with non-resident taxed monies,” Smith said.

He said this is the right moment for a Penny Tax that can bring in additional matching funds because “our delegation will not always be so uniquely stationed.”

“By not implementing the Penny Tax again, I believe we will miss opportunities that could cost Sumter tremendous unrealized potential,” he said, “and by the time the opportunity comes back around, the delegation will not have

the influence to secure the maximum potential from it.”

Ed Bynum, chairman of SumterEDGE’s Penny for Progress 2024, said

part of the initiative’s strategy is to “capitalize on having Sumter so well represented at the Statehouse.” Bynum served as chairman of the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce’s board of directors in the early 2000s, when a goal was to “simply get a stronger voice” at the state level. At that time, Smith was a green legislator, being elected first in 2001.

“We knew the importance of the Ways and Means Committee, and we visited our state capital several times just to meet legislators and shake hands and try to improve our position,” he said. “At the time, we just wanted one person from Sumter to be on the Ways and Means Committee.”

After Smith assumed the speaker position in May 2022,

state Rep. David Weeks (D-Sumter) was selected to serve on the Ways and Means Committee, which writes the first draft of the state’s budget.

“... This Penny in a lot of ways provides the basic structure for our success,” said Bynum, referring to manufacturing and commercial sectors and downtown redevelopment. “Anything you build requires a solid foundation, and these Penny funds in a lot of ways are providing a stable framework.”

In November 2022, after passing the previous two projects lists in 2008 and 2014, the initiative failed to secure majority support by 469 votes out of a total of nearly 27,400 votes cast. More than 100 came from one precinct, a rural area bordering Florence County. More than 2,000 ballots had the referendum question blank.

A historic economic development project has been formalized since, with the eVAC facility now under construction, and that was a win for economic development leaders, but they lost two years of planning sites to pitch to other companies.

In 2008, Thomas McElveen (D-Sumter) was not a state senator yet, but he helped lead community support for the first Penny Tax. He said he thought the “big-ticket item,” being a lawyer, was a new judicial center, but the project with the real, longest-lasting, widest-reaching benefit was bolstering infrastructure at Pocatoligo Industrial Park.

“Without that, we’d never have gotten Continental Tire,”

McElveen said. “We didn’t realize how big it was.”

The tire manufacturing plant, which employs approximately 1,300 employees, celebrated its 10th anniversary this summer.

“What’s most impressive about the 2008 Penny was that we were more or less still in an economic recession, but voters made a decision to invest in this community. That was in 2007, and we just didn’t have the things we have now,” McElveen said.

McElveen, who has served in the Senate since 2013 but is not seeking reelection this November, said he would “much prefer” a capital sales tax than seeing property taxes increase. Both legislators, who sit on opposite sides of the aisle, echo each other’s sentiments that without approval of this referendum, it will be harder to bring state funding to “any project,” Smith said, without the matching funds of the Penny that are required for many allocations to be awarded.

“At that point, the mechanism for getting projects funded would have to include some form of raised taxes,” Smith said. “I would imagine that far less progress would be made on projects of all kinds, and the impact would be felt deeply across our community.”

Smith noted that matching funds don’t just include state monies but also support from philanthropic organizations like the Williams Brice Foundation. To fund projects, all elements of the formula are critical, he said.

“I believe without one, the Penny Tax funds,” he said, “we do not have the others.”

Trustees upset that artificial turf for football fields is priority project

Board ultimately approves capital bond proceeds projects list with provision for reallocating items

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

After mold was discovered along three hallways at an older middle school during a tour in August, Sumter school board members question how the installation of artificial turf for two football fields can be a priority.

That debate arose Monday night when Sumter School District administration presented the board of trustees with a \$9.5 million current capital bond proceeds projects request list that included \$5 million for the replacement of tracks and installation of artificial turf for Lakewood and Sumter High School athletic fields.

For the record, the full board has only ever voted for

track replacements at the two high schools. Superintendent William Wright Jr. and other administrators have said their proposal for artificial turf at Lakewood and Sumter High comes after the decision was

made to install turf at Crestwood High School’s new football stadium, which should be completed in the coming months.

Meanwhile, 15 of the district’s 27 schools are more than 60 years old, and the full board has created a Master Plan Committee that has been tasked with crafting a long-term vision for the district’s facilities. The committee’s work will involve new school construction and will

likely require passing a bond referendum in the county in 2026.

That committee held its first community tour of older, end-of-life-cycle schools on Aug. 15, and it revealed mold conditions and roof leaks at Bates Middle School preventing some classrooms from being used.

Trustee Daniel Palumbo, who serves as chairman of the board’s Finance Committee and co-chair of the Master Plan Committee, has always been against the installation of artificial turf for the high schools’ football fields for various reasons, including cost and safety concerns for athletes. Additionally, he has said the football coaches at Lakewood and Sumter High have told him that they would prefer to play on natural grass.

“We are wasting our taxpayer money on artificial turf when we don’t need it,” Pa-

lumbo said. “That is a want, not a need. All the other items on this list are needs.

“We could put in solar panels and still save money. We could be doing HVAC. Bates — that whole area should be fixed out there. It has mold and all that type of stuff. But we are going to go ahead and spend money for artificial turf. That is our priority? Are you serious?”

Fellow board members the Rev. Ralph Canty, Shery White and Chairwoman Bonnie Disney agreed.

Trustee Jeff Zell asked if administration could provide a breakdown of costs for the track replacements as opposed to the artificial turf and that could provide a better context on the issues. He added that the board needed more answers and needs to have “hard conversations” on various priorities.

Wright said district mainte-

nance staff is currently assessing how bad the mold issue is at the school and will report back to the board soon.

In the end, the board voted unanimously to approve the Fall 2024 Capital Bond Proceeds Projects Request list with the provision that the trustees be allowed to amend allocations as needed.

In a phone interview with *The Sumter Item* on Thursday, Palumbo added he thinks the severity of the mold issue at Bates reflects many years of neglect by former school boards.

“This stuff should have been caught years ago,” he said.

CELLPHONES DELAYED

The full board voted unanimously to delay second reading on the district’s new cell-phone policy to another meeting to make more adjustments to it via the Policy Committee.

OSTEEN

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SUMTER TODAY

NOW STREAMING ON YOUTUBE

Porches of Sumter, hosted by Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce and presented by FTC and Tandem Health, returned Thursday, Oct. 3, and blended mouthwatering local cuisine, live music and a vibrant community vibe, all in the heart of Sumter's historic district. After a great turnout at Patriot Hall in 2023, the event returned to its original home of West Calhoun Street this year.

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

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Sumter, Lee and Clarendon counties eligible for USDA emergency loans

Farmers, ranchers can apply for assistance due to Hurricane Helene

BY USDA FSA

Sumter County is eligible for USDA assistance as a result of an Administrator Physical Loss Notification for 31 primary counties in the state of South Carolina, announced Richard Geddings, CED of the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). Clarendon and Lee counties are also among the eligible counties.

The disaster designation is a result of physical damage and losses caused by Hurricane Helene that occurred on Sept. 27, 2024. The decision makes all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low-interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA).

The disaster areas were designated on Oct. 3, 2024. All qualified farm operators in the designated counties are eligible for EM loans, pro-

vided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the emergency loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity, including the Federal Crop Insurance and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance programs.

Interested farmers may contact their local USDA Service Centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

Prisma Health to give free flu shots Oct. 26 at SHS

STAFF REPORT

Prisma Health launched its annual Midlands and Upstate community free flu vaccination campaign this month as part of its system-wide effort to offer protection from the highly contagious virus.

The flu shot will be given from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, at Sumter High School, 2580 McCrays Mill Road (enter through Gate 1).

The shot is available for anyone 6 months and older. Vaccines cannot be given to those who have COVID-19 or think they have COVID-19. Limited

high-dose flu vaccines will be offered for people age 65 and older.

Please wear loose-fitting clothing that can easily roll up. Consent forms are required and available at each site. A valid driver's license or photo ID also is required. There is no out-of-pocket cost to receive a flu shot. Health insurance is not required, but please bring your insurance card if you have it. Children under the age of 16 require a parent/guardian signature. Flu shots are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Care enough to correct...

I grew up in a small town where everyone knew everyone else, and you were kin to most of them. In my childhood, it seemed like every adult I knew felt free to correct me.

Alvin Simmons lived up the road and worked for my mother. He took my brother and I with him while he did chores. I remember discovering if I yelled "Help" loud enough, there was an echo off a dense bunch of trees. I yelled it over and over until Alvin told me to stop. He said, "Somebody might think you are really in trouble. Never yell for help unless the trouble is real." Since that day, I have never yelled for help unless I really needed it.

Bert Calder cleaned the house and watched me while my mother worked in town. I had a little toy pistol, the kind with a roll of caps that made a noise when you pulled the trigger. For some reason, we

didn't have a roll of caps, but it didn't matter. I would point the pistol at whatever I wanted to shoot and yell, "Bang!" One day I made the mistake of pointing at Bert. "Bang" was barely out of my mouth when she snatched my pistol away from me and told me never to point a gun at anyone. I must have been 4 or 5, and even at that age, I knew the difference between a real gun and a toy. I protested, "It's just a toy." Bert shook her finger in my face and said, "Toy or not, never point a gun at anyone." Since that day, whenever my hand holds a gun, I hear Bert Calder's voice, and I am mindful never to point it at a person.

My Aunt Iris kept my brother and me sometimes. Aunt Iris was close to 6 feet tall and solid. She wasn't fat, mind you, but she had a no-nonsense way about her. When I was 7, she told me to sit still on the couch. In a fit of original sin, I said, "Make me." She snatched me up and put me on the couch and sat on me. Aunt Iris brought a lot of gravity to bear on the situation. In this instance, I cried for help because I needed it. My brother Steve was laughing at me. Aunt Iris stood up, and I gasped for air. "Are you going

to do what I tell you?" she demanded. "Yes, Ma'am," I gasped out. Since that day, when someone tells me to sit still, I do. Aunt Iris really made an impression on me.

Wayne Collier would take my brother and me cow hunting. I rode a one-eyed Shetland pony my Uncle Larry had procured for me and tried to keep up with the big people. I was riding behind the cows as we pushed them up to the pens, and one of the cows turned back and ran right out. I froze. Wayne yelled, "Don't let her get by you, Clay." She got by me. Wayne and Uncle Earl rode after the cow, and Wayne roped her. He dragged her back to the herd. I was a little bewildered. Wayne rode up beside me and said, "Son, I'm sorry I yelled at you, but when a cow starts to turn back on you, don't freeze. You've got to put your horse broadside to her and turn her back." Since that day, every time I worked cows and one made a break for it, I heard Wayne's voice in my head. I might do the wrong thing, but I do something.

These people were not my parents. I suppose in some circles today, a parent might have said, "You have no right to talk to my child like that." Back in those days, children were community property. Everybody in my community thought it was their job to look after children and teach them things they

needed to know — like not to cry for help when it wasn't needed, or never point a gun at a person, or sit still when you're told, or even don't let a cow turn back on you.

American bison typically run when they sense danger, but when predators approach without warning, bison form a multi-layered circle of protection. The females form a ring around the young, and the males form an outer ring surrounding the females. For a predator to get to the most vulnerable of the herd, it must get through the whole herd.

There is something to learn from the bison. Our children need our protection. They need every adult to take ownership and teach them things they need to know. This is not a job we can leave to a smartphone or assume one teacher takes up the slack. Our children need all of us to protect them, advocate for them, support them and show them the way.

I think when you step in and teach a child something they need to know, even if that child is not yours, you are doing God's work. Every child deserves a circle of adults who care enough to correct.

This article is from the archives of the Rev. Dr. Clay Smith. The original date is Aug. 13, 2020. Smith is the lead pastor of Alice Drive Baptist Church in Sumter. Email him at claysmith@adbc.org.

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BIZTALK: Sumter’s sweet new soft serve business has family charm

BY DEIRDRE CURRIN
deirdre@theitem.com

You may not have heard about one of Sumter’s newest businesses, Gigi’s Desserts and Soft Serve Ice Cream, but maybe you have heard about ThaiTea or Gail Salon. All these businesses are run by Sumter local Gail Sing, and that does not include her former business endeavors in Sumter’s restaurant scene.

From Thailand originally, Sing has lived in Sumter with her husband for 17 years, is raising her two daughters here and revels in bringing new businesses to Sumter.

“I just want to create and do something new,” Sing said. “It’s not about the money, but people need money to survive, but for my thing I like to create stuff, and I [have] lived in Sumter 17 years. I think Sumter needs more variety.”

Sing’s latest business is a soft serve shop at 35 E. Wesmark Blvd., and she prides herself on providing soft-serve options for vegans and those who like their ice cream a little less sweet.

Sing does not just serve ice cream, though; she also sells baked goods that she makes herself, including birthday cakes, crepe cakes, macarons, cheesecake and cake pops, among other desserts such as mango sticky rice. Sing learned how to bake from a friend from Thailand who was visiting the United States.

Between running three businesses and parenting her young daughters, Sing is constantly busy, but that does not mean that she is ready to lessen her load. Even though the soft serve shop opened in late September, Sing is already dreaming about what she wants to open next: a coffee shop/bakery that has plenty of vegan options.

The soft serve shop has been in the works for two years, and Sing decided on the name of the shop because her step-grandchildren call her “Gigi.”

“I saw a lot of grandparents, especially grandmoms, take their [grand]



Gail Sing is the owner of one of Sumter’s newest businesses, Gigi’s Desserts and Soft Serve Ice Cream.



Gail Sing’s 16-year-old daughter Liz paints an ice cream mural at her mother’s soft serve shop, Gigi’s Desserts and Soft Serve Ice Cream. Liz’s artwork can be seen on every wall within the shop.



kids to go have ice cream at ThaiTea, and they have a good time, they really have a good time, they’re happy, they enjoy,” Sing said. “I hear some people call themselves ‘Mimi,’ and I said ‘oh, I’m a Gigi, too, I’ve got to put it in here.’”

At ThaiTea, Sing serves rolled ice cream alongside her teas and desserts. However, lactose-free ice cream cannot be rolled easily, and that is one of the reasons Sing decided to open her own soft serve shop.

Though Sing has experience in the restaurant business, as her husband owned a restaurant for 40 years, she enjoys running shops like ThaiTea and Gigi’s Desserts and Soft Serve Ice

Cream because they provide a less-stressful environment to teach her daughters how to be independent and work hard.

Before you even step foot into the soft serve shop, you see the labor of love that Sing’s daughters have put into the building from the ice cream cones chalked onto the windows. The art of 16-year-old Liz and 11-year-old Anna adorns the front and interior of the shop, and Liz has painted the walls with her own original characters and giant ice cream cones. Anna has her own section where she has her ice cream-themed artwork displayed.

Sing prides herself on using fresh

ingredients. She used her strawberry shortcake milkshake as an example. The milkshake boasts fresh strawberries and contains homemade cake inside.

Gigi’s Desserts and Soft Serve Ice Cream is closed on Monday but is open from Tuesday-Saturday from 1 to 8 p.m. and is open from 2 to 7 p.m. on Sunday. They offer military, teacher, senior and customer loyalty discounts.

Sumter High Honors Orchestra gives inspiring performance of fall music



Before friends, family and school leaders, Sumter High School Honors Orchestra gave a dazzling performance for its Collection of Fall Music concert on the evening of Tuesday, Oct. 8. Underneath the lights of the Sumter Opera House, the talented students performed beautiful scores of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and "Point Lookout," earning them a well-deserved round of applause and standing ovation.



Social Security’s scheduled cost-of-living increase ‘won’t make a dent’ for some retirees

BY FATIMA HUSSEIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sherri Myers, an 82-year-old resident of Pensacola City, Florida, says the Social Security cost-of-living increase she’ll receive in January “won’t make a dent” in helping her meet her day-to-day expenses.

“Inflation has eaten up my savings,” she said. “I don’t have anything to fall back on — the cushion is gone.” So even with the anticipated increase she’s looking for work to supplement her retirement income, which consists of a small pension and her Social Security benefits.

Recipients will get a 2.5% cost-of-living increase to their monthly checks beginning in January, the Social Security Administration announced Thursday.

The cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, for retirees translates to an average increase of more than \$50 for re-



AP FILE PHOTO

tirees every month, agency officials said.

The AARP estimates that a 2.5 percent COLA would increase the average benefit for a retiree who receives about \$1,920 a month by \$48 a month starting in January 2025.

“I think a lot of seniors are going to say that this is not really enough to keep up with prices,” said AARP Senior Vice President of Government Af-

fairs Bill Sweeney.

The silver lining is that it’s an indication that inflation is moderating, he said.

The announcement comes as the national social insurance plan faces a severe financial shortfall in the coming years.

The annual Social Security and Medicare trustees report released in May said the program’s trust fund will be un-

able to pay full benefits beginning in 2035. If the trust fund is depleted, the government will be able to pay only 83% of scheduled benefits, the report said.

The program is financed by payroll taxes collected from workers and their employers. The maximum amount of earnings subject to Social Security payroll taxes was \$168,600 for 2024, up from \$160,200 in 2023. Analysts estimate that the maximum amount will go up to \$174,900 in 2025.

On the presidential campaign trail, Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump have presented dueling plans on how they would strengthen Social Security.

Harris says on her campaign website that she will protect Social Security by “making millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share in taxes.”

Trump promises that he would not cut the social pro-

gram or make changes to the retirement age. Trump also pledges tax cuts for older Americans, posting on Truth Social in July that “SENIORS SHOULD NOT PAY TAX ON SOCIAL SECURITY!”

AARP conducted interviews with both Harris and Trump in late August and asked how the candidates would protect the Social Security Trust Fund.

Harris said she would make up for the shortfall by “making billionaires and big corporations pay their fair share in taxes and use that money to protect and strengthen Social Security for the long haul.”

Trump said “we’ll protect it with growth. I don’t want to do anything having to do with increasing age. I won’t do that. As you know, I was there for four years and never even thought about doing it. I’m going to do nothing to Social Security.”

Lawmakers have proposed a variety of solutions to deal with the funding shortfall.

Once-supportive husband has become a bitter roommate

DEAR ABBY: Seventeen years ago, I had a mental breakdown. For the first three years afterward, my husband stood by me. The medications I was prescribed caused me to gain more than 100 pounds. I have tried diets, to no avail. I suggested to him that maybe we could hold each other and see where it led us. His reply was, “I’m no longer attracted to you. You knew when we married that I wasn’t attracted to larger (fat) women.” Since then, I no longer respect or value him. He has his room, and I have mine on the other side of the house. We do absolutely nothing together.



Dear Abby
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

When he comes to my bedroom, he doesn’t knock. When I need to go through his room, I always knock. He said, “This is my house, too, and I don’t knock.” I can’t stand his arrogant ways. I still have to pretend we are married, but I don’t feel it. He calls me “baby.” I have expressed that I have no interest in pretending and have asked him to stop calling me that.

I’m on a fixed income. All of my retirement money is invested in this home and property. I pay all the bills. We haven’t had sex in 14 years. I’m lonely for male companionship. I don’t know how much longer I can live this way, even though he didn’t leave when I really needed him. Please advise.

NUMB IN ALABAMA

DEAR NUMB: It has been 17 years since you were prescribed the medications you have been taking, and there

may have been improvements made in the intervening years. Contact the doctor who prescribed them and ask whether there is something newer that would allow you to lose some of the weight you haven’t been able to lose. It may help if you explain what those meds have done to the state of your marriage.


If adjusting your medication is not possible, you will have to decide how important male companionship is to you, because you may have to find it elsewhere. Consult an attorney and ask what you would wind up with if the house were sold and the money was split. After that, you may be in a better position to explore your options.

DEAR ABBY: My husband of 20-plus years had two kids with his first wife. (I have none.) One of his kids, who answers no voicemails, emails or texts

from us, now has two kids under age 5 from his own second marriage. They live less than an hour away. My husband and I saw the younger child once, almost a year ago. It was the last time we saw my husband’s son and his kids. My husband has seen his grandkids less than four times in four years. Have you any suggestions on how to repair this emotional cutoff?

UNWORTHY IN MARYLAND

DEAR UNWORTHY: Has your husband told his son that he would like to have a closer relationship with him and his family? When exactly did this estrangement begin? Do you know what caused it? Once you have the answers to those questions, if apologies are in order, your husband should offer them verbally, in writing or in person. The ball will then be in your stepson’s court.



PENNY

FOR PROGRESS



✓ Emergency Radios / Pagers

✓ County Fire Trucks

✓ City Fire Trucks

✓ Stadium Road EMS Station

✓ EMS Ambulances

✓ Industrial Infrastructure

✓ Intersection Safety Improvements

✓ Bobby Richardson Park Improvements

✓ Patriot Park Pickleball Courts

✓ Downtown Building Improvements & Acquisitions

✓ County Paving/Resurfacing

✓ Stadium Road Fire Station

✓ Fire Depart. Training Facility

✓ Federal State Road Construction (Hwy 378)

✓ State Road Resurfacing Match

✓ Public Services Building

✓ Industrial Property Acquisition

✓ Dillon Park Improvements

✓ Community Park Playground Improvements

✓ Central Carolina Facility Upgrade

✓ Mayesville Main Street Revitalization

✓ Pinewood Road Paving

✓ Dugan St. and Downtown Parking Facility

✓ Delaine Community Center

✓ South Sumter Gym

✓ Harvin Street Redesign and Streetscape

✓ Pinewood Sidewalks

✓ Community Sidewalks / Activity Paths

✓ Airport Facility Upgrade

✓ Community-wide Acquisition of Distressed Structures

VOTE



YES



\$36 MILLION

OF THESE PROJECTS ARE ESSENTIAL.

Meaning whether or not the penny sales tax passes, the local government will still have to implement them. The only difference will be how it is paid.

33%

OF THE PENNY TAX IS PAID BY VISITORS TO SUMTER

But Sumter residents pay 100% of local property tax

PROJECTS ON THIS BALLOT ARE ALREADY LEVERAGING AN ADDITIONAL \$140 MILLION from state and federal funds.

ONE-THIRD

of the projects on the 2024 ballot will help keep the cost of property insurance DOWN

PENNYFORPROGRESS.COM



REFLECTIONS

Largest airfield in Southeast built in Stateburg area

Editor's note: This is part one of a two-part series about the beginning of Shaw Field in Sumter. Read part two in next weekend's edition of Reflections.

Reflections revisits the acquisition of land and the construction of the largest training facility for pilots in the Southeast prior to the outbreak of World



Sammy Way
REFLECTIONS

War II. The flight school would eventually be named Shaw Field. The citizenry of Sum-

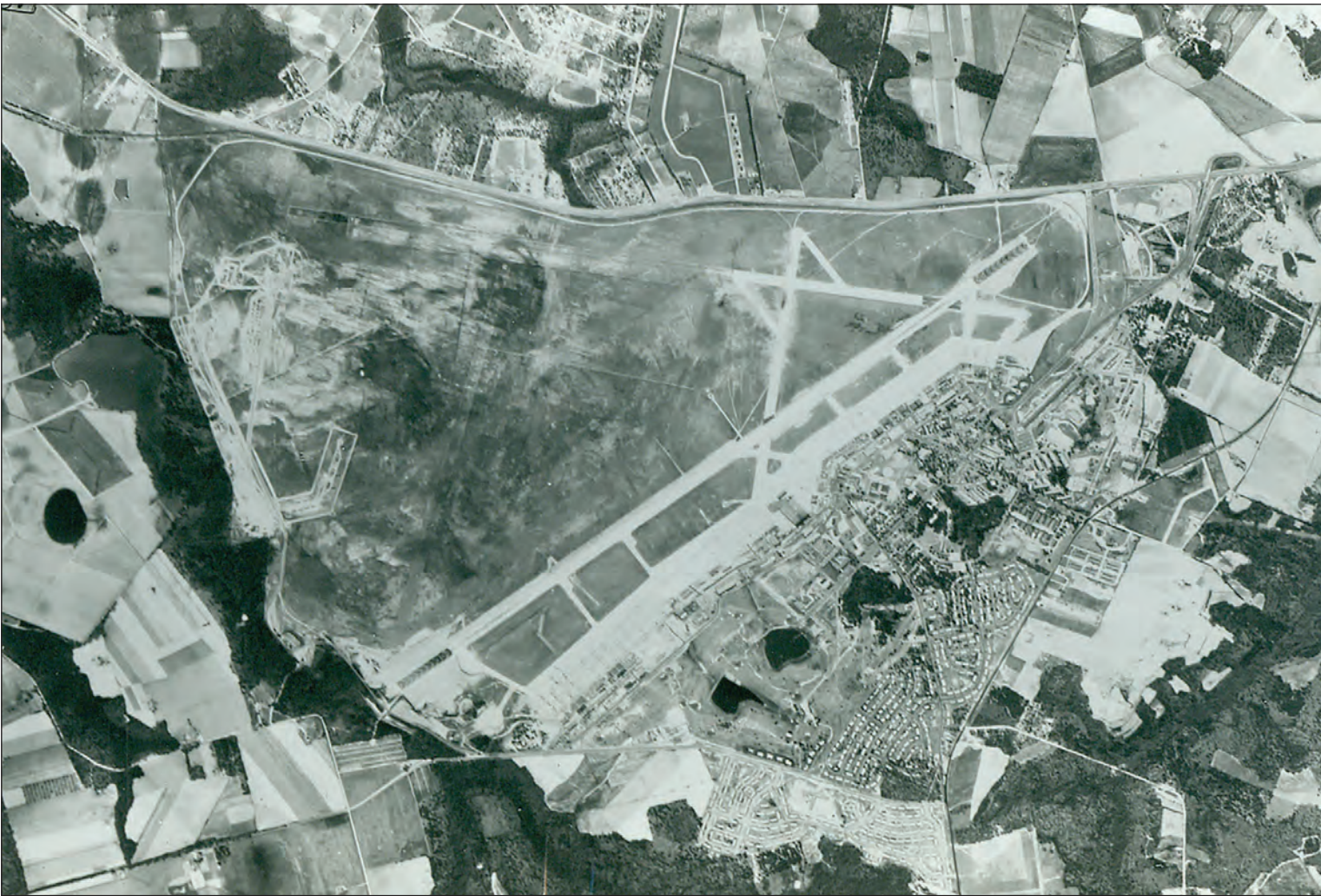
ter, led by a capable group of officials, worked diligently to acquire this important facility. The photos and data used for this piece were acquired from *The Sumter Item* archives and will be presented in two parts with a modicum of editing.

According to an article published in *The Sumter Daily Item* on May 28, 1941, Dexter C. Martin, director of the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission, "...announced that the largest airport in the Southeast would be built at Sumter at a cost of more than \$3,000,000. The airport would cover 2,830 acres and serve as a basic flying school for the United States Army Air Corps. The war department announced selection of the site that night."

Martin said "... The field would be located eight miles from the city and would be built along the same lines as Maxwell Field, Alabama, one of the Army's largest training centers. However, the Sumter airport would cover a larger area than Maxwell Field. When the Sumter training center is completed, Martin said, 'Cadets will be able to take 10 weeks of primary training at Camden and then 10 weeks at the basic training center at Sumter and a final 10 weeks at an advanced flying school such as Kelly Field, Texas.'"

Martin said a large camp would be built at the field. In addition, "... an airport within an airport" would be constructed. The smaller field would cover about 400 acres and would include four 4,000-foot runways, all paved. Each will be 200 feet wide. The "inside" airport, he said, would be used for Army transport planes which may fly in equipment and officers. The remainder of the field was to be sodded to provide an all-way landing area for students in training.

Martin said the Army had taken a 99-year lease on the airport and would not return it to the municipality when the emergency at the time was over. Two auxiliary landing fields for use in emergencies would be constructed near the Sumter airport; sites were tentatively selected. The Army air field to be established on the 2,828-acre site on the north side of the Sumter-Columbia Highway



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTOS

This aerial view of Shaw Air Force Base shows its location in Sumter. The site included 2,830 acres about 8 miles from Sumter off the Columbia highway.

76, 6 to 9 miles west of Sumter, was to be officially designated as an Air Corps Basic Flying School of the Southeastern Air Corps Training Center, commanded by Gen. Walter R. Weaver, headquartered at Maxwell Field, Montgomery, Alabama. "The field is to have four concrete runways, each 4,000 feet long and 200 feet wide. The station complement will be between 3,000 and 3,500 men, including 217 officers, 1,930 enlisted men and field personnel flying cadets. The maximum capacity of the school will be 475 cadets, and the training course will extend over a period of 10 weeks. The cadets to be accepted will come from training schools after completing their preliminary

training satisfactorily. Trainees will be inducted in contingents of 250, and as rapidly as one contingent finishes training, another contingent will be received. No fewer than 215 training planes — five school squadrons

and one air base squadron will be housed at the Shaw facility."

The estimated minimum cost of the air field was originally placed at not less than \$2,500,000. The estimated payroll of the officers and men to be stationed at the base was \$250,000 to \$300,000 per month. The details of the construction and equipment were not immediately given out, but it was stated that there would be adequate buildings of all descriptions to house and provide for the comfort and recreation of the entire force. Quarters were provided for officers and enlisted men and cadets; mess halls, recreation hall and movie theater; a hospital with a 150-bed capacity, with medical staff and corps of 15 nurses, were also provided. Shaw training field would be the largest as well as the most modern in the South — probably, at the time, the largest in the entire country. The plans anticipated the completion of the field in time for occupancy and the beginning of training of cadets early in November 1941.

The developments leading to the selection of the Stateburg area for the location of this great flying school and Army base airfield are fascinating. In May 1940, the Sum-



Gen. Walter R. Weaver and his staff looked over the training field site in 1941 during a visit to Sumter. On the visit, Gen. Weaver approved the site and upon his return to Maxwell Field recommended that the school be established here. From left, standing, are S. L. Roddey; D. R. Yarborough, engineer of the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission; John J. Riley; Maj. Luther S. Smith of Maxwell Field; Capt. John P. McConnell, adjutant of the Southeast Air Corps Training Center and aide-de-camp to Gen. Weaver; Edwin B. Boyle; C. P. Gable, acting secretary of the Chamber of Commerce; M. S. Boykin; and City Manager J. A. Raffield; seated, Dexter C. Martin, director of the S.C. Aeronautics Commission; Mayor F. B. Creech; Gen. Walter R. Weaver, commanding general, Southeast Air Corps Training Center, Maxwell Field, Montgomery, Alabama; and Lt. W. A. Thompson of Maxwell Field, secretary of Sumter Chamber of Commerce.



A group of Army engineers and crewmen started work in June 1941 to lay out the runways for the Army Air Corps' basic training school near Sumter. They were to be hard-surfaced. Plans also called for more runways later. Construction of the school was to cost more than \$5,000,000. From left are Charles Propst, Lewis Leavell and George Hurst, helpers; Arthur W. Smith and James N. Griswold, crewmen; Mack J. Byrd, instrument man; Calvin E. Metz, crewman; Thomas M. Jameson Jr., instrument man; Brown M. Heath, crewman; and Richard H. Adams, manager in charge of the work.

ter Chamber of Commerce began investigating the possibility of establishment of an aviation training school in Sumter County somewhere in the vicinity of the city. Contacts were made with Army officials and others interested in civilian flying schools. The first definite achievement was the execution of an agreement for the establishment of a civilian flying school at the Sumter airport, and steps were immediately taken to enlarge and improve the flying field and to construct the hangars and other buildings necessary for the operation of the

school. Efforts were made to secure the location of an Army training school for aviators; several suitable and available sites were surveyed and conditional options obtained. Then officials at Maxwell Field, Montgomery, Alabama, headquarters of the Southeast Air Corps Training Center, commanded by Gen. Walter R. Weaver, were interviewed after data were placed before them for consideration.

Early in 1941, officials from Maxwell Field came to Sumter to investigate conditions and inspect the suggested sites for the flying field. The

inspection was made; a general aerial survey of the section was an important element of the investigation. During the survey, the Stateburg area attracted the attention of the officials, and it was reported that they found exactly the site they had been seeking in the Southeast for the location of a basic flying school, something immeasurably larger and more desirable than the type of school the Chamber of Commerce had set out to obtain for Sumter County. Soon came a letter from Maxwell Field headquarters dated Feb. 19, 1941.



TANG CHHIN SOTHY / POOL PHOTO VIA AP
U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken speaks at a news conference during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit in Vientiane, Laos, on Friday, Oct. 11.

Blinken tells ASEAN the U.S. is worried about China’s ‘dangerous’ actions in disputed sea

BY EILEEN NG and JINTAMAS SAKSORNCHAI
Associated Press

VIENTIANE, Laos — U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken told Southeast Asian leaders Friday that the U.S. is concerned about China’s “increasingly dangerous and unlawful” activities in the disputed South China Sea during an annual summit meeting and pledged the U.S. will continue to uphold freedom of navigation in the vital sea trade route. His comments at a meeting with the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations drew swift condemnation from Beijing, which blamed U.S. and other military presences from beyond the region for instability in the waterway, which Beijing claims almost in its entirety.

China has overlapping claims with ASEAN members Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei, as well as Taiwan. About a third of global trade transits through the sea, which is also rich in fishing stocks, gas and oil. A series of recent violent confrontations between China and Philippines as well as Vietnam have fueled concerns that China’s increasingly aggressive actions in the sea could spiral into a full-scale conflict.

Beijing has refused to recognize a 2016 international arbitration ruling by a U.N.-affiliated court in the Hague that invalidated its expansive claims and has built up and militarized islands it controls.

“We are very concerned about China’s increasingly dangerous and unlawful activities in the South China Sea which have injured people, harm vessels from ASEAN nations and contradict commitments to peaceful resolutions of disputes,” said Blinken, who is filling in for President Joe Biden, in his opening speech at the U.S.-ASEAN summit. “The United States will continue to support freedom of navigation and freedom of overflight in the Indo Pacific.”

The U.S. has no claims in the South China Sea but has deployed Navy ships and fighter jets to patrol the waters in a challenge to China’s claims.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said U.S. and other military presences from outside the region were the main source of instability in the sea.

“The increasing military deployment and activities in the South China Sea by the U.S. and a few other non-regional countries, stoking confrontation and creating tensions, are the greatest source of instability for peace and stability in the South China Sea,” Mao said.

Chinese and Philippine vessels have clashed repeatedly this year, and Vietnam said last week that Chinese forces assaulted its fishermen in the disputed sea. China has also sent patrol vessels to areas that Indonesia and Malaysia claim as exclusive economic zones.

The U.S. has warned repeatedly that it’s obligated to defend the Philippines — its oldest treaty ally in Asia — if Filipino forces, ships or aircraft come under armed attack, including in the South China Sea.

Philippine President Ferdi-

nand Marcos Jr. complained to summit leaders on Thursday that his country “continues to be subject to harassment and intimidation” by China’s actions, which he said violated international law. He has called for more urgency in ASEAN-China negotiations on a code of conduct to govern the South China Sea. Officials have agreed to try to complete the code by 2026, but talks have been hampered by sticky issues including disagreements about whether the pact should be binding.

In another firm message to China, Blinken said the U.S. is also committed to help protect stability across the Taiwan Strait. The U.S. has in recent years stepped up support for Taiwan, including new military financing last month that sparked protest from China, which claims the self-ruled island as its own territory.

Blinken also attended an 18-nation East Asia Summit, along with the Chinese premier, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and leaders from Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand.

ASEAN has treaded carefully on the sea dispute with China, which is the bloc’s largest trading partner and its third-largest investor. It hasn’t marred trade relations, with the two sides focusing on expanding a free-trade area covering a market of 2 billion people.

Blinken said the annual ASEAN summit talks were a platform to address other shared challenges including the civil war in Myanmar, North Korea’s “destabilizing behavior” and Russia’s war aggression in Ukraine. The Middle East crisis was also raised, with pro-Palestine Muslim countries like Malaysia and Indonesia repeating calls for an immediate Israeli ceasefire as the war marked its one-year anniversary on Monday.

Blinken also said Israel’s escalated campaign in Lebanon against Hezbollah has “clear and legitimate” reasons but said the U.S. is trying to find a diplomatic solution to the war. He said it was also important that civilians are protected during the fighting in Lebanon and Gaza, adding that not enough humanitarian aid is reaching north Gaza and other areas.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who held a separate meeting with ASEAN leaders, called for an urgent political solution to the spreading Middle East conflict. “The level of death and destruction in Gaza is something that has no comparison to any other situation that I have seen,” he said. He also condemned attacks against two Indonesian peacekeepers who were injured by Israeli fire, saying “pacekeepers must be protected by all parties of the conflicts.”

Guterres also expressed deep concern about the worsening crisis in Myanmar and urged ASEAN to cooperate with the U.N. special envoy to find a breakthrough. He said a third of Myanmar’s population is in dire need of humanitarian assistance, with almost 3.5 million people displaced by a civil war since the army ousted an elected government in 2021 and refused to comply with an ASEAN peace plan.

Residents repair homes, clean up after Hurricane Milton tore through Florida

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Florida residents slogged through flooded streets, gathered up scattered debris and assessed damage to their homes on Friday after Hurricane Milton smashed through coastal communities and tore homes to pieces, flooded streets and spawned a barrage of deadly tornadoes.

At least eight people were dead, but many expressed relief that Milton wasn’t worse. The hurricane spared densely populated Tampa a direct hit, and the lethal storm surge that scientists feared never materialized.

Arriving just two weeks after the devastating Hurricane Helene, the system flooded barrier islands, tore the roof off the Tampa Bay Rays’ baseball stadium and toppled a construction crane.

As residents assessed damage to their property, about 2.4 million customers in Florida remained without power Friday morning, according to *poweroutage.us*. But the state’s vital tourism industry started to return to normal, with several theme parks preparing to reopen. The state’s busiest airport was also scheduled to fully reopen Friday.

Flooding from Milton’s heavy rains was still causing problems. Crews from the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office were assisting with rescues of people stranded in rising waters along the Alafia River on Friday morning. The river is 25 miles long and runs from eastern Hillsborough County, east of Tampa, into Tampa Bay.

In Riverview, named because of its proximity to the Alafia River, a small bridge over a culvert washed out, blocking Canadian Del Ockey from the home where he spends the six coldest months of the year. He has no idea when it might be replaced.

Ockey made it down to his property on Sunday. He’s used to hurricanes, having built this home 26 years ago, but he said Milton was different.

“We’ve had seven or eight of them come before but nothing like this one. This was big-time,” Ockey said.

A flood of vehicles headed south Thursday evening on Interstate 75, as relief workers and evacuated residents returned to assess

the aftermath. Bucket trucks and fuel tankers streamed by, along with portable bathroom trailers and a convoy of emergency vehicles.

As residents raced back to find out whether their homes were destroyed or spared, finding gas was still a challenge. Fuel stations were still closed as far away as Ocala, more than a two-and-a-half-hour drive north of where the storm made landfall as a Category 3 near Siesta Key in Sarasota County on Wednesday night.

Natasha Ducre and her husband, Terry, were just feeling lucky to be alive. Milton peeled the tin roof off their cinderblock home in their neighborhood a few blocks north of the Manatee River. She pushed to leave as the storm barreled toward them Wednesday night after he resisted evacuating their three-bedroom house where he grew up and where the couple lived with their three kids and two grandchildren. She thinks the decision saved their lives.

They returned to find the roof of their home scattered in sheets across the street, the wooden beams of what was their ceiling exposed to the sky. Inside, fiberglass insulation hung down in shreds, their belongings soaked by the rain and littered with chunks of shattered drywall.

“It ain’t much, but it was ours. What little bit we did have is gone,” she said. “It’s gone.”

With shelters no longer available and the cost of a hotel room out of reach, they plan to cram into Terry Ducre’s mother’s house for now. After that, they’re not sure.

“I don’t have no answers,” Natasha said. “What is my next move? What am I going to do?”

Meanwhile, Florida theme parks including Walt Disney World, Universal Orlando and SeaWorld reopened Friday.

MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa and Patrick Space Force Base near Cocoa Beach remain closed, with only authorized personnel allowed on the bases. MacDill, home to U.S. Central Command and Special Operations Command, experienced some damage and flooding, Air Force officials said. Patrick was spared any significant damage.



In this image released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a NOAA crew on a reconnaissance flight on Tuesday, Oct. 8, into the eye of Hurricane Milton in the Gulf of Mexico gathers before dropping a package containing the ashes of Peter Dodge, an award-winning scientist who made almost 400 flights into the eyes of hurricanes, as a lasting tribute to the longtime radar specialist and researcher.

SIM ABERSON / NOAA VIA AP

A hurricane scientist logged a final flight as NOAA released his ashes into Milton’s eye

BY JOHN RABY
Associated Press

As an award-winning scientist, Peter Dodge had made hundreds of flights into the eyes of hurricanes — almost 400. On Tuesday, a crew on a reconnaissance flight into Hurricane Milton helped him make one more, dropping his ashes into the storm as a lasting tribute to the longtime National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration radar specialist and researcher.

“It’s very touching,” Dodge’s sister, Shelley Dodge, said in an interview Thursday with The Associated Press. “We knew it was a goal of NOAA to make it happen.”

The ashes were released into the eye of the hurricane Tuesday night, less than 24 hours before Milton made landfall in Siesta Key near Sarasota, Florida. An in-flight observations log, which charts information such as position and wind speed, ended with a reference to Dodge’s 387th — and final — flight.

“He’s loved that aspect of his job,” Shelley Dodge said. “It’s bittersweet. On one hand, a hurricane’s coming and you don’t want that for people. But on the other hand, I really wanted this to happen.”

Dodge died in March 2023 at age 72 of complications from a fall and a stroke, his sister said.

The Miami resident spent 44 years in federal service. Among his awards were several for technology used to study Hurricane Katrina’s destructive winds in 2005.

He also was part of the crew aboard a reconnaissance flight into Hurricane Hugo in 1989 that experienced severe turbulence and saw one of its four engines catch fire.

“They almost didn’t get out of the eye,” Shelley Dodge said.

Items inside the plane were torn loose and tossed about the cabin. After dumping excess fuel and some heavy instruments to enable the flight to climb further, an inspection

found no major damage to the plane and it continued on. The plane eventually exited the storm with no injuries to crew members, according to NOAA.

A degenerative eye disorder eventually prevented Dodge from going on further reconnaissance flights.

Shelley Dodge said NOAA had kept her informed on when her brother’s final mission would occur and she relayed the information to relatives.

“There were various times where they thought all the pieces were going to fall in place but it had to be the right combination, the research flight. All of that had to come together,” she said. “It finally did on the 8th. I didn’t know for sure until they sent me the official printout that showed exactly where it happened in the eye.”

Dodge had advanced expertise in radar technology with a keen interest in tropical cyclones, according to a March 2023 newsletter by NOAA’s Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory announcing his death.

He collaborated with the National Hurricane Center and Aircraft Operations Center on airborne and land-based radar research. During hurricane aircraft missions, he served as the onboard radar scientist and conducted radar analyses. Later, he became an expert in radar data processing, the newsletter said.

Dodge’s ashes were contained in a package. Among the symbols draped on it was the flag of Nepal, where he spent time as a Peace Corps volunteer teaching math and science to high school students before becoming a meteorologist.

An avid gardener, Dodge also had a fondness for bamboo and participated in the Japanese martial art Aikido, attending a session the weekend before he died.

“He just had an intellectual curiosity that was undaunted, even after he lost his sight,” Shelley Dodge said.

Sumter County Council approves more than 85-acre expansion of Sumter-Lee Industrial Park

BY DEIRDRE CURRIN
deirdre@theitem.com

Sumter County Council approved an ordinance Tuesday, Oct. 8, that would see the Sumter-Lee Industrial Park, also known as Pocatigo Industrial Park, enlarged more than 85 acres.

In December 2023, the county passed a Fee in Lieu of Tax (FILOT) agreement with eVac Magnetics LLC. At the time, the county agreed to put a property to

be owned by the company into the Sumter-Lee Industrial Park, and eVac now owns the property. At the time the county passed the FILOT tax agreement, the parcel of land now owned by eVac was part of a larger tract that was later split into its own separate 85.6-acre tract. The ordinance approved — Ordinance 24-1010 — would put that 85.6-acre tract into the park.

eVac Magnetics LLC was previously identified as Project Black Nickel when

first voted on in December 2023.

The century-old German company, according to its website, produces rare earth neodymium-iron-boron (NdFeB) magnets. These are produced for the automotive industry, defense, industrial and renewable energy applications.

The council unanimously voted — minus Councilwoman Vivian McGhaney, who was out sick — to enlarge the industrial park to include the 85.6-acre eVac property.

Sumter sheriff, solicitor offer \$10K reward for information in shooting death of 9-year-old

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
Alaysha@theitem.com

Sumter County Sheriff's Office and Sumter County Solicitor's Office offer a \$10,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction of those responsible for the shooting death of a 9-year-old boy.

Suspects face one count of murder and three counts of attempted murder after the shooting of Gregory Deron Robinson Jr., 9, on Monday, Oct. 7. He succumbed to his injuries early Wednesday morning.

According to Mark Bordeaux, public information officer for Sumter County Sheriff's Office, suspects fired multiple gunshots into a home on Bunneau Street, striking Robinson Jr. as he lay in his bed. He was pronounced dead at Prisma Health Richland in Columbia early Wednesday, Oct. 9.

Sheriff Anthony Dennis created a task force dedicated to bringing those responsible to justice.

"We will do whatever it takes to find these criminals. Our investigators have been working non-stop, and every tool available will be utilized to solve this crime," Dennis said in a meeting Wednesday morning.

"Along with the help of the Sumter Police Department, I have requested assistance from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED). I firmly believe that we will find those responsible for Gregory's murder and bring them to justice."

If anyone has information and wants to help, call 911 or Sumter County Sheriff's Office during business hours at (803) 436-2000.

Information may also be shared by using *p3tips.com*. You can remain anonymous and earn the reward.

18 Penny for Progress meetings held to inform voters in every district

BY DEIRDRE CURRIN
deirdre@theitem.com

In November 2022, for the first time since it was first voted on in 2008, Sumter's Penny for Progress did not pass by a slim margin. This was accredited to a lack of public information regarding the Penny for Progress initiative, and as a result, a different approach was taken this election year.

Sumter EDGE (Economic Development Growth Engine) held 18 individual Penny for Progress meetings throughout each district from Oct. 1 to Oct. 10. One hundred twenty-nine people attended the meetings, according to Joe Perry with Sumter County Government.

Speakers at the meetings began by stating they were only trying to inform voters and not sway them one way or another.

"My goal is not to tell you how to vote," Sumter EDGE Manager of Communications and Strategic Initiatives Erika Williams said during her penny presentation. "My goal here this evening is just to educate you, to tell you your options, and when you decide — because I feel pretty confident you're here, so you're planning on voting Nov. 5, and I just want to arm you so that if you decide to vote yay or nay, it is your choice."

Meetings were held in each district's community centers as well as the three HOPE centers throughout the City of Sumter.



Sumter EDGE Manager of Communications and Strategic Initiatives Erika Williams gives a Penny for Progress presentation at the Rembert Rafting Creek Community Center on Monday, Oct. 7.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY SUMTER COUNTY

One concern about the current penny project list and past penny project lists is how it will contribute to rural areas.

"Last year, by voting no, mission accomplished, we (rural voters) were heard," one attendant of a Rembert Penny for Progress meeting said. "All of y'all are out here in the rural areas now holding these meetings tells me that we were heard."

This year's list contains 30 projects: seven public safety, six quality of life, 14 infrastructure and three economic development projects for \$124.9 million in total, with a majority, \$64 million, going toward infrastructure.

If the Penny for Progress initiative gets a majority approval from voters this November, there will be an added charge of 1% of the sales tax imposed that will fund capital projects, and it will be active for no more than eight years if voters approve it, according to previous *The Item* reporting.

This tax would not be paid on purchases of gas, medical supplies, prescription drugs or fresh groceries.

One point the meeting presenters made was that more than 30% of the Penny projects will be paid for by non-residents. Other counties

also have a penny tax imposed, such as Florence County, that Sumter residents must pay when visiting the area.

"I just want you to be aware, I just want you to have an understanding so if it is yes, it's like 'I feel confident about this, and this is why,'" Williams said. "If you opt to vote against it, then I want you to know why as well."

If you missed the penny meetings, the PowerPoint that was presented is available at www.pennyforprogress.com. This PowerPoint breaks down what projects are going where as well as the history behind the 2008 and 2014 penny taxes.

District Teacher Forum will host Meet The Candidates Oct. 22

4 Sumter school board races are on ballot

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

With four school board seats on the ballot in November, the Sumter School District Teacher Forum will host a Meet The Candidates night for the public on Tuesday, Oct. 22.

A district spokeswoman distributed a flyer on the event, which will be held at Sumter High School, to *The Sumter Item* this week.

A total of seven candidates are on the ballot in three contested races and one uncontested race.

The forum will begin with a meet-and-greet in the main lobby at Sumter High from 5:30 to 6:20 p.m., according to the flyer. The public should enter the school's campus through Gate 1.

A panel discussion with questions for each candidate will follow from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. in the school's auditorium.

The three contested races are for Area 1, where incumbent Daniel Palumbo faces Brian Alston. In Area 2, incumbent Brittany English is running against Chris Patten, while incumbent Bonnie Disney faces Desaray Ross for the Area 9 seat.

Gloria Rose Lee, a former trustee from 2020 to 2022, is the lone candidate on the ballot for Area 7. Her only competition will be from write-in candidates. Current Area 7 Trustee Shery White is not

running for reelection and instead is the Republican nominee for Sumter County Council District 5, where she faces incumbent Vivian Fleming-McGhaney.

All school board races are nonpartisan seats. After all

nine board seats were up for election in 2022, the four seats up in this election cycle only served essentially two-year terms to stagger the board for the future. Palumbo, English and Disney have only been in office since January 2023.

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Margaret W. Osteen 1908-1996
THE ITEM

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

the Sumter ITEM

OPINION

Jacqueline B. Osteen Co-OWNER

Graham Osteen Co-OWNER

Kyle Osteen Co-OWNER

Jack Osteen Co-OWNER

Vince Johnson PUBLISHER

36 W. LIBERTY ST., SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA 29150 • Founded October 15, 1894

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ELECTIONS ARE NOT WON ON POPULARITY, POLLS OR MONEY

Now that I have found time from Helene cleanup and volunteering with recovery efforts in the Upstate and North Carolina, I would like to share my view of the recent vice presidential debate.

I have to say I felt it was one of the best debates in modern times. Both candidates were respectful, cordial to one another, stayed on point and messaging while peacefully expressing their differences. Too bad the top of the tickets couldn't have done the same without the Jerry Springer sideshow, grandstanding and facial expressions. This is what Americans want to see, and most of all deserve. Who knew politics could still be civil?

Vance I felt elevated himself in the minds of Americans; he was well spoken, poised, not argumentative. He is quite a gifted debater. He did a good job for the ticket. If he continues to stay away from stupid comments and thinking before he speaks, he could have a bright future in the political arena.

To be fair, I thought Walz did a decent job, a few stumbles but managed to get his messages across.

It was a refreshing change, if not for just one night. I thought that Americans were the true winners. We got to see a true debate.

The loser of the night was Margaret Brennan. If you are going to make rules then they need to apply to everyone, not a select few. Vance was right to call her out. She is a terrible journalist, if you can even call her that. She is very biased and loves to argue with guests on her show. I would like to point out that just a mere 3.4% of journalists and reporters are conservative and Republican. That should be shocking to everyone and an indication of how journalism has eroded over time. Fifty years ago, it was 25.7% conservative. Where is the balance in reporting, unfortunately, there is a definite agenda and you have to be careful and do your own investigating to truth. This is such an important election we all owe it to ourselves to weigh the reports we hear.

I watched Harris' interview with Phil Whitaker on 60 Minutes; I applaud him for challenging her and pointing out her sidestepping; that is what journalists should do regardless of political affiliation.

Elections are not won on popularity, polls or how much money you throw at it, as proven with Hillary Clinton. It may be Hillary 2.0, it's still either candidate to win.

KATHLEEN KREKLAU
Sumter



COMMENTARY

Our goal is to give you what you need to know — and correct the first time

When I was a senior in high school, I was named the copy editor of the Sumter High School's student newspaper, *The Cock's Quill*. My editing confession: At some point that year, we misspelled a school coach's name in the paper, and we published a correction — but we misspelled her name a different way in the correction. I was mortified.

Now, as the assistant editor for my hometown's newspaper, I pay much more attention to people's names. I've heard before the saying that people's names are generally in the paper just twice in their lives, in a birth announcement and later in their obituary, so it's important to get them correct. But we like to celebrate people's successes in our community, too, and what they're doing to help others and make an impact where they are, so we hope people can appear in the paper more often than just twice. We know we need to get things right the first time, not the second or even the third like back in my high school years. I still think about that from time to time, and that was in 2005. To former SHS Coach



Melanie Smith

Raabe, I do apologize.

You as readers wouldn't trust us about anything if we can't get even simple things correct like spelling and grammar.

My job is to help our reporters produce their best work so you will be more informed about what's going on in your area. I enjoy working with them to help them tell stories clearly and concisely while keeping their "voice," or what makes their writing unique to them, alive.

Alongside editing, I design many of the pages you see every week with Rhonda Barrick. We both hope that what we do in terms of design helps you in your daily life, from quick lists of information to pullout boxes about events that are coming up. One of my professors called that "refrigerator journalism" — make it so useful that a reader wants to cut it out and tape it to the fridge for reference.

Our goal at *The Sumter Item* is to give you the information you need to live your best life here in Sumter, whatever that means for you and your family.

As my copy-editing teacher nailed into our heads in college, brevity in journalism is important, too, so thank you for supporting local journalism, and let us know how we can better serve you.

Melanie Smith is assistant editor of *The Sumter Item*.

EDITORIAL PAGE POLICIES

EDITORIALS represent the views of the owners of this newspaper.

COLUMNS AND COMMENTARY are the personal opinion of the writer whose byline appears. Columns from readers should be typed, double-spaced and no more than 850 words. Send them to *The Sumter Item*, Opinion Pages, P.O. Box 1677, Sumter, S.C. 29151, or email to letters@theitem.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are written by readers of the newspaper. They should be no more than 350 words and sent via e-mail to letters@theitem.com, dropped off at *The Sumter Item* office, 36 W. Liberty St. or mailed to *The Sumter Item*, P.O. Box 1677, Sumter, S.C. 29151, along with the full name of the writer, plus an address and telephone number for verification purposes only. Letters that exceed 350 words will be cut accordingly in the print edition, but available in their entirety at www.theitem.com.

COMMENTARY

We must help our own and hit pause button on foreign aid

Hurricane Helene hit our southeastern United States like a blanket of bombs that just kept wreaking catastrophic destruction throughout its path from Florida all the way to Virginia. It's likely to become the deadliest storm in American history by the time all the bodies are recovered.

The television images are horrific. Houses, cars, bridges and families were washed away by the rapidly rising streams. Many thousands were caught off guard as the storm swept away everything they had.

Every part of America is subject to horrific destruction from nature out of control. People in the mountains seldom worry much about tornadoes. Actually, hurricanes are not a typical concern, but an overload of rain is always a concern. The water rolls down the mountain and can quickly turn a



Glenn Mollette

stream into a raging river. A small creek can become a tidal wave rolling down a holler, washing out houses, roads and bridges and taking lives. A quick four inches of rain in almost any Appalachian community creates worry and often panic. A rapid downpour of 10 or more inches of rain almost always means disaster, and 15 to 30 inches of rain like they received in different parts of northwest North Carolina became a weather monster of the ugliest kind in this area's history.

These people need our help, our donations and our prayers. I don't know what you can do, but whatever

you do will surely be greatly appreciated. There are many charities asking for help. Do your own research, and follow your heart. Whether you are able to give \$5 or \$1 million, there is no doubt it is greatly needed. If you can go and help, then God bless you for your efforts and action.

FEMA says it's not broke and the recent rumor they spent all their money on illegal immigrants is not true. They have also reported the \$750 cap to be given to the hurting families is not true either. Time will tell what FEMA will do. Let's wait, watch and see what kind of care they render to so many who are displaced, hungry and emotionally lost.

One thing we do know that is true is that our country has given over \$60 billion to Ukraine to help them fight Russia. We give Israel \$3.8 billion every year. We have approximately

40,000 of our military close by Israel now. How much is this costing? We handed over billions of dollars in military equipment and a state-of-the-art airport to the Taliban in Afghanistan. We have given billions to countries all over the world and continue to do so every year.

Surely our government will come up with a few billion to help our own country. It will take Asheville, North Carolina, and the surrounding areas four to five years to rebuild, and even then, it will not be the same. It will never be the same. However, as Americans, surely we must hit a pause button on all this foreign aid and help our own.

Find books by Glenn Mollette at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Learn more about his books, columns and music at [GlennMollette.com](https://www.GlennMollette.com).

84 Lumber will come to Clarendon County with \$13.4M investment, create 78 jobs

BY SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

84 Lumber, included on Forbes' list of America's largest private companies, this week announced it selected Clarendon County to establish the company's second component plant in South Carolina. The \$13.4 million investment will create 78 new jobs, according to a news release from South Carolina Department of Commerce.

Founded in 1956, 84 Lumber is a provider of building materials, manufactured components and industry-leading services for single- and multi-family residences and commercial buildings. The company operates 320 facilities nationwide and offers installation services for framing, insulation, siding, windows, roofing, decking and drywall.

"We're thrilled to be opening our new component plant in Manning, South Carolina. This facility is an investment



in both the future of the company and the local community. We're bringing a dedicated workforce and cutting-edge technology. We're excited for the bright future as we continue to grow," said Ken Kucera, 84 Lumber vice president of installed sales and manufacturing.

84 Lumber's new operation, which will be at 2678 Ram Bay Road in Manning, will be used as a floor and roof truss manufacturing facility. This is the company's second truss plant in South Carolina, focusing

on coastal Carolina markets in Savannah, Charleston, Myrtle Beach and the surrounding areas. The company's first component plant in the state was announced in December 2023 and is in Lugoff.

The Coordinating Council for Economic Development approved job development credits related to the project. The council also awarded a \$200,000 Rural Infrastructure Fund grant to Clarendon County to assist with the costs of building improvements.

"There's no better way to mark the end of summer than by welcoming a new business to Clarendon County. The arrival of 84 Lumber not only bolsters our manufacturing sector, but also reinforces our forestry industry," said Clarendon County Council Chairman Dwight L. Stewart Jr.

Individuals interested in joining the 84 Lumber team should visit the company's careers page at <https://www.84lumber.com/careers>.

"84 Lumber's decision to invest \$13.4 million in South

Carolina is another victory for our state's thriving business community. We are proud to welcome the company to Clarendon County and look forward to the positive impact it will have in the years ahead," said Gov. Henry McMaster.

"Having grown up in Pennsylvania and witnessed 84 Lumber's positive local impact and growth over the years, I am thrilled to welcome them to Clarendon County as they establish their first operations in our central region. This exciting development is a testament to the momentum we've built, creating a business-friendly environment where companies thrive and residents enjoy an outstanding quality of life. This investment by 84 Lumber not only strengthens our industrial base, but also demonstrates that our region continues to be a prime destination for industry growth and opportunity," said Central SC Alliance Chairman Matthew Shaffer.

Manning High School's Golden Pride travels for competition, earns Superior rating



PHOTO PROVIDED

On Saturday, Sept. 28, the Golden Pride traveled to Dorchester and competed in the Low Country Battle of the Bands hosted by the Woodland High School Marching Band, their second competition of the season. With six bands in their division, the Golden Pride received a rating of Superior: overall second place in Class 2A, first place in Drum Majors for Class 2A, first place Marching for Class 2A and first place Color Guard for Class 2A.

Volunteer advocates needed for local children

STAFF REPORT

The Cass Elias McCarter Guardian ad Litem Program, a division of the South Carolina Department of Children's Advocacy, is offering free online training to those interested in becoming a volunteer guardian ad litem in Clarendon County. Volunteers advocate on behalf of abused and neglected children who are involved in Family Court legal proceedings through the Department of Social Services.

There is just one free virtual training opportunity remaining this year beginning on Nov. 4.

Volunteers should be at least 21 years old, have a clean criminal record, no previous DSS case history and be able to contribute four to five hours a month of your time for a child.

Currently the Clarendon GAL Program is serv-

ing 64 children, but there are only 13 volunteer GALs to assist. While GAL staff fill in the gaps, the need for more volunteers is urgent. "We're always looking for dedicated individuals who are passionate about advocating for children," said LaDara Depugh, director of the South Carolina GAL program.

Visit gal.sc.gov for more information and to download an application. Follow @Cass Elias McCarter Guardian ad Litem Program on Facebook or contact communications@childadvocate.sc.gov to be added to the newsletter for updates and local events in your area.

Contact Brandi Johnson, regional recruiter and trainer for the GAL program, at (843) 731-7622 or brandi.johnson@childadvocate.sc.gov for more information.

CLARENDON COUNTY PRECINCTS

Below are the correct polling places in Clarendon County as provided by Clarendon County Voter Registration and Elections.

ALCOLU 001	Alcolu Fire Station	1612 Main Street Alcolu SC 29001
BARRINEAU 002	Barrineau Fire Station	3803 Saint James Road Lake City, SC 29560
BARROWS MILL 003	Oakdale Union Fire Station	1757 Fire Tower Rd New Zion SC 29111
BLOOMVILLE 004	Liberty Fire Station	5119 Brewer Rd Manning SC 29102
CALVARY 005	Panola Fire Station	1984 Elliot Rd Pinewood SC 29125
DAVIS STATION 006	Laurel Hill AME Church	2032 M W Rickenbaker Rd Manning, SC 29102
HARMONY 007	Harmony Presbyterian Church	8629 Highway 301 Alcolu SC 29001
HICKS 008	Pine Dale Pentecostal Holiness Church	4450 Turbeville Hwy Turbeville SC 29162
HOME BRANCH 009	Paxville Fire Station	2151 Conyers Rd Manning SC 29102
JORDAN 010	Wyboog Fire Station	9699 Highway 260 Manning, SC 29102
MANNING NO 1: 011	Weldon Auditorium	7 Maple Street Manning SC 29102
MANNING NO 2: 012	Clarendon County Administration Building	411 Sunset Drive Manning SC 29102
MANNING NO 3: 013	Manning High School	2155 Paxville Hwy Manning SC 29102
MANNING NO 4: 014	Manning Fire Station	42 W Boyce St Manning SC 29102
MANNING NO 5: 015	Clarendon Community Center (Gym)	10 Maple Street Manning SC 29102
NEW ZION 016	Clarendon County EMS Building	15677 Highway 301 New Zion SC 29111
PAXVILLE 017	Paxville Town Hall	10279 Lewis Rd Manning SC 29102
PANOLA 018	Mt Pleasant Rume Church	14076 Panola Rd Pinewood SC 29125
SARDINIA/GABLE 019	Melina Presbyterian Church	3539 Black River Rd GABLE SC 29051
SUMMERTON NO 1: 020	Summerton Fire Station	6 N Cantey St Summerton SC 29148
SUMMERTON NO 2: 021	Summerton Cultural Arts Center	12 S Church Street Summerton SC 29148
SUMMERTON NO 3: 022	Summerton Community Resource Gym	1154 4 th Street Summerton, SC 29148
TURBEVILLE 023	Pine Grove Methodist Church Annex	1090 Morgan Street Turbeville, SC 29162
WILSON-FORESTON 024	Wilson-Foreston Fire Station	1015 N Brevington Rd Manning SC 29102
OAKDALE 025	Oakdale Union Fire Station	1757 Fire Tower Rd New Zion SC 29111

Briefs

CITY OF MANNING PLANNING COMMISSION MEETS OCT. 14

MANNING — The City of Manning Planning Commission will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 14, in Council Chambers, Manning City Hall. A site plan review for property at 580 S. Mill St., zoned general commercial, is a new request on the agenda. Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication at the meeting should contact Veronica Green at (803) 435-8477, extension 5118, 24 hours prior to the meeting.

TURBEVILLE RURITAN CLUB STUMP MEETING ON OCT. 17

TURBEVILLE — The Turbeville Ruritan Club is sponsoring a Stump Meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17, at the Pine Grove Gymnasium, 1090 Morgan St. The meeting is free and open to the public.

State and local candidates on the Nov. 5 General Election ballot are invited to attend. Candidates need to RSVP to turbevilleruritan@gmail.com.

2024 FRANCIS MARION SYMPOSIUM OCT. 18 AND 19

MANNING — Attention all Revolutionary War enthusiasts. The 2024 Francis Marion Symposium will be held Friday-Saturday, Oct. 18-19, at F.E. DuBose Campus. Take Interstate 95 and Exit 122 to 3351 Sumter Highway.

The symposium will explore the Revolutionary War campaigns while immersing attendees in Francis Marion's world and the importance of the Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution.

The symposium will feature educational lectures, history enthusiasts and dinner theaters.

For more information, log onto www.francismarionsymposium.com or email gcsommers@ftc-i.net.

CCFR SAFETY DAY OCT. 26 INCLUDES TRUNK OR TREAT

MANNING — Clarendon County Fire Rescue's annual Community Safety Day will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, at J.C. Britton Park, 3057 Raccoon Road.

The free event will include "Trunk or Treat," food, candy and lots of other fun activities. Children can even wear their costumes.

Fire trucks, ambulances, a medical helicopter, law enforcement vehicles, tractors and more cool stuff will be there.

HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT AT WALKER GAMBLE PARK OCT. 30

NEW ZION — A Halloween Trunk or Treat will be held from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 30 at Walker Gamble Park, 2158 Walker Gamble Road. Folks will be able to enjoy candy, activities and games.

Vendors are needed. Contact Linda Jackson at (843) 598-8210 for more information.

Don't forget to wear your costume!

K&H RESOURCE CENTER ADULT SNEAKER BALL DEC. 21

SUMMERTON — The Second-annual K&H Resource Center Fund-raiser "Steppin' into the Holidays" Adult Sneaker Ball will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, at the Clarendon County Resource Center Gym, 1154 Fourth St.

Doors open at 6 p.m., and the event begins at 7 p.m. Advance tickets are \$25 each, and reserved tables seating eight are available for \$200.

For more information, contact Kathleen L. Gibson at (803) 225-0832.

Pets of the week

Mario is an 11-month-old, brindle-and-white, male shepherd mix. He has been neutered, is current on vaccinations and tested negative for heartworms. Mario is an energetic dog who loves to play. He enjoys attention and loves being near his people. Mario seems to get along with most other dogs. He would benefit from being adopted by an active family because he is rather energetic. Mario seems very intelligent, so we think he would be a quick learner when it comes to obedience. If you are interested in adopting Mario, you can get preapproved to adopt by submitting your adoption application online at www.ASecondChanceAnimalShelter.com. Our adoption fee for dogs is \$125.

PHOTOS PROVIDED



Brody is a 5.5-month-old, brown tabby, male domestic shorthair kitten. Brody is current on vaccinations, neutered and tested negative for Feline Leukemia and Feline AIDs. He can be a little shy when he first meets you but warms up pretty quickly. With some time, Brody is very affectionate and loving. He gets along with other cats. Brody is very playful. He also has several brothers and sisters that are up for adoption. Our adoption fee for Brody is \$100. If you are interested in adopting Brody, you can get preapproved to adopt by submitting your adoption application online at www.ASecondChanceAnimalShelter.com.

THE

Clarendon Sun

CLASSIFIEDS

DEADLINE TUESDAY 11AM

LEGAL NOTICES

Summons & Notice

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
FOR THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF CLARENDON
C/A No.: 2024-CP-1400447
SUMMONS AND NOTICE

Sarah T. Johnson, f/k/a Sarah Nell Thraikill, and William A. Johnson, IV,

Plaintiff

vs.

John Doe, a fictitious person, representing as a class, all unknown persons who claim or might claim an interest in the property described in the within action, and Richard Roe, a fictitious person representing as a class, all persons suffering under legal disability who claim or might claim an interest or lien upon the property described in the within action.

Defendants

SUMMONS TO: THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this Action, which, together with the Summons, and Lis Pendens was filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Clarendon County on the 30th day of September, 2024, a copy of which is hereby served upon you and to serve a copy of your Answer to the said Complaint on the subscribers, Johnson | DuRant, LLC, PO Box 137, Manning, SC 29102, within thirty (30) days after service hereof, exclusive of the day of said service; and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, the Plaintiff herein will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN AD LITEM NISI
YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that Scott L. Robinson, Esquire of Clarendon County, South Carolina has been appointed Guardian ad Litem Nisi in the above entitled action by an Order dated October 4, 2024, and that such Order will become absolute thirty (30) days after the last publication of the Summons herein unless such Defendants as may be infants, incompetents, nonresidents or otherwise under any legal disability or someone in their behalf, in the meantime, shall procure the appointment of a Guardian ad Litem Nisi; and that such Order is on file in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Clarendon County, South Carolina.

JOHNSON | DURANT, LLC
BY: s/William H. Johnson
William H. Johnson, S.C. Bar No. 15167
PO Box 137 - 411 N. Brooks St. Manning, South Carolina 29102
Telephone: (803) 435-0909
Facsimile: (855) 926-0923
william@jdnlawfirm.com
Attorney for Plaintiff
October 7, 2024

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF CLARENDON
CASE NO.: 2024-CP-14-00230
(Quiet Title / Partition)
(Non-Jury)
SUMMONS

Arnold Blanding, Plaintiff,

vs.

Vernice B. Pearson, Bertie B. Martin, Alfred Blanding, Jr., Frances Blanding, Angela Michelle Brown, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Dennis Blanding, Deion Blanding, individually, and as Personal Representative of the Estate of Dennis Blanding,

Summons & Notice

DeAnthony Blanding, John F. McDuffie, II, Sidney A. McDuffie, Ricky R. Blanding, Audriena J. Blanding, Bank of America N.A., Velocity Investments, LLC, John Doe, a fictitious person, representing as a class, all unknown persons who claim or might claim to be heirs of Alfred Blanding, Sr., Sylvia McDuffie, Audrey Nell Blanding, and/or Myrtle Blanding, or who claim or might a claim an interest in or lien upon the property described herein, and Richard Roe, a fictitious person representing as a class, all persons suffering under legal disability and claiming or might claim to be an heir at law of Alfred Blanding, Sr., Sylvia McDuffie, Audrey Nell Blanding, and/or Myrtle Blanding, or who claim or might a claim an interest in or lien upon the property described herein, Defendants.

TO: THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this Action, which, together with the Summons, and Lis Pendens was filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Clarendon County, a copy of which is hereby served upon you and to serve a copy of your Answer to the said Complaint on the subscribers, Johnson | DuRant, LLC, Post Office Box 137, Manning, South Carolina 29102, within thirty (30) days after service hereof, exclusive of the day of said service; and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, the Plaintiff herein will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

JOHNSON | DURANT, LLC
BY:s/Christopher R. DuRant
S.C. Bar No. 78080
PO Box 137
411 N. Brooks St.
Manning, South Carolina 29102
Telephone: (803) 435-0909
Facsimile: (803) 435-2858
chris@jdnlawfirm.com
Attorney for the Plaintiff
May 30, 2024

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CLARENDON
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

SUMMONS AND NOTICES
(Non-Jury)
FORECLOSURE
OF REAL ESTATE
MORTGAGE

C/A NO.: 2023-CP-14-00398

Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, Plaintiff,

v.
New Residential Investment Corp. s/b/m to Ditech Financial, LLC s/b/m to Green Tree Financial Services Corp.; Any heirs-at-law or devisees of Isabel Bosier a/k/a Isabelle Bosier, deceased, their heirs, Personal Representatives, Administrators, Successors and Assigns, and all other persons or entities entitled to claim through them; all unknown persons or entities with any right, title, estate, interest in or lien upon the real estate described in the complaint herein; also any persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America, being a class designated as Richard Roe; and any unknown minors, incompetent or imprisoned person, or persons under a disability being a class designated as John Doe; Community Choice Credit Union s/b/m to FME Federal Credit Union; South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles, Defendant(s).

TO THE DEFENDANT(S) ABOVE NAMED:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend by answering the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is hereby served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer on the subscribers at their offices at 3800 Fernandina Road, Suite 110, Columbia, SC 29210,

Summons & Notice

within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; except that the United States of America, if named, shall have sixty (60) days to answer after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to do so, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

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

YOU WILL ALSO TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff will move for an Order of Reference or the Court may issue a general Order of Reference of this action to a Master-in-Equity/Special Referee, pursuant to Rule 53 of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure.

YOU WILL ALSO TAKE NOTICE that under the provisions of S.C. Code Ann. § 29-3-100, effective June 16, 1993, any collateral assignment of rents contained in the referenced Mortgage is perfected and Attorney for Plaintiff hereby gives notice that all rents shall be payable directly to it by delivery to its undersigned attorneys from the date of default. In the alternative, Plaintiff will move before a judge of this Circuit on the 10th day after service hereof, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, for an Order enforcing the assignment of rents, if any, and compelling payment of all rents covered by such assignment directly to the Plaintiff, which motion is to be based upon the original Note and Mortgage herein and the Complaint attached hereto.

LIS PENDENS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT an action has been or will be commenced in this Court upon complaint of the above-named Defendant(s) for the foreclosure of a certain mortgage of real estate given by Isabelle Bosier to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Embrace Home Loans, Inc. dated February 19, 2015 and recorded on February 27, 2015 in Book 1039 at Page 125, in the Clarendon County Registry (hereinafter, "Mortgage"). Thereafter, the Mortgage was transferred to the Plaintiff herein by assignment and/or corporate merger. The premises covered and affected by the said Mortgage and by the foreclosure thereof were, at the time of the making thereof and at the time of the filing of this notice, more particularly described in the said Mortgage and are more commonly described as:

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land, together with the improvements thereon, if any, situate, lying and being in School District #2, Clarendon County, State of South Carolina, being shown and designated as Lot #17 as shown on that certain plat prepared by Oliver and Gamble, Surveyors, dated January 7, 1972, and recorded in the said Office of the Clerk of Court for Clarendon County in Plat Book 24 at Page 204, and having such notes and bounds as are shown on said plat, this description being in lieu of metes and bounds, as permitted under Section 30-5-250 of the 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina.

TOGETHER with 1988 Horton Summit manufactured home bearing VIN H58605GL&R.

This being the same property conveyed to David L. Spann and Isabelle Spann, as as tenants in common with right of survivorship, by deed of Vernard A. Mooneyhan dated February 10, 1979, and

Summons & Notice

recorded February 12, 1979, in Book A-90 at Page 149 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Clarendon County, South Carolina. Thereafter, David L. Spann conveyed his interest in the subject property to Isabelle Spann n/k/a Isabel Bosier by deed dated May 8, 1998, and recorded June 5, 1998, in Book A348 at Page 49 in said Records. Subsequently, Isabelle Spann n/k/a Isabel Bosier conveyed the subject property to Isabel Bosier by deed dated March 30, 2001, and recorded April 23, 2001, in Book A438 at Page 45 in said Records. Thereafter, Isabel Bosier a/k/a Isabelle Bosier conveyed the subject property to Isabelle Bosier by deed dated February 19, 2015, and recorded February 27, 2015, in Book 912 at Page 204 in said Records. Subsequently, Isabelle Bosier passed away on November 1, 2022, leaving the subject property to her heirs or devisees.

TMS No. 020-00-01-033-00
Property Address:
1146 Billups Rd, Pinewood, SC 29125
NOTICE OF FILING COMPLAINT TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED:

YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the original Complaint, Cover Sheet for Civil Actions and Certificate of Exemption from ADR in the above entitled action was filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Clarendon County on November 9, 2023.

ORDER APPOINTING GUARDIAN AD LITEM NISI

It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court, upon reading the filed Petition for Appointment of Kelley Woody, Esquire as Guardian ad Litem Nisi for unknown minors, and persons who may be under a legal disability, and it appearing that Kelley Woody, Esquire has consented to said appointment, it is ORDERED that Kelley Woody, P.O. Box 6432, Columbia, SC 29260 phone (803) 787-9678, be and hereby is appointed Guardian ad Litem Nisi on behalf of all unknown minors and all unknown persons who may be under a legal disability, all of whom may have or claim to have some interest or claim to the real property commonly known as 1146 Billups Rd, Pinewood, SC 29125; that he is empowered and directed to appear on behalf of and represent said Defendants, unless said Defendants, or someone on their behalf, shall within thirty (30) days after service of a copy hereof as directed, procure the appointment of Guardian or Guardians ad Litem for said Defendants.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this Order shall be forth with served upon said Defendants by publication in The Clarendon Sun, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Clarendon, State of South Carolina, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, together with the Summons and Notice of Filing of Complaint in the above entitled action.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
3800 Fernandina Road,
Suite 110
Columbia, SC 29210
Phone (803) 454-3540 Fax
(803) 454-3541
Attorneys for Plaintiff

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF CLARENDON
(QUIET TITLE/ PARTITION)
(Non-Jury)
SUMMONS
C/A NO.: 2024-CP-14-0440

William Conyers, Plaintiff,

vs.

Queen Hardy, John Doe, a fictitious person, representing as a class, all unknown persons or legal entity who claim or might claim to be an heir of Rosetta L. Gamble, or who claim or might claim any right, title, interest

Summons & Notice

in or lien upon the real property described herein, and Richard Roe, a fictitious person representing as a class, all persons suffering under legal disability who claim or might claim to be an heir at law of Rosetta L. Gamble, or who claim to have any right, title, claim, interest in or lien upon the real property described herein, Defendant(s).

TO: THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this Action, which, together with the Summons, and Lis Pendens was filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Clarendon County, a copy of which is hereby served upon you and to serve a copy of your Answer to the said Complaint on the subscribers, Johnson | DuRant, LLC, Post Office Box 137, Manning, South Carolina 29102, within thirty (30) days after service hereof, exclusive of the day of said service; and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, the Plaintiff herein will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

JOHNSON | DURANT, LLC
BY: s/Christopher R. DuRant
S.C. Bar No. 78080
PO Box 137
411 N. Brooks St.
Manning, South Carolina 29102
Telephone: (803) 435-0909
Facsimile: (803) 435-2858
chris@jdnlawfirm.com
Attorney for the Plaintiff
September 23, 2024.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
FOR THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF CLARENDON
C/A No.: 2024-CP-1400341
Summons and Notice

Lester C. Thompson, III, Plaintiff

vs.

John Doe, a fictitious person, representing as a class, all unknown persons who claim or might claim to be an heir of Mamie C. Haley, Carolyn McDonald, John C. Haley, Sandra Haley Durrence., or who claim or might claim an interest in the property described in the within action, and Richard Roe, a fictitious person representing as a class, all persons suffering under legal disability who claim or might claim to be an heir of Mamie C. Haley, Carolyn McDonald, John C. Haley, Sandra Haley Durrence., or who claim or might claim an interest or lien upon the property described in the within action. Defendants

SUMMONS TO: THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this Action, which, together with the Summons, and Lis Pendens was filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Clarendon County on the 23rd day of July, 2024, a copy of which is hereby served upon you and to serve a copy of your Answer to the said Complaint on the subscribers, Johnson | DuRant, LLC, PO Box 137, Manning, SC 29102, within thirty (30) days after service hereof, exclusive of the day of said service; and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, the Plaintiff herein will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN AD LITEM NISI
YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that Scott L. Robinson, Esquire of Clarendon County, South Carolina has been appointed Guardian ad Litem Nisi in the above entitled action by an Order dated September 19, 2024, and that such Order will become absolute thirty (30) days after the last publication of the Summons herein unless such Defendants as may be infants, incompetents, nonresidents or

Summons & Notice

otherwise under any legal disability or someone in their behalf, in the meantime, shall procure the appointment of a Guardian ad Litem Nisi; and that such Order is on file in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Clarendon County, South Carolina.

JOHNSON | DURANT, LLC
BY: s/William H. Johnson
William H. Johnson, S.C. Bar No. 15167
PO Box 137 - 411 N. Brooks St. Manning, South Carolina 29102
Telephone: (803) 435-0909
Facsimile: (855) 926-0923
william@jdnlawfirm.com
Attorney for Plaintiff
September 19, 2024

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: Lois Lawrence Hewitt AKA Lois Alene Hewitt
#2024ES1400233

Personal Representative: Nathaniel McDuffie
7964 Moses Dingle Rd
Manning, SC 29102

Estate: Mildred Pauline Katzenberger
#2024ES1400239

Personal Representative: Lorraine Cissy McCleod
35 Geddings Rd
Sumter, SC 29150

Estate: Margaree Hilton Thames
#2024ES1400230

Personal Representative: Wilbur Thames
405 Major Dr.
Manning, SC 29102

Park it in the CLASSIFIEDS and watch it go fast!



STAFF FROM PAGE A1

but I do try to have a servant’s heart. Some days, I fail.

What’s something you’ve learned in the process?

Work has a domino effect. There is always someone depending on you to get your job done so they can get their job done. Just do your job.

How has working at a newspaper changed you?

I think it has made me more compassionate in some ways and hardened in others.

What’s something you wish more people knew about your role or newspapers in general?

I wish more people recognized the importance of both the printed paper as well as the website. I love that we can put the news out on the website quickly for our readers, but I also love the act of cutting an article or photo out of the printed paper to keep as a cherished memory. Just something about newsprint. It is like holding a book instead of an e-reader.

What’s something completely non-newspaper-related about yourself?

I want to go to Harry Potter World.

KAREN CAVE

Briefly explain your role:

Multi-media advertising sales representative



Why did you get into this industry?

My friend’s husband, who was *The Item’s* press manager at the time, offered me a job working as the

pressroom and distribution department assistant.

What’s your newspaper/journalism journey to today?

I have worked at *The Sumter Item* for 22 years. I started as the pressroom/distribution department’s assistant completing daily press reports, newsprint paper, ink, press plate inventory and warehouse assistant logging in pallets of preprints as they arrived. I worked in this area for two years.

I then transferred to the circulation department as a district manager of 19 carrier routes for about a year. When there was an opening, I was asked if I would like to work in the advertising department. Being the adventurous person that I am, I transferred to the advertising front desk then to the outside sales rep position. I have been an ad sales rep for the last 18 years, and I love it!

What’s something you’ve learned in the process?

Even though changing positions can be a little scary, change can be a good thing. In my case, transferring between three different departments in *The Sumter Item* was a great thing. I have learned tremendous knowledge about the ins and outs of the newspaper publishing business from working in these different positions. I have found my niche and am doing what I love.

How has working at a newspaper changed you?

Being a newspaper sales rep has made me more outgoing and taken me out of my shell. I’m not as shy as I once was. I now enjoy meeting and talking to new people. I also enjoy working hard for my advertising clients and helping their businesses grow.

What’s something you wish more people knew about your role or newspapers in general?

I am thankful for all the knowledge I have obtained through working at *The Item*. I’m also thankful that the Osteen family has kept me around this long ...

What’s something completely non-newspaper related about yourself?

I’m a wife, mother of three beautiful daughters, Valerie, Angelica and Allison. I’m known as Grandma to eight sweet grandchildren, Krista, Blake, Kaylee, Bentley, Loghen, Braylen, Luke and Brennan.

DEIRDRE CURRIN

Briefly explain your role:

I am a reporter! I cover the government beat, but I also enjoy covering anything that shows Sumter’s history.

Why did you get into this industry?

I decided to be a journalist when there was a lot of talk surrounding “fake



CURRIN

What’s your newspaper/journalism journey to today?

I have grown a lot since I started writing journalistically three years ago. I started with my school paper, progressed to two local papers in Florence, and now I am at *The Item*! I have only just started discovering my voice in writing, so I am excited to see what my writing will look like 10 years from now.

What’s something you’ve learned in the process?

Journalism and writing for newspapers has taught me that stories from community members are some of the most important that I will write, not the major stories that come from city officials. Though those are important, too, I’ve learned that telling smaller stories can have a bigger impact.

How has working at a newspaper changed you?

Working at a newspaper has helped me get a handle on my anxiety. As a reporter with an anxiety disorder (inherited from my father, thanks, Dad), people tell me all the time that I picked an interesting job. I did, but I love this job too much to let that get in my way. I know that I will never be the loudest person in the room, and I likely will never be comfortable enough to shove a camera in someone’s face, but the growth that I have shown has really shocked me.

What’s something you wish more people knew about your role or newspapers in general?

What I really wish people knew was how lucky they are to have a local paper like *The Item*. *The Item* puts out magazines, a free monthly paper and two papers a week, all while updating its website regularly. When I found *The Item* while looking for a new job, I was shocked by the size of their staff and the history behind the paper. This local paper is probably one in a million. I loved the papers that I worked for in Florence — they were amazing, too! But I would kill to have what we have here in Darlington and Florence County.

What’s something completely non-newspaper related about yourself?

I love my fiancé, the Sims 4, my two cats, my family, most video games, NYT crosswords, reading paperbacks, coffee and pasta. In that order.

ADAM FLASH

Briefly explain your role:

My role as a photojournalist is to tell stories visually and help others in brainstorming how to tell stories visually. That comes in the form of photos and other visual elements meant to accompany written stories as well as stand-alone visual stories.



FLASH

Why did you get into this industry?

I really enjoy the satisfying feeling of telling people’s stories: taking a photo you’re proud of or finishing a piece of writing or video after struggling with the jigsaw puzzle of piecing elements together to flow in the best way. It feels good to physically be out around town connecting with people and highlight both the good and bad aspects in the community.

What’s your newspaper/journalism journey to today?

I started with my high school newspaper. While I already enjoyed writing, it was there I realized I enjoyed nonfiction writing and storytelling specifically as well as the team aspect of journalism, all having individual roles but coming together to produce a physical newspaper you could hold and be proud of. As a teenager, I also became interested in photography but didn’t combine the two until college. In college at Hofstra University, I majored in journalism but decided to pursue photojournalism specifically while working at the school’s newspaper and for other student media organizations like the radio and TV stations. Now, I’m here in Sumter, working in local journalism, telling important stories around the community.

What’s something you’ve learned in the process?

Each story deserves 100% care and that people’s willingness to share is

not something to take for granted. While a journalist may have three assignments in a day, for example, and every photoshoot or story throughout a week may start to blend together as it can be a lot, each one is letting you into their lives (sometimes their literal homes) and deserves for their story to be told to the best of your ability.

How has working at a newspaper changed you?

Working at a newspaper has helped me combat my introverted nature and become more comfortable interacting with people, especially strangers. As journalists, we interact with countless people around the community every day, and it can be nerve-wracking photographing or interviewing people you don’t know, but over time it becomes easier. It makes you realize most people are friendly and willing to help.

What’s something you wish more people knew about your role or newspapers in general?

Newspapers are important and worth supporting. Local journalists are extremely hard-working, and while some of the time it’s glamorous getting to cover cool events or meet special people, the day-to-day is a grind, and it’s all because we believe in the work we’re doing.

What’s something completely non-newspaper-related about yourself?

I’m very outdoorsy and love to hike and rock climb.

MICAH GREEN

Briefly explain your role:

Photojournalist and I run the visual storytelling side of the newsroom, which includes photography and videography



GREEN

Why did you get into this industry?

To begin with, I wanted to write and thought I could be close to the things I liked, like music, sports and the arts.

What’s your newspaper/journalism journey to today?

I went to school for journalism at Mississippi State University and worked for the student paper, which got me access to football sidelines and introduced me to people and places I hadn’t been exposed to before. While I was still in school, I got a job as a reporter at the daily newspaper in the town over and ran its Starkville bureau, which really just meant I had to cover everything. That’s where I picked up a camera for the first time and quickly realized photography is the form of journalism and storytelling that most resonated with me. From there, I started working for our publisher, Vince, at a paper north of Atlanta, and I came to *The Item* when he took the job here, too.

What’s something you’ve learned in the process?

There’s much more gray in the world than any black and white.

How has working at a newspaper changed you?

It’s made me appreciate what can be the mundaneness of day-to-day life and to see, not just to look.

What’s something you wish more people knew about your role or newspapers in general?

There is a real effort to get things right and that there are real people behind the bylines.

What’s something completely non-newspaper related about yourself?

I have an English setter named Breeze, and she’s the best. At the office, she’s our chief morale officer.

CARY HOWARD

Briefly explain your role:

I am a graphic designer. I design ads and newspapers for *The Lexington County Chronicle*, *The Bluffton Sun* and *The Hilton Head Sun* (all sister papers to The Item) and design ads and Sumter’s Next Generation for *The Sumter Item*.



HOWARD

Why did you get into this industry?

I had always loved reading the paper at my parents’ house growing up, looking at all of the pretty ads. *The Item* was looking for a part-time graphic designer, and a friend who worked at the paper at the time encouraged me to apply.

How has working at a newspa-

per changed you?

It’s made me more aware of what’s going on in the world around me.

What’s something you wish more people knew about your role or newspapers in general?

I wish people knew how hard of a job working at a newspaper is.

What’s something completely non-newspaper related about yourself?

I absolutely love horror movies, slashers, thrillers, zombie, anything horror.

VINCE JOHNSON

Briefly explain your role:

Publisher since 2017



JOHNSON

Why did you get into this industry?

I enjoyed journalism in college, whether it be writing, editing, hosting or producing. Initially, I wanted to be a SportsCenter anchor, and I got as far as being a finalist for ESPN’s Dream Job while in college, but, ultimately, I got my first job in local news after graduation. It’s certainly evolved into a lifelong passion.

What’s your newspaper/journalism journey to today?

I’ve worked for various family owned local news companies throughout my career, from Georgia to California to Alabama and South Carolina. My roles have been ever-changing, from producing digital content and writing sports to creating new products and evolving local advertising options. Local news will be important forever, but the way it’s delivered continues to change. It’s been a mission of mine to drive meaningful transformation that helps people and communities.

What’s something you’ve learned in the process?

People matter most. We’re all multi-faceted people before we’re journalists or employees.

How has working at a newspaper changed you?

More than 2,500 newspapers across the country have closed since I’ve joined the industry. More than 50% of local journalism jobs across the country have gone away. Knowing how much these realities negatively impact local communities and our world strengthens my resolve to find solutions and a path forward. Sumter is a wonderful community that needs the local news and information *The Item* provides, and when you see we’re making changes, it’s with the ultimate betterment of the community in mind.

What’s something you wish more people knew about your role or newspapers in general?

Most people don’t know what a publisher is, and really, it’s an outdated industry term. Today, I oversee daily operations of *The Item*, from content to advertising to delivery to digital operations. We have a wonderful staff that executes these on a daily basis, and I support them however I can.

What’s something completely non-newspaper-related about yourself?

Everly, our first child, is 6 months old, so life has changed dramatically recently. She’s a joy and our greatest blessing.

TIM LEIBLE

Briefly explain your role:

Sports editor



LEIBLE

Why did you get into this industry?

I wasn’t good enough to play college football, so writing about it was the next best thing. I say that in jest, but I’ve always been a massive

sports fan, and journalism was the most obvious choice for staying involved with the sports I love.

What’s your newspaper/journalism journey to today?

I went to the University of Missouri School of Journalism, graduating with a degree in convergence journalism. I then moved to the Lake of the Ozarks, where I worked for the now-defunct *Lake Today* (a troubling reality in our current media landscape). From there, I moved to Rolla, Missouri, where I worked for *The Rolla Daily News* as the sports editor. From there, I made my way here to Sumter, where I started as a sports reporter before taking over as the sports editor.

What’s something you’ve

learned in the process?

The world of news moves fast. As I’m writing this, we’ve recently had changes to the high school sports season due to Hurricane Helene. In the past few weeks, I’ve attended football games on four different days of the week (just missing Tuesday for our weeknight games) for the same reason. I was here in Sumter during COVID-19, when things changed on a dime. You’ve got to stay on your toes at all times to keep people informed in this industry.

How has working at a newspaper changed you?

I’m definitely more critical of the media that I consume since joining the industry. I always take time to make sure information comes from trusted sources rather than just sharing any headline that comes across my feed.

What’s something you wish more people knew about your role or newspapers in general?

Things take time. I’m sure everyone expects a story from every single game the second after it ends. Unfortunately, I can’t be at 12 football games at once on a Friday night, so that means my weekend is spent trying to track down coaches. As much as I’d love to be able to turn around a full Friday night of action by the time the sun comes up on Saturday, that’s a tough thing to manage in the best circumstances.

What’s something completely non-newspaper-related about yourself?

Well, the newspaper industry certainly takes up a lot of my time, but when I’m not in stadiums and gyms across the tri-county, you would probably find me watching some football in the fall and baseball in the summer into the fall. But my world isn’t entirely filled with sports; I love video games (I’ve been loving the new Legend of Zelda game) and cooking, too.

BRUCE MILLS

Briefly explain your role:

I am the education and business beat reporter for *The Item*. For most things related to K-12, higher education and business/industry, I cover it and also work with our photographer and videographer.



MILLS

Why did you get into this industry?

Actually, I was a major sports fan in my 20s, and that is what got me into public relations and then journalism. For essentially the first five years of my career in the field, I was a sports writer. I transferred over to the news side when I moved to Sumter in 2002, and now I know absolutely nothing about sports.

What’s your newspaper/journalism journey to today?

I started in college sports public relations then covered sports online for a major media outlet. Next, I was the managing editor for two professional baseball team newspapers (Go Red Sox and Mets!) In 2002, I moved to Sumter to work on the news copy desk for *The Item*. After four years, I took a position as a research analyst for a regional agency that served Sumter, Clarendon, Lee and Kershaw counties. My research focus was K-12 and postsecondary education, business and industry trends and the greater concept of workforce development. Now, back at the paper, my research focus from that time are the beats that I cover.

What’s something you’ve learned in the process?

Write on a level that everyone can easily understand. “Keep the cookies on the bottom shelf” is what I often say to myself.

How has working at a newspaper changed you?

I can relate to more people and carry on conversations with people from all walks of life.

What’s something completely non-newspaper related about yourself?

I am a major fan of the Chicago Cubs and N.C. State Wolfpack basketball.

JACK OSTEEN

Briefly explain your role:

Fifth-generation newspaper owner of *The Sumter Item*

Why did you get into this industry?

As a family newspaper owner, I felt like

GREEN FROM PAGE A1

I was in the crosswalk heading into the journalism school building when some speedy student crashed into me. As I was laying there waiting to get checked for a concussion, I must have appeared as an opportunity. Though I didn’t talk to anyone except the paramedic, the incident appeared in the student paper the next day. And they got some information wrong.

So, now, not only was I learning to love journalism, I had learned firsthand the power of talking to people in a story to get your facts right.

Fast forward to that first full gig. I was at a weekly paper outside of Atlanta. Like so many around the country, the paper wasn’t doing well financially. They had to pick one of the two reporters to keep on, and they chose the new guy with more experience. I’d been there almost a year.

But, as fate or whatever you want to call it would have it, their sister paper had an opening. The publisher there was Vince Johnson, who I’ve been working with since. I’ve worked my way up through the newsroom, from clerking as a teenager to now serving as executive editor. Oh, and the photographer at that sister paper was Micah. We’re about to celebrate our fifth anniversary.

I’m not a big “everything happens for a reason” person because I find the idea is often distorted to rationalize truly horrible tragedy. But, looking back, I can see a path. I’ve learned to be flexible and adaptable. To look for new opportunities and work toward a goal even when the goalposts move.

These words — flexibility, adaptability, innovation — put into action are critical at newspapers like ours and across the country. We’re losing a newspaper a week across the U.S., according to The State of Local News Project from Northwestern University, a path that will mean the country will have lost a third of its newspapers since 2005 by the end of this year. People who live in 204 counties live in a news desert, which means they don’t have a paper, local digital site, public radio newsroom or ethnic publication that serves their local community. So, many turn to national news sources.

But it’s in the city council and school board meetings, the small business openings, the interactions between neighbors, where life really flourishes. Social media and national news, 24/7 cable networks, swing toward the negative. In the nooks and crannies of everyday life, we find the full picture of a community. One where people help each other. Where they work hard to bring money home for their family. Where they try to build and grow and love, and they struggle and sometimes fall down and sometimes go down the wrong path but live full, complete lives. That’s what local newspapers show. They show a community as it is, tell the stories no one else is telling.

Newspapers are so important to the people they serve. They show that even if you get hit by a bike, keep going. If one path dead ends, take a machete and cleave a new one. Because you never know where it will lead.

Kayla Green is executive editor of *The Sumter Item*.

MAPLE FROM PAGE A1

Vince Johnson that plays in my head on days when I need a reminder of how I started in this industry. Though I’ve always had a knack for writing, the one topic I steered clear of was sports. Which is why stumbling upon a sports reporter application for *The Sumter Item* seemed way out of my league. But when I questioned if I should, that meek voice in my head said, “Why not?”

When Vince called and said, “We see something different for you,” I would have never thought different meant destined. I started on Oct. 1, 2021, five months removed from college life — COVID-19 style, lacking true work experience and equal parts eager and nauseated at starting my first big-girl job. I walked into 36 W. Liberty St. greeted by smiling faces and newspaper front pages that detailed a long lineage. At the ripe age of 21, I didn’t know if I was the right fit to help keep that lineage alive — but I planned to give it all I have. And I got a lot more than I gave these past three years.

My love for writing adventures grew into a passion for fostering connections. Whether it be introducing our community to a new, friendly face or familiarizing them with the ones who patrol our streets every day, documenting how our next generation has a good head on their shoulders (no matter how hard it is to decipher their everchanging slang) and sharing how pain felt across our community fuels our purpose to fight for a better future, whatever the journey is, I am honored to be one of the hands our readers hold to form those connections.

My reluctance to be in the spotlight turned into a desire to lead. And that may be self-centered of me, but leading is not all about taking charge. A leader can simply be someone designated to listen, to confide in and bounce ideas off of. A leader can be someone who is needed in times of turmoil to quiet the fray and make sense of the chaos. A leader can be someone who sets the tone and keeps the tempo. A leader can be what you need them to be, and that’s what I’ve wanted to be for our newsroom, our company and our community. I have a desire to lead in any capacity they need me because I know there is so much more for us to ac-

complish, together. My need for learning has fueled my commitment to be better. In this line of work, I’ve learned that your comfort zone is the last place you should be. True growth, the kind that leaves you reeling long after the experience is over, blown away and beyond proud of yourself, is what you should strive for. That no matter how nerve wracking it may be in the moments before and overwhelming it is when you’re in the thick of it, neither will compare to how blissful the success feels, looks and, for journalists, reads when you’ve conquered what you once thought was impossible. Learning about new beats, new skills, new terminology, new people and new places not only benefits our readers, but also myself as I become a well-rounded community member. And who wants to be one dimensional?

In my life plans, scribbled in countless high school notebooks and talked about in circles with my best friends, I always wanted to be a resource to Sumter. Even if I were to leave, I wanted to come back and give to the community who made me who I am. And though the timeline may be off by a few years, I’m right where I want to be — need to be — being exactly what it is I’m destined to be.

For this National Newspaper Week, we’re supposed to tell our stories. Mine would be nothing without Sumter. Being a journalist isn’t about writing stories; it’s about becoming a bridge between voices, weaving the threads of our community into something whole. It’s knowing that every story holds a part of someone’s life and every headline is a piece of someone’s truth. Throughout these three years, I’ve come to realize that what I do goes far beyond facts on a page — it’s about trust and holding space for people’s moments, struggles and triumphs. Those connections, those voices I’ve had the privilege to share, they’re not just part of the job; they’re part of me. And wherever life leads, I carry these stories and these people in my heart.

In the end, being a journalist is more than a career — it’s a bond, a promise that the journey is always worth it.

Alaysha Maple is Next Generation news editor and covers arts and entertainment and public safety for *The Sumter Item*.

PRZYBYLA FROM PAGE A1

our magazines.

When asked how I got into the newspaper industry, I always chuckle to myself. My area of study in college was communications, and that specific track had two splits; one was focused more on public relations, and the other was journalism.

The running joke in my major was that we were comm majors because we couldn’t do math, and that was particularly true for me. With input from my advisor, I took the journalism side to avoid extra upper-level

math classes; and as my advisor explained to me, there are a lot of transferable skills between the two emphases.

As the clock ticked down to graduation, the existential crises of finding a job began. I came to the unpleasant realization that I hated inverted pyramid writing, AP Style and trying to turn stories around on a deadline. In short, I absolutely did not want to be a reporter and didn’t have the talent for it. (Shout out to all the fabulous reporters on our team; it’s a lot harder than they make it look).

My poor advisor had to take more

than one panicked call from me as I worried about my future career, but, again, communication was a versatile field. Thankfully, I found a wonderful first job at the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce. I was able to use my communications degree and my minor in photography. Part of that particular job involved me learning how to do graphic design and use Adobe software products. I watched tutorial after tutorial and absolutely fell in love with that side of it. After three years at the Chamber, I took a chance and moved over to *The Item* to work with their graphics department to continue to learn

more about the craft.

After all the panic and anxiety, I ended up exactly where I thought I didn’t want to be. But, it turns out it was exactly where I wanted to be, just in a very different capacity.

To my college professor, Dr. Yaquinto, you were right. And, in case you were wondering, I still abhor and butcher AP Style’s streets, numbers and times and occasionally try to sneak in the Oxford comma, which my editor so graciously removes.

Janel Przybyla is a graphic designer for *The Sumter Item*.

STAFF FROM PAGE A12



OSTEEN it was important to carry on our family history’s business and stay involved in the newspaper industry. I was the publisher of *The Sumter Item* for more than 12 years, and even though I serve in more of an ownership role today with *The Item* and other newspapers in South Carolina and Alabama, I’m truly still passionate about the importance of our industry.

What’s your newspaper/journalism journey to today?

As I said before, my newspaper journey today is more of continuing to carry on my family legacy and see that the Sumter community has a quality media company serving everyone’s needs.

What’s something you’ve learned in the process?

I’ve learned you can never stop working to improve upon what you have and adapting to the changing times, as hard as that may be.

How has working at a newspaper changed you?

It’s been a part of my life for so long, it is and will always be a part of the fabric of who I am.

What’s something you wish more people knew about your role or newspapers in general?

I hope the community sees how involved I still am with all aspects of *The Sumter Item* on a daily basis.

What’s something completely non-newspaper-related about yourself?

I also work for Coldwell Banker Commercial Cornerstone and specialize in brokering senior housing facilities in the Southeast.

MARK PEKURI

Briefly explain your role:

Main role is advertising /marketing; helping our local businesses reach potential customers and clients through print, online and newsletter advertising products. Other “hats” I wear: Warehouse manager – Keeping the

warehouse clean and organized as magazine and newspaper products come in and go out. Magazine distribution – fill *Sumter Item* magazine racks weekly in Sumter, Clarendon and Orangeburg counties.

Why did you get into this industry?

Interesting question. My first job was selling *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* newspapers during the summer at Van Riper State Park in Upper Michigan at age 10. I would have never thought I would have been in this industry ending my working life in newspapers again as an advertising/marketing sales representative. My previous employer was Rick’s Furniture, where I handled advertising for them for newspaper and radio. When Rick’s was shrinking their workforce and letting me go, my relationship with Karen Cave, who was my *Sumter Item* ad rep, offered me a job the same day. That was June 2008. I have been loving working at *The Sumter Item* ever since.

What’s something you’ve learned in the process?

Many interesting things in marketing. These days, there are so many ways people read or gather information. As a local newspaper ad rep, I have learned how to reach people and provide services to my clients by linking our physical paper product to share through

social media, online *Sumter Item*, newsletters, magazines and events, to name a few.

How has working at a newspaper changed you?

I think one of the biggest things of working in outside advertising sales is it forced me from being an introvert by nature to become more outgoing, from the shy young man who would be so nervous around crowds to now being able to stand in front of large groups of people and share or teach (whatever the case may be). Also, by being in sales and handling hundreds of advertising clients over the past 17 years, I have made so many new friends. I always tell folks, “I don’t just have advertising clients; I now have a lot of friends who advertise with me.”

What’s something you wish more people knew about your role or newspapers in general?

That I am here to help. I know the challenges local businesses have, as I was once in retail business myself in car sales and furniture store management prior to coming to work with *The Sumter Item*. I know that I have advertising tools available for them that I believe can help as we reach more people through all our sources than any other outlet in Sumter.

What’s something completely non-newspaper-related about yourself?

Married with three sons, a daughter-in-law and a new grandson born three months ago. I am fairly laid back. When not working (which is seldom), I like to walk every day for exercise. I enjoy going out to eat and during the summer enjoying our pool. I like watching movies, sporting events and news-related stuff on TV. I love

going back home to the Midwest where I was born and raised and seeing family and friends in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula

of Michigan (doing side-by-side riding and enjoying the outdoors, except the dang mosquitos and horseflies!).

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Thomas Sumter's Tillman leads Generals to 1st victory en route to Hines Furniture Athlete of the Week

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

The Thomas Sumter football team wanted nothing more than a homecoming victory when they hosted Clarendon Hall on Friday. Senior Jordan Tillman was more than happy to do his part. The running back scored the Generals' only touchdown while playing an integral role on the TSA defense that held the Saints to just six points in a 7-6 TSA victory, their first of the season. His efforts, which

included forcing two turnovers on defense, also helped Tillman earn recognition as the Hines Furniture Athlete of the Week. "I'm just glad everyone was there for me. It's something I've wanted since I was younger," Tillman said of the support of the Thomas Sumter community. "Since I was at my other school, everybody told me I couldn't do it, I wasn't anything. Now I've got my team behind me, everybody is helping me and letting me run the ball and letting me

do what I do. I'm just loving it." Thomas Sumter head coach Stacy Bell couldn't be more proud of his star senior for the way he stepped up throughout the victory on Friday. "I think it shows his perseverance," Bell said of Tillman. "He has a vision of what he wants to try to accomplish, and I hope this shows him if I work hard and follow a plan, good things will come."

SEE AOTW, PAGE B4



ADAM FLASH / THE SUMTER ITEM

Thomas Sumter's Jordan Tillman (3) celebrates after scoring against Clarendon Hall on Friday. Tillman was named the Hines Furniture Athlete of the Week after leading TSA to a homecoming win over the Saints.



PHOTOS BY ADAM FLASH / THE SUMTER ITEM

The East Clarendon volleyball team celebrates a point against Mullins on Thursday.

East Clarendon continues to fine-tune as they gear up for the postseason

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

East Clarendon hosted Mullins on Thursday for senior night and ran into little trouble as they brought out the brooms for their fifth-straight region victory. With one week left to play, head coach Jessica Boyington is really happy with where her team is sitting. "We've just found the right six that work together," Boyington said. "We've been rotating some outside hitting. You saw it tonight, we're doing a little bit more back-row hitting. We're trying to mix it up on the front so that teams can't predict what we want to do. Just trying to mix it up on the net because that's where we seem to struggle most. Defensively, on the back, we're pretty good; serving has been pretty good." One of the big points of emphasis during the past few weeks has been trying some new players in the middle. Alyssah Driggers is among the players who have continued to step up in that role. "We're really just focusing on positions. We're trying to do some different things. I needed some more aggression in the middle; we kinda noticed that in some higher-competition games against Lake City and Sumter," Boyington said. "We just needed a little bit of a stronger middle, so we've moved around a couple of people, and it seemed to work. "Alyssah Driggers has really killed the middle lately." The match with Mullins quickly became a lopsided affair. Some early mistakes kept



East Clarendon's Alyssah Driggers serves on Thursday.

Mullins in the set, but a few aces from Jalynn Odom helped East Clarendon break away late for a 25-17 victory. Driggers punctuated the win with aces on the final two points. After that, Mullins completely folded. East Clarendon scored the first eight points of the second set as they ran away with a blowout 25-4 win. The third set saw similar results. Driggers, Megan Brown and Odom helped East Clarendon take a quick 6-0 lead, which quickly stretched to 17-2 thanks in part to four aces and a kill from Driggers,

SEE POSTSEASON, PAGE B5



TIM LEIBLE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Sumter High's Lyla Young goes up for a kill against Spring Valley on Wednesday.

Sumter High volleyball drops tough matchup with Spring Valley as they work to make playoff push

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

The Sumter High volleyball team hosted Spring Valley on Wednesday with a chance to make a push up the standings in Region 5-5A. Unfortunately, the Lady Gamecocks found themselves on the wrong side of a 3-1, dropping to 6-11 on the season. For head coach Courtney Moss, it was a night that was far too similar to most of the season. Sumter High showed spurts of their potential but had too many self-inflicted wounds to pull out a region victory. "We couldn't put all the pieces together," Moss said. "We've been doing a lot of things uncharacteristic for us in our game, and we've been trying to fight through that the last couple of matches. We're getting there; we just have to get over that hump. Unfortunately, that hump has been getting in our way the last couple of matches. "They're still fighting, regardless; they don't give up. But they can't get that initial umph to finish it off." The Lady Gamecocks seemed to turn a corner on Monday with a 3-1 win over

East Clarendon. McKenzie Geddings dished out 26 assists in the win, while Lyla Young had 16 kills and seven aces. Anna Puzewski added 10 kills, two aces and four digs. The victory snapped an eight-game losing streak against some stiff competition against their highly competitive region with a match against Wilson Hall mixed in. While that victory gave SHS a bit of a jolt, they couldn't carry the momentum into Wednesday. "I think Monday helped, but we still have some things to clean up and polish up before we get the last few matches in the region done with," Moss said. Sumter High started with a 25-18 loss in the opening set before getting behind 16-7 in the second. But the Lady Gamecocks found their groove, clawing back into the match. They eventually knotted things up at 20-20 with a kill from Mia Amore. After trading a few points back and forth, Mary Kate Noonan and Amore knocked down some kills to keep the match tied at 23-23. Young then put the set to bed, smacking a pair of kills to deliver a 25-23 win.

SEE LADY GAMECOCKS, PAGE B4

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Manning jumps back in Top 10; Sumter High holds at No. 6 in latest S.C. Prep Football Media Poll

STAFF REPORT

After a week without updated rankings due to Hurricane Helene, the South Carolina Football Media Poll got a new look on Tuesday.

Manning was welcomed back into the Top 10 in SCHSL 2A after earning two wins in five days last week. They defeated both East Clarendon and Kingstree to claim a tie at No. 9 in the latest rankings.

Sumter High continues to roll with blowouts of Lugoff Elgin and West Florence as they enter their bye this week. The Gamecocks weren't able to climb in the 5A polls, however. The Top 10 remains largely unchanged, with the only new team being River Bluff replacing White Knoll.

Lee Central received votes in 1A but not quite enough to jump into the Top 10. They had a prime chance to earn a spot on Friday, as they hosted No. 2 Lewisville in region play. Results from that game were not available at press time.

S.C. PREP FOOTBALL MEDIA POLL

- CLASS 5A**
- 1. Dutch Fork (14) (5-0)
 - 2. Northwestern (1) (7-0)
 - 3. Gaffney (1) (4-0)
 - 4. Irmo (6-0)
 - 5. Summerville (6-0)
 - 6. **Sumter (7-0)**
 - 7. J.L. Mann (3-1)
 - 8. Hillcrest (4-0)

- 9. River Bluff (6-0)
- 10. Boiling Springs (3-1)
- Others receiving votes: Spartanburg, Greenwood, Ashley Ridge, White Knoll

- CLASS 4A**
- 1. Westside (16) (4-0)
 - 2. Daniel (3-1)
 - 3. South Pointe (4-2)
 - 4. May River (5-0)
 - 5. Seneca (5-0)
 - 6. South Florence (4-2)
 - 7. Richland Northeast (6-1)
 - 8. Hartsville (4-1-1)
 - 9. Wren (3-1)
 - 10. North Augusta (4-1)
 - Others receiving votes: Bishop England, Gray Collegiate, Fountain Inn, AC Flora, Camden

- CLASS 3A**
- 1. Belton-Honea Path (9) (6-1)
 - 2. Mountain View Prep (6) (5-0)
 - 3. Marlboro County (1) (6-0)
 - 4. Loris (5-1)
 - 5. Woodruff (5-0)
 - 6. Dillon (4-2)
 - 7. Oceanside Collegiate (3-3)
 - 8. Swansea (6-1)
 - 9. Aynor (4-2)
 - 10. Orangeburg-Wilkinson (4-2)
 - Others receiving votes: Keenan, Pendleton, Powderville, Fox Creek, Newberry, Broome, St. Joseph's

- CLASS 2A**
- 1. Batesburg-Leesville (5) (5-0)
 - 2. Saluda (8) (4-0)
 - 3. Hampton County (1) (5-1)
 - 4. Clinton (1) (3-1)
 - 5. Fairfield Central (5-1)
 - 6. Barnwell (1) (6-1)
 - 7. Strom Thurmond (3-1)
 - 8. Andrews (5-1)
 - 9. **(tie) Manning (4-1)**
 - 9. (tie) Chesterfield (5-1)
 - Others receiving votes: Central, Philip Simmons, Mullins, Woodland, Landrum, Liberty



Manning's Jontavious Canty and the Monarchs entered the Top 10 in SCHSL 2A on Tuesday.

- CLASS 1A**
- 1. Abbeville (14) (3-1)
 - 2. Lewisville (1) (4-1)
 - 3. Blackville-Hilda (4-1)
 - 4. Bamberg-Ehrhardt (4-2)
 - 5. Dixie (5-0)
 - 6. Lake View (5-1)
- 7. Lamar (4-2)
 - 8. Cross (5-2)
 - 9. Branchville (1) (5-1)
 - 10. Hunter-Kinard-Tyler (4-1)
 - Others receiving votes: Latta, Lee Central, Hanah-Pamplico, Baptist Hill, Johnsonville

SCHSL announces changes to fall schedule in response to Hurricane Helene

STAFF REPORT

The fall sports season is going to look very different after the South Carolina High School League voted to approve a new schedule in response to Hurricane Helene.

The impact of Hurricane Helene was felt throughout the state, especially in the Upstate and parts of Columbia. Several programs have been unable to play for weeks because of issues with power and safety. As a result, the South Carolina High School League executive committee met on Tuesday to vote on changes to the schedule.

The football season is officially getting an extra week, added to the end of the regular season. The postseason will



not change, meaning each round will be pushed back one week. For schools that have already missed more than one game, safety will be the priority over playing every single region game. Regions are being given the flexibility to get creative with their schedule and will be able to work around

Sumter High's Franklin Richardson and the Gamecocks will now have an additional week on their regular season after the SCHSL announced a new schedule on Tuesday.

One other football change is that the Touchstone Energy Bowl, one of the two major senior bowl games, will move to Dec. 21, the same day as the Shrine Bowl.

Volleyball and tennis will also add a week, while keeping the playoff structure as is. Cross country will keep its state tournament at the same time, but runners will only

need to run in one race before the state qualifying meets.

No changes were made for swimming or golf. The swimming state championships are slated for next week in Columbia.

"The executive committee was cautious and deliberate in making their decisions," SCHSL Commissioner Jerome Singleton said. "The whole emphasis behind it was don't change playoff opportunity if you don't have to. The message that came out of that is we want to start the playoffs when we normally do. The second piece of it is to not move our dates further back than one week; then we might start infringing on other sports' seasons."

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VOLEYBALL

MON. OCT. 7

SUMTER HIGH @ E. CLARENDON

25-18 25-17 24-26 25-22

MON. OCT. 7

TSA GENERALS @ CALHOUN ACADEMY

25-21 25-21 25-23

TUES. OCT. 8

MANNING @ MULLINS

25-27 21-25 26-24 25-18 15-9

TUES. OCT. 8

LAKEWOOD @ S. FLORENCE

16-25 10-25 19-25

TUES. OCT. 8

MARLBORO @ LEE ACADEMY

19-25 13-25 26-24 18-25

TUES. OCT. 8

WILSON HALL @ LMA 'CATS

25-14 25-15 25-13

TUES. OCT. 8

HARTSVILLE @ CRESTWOOD

25-10 25-18 25-17

THUR. OCT. 10

GREAT FALLS @ LEE CENTRAL

18-25 21-25 16-25

THUR. OCT. 10

MULLINS @ E. CLARENDON

17-25 4-25 8-25

TENNIS

MON. OCT. 7

WILSON HALL @ PORTER-GAUD

1-5

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PHOTOS BY ADAM FLASH / THE SUMTER ITEM

The Wilson Hall and Laurence Manning golf teams played their final region match at Beech Creek on Monday.

Wilson Hall, Laurence Manning shine in final region golf match

STAFF REPORT

The Wilson Hall and Laurence Manning girls golf teams got their final chances to swing away before state on Monday as they took part in a region match at Beech Creek. Both programs had an all-region golfer, while Mary Katherine Dutcher earned Player of the Year honors in the region.

Dutcher was spectacular in the 18-hole match, leading all golfers with a 75. Wilson Hall finished second to Trinity Collegiate with a team score of 375. Trinity finished with a score of 358. Aviana Hicks shot an 89 for the Lady Barons, while Frances Mac Elmore shot a 101, Olivia Russell shot 110 and Anna Kate Aronson shot a 112.

Summer Carey earned all-region honors after leading LMA with a 78. The Lady Swampcats finished 11 strokes behind Wilson Hall in third place with a 386. Carol Ann Briggs shot an 89, while Anna Kate Beane shot a 103. Olivia Danback shot 116, and Campbell McInnis shot a 123.

John Pall II's Sofie Hannagan, Grace Avret of Hilton Head Christian and the Trinity pair of Alysha Moody and Laura Crosson each added all-region honors.

The SCISA state tournament will be at Orangeburg Country Club on Monday and Tuesday next week.



E. Clarendon wins home cross country meet

STAFF REPORT

The East Clarendon cross country team hosted its first home meet of the season, welcoming Manning, Scott's Branch, Clarendon Hall, Lake City and Hannah-Pamplico. EC ran away with both the boys and girls team titles.

The Lady Wolverines took the top three spots, led by Shae Lee. She crossed with a time of 22:41.8, followed by Mattie Kelly's time of 24:47.9 and Kira Owens' time of 25:14.9. Cayli Harcrow finished fifth with a time of 25:30.1, while Cherish Cochran finished ninth and Lizzie Mims took 10th.

Scott's Branch's Ra'Ki York finished 13th with a time of 31:21.6, followed immediately by Lia Johnson. Azariyah Taylor finished 18th, while Tarajia Lawson finished 20th and Laila Gardenhire took 21st.

For Manning, Emma Munoz-Leon and Savannah Halstead finished 15th and 16th with times of 34:01.2 and 37:02.7. Crisslyn Dingle, Semaj Burgess and Dakota Lambert finished 25th, 26th and 27th.

The East Clarendon boys got a first-place finish from Braylon Hunt, who crossed with a time of 20:46.6. Tryston Underwood and Charlie Kirby finished third and fourth with times of 21:12.9 and 21:24.9. Kenley Sullivan finished seventh, and Brayden Spring took eighth, while Jett Robinson rounded out the Top 10.

Manning's Jamari Harris finished fifth with a time of 22:13.0. Isaiah Wilson finished 24th, while Kobe Weeks finished 26th, and the duo of Khang Tran and Jesse Robinson finished back to back in 31st and 32nd.

Clarendon Hall's Willson Epps finished 19th with a time of 24:50.2, and Jamari Pleasant of Scott's Branch finished 27th with a time of 27:58.8.

WILSON HALL, THOMAS SUMTER RUN IN MIDDLE SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP

The cross country teams from Wilson Hall and Thomas Sumter took part in the Middle School Cross Country Championships at Patriot Park on Wednesday. The Wilson Hall boys won



ADAM FLASH / SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

East Clarendon's Shae Lee, left, and Kira Owens led the Lady Wolverines to a win in their home meet on Thursday.

the team title, while their girls finished second.

Wil Alexander led the pack for the Barons, placing seventh with a time of 19:33.09. Luca Hill finished 15th with a time of 20:30.23, just ahead of Benjamin McIver in 16th. Cameron Trueblood and Chappell Vincent finished back to back in 22nd and 23rd, respectively.

The TSA boys finished sixth, led by Wyatt Swinehart and Aiden Pierce in 11th and 13th with times of 19:57.83 and 20:27.46. Ashton Pierce finished 25th with a time of 21:32.81. Samuel Peckham finished 47th, and Logan Finkstadt took 49th.

Laurence Manning sent one runner, as Bailey Carter finished 98th.

The Lady Barons were led by a runner-up finish by Emmie Williamson. She crossed the finish line in 20:03.58. Jane Foley finished seventh with a time of 22:25.98. Marsha Kate Skey finished 19th with a time of 24:02.83. Eliza Getz finished 22nd with a time of 24:10.17, while Ann Phillips Zitzke finished 30th with a time of 25:15.03.

Thomas Sumter was led by Annie Boss, who took 33rd with a time of 25:26.76. Keira Anderson finished 37th with a time of 25:50.06. Risden Dunlap finished 52nd, while Brooklynn Moore finished 56th, and the pair of Sophie Bell and Audrey Allen finished back to back in 62nd and 63rd.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14
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41								42						
43							44					45	46	47
48				49		50				51				
52				53										
54				55										

- ACROSS**

1 Extra work
12 Historic period
15 Path finder
16 Aloha nui; affectionate Hawaiian phrase
17 Special bite
18 D.C. United's org.
19 Enhancer of soups or venue for hoops
20 Bar fly-er?
21 Gail of "NYPD Blue"
23 Eat
24 19th century women's rights advocate Amelia
25 Much-feared natural disaster
28 Wildflower once thought to repel pests
29 Strip, as a ship
30 Super time
31 Singing syllable
32 John Swinney, for one
33 Nudges
34 Enduring dispute
35 Go off course
36 Verse inverse
37 "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" writer/illustrator
38 Kelp and nori
40 One who may be sacked
41 Diplomatic mission
42 Old book collection?
43 Tops
44 Cooks (up)
45 Wit
48 "Chandelier" singer
49 Adapt quickly
52 "Catch-22" pilot played by Bob Balaban
53 Pay-to-play need
54 Connecticut governor Lamont
55 Spine-opening yoga pose
- DOWN**

1 Phishing hook
2 Animal nutritionist who founded a pet food company in 1946
3 Pharmacopeia entry
4 Some MIT grads
5 Following
6 Suave
7 Williams work
8 Promote
9 Switzerland's Léman
10 Still waiting for a callback?
11 Picasso sculpture subject
12 School songs
13 Words to live by
14 Beginner's book
22 Comedian Delaney
23 "Yes!"
24 Propeller part
25 Summer on Cape Cod, e.g.
26 South American domain name
27 Election advice from young Grace Bedell to Mr. Lincoln
28 Fairy; cotton candy, in Australia
30 "The Pianist" Oscar winner
33 Word with blood or water
34 Firmly fixed
36 Pre-euro Spanish coins
37 Impressionist painter born in Allegheny, Pennsylvania
39 Surfer's need
40 Was fully groan?
42 Electronics component
44 Swarming pest
45 Site that may host an edit war
46 Iowa college town
47 Chap
50 TV pioneer
51 DJIA part

JUMBLE

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

SIYRK

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CERHP

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MHYLAN

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YAAAPP

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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I can't sleep with all the buzzing! Why is there an opening?

I needed some air! Ouch!

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

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

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

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

Jumbles: RISKY PERCH PAPAYA
Answer: When they realized mosquitoes were inside their tent, they weren't — HAPPY CAMPERS

AOTW FROM PAGE B1

Tillman provided the Generals' first highlight on Friday, intercepting a pass on the Saints' opening drive. But his biggest play was saved for the second half. After two scoreless quarters, the senior started the second half with a bang. After a fumbled punt return by the Saints, Tillman took a third-and-seven hand-off, bounced outside to his right and found daylight. He had a clear run of 29 yards to the end zone for the game's first points in a defensive battle.

"As soon as I cut back and saw the open field, I started to get on my horse thinking I've gotta get there," he said. "I

was going to get to that end zone."

That touchdown play came from weeks of repetition on that exact cutback.

"They do drills every day on trying to show him how that's going to look," Bell said. "And our offensive line, when we get into that heavy package, they like it, and they block really hard. It was there, and Jordan took advantage of it."

The senior did a little bit of everything in the victory. He rushed for 114 yards on offense, while adding three tackles, a tackle for a loss, a pick and a forced fumble on defense.

"I just like helping my team out," Tillman said of his role in the win. "I just want to go out there and play football on

either side of the ball and do whatever I can."

Bell loves having a player like Tillman that he can use as a queen on the chessboard on the defensive side of the ball.

"It shows he has great athletic ability," Bell said of Tillman's ability to play both ways. "When we're in certain coverage, he's pressed and inside, and when we're in another, he's seven yards and off, when we're in another, he's man-to-man and he's not confused. He's ready for that moment. It helps a great deal when you're calling plays."

The emotions of the win still run high days later, as the Generals snapped a homecoming losing streak that has lasted far too long.

"It's just big for the school. Before the game, no one knew the last time we won a homecoming game," Tillman said. "We've had a bad season, but we're coming back and, as a team, everyone did their part and everyone knew what the game meant for everyone. I had a lot of my old teammates and coaches come, and they got to see what I can really do out here. And my mom, I'm really glad she got to be out here and support and watch me grow as a player."

Tillman and Bell think this win can help propel the Generals to a strong finish as they look to make a push to the playoffs.

"I think our confidence is a little bit higher, but we still

have to be humble and know we have to work hard every day in practice," Tillman said. "Being able to go out there, no matter who we're playing, and give 110% and see what we can go out there and do."

"I hope it shows them they're capable of winning," Bell added. "I tell them all the time that they're better than they realize. We can't change the past, but we have to envision our future. We have four games left; they're all either region games or rivalry games. I don't want to get ahead of ourselves, but if we can get another one, there's a chance for the playoffs. If we get two, we're definitely in. We just want to take it week by week, and I want them to know they can be good."

LADY GAMECOCKS

FROM PAGE B1

But the Gamecocks couldn't carry that momentum into the third set. They immediately got into another 16-7 hole and couldn't quite dig their way out this time. While Sumter High made a slight push to get within eight points, they got no closer. Spring Valley got their offense rolling late, running away with a 25-12 win.

In the fourth set, Sumter High was primed for a comeback to force a fifth. Young came out swinging with a pair of blocks, a kill and an ace to help propel SHS to an early 7-2 lead. They pushed that lead to 9-3 with a kill from Puzewski, but the Lady Gamecocks couldn't keep their momentum going. Spring Valley inched back into the set, eventually tying things at 13-13. After trading points, Spring Valley made a run to push their lead to 22-15. Puzewski started a comeback with a pair of aces, as SHS got within two points. But an attack error killed the rally, and Spring Valley finished off a 25-21 victory.

"We get that lead, and we have a hard time finishing," Moss said. "We get up on them, and then we have a hard time keeping that momentum. It's like we get comfortable. We're going to push them to not get comfortable. It's good to be comfortable, but you have to keep playing your game, play to our potential."

The offense was streaky for Sumter High in the loss. Young led the pack with 10 kills, but no one else had more than three. Geddings passed out 14 assists, while Bailey Ardis led the team with 15 digs.

"Tonight, we struggled with passing as a whole," Moss said. "When we don't get that first pass, our setter can't get a great set to our hitters to get any type of offense. That was a big struggle tonight. When we got a pass and we got a set, unfortunately we weren't in coverage the way we needed to be, and it threw everything off at once."

"A lot of it is self-inflicted, but one thing I'm proud of is that they kept fighting no matter what."

The Lady Gamecocks were slated to head to Blythewood on Thursday, but transportation issues forced that match to be postponed. The makeup date is still to be determined, but the South Carolina High School League added a week to the end of the regular season on Tuesday due to the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, so SHS has some wiggle room to find a date.

While the loss leaves Sumter High with just one region win with three matches remaining, their region record isn't the end-all-be-all. Because SCHSL 5A split into two classifications this year, there will be more than four teams coming out of Region V, which has both Division I and Division II programs. Sumter High has faced a difficult schedule, which will actually play into their favor for the playoffs, but they're still in wait-and-see mode during the final few weeks.

"We really want the girls to have fun. We've got eight seniors this year, and we want them to have fun and go out on a positive note," Moss said. "And take away the positives of the matches and not dwell on the things that they made mistakes with. That's one thing we've been pushing the last few weeks."



PHOTOS BY TIM LEIBLE / THE SUMTER ITEM

The Sumter High volleyball team hosted Spring Valley for a region match on Wednesday.



POSTSEASON

FROM PAGE A1

along with a pair of kills from Payton Hanniford. EC went on to take the set 25-8 to claim the win.

Odom and Driggers each had six aces in the win, while Odom added five assists. Sophie Brown had 10 assists and a pair of kills, while M. Brown had six kills.

The victory comes on the back of a comfortable sweep of Kingstree on Tuesday. After EC won a competitive first set 25-21, they dominated the second for a 25-5 win. A 21-15 victory sealed the sweep. S. Brown had eight aces on the night, adding three kills and six assists. Odom had six assists and five aces, while M. Brown had five kills.

East Clarendon's lone blemish since playing in Wilson Hall's Baron Bash on Sept. 28 was a 3-1 loss to Sumter High on Monday, but Boyington was thrilled by the way her team gutted out a 26-24 win in the third set and was in every set until the end. They lost the first two sets 25-18 and 25-17 but nearly forced a fifth set with a hard-fought 25-22 loss in the fourth. Driggers had three aces in that match, adding three kills, while M. Brown had six kills. Lindsey Robinson, another player Boyington noted has impressed recently, had four kills.

That match, as well as the Baron Bash, helped the Lady Wolverines see that they're able to compete with some talented and larger programs. Even their lone region loss, a sweep against Atlantic Collegiate, provided a confidence boost for EC.

"We were competitive with them, and of course we didn't win, but that seemed to pep them up," Boyington said of the region loss. "The coach came by and talked about how competitive they were and then Sumter High, we won a set against them. That really pumped them up because they did the research themselves and saw we hadn't won a set in so many years, and they played really well.

"Playing in that tournament and seeing those competitive teams, we won a couple sets in that tournament. That really helped their confidence that we can compete with



East Clarendon's Sophie Brown serves on Thursday.

these teams that we used to not be able to compete with."

East Clarendon has just two games left in the regular season, the next being a trip to Atlantic Collegiate on Tuesday before hosting Marion on Thursday. Regardless of those results, EC is locked in as the No. 2 seed in Region VI-2A, but she wants to see her Lady Wolverines close the season strong.

"This week in practice we're really going to focus on winning the battle at the net," Boyington said of prepping for the trip to ACA. "We're going to work on a lot of blocking, blocking together and really fighting for that ball. And making sure our passes stay off the net, so they don't get a play on it because that's where they seem to get the best of us."

Once EC wraps up the regular season, they'll have a week off after the South Carolina High School League elected to add a week to the



East Clarendon's Aubree Frye passes against Mullins on Thursday.

season to help schools affected by Hurricane Helene find time to reschedule games. Boyington doesn't plan to just sit on her hands during that extra week off.

"Practice and practice hard," she said. "That's what we're going to do."



East Clarendon's Jalynn Odom passes on Thursday.



East Clarendon's Megan Brown (10) and Bailey Hicks celebrate a point against Mullins on Thursday.

AREA ROUNDUP

Lee Central volleyball gets two region sweeps

STAFF REPORT

The Lee Central volleyball team hosted Midland STEM and Great Falls this week, earning a pair of region sweeps.

The Lady Stallions started with a dominant win over Midland STEM on Tuesday. They took the opening set 25-10 before taking the next two 25-12, 25-6 to cruise to victory. Hannah Reames had eight kills and 10 good serves, while Kiyonna Austin added seven kills and five aces. Kiana Hopkins added nine good serves, five aces and six kills.

Lee Central had a tougher time with Great Falls on Thursday but pulled out the sweep by scores of 25-18, 25-21, 25-16. Janiyah Slater had six kills and an ace. Reames had 11 kills, 11 good serves and two blocks. Austin had 14 good serves, four aces and seven kills. Hopkins added seven good serves, seven kills and an ace, while Serenity Williams had five kills and two aces.

LEE ACADEMY SPLITS WITH TRINITY, MARLBORO

The Lee Academy volleyball team faced off with



Lee Central's Hannah Reames (3) had 19 kills in two region sweeps this week.

Trinity Collegiate and Marlboro Academy on Monday and Tuesday.

Lee fell to Trinity 3-0 in three competitive sets. They lost the opening set 25-21 before a 25-13 loss in the second. Trinity sealed the sweep with a 25-17 win in the third. Mazie Tomlinson had nine kills, an ace, three digs and a block. Zana Brazell had seven kills. Mallori Frye had five digs, and JoJo Matthews had four kills.

The Lady Cavaliers followed with a 3-1 win over Marlboro. They pulled out a 25-19 win in the opening set and a 25-13 win in the second. Marlboro extended the match with a 26-24 win in the third before the Lady Cavs pulled out a 25-18 win to seal the victory. Tomlinson had 17 kills, five blocks and an ace in the win, while Brazell had three aces and two kills. Delia Philips had four kills and two aces, while Peyton Thompson had 25 assists and an ace.

THOMAS SUMTER TAKES DOWN CALHOUN

The Thomas Sumter volleyball team defeated Calhoun Academy 3-0 on Monday.

Each set came down to the wire as TSA pulled out 25-21 wins in each of the first two sets before taking the third 25-23 to take home the victory. Clara Ann McCaskill had 13 assists, while Molleigh Ross had 13 service points. Omnaa Patel had 18 digs.

TSA followed with a 3-0 loss to Orangeburg Prep on Wednesday.

MANNING PULLS OUT WIN OVER MULLINS

The Manning volleyball team was able to grind out a five-set win over Mullins on Tuesday.

The Lady Monarchs dropped the first two sets 27-25, 25-21 but stormed back to win the next three. They started with a 26-24 win in the third before claiming the fourth 25-18. Manning finished with a 15-9 victory in the fifth to claim the win.

FURMAN MS TAKES DOWN HILLCREST

The Furman Middle

School volleyball team handed Hillcrest their first loss of the season with a 3-1 victory.

Furman fought to take the opening set 27-25 before a 25-21 win in the second. Hillcrest took the third set 25-20 before Furman sealed the victory with a 25-23 win in the fourth.

Sydney Wawrzakowicz had 23 service points and four digs. Ainsley Pittman had 14 service points, two kills and six digs. Jasmine Ramsey had 13 service points, four kills and five digs. Khloe DeWitt had 12 digs and 10 points.

TENNIS

WILSON HALL ENDS SEASON WITH PLAYOFF LOSS TO P-G

The Wilson Hall tennis team ended their season with a 5-1 loss to Porter-Gaud in the first round of the SCISA playoffs on Monday.

Jane McAdams delivered Wilson Hall's lone victory 6-1, 6-0 over Nora Kanich. Claudia Rhodus fell 3-6, 0-6, while Edna Lee Harris fell 0-6, 2-6. Harper Burke fell 0-6, 1-6. Land Stevens had a battle at No. 5, falling 5-7, 1-6, while Cameron Kohl fell 0-6, 0-6.

South Carolina, No. 7 Alabama seek bounce-back performances

BY JOHN ZENOR
Associated Press

Alabama's stunning loss was splashed across headlines and screens nationwide.

South Carolina didn't get nearly so much attention but is trying to bounce back from its own embarrassing performance.

It's time to see how they both respond on Saturday at Bryant-Denny Stadium. The seventh-ranked Crimson Tide (4-1, 1-1 Southeastern Conference) had a one-week cameo atop the poll that ended with a 40-35 loss at Vanderbilt.

Yes, Vanderbilt. No matter how well the Commodores played, it still raises questions about Kalen DeBoer's first Alabama team that he and fans alike want answered.

"We left ourselves a little less wiggle room to achieve some of the goals we have, but those goals are still out there," DeBoer said. "And we need to just focus on what our whole mindset is, is to always improve every single day. And that's never gonna change."

The Gamecocks (3-2, 1-2) were dominated 27-3 at home by ninth-ranked Mississippi. They were held to 313 total yards and couldn't reach the



ADAM FLASH / SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

South Carolina head coach Shane Beamer and the Gamecocks look to snap a two-game losing streak against another ranked foe when they face No. 7 Alabama on Saturday.

end zone.

"Where we have to be better is understanding, in this league it's a fine line," South Carolina coach Shane Beamer said. "The details are magnified. We don't have games in this league where you just roll out the balls and you win because you're a couple of touchdowns better."

MALACHI'S MELTDOWN

Safety Malachi Moore let his emotions get the best of him late in the loss to Vandy

with an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty and other bad behavior. But the two-time team captain is still expected to start and remains a key leader on a defense that couldn't make key stops in that game.

"He's a guy that's pretty much out there every play, so right now I'm expecting that to be the case," DeBoer said.

Likewise, South Carolina edge rusher Dylan Stewart had the backing of his coach after getting flagged against

Mississippi for pretending to repeatedly shoot quarterback Jaxson Dart after a stop.

MILROE'S BOUNCE BACK

Alabama quarterback Jalen Milroe was brought back to earth against Vanderbilt after emerging from the win over Georgia rated as the Heisman Trophy favorite. Milroe still passed for 310 yards but had an early interception returned for a touchdown and only rushed for 10 yards.

He's still leading the nation in pass efficiency and has 11 passing touchdowns, nine rushing touchdowns and a two-point conversion. That 122-point total ranks second in the nation.

ALABAMA REUNION

South Carolina coach Shane Beamer said he will enjoy the Alabama visit, in part because he'll reconnect with former Tide player Sylvester Croom, who gave Beamer his first full-time coaching job when Croom was coach at Mississippi State. Croom is part of a celebration for Alabama's national championship team in 1974.

"So it will be great to see coach Croom," Beamer said. "He has meant so much to me

in my life."

RUNNING MILD

Both teams could be looking to get their running backs more involved.

South Carolina leading rusher Raheim Sanders carried eight times for 29 yards against Ole Miss. He has 315 yards and four touchdowns, averaging 4.8 yards per carry.

Alabama's Jam Miller carried just five times and Justice Haynes six against Vandy. Miller is averaging 8.2 yards a carry this season and Haynes 7.2, so they're typically effective when they get the chances.

CHANGE OF PLANS

Beamer had hoped to spend a few days this offseason out in Washington picking the brain of DeBoer, then the Huskies coach. Beamer admired DeBoer's skill and the way he ran his program and hoped to learn a little bit about it. But when DeBoer took over at Alabama, Beamer knew he'd have to look somewhere else. "Unfortunately for me," Beamer said. "I didn't think he was going to let me come into Tuscaloosa."

College football chaos helped Swinney remind No. 10 Clemson not to overlook Wake Forest

BY PETE IACOBELLI
Associated Press

CLEMSON — Clemson coach Dabo Swinney got a little help from last week's college football chaos in reminding his 10th-ranked Tigers that no team is invincible.

It's a lesson he will put to use this week as Clemson goes to Wake Forest looking for its 16th-straight win in the series.

The Tigers (4-1, 3-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) have not lost to the Demon Deacons (2-3, 1-1) since 2008. That was the game that led to then-coach Tommy Bowden's firing and the hiring of Swinney, who got the job full time after the season and has beaten Wake Forest every season since.

Seems like the chance for some complacency to set in, right? Not after last week when No. 1 Alabama, No. 4 Tennessee, No. 10 Michigan and No. 11 Southern Cal all lost to teams they were expected to beat handily.

"Yeah, college football did us a favor," Swinney said of the highly ranked defeats.

The Tigers, who've won nine of their past 10 games, continued their resurgence at struggling Florida State last week with a 29-13 victory.

It wasn't the sharpest performance Clemson's had this season, but it managed more than 500 yards and did more than enough on defense to keep the Seminoles off balance and off the scoreboard. If the Tigers can't keep it going at Wake Forest, Swinney knows it could cost the team its championship dreams.

"All we've done is create some opportunity for ourselves," he said. "But we've got a long way to go."

MAKING HISTORY

Wake Forest came from 10 points down in the fourth quarter to win at N.C. State, 34-30. It was the 10th time since 2017 the Demon Deacons have rallied from behind to win in the final period and third time they had trailed by double digits and won. They came from 10 points behind to

beat the Wolfpack in 2018 and from 11 points down to defeat Old Dominion in 2023.

"You just realize how thin the margin is between winning and losing," Wake Forest coach Dave Clawson said. "We were on the right side of it. But that's OK; we were on the wrong side of a few of those. And then you move forward."

STARTING FAST

Clemson emphasized getting off to faster starts this season, and so far it's worked. The Tigers have outscored opponents 90-0 in the opening quarter — they were tied 0-0 with Georgia after the opening period — and that has led them to take quick control in their four straight victories.

GETTING HIS KICKS

Clemson's struggles in the kicking game last year led to Swinney signing Nolan Hauser, who set the national high school record for field goals. So far, so good for Hauser, who had five field goals and accounted for 17 points in the victory over Florida State last week. He was named ACC specialist of the week. Hauser had made 10 of 12 kicks this season and 23 of 24 extra points.

FOLLOWING DABO?

Clawson admires what his counterpart, Swinney, has done in building a cohesive team that succeeds. Clawson has seen how transfers can affect a team.

"When (transfers) get a lot of money and don't work out, don't think that doesn't cause issues in the locker room," Clawson said.

Clawson added eight transfers this offseason, including starting quarterback Hank Bachmeier, who last played at Louisiana Tech.

END OF THE LINE FOR NOW

The expanded, 17-team Atlantic Coast Conference means this will be the last meeting between Clemson and Wake Forest until 2030. The teams have played each year since before the ACC was formed, a streak from 1935 through this year.

Clemson head coach Dabo Swinney and the Tigers host Wake Forest on Saturday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



Former Gamecock QB Rattler set to start for Saints against Bucs

BY BRETT MARTEL
Associated Press

METAIRIE, La. — New Orleans Saints rookie quarterback Spencer Rattler is scheduled to take his first regular-season NFL snaps on Sunday against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Saints coach Dennis Allen selected Rattler as this week's starter on Wednesday after confirming that usual starter Derek Carr will miss at least one game because of a left oblique injury that occurred in the fourth quarter of New Orleans' 26-13 loss in Kansas City on Monday night.

"We just internally talked a lot about it and felt like in this particular game he was going to give us the best chance to win," Allen said. "He's a rookie. So, we're going to have some challenges that go along with that. But I think we'll have a good plan for him."

The decision means that — for now — the 24-year-old Rattler moves ahead of second-year pro Jake Haener on the depth chart.

Haener, 25, replaced Carr after his injury in Kansas City and also played late in a pair of lopsided victories to start the season. He's attempted just eight passes during his chances to play this season, completing two for 17 yards. He has not been intercepted and has not thrown for a touchdown.

Allen noted that Rattler had shown promise while serving as the scout

team QB during the first five weeks of the season.

"He's made some really good plays against our defense," Allen said. "He's made some accurate throws, and his mobility's been good."

Rattler, 24, was selected by the Saints in the fifth round of last spring's NFL draft out of South Carolina, where he started for two seasons after transferring from Oklahoma.

During his final college season in 2023, he started 12 games, passing for 3,186 yards and 19 touchdowns.

Allen said Rattler should not worry about being subbed out quickly if he struggles to perform during New Orleans' first few possessions.

"You've got to let the guy go in there and play," Allen said. "We're not going into this game saying that, you know, 'If you make a mistake, we're going to pull you.'"

Meanwhile, Rattler's center will be newly acquired, eight-year veteran Conner McGovern, who made his debut with the club on Monday night.

He was acquired as Shane Lemieux (ankle) became the second Saints center this season to go on injured reserve, joining usual starter Erik McCoy (groin).

McGovern's first time snapping the ball to Rattler was during a light walkthrough the Saints held on Wednesday.

NCAA cracking down on weapon gestures toward opponents in college football

COLUMBIA (AP) — College football is on high alert for players flashing make-believe guns at an opponent.

That happened Saturday when freshman edge rusher Dylan Stewart, who sacked Mississippi quarterback Jaxson Dart for a loss of eight yards on third down, stood over him and pretended to shoot his opponent with a repeating firearm.

Stewart was called for unsportsmanlike conduct, and South Carolina was penalized 15 yards.

The flag did not deter Stewart, who celebrated the same way — he got off three shots of his pretend shotgun — a few minutes later after stopping Rebels runner Matt Jones for a 4-yard loss. No penalty was called on that play.

At Minnesota, defensive back Justin Walley broke up a pass in his team's 24-17 win over then-No. 11 Southern California, then lifted up his shirt as if he were showing a handgun sticking out of his waistband.

Walley was flagged for unsportsmanlike conduct for what the official said was "simulating brandishing a gun."

"There's a list of automatic unsportsmanlike conduct fouls. One of them in our rule book is simulating firing of a weapon," Steve Shaw, the NCAA's national coordinator of officials, told The Associated Press by phone Tuesday. "That's not really a

judgement call."

It seems like a case of bad judgement by the players who consider those actions when they celebrate. The incidents show the NCAA sending a message to keep violence, even the pretend kind, out of its game.

"We're starting to see, I hate to say it, but more and more of it," Shaw said. "We're just trying to say that's not acceptable. Gun violence is not acceptable in our game."

It can be difficult to get that message to young players like Stewart, who turned 19 last month and has had an immediate impact on the Gamecocks' defense. He's had 3.5 sacks and 5.5 tackles behind the line of scrimmage in his first five college games.

Such displays are sometimes seen in the NFL. Jets receiver Allen Lazard was penalized for firing finger guns after a first-down catch against Denver two weeks ago. He was also fined \$14,069 for "unsportsmanlike conduct for a violent gesture," according to the NFL.

South Carolina coach Shane Beamer said he spoke with Stewart after the penalty and he's talked with all his players about reducing pre-snap and post-play infractions.

The gesture was "unacceptable," Beamer said. "And Dylan Stewart feels awful about that play. Dylan Stewart's a really good kid, and Dylan Stewart's mom feels awful about that play."

Falcons head to Charlotte looking to stay hot in NFC South

BY STEVE REED
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE — Kirk Cousins has the Atlanta Falcons on the rise.

The Falcons (3-2) will look to make it three wins in three weeks against NFC South foes on Sunday when they visit the struggling, injury-riddled Carolina Panthers.

Atlanta is coming off tight victories against the New Orleans Saints and Tampa Bay Buccaneers behind Cousins, who has settled in nicely after a slow start to the season.

The former Minnesota Vikings quarterback threw for a franchise-record 509 yards and four TDs in a 36-30 win over the Bucs last week that moved the Falcons into a tie for first place in the division. This week he'll face a Panthers defense that has surrendered a league-high 33 points per game and 20 touchdowns.

Falcons defensive tackle Grady Jarrett said the 2-0 start in the division has his team feeling confident.

"I'm not shy about saying that," Jarrett said. "I'm excited to be in the position that we are going forward, being in the driver's seat. But I'm also even more excited because ... we continue to get better every week. And that's the sweet part about it."

The Panthers (1-4) are a mess following a 36-10 loss to the Chicago Bears — their third time getting blown out this season.

Coming off an NFL-worst 2-15 record last season, Carolina wasn't a particularly deep team to begin with and now



Atlanta quarterback Kirk Cousins and the Falcons travel to Charlotte to face the Panthers on Sunday.

has lost defensive end Derrick Brown, linebacker Shaq Thompson and center Austin Corbett to season-ending injuries. Also, receiver Adam Thielen is on injured reserve and tight end Tommy Tremble is in the concussion protocol.

Even Taylor Moton, a mainstay at right tackle who has played in 120 straight games since being drafted by the Panthers, will miss his first game Sunday with a triceps injury.

First-year coach Dave Canales is trying to keep his players' hopes up and avoid a doom-and-gloom mentality for a team that hasn't been to the postseason since 2017.

Running back Chuba Hubbard said Canales' upbeat personality has helped.

"Honestly, I have probably never met somebody so positive in my life," Hubbard said. "He has a great outlook on the big picture. Even when things aren't going your way he reminds us to trust the process and we will get there.

And we believe in that."

HUBBARD ON THE RUN

Hubbard has been one the few bright spots for the Panthers, averaging 105 yards rushing per game over the last three weeks with three total TDs. He has also developed into a reliable receiver.

Hubbard is averaging more than 6 yards per carry over the last four games.

"He's not afraid of the dirty 2- and 3-yard run, where you just kind of have to cram it up in there," Canales said. "And then later on in the game, they start popping into 8s and 12s, and here comes a 25. Just the discipline and his willingness to really commit to the system."

The problem for the Panthers has been their penchant for falling behind, which has put added emphasis on throwing the ball.

BENGALS REUNION

Falcons safety Jessie Bates III is looking forward to his reunion with former Cincinnati Bengals teammate Andy Dalton, now Carolina's quarterback. He said he's also hoping for an opportunity to pick off a pass from his buddy.

"I've got a lot of respect for Andy," Bates said. "That was my quarterback when I got drafted in Cincinnati in 2018. So I've just got a lot of respect for how he goes about his work. He played a big part in how I operate to this day."

When asked how Dalton impacted his career, Bates said he learned as a rookie from watching Dalton and "his process

every day."

"As a young guy, I feel like everybody should, you know, see how the leaders of your team operate," Bates said.

Bates said Dalton "has always been known for getting the ball out quick and, you know, being super decisive with his reads.

"Obviously they've struggled the last couple of weeks, but Andy's, you know, a really great dude and a really great player as well. Excited to go against them. Hopefully get some picks off him."

RED-ZONE WOES

If the Falcons reach the red zone, probability suggests there's a great chance they're going to score a touchdown this week.

No team has been worse at red-zone defense than the Panthers, who have allowed their opponents to find the end zone a remarkable 88% of the time they've penetrated the 20-yard line.

Canales said that stems from the team's inability to stop the run.

"We have to get some stops and give our offense a chance to stay in the game," cornerback Jaycee Horn said.

NAME DROPPING

Falcons receiver Darnell Mooney's strong start, including a two-touchdown game last week, has given Cousins another top target. Coach Raheem Morris said Mooney also has impressed during game-week preparations in the same way he saw Los Angeles Rams wide receiver Cooper Kupp work with quarterback Matthew Stafford.

OBITUARIES

DANIEL F. BARBER JR.

Daniel F. "Don" Barber Jr., 88, husband of Lucy Allen Barber, died Monday, Oct. 7, 2024, at Prisma Health Tuomey in Sumter.

Born March 25, 1936, in Mullins, he was a son of the late Daniel F. Barber Sr. and Mildred Knight Barber. He was a member of Sumter First Baptist Church. Mr. Barber was a graduate of The Citadel Class of 1958 and served as a naval aviator in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Following his service, he taught math at Edmunds High School, served 17 years as principal of Willow Drive Elementary School, 17 years as director of instruction, retiring from Sumter School District 17 after 37 years of service. He was an avid tennis player.

Mr. Barber was a faithful servant of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and dedicated his life to making disciples as he led numerous Bible study groups and ministries in the community. He served as chaplain of the Sumter Fire Department for more than 50 years, Gideons International-Sumter Camp for 60 years, the Sumter Jail Ministry and taught a Sunday School Class at Harmony Church, where he served for 40 years. He was also on the Ambassador Camp Board at Lake Waccamaw, North Carolina, for more than 50 years and participated in numerous mission trips around the world.

Survivors include his wife of 66 years; three children, Donna Crane, Dan Barber (Laura) and Deanna Nalley (Robbie); 12 grandchildren; and five great-grandsons.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Gene Barber, and son-in-law, Dr. Jeff Crane.

Funeral services will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024, at Sumter First Baptist Church officiated by the Rev. Dr. Dan Barber. Burial with military honors will be in Evergreen Memorial Park Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be his grandsons, Daniel Barber, Walker Barber, Austin Crane, David Crane, Nathan Crane and Alex Richards.

Honorary pallbearers will be members of the Sumter Fire Department.

The family will receive friends from 3 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024, in the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall and other times at the home of Dan and Laura Barber, 409 Haynsworth St.

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

Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home and Crematori-

um of Sumter is in charge of the arrangements.

MAE FRANCES ROBINSON-GOODMAN

Mae Frances Robinson-Goodman, 76, wife of Grady Goodman and daughter of the late Buster Leon Robinson and Annie Bell Brown-Robinson, was born on July 14, 1948, in Florence County. She departed this life on Monday, Sept. 30, 2024, at her residence. Public viewing was held on Friday, Oct. 11, 2024, from 2 to 6 p.m. at Job's Mortuary Inc.

Funeral services will be held at noon Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024, at Salem Chapel & Heritage Center, 101 S. Salem Ave., Sumter, with Elder Ethel Burgess, presiding, and the Rev. Dr. Lillie Burgess, eulogist.

Interment will be held at 9 a.m. Monday, Oct. 14, 2024, at Florence National Cemetery, Florence.

Family will receive friends at the home, 3000 Larkspur Road, Florence.

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.

MOTHER QUEENIE BELL BRUNSON JAMES

Mother Queenie Bell Brunson James, affectionately called Queen, was born in Lee County on May 15, 1933, to the late Haskel and Hattie Gregg Brunson. She attended the public schools of Lee County.

As a young child, she began her spiritual journey at Unionville AME in St. Charles with her parents and siblings. Queenie joined the St. Paul Pentecostal Holiness Church of Sumter under the leadership of the late Elder Mark Pierson in 1978. She served the church faithfully under the leadership of Elder Mark Pierson, Pastor Shirley Holliday and currently, Elder Barrington Pierson, until she was called from labor to reward.

She was joined in holy matrimony to the late Mr. Willie James, and to this union four children, Leroy, Leverne, Pamalia and Dennis, were reared in their lovely home. She never met a stranger. If you were ever in her presence, she enjoyed talking and laughing and talking about the goodness of the Lord. Queenie was a jewel to the Body of Christ. She leaves to cherish in loving memories her four children, Leroy (Sim-

one) James of Clarksville, Tennessee, Leverne Brunson, Pamalia James and Dennis Brunson, all of Sumter; three grandchildren, Brett Bryant, Jazzlyn James and Gregory James, all from Clarksville, Tennessee; one great-grandson, Carter Guzman of Clarksville, Tennessee; two sisters, Hattie Nance of Sumter and Gardenia Benjamin of Washington, D.C.; two brothers, Harry Lee Brunson and Albert Lee Brunson, all of Sumter; a special church friend, Minister Mattie Linton; honorary nieces and nephews, the Washington siblings (children of the late Brother Lindsay and Mother Geneva Washington) and a special honorary niece, Tyesha Vaughn; and a host of nieces and nephews and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by one daughter, Laura Ann Brunson; two sisters, Leatha Brunson and Marie Brunson; and five brothers, Jim Brunson, Jessie Brunson, Haskel Brunson Jr., Norwood Brunson and Robert Brunson; a special sister-in-law and friend, Sister Mary Louise Brunson; and a special friend, Mother Geneva Washington.

Funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024, at St. Paul Holiness Church, 129 W. Moore St., with Elder Barrington Pierson, eulogist. Interment will be at St. Paul Holiness Church Cemetery, 909 Martinville Church Road, Sumter. The family will leave the home, 275 Tullah Drive, at 12:20 p.m.

Bostick-Tompkins Funeral Home of Sumter is in charge of arrangements.

THOMAS EUGENE GODWIN

Thomas Eugene Godwin Sr., 63, husband of Grace Marie Godwin, died Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024, at his home.

Born Oct. 8, 1961, in Sumter County, he was a son of the late John Godwin and Audrey Smith Cox. He was a retired roofer.

Survivors include his wife of 46 years; four children, T.J. Godwin, Jason Adeeb, Tommy Godwin (Stephanie) and John Godwin (Tierra); six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; three sisters, Debra McCall (Wayne), Lois Godwin and Faye Lito (Shorty); and a number of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Shawna Adeeb, and a brother, Edward Godwin.

A funeral service will be held at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024, in the Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home chapel with the Rev. Larry Griffin officiating.

The family will receive friends from 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024, at Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home and other times at the home.

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

JANICE CHATMAN MCCLEARY

Janice Chatman McCleary, 64, wife of Lorenzo McCleary, died Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024, at her residence, 34 Corbett St., Sumter. She was born March 16, 1960, in Sumter, a daughter of the late David and Sallie Chatman.

The family is receiving at her residence.

These services have been entrusted to Samuels Funeral Home LLC of Manning.

BETTY RUTH OWENS

Betty Ruth Owens, 89, wife of the late Charlie Ray Owens, died Tuesday, July 25, 2024, at NHC Healthcare Sumter.

Born Aug. 17, 1934, in Sumter, she was the daughter of the late Harry Eulas Roland and Bessie Mae Tibbs Roland.

Survivors include one daughter, Nancy R. Overby (Douglas); four sons, Kenneth D. Owens (Barbara), Richard D. Owens (Carma), Joseph R. Owens (Tanya) and Gary W. Owens Sr. (Susan); and one brother, Claude C. Roland.

She was preceded in death by three sons, Michael R. Owens, Charles A. Owens and Donald L. Owens; sisters Margaret Turner, Eula Mae Moore and Josie Rae Tallent; and one brother, Clyde O. Roland.

Graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024, with the Rev. Sammy Geddings officiating. Burial will be in Evergreen Memorial Park Cemetery.

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

TAE'SYAH ZY'MIR DAMARIYA ROSE

Tae'Syah Zy'Mir Damariya Rose, 1 month, son of Isyah Rose and Quondajah Wells, was born on Oct. 17, 2024, in Sumter. He departed this life on Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024, in Sumter.

Family will receive friends at 875 Webb St., Sumter.

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

TERRY WAYNE MATHIS

Terry Wayne Mathis, the son of the late Joseph and Mary Mathis, was born on June 4, 1962, in Sumter. Terry entered into eternal rest on Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital.

He was educated in Sumter County and graduated from Sumter High School in 1980. After high school, he pursued a career in brick masonry and later earned his Master

Brick Mason Certification. He was well known for his high quality of work around the Sumter community as well as the local military base.

Terry loved to work and spend time with his grandchildren. Terry was also a master at the game of pool where he took on all challengers; no one stood a chance when he picked up his stick.

Terry leaves to cherish his precious memories the mother of his four children, Ethel Glover, and his children, Annette Johnson (Jerome) of Brick, New Jersey, Samantha McMillian (Demond) of Kansas City, Kansas, and Sheral Glover and Terry Glover of Sumter. He also leaves his siblings John (Shirley) Alexander of Riverdale, Georgia, Willie Taylor of Dalzell, Alonza Whitaker and Bernard Mathis of Sumter, Reid Mathis of Charlotte, North Carolina, Patricia (Johnny) Smith of Lakeland, Tennessee, Sandra (Sandy) Peoples and Sabina Jones of Sumter; a sister in-law, Georgia Whitaker Williams of St. Petersburg, Florida; 13 grandchildren; a special nephew, Antonia Alexander, of Sumter; and a host of nieces and nephews along with two special nieces, Debar Whitaker and Abena Alexander, who were raised in the home.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Mary Mathis and Joseph Mathis; two brothers, Eric and James Whitaker; a nephew, Mongo Alexander; and a niece, Ayan-na Alexander.

Services will be held on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024, at 2 p.m. at John Wesley Williams Sr. Memorial Chapel at Williams Funeral Home Inc. with the Rev. Dr. J. Elbert Williams bringing words of comfort for the family.

Burial will follow in the Mt. Sinai Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Mayesville.

The family is receiving relatives and friends at the home, 1 Andrena Drive, Sumter.

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 williams-funeralhome@sc.rr.com. Visit us on the web at www.WilliamsFuneralHomeInc.com.

ASHLEY TARNESHA ISAAC

Ashley Tarnesha Isaac, 32, daughter of Bryan McLeod and the late Patricia Ann Isaac, was born on Feb. 10, 1992, in Sumter. She departed this life on Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital, Sumter.

Family will receive friends at 3205 Ashlynn Way, Sumter.

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

the

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ITEM

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11:00 a.m. Tuesday
for the Wednesday edition

11:00 a.m. Friday
for the Saturday edition

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LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
Request for Public Review and Comment of the 2024 Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis for a Non-Time Critical Removal Action for Perfluorooctanoic Acid and Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid in Private Drinking Water Wells near Shaw Air Force Base (AFB), Sumter South Carolina

The United States Air Force (USAF) will conduct a non-time critical removal action to address releases of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) from the use of aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) during USAF firefighting activities at Shaw AFB. While AFFF was used in accordance with manufacturer guidelines, AFFF contained PFOA and PFOS that are a likely potential source of contamination in groundwater used as drinking water for residences and businesses south of Shaw AFB. PFOA and PFOS were detected in privately-owned drinking water wells at concentrations greater than the response action level of 70 ng/L. These levels of PFOS and/or PFOA prevent residents and businesses from using these wells for drinking water and created the need for this action.

This engineering evaluation and cost analysis (EE/CA) states the removal action objective (to remove exposure to drinking water that is above 70 ng/L), evaluates alternatives for conducting the removal action, and recommends the alternative that should be implemented to achieve the removal action objective.

The USAF is seeking input from the public on this document. Copies of the EE/CA summary, the complete EE/CA document, and additional information are available on the Air Force Civil Engineer Center Administrative Record Search website: arafcec-cloud.af.mil. Select the "Continue to site" in the center of the page. On the following page, then select "Active Duty" in the upper left corner of the screen. Scroll down the left side of the page and click on "Shaw AFB, SC." Locate the AR# field in the center of the screen and enter "4147" on this line and then click "Search" at the bottom of the page. This will pull up a list of EE/CA related summary documents at the bottom of the page. Click on the eyeball symbol on the left side of document # 4147-11 to view the 2024 EE/CA.

A hard copy of the EE/CA document and additional information are also available for review at the Sumter County Library located at 111 N. Harvin St. The library is open Monday-Friday 10am to 6pm and is available by phone at 803-773-7273. The 30-day public comment period is from September 14, 2024 through October 14, 2024. Comments must be postmarked or emailed by October 14, 2024.

For more information or to submit written comments, please contact 20th Fighter Wing Public Affairs, 517 Lance Ave, Shaw AFB, SC, 29152, phone: (803) 895-2019, e-mail: 20FWPublicAffairs@us.af.mil.

Beer & Wine License

Notice is hereby given that Jerone McKenzie dba J/A Social Lounge intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license permit that will allow the sale and ON premises consumption of Beer,Wine at 5800 Mt Sinai Church Rd, Lynchburg, SC 29080. To object to the issuance of this permit / license, written protest must be postmarked no later than Oct 29th, 2024. For a protest to be valid, it must be in writing, and should include the following information: (1) the name, address and telephone number of the person filing the protest; (2) the specific reasons why the application should be denied; (3) that the person protesting is willing to attend a hearing (if one is requested by the applicant); (4) that

Beer & Wine License

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

Bid Notices

Request for Proposals PROFESSIONAL AUDITING SERVICES

The Town of Mayesville is requesting a proposal from qualified firms of Certified Public Accounts Description: The Town of Mayesville is requesting a proposal from qualified firms of Certified Public Accountants to audit the City financial statements for the fiscal years ending March 30, 2020 - 2024, with options to renew. All proposals and sealed bids must be received before 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 24, 2024. Questions regarding this solicitation should be directed and addressed to: Town of Mayesville ATTN: Chris Brown Mayesville Mayor Box 126 35 N. Main Street Mayesville, SC 29104 (801) 360-5552 Email: Tradewindsnow@gmail.com Auditing Services may be performed remotely or in-person.

Proposals received after that date and time will not be considered. Each proposal must be submitted to the Town of Mayesville - Attention: Chris Brown in a sealed envelope plainly marked with the proposal title and bidder name. There is no express or implied obligation for the Town of Mayesville to reimburse responding firms for any expenses incurred in preparing proposals in response to this request. The Town of Mayesville reserves the right to reject any and all proposals submitted.

Applications submitted in response to this request for proposal (RFP) will be reviewed by a team consisting of Town representatives. The team will review all complete, eligible qualification submittals received by the deadline. Upon evaluating the qualifications provided in the applications, the team may identify top vendors to be invited for finalist interviews. Publication Date/Time: 10/05/2024 10:00 AM Closing Date/Time: 10/24/2024 - 4:00 PM Opening Date and Place: 11/12/2024 - 6:30pm - 35 N. Main St. Mayesville, SC 29104

Request for Proposals (RFP) for Office Space and Town Meeting Venue
Issued by: Town of Mayesville
Date: October 5, 2024
Response Deadline: October 24, 2024 4:00PM

Overview
The Town of Mayesville is seeking proposals for the lease of office space to accommodate municipal operations and a venue for Town Meetings. The office space will be utilized four days each week from 9 AM to 2 PM, while the meeting space should accommodate 60+ attendees and be available 1-2 times a month.

Project Scope
Office Space Requirements
• Lease Duration: Minimum of one year with an option to renew.
• Availability: Four days a week (Monday - Thursday) from 9 AM to 2 PM.
• Square Footage: Approximately 600-1,200 square feet.

• Facilities: The office should include:
o Private office or cubicle space
o Meeting room
o Access to restrooms
o Wi-Fi and internet connectivity
o Parking for staff and visitors
Town Meeting Space Requirements
• Capacity: Must accommodate at least 60 people comfortably.
• Facilities: The meeting space should include:
o Seating arrangements (theater or classroom style)
o Access to restrooms
o Adequate parking for attendees
• Availability: 1-2 times per month, with advance notice.

Proposal Submission Guidelines

Proposal Format

Proposals should include the following sections:

1. Cover Letter: Introduce your organization and summarize your proposal.
2. Property Description: Detailed information about the office space and meeting venue, including location, square footage, amenities, and accessibility.
3. Cost Breakdown: Monthly lease cost for the office space and any additional fees for the meeting space.
4. Availability: Confirm the availability of the space as specified.
5. Fair Market Evaluation: Appraisal of the space.
6. Insurance: Proof of insurance.

Bid Notices

Submission Instructions:
SubProposals should be submitted by October 24, 2024 before 4:00PM. Sent to Town of Mayesville c/o Mayor Chris Brown Box 126 35 N. Main St. Mayesville, SC 29104 Late submissions will not be considered
Evaluation Criteria
Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
• Compliance with the requirements outlined in this RFP
• Cost-effectiveness
• Availability and flexibility of leasing terms
Timeline
• RFP Issued: October 5, 2024
• Proposal Deadline: October 24, 2024 4:00PM
• Selection Announcement: Nov. 12, 2024 - 6:30pm
• Selection Site: 35 N. Main St. Mayesville, SC 29104
Contact Information
For questions or clarifications regarding this RFP, please contact: Chris Brown Mayor
Town of Mayesville 801-360-5552 Tradewindsnow@gmail.com We look forward to your proposals and thank you for your interest in serving the Town of Mayesville.

Public Hearing

NOTICE OF COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

The Sumter County Council will hold a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Sumter 2040 Comprehensive Plan on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., in the Third Floor Council Chambers of the Administration Building (13 East Canal St., Sumter, South Carolina). The following requests are scheduled for consideration:

MA-24-02, Sumter 2040 Comprehensive Plan (County)
Request to amend the text, pictures, tables, figures, and maps of the Sumter 2040 Comprehensive Plan in accordance with the required 5-year evaluation of the document.

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

SUMTERCOUNTY COUNCIL
James T. McCain, Jr., Chairman
Mary Blanding, Clerk

BUSINESS SERVICES

Home Improvements

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



MERCHANDISE

Auctions

Razel Holdings LLC (d/b/a Tristar Storage) pursuant to South Carolina Self-Storage Facility Act, S.C. Code 39-2-10 to 39-20-50, shall conduct a public sale of contents of the units listed below online at www.dinkinsauctions.com beginning on October 25th, 2024. All sales will be paid by the highest bidder to Dinkins Auctions. Their phone number is 803-840-0420. Buyer must purchase whole unit. Units contain household goods and miscellaneous merchandise.

Tristar Storage
830 S. Pike W.
Sumter, SC 29150
Customer Name Unit Number
Sandra Williams 49
Rebecca Meltetal 110
Christopher Billie 50
Beverly Brunson 75
Tameka Albert 4
Ayva Mercado 111
Marilyn Andrews 90
Alphonso Golden 23
Randy Jenkins 130
Tira Rhodes 97
Whittni Milhorn 6
Anita Osborne 127
Robert Moore 63
Meloni Daly 59

Tristar Storage
810 S. Pike W.
Sumter, SC 29150
Customer Name Unit Number
Shaneen Sargeant 128
Megan Williamson 217
Robin Michael 167
Tequeya Thompson 117
Kevin Alford 182
Jeremy Hammack 175
Kevin Buckmon Sr. 171
Michelle Dargen 177
Kendra Gardner 260
Aletha Payne-Hicks 189
Christy Purvis 205
Tristen Smith 279

Tristar Storage
2220 Peach Orchard Rd.
Sumter, SC 29154
Customer Name Unit Number
Connie Renfro 102
Cedric Jordan 141
john smith 100
Tela Franklin 97/122
Breauna Bellamy 42
Demetrius Johnson 109
Robin Fisher 62
Nancy Barrett 86
Dakota McKnight 56
Steven Witherspoon 2-65
Brenda Roach 74
Willie Mayrant 6
Brandon Mickens 64
Elizabeth Benton 29
Rebecca Mack-Clark 78
Dell Mathis Jr 2-38/39
Jessica Smith 15
Courtney Gray 107
Shaun Rutherford 106
Brett Simmons 7
William McBride 119
Barrior Ford 2-15
Jerena Rozario 30
Amanda Castro 139

Tristar Storage
2620 Hwy 261 South
Wedgewood, SC 29168
Customer Name Unit Number
Tyrone Sanders D-12
Ervin McFadden C-17
Shannan Johnson E-05
Debra Allah C-03
Ervin McFadden C-15
Henry Oaks C-21&22
Marsynn Rogers B-03

YOUR AD
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Auctions

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
To satisfy the owner's storage lien, PS Retail Sales, LLC will sell at public lien sale on October 23, 2024, the personal property in the below-listed units, which may include but are not limited to: household and personal items, office and other equipment. The public sale of these items will begin at 09:30 AM and continue until all units are sold.

PUBLIC STORAGE # 25924, 1143 N Guignard Dr, Sumter, SC 29150, (803) 282-9629
Time: 10:30 AM
Sale to be held at www.storagetreasures.com.
101 - Jenkins, Karen;
129 - McFadden, Jamar;
209 - Boyd, Montine;
304 - Wilson, Tiffany;
343 - Bracey, Donica;
474 - Gage, Donte;
557 - Wells, Crystal;
720 - Jones, David Jermaine
PUBLIC STORAGE # 08604, 1277 Camden Hwy, Sumter, SC 29153, (803) 218-9507
Time: 11:00 AM
Sale to be held at www.storagetreasures.com.
A014 - Mosses, Shalissa;
B005 - Jones, Latia;
B007 - Jewell, LaVetta Hood;
B011 - Benefield, Dylene;
B030 - Spencer, Mario;
B076 - Mack, Victoria;
C014 - Bartlette, Courtney;
C018 - Pack, Devontray;
C025 - Nelson, Yolonda;
D001 - Leonard, Natasha;
D004 - Archie, Tamara;
E063 - Ludd, Latoya;
F012 - Kelly, Kharia;
F041 - Brown, Beverly;
G007 - Low, Jakima;
H001 - Wells, Kashena;
I013 - Titus, Martin;
K010 - Gordon, Tamika
PUBLIC STORAGE # 25925, 3785 Broad St, Sumter, SC 29154, (803) 282-9826
Time: 11:30 AM
Sale to be held at www.storagetreasures.com.
0333 - Nelson, Ashely;
0405 - Merchant, Shakeema;
0517 - Mitchell, George;
0547 - Bryant, Jadiyah;
0611 - Foy, Fantasia;
0618 - Taylor, Aaron;
0801 - Patton, Clint

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

Garage, Yard & Estate Sales

Yard sale, Sat. Dec. 9, 8am-2pm, 151 Poinsett Dr. Twin bed, clothes, kitchen items, electronics, computer, etc.

Multi-Family Yard Sale, 3020 Ashlynn Way (Meadow Croft Subdiv) Sat, 7am-Until

Multi-Family Yard Sale. 129 Laverne Ave., Sat., 8 am - Until. Weather Permitting!

For Sale: Grill Oven \$15.00, Recliner- \$40.00, Electric Stove-\$50, Bathtub- \$50.00, Push-lawn mower-\$75.00, Roll-around Air conditioner-\$175.00, Charcoal Grill-\$175.00, Microwave-\$15.00, Ladder-\$25.00. Contact 803-565-0758.

Lawn / Garden / Nursery

Lawn, Flowerbed, Shrubbery, Leaf, & Pine Straw Service. Yards starting at \$35. Pressure washing services. Call Bobby 803-983-5364.

For Sale or Trade

4 burial plots and 2 vaults at Evergreen Memorial Gardens in Sumter. Sold as a package, \$7500. May buy 4 plots for only \$5000. Contact 404-936-1253 if interested.

For Sale, 2016 Rockwood Camper. 32' Long 5-Wheel, used only 4 times, like new. 1 owner. 25,000 OBO. 803-775-0450.

EMPLOYMENT

Work Wanted

Roof Leaking or Need a New Roof? Call J&N Repair Service Home 803-478-2950 Cell 803-410-0260

RENTALS

Rooms for Rent

Seeking roommate Single Female 35+ no kids, \$200-\$300 month/rent. Contact 803-306-0586 if interested. Leave voicemail.

Mobile Home Rentals

SW 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Rent \$1100 plus \$1100 deposit. Lawn care incl. Near Shaw AFB. No pets & no Section 8. 803-316-8627 803-983-0371

2 & 3-BR MH for rent, \$399 & up per mo., Cherryvale Dr. Water incl. 1-mo. deposit. Dogs okay with pet fee. Call or text (803) 651-9926.

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ITEM

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- Soft treats and Hard Treats
- Dry Dog Food
- Cleaning Supplies
- Lysol
- Bleach
- Dawn Dishwashing Soap
- Laundry Detergent
- Towels and Blankets (new and used)

Donations can be dropped off at
Sumter SPCA
1140 S. Guignard Drive • Sumter, SC 29150
Office Hours: 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Closed Wednesdays & Sundays



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Owner



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Store Manager

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Sumter, SC

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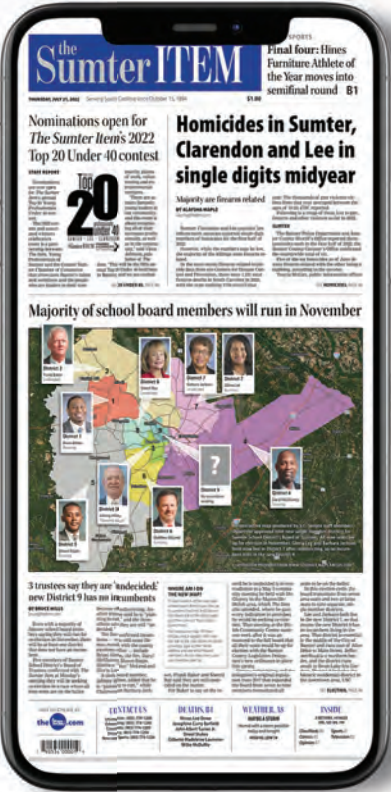
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- 3 Debunking myths about breast cancer
- 6 What is the 'triple E' virus and how to stay safe
- 7 Ways to stick to your health goals



(AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)
The Koios DS Smart Ultrasound software, used to get a second opinion on mammography images, is seen on a computer screen at Mount Sinai hospital in New York.

WASHINGTON (AP) — How good would an algorithm have to be to take over your job?

It's a new question for many workers amid the rise of ChatGPT and other AI programs that can hold conversations, write stories and even generate songs and images within seconds.

For doctors who review scans to spot cancer and other diseases, however, AI has loomed for about a decade as more algorithms promise to improve accuracy, speed up work and, in some cases, take over entire parts of the job. Predictions have ranged from doomsday scenarios in which AI fully replaces radiologists, to sunny futures in which it frees them to focus on the most rewarding aspects of their work.

That tension reflects how AI is rolling out across health care. Beyond the technology itself, much depends upon the willingness of doctors to put their trust — and their patients' health — in the hands of increasingly sophisticated algorithms that few understand.

Even within the field, opinions differ on how much radiologists should be embracing the technology.

"Some of the AI techniques are so good, frankly, I think we should be doing them now," said Dr. Ronald Summers, a radiologist and AI researcher at the National Institutes of Health. "Why are we

letting that information just sit on the table?" Summers' lab has developed computer-aided imaging programs that detect colon cancer, osteoporosis, diabetes and other conditions. None of those have been widely adopted, which he attributes to the "culture of medicine," among other factors.

Radiologists have used computers to enhance images and flag suspicious areas since the 1990s. But the latest AI programs can go much further, interpreting the scans, offering a potential diagnosis and even drafting written reports about their findings. The algorithms are often trained on millions of X-rays and other images collected from hospitals.

Across all of medicine, the FDA has OK'd more than 700 AI algorithms to aid physicians. More than 75% of them are in radiology, yet just 2% of radiology practices use such technology, according to one recent estimate.

For all the promises from industry, radiologists see a number of reasons to be skeptical of AI programs: limited testing in real-world settings, lack of transparency about how they work and questions about the demographics of the patients used to train them.

"If we don't know on what cases the AI was tested, or whether those cases are similar to the kinds of patients we see in our practice, there's just a question in everyone's

Will AI replace doctors who read X-rays or just make them better than ever?

By MATTHEW PERRONE
Associated Press

mind as to whether these are going to work for us," said Dr. Curtis Langlotz, a radiologist who runs an AI research center at Stanford University.

To date, all the programs cleared by the FDA require a human to be in the loop.

In early 2020, the FDA held a two-day workshop to discuss algorithms that could operate without human oversight. Shortly afterwards, radiology professionals warned regulators in a letter that they "strongly believe it is premature for the FDA to consider approval or clearance" of such systems.

But European regulators in 2022 approved the first fully automatic software that reviews and writes reports for chest X-rays that look healthy and normal. The company behind the app, Oxipit, is submitting its U.S. application to the FDA.

The need for such technology in Europe is urgent, with some hospitals facing monthslong backlogs of scans due to a shortage of radiologists.

In the U.S., that kind of automated screening is likely years away. Not because the technology isn't ready, according to AI executives, but because radiologists aren't yet comfortable turning over even routine tasks to algorithms.

"We try to tell them they're overtreating people and they're wasting a ton of time and resources," said Chad McClennan, CEO of Koios Medical, which sells an AI tool for ultrasounds of the thyroid, the vast majority of which are not cancerous. "We tell them, 'Let the machine look at it, you (review and) sign the report and be done with it.'"

Radiologists tend to overestimate their own accuracy, McClennan says. Research by his company found physicians viewing the same breast scans disagreed with each other

more than 30% of the time on whether to do a biopsy. The same radiologists even disagreed with their own initial assessments 20% of the time, when viewing the same images a month later.

About 20% of breast cancers are missed during routine mammograms, according to the National Cancer Institute.

And then there's the potential for cost savings. On average, U.S. radiologists earn over \$350,000 annually, according to the Department of Labor.

In the near term, experts say AI will work like autopilot systems on planes — performing important navigation functions, but always under the supervision of a human pilot.

That approach offers reassurances to both doctors and patients, says Dr. Laurie Margolies, of Mount Sinai hospital network in New York. The system uses Koios breast imaging AI to get a second opinion on breast ultrasounds. "I will tell patients, 'I looked at it, and the computer looked at it, and we both agree,'" Margolies said. "Hearing me say that we both agree, I think that gives the patient an even greater level of confidence."

The first large, rigorous studies testing AI-assisted radiologists against those working alone give hints at the potential improvements.

Initial results from a Swedish study of 80,000 women showed a single radiologist working with AI detected 20% more cancers than two radiologists working without the technology.

In Europe, mammograms are reviewed by two radiologists to improve accuracy. But Sweden, like other countries, faces a workforce shortage, with only a few dozen breast radiologists in a country of 10 million people.

Using AI instead of a second reviewer decreased

the human workload by 44%, according to the study.

Still, the study's lead author says it's essential that a radiologist make the final diagnosis in all cases.

If an automated algorithm misses a cancer, "that's going to be very negative for trust in the caregiver," said Dr. Kristina Lang of Lund University.

The question of who could be held liable in such cases is among the thorny legal issues that have yet to be resolved.

One result is that radiologists are likely to continue double-checking all AI determinations, lest they be held responsible for an error. That's likely to wipe out many of the predicted benefits, including reduced workload and burnout.

Only an extremely accurate, reliable algorithm would allow radiologists to truly step away from the process, says Dr. Saurabh Jha of the University of Pennsylvania.

Until such systems emerge, Jha likens AI-assisted radiology to someone who offers to help you drive by looking over your shoulder and constantly pointing out everything on the road.

"That's not helpful," Jha says. "If you want to help me drive then you take over the driving so that I can sit back and relax."

—

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Got an unaffordable or incorrect medical bill?

Calling your hospital billing office will usually get you a discount.

BY ERIN DUFFY
University of Southern California



(THE CONVERSATION) What do you do when you disagree with or can't afford a medical bill?

Many Americans struggle to pay medical bills, avoid care because of cost worries or forgo other needs due to health care cost burdens.

It can be hard to understand what you're being charged for on a medical bill. I'm a health policy and economics researcher who studies insurance and out-of-pocket health care expenses, and even I sit at my kitchen table trying to wrap my head around bills and explanations of benefits.

In my newly published research, I surveyed a nationally representative sample of 1,135 American adults – a subset of participants from the University of Southern California's Understanding America Study – to find out how they handle troubling medical bills. I learned that advocating for yourself can pay off when it comes to medical bills, and you may be missing out on financial relief when you don't pick up the phone.

Squeaky wheel gets the grease

My team and I found that

1 in 5 patients had received a health care bill in the prior year that they disagreed with or couldn't afford. Nearly 35% of the bills came from doctor's offices, nearly 20% from emergency rooms or urgent care and over 15% from hospitals. Other sources of bills included labs, imaging centers and dental offices.

A little over 61% of respondents contacted the billing office about a troubling bill, but 2 in 5 did not. Why not? About 86% of patients said they did not think it would make a difference.

But reaching out got results. Nearly 76% of patients who reached out got financial relief for an unaffordable bill. Nearly 74% who spoke up about a potential billing mistake received bill corrections. For those who negotiated their bills, nearly 62% saw a price drop.

Additionally, 18% of patients who reached out got a better understanding of their bill, 16% set up payment plans and a little over 7% got the bill canceled altogether. Nearly 22% said their issue was unresolved, and 24% reported no change.

The majority of people who reached out about their

medical bills reported that it took less than one hour to handle their issue.

Picking up the phone

We found that people with a more extroverted and less agreeable personality – based on the Big Five Personality Test – were more likely to reach out about a medical bill. People without a college degree, with lower financial literacy or with no health insurance were less likely to reach out to a billing office.

Differences in who does and doesn't call about a medical bill may be exacerbating inequalities in how much people end up paying for health care and who has medical debt.

Many Americans are in health plans with high out-of-pocket cost sharing, including high-deductible plans. This so-called consumer-directed health care paradigm is intended to motivate consumers to be more cost-conscious when seeking care and navigating their bills. But by design, it puts the burden on patients to deal with billing issues.

Another recent study my team and I conducted found that 87% of U.S. hospitals offer their own payment

plans, but only 22% of these put plan details on their websites. You have to call for more information.

In another recent study, my team called hospitals as "secret shoppers" planning an elective knee surgery. We sought information critical to assessing affordability: financial assistance, payment plans and payment timing options. While the information was often available, it was hard to access. We couldn't reach a representative with information at about 18% of hospitals, even after calling on three different days. We were typically directed to three different offices to get all the information we wanted.

Policymakers have made strides in price transparency in recent years. For example, hospitals are required to post prices for their products and services. Practices and policies that further reduce the administrative burden of accessing aid and navigating troubling bills.

Pro tip: Make the call

Patients who make the call are benefiting when it comes to medical bills.

A colleague who knew I was working on this study asked me for advice about a

\$425 bill her household had received for a lab test at an urgent care center. The bill seemed inflated and unfair, forcing an unexpected stretch to her budget.

I told her it was worth a call to the billing office to express her feelings about the bill and see whether any adjustments could be made to the amount owed or the timing of payment.

It was worth the call. The billing office representative offered three options on the spot: a.) a payment plan, b.) a prompt payment of \$126 paid immediately over the phone to settle the account, or c.) financial assistance if eligible based on income.

My colleague chose option b and paid less than one-third of the original bill amount.

The next time you get a medical bill that troubles you, pick up the phone or ask a disagreeable extrovert to make the call for you.

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Debunk myths about breast cancer, always direct questions to physician



Events like National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the Susan G. Komen MORE THAN PINK Walk have been integral to raising awareness about the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women across the globe. Though such campaigns and events have helped many women better understand breast cancer and their own risk for the disease, certain myths surrounding breast cancer persist. Such myths are not harmless and can, in fact, lead to unsafe outcomes that jeopardize women's health.

Questions about breast cancer should always be directed to a physician. Though physicians may not have all the answers, they remain useful allies in the fight against a disease that the World Cancer Research Fund International reports will be discovered in roughly three million women this year. As women seek more knowledge of breast cancer, it can be just as important to recognize some common myths surrounding the disease.

Myth: MRIs are more effective than mammograms.

The National Breast Cancer Coalition notes that no evidence exists to support the assertion that a magnetic resonance imaging exam is a more effective screening test for breast cancer than a mammogram. The NBCC acknowledges that an MRI can be an effective diagnostic tool when doctors suspect something is wrong. However, the NBCC advises against using MRI to screen for breast cancer since it is more likely to yield a false-positive result than a mammogram. Indeed, the National Breast

Cancer Foundation identifies mammography as the gold standard for the early detection of breast cancer.

Myth: Breast size and breast cancer risk are connected.

This myth typically suggests breast cancer is more common in women with large breasts. The NBCF notes there is no connection between breast size and breast cancer risk. Breast density, not size, may be associated with a greater risk for breast cancer. The Mayo Clinic notes dense breast tissue refers to the ways breast tissue appears on a mammogram. Women with dense breasts, which the National Cancer Institute notes affects roughly half of all women over age 40, are at higher risk for breast cancer because the dense tissue makes screening for the disease more difficult. But breast size and breast density are not one and the same.

Myth: Most breast cancer patients have a family history of the disease.

The NBCC notes that roughly 15 to 20 percent of women diagnosed with breast cancer report a

family history of the disease. Assuming only those with a family history are vulnerable to breast cancer gives women with no such background a false sense of security, which may discourage them from taking measures to lower their risk.

Myth: All breast lumps are cancerous.

The NBCF indicates only a small percentage of breast lumps end up being cancerous. Lumps should never be ignored, and should be reported to a physician immediately. But it's important to avoid jumping to conclusions after finding a breast lump. A clinical breast exam can determine what's behind the lump, and women who discover a lump should remain calm until such an exam is conducted.

These are just some of the many myths circulating about breast cancer. More information about the disease can be found at nationalbreastcancer.org surrounding the disease.

DID YOU KNOW?

The American Cancer Society reports that approximately 30 percent of postmenopausal breast cancer cases can be attributed to potentially modifiable risk factors. That finding, cited in the organization's "Breast Cancer: Facts & Figures, 2022-2024" report, means as many as three in 10 breast cancer diagnoses in postmenopausal women may have been attributable to variables within patients' control. The ACS notes such variables may have included body weight, alcohol consumption and physical activity levels. The same report also notes that certain modifiable risk factors accumulate over the course of a woman's life, meaning both postmenopausal women and younger women could potentially lower their risk for breast cancer by making a concerted effort to achieve and maintain a healthy body weight, reduce alcohol consumption and embrace a physically active lifestyle.

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As eastern equine encephalitis spreads, a neurologist explains how to stay safe during this latest outbreak of the ‘triple E’ virus

BY DANIEL PASTULA
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
The Conversation



The 2024 outbreak of eastern equine encephalitis – known as triple E or EEE – has caused six reported and confirmed human disease cases in five states, including one death, as of Sept. 4.

EEE surfaces nearly every year in the U.S., but with another outbreak of West Nile virus also spreading across the country, health officials are working hard to alert people about the serious risks that come with getting a mosquito bite.

The Conversation asked Daniel Pastula, a neurologist and medical epidemiologist from the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, to explain how EEE spreads and what you can do to reduce your risk of encountering it.

What is eastern equine encephalitis, or triple E?
Eastern equine en-

cephalitis is a virus that is primarily transmitted by certain mosquitoes. It was first identified in horses that died of encephalitis along the mid-Atlantic coast in 1933. EEE was recognized to cause human disease during an outbreak involving horses and humans in south-eastern Massachusetts in 1938.

Since then, sporadic human and horse cases have been reported nearly every year in the Atlantic, Great Lakes and Gulf Coast regions of the U.S., with larger outbreaks occurring several years apart in these areas. The last significant outbreak of human EEE disease was in 2019 when over three dozen cases were reported, largely from Massachusetts and Michigan.

How is it transmitted?
EEE virus exists in a natural cycle between

Culiseta melanura – the black-legged or black-tailed mosquito – living in eastern freshwater hardwood swamps and certain birds that reside in such swamps.

Culiseta melanura mosquitoes feed almost exclusively on birds and usually do not bite humans or horses. However, more common mosquitoes such as Aedes, Coquillettidia and Culex can sometimes bite infected birds, become infected themselves and then transmit EEE virus to nearby humans or horses. These are called “bridging” mosquitoes.

Rarely, EEE virus has also been transmitted through organ donation. Theoretically it also may be transmitted by blood transfusion.

Why is EEE surfacing now?
Typically, there are about 10 human cases reported annually in the Atlantic, Great Lakes and Gulf Coast regions of the U.S., though there are likely many more mild cases that go unreported. Most human cases occur from July through October in endemic areas.

Every few years, there are much larger outbreaks of EEE disease in certain areas. For instance, in 2019 over three dozen cases were reported, primarily from Massachusetts and Michigan. These cyclic outbreaks are likely due to a complex interaction between temperature, rainfall, mosquito populations, bird immunity and

bird migration patterns.

What are EEE’s main symptoms and how severe can an infection be?
Researchers do not have great estimates on how often people become sick after being infected with the virus. Our best estimate is that about 95% of infected people have either no or relatively mild symptoms. Some may develop fever or a flu-like illness after an incubation period of four to 10 days.

About 5% of people infected with EEE virus can go on to develop a brain swelling called encephalitis.

This brain swelling can be particularly severe and may require intensive care. Among those who develop encephalitis, approximately one-third die. The other two-thirds may have permanent neurologic deficits including cognitive problems, weakness or movement disorders.

People younger than 15 and older than 50, as well as those who are immunocompromised, are at higher risk of progressing to encephalitis.

Are there any treatments or vaccines for EEE?
There are no proven effective treatments for EEE at this time. Some clinicians have tried steroids to reduce swelling or antibodies to improve immune response, with variable success. But no treatments have been proven in large clinical trials.

Brain swelling may need to be managed in the intensive care unit, and seizures may need to be treated with anti-seizure medications. Almost all patients who develop encephalitis and survive will need prolonged rehabilitation.

There are currently no commercially available human vaccines for EEE, but there are vaccines for horses in endemic areas.

How do you prevent EEE?
Generally speaking, if you prevent mosquito bites, you prevent EEE virus infection.

There are several things you can do to prevent mosquito bites:

- Use an insect repellent registered by the Environmental Protection Agency on exposed skin when you are outside and mosquitoes are around. They are safe and effective when used as directed.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants when feasible. It is much harder – or even impossible, depending on the fabric – for mosquitoes to bite through clothing. You can also treat your clothing with the insecticide permethrin, which further repels mosquitoes.
- Avoid being outside from dusk to dawn. This is when many species of mosquitoes are most active.
- Use window screens or air conditioning when inside a building to keep mosquitoes outside.
- Dump any unneeded standing water around your property. Mosquitoes like to breed in standing water. You can use this water for watering plants.

Finally, certain local vector control agencies may consider spraying for mosquitoes to kill them in communities where there is a high burden of infection.

Is there a ‘western’ version of the virus in the US?
Yes. Western equine encephalitis, or WEE virus, is a closely related virus to EEE. Historically, it had been endemic to the western United States and South America.

However, the last human outbreak of WEE in the United States was in 1987, and the last reported human case in the United States was in 1999. Researchers do not know why WEE has been absent in the western United States for nearly two decades, though it reemerged in Argentina in late 2023.

WEE is thought to be less severe than EEE but still may cause an encephalitis in young children and the elderly in particular. The reemergence of diseases such as EEE and WEE shows the importance of public health surveillance.

(The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.)



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HOW TO

stick to your health goals when life gets crazy

BY DONNA MANSOUR

When life starts to get busy it can be easy to fall into bad health habits without even noticing. You might eat out a little more, skip a workout, have an extra glass of wine with dinner or not get enough sleep. At times like these, it can be handy to have an arsenal of practical tips on hand to help you stick to your health goals and get you back to living your best life.

Sticking to your health goals during busy times like this can help prevent you from getting sick or run-down, keep you feeling great both emotionally and physically and keep your energy levels up and stress levels down. The following are some simple and easy-to-implement tips to help you stick to your health goals when everything seems impossible.

Practice healthy habits first thing in the morning

Starting with your healthy habits first thing in the morning will set the tone for the rest of the day. By starting off on a good note, and ticking off some of your healthy goals early on, you will be more likely to stick to the rest of the goals as the day gets busier. If you plan on fitting in a workout or a walk then set your alarm a little earlier in the morning so you can get it out of the

way as soon as you wake up.

After your workout, choose a healthy breakfast option.

Things like smoothies or grab-n-go breakfast parfaits are great to prep ahead of time if you know you are going to be in a rush. They make it so easy to jam lots of goodness into one meal. You can even pre-pack smoothie bags and have them stored in the freezer ready to blend so it won't matter how busy you are, you can still fill your body with nutritious food.

Stay hydrated

Fill your water bottle first thing in the morning to reach your water goals for the day. If you are going to be out of the house for a while, bring your water bottle with you. If you don't have a good reusable water bottle, invest in one. This will make it easier to take water with you on the go.

Staying hydrated can help you feel less sleepy and less hungry, and can also help make you feel better overall throughout the day. A great way to stay hydrated is by making up a couple of batches of lemon chia water and having them ready to grab and sip in the morning. This has the bonus of keeping you fuller

for longer. Another way is to make up a pot of your favorite herbal tea to sip at your desk while you work.

Schedule healthy lifestyle habits into your day

Schedule your meals into your day to help make sure you are allowing yourself the chance to eat a well-balanced and healthy diet. If you work your day around these times, you can avoid the drive-through and make it easier to stick to a healthy diet.

If you want to exercise each day, book a class or a block of time for walking or running into your schedule. This way you will be less likely to skip it even on a busy day. Guilt is a powerful thing, and you will know you are letting yourself down if you don't stick with the commitment.

You can have the schedule on your phone so you can access it at all times, or if you prefer a paper planner and the satisfaction of ticking things off as you get them done then pick a good one and make sure you use it. The key is to have your schedule accessible so that you don't just schedule it and forget it.

Plan and prepare meals ahead of time

Meal planning and prepping will make it just as easy to grab something nutritious as it would be to hit the drive-through. If you need to, prepare a week or even a month ahead if you can. This will make eating a healthy diet and maintaining a healthy lifestyle a breeze.

There are several apps out there that can help with meal planning. They will usually have an option to write the grocery list and some can even help with

doing an online grocery order to be delivered, which is such a time saver and stops all those treats from being thrown into the cart when you are doing the shop yourself.

You might prefer a good old paper and pen meal plan. Rip recipes from magazines or print off recipes you find online during the week, and keep them stored in an inexpensive ring binder, then pour yourself a cup of tea and decide what you want to eat for the week.

Spend some time on the weekend or on a day off preparing some meals or snacks that can then be eaten on busy days. This can be as simple as making a double batch of granola for breakfasts, some freezer-friendly mini muffins for lunchboxes or casseroles that can be popped into the slow cooker for dinner.

Get moving when you can

You may not always have the time to fit in a workout multiple times per week, but even on days you can't get to the gym, you can increase your step count by making a few simple changes. Small changes like these can really add up.

You can easily add more movement to your regular daily activities by adding some slight modifications to your routine. For instance, while out running errands, park your car a bit further away than usual, take the stairs instead of the elevator or get off the bus a stop or two earlier.

If you find yourself getting tired or losing focus at work, then stop what you are doing and take a quick walk around the block. Motivate yourself by getting a step tracker and setting a

goal each day. Set yourself reminders to get up and move if you have to.

Getting up and going for a walk can be great for mental clarity and focus. It also means you are getting in some extra steps without even trying.

Make time for sleep

If you want to get more done in your day by getting up early, this is going to mean that you will need to head to bed a little bit earlier. Make time for sleep by scheduling a bedtime for yourself and setting an alarm on your phone so you stick to that bedtime. Similarly, set an alarm for the morning that allows you the time you need to get everything done before the busy day starts.

Wrapping up

No matter how busy life gets, it is important to take the time to implement healthy habits. Even if you're short on time, you can still make small tweaks to your routine to make sure you are practicing healthy lifestyle habits. Getting up earlier, filling your water bottle, planning and prepping some meals for the week and getting your body moving will all help to keep you on the right track and lower the stress and chaos a busy day can bring.

Donna Mansour is a recipe developer, food photographer and the creator of the food blog Whole Food Bellies. She is obsessed with kitchen gadgets and has them all. In her free time, she loves hiking, reading and spending time with her three kids and sausage dog Odie.



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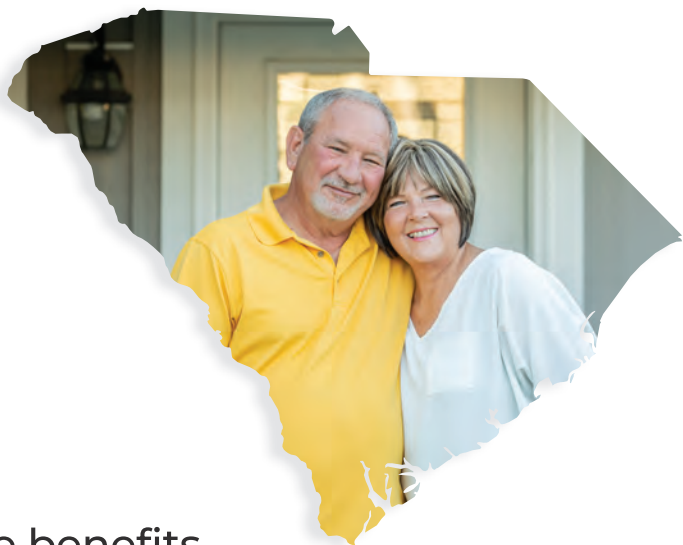
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What's changing with Medicare this year?

In 2025, Medicare will implement significant improvements as part of the Inflation Reduction Act, including a \$2,000 annual cap on out-of-pocket prescription drug costs.

While this is great news, it also means that deductibles or **copays for those with stand-alone Part D plans may increase**. That's why it's more important than ever to review your annual notice of changes and consider all your options. We're here to help guide you through your current plan changes and show you which coverage options are right for you!

Have questions about 2025 Medicare options?

Get answers at a local seminar happening soon in your area!

Due to the Inflation Reduction Act, you are likely to see more changes to your Medicare plan(s) than in the past. It's critical to review these changes before the Medicare annual enrollment period ends on Dec. 7. To help you feel informed and confident for enrollment, BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina is hosting Medicare seminars in your area.

Secure your reservation for a local seminar to:

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Reba McEntire's comedy return: NBC opens 'Happy's Place'



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Trust in Travis: Famous footballer hosts 'Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?' spinoff

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Discoveries, disappearances and death: 'Tracker' presents real-life scares this spooky season

BY DANA SIMPSON

Spooky and sinister vibes have been trending this year in all departments, from fashion and home decor to film, television and beyond. This October, however, CBS reminds viewers that not all scary things come in bat-shaped packages of orange and black. "Tracker" is back for a second season, striking fear into the hearts of everyday people who worry about their safety and the safety of their loved ones.

Starring "This Is Us" heartthrob Justin Hartley, Season 2 of "Tracker" begins Sunday, Oct. 13, on CBS, as a missing family's vehicle is discovered in the Arkansas wilderness.

While admittedly not true crime in itself, "Tracker" takes the mystery, uneasiness and primal fear at the heart of the popular genre and uses it to further well-written and believable — albeit fictional — plots.

In the show's premiere season, which debuted mid-February of this year, Hartley's character, Colter Shaw, put his survivalist skills to good use to track down (among others) two storm chasers who had disappeared. While the police had initially written off the missing duo as victims of an accidental drowning, an old family friend (also the parent of one of the missing persons in question) approached Shaw, hoping he could dig deeper into the storm chasers' last known details and unearth some

new leads.

Obviously good at his job, Colter is back for a second season, and this time his big case could open doors better left sealed.

"While investigating the strange disappearance of a missing family whose car was found abandoned on the side of the road in the backwoods of Arkansas," reads the official CBS description, "Colter makes a shocking discovery about the mother's past that leads him into the world of organized crime."

Additionally, the synopsis notes that "Reenie opens up her new law firm and enlists Velma's help in setting up shop."

Reenie Greene and Velma Bruin are portrayed by returning actresses Fiona Rene ("The Lincoln Lawyer") and Abby McEnany ("Work in Progress"), respectively. The former is Colter's reliable (and oft-needed) legal adviser, while the latter acts as one of Colter's "handlers" alongside her wife, Teddi, played in the debut season by Primetime Emmy nominee Robin Weigert ("Deadwood"). As a duo, Teddi and Velma have managed Colter's workload and provided him with steady freelance work as a high-stakes people-finder, but Teddi, sadly, will not be returning to the series for Season 2.

As for cast members who are rumored to be returning, Jen-

sen Ackles ("Supernatural") has been making headlines. First introduced toward the end of the second season in the role of Colter's brother Russell, Hartley and fans alike are excited to see the family plot line fulfilled to a greater depth.

"We left off first season with Colter having a lot of questions," Hartley told TV Insider reporter Jim Halterman. "He doesn't even know who he can trust anymore. ... He thought his brother was involved in his father's [Lee Tergesen, 'Oz'] death, and then come[s] to find out, wait a minute, he might not have had anything to do with it."

Hartley also shed some light on his and Ackles' on-screen sister, Dory (Melissa Roxburgh, "Manifest"), and her less-than-forthcoming attitude in episodes past and future, saying: "So, Russell comes back and Colter's got a couple of questions for him about this Dory situation and the box that she has."

But the family mystery doesn't stop there. Hartley also shared that as of the new season's second episode, "government officials start asking about our dad ... [who] is becoming a little more vindicated maybe, or just maybe completely nuts. We don't know."



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Horoscopes

The luckiest signs this week:
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♈ ARIES
The harmful impact of physical inactivity on your well-being could become apparent. To motivate yourself, try inviting your friends to join you in activities that promote a more active lifestyle and better health.

♉ TAURUS
If you're facing a professional transition or retirement, you must be clear about your next steps. Create a strategic plan to shape your future according to your aspirations and expectations.

♊ GEMINI
Exciting learning opportunities will propel your career to new heights. Be patient and let happiness guide your actions so you can realize your dreams.

♋ CANCER
After deep reflection, you may need to make essential changes to your environment. Re-evaluate your priorities and look for a living environment that better suits your needs and those of your loved ones.

♌ LEO
Saying "yes" to everything that comes your way could lead to being overwhelmed by commitments. Take the time to gather and analyze necessary information before making important decisions.

♍ VIRGO
Putting in extra hours at work could improve your financial situation. Afterward, consider devoting more time to your love life, responding to growing needs in this area.

♎ LIBRA
You'll be in the right place at the right time to make a lasting impression. For your efforts and efficiency at work, you'll receive well-reserved rewards and applause.

♏ SCORPIO
Leaving your comfort zone could be difficult if you are strongly attached to your roots and possessions. Consider getting rid of unnecessary things to free up space in your life.

♐ SAGITTARIUS
Expressing underlying thoughts openly and using your authority could help resolve complex situations. Boldness might help unblock restrictive deadlocks and ensure harmony in your life

♑ CAPRICORN
Significant financial investments, such as purchasing a new vehicle, may be necessary to maintain your professional image and avoid unforeseen events. Making a solid budget is essential.

♒ AQUARIUS
Your determination to impress could pay off at work. You'll grow your customer base and achieve your goals. Move forward with confidence. You'll be successful if you act.

♓ PISCES
If you're looking for the perfect job, find the inspiration to define your path. Your imagination will help you create a masterpiece.

New Streaming Movies & Shows





"Beyond Black Beauty" - Season 1 (Oct. 15)

Young equestrian Jolie Dumont (Kaya Coleman) finds her Olympic dreams dashed when her mother (Sagine Sémajuste) moves them from Belgium to her family's urban ranch in Baltimore. Wishing for nothing else but to have her old life back until she bonds with a spirited horse named Black Beauty, Jolie learns to embrace her heritage while continuing toward her Olympic-hopeful future.



"American Horror Stories" - Huluween Event (Oct. 15)

A spinoff of the long-running series "American Horror Story," this FX anthology series features a different horror story each episode. The spooky new collection features an all-star cast, including Michael Imperioli, Henry Winkler, Dyllón Burnside, Debby Ryan, Jeff Hiller, Jessica Barden, Angel Bismark Curiel, Guy Burnet, Victor Garber, June Squibb and more.

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NETFLIX



"Mighty Monsterwheelies" (Oct. 14)

Tapping into the Universal Monsters vault, this children's animated series is an action-packed adventure-comedy series which reimagines classic characters as half-monster, half-truck vehicle heroes who team up to use their special powers to serve and protect the all-vehicle city of Motorvania from troublemakers like Phantom Freeze and Invisible Van.



"Pupstruction" - Season 2 (Oct. 15)

This imaginative, music-filled animated series follows the adventures of the Pupstruction team — a doggone hard-working construction crew that ranges from some of the brawniest breeds to irresistibly cute and playful puppies. It centers on Phinny (Yonas Kibreab), an innovative young corgi, who might be the smallest pup on the crew but proves that you don't need big paws to have big dreams or big ideas.

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Q&A: George Clooney

BY JAY BOBBIN

Q: I see that the series "Sisters" is streaming now. I know George Clooney was in it, but which character did he play?

A: We can confirm that it wasn't one of the sisters ... though with his famous sense of humor, George Clooney might have given that a try if that opportunity had been presented to him. The drama series, which ran on NBC from 1991 to 1996, is now available to stream via the service Plex. Clooney appeared during the fourth and fifth rounds of the show's six-season run, playing James Falconer, a police detective who became involved with the program's central family when he investigated an assault on one of its members.

Teddy (portrayed by Sela Ward) eventually was Falconer's love interest, with their connection advanced and strengthened by the fact that they both were recovering alcoholics. He had a tragic personal past, for sure, and that background gave Clooney plenty of opportunity to show how he handled dramatic material. That was notable since much of his television work preceding that was in the comedy realm ("The Facts of Life," "Roseanne," etc.).

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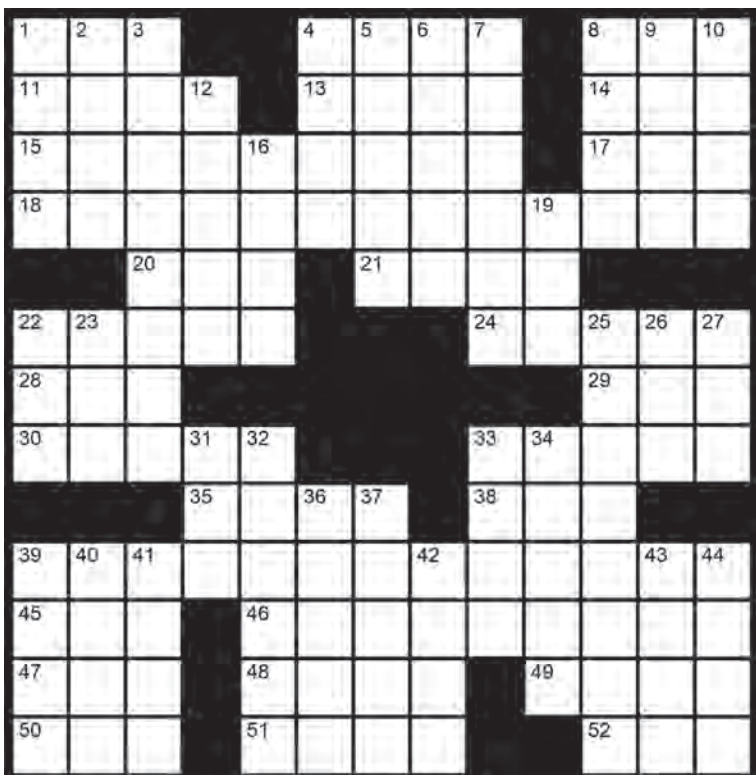
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Across

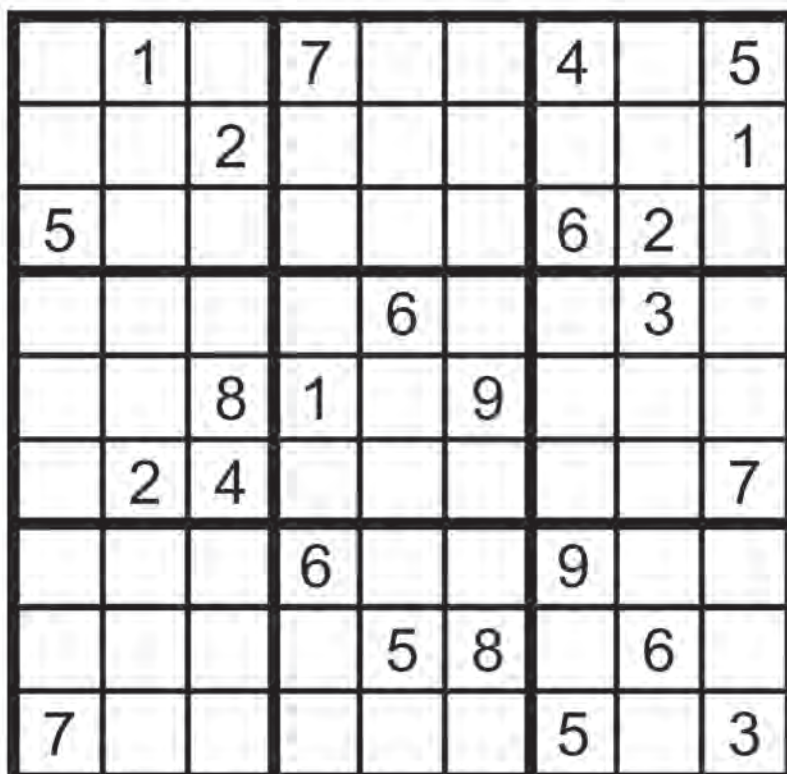
1. "Impractical Jokers" channel
4. "Mamma Mia" pop group
8. "___ Sync Battle"
11. Carefree
13. Neighbor of Vietnam
14. Oft-broken promise
15. Cable TV prizes
17. Madhouse
18. Cult Canadian comedy troupe, with "The"
20. Pickles of "Rugrats"
21. "Your majesty"
22. QB Brett
24. Boxer Mike
28. "This ___ House"
29. Milk
30. Plague
33. Slumping athlete's hopeful phrase
35. Andes capital
38. "Sprechen ___ Deutsch?"
39. 4-Down series
45. "Game of Thrones" weapon
46. Vince Vaughn series
47. Combine
48. "___ Man" (2008)
49. Dublin's land
50. Farm pen
51. Bakery product
52. "Send help!"

Down

1. Furniture wood
2. "Sound of Metal" (2019) actor Paul
3. Some old TV box sets
4. Actor Tudyk
5. Simpson and Maverick
6. Patrick Swayze's role in "Point Break" (1991)
7. Maintain
8. Minnelli of "Cabaret" (1972)
9. "American ___"
10. "Dirty" activity
12. Middle Eastern statesman Arafat



Sudoku



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

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

SOLUTION

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

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SUNDAY EVENING				SP=Spectrum FTC=Farm DTV=DirecTV				MOVIES		SPORTS		KIDS		OCTOBER 13, 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)	Football Night in America (N) (Live)		(:15) NFL Football Cincinnati Bengals at New York Giants The Big Apple. Cincinnati leads the all-time set 6-5. (N) (Live)		Suits		Suits		Suits		
WKTC	4	22	63	Chicago P.D. "They'll Have to Go Through Me"	The Andy Griffith Show	America's Funniest Home Videos (N)		*** Haunted Mansion (23) Stanfield. (P)		Tiffany Haddish, Owen Wilson, LaKeith		Celebrity Fam (N)		News (N)		
WOLO	5	12	25	ABC World News (N)	The Andy Griffith Show	America's Funniest Home Videos (N)		*** Haunted Mansion (23) Stanfield. (P)		Tiffany Haddish, Owen Wilson, LaKeith		Celebrity Fam (N)		News (N)		
WACH	6	6	57	(4:25) NFL Football Atlanta Falcons at Carolina Panthers (N) (Live)	The OT (N) (Live)	Simpsons (N)		Universal (N)		Bob's Burgers (N)		Krapopolis (N)		News (N) (Live)		
NWSN	8	172	307	NewsNation Now (N) (Live)		NewsNation Prime (N) (Live)		NewsNation Prime (N) (Live)		NewsNation Prime (N) (Live)		NewsNation Prime		NewsNation Prime		
WLTX	9	9	19	News 19 at 6pm (N)	CBS News (N)	60 Minutes (N)		Tracker "Out of the Past" (N) (SP)		Big Brother (N) (SF)				News 19 at 11pm (N)		
WRJA	11	14		Southern Songwriters With Patrick Davis		SuperAgers		Shelter Me		Ridley "Fool for Love, Part 1" (N)		Moonflower Murders on Masterpiece (N)		Van der Valk "Secrets in Amsterdam, Part 1" (N)		
WZRB	13	18	47	NCIS "The Last Link"		NCIS "She"		NCIS "Once Upon a Tim"		NCIS "Crossing the Line"		NCIS "Bears and Cubs"		NCIS "Silent Service"		
NICK	16	210	299	(5:15) *** Hotel Transylvania 2 (15)		* Monster High 2 (23) Nayah Damasen, Ceci Balagot, Milla Harris. The friends enter sophomore year at Monster High.				Friends		Friends		Friends		
TOON	17	203	296	(5:00) *** The Goonies (85) Sean Astin.		Burgers		Burgers		American		American		Rick		
DISNEY	18	200	290	(5:40) *** Monsters University (13) Voices of John Goodman, Steve Buscemi, Billy Crystal.		Voices of John Goodman, Steve Buscemi, Billy Crystal.				ZOMBIES		ZOMBIES		Bluey		
FREFRM	20	131	311	(5:10) * Tim Burton's Nig...	(:50) *** Beetlejuice (88) Alec Baldwin, Geena Davis, Michael Keaton.				(:55) *** Edward Scissorhands (90) Winona Ryder, Dianne Wiest, Johnny Depp.						(25) * Arachnopho...	
BSSE	21	47	649	Sports Stars of Tomorrow	Gamecock Football	Overtime Elite Basketball Finals: RWE vs. City Reapers Game 2.				Golf America		Breaking Par		Swing Clinic The Driver		
NATGEO	22	113	276	Witches: Truth "Germany: The Witch Hunts Begin"		Witches: Truth "Scotland: The King and the Witches"		Witches: "England: The Witchfinders' Cruel Crusade"		Witches: Truth "Sweden: The Legend of Blakulla" (N)		Witches: Truth "Ireland: Possessed by the Devil" (N)		Witches: Truth "Scotland: The King and the Witches"		
TNT	23	158	245	(5:00) *** The Wedding Planner (01) Jennifer Lopez.		*** 50 First Dates (04) Drew Barrymore, Rob Schneider, Adam Sandler.				*** Avengers: Infinity War (18) Chris Hemsworth, Josh Brolin, Robert Downey Jr..						
TBS	24	156	247	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Fam. "Good Grief"		The Big Bang Theory		The Big Bang Theory		The Big Bang Theory		*** 50 First Dates (04) Adam Sandler.		
USA	25	132	242	Law & Order: SVU "Shadow"		Law & Order: SVU "Torch"		Law & Order: SVU "Behave"		Law-SVU "Legitimate Rape"		Law-SVU "Gridiron Soldier"		Law & Order: SVU		
ESPN	26	35	206	NBA Basketball Minnesota Timberwolves at New York Knicks (N) (Live)		NBA Basketball Phoenix Suns at Denver Nuggets (N) (Live)		NBA Basketball Phoenix Suns at Denver Nuggets (N) (Live)		NBA Basketball Phoenix Suns at Denver Nuggets (N) (Live)		NBA Basketball Phoenix Suns at Denver Nuggets (N) (Live)		SportCtr (N)		
TRUTV	38	129	246	Imp. Jokers "Catastrophe"	Imp. Jokers "X Man"	Imp. Jokers "X Man"		Imp. Jokers "X Man"		Imp. Jokers "X Man"		Imp. Jokers "X Man"		Imp. Jokers "X Man"		
SHOPHQ	30		73	Bijoux "HOLIDAY KICKOFF"		Morris & David Diamond Je		Morris & David Diamond Je		Luxury Eyewear		Duxot Timepieces		Shinola Watches		
TWC	32	24	362	Weird Earth		Weird Earth		Highway Thru Hell		Highway Thru Hell		Highway "Brothers In Tow"		Highway "Rolling Solo"		
CNBC	35	84	355	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		
FNC	37	90	360	Fox Report (N) (Live)		Weekend (N) (Live)		Life, Liberty & Levin (N)		Sunday Night (N)		The Big Weekend Show		Life, Liberty & Levin		
HGTV	39	112	229	No Demo Reno "Fresh Start"		Windy City "Treasures, Trinkets and Tchotchkes"		Halloween Wars "Monster Trick-or-Treat"		Halloween Wars "Love Sucks" (N)		Outrageous Pumpkins "All Stars: Battling Beasts" (N)		Halloween Cookie Challenge		
FOOD	40	109	231	Guy's Grocery Games "Ghosts of GGG Past"		Guy's Grocery Games "All-Star Grocery Rush-a-Thon"		Rugged Justice		Rugged Justice		Rugged Justice "Wildfire!"		Rugged Justice		
ANPL	41	100	282	Rugged Justice		Homestead Rescue "It Takes a Village" The Raneys find a Montana homestead struggling with food.		Homestead Rescue "Bone Dry in Big Sky" The Raneys rescue a father homesteader facing threats.		Homestead Rescue "Bone Dry in Big Sky" The Raneys rescue a father homesteader facing threats.		Homestead Rescue "Tropic Thunder" The Raneys attempt to rescue a family's homestead in Kauai.		Homestead Rescue "Tropic Thunder" The Raneys attempt to rescue a family's homestead in Kauai.		
DISCV	42	103	278	90 Day Fiancé		90 Day Fiancé		90 Day Fiancé		90 Day Fiancé		90 Day Fiancé		90 Day Fiancé		
TLC	43	157	280	Built America "Bring Home the Bacon"		Built America "Flight of the Buffalo Wing"		The Food That Built America		The Food That Built America		The Food That Built America		The Food That Built America		
HIST	45	110	269	The First 48 "The Code"		First 48 "Stolen Innocence"		The First 48 "Chat Trap"		First 48 "Runner Runner"		First 48 "A Day Like This"		First 48 "Bad Medicine"		
A&E	46	130	265	(4:45) * A Nightmare o...		(:45) *** A Nightmare on Elm Street (84) Ronee Blakley, Heather		Daryl Dixon "The Book of Carol: L'Invisible" (N)		Daryl Dixon "The Book of Carol: L'Invisible" (N)		Daryl Dixon "The Book of Carol: L'Invisible" (N)		* Friday the 13th Part VIII...		
AMC	48	180	254	*** A Woman's Face (41) Melvyn Douglas, Conrad Veidt, Joan Crawford.				*** Call Her Savage (32) Monroe Owsley, Gilbert Roland, Clara Bow.		*** Wings (27) Buddy Rogers, Richard Arlen, Clara Bow.						
TCM	49	186	256	* Nobody Dumps My Daughter (24) Jasmine Vega, Sheila E., Ana Ortiz.				* The Killer I Picked Up (24) David D. Wilson, Kolton Stewart, Patrice Goodman. (P)		* The Killer I Picked Up (24) David D. Wilson, Kolton Stewart, Patrice Goodman. (P)		* The Bad Orphan (24) Chloe Coco Chapman, Mark L. Taylor, Betsy Brandt.		* The Bad Orphan (24) Chloe Coco Chapman, Mark L. Taylor, Betsy Brandt.		
LIFE	50	145	252	* Haunted Wedding (24) Janel Parrish, Paul Essiembre, Dominic Sherwood.				* The Wedding Cottage (23) Brendan Penny, Aaron Douglas, Erin Krakow.		* The Wedding Cottage (23) Brendan Penny, Aaron Douglas, Erin Krakow.		* Autumn at Apple Hill (24) Wes Brown, Meghan Heffern, Erin Cahill. A woman inherits an inn from her grandparents.		* Autumn at Apple Hill (24) Wes Brown, Meghan Heffern, Erin Cahill. A woman inherits an inn from her grandparents.		
HALL	52	183	312	*** Hocus Pocus (93) Sarah Jessica Parker, Kathy Najimy, Bette Midler.				* Hocus Pocus 2 (22) Sarah Jessica Parker, Kathy Najimy, The Sanderson sisters bewitch Salem for a second time.		* Hocus Pocus 2 (22) Sarah Jessica Parker, Kathy Najimy, The Sanderson sisters bewitch Salem for a second time.		* Hocus Pocus 2 (22) Sarah Jessica Parker, Kathy Najimy, The Sanderson sisters bewitch Salem for a second time.		* Hocus Pocus 2 (22) Sarah Jessica Parker, Kathy Najimy, The Sanderson sisters bewitch Salem for a second time.		
FX	54	154	248	Mike & Molly "Mike & Molly"		Mike & Molly "Mike & Molly"		Mike & Molly "Mike & Molly"		Mike & Molly "Mike & Molly"		Mike & Molly "Mike & Molly"		Mike & Molly "Mike & Molly"		
TVLAND	55	161	304	(4:30) *** Ocean's 8 (18)		*** Ocean's Eleven (60)		Dean Martin, Sammy Davis, Frank Sinatra.		*** Ocean's Eleven (60)		Dean Martin, Sammy Davis, Frank Sinatra.		*** Ocean's Eleven (60)		
EI	56	138	236	South Park		South Park		South Park		South Park		South Park		South Park		
COMEDY	57	136	249	South Park		South Park		South Park		South Park		South Park		South Park		
SYFY	58	152	244	(4:45) *** Fast Five (11) Paul Walker, Jordana Brewster, Vin Diesel.				(4:45) *** Fast & Furious 6 (13) Paul Walker, Dwayne Johnson, Vin Diesel.		(4:45) *** Fast & Furious 6 (13) Paul Walker, Dwayne Johnson, Vin Diesel.		(4:45) *** Fast & Furious 6 (13) Paul Walker, Dwayne Johnson, Vin Diesel.		(4:45) *** Fast & Furious 6 (13) Paul Walker, Dwayne Johnson, Vin Diesel.		
BET	61	162	329	(5:30) *** Barbershop 2: Back in Business (04)				*** Tyler Perry's Madea Goes to Jail (09) Derek Luke, Tyler Perry.		*** Tyler Perry's Madea Goes to Jail (09) Derek Luke, Tyler Perry.		*** Tyler Perry's Madea Goes to Jail (09) Derek Luke, Tyler Perry.		*** Tyler Perry's Madea Goes to Jail (09) Derek Luke, Tyler Perry.		
PARMT	64	153	241	(5:30) *** Addams Family Values (93) Raul Julia, Anjelica Huston.				*** Addams Family Values (93) Raul Julia, Anjelica Huston.		*** Addams Family Values (93) Raul Julia, Anjelica Huston.		*** Addams Family Values (93) Raul Julia, Anjelica Huston.		*** Addams Family Values (93) Raul Julia, Anjelica Huston.		
LMN	66	185	253	* My Son's Deception (24) Kate Drummond, Carson MacCormac, Tyssen Scott Smith.				* Sea Change (16) Maria Dizzia, Skyler Maxon, Emily Rudd.		* Sea Change (16) Maria Dizzia, Skyler Maxon, Emily Rudd.		* Sea Change (16) Maria Dizzia, Skyler Maxon, Emily Rudd.		* Sea Change (16) Maria Dizzia, Skyler Maxon, Emily Rudd.		
GOLF	69	52	218	(5:00) PGA Golf Black Desert Championship, Final Round				Central (N) PGA Tour Golf Black Desert Championship, Final Round		Central (N) PGA Tour Golf Black Desert Championship, Final Round		Central (N) PGA Tour Golf Black Desert Championship, Final Round		Central (N) PGA Tour Golf Black Desert Championship, Final Round		
OWN	72	104	279	20/20 on OWN		20/20 on OWN		20/20 on OWN		20/20 on OWN		20/20 on OWN		20/20 on OWN		
OXY	76	150	251	Snapped (N)		Family Secrets: The Disappearance of Alissa Turney (N)		Killer Relationship		Family Secrets: The Disappearance of Alissa Turney (N)		Family Secrets: The Disappearance of Alissa Turney (N)		Family Secrets: The Disappearance of Alissa Turney (N)		
NBATV	308		216	2024 Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremony				2024 Hall of Fame Tip Off Celebration		2024 Hall of Fame Tip Off Celebration		2024 Hall of Fame Tip Off Celebration		2024 Hall of Fame Tip Off Celebration		
HBO	511	350	501	(5:50) The Penguin "After Hours"		(:55) Penguin "Inside Man"		(:55) The Penguin "Bliss"		The Penguin (N)		The Penguin (N)		The Penguin (N)		
MAX	531	370	515	(10) *** Doomsday (08) Malcolm McDowell, Bob Hoskins, Rhona Mitra.				*** Terminator Salvation (09) Sam Worthington, Moon Bloodgood, Christian Bale.		*** Terminator Salvation (09) Sam Worthington, Moon Bloodgood, Christian Bale.		*** Terminator Salvation (09) Sam Worthington, Moon Bloodgood, Christian Bale.		*** Terminator Salvation (09) Sam Worthington, Moon Bloodgood, Christian Bale.		
PARSHO	551	300	545	*** Shooter (07) Michael Peña, Danny Glover, Mark Wahlberg.				(:15) Special Ops: Lioness "The Lie Is the Truth"		Dexter "Truth Be Told"		Dexter "Truth Be Told"		Dexter "Truth Be Told"		
TMC	571	316	553	(0:5) * War Pony (22) LaDainian Crazy Thunder, Ashley Shelton, Jojo Bapteise Whiting.				* Outlaw Posse (24) William Lynch, Mario Van Peebles.		Mapother, John Carroll		*** The Hateful Eight (15) Kurt Russell, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Samuel L. Jackson.		*** The Hateful Eight (15) Kurt Russell, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Samuel L. Jackson.		
STARZ	581	330	525	(5:5) * The Strangers: Chapter 1 (24) Froy Gutierrez, Madelaine Petsch.		Fat Joe Talks		Sweetpea		(:45) Fat Joe Talks		(:20) Three Women "Gia"		(:20) Sweetpea "Sorry for Your Loss"		

MONDAY EVENING				SP=Spectrum FTC=Farm DTV=DirecTV				MOVIES		SPORTS		KIDS		
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‘Dumbo’ flies in live action in Disney remake

BY JAY BOBBIN

It’s no secret that in its more recent history, the Disney studio has tried to capitalize on its intellectual property by turning some of its most popular animated features into live-action attractions.

That might seem especially tricky with a title character such as the one “Dumbo” has, but consider that Tim Burton is the director, and the 2019 remake – which Freeform shows Sunday, Oct. 13 – turns out to be very much its own creature, both literally and figuratively.

With his well-known knack for the offbeat, Burton might seem an odd match for a Disney project, though he also was among the makers of “The Nightmare Before Christmas,” “James and the Giant Peach,” “Alice in Wonderland” and “Alice Through the Looking Glass” for the company. And indeed, the result here is a “Dumbo” that isn’t completely cuddly.

Digital effects help bring to life the baby elephant that gets separated from its mother - and yes, there still are those famous parent-and-child moments that don’t merely tug at your heart, they just about rip it out of your chest. However, there also are the famously bizarre Burton touches that are likely to keep much of “Dumbo” at arm’s length for viewers who might otherwise anticipate getting fully wrapped up in it.

Danny DeVito (who earlier was The Penguin for Burton in “Batman Returns”) is wonderfully warm as the operator of the circus that becomes the big-eared, flying Dumbo’s new home ... but there’s also a really sinister rival showman, played by Burton’s earlier Batman, Michael Keaton. The competitor’s amusement-park concept is named Dreamland, but it may as well be called Nightmare Land, and Burton clearly is on familiar turf as he displays the site’s various horrors.

That also may be where more than a few moviegoers question the bill of goods they’ve been sold by “Dumbo.” Those who might expect strictly a live-action retelling of a childhood favorite are pretty much guaranteed to be surprised by the more ghoulish turns taken here, and that is to say nothing of how young children who are watching might react.

Colin Farrell, Eva Green (“Casino Royale”) and Alan Arkin also are in the esoteric cast of a “Dumbo” that works hard — a little too hard — not to be defined as a kids’ movie. It’s an interesting, not entirely successful exercise, and parents still should make sure that their youngsters don’t miss a seminal part of childhood by letting them see the 1941 original.

Best WALTER MATTHAU MOVIES

BY JAY BOBBIN

- “Lonely Are the Brave” (1962):** Though Kirk Douglas is the nominal star of this modern Western, Walter Matthau makes a strong impression as the local sheriff.
- “Charade” (1963):** One of Matthau’s most notable supporting performances features him as an apparent CIA man who’s among those interested in a widow on the run (Audrey Hepburn).
- “The Fortune Cookie” (1966):** Matthau leapt into the ranks of Oscar winners - and started a collaboration with Jack Lemmon and director Billy Wilder that would span a couple more films - as a shyster lawyer planning a scam with his TV-cameraman brother-in-law (Lemmon).
- “The Odd Couple” (1968):** You can’t do a list of Matthau’s best without this iconic Neil Simon comedy about mismatched roommates Felix and Oscar (Lemmon, Matthau).
- “Cactus Flower” (1969):** Goldie Hawn earned an Academy Award as the much-younger girlfriend of a dentist (Matthau) who uses his nurse (Ingrid Bergman) in a relationship play.
- “Kotch” (1971):** Directed by friend and frequent colleague Lemmon, Matthau plays a senior citizen trying to avoid a nursing-home residency.
- “Plaza Suite” (1971):** Matthau tackled several more Neil Simon characters by starring in all three stories of this trilogy set in the same room at New York’s Plaza Hotel.
- “Charley Varrick” (1973):** Director Don Siegel’s twisty-turny bank-heist drama boasts an excellent Matthau in the title role.
- “The Taking of Pelham One-Two-Three” (1974):** Matthau’s droll wit is ideal for the part of the New York transit cop dealing with hijackers who have captured a subway car and its passengers.
- “Earthquake” (1974):** He goes by an alias in an extended cameo in this disaster classic, but Matthau is unmistakable as a bar patron virtually oblivious to the place crumbling around him.
- “The Sunshine Boys” (1975):** Matthau and George Burns (the latter winning an Oscar here) are expectedly solid as uncomfortably reunited vaudeville veterans in another Neil Simon tale.
- “The Bad News Bears” (1976):** Arguably Matthau’s most popular movie for all ages casts him as the unlikely coach of a struggling Little League baseball team. Turner Classic Movies shows the comedy Saturday, Oct. 19.
- “Casey’s Shadow” (1978):** The horse-racing world supplies the background for this drama of a sketchy trainer (Matthau) who preps a colt for a big competition.
- “House Calls” (1978):** Matthau and Glenda Jackson are delightful together as a doctor and patient who start a personal relationship.
- “Hopscotch” (1980):** Reunited with the previous film’s Jackson, Matthau has fun in this light espionage tale as a CIA veteran who worries others with his plans for a tell-all memoir.
- “First Monday in October” (1981):** A properly authoritative Matthau plays a Supreme Court justice who collides with the first female appointee (Jill Clayburgh).
- “Grumpy Old Men” (1993):** Matthau and Lemmon reunited as neighbors and longtime rivals who are, indeed, grumpy.





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Reba McEntire's comedy return: NBC opens 'Happy's Place'

BY JAY BOBBIN

Reba McEntire is in a happy place, in more ways than one.

The country music icon's acting career has endured, confirmed in large part by the repeats of her first sitcom, "Reba," that continue on Hallmark Channel, CMT and UPtv. She hits many of the same notes — along with one of the same co-stars — as she returns to comedy series work in "Happy's Place," which NBC debuts Friday, Oct. 18.

Also continuing as a coach on Season 26 of NBC's "The Voice," McEntire now plays sassy, strong-willed Bobbie, who gets multiple surprises as "Happy's Place" begins. She learns that she has inherited her late father's restaurant (which gives the program its title), and also that she has a partner in running it: Isabella (played by Belissa Escobedo, "Blue Beetle," 2023), the half-sister she didn't know she had.

Their business views differ frequently, and trying to help moderate those are the site's staff: bartender Gabby (fellow "Reba" alum Melissa Peterman), cook Emmett (Rex Linn, who also worked with McEntire on "Big Sky"), waiter Takoda (Tokala Black Elk, "Yellowstone") and accountant Steve (Pablo Castelblanco, "Alaska Daily").

"We all said, 'Yes, let's go for it!'," McEntire recalls of embracing "Happy's Place" when the idea was presented initially. "I love the sitcom genre.



Out of all the things I get to do, this is my favorite, because it's camaraderie. It's fun. You just get to go to work and play, and it's creative. It's very comforting to me. I absolutely love it, and to get to work with these folks? That's icing on the cake."

A three-time Grammy winner and Kennedy Center Honors recipient, McEntire has brought along several former "Reba" executive producers — Kevin Abbott, Mindy Schultheis and Michael Hanel — as she shares that title with them on "Happy's Place." Abbott's wife, Julie, is billed similarly, having come up with the show's concept.

Executive producer Kevin Abbott, who is doing much of the writing for "Happy's Place," is comfortable in reteaming with McEntire. "I've worked with a lot of people," he says, "and I have never worked with anybody who has such immense talent in so many areas and yet still keeps a spirit of humility and graciousness and gratitude [that] makes coming to work with her just a joy. It's very easy for me to write for her, for whatever reason. I sync up very well with her attitudes and the way she looks at life."

The same goes for co-star Peterman, who has kept a link to McEntire via the Lifetime movie "The Hammer" (2023) and the recurring roles they both had on CBS's "Young Sheldon." Also the host of the syndicated game show "Person, Place or Thing," Peterman confirms of McEntire: "We've never really left each other. ['Reba'] ended, and we've been friends ever since. We've done other things together. I got to go on tour with her and open the show and do stand-up, and we vacation together. We hang out, and we just were waiting for another project so we could actually go to work together again."

Linn is McEntire's significant other off-camera, so he has multiple reasons to be glad to act opposite her again. He notes that "The Hammer" launched their professional collaborations: "Reba was 110% behind getting me to be a part of it, so that was wonderful. Then, 'Big Sky' came along, and she was talking to the producers on Zoom about her character. I just walked back in the background a couple of times — out of focus, which always happens — and then pretty soon, Reba wondered if her character had a husband. Anyway, that happened, too. And now I'm really glad to be a part of this."

Trust in Travis: Famous footballer hosts 'Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?' spinoff



BY CAROLINE COLLACUTT

Thrusting NFL superstar Travis Kelce ("Grotesquerie") into an even bigger spotlight, the all-new Amazon MGM Studios Original series "Are You Smarter Than a Celebrity?" makes its debut Wednesday, Oct. 16, on Prime Video.

According to its description, "'Are You Smarter Than a Celebrity?' offers a fun, new twist on the premise of the original popular format. Hosted by Travis Kelce, each game will welcome an adult contestant who will rely on a classroom full of celebrities from comedy, screen and sports to help them answer 11 questions on a range of subjects, pulled from elementary curriculum, in an effort to win a \$100,000 prize."

"Rather than compete against the stars, contestants enlist their help and, in some cases, can even 'cheat' off of them. And on the final question, worth \$100,000, the contestant selects one celebrity to discuss the answer with before locking in. The final question is always at the sixth-grade level."

For this inaugural season of gameplay, Kelce will be joined by some steadfast co-workers from the entertainment business, with episodes including celebrity classmates such as Nikki Glaser ("FBoy Island"), Natasha Leggero ("He's Just Not That Into You," 2009), Nicole Byer ("*Loosely Exactly Nicole"), Ron Funches ("Loot"), "NFL Thursday

Night Football" analyst Ryan Fitzpatrick, former NFL wide receiver Chad Ochocinco Johnson ("I Am Athlete"), Garcelle Beauvais ("Real Housewives of Beverly Hills"), Lala Kent ("Vanderpump Rules"), Sophia Rose Stallone ("The Family Stallone") and multi-hyphenate Lilly Singh ("A Little Late With Lilly Singh").

Still, it's a big undertaking for the footballer, as he continues his career in the NFL and doubles as a game show host. But clearly, it's nothing he can't handle.

"I like to have exciting things going on," Kelce explained in an interview with US Weekly. "And sure enough, I'm out here in the entertainment world trying to dabble into that before I get back locked in on football and knowing that that's going to be my focus until I'm done playing. ... But to dabble around in the entertainment space is something that I'm really interested in."

"Everything seems to be full throttle and just moving at the speed of light, and that's how I kind of like it," Kelce concluded.

Created by Barry Poznick and John Stevens (both of "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?"), and produced by Wes Kauble ("Beat Shazam") and Mark Burnett ("Survivor"), the all-new series "Are You Smarter Than a Celebrity?" kicks off Wednesday, Oct. 16, on Prime Video.

View from the Couch



"THE CROWN: THE COMPLETE SERIES"

Having issued its sixth and final season on home video recently, one of the most acclaimed of all streaming dramas now is being released in full in a Blu-ray "Collector's Set" that includes a book of related photographs. Written principally by Peter Morgan, who covered some of the same territory in his script for the 2006 movie "The Queen," the much-honored Netflix saga spans the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, covering a period just short of 60 years (from her claiming of the throne up to just beyond her Golden Jubilee). The British monarch is played at different ages by Claire Foy, Olivia Colman and Imelda Staunton as she deals with various

BY JAY BOBBIN

relationships and crises within the royal family. (The actual royals sometimes took issue with the dramatizations of their lives and times here.) The large cast — sometimes exchanging actors in other continuing roles — also includes recent Primetime Emmy winner Elizabeth Debicki (as Princess Diana), Matt Smith, Tobias Menzies, Jonathan Pryce, Vanessa Kirby, Helena Bonham Carter, Lesley Manville, Eileen Atkins, Jeremy Northam, Charles Dance, John Lithgow, Gillian Anderson, Matthew Goode, Ben Daniels, Dominic West, Emerald Fennell, Olivia Williams, Jonny Lee Miller and Natascha McElhone. **** (Not rated: AS, P)

"A CHRISTMAS STORY/A CHRISTMAS STORY CHRISTMAS"

It was inevitable that both of these holiday tales would be paired in a double-feature DVD — especially since they both feature Peter Bilingsley in his much-beloved role as Ralphie — and that time has come. In the classic 1983 original, ever-optimistic young Ralphie has high hopes that his parents (played by Darren McGavin and Melinda Dillon) will get him the holiday present he wants most, a Red Ryder air rifle., However, numerous people give him the warning, "You'll shoot your eye out." Ralphie is a grown husband and father in the effective-enough 2022 sequel (actually the second sequel that was made to the first film) as he returns home to Indiana following his father's passing and reunites with several acquaintances from his childhood; Ian Petrella, Scott Schwartz, R.D. Robb

and Zack Ward also reprise their original roles. *** (PG: AS, V)

"TO CATCH A THIEF"

One of Alfred Hitchcock's most stylish movies comes to the 4K Ultra HD format, as the 1955 romantic thriller casts Cary Grant — in what was his third of four films with the director — as a retired jewel thief, known as "The Cat," who tries to clear himself of the suspicion that he staged a number of robberies on the French Riviera. He makes the acquaintance of a woman (Grace Kelly, in her second-to-last feature, the last of her three collaborations with Hitchcock) who seems to know a lot about him, something that ultimately unsettles her when her mother (Jessie Royce Landis), who would play Grant's mother for Hitchcock in "North by Northwest" a few years later) becomes a theft victim. Grant and Kelly have fabulous charisma together; despite the picture's elegant setting, a lot of it was filmed on the Paramount lot in Hollywood. *** (Not rated: AS, V)

"BABYLON 5: THE COMPLETE SERIES"

The syndicated, celebrated sci-fi show gets a new release on DVD with all five of its seasons ... which was, from the beginning, exactly the length it was planned for. Set in the latter half of the 23rd century, the saga from creator-writer-producer J. Michael Straczynski begins with Michael O'Hare as the commander of the title space station, where various species from throughout the galaxy are meant to be able to meet on peaceful terms to deal with diplomatic matters. It doesn't always work out that way, though,

as a race known as The Shadows sets out to disrupt the intended meetings of minds. Bruce Boxleitner became the series lead after the first season; Claudia Christian, Jerry Doyle, Mira Furlan, Richard Biggs, Andrea Thompson ("NYPD Blue"), Stephen Furst ("National Lampoon's Animal House"), "Lost in Space" alum Bill Mumy, Tracy Scoggins and Jeff Conaway ("Taxi") also are in the cast. The show was followed by several TV-movie sequels and an animated direct-to-video film. *** (Not rated: AS, P, V) (Also on Blu-ray)

"HAPPY CLOTHES: A FILM ABOUT PATRICIA FIELD"

One of the most noted costume designers in movies and television, the New York-based Field has created styles for such shows as "Sex and the City" (for which she won a Primetime Emmy Award) and "Emily in Paris," and she earned an Oscar nomination for her work on the 2006 comedy "The Devil Wears Prada." First shown at last year's Tribeca Film Festival, this documentary traces her life and career, encompassing her efforts that are credited as being the beginnings of leggings. Field herself offers many comments about her experiences; colleagues giving interviews about her include Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall, Lily Collins, producer Darren Star and director David Frankel. Of course, clips from many of the projects to which Field has contributed also are featured. *** (Not rated: P)

"HARRY WILD: SERIES 3"

After the long run she had in "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman," Jane

Seymour has found series success again with this Acorn TV mystery about a retired literature professor who has become an amateur sleuth, to the frequent concern of her police-detective son Charlie (played by Kevin Ryan) — and Fergus, her young partner in investigating (Rohan Nedd), is an unlikely ally in joining her on cases. The six-episode third season includes a tale with all of them being held hostage by a former soldier who insists that they solve his daughter's murder; among other puzzlers for Seymour's Harry are the murder of a soap opera's director on the set, and the alleged suicide of a boy band's lead singer. Amy Huberman, Paul Tylak and Rose O'Neill also are regular cast members. *** (Not rated: AS, P, V)

Coming Home Soon

"DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE" (OCT. 22)


"GHOST" (4K ULTRA HD/BLU-RAY) (OCT. 22)

"THE SIXTH SENSE" (4K ULTRA HD) (OCT. 22)

"VEEP: THE COMPLETE SERIES" (BLU-RAY) (OCT. 22)

"TRAP" (NOV. 5)

SUNDAY
October 13, 2024

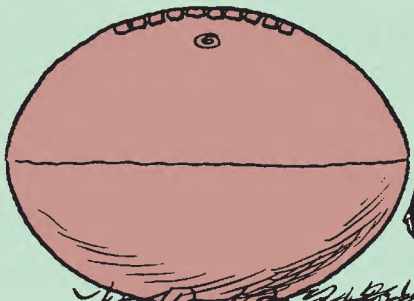


COMICS

PEANUTS

featuring
"Good ol'
Charlie Brown"

by SCHULZ



OKAY, THIS IS WHAT WE'LL DO...

YOU GO DOWN TO THE END OF THE FIELD, AND I'LL KICK THE BALL TO YOU

I'LL BE ALL ALONE DOWN THERE...

YOU WON'T BE ALONE..THE BALL WILL BE WITH YOU!

WHAT IF IT DOESN'T SHOW UP?

IT'LL BE THERE... I'M GOING TO KICK IT TO YOU

WHAT IF I GO ALL THE WAY DOWN THERE, AND I GET MUGGED?

HOW CAN YOU GET MUGGED? WE'RE THE ONLY ONES AROUND HERE!

THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY!

ANOTHER THING...SO I WALK ALL THE WAY DOWN THERE... HOW DO I KNOW YOU WON'T RUN OFF AND LEAVE ME?

OKAY, FORGET IT!

NO, THAT'S ALL RIGHT... I'LL DO IT

MY MOTHER WARNED ME THAT FOOTBALL WAS A RISKY GAME

10/13

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

I LOVE TO GARDEN

LIZ SAYS I GROW THE BEST TOMATOES EVER!

AND I LOVE TO COOK

LIZ SAYS MY WAFFLES ARE PURE PERFECTION!

I WONDER WHAT ELSE I LOVE?

I DUNNO. ASK LIZ.

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JIM DAVIS 10-13

TAKE IT FROM THE TINKERSONS

BY BILL BETTWY

WHAT ARE YOU GOING AS FOR HALLOWEEN?

I'VE DECIDED TO NOT OVERTHINK IT THIS YEAR.

IT DOESN'T SEEM TO MATTER WHAT MY COSTUME IS.

THE NEIGHBORS STILL ALWAYS GIVE ME CANDY.

SO THIS YEAR I'M JUST WEARING MY NORMAL CLOTHES.

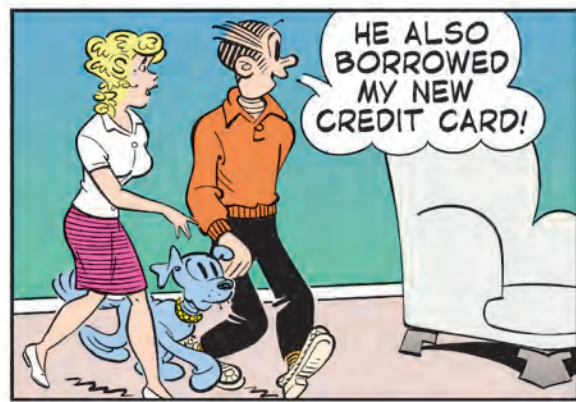
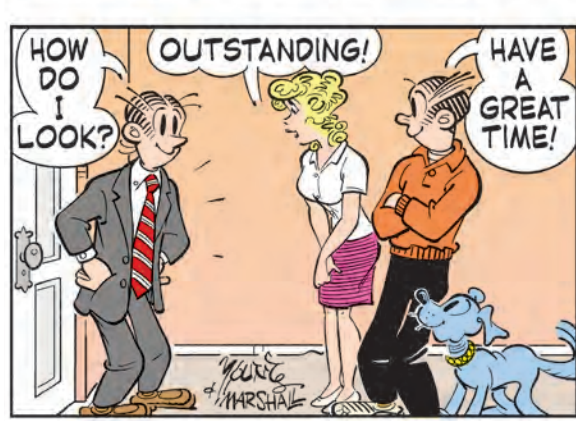
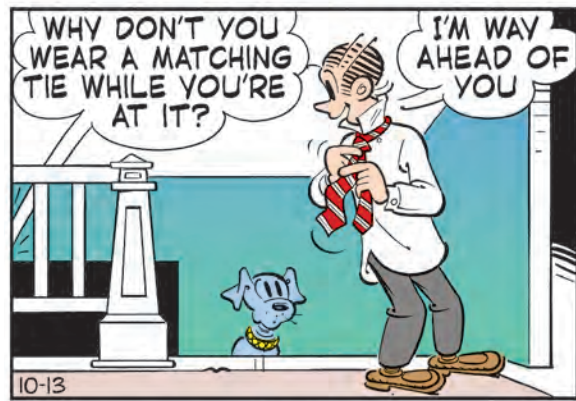
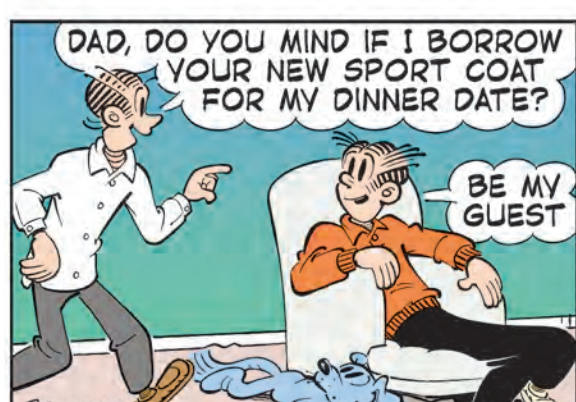
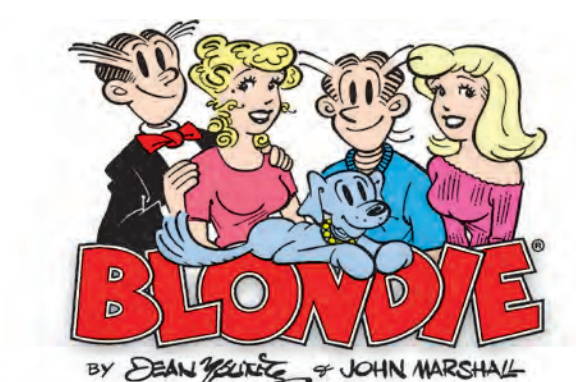
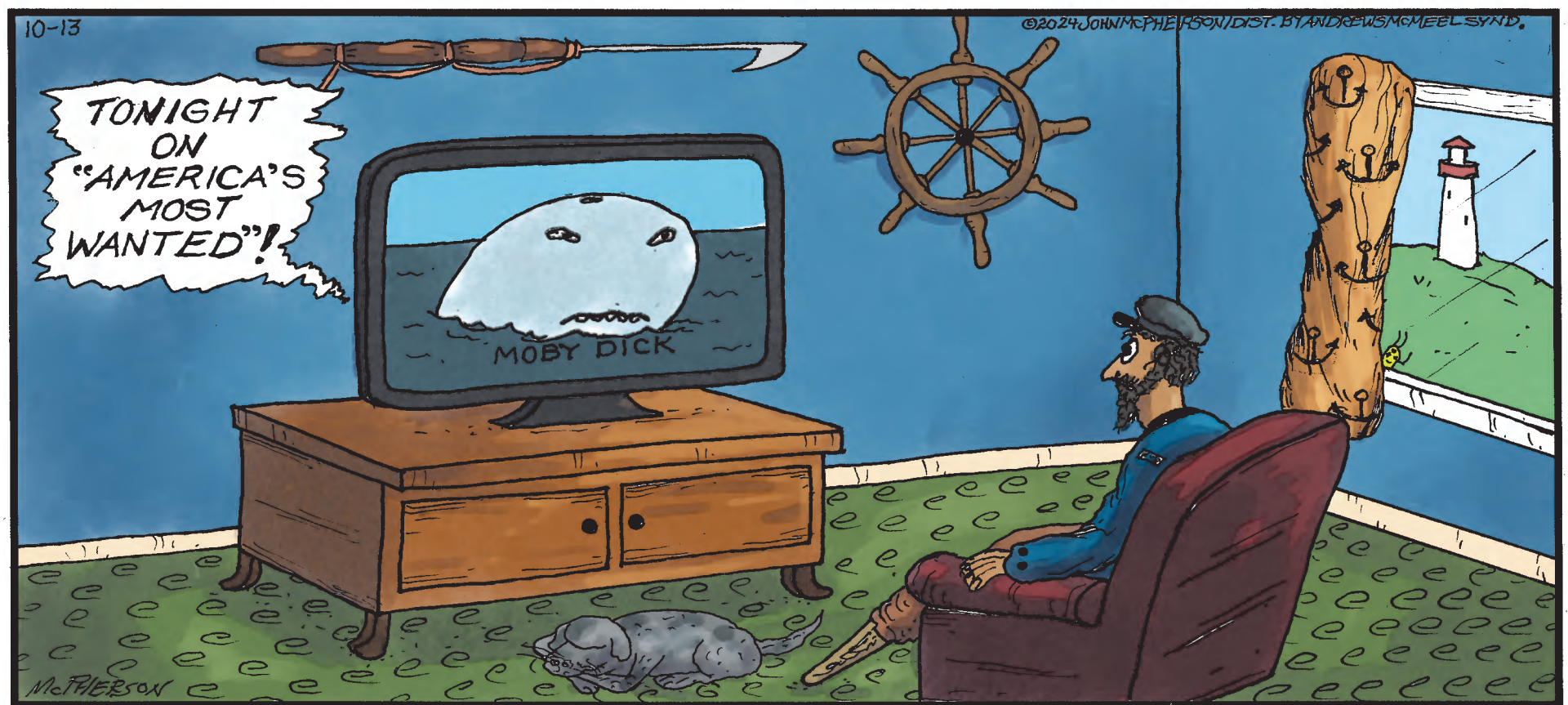
AND GOING AS A FREELOADER.

BETTWY 10-13

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CLOSE TO HOME

BY JOHN McPHERSON



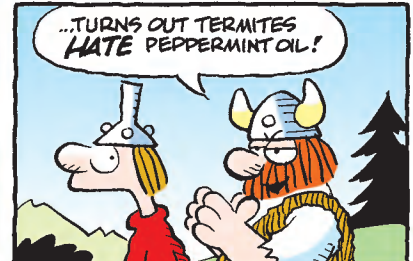
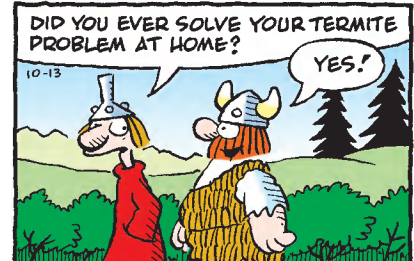
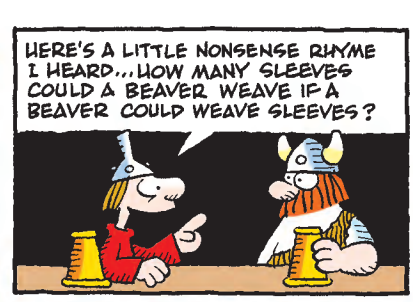
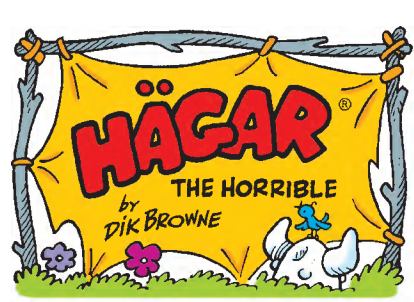
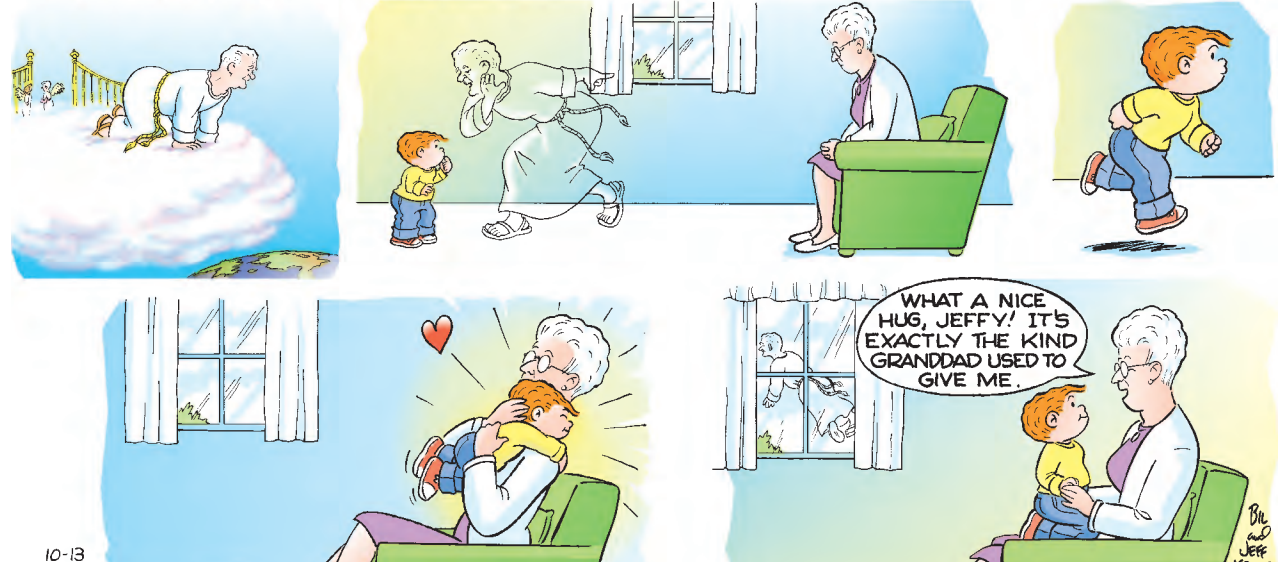
FoxTrot

by Bill Amend



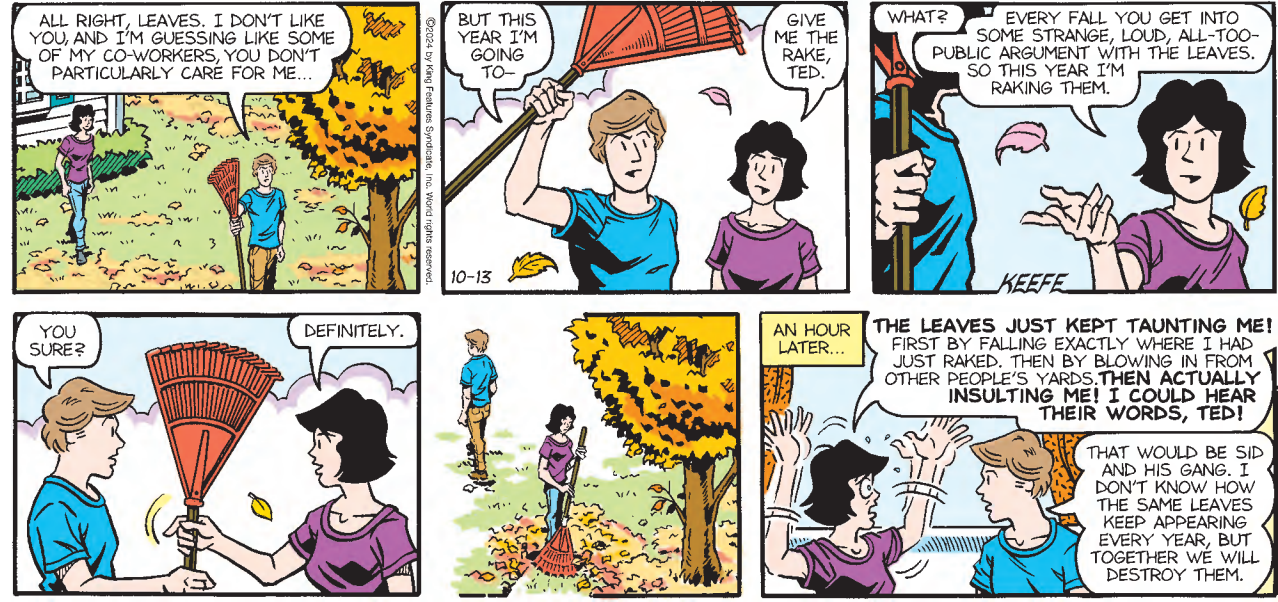
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

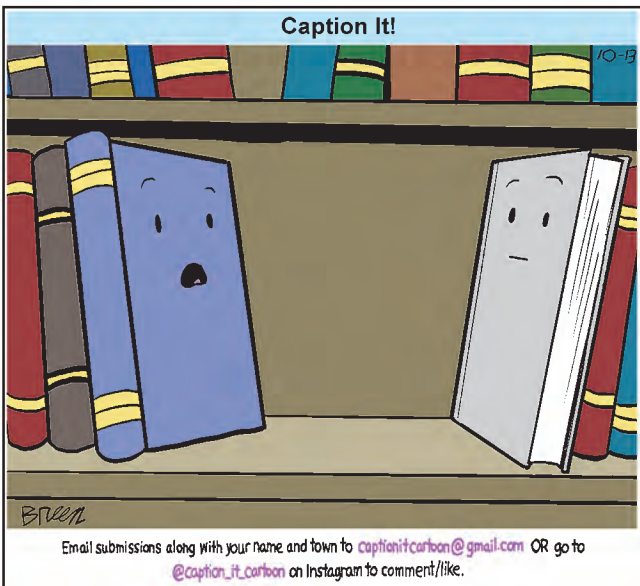
By Bill Keane



SALLY FORTH

BY FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & JIM KEEFE





FRANK AND ERNEST



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS



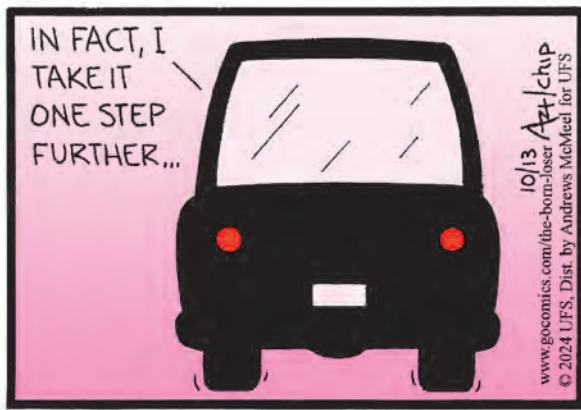
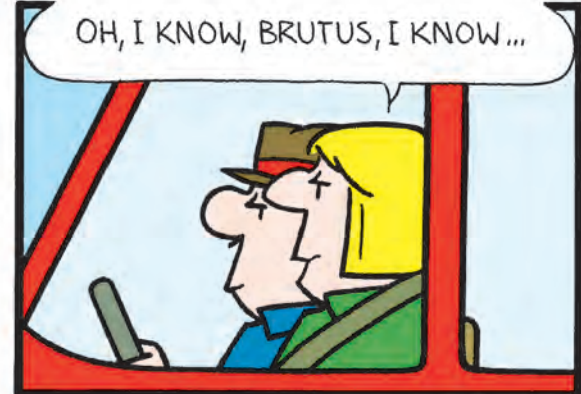
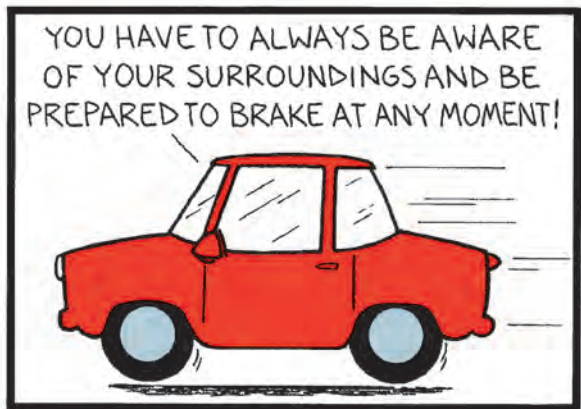
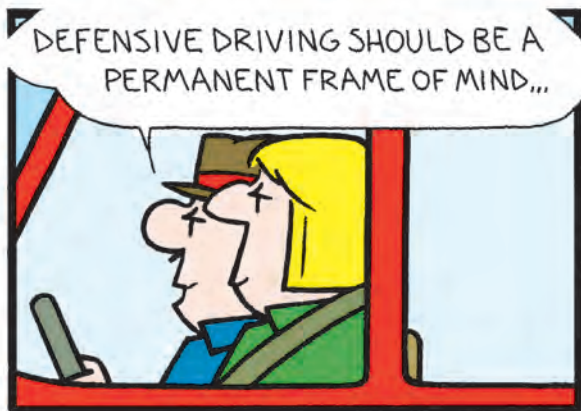
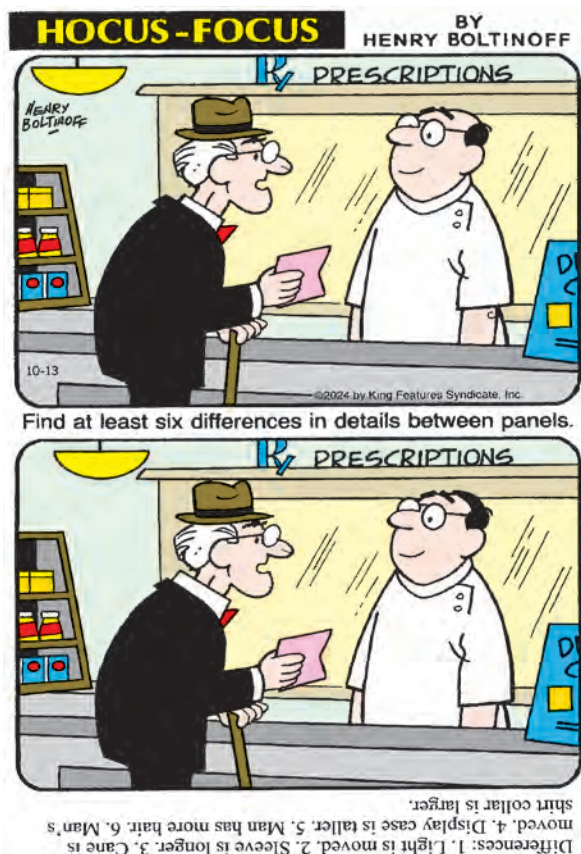
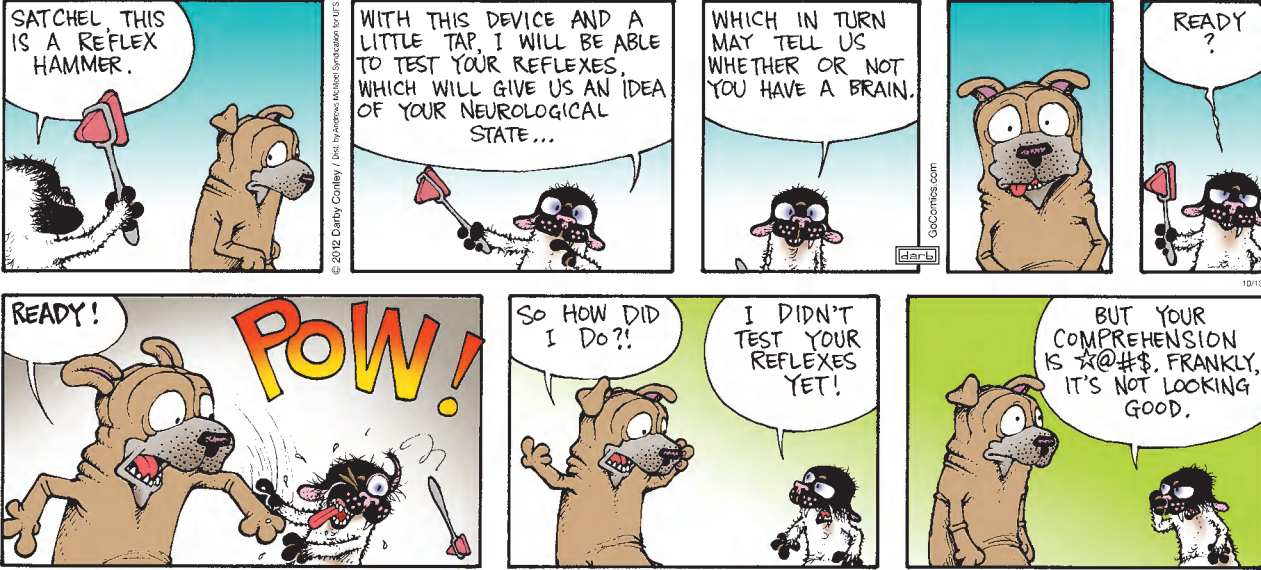
WIZARD OF ID

by Hart, Mastroianni and Parker

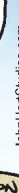


GET FUZZY

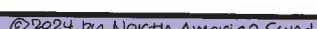
BY DARBY CONLEY



BY GARY BROOKINS & SUSIE MACNELLY



BY HANK KETCHAM



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