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Welcome to

Shaw & Sumter

BASE LEADERSHIP

GOLF AND DISC GOLF COURSES

MEDICAL CENTERS

PUBLIC ART

SHOOTING RANGE

PET-FRIENDLY PLACES

DINING DOWNTOWN

NEW VETERANS' CLINIC

COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT

CLINIC ADDS 104-BED VETERANS

NURSING HOME

PLUS: NEW THINGS TO DO LOCALLY AND REGIONALLY: MEDICAL, PARKS, CULTURE, HISTORY AND MORE

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George Washington

Ka'Niyah Bernice-Lauren Baker

Lynda Griffin Masi

Dr. Rogelio Doromal Depra

Elizabeth F. Alsbrooks

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Sumter death row inmate's execution upheld 2 decades after guilty plea

Bryant is 1 of 3 tri-county men on S.C.'s Death Row

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com

In a published opinion on Monday, Jan. 27, the United States 4th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the death sentence of Stephen Corey Bryant, two decades after he pleaded guilty to murdering three men in Sumter.

Bryant, 43, was sentenced to death at 23 after pleading guilty to the murders of 62-year-old Willard "T.J." Tietjen, 36-year-old Clifton Gainey and 24-year-old Christopher Burgess. The men were all shot, alongside Clinton Brown, during a six-day period in October 2004, according to *The Item* archives. Brown later recovered from his injuries.

After his arrest, Bryant threatened the life of a correctional officer and attacked another, according to *The Item* archives.

Bryant appealed the death penalty in U.S. District Court, arguing the



FILE PHOTO
Stephen Bryant was sentenced to death after pleading guilty to murdering three men during the course of six days.

court wrongly excluded testimony of his father's sexual abuse. The appeal was denied.

He then appealed the sentence arguing he was intellectually disabled due to fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, or FASD, which could legally exempt him from execution as it violated his Eighth Amendment rights, which prohibits cruel and unusual punishment.

The district court allowed him to

SEE DEATH ROW, PAGE A7



Voting now open through Feb. 26 for annual Best of Sumter contest

STAFF REPORT

There are thousands of businesses, people and services the Sumter community thinks are the best in their class.

SEE VOTE, PAGE A12

eVAC Magnetics and suppliers meet



PHOTOS BY BRUCE MILLS / THE SUMTER ITEM

Sumter's newest industrial employer eVAC Magnetics hosted a supplier event on Tuesday, Jan. 28, at the City Centre in downtown Sumter. The event was organized by the state Department of Commerce, TheLINK Economic Development Alliance and eVAC officials and brought 65 suppliers from across the state to Sumter in a targeted effort to help address current and immediate needs for the new manufacturer. Suppliers in attendance ranged from janitorial to landscaping and engineering companies, according to Tammie Greene with S.C. Department of Commerce. eVAC Magnetics plans to be operational by the end of this year, officials said.



Sumter school board approves 2 makeup days for bad weather

Feb. 13, March 14 moved from half days to full days; Feb. 14 now full day for students

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

Given a busy school year to date with inclement weather, Sumter School District has now reached the point of im-

plementing makeup days for students.

The district has a cap of five eLearning days per year that can be used for bad weather, and after surpassing those allotted days last week

with the snow, the school board approved a superintendent recommendation for the equivalent of two makeup days at its Monday, Jan. 27, meeting.

By the district board of trustees' unanimous vote, the 2024-25 school calendar has been amended to make Feb. 13 and March 14 — which were

previously half days — now full days for student attendance. Also, Feb. 14 will be a full day for students, instead of a district professional learning day as it was originally scheduled.

Of note, at this time, Feb. 17 will remain a district holiday for students and staff. That day is Presidents' Day.

By state regulations, when a district uses up its five eLearning days per year, it must then make up up to three additional days when schools are out. After that, school boards can grant a waiver for up to three additional days missed.

SEE DAYS, PAGE A12

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ITEM

SECOND FRONT

E-mail: pressrelease@theitem.com

2 in custody after shooting that left 1 dead, another injured at Sumter motel

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com

Two men are in police custody in connection to a fatal shooting at a Sumter motel on Saturday night, Jan. 25.

Tevon Demetrius Guess, 34, of Pinewood, was first identified as a suspect and taken into custody on Sunday morning, Jan. 26, after the shooting. Guess was

charged with murder, two counts of attempted murder, possession of a weapon by a convicted felon and possession of a weapon during a violent crime, according to Tonyia McGirt, public information officer for Sumter Police Department.



BELLE



GUESS

He was charged with murder and two counts of attempted murder, McGirt said.

Both men are being held

A second suspect, 39-year-old Melvin Shirell Belle, of Anderson Street, turned himself in to police late Wednesday afternoon, Jan. 29.

at Sumter County Sheriff's Office Detention Center. Additional charges are pending, McGirt said.

Officers responded to a shooting call at about 11 p.m. on Saturday at Rode-way Inn, 226 N. Washington St., and were directed to a room where they found 28-year-old Raekwon Ra-shkeen Reyes Owens deceased, McGirt said.

Another victim, a 25-year-

old Sumter woman, was also shot and taken to a Columbia hospital. She remains there in stable condition, McGirt said.

A third person, a 26-year-old Sumter woman, was also in the room but was uninjured.

According to McGirt, the suspects and victims are considered acquaintances.

An investigation is ongoing.

BizTalk: Wingstop restaurant coming to Wesmark Boulevard

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

A fast-growing chicken wing restaurant chain will soon open in Sumter on Wesmark Boulevard.

The general contractor on the project and a building permit with the Sumter County Building Department both confirm a Wingstop restaurant will open at 11 W. Wesmark Blvd., which is behind Marco's Pizza and Baskin-Robbins.

Chris Vick, owner of Reliant Construction Development and Manage-



BRUCE MILLS / THE SUMTER ITEM

Wingstop restaurant will be at 11 W. Wesmark Blvd. and is projected to open at the end of February, according to the general contractor. The eatery is behind Marco's Pizza and Baskin-Robbins and next door to Ard's Appliances.

ment, based in Tennessee, told *The Sumter Item* that the new eatery is projected to open at the end of February.

Wingstop is a rapidly growing chain, and Reliant Construction builds them throughout the Southeast, Vick said.

He added the Wesmark Boulevard project is an interior upfit of an existing building, which was previous-

ON THE WEB

wingstop.com

ly a barbecue restaurant.

The eatery will feature a drive-up, which is unusual for a Wingstop, according to Vick, and the restaurant will be one of the larger facility footprints for the chain.

Wingstop is known for its chicken wings (both boneless and regular wings) and numerous dips and sauces, he added. Fries, chicken tenders

and chicken sandwiches are also served.

A relatively new menu item that is popular is a fried corn on the cob, Vick said.

"They take a cob of corn and slice it to an inch or so thick and fry it," he said. "Then, they have different seasonings that they put on it. It's really good."

The interior upfit began in early January.

Sumter County receives clean audit report

BY DEIRDRE CURRIN
deirdre@theitem.com

The annual audit report from Sumter County's 2023-24 fiscal year was presented at Sumter County Council's most recent meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 28, and according to Grant Davis of Mauldin and Jenkins CPAs and Advisors, Sumter County came up with a "clean report."

"We did not note any instances of noncompliance or internal control deficiencies



DAVIS

local fiscal recovery funds," Davis said. "So, all in all, a clean report with nothing negative at all to report to you all, honestly a positive experience from our perspective."

Aside from the audit, an ordinance that would see 0.03

acre of property on U.S. 378 be sold to South Carolina Department of Transportation passed third reading. With the property, which SCDOT will pay \$15,200 for, an enlarged turnaround will be created in front of the old Dabbs Fire Station, which will become a new EMS station.

Project Kerrigan was also approved for its second reading. The project would allow a currently unidentified existing Sumter County manufacturer to expand, and the execution and delivery of a

FILOT and incentive agreement between the county and the manufacturer would take place. Third reading will be during the county's next meeting, and a public hearing will take place before council's vote.

An ordinance allowing a Texas-based company a fee-in-lieu of ad valorem taxes and special source revenue agreement, which passed second reading at council's last meeting, was deferred on its third reading because the agreement needs to be re-

viewed before third reading. Third reading will take place at council's next meeting on Feb. 11.

The company, Treaty Oak Clean Energy, is known for solar infrastructure and donated \$200,000 toward recreation efforts in the Rembert and Rafting Creek areas.

2025 Sumter County standing committees were approved with only one new change — Councilwoman Tasha Gardner-Greene will serve on the Wateree Community Actions Committee.

OSTEEN

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SUMTER
TODAY

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YOUTUBE

It was multiple years in the making, but the new state veterans' home in Sumter held its initial open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony Jan 17 at 915 N. Wise Drive. The skilled-nursing facility has 104 beds and will begin admissions in late February or early March for veterans who have been honorably discharged. The total construction cost was \$71.5 million.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clgZya1YKTY>



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Sights, sounds of Liberty STEAM board meeting



Liberty STEAM Eagle Steppers showcase their talents in a performance at the school's board of directors' meeting on Monday, Jan. 27, at Liberty's Elementary Academy campus at Sumter Mall.

Liberty STEAM Charter School officials recognized at Monday's board meeting three of its teachers who recently earned their National Board Teacher Certification, which is the highest credential teachers can earn in the U.S. From left are Liberty board Chairman Greg Thompson, teachers Michelle McDonald and Kendall Jones, Speaker of the House Rep. Murrell Smith, R-Sumter, and teacher Kelli Carlisle.



Liberty STEAM Elementary Academy leaders hold banners at Monday's board of directors' meeting that display the faces of scholars who achieved proficiency in middle of the year Measures of Academic Progress testing in reading and math. Liberty's goal is 85% student proficiency in reading and math.



Liberty STEAM Charter School students recite the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of the school's board of directors' meeting on Monday, Jan. 27, at Liberty's Elementary Academy campus at Sumter Mall.

They don't build them like they used to...

When my mother built the new house, I remember the fun of going to the furniture store. There were only two in town. We went to the high-end store, which meant not all the furniture was made of pine. I was about 7. Mama picked out a few pieces (money was an issue), good solid pieces. This furniture came when the house was finished. The men brought in each piece with care. All the furniture was put together and fit in the spaces just right.

I married my wife because I loved her. The fact that her father owned a furniture store didn't hurt. Over the years, I have absorbed some knowledge of the furniture business. My father-in-law derided imports. I can still hear him say, "This ain't nothing but a cheap piece made in China. It will fall apart in a month and be thrown in a ditch somewhere." In his opinion, if it didn't come from High Point, North Carolina, it wasn't worth having.

These days, most furniture is made overseas. I don't know about the economics, but I understand the difference. Instead of men delivering furniture to my house, now the UPS man brings a box. When I open the box, out spill 100 pieces, a large puzzle that I am to put together. The instructions are all diagrams and no words. I am convinced in China, there is a regular gathering of industrial engineers who laugh at how they drew the instructions, visualizing an American male trying to put in screws and cams.

When I put together furniture like this, I fear two things: first, I will run out of screws, cams or bolts. The second: I will have leftover screws, cams and bolts.

I have searched for 30 minutes for a piece labeled "10," only to discover there is no piece labeled "10." The print was so small I misread the instructions. I have been frustrated that I am to look for the piece labeled "LR" and find that piece after an hour of looking. It turned out "LR" was hidden under another piece, and you could only find the label if you took the assembly apart.

I am also convinced that the Chinese lie to us. One piece I put together clearly said, "Takes 1 hour to assemble." They lied. Two hours later, I had it almost put together and had one last major piece to add. It was then that I realized in Step 2 that I put a piece in backward. I had to take it all apart, put the piece in correctly and spend two hours putting it back together. The dog learned new vocabulary words that night.

The last piece of furniture I put together was a

nightmare. It took Gina and I working together for three hours to assemble it. To finish it, we had to lay it on the floor. When I stood it up, the bottom piece began to separate from the top. The whole thing began to wobble. As I attempted to move it to the place we intended, screws began to pull away from the pressed board, cams began

to come loose, and the back fell off. We took the top off, and I had Gina hold the bottom while I tried to fix it. When I tried to reattach the top and bottom, it leaned precariously. A gap opened between the side and the bottom drawer. When I stepped back, it looked like something my grandson would build out of his wooden blocks.

Gina thought maybe we should return it. I wanted to burn it. But I think a few brackets from the hardware store might salvage it. Being an American male, I think I can fix what was poorly designed.

Through this whole process, I could hear my father-in-law's voice: "They just don't make them like they used to..."

It is easy to forget before Jesus was a rabbi, he was a carpenter. He knew about building things.

Jesus told us a story about people who build quick and cheap things not meant to last. He said it is like building a house on the sand. It's fine for a while, but a storm will come, and it will not stand. Like my cabinet, people build a life that is not strong enough to persevere, to stand in the storm that surely comes to us all.

Jesus then told about a man who built his house on the rock. It is harder to build on the rock than the sand. There is a lot of extra sweat. It takes more time. But when the storm comes, it stands. People who build their lives on the rock of Jesus, on his teaching, on his values, they come through the storm.

After the storm, I wonder if people walked by the wreckage of the life built on the sand and said, "You know, they don't build them like they used to..."

The Rev. Dr. Clay Smith is the lead pastor of Alice Drive Baptist Church in Sumter. Email him at claysmith@adbc.org.



The Rev. Dr. Clay Smith

‘Ms. Lay’ returns to Liberty STEAM

STAFF REPORT

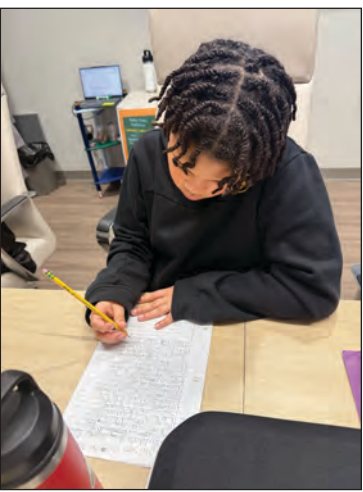
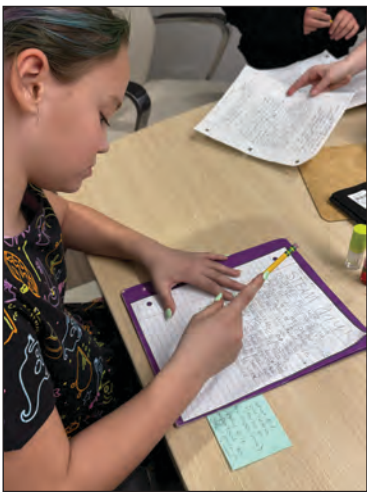
Liberty STEAM Charter School's Gifted and Talented scholars were paid a visit from *The Sumter Item* Next Gen News Editor Alaysha Maple, or Ms. Lay as they call her, for a second time in January.

Joined by *Item* Video Producer Zac Hooks earlier this month to discuss how to create a well-rounded, engaging story in both written and visual formats, Maple returned Monday, Jan. 27, to see how the scholars utilized the information they were given. The atmosphere — filled with equal parts curiosity and excitement about their ideas — mirrored that of *The Item* newsroom, so Maple was very much in her element among the young creatives.

"They didn't need many edits or much direction; their ideas were solid. I was merely there to be a source of encouragement for them and a helping hand to Mrs. Jane [Hray]. I can't wait to see the final product of all their hard work!" Maple expressed.



Item Next Gen News Editor Alaysha Maple talks with Liberty STEAM Charter School's Gifted and Talented scholars.



Friend misuses fundraiser to bankroll expensive tastes

DEAR ABBY: A close friend — whom I've been urging for years to save for a rainy day — is now facing a very real storm. She was diagnosed with breast cancer and is undergoing treatment. Knowing her financial situation — living paycheck to paycheck despite her and her husband's high-paying jobs — I felt compelled to help by setting up a GoFundMe.

I have been managing updates on her journey, but the truth is, she has always been impulsive with money — spending bonus checks on gambling, cruises, fancy restaurants and vacations rather than building a safety net. Now, with this diagnosis, her past spending habits are coming back to haunt her. Many friends and family, knowing her history, are reluctant to donate.

It's heartbreaking to see her struggle, but in spite of her illness, she still indulges in these expensive habits despite needing to save every penny. I've tried talking to her, but she's in a fragile state physically and emotionally. I feel conflicted. On one hand, I want to support her through this difficult time; on the other, I can't condone her continued spending.

I'm now planning to distance myself from the GoFundMe, because it feels dishonest to beg for donations for someone who won't prioritize her own financial recovery. What do you think, Abby? How do I balance my friendship with my moral compass?

SYMPATHIZING IN THE SOUTH



Dear Abby
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR SYMPATHIZING: I think you should separate yourself from the GoFundMe project you started. As a good friend, you can continue supporting this woman emotionally, but you are not required to promote her getting money. If a recipient uses donated funds for a purpose other than what they are intended, it could be considered fraud.

DEAR ABBY: Our son, "Caleb," and his fiancée, "Lucy," are getting married next year. He is 26, and she is 24. Our last name is unusual and sounds like a dirty word when mispronounced, which it often is. After "a lot of thought," Caleb has decided to legally take Lucy's surname after their wedding. (She and her family are on board.) He was not asking his father's or my permission, but informing us of his plans.

Caleb is our only son. We also have a daughter. I support my son's decision, but his father does not. They no longer speak. My husband is also upset about future grandchildren carrying on a different family name. Abby, do you know of any men who have taken their wives' surnames?

WANTS PEACE IN THE FAMILY

DEAR WANTS PEACE: You may want peace, but it isn't up to you to solve this dilemma. Changing one's name for the reason your son stated may be unusual, but it isn't unheard of. Some couples decide to blend their names, as one former mayor of Los Angeles did. While your husband may be disappointed about the path your son has chosen, the decision is not his to make.

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Fleet of abandoned ships is growing around the world, leaving more sailors stuck at sea

BY HELEN WIEFFERING
Associated Press

More ships than ever are being abandoned around the world by their owners, according to the United Nations' labor and maritime organizations, leaving thousands of workers stuck on board without pay or the means to travel home to their families.

Cases have doubled in the past three years, impacting more than 3,000 seafarers across some 230 ships in 2024, according to an Associated Press analysis of U.N. data. Last year's figures could rise even further given the time that can elapse before vulnerable, frustrated workers reach out to report their plight.

By international guidelines, workers are considered abandoned if ship-owners fail to pay two or more months of wages, provide basic supplies or otherwise stop communicating with the crew.

"The only leverage seafarers have sometimes is to stay on a vessel until they get paid," said Helen Meldrum, a ship inspector with the International Transport Workers' Federation, which advocates for ship workers' rights.

It's a phenomenon rarely visible from shore, and one hitting hardest the smaller shipping companies servicing less profitable trade routes. Many crews reporting a lack of pay are on corroded ships built decades ago. The top countries for cases last year were the United Arab Emirates,

Turkey, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

The worst cases have seen entire crews suffering weeks without adequate food or fresh water, or living on dark ships without electricity. Some workers languish on board for years, such as Abdul Nasser Saleh, whom the Associated Press profiled last year in a story exploring abandonment in U.S. ports and abroad.

The AP found that shipowners often stopped paying workers when their costs skyrocketed or business dried up. Owners commonly left ships docked in ports where crews lacked immigration paperwork to step foot on land or at anchorages only reachable by boat.

The number of abandonment cases in 2024 surpassed the earlier record set in 2023.

Governments and organizations like Meldrum's can report abandoned ships to the U.N., which verifies the basic facts and petitions the owner and relevant authorities to find a resolution.

Meldrum has recently been appealing to authorities for help getting proper food, fuel and back-pay for crews on three cargo ships run by a company called Friends Shipping. Workers on board the Sister 12, now moored off the coast of Yemen, have been confined to the ship for more than a year without receiving a paycheck, according to her review.

"They're essentially imprisoned on these vessels," Meldrum said. "It goes way beyond exploitation."

Abdul Razzaq Abdul Khaliq, a Syrian sailor on board the Sister 12, wrote to AP over WhatsApp that the ship was full of insects and the crew had to use seawater for bathing. Photos and videos he shared show the faucets spewing cloudy brown water; rust blanketing the deck and only a few rotting pieces of produce in the pantry.

"(T)here is no food on the ship, there is no water, there is no life," he wrote.

Friends Shipping, which has offices in Turkey and Dubai, has a pattern of abandonment linked to its fleet. Nineteen of the 22 ships listed on its website have been named in abandonment cases, according to U.N. data, though some of those ships may have since been sold. The company boasts a slogan of "We Make the World Smaller."

Meldrum said Friends Shipping hires workers who are unaware of the company's reputation, then leaves them in such dire conditions that many are willing to go home at the first chance — even without pay. A new crew will be staffed and the same thing happens, she said.

Friends Shipping didn't respond to AP's questions about abandonment on their fleet or the welfare of their crews. A person who responded to messages sent to the company's WhatsApp number in Turkey said that provisions were supplied to the crew on the Sister 12 and all workers on the ship would be disembarked,

without providing details.

Despite global treaties on labor rights, there are few avenues for holding owners accountable in an industry where ships are often registered under nondescript shell companies and fly the flags of countries unrelated to their operations.

Flag registries are expected to act as first responders to help repatriate seafarers and ensure they have food and medical care, according to U.N. guidelines. A decade-old amendment to the Maritime Labor Convention signed by more than 90 nations also requires the flag states to vouch for the ships they register by requiring insurance to cover several months of wages if business goes south.

AP's reporting found many flag states still don't intervene. Panama, Palau and Tanzania each registered dozens of the ships reported as abandoned in 2024.

The yearslong rise in abandonment cases could mean more seafarers are becoming willing to report abuse by their employers, but the overall figures likely underestimate the true picture of worker exploitation at sea. Cases first spiked amid the global pandemic and have kept rising as shipowners are pinched by inflation and other rising costs.

The ITF, the group that advocates for workers, said it helped workers recover more than \$10 million in back-pay last year. Inspectors were still fighting for another \$10 million they say is owed.

No city jobs lost amidst swap to side loading garbage trucks

BY DEIRDRE CURRIN
deirdre@theitem.com

With new changes in the city come new concerns. One of the City of Sumter's most recent changes was a swap to side-loading garbage trucks, which was changed for multiple reasons, including that they require fewer employees to man them. However, needing fewer employees to run

the side-loaders did not lead to any layoffs, according to City of Sumter Director of Tourism and Communications Shelley Kile.

"We're not letting people go," Kile said. "There's always plenty of work to do with the city, so they're just finding new things to work on."

Residents of the city have also had to get used to new directives about their trash

bins; for example, the handle of the trash can normally had to face the street for manned trucks but should now face the home, hence the city's newest hashtag #handlestowardthehouse.

When residents have a manned truck pick up their trash, it is possible for the trash cans to be picked up no matter what way the handle is facing, though it is easier for a

crew to pick up waste containers if the handle is facing outward. With the new side-loaders, though, the trash can must be facing the correct direction because of the truck's automation.

This is where notices come in. If a waste container is facing the wrong direction or is not at least 3 feet away from obstructions, a notice may be issued. Notices are not equiva-

lent to a fine, but they are notifications for a resident that their waste container is not complying with the city's rules. The only repercussion to getting a notice about your trash can from the city is your waste container potentially not getting emptied that day.

The side loading garbage trucks were soft launched late last year.

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REFLECTIONS

Dr. Julius Alfred Mood: A man who possessed many talents, Part II

Reflections revisits Dr. Julius Mood, a man of myriad talents. Dr. Mood was noted as one of the more skilled doctors of his era; furthermore, he was briefly an editor of *The Watchman and Southron* and very knowledgeable of autos and airplanes. Information and photos used to prepare this piece were obtained from *The Sumter Item* archives, the writings of Dr. Anne King Gregorie and Cassie Nicholes and primarily from Barbara Ester Outlaw. A degree of editing has been required. This is part two in a two-part series; read part one at www.theitem.com/reflections or in the Jan. 25-28 weekend edition.

Alma Mood, realizing that her husband was unusually intelligent, persuaded him to study medicine as a profession. She asked for and received the aid of a friendly neighbor, a physician, who gave her husband preliminary medical instruction. For a fee of \$50, the doctor agreed to let Julius “read medicine” under his instruction. The doctor set this fee to discourage the young man, but Julius faithfully studied in his spare time, and Alma made many sacrifices that he might finish the studies. Julius later entered the Medical College of Charleston, South Carolina, and graduated with his medical degree in 1879. He attended a reunion of this class in 1929. The Moods lived in Laurens until August 1881. On the first day of that month, they moved to Sumter and resided on the southeast corner of Sumter and Dugan streets. Julius used an outbuilding in the yard for his office. By then, the couple had three daughters in the family — Marian, Laura and Julia. A son had died in infancy.

On Aug. 1, 1881, it was announced in the first issue of two combined papers, *The Watchman* and *The Southron*, that the editorial department of that paper would be controlled by A. H. Anderson and Dr. J.A. Mood, “a graduate of the highest honor from Wofford College.” In less than a year after they moved to Sumter, Alma Mood died. Her health had been failing for some time. She was buried in a Spartanburg cemetery. After his wife’s death, Julius carried on his work as editor of *The Watchman and Southron* in addition to his medical practice. He resigned as editor on Tuesday, March 17, 1883, because of his increasing professional business.

On one of his cases, Dr. Mood was called to the John B. Brogdon home to attend John I. Brogdon, who had lost his arm in a sawmill ac-

cident. Janie Brogdon, John’s sister, was the nurse on this case, and the two worked together. On March 12, 1883, they were married. Julius and Janie had one child, Henry Ashleigh Mood, who became a practicing physician in Sumter. Dr. H. A. Mood was born Feb. 12, 1884.

Sumter was indeed fortunate to have a citizen such as Dr. Julius Andrew Mood. He was a man capable of helping his fellow man and willing to do so. Before 1888, he served as warden to Sumter. From 1886 to 1888, he served as a member of its city council, becoming the first mayor of Sumter under its new charter. Dr. Mood also served as chairman of the school board continuously from 1889 for more than 35 years.

Dr. Mood founded one of Sumter’s first infirmaries, the Mood Infirmary, in 1894. This accomplishment was aided by the efforts of his wife, who acted as superintendent and aesthetician of the hospital. The infirmary opened at a time when trained medical help was almost impossible to obtain and when funds were limited. For several years, the food for the hospital’s patients was prepared in the kitchen of Mrs. Mood’s home under her supervision. Later, the Mood Infirmary merged with Sumter Hospital, which later became known as Tuomey Hospital. For a number of years, Dr. Mood served as chairman of the board of this hospital.

Dr. Mood believed that much illness was imaginary and that the patient needed, in many cases, not medicine but a different state of mind. He had the power of relieving the patients of depression and boosting their morale. One patient related that when the time came for her to leave Dr. Mood’s office after her visits, she had “forgotten where the pain was.”

Dr. Julius Andrew Mood practiced as a surgeon in Sumter for 54 years. He died at his home in Sumter on



Sammy Way
REFLECTIONS

1889

1936

DR. JULIUS A. MOOD

IN MEMORIAM

The first among us fell today.
In nothing, weak; in nothing, small;
A man,—as men are wont to say—
When meaning finest clay.

A man among men, human, humane,—
As brave as loving, tender, daring,
He asked for naught—nor praise nor gain—
But to serve with hand and brain.

Though skilled the hand, the brain as keen
As flame from lamp with well-trimmed wick,—
His greatest gift to men has been
The strength that each might glean.

He bade none heed, yet heeded all
When spoke he justice, wisdom, truth;
But were he mute, one heard, withal,
And felt, clear accents fall.

The echo speaks, “Oh make no moan,
But gird the loins with tighter thong.
By work and selfless love alone
Life’s battle may be won.”

For this man’s tow’ring nobility
We know our debt, yet cannot pay;
For like God’s gifts of sun and sea
This gift to us was free.

—L. C. MOISE.

SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTOS

This memorial photo and poem for Dr. Julius Mood was published in the 1936 Sumter High School yearbook.



The Tuomey Hospital staff is seen in 1923.

Feb. 7, 1936, after an illness of several months. During his illness, he remained cheerful. His wife, Mrs. Janie Brogdon Mood, died at her home on Washington Street on May 2, 1938. When Dr. Mood was asked how many children he had brought into the world, he did not know, but he replied that he had delivered three generations in some families. Many of Sumter’s citizens never had another doctor in their lives.

Dr. Mood was an excellent speaker. He had varied interests and colorful experiences, a knowledge of books and a keen memory; he was able to charm audiences. His personality was unforgettable. Besides being a man of marked literary ability, he was a pioneer in various fields. He owned and drove the first automobile in



A collection of books by Julia Mood Peterkin is seen.

Sumter. He also owned the town’s first airplane. Dr. Mood was deeply religious. It is said that the difference between his views and his critics was that Dr. Mood was progressive and constantly growing mentally, al-

ways enlarging his vision, while his critics were completely static, their outlook almost entirely retrogressive. His religious faith became more and more like that of the Mood forebears in his later years.



The Brogdon family of John I. and Susan Rebecca Brogdon sits for a portrait.

SCDE seeks partners for annual Summer Meals Program

BY S.C. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WEST COLUMBIA — The South Carolina Department of Education is seeking local governmental agencies, school food authorities, faith-based and public/private nonprofit organizations to provide summer meals to children.

The Summer Break Café and Seamless Summer Option are summer food service programs that are funded by the United States Department of Agriculture and administered by SCDE. The mission is to ensure children have access to healthy meals during the summer months when school is not in session.

Last summer, partners served 3.2

million meals through these programs to students across South Carolina.

“Thanks to the incredible partnerships we have developed over the years, thousands of children in our state have access to nutritious meals during the summer months,” said state Superintendent of Education Ellen Weaver. “There is still more work to do. To reach even more families in need, additional partners are necessary. Together, we can ensure every child has the fuel they need to learn, grow and thrive this summer.”

SBC meals are served at sites that can be located at schools, churches, recreation centers, hospitals, cafeterias, farmer’s markets, community

and migrant centers and other areas in the local community.

Recently, the federal government changed regulations to allow rural area sites to serve meals in a non-congregate manner. This meant children could take and eat their meals off site, a parent or guardian could pick up meals for their children, and in some cases multiple meals could be picked up at one time. These types of meal services vary depending on the sponsors’ capability and approval by the Department of Education.

Community partners can be involved by becoming a sponsor, serving as a meal site, promoting the program, supporting existing sites

with volunteers, activities and outreach, and being a food vendor. Sponsors will be reimbursed for meals provided to children 18 years and younger at approved meal sites. USDA requires sponsors to be financially and administratively capable of conducting a nonprofit food service. Sponsors will receive training and technical support during the application process and throughout the operation of their program.

For more information about the Summer Break Café, review the Program Overview at <https://tinyurl.com/2t587b3m> and visit www.summerbreakcafe.com. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, fill out the become a sponsor link by Feb. 15.

Child advocate training for GAL Program is coming up March 3

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 Sumter and Clarendon counties. Volunteers advocate on behalf of abused and neglected children who are involved in Family Court legal proceedings through the Department of Social Services.

The free virtual GAL training opportunity begins March 3 for both counties. 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 Sumter GAL Program is serving 99 children, but there are only 19 volunteer GALs to assist. The Clarendon GAL Program is serving 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.

While GAL staff fill in the gaps, the need for more volunteers is urgent.

“Our volunteers serve as strong advocates, upholding children’s best interests and prioritizing their well-being. With every child served needing a voice, the call to action grows for dedicated volunteers to step forward,” said Jennifer Burch, director of the Cass Elias McCarter Guardian ad Litem Program.

Visit gal.sc.gov for more information and to download an application. Follow @CassEliasMcCarterGuardianadLitemProgram on Facebook or contact communications@childadvocate.sc.gov to be added to the newsletter for updates and local events.

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

DEATH ROW FROM PAGE A1

pursue this claim but later rejected it on procedural grounds, stating the FASD claim was filed too late and was a separate legal argument that was not raised earlier. When Bryant appealed to the federal courts, they agreed with the district court that the FASD claim was procedurally blocked and federal courts couldn’t consider it.

His death penalty was upheld four days prior to the execution of Marion Bowman Jr. on Friday, Jan. 31. Bowman was sentenced to death after being convicted of the murder Kandee Louise Martin in 2001 in Dorchester County.

In 2024, after an unintended 13-year pause on executions, Freddie Owens was the first on death row to be executed by lethal injection in South Carolina.

The state, one of 27 death penalty states, regained access to the medication used for lethal injection executions after nearly a decade of supply issues, according to the Associated Press.

Prior, in 2021, the state authorized the use of the electric chair and firing squad after a decade without executions. However, in 2022,

death row prisoners asked the state Supreme Court to halt scheduling executions until legal challenges surrounding “controversial execution methods” were resolved; two executions were halted during this time, including one by firing squad, according to Death Penalty Information Center.

S.C. Supreme Court plans to set an interval of at least 35 days between each execution of death row prisoners. A total of 25 prisoners were executed in nine states in 2024, including Owens and Richard Moore, who was found guilty of murdering James Mahoney, a convenience store clerk in Spartanburg, in South Carolina.

As of deadline, there are 30 inmates on South Carolina’s death row. Bryant is one of three death row inmates in the Sumter and Clarendon area.

Bobby Wayne Stone, 59, was sentenced to death at 39 for the murder of Sgt. Charlie Kubala of Sumter County Sheriff’s Office. According to *The Item* archives, Stone was initially sentenced in 1997, but the sentence was overturned in July 2002 when a Sumter judge issued an opinion that

one juror was “improperly dismissed” and the jury was “not sufficiently instructed.”

Stone was resentenced to death in February 2005. He execution was scheduled for Dec. 1, 2017, but he was later granted a stay by a federal judge due to lack of supply for lethal injection drugs.

In Clarendon County, Anthony Woods was 42 when he was sentenced to death in 2006 for the murder of 53-year-old schoolteacher JoAnn Dubose.

He was previously serving two life sentences in unrelated cases: one for burglary and assault of an 84-year-old woman and another for assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature involving two elderly women during a break-in, according to *The Item* archives. Woods is now 60.

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NOTICE OF AWARD

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

HOUSING TRUST FUND PROGRAM (HTF)

The South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority has awarded HUD HOME Investment Partnership Program funds (HOME) and HUD Housing Trust funds (HTF) to Bradley Sumter, LLC in the amount of \$4,903,000. These funds have been awarded to develop a 37 unit community featuring one, two and three bedroom apartment homes.

These awards will increase the number of affordable housing units available for lease in the community to low-income and very low-income households and may also provide contracting and employment opportunities. The HOME and HTF Programs are Equal Housing Opportunity Programs and are subject to the requirements of the Fair Housing Act of 1988, as amended. Minorities, women, and Section 3 businesses (as defined by 24 CFR 75) are encouraged to participate.

Bradley Sumter, LLC does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status or disability in the admission or access to, or treatment of or employment in, its federally assisted programs or activities. Anyone with questions concerning this development should contact: Bradley Sumter, LLC at (843)-456-4886 or P.O. Box 526, Aynor, SC 29511.



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PUBLIC NOTICE OF CANDIDATE FILING AND PRIMARY

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF SUMTER

Candidate Filing Period:
A special candidate filing period for S. C. House District 50 will open at noon on Friday, February 7, 2025, 12:00 a.m. noon and closes on Saturday, February 15, 2025. 12:00 noon. Any candidate seeking a political party's nomination for this office must file during this period with the County Board of Voter Registration and Elections.

Filing Locations:
Sumter County Board of Voter Registration and Elections: 129 E. Liberty Street Sumter, South Carolina 29150

Filing Hours:

Weekdays: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 15, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Filing Form: The Statement of Intention of Candidacy & Party Pledge (SICPP) form required for filing is available in the “Candidate Information” section of scVOTES.gov and at the county voter registration and elections office.

Filing Fee: The filing fee for this office is \$ 147.33 Filing fees are paid at the time of filing by candidates seeking nomination. Filing fee checks should be made payable to the appropriate political party.

State Ethics Filings: Candidates are required to file a Statement of Economic Interests and a Campaign Disclosure online with the State Ethics Commission at <http://ethics.sc.gov>. Failure to file these documents may result in a candidate fine but will not disqualify a candidate from the election. Contact the State Ethics Commission for more information.

Notice of Primary:
If at the close of filing a party primary is necessary to determine the party nominee (multiple candidates file for one party's nomination), a primary will be held on Tuesday, April 1. Any necessary runoffs will be held on Tuesday, April 15,2025. Any person wishing to vote in these primaries and runoffs must be registered by Sunday, March 2, 2025. Voter registration by mail applications will be accepted if postmarked by Monday, March 3, 2025.

At 9:00 a.m. on the day of the primary and day of the runoff, the County Board of Voter Registration and Elections will begin its examination of the 1 absentee ballot return envelopes at the County Voter Registration & Election Office located at 129 E. Liberty Street Sumter, South Carolina 29150.

On Thursday, April 4, at 10:00 a.m. the County Board of Canvassers will hold a hearing to determine the validity of all provisional ballots cast in the primary. On Thursday April 6, at 10:00 a.m. the County Board of canvassers will hold a hearing to determine the validity of all provisional ballots cast in the runoff. These hearings will be held at the County Voter Registration & Election Office located at 129 E. Liberty Street, Sumter, South Carolina 29150.

The following precincts and polling places will be open during any necessary primaries and runoffs from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.:

Precincts	Polling Place
Rembert	Rembert FireStation
Hillcrest	Hillcrest Middle School
Oakland Plantation 1	Oakland Primary School
Dalzell 1	Hillcrest Middle School
Oswego	Crestwood High School
Mayesville	Mayesville Fire Station
Salem	Rule Fire Station
St. John	Shiloh Community Center
Thomas Sumter	Hillcrest Middle School

Boykin to leave LMA at end of school year

Allen Kirby named new headmaster for 2025-26 school year

BY SHARRON HALEY
Clarendon contributor

MANNING — The 2025-26 school year will see a new face as headmaster for Laurence Manning Academy.

On Jan. 27, LMA Board of Trustees Chairman Cag Brunson announced that present headmaster Tripp Boykin will be leaving the school at the end of the present school year.

In an email to LMA parents, students and staff at 3:57 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 27, Brunson called Boykin “an integral part of our school community for 21 years, and we are deeply grateful for his dedication, leadership, and commitment to our students, staff and educational mission.”

Brunson added that LMA achieved “many milestones and built upon the strong traditions and values of LMA” under Boykin’s guidance and leadership.

“Mr. Boykin has truly left a lasting and positive impact on the school, generations of students, and our community,”

Brunson said. “While we are sad to see Mr. Boykin go, we wish him the very best in his future endeavors, knowing that his next chapter will be just as impactful as his time with us at Laurence Manning.”

In his email, Brunson also announced that Allen Kirby, current principal at Walker Gamble Elementary School in the New Zion community, will be joining LMA as its headmaster for the 2025-26 school year.

Walker Gamble Elementary School is a part of Clarendon County School District. In 2023, the pre-K-through-fifth-grade school served 542 students. WGES anticipates moving into a new multi-million-dollar facility on the outskirts of Turbeville at the beginning of the 2025-26 school year.

“In the coming days, we will share more information regarding the transition process and steps we will take to ensure a smooth continuation of leadership,” Brunson added. “Our priority is to ensure that our students’ educational experience remains consistent and that our school community remains strong and united.”

On Monday, Jan. 27, Boykin



BOYKIN

met with LMA faculty and staff. Boykin said that “it is with heart full of appreciation and love for my LMA family that I am sharing I will be completing my 21-year career at Laurence Manning Academy at the end of this 2024-25 school year.”

“It has been such an honor to serve with the most outstanding faculty, staff and administration in South Carolina,” Boykin added. “These individuals selflessly give so much of themselves to make the LMA experience meaningful and special.”

Boykin said he will be “forever grateful for the blessing of being able to work with three of LMA’s remarkable heads of school, Q. Curtis Lee, Eugene Nalley and Dr. Spencer Jordan, before becoming headmaster at the 1,000-student private school seven years ago.

“I will always treasure our time together, the wealth of wisdom gained from my time with them and for their friendship and support as we continue to build upon these strong foundations,” Boykin added.

During his tenure at LMA, Boykin said both he and the school “have celebrated and enjoyed so many wonderful successes and accomplishments together.”

“We have also come together and supported one another in

the untimely losses of dear friends, students and colleagues,” Boykin said.

“Through our challenges and successes, we continue to grow together in our relationship with Christ and to support one another.”

Boykin led LMA through the trying battle of the 2020 COVID-19 challenge. Schools were closed, forcing administrators to develop learning techniques for teachers and students that would allow teachers to amend the way they taught while students were not in the classroom but at home attempting to keep up with their various subjects.

Boykin said, “Our faculty and staff was outstanding. We successfully launched e-learning within a day of the closures. We found creative, safe, alternative ways to celebrate our Class of 2020 seniors and their senior traditions and re-opened our school to in-person learning in August with health safety protocols in place.”

Boykin was also at LMA’s helm when the school celebrated its 50th anniversary, a milestone for a private school in a rural setting.

Boykin’s leadership at LMA has been recognized and honored by the community in a variety of ways, including by the readers of *The Sumter Item*. During his tenure at

LMA, *The Sumter Item* readers have voted LMA as “Best of the Best” in the Private School category and “Best of the Best” in the category of Best Administrator.

“I have a humble but deep sense of pride in all that we have accomplished together, which is a testament to the hard work and commitment of everyone involved,” Boykin said. “I am confident that Laurence Manning will continue to thrive and build upon the strong foundations that we and the generations before us have established.”

Boykin said it was a “true honor to serve our remarkable school and community, and I am deeply grateful for the support, dedication and collaboration of our LMA students, staff, families throughout my tenure at LMA.”

“Thank you for your trust, collaboration and unwavering commitment to our students’ success,” he added. “Thank you to LMA and our board for allowing me the privilege of leading such an exceptional institution and for allowing me the privilege of being a part of such an extraordinary journey.”

Boykin shared that he “will always cherish my time at Laurence Manning and the relationships we’ve built.”

“Go Swampcats!”

Briefs

St. John Missionary Baptist Church hosts Midlands Mobile Health Clinic on Feb. 1

PINEWOOD — St. John Missionary Baptist Church, 102 W. Clark St., is hosting Prisma Health’s Midlands Mobile Health Clinic from noon until 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1, at the church.

No one will be turned away, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. Patients age 2 and up are welcome. No appointment is needed. Patients are seen in order of arrival at the clinic. All patients must bring a current picture ID.

Common conditions treated but not limited to: infections including urinary, bladder, ear, sinus, skin and others, bronchitis/pneumonia, colds/flu, cuts, fingernail/toenail injuries, diabetes, hypertension and strep/sore throat.

Historic Liberty Hill AME Church hosts Harvest Hope Food Truck on Feb. 6

SUMMERTON — Historic Liberty Hill AME Church, 2310 Liberty Hill Road, will be hosting the Harvest

Hope Food Truck starting at 9:30 a.m.

This event was initially scheduled in January, but due to inclement weather, the event was moved to Feb. 6.

K&H Resource Center is also collaborating with the church for this event. All in the community are welcome. Food is provided by Harvest Hope Food Bank.

CCRD baseball and softball registration is now open

CLARENDON COUNTY — The Clarendon County Recreation Department has announced that baseball and softball registration is now open in Manning and Turbeville. You can register online at <https://clarendon.recreation.com/Community/Home> or in person from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the CCRD office in Manning, 3057 Raccoon Road, or you can register in person from 1 to 5 p.m. at Smith Field in Turbeville, 1380 Gamble St.

Harvin Clarendon County Library wants your input

MANNING — Harvin Clarendon County Library will be kicking off a community survey to hear your

thoughts, ideas and dreams for your library from now until Feb. 14.

Whether you’re passionate about books, tech programs or community spaces, this is your chance to say what matters most. And, yes, there’s a \$150 Walmart gift card (thanks to the Friends of the Library) up for grabs just for participating.

Your voice is the key to shaping the future of Harvin Clarendon County Library, 215 N. Brooks St.

For more information, call HCCL at (803) 435-8633.

Clarendon library hosting Valentine's Day contest

MANNING — You’ll always have fun at the Harvin Clarendon County Library.

Visit the library, 215 N. Brooks St., before Monday, Feb. 10, to guess how many chocolate kisses are inside the guessing jar on the front desk. The winner will receive the “kisses” in the jar. Winners will be contacted on Wednesday, Feb. 12. Good luck!

Fishing tournaments scheduled through May

Numerous fishing tournaments are

scheduled from February through May out of John C. Land III Landing, 4404 Greenall Road, Summerton. They are as follows:

February

- 8 - Carolina Anglers Team Trail
- 15 - Carolina Anglers Team Trail
- 22 - Major League Fishing BFL Regional Championship - weigh-in at 3 p.m.

March

- 1 - Fishers of Men District 3 - weigh-in at 3 p.m.
- 2 - American Bass Anglers
- 6-8 - National Professional Fishing League - weigh-in at 3 p.m.
- 15 - Carolinas Bass Challenge
- 22 - Phantom Outdoors Invitational
- 29 - Fishers of Men

April

- 5-11 - ABA Couples Championship
- 12 - Spring Fling at Black’s Camp
- 12 - Santee Cooper Open Team Tournament
- 14-19 - ABA Team Championship
- 16 - Carolina Anglers Team Trail

May

- 3 - Carolina Anglers Team Trail

For more information, contact the Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce at tourism@clarendoncounty.com or call (803) 435-4405.

McLeod Health Clarendon receives Press Ganey Human Experience Guardian of Excellence Award

SUBMITTED BY MCLEOD HEALTH

MANNING — McLeod Health Clarendon has been named a 2024 Human Experience Guardian of Excellence Award winner by Press Ganey, the global leader in health care experience solutions and services.

This award is part of Press Ganey’s annual ranking of the top hospitals and health systems in the country, according to performance in employee experience. As a winner of the Press Ganey HX Guardian of Excellence Award, McLeod Health Clarendon is in the top 5% of health care providers in delivering excellence in employee experience in the last year.

“We are honored to receive the 2024 Press Ganey Human Experience Award for Employee Engagement,” said Rachel Gainey, McLeod Health Clarendon CEO. “This recognition is a testament to the dedication and compassion of

our entire team. At McLeod Health Clarendon, we believe that when we invest in the well-being and growth of our employees, they, in turn, deliver exceptional care to our community. This award highlights the extraordinary efforts we’ve made to create a supportive, inclusive and empowering culture for our staff, ensuring that they feel valued and motivated to bring their very best every day.”

Press Ganey works with more than 41,000 health care facilities in its mission to re-

duce patient suffering and enhance caregiver resilience to improve the overall safety, quality and experience of care.

“McLeod Health Clarendon is setting the standard for excellence in employee experience,” said Patrick T. Ryan, CEO and chairman at Press Ganey. “They are leading the way by turning words into action and creating a culture where every interaction is an opportunity to make a positive impact. It’s clear they’re committed to making a difference.”



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Clarendon’s late Dr. Rose Hilliard-Wilder to be inducted into S.C. Foundation for Educational Leadership Hall of Fame

STAFF REPORT

South Carolina Foundation for Educational Leadership, South Carolina Association of School Administrators’ nonprofit arm, will host its eighth-annual gala on Friday, April 4, to celebrate this year’s South Carolina Educator Hall of Fame inductees, the Distinguished South Carolina Public School Graduates who have excelled nationally and internationally in their respective fields and the Distinguished South Carolina Public Education Impact Award Recipient.

Among the 2025 South Carolina Educator Hall of Fame inductees is the late Dr. Rose Hilliard-Wilder. Wilder served more than 40 years in education and became the first Black female superintendent in South Carolina since Reconstruction. She was honored as South Carolina Superintendent of the Year in 2014 by SCASA. In 2020, the Clarendon County School District 1 Board of Trustees changed the name of St. Paul Elementary School to Dr. Rose H. Wilder Elementary School. Following her death in 2022, Congressman James Clyburn, a Sumter native, gave a tribute to Dr. Wilder on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

According to an *Item* article at the time of Wilder’s death in 2022, when she took the helm at Clarendon School District 1 in 2004, the three-school district in Summerton was close to \$1 million in debt. During her tenure there from 2004-17, Wilder turned the district’s financial woes around and took the district that was reported to have the third-highest level of poverty in the state and led it to become the second-highest academically performing high-poverty district statewide.

In April 2018, one year after leaving Clarendon School District 1, S.C. Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman appointed Wilder as her state designee of Williamsburg County School District. Under her leadership, Wilder took a district that was declared in a state of emergency by the South Carolina Department of Education and oversaw the successful transformation of Williamsburg County School Dis-



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Dr. Rose Hilliard-Wilder will be honored posthumously by the South Carolina Foundation for Educational Leadership on April 4.

trict finances, special education services and academic improvements.

Other Hall of Fame inductees are:

— Dr. Gerrita Postlewait, a veteran public school superintendent, serving over 55 years in education, with 25 of those years as superintendent in multiple districts. Her leadership in each district she has served has led to the increase in and strengthening of programs as well as overall student achievement. She has also served as the chief K-12 officer for a national foundation and has held leadership roles at ACT Testing. In 2006, she was named Superintendent of the Year, and in 2019, she received the Lifetime Achievement Award, both presented by SCASA.

— Molly M. Spearman has served 45 years in public education as a teacher, assistant principal, director and state superintendent at the S.C. Department of Education and executive director of the S.C. Association of School Administrators. During her tenure as state superintendent, she delegated \$200 million for new school construction in the neediest districts, and she served as

president of the Council of Chief State School Officers. Spearman also served as director of Palmetto Girls State for 10 years and as director of Girls Nation for one year.

The 2025 Distinguished South Carolina Public School Graduates are:

— The late Lou Brissie, a 1941 graduate of Ware Shoals High School (Greenwood District 51). Brissie was a Major League Baseball player for the Philadelphia Athletics and Cleveland Indians. Before his baseball career, he served in the U.S. Army during World War II and earned the Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts. In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed him to the inaugural President’s Council on Physical Fitness. He was inducted into the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame in 1974 and received the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina’s highest civilian honor, in 1996.

— Charlie Blackwell-Thompson, 1983 graduate of Gaffney High School (Cherokee County Schools), who serves as launch director for NASA’s Exploration Ground Systems Program, based at NASA’s John F. Kennedy Space Cen-

ter in Florida. Upon being named to the position in January 2016, she became NASA’s first female launch director. On Nov. 16, 2022, she led her team during the first launch of Artemis — an uncrewed flight test of Space Launch System and the Orion spacecraft. She is the holder of multiple patents related to launch vehicle interface standardization concepts and command and control methods and systems.

— Vanessa E. Wyche, a 1981 graduate of Conway High School (Horry County Schools), is the director of NASA’s Johnson Space Center, serving since 2021. Under her leadership, Johnson Space Center was recognized by Forbes and Statista as the No. 1 best employer among Texas’ major employers for two consecutive years. She has received numerous awards including the Presidential Rank Award, two NASA Outstanding Leadership Medals and two NASA Achievement Medals. She is an American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Associate Fellow and an International Women’s Forum Fellow alumna.

The 2025 Distinguished South Carolina Public Education Impact Award recipient is Mike Brennan, who currently serves as the president and CEO of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce. He previously served as regional president of the South Carolina Region of Truist Bank. A steadfast supporter of public education in South Carolina, he served as chairman of the South Carolina State Board of Education, Governor’s School for Science & Mathematics Foundation and TransformSC and as a member of the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee. He has received numerous honors including the Business Leader of the Year award by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce in 2014.

The South Carolina Foundation for Educational Leadership Gala will be held April 4 at the Columbia Marriott at 6 p.m.

For more information about gala tickets and sponsorship opportunities, visit www.scleadershipfoundation.org.

Pets of the week

Hi there, I'm "awesome" Ash! I'm a healthy, super sweet, 9-month-old domestic short hair. Fully vaccinated and neutered. I love exploring every nook and cranny, always on the lookout for a fun new toy or a comfy spot to curl up in. I'm as gentle as they come. My playful side is sure to keep you entertained — I can turn anything into a game, but at the end of the day, there's nothing I love more than a good cuddle. I promise to bring joy, laughter and companionship to your home. If you are interested in adopting Ash, you can get preapproved to adopt by submitting your adoption application online at www.ASecondChanceAnimalShelter.com. Our adoption fee for cats is \$100.



Hey, I'm Davis! I'm a young (3.8 years), neutered hound mix with a personality that's larger than life. I'm friendly, sweet, smart and oh so curious. My energy knows no bounds. I've got a funny side, too. I love to make my human friends laugh with my singing (yes, I've got a good set of pipes). I also get along with my fellow shelter mates. I'm heartworm positive, but please don't let that be a deal-breaker. With proper care, I can lead a normal, happy life. So, why should you adopt me? Well, if you're looking for a loyal friend who's full of life, laughter and would make a great family dog, look no further. If you are interested in adopting me, you can get preapproved to adopt by submitting your adoption application online at www.ASecondChanceAnimalShelter.com. Our adoption fee for dogs is \$125.



THE

Clarendon Sun

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LEGAL
NOTICES

Notice of Sale

NOTICE OF SALE CIVIL ACTION NO. 2019-CP-14-00488 BY VIRTUE OF the decree heretofore granted in the case of: Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Trustee for Asset Backed Securities Corporation Home Equity Loan Trust, Series OOMC 2005-HE6, Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series OOMC 2005-HE6 vs. Robert J. Murray; Emma H. Murray; South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control; Melissa Lide, the undersigned Master In Equity for Clarendon County, South Carolina, will sell on February 3, 2025 at 11:00 AM, or on another date, thereafter as approved by the Court, at the Court House, 3 West Keitt Street City of Manning, State of South Carolina, to the highest bidder:

ALL THAT CERTAIN PIECE, PARCEL OR LOT OF LAND, WITH IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, LYING AND BEING SITUATE IN THE COUNTY OF CLARENDON, STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, BOUNDING NOW OR FORMERLY AS FOLLOWS: ON THE NORTH BY LANDS OF G.H. HARDY AND MEASURING THEREON 367.37 FEET; ON THE EAST BY LANDS OF G.H. HARDY AND MEASURING THEREON 120.75 FEET; ON THE SOUTH BY LANDS OF G.H. HARDY AND MEASURING THEREON 334.18 FEET; AND ON THE WEST BY LANDS OF GEORGIA PACIFIC CORPORATION AND MEASURING THEREON 121.45 FEET. FOR A MORE PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION, REFERENCE IS HEREBY MADE TO THAT PLAT BY H.F. OLIVER AND ASSOCIATES DATED MAY 27, 1977, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK "30" AT PAGE "52."

Notice of Sale

SUBJECT TO ANY AND ALL RESTRICTIONS, COVENANTS, EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY OF RECORD. THIS BEING A PORTION OF THE PROPERTY CONVEYED TO ROBERT J. MURRAY AND EMMA H. MURRAY BY DEED OF THE BANK OF CLARENDON DATED JULY 20, 2001, AND RECORDED AUGUST 31, 2001, IN DEED BOOK A448 AT PAGE 84 IN THE RECORDS FOR CLARENDON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA.

CURRENT ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 1613 Shadewater Way, Manning, SC 29102 TMS: 293-00-01-006-00

TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the Plaintiff, will deposit with the Master In Equity, at conclusion of the bidding, five percent (5%) of his bid, in cash or equivalent, as evidence of good faith, same to be applied to the purchase price in case of compliance, but in the case of non-compliance to be forfeited and first applied to the costs incurred by the Plaintiff related to the sale and the balance then applied to the Plaintiff's debt in a manner suitable to the Plaintiff. Should the last and highest bidder fail to comply with the other terms of the bid within thirty (30) days, then the Master In Equity may re-sell the property on the same terms and conditions on some subsequent Sales Day.

No personal or deficiency judgment being demanded, the bidding shall not remain open after the date of sale and shall be final on that date, and compliance with the bid may be made immediately.

Purchaser to pay for documentary stamps on the Deed. The successful bidder will be required to pay interest on the amount of the balance of the bid from date of sale to date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 4.375% per annum. The

Notice of Sale

sale shall be subject to taxes and assessments, existing easements and restrictions, easements and restrictions of record and any other senior encumbrances.

The Honorable Joseph K. Coffey Master In Equity for Clarendon County

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

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: Asbury Cecil Smith #2025ES1400014
Personal Representative: Sandra Kay Smith 1773 Pope St. Turbeville, SC 29162

Estate: Mary Jane Abel Wilson #2025ES1400004
Personal Representative: Robert F. Wilson 1103 Myrtle Street Manning, SC 29102

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SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT AREA 8 ELECTION Q&As

FOXY RAE CAMPBELL
NONPARTISAN



Why are you running?
I am running because the future of our children and community depends on strong, principled leadership on the school board. Sumter School District must return to the fundamentals of education — ensuring safety, academic excellence and fiscal responsibility. As a mother, business leader and long-time resident, I understand the importance of equipping students with the skills and values to succeed while being a good steward of taxpayer dollars.

Have you run for political office before? If so, explain:
Yes, I ran for mayor in both 2020 and 2024 (lost both times), gaining critical experience in public service and advocacy. These campaigns gave me an in-depth understanding of the challenges in our community — from education to economic development — and strengthened my resolve to deliver solutions.

How long have you lived at the address you filed with?
17 years

Current job/profession:
I am the broker in charge of BrownstoneHunt Real Estate, where I lead a team that values hard work, integrity and results.

What makes you qualified for the seat?

My qualifications come from a lifetime of leadership and service. As a business leader, I've built my career on accountability, strategic planning and bringing people together to solve problems. As a parent and long-time community member, I am deeply invested in making sure our schools are safe, our teachers are supported and our children are prepared for their future. My conservative approach emphasizes fiscal responsibility, data-driven decisions and empowering parents.

What challenges/concerns do you see in Sumter School District (up to 3), and how do you intend to improve them?

1. School safety: Ensuring the safety of students and staff is non-negotiable. I will prioritize proven security measures, such as enhanced campus security systems, school resource officers and partnerships with law enforcement, while expanding mental health resources to address issues before they become crises.
2. Accountability in education: We need to restore trust in our schools. I will demand transparency in spending, rigorous performance evaluations for teachers and administrators and measurable goals to ensure taxpayer dollars are used effectively.
3. Improving academic achievement: Our focus must be on foundational skills — reading, writing, math and civics. I will advocate for curriculum transparency and parental involvement, empowering families to play an active role in their children's education.

What successes have you seen in Sumter School District that you want to build on?
The district has demonstrated success in fostering partnerships with local organizations

Early voting continues for Feb. 11 special election

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

A special election is required to serve the remaining two years of Jeff Zell's term as Sumter School District's Area 8 representative after he ran for and won the state Senate District 36 seat in the November general election.

The special election is set for Tuesday, Feb. 11, and only registered voters in Sumter School District Area 8 are eligible to vote.

Four candidates filed for the seat and include Foxy Rae Campbell, Phil Leventis, Tom Montgomery and Keith Schultz.

Early voting began last week and continues this week at Sumter County Voter Registration Office for the upcoming special election to fill the open Area 8 seat on Sumter School District's Board of Trustees.

Early voting will continue Monday, Feb. 3, through Friday, Feb. 7, at the location, according to Pat Jefferson, Sumter County Voter Registration and Elections director.

The office is at 129 E. Liberty St. (Magnolia Place) in downtown Sumter. The facility is also the former offices of *The Item* newspaper. Early voting hours each day are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sumter school board seats are nonpartisan races in Sumter County.

and businesses and creating extracurricular opportunities for students. I want to expand these efforts to connect students with real-world experiences, such as trade programs, apprenticeships and dual-enrollment opportunities, ensuring they graduate ready for the workforce or higher education.

Do you have children or grandchildren who attend a Sumter School District school?

Not currently. My son graduated from Sumter High School. As a parent, I understand the concerns that families face when it comes to their children's education.

Do you have a spouse or child who works in Sumter School District, and what do they do?
No.

Sumter School District has 15 schools that are more than 60 years old and has not constructed any schools since the 1990s. However, the district is also losing enrollment. The previous board of trustees created a Master Plan Committee to craft a long-term vision for the district's facilities. What do you believe should be part of that vision?

The vision must be realistic and responsible, focusing on creating safe, modern and cost-effective learning environments. With declining enrollment, we need to prioritize

renovations over new construction and ensure facilities are right-sized to match our population. I also support exploring public-private partnerships and energy-efficient upgrades to reduce long-term costs. It's vital that we engage the community in this process and make decisions that respect taxpayers while meeting the needs of our students and teachers.

Are you actively involved in the community? How so?

Absolutely. I'm deeply involved in Sumter through my work with SMAC IMPACT, an organization founded to support business growth, education and local economic development. I also donate to different organizations that are heavily involved with the community. These roles have allowed me to work closely with families, businesses and local leaders to strengthen Sumter.

PHIL LEVENTIS
NONPARTISAN



Why are you running?
There is nothing more important to a positive future for Sumter than the success of our public schools.

Have you run for political office before? If so, explain:

I've served in elective public office for 32 years in the South Carolina Senate and prior to that on the Airport commission for Sumter County. I also ran for the Sumter School board Area 8 seat in 2022 (lost in runoff to Jeff Zell).

How long have you lived at the address you filed with?

My wife and I and our family have lived at our current address for 35 years.

Current job/profession:
I'm retired.

What makes you qualified for the seat?

I feel qualified because I have the interest, experience and time to focus on education as well as the business of education, one of the biggest businesses in our country as well as our county.

My experience includes being a professional pilot before entering the Air Force and the South Carolina Air National Guard, from which I retired as a brigadier general. I served in the S.C. State Senate for 32 years.

I was the president of Dixie Beverage Co., later Dixie Central, a family business that I operated with my father, and was subsequently a partner. I was the principal general partner for 28 years of a family real estate partnership with properties in Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.

Along with several other people from Sumter, I helped found the Sumter National Bank, serving as the board chair. I was the director of development for the S.C. Firefighters' Association Foundation that supported firefighters and their families. I continued to fly professionally after retiring from the Air National Guard.

What challenges/concerns do you see in Sumter School District (up to 3), and how do you intend to improve them?

I want to focus on support and enhancement

of our professional staff of educators. I want to improve the results regarding standards for student behavior and enforcement of discipline. I want to ensure fiscal accountability and stewardship of the district's real estate and personal property assets.

What successes have you seen in Sumter School District that you want to build on?

The career center, the activities in music and choral performances as well as in sports and the ROTC help build a higher rate of graduation, which is very positive for our community. For those headed for postsecondary education, the International Baccalaureate program and the opportunity to get college credit programs at USC Sumter and Central Carolina are also very positive making higher education more affordable.

Do you have children or grandchildren who attend a Sumter School District school? Please specify (you don't need to give their names).

While I do not have any children currently in the Sumter school system, all of our four children graduated from the Sumter school system and got a very good foundation to be successful in the colleges they attended.

Do you have a spouse or child who works in Sumter School District and what do they do? Please specify (you don't need to give their names).

I do not have any relatives who currently work in the Sumter school system. I did, however, have a niece who lived with us while she taught second grade in the Sumter schools some years ago. I had an opportunity to see firsthand how demanding teaching in elementary school can be. Watching her prepare for school every day gave me a new appreciation for how incredibly demanding it is to be a good teacher.

Sumter School District has 15 schools that are more than 60 years old and has not constructed any schools since the 1990s. However, the district is also losing enrollment. The previous board of trustees created a Master Plan Committee to craft a long-term vision for the district's facilities. What do you believe should be part of that vision?

I hope to join the board and work as part of a team to build a vision for our community through public education. It would be inappropriate for me to preach to those currently on the board who I seek to partner with as we work to improve Sumter's future.

Are you actively involved in the community? How so?

I'm currently a member of the Sumter Rotary club. I have for many years walked hundreds and hundreds of miles throughout Sumter from South Sumter, where my business was located, in Cherryvale, Dalzell, Mayesville, Shiloh, Rembert, Rimini and Pinewood. I have walked every inch of the Shot Pouch Greenway and Swan Lake-Iris Gardens. While this is not normally considered "community involvement," it has given me a unique insight and broad perspective of Sumter County. And, of course, it has allowed me to interact and network with people all over our great community.

SEE Q&As, PAGE A11



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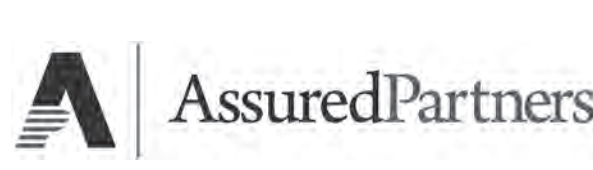
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Q&As

FROM PAGE A10

TOM MONTGOMERY

NONPARTISAN



Why are you running?

I am running for the school board because I believe in education's transformative power. While I believe all students have the

privilege of being in the classroom, no student has the right to prevent other students from learning. I am encouraged by the drive to incorporate STEM/STEAM programs in the schools and am committed to strengthening these programs.

I have observed disparities in resource allocation, minimal attention to school security (although that is changing) and acceptance of student academic mediocrity. Anecdotal evidence strongly suggests that student misbehavior is condoned, as educators have minimal resources to combat these disruptions. This is a disservice to students, parents and educators and must be corrected. I am awed by our teachers' dedication to their students and how they continually overcome institutional roadblocks.

As a school board member, I would expect to be part of the team that collaborates with the superintendent focusing on policies that drive student success, treating educators as professionals and fiscal responsibility. Additionally, local and regional businesses require a world-class workforce to thrive. Constructive conversations with local and regional companies could provide a pathway to meeting area workforce needs while meeting state educational requirements.

Have you run for political office before? If so, explain:

No. Recent conversations with friends and peers suggesting I run for the school board convinced me to enter.

How long have you lived at the address you filed with?

About seven years

Current job/profession:

Retired from the U.S. Air Force/Air National Guard as well as Verizon

What makes you qualified for the seat?

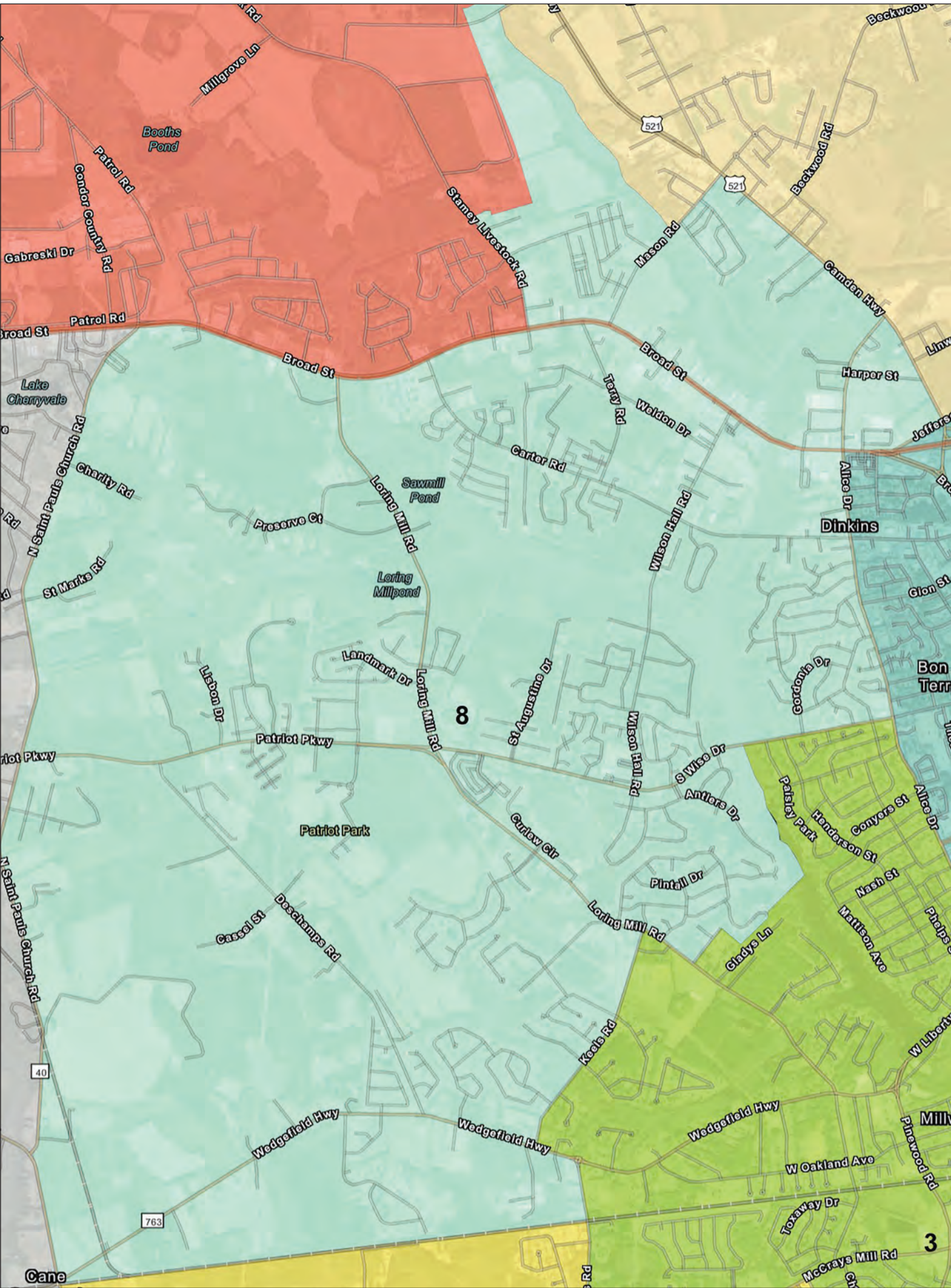
Sumter School District's mission and vision are prominently displayed on its home page (www.sumterschools.net). Conversations with school leaders, educators and most importantly students indicate these goals are not met. The results published on screportcards.com indicate Sumter School District significantly lags behind school success metrics in most categories compared to South Carolina as a whole. Besides being one, I have studied and observed successful organizational leaders and managers. A common theme to success is finding positive solutions. Sumter educators and their students should be the priority in this school district. Extraneous duties and responsibilities must be eliminated so teachers are not sidetracked from their primary responsibility, which is providing their students with the best education possible.

What challenges/concerns do you see in Sumter School District (up to 3), and how do you intend to improve them?

Macro level: Maintenance of school facilities has been neglected. One example is evidenced by facility ceiling tiles showing water leakage and only being replaced when the greater problem of a leaking roof or leaking pipes is not addressed. Findings and observations from the Sumter Master Plan Committee must move beyond study/ recommendations to action.

Micro level: The school district seems slow to respond to identified shortcomings. As an example, it was noted that the English as a Second Language (ESL) staff was inadequate — one part-time teacher at a specific school. Some years ago, the recommendation was for at least two full-time positions to meet this need. Several years later this issue was finally addressed. Identified shortcomings that negatively impact students must be acknowledged and addressed quickly.

Conversations with local and regional business leaders identify a common theme with many Sumter School District students. While they may be proficient in work skills, they are woefully unprepared for a work environment requiring teamwork, dealing with conflict and people/



District 8, also referred to as Area 8, in Sumter School District includes the western and northern portions of the City of Sumter. Major roadways include Wilson Hall Road, Loring Mill Road, Patriot Parkway and others.

soft skills. Generally, businesses expect to train employees in industry or company-specific skills but not basic people skills. These shortcomings force organizations to invest additional training time in employees. Anecdotaly, organizations are saying that most employees are losing employment due to their inability to work with others in various forms. Integrating a higher level of soft/ people skills into the classroom environment would help students prepare for careers after high school. Specific input from educators on how to tailor these general skills to their respective teaching environments could provide guidelines for district-wide implementation.

What successes have you seen in Sumter School District that you want to build on?

Some schools are working toward becoming nationally accredited STEM Schools (Ebenezer Middle School), and others have already earned STEM accreditation (Bates Middle School). Additionally, students in the fine arts program have garnered state recognition.

The Sumter School District realignment study of 2021 and the follow-up recommendations in March 2022 and postponed for the 2023/24 school year should be reconsidered for implementation. Understandably, there will be short-term inconveniences for students and families, but students arriving on time for their first class of the day and potential transportation-related cost savings should be the priority.

I see the need to strengthen collaboration between Sumter School District and The Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce. One goal of the chamber of commerce is to bring businesses to the Sumter community and to provide multiple opportunities for people to continue to make Sumter their home. Businesses interacting with classroom activities would demonstrate that multiple careers can be found in the Sumter area.

Do you have children or grandchildren who attend a Sumter School District school? Please specify (you don't need to give their names).

No.

Do you have a spouse or child who works in Sumter School District, and what do they do? Please specify (you don't need to give their names).

Yes. Classroom teacher.

Sumter School District has 15 schools that are more than 60 years old and has not constructed any schools since the 1990s. However, the district is also losing enrollment. The previous board of trustees created a Master Plan Committee to craft a long-term vision for the district's facilities. What do you believe should be part of that vision?

This question is answered based on the April 18, 2024, Sumter Master Plan Committee meeting. The overarching issue for the residents of Sumter County is the funding for any decisions to refurbish or build schools. Based on Superintendent William Wright's example of North Carolina utilizing state lottery funds to subsidize school construction, it would be wise to include Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives — Murrell Smith Jr. — in an effort to quickly initiate a similar process. According to www.sceducationlottery.com, since its inception in January 2002 and through Fiscal Year 2022/23, \$17,504,437 has been distributed to Sumter County for K-12 education purposes. While this may cover some of the basics for additional school needs, it is a small part of the district budget.

Important to the discussion of declining enrollment is if there is a general decline in the student-age population or if area students have enrolled in alternative avenues of education, such as home-schooling or private schools. More information

is necessary before decisions can be made on school expansion or consolidation.

The long-term vision must incorporate a superior physical school environment and inspire our educators to continue to teach our children.

Are you actively involved in the community? How so?

Yes, I'm a volunteer Guardian ad Litem for the state of South Carolina. After the Department of Social Services opens a case, a Guardian ad Litem is court-appointed to investigate and advocate for the best interests of a child(ren) in family court proceedings involving allegations of abuse or neglect.

I am also a Sumter Youth Corps facilitator. The program offers training in conjunction with employment for the City of Sumter for children ages 14 and 15. They are hired to work in various city government office departments during the summer and also receive training and exposure to the 17 Principles of Success from The Napoleon Hill Foundation (2008, 1928).

Furthermore, I am engaged with The Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce:

- Active participant in the Education and Workforce Development Council: The council works to strengthen existing partnerships between the business community and Sumter's educational institutions.
- Educator of the Year Awards: I review submissions, participate in teacher interviews and vote for the respective Educator of the Year award winners. This award recognizes Sumter educators displaying leadership, citizenship and community engagement at the elementary, middle and high school levels.
- Golden Apple Award presenter: The Golden Apple Awards are an opportunity to recognize students within Sumter School District who exhibit outstanding characteristics, such as honesty, integrity, perseverance and service to others.

KEITH SCHULTZ

NONPARTISAN



Why are you running?

I have a strong passion and desire to see public education improved in Sumter County, and I want to be a part of setting

parameters to do just that!

Have you run for political office before? If so, explain:

Yes, I have six years of experience as a Sumter school board member. For two of those years, I was the board chairman.

- Won election for two-year term on the final Sumter School District 17 board.

- Won election and served on the first consolidated district Board of Trustees from 2011-15.

- Lost general election for re-election bid to the board.

How long have you lived at the address you filed with?

20 years.

Current job/profession:

I am semi-retired and owner of Schultz Lawn Service.

What makes you qualified for the seat?

- Eight years serving in the military in the U.S. Air Force
- 30 years in banking and finance
- I am a Christian.
- I stay abreast of district business and attend board meetings regularly.
- I am an advocate of public education.
- Strength and experience in mediation and negotiation
- Merger and facility closure experience

What challenges/concerns do you see in Sumter School District (up to 3), and how do you intend to improve them?

One is the educational results of the entire student body. A path toward

Q&As FROM PAGE A11

improvement would be holding the superintendent accountable for his results, or lack thereof. We need to create a firm timeline with a Performance Improvement Plan.

Secondly, is my concern that “grant” money is being used to supplement teacher salary shortage funds. A path toward improvement is to be more suspect of grant usage and to initiate a forensic audit.

Third, is the continued reduction in enrollment and facility occupancy. A path toward improvement is a full facility occupancy study. It was 52% before, and it most certainly has gotten worse. Stop all external facility expenditures, including athletic facilities. Then, speak with one consolidated voice and move forward.

What successes have you seen in Sumter School District that

Sumter school board Area 8 precincts for Feb. 11 special election

PRECINCT	LOCATION
Causeway Branch 1	Millwood Elementary School, 24 Pinewood Road
Ebenezer 2	Ebenezer Middle School, 3440 Ebenezer Road
Green Swamp 1 & 2	Sumter School District office, 1345 Wilson Hall Road
St. Paul	Cherryvale Elementary School, 1420 Furman Drive
Wilson Hall	Wilson Hall School, 520 Wilson Hall Road

Only registered voters in Sumter School District Area 8 are eligible to vote in this special election.

you want to build on?

Automated payment approval procedures. Also, noted improvement in bus arrival/ departure times. There have also been discipline policy improvements.

Do you have children or grandchildren who attend a Sumter School District school? Please specify (you don't need to give their names).

No. I have a son who graduated from Sumter High School previously.

Do you have a spouse or child who works in Sumter School District and what do they do? Please specify (you don't need to give their names).

No.

Sumter School District has 15 schools that are more than 60 years old and has not

constructed any schools since the 1990s. However, the district is also losing enrollment. The previous board of trustees created a Master Plan Committee to craft a long-term vision for the district's facilities. What do you believe should be part of that vision?

School closures and consolidation.

Also, a technical high school. Establish an enforced timeline of the Master Plan Committee. Superintendent accountability.

Are you actively involved in the community? How so?

Yes, I have served as an Optimist and Rotarian. Also, I have spent time coaching both basketball and baseball. I mentored children in the “star student” program at Crosswell Drive Elementary School. I was a Junior Achievement teacher for three years at Sumter High School and Bates Middle School. Supporter of “Sumter Strong,” which is a Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce initiative. Also, previously chaired United Way campaign allocation panel for distribution of fundraising dollars.

If elected, I will commit to provide conservative values and education accountability with all my might.

Preliminary phase of 111-unit Sumter development on pause for now

BY DEIRDRE CURRIN
deirdre@theitem.com

At one of Sumter County Council’s previous meetings on Tuesday, Jan. 14, a potential 111-unit development at 425 Myrtle Beach Highway was deferred by council after residents voiced concerns about an increase in crime and speeding. For now, the ordinance has been removed from the

agenda because of issues with it being a property not within city limits that would need to use city water, according to Councilwoman Tasha Gardner-Greene.

It is not known when the ordinance regarding the new development will return to county council’s agenda.

Gardner-Greene is the councilwoman representing District 7 where the development would take place, and

she volunteered to facilitate a meeting between the contractors and concerned residents. On Monday, Jan. 27, she held a community meeting where she heard community concerns. Initially, this was supposed to be the meeting between the project applicants and the community, but Gardner-Greene said she will hold that meeting at a later date after the water situation is resolved.

At Gardner-Greene’s meeting on Monday, she said the majority of the nine community members in attendance were against the development, but there were a couple people in attendance who supported it.

Gardner-Greene told *The Item* on Thursday she wants to show the community she is “intentional” when it comes to listening to their concerns.

DAYS FROM PAGE A1

Area 4 Trustee Tarah Johnson was absent from the meeting.

IN OTHER BOARD NEWS

Area 6 trustee and board Facilities Committee Chairman Matthew “Mac” McLeod announced that his committee will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 5, at 4:45 p.m. at the district office, 1345 Wilson Hall Road.

Area 1 trustee and board Policy Committee Chairman Brian Alston announced that his committee will meet directly after the Facilities Committee at 6 p.m. on the same day.

All board-related meetings are open to the public.

For those not physically attending, the district broadcasts meetings live on YouTube. Anyone wanting to attend the meeting virtually can do so via YouTube Sumter School District Board Meeting and the district’s Facebook page, @SumterSC-Schools.

VOTE FROM PAGE A1

That’s how many nominations were made in January for *The Sumter Item*’s 25th-annual Best of Sumter 2025 readers’ choice contest. Now, it’s time to make some 300-plus of them winners.

Voting for the contest is open now through Feb. 26. Everyone, regardless of whether they have a subscription to *The Item* or not, can vote once per day in every category.

Now in its 25th year, the contest serves as Sumter’s premier and farthest-reaching campaign to recognize all the great people, places, businesses, services and events in the area. Winners will be named in categories spanning auto and transportation, business, community, food and drinks, education, home and finance, medical services, professionals and shopping and commerce. That means if you want to know what your neighbors, coworkers, business associates and strangers all over town think

the best place is in town to find an oil change, a place to take the kids, a specialist doctor, a home appraiser, a tax professional or a hotdog, Best of Sumter has the answer.

The contest also features community-based categories such as teacher, nurse and law enforcement officer. Voters decide on their favorite nonprofit organization, their favorite place to volunteer and their favorite church.

Having a subscription to *The Sumter Item* is not necessary to participate at any stage of the contest, including being a nominee or winner.

The red carpet winners’ celebration and exclusive magazine release is scheduled for April 29. The magazine will be inserted into *The Sumter Item* and available to the public on Saturday, May 3.

Finalists have the opportunity to promote themselves to voters through various packages. For more information, reach out to your *Item* sales representative or email promotions@theitem.com.

Students learning work skills



PHOTO PROVIDED

Sumter High School Employability III and IV students continue to strive to become career ready through work-based learning in the Gamecock Gardens Greenhouse. The students maintain this school-based enterprise as a career training environment.

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OPINION

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HOPE IS A DOOR LEFT OPEN FOR MISSING PEOPLE FROM SUMTER

I recently attended the funeral of Tommy Brailey, as did Brent Gracia's Mother and friend. We were there to support the Brailey family and unfortunately are a part of the missing persons community, one none of us chose or wanted to be a member of.

We are overjoyed for the Brailey family to find peace and lay Tommy to rest. It's a special blessing for Tommy's parents to have this closure, as they are elderly and his father is in poor health, and for sister, Shelia, who worked tirelessly, walking in faith.

As joyous as this chapter is it is a reminder that there are many loved ones still missing in Sumter county with family and friends praying for a resolve for their cases. Among them is my friend, Barbara Nave, who went missing Feb. 9 of 2017. The 31st will be Barbara's birthday, and February will mark eight long years missing. Under South Carolina law after seven years assets can be dissolved and individuals declared deceased. Barbara's case is troubling and does not meet the usual profile of age, lifestyle, etc. In many cases there are those who have information but for whatever reason remain silent. For those, I encourage you to come forward to either a family member or law enforcement.

When Tommy was found there were 281 missing in our state, alone. With the recent recovery of Tommy and William Black for Camden, the number is now reduced by two but within a short time the number will rise again and another family will be left scarred.

Since we have no "cold case" unit in Sumter, I am closely following proposed legislation of "Alexis Ware Missing Persons Act." If this passes it will be a HUGE game changer for families still missing loved ones and will provide a new avenue and eyes for cases that have been shelved.

I have a renew hope since Tommy and William Black's cases have been resolved , both of which date back to 2017. Hope is a door left open. All things will be revealed in God's time.

I ask that the Sumter community pray for the missing and the families that are left in limbo.

KATHLEEN KREKLAU
Sumter

IDOLATRY RESURRECTS ADAM'S ORIGINAL SINFUL CIRCUMSTANCE

Jesus placed the ones who “heard” God’s truths regarding Jesus on or after May 10, 2023, and “rejected” it on Nov. 7, 2024, in the exact same circumstance as Adam after God had previously warned Adam, “on the day that you eat of it you shall surely die” (Gen 2:16-17). In the end, Adam survived “physically” after he ate of the fruit; but “spiritually,” he died eternally on the day he ate the fruit. Knowing God “never changes,” America’s “informed” survivors on Nov. 7 experienced the exact same outcome as Adam in the beginning ... they lived “physically” after their decision on Nov. 7; but “spiritually,” each died eternally on Nov. 7. Hebrews 3:19 explains, “because of their unbelief” (not believe God’s spoken words regarding Jesus in Matt 3:17 and Matt 16:15-17 to the exclusion of everything else in this universe) each lost forever their “hope” to enter into God’s forgiveness and salvation that earns their entry into “heaven itself” in the “land of the living” (God’s New Covenant “goodness,” see Psalm 27:13). Had Jesus decided to use his Father’s “Passover” option and its killing requirement on Nov. 7, 2024, to “convict” America of its “unbelief” (not believe God regarding Jesus), disobedience, and idolatry “Jesus is God,” America’s “informed” survivors who rejected God’s truths regarding Jesus on Nov. 7, 2024, would have died “physically” on Nov. 7, 2024, without having ever received God’s forgiveness and salvation condemning each eternally. When Jesus returns, each “informed” survivor or “Passover” casualty from every nation will experience God’s judgment, punishment for every sin, and cast into the lake of fire, which is the “second death” (punishment for additional sins only difference). TO ALL THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD ... this is your advanced warning from Jesus as “the ruler of kings on earth” (Rev 1:5) of the events that will occur on God’s day of His culminating judgment against your nation executed by Jesus through his body, the church. PAY HEED to what Jesus’ ADVON Team tells you regarding your idolatry!

LANE ROGERS
Sumter

EDITORIAL

Partnership between *Sumter Item*, Shaw has mission of welcoming new military members to community

Inserted into today’s *Sumter Item*, you’ll find the second-annual Welcome to Shaw & Sumter magazine, courtesy of a partnership between *The Item* and Shaw Air Force Base.

Welcome to Shaw is a newcomers guide for military personnel coming to the Sumter community. It’s full of important information for families, things to do, resources and more.

This 2025 annual publication is intended not only for current military personnel, but also those who

come to Shaw throughout the next year.

As a subscriber or a regular reader of *The Sumter Item*, you may be wondering why you received this magazine, and this is where a request comes in to play.

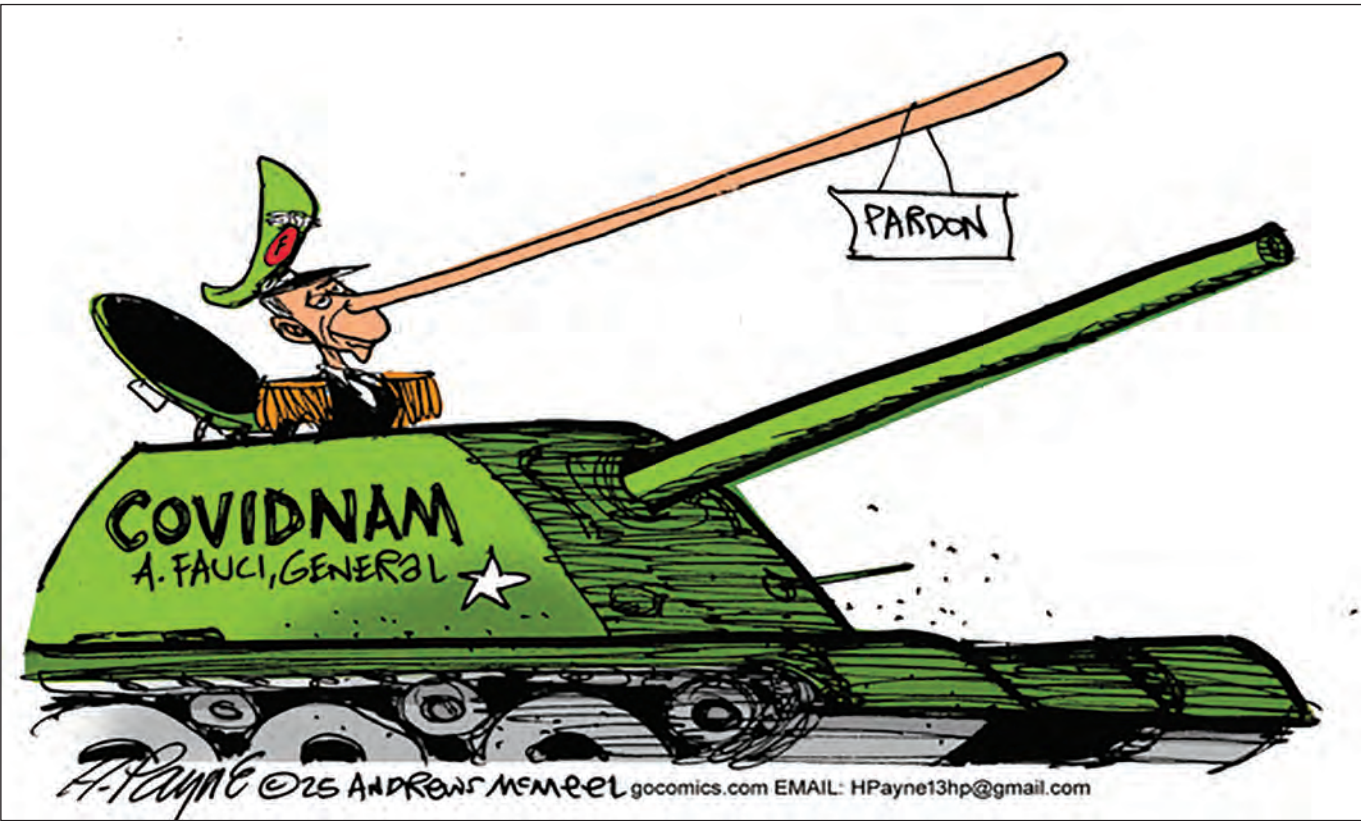
The connection between Shaw and Sumter is incredibly important, and we know you (the engaged residents of Sumter) are aware of just how important it is to the fabric of the community.

We would ask that after you read this magazine that you share it

with a military member you know. Maybe it’s a neighbor or someone you met at church or out in the community. Maybe it’s a family of one of your child’s classmates. Maybe it’s someone you haven’t met yet but will meet in 2025.

We hope this magazine helps you welcome these military members to our community. Additional magazines will be available around Shaw and at community functions throughout 2025.

Thank you for helping us in this mission of welcoming.



COMMENTARY

Trump is moving fast and breaking things

Move fast and break things. That's the original operating philosophy of Facebook founder and Meta mogul Mark Zuckerberg, and it seems to be the operating procedure of President Donald Trump in these first weeks of his second term.

That makes a certain sense. In a largely successful society, unrocked by revolution, institutions come to be in need of repair, revamping and reconstitution. Just as tools rust, barnacles adhere and roofs leak, institutions and professions, government agencies and private industries need to be reformed or even abolished.



Michael Barone

The high-tech firms that now dominate the American — indeed, world — equity markets moved fast and broke many of the business plans of many long-established entities in the early 2000s.

Now, with the sudden support of many of their leaders, Trump in his first two weeks of his second term is moving fast and breaking things.

And so far with surprisingly little backlash. As these major changes go into effect, it's a fair question to ask about the long-term consequences.

Start with Trump's executive orders dismantling the misnamed diversity, equity and inclusion apparatus. Opponents started changing the names of DEI programs, and someone in the Air Force said the order required nonmention of the Tuskegee Airmen. That's a variation of what the late Washington Monthly editor Charlie Peters called the "shut down the Washington Monument" strategy, to which incoming Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth quickly put the kibosh.

More importantly, Trump's executive order repeals the 1965 Lyndon Johnson order that got the government and large parts of the private sector fighting racial discrimination with racial discrimination. DEI bureaucracies and enforcement were stepped up after the death of George Floyd in May 2020. Now private companies, subject to lawsuits for discriminating against Asians and whites, are scrambling to defund

their DEI commissars.

Not many will miss them. Polling, and referenda in California, has shown large majorities disapproving racial preferences. Controversy over Black Lives Matters leaders' purchase of a \$6 million house and the implosion of Ibram X. Kendi's academic center suggests a weariness even among DEI recipients.

DEI repeal seems likely to be, as Christopher Caldwell writes, "the most significant policy change of this century."

Likely in second place are the highly publicized deportations of criminal and other illegal immigrants from so-called sanctuary cities. Illegal border crossings, already vastly reduced last spring when then-President Joe Biden, facing defeat, started using powers he had said he didn't have and changed the open-borders policy evidently inspired by those in-this-house-we-believe-no-human-being-is-illegal signs you see all over affluent metro Washington, D.C., neighborhoods.

Now illegal border crossings are reduced to a trickle, and Trump's first-term "Remain in Mexico" policy seems back in force. Trump's X post Sunday afternoon threatening 25% tariffs and visa shutdowns had Colombia's left-wing president reversing within minutes his ban on incoming deportees. Venezuela's left-wing president reciprocated preemptively this week.

My bet is that the threat of further deportations and workplace enforcement will prompt hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants to, as Mitt Romney put it in 2012, "self-deport" to the Americas and Middle East, just as the housing market collapse prompted similar numbers of illegal immigrants to self-deport to Mexico after 2006.

That effect may be reduced if the courts, as I think likely and justifiably, reject Trump's assertion that the 14th Amendment does not confer birthright citizenship. The excesses of Biden immigration policy have reduced public support of and Democratic politicians' demand for the mass legalization advanced as necessary for compromise immigration bills in decades past.

A third change that didn't get front-page headlines but is likely to endure will come from incoming Transportation Secretary Sean

Duffy's overturning of the Biden electric vehicle regulations. These were effectively, though not labeled as such, bans on gasoline-powered cars in the 2030s.

This may cause short-term problems for Detroit-based auto manufacturers who have been muscled to ramp up production of money-losing EVs. But over the longer run, they're likely to be grateful: It's easier to sell cars consumers want.

In the meantime, the case that outlawing gas-powered SUVs will preserve the planet is being undercut by events. Whether EVs reduce emissions depends on how the electricity that powers them is produced, and the artificial intelligence boom threatens huge increases in demand for electricity, fulfillable perhaps only by emission-emitting coal.

Simultaneously, the Los Angeles County wildfires have shown that the green policies for which California politicians preen themselves don't cut net emissions if those politicians don't fulfill their less-glamorous duties to fill reservoirs and cut back flammable brush.

Not all the Trump initiatives are likely to be successful, and his Democratic and journalistic opponents, as the reaction to his aid cutoff proposals showed, are ready to pounce on any ambiguity or weakness. But it's striking so far how subdued the response has been to the volley of Trump's recent actions.

The DEI lobby, which bulldozed corporate America, the open-doors immigration lobby, which purported to speak for the nation's fastest-growing electoral bloc, the climate control lobby, which muscled past concern over purple Michigan's electoral votes — all these forces prevailed utterly in setting Biden administration policy and succeeded mostly in setting the boundaries of permissible debate.

Now, as Trump moves and breaks things, they are responding not with a bang but a whimper.

Michael Barone is a senior political analyst for the Washington Examiner; resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and longtime co-author of The Almanac of American Politics.



ADAM FLASH / SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Sumter High linebackers coach James Breland, seen coaching during the Gamecocks' youth football camp this fall, was promoted to defensive coordinator this week.

Sumter High names Breland new defensive coordinator

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

The Sumter High football team will have a familiar face leading its defense this fall. The Gamecocks have promoted linebackers coach James Breland to be their next defensive coordinator. He replaces Brian Wilson, who left the post to become the head coach at Wilson High School earlier this month.

"It means a lot. I'm definitely honored and blessed to accept the role," Breland said. "I'm excited. I can't wait to get to work, which I am already." Sumter High head coach Mark Barnes knew Breland would be a perfect fit for the job; he just needed to make sure his longtime assistant wanted to take the reins. "Basically all I had to find out from him was if he was ready and did he want the po-

sition because, if he did, I knew he was the guy we were going to hire," Barnes. "We know what we have. So many times when you hire that position, it's the unknown of how he's going into interact with your players and with the rest of the staff. We know that going into this; we know our players love him. He's around the players more than anybody

SEE BRELAND, PAGE B2



TIM LEIBLE / SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Lakewood head coach Cam Lee and the Gators will have six games in the next two weeks as they look to end the regular season on a high note.

Lakewood Gators ready for busy homestretch amid 4-game win streak

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

In the preseason, the Lakewood basketball team was seen as the underdogs in a stacked Region V-4A. With a lot of new pieces, the Gators got out to an up-and-down start, but they've found their groove after a 2-5 start. With two weeks left in the regular season, Lakewood is sitting on a playoff spot with room to rise with a 12-8 record, and they're ready to make a splash.

"The vibes are good right now. The kids have bought in, and our confidence is extremely high," head coach Cam Lee said. "We've had some guys start to play some of their best ball, and we believe in ourselves. We've seen everyone in the region except Crestwood, and it's been a close game with everyone. Even the games we lost, we had leads at certain points, so we feel confident we can play with anyone in our league."

"As I preach to the guys, it's about us. If we stick true to who we are and play to our principles and play to our style of play, we can be successful. They're starting to see the benefits of all the work we put in, and we're feeling good. We just



Pop Cato has been a huge scoring threat in region play, averaging 12 points per game against Region V-4A foes.

want to finish strong and give it all we've got and see where things land in the end."

Lee noticed his team turned a corner after a three-game losing streak in early December. Losses to Sumter High and Andrew Jackson preceded a 48-40 loss to Westwood in overtime. After that third-consecutive loss, the Gators had a bit of a come-to-Jesus moment, led in part by SHS transfer Andre McBride. They returned to action with three straight wins, including a revenge victory

against Sumter High. Their only losses since then were a six-point loss to now seventh-ranked Wilson, a tournament loss to Cross Creek out of Georgia and a 55-49 loss to South Florence in their first game of 2025.

"We just addressed it. We held guys accountable and asked guys to speak their mind and whatever was on their heart to let it out. That talk kinda led to a change in our attitude and our effort every day in practice," Lee said. "We have some good kids, and one guy that really stood out was Andre McBride. If you know Dre, he doesn't talk much, but he really spoke up and expressed his feelings and how we should be able to turn this thing around. Since that day, he's shown it with his play on the court, and it kinda just carried over and poured into everyone else."

There was going to be an adjustment period for the Gators as they welcomed a lot of new senior talent, including McBride, Darius Franklin, Carlos Franklin and Kennedy Bennett. They've also needed to adjust to the loss to Tyler Washington-Broomfield, whom they lost for the season during their

SEE LAKEWOOD, PAGE B3

Swampcats win thriller in 2OT, Mims leads Lady Barons to victory as LMA, WH clash

BY TIM LEIBLE
tim@theitem.com

When Laurence Manning and Wilson Hall get together, there's a chance something wild is around the corner. On Tuesday, that certainly proved to be the case as the SCISA rivals hit the court.

The evening started with a back-and-forth battle between the ladies, but Wilson Hall broke away when Caroline Moorman got hot from behind the arc, hitting four straight threes to lift the Lady Barons to a 43-32 win.

The nightcap was a knock-down, drag-out fight. Wilson Hall controlled the game for the first three quarters, but the Swampcats didn't back down. Laurence Manning was able to force overtime with a furious comeback, eventually outlasting the Barons for a 65-62 overtime victory.

MIMS CARRIES WILSON HALL

Lady Baron head coach Glen Rector was thrilled to see his team grind out consecutive wins over their biggest rival, a tough challenge when facing a strong team twice in the span of four days. More importantly, he's seeing his young squad continue to grow.

"It's really, really hard to play a team that close together, regardless of who it is. I was a little worried about the mental aspect of the game, but the girls did a really nice job of understanding the importance of this game because this was a huge region game for us," Rector said. "It put us in a much better position going into the last three games. This put us in a good position regardless of what happens in those three games."

"It's really exciting for us as a program, as a group of young ladies. We've struggled at times. We knew we were young, we knew we'd have some bumps and bruises, but for them to have these three wins in a row is very exciting."

Meanwhile, the offensive struggles continue for Laurence Manning, and head coach Lisa Ard is still searching for answers.

"Since that first snow, we have not had anything fall. It has been awful. We shoot every day, and it doesn't look that bad in practice," Ard said. "We just couldn't match (Moorman), and once we got her out there, it was too late."

Both teams struggled to find their rhythm on offense for most of the evening. It almost seemed like someone put a lock on the basket, as shots weren't falling for either squad. Midway through the third quarter, Wilson Hall was clinging to a 19-18 lead. Then Moorman found



PHOTOS BY TIM LEIBLE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Laurence Manning's Zy Dennis celebrates during the Swampcats' double-overtime win over Wilson Hall on Tuesday.

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BRELAND FROM PAGE B1

in the weight room. We know that’s seamless, and we know he loves Sumter football.

“It was just a clean fit. I couldn’t have been more pleased when he told me he wanted that opportunity because it made my search a whole lot easier.”

This isn’t Breland’s first time at the Gamecock DC. He filled the role on an interim basis for former defensive coordinator Mark Arthur. When the job opened after Arthur retired, Breland was dealing with the loss of his grandmother and wasn’t ready to step into the role. Now, he’s more than ready to guide the SHS defense.

“Mentally, I felt like I wasn’t there because I was dealing with the grief of the loss of my grandmother. Now, I’m well and I’m ready,” Breland said.

Breland and Wilson worked side by side for years, so it will be a change of pace to not have another well-respected and experienced coach on staff, but Breland is ready for the challenge.

“We’ve been working together for a long time, and he’s definitely going to be missed,” Breland said of Wilson. “But working with him, Coach Arthur and different coaches in the past, I got a chance to pick up different things.”

The new Sumter High DC is already used to having a hands-on approach with most of the defense, helping guide their success in the weight room. His long-standing relationships with his student-athletes will continue to pay off in his new role.

“Right now, I’m in the weight room with them, so I spend more time with the kids than any coach in the program,” Breland said. “I know what makes them move and what gets them going. That’s a plus. Eventually everything is going to carry onto the field.”

The Sumter High defense has a wealth of returning talent with underclassmen across the board. While they’ll certainly miss players like Anthony Addison, Jeremiah Burson, Jordan Lowery and Terrence Burgess, young stars like Tymaries Thompson-Durant, Bryce Allen, Davon Bowman and so many others make this defense an exciting unit to lead in the fall.

“I feel like we’re definitely going to uphold the standard of being fast, physical and smart,” Breland said. “Having those guys and that much experience coming back is a plus. I’m expecting big things.”

Sumter High also loses an experienced defensive backs coach as Wilson leaves, but Barnes hopes that Jordan Gregg will be able to help fill that void. Gregg, a former SHS star, served as a DBs coach last year under Wilson.

Former Sumter High star Fortune named East West Shrine Bowl Defensive MVP

STAFF REPORT

Former Sumter High defensive back O’Donnell Fortune boosted his draft stock on Thursday night with an electric showing in the East West Shrine Bowl at the Dallas Cowboys’ AT&T Stadium.

Fortune, who spent his collegiate career starring in Columbia at South Carolina, was named the Defensive MVP in a draft showcase featuring some of the top talent in the country.

The former Gamecock’s biggest highlight was an interception of Missouri quarterback Brady Cook, which he returned 65 yards for a touchdown. He also broke up two passes for the East team while recording a tackle.

Another USC standout, former Crestwood tight end Josh Simon, played in the game and was targeted three times but did not record a reception for the East squad that finished with 126 yards through the air.

Fortune enters the draft after a stellar career at South Carolina, where he recorded seven career interceptions, recovered two fumbles and had 108 total sacks. As a senior, Fortune had a career-high three



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Sumter High and South Carolina star O’Donnell Fortune, left, East head coach Marquice Williams of the Atlanta Falcons and Arizona’s Jacory Croskey-Merritt (31) pose for photos after receiving their defensive most valuable player, championship trophy and offensive most valuable player awards, respectively, after the East West Shrine Bowl in Arlington, Texas, on Thursday, Jan. 30.

picks, broke up six passes and had 47 total tackles, making two tackles for a loss. He received an 85.8 grade from Pro Football Focus this season and ranks 161 on the organization’s top 250 for the NFL Draft.

Simon spent the last two seasons

at South Carolina after transferring from Western Kentucky. He finished his six-year college career with 24 touchdowns and 1,921 yards on 154 receptions. He set career highs in receptions (40), yards (519) and touchdowns (7) this season.

ESPN deal with ACC extended through 2035-36

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ESPN has exercised its option to extend a base-rights media deal with the Atlantic Coast Conference through 2035-36, aligning the timeline with a second deal that covers their partnership for the ACC Network.

The network and the ACC announced the extension Thursday in a welcome, but not unexpected, development for the league amid questions about revenue and its long-term future.

ESPN had a deadline of Feb. 1 to decide whether to pick up the option for the base rights for 2027-36, a

wrinkle that emerged during Florida State’s lawsuit against the league regarding exit fees for a potential departure to another conference.

That base-rights deal covers events broadcast on primary properties like ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU and ABC and generally involves financial payouts laid out in contracts. A person familiar with the contracts said the second deal specifically covered the ACC Network through 2035-36 regardless of whether ESPN picked up the option on the base rights, a detail first reported by The Athletic.

The person spoke to The

Associated Press on condition of anonymity Thursday because the league hasn’t released unredacted information for its ESPN deals.

Now both parts of the deal are set to run another 11 years.

“The ACC is a pillar of ESPN’s leading commitment to college sports, and we are thrilled to continue the partnership over the next decade,” ESPN chairman Jimmy Pitaro said in a statement.

The extension comes with FSU and Clemson both in legal fights with the league tied to the grant-of-rights agreement in 2016 — timed with the deal to an-

nounce the ACC Network’s August 2019 arrival — that seeks to deter defections by schools seeking more revenue with other leagues. That has led ACC commissioner Jim Phillips to talk openly about searching for ways to enhance revenue, such as discussions with ESPN as a partner to enhance the value of the media-rights deal and potentially create more revenue from it.

For example, Phillips has said the league’s addition of Stanford, California and SMU through expansion for this season created \$600 million in additional incremental revenue through the media-rights deal.

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TUE. JAN. 28

CRESTWOOD BOYS 75-46

@ L. RICHLAND GIRLS 29-62

TUE. JAN. 28

LEE CENTRAL BOYS 77-29

@ RIVERWALK

TUE. JAN. 28

DARLINGTON BOYS 60-43

@ LAKEWOOD GIRLS 61-43

TUE. JAN. 28

KINGSTREE BOYS 38-52

@ MANNING GIRLS 51-44

TUE. JAN. 28

CAROLINA AC. BOYS 42-19

@ LEE ACADEMY GIRLS 45-38

TUE. JAN. 28

HOLLY HILL BOYS 32-66

@ RAGIN PREP

TUE. JAN. 28

CALHOUN AC. BOYS 65-34

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TUE. JAN. 29

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Crestwood, Manning, Lee Central, Scott's Branch hold spots in latest rankings

STAFF REPORT

After a week when most games were postponed due to weather, there weren't many changes in the latest rankings from the South Carolina Basketball Coaches Association on Tuesday.

Crestwood was able to play one game before the weather hit, a 67-61 loss to SCHSL 3A No. 3 Keenan. The loss didn't affect the rankings, as the Knights held firm at No. 4 in SCHSL 4A ahead of Friday's matchup with No. 7 Wilson. Manning was the only other

local team to play last week, beating East Clarendon 90-57. They stayed at No. 5 in SCHSL 2A. The Lee Central and Scott's Branch girls both postponed all of their games and maintained the No. 4 and No. 9 spots in SCHSL 1A, respectively.

SCBCA TOP 10, JAN. 28, 2025

5A D1 Boys Top 10

- 1. Ridge View
- 2. Byrnes
- 3. Dorman
- 4. Blythewood
- 5. Dutch Fork
- 6. Cane Bay
- 7. Summerville
- 8. Mauldin
- 9. River Bluff
- 10. West Ashley

5A D2 Boys Top 10

- 1. Fort Mill
- 2. Indian Land
- 3. Goose Creek
- 4. Greenville
- 5. Conway
- 6. Westwood
- 7. Berkeley
- 8. Greenwood
- 9. Riverside
- 10. James Island

5A D1 Girls Top 10

- 1. Ashley Ridge
- 2. Blythewood
- 3. Summerville
- 4. Clover
- 5. Dutch Fork
- 6. Carolina Forest
- 7. Wando
- 8. Dorman
- 9. Rock Hill
- 10. Lexington

5A D2 Girls Top 10

- 1. Gaffney
- 2. North Myrtle Beach
- 3. Berkeley
- 4. White Knoll
- 5. Riverside
- 6. Fort Mill
- 7. St. James
- 8. Socastee
- 9. Irmo
- 10. Greenwood

4A Boys Top 10

- 1. North Augusta
- 2. Lancaster
- 3. Wren
- 4. Crestwood
- 5. Brookland Cayce
- 6. Gray Collegiate
- 7. Wilson
- 8. Westside
- 9. Bluffton
- 10. Greer

4A Girls Top 10

- 1. South Pointe
- 2. North Augusta
- 2. Lower Richland
- 4. Westside
- 5. Daniel
- 6. Camden
- 7. Wilson
- 8. Bishop England
- 9. AC Flora
- 10. Fountain Inn

3A Boys Top 10

- 1. Oceanside
- 2. Orangeburg Wilkinson
- 3. Keenan
- 4. Powdersville
- 5. Christ Church
- 6. Loris
- 7. North Charleston
- 8. Georgetown
- 9. Fox Creek
- 10. St. Joseph's

3A Girls Top 10

- 1. Walhalla
- 2. Keenan
- 3. Dillon
- 4. Loris
- 5. Powdersville
- 6. Orangeburg-Wilkinson
- 7. Oceanside
- 8. West Oak
- 9. Chapman
- 10. Woodruff

2A Boys Top 10

- 1. High Point Academy
- 2. Atlantic Collegiate Academy
- 3. Mullins
- 4. Hampton County
- 5. Manning
- 6. Chenese
- 7. Andrew Jackson
- 8. Landrum
- 9. Phillip Simmons
- 10. Bridge Prep/Marion

2A Girls Top 10

- 1. Andrew Jackson
- 2. Clinton
- 3. Lake Marion
- 4. Lake City
- 5. Atlantic Collegiate Academy
- 6. Kingstree
- 7. Fairfield Central
- 8. Eau Claire
- 9. Marion
- 10. Saluda

1A Boys Top 10

- 1. Bowman
- 2. Denmark
- 3. Great Falls
- 4. North
- 5. Abbeville
- 6. McCormick
- 7. Cross
- 8. CA Johnson
- 9. McBee
- 10. Lewisville

1A Girls Top 10

- 1. Military Magnet
- 2. Denmark Olar
- 3. Carver's Bay
- 4. Lee Central
- 5. North
- 6. Bamberg-Ehrhardt
- 7. Williston-Elko
- 8. Latta
- 9. Scott's Branch
- 10. Calhoun Falls Charter

LAKESWOOD

FROM PAGE B1

region loss to Wilson.

"The non-region gave us an opportunity to throw lineups together, see who played well, see what rotations should look like, and we were able to find some lineups that meshed well," Lee said. "The good thing about this group is that this is our first time being together, but a lot of these guys know each other. They're familiar with each other, they've played against each other or with each other in AAU, so we've been able to pick up some camaraderie quick. We don't have a lot of egos on this team; from one to 14, guys can call each other out, and they take it well. It's more of a family vibe than it's been since I've been here. The guys really compete and love on each other and push each other to be better."

Flexibility has been key for Lakewood. When they were healthy, senior Pop Cato became the sixth man and provided a huge scoring threat off the bench. He then moved into a new role as the Gators continued to adjust without Washington-Broomfield and fills out a four-guard starting lineup with Cedric Cisse, McBride, C. Franklin and big man D. Franklin.

D. Franklin has been Lakewood's most consistent scoring threat, averaging a 14.9, 10.8 rebound double-double on the season. But teams have adjusted to his success, and other players have stepped up around him. Four Gators are averaging double figures in region play with Cato scoring 12 points per game, Cisse adding 11.3 and C. Franklin adding an additional 10.5 points for region contest.

After the week off due to winter weather last week, the Gators came back with a 60-43 win over Darlington, in which D. Franklin was limited to just four shots from the field and three points, though he was still a major contributor with 14 rebounds. Other players stepped up as C. Franklin poured in 15 points, Cisse chipped in with 13 and McBride had 12. Bennett added another eight points off the bench.

"Darius is going to get a lot of attention with his production. He only had three points against Darlington. He was getting doubled and tripled throughout the game, but it opens things up for guys like Carlos, who can really shoot



LEFT: Cedric Cisse is averaging double digits offensively for the Gators this season. BELOW: Lakewood's Darius Franklin has been a massive addition this season, averaging a 14-point double-double on the year.

TIM LEIBLE / SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTOS

the ball. Andre made some shots, Cedric made some shots. We're starting to see a good distribution," Lee said. "We've got some guys that are producing and playing high-level defense, as well."

That Darlington game was important for the Gators because it was a classic trap game. The Falcons have the same overall record as Lakewood, and the Gators won the first matchup by 17 points on the road. With more than a week off before the game, it would be easy for the rust to settle in, but Lakewood proved they could handle business without their star playing needing to shoulder a heavy offensive workload.

"I was a little nervous going into Darlington. The same thing happened to us when we played South Florence. We had a week and some change off and had to come in and play an important region game," Lee said. "Darlington is a scrappy team. I know they're younger this year, but they're hungry and well-coached, so I knew it wasn't going to be an easy game. Teams are going to adjust, and I tell Darius all the time he can't get frustrated, he has to trust his teammates, and we always preach to guys that you have to stay ready because there will be times you have to step up and help the team win. That was another example of that."

Lakewood's schedule is messy down the stretch. Despite missing all of last week due to storms, the matchup with Darlington was Lakewood's only game this week. They'll come back next week with three games against South Florence, Crestwood and Lower Richland before another three-game week to close out the regular season. While it will be a stressful stretch of games, including two rivalry games against the fourth-ranked team in SCHSL 4A, Lakewood is embracing the challenge.

"People ask all the time why

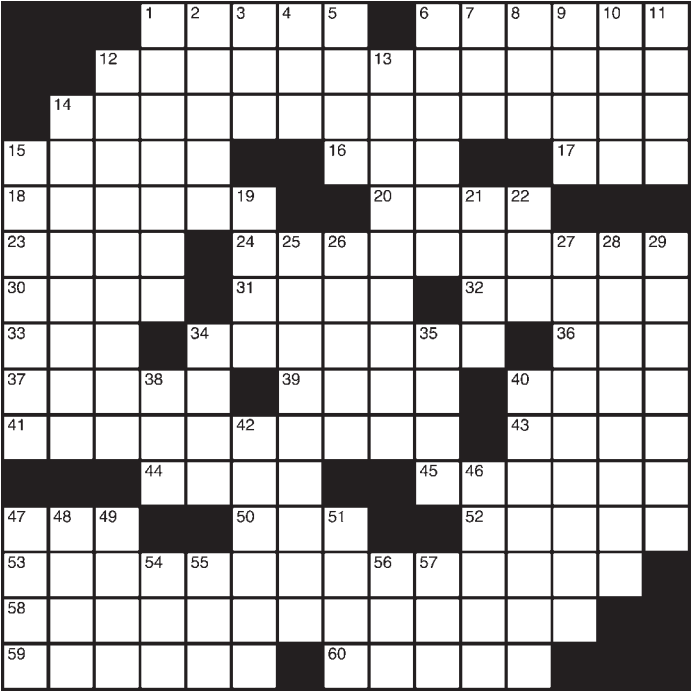


our shooting shirts say, 'Out the mud.' That's just a mentality we have. Coming where we come from at Lakewood, we're used to adversity, we're used to things not always going in our favor, and you have a bunch of kids that have to deal with the hand they've been dealt," Lee said. "This is nothing new to us. I try to preach that coach is not going to run from any smoke, we're not going to duck any action, and it is what it is. We have to see these teams to get where we want to go; it's out of our hands. You can control what you can control, and our job is to show up ready to compete, execute our game plan and try to come out on top."

The Gators also view this homestretch as a prime opportunity to disprove the doubters who thought Lakewood would find themselves on the outside looking in amid one of the toughest regions in the state.

"Nobody's opinion matters if they're not in our locker room," Lee said. "We don't expect people to give us the benefit of the doubt; we don't expect people to place us on a pedestal. It's Lakewood. I'm not from Sumter, but that's kind of the identity. We're often cast as the little brother, and we know the work we put in is unmatched. I'm going to be honest, I think we work harder than anyone, and we just have to go and prove it. We just need a time and a place to silence all doubts, to correct any opinions people may have of us. We kinda use that as a chip on our shoulder."

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Attach
- 6 Pickle
- 12 "You're getting ahead of yourself"
- 14 "I'll meet you halfway"
- 15 Vaudeville singer Smith
- 16 __ bran
- 17 Break stuff?
- 18 Like
- 20 Car mirror's view
- 23 "___ Masters": reality show with building contests
- 24 When all's been said and done, to a Brit
- 30 Gifts that might be made with kukui
- 31 Udder part
- 32 Joplin's "Treemonisha," e.g.
- 33 Zig instead of zag, perhaps
- 34 Newspaper that covers Congress
- 36 __ canto
- 37 "Julia" star Swinton
- 39 TV explorer Márquez
- 40 School house, informally?
- 41 One might be on a roll
- 43 Freddie portrayer in "Bohemian Rhapsody"
- 44 Audition dismissal
- 45 Basil who designed England's Coventry Cathedral
- 47 "That's the spot"
- 50 Question for a magician
- 52 Planet-mapping tool
- 53 Highly stressful situation
- 58 "You've been up too long"
- 59 Promise
- 60 Coarse cloth

- 4 Letters with a negotiable price
- 5 Nautilus captain
- 6 Recycling-plant worker
- 7 Margaret of "Fire Island"
- 8 Zodiac mammal
- 9 Home of most of Turkey
- 10 Condition that may be treated with EMDR therapy
- 11 Socket sets
- 12 People who partially identify as female
- 13 Blowout remedy
- 14 Endpoint of the Detroit River
- 15 Marimba strikers
- 19 Promise
- 21 Rotten to the Corps, perhaps
- 22 Genre for Flo Milli and Flau'jae
- 25 Business offering stock options?
- 26 Sugar Bowl home
- 27 Handled better?
- 28 Ideal wheels
- 29 More coarse, in a way
- 34 Not at all ferocious
- 35 Boyos
- 38 Dojo level
- 40 Flipped out
- 42 Dig up
- 46 Europa Clipper, for one
- 47 Capital of Samoa
- 48 Poetry, weaving, et al.
- 49 Pianist Myra
- 51 Warp counterpart
- 54 Stampede Wrestling co-founder Hart
- 55 Military title
- 56 Interrupting animal in a classic knock-knock joke
- 57 City-building resource in Catan

DOWN

- 1 Big name in pizza rolls
- 2 Like some jewels
- 3 "There's more," briefly

JUMBLE

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

GEOMA

SSHIW

GELIPT

NSUUTJ

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Answer here:

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



NOT EVERYONE BELIEVES THAT MARRIAGE IS FOR THEM, BUT THOSE WHO DO ---

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

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

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

Jumbles: OMEGA SWISH UNJUST
Answer: Not everyone believes that marriage is for them, but those who do — ESPOUSE IT

SCISA FROM PAGE B1

her stroke.

She connected on her first triple of the quarter with 4:25 left in the frame, but Laurence Manning's Ashley Rae Hodge responded with a three of her own. Moorman came back and buried another shot from long range on their next possession before Wilson Hall's Logan Mims and LMA's Laini Kosinski traded mid-range jumpers. In the final minute of the quarter, Moorman connected two more times from long range, scoring all 12 of her points in the frame as the Lady Barons pushed their lead to a seemingly insurmountable 35-23.

"Carol has worked awful hard on her shooting. You always tell them that you practice today for tomorrow. She practiced all summer for today because she hit four huge three-pointers for us in that third quarter," Rector said. "Saturday we shot 49% from the field, so we felt pretty good about that. We knew we don't always shoot that well, and tonight, we didn't shoot that well, especially at the beginning of the game. To have her come in and hit some big three-pointers, it's exciting to see the hard work pay off."

Wilson Hall was able to hold on in the fourth quarter, as Mims finished the job with the team's only eight points. Outside of the hot streak from Moorman, Mims was the only player on either side to consistently put the ball in the basket. As Laurence Manning brought consistent pressure with their press, the Lady Barons were able to get Mims in the open court with break-out passes, which turned into easy layups or trips to the free throw line. She finished with 27 points and 13 rebounds for an incredible performance.

"When we're running the floor well, we're a better team," Rector said. "They took advantage of a couple of those opportunities, ran some inbound plays to try to get Logan open."

Laurence Manning had no answer offensively. Wilson Hall ran a diamond-and-one defense, focusing their man defender on Lyza Prickelmyer. The LMA star couldn't find her groove, finishing with just five points. While Hodge kept LMA afloat with 14 points, the Lady 'Cats needed their own hot streak from long range that never came.

"We started standing around looking, expecting someone else to get it done. We didn't really move the ball as well as I thought we should've," Ard said of her offense. "They went to that diamond-and-one on Lyza, and everyone just went flat-footed. You can't leave it to Lyza to do everything, but that's kinda what we were doing. We hit a couple of shots here and there but nothing we could string along."

After a solid first-half defensive, Rector and the Lady Barons switched things up at halftime, which helped them break away once Moorman started clicking from long range.

"We made a decision at halftime to pack that zone in and put pressure on one of them," Rector said. "Since Lyza handles the ball so much, we put the pressure on her. We rebounded well because they took some shots from the outside, and we were able to get those rebounds."

SWAMPCATS CLAW BACK

The Swampcats have been no strangers to overtime this season. Tuesday's matchup with Wilson Hall was their third overtime game of the month. In all three instances, they found ways to win. Head coach Patrick Anderson was excited to see that their hard-fought lessons against Hilton Head Christian and John Paul II were put to good use against the Barons.

"We've been in this situation before, and we know what we're going to get with this rivalry. It's always going to be a good game with a bunch of intensity on both sides," Anderson said. "Our kids don't quit; that's what we do, that's who we are, and I'm very proud of them."

"It's big. We took a tough one in the chin on Saturday.



Wilson Hall's Logan Mims (5) drives against Laurence Manning on Tuesday.

PHOTOS BY TIM LEIBLE / THE SUMTER ITEM

We wanted another chance at them, and we were glad we got them back to back. We've just got to get ready for the next one now."

Wilson Hall head coach Rip Ripley was frustrated by a lack of focus down the stretch. The Barons built an 11-point lead when Michael Lauzon hit a three to open the second half and maintained that lead for most of the third quarter. LMA whittled it down to five early in the fourth, but Wilson Hall stayed out in front until turnovers helped the Swampcats claw back into the game, jumping ahead with a three from Brentston Rembert with 19 seconds to go. Wilson Hall forced overtime with a free throw from Shawn Michael Matthews, but miscues down the stretch kept them from winning the game in regulation.

"They played a good game. I thought Scoop and Zy (Dennis) were the best two players on the court tonight. I don't know if that's every night, but tonight they were. We didn't finish like we probably should have. We had too many turnovers and hurt ourselves at times, and they took advantage," Ripley said. "We had opportunities to put the game away early and build that lead, and we couldn't quite do it. That's a credit to them, credit to their defense, credit to their coaches. They did a good job executing when they needed to, and we had some lapses, and that's how it falls."

"The problem is we coasted. We thought it was over, and it wasn't. Credit to them, they kept fighting. That's the difference in the game; they knew they needed it, they wanted it, and now it's a fight in this region. It's going to be a heck of a finish, a heck of a region tournament."

When momentum shifted in the fourth quarter, the energy in the gym was intense. With just under two minutes left in the game, the Barons were able to get a huge charge call against Scoop Dennis and got the ball underneath the Swampcat basket. Laurence Manning's press bottled the Barons up, and Ripley tried to call a timeout, but the raucous crowd drowned out his pleas, and Wilson Hall turned the ball over. Seconds later, the same thing nearly happened again as Ripley was leaping in the air trying to shout for a timeout, which was eventually granted. Caulder Williamson hit a pair of free throws on the other end to keep the Wilson Hall lead at 43-35.

While the attempted timeouts were frustrating, the Barons were irate in double overtime when the lights kicked out in the middle of a timeout. The lights in the gym were set to a timer to cut off at 10 p.m., and the Laurence Manning student section had their fun with it, flicking on their camera lights as they cheered with a four-point lead and 30.5 seconds left on the clock.

"It's a rivalry game. They're going to pull out all the stops, but it is what it is. If we do our job and execute, we're not in that position," Ripley said after the game. "If we do what we're supposed to, there's nothing to call. If we do what we're supposed to, the lights can't go out in the middle of a timeout when we're trying to



Wilson Hall's Shawn Michael Matthews handles the ball on Tuesday.



Laurence Manning's Ashley Rae Hodge shoots against Wilson Hall.

draw up a play because we've already won the game. We learned from that a little bit. It is what it is."

The energy in the gym also fueled Laurence Manning on the court. Scoop and Zy Dennis were able to force some key turnovers and get the ball out in transition, but the comeback fully crystalized when Charlie Duvall was able to draw a foul call on a three-point attempt with 48.1 seconds on the clock in regulation. He hit all three to cut the Wilson Hall lead to 43-40. Zy Dennis then got a steal on the ensuing inbound play, and his brother scored on a putback attempt to cut the deficit to one.

After trading free throws, Matthews had a chance at a three-point play but missed the free throw. As the ball bounced away, a foul was called on the Barons, sending Zy Dennis to the line with 27 seconds left. He made one shot before Hugh Humphries pulled down a rebound for Wilson Hall on the second attempt. He was called for a travel, giving the Swampcats the ball down 46-44 with 23.9 left to play. Five seconds later, Rembert hit an incredibly clutch three to go ahead by a point.

"We called a timeout and saw what we were going to get, and (Rembert) thought he was going to be open. He's confident in his ability to hit a shot when we need it," Anderson said. "He's a confident kid. He wants the ball in that situation. It was awesome."

Matthews then hit one of two free throw attempts on the other end before S. Den-

nis tried to win the game in regulation, but he was swatted by Humphries at the buzzer.

Neither team led by more than three points in a back-and-forth first overtime period. Zy Dennis missed a couple of critical free throws in the final 15 seconds, but his brother followed with a steal and scored to go up by three. With five seconds left, Knox Buxton buried the game-tying three. LMA had the ball with 2.8 left but couldn't hit a three at the buzzer, setting up a second OT.

The Swampcats controlled the second overtime, as both Dennis brothers scored to go up by four early. S. Dennis followed with another layup before the Swampcats chewed some clock. Duvall hit a free throw to extend their lead to 62-55 with 1:21 to play, but the Barons fought back.

Matthews started with a drive to the basket before a layup from Lauzon. After a bucket from the 'Cats, Matthews hit a free throw to cut the deficit to 64-60. After a steal by the Barons, Ripley called a timeout. That's when the lights cut. But Wilson Hall came back and scored on a putback from Humphries to get within two points. LMA was able to run 13 seconds off the clock before Rembert hit a free throw with 6.9 seconds remaining. Ford Wilder was able to get a three off at the buzzer, but the shot fell well short as Laurence Manning sealed their victory.

The Dennis brothers were clutch in the second half, as S. Dennis scored 23 of his 25 points after halftime. Zy Den-

nis added 12 of his 15 points after halftime in the victory.

"The first half, I don't know if we were as focused as we wanted to be at some points. In the second half, they turned it on," Anderson said of the Dennis brothers. "They compete. They're going to fight until the end, those two. I'm very proud of those kids."

The difference-maker was Ben Sanders, who missed Saturday's matchup. He scored 13 for LMA and provided some beef in the paint.

"I'll give Ben credit, he stepped up and played a big game, hit some big shots for them," Ripley said. "They didn't have that at our place last week. He was kind of a difference-maker because Scoop and Zy were similar to what they did last time."

Matthews led Wilson Hall with 16, while Buxton added 15. Wilder and Lauzon each added 10, while Humphries finished with seven. After playing Camden Military the night before, six quarters of basketball left a toll on the Barons on Tuesday.

"With how much we've scored throughout the year, to have 62 points in a double overtime game is low for us. We've just got to execute better and finish better and go from there," Ripley said. "We asked a lot of minutes out of our guys, playing a back-to-back, which is the story of this weather season right now. We can play a little crisper and a little more under control, and that's on coaching, that's on us being able to execute what we were trying to do."

AREA ROUNDUP

Gamecocks win 3OT thriller as Sumter High sweeps Lugoff-Elgin

STAFF REPORT

The Sumter High basketball teams traveled to Lugoff-Elgin on Tuesday, coming away with a pair of victories.

The night started in relative comfort for Sumter High, as the girls ran away with a 58-32 win. After a competitive first quarter, the Lady Gamecocks held L-E to just 12 points during the next two quarters on the way to victory. In total, 10 Lady Gamecocks scored in the win, as Araina Ross led the pack with 19 points. Jayla Thomas added nine.

The boys, meanwhile, needed three overtimes to take home a 78-76 win. BJ Brown was unstoppable for the Gamecocks with a 40-point double-double. He added 10 rebounds and five assists as their most consistent scoring threat. Kenon Ward added 10 points, including an overtime three, and three rebounds. Franklin Richardson had eight points and five rebounds.

CRESTWOOD SPLITS WITH LR

The Crestwood basketball teams traveled to Lower Richland on Tuesday, splitting the matchups.

The Lady Knights couldn't jump start their offense in a 62-29 loss.

The Knights followed with a 75-46 victory, using a 22-10 first quarter lead to cruise to the win. Shannon Davis and Xzavier Johnson led the way with 18 and 17 points, respectively. Teon Tindal added 13 points, while Ja Jones chipped in with eight.

LAKEWOOD SPLITS WITH DARLINGTON

The Lakewood basketball teams hosted Darlington on Tuesday, splitting the matchups.

The Lady Gators fell 61-43, digging a 30-20 halftime hole that they could not dig themselves out of.

The boys followed with a 60-43 victory, using a 26-point



TIM LEIBLE / SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Sumter High's BJ Brown had a 40-point double-double in the Gamecocks' 3OT win over Lugoff-Elgin on Tuesday.

third quarter to run away with the win. Lakewood held Darlington to just two points in the second quarter to carry a lead into the half before finding their offensive groove after the break.

Carlos Franklin led the team with 15 points, while Cedric Cisse added 13 points and Andre McBride chipped in with 12 points, five assists and five steals. Darius Franklin couldn't find much offense from the field but pulled down 14 rebounds to go with three points. Kennedy Bennett chipped in with eight, while Pop Cato had seven.

LEE CENTRAL CRUSHES RIVERWALK

The Lee Central boys basketball team faced off with Riverwalk Academy on Tuesday, running away with a 77-29 win. They scored at least 20 points in each of the first

three quarters, including a 30-point third frame, to cruise.

Jamisen Wilds led the way with 14 points and three rebounds, while JuJu Davis had 13 points, seven rebounds, six steals and four assists. Chuck Harry had a 12-point, 10-rebound double-double, adding four steals and a block. Sinatra Rembert and MonTavius Holmes each had 10 points, with Rembert adding five steals and Holmes chipping in with seven rebounds.

MANNING SPLITS WITH KINGSTREE, FALLS TO ACA

The Manning basketball teams faced Kingstree on Tuesday, splitting the games. They followed with a matchup against Atlantic Collegiate on Wednesday.

The Lady Monarchs fell 51-44, as a rough second quarter left them in a 34-23 hole at the half and they couldn't climb

out after the break. Ameerah Conyers and Tahirah Wellington each scored 11 points, while Ashante McLeod added 10.

The boys won 52-38, outscoring Kingstree 19-2 in the fourth quarter to run away with the win. Lovell Stevenson led the way with 18 points, while Tristan Washington scored nine points and Taivon Carter added eight.

The girls fell 61-42 against ACA, the fifth-ranked team in 2A. Wellington led Manning with 13, while Aysia Moore chipped in with 12.

In a battle between the No. 5 and No. 2 teams in 2A, the Monarchs were on the wrong side of a 70-44 matchup. Lovell Stevenson led No. 5 Manning with 15. ACA had four players in double figures.

SCOTT'S BRANCH FALLS TO PALMETTO SCHOLARS

The Scott's Branch boys

basketball team hosted Palmetto Scholars on Tuesday, falling 51-48 in overtime.

The Eagles clawed back after a slow start left them in an 18-10 hole after the first quarter. After forcing OT, the SB offense ran dry, and Palmetto did enough at the free throw line to finish the win. Nigel Lawson and Nyren Bowman led the team with 12 points apiece, while Quintin Jackson added nine.

EC DROPS HEARTBREAKERS WITH LATTA

The East Clarendon basketball teams faced Latta on Wednesday, dropping a pair of tough matchups.

The Lady Wolverines fell 33-28 to the No. 8-ranked team in SCHSL 1A. Cherish Cochran led the team with seven points in a tight defensive battle, while Kierstin Woods added six and both Payton Hanniford and Jasmayne Lloyd scored five.

The Wolverines then fell 59-55. James Gamble went off for 28 for EC, but it wasn't enough to hold off Latta. Ke'Shaun Porter added nine, while Braylon Hunt had eight.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

ADMS, BATES FACE OFF

Alice Drive and Bates middle schools met on the court on Thursday, splitting the matchups.

ADMS took the girls game 25-15. Journey Hardwell and Cytirah Jackson led the Lady Hawks with eight points each, while Madison Mitchell added five. Alice Drive improved to 11-0 on the season.

Bates won the nightcap 28-24 behind a 10-point, eight-rebound performance from Bryson Pollard. Carson Brandel added seven points and three assists. Alice Drive was led by Jacori Wright, who finished with 11 points, while Cornell Pringle added eight points, nine rebounds and five blocks.

Kid's Corner

Whole again

Join the two halves of each image

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SCISA AREA ROUNDUP

Thomas Sumter faces off with Calhoun, Orangeburg Prep

STAFF REPORT

The Thomas Sumter basketball teams faced off with Calhoun Academy on Tuesday before a matchup with Orangeburg Prep on Wednesday. The Lady Generals split the matchups, while the boys went 0-2.

The girls opened with a 42-24 win over Calhoun. Malayia English went off, scoring 26 points in the victory, while Annabelle Connell added 29.

TSA then faced OP, falling 50-26. The game was competitive going into the fourth quarter, but turnovers piled up as Orangeburg Prep continued to crank up their press. OP scored 23 in the fourth quarter, while TSA managed just three. English scored 18 to lead the Lady Generals.

The boys fell to Calhoun 65-34. Spencer Peckham scored 12 on four threes to lead the way for TSA, while Christian Williams added 10. The B-team won 43-26. They were led by Hadrian Hughey, who finished with 14, and Jay Langford, who added nine.

The Generals then fell to OP 67-33. Peckham finished with 11, while Williams had 10.

LMA SPLITS WITH PINEWOOD

The Laurence Manning basketball team faced Pinewood Prep on Tuesday, splitting the matchups. The Lady Swampcats snapped out of an offensive funk with a 62-37 win. Ashley Rae Hodge poured in 21 points, while Carol Ann Briggs chipped in with nine, Lyza Prickelmyer had eight and Lily Wellborn added seven.

The boys suffered a 60-45 loss the night after a double-overtime win over Wilson Hall.

RAGIN PREP CRUSHES HOLLY HILL

Ragin Prep hosted Holly Hill for homecoming on Tuesday, cruising to a 66-32 win.

Sophomores Kavontay Rose and Aiden Zuell led the team with 13 points each, while Zymir Robinson-Hill added 10.

Their B-team boys fell 28-20 despite 12 points from Teion Maxfield. The JV squad won 40-25. They were paced by Nasir Frank, who finished with 19, and 13 points from Orion Brogdon.

LEE FALLS TO CAROLINA ACADEMY

The Lee Academy basketball teams faced off with Carolina Academy on Tuesday, dropping both varsity games.

The Lady Generals fell 45-38. Jameson Collins led the team with 12 points, while Karagan Melton added 11 and Mazie Tomlinson chipped in with seven. The JV girls won 22-7 behind 12 points from Ansley Nesbit and eight from Beth Whiteside.

The boys couldn't find any offense in a 42-19 loss. Brayden Davis led the pack with nine points.

SUMTER CHRISTIAN DEFEATS MARANATHA, NORTHSIDE

The Sumter Christian boys basketball team faced Maranatha on Jan. 24 before a trip to Northside on Tuesday. The Bears won both matchups.

SCS started with an 81-48 win over Maranatha. Caden Atkinson and Jordan Rodriguez led the way with 19 apiece, while Wynston Grant added 18 and Larry Wayne Rodgers chipped in with 14.

They then improved to 4-3 in conference play and 10-5 overall with a 62-49 win over Northside. Atkinson went wild with 38 points, while Grant added 11. The victory locked them into second place in their conference, and they will host the quarterfinals of the SCACS postseason on Tuesday.

Wembanyama is an All-Star, 1 of 6 1st-time selections

BY TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

NBA coaches are obviously convinced: Victor Wembanyama is one of the league's very best players.

The San Antonio star and reigning rookie of the year is an All-Star for the first time, one of the 14 players announced Thursday night as members of the reserve pool for the Feb. 16 event in San Francisco.

Wembanyama becomes only the fourth Spurs player to make the All-Star Game in his first or second season. The others: Alvin Robertson in 1986, David Robinson in 1990 and 1991, and Tim Duncan in 1998.

"It's just a testament to his first year and a half in this league and the work he put in prior to that and trusting the process of trying to get incrementally better, not skipping steps," acting Spurs coach Mitch Johnson said of Wembanyama last week in Paris, when asked about his center's All-Star chances. "And then, obviously, that allows the talent and unique skill set to shine through."

Coaches select the reserves, after the 10 names for the starters pool were announced last week through a combination of fan voting (50%), media voting (25%) and active player voting (25%).

There were seven players picked Thursday from each conference. From the Eastern Conference: Boston's Jaylen Brown, Indiana's Pascal Siakam, Cleveland's Darius Garland and Evan Mobley, Detroit's Cade Cunningham, Milwaukee's Damian Lillard — last year's All-Star MVP — and Miami's Tyler Herro.

From the West: Wembanyama, Minnesota's Anthony Edwards, the Los Angeles Lakers' Anthony Davis, the Los Angeles Clippers' James Harden, Memphis' Jaren Jackson Jr., Houston's Alperen Sengun and Oklahoma City's Jalen Williams.

Wembanyama, Cunningham, Mobley, Herro, Sengun and Williams are first-time All-Stars.

"It's a great opportunity to be a part of," Herro said.

The 10 players picked last week for the starter pool: Golden State's Stephen Curry, Phoenix's Kevin Durant, Oklahoma City's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, the Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James (his record-extending 21st All-Star nod), Denver's Nikola Jokic, Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo, New York teammates



San Antonio Spurs center Victor Wembanyama (1) reacts to a score against the LA Clippers in San Antonio on Wednesday, Jan. 29.

Jalen Brunson and Karl-Anthony Towns, Cleveland's Donovan Mitchell and Boston's Jayson Tatum.

Cleveland (3), the Lakers (2), Oklahoma City (2), Boston (2), Milwaukee (2) and New York (2) are the teams that have multiple selections. Golden State, Phoenix, Denver, Minnesota, the Clippers, Memphis, Houston, San Antonio, Detroit, Indiana and Miami all got one selection.

Atlanta, Brooklyn, Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas, New Orleans, Orlando, Philadelphia, Portland, Sacramento, Toronto, Utah and Washington did not have an All-Star selection.

There will be at least 15 players who "start" at the All-Star Game this season. It's the first year of a new All-Star format, with three games. The 24 All-Stars will be drafted into three teams of eight players apiece by TNT personalities and former NBA greats Shaquille O'Neal, Charles Barkley and Kenny Smith.

That draft will be held Feb. 6.

Those three teams will be entered into a four-team tournament, with the remaining squad made up of NBA rookies and second-year players from the Rising Stars event on All-Star Friday, which is Feb. 14. There are two semifinal games, with the winners meeting in a championship game. The games should go quickly; the first team to reach 40 points wins.

The league changed the format this year with hopes that shorter games will be more competitive. Last year's All-Star Game was the highest-scoring in league history, a 211-186 game that was basically all 3-pointers and dunks.

"We went back to the drawing board," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. "We had

direct conversations with many of the players, many of the perennial All-Stars, to talk about what it is that we could put together from a competitive standpoint. I'm optimistic this year that we landed on a formula that will work."

Oklahoma City coach Mark Daigneault and an assistant from his staff will coach two of the teams, and Cleveland coach Kenny Atkinson and one of his assistants will lead the others.

Among the notable names who did not make it: Charlotte's LaMelo Ball — who narrowly missed out on being picked as a starter, but didn't have enough coach support to be a reserve — along with Atlanta's Trae Young, Sacramento's Domantas Sabonis, Philadelphia's Tyrese Maxey, Indiana's Tyrese Haliburton, Phoenix's Devin Booker, Sacramento's De'Aaron Fox, Dallas' Kyrie Irving and Luka Doncic (who has played in only 22 games), and the Clippers' Norman Powell.

Ball is fourth in the NBA at 28.2 points per game, plus averages 7.3 assists and 5.3 rebounds. Doncic — if he qualified for the league leaders by playing enough games, which he hasn't because of injuries — would be fifth in scoring at 28.1 points per game, along with 8.3 rebounds and 7.8 assists per game.

If they keep those averages and play enough games to qualify for the league's end-of-season leaderboard, they would be the only two players in NBA history to have such numbers in a season and not make the All-Star Game.

It is possible that either or both could be named as injury replacements in the coming weeks by Silver, who makes those decisions when necessary.

OBITUARIES

HENRY MAGAZINE III

Henry Magazine III, 65, son of the late Henry Magazine II and Josephine Anthony Magazine, was born on March 14, 1959, in Sumter. He departed this life on Sunday, Jan. 19, 2025, at Burgess Residential Care Facility #4, Dillon.

Public viewing will be held on Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025, from 2 to 6 p.m. at Job's Mortuary Inc.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 3, 2025, at Trinity Missionary Baptist Church, 155 Wall St., Sumter, with Elder James Jackson officiating and the Rev. Kenneth Choice, eulogist.

Interment will follow in Florence National Cemetery, 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.job-smortuary.net.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

George Washington, 59, husband of Martha Ann Montgomery Washington, was born on Feb. 20, 1965, in Sumter. He departed this life on Monday,

Jan. 27, 2025, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital, Sumter.

Public viewing will be held on Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025, from 2 to 6 p.m. at Job's Mortuary Inc.



WASHINGTON

Lawson, eulogist.

Interment will follow in Bradford Cemetery, Sumter.

Family will receive friends at the home, 511 Bowen Drive, Sumter, daily from 3 to 9 p.m.

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

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

KA'NIYAH BERNICE-LAUREN BAKER

Ka'Niyah Bernice-Lauren Baker, 13, daughter of Georg L. Baker and Kendra Denise Gardner, was born on April 29, 2011, in Jacksonville, Florida. She departed this life on Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2025,



BAKER

in Columbia.

Miss Baker will be placed in the church at noon for viewing until the hour service.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025, at Salem Chapel & Heritage Center, 101 S. Salem Ave., Sumter, with Pastor Richard Hampton. Sr. officiating.

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.job-smortuary.net.

LYNDA GRIFFIN MASI

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Lynda Griffin Masi, 76, who peacefully passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025, at her daughter's home in Charlotte, North Carolina. A devoted parent, grandparent and friend, Lynda's life was marked by her courage, kindness and unwavering love for her family and friends. She leaves behind a legacy of joy and warmth that will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Born on Nov. 17, 1948, in Sumter, Lynda was the cherished daughter of the late Henry Griffin and Edith McLeod Griffin. Growing up in Sumter, she was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Lynda worked for

many years as a talented and passionate hairdresser, touching the lives of all those who sat in her chair. Outside of her professional life, Lynda had a deep love for dancing, shopping, trivia and game shows — activities that brought her immense joy. But most of all, Lynda treasured the time she spent with her family and friends, always the first to offer a good time or a helping hand. She was known throughout the community for her generosity, her love for her church and her devotion to the people she held dear.

Lynda is survived by her loving children, Brooke Sisterhen (Jeff) and Justin Masi (Trang); her adoring grandchildren, Bryce Sisterhen, Dara Sisterhen, Max Masi, Blaise Masi and Lex Masi; her remaining siblings, Ray Griffin, Barbara Griffin Garcia and Mildred Griffin Os-teen; as well as numerous cherished friends and extended family members who will continue to celebrate her life and carry her memory forward.

Lynda was preceded in death by her partner of 13 years, Theodore Glenn; and her siblings, Melvin Griffin, Pearl Griffin Markham, Faye Griffin, Yvonne Griffin Fields, J.C. Griffin, Benny Griffin, Jimmy Griffin, Deborah Griffin McCoy and Cathy Griffin Morris. She is now reunited with them in peace.

A visitation will be held on Monday, Feb. 3, 2025, at Bullock Funeral Home, 1190 Wilson Hall Road, Sumter.

A celebration of Lynda's life will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025, at 11 a.m. in Bullock Funeral Home Chapel, 1190 Wilson Hall Road, Sumter. The interment will follow the service in Poole Cemetery, Calvary Nazarene Church Road, Sumter. All who knew and loved Lynda are invited to join the family in remembering a life well-lived.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Lynda's honor to The Christopher Reeve Foundation, <https://www.christopherreeve.org>.

Though Lynda may no longer be with us, her spirit of love, kindness and resilience will remain in our hearts forever. She will be remembered for the beautiful mark she left on this world and the many lives she touched.

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

The family has chosen Bullock Funeral Home for the arrangements.



DR. ROGELIO DOROMAL DEPRA
Dr. Rogelio “Doc” Doromal Depra, retired lieutenant colonel, U.S. Air Force, 90, widower of Florentina “Polly” Depra, died on Monday, Jan. 27, 2025, at Cherokee Medical Center in Gaffney, South Carolina.



Born in Dumangas, Iloilo, Philippines, he was the son of the late Francisco Derla Depra and Teofila Dineros Doromal. As a young child, he grew up in the Philippines during the Japanese invasion and occupation of the islands during World War II. These early experiences influenced his lifelong desires to become a physician and serve in the military. His life became about healing and service. After attending the University of Santo Tomas, he immigrated to the U.S. in 1962 on a work visa, starting his medical career at Samaritan Hospital in Troy, New York, enjoying bachelorhood to the fullest cruising around in his 1956 Chevy Bel Air — the ladies loved that! In 1966, he found himself at French Hospital in New York City, where he met the love of his life and wife, Polly, for the next 52 years.

After this, Roger and his lovely bride raised four wonderful children and, in 1979, they decided to join the U.S. Air Force, fulfilling his second lifelong dream of becoming a soldier. Their 20-year adventure took them to the Mojave Desert of California, Upstate New York, Ankara, Turkey, and finally retiring at Shaw AFB, making Sumter, South Carolina, home for the remainder of their years. While on active duty, Doc attained the qualifications of flight surgeon at Edwards AFB and chief of the Primary Clinic at Griffiss AFB, Balgat AB, and Shaw AFB. He was a kind, patient and thorough physician, endearing to both patients and staff.

In retirement, he was active in the Military Officers Association of America, but his focus was mainly on spending time with his children and grandchildren, instilling in them the importance of family. He kept busy reading (loved history), keeping himself physically fit, overseeing his rental property, working on his 1989 Jeep Wrangler and traveling the world. It was a common sight to see Doc and Polly just cruising around The Oaks and through Sumter on a Sunday afternoon, reflecting and enjoying the blessings God had bestowed on them. He also enjoyed hanging out and playing Mahjong with the Sumter Philippine community (his kababayan).

He was preceded in death by his wife, Polly Depra, and his daughter, Julie Depra. He is survived by: three daughters, Debbie Curtis and her husband, Stephen, of Chapin, Emily F. Russell and her husband, Peter, of Johns Island, and Polly A. Moxley and her husband, Rick G. Moxley, retired lieutenant colonel, U.S. Air Force, of Tamassee; one son, Dr. Roger C. Depra and his wife, Berna-Deane, of Spartanburg; a sister, Zaida Moleta of Huntley, Illinois; a brother, Benito Depra of Bedford, New York; and 10 grandchildren, Amanda Russell, Army CPT Conner Russell and wife, CPT Emma Russell, Trevor Moxley, Evan Moxley, Samantha Russell, Nicole Curtis, Irene Moxley, Michael Depra, Christopher Depra and Roger A. Depra Jr. A Catholic funeral mass will be held on Monday, Feb. 3, 2025, at 11 a.m. at St. Anne and St. Jude Roman Catholic Church. The interment will follow the service at Evergreen Memorial Park Cemetery with full military honors. The pallbearers will be Stephen Curtis, Peter Russell, Conner Russell, Rick Moxley, Trevor Moxley, Evan Moxley, Michael Depra and Christopher Depra. The family will receive friends on Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025, from 3 to 5 p.m. at Bullock Funeral Home. A Rosary will begin at 2:30 p.m. preceding the visitation in the Bull-

ock Funeral Home Chapel. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the following charities: Wounded Warriors Project, Toys for Tots, Alzheimer’s Association, Tunnels to Towers and Fisher House Foundation. You may go to www.bullockfuneralhome.com and sign the family’s guest book. The family has chosen Bullock Funeral Home of Sumter for the arrangements.



ELIZABETH F. ALSBROOKS
Elizabeth F. Alsbrooks, 94, widow of the Rev. Jasper Alsbrooks, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025, at Lake Marion Nursing Facility. Born Dec. 14, 1930, in Marion County, she was a daughter of the late Samuel



P. Florence and Ruth Elizabeth Perritt Florence. She was a member of Sumter Calvary Church of the Nazarene, where she served as a Sunday School teacher for over 45 years.

Survivors include three sons, Tim Alsbrooks (Betty) of Sumter, Kevin Alsbrooks of Summerton and the Rev. Gregg Alsbrooks (Dodi) of Bel Air, Maryland; 10 grandchildren, Alison, Brittony, Geran, Hayley, Brienne, Alycia, Ashton, Grant, Abigail and Haven; 16 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a son, Geoffrey Alsbrooks; a daughter-in-law, Harper Alsbrooks; a brother, Larry Florence; and a sister, Margaret Saunders.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, at Sumter Calvary Church of the Nazarene with the Rev. Gregg Alsbrooks and the Rev. Arthur Sharpe officiating. Burial will be in Sumter Cemetery. Grandchildren will serve as pallbearers and honorary pallbearers. The family received friends from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31, 2025, at Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home and from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, at Sumter Calvary Church of the Nazarene.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Sumter Calvary Church of the Nazarene, 4235 Nazarene Church Rd., Sumter, SC 29154. Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home and Crematorium of Sumter is in charge of the arrangements.

SAMUEL LEE LESESNE
Samuel Lee “Teenie” Lesesne, 63, husband of Marilyn M. Lesesne and son of the late Bennie Clyde Lesesne and Rosanna Leaf Lesesne, was born on Aug. 29, 1961, in Manning. He departed this life on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2025, at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital, Roanoke, Virginia.

Family will receive friends at 1208 McKenzie Road, Manning, daily from 2 to 7 p.m. Job’s Mortuary Inc., 312 S. Main St., Sumter, is in charge of arrangements.

DAVID RONALD STIDD
David Ronald “Ronnie” Stidd, 71, died Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025, at Prisma Health Richland. Born Jan. 16, 1954, in Sumter, he was a son of the late David Ross Stidd and Christine M. Baker Stidd. He retired from Shuler’s Drive-In. He was a loving brother and enjoyed coin collecting.

Survivors include three children, Jonathan, Andrew and Becky; five grandchildren; a sister, Dee Dewill (Bill); and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Terry L. Stidd. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home and Crematorium of Sumter is in charge of the arrangements.

NINA OSTEEN STUCKEY
FLORENCE — Mrs. Nina Osteen Stuckey, 79, of Florence, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025. She was the daughter of the late LaVal and Beulah Osteen of Dillon. She was also predeceased by her husband, William Addison Stuckey Jr.; her son, William Addison Stuckey III; and her two sisters, Valerie Osteen Guy and Ann Osteen Sawyer.

Mrs. Stuckey was a graduate of Dillon High School and Brenau College in Georgia. She graduated with a degree in early education and was an avid reader. During their 55 years of marriage, she and Bill shared countless memories on the water, from boating adventures on Santee to the BV’s and in the waters around Georgetown. She was a heavily involved member of Georgetown First Presbyterian Church, serving the congregation in numerous ways. Her faith was a guiding force in her life, and she dedicated countless hours to nurturing others. She was a loving wife and mother who was devoted to her family and faith. Her greatest joy in life was being a grandmother to her two grandsons, Jack and William.

She is survived by her daughter, Valerie Stuckey Lynn (Douglas) of Dillon; and two grandchildren, John Douglas Lynn Jr. of Mount Pleasant and William Stuckey Lynn of Greenville.

The family would like to express special thanks to McLeod Hospice and the staff of The Manor for their exemplary care of Mrs. Stuckey.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, at the Ingram Chapel at The Manor in Florence.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to McLeod Hospice, 1203 E. Cheves St., Florence, SC 29506, or The Manor, 2100 Twin Church Road, Florence, SC 29501.

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

Burroughs Funeral Home of Bennettsville is honored to assist the family of Nina Stuckey.

MARY ALICE WEATHERS WILLIAMS
Mary Alice Weathers Williams, 83, widow of Jessie Williams Sr. and daughter of the late Joseph Wright and Mary Ann Weathers, was born on March 31, 1941, in Sumter. She departed this life on Sunday, Jan.



26, 2025, at her residence. Public viewing was held on Friday, Jan. 31, 2025, from 2 to 6 p.m. at Job’s Mortuary Inc.

Funeral services will be held at noon Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, at Willow Grove AME Church, 8105 Sumters Landing Road, Rembert, with the Rev. Dr. David Owens, pastor and eulogist, and the Rev. Wallace Preston officiating. Interment will follow in Willow Grove AME Church Cemetery, Rembert.

Family will receive friends at the home, 2680 Claremont Road, Rembert. Online memorials may be sent to the family at jobsmortuaryinc@gmail.com, or visit us on the web at www.job-smortuary.net.

MARGARET GOODMAN HOGAN
Margaret Goodman Hogan, 79, widow of John Coy Hogan Sr. and daughter of the late Thomas Goodman Sr. and Thelma Goodman, was born on May 9, 1945, in Sumter. She departed this life on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025, at her residence.

Public viewing was held on Friday, Jan. 31, 2025, from 2 to 6 p.m. at Job’s Mortuary Inc. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, at Asbury United Methodist Church, 355 Pudding Swamp Road, Lynchburg, with the Rev. Corey LaSane officiating.



Interment will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 3, 2025, at Florence National Cemetery, 803 E. National Cemetery Road, Florence. Family will receive friends at the home of her daughter, 4740 Narrow Paved Road, Lynchburg. 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.job-smortuary.net.

Beatrice Plowden, 72, daughter of the late William Plowden and Flossie Briggs Plowden, was born on Feb. 13, 1952, in Lee County. She departed this life on Friday, Jan. 24, 2025, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital, Sumter. Public viewing was held on Friday, Jan. 31, 2025, from 3 to 6 p.m. at Job’s Mortuary Inc. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, at Unionville AME Church, 1330 Swimming Pen Road, Mayesville. Interment will follow in Unionville AME Church Cemetery, Mayesville. Family began receiving friends Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025, at 6714 St. Charles Road, Mayesville. 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.job-smortuary.net.

BEATRICE PLOWDEN
Beatrice Plowden, 72, daughter of the late William Plowden and Flossie Briggs Plowden, was born on Feb. 13, 1952, in Lee County. She departed this life on Friday, Jan. 24, 2025, at Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital, Sumter. Public viewing was held on Friday, Jan. 31, 2025, from 3 to 6 p.m. at Job’s Mortuary Inc. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, at Unionville AME Church, 1330 Swimming Pen Road, Mayesville. Interment will follow in Unionville AME Church Cemetery, Mayesville. Family began receiving friends Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025, at 6714 St. Charles Road, Mayesville. 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.job-smortuary.net.

Novella Nelson Williams, 93, widow of Alfred Williams Sr. and daughter of the late Capers Williams and Arlene Davis Nelson McBride, was born on June 25, 1931, in Summerton. She departed this life on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025, at her residence. Public viewing was held on Friday, Jan. 31, 2025, from 2 to 6 p.m. at Job’s Mortuary Inc. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, at Mulberry Missionary Baptist Church, 1400 Mulberry Church Road, Sumter, with the Rev. Leroy Blanding officiating. Interment will follow in Mulberry Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery, Sumter. Family will receive friends at 858 Bethel Church Road, Sumter, daily from 4 to 8:30 p.m. 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.job-smortuary.net.

NOVELLA NELSON WILLIAMS
Novella Nelson Williams, 93, widow of Alfred Williams Sr. and daughter of the late Capers Williams and Arlene Davis Nelson McBride, was born on June 25, 1931, in Summerton. She departed this life on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025, at her residence. Public viewing was held on Friday, Jan. 31, 2025, from 2 to 6 p.m. at Job’s Mortuary Inc. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, at Mulberry Missionary Baptist Church, 1400 Mulberry Church Road, Sumter, with the Rev. Leroy Blanding officiating. Interment will follow in Mulberry Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery, Sumter. Family will receive friends at 858 Bethel Church Road, Sumter, daily from 4 to 8:30 p.m. 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.job-smortuary.net.

Phyllis Graham Benenhaley, 70, widow of Thomas Earl “Dooley” Benenhaley Jr., died Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025, at her home. Born May 4, 1954, in Kershaw County, she was a daughter of the late Linwood Graham and Neely Knight Graham. Survivors include four children, Ronald Benenhaley, Glenda Blackmon (John), Jason Benenhaley (Susan) and Timothy Benenhaley; grandchildren, Joshua More (Traci), Jamie More (Emily), Cody Benenhaley, Taylor Benenhaley, Ryan Benenhaley (Iona) and Jason Shawn Benenhaley; 13 great-grandchildren; and siblings, Kathy Barfield, Angie Bullock (Bill) and Rusty Graham. A funeral service will be held at noon Monday, Feb. 3, 2025, in the Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home chapel with the Rev. Jim Johnson officiating. The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. to noon Monday, Feb. 3, 2025, at Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home and other times at the home of her grandson, Jamie More, 2840 Montgomery St.

PHYLLIS GRAHAM BENENHALEY
Phyllis Graham Benenhaley, 70, widow of Thomas Earl “Dooley” Benenhaley Jr., died Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025, at her home. Born May 4, 1954, in Kershaw County, she was a daughter of the late Linwood Graham and Neely Knight Graham. Survivors include four children, Ronald Benenhaley, Glenda Blackmon (John), Jason Benenhaley (Susan) and Timothy Benenhaley; grandchildren, Joshua More (Traci), Jamie More (Emily), Cody Benenhaley, Taylor Benenhaley, Ryan Benenhaley (Iona) and Jason Shawn Benenhaley; 13 great-grandchildren; and siblings, Kathy Barfield, Angie Bullock (Bill) and Rusty Graham. A funeral service will be held at noon Monday, Feb. 3, 2025, in the Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home chapel with the Rev. Jim Johnson officiating. The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. to noon Monday, Feb. 3, 2025, at Elmore-Cannon-Stephens Funeral Home and other times at the home of her grandson, Jamie More, 2840 Montgomery St.

FRANCIS MARION HOLLIMON
Francis Marion Hollimon, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend, transitioned from this life on Friday, Jan. 24, 2025, at Opus Post Acute Rehabilitation Center in West Columbia. He was born on Aug. 19, 1951, to the late James Hollimon Sr. and Wilhemenia Hollimon and was the devoted husband of Rosetta English-Hollimon. His precious memories will be cherished by his family and many friends. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, at Union Baptist Church, 5840 Spring Hill Road, Rembert, with Pastor Walter Robertson, eulogist. Burial will follow in Union Baptist Church Cemetery. 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 www.williamsfuneralhomeinc.com.

WILHELMENIA ATKINSON DEAN
Funeral services for Wilhelmenia Atkinson Dean will be celebrated at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025, at First Congregational Church United Church of Christ in Savannah, Georgia. There will be a public church viewing from 1 to 3 p.m. followed by the Savannah Links Ceremony from 1:30 to 2 p.m. Interment will be held at Evergreen Memorial Park at 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 3, 2025, in Sumter. Mrs. Dean, wife of the late Dr. Elmer J. Dean, a trailblazing educator and dedicated community leader, transitioned on Monday, Jan. 27, 2025, in Dalzell. Born in Sumter County, she was the daughter of the late Thomas W. and Hallie Miller Atkinson. She dedicated her life to education, civic engagement and empowering others. Mrs. Dean earned a bachelor’s degree from Allen University and advanced degrees from Columbia University and Georgia Southern University. She was a 34-year career educator in the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System and was named “Teacher of the Year” for both Beach and Savannah high schools. She was former chairperson and president of the Savannah Secondary Counselor Association. She was a faithful member of First Congregational Church of Christ and served as president of Executive Council.

WILLIAMS
Williams, 93, widow of Alfred Williams Sr. and daughter of the late Capers Williams and Arlene Davis Nelson McBride, was born on June 25, 1931, in Summerton. She departed this life on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025, at her residence. Public viewing was held on Friday, Jan. 31, 2025, from 2 to 6 p.m. at Job’s Mortuary Inc. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, at Mulberry Missionary Baptist Church, 1400 Mulberry Church Road, Sumter, with the Rev. Leroy Blanding officiating. Interment will follow in Mulberry Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery, Sumter. Family will receive friends at 858 Bethel Church Road, Sumter, daily from 4 to 8:30 p.m. 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.job-smortuary.net.

HOLLIMON
Hollimon, 74, husband of Rosetta English-Hollimon, died Friday, Jan. 24, 2025, at Opus Post Acute Rehabilitation Center in West Columbia. He was born on Aug. 19, 1951, to the late James Hollimon Sr. and Wilhemenia Hollimon and was the devoted husband of Rosetta English-Hollimon. His precious memories will be cherished by his family and many friends. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, at Union Baptist Church, 5840 Spring Hill Road, Rembert, with Pastor Walter Robertson, eulogist. Burial will follow in Union Baptist Church Cemetery. 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 www.williamsfuneralhomeinc.com.

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the Sumter ITEM CLASSIFIEDS

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

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

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

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF PRIVATE SALE \$620,000 LEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA TAXABLE GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND SERIES 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to South Carolina Code Annotated section 11-27-40(4), a resolution adopted on August 13, 2024, Lee County, South Carolina ("County"), and an ordinance enacted by the County Council of the County on July 12, 2016, the County intends to sell its \$620,000 Taxable General Obligation Bond, Series 2025 ("Bond"), to the First-Citizens Bank & Trust Company ("Bank").

The Bond will be issued as a single certificate, in fully registered form, numbered R-1, as to principal and interest in the name of the Bank at the office of the Treasurer for the County on registry books to be kept for that purpose, in the denomination of \$620,000. The Bond will be dated the date of its delivery, which is expected to be February 14, 2025, and shall mature on March 1, 2025.

PAYMENT DATE: 03/01/2025 PAYMENT: \$622,265.76

The Bond bears interest at 5.72% per annum (based on a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) from the date of delivery, payable at maturity as set forth above.

NOTICE OF CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Sumter City Council will hold public hearings on proposed amendments to the City of Sumter Zoning Ordinance on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers located on the Fourth Floor of the Sumter Opera House (21 N. Main St.). The following requests are scheduled for consideration:

RZ-24-23, 314 Lesesne Ct. (City) A request to rezone a +/- 0.34-acre portion of a larger property (TMS# 228-01-01-039) from Residential-9 (R-9) to Limited Commercial (LC). The property is located at 314 Lesesne Ct. and is represented by TMS# 228-01-01-039 (part).

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

David P. Merchant Mayor Beer & Wine License

Notice Of Application Notice is hereby given that GHAJANAND, LLC intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license permit that will allow the sale and OFF premises consumption of Beer & Wine at 437 BROAD St. Sumter, SC 29150. To object to the issuance of this permit / license, written protest must be postmarked no later than February 10, 2025. 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 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 QUALIFICATIONS The County of Sumter is accepting separate sealed proposals from qualified firms to provide document scanning of files and other documents for the "Sumter County Records Preservation" Project. Bid packages may be obtained from the County of Sumter, Office of the Purchasing Agent, 13 East Canal Street, Sumter, SC 29150 or by calling (803) 436-2329. Bids will be received in the office of the Purchasing Agent in the Sumter County Administration Building, 13 East Canal Street, Sumter, SC 29150 until 11:00a.m. on Tuesday, March 4, 2025. The County of Sumter reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any and all technicalities.

Summons & Notice

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF SUMTER C/A No.: 2024-CP-43-01958 (Non-Jury) Foreclosure SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF FILING OF COMPLAINT

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, vs. JERMAINE C. BRACEY, LAKENDRA TITUS and SC HOUSING CORP., Defendants.

TO THE DEFENDANT LAKENDRA TITUS ABOVE NAMED: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your answer to the said Complaint upon the subscribers, at their office, 508 Meeting Street, West Columbia, South Carolina 29169, or at Post Office Box 11682, Columbia, South Carolina 29211, within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer the Complaint in the time aforesaid, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded

Summons & Notice

in the Complaint. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the original Complaint in the above entitled action was filed in the Clerk of Court's Office for Sumter County on November 8, 2024.

s/Ryan J. Patane Ryan J. Patane S.C. Bar No. 103116 Benjamin E. Grimsley S.C. Bar No. 70335 D'ALBERTO, GRAHAM & GRIMSLEY, LLC Attorneys for the Plaintiff P.O. Box 11682 Columbia, S.C. 29211 (803) 233-1177 rpatane@dgglegal.com bgrimsley@dgglegal.com

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF SUMTER 2024-CP-43-01116 SUMMONS (NON-JURY)

JEWEL JOHNSON PLAINTIFF

VS.

DONALD NICHOLSON, JR., DINA N. DAVIS, WILLIAM NICHOLSON, JR., DONNA NICHOLSON, MARK NICHOLSON, DELORIS NICHOLSON, HAZEL NEGRON, WILLIE MAE THOMPSON, ESTHER BOYKIN, JOHN DOE AND MARY ROE, FICTITIOUS NAMES DESIGNATING ANY MINORS OR PERSONS UNDER SOME OTHER LEGAL DISABILITY, RICHARD ROE AND JANE DOE, FICTITIOUS NAMES DESIGNATING ANY UNKNOWN ADULTS, PERSONS IN THE MILITARY OR OTHER PERSONS WHO CLAIM TO BE HEIRS OF ROSA LEE GREGG, EDWARD GREGG, NEWTON L. GREGG, ANNIE LUCILLE JORDAN GREGG, EDITH MARIE G. NICHOLSON, DONALD NICHOLSON, KEVIN NICHOLSON, WILLIAM E. NICHOLSON, DOROTHY N. TAYLOR, VIVIAN ODESSA GREGG, EDWARD W. GREGG, JR., RUBY GREGG AND JUNIUS J. GREGG, DECEASED OR ONE OF THE PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE REAL ESTATE OF THIS ACTION DEFENDANTS

TO: THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer to the said Complaint on the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs Attorneys, McIver & Graham, P.A., at their Office, 2015 Hwy. 378, Post Office Box 915, Conway, South Carolina, within thirty (30) days of such service, and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, the Plaintiff in this action will apply to the court for the relief demanded in the Complaint. DATED at Conway, South Carolina on the 26th day of June, 2024.

LIS PENDENS NOTICE IS HEREBY given that action has been commenced and is now pending in the court of Common Pleas for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit on a Summons and Complaint filed by the above-named Plaintiffs for the purpose of removing any cloud on the title, partitioning and decreeing the rightful ownership in the below described property. The Real Estate affected by this action is particularly described as follows: ALL THAT SINGULAR and Tract of land located on Joe Billy Road/Congruity Road, Sumter County, South Carolina, containing 52 acres as shown on a plat surveyed for Rosa L. Greg by W. Lorina Lee, Surveyor in 1933. This map is filed in the R.M.C. office for Sumter County at Plat Book C5 at Page 260 and made part and parcel to these descriptions by reference hereto. This being the identical tract of land conveyed to Rosa L. Gregg by deed of Lizzie Sumter and Emma LeSesne, filed in the R.O.D., Office for Sumter County in Deed Book B5 at Page 231. TMS NUMBER: 315-00-03-005.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN AD LITEM NISI TO: THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED:

YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the said Aaron Wallace, 1416 Laurel Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, (803)766-3997, awallace@wallacefirm.com, Richland County, has been designated and appointed Guardian ad Litem Nisi for said John Doe, Mary Roe, Richard Roe and Jane Doe, other Defendants under legal disability, or serving in the military, if any, and he is authorized to appear and defend said action on behalf of said Defendants, unless said Defendants, if any, shall within thirty (30) days of service as herein provided, procure to be appointed as Guardian ad Litem for themselves for the purposes of this action.

NOTICE OF ACTION PENDING AND NOTICE OF RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL PURSUANT TO S.C. CODE ANN. §15-61-25

YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the original Summons and Complaint in the above captioned cause of action were filed in the Common Pleas Court of Sumter County, South Carolina, the object and prayer of which is to remove any cloud, determine heirs, declare ownership, partition real estate and other relief as set forth in the Complaint. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that each Defendant, as a non-moving party has the right to purchase his/her interest in the real estate of this action pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §15-61-25 (1976), provided that said Defendant advises the court within ten (10) days of the hearing in this case.

Summons & Notice

McIVER & GRAHAM, P.A. GEORGE E. GRAHAM (BAR #002486) P O BOX 915 CONWAY, SC 29528 PHONE: (843) 248-4615, FAX: (843) 248-6479 EMAIL: gedg@sccoast.net ATTORNEYS FOR THE PLAINTIFF

SUMMONS (Jury Trial Demanded) STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF SUMTER IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT Docket No.: 2024-CP-43-01768

Howard Riley, Plaintiff, vs. Miah J. Anderson, Defendant.

TO THE DEFENDANT ABOVE-NAMED: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the complaint herein, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your answer to this complaint upon the subscriber, at the address shown below, within thirty (30) days after service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to answer the complaint, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. MARC BROWN LAW FIRM, LLC s/Marc J. Brown Marcus J. Brown (SC Bar No. 102926) PO Box 2389 Columbia, SC 29202 Tel: 803-848-0008 Fax: 803-848-0844 October 10, 2024 Columbia, SC

Notice of Sale

Notice of Sale C/A No.: 2023-CP-43-02027 BY VIRTUE OF A DECREE of the Court of Common Pleas for Sumter County, South Carolina, heretofore issued in the case of Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC vs. Miranda J Spader, and if Miranda J Spader be deceased then any children and heirs at law to the Estate of Miranda J Spader, distributees and devisees at law to the Estate of Miranda J Spader, and if any of the same be dead any and all persons entitled to claim under or through them also all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, interest or lien upon the real estate described in the complaint herein: Any unknown adults, any unknown infants or persons under a disability being a class designated as John Doe, and any persons in the military service of the United States of America being a class designated as Richard Roe; Keri Donlon; Terry Joseph Spader; I the undersigned as Master-in-Equity for Sumter County, will sell on February 3, 2025 at 12:00 PM at Sumter County Judicial Center at 215 N. Harvin St., Sumter, South Carolina to the highest bidder: Legal Description and Property Address:

ALL THAT certain piece, parcel or lot of land with the improvements thereon, if any, situate, lying and being in the City and County of Sumter, South Carolina, and being shown and designated as Lot No. 13, containing 0.45 acre, of "Curtis Park" Subdivision, as shown on that certain plat of Carl J. Croft, R.L.S., dated August 20, 1996, and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County in Plat Book PB96 at page 1104. This said lot has such metes, boundaries, courses and distances as are shown on said plat, which are incorporated herein in accordance with the provisions of Section 30-5-250 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976.

THIS BEING the same property conveyed unto Miranda J. Spader by virtue of a Deed from Jodi Wootton Sherman f/k/a Jodi Lea Wootton dated January 10, 2017 and recorded January 11, 2017, in Book 1229 at Page 1122 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County, South Carolina.

34 Henrietta Street Sumter, SC 29150 TMS# 206-05-03-006

TERMS OF SALE: For cash. Interest at the current rate of 4.5% to be paid on balance of bid from date of sale to date of compliance. The purchaser to pay for papers and stamps, and that the successful bidder or bidders, other than the Plaintiff therein, will, upon the acceptance of his or her bid, deposit with the Master-in-Equity for Sumter County a certified check or cash in the amount equal to five percent (5%) of the amount of bid on said premises at the sale as evidence of good faith in bidding, and subject to any resale of said premises under Order of this Court; and in the event the said purchaser or purchasers fail to comply with the terms of sale within Twenty (20) days, the Master-in-Equity for Sumter County shall forthwith resell the said property, after the due notice and advertisement, and shall continue to sell the same each subsequent sales day until a purchaser, who shall comply with the terms of sale, shall be obtained, such sales to be made at the risk of the former purchaser. Since a personal or deficiency judgment is waived, the bidding will not remain open but compliance with the bid may be made immediately. Plaintiff may waive any of its rights prior to sale. Sold subject to taxes and assessments, existing easements and restrictions of record. Neither the Court, nor Plaintiff, nor Plaintiff's counsel makes any warranty of title or representations with regard to the condition or existence of any improvements on the subject property. Prospective bidders may wish to assess these matters to their satisfaction prior to sale. Hutchens Law Firm LLP P.O. Box 8237 Columbia, SC 29202 (803) 726-2700

Notice of Sale

MASTER IN EQUITY NOTICE OF SALE

BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of Sumter Habitat for Humanity, Inc. v. Cassandra L. Lowery, et al. (Civil Action No.: 2024-CP-43-00954), I, the undersigned, Master In Equity for Sumter County have ordered that the following property, which is the subject of the above action, be sold on February 3, 2025, 12:00 noon, at Sumter County Judicial Center, 215 North Harvin Street, Courtroom 1A, Sumter, South Carolina to the highest bidder:

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land, together with any improvements thereon, situate, lying and being in Sumter County, South Carolina, delineated as Lot 16 of Fuller Garden Subdivision, Phase One, Section Two, on that plat prepared by Louis White Tisdale, RLS, dated June 4, 2002 and recorded in Plat Book 2003 at Page 380. Said Lot having such shape, metes, courses, distance, boundaries and measurements as will more fully appear by reference to the aforesaid plat. This is the property known as 1190 Habitat Drive, Sumter, South Carolina and bears Sumter County Tax Map Number: 251-06-02-089. This being the same property conveyed to Cassandra L. Lowery by deed of Sumter Habitat for Humanity, Inc., recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County on May 29, 2007 in Book 1079 at Page 1041.

Property Address: 1190 Habitat Drive, Sumter, South Carolina TMS No.: 251-06-02-089

SUBJECT TO ASSESSMENTS, SUMTER COUNTY TAXES, EXISTING EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD AND OTHER SENIOR ENCUMBRANCES. TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the plaintiff, will deposit with the Master in Equity at conclusion of the bidding, five percent (5%) of his bid, in cash or equivalent, as evidence of good faith, same to be applied to purchase price in case of compliance, but to be forfeited and applied first to costs and then to Plaintiff's debt in the case of non-compliance. Should the last and highest bidder fail or refuse to make the required deposit at time of bid or comply with the other terms of the bid within twenty (20) days, then the Master in Equity may resell the property on the same terms and conditions on some subsequent Sales Day (at the risk of the said highest bidder). Personal or deficiency judgment being waived, the bidding will not remain open but compliance to be made immediately. Purchaser to pay for documentary stamps on Deed, if applicable.

Michael M. Jordan Master In Equity for Sumter County

NELSON MULLINS RILEY & SCARBOROUGH, L.L.P. Graham S. Mitchell P.O. Box 11070 Columbia, SC 29211 (803) 799-2000 Attorneys for Plaintiff

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF SUMTER IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS CASE NO. 2023-CP-43-01368 NOTICE OF SALE

21st Mortgage Corporation Plaintiff, -vs- Gregg Eugene Battles; Linda Ann Bracey; and the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles Defendant(s).

BY VIRTUE of a judgment heretofore granted in the case of 21st Mortgage Corporation vs. Gregg Eugene Battles; Linda Ann Bracey; and the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles I, Michael M. Jordan, Master in Equity, for Sumter County, will sell on February 3, 2025 at 12:00 pm, at the Sumter County Courthouse, 215 N. Harvin Street, Sumter, SC 29150, to the highest bidder:

All that certain piece, parcel or lots of land, lying, situate and being in the Privater Township of Sumter County, South Carolina, being shown and delineated as Lot No. #82 of the Quail Hollow Subdivision Section 1 on that certain plat by H. S. Willson, RLS, dated January 25, 1979 and recorded in the ROD Office for Sumter County in Plat Book Z-47 at Page 591. Pursuant to Section 30-5-250 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina (1976), reference to said plat is hereby craved for particulars of the boundaries, metes, course, and/or distances of the properties delineated thereon. Said lot is known as 2131 Quail Run, Sumter SC with Sumter County TMS #210-06-04-012. Also together with that 2020 Live Oak V-3524G, 32x52 with serial# LOHGA22035589AB mobile home. Derivation: This being the same property conveyed to Gregg Eugene Battles and Linda Ann Bracey by deed of Charles Smith dated September 8, 2020 and recorded September 10, 2020 in Book 1273 at page 4436 in the ROD Office for Sumter County. TMS #: 210604012 (lot) 4000039163 (mobile home)

2131 Quail Run, Sumter, SC 29154 Mobile Home. 2020 LIVO VIN: LOHGA22035589AB SUBJECT TO SUMTER COUNTY TAXES

TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the Plaintiff, will deposit with the Master in Equity at conclusion of the bidding, five (5%) of his bid, in cash or equivalent, as evidence of good faith, the same to be applied to purchase price in case of compliance, but to be forfeited and applied first to costs and then to Plaintiff's debt in the case of noncompliance. Should the last and highest bidder fail or refuse to make the required deposit at the time of the bid or comply with the other terms of the bid within thirty (30) days, then the Master in Equity may resell the property on the same terms and conditions on some subsequent Sales Day (at the risk of the former highest bidder). Should the Plaintiff, or one of its representatives, fail to be present at the time of sale, the property is automatically withdrawn from said sale and sold at the next available sales day upon the terms and conditions as set forth in the Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale or

Notice of Sale

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

NOTICE: The foreclosure deed is not a warranty deed. Interested bidders should satisfy themselves as to the quality of title to be conveyed by obtaining an independent title search well before the foreclosure sale date. The successful bidder will be required to pay interest on the amount of the bid from the date of sale to date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 9.000% per annum.

B. Lindsay Crawford, III (SC Bar# 6510) Theodore von Keller (SC Bar# 5718) B. Lindsay Crawford, IV (SC Bar# 101707) Charley F. MacInnis (SC Bar# 104326) Jason Hunter (SC Bar# 101501) Eric H. Nelson (SC Bar# 104712) Kathryn L. Sophia (SC Bar# 105541) Crawford & von Keller, LLC P.O. Box 4216 1640 St. Julian Place (29204) Columbia, SC 29240 Phone: 803-790-2626 Email: court@crawfordvkc.com Attorneys for Plaintiff

MASTER IN EQUITY'S SALE CASE NO. 2024-CP-43-01629

BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of Trustmark National Bank against Christopher L. Kelly, et al., I, the Master in Equity for Sumter County, will sell on Monday, February 3, 2025, at 12:00 o'clock p.m., at the Sumter County Courthouse, Sumter, South Carolina, to the highest bidder: All that certain piece, parcel and lot of land with improvements thereon, if any, situate, lying and being in the County of Sumter, State of South Carolina identified as Lot No. 154 of Foxcroft Subdivision Section 2 and being more fully shown on a plat prepared by Joseph R. Edwards, P.L.S., dated October 22, 2007 and recorded in Plat Book 2007 at Page 506, records of Sumter County. This property is known as 625 Talisman Drive and is further identified as Sumter County Tax Map Parcel No. 206-09-05-004.

Aforesaid Plat is specifically incorporated herein and reference is craved thereto for a more complete and accurate description of the metes, bounds, courses and distances of the property concerned herein. This description is in lieu of metes and bounds, as permitted by law under Section 30-5-250 of the 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina, as amended. Be all measurements a little more or a little less and according to said plat.

This being the same property conveyed to Christopher L. Kelly by deed of Jeffery A. Witherspoon dated August 3, 2012 and recorded August 3, 2012 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County, South Carolina in Book 1174 at Page 2761.

TMS # 206-09-05-004 Property Address: 625 Talisman Drive Sumter, South Carolina 29154

TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the plaintiff, will deposit with the Master in Equity for Sumter County at conclusion of the bidding, five percent (5%) of the bid, in cash or equivalent, as evidence of good faith, same to be applied to the purchase price in case of compliance, but to be forfeited and applied first to costs and then to plaintiff's debt in the case of non-compliance. If the Plaintiff's representative is not in attendance at the scheduled time of the sale, the sale shall be canceled and the property sold on some subsequent sales day after due advertisement. Should the last and highest bidder fail or refuse to make the required deposit at time of bid or comply with the other terms of the bid within thirty (30) days, the deposit shall be forfeited and the Master in Equity for Sumter County may re-sell the property on the same terms and conditions on some subsequent Sales Day (at the risk of the said highest bidder). As a deficiency judgment is being Waived, the bidding will not remain open thirty days after the date of sale. Purchaser shall pay for preparation of deed, documentary stamps on the deed, and recording of the deed. The successful bidder will be required to pay interest on the amount of the bid from date of sale to date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 3.3750% per annum. The sale shall be subject to assessments, Sumter County taxes, easements, easements and restrictions of record, and other senior encumbrances.

s/Ryan J. Patane S.C. Bar No. 103116 Benjamin E. Grimsley S.C. Bar No. 70335 D'Alberto, Graham & Grimsley, LLC Attorneys for the Plaintiff P.O. Box 11682 Columbia, S.C. 29211 (803) 233-4999 rpatane@dgglegal.com bgrimsley@dgglegal.com

MASTER IN EQUITY NOTICE OF SALE 2023-CP-43-01420

BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of: United Wholesale Mortgage, LLC vs. Michael W. Barekman; et al., I, the undersigned Michael M. Jordan, Master in Equity for Sumter County, will sell on Monday, February 3, 2025 at 12:00 PM, at the County Courthouse, 141 N. Main St., Sumter, SC 29150. The property to be sold to the highest bidder:

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land with the Improvements thereon, if any, situate, lying and being in the Township and County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, designated as Lot 242, Timberline Meadows Subdivision, Phase 4 on a Plat by Louis W. Tisdale, RLS, dated April 24, 2001 and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County in Plat Book PB2001 at Page 359. This said lot has such metes, boundaries, courses and distances as are shown on said plat, which are incorporated herein in accordance with the provisions of Section 30-5-250 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976. Subject to all easements, reservations, covenants, conditions, agreements of record if any. This being the same property conveyed to Michael W. Barekman and Sharon E. Barekman, as joint

Notice of Sale

tenants with rights of survivorship, and not as tenants in common, by deed of Thomas J. Cornican dated July 14, 2016 and recorded July 15, 2016 in Book 1223 at Page 3589 in the Office of the Clerk of Court/Register of Deeds for Sumter County. Thereafter, the property was conveyed to Michael W. Barekman by deed of Sharon E. Barekman n/k/a Sharon E. Henderson dated December 11, 2019 and recorded December 27, 2019 in Book 1263 at Page 3741 in the Office of the Clerk of Court/Register of Deeds for Sumter County.

TMS No. 184-06-00-003 Property Address: 860 Breezy Bay Lane, Sumter, SC 29150

TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the Plaintiff, will deposit with the Master in Equity, at conclusion of the bidding, five percent (5%) of said bid is due and payable immediately upon closing of the bidding, in certified funds or equivalent, as evidence of good faith, same to be applied to purchase price in case of compliance, but to be forfeited and applied first to costs and then to Plaintiff's debt in the case of non-compliance. In the event of a third party bidder and that any third party bidder fails to deliver the required deposit in certified (immediately collectible) funds with the Office of the Master in Equity, said deposit being due and payable immediately upon closing of the bidding on the day of sale, the Master in Equity will re-sell the subject property at the most convenient time thereafter (including the day of sale) upon notification to counsel for Plaintiff. Should the last and highest bidder fail or refuse to comply with the balance due of the bid within 20 days, then the Master in Equity may re-sell the property on the same terms and conditions on some subsequent Sales Day (at the risk of the said highest bidder). No personal or deficiency judgment being demanded, the bidding will not remain open after the date of sale, but compliance with the bid may be made immediately.

Purchaser to pay for documentary stamps on Master in Equity's Deed. The successful bidder will be required to pay interest on the balance of the bid from the date of sale to date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 3.250% per annum.

The Plaintiff may waive any of its rights, including its right to a deficiency judgment, prior to sale. The sale shall be subject to taxes and assessments, existing easements and restrictions of record. This sale is subject to all title matters of record and any interested party should consider performing an independent title examination of the subject property as no warranty is given.

The sale will not be held unless either Plaintiff's attorney or Plaintiff's bidding agent is present at the sale and either Plaintiff's attorney or Plaintiff's bidding agent enters the authorized bid of Plaintiff for this captioned matter. In the alternative, Plaintiff's counsel, if permitted by the Court, may advise this Court directly of its authorized bidding instructions. In the event a sale is inadvertently held without Plaintiff's Counsel or Counsel's bidding agent entering the authorized bid of Plaintiff for this specifically captioned matter, the sale shall be null and void and the property shall be re-advertised for sale on the next available sale date. Neither the Plaintiff nor its counsel make representations as to the integrity of the title or the fair market value of the property offered for sale. Prior to bidding you may wish to review the current state law or seek the advice of any attorney licensed in South Carolina.

Michael M. Jordan Master in Equity for Sumter County Scott and Corley, P.A. Attorney for Plaintiff

Notice of Sale C/A No.: 2024-CP-43-01352 BY VIRTUE OF A DECREE of the Court of Common Pleas for Sumter County, South Carolina, heretofore issued in the case of Gateway Mortgage, a Division of Gateway First Bank vs. JonPaul M Montgomery; The United States of America, by and through its Agency, the Department of Housing and Urban Development; South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority I the undersigned as Master-in-Equity for Sumter County, will sell on February 3, 2025 at 12:00 PM at Sumter County Judicial Center at 215 N. Harvin St., Sumter, South Carolina to the highest bidder: Legal Description and Property Address:

ALL THAT CERTAIN piece, parcel, or lot of land, together with all improvements thereon, if any, lying and being situate in the County of Sumter, State of South Carolina, designated as Lot No. 47 of Folsom Subdivision, Section No. 2, and being shown and delineated on that plat prepared by H.S. Willson, RLS, dated September 10, 1967, and recorded in Plat Book Z-24 at page 115 in the records of the Register of Deeds Office for Sumter County. Aforesaid plat is specifically incorporated herein, and reference is craved thereto for a more complete and accurate description of the metes, bounds, courses, and distances of the property concerned herein. This description is made in lieu of metes and bounds as permitted by law under § 30-5-250 of The Code of Laws of South Carolina (1976), as amended. This is the property known as 106 Gertrude Drive, Sumter, SC.

THIS BEING the same property conveyed unto JonPaul M. Montgomery by virtue of a Deed from Gary E. Collins dated December 7, 2022, and recorded December 9, 2022, in Book 1309 at Page 2928 in the Office of Register of Deeds for Sumter County, South Carolina.

106 Gertrude Drive Sumter, SC 29150 TMS# 229-08-01-009

TERMS OF SALE: For cash. Interest at the current rate of 6.625% to be paid on balance of bid from date of sale to date of compliance. The purchaser to pay for papers and stamps, and that the successful bidder or bidders, other than the Plaintiff therein, will, upon the acceptance of his or her bid, deposit with the Master-in-Equity for Sumter County a certified check or cash in the amount equal to five

Notice of Sale

percent (5%) of the amount of bid on said premises at the sale as evidence of good faith in bidding, and subject to any resale of said premises under Order of this Court; and in the event the said purchaser or purchasers fail to comply with the terms of sale within Twenty (20) days, the Master-in-Equity for Sumter County shall forthwith resell the said property, after the due notice and advertisement, and shall continue to sell the same each subsequent sales day until a purchaser, who shall comply with the terms of sale, shall be obtained, such sales to be made at the risk of the former purchaser. Since a personal or deficiency judgment is waived, the bidding will not remain open but compliance with the bid may be made immediately. Plaintiff may waive any of its rights prior to sale. Sold subject to taxes and assessments, existing easements and restrictions of record. Neither the Court, nor Plaintiff, nor Plaintiff's counsel makes any warranty of title or representations with regard to the condition or existence of any improvements on the subject property. Prospective bidders may wish to assess these matters to their satisfaction prior to sale.

Hutchens Law Firm LLP
P.O. Box 8237
Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 726-2700

MERCHANDISE

Auctions

Property of the following tenants will be sold to satisfy rental liens ONLINE in accordance with Title 39, Chapter 20, Section 10 through 50 of the South Carolina Lien Statutes. The undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding starting January 31st after 1 PM EST on WWW.LOCKERFOX.COM with pictures attached. The Auction will end on or after February 20th, at 2:30 PM. Said property is stored at Storage Rentals of America 4194 Broad St. Sumter, SC 29154

Unit #	Tenant	Items
0115	Andrika Rhodes	Furniture, household goods, clothes.
0247	Johnny Joyner	Boxes, totes, furniture, electronics.
0120	Charles Watson	Totes, tools, wall art, vehicle jack, extension cord, bottles of motor oil, speaker box.
0213	Raekwon Singleton	Totes, furniture, suit cases, bag of clothes

Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase by cash only. All purchased items are sold as is, where is, and must be removed at the time of sale. Sales are subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

To satisfy the owner's storage lien, PS Retail Sales, LLC will sell at public sale on February 19, 2025, 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 10:00 AM and continue until all units are sold.

PUBLIC STORAGE # 25924, 1143 N Guignard Dr, Sumter, SC 29150, (803) 282-9623
Time: 10:00 AM
Sale to be held at www.storage-treasures.com.
339 - Gillins, Cheryl;
432 - Bosier, Brandon;
466 - Mason, Paroudyee;
473 - Lowery, Diamond;
510 - Bistle, Lloyd;
523 - Rhodes, Jalisha
PUBLIC STORAGE # 08604, 1277 Camden Hwy, Sumter, SC 29153, (803) 218-9507
Time: 10:20 AM
Sale to be held at www.storage-treasures.com.
B028 - George, Precious S;
B091 - Jackson, Terilyn;
C025 - Nelson, Yolonda;
C026 - Kennedy, Ashanique;
F054 - Beasley, Karan;
H002 - Wright, Evelyn;
J005 - Murphy, Scott;
J013 - Williams, Corine;
K004 - Glisson, Jakyah;
K010 - Gordon, Tamika;
K017 - Burgess, Kenneth
PUBLIC STORAGE # 25925, 3785 Broad St, Sumter, SC 29154, (803) 282-9826
Time: 10:40 AM
Sale to be held at www.storage-treasures.com.
0106 - Williford, September;
0206 - Williams, Quintavius;
0209 - Rogers, Elmira;
0237 - Hodge Jr, Marvin;
0253 - Wells, Sharwanda;
0308 - Telford, Drico;
0333 - Nelson, Ashely;
0540 - Green, Kanika;
0621 - Johnson, Craig

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.

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EMPLOYMENT

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Driver/mover helper, part-time to full-time hours. No experience needed. Background check. Driver class A or B or non-CDL. Good driving record. 803-236-4008.

Help Wanted Part-Time

Broad St. Thrift Mart is now hiring for cashier. 4 days a week \$9.00 an hr. 9-5 will include some Saturdays. Apply at 430 Broad St Sumter, next door to The Shrimper.

RENTALS

Unfurnished Homes

1 bedroom, 1 bath duplex for rent in Sumter historic district. Cul-de-sac, no thru traffic. \$675 1st month, last month's rent due with security deposit. 513-401-2961.

REAL ESTATE

Homes for Sale

FSBO: 550 Lynam Rd., Sumter: 1,672 sq ft brick home on 0.34 acres. 3B/2BA, fresh inter. paint, new carpet. Fenced backyard, storage shed, newly-painted exterior, single carport. Quiet neighborhood, 15 min. to Shaw AFB. \$195k. Addl. 1% buyer's agent comm. **803-775-1858**

Challenger Race Car- excellent condition, set up for asphalt, #1 shape 602 Crate engine, new tires and many extras. Have all receipts for everything done to it-- ready for racing! \$22,500 cost in car. Call 803-491-7665 for details and to see car located in Sumter.

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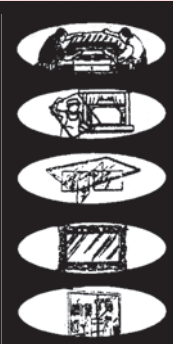
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7 Red chair rivalries: 'The Voice' returns with new coaches and new singers for Season 27

Horoscopes	2
Now Streaming	2
Puzzles	4
TV Schedules	5
Top 10.....	6
Home Video	7
Comics	8

February 01- January 07, 2025

And while the bulk of the series does focus on that tumultuous relationship between parent and child, Cox and Wallace are supported by a top-tier cast that includes Jay Wilkison ("Nashville") as Harry's wise (and wise-cracking) car wash attendee, Mack, who is a former inmate and single father to 10-year-old Opal (Norah Murphy, "A Friend of the Family"), who also helps out at Clean Slate car wash. There's also D.K. Uzoukwu ("The Choir") as the neighborhood church's closeted church director, Louis, a childhood friend of Desiree who provides a safe space for her.



Horoscopes

The luckiest signs this week:
GEMINI, CANCER AND LEO

ARIES
Get ready to be busy this week, especially if you're a parent of young children with a bustling social calendar. If you're in a relationship, a trip or romantic getaway is on the horizon, promising unforgettable moments with your special someone.

TAURUS
Winter can really zap your energy levels. However, it's also the perfect season to unleash your creativity and create something truly inspiring and original.

GEMINI
You'll be in the spotlight this week, which could make you feel overwhelmed, stressed or anxious at times. Take some time to recharge your batteries before the end of the week to restore your inner peace.

CANCER
You could be given new, more important responsibilities at work. Your reliability will earn you the trust and respect of your colleagues and clients. Your reputation as a reliable professional precedes you.

LEO
You'll feel the urge to travel or go on an adventure this week. Exciting and diverse stories will ignite your imagination. You may even consider the idea of returning to school.

VIRGO
If you're struggling financially, your emotions are likely running high. Fortunately, solutions will soon emerge to lead you to a brighter financial future. Believe in yourself!

LIBRA
Negotiating with those you love can be tricky. You may feel more vulnerable or unsettled when emotions are involved. Take a step back to communicate clearly and navigate the situation effectively.

SCORPIO
Professional success is within your reach. You could draw a crowd for a specific event or score big discounts from your suppliers to boost your profits.

SAGITTARIUS
Get ready to shine in the spotlight thanks to your incredible drive and innovative ideas. Expect to be applauded and receive some token of recognition.

CAPRICORN
You'll spend more time at home or with your family this week. You might find yourself taking on new responsibilities, or perhaps one of your loved ones will need extra attention and care from you.

AQUARIUS
When shopping, give yourself time to negotiate. Don't be afraid to speak up a little to make sure you're heard and respected. Expressing your emotions clearly can make a big difference in how you feel.

PISCES
Physical activity is good for your well-being. It's a fantastic way to connect with others and enjoy shared experiences, whether it's through a fun activity or deep conversations about spirituality.

New Streaming Movies & Shows



""Invincible" - Season 3 (Feb. 6)

Based on Robert Kirkman's award-winning comic book series, this animated series for adults follows Mark Grayson (Steven Yeun) as he inherits his father's (J.K. Simmons) superpowers and sets out to become Earth's greatest defender, only to discover the job is more challenging than he could have ever imagined. Everything changes as Mark is forced to face his past, and his future, while discovering how much further he'll need to go to protect the people he loves.



"The Kardashians" - Season 6 (Feb. 6)

The Kardashian-Jenners return with a year full of challenges, milestones and new adventures. With uncertain futures and their past returning to haunt them, Kourtney, Kim, Khloé, Kendall, Kylie, and Kris will have to rely on each other as they navigate their roles as moms and businesswomen to overcome the obstacles that come with their increasingly complicated lives.

Word Search

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

Columbo

ABC	DOG	LIEUTENANT	RANTS
ALIBI	ELEGANCE	LOS ANGELES	RUSE
CHILI	EMMY	MOTIVE	SLIP UP
CIGAR	FALK	NBC	SLOW BURN
CLUES	HOW-	NOTEBOOK	TRENCH
COLUMBO	CATCHEM	PEUGEOT	COAT
CRIME	HUMOR	RESTAU-	VILLAINS
DEDUCTION	INTELLECT		WHODUNIT

The Blitz

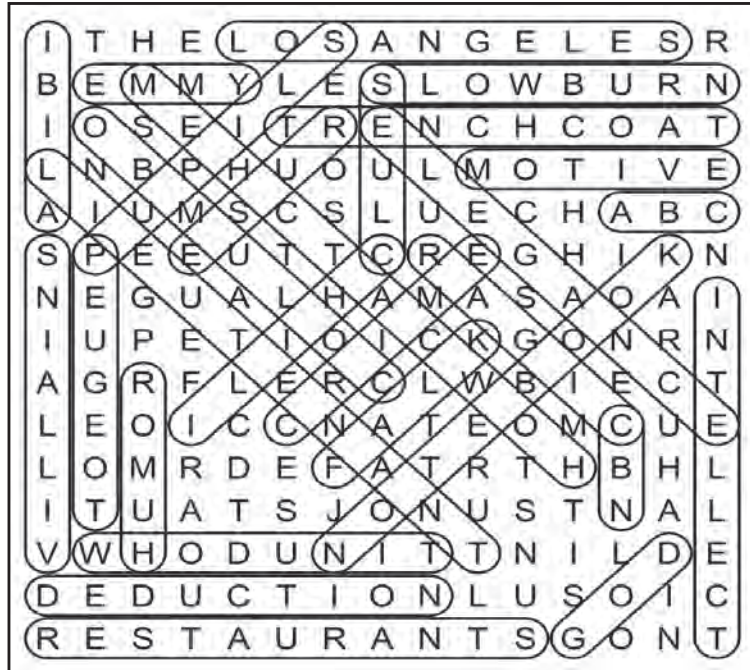
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NETFLIX

Disney+



"Kinda Pregnant" (Feb. 5)

Jealous of her best friend's pregnancy, Lainy (Amy Schumer) wears a fake baby bump... and accidentally meets the man of her dreams. Jillian Bell, Will Forte, Damon Wayans Jr. and and Brianne Howey also star.



"Ratatouille" (Available Now)

Remy (Patton Oswalt) dreams of becoming a great chef, despite being a rat in a definitely rodent-phobic profession. He moves to Paris to follow his dream and, with the help of hapless garbage boy Linguini (Lou Romano), he puts his culinary skills to the test in the kitchen but he has to stay in hiding at the same time, with hilarious consequences. Remy eventually gets the chance to prove his culinary abilities to a great food critic — but is the food good?

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Q&A: Kat Dennings

BY JAY BOBBIN

Q: It's nice that Kat Dennings has come back to weekly TV in "Shifting Gears." What did she do between "2 Broke Girls" and her new show?

A: She actually returned to series work fairly soon after the six-season CBS run of "2 Broke Girls" ended in 2017, voicing the character Leah Birch in the animated Netflix show "Big Mouth" for its first four seasons (2017-21). "Saturday Night Live's" Chloe Fineman assumed the part after that. Then, Dennings starred in the Hulu comedy "Dollface" (2019-22), for which she was also an executive producer; she played a web designer trying to bounce back from a breakup.

Dennings' ties to the Marvel Cinematic Universe have also kept her employed, as she has continued a certain role. She was a regular on the 2021 Disney+ series "WandaVision" as Darcy Lewis, a character she had originated in the "Thor" theatrical films. She was heard as an animated incarnation of Darcy in several episodes of the 2021-24 Disney+ series "What If...?" and she also reprised the part in a cameo in the 2022 movie "Thor: Love and Thunder."

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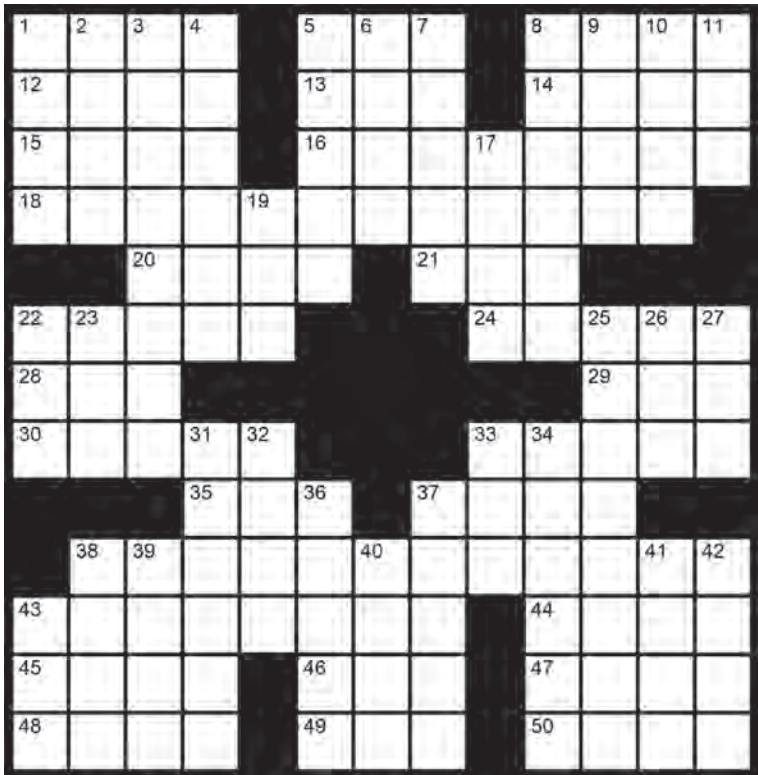
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Crosswords



- Across
- Sp. title
 - "Ghosts" network
 - Wind instrument
 - Bert of "The Wizard of Oz" (1939)
 - Chat room chuckle
 - Cry like a baby
 - Eye part
 - "Modern Family" actor
 - Lauren Graham series
 - "John ____" (2014 Keanu Reeves film)
 - ____-Jet (winter vehicle)
 - "A Touch of ____"
 - Go in
 - Lending letters
 - Ring cheer
 - "Knight ____"
 - Hog dialogue
 - Teachers' org.
 - Walkman maker
 - Ellen Pompeo's title doctor role
 - Janeane of "The Larry Sanders Show"
 - Turn
 - Dull brown
 - Shine, in product names
 - Sherman Helmsley series
 - Davidson of "SNL"
 - Teleshesia
 - One of the friends on "Friends"

- Down
- Wallop
 - Sitar master Shankar
 - Jennifer Beals series
 - A Musketeer
 - Court employee
 - Foreshadow
 - Drudges
 - Moon of Uranus
 - Get-out-of-jail money
 - Mice catchers



- Building add-on
- Supreme Court count
- Fall mo.
- Much
- Coll. in Troy, N.Y.
- Cowboys QB turned NFL announcer
- Forest denizen
- Hi-____
- Put something on
- Atoll protector
- Surprised cry
- Bergman who directed "Wild Strawberries" (1957)
- Words of wisdom
- Posture problem
- ____ of Easttown"
- The "E" in Q.E.D.
- Misfortunes
- Times to call, in classifieds
- Hankering
- Natl. economic indicator

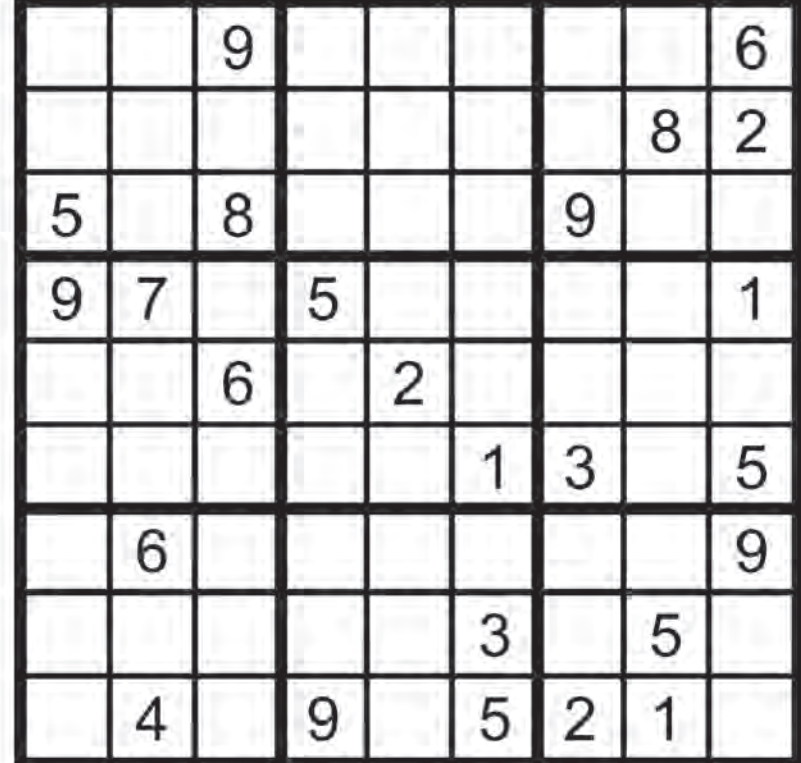
Coming Soon



"Cobra Kai" - Season 6 (Netflix — Feb. 13, Series Finale)

After a startling result in the Sekai Taikai, Miyagi-Do and Cobra Kai must reckon with their pasts while facing an uncertain future both on and off the mat. Almost 40 years after the events of the 1984 All Valley Karate Tournament, it's all been leading to this. After six seasons, this fan-favorite show comes to a close. Ralph Macchio and William Zabka star.

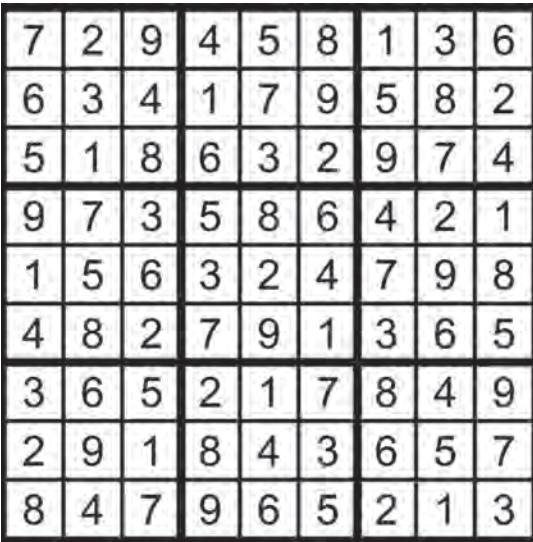
Sudoku



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.

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SUNDAY EVENING				SP=Spectrum FTC=Farm DTV=DirecTV				MOVIES		SPORTS		KIDS		FEBRUARY 2, 2025	
	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)	Deal or No Deal Island "Chain of Command"		Deal or No Deal Island "Throw and Tell"		Dateline NBC (N)				WIS News 10 at 11 (N)	Awareness at 11 (N)
WKTC	4	22	63	Chicago P.D. Depths	"Out of the Night"	Suits "Mudmare"		Suits "Divide and Conquer"		Suits "Brooklyn Housing"		Suits "Home to Roost"		Suits "Full Disclosure"	
WOLO	5	12	25	ABC World News (N)	Queen City Country	America's Funniest Home Videos		America's Funniest Home Videos		America's Funniest Home Videos		America's Funniest Home Videos		News (N)	Paid Prog.
WACH	6	6	57	NASCAR Cup Series Cook Out Clash at Bowman Gray, Qualifying (N) (Live)		RaceDay (N) (Live)		NASCAR Cup Series Cook Out Clash at Bowman Gray (N) (Live)		News (N) (Live)		Gamecock Insider		Sharyl Attkisson	The Big Bang Theory
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	(3:00) PGA Tour Golf	CBS Evening News (N)	60 Minutes (N)		The 67th Annual Grammy Awards (N) (Live)							News 19 at 11pm (N)
WRJA	11	14		Sister Boniface Mysteries "Sister Town"		Father Brown "The Dead of Night"		Miss Scarlet on Masterpiece (N)		All Creatures Great "Uninvited Guests"		Funny Woman (N) (SP)		Southern "Sumter Opera House, Sumter"	
WZRB	13	18	47	NCIS "Going Mobile"		NCIS "Someone Else's Shoes"		NCIS "Wide Awake"		NCIS "Institutionalized"		NCIS "No Vacancy"		NCIS "Musical Chairs"	
NICK	16	210	299	★★ The Smurfs 2 '13	Brendan Gleeson, Jayma Mays, Neil Patrick Harris, Evil wizard Gargamel kidnaps Smurfette.			Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
TOON	17	203	296	King/Hill	King/Hill	Burgers	Burgers	Burgers	American	American	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Rick	Common S
DISNEY	18	200	290	Big City Greens	Big City Greens	★★★★ Toy Story 4 '19		Voices of Tim Allen, Annie Potts, Tom Hanks.	(:45) StuGo	(:10) StuGo	(:35) StuGo	Hamster & Gretel	Hamster & Gretel	Hamster & Gretel	Hamster & Gretel
FREFRM	20	131	311	(4:15) ★★★ How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days '03		(55) ★★★ The Devil Wears Prada '06		Anne Hathaway, Adrian Grenier,	★★★★ Titanic '97				(97) Kate Winslet, Billy Zane, Leonardo DiCaprio. A society girl abandons her haughty fiancé for a penniless artist.		
FDSE	21	47	649	Sports Stars of Tomorrow	Gamecock of Tomorrow Insider	Nissan Super Girl Surf Pro 2024		Supergirl Surf Pro 2024 Jacksonville, Fla.		Fight Sports: Boxing Claressa Shields vs. Femke Hermans		Fencing Waves		Epic Trails	
NATGEO	22	113	276	Witches: Truth "America: Salem's Hunts and Hysteria"		Trafficked With Mariana van Zeller "Scams"		Trafficked With Mariana van Zeller "Cocaine"		Mariana van "Tiger King Underworld"		Trafficked With Mariana van Zeller "Steroids"		Trafficked With Mariana van Zeller "Fentanyl"	
TNT	23	158	245	(5:15) ★★★★★ Avengers: Infinity War '18	Chris Hemsworth, Josh Brolin, Robert Downey Jr..	(20) ★★★★★ Avengers: Endgame '19		Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo, Robert Downey Jr.. The fragile reality is and the sacrifices that must be made to uphold it.						The heroes understand just how	
TBS	24	156	247	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Joe Schmo Show "Ben From Baltimore"	
USA	25	132	242	Law & Order: SVU "Behave"		Law-SVU "Missing Pieces"		Law-SVU "Secrets Exhumed"		Law-SVU "Imprisoned Lives"		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU	
ESPN	26	35	206	NBA Basketball Boston Celtics at Philadelphia 76ers (N) (Live)				NBA Basketball Memphis Grizzlies at Milwaukee Bucks (N) (Live)				SportsCenter (N) (Live)		SportsCenter (N) (Live)	
TRUTV	38	129	246	Imp. Jokers "Laundry Day"	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Jokers "The Chairman"	Impractical Jokers	Imp. Jokers "Ash Clown"	Imp. Jokers "Spider Man"	Imp. Jokers "Stage Fright"	Imp. Jokers "Training Day"	Imp. Jokers "Swim Shady"	Impractical Jokers
SHOPHQ	30		73	Waggoner Chocolates		Reign Watches		Gevril Timepieces		Gevril Timepieces		Heritor Watches		Diamond Closeout	
TWC	32	24	362	Lords of t "Big Rig"		Lords of t "Dominion Green"		Haulers "Wet Below Deck"		Haulers "To Thrive Up Here"		Haulers "The Arctic Cup"		Deadman's Curse	
CNBC	35	84	355	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		The Swift Effect	
FNC	37	90	360	Fox Report (N) (Live)		Weekend (N) (Live)		Life, Liberty (N) (Live)		Sunday Night (N) (Live)		The Big Weekend Show		Life, Liberty & Levin	
HGTV	39	112	229	Home Town "Ginkgos and Gondolas"		Home Town "What's Good for the Goose"		Home Town "Woody and Whimsical" (N)		Home Town "Memory Lane: Rustic Renovation" (N)		House Hunters (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters
FOOD	40	109	231	Guy's Grocery Games "The GGG Experience"		Guy's Grocery Games "Game Day Bite Fight"		Worst Cooks in America "Celeb Heroes vs Villains: Reality Stars on Mars" (N)		Beat Bobby Flay		Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay
ANPL	41	100	282	Wardens "The Big Bully"		Wardens "Warden Scramble"		Yellowstone Wardens		Dog Detectives		Dog Detectives		Yellowstone Wardens	
DISCV	42	103	278	Homestead Rescue "Raney Returns: Paradise Lost Again"	Marty Raney returns to the Nash homestead on Kauai. (N)	Homestead Rescue "Georgia Strong"		Homestead Rescue "A widow is overwhelmed by her family homestead. (N)		Homestead Rescue "Bearanoia"		Homestead Rescue "Bearanoia"		Homestead Rescue "Under Siege"	
TLC	43	157	280	90 Day Fiancé		90 Day Fiancé		90 Day Fiancé: Before the 90 Days "Tell All, Part 4" (N)		Sister Wives (N)		90 Day: The Last Resort		90 Day: The Last Resort	
HIST	45	110	269	(5:00) Ancient Aliens "Return to Mars"		Ancient Aliens "The Badlands Guardian"		Aliens "The Search For Extraterrestrial Intelligence"		Ancient Aliens "The Mystery of Mount Shasta"		(05) Ancient Aliens "The Sentinels"		(05) Ancient Aliens "The Pharaoh's Curse"	
A&E	46	130	265	Live PD	Live PD	Live PD	Live PD	Live PD	Live PD	Live PD	Live PD	Storage	Live PD	(05) Live PD	(:35) Live PD
AMC	48	180	254	(4:00) Groundhog ...	★★★★ Groundhog Day '93	Andie MacDowell, Chris Elliott, Bill Murray.				Mayfair Witches "Julien's Victrola" (N)		Sanctuary: A Witch's Tale (N)		(05) Mayfair Witches "Julien's Victrola"	
TCM	49	186	256	(5:15) ★★★★★ Oliver! '68	Oliver Reed, Mark Lester, Ron Moody. Dickens' orphan meets a scoundrel and a killer.	★★★★ Mr. Holland's Opus '95		Glenn Headly, Jay Thomas, Richard Dreyfuss.				★★★★ The Miracle Worker '62		Patty Duke, Victor Jory, Anne Bancroft.	
LIFE	50	145	252	★ The Bear Lake Murders '25	Tom Stevens, Blake Williams, Mercedes de la Zorda.	★ Murder in Nashville '25		Nick Puya, Sarah Zanotti. A woman falls for a man with dark family secrets. (P)				(05) ★ Taken in Plain Sight '24		Sameer Jafar, Steven Yafsee, Tennille Read.	
HALL	52	183	312	(5:00) ★ Romance in Style '22	Jaicy Elliot.	★ An Unexpected Valentine '25		Robert Buckley, Lacey Chabert.		When Calls the Heart "Mom's the Word" (N)		★ The Wedding Cottage '23		Brendan Penny, Aaron Douglas, Erin Krakow.	
FX	54	154	248	(4:00) ★★★★★ Free Guy	★★★★ Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle '17	Kevin Hart, Jack Black, Dwayne Johnson.				★★★★ Jumanji: The Next Level '19		Kevin Hart, Jack Black, Dwayne Johnson.		★★★★ Free Guy '21	
TVLAND	55	161	304	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
EI	56	138	236	EI Live From the Red Carpet	"Grammys 2025" (N) (Live)	The Office		The Office		The Office		The Office		The Office	
COMEDY	57	136	249	★★★★ Wedding Crashers '05	Vince Vaughn, Christopher Walken, Owen Wilson.	★★★★ We're the Millers '13		Jason Sudeikis, Will Poulter, Jennifer Aniston.				Family Guy		Family Guy	
SYFY	58	152	244	(3:55) ★★ White House Down '13	Channing Tatum.	(55) ★★ Angel Has Fallen '19		Morgan Freeman, Frederick Schmidt,				★★ The Mummy '17			
BET	61	162	329	(5:30) ★★ Barbershop 2: Back in Business '04		★★ Barbershop '02		Anthony Anderson, Cedric the Entertainer, Ice Cube.				★ Barbershop 2: Back in Bu...			
PARMT	64	153	241	Bar Rescue "Hideaway From Reality"		Bar Rescue "From Camo to Cocktail"		Bar Rescue "Long Island Mess"		Bar Rescue "Till the Wagon Wheels Fall Off"		Bar Rescue "Low Five Dive"		Bar Rescue	
LMN	66	185	253	★ Our Mother's Secret Affair Provenzano, Ashley Leggat.		★ My Family's Killer Affairs '25		Isabella Carlsen, Josie Johnston, April Martucci.				★ Who's Stalking My Family '24		Kennedy Martin, Jacob Kaufman, Kate Watson.	
GOLF	69	52	218	(3:00) Golf	Golf Central (N)	PGA Tour Golf		AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, Final Round From Pebble Beach Golf Links in Pebble Beach, Calif.		20/20 on OWN		20/20 on OWN		20/20 on OWN	
OWN	72	104	279	20/20 on OWN		Homicide "Deadly Spell"		20/20 on OWN		Evil "Justice Is Green"		Evil "Justice Is Green"		Evil "Justice Is Green"	
OXY	76	150	251	Snapped (N)		The '84 Draft		Prosecuting Evil		Magic & Bird: A Courtship of Rivals		GameTime		GameTime	
NBATV	308		216	NB80's	NB80's	Real Time With Bill Maher		C.B. Strike "Lethal White: Part 4" (N)		★★★★ Malcolm X '92		Angela Bassett, Albert Hall, Denzel Washington. The civil-rights leader (Denzel Washington) rises from criminal to crusader.			
HBO	511	350	501	Real Time With Bill Maher		C.B. Strike "Lethal White: Part 4" (N)		★★★★ Joy '15		Robert De Niro, Edgar Ramirez, Jennifer Lawrence. A single mother builds a business dynasty.		(05) ★★ Good Luck Chuck '07		Jessica Alba, Dan Fogler, Dane Cook. (P)	
MAX	531	370	515	(15) The Knick "Where's the Dignity?"		(10) The Knick "They Capture the Heat"		★★★★ Forrest Gump '94		Robin Wright Penn, Gary Sinise, Tom Hanks.		(25) ★★ Gladiator (Russell Crowe) seeks revenge for his family's deaths.		Dexter: Original Sin "Business and Pleasure" (N)	
PARSHO	551	300	545	(5:00) ★★★★★ Forrest Gump '94	Robin Wright Penn, Gary Sinise, Tom Hanks.	(25) ★★ Gladiator (Russell Crowe) seeks revenge for his family's deaths.		★★★★ The Salvation '14		Eva Green, Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Mads Mikkelsen.		(35) ★★ Organ Trail '23		Nicholas Logan, Olivia Applegate, Maison.	
TMC	571	316	553	★★★★ The Yards	Joaquin Phoenix, Charlize Theron, Mark Wahlberg.	(5:50) Couple Next Door		(45) ★★★★★ Captain America: The Winter Soldier		(14) Scarlett Johansson, Samuel L. Jackson, Chris Evans.		(05) The Couple Next Door "Blurred Boundaries"		Power Book III "The More Things Change"	
STARZ	581	330	525	(5:50) Couple Next Door	(:45) ★★★★★ Captain America: The Winter Soldier	(14) Scarlett Johansson, Samuel L. Jackson, Chris Evans.		(05) The Couple Next Door		(05) The Couple Next Door		The Couple Next Door		Power Book III "The More Things Change"	

MONDAY EVENING				SP=Spectrum FTC=Farm DTV=DirecTV				MOVIES		SPORTS		KIDS		FEBRUARY 3, 2025	
	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)	WIS News 10 at 7 (N)	WIS News (N)	The Voice "The Blind Auditions Premiere" (N) (SP)				The Hunting Party "Richard Harris"		WIS News 10 at 11 (N)	(:35) Tonight Show (N)
WKTC	4	22	63	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Neighbor	Neighbor	Law & Order: SVU "Wednesday's Child"		Law & Order: SVU "Gridiron Soldier"		Suits "100"		Chicago Fire	"The Nuclear Option"
WOLO	5	12	25	News (N)	ABC World News (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	The Bachelor (N)				Lives of Mormon Wives "The Book of Belonging" (N)		News (N)	(:35) J. Kimmel (N)
WACH	6	6	57	Family Feud (N)	Family Feud (N)	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	9-1-1: Lone Star (N) (F)		Rescue: HI-Surf (N)		WACH FOX News at 10P (N) (Live)		Sports Zone (N) (Live)	The National News Desk
NWSN	8	172	307	The Hill (N) (Live)		On Balance With Leland Vittert (N) (Live)		Cuomo (N) (Live)		Dan Abrams Live (N) (Live)		Banfield (N) (Live)		Cuomo	
WLTX	9	9	19	News 19 at 6pm (N)	CBS Evening News (N)	News 19 at 7pm (N)	Inside Edition (N)	Neighbor (N)	Poppa's House (N)	NCIS "For Better or Worse" (N)		NCIS: Origins "Touchstones" (N)		News 19 at 11pm (N)	(:35) Colbert
WRJA	11	14		PBS News Hour (N)		Travels With Darley	Volunteer "A Carver's Life"	Antiques "Springs Preserve Hour 2" (N)		Pullman and the Railroad Rebellion		Independent Lens "The Strike" (N)		Amanpour (N)	
WZRB	13	18	47	Criminal Minds "Cure"		FBI "Face Off"		FBI "Ghost From the Past"		FBI "Kayla"		FBI "Hero's Journey"		FBI "Love Is Blind"	
NICK	16	210	299	(5:45) ★★★ The Boss Baby 2: Family Business '21 Voices of James Marsden, Eva Longoria, Alec Baldwin.				Friends "Pilot"	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
TOON	17	203	296	King/Hill	King/Hill	Burgers	Burgers	Burgers	American	American	American	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Rick
DISNEY	18	200	290	Bluey	Big City Greens	Big City Greens	Big City Greens	Marvel's Moon Girl "Moon Girl Landing"		Marvel's Moon Girl	Marvel's Moon Girl	Marvel's "The Beyond"	Marvel's Moon Girl	Place	Place
FREFRM	20	131	311	(5:40) ★★★ The Princess Diaries '01 Anne Hathaway, Héctor Elizondo, Julie Andrews.				(20) ★★★ The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement '04 Elizondo, Anne Hathaway.				Julie Andrews, Héctor		The 700 Club	
FDSE	21	47	649	Saturday Foursome	Pregame (N) (Live)	NBA Basketball Atlanta Hawks at Detroit Pistons From Little Caesars Arena in Detroit, Mich. (N) (Live)				Postgame (N) (Live)		Fairways of Life with Matt Adams		NBA Basketball Atlanta Hawks at Detroit Pistons	
NATGEO	22	113	276	To Catch a Smuggler "Blow Overboard"		To Catch a Smuggler "Dark Net Dragnet"		To Catch a Smuggler "Taliban Treasure Trove"		To Catch a Smuggler "Cocaine Snapper"		To Catch a Smuggler "Tunnel From Tijuana"		To Catch a Smuggler "Guac and Coke"	
TNT	23	158	245	(3:05) ★★★★★ Avengers: Endgame '19		Unrivaled Episode 6 (N)		Unrivaled Basketball		Unrivaled Basketball		★★★★ Black Panther '18 Michael B. Jordan, Lupita Nyong'o, Chadwick Boseman.			
TBS	24	156	247	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	American Dad! (N)	American Dad!	American Dad!	American Dad!
USA	25	132	242	Chicago Fire "Dead Zone"		Chicago Fire		Chicago Fire		Chicago Fire		Chi. Fire "Back With a Bang"		Chicago Fire "Fog of War"	
ESPN	26	35	206	SportsCenter		College Basketball Virginia at Pittsburgh (N) (Live)				College Basketball Iowa State at Kansas (N) (Live)		SportsCenter (N) (Live)			
TRUTV	38	129	246	Impractical Jokers	Impractical Jokers	Unrivaled Episode 6		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		Unrivaled Episode 6	
SHOPHQ	30		73	Kitchen Solutions		Diamond Closeout		Diamond Closeout		Sharper Image Health		Helios Health		Pajar Canada Footwear	
TWC	32	24	362	Weather Unfiltered		Weather Unfiltered		Weather Unfiltered		Weather Unfiltered		Secrets of the Earth		Earth "Abandoned Places"	
CNBC	35	84	355	Mad Money (N)		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
FNC	37	90	360	Special Report (N) (Live)		Ingraham (N) (Live)		Jesse Watters (N) (Live)		Hannity (N) (Live)		Gutfeld! (N)		Fox News at Night (N) (Live)	
HGTV	39	112	229	No Demo Reno "More Money, More Pressure"		No Demo Reno "Custom Contemporary"		Celebrity IOU "Rob Lowe's Brat Build" (N) (SP)		Celebrity IOU "Rob Lowe's Brat Build" (N) (SP)		House Hunters (N)		House Hunters	
FOOD	40	109	231	Beat Bobby Flay		Baking "Amazing Animals: Sea Creature Sweets"		Baking "Amazing Animals: Paws for Applause" (N)		Chopped "Big Fat Greek Kitchen"		Chopped "Abalone Absurdities"		Chopped "Name Your Price: Battle Four!"	
ANPL	41	100	282	Ice Cold "David and Goliath"		Ice Cold Gold		Ice Cold Gold "Fractured"		Ice Cold "Hitting the Wall"		Ice Cold Gold		Ice Cold "Redemption Ridge"	
DISCV	42	103	278	Contraband: Seized "Lime and Punishment"		Contraband: Seized at the Border "Marshal Matters"		Contraband: Seized at the Border "A King-Size Bust"		Contraband: Seized "The Flint-Stoners" (N)		Contraband: Seized at the Border "Florida or Bust"		Contraband: Seized "The Kids Aren't Alright"	
TLC	43	157	280	90 Day: The Last Resort		90 Day: The Last Resort		90 Day "Lasting Effects" (N)		(10) Baylen Out Loud (N)		(10) Last Resort (N)		(10) Sister Wives	
HIST	45	110	269	History's-Mysteries "Expedition Bermuda Triangle" A search into the extreme depths of the Bermuda Triangle.		History's-Mysteries "The Franklin Expedition" (N)		History's Greatest Mysteries "Roswell"		History's-Mysteries "The Franklin Expedition" (N)		(05) History's Most Shocking (N)		(05) Mysteries "The Legend of the Lost Dutchman's Mine"	
A&E	46	130	265	Live PD		Live PD		Live PD		Live PD		Live PD		(05) Live PD (:35) Live PD	
AMC	48	180	254	(4:00) ★★★ Blow '01 Johnny Depp.		★★★★★ Goodfellas '90 Ray Liotta, Joe Pesci, Robert De Niro. Italian rises through the ranks of an organized crime branch.				Liotta, Joe Pesci, Robert De Niro. Henry Hill, a poor Irish-Newman.		★★★★ The Departed '06 Matt Damon, Jack Nicholson, Leonardo DiCaprio.			
TCM	49	186	256	★★★★ Annie Get Your Gun '50 Calhern, Betty Hutton.		(50) Howard Keel, Louis Calhern, Betty Hutton.		★★★★ The Sting '73 Robert Redford, Robert Shaw, Paul Newman.		(73) Robert Redford, Robert Shaw, Paul Newman.		(15) ★★★★★ Bonnie and Clyde '67 Faye Dunaway, Michael J. Pollard, Warren Beatty.		(05) Castle "Hunt"	
LIFE	50	145	252	Castle "Under the Influence"		Castle "Death Gone Crazy"		Castle "Recoil"		Castle "Reality Star Struck"		(05) Castle "Target"		(05) Castle "Hunt"	
HALL	52	183	312	✶ Two for the Win '21 Trevor Donovan, Siobhan Murphy, Charlotte Sullivan.				✶ The Heiress and the Handyman '24 Corey Sevier, Ann Pirvu, Jodie Sweetin.				The Golden Girls		The Golden Girls	
FX	54	154	248	(5:30) ✶✶ Jumanji: The Next Level '19 Kevin Hart, Jack Black, Wayne Johnson.				✶✶ Uncharted '22 Mark Wahlberg, Sophia Ali, Tom Holland.				✶✶✶ Uncharted '22 Mark Wahlberg, Sophia Ali, Tom Holland.		King	King
TVLAND	55	161	304	Andy Griffith		Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	King
E!	56	138	236	(5:00) ✶✶✶ Sex and the City '08 Sarah Jessica Parker.		The Office		The Office		The Office		The Office		E! News (N)	
COMEDY	57	136	249	The Office		The Office		The Office		The Office		The Office		The Daily Show (N)	
SYFY	58	152	244	✶✶ The Mummy '17 Russell Crowe, Annabelle Wallis, Tom Cruise.				✶✶✶ Troy '04 Eric Bana, Orlando Bloom, Brad Pitt. Menelaus' brother, King Agamemnon uses his brother's fury as a pretext to declare war against Troy.				✶ Olympus Has Fallen			
BET	61	162	329	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	✶✶✶ White Chicks '04 Marlon Wayans, Jaime King, Shawn Wayans.					
PARMT	64	153	241	Two and a Half Men		Two and a Half Men		Two and a Half Men		Movie		Movie			
LMN	66	185	253	✶ Cheer Squad Secrets '20 Margaret Anne Florence.		Anita Brown, Karis Cameron, Margaret Anne Florence.		✶ Blood, Sweat and Cheer '23 Monroe Cline, Kaylan Montgomery, Tammien Sursok.				✶ Killer Cheer Mom '21 Thomas Calabro, Courtney Fulk, Denise Richards.			
GOLF	69	52	218	Golf Central		PGA TOUR		Gear (N)		PGA Tour Golf AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, Final Round From Pebble Beach Golf Links in Pebble Beach, Calif.					
OWN	72	104	279	20/20 on OWN		20/20 on OWN		20/20 on OWN		20/20 on OWN "Captive"		20/20 on OWN		20/20 on OWN	
OXY	76	150	251	Snapped "Brenda Delgado"		Snapped "Becky Machetti"		Snapped		Snapped "Jenea Chance"		Snapped "Dawn Houck"		Snapped "Candie Zito"	
NBATV	308		216	(5:30) Muggsy		Pregame		NBA Basketball Houston Rockets at New York Knicks (N) (Live)		C.B. Strike "Lethal White: Part 2"		Basketball Orlando Magic at Golden State Warriors (N)			
HBO	511	350	501	(5:20) ✶✶✶ Frost/Nixon '08 Frank Langella.		(25) ✶✶✶ Life Partners '14 Gillian Jacobs, Adam Brody, Leighton Meester.		(14) Gillian Jacobs, Adam Brody, Leighton Meester.		C.B. Strike "Lethal White: Part 2"		To Be Announced		(45) ✶✶✶ Crouching Ti...	
MAX	531	370	515	(5:15) ✶✶✶ Gangs of New York '02 Daniel Day-Lewis, Cameron Diaz, Leonardo DiCaprio.				✶✶✶ A Most Wanted Man '14 Rachel McAdams, Grigoriy Dobrygin, Philip Seymour Hoffman.		(14) Rachel McAdams, Grigoriy Dobrygin, Philip Seymour Hoffman.		(05) ✶✶✶ Pride '07 Bernie Mac, Kevin Phillips, Terrence Howard.		(50) ✶✶✶ Wanted '08	
PARSHO	551	300	545	✶✶✶✶ The Godfather '72 Al Pacino, James Caan, Marlon Brando. Crime boss Vito Corleone and his sons rule their New York empire with mafia justice.				Dexter: Original Sin "Business and Pleasure" (N)		(N) Marlon Brando, James Caan, Marlon Brando.		✶✶✶✶ The Godfather '72 Al Pacino, James Caan, Marlon Brando.			
TMC	571	316	553	✶✶ Men, Women & Children '14 Jennifer Garner, Judy Greer, Rosemarie DeWitt.		(14) Jennifer Garner, Judy Greer, Rosemarie DeWitt.		✶✶✶ The D Train '15 James Marsden, Kathryn Hahn, Jack Black.		(15) James Marsden, Kathryn Hahn, Jack Black.		(45) ✶✶✶✶ Swingers '96 Vince Vaughn, Ron Livingston, Jon Favreau. (P)		✶✶✶✶ Like Crazy '11	
-----				(5:00) ✶✶✶ Not Another Church Movie '24				(20) ✶✶✶ Honk for Jesus. Save Your Soul		(22) Sterling K.		(05) The Couple Next Door		✶ The Hard Hit '23 Richard	



Liam Neeson gets ‘Taken’ again in third round

BY JAY BOBBIN

If Bryan Mills had known at the time what else was in store for his supposed retirement from espionage, he might have thought rescuing his kidnapped daughter was a walk in the park.

Liam Neeson had such an enormous hit with the original “Taken,” it launched a major new career chapter for him as an action star, fortified later by such similar-vein features as “Non-Stop” and “The Commuter.” Anyone who’s a media watcher knows what success breeds, and since “Taken 2” also fared well, it was followed by - you guessed it - “Taken 3.” FX shows all three films in the franchise (which also spawned an NBC series) Thursday, Feb. 6.

Mills’ family life always has been the basis of his troubles in these movies, and that’s the crux of his problems again in “Taken 3”. He still wants his ex-wife (played again by Famke Janssen) back, but there’s a new man in her life (Dougray Scott) ... and, probably no surprise, a man with a questionable past.

The suspicions Mills naturally has about his rival for his former spouse leads to a murder that the ex-spy is framed for. While he’s trying to clear himself, he also has to continue to keep watch over daughter Kim (Maggie Grace), who’s threatened again; the stakes

actually are higher this time, since she’s expecting her first child.

In “Die Hard 2,” Bruce Willis’s John McClane wonders, “How can the same thing happen to the same guy twice?” For sure, “Taken 3” cements Neeson’s Mills as a member of the same club, but it’s to the actor’s credit that he still makes it work without slipping into caricature.

Director Olivier Megaton (yes, that’s really his name) has a reputation for this sort of fast-paced festival of mayhem, and after having done “Taken 2,” he delivers again for those who already are in the “Taken” house. At the same time, those who are just getting their first dose of the franchise will get an immediate sense of what they’ve missed. It’s the same commanding Neeson, even more confident (if that’s possible) in the role.

A certain suspension of disbelief is a requirement when you get to the third chapter of a franchise such as “Taken,” but there’s still undeniable fun in watching Neeson mop up the screen with various bad guys. The third time may not be the charm, but at the same time, “Taken 3” does no real harm ... unless you happen to be on the receiving end of the hero’s skills, as its villains are.

Best WARREN BEATTY MOVIES

BY JAY BOBBIN

“Splendor in the Grass” (1961): “Introducing Warren Beatty” was part of the billing for director Elia Kazan’s celebrated drama about the complex romance between two young people (Beatty, Natalie Wood). The Oscar-winning script is by William Inge.

“The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone” (1961): Directed by theater legend Jose Quintero, this drama features Beatty as the considerably younger lover of a recent widow (Vivien Leigh).

“Bonnie and Clyde” (1967): Beatty made huge strides as both an actor and a producer with this iconic retelling of the crime spree of Depression-era gangsters Bonnie Parker (Faye Dunaway) and Clyde Barrow (Beatty). Co-star Estelle Parsons earned an Academy Award for the film, which Turner Classic Movies shows Monday, Feb. 3, as part of a night showcasing “Oscar Worthy Criminals.”

“\$ (Dollars)” (1971): Beatty has evident fun in writer-director Richard Brooks’s caper as a security expert who teams with a prostitute (Goldie Hawn) to rob a West German bank vault.

“The Parallax View” (1974): In producer-director Alan J. Pakula’s excellent thriller, a maverick reporter (Beatty) looks into a series of mysterious deaths among those who witnessed the assassination of a presidential candidate.

“Shampoo” (1975): Producer and co-writer Beatty is terrific as a hairdresser who services female clients in other ways than just giving them new looks, putting him in hot water when he’s among several of them at a party on the eve of the 1968 presidential election.

“Heaven Can Wait” (1978): Beatty produced, co-directed (with co-star Buck Henry), co-wrote (with Elaine May) and stars in this delightful fantasy-comedy, in which a pro football player taken to the afterlife before his time is restored to Earth in a millionaire’s body.

“Reds” (1981): Beatty won an Oscar for directing this three-hours-plus long epic (which he also produced and co-wrote) in which he plays journalist John Reed during coverage of the Russian Revolution.

“Dick Tracy” (1990): Bringing comic-strip visuals to dazzling life, Beatty plays the legendary police detective — alongside such co-stars as Madonna and Al Pacino — in an action-comedy that he also produced and directed.

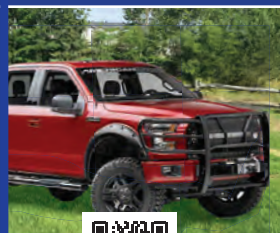
“Bugsy” (1991): Arguably Beatty’s biggest takeaway from playing mobster Bugsy Siegel was his real-life wife, since he later married his leading lady, Annette Bening (who portrays Siegel’s girlfriend, Virginia Hill).

“Bulworth” (1995): In a satire he also co-produced, co-wrote and directed, Beatty targets politics as the title character, a senator who throws caution to the wind in his re-election bid and starts voicing exactly what he thinks.



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On the outside: Investigators chase dangerous inmates in ‘The Hunting Party’

BY DANA SIMPSON

Who is the real bad guy in “Night Agent”? To those unfamiliar with the drama, the question points to several shifting plots and potential double-crosses within the storyline. For those following along with the series and patiently awaiting a second season, this question comes across as completely understandable given that series is “filled with baddies” (per Netflix).

With 10 45-minute episodes already on Netflix from Season 1 and a recent confirmation that Season 3 is already in the casting stages, Netflix welcomes “The Night Agent” Season 2, premiering Thursday, Jan. 23.

Based on the novel of the same name by American journalist and New York Times bestselling author Matthew Quirk, “The Night Agent” follows Peter Sutherland (played on screen by Gabriel Basso, “Juror #2,” 2024), a low-level FBI agent who “works in the basement of the White House, manning a phone that never rings” (per Netflix). One evening, however, the phone does ring, prompting Sutherland to take on a case so big it would impact the entire country.

As it turns out (and now may be a good time to mention that several mild spoilers from Season 1 lay ahead), the basement phone is tied to “an



emergency line for undercover spies” (per Netflix). When Sutherland answers the call, he hears a woman’s voice explain that a double homicide has just taken place and she fears she may be next. Springing into action to protect the civilian who somehow managed to find the night agents’ helpline, what follows is an action-packed season filled with assassination attempts, double-crosses, brazen attacks, mistaken identities, terrorist plots and oh so much running.

“Imagine ‘All the President’s Men’ [1976] with car chases,” said creator Shawn Ryan (“The Shield”) to Netflix’s online publication, Tudum. “If you like the Jack Ryan books, the Jack Reacher books, if you like the Bourne Identity stuff, if you like political intrigue, then ‘The Night Agent’ is for you.”

On the note of “political intrigue,” the spy series holds nothing back. With all the twists and turns of a good murder mystery and shady, motivated characters akin to “House of Cards” and “Game of Thrones,” “The Night Agent” all but urges viewers not to get too attached to any one character. While audiences now know who committed the D.C. Metro bombing in Season 1, matters become far more sinister when it is revealed that others have been pulling the strings behind the scenes.

This season, the series dives into an increasingly shadowy world. After Peter’s success in Season 1, he has earned the opportunity to work in the secretive organization Night Action, which pushes him “into a world where danger is everywhere and trust is in short supply” (per Netflix).

“There are people here who make bad choices for what they think are the right reasons,” Ryan explains to Netflix during another interview. “But that’s a slippery slope that leads to increased bad decisions, where suddenly you look up and ... you’ve lost your soul.”

In addition to the titular night agent played by Basso, returning actors include Luciane Buchanan (“The New Legends of Monkey”), who plays emergency-line caller Rose Larkin, and BAFTA nominee Fola Evans-Akingbola (“Siren”), who plays Secret Service agent Chelsea Arrington. Joining the cast this season is Amanda Warren (“The Leftovers”) as Catherine, a “veteran of the top-secret Night Action investigative program who trains and oversees various Night Agents” (per Netflix’s Tudum).

Red chair rivalries: ‘The Voice’ returns with new coaches and new singers for Season 27



BY CAROLINE COLLACUTT

“Set to be a spectacle” (per NBC), Season 27 of the Emmy-winning singing competition “The Voice” returns Monday, Feb. 3, on NBC — before streaming the next day on Peacock — offering a revamped coaching lineup, stellar blind auditions and a new pack of singers ready to make an impression.

This season, the coaching panel will feature “The Voice” veterans and newcomers alike, each bringing their own expertise as a powerhouse in the music industry. Returning to their chairs are coaches John Legend (“All of Me”) and Michael Bublé (“Everything”) — the latter of whom earned his first win in Season 26, alongside singer Sofronio Vasquez — who welcome back Maroon 5 frontman Adam Levine (“Memories”) after his six-year hiatus from the show.

First announcing his return for Season 27 on Instagram, Levine told his fans: “Season 27, yes, I’m coming back; I’m so excited. I cannot wait. I’m well rested. I’m ready to go. I’m a little nervous — I’m not nervous — but I’m so excited. It’s going to be great, and I can’t wait. It’s going to be awesome, let’s go! Team Adam is back!” Cheekily, he added: “I feel bad for other teams.”

One coach, however, won’t be returning for this next round of competition. The ever-popular actress and singer Reba McEntire (“Reba”) has made her exit from “The Voice” after appearing on seasons 24 to 26, earning herself a win in Season 24 when contestant Asher HaVon stole the show. Now, Reba’s cowboy boots will be filled by another country sensation, singer Kelsea Ballerini (“Cowboys Cry Too”), who makes her debut as a coach after serving as a substitute for Kelly Clarkson (“Because Of You”) during the show’s 20th season.

Ahead of last season, host Carson Daly (“Last Call with Carson Daly”) spoke with Awards Radar, sharing a sentiment that still rings true. “People thought [The Voice] was never gonna work, and not only did it work, but it’s lasted for 25 seasons,” he said. “So I think that’s really the crazy part ... we’ve been able to keep an audience interested, and tweak the show and let the format evolve by adding steals and those little features that kind of make it exciting again. Every time it’s on, it feels fresh.”

Will it be Legend, Bublé, Levine or Ballerini who takes the crown? Tune in for Season 27 of “The Voice,” starting Monday, Feb. 3, on NBC.

View from the Couch



“WICKED”

Certain titles ensure big profits, and this recent Golden Globe Award winner is sure to be one of them on home media, just as it has been in theaters (becoming the top-earning adaptation of a stage musical to date). The “Wizard of Oz”-inspired piece, based on a Gregory Maguire novel, has been turned into two movies by director Jon M. Chu — with the second one slated for release toward the end of this year — and the first introduces Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo as the dissimilar Glinda and Elphaba, who are friends initially. However, their lives are destined to go down very different paths in

BY JAY BOBBIN

the Land of Oz ... one for good and the other, not so much. Oscar winner Michelle Yeoh (who worked with Chu previously on “Crazy Rich Asians”), Jonathan Bailey, Ethan Slater, Jeff Goldblum and Peter Dinklage also are in the cast of the picture, which had theater owners cautioning patrons familiar with the score not to belt out the songs along with those on screen (except for showings of a “Sing-Along Edition,” which is included as a bonus feature on the video release). Among the Stephen Schwartz-composed tunes are “Popular,” “I’m Not That Girl” and “Defying Gravity.” DVD extras (may vary by retailer): four “making-of” documentaries; audio commentaries by Chi, Erivo and Grande; deleted and extended scenes. *** (PG: AS) (Also on Blu-ray, 4K Ultra HD and Digital)

A significant portion of the “Forrest Gump” team — including stars Tom Hanks and Robin Wright, director and co-screenwriter Robert Zemeckis, and co-writer Eric Roth — reunited three decades later for this drama, based on Richard McGuire’s graphic novel about a specific geographic spot and its history from the Stone Age to the present day. The saga moves back and forth across that timeline, with Hanks and Wright as a late-20th-century couple whose family occupies the site; before they get there, the area is a home to others including Benjamin Franklin’s son (Daniel Betts) and a recliner inventor (David Fynn). Paul Bettany,

Family Viewing Ratings		
AS Adult situations	V Violence	GV Graphic Violence
P Profanity	N Nudity	

Kelly Reilly (“Yellowstone”), Michelle Dockery (“Downton Abbey”), Ophelia Lovibond (“Minx”) and filmmaker Zemeckis’s wife Leslie and daughter Zsa Zsa also are in the cast. So are dinosaurs, part of the digital trickery that also makes some of the actors look much younger in relevant sequences. DVD extras: “making-of” documentary; deleted scenes. *** (PG-13: AS, P) (Also on Blu-ray and Digital)

“JUROR #2”

Clint Eastwood’s latest directing effort is a courtroom drama casting Nicholas Hoult — who will be seen as Lex Luthor in this summer’s “Superman” movie — as a journalist who turns out to have a closer connection than he initially suspects to the case he’s serving on a jury for. The defendant (Gabriel Basso, “The Night Agent”) is on trial for allegedly killing his girlfriend (played by Eastwood’s daughter Francesca), but as evidence is presented, the juror comes to realize that he might have had a role in the death ... prompting him to debate whether to come clean, or to try to sway the other jury members away from him and toward the boyfriend, though the latter may be innocent. Toni Collette and Chris Messina portray lawyers on opposite sides of the trial; Oscar winner J.K. Simmons (“Whiplash”), Zoey Deutch, Cedric Yarbrough, Leslie Bibb, Amy Aquino and Kiefer Sutherland also appear. *** (PG-13: AS, P, V) (Also on Blu-ray and Digital)

“A REAL PAIN”

Drawing upon his own ancestral background for the project, Jesse Eisenberg (“The Social Network”) earned acclaim for writing and directing this comedy-drama, in which he also stars with Kieran Culkin (“Succession”) — the latter having earned a Golden Globe Award for the film — as dissimilar cousins who unite on a trip to Poland. They take a tour to certain sites in an effort to honor their late grandmother, and their conflicting behaviors continually escalate during the excursion, with each of them eventually admitting the deeply personal reasons they’ve been acting as they have toward each other. Will Sharpe (“The White Lotus”) and Jennifer Grey (“Dirty Dancing”) also are in the cast of the picture, which was filmed on location and utilizes many Chopin compositions on the soundtrack (performed by classical pianist Tzvi Erez). The Blu-ray edition includes a “making-of” documentary; Eisenberg also is one of the picture’s producers, as is Emma Stone. *** (R: AS, P) (Also on Digital)

“TWIN PEAKS: FROM Z TO A”

Fans of David Lynch’s legendary, famously confounding and unquestionably unique drama series will find all of it that they could want in this Blu-ray collection (previously issued on DVD) that includes the two seasons of the original 1990-91 ABC show (with the pilot and the eighth episode also offered in 4K Ultra HD), the 1992 movie “Twin

Peaks: Fire Walk With Me” and the 2017 continuation series made for Showtime. The basic premise brings FBI Special Agent Dale Cooper (played by Kyle MacLachlan) to the title town to probe the murder of teen Laura Palmer (Sheryl Lee), with the investigation uncovering plenty of red herrings and unusual personalities ... and giving new value to coffee and cherry pie. The ensemble cast also includes Michael Ontkean, Madchen Amick, Dana Ashbrook, Lara Flynn Boyle, Sherilyn Fenn, Warren Frost, Peggy Lipton, James Marshall, Everett McGill, Jack Nance, Ray Wise, Joan Chen, Piper Laurie, Kimmy Robertson, Catherine Coulson and “West Side Story” alums Richard Beymer and Russ Tamblyn. **** (Not rated: AS, P, V)

Coming Home Soon

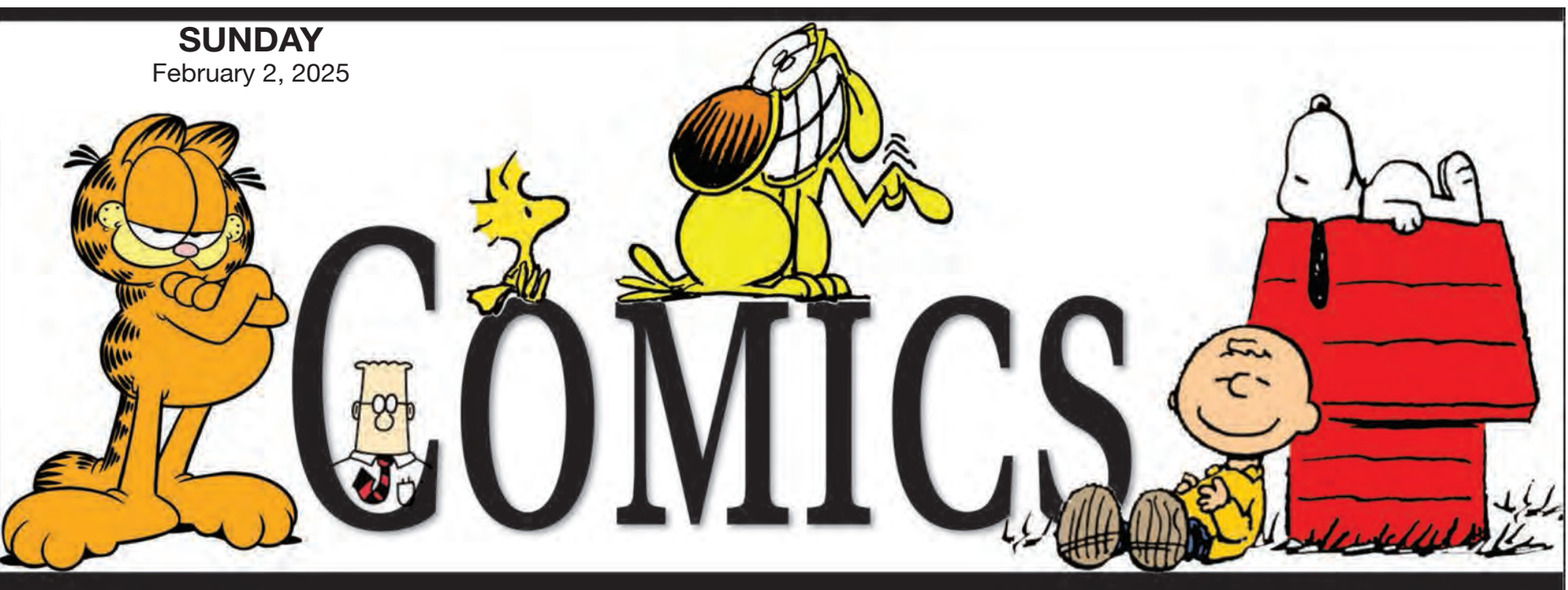
“CONCLAVE” (4K ULTRA HD) (FEB. 11)

“MASTERPIECE MYSTERY!: MISS SCARLET — SEASON 5” (FEB. 11)

“CROSSING DELANCEY” (CRITERION COLLECTION) (FEB. 18)

“THE SOCIAL NETWORK” (4K ULTRA HD STEELBOOK) (FEB. 18)

“AMADEUS: THEATRICAL CUT” (4K ULTRA HD) (FEB. 25)



PEANUTS
featuring
"Good ol' Charlie Brown"
by SCHULZ

Snoopy is running through a forest. He is looking back over his shoulder. There are trees and a path. A speech bubble says "PUFF PUFF". Another speech bubble says "THIS IS HARD ON US LUNGS".

IF I START COMPLAINING, YOU'RE ALL IN TROUBLE

SHUT UP HEART!

Snoopy is running. He is looking back over his shoulder. There are trees and a path.

YOU GUYS ARE ALWAYS COMPLAINING... WE EARS CAN HEAR YOU WAY UP HERE!

WHY DO WE FEET HAVE TO DO ALL THE WORK?

HOW ABOUT TOES? YOU THINK IT'S EASY BEING A TOE?

LIPS ARE MADE FOR KISSING, NOT RUNNING... WE NEED MORE KISSING...

I'M HUNGRY!

HA! I KNEW THE STOMACH WOULD START COMPLAINING PRETTY SOON! WE ARMS NEVER COMPLAIN

THAT'S A LAUGH! IF IT ISN'T BURSTITIS, IT'S TENNIS ELBOW! WE STILL SAY IT'S WE FEET WHO DO ALL THE WORK...

ALL I KNOW IS, RUNNING IS HARD ON THE BACK... BACKS SHOULD BE HOME IN BED...

HOW ABOUT NOSES? I HATE JOKES ABOUT RUNNING NOSES!

YOU THINK IT'S EASY BEING A FINGER?

HA! JUST TRY BEING AN ELBOW SOMETIME!

HOW CAN THE LONG-DISTANCE RUNNER EVER GET LONELY?

GARFIELD
BY JIM DAVIS

Garfield and his friends are in the rain. They are standing under a green umbrella. There are raindrops falling. A speech bubble says "OH, NO! IT'S STARTING TO RAIN!". Another speech bubble says "NEVER FEAR...I BROUGHT AN UMBRELLA!".

OH, NO! IT'S STARTING TO RAIN!

NEVER FEAR...I BROUGHT AN UMBRELLA!

TAKE IT FROM THE TINKERSONS
BY BILL BETTWY

TODAY'S THE DAY!

TODAY WE FIND OUT IF THERE WILL BE AN EARLY SPRING...

OR IF THERE WILL BE SIX MORE WEEKS OF WINTER.

AND WHERE ARE YOU GETTING THIS INFORMATION?

FROM A GROUNDHOG.

WHAT ARE YOU DRINKING?

TAKE IT FROM THE TINKERSONS
BY BILL BETTWY

Garfield and his friends are in the rain. They are standing under a green umbrella. There are raindrops falling. A speech bubble says "OH, NO! IT'S STARTING TO RAIN!". Another speech bubble says "NEVER FEAR...I BROUGHT AN UMBRELLA!".

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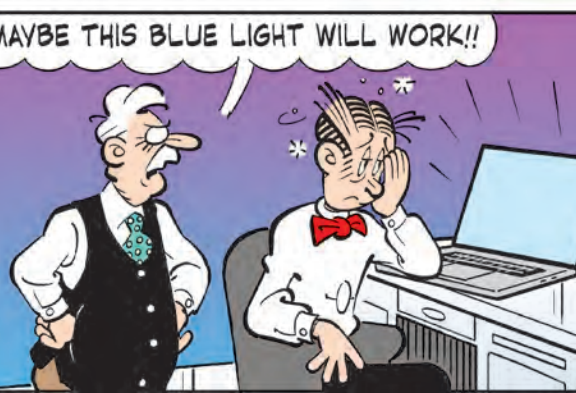
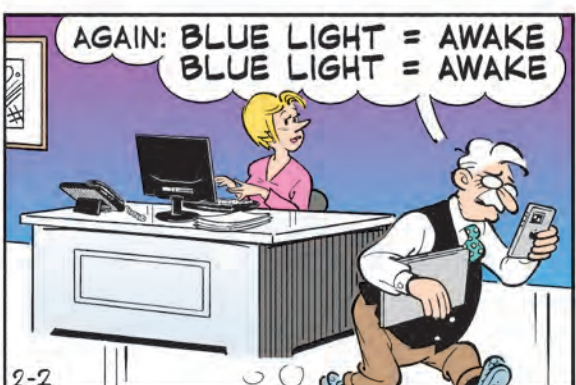
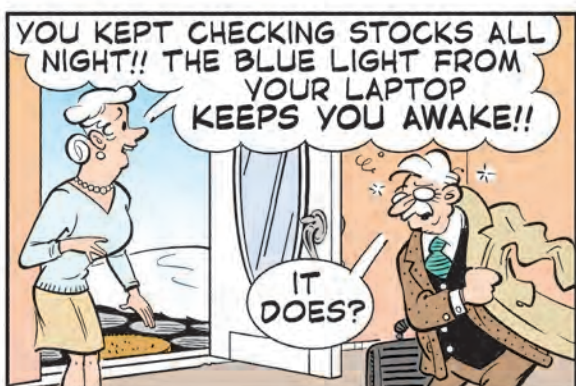
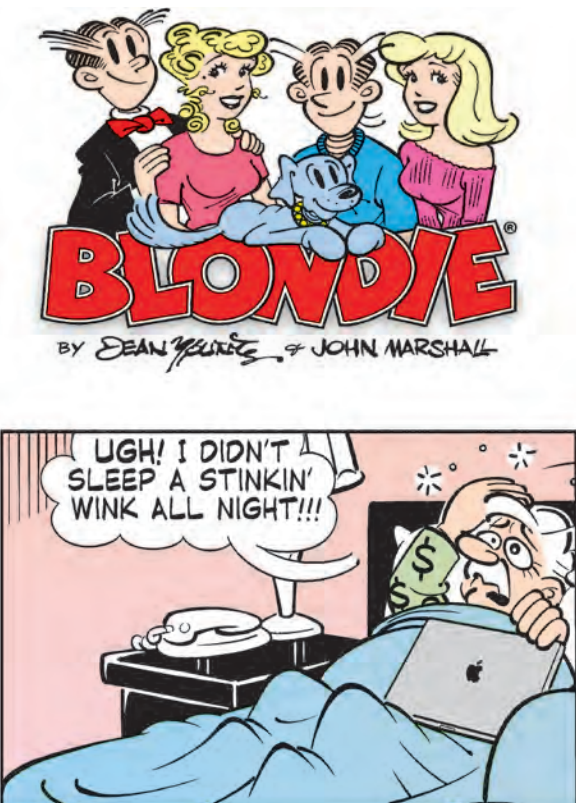
AND WHERE ARE YOU GETTING THIS INFORMATION?

FROM A GROUNDHOG.

WHAT ARE YOU DRINKING?

CLOSE TO HOME

BY JOHN McPHERSON



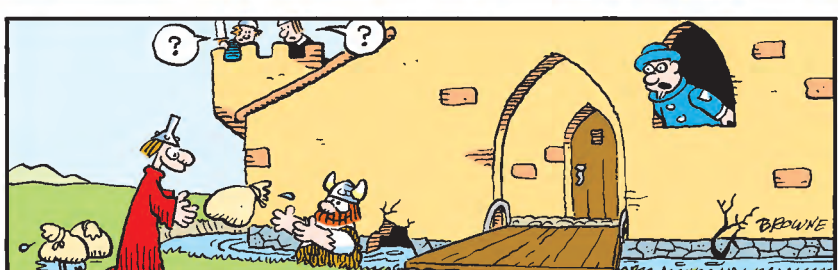
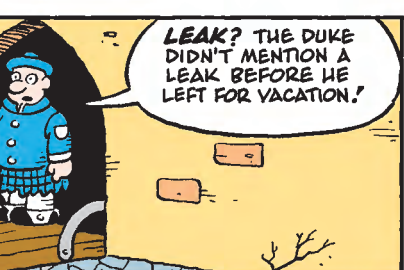
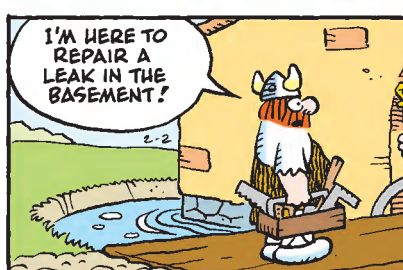
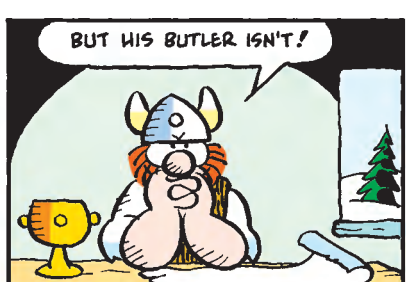
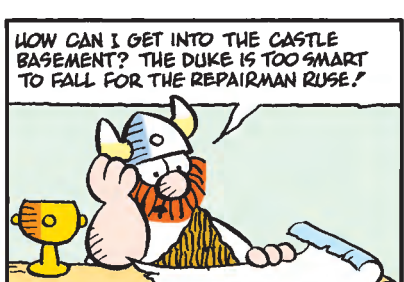
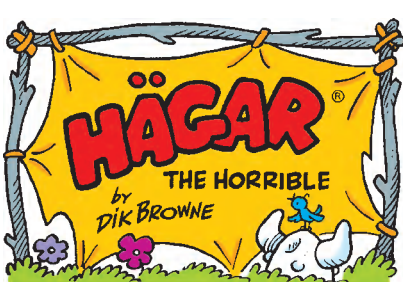
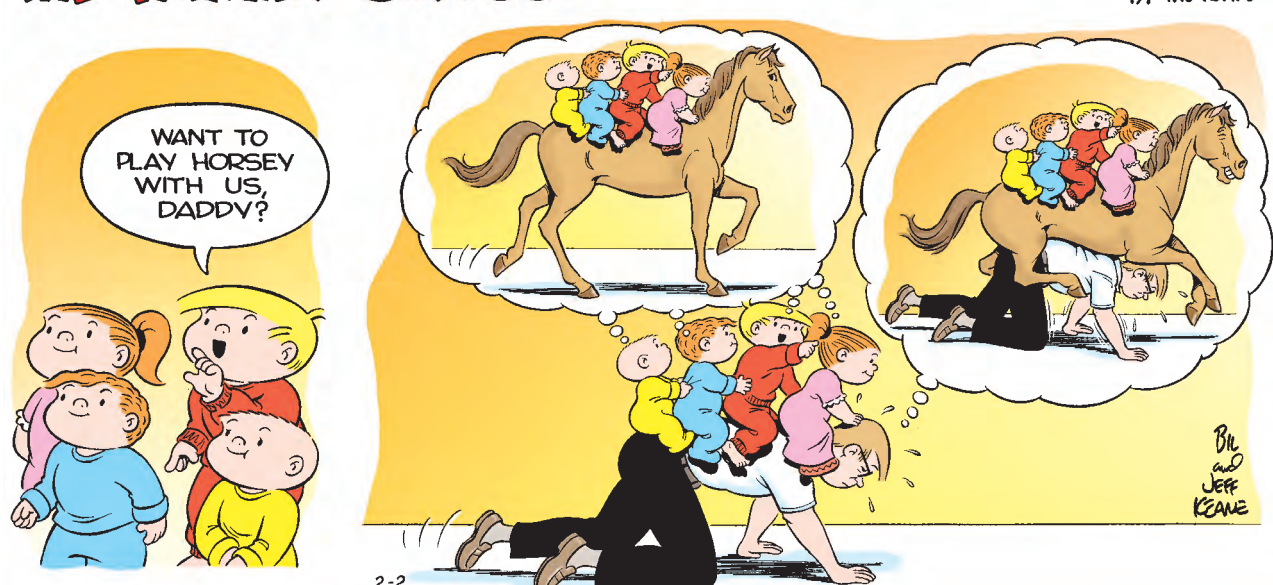
FoxTrot

by Bill Amend



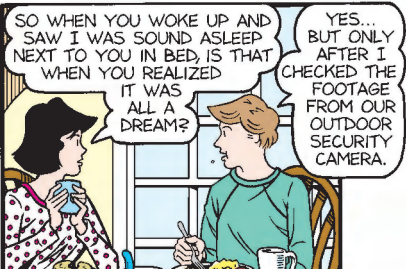
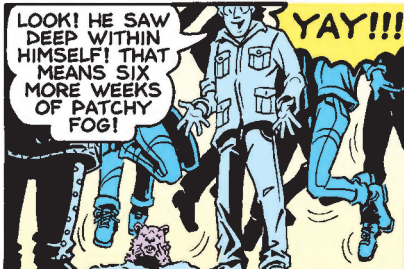
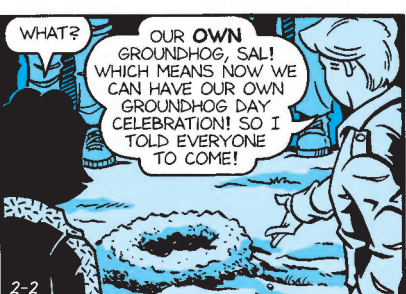
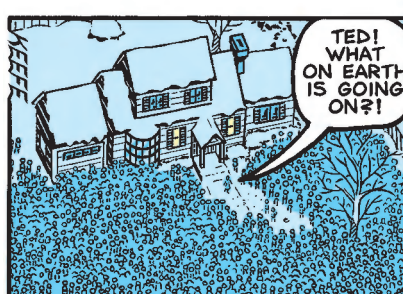
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill Keane



SALLY FORTH

BY FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & JIM KEEFE



by Steve Breen

Winner!

Caption It!

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Differences: 1. Stick is shorter. 2. Branch is higher. 3. Dog's paw is different. 4. Cap is different. 5. Base of tree trunk is wider. 6. Spot on dog's back is missing.

FRANK AND ERNEST

SORRY, FELLAS. THIS PLACE IS FOR SUPERHEROES ONLY. IT'S OKAY. WE ARE SUPERHEROES.

CAN YOU FLY? NOPE.

DO YOU HAVE SUPER STRENGTH? NOPE.

X-RAY VISION? NOPE.

INVISIBILITY? NOPE.

STRETCHINESS? NOPE.

THEN WHAT IS YOUR SUPERPOWER?

WE CAN HAVE A POLITICAL DISCUSSION AND STILL REMAIN FRIENDS.

WHOA.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS

FORTY-SEVEN, FORTY-EIGHT, FORTY-NINE, FIFTY... FIFTY-ONE...

DID IT SNOW LAST NIGHT?

A LITTLE

WIZARD OF ID by Hart, Mastroianni and Parker

WATCH THIS

PACK PACK

HUCK

HE DID IT!

HUCK

DUCK

SPLAP

LOOKS LIKE YOUR SNOWBALL FIGHT JUST TURNED INTO A SNOWBALL WAR

GET FUZZY

BY DARBY CONLEY

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GONNA WATCH THAT SILLY VAMPIRE MOVIE.

WHY NOT? OH, I FORGOT ABOUT YOUR THEORY THAT VAMPIRES COPIED YOU TO BE COOL.

"THEORY"? I WAS ROCKIN' THE FANG AND ANGRY EYE THING BACK WHEN VAMPIRES WORE TUXEDOS, LIVED IN THEIR GRANDMOTHER'S BASEMENT, AND CRIED WHEN THEY SAW A TOOTHPICK!

EVERY TIME THE WORLD FIGURES OUT WHAT MAKES ME COOL, I HAVE TO FIGURE SOMETHING NEW OUT.

YOU DON'T RELY ON YOUR FANG AND EYES ANYMORE?

THAT'S CORRECT. I'VE MOVED ON TO ASYMMETRY AND WHITE BELLY FUR.

WHY IS THAT COOL?

LISTEN, MY JOB IS TO BE COOL. IT ISN'T MY JOB TO TEACH TOASTERS LIKE YOU WHY I'M COOL.

HA HA! BY YOUR LOGIC, A YETI WITH A WALKING STICK WOULD BE COOL...

WAIT, THAT IS COOL. I HEARD IT AS I SAID IT.

SO, BASICALLY, EVERYTHING COOL ABOUT YOU IS STUFF NO ONE ELSE THINKS IS COOL YET.

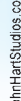
OPTIMALLY, YES.

WELL, IF IT HELPS, I DON'T FIND YOU COOL AT ALL.

THANK YOU.

I MADE IT JANUARY FIRST, BUT I KEEP BREAKING IT AND HAVE TO RE-RESOLVE IT!

BY GARY BROOKINS & SUSIE MACNELLY



BY HANK KETCHAM



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Authentically
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